

Australian Bar Review (ABR)

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(president's report, articles and book review included in this part are linked to the LexisNexis platform)

CONTENTS

President's Report

President's Report	125
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Articles

Some legal implications of pork barrelling — J C Campbell	129
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Taking as a working definition the 'pork barrelling', 'the allocation of public funds and resources to targeted electors for partisan political purposes', this article aims to survey the extremely wide variety of legal provisions and principles that can be brought to bear concerning pork barrelling. It considers first an important concept in the literature concerning pork barrelling, namely that of an office of public trust. It considers the actions and remedies available in the courts concerning pork barrelling, arising from various principles in administrative law, criminal law, and the civil law. Outside the court system, numerous governmental bodies such as ICAC, the Auditor-General, the Electoral Commission, the Ombudsman and organs of the Parliament itself each have various legal powers available that can be used to investigate and deal with pork barrelling. Other legal provisions of a procedural, protective or evidentiary kind provide further assistance in the disclosure, discovery and proof of pork barrelling.

When is pork-barrelling corruption and what can be done to avert it?

— Professor Anne Twomey	270
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The misuse of public money for the benefit of political parties, otherwise known as 'pork-barrelling', has been dismissed by politicians as an ordinary part of politics that does not involve unlawful behaviour. This article explores whether that is true or whether, in some circumstances, pork-barrelling may amount to a breach of the criminal law or other laws that constrain the expenditure of public money. It also considers whether such conduct could fall within the definition of 'corrupt conduct' in the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988* (NSW). The article then analyses examples of pork-barrelling at the State and Commonwealth level as a means of identifying the failings in the current system and what could be done to correct them.

Book Review

Keeping Them Honest: The Case for a Genuine National Integrity Commission and Other Vital Democratic Reforms,
Stephen Charles and Catherine Williams

— *The Hon Anthony Whealy KC*

319