Personal Property Security Law: Local and Global Perspectives

20–21 February 2013, Adelaide Festival Centre

Keynote Speaker: Sir Roy Goode CBE, QC, Emeritus Professor, St John’s College, University of Oxford

On 30 January 2012, after several decades of discussion, the Personal Property Securities Act 2009 (PPSA) and its Register, came into operation in Australia, drawing heavily upon legislation in North America and New Zealand, though with local nuances, and a lengthier statute relative to overseas versions. The Australian PPSA can also be viewed in the global context of international conventions concerning certain collateral, other international guidelines and initiatives, and ongoing reform discussions elsewhere, for example in the UK.

The PPSA impacts on commercial, finance and insolvency law and practice, and across most sectors of business and consumer activity, and also intersects with other bodies of law. It has been called the most important piece of commercial law reform in Australia for decades. It replaces and challenges long-established legal paradigms and terminology, in the interests of a wider economic or ‘functional’ approach to what is captured as a security interest in personal property.

This 1.5 day conference, to be held shortly after the first anniversary of the new regime, is unique in bringing together Australian and international academics, professionals (lawyers, accountants and finance sector representatives), judges, government agencies and international bodies to examine the policy and concepts, as well as detailed aspects and impacts, of the PPSA. It will provide an opportunity to hear from, debate and network with, those from Canada, New Zealand and the United States who have grappled and settled with similar legislation and its subsequent revisions, and to examine jurisdictional variations and issues for amendment or reform.

Confirmed participants so far include leading Australian and international experts, authors and commentators from the academic and professional world. It is expected that an edited collection of papers given at the conference will be published at a later date.

The conference is competitively priced and assisted by sponsors to encourage wide participation, and the registration fee includes a dinner at the University of Adelaide’s stunning National Wine Centre located in the Botanic Gardens.

The Conference will take place in the Festival Centre’s Banquet Room, overlooking the banks of the River Torrens and the famous Adelaide Oval. The event’s timing takes advantage of the Australian summer and the start of South Australia’s festival season, including the renowned Fringe Festival and Garden of Unearthly Delights (opposite the Wine Centre), and in early March, the International Arts Festival. Adelaide is located within one to two hour’s drive of several of the best wine regions in Australia, including the nearby McLaren Vale and Barossa Valley, as well as the Clare Valley and Coonawarra.

I hope that we will have the opportunity of welcoming you to this exciting conference, and to Adelaide.

Associate Professor David Brown, Deputy Dean, Co-Director, Bankruptcy and Insolvency Law Scholarship Unit (BILS), Adelaide Law School