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ABSTRACT: comment upon the passing of the “Legal Beagle” comic strip from the
Law Society of Western Australia’s journal Brief.

It was with wistful regret that I read the announcement in Brief, the journal of the Law
Society of Western Australia, that LB (as he is affectionately known) has retired from
the partnership of Reynard, Flook and Beagle and the legal profession. Consequently,
his exploits (forensic and otherwise) will no longer be reported so ably by Larry Kent
in the pages of that august publication. I am unable to speak for others but in my case
it was always the first page I turned to as each new issue arrived and was put on
display in the Supreme Court library.

Commencing as a sole practitioner in August 1986 we followed avidly the career of
the “Hound of Justice” (as he is also known) and marvelled at his exploits — both
defending and prosecuting those who fell afoul of the criminal law in addition to
practising in the matrimonial and commercial fields. He also participated on the
periphery in the WA Inc. Royal Commission (what WA practitioner didn’t have his
paws in that pie?). LB did not hesitate to share his practical experience with us —
particularly with regard to touting and ambulance chasing. He was a leader of the
profession — pioneering TV advertising of his practice and being featured on the
cover of Brief in December 1986. We watched his practice grow as he took on
employees and eventually founded the leading firm of Reynard, Flook and Beagle.
We shared the exhilaration of his victories and suffered with him at the claws of the
bench: Judges Dogg and Owl and Magistrate Katt.

Away from the profession he was canine, suffering from endearing and common
foibles — squeamishly declining to become a blood donor and continually battling to
quit smoking. A convivial party-goer (or gay dog in the old-fashioned sense of the
word “gay”), LB was sufficiently strong-willed to eschew social frivolity when it
threatened to interfere with his enjoyment of cultural pursuits and stayed home to
watch “The Simpsons” and “LA Law” on the telly.

We’ll sure miss you LB.
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