

Preface

In 2010, Edward Elgar published our book *The Internationalisation of Law: Legislation, Decision-Making, Practice and Education*. That book resulted from a conference on this subject, held at Bond University to mark the 20th anniversary of the Law Faculty.

As editors, we felt this was a significant topic which deserved our continuing attention. As teachers within a law faculty, how we respond to the changing nature of the study and practice of law remains a pressing issue. Since that date, ever more universities and faculties have responded with new initiatives to the challenge of producing lawyers adequately prepared to operate in a global, transnational environment.

We held a follow-up symposium at Bond University late in 2012, this time focusing more narrowly on legal education. The chapters in this book are substantially based on the contributions made to that symposium by invited speakers. They provide different perspectives on legal education: from legal professionals in large law firms, to barristers, educators, practical training specialists, arbitrators and academics, to mention a few.

It emerged clearly that the legal academy is responding in many and varied ways to the globalisation challenge. The solutions range from joint degrees, to extensive exchange programs, to including international aspects in all courses, to introducing international foundation law courses, foreign language compulsories and so forth. No doubt new ideas and initiatives will continue to emerge, which is one of the developments that makes the study of this topic so fascinating. All these approaches have their merits, but we expect there will be some consolidation over the next few years in terms of more standard responses. Vital in this context will be ongoing collaboration between law faculties and academics around the globe. Luckily the interest in the challenges and promises of globalisation remains undiminished. We see the emergence of a renewed focus on lawyering skills, on core principles underpinning the rule of law, on the cultural context of law and legal practice, and on comparative research and study as significant components of a more global law curriculum. Whereas the emphasis and content of global law will continue to vary, the trend is clearly toward greater recognition of the

necessity and value of an international perspective, both technical and cultural, in the law graduate of the future.

We have benefited from the support and assistance of many in the process of producing this volume for publication by Edward Elgar. The interest and enthusiasm of the publisher has pushed us along, and the great work behind the scenes with editing and author correspondence by Tonya Roberts has kept the project on the rails. Our initial contact with the various authors was made at the time of our symposium at Bond, which was so ably organised by Mairead Courtney. We must, of course, thank all the authors for the thought, effort and experience they put into their varied and interesting papers, and for responding to all our exhortations and directions in the most positive way. Lastly, we also benefited greatly from the administrative and financial support of the Faculty of Law at Bond University. Interest in internationalisation and global law practice remains vibrant here and around the world. We hope that this particular volume advances the discussion and provides a focal point on the road to solid solutions and approaches to teaching law students destined for a legal world with ever diminishing borders.

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