

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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Queen Mary, University of London, was kind enough to match the ESRC funding with a period of research leave. The next step was to appoint Viviana Munoz-Tellez as a full-time research assistant. She proved to be an incredibly hard working, loyal, knowledgeable and intelligent assistant and her contribution to the research was simply outstanding.

Once the project got underway, the research itself involved a great deal of travel to places I had little or no experience of visiting. I am particularly indebted to Tenu Avafia for sharing his contacts and advice in South Africa, to André de Mello e Souza and Barbara Rosenberg for providing such valuable introductions in Brazil and to Dwijen Rangnekar for recommending excellent contacts in India. Fabio Pereira and Ana Carolina Cagnoni Ribeiro, two of my best Brazilian LLM students at Queen Mary, also provided excellent research assistance.

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