

RENSHAW EDWARDS

LAW CLUB GONGS WRONG RENSCHAW EDWARDS PLAYER

The National Business Review - 09 Apr 1999

BY DEBORAH HILL

The law profession's darkest hour was the Renshaw Edwards fraud case, when the public image of lawyers as a bunch of granny-robbing, till-tickling sleazes was pretty much confirmed.

The Law Society had to be dragged kicking and screaming through the courts by campaigning lawyer **Grant Cameron** before they would do the right thing and pay out from their fidelity fund to compensate the ripped off clients of the fraudulent Upper Hutt law firm. (Yes, we know it really hurt dishing up the required \$10,000 per partner. At Kensington Swan there were jokes that the secretaries were earning more than the partners.)

A messy episode in New Zealand's legal history which ought to provoke shamefacedness and amnesia rather than back-slapping.

But curiously this week the Law Society decided to dredge up the whole disgraceful affair by honouring a key figure in the episode. Fair enough: but they seem to have got the wrong fellow.

The society has bestowed an honorary membership on retired Morrison Kent (then Morrison Morpeth) partner Malcolm Dunphy, the lawyer who investigated the Upper Hutt firm after the fraud came to light.

Surely they meant to give it to the hero of the piece, campaigning Cameron, NBR New Zealander of the Year in 1995? Surely they wouldn't be influenced by the fact Mr Cameron had to take on his fellow barristers? Surely not.

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