

About the Obligations Group - The Obligations Group at Melbourne Law School supports research and scholarly discourse on the law of obligations, which includes the law of contract, tort, unjust enrichment and restitution, equity and trusts, property, remedies and private law theory. The group provides a forum for academic discussion of these topics and facilitates interaction between academics and practitioners on issues of current interest.

People - In 2013, the Obligations Group Convenors are Associate Professor Elise Bant and Associate Professor Matthew Harding. The Group's internal membership is as follows:

Dr Katy Barnett
Emeritus Professor Michael Bryan
Mr Arlen Duke
Mr Matthew Bell
Mr Andrew Godwin

Dr Linda Haller
Dr Jeannie Paterson
Professor Ian Malkin
Professor Andrew Robertson

Visiting academics researching or teaching in the Obligations field are welcome to be associated with the Group and participate in its range of activities. Currently we are hosting Assistant Professor Lee Mason from the University of Hong Kong.

Research and teaching - The Obligations Group members produce a substantial number and range of publications each year. A selection of their most recent publications is available on the Obligations website. Members draw on their research also to contribute to public debate on topical issues arising in this field. Group member Katy Barnett, for example, is an editor of the 'Opinions on High' Blog and she, Elise Bant, Matthew Harding and Jeannie Paterson have all contributed posts to date.

The areas of teaching and research include:

Consumer Law
Contract Law
Equity and Trusts
Private Law Theory

Property
Remedies
Tort
Unjust Enrichment and Restitution

Recent publications of members of the group include:

- **Bant E**, 'Seddon's case: Sense or nonsense?' (2013) *Conveyancer and Property Lawyer* 30-47
- **Bant E and Bryan M**, *Principles of Proprietary Remedies* (Thomson Reuters, in press), including one chapter by Matthew Harding and three by the editors, as well as other contributors, forthcoming October 2013)
- **Barnett K**, 'Equitable compensation and remoteness – not so remote from the common law after all' (2013) 7 *Journal of Equity* (forthcoming)
- Bartlett F and **Haller L**, 'Disclosing Lawyers: questioning law and process in the admission of Australian lawyers' (2013) 41 *Federal Law Review* (forthcoming)
- **Harding M**, 'Trust and Fiduciary Law' (2013) 33 *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies* 81-102
- **Paterson JM**, 'A General Prohibition on Unfair Commercial Practices?' in Justin Malbon and Luke Nottage (eds), *Consumer Law and Policy in Australia and New Zealand* (Federation Press, Sydney, 2013) 179
- **Paterson JM** and Tokeley K, 'Consumer Guarantees' in Justin Malbon and Luke Nottage (eds), *Consumer Law and Policy in Australia and New Zealand* (Federation Press, Sydney, 2013) 97

- **Robertson A**, 'On the Function of the Law of Negligence' (2013) 33 *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies* 31-57
- **Robertson A**, 'Policy-based reasoning in duty of care cases' (2013) 33 *Legal Studies* 119-140.

Engagement activities and events - The Obligations Group members organise a range of activities and events and also contribute to a variety of bodies, committees and associations in Australia and abroad concerned with the advancement of Private Law. These events are intended for a wide audience, including practitioners, academics, and graduate students interested in these topics. Over the course of 2013, these include a lunchtime seminar series, evening lectures, workshops and a Trusts Conference in December.

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| February | Seminar | Professor David McLauchlan of Victoria University of Wellington led a lunchtime seminar entitled 'A Frustrated Contract?', with reference to the recent New Zealand Court of Appeal decision in <i>Planet Kids Ltd v Auckland Council</i> [2012] NZCA 562 |
| March | Seminar | Professor Michael Tilbury of The University of Hong Kong led a lunchtime seminar about the future of private law in Hong Kong. |
| April | Seminar | Dr Normann Witzleb of Monash University led a seminar on the topic of 'Necessary deterrent or dangerous attack on press freedom? Exemplary Damages for Privacy Invasions' |
| | Seminar | Later that month we were visited by John Randall QC who led a seminar and to discuss his draft paper on 'Express Termination Clauses in Contracts'. |
| May | Lecture | May saw the return of Professor David McLauchlan from Victoria University of Wellington. This was a well-attended evening public lecture, the topic of which was 'Refining Rectification' |
| July | Seminar | Associate Professor Pauline Ridge of the Australian National University College of Law led a seminar on the topic of 'The Scope of Equitable Accessorial Liability' |
| August | Lecture | Mr William Swadling, Reader in Property Law, University of Oxford delivered his annual lecture. This year his topic was 'Constructive Trusts and Proprietary Estoppel: A Distinction without a Difference?' |
| | Seminar | The Hon Professor Keith Mason AC QC led a lunchtime seminar on the topic of 'Private Law Taxonomy for Law Teachers' |
| September | Roundtable | The speakers for this event were: Emeritus Professor Michael Bryan (MLS); Professor Ben McFarlane (University College London); and Professor Andrew Robertson (MLS). Reflecting on the 25th anniversary of the landmark decision of the High Court of Australia in <i>Waltons Stores (Interstate) Ltd v Maher</i> , the three speakers considered the content, history and future of equitable estoppel in Australia and elsewhere |
| November | Workshop | Jointly hosted with the Legal Theory Workshop. This workshop will be led by Professor Kit Barker from the University of Queensland who will discuss his paper 'Damages without loss? What Hohfeld can offer?' Elise Bant will be acting as commentator. |
| December | Conference | A two day 'Trusts' conference is planned for early December. The aim of this conference is to provide academics from Australia and New Zealand with the opportunity to present work in progress and to discuss issues relating to research, publication and teaching in the field of trusts law in a collegial and supportive environment |

For full details please view the [Obligations Group](http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/obligations) website - <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/obligations>