



*The Australian Institute
of International Affairs*



Media Release

2009 Nygh Internship recipient

The Australian Institute of International Affairs and the Australian Branch of the International Law Association are proud to announce that the 2009 Peter Nygh Hague Conference Internship has been awarded to Alexander Kunzelmann.

The internship was first accepted by Aimee Wiseman, who had to withdraw from the program for personal reasons, and the Peter Nygh Selection Board is pleased to award the internship to Alexander.

Alexander is a graduate from the Australian National University. He holds a double Bachelor degree of Laws and Arts. His interest in private international law first developed while completing a certificate of transnational law at the University of Geneva in 2005. Alexander is currently working as a lawyer at Clayton Utz in Canberra. His experience in Australian and international law, his outstanding academic record and his interest in private international law make him an ideal candidate for the internship.

2009 marks the third year that Nygh Internship has been awarded. Each year, the internship provides either a student, graduate or post graduate with the rare opportunity to travel to the Hague and work in the area of Private International Law. Successful applicants receive a contribution towards their living expenses for the duration of the internship. Prospective applicants should visit the AIIA's website at www.aiaa.asn.au.

The Peter Nygh Hague Conference Internship is an award in the memory of the late Hon Dr Peter Nygh AM, a leading international lawyer, former judge of the Family Court of Australia and an Australian delegate to, and a rapporteur of, the Hague Conference. In 2002 Dr Nygh was appointed a member of the order of Australia (AM) in part 'for service to international law, particularly through honorary assistance to the Hague Conference'.

Dr Nygh's family donated funds to establish the Peter Nygh Hague Conference Internship. An additional \$50,000 was donated by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and Allens Arthur and Robinson is generously supporting the administration of the Award. Further donations are being sought to support this initiative. All donations are tax deductible.

Background information

The Australian Institute of International Affairs www.aiaa.asn.au was established in 1933 as an independent non-political body to promote an interest in and understanding of international affairs. The AIIA operates nationwide with 1,600 members across seven State and Territory branches. The AIIA provides a forum for discussion educates and disseminates ideas via its journal *Australian Journal of International Affairs* and book series including *Australia in World Affairs*. The Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC is the AIIA's honorary Visitor and Patron.

The Australian Branch of the International Law Association www.ila.org.au promotes

- the study, elucidation and advancement of international law, public and private
- the making of proposals for the solution of conflicts of law and for the unification of law
- the study of comparative law; and
- the unification of law.

The International Law Association has over 50 branches worldwide and a growing membership of academics and practising professionals with an interest in international law. Membership is available to all persons interested in international law. The Hon Dr Peter Nygh AM was a past president of ILA (AB) and was also active in the international organisation of the ILA. While president of the ILA (AB) he promoted co-operation between the ILA (AB) and the AIIA.

The Hague Conference on Private International Law www.hcch.net/index_en.php is a global inter-governmental organisation with over 60 Member States representing all continents. A melting pot of different legal traditions, the Hague Conference aims for the 'progressive unification' of private international law rules. The work of the Hague Conference involves finding internationally-agreed approaches to issues such as jurisdiction of courts, applicable law, and the recognition and enforcement of judgements in a wide range of areas, from commercial law and banking law to international civil procedure and from child protection to matters of marriage and personal status.

Further enquiries:

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