

### **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 21012, the Obligations Group Directors are Professor Andrew Robertson and Associate Professor Elise Bant. The Group's internal membership is as follows:

- Emeritus Professor Michael Bryan
- Professor Ian Ramsay
- Professor Ian Malkin
- Associate Professor Matthew Harding
- Dr Katy Barnett
- Dr Jeannie Paterson
- Dr Linda Haller
- Mr Arlen Duke
- Mr Andrew Godwin
- Mr Matthew Bell

Visiting academics researching or teaching in the Obligations fields are welcome to be associated with the Group and participate in its range of activities.

### **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.

The areas of teaching and research are:

- Consumer Law
- Contract Law
- Equity and Trusts

- Private Law Theory
- Property
- Remedies
- Tort
- Unjust Enrichment and Restitution

### 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 2012, these have included; a lunchtime seminar series, evening lectures, workshops and conferences.

### 2012 Events

The Obligations Group hosted a range of events in 2012 as follows:-

|          |                    |   |
|----------|--------------------|---|
| June     | Seminar            | Rick Bigwood, Bond University, Queensland – ‘When Fairness Turns Bad: Reflections on the BCLI Report on Proposals for Unfair Contracts in British Columbia’   |
| June     | Book Launch        | Katy Barnett, Melbourne Law School and Obligations Group member. Barnett, K, <i>Accounting for Profit for Breach of Contract: Theory and Practice</i> , Hart Publishing, United Kingdom (2012)  |
| June     | Workshop & Seminar | Obligations Group members met to discuss paper in preparation for the 2012 international Obligations Group conference, followed by a seminar led by David McLauchlan, Victoria University of Wellington – ‘The Entire Agreement Clause: Conclusive or a Question of Weight?’              |
| August   | Lecture            | William Swadling, Reader in the Law of Property at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford – ‘Constructive Trusts and Breaches of Fiduciary Duty’  |
| November | Round-table        | The Seventh Annual Australia/New Zealand Consumer Laws Roundtable. An informal gathering for consumer law academics, regulators and advocates to discuss current issues and research in progress in this area of law.   |
| November | Workshop           | A comprehensive workshop event to discuss papers in the area of Equity.   |
| December | Conference         | Unjust Enrichment – a one-day conference the aim being to provide Australian and New Zealand scholars with the opportunity to present work in progress and to discuss research, publication and teaching issues in the Unjust Enrichment field in a collegial and supportive environment. |