

# Castan Centre Welcomes New Staff – and Farewells André

This year the Castan Centre welcomed Associate Professor Bronwyn Naylor as a new deputy director of the Castan Centre, as well as Dr Richard Joyce as a new centre associate and Grace Jennings-Edquist as project officer.

Dr Naylor is the director of the LLB Program, chair of the Undergraduate Board of Examiners in the Faculty of Law and associate chair for the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee. Her research interests include criminal law, criminal justice and corrections, law and gender, and regulation and consumer protection.

Dr Naylor is one of the chief investigators of the *Applying Human Rights in Closed Environments: A Strategic Framework for Compliance (HRCE)* project, a three-year collaborative national research project examining the implementation of human rights in closed environments such as prisons, detention centres and closed mental health facilities. The project will contribute practical strategies for addressing human rights obligations and will stimulate debate on balancing human rights with security and safety considerations.

The Centre is also pleased to welcome Richard Joyce to the centre as an associate. Dr Joyce first joined the Faculty of Law as a lecturer in February 2011 and his research interests span international law, development and legal theory. He practised as a solicitor in the intellectual property group of a leading Australian law firm prior to commencing his PhD in 2004.

Finally, the Castan Centre welcomes a new project officer, Grace Jennings-Edquist. Prior to joining the Centre, Grace qualified as a lawyer at a plaintiff law firm and interned at the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the Hague and with the WILPF PeaceWomen Project at UN headquarters in New York. She has also worked as a freelance print and online journalist.

Grace replaces Andre Dao, who joined the Castan Centre in September 2011 and was an inspiring source of drive throughout his time here. Andre has left to work on a novel based on the lives of his grandparents, thanks to grants from the Australia Council of the Arts and Arts Victoria. He will remain Editor-in-Chief of human rights publication *Right Now*, and in that capacity is working on



*Dr Bronwyn Naylor, new deputy director of the Castan Centre*

an anthology of art and writing about human rights in Australia to be launched in late May 2014. While the Centre is sad to see him go, we are excited to see the outcome of these various projects and wish him the best of luck with his new endeavours.

## Award Winner Driven by Passion for Human Rights

A life spent in different cultures has led a Monash student and former Castan Centre Global Intern to her recent success in winning a prestigious award in September this year.

Final-year Juris Doctor student Kylie Pearce has devoted much of her spare time to promoting human rights, both in Australia and overseas, and is now the first student to win the Law Institute of Victoria's Paul Baker Award.

Kylie, who moved briefly to Malaysia with her family when she was 13, said her passion for human rights was partially influenced by her experiences there, which exposed her to cultural, religious and social issues quite different to her childhood in Melbourne.

"I realised I was lucky to have the opportunities and lifestyle that I had with my family in Melbourne and I wanted to learn as much as I could so that I could make an impact and empower others to realise their basic human rights," Kylie said.

Normally awarded to law practitioners, Kylie is the first student to win the award, which recognises significant achievement or outstanding contribution in the field of administrative or human rights law.

"It was an honour to be nominated by the Castan Centre and I feel very fortunate to have won this award," Kylie said.

Manager of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, Marius Smith, nominated Kylie for the award for the exceptional work she did during her internship at the Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC) in Accra, Ghana, as part of the Centre's Global Internship Program.

"It is very impressive that she set up a non-government organisation on her return to Australia that is not only guided by the community she worked in, but is also self-sustaining," Mr Smith said.

During Kylie's internship at HRAC, which is dedicated to advancing human rights in Ghana, she worked on a number of projects including drafting the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) submission to the UN Human

Rights Council as a joint submission with Amnesty International Ghana.

She also conducted a fact-finding mission to research recent human rights violations related to unannounced demolitions by the Ghana Police Force, and drafted a report on forced evictions in Ghana.

Kylie is currently pursuing further studies at the Geneva Graduate Institute, studying a Master of Laws in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. She plans to return to Australia to commence a graduate position in a law firm, where she hopes to combine private practice with pro bono work.

"I believe the legal profession can make a significant contribution to justice for marginalised groups through a strong commitment to pro bono legal assistance," Kylie said.

"My vision for the world is for people to be able to look past differences of culture, ethnicity, socio-economic status, opinions, religion or gender to see the inherent commonalities that we all share, as we all are first and foremost human beings."