

How did you first become involved with the Castan Centre

I was working as a temp in the law faculty in 2000 when four new centres were created. They advertised for administrators for them and luckily for me I was assigned to the Castan Centre.

What interests you about human rights?

I think that human rights should be a way of life not an interest.

What is your favourite thing about working for the Centre?

I think the Centre staff, as they are a dedicated and hardworking group of people. I am also proud of the number of student programs the Centre now runs.

Which Centre project do you enjoy working on the most?

The most enjoyable project for me, by far, is organising all of our events. I really like bringing together all the small details to enable the success of an event.

Which project do you dislike the most and why?

Mailouts!!!!!!!!!

You will be retiring at the end of April, any idea of what you'll do next?

I have put off so many things in the last 18 months or so such as travel, renovations, courses, that I am sure I will not be idle. I was also registered as a Marriage Celebrant about 18 months ago and will now have more time to develop this area of my life.

What is your favourite quote?

I have tried, not always succeeded, in living by 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you'.

If you could be the prime minister, what major change/s would you make?

I would like to see improvements in education and health but at the very least I would certainly try to lessen the rhetoric and increase the action.

Who inspires you most in the human rights field?

No one person inspires me, I mostly admire the volunteers on the ground who do the day to day grunt work and never receive any accolades for the work they do.

Publications and other activities by centre faculty members

Note – joint pieces are listed under first named author

Becky Batagol

Book

Non-Adversarial Justice, M. King, B. Batagol, A. Freiberg and R. Hyams, (Federation Press, 2009)

Papers

'Lawyers and their Law in Family Mediation', presented at the Children and the Law Conference 'International Approaches to Children and their Vulnerabilities', with T. Brown, Prato, 7-10 September 2009

'The family law profession and family mediation in Australia: Why women especially need their lawyers' presented at the Centre for Feminist Legal Studies, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 20 October 2009

'Is there a gendered shadow of the law in family law disputes?' presented at the Feminist Friday seminar, Institute for Feminist Legal Studies, Osgoode Hall, York University, Toronto, 2 October 2009

Melissa Castan

Article

'International and Comparative Indigenous rights via video conferencing' with M. Stephenson, B. Morse, L. Robertson, D. Yarrow, N. Tomas and R. Thompson, (2009) 19(1) Legal Education Review 237-256.

Chapter

'DRIP feed: The slow reconstruction of self-determination for Indigenous Peoples' in S. Joseph and A. McBeth (eds), Research Handbook on International Human Rights Law (Edward Elgar, 2010) 492-511

Julie Debeljak

Paper

'Australia's Human Rights Report Card', panel discussion at the Australian Lawyers Alliance Annual National Conference, 22 October, Sanctuary Cove

Submission to the Advisory Group on Reform of Australian Government Administration regarding Reform of Australian Government Administration: Building the world's best public service, with M. Smith, 2 December 2009

Patrick Emerton

Chapter

'International Economic Justice: Is a principled liberalism possible?' in S. Joseph, D. Kinley, J. Waincymer (eds) The World Trade Organization and Human Rights: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, (Edward Elgar, UK, 2009) 133-161

Paula Gerber

Article

'How to Stop Engineers from Becoming 'Bush Lawyers': The Art of Teaching Law to Engineering and Construction Students'