Professor Richard Fox, one of the Law School’s most distinguished scholars, will retire early next year after 34 years of service. His valedictory lecture will focus on issues of crime and punishment, areas which have been the focus of his long and illustrious academic career.

Richard joined the faculty in 1972 and rose from the rank of senior lecturer to professor, which he obtained in 1991. During his time in the faculty, he held a number of senior positions including Associate Dean (Student Affairs) and most recently, Deputy Dean. Richard won the Monash University Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1994 and remains one of the most popular lecturers in the Law School. His Students’ Guide to Legal Writing and Law Exams, written with Professor Enid Campbell in 1998, has become a definitive text for law students today.

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In October, an article in The Age noted a survey which showed that fewer than half of recent law graduates were working as lawyers not long after their graduation. It also noted that about 80 per cent of Monash Law students were studying combined degrees, particularly with arts and commerce degrees.

Many alumni will be pursuing careers other than the traditional legal careers of private practice as solicitors or barristers or in government or corporate service. These career paths should not necessarily be seen as ‘alternatives’ to law, but as life choices for which a legal education has provided a sound and valuable foundation. Not only do the substantive areas of study provide graduates with essential knowledge bases, but the skills acquired, such as research, negotiation, teamwork, advocacy and problem solving, are generalised and readily transferable.

The discipline of law provides a framework for understanding how society is governed, ordered and regulated. The understanding of this discipline can extend beyond lawyers alone. Many of our graduate subjects are taken by students whose backgrounds are not legal, and who subsequently do not emerge with a ‘legal’ qualification.

Our graduate law degrees, the LLM(LP) and JD, are keenly sought after by those who have already embarked on a career but wish either to change their career path or enhance it through the study of law.

Our new graduate program in regulatory studies is a joint venture with the faculties of Business and Economics, Arts, Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences and the Victorian College of Pharmacy. It recognises that law, and the Faculty of Law, stand at the intersection of many disciplines and can contribute much to their development and organisation.

Whether it be in relation to nanotechnology, biomedical science, the environment, sustainable use of resources, politics or economics, combined course students and dual degree graduates should be able not only to understand more than one discipline but integrate and possibly transcend them. Inter-disciplinarity and multi-disciplinary work are the realities of modern, complex societies.

Wherever you are, and no matter what career you are pursuing, the Law School would like to meet with you at our first annual alumni end of year cocktail party on Friday, 25 November at the Essoign Club in Melbourne. I look forward to seeing you there.

Professor Arie Freiberg
Dean, Monash Law School

In June/July 2006, Monash University Law School will host a conference in Prato, Italy, exploring the legal and medical issues raised by querulous or vexatious people, or those who pursue their grievance beyond reasonable bounds.

Judges and medical and legal practitioners are all affected by querulous people, but there is little exchange between these groups. This conference will draw together medical and legal professionals to examine issues raised by vexatious people and will provide a unique opportunity for a broad discussion on this complex issue.

To submit a paper or for registration details and further information, visit www.law.monash.edu.au/conference/prato/ or contact conference co-convenor Dr Matthew Groves at matthew.groves@law.monash.edu.au or phone + 61 3 9905 5316.

"Clinical legal education allows students to obtain hands-on practical experience, which is more likely to produce lawyers with a conscience."

"It puts them in touch with real clients and allows them to make a contribution to society by providing legal assistance to those who can’t afford to pay for it and might otherwise take the law into their own hands,” he said.

Adrian was pleased so many people had come together to discuss these important issues.

“People travelled from all over the globe to attend the conference, from countries including South Africa, UK, USA, Nigeria, Canada, Japan, China, Israel and Norway,” he said.

Dean of Law Professor Arie Freiberg said the conference provided an opportunity to exchange knowledge and ideas relating to innovative clinical education programs.

“The conference also allowed the Monash Law School to highlight our commitment to clinical legal education, during this, our thirtieth year of providing this form of education,” he said.

Conference review

Flowers in the desert: Clinical legal education, ethical awareness and community service

More than 120 national and international delegates discussed clinical legal education, ethical awareness and community service at a conference recently hosted by Monash Law School in conjunction with Northumbria University, UK.

Justice educators, clinical legal educators, legal aid lawyers and legal ethicists examined the challenges and opportunities facing clinical legal education at the ‘Flowers in the desert’ conference held in July.

Conference co-convenor and head of Monash Law School’s clinical program, Associate Professor Adrian Evans, told the conference that three processes and values – clinical legal education, legal ethics and community service – needed to be included in the mix of legal education.

“This will produce lawyers who are more likely to value justice, rather than those who are simply looking to create wealth,” Adrian said.

Something to say?

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.
Spotlight on the law

Monash Law School regularly hosts public lectures for members of the legal profession and the broader community. These lectures highlight major legal, social and political issues of the day and provide an important forum for discussion. Following are the highlights from three recent addresses.

Sex, drugs and evil souls

Professor Bernadette McSherry, recently appointed Louis Waller Chair of Law and Monash Law School Associate Dean (Research) presented her inaugural lecture in August.

The title of the lecture, “Sex, drugs and evil souls: is preventive detention justifiable?” reflected Professor McSherry’s interest in the area of preventive detention, a topic she is exceedingly passionate about and has researched extensively.

Preventive detention enables certain individuals to be detained for the perceived protection of the community, even when they have not committed a crime. This includes people with mental illnesses or infectious diseases and the detention of certain ‘dangerous prisoners’ after the expiry of their sentence.

Professor McSherry discussed the controversial policies underlying preventive detention and asked whether such detention could ever be justified.

She said that some recent legislative regimes around the world share a common feature – that of detaining people for who they are rather than for a crime they have committed.

“In 1992, the High Court of Australia laid down the principle that involuntary detention should only be a consequence of a finding of guilt,” she said.

“However individuals with mental illnesses, drug problems, infectious diseases or severe personality disorders as well as sex offenders, ‘unlawful non-citizens’ and suspected terrorists have all been singled out for preventive detention without having committed any offence.

“While it appears preventive detention regimes are here to stay, it is important to place time limits on detention and enable processes for judicial review to avoid excessive restrictions on the right to freedom from arbitrary detention.”

Professor McSherry said it was a great honour to present the inaugural Waller Chair lecture, a position named in honour of the distinguished Emeritus Professor Louis Waller. “I can’t thank Louis enough for the mentorship he has provided and for being such a good role model,” she said.

Zimbabwean shadow justice minister speaks on human rights

David Coltart, Zimbabwean shadow justice minister and internationally-recognised human rights activist recently delivered a public lecture on human rights and the rule of law in Zimbabwe.

As a member of Zimbabwe’s Movement for Democratic Change party and a critic of President Robert Mugabe, David Coltart has experienced decades of intimidation and regular harassment campaigning for human rights in Zimbabwe.

His lecture ‘Under siege: Human rights and the rule of law in Zimbabwe’ was hosted by Monash University’s Castan Centre for Human Rights Law in conjunction with Bond University.

David Coltart’s reports into human rights abuses during the Mugabe ‘Plough and Reconstruct’ campaign of 1985 and his defence of the then ZAPU Party MP, Sidney Malunga and other dissenters, led to him being appointed director of the Bulawayo Legal Projects Centre, a role he has held since 1997. In this capacity, David Coltart has helped hundreds of Zimbabweans defend themselves in court cases.

Justice Ronald Sackville examines judicial criticism

The Honourable Justice Ronald Sackville recently delivered Monash Law School’s 13th Lucinda Lecture.

Justice Sackville has been a judge of the Federal Court of Australia since 1994 and is also chair of the Judicial Conference of Australia, a body representing judicial officers throughout Australia.

In this year’s lecture, titled “Judges under fire: how far can the critics go?” Justice Sackville called for fewer restrictions on the criticism of judges and courts.

“When compared with other institutions of the government in Australia, judges and courts receive privileged protection,” Justice Sackville said.

“This is because of the longstanding belief that it will maintain public confidence in the legal system, but there is no evidence to suggest that incorrect or baseless criticisms damage people’s confidence.

“The High Court needs to bring the judiciary into line with other liberal democracies, which apply more scope to the freedom of communication.”

The Lucinda Lecture series canvasses some of the fundamental issues of Australian constitutional law and the Law School is honoured to have former Governor General The Right Honourable Sir Zelman Cowen as the patron of the series.

Developed by Professor HP Lee, the series was named after the SS Lucinda paddle steamer, on which the drafting committee of the National Australasian Convention made important revisions to the earliest drafts of the Constitution during a three-day journey in 1891.
Faculty farewells Fox (continued from page 1)

His reputation as a criminologist, academic and contributor to the development of public policy has been recognised by the award of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia Inaugural Medal for Research Excellence (1987) and the award of an LLD by Monash (1990). He currently chairs the Board of Management of the Australian Institute of Criminology, a position he has held since 1998.

Richard’s impressive publication record incorporates ten monographs including Victorian Criminal Procedure now in its 12th edition and Sentencing: State and Federal Law in Victoria (OUP), written with Professor Arie Freiberg, which is used by courts in all Australian jurisdictions.

But what do the students and staff have to say about the esteemed professor? Current Law School Dean Professor Arie Freiberg has been a friend and colleague for many years and says that Richard has made a significant contribution to the faculty, the law and the legal community, and been a mentor to both staff and students for over three decades.

“Richard has been a mentor, colleague, co-author and a friend for many years. I am delighted that he will maintain his links with the faculty and continue his outstanding research career as an emeritus professor. I will miss his advice as deputy dean but at least now he won’t be able to tell me what I am doing wrong every day, just every second day!”

Richard is well-known for his dry sense of humour. Many past students remember his teaching of Federal Criminal Law, at the end of which he would hand out assignments accompanied by a bumper sticker with ‘Just been passed by Fox’. His ‘Fox Travel’ jumper is just another example of his penchant for ‘Foxy’ things and his own inimitable sense of style!

On behalf of Monash Law School staff and students, past and present, we thank Richard for his dedication, contribution and support over the last 34 years. We wish him well in his retirement and look forward to his continuing association with the faculty.

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Sentencing in the Garden of Eden

Valedictory Lecture by Professor Richard Fox

When: Thursday, 9 March 2006
Time: 6 – 7 pm, followed by light refreshments
Where: Monash University Law Chambers
472 Bourke Street, Melbourne
RSVP: By Friday, 24 February 2006 to Ben Wallis on + 61 3 9905 2326 or email ben.wallis@law.monash.edu.au
Human Rights 2005: The Year in Review

An impressive line-up of speakers including world-renowned economic and policy expert, Professor Arjun Sengupta, will present at this year’s Castan Centre annual conference, which will focus on many of the year’s most important human rights issues.

Professor Sengupta is the UN’s Independent Expert on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty. He is also Chairman of the Centre for Development and Human Rights, New Delhi and Adjunct Professor of Development and Human Rights at the FXB Centre of Harvard’s School of Public Health. In addition, Professor Sengupta is a Member of Parliament in India and former Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund. He has written and edited a number of books, including Reflections on the Right to Development and Reforms, Equity and the IMF: An Economist’s World.

In his keynote address, Professor Sengupta will examine international cooperation for eliminating extreme poverty in the context of the global push for a ‘new deal’ for the world’s poorest nations, a concept Professor Sengupta has been instrumental in developing and popularising.

During his time in Australia, Professor Sengupta will join the Castan Centre as a Holding Redlich Distinguished Visiting Fellow.

Other international issues on the agenda include human rights relating to tsunami relief and the likely implications of the UN reform process.

It has been a watershed year for human rights in Canada, with the legalisation of gay marriage, the deportation of a genocide suspect to Rwanda and the ruling that the prohibition on private health services in some circumstances was a breach of the right to life. David Wiseman from the University of Windsor in Canada will review these developments.

On a local level, Monash Law School’s Associate Dean (Research), Professor Bernadette McSherry, will consider human rights and mental health in light of the immigration detention and Cornelia Rau controversies.

Martin Flynn from the University of Western Australia will use the Wadeye community as a case study of Indigenous development and Colin Fenwick, of the Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law at the University of Melbourne, will consider the human rights effects of the government’s proposed industrial relations laws.

One of the biggest human rights topics in Victoria this year has been the establishment of a commission to consider a Bill of Rights. Dr Helen Watchirs, the ACT Human Rights and Discrimination Commissioner, will consider the issue in her presentation and present the lessons learned from the enactment of the ACT Bill of Rights in 2004.

Castan Centre for Human Rights Law conference

Now in its fourth year, the annual Castan Centre conference is an important information and discussion forum for the wider human rights community.

When: Friday, 2 December 2005
Where: Malthouse, Southbank

For further details about the conference, including cost, registration details and group discount rates for NGO employees, visit www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre or phone + 61 3 9905 3327.
Law alumni in London and Israel

Monash University Dean of Law Professor Arie Freiberg recently returned from an overseas trip which included the Monash campuses in South Africa, Prato and London.

In London, Professor Freiberg met with numerous law firms and commercial organisations with a view to developing internship opportunities for students. He also hosted a dinner at Soho restaurant, Qvo Vadis attended by a number of Monash Law alumni based in and around London.

It has been some time since the faculty hosted an alumni event in London. The dinner provided a great opportunity for alumni to meet each other or to be reacquainted with fellow classmates, and also to learn about recent faculty developments and initiatives.

As a result of these activities, the faculty is pursuing a number of internship opportunities in the UK and we are pleased that Monash Law alumni, Rowan Russell, managing partner of Mallesons Stephen Jacques in London, has agreed to teach the unit Law of Financial Transactions in our 2006 Prato program.

In Israel, Professor Freiberg again worked on the internationalisation of the faculty and sought to establish opportunities for Monash Law students to spend time in the country, working with law firms and non-government agencies. He also discussed the development of exchange and study abroad programs with Israel’s top law schools.

Discussions are underway to confirm these placement programs, which will add to the extensive array of international opportunities offered by the Law School.

During his stay in Israel, Professor Freiberg hosted a dinner in Tel Aviv attended by a number of graduates, the Australian Ambassador to Israel Tim George and Professor Louis Waller AO.

Professor Freiberg said he was pleased by the response to his visit and to see so many Monash Law graduates in leading positions both in the UK and Israel.

"In London we canvassed a number of new ideas with the alumni group and the feedback we received was very encouraging. We are now working on a number of initiatives that we hope will come to fruition in the near future which will be of significant benefit to our students.

"The Tel Aviv dinner was attended by a number of highly successful graduates including director of Friends of the Earth Middle East Gidon Bromberg and Ministry of Finance Israel legal advisor Charles Scherman.

"I would like to thank Jonathan Edelman, managing partner of law firm Edelstein & Co Advocates and head of the Israel arm of the Monash Alumni Association, for his extensive work in coordinating this successful event," he said.

Graduate wins New York University scholarship

Monash Law graduate Ronli Sifris has been selected as a Hauser Global Scholar for the Master of Laws program in International Legal Studies at New York University (NYU).

Ronli is one of a handful of outstanding foreign students selected for this year’s Hauser Program. She commenced her masters degree in August and throughout the year will participate in specially developed seminars, programs and events.

Hauser Scholars are often referred to as Rhodes Scholars of Legal Education and receive full tuition, study and living expenses.

After the applications are screened by NYU School of Law, scholars are selected by an international committee chaired by the President of the International Court of Justice.

Ronli was chosen on the basis of her intellectual and leadership qualities and her capacity to participate in a global community of scholars and practitioners.

"Being a part of the LLM program in International Legal Studies at NYU is an amazing experience. I feel incredibly lucky to have been given the opportunity to learn with professors who are acknowledged worldwide as being experts in their fields; to engage in subject areas which truly interest me and to be a part of an exceptionally intelligent, motivated and friendly student body," Ronli said.

Ronli received her undergraduate law degree in 2003 and was a Supreme Court prize winner. She was awarded prizes for the best result in Torts, Equity, Constitutional law, Legal issues in medicine, International law and International human rights.

While at Monash, Ronli was also editor of the Monash University Law Review and published a feature article in the Melbourne Journal of International Law.

In 2003, she interned with the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Whilst completing her articles of clerkship at Baker & McKenzie in Melbourne, she chaired the Young Lawyers’ Community Issues Committee for the Law Institute of Victoria.

On completion of her masters Ronli plans to either work with an international organisation or pursue an academic career in international law.

“In the future I may return to private practice, try my hand at something new like academia, work for an international organisation, or get involved in government work. There are lots of options out there. At the moment I’m just concentrating on enjoying my year in New York, learning as much as I can and taking advantage of this amazing opportunity,” she said.
Putting a spring into legal recruitment

Proving a law degree can open doors to a range of career opportunities is Monash Law graduate (1993) Vicki Kennedy (née Bolton) who moved away from traditional legal practice to set up legal recruitment agency Spring Legal.

Vicki utilised both her personal and professional experiences as a lawyer to establish the business. The broad-based skills acquired during her law degree have further ensured the success of Spring Legal.

As a litigation solicitor in the early ’90s, HR manager in a mid tier firm and senior recruitment consultant for a global recruitment agency, Vicki understands the complexities and specialised nature of legal recruitment.

Based in Spring Street, Melbourne, Spring Legal recruits legally experienced and qualified staff for private practice law firms, growing businesses and corporations.

Celebrating its second anniversary, Spring Legal has secured positions for over 140 legal staff including legal executive lawyers, partners, in-house counsel and consultants.

Spring Legal’s clients include private legal practices, corporations, government and businesses.

For further information, phone Vicki on + 61 3 9650 1138, email vicki@springlegal.com.au or visit www.springlegal.com.au

In brief

Freiberg appointed fellow of Academy of Social Sciences

Monash Law School dean, Professor Arie Freiberg, has been elected as a fellow of the prestigious Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. The academy consists of 375 fellows including those honorary and overseas. Fellows of the academy are elected by their peers on the basis of having achieved a very high level of scholarly distinction and for having made a distinguished contribution to one or more disciplines of the social sciences. The academy is an autonomous, non-government organisation devoted to the advancement of knowledge and research in the various social sciences.

Early South Australian Legal Innovations

The Hon. Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG of the High Court of Australia recently launched A Great and Glorious Reformation: Early South Australian Legal Innovations, a book by senior Monash Law School lecturer Dr Greg Taylor. This informative text provides an analysis of six of the most important early legal innovations from South Australia, which has a long and proud tradition of law reform. Some of these innovations have spread not only around Australia but around the world – including the Torrens system, which Dr Taylor demonstrates is an original South Australian invention, rather than an import from Germany as some scholars have claimed. Born in South Australia, Dr Taylor was educated, and has taught, at the University of Adelaide before moving to Monash.

Mentoring opportunities for Aboriginal law students

The chair of the Aboriginal Committee of The Victorian Bar, Colin Golvan SC, visited Monash Law School to discuss The Victorian Bar Aboriginal Law Students Mentoring Program, available to Aboriginal law students in Victoria. The program links undergraduate students with practising barristers to encourage them to consider a career as a barrister. Colin Golvan said the program aims to build the confidence of Indigenous law students and make them aware of the options available to them. “Aboriginal graduates typically go into government and community legal positions – which are important roles – but we would also like to see more Aboriginal law graduates become barristers, because it’s an important springboard for senior positions in the legal profession, including judicial appointment. Students are given the opportunity to work with barristers in and out of court and become familiar with the day-to-day work of a practising lawyer”. Monash Arts/Law student and program participant Matt Hansen said the mentoring program was a valuable experience through which he was able to participate in court appearances.

Mooters make their mark

Three Monash Law students have won the junior level of the annual Governor General’s Moot competition. Ed Russell, Liam O’Connor and Andrew Bushnell defeated a team from Deakin University to win the final last month, having previously eliminated the University of Melbourne in the preliminary round. The competition is a mock appeal hearing based on questions of law, in this case a tort law problem, and is held at the Federal Court of Australia. Each team was given the findings of a trial judge and the task of arguing either that the finding was correctly or incorrectly applied. Arguments were directed to Justice Alan Goldberg and Justice Shane Marshall of the Federal Court of Australia. Ed, who was rated overall best speaker, said the competition was a good experience for students interested in becoming barristers. “It allows students to get a taste of what the Bar is like before they get there,” he said. Monash also won the Client Interview competition, which is geared towards students interested in joining a corporate firm rather than going to the Bar. Igor Bakhllov and Karen Allardice defeated the University of Melbourne to take out the title. Their task was to elicit as much information as possible from their ‘client’ and they were judged by representatives from leading commercial law firms.
2006 Masters Program

Applications for Semester 1, 2006 now being accepted

The Monash Law advantage:
- Internationally recognised programs
- Flexible study options
- Postgraduate teaching centre in Melbourne’s CBD
- Masters, diplomas and single unit enrolments

Diverse study areas for law and non-law graduates including:
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- Commercial Law
- Digital Economy Law
- Dispute Resolution and Advocacy
- Human Rights Law “NEW”
- Intellectual Property Law
- International and Comparative Law
- Regulatory Studies “NEW”
- Tribunal Procedures
- Workplace and Employment Law

Monash Law
The choice for postgraduate study

Monash University Centre for Regulatory Studies

“The concept of regulation is central to an understanding of social, economic and political organisation. The regulatory sector at a national and international level is extensive and complex. Significant regulatory activity and a wide range of regulatory frameworks mean that issues need to be reviewed in a broad and integrated context.”

Professor Arie Freiberg, Dean, Monash Law School

Monash Law is responding to the challenges of the current regulatory environment by creating the Monash Centre for Regulatory Studies. Jointly run with the faculties of Business and Economics, Arts, Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences and the Victorian College of Pharmacy the Centre will provide regulatory professionals and scholars with a core set of ideas, theories and skills to apply to their activities. It will also develop regulation as an independent area of teaching and research.

The Centre will offer both postgraduate programs and single unit enrolments from March 2006.

David Fagan, Chief Executive Partner of Clayton Utz in Melbourne has responded to the need identified by Monash University for a research centre dedicated to regulatory studies. Clayton Utz has made a significant donation to the centre which will allow the faculty to further develop this exciting venture. Joanne Daniels, partner at Clayton Utz, has been appointed to the centre’s board.

The faculty would also like to acknowledge Allens Arthur Robinson for their welcome donation to the centre in 2005.

For further information on how your organisation can support the Monash Centre for Regulatory Studies and the Faculty of Law, please contact Sarah Wall, Advancement and Alumni Relations Manager on + 61 3 9905 8680.

For further information on postgraduate programs in regulatory studies, visit www.law.monash.edu.au/postgraduate

For additional copies
Contact Jodi Rockman on + 61 3 9905 2630 or jodi.rockman@law.monash.edu.au

Update your contact details
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