

More Castan Centre News

Indigenous Expert Visits Castan Centre

Professor Brad Morse, a Professor of Law at the University of Ottawa, visited the Castan Centre as this edition was going to print. His lecture, "Is the Common Law still relevant for Indigenous Australians? A Canadian perspective" was hosted at the Monash Law Chambers on 16 October. A report will appear in the next edition of the Newsletter, due out in March 2008.

Professor Morse has had a long and distinguished career in Indigenous legal issues and is one of a number of academics who forge strong ties between countries such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the nations of South America, which have strong indigenous populations. He has visited Australia a

number of times, and presented numerous papers at conferences and guest lectures throughout Canada, U.S.A., Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Brazil, Hong Kong and Papua New Guinea.

Professor Morse's experience as a legal consultant or counsel includes among others: the Australian and Canadian Law Reform Commissions; the Canadian Sentencing Commission; Aboriginal Development Commission (Australia); the Waitangi Tribunal of New Zealand; the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission; the governments of Canada, Ontario, British Columbia and New Zealand.

Professor Morse has helped establish Aboriginal legal services programs and child welfare agencies. He has also worked on land claims, environmental disputes, constitutional, treaty and self-government negotiations, economic development projects, legislative drafting and other Aboriginal governance matters. He has also served as Chief Federal Negotiator on several land claims.

Professor Morse was in Australia for a conference on the Stolen Generations and to visit colleagues at the University of Queensland.

Training Continues at Pace

The recent introduction of the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities* has seen a spike in requests for human rights training.

The centre is conducting training for the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission on various aspects of the Charter, with the emphasis on challenges likely to be faced by the Commission. Similarly, the centre's training sessions for the Judi-

cial College of Victoria have focussed on aspect most likely to be relevant to judges. These include the limitations provision of the Charter and the obligations of public authorities. Both of these courses have been headed up by Castan Centre Deputy Director Julie Debeljak.

Dr Gideon Boas, a newcomer to the law faculty and a member of the Castan Centre, is heading up the centre's

training program for the Victorian Department of Justice, which also focuses on the Charter.

On a national level, the regular training courses for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade continue. The centre also recently conducted a half day course for a visiting delegation of Iraqi government officials.

Two More Babies for the Castan Centre

The baby spurt continues at the Castan Centre with the recent arrival of Giles Knyvett Debeljak, second son of Deputy Director Julie Debeljak and her husband, Simon McGregor. Giles entered the world unexpectedly on 7 October 2007 weighing in at 2.4kg and coming an impressive five weeks ahead of schedule. Despite this, Giles is doing well.

Meanwhile, Adam McBeth's first child, Jamie Joshua Miller McBeth, arrived on 26 June just as Adam was putting the finishing touches on his PhD. Adam has already inflicted his torrid love of the Richmond Football club onto Jamie.



Jamie McBeth (he's the one in the Richmond socks) with his dad Adam, and Giles Debeljak coping quite comfortably with life in a humidicrib.