

ILS update – 22 February 2008

ILS - China Focus Group

At its last meeting on 21 February 2008, the ILS Executive approved the establishment of an ILS - China Focus Group. The Focus Group will be chaired by Ms Vivienne Bath and will commence work shortly.

MoU with Section of International Law of the American Bar Association

At the meeting, the ILS Executive has also agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Section of International Law of the American Bar Association.

2nd Annual CPD Immigration Law Conference

The 2nd Annual CPD Immigration Law Conference was held in Melbourne on 8 & 9 February 2008. The Conference was co-hosted by the Immigration Lawyers Association of Australasia Focus Group of the ILS and the Refugee & Immigration Legal Centre and was kindly supported by Maddocks Lawyers.

More than 70 guests attended the Conference and discussed important and current immigration law issues relevant to legal professionals. Speakers included the Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Issues, the Hon Laurie Ferguson MP, the Principal Member of the Migration Review Tribunal, Mr Denis O'Brien, as well as Law Council President Mr Ross Ray QC, senior officers from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and eminent immigration law experts. A more detailed report will be available in the next ILS Newsletter.

ILS Newsletter

The next (bumper) issue of the ILS newsletter will be released in March 2008. If you want to contribute an article which may be of interest to ILS members then please send me an email. The deadline is cob Friday 29 February 2008.

Fiji

The Law Council has written to the Fiji Attorney-General, expressing concerns about orders which may prevent a proposed International Bar Association Mission from entering the country. In the letter, Ross Ray QC, President of the Law Council, reiterated concerns expressed by LAWASIA, stressing to the Attorney the importance of accommodating independent observer missions such as the one proposed by the IBA. Mr Ray said such a mission would allow the international legal community to form a balanced and informed opinion about the current state of affairs in Fiji. The Law Council asked the Attorney to reconsider the circumstances preventing the proposed mission from entering the country.

Upcoming Conferences

International Trade Law Symposium

This year's International Trade Law Symposium will be held at Old Parliament House in Canberra on 11 and 12 April 2008. Attendance is by invitation only and the number of attendees is limited. Invitees

include judges, academics, private and public practitioners as well as leaders in the business community with a recognised interest and expertise in international trade law.

The program will include panel led discussions on:

- the international trade law year in review
- practitioners' perspectives on recent developments in WTO dispute settlement
- new WTO case law affecting environmental protection
- the WTO and social measures (cultural products and animal welfare)
- international conventions regarding cross border business transactions, and
- current developments in intellectual property at the WTO.

ILS members are invited to register their interest. Please contact the Administrator of the ILS for further information.

Conference on the Future of Federalism

The ILS and the Centre for Public, International and Comparative Law (CPICL), T C Beirne Law School, University of Queensland, will co-host a Conference on the future of federalism. The Conference will be held in Brisbane from 10 to 12 July 2008.

The topics to be discussed at the Conference include:

- Federalist Theory
- Australian Federalism: The Present and the Future
- Fiscal Federalism
- Federalism in Europe, including German constitutional reforms and the EU constitutional process
- Federalism, Trade and Globalisation
- Federalist Responses to Ethno-Religious Conflict

Confirmed speakers include:

- Professor Thomas Fleiner, Director, Centre for Federalism, Fribourg, Switzerland
- Professor Fritz Scharpf, Max-Planck-Institute, Federal Commission, Germany
- Professor Ernest Young, University of Texas, United States
- Professor Thomas O Hueglin, Wilfried Laurier University, Canada
- Professor Julia von Blumenthal, Leuphana University, Lueneburg, Germany
- Professor Suri Ratnapala, University of Queensland
- Professor Cheryl Saunders, Melbourne University
- Professor Anne Twomey, University of Sydney
- Professor Brian Galligan, Melbourne University
- Professor Bhajan Grewal, Victoria University
- Associate Professor Peter Bodman, University of Queensland
- Associate Professor Jürgen Bröhmer, University of New England
- Dr Nicholas Aroney, University of Queensland
- Dr Alan Fenna, Curtin University
- Mr Ian Govey, Deputy Secretary, Attorney-General's Department
- Mr Andrew Hudson, Partner, Hunt & Hunt
- Mr Gim Del Vilar, Barrister

For further information and regular updates please visit the Conference website located at www.fedcon2008.net. The program will be finalised in early March 2008.

Upcoming Meetings

28 February 2008

ILS - International Legal Issues Focus Group meeting (teleconference)

24 April 2008

ILS Executive meeting (teleconference)

For more information please visit the ILS website at www.lca-ils.net.



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

International Law Section