

International Law Seminar

INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE US AFTER *SOSA V ALVAREZ-MACHAIN*

Professor Paul B Stephan
University of Virginia

Date: Wednesday 4 August 2004
Time: 5.30-6.30pm
Place: Staff Library, Faculty of Law, Building 5
corner Fellows and East Roads, ANU

Professor Stephan is Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Professor and Hunton & Williams Research Professor at the University of Virginia School of Law. Before joining the Virginia faculty in 1979, he served as law clerk to Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., of the Supreme Court of the United States. He has written extensively on the interaction of international law and domestic legal systems.

In this seminar, he will discuss the recent Supreme Court decision in *Sosa v. Alvarez-Machain*. Professor Stephan was counsel of record for a group of U.S. law professors who submitted a brief *amicus curiae* in the *Sosa* case. *Sosa* represented the Supreme Court's first opportunity to expound on the meaning of the so-called Alien Tort Statute, a jurisdictional provision for the federal courts enacted in 1789 and used recently as the basis for civil suits for violations of international law. A unanimous Court rejected the particular claim of the plaintiff that this law authorized a tort suit for an allegedly arbitrary detention by police officers, but the Court divided about the possibility of other claims succeeding. The issue, although technical, goes to the heart of how domestic legal systems might enforce international law.

Enquiries

Cathy Hutton, Administrator
Centre for International and Public Law, Faculty of Law, ANU
T: (02) 6125 0454
E: cipl.law@anu.edu.au

RSVP only

cipl.rsvp@anu.edu.au

Please include the words 'Stephan seminar 4 Aug' in the title of the email