The completion of the first floor renovations of the Monash University Law Chambers was recently celebrated with a luncheon at the central Melbourne facility.

The chambers, based in Bourke Street in the heart of Melbourne’s legal precinct, provide a postgraduate study centre and a focal point for Monash Law postgraduate students, enabling many of them to study close to their workplace.

Monash Law dean Professor Arie Freiberg said the renovations included the acquisition and refurbishment of an extra level, taking the total number of floors occupied by Monash Law to three.

“The renovations mean we will be able to expand our graduate program and offer more seminars and public lectures. We want the chambers to act as a hub of activity,” Professor Freiberg said.

“The support we have received from the university in completing these renovations has been gratifying and we are pleased to see that other faculties and a number of external companies are now utilising the facility.”

Guests at the luncheon, hosted by Professor Freiberg, included vice-chancellor Professor Richard Larkins, project manager Adel Mousa, divisional director of Facilities and Services Stephen Davey, senior law faculty members, representatives from building contractors Syncon, project engineers from the Sokolski Consulting group and the building’s owners.

Diary dates
JULY
13 – 15 July 2005
Clinical Legal Education Conference
Novotel, Melbourne
Ph: + 61 3 9905 3371
www.cleconference.edu.au

AUGUST
10 am – 4 pm, Sunday, 7 August 2005
Monash Open Day
Clayton Campus
Ph: + 61 3 9905 3389
www.monash.edu.au/openday

6 pm, Thursday, 18 August 2005
Inaugural lecture of Professor Bernadette McSherry
“Sex, drugs and evil souls: Is preventive detention justifiable?”
Monash University Law Chambers
Ph: + 61 3 9905 2326

1 pm, Thursday, 25 August 2005
Annual Lucinda Lecture, presented by The Hon. Justice Ronald Sackville
Monash University Clayton Campus
Ph: + 61 3 9905 3382

OCTOBER
12 noon – 7.30 pm, Tuesday, 4 October 2005
Monash Postgraduate Information Expo
Melbourne Town Hall
Ph: + 61 3 9905 3389

16 – 19 October 2005
Experts and Lawyers Conference
Broome, Western Australia
Ph: + 61 3 9905 1344
www.law.monash.edu.au/expertconf
Should terrorists be tortured?

Using torture to resolve the crises of terrorism will never work and compromises humanity’s values, Paris Aristotle AM recently told attendees of the annual Monash Law School Costello Lecture.

Mr Aristotle, the director of the Victorian Foundation for the Survivors of Torture, told the 180-strong crowd that failing to protect the fundamental human rights of every person would damage the values protecting everyone.

“I do not believe that the threat of terrorism is so profoundly different to anything the world has seen before that we are forced to compromise our commitment to respect the fundamental human rights of every person, a commitment which includes the unqualified prohibition of torture,” Mr Aristotle said.

“If we respond to the threat of terrorism by compromising that commitment in our treatment of those who are suspected of involvement and even of those proven to be responsible, we will profoundly damage the entire framework of values that protect us all.”

Mr Aristotle said the imprisonment of terrorist suspects at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba has led to unforeseen and unwelcome consequences for the US and its allies. “I believe the prisoners at Guantanamo have been tortured or have at least endured cruel, inhumane and degrading conditions. This would have reinforced among prisoners any previously held beliefs about the barbarism of the US and its allies, thereby confirming the justification of having taken up arms,” he said.

Those people will now have first-hand knowledge and evidence of the violations perpetrated by officials at Guantanamo. This evidence has the potential for use in future legal action brought against those officials and their commanders.

“For these reasons there is now a pool of people for whom release is difficult, if not impossible, and therefore their predicament turns into a festering moral and legal boil on the rump of the US and its allies,” Mr Aristotle said.

The annual Costello Lecture, inaugurated in 2001 in honour of prominent Monash alumnus Reverend Tim Costello, addresses issues of ethics and social justice.

The digital classroom and transnational law

In the only international course of its kind, Monash Law School students have been given the unique opportunity to be linked with students from Ottawa in Canada and Oklahoma in New Zealand to learn about comparative Indigenous laws.

Weekly international videoconferencing seminars have been held this semester connecting students and professors in a real time teaching exchange between the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

Students involved in the seminars, convened by Monash Law lecturers Melissa Castan and David Yarrow, are able to interact with each other and ask questions of the international staff.

“I think the seminars are a prime example of Monash Law’s ability to offer innovative learning opportunities for our students,” Ms Castan said.

Want to include something in the next edition of Law Matters?

If you have an interesting story or something you wish to say, please contact Jodi Rockman on + 61 3 9905 2630 or email jodi.rockman@law.monash.edu.au

Every effort will be made to include contributions however space is limited. Please understand that items may be edited or not included.
Monash debaters argue litigation is good for medical practice

Litigation is not causing the death of medical practice, a team of Monash Law alumni successfully argued at the 2005 Great Law Week Debate, held at the National Gallery of Victoria in May.

Presented by Monash Law School and the Law Institute of Victoria, this year’s debate was moderated by Dr Sally Cockburn, also known as radio and television personality Dr Feelgood, who dedicated the event to the memory of Monash Law alumnus Campbell McComas AM, moderator of the inaugural debate in 2004.

The winning team comprised one of Melbourne’s most respected QCs David Galbally, former world and Australasian debating champion Kim Little from law firm Clayton Utz and recent law/economics graduate Kylie Lane, who was named world’s best speaker at the 2005 University Debating Championships.

Victoria’s Health Services Commissioner Beth Wilson, chief medical officer of Southern Health Dr Syd Allen and current Monash medicine/law student Dev Kevat made strong arguments for the affirmative, but were unable to convince the judging panel that litigation was in fact causing the death of medical practice.

For the negative team, David Galbally QC argued doctors should be accountable for their actions and that litigation has forced medical practitioners to communicate with patients and advise them of any risks involved with surgery and explain medical procedures more thoroughly.

Dr Syd Allen, on the affirmative, argued litigation has scared doctors into practising medicine in a way that will keep them out of court, quoting the increasing numbers of caesarean sections as an example and stating obstetrics as an area of medical practice that has been ruined by litigation.

The judging panel, Monash Law dean Professor Arie Freiberg, general practitioner Professor John Murtagh AM, Law Institute of Victoria President Victoria Strong, STOPline Chairman Bob Falconer, City of Melbourne Councillor Fiona Sneddon and Monash Association of Debaters President Jake Clifton, agreed with the audience vote and determined the negative argument more convincing.

Legal scholars honoured

Two former law school deans were recognised for their outstanding contributions to the law at graduation ceremonies recently held at Monash.

Former longstanding staff members Emeritus Professor Enid Campbell AC OBE and Emeritus Professor Louis Waller AO were both awarded the honorary doctorate of law Honoris Causa by the university.

Professor Campbell, who was also recognised in the 2005 Australia Day honours list, retired from Monash in 1997, however continues to publish learned works at the highest level.

Her services to legal scholarship and education, raising the debate in the field of constitutional law and her work on public law have largely contributed to the advancement of Monash Law School and the university.

Professor Waller has been a professor at Monash Law School since 1965 and was appointed as its second dean in 1968. He held the Sir Leo Cussen Chair of Law from 1965 and was admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria until December 2000. Today he continues to teach as an honorary lecturer in the Law School.

The university honoured Professor Waller for his major contributions to the field of law and medical ethics. As a leader in medico-legal jurisprudence his dedication to law reform has earned him great respect within the legal community and beyond.

He has written many respected Australian legal books which have become definitive texts in the areas, including editions of An Introduction to Law (Sydney LBC) and Legal Issues in Medicine – Cases and Materials, and is on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Law and Medicine and Medical Law International. In 2005, Monash Law School filled the new Louis Waller Research Chair in Law, established in the Professor’s honour.
Women in the law: The changing face of the legal profession

Since the inception of Monash Law School in 1964, the legal profession has seen a number of changes and challenges, most notably the rise of women entering the study and practice of law.

Almost 60 per cent of the current 2300 undergraduate law students at Monash Law are female – an extremely large increase from the mere handful of female students in the first intake some 40 years ago.

But in 2005, if female graduates are so far exceeding male graduates, why do so few women occupy senior legal appointments?

Although a number of Monash Law graduates hold leading positions in government and the judiciary, male graduates continue to occupy the majority of senior management positions in the field.

When young female lawyers enter the profession, there seems to be little difference between their male colleagues in terms of their work, career progression opportunities and the attitudes of more senior colleagues and clients. However, as they climb the career ladder, women become less represented in management.

For some years now Monash Law School female undergraduates have outnumbered males, yet only 14 per cent of law firm partners and only 17 per cent of barristers in Victoria are female.

“I think there are still structural barriers to the advancement of women lawyers with family responsibilities. There is still an old-fashioned male model of having to work excessive hours to make one’s mark. This can have a negative impact on both men and women seeking an appropriate work-life balance.”

Professor Bernadette McSherry

“When I started off in the law as an articled clerk and solicitor, there were few female role models. I, along with most of my close female contemporaries, only lasted a few years in private practice, partly because of the lack of flexibility in work hours and the rather ‘blokey’ environment. Almost twenty years on, I think the culture has substantially changed, but there is still a way to go,” she said.

Professor McSherry believes the main career progression issue facing females is the paucity of part-time jobs for lawyers.

“Despite impressive qualifications and experience, it remains difficult for women to progress up the career ladder if they have family responsibilities. Academic life still offers more flexibility in terms of work hours, than most private law firms.”

When Professor McSherry worked as an associate to Justice Gobbo in the Supreme Court during the late 1980s, there were no female Supreme Court justices. She believes the past 15 years have brought a welcome change but a ‘critical mass’ concerning women in senior positions has not been achieved.

“I fell into academia more by accident than design and for me, Professor Marcia Neave has been a wonderful role model; her energy, enthusiasm and concern for law reform is inspiring. I’m also a great admirer of the Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Warren. I’ve heard her talk about the ‘duty to gender’ to accept all opportunities for advancement and that made a big impression. When you have such inspirational and supportive women in senior positions, it makes it much easier for the next generation to make their mark.

“I think there are still structural barriers to the advancement of women lawyers with family responsibilities. There is still an old-fashioned male model of having to work excessive hours to make one’s mark. This can have a negative impact on both men and women seeking an appropriate work-life balance,” said Professor McSherry.

Young Monash Law graduate Bree Knoester completed her law degree in 2002. She went on to practice at law firm Blake Dawson Waldron and at Gadens Lawyers, and then made the switch to the public sector where she currently works as a Legal Counsel in Dispute Management for the Victoria WorkCover Authority.

“If you look at the statistics, women are in the minority in terms of gender representation, so we may have some way to go in terms of figures. However in Victoria we are fortunate to have several senior women in the judiciary including Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Marilyn Warren, Chief Justice of the Family Court Diana Bryant and president of the Children’s Court Jennifer Coate. However, this distribution of senior women is not reflected in legal practice.

“I think that women (and men) today have the challenge of balancing the imperatives of family and the imperatives of a successful career. We all have a long way to go in establishing that balance and we all have a responsibility to continue to develop a more contemporary approach to the way the business world operates so that options remain open for everyone, irrespective of gender,” Bree said.
The way the legal profession does business is ever-changing and adapting to the modern age – and with this, perceptions have changed for both men and women, but there is certainly room for improvement.”

Bree Knoester

Bree believes the legal profession encounters the same issues in terms of career progression as other professions.

“I think ultimately everyone would like to maintain a quality work-life balance and that this is a challenge for many professionals, not just women in the law. As workplaces evolve and contemporary ways of conducting business continue to be adopted, achieving work-life balance will become less of an issue. But this will be a gradual development and will certainly require the involvement of both genders,” she said.

The demographic of the legal profession is changing to include younger graduates, people in their second careers and mums and dads, and along with the move away from the conventional office structure, it seems that traditional perceptions of men and women are being phased out.

“The way the legal profession does business is ever-changing and adapting to the modern age – and with this, perceptions have changed for both men and women, but there is certainly room for improvement,” Bree said.

While it would appear that women have come along way in both private practice and at the Bar, according to Shivani Pillai, barrister and head of the Monash Law Alumni Association, they still have ground to break.

“Currently, there are 269 women at the Bar in Victoria which comprises only 17 per cent of all barristers. Whilst this is a vast leap from days gone by when there were no female barristers, it is evident that women continue to be under represented,” she said.

According to former Chairman of the Victorian Bar, Jack Rush QC, who released the Equality Before the Law Committee Victoria Bar Survey Report in 2003, the Victorian Bar continues to be concerned about persistent, discriminatory briefing practices and their impact on the retention and progress of women barristers at the Bar. Women barristers are just not being briefed proportionate to their numbers.

“Since the inauguration of the Women Barristers Association on 11 November 1993, the Victorian Bar, to its credit, has taken the initiative to advance women barristers by creating a Women Barristers’ Directory and an Equal Opportunity Modell Briefing Policy. It would appear that despite efforts to promote the policy there has not been a significant improvement for a number of years,” said Shivani.

Entrenched workplace cultures and inflexible work practices in the legal profession remain the main reasons women leave the law soon after entering the profession, or move to positions within the profession which are less satisfying but offer greater flexibility. However it is clear that work practices and attitudes are changing for the better.
Distinguished Alumni Award

Human rights advocate and Monash Law graduate Julian Burnside QC was presented with the University’s Distinguished Alumni Award for 2004 at the recent Monash Law graduation ceremony.

Mr Burnside, a barrister, refugee activist and philanthropist, was recognised for his professional achievements, inspirational leadership and exceptional human qualities.

After completing a Bachelor of Economics and a Bachelor of Laws at Monash, Mr Burnside became a barrister in 1976 and took silk in 1989. He has defended Alan Bond and was senior counsel for the Maritime Union of Australia in its litigation against Patrick Stevedores in the 1998 waterfront dispute. However, it is his pro bono work for the Tampa asylum seekers and his efforts as a refugee advocate that have brought him to prominence in recent years.

Monash Law has taught mooting skills and participated in international mooting competitions for many years.

With a successful record on the mooting circuit, Monash Law has achieved outstanding results in the Vis International Arbitration Moot in Vienna and the Philip C Jessup International Moot Court Competition in Washington; two of the largest and most respected competitions in the world.

Performances in 2005 build on the positive results in 2004, where 30 students represented Monash in international moot finals in the Jessup, Vis and the newly established European Law Students Association World Trade Organisation moot competitions.

Monash Law has added these three elective moot subjects to a wide array of other specialty skills programs. These include the clinical programs through the Monash Oakleigh Legal Service and Springvale Monash Legal Service, courses on Negotiation and Mediation and Trial Practice and Advocacy, and the Skills Ethics and Research program undertaken by all students. These demonstrate the faculty’s strong commitment to practical legal skills education.

Monash Law Vis Moot Coordinator Professor Jeff Waincymer said the events provide an invaluable learning experience. “I try to run the Vis program as a simulation of practice as well as an intensive learning endeavour. Students work and make decisions in groups, including determining their case strategy. I aim to continually test logic, develop confidence and aptitude in persuasive communication,” he said.

2005 Vis Moot participant and former mayor of the City of Greater Dandenong Councillor Clare O’Neil, believes it was a life changing experience.

“The Vis Moot has profoundly affected the manner in which I operate as a councillor – which includes applying originality when constructing arguments and being able to tell a compelling story to persuade audiences,” she said.

Recent graduate Matthew Fielden was a member of the 2004 Monash Law team which represented Australia at the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in Washington DC, where they reached the quarterfinals and were ranked sixth out of almost 600 international teams.

“I became interested in international arbitration when participating in the 2001-2002 Monash Vis Moot. When I finished my degree I wanted to go overseas to gain practical experience in arbitration. Through networks established during the mooting competition I applied for an internship in Paris with the Secretariat of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Court of Arbitration.

“Having participated in the mooting program and with a bit of luck, I was able to get the internship, and spent two months at the ICC, which in turn led to a clerkship in the arbitration department of a US law firm in Paris, “ he said.

International mooting provides a unique opportunity for the universities, as well as for the students involved, says Monash Law lecturer Lisa Spagnolo-Slater, who has participated in moots as both a student at Deakin University and as a lecturer at Monash.

“Universities with teams consistently finishing in the finals are accorded the highest respect amongst a community of international lawyers and Monash Law School has certainly achieved a very high ranking across the international mooting community,” she said.
**Prize Ceremony celebrates high achievers**

The Monash Law School Prize Ceremony in March paid tribute to the Law School’s finest students who have achieved outstanding success in their academic endeavours.

Recognising and encouraging outstanding achievement contributes to the personal and professional growth of our students and is a vital element in the development of a university education.

The financial rewards offered with our prizes are only made possible through the generous support of the many sponsors both within and outside the legal profession, who join with us in recognising the efforts of our high achievers.

Monash Law acknowledges and sincerely thanks all our sponsors for their generous support of the Prize Ceremony.

**Expert Evidence Conference**

Changes to the relationship between experts and the courts require a new approach from lawyers and expert witnesses. Monash University’s International Institute of Forensic Studies conference ‘Experts and Lawyers: Surviving in a brave new world’ will explore innovative solutions and how they can be applied in a practical context.

The conference is being held in Broome, Western Australia from 16 – 19 October 2005 and will bring together experts and lawyers to discuss issues relating to expert evidence. For further information, phone + 61 3 9905 1344, email irene.thavarajah@adm.monash.edu.au or visit www.law.monash.edu.au/expertconf.

**New face of Law Alumni Association**

Barrister Shivani Pillai has recently replaced Ian Pyman as president of the Monash Law Alumni Association. The association organises seminars and social functions that offer law alumni opportunities for professional development and the chance to network and reconnect with former peers and other alumni. A mentor scheme also connects current students with law alumni.

The association is planning a number of reunions, building on the success of last year’s events for the first class of graduates and 25 year graduates, as well as the 40 year anniversary celebrations where over 450 graduates and friends paid tribute to those alumni who have made an indelible mark on the legal landscape and community at large.

The association is a voluntary, non-profit organisation which thrives on the involvement of graduates. To become involved, contact Shivani Pillai on + 61 3 9225 7777, + 61 0 411 446 500 or shivanipillai@vicbar.com.au.

**Tell us your news**

Alumna Jacqueline Campbell was recently awarded a prestigious prize for legal writing. The prize was awarded by the Law Institute of Victoria’s Law Institute Journal for the best published article in 2004. Jacqueline received it for her article ‘Splitting the super... and selling the home’, which was one of the first articles to consider the effects of practical super-splitting rather than merely the technical and procedural requirements of the legal changes.

If you have received a prestigious accolade or have an item of news that would be of interest to your fellow graduates, please contact us on + 61 3 9905 2630 or email jodi.rockman@law.monash.edu.au.
Postgraduate programs at Monash Law

A postgraduate degree from Monash Law School will provide you with the knowledge and expertise to build your career advantage.

We offer a range of flexible courses for both law and non-law graduates including masters degrees and single unit enrolments that are offered on a full or part-time basis.

Monash Law in the CBD: Classes are held at convenient times in the city-based Monash Law Chambers, located in the heart of Melbourne’s legal precinct.

In 2006 Monash Law will offer two new specialist masters programs that will be particularly relevant for graduates who wish to advance their expertise in the areas of regulatory studies and human rights law.

Master of Regulatory Studies

In response to the current regulatory environment and associated challenges, Monash Law, in association with the faculties of Business and Economics, Arts and Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences has established a teaching and research program in regulatory studies, which will include the master and graduate diploma programs in regulatory studies.

Courses are open to both law and non-law graduates and are designed for individuals working in government (in policy development, regulatory enforcement or the development of regulatory legislation), in private industry, law firms and in academia.

Many industries are grappling with the new regulatory environment and our regulatory studies programs will provide the relevant skills and knowledge to deal with these challenges.

Courses will give a broad understanding of regulatory processes and techniques applicable across a range of regulated activities and an understanding of law, economics and public policy.

The degrees can be completed in one year of full-time study or up to four years of part-time study and can be undertaken either entirely by coursework or in combination with a minor research project.

Course units will cover the key components of the international human rights legal framework and the related international humanitarian and criminal law principles, whilst canvassing regional and domestic approaches to these bodies of law.

Units available to students will include: Human Rights Litigation; Indigenous Rights; Human Rights in the Global Economy; International Humanitarian Law; International Criminal Justice; Comparative Constitutions and Rights; The Rights of Women; The Rights of Children; Economic Social and Cultural Rights; Comparative Regional Human Rights Systems; Human Rights Legal Philosophy; Refugee Rights.

For further information on these programs, phone + 61 3 9641 6206 or email graduate@law.monash.edu.au.

Master of Laws (Human Rights)

The Monash Master of Laws (Human Rights) will be available to students from 2006 and will appeal to those wishing to pursue a career in human rights law and related work including lawyers whose practice exposes them to human rights and those employed by international human rights NGOs and development agencies. A Master of Human Rights Law will also be available for non-law graduates.

The degrees can be completed in one year of full-time study or up to four years of part-time study and can be undertaken either entirely by coursework or in combination with a minor research project.

Course units will cover the key components of the international human rights legal framework and the related international humanitarian and criminal law principles, whilst canvassing regional and domestic approaches to these bodies of law.

Units available to students will include: Human Rights Litigation; Indigenous Rights; Human Rights in the Global Economy; International Humanitarian Law; International Criminal Justice; Comparative Constitutions and Rights; The Rights of Women; The Rights of Children; Economic Social and Cultural Rights; Comparative Regional Human Rights Systems; Human Rights Legal Philosophy; Refugee Rights.

For further information on either of these programs, phone + 61 3 9641 6206 or email graduate@law.monash.edu.au.

Generous grants for double masters in Budapest

Grants of up to $US5,000 each are available for coursework masters students under a new exchange arrangement between Monash University and the prestigious Central European University (CEU) in Budapest. These special grants will be available only to the first five Monash students selected for this exchange.

Successful students will receive masters degrees from both Monash and CEU. The two masters degrees can be completed with just one extra semester at CEU following a Monash masters degree. For further information, contact Associate Dean (Postgraduate Studies) Professor Marilyn Pittard on + 61 3 9905 3378 or marilyn.pittard@law.monash.edu.au.

Monash Law Open Day

Monash University’s Clayton Campus Open Day will be held this year on Sunday, 7 August from 10 am to 4 pm. The Law School will be open to prospective students and their families, and staff and current students will be available to answer questions and provide guidance on law courses and careers.

Prospective students will discover the range of academic, social and cultural activities on offer and will be given the opportunity to participate in mock lectures, demonstrations and tours of the Law School.

For further information on Open Day activities in the Law School, phone Charlotte Holden on + 61 3 9905 3389 or email charlotte.holden@law.monash.edu.au.