

As a user of the Law Courts Inn at the Courthouse since the Courthouse opened, I was dismayed to hear that its lease may not be renewed.

These facilities have become an essential meeting place for the legal profession. A spirit of community among lawyers is vital to the successful operation of our system of dispute resolution. The reality is that almost all civil disputes are resolved without the need for a trial. In large part this is achieved because lawyers come to know and trust each other. The Law Courts Inn through the years has the key place for the face to face meetings of lawyers, over meals, and otherwise. Those many informal meetings foster the knowledge, trust and community which is the basis for the compromises that make our system of justice work.

Much good flows to the public, and not just lawyers from the relationships developed at the Law Courts Inn. Accordingly in my view the public as a whole and not just lawyers would be adversely affected by terminating this lease. I urge that serious discussions take place to avoid such an outcome.

Yours truly,

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