



Press Release

The Australian Institute of International Affairs and the International Law Association (Australian Branch) proudly announce that this year's Peter Nygh Hague Conference Internship has been awarded to two extraordinarily talented Australian law graduates.

The Internship supports a post graduate student or graduate of an Australian law school to undertake an internship with the Hague Conference on Private International Law (the Hague Conference) in the Netherlands by providing funds to cover the cost of travel to the Netherlands and a contribution towards living expenses.

Drossos Stamboulakis and Tsjatsja Westerveld are both exceptionally qualified, dedicated and motivated. Besides top-notch academic achievements, both successful candidates have experience in private international law. Both Drossos and Tsjatsja also exhibited excellent communication and interpersonal skills through volunteer and sports activities.

During his Bachelor studies, Drossos took up several roles in law-related activities, from being a volunteer editor for the Monash Law Review to serving as a representative of the Australia Pacific Regional Arbitration Group at the UNCITRAL International Arbitration Working Group sessions in New York. Drossos also worked as a research assistant for Clyde Croft SC (as he then was) and subsequently as Justice Croft's associate when Justice Croft was appointed to the Supreme Court of Victoria. After graduating from Monash University Law School with first class honours in 2011, Drossos obtained further legal work experience at Linklaters LLP in London. Drossos is looking forward to the Internship, as he plans to focus on international dispute resolution in his future career.

Tsjatsja Westerveld has represented Bond University in a number of moot competitions nationally and internationally, including the prestigious Beijing Foreign Studies University Intellectual Property Moot in 2011, which Bond University won. Since graduating in law with first class honours, Tsjatsja has taken up a paralegal position at Allens. Tsjatsja has also taken the time to volunteer for numerous student associations and charities. She is eager to start the Internship in The Hague and explore issues and solutions in private international law before she starts as a graduate lawyer at Allens in 2013.

The decision to award the Internship to two candidates for the first time this year reflects the very high standard of Drossos' and Tsjatsja's applications. It also reflects the tremendous contribution that past Nygh Interns have made to the work of the Hague Conference.

The Australian government has supported the Hague Conference for many years. This year it will make a further contribution in the form of a grant from the Attorney-General's Department directly to the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference to fund work on the implementation of the Choice of Courts Convention and the development of a future convention on recognition of foreign judgments. Such a convention will be a great boon to legal practitioners around the world as in most countries it is currently quite difficult to enforce many foreign judgments.



Background Information

The Peter Nygh Hague Conference Internship is an award in memory of the late Hon Dr Peter Nygh AM, a leading international lawyer and former judge of the Family Court of Australia. Dr Nygh was also an Australian delegate to, and a rapporteur of, The Hague Conference. In 2002, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in part 'for service to international law, particularly through honorary assistance to The Hague Conference'.

Dr Nygh's family donated funds to establish the Peter Nygh Hague Conference Internship. An additional \$50,000 was donated by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, and Allens generously supports the administration of the award. Further donations are being sought to support this initiative. All donations are tax deductible.

The Australian Institute of International Affairs www.aiia.asn.au was established in 1933 as an independent non-political body to promote an interest in, and understanding of, international affairs. The AIIA operates nationwide with 1,300 members across seven State and Territory branches. The AIIA provides a forum for discussion, and educates and disseminates ideas via its journal *Australian Journal of International Affairs* and book series including *Australia in World Affairs*. The Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC is the AIIA's Honorary Visitor and Patron.

The International Law Association has over 50 branches worldwide and a growing membership of academics and practising professionals with an interest in international law. Membership is available to all persons interested in international law. The Hon Dr Peter Nygh AM was a past president of ILA (AB) and was also active in the international organisation of the ILA. While president of the ILA (AB) he promoted co-operation between the ILA (AB) and the AIIA.

