



The Australian Network for Japanese Law

Newsletter – September 2009

Events & Initiatives

Mr Akira Kawamura, Deputy Chairman of the International Bar Association and ANJeL advisor and Course Prizes Donor, will speak at a Sydney University Law (Students) Society event, 1-2pm 21 September 2009. Please see <http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/caplus>.

ANJeL co-hosts its (eighth) international conference with the theme "Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific: Towards Institution Building", Sydney on 27-28 November 2009. The Conference is in partnership with the Sydney Centre for International Law (SCIL), the Centre for Asian and Pacific Law at the University of Sydney (CAPLUS) and the Australian Human Rights Centre at UNSW, with the Japan Foundation as major sponsor. Speakers will include former members of the International Human Rights Committee (Prof Nisuke Ando and Emeritus Prof Ivan Shearer) and leading international law and human rights scholars in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond (such as Profs Shigeki Sakamoto and Tom Zwart, David Matas, and Hsien-Li Tan). The Conference Program and online registration (**early bird rate until September 30**) are now available at: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/news/law/457.html?eventcategoryid=39&eventid=4142>.

Inaugural East Asian Law and Society Conference in Hong Kong, February 2010 – ANJeL calls for Japanese Law panellists. The Conference, organised by the Collaborative Research Network (CRN) East Asian Law Society, will be held at the University of Hong Kong on 5-6 February 2010: <http://www.cc.aoyama.ac.jp/~crn33/page2.html>. The theme is "Changing Socio-Legal Landscapes in East Asia: Common Trends and Local Variations", especially legal education and training; legal and quasi-legal professions; dispute resolution and civil litigation; lay participation and other forms of democratic justice; gender in law; criminal justice and constitutional law. ANJeL is interested in forming Japanese Law panels. Paper proposals, including a title and abstract, should be submitted to anjelinfo@gmail.com **by 20 September**.

Kyoto and Tokyo Seminars on Japanese Law: Students should apply by 9 October for courses over 8-18 February 2010. LLB and postgraduate students interested in taking these courses for credit via Sydney Law School should email c.bromley@usyd.edu.au to indicate their interest. See <http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/caplus>. LLM students at ANU should email kent.anderson@anu.edu.au. See <http://studyat.anu.edu.au/courses/LAWS8171%3Bdetails.html>.

ANJeL Blake Dawson Essay Prize in Japanese Law (\$1000): due 30 November 2009
See http://law.anu.edu.au/anjel/content/anjel_teaching_essayprize.html

Consumer Law Roundtable, Sydney on 4 December 2009. The Fourth Consumer Law Roundtable will be held at Sydney Law School, focusing on: "Consumer Law and Policy in the Asia-Pacific: Product Safety, Consumer Credit, Unfair Contracts, and Consumer Access to Justice". One special guest will be Prof Tsuneo Matsumoto, who has been heavily involved in Japan's consumer law reform over the last decade, including the recent establishment of an independent Consumers Affairs Agency. This is generally an invitation-only event for consumer law academics, regulators and NGOs, but early-career researchers are especially welcome. Those interested in attending and any proposals for short presentations should contact Luke Nottage (L.Nottage@usyd.edu.au, with CC to c.bromley@usyd.edu.au) **by 15 October**.

New Developments

Lost Members

Some e-mail addresses for members are no longer current.

ANJeL asks that each member advises us of the following via the ANJeL email address ANJeLinfo@gmail.com:

a second (permanent, non-institutional) email address; any relevant changes in professional affiliation; & whether you consent to be listed in the Selected Members list on the ANJeL websites:
www.law.usyd.edu.au/anjel &
www.law.usyd.edu.au/anjel

Opportunity to write for CCH Japanese Business Law Guide. Dr Luke Nottage, editor of this two-volume looseleaf/online service (<http://www.cch-japan.jp/product/jblg.html>) invites ANJeL members to contact him if interested in (co-)authoring updates to some remaining chapters of this (mostly practitioner-oriented) resource. Areas of interest include foreign exchange and investment; regulation; intellectual property; insurance; and tort law in general. Several other ANJeL members have already contributed. CCH will negotiate with authors a fixed amount, with the possibility of later developing material for separate published books (eg <http://www.cch-japan.jp/product/08BLJ.htm>). CCH hope for (but do not require) subsequent occasional updates for separately negotiated amounts.

Chief Justice's book launch speech. The Hon. James Spigelman AC, Chief Justice of NSW, launched *Corporate Governance in the 21st Century* co-edited by Luke Nottage, Leon Wolff and Kent Anderson (eds) and *International Business Law in Australasia* by Vivienne Bath and Robin Burnett. His address (also in *Aust Bar Rev*) is available via <http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/caplus/events.html>.

Foreign Women Lawyers' Association (FWLA) and Japan Law Society (JLS, previously known as KARA) become ANJeL Project Partners. This is part of a **re-constitution of ANJeL**. UNSW has become an Affiliate. Leon Wolff has accepted an appointment at Bond University and is ANJeL's new Program Convenor (Research). Hitoshi Nasu (ANU) and Vivienne Bath (USydney) are the new Deputy Directors. Alicia Lyons and Glenn Kembrey (USydney LLB students) will help with administration, in lieu of Carol Lawson – Directors thank her for all her hard work so far. All other Executives, Advisors, Affiliates and Programs remain the same. Members are automatically re-admitted to this 'new ANJeL', unless they inform anjelinfo@gmail.com.

Research Spotlight

Leon Wolff is an Endeavour Research Fellow at the International Centre for Comparative Law and Politics, University of Tokyo and adjunct Associate Professor of Law at Bond University. Along with Luke Nottage he recently completed an edited translation of selected essays by one of Japan's most well-known legal sociologists: Takao Tanase, *Law and Community: A Critical Reassessment of American Liberalism and Japanese Modernity* (Elgar, forthcoming January 2010). They hope to give a presentation about this book in the Hong Kong conference in February (see p1), and the book will be available at a 50% discount to ANJeL members. Along with Kent Anderson they have also submitted a proposal for *Who Judges Japan? Popular Participation in Japan's Legal Process*, with contributions from many ANJeL members.

Stacey Steele (ANJeL Judges-in-Residence Program Convenor) and **Kathryn Taylor** of the Asian Law Centre in the Melbourne Law School have edited the first significant book available in English on the rapidly evolving subject of pre-qualification legal education in Asia. A major focus is Japan, but the book also covers Afghanistan, Australia, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Vietnam. Writers are based in Australia, North America, Europe and Asia, reflecting the institutional and personal links pioneered and nurtured by Professor Malcolm DH Smith, a founding Advisor of ANJeL, to whom the volume is dedicated. See <http://www.routledge.com/books/Legal-Education-in-Asia-isbn9780415494335>