From The Director

Customary International Humanitarian Law Conference, 29-30 May 2009

Since June 2007, the Centre has hosted a three-member research team that is working on a joint project, sponsored by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the British Red Cross Society (BRCS), to update the practice section of the ICRC Study on Customary International Humanitarian Law, which was published in three volumes by Cambridge University Press in 2005.

On 29-30 May 2009, the Centre hosted a conference to mark the presence of the project at the Centre, to receive an update on progress, and to provide a forum for some 35 invited participants to reflect on the impact and use of the study. On the first evening of the conference, participants attended a dinner at Trinity College, hosted by the Centre’s founder and first director, Sir Elihu Lauterpacht, QC, at which the keynote speaker was Judge George Aldrich of the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal. The Conference provided an invaluable opportunity for the project to receive further feedback, both on the Customary IHL Study and on factors important in the work of updating the practice section of the Study.

During the Conference it was agreed with the ICRC and BRCS that the project would be renewed for a further 3 years.

Centre Support Update: Building Fund Reaches £125,000

As a result of historic gifts from Sir Elihu and Lady Lauterpacht, augmented by a number of donations from Friends of the Centre following its 25th anniversary celebrations last year, the Centre’s building fund has passed the £125,000 mark. The aim is to link Nos 5 and 7 Cranmer Road, adding both space, greater amenity and additional facilities. Many thanks for those who have given to the Fund: if you would like to find out about how you might help the Centre, do contact Centre Director Professor James Crawford on: jrc1000@cam.ac.uk.

New Online Giving Facility

A new online giving facility, hosted by the University’s Development Office, has now been set up. Visit the Centre’s website (www.lcil.cam.ac.uk/about_the_centre/support_the_centre.php) to find out more.

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow: Dr Jessie Hohmann

Dr Jessie Hohmann will join the Centre in October as a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow. Her research, on human rights and the normative limits of international law, will culminate in a monograph investigating how human rights push at the limits of the international legal system and the implications of these pressures for international law.

Jessie has recently completed her PhD on ‘The Right to Housing: Theoretical and Practical Possibilities’ at the University of Cambridge and holds an LLM from the University of Sydney, an LLB from Osgoode Hall (York University) and a BA from the University of Guelph. Prior to commencing her PhD here, she lectured in constitutional law at Macquarie University.

With Dr Michael Waibel and, as of October, Sarah Nouwen, there will be three post-doctoral fellows working at the Centre.

First Winiarski Scholar ‘Mugged’

The first Bohdan Winiarski scholar, Dr Filip Jasiński pursued his studies on “the links in international law between maritime piracy, mercenarism and trafficking in human beings”. He is based at the Permanent Representation of Poland to the EU in Brussels.

Jessie Hohmann will join the Centre in October as a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow

Dr Joanne Gomula (right) with Bohdan Winiarski Scholar Dr Filip Jasiński and his son

The first Bohdan Winiarski scholar, Dr Jasiński pursued his studies on “the links in international law between maritime piracy, mercenarism and trafficking in human beings”. He is based at the Permanent Representation of Poland to the EU in Brussels.
Visiting Fellows Talks

The following talks took place recently:

- **Gregory Fox** on *Constitutional Violations and the Validity of Treaties*.
- **Ignacio Rodrigues Alvarez** on *Stare Super Antiquas Vias: Theories and Realities upon Precedent in the Law of Nations*.

News from Centre Friends and Alumni:

Congratulations to **Frank Madsen** (Visiting Fellow Oct 03 - Jun 05) on his first book *Transnational Organized Crime*, which has just been published by Routledge as part of the *Global Institutions* series. The book examines the history and current key issues surrounding transnational organised crime in the era of globalization.

If you have any Alumni or Centre-related news you would like others to hear about, please do send it to us by email to admin@lcil.cam.ac.uk

In Memoriam:  **Sir Derek Bowett**

Many of you will have heard already the sad news of the death of Derek Bowett QC, who died after a long illness on 23 May 2009. He was Reader in Public International Law at Cambridge, President of Queens' College and Whewell Professor (1981-1991). He was a foundation member of the Centre’s Committee of Management. As a member of the International Law Commission (1992-1996) he always spoke pointedly, wittily and crisply, an unusual combination for that body. He was one of the greatest advocates before the International Court of his generation, having a great gift of clarity and an unequalled strategic sense.

The Squire Law Library’s Eminent Scholars Archive provides a valuable insight into Sir Derek’s life and works, including a series of interviews, conducted by Lesley Dingle between Dec 06 and Apr 07, detailing some of his characteristic recollections (see: www.squire.law.cam.ac.uk/eminent_scholars/derek_bowett.php).

Another sad loss in recent weeks is Tom Franck, who died after a long and brave struggle against cancer. Tom was a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Trinity College in 1997 and gave the Hersch Lauterpacht Memorial Lectures in 2000, published as *Recourse to Force. State Action against Threats and Armed Attacks* (Cambridge University Press, 2002).