

## “Is there life after studying international trade law?”

On 27 September 2001 Emeritus Professor Mary Hiscock addressed the Bond Community on pathways available to students after studying international trade law.

Better described as international commercial law, international trade law encompasses trade, investment, corporate law, finance, tax and other important subject areas such as environment, human rights, family law and dispute resolution.

Assistant Professor Tim Jay, who has practised in such fields, joined Professor Hiscock in explaining that students wishing to work in international trade law need certain personal attributes, such as ambition, being a team player, being able to cope with long hours and the ability to be sensitive towards and understand other legal cultures.

There are many options available to students after study and a good understanding of international commercial law will be important in many different situations. Graduates can work in a private local practice with international clients or local clients with international ties. Other alternatives include practicing as an in-house lawyer for large companies, such as BHP Billiton or practicing as a panel member for government or other public institutions.

The public service sector also offers many different career paths at state level or federally in departments such as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Attorney General's Office or the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Such positions could involve policy formation, representational work and legal advice.

Perhaps the most obvious option is service with international institutions, such as the World Bank Group and regional Development Banks, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), to name a few. The United Nations (UN) and its specialized agencies also offer interesting and exciting options.

Nonetheless, whatever career path is chosen, further study will always be necessary. Please click on the link below to the International Careers Guidebook for more information (a new edition will be available in March 2010):

<http://ilss.law.unimelb.edu.au/publications/guidebook/Careers2009.pdf>



**Caption: Emeritus Professor Mary Hiscock and Assistant Professor Tim Jay delivering the presentation**