Acknowledgements

The idea for the book first came when I visited Scotland with my father in June 2004. We were staying at the Steam Packet Inn in a small fishing village called the Isle of Whithorn in Wigtownshire. This is the part of Scotland where my father was born and brought up and there is something about the tranquillity of the place that clears the mind and encourages clarity of thought.

With time to spare, I reflected on a book I had completed two years earlier entitled Globalising Intellectual Property: the TRIPS Agreement. It struck me that the book I had written about the role that multinational companies had played in creating a new international regime for intellectual property rights deserved a companion volume, outlining the extent and influence of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that had subsequently highlighted concerns about the relationship between intellectual property, human rights and development.

Coincidentally, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) had just placed a newspaper advertisement, calling for research proposals to be funded within its Non-Governmental Public Action (NGPA) Programme.* I saw the newspaper advert and decided to apply for funding. Charles Clift, Graham Dutfield, Susan Sell and Sandy Thomas all provided invaluable encouragement and advice as I put the research proposal together. Subsequently, I was fortunate enough to receive a grant from the ESRC (grant RES-155-25-0038) and set about making plans to undertake the research I had envisaged while staying at the Steam Packet Inn. Jude Howell was then appointed by the ESRC as the NGPA Programme Director and proved to be outstanding in her support and encouragement for many years to come.

My academic department, the Centre for Commercial Law Studies at

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