Have you considered doing a Graduate Diploma in Media, Communications and Information Technology Law?

Jonathan Gill, Associate Director Centre for Media, Communications and Information Technology Law

The Law School at the University of Melbourne has been at the forefront of providing innovative and exciting opportunities for studying the law in relation to the media and the new environment created by developments in information technology.

The Graduate Diploma in Media, Communications and Information Technology Law, like other postgraduate programs offered by the Law School at the University of Melbourne, builds on and augments, the legal analytical skills acquired during a practitioner's undergraduate years. Unlike undergraduate studies, however, postgraduate legal education take account of, and draws on the experience of students in providing advice and responding to the needs of clients in practice. The Graduate Program of the Faculty of Law at the University of Melbourne is one of the largest and most diverse in Australia. The program encourages specialisation. The Graduate Diploma in Media, Communications and Information Technology Law is one specialist area.

The subjects which make up the Graduate Diploma are taught by Associates of the Centre for Media, Communications and Information Technology Law and by overseas and visiting lecturers who have international reputations. The Graduate Diploma provides students with the opportunity of examining not only the issues traditionally raised in undergraduate media law subjects such as defamation, contempt of court and ownership and control of broadcasting, but also the areas not traditionally covered in undergraduate law courses such as telecommunications, privacy and film and television production, distribution and financing. The problems raised by the publication of material over the Internet and issues surrounding electronic commerce are also covered.

Those undertaking the Graduate Diploma are required to complete four subjects, which may either be taken on a full time basis over one year or on a part time basis over two years. To complete the Graduate Diploma, students must pass at least one of:

- Broadcasting and Telecommunications Law
- Film and Television Law: Production, Financing and Distribution

- Internet Law
- Electronic Commerce and Transactions
- Broadcasting and Telecommunications Regulation A Comparative Analysis

And at least one of:

- Defamation Law
- The Media and the State
- Privacy, Publicity and the Law

Provided that students may not undertake more than two of:

- Film and Television Law, Production, Financing and Distribution
- Internet Law
- Electronic Commerce and Transactions

The Graduate Diploma is not restricted to law graduates. It is also open to graduates in disciplines other than law and to journalists, and others, who have relevant industry experience. For many young lawyers, it is the possibility of exchanging perspectives with those who have extensive industry experience which is one of the highlights of the program.

In 2000 the Law School intends to offer three subjects of particular relevance and importance, given the current interest in communications law. These subjects will be of value to lawyers who deal with, or who wish to gain expertise in, telecommunications and/or broadcasting law. The subjects are:

- Broadcasting and Telecommunications Law;
- Broadcasting and Telecommunications Regulation A Comparative Analysis;
- Film and Television Law Production, Financing and Distribution.

Two other subjects – Privacy, Publicity and the Law and the Media and the State – will also be taught.

For more information about the Program and how to enrol, contact:

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