FRIDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2002

From 8.30am
Registration

9.30–9.35am
Welcome & Conference Opening
Richard Mitchell,
Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law, University of Melbourne

9.35–10.45am
Keynote Speaker’s Address
Professor Joanne Conaghan,
University of Kent at Canterbury, U.K.

Joanne Conaghan is Professor of Law at the University of Kent at Canterbury, and Co-Secretary of the International Network on Transformative Employment and Labour Law (INTELL), along with with Richard Michael Fischl and Karl Klare from the United States. INTELL’s latest publication, co-edited by Professor Conaghan, is ‘Labour Law in an Era of Globalization: Transformative Practices and Possibilities’ (Oxford University Press, 2002). Professor Conaghan’s address will consider some of the challenges that globalisation and the new economy pose for labour law and their implications in the Australian setting.

Comments on the Keynote Address
Breen Creighton,
Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Melbourne

10.45–11.15am
Morning Tea

11.15am–1.00pm
Plenary Session 1

The new economy: impacts on the practice of labour law
Bruce Moore and Janine Young,
Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Melbourne

Decent work for the contingent workforce in the new economy
Rosemary Owens,
Law School, University of Adelaide

The disappearing workplace: The implications of electronic work for labour law and practice
Marilyn Pittard,
Faculty of Law, Monash University, Victoria

1.00–2.00pm
Lunch

2.00–3.15pm
Concurrent Session 1:
The growing contingent workforce

Redefining employment: Meeting the challenge of agency and contract labour
Andrew Stewart,
School of Law, Flinders University, South Australia

Casual employees: Protection against unfair dismissal and entitlement to parental leave
Joo Cheong Tham,
Law School, Victoria University of Technology

2.00–3.15pm
Concurrent Session 2:
Information and communication technology: transforming ‘work’ and ‘the workplace’

Sex, lies and the boss’s e-mail: When will an employee’s private conduct justify dismissal?
Karen Wheelwright,
School of Law,
Deakin University, Victoria

A case study exploring employers’ rights to use invasive means to regulate employees’ private lives in the workplace
Samantha Kennedy and Melissa Elliott,
Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Melbourne

2.00–3.15pm
Concurrent Session 3:
The changing nature of employment contracts

Mutual trust and good faith: Can private contract law guarantee fair dealing in the workplace?
Joellen Riley,
Law Faculty, University of Sydney

Duress and AWAs
Max Spry,
Barrister, Canberra

Individualisation of employment relations and high performance work systems: Evidence from AWAs
Richard Mitchell,
Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law, University of Melbourne

3.15–3.45pm
Afternoon Tea

3.45–5.00pm
Concurrent Session 4:
Governing the workplace: Corporate law or labour law?

Corporate lawyers and labour lawyers: Mars and Venus on a date?
Paula Darvas,
Faculty of Business and Economics,
Monash University, Victoria

The demise of Ansett: A labour lawyer’s perspective
Graham Smith,
Clayton Utz, Melbourne

We’re going under, but don’t tell the workers: Corporate collapses and employees’ right to know
Anthony Forsyth,
Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law, University of Melbourne
Concurrent Session 5: Employment protection in uncertain times
Unfair dismissal: Does the statutory scheme deliver adequate protection or merely (in)adequate compensation?
Damian Murphy, Barrister, Melbourne

What happened to the fair go? Inequality of treatment in Australian industrial tribunals
Fabian Flintoff, Deacons, Sydney

Righting unfair and discriminatory wrongs: the policy basis of remedies for unfair and discriminatory dismissals
Mark Irving, Barrister, Melbourne

Concurrent Session 6: Representing workers and regulating work in the new economy
Labour law as a means of fostering workplace democracy
Paul J Gollan, Department of Industrial Relations, London School of Economics; and Glenn Patmore, Law Faculty, University of Melbourne

More sound than fury? Putting teeth in corporate codes of conduct
Lee Adams, School of Law, Deakin University, Victoria

International trade union responses to the new economy
Mordy Bromberg, Barrister, Melbourne

7.30pm Conference Dinner
‘Il Vicolo’ Restaurant
50 Grattan Street, Carlton

Dinner Address
Commissioner Pru Goward, Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner

Pru Goward was appointed Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner from 30 July 2001, following a career as a national affairs journalist and political commentator for 19 years, and serving as head of the Federal Office of the Status of Women from 1997 to 1999. In her address, Commissioner Goward will explore a range of issues affecting working women in the new economy, including the major policy debate following the release of her April 2002 discussion paper ‘Valuing Parenthood: Options for Paid Maternity Leave’.
Established in November 2000, the Australian Labour Law Association Inc. (ALLA) is the first organisation formed specifically for the purpose of promoting the professional interests of lawyers and others working in the fields of labour law and social security law in Australia. It also aims to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas in these fields. Since its formation, the ALLA has attracted over 400 members including academics, practitioners, tribunal members and others drawn from around Australia. For further details and membership information, please visit our website: www.alla.law.unimelb.edu.au

The ALLA’s Inaugural National Conference, ‘Practising Australian Labour Law in the New Economy’, will examine the nature and implications for labour law practice of the major changes in the organisation of work in Australia over the last ten to fifteen years. In response to pressures from globalisation and other forces, the emergence of the ‘new economy’ has presented many challenges for labour law regulation. These challenges, the ways in which labour law has responded to them, and international influences on Australian labour law change will also be considered. The Conference organisers welcome the attendance of all who are interested in these issues. We expect that our audience will benefit from the diverse range of papers, from both academic and practitioner perspectives, to be presented at the Conference.

Anthony Forsyth
Secretary, ALLA
on behalf of the National Committee