

FACING UP TO FACEBOOK: THE FIGHT FOR FAIR CANADIAN COPYRIGHT

Dr Michael Geist, Canada Research Chair of Internet and E-commerce Law at the University of Ottawa, gave a seminar on Canadian Copyright on 7 February 2008.

Link to audio streaming:

<rtsp://streaming.anu.edu.au/ANUORG/Law/NISSL/Geist.rm>

<http://law.anu.edu.au/Audio/nissl/Geist.mp3>

Abstract of Seminar:

In December 2007, the Canadian government planned to introduce new copyright legislation that was to have mirrored the U.S. Digital Millennium Copyright Act. A Facebook group was formed to advocate against such reforms and for balanced copyright laws. Within weeks, over 35,000 Canadians joined the group, with members writing and calling their elected representatives, educating their local communities, and staging public protests. In the face of this opposition, the Canadian government delayed introducing the legislation. The "Canadian copy-fight" attracted considerable attention from the mainstream media, with many wondering how copyright had emerged as a contentious policy issue. This talk will assess the Canadian experience in an effort to answer the oft-asked question - "why copyright?"



Above (from left): Dr Michael Geist and Dr Matthew Rimmer (ANU College of Law)