

Prato Conference Highlights the Effect of Trade Body on Human Rights

Castan Centre Director, Professor Sarah Joseph, recently co-hosted a colloquium of world experts at the Monash premises in Prato, Italy on the topic of The World Trade Organisation and Human Rights.

The colloquium, held on 21 and 22 June of this year, was part of an ARC Discovery Grant awarded to Professor Joseph, Monash Professor Jeff Waincymer and Professor David Kinley of the University of Sydney. Professor Kinley was also the Castan Centre's foundation Director.

The 26 participants comprised international legal scholars, representatives

from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the WTO, as well as interdisciplinary scholars from the fields of economics, philosophy and political science.

The participants engaged in two days of discussion, with invaluable insights arising from the interdisciplinary nature of the gathering. A copy of the final programme may be found at www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre.

The papers will be collated into a book to be edited by Professors Joseph, Waincymer and Kinley, and will be published by Edward Elgar in 2008.



The Monash University campus at Prato

Centre Welcomes New Human Rights Academic to Monash

Fresh from a six year stint as Senior Legal Officer at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Dr Gideon Boas joined the Monash Law Faculty in July of this year as a Senior Lecturer.

While at the ICTY, Dr Boas worked on the trial of former Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic. He has channelled his experiences into his first book, *The Milosevic Trial: Lessons for the Conduct of Complex International Criminal Proceedings*, which has just been published by Cambridge University Press.

Prior to working with the ICTY in the

Hague, Gideon worked in Sydney for the International Committee of the Red Cross as its International Humanitarian Officer. He gave a paper about his career path during the Castan Centre's 2007 Human Rights Careers Series where he advised students on how to follow their dreams. For Gideon, it began when he helped found the Social Justice Action Group at Monash, which was a prominent human rights advocate on campus in the 1980s and 1990s.

Perhaps his biggest break was getting the position at the Red Cross, despite a lack of experience in the area of In-

ternational Humanitarian Law (the laws of war). At that time, there were very few people in Australia with that kind of experience. And look where it all ended up. A role in one of the trials of the century, a PhD, a book and a position as an academic at Monash.

Gideon's teaching commitments at Monash will focus on International Humanitarian Law and International Law.

See page 17 of this newsletter for *Seven Questions for Gideon Boas*

International Academics a Huge Hit at Monash

A masters subject taught by two visiting British experts has underlined the high level of interest in the new Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

Comparative Bills of Rights, taught by Rabinder Singh QC and Dr Angela Ward at the Monash Chambers in August, gave students an insight into how the Charter will work in practice by looking at how similar bills have worked overseas.

For more Castan Centre news, see page 16

The cross-section within the student body was remarkably fertile. A Supreme Court Judge, the Solicitor-General, Barristers, Solicitors, Government Officials, a journalist, NGO workers and regular students, all sharing ideas in a Socratic environment.

Most people agreed that the coffee breaks were as informative as the classes.

Singh QC and Ward brought a combination of practical experience, academic rigour and policy arguments to focus upon the as yet untested Victorian Charter.

Comparative Bills of Rights was part of Monash Law's LLM (Human Rights). For more information on the LLM, see www.law.monash.edu.au/postgraduate.