Visiting Professor Seminar Series

Global Liability: Litigating the overseas activities of corporations

Visiting Professor:
Professor Geert van Calster, University of Leuven, Brussels Bar

Commentators:
Stephen Creese, Chair, National Employment Services Association (formerly Executive General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Newcrest Mining Limited, Managing Director Rio Tinto Australia, and General Counsel of Rio Tinto Limited)
Fiona Hudgson, Partner, Ashurst

Chair:
Bruce Dyer, Centre for Commercial Law and Regulatory Studies, Advisory Board, Senior Consultant, Ashurst

Corporations are increasingly at risk of being sued for activities undertaken outside the country in which the court is based. For instance, the US Alien Torts Statute is increasingly being invoked against corporations for actions they allegedly took outside the US – usually for actions in developing countries. Litigation is also increasingly being taken under statutes which seek to deal with alleged corporate engagement in corruption in overseas jurisdictions.

Professor van Calster will review developments in the EU and the US regarding these issues. He will also outline the implications these developments have in piercing the corporate veil.

About the visiting presenter
Geert van Calster is professor in the University of Leuven, Head of Leuven Law's department of European and international law, and visiting professor at Monash. He is also an independent legal practitioner at the Brussels Bar. His practice focus is on conflict of laws (private international law), EU and international regulatory law (especially environment), and international and EU economic law. Geert is on the indicative list of WTO Panelists, and serves on behalf of the EU on the dispute settlement chapter of a variety of RTAs.