

## Postgraduate Research Bulletin

www.alpn.edu.au



Issue No. 3 / April 2008

Teaching and Learning Centre, University of New England, Armidale, NSW, 2351, Tel: +61 2 6773 2504, Email: alpn@alpn.edu.au

### Contents

- 1  
What's in store
- 2  
ALPN Postgraduate Guide  
Supervisor Profile  
(Professor Gino Dal Pont)
- 3  
Student Profile  
(Thanh Thi Kieu)
- 4  
Addressing Reviewer  
Comments  
Now to Kickstart the Heart  
of Admin Law  
(AboveBoard Forum)

## What's in store

Stephen Colbran  
ALPN Project Leader

The Australian Law Postgraduate Directory has now been released for public beta testing. The Academic Directory contains details on the vast majority of Australian legal academics found in 26 Australian Law Schools. Legal academics whose names and details do not appear in the directory or who find incorrect entries should make contact with the ALPN team to either include your details or make the necessary amendments. The Directory enables searches based on discipline interests, university, and academic name. Academic profiles include name, qualifications, contact details, home page, research interests, teaching interests, publications and memberships. The Directory aims to assist in building research, teaching and supervision networks amongst legal academics to enable potential higher degree students to locate supervisors, and to help identify potential examiners.

### Project Leaders

Stephen Colbran / Email [stephen.colbran@une.edu.au](mailto:stephen.colbran@une.edu.au)  
Belinda Tynan / Email [belinda.tynan@une.edu.au](mailto:belinda.tynan@une.edu.au)

### Project Officer

Angela Hoskins / Email [angela.hoskins@une.edu.au](mailto:angela.hoskins@une.edu.au)



Professor Stephen Colbran

### ALPN Postgraduate Guide

Considerable development and design is being invested in a package of short modules focusing on research approaches, research methodologies, research resources, plus an included social networking area. The resources and interactive aspects of the training packages have a completion deadline of a May 2008. An expert web developer has been appointed who, in consultation with others within the discipline of Law, the project leaders and other stakeholders, underpins the development work.

We invite Law postgraduates to help test this Guide before it becomes available online. See page 2 for more information about the Postgraduate Guide, and the prize you will be in the running to win if you contribute.

### Higher Degree Research Supervision Modules

Similar to the training packages being created for postgraduate students is the 8 module program for postgraduate supervisors currently being developed. The content has had considerable thought and is based on a sector survey and literature review to ensure that duplication does not occur and that we are truly adding to what is more broadly available.

ALPN expects to launch a beta version in June this year. The modules have been created so that supervisors can sit at their desktop and work through them at their own pace. Once completed the assessment tasks are logged and if all requirements are met a Certificate of completion is issued. The Modules are highly interactive and the ALPN project team are very excited about their content.



Australian Law Postgraduate Network

in association with



Support for this project has been provided by The Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education Ltd, an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training. The views expressed in this letter do not necessarily reflect the views of The Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education.

# ALPN Postgraduate Guide—and your chance to win an iPod Shuffle!

Law schools and academic libraries across Australia have written Web-based research guides for law students. Some are just short lists of links, others are more comprehensive. Few, if any, address all the special requirements of law postgraduates. These needs include support on career-related topics (such as job search skills, academic networking and writing for publication) and advice on research methodology. ALPN has therefore commissioned the creation of a comprehensive online learning package designed specifically for Australian law postgraduates.

The learning package is believed to be the first of its kind. In addition to usual links to online resources, the Guide will include:

- exercises designed to encourage reflection and deeper learning;
- links to relevant journal articles in HTML and PDF format;
- a set of multimedia resources;
- self-assessment instruments;
- user-satisfaction surveys;
- customised search tools; and
- a social space.

This material will provide a comprehensive guide to the research skills that law postgraduates require in their studies and their future careers.

Unlike sites at other universities, the ALPN guide will be designed for postgraduates from any institution.

Where links have been created to subscription-only resources (such as WestLaw or LexisNexis), these links have been written so that (as far as possible) they are usable by students at campuses across Australia.

**Help test the Guide and win a 2gb iPod Shuffle!**

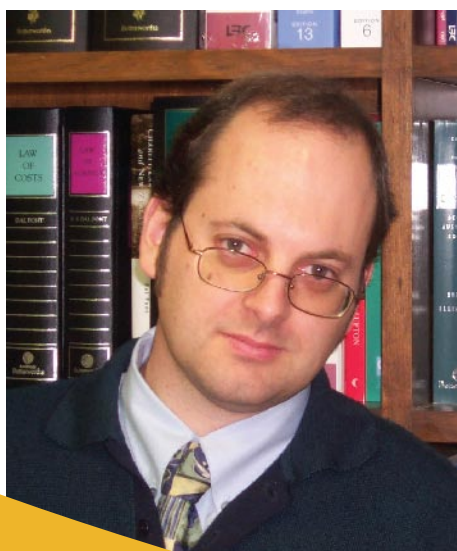


ALPN is looking for 10 Law postgraduates willing to help test ALPN's online Postgraduate Guide over the next few weeks, before it goes live. The contributors will be in the running to win a 2gb iPod Shuffle. Those interested in being involved in the testing should contact Cameron Barnes at the UNE University Library: [cbarnes@une.edu.au](mailto:cbarnes@une.edu.au)

## Online Survey

Have your say ... by completing the online ALPN survey. You will be helping us help you by providing insight into how the website and bulletins are servicing your academic needs. Any suggestions on how the service can be improved will be appreciated!

[www.alpn.edu.au/survey](http://www.alpn.edu.au/survey)



## Supervisor Profile

**Name:** Professor Gino Dal Pont

**University:** University of Tasmania

**Years of supervisory experience:**

Ten (10) years

**What areas of research do you specialise in?**

Professional responsibility, equity and trusts.

**What has been a highlight of being a supervisor?**

Completions, especially those where the examiners reports request no amendments.

**What attracts you to being a supervisor?**

An opportunity to challenge the minds of bright students who have a genuine interest in a subject area and in turn challenge my own knowledge and understanding).

**What are the challenges of being a supervisor?**

To maintain students' momentum over an extended period of time.

**Do you have any advice for new postgraduate law students?**

Choose a research topic very carefully, and seek to the set of parameters of that topic as early in the candidature as possible.

◀ Continued from page 1

### The online ALPN survey

To enable your feedback on the project, the ALPN team has uploaded a short survey to the website for you to complete. In the spirit of collaboration, we will appreciate your time in completing the questions and the section for to note your comments and ideas of how the Network could best service your academic needs ([www.alpn.edu.au/survey](http://www.alpn.edu.au/survey)).

### ALPN Roadshows

We are confident that a series of national ALPN Roadshows, currently in the planning stage, will best inform students and their supervisors about the online ALPN resources. The Roadshows will take you on an online tour of the ALPN sites, exploring the modules for both students and supervisors. These resources are geared to make learning and the sharing of information in relation to the areas of specialisation time efficient, interesting, and collaborative. We look forward to seeing you later this year at one of the state-by-state ALPN Roadshows.

## Student Profile



**Name:** Thanh Thi Kieu

**University:** Victoria University

**Degree:** PhD

**Supervisors:**

Professor Neil Andrews (Victoria University),

Professor Christopher Arup (Monash University)

**What area are you examining in your research?**

Intellectual Property

**What attracted you to postgraduate study?**

My passion of researching intellectual property!

**Best part of being a postgraduate student?**

I am challenged by the hard work, and working independently.

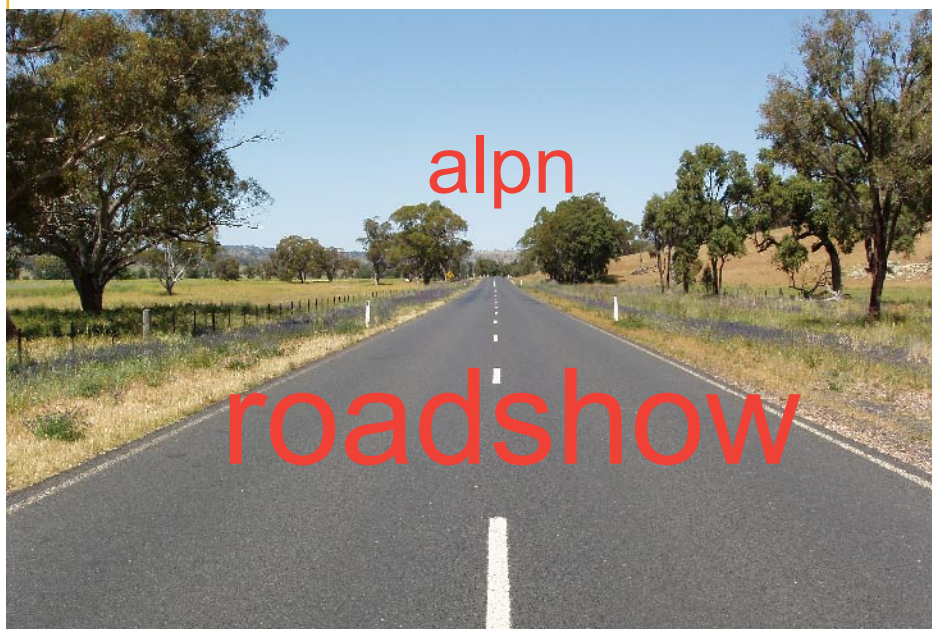
**Challenges of being a postgraduate student?**

I am challenged by having to improve my language, and being familiar with academic research style, and to create a thesis under high requirements.

**Advice for anyone considering postgraduate study in law?**

It is really difficult and challenging but definitely interesting!

### Coming to a university near you ... the



Be informed about how the following ALPN resources can work for you:

- Online national academic law network;
- Online Postgraduate Supervisor Training and Development; and
- Online Postgraduate Guide for law students.

The schedule for the ALPN Roadshow will soon be publicised at

[www.alpn.edu.au/roadshow](http://www.alpn.edu.au/roadshow)

for more information phone 02 6773 2504

## ADDRESSING REVIEWER COMMENTS

BAD REVIEWS ON YOUR PAPER? FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES AND YOU MAY YET GET IT PAST THE EDITOR:

### Reviewer comment:

"The method/device/paradigm the authors propose is clearly wrong."

### How NOT to respond:

✗ "Yes, we know. We thought we could still get a paper out of it. Sorry."

### Correct response:

✓ "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, as the focus of this work is exploratory and not performance-based, validation was not found to be of critical importance to the contribution of the paper."

### Reviewer comment:

"The authors fail to reference the work of Smith et al., who solved the same problem 20 years ago."

### How NOT to respond:

✗ "Huh. We didn't think anybody had read that. Actually, their solution is better than ours."

### Correct response:

✓ "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, our work is based on completely different first principles (we use different variable names), and has a much more attractive graphical user interface."

### Reviewer comment:

"This paper is poorly written and scientifically unsound. I do not recommend it for publication."

### How NOT to respond:

✗ "You #&@\*% reviewer! I know who you are! I'm gonna get you when it's my turn to review!"

### Correct response:

✓ "The reviewer raises an interesting concern. However, we feel the reviewer did not fully comprehend the scope of the work, and misjudged the results based on incorrect assumptions."

www.phdcomics.com

JORGE CHAM © 2005

## Now to Kickstart the Heart of Admin Law

### AboveBoard PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY FORUM

Saturday, 24 May 2008

9.30am–3.30pm

#### Venue

John Curtin School of Medical Research  
Australian National University

#### Register your interest by email

AboveBoard@anu.edu.au

#### Enquiries

Matt Stevens 0403 757 151

It seems to be a common experience of undergraduate law students that administrative law is found to be perplexing, complicated and uninspiring... or perhaps there's just too much Latin involved. It's a shame that this is the case, because the essence of administrative law is the holding of the executive government of the day to account, particularly with respect to its responsibilities to the Parliament. As such, the dense fog of mandamus, certiorari and abstract principles of natural justice can often obscure the fact the administrative law is the vehicle which gives effect to so many rights and obligations which the younger and more vociferous are prone to advocate.

One of the Latin maxims, *habeas corpus*, appears

to be under considerable threat in modern times, with the extensive use of administrative detention of unlawful immigrants whose access to judicial review has been significantly curtailed, as well as the questionable lawfulness of the activities of the United States at Guantánamo Bay.

In this age of augmented international mobility of the world's population and the ambiguously titled 'war on terror', it is now more than ever that executive governments are to be made responsible for their actions which make sweeping incursions into centuries-old and cherished legal and human rights.

In the Australian context, the maintenance of responsible government in the Westminster system depends upon a combination of high integrity and robust public accountability mechanisms. With guidance from a panel of experts, the *AboveBoard Public Accountability Forum* will explore how to create this 'perfect storm'.

Allan Hawke was a senior public servant who ascended the Canberra ranks to become Secretary of Defence, a post he held at the time of the 2002 'Children Overboard' affair, after which he tendered his resignation to the Minister on the basis of his self-evaluation that he had been derelict in his own duties. The Minister refused and Allan completed his public service to Australia as High Commissioner to New Zealand.

Melissa Parke was elected to the Federal Parliament last year as the Member for Fremantle, replacing Labor stalwart Carmen Lawrence. Prior to this she served most recently as a senior lawyer at the United Nations in New York. In January 2006, she was instrumental in establishing the new UN Ethics Office, laying the foundations for a permanent unit that would eventually serve 29,000 personnel around the world.

Sushi Das is a Senior Writer for *The Age* newspaper. Born in India, and having spent her formative years in London, she moved to Melbourne in 1991. She started as cadet with *The Age* in 1995 after studying journalism at RMIT, and she covered state politics before becoming transport editor. She has won several prestigious Melbourne Press Club Quill awards for her articles on race, gender roles, culture and corruption.

Stephen Keim is a Brisbane-based barrister who recently garnered attention as the advocate for the terrorism suspect, Mohamed Haneef. Having weathered the Haneef case itself and the ensuing challenge to his release of police interview transcripts, the recently announced inquiry into the government's handling of the case is on his radar. He has been a member of the Queensland Bar since 1985 and took silk in 2004.

Matt Stevens

[www.alpn.edu.au/forums](http://www.alpn.edu.au/forums)