

REGISTRATION FORM

OPEN PUBLIC SEMINAR

“PUBLIC INTEREST” IN US AND AUSTRALIAN MEDIA LAW - 30 MAY 2008

Name:..... Mr/Ms

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ADMISSION IS FREE BUT BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

RSVP: (By 5.00 pm Monday 26 May)

By Fax to: 02 9351 0200

By Post to: Legal Professional Development,
Faculty of Law, University of Sydney
173-175 Phillip Street, Sydney NSW 2000

By Phone to: 02 9351 0238

By email to: V.Carey@usyd.edu.au

(If booking by phone or email, please supply all relevant details as noted on this registration form.)

This seminar is part of the Legal Professional Development Program administered by the Faculty of Law at The University of Sydney. Attendance at this seminar will qualify participants for 1.5 MCLE/CPD units if this particular educational activity is relevant to their immediate or long term needs in relation to their professional development and practice of the law.

THE ROSS PARSONS CENTRE OF COMMERCIAL, CORPORATE AND TAXATION LAW

The Ross Parsons Centre promotes and supports research and scholarship, teaching, consultancy and advocacy in all areas of commercial, corporate and taxation law.

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For further information please contact:
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Ross Parsons
Centre of Commercial, Corporate and Taxation Law



THE UNITED STATES
STUDIES CENTRE
new opportunities built on understanding

PUBLIC SEMINAR

“Public Interest” in US and Australian Media Law

FRIDAY 30 MAY 2008

5:00 pm - 7:15 pm

SPEAKERS

Professor David Partlett
Dean, School of Law, Emory University

Professor Michael Tilbury
Commissioner NSW Law Reform Commission

David Marr
Author and Journalist

CHAIR

Associate Professor Barbara McDonald

SYDNEY LAW SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
173 - 175 PHILLIP STREET SYDNEY

“Public Interest” defence in US and Australian Media Law

The Ross Parsons Centre of Commercial, Corporate and Taxation Law in association with the United States Studies Centre, invites you to an Open Public Seminar.

“Public interest” is an ill-defined concept in Australian media law, yet one that is critical to robust public debate. The term encompasses many public interests - the most obvious being freedom of speech, itself integral to so many fundamental rights. It also encompasses other interests such as the right to a fair trial, the proper administration of justice and government, the freedom of the press, and the exposure of corruption and public abuses. Public interest plays a part in key defences to defamation actions, in rights and actions involving reporting and discussion of criminal and civil court proceedings, in protecting open commentary and public use of images, information and published works, in justifying revelations of certain sensitive or confidential information. With the new uniform defamation legislation throughout Australia allowing truth as a complete defence, renewed attention is being given to the potential for an action for the invasion of privacy. Issues of public interest will be finely balanced with private rights, with the boundaries particularly blurred in cases involving “public figures”, another ill defined concept. The United States, with legal protections of privacy but a strong record of protection of First Amendment freedom of speech rights, makes for an interesting comparison with the Australian position.

This seminar will be of interest to all those interested in public debate and the discussion of public affairs - private and corporation lawyers, members of the media and of government, commentators on public matters and students of law, politics and communication.

The Speakers

Dr David Partlett is Dean of the School of Law, Emory University, Atlanta, US. A native of Australia, he earned his LL.B. degree from the University of Sydney School of Law in 1970, an LL.M. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1974, and an S.J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1982.

Dr. Partlett was Vice President, Dean and Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University School of Law from 2000 to 2006 and prior to that was at Vanderbilt University Law School where he also served as a senior fellow in the Institute for Public Policy Studies, and as Acting Dean of Vanderbilt University Law School in 1996-97. From 1974-75, Dr. Partlett served as a senior legal officer for the Commonwealth Attorney-General’s Department in Canberra, Australia, where he was responsible for policy advice on the Racial Discrimination Act and other related human rights legislation. He then served as principal law reform officer for the Australian Law Reform Commission before joining the faculty of the Australian National University in 1978 where he was a member of the faculty there until 1987.

He is a member of the American Law Institute, the curriculum committee of the American Bar Association, American Society of Law and Medicine and Selden Society. He has authored leading books on torts, defamation and free speech.

Michael Tilbury is the full-time Commissioner at the NSW Law Reform Commission and he is a Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne. He has previously been the Edward Jenks Professor of Law at the University of Melbourne, Head of the Schools of Law at the University of New South Wales and the

University of Tasmania and Foundation Director of the Commercial Law Institute at the University of Zimbabwe. He is a graduate of the Universities of London and Oxford and a barrister of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

He is currently in charge of the Reference as to whether New South Wales law provides adequate protection for privacy of individuals and whether a statutory right of privacy should be introduced.

David Marr, author and journalist with the Sydney Morning Herald, is a leading writer and commentator on issues of freedom of speech, public debate and civil liberties. He is a graduate in Arts and Law from the University of Sydney. He was the presenter of the ABC’s Media Watch program from 2002-2004.

Program

4.45 pm	Registration opens
5.00 pm	Introduction by Associate Professor Barbara McDonald
5.15 pm	Professor David Partlett <i>Public interest in US Media Law</i>
5.50-6.05pm	Refreshments
6.05 pm	Professor Tilbury <i>The role of public interest in the proposed statutory action for breach of privacy</i>
6.25 pm	David Marr <i>A journalist’s perspective</i>
	Questions and discussion
7.15 pm	Close