

## News

### Farewell, Erica

Erica Contini's involvement with the Castan Centre started five years ago, when she became one of the Centre's first in-house interns in 2006. She stayed on as an intern for six months, before going back to her native United States to finish her law degree and take the bar exam there. However, she couldn't stay away for long, and in 2007 Erica returned to Monash to do her Master of Laws (Human Rights).

By July of that year, Erica had started working at the Centre as the Project Officer. Over the next four years she managed the Centre's student programs, including the Global Internship Program, in-house intern program and the Human Rights Essay Competition. The highlight of each year was the opportunity to organise the Human Rights Mooting Competition, which included researching and writing the moot problem.

Throughout her time at the Centre, Erica has been an inspiring source of enthusiasm and drive, as she oversaw the expansion of every one of the Centre's student programs. Somehow through all of this, she also found time to take on sessional tutoring at the Monash Law Faculty and extra research work with the Centre's Director, Professor Sarah Joseph, on Oxford University Press' online human rights project.

Although the Centre is sad to see Erica leave, we are also excited as she takes up a position in Victoria Legal Aid's graduate program. She will be based in their Dandenong office, and we wish her the best of luck with her new endeavours.



Erica getting into the Aussie Rules spirit.

### Centre Deputy Director Receives Teaching Citation

Castan Centre Deputy Director Dr Paula Gerber has been awarded a Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning by the Australian Learning & Teaching Council. The citation is awarded for sustained development of imaginative, practice-based pedagogies that inspire enthusiastic, independent learners of law.

The citation goes on to quote a Chinese proverb, "theory without practice is as lifeless, as practice without theory is

mindless", saying that this philosophy underpins Dr Gerber's imaginative and innovative teaching. Dr Gerber came to academia in 2000, after a 20-year career as a construction lawyer working in large law firms around the world. Consequently, she draws on two decades of legal experience when teaching her two distinct disciplines: construction law and human rights. Congratulations to Paula for her achievements.

### Castan Centre welcomes a new Accountability Project Manager and Project Officer

The Centre is pleased to announce that Adam Fletcher has joined the Centre as its new Accountability Project Manager. The Accountability Project focuses on improving legal protections, particularly for vulnerable Australians, through policy and public engagement. Adam is responsible for developing and monitoring research priorities, conducting in-depth research in the priority areas and producing publications.

Before coming to the Centre, Adam worked at the Attorney-General's Department in Canberra in the Office of International Law. During his time there he also took 18 months off to work as a Legal Advisor at the Association for the Prevention of Torture in Geneva. Adam has a great deal of experience

working with government policy and international law and he is looking forward to bringing that experience to the Centre. After working for the Government for several years, he says that he'd "like to contribute to the other side of Australia's human rights debates."

The Centre is also pleased to announce that Andre Dao has joined the Centre as its new Project Officer. Andre is a recent graduate of the Melbourne Law School and is also the Editor-in-Chief of Right Now, a human rights media organisation. He is looking forward to facilitating the Centre's fantastic student programs.

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