

## PUBLIC SEMINAR

# MAKING A NEW INTERNATIONAL LAW: HAGUE CONVENTION ON MAINTENANCE OBLIGATIONS

Wednesday 23 August 2006, 11am–4pm  
Sparke Helmore Lecture Theatre 1, ANU College of Law  
cnr Fellows & East Roads, The Australian National University

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This seminar is free and members of the public are welcome to attend.

In 1999 The Hague Conference on Private International Law concluded that the five international conventions on enforcement of maintenance obligations and their applicable law were inadequate. In 2003 the Special Commission on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance was convened to draft a new maintenance convention. The 4th session of the Special Commission was completed in June 2006, and the final 'diplomatic session' to finalise the text is scheduled to convene in 2007.

Hear how national practices currently diverge in their approaches to this issue; why reform was thought necessary; and how the drafting process operates when the negotiations include delegations from 51 countries and a dozen nongovernmental organisations. This Seminar is a rare occasion to hear first hand the experience of those responsible for drafting/negotiating a comprehensive international instrument.

### PROGRAM OUTLINE

11am–1pm SESSION 1 (chaired by Prof Jane Stapleton, Law Program, RISS, The Australian National University)

*Opening Remarks*

Prof Michael Coper, Dean, ANU College of Law, The Australian National University

*The Unique Child Support Jurisdictional System in the United States*

Professor John Sampson, University of Texas, School of Law

(Member of the US State Department delegation to the Hague Special Commission)

*Child Support Agency: Administration of International Support Cases*

Ms Dolores Schneider, Director, Legal Services, Child Support Agency &

Zoe Cameron, Senior Adviser, Child Support Agency

(Australian Representatives at the June 2006 meeting of the Hague Special Commission)

1pm–2pm Lunch provided for registered attendees

2pm–4pm Session 2 (chaired by Dr Juliet Behrens, The ANU College of Law, The Australian National University)

*Overview of the Drafting Process of the Special Commission*

Ms Jan Marie Doogue, Judge of the Family Court of New Zealand

(Chair of the Drafting Committee of Hague Special Commission)

*Open discussion between speakers and attendees*