

A Partner in Need

Reprieve Australia, which has a close working relationship with the Castan Centre, is calling for donations to help the Justice Centre in New Orleans to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

The Justice Centre houses a number of organizations assisting people charged with capital crimes. While the full extent of the damage is not yet known it seems that the centre has been ruined. Many employees of the organisations have lost their homes and belongings and are working from

an associated office in Texas, trying to locate clients and their clients' families. Starting up a new office under such circumstances will be costly. Much-needed donations can be sent to:

Reprieve New Orleans Relief Fund
GPO Box 4296
Melbourne Vic 3001

Alternatively visit:

<http://www.thejusticecenter.org/lcac/donations.html> or
<http://www.reprieve.org.au>

Castan Centre in the Media

Castan Centre staff continued to comment in the media on important human rights issues in the first half of 2005.

In April, the centre Director, Professor Sarah Joseph, appeared on *Insight* on SBS as a special guest. The program was called *Whatever it Takes*, and focused on the burgeoning debate surrounding the use of torture in the "war on terror". That debate further intensified in Australia when two Deakin University academics published a paper advocating the use of torture to combat terrorism. In response, Sarah and the centre's Project Manager, Marius Smith, wrote an opinion Piece for *The Age* on May 18 entitled "Torture is Inhuman, Illegal and Futile".

The centre has also continued to actively address indigenous matters in

the media. Associate Director Melissa Castan was quoted in the National Indigenous Times in June and August discussing the centre's collaboration with law firm Arnold Bloch Liebler in assisting the Wadeye community in the Northern Territory to improve its dire economic situation. The issue was also picked up by *The Age* on June 17, where Melissa was again quoted, together with Castan Centre member, David Yarrow. David was interviewed on ABC radio station Triple J about the same matter.

Finally, the visit by Zimbabwe's Shadow Minister for Justice, David Coltart, received widespread media coverage in Melbourne and around the country.

For more information, click on "media" at www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre.

Castan Centre Welcomes its Newest Member

All of the staff at the Castan Centre and Monash Law School were delighted to welcome the centre's newest member on May 11, 2005 when Associate Director Julie Debeljak gave birth to a healthy baby boy, McGregor (Mac) Debeljak.

Julie, Mac and Mac's dad, Simon McGregor, are all doing well, except for some sleep deprivation!

Julie also recently completed her Phd thesis, entitled "Human Rights and

Institutional Dialogue: Lessons for Australia from Canada and the United Kingdom," and participated in an Academic Roundtable with the Victorian Human Rights Consultative Committee relating to the protection of human rights in Victoria.

Julie is currently on well-earned maternity leave. She will be back at Clayton for second semester 2006.

Opposite: Julie and Mac

Castan Centre Advisory Board

Professor Philip Alston

New York University School of Law.

Professor Virginia Dandan

Chair, UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Mr Patrick Dodson

Lingiari Foundation

The Hon Elizabeth Evatt AC

International Commission of Jurists.

Professor Claudio Grossman

Dean, Washington College of Law, The American University.

The Hon Judge Felicity Hampel

County Court of Victoria

Professor Christof Heyns

Professor of Human Rights Law, Univ. of Pretoria, South Africa.

The Hon Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG

High Court of Australia.

Professor Ivan Shearer

UN Human Rights Committee.

His Excellence, Judge C.G. Weeramantry

Judge ad hoc, International Court of Justice

