



## **INSOL INTERNATIONAL**

International Association of Restructuring, Insolvency & Bankruptcy Professionals

### **To: All Members of the INSOL International Academics' Group Newsletter, September 2015**

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#### **1. Introduction**

It is an honour to succeed Professor Ian Fletcher as Chair of the Academics Group. Ian has chaired this Special Interest Group within INSOL International since it was formed in 1993. It is my sincere hope that we can continue to promote two hallmarks of Ian's leadership – of supporting quality contemporary research as well as collegial engagement.

By way of brief introduction, I am a Professor of Insolvency & Restructuring Law in the QUT Law School, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. In 2001, I attended my first INSOL Academics Colloquium in London and became acquainted in person with many academics whose work I had been reading on the other side of the globe. The opportunity to listen to speakers from different legal traditions and a diverse range of economies was a great catalyst for my research and teaching. And in the days before LinkedIn (see item below), it was a unique experience for building one's specialised professional network! This network has continued to expand as the INSOL Academics Group has grown. I enjoy being part of an international community of scholars who are experts on the many different ways in which countries experience and address financial distress for business and over-indebtedness for individuals.

As Chair, I am ably assisted by the Academics Steering Committee, whose members are currently – Professor Juanitta Calitz, University of Johannesburg; Paul Casey, Deloitte LLP; Bob Rajan, Alvarez & Marsal; Professor Lienne Steyn, University of KwaZulu-Natal; Professor Christopher Symes, University of Adelaide; Professor Michael Veder, Radboud University; and Professor Adrian Walters, Chicago-Kent College of Law. Also attending the Steering Committee are Stewart Maiden, INSOL Fellow, Melbourne, and Professor Ian Fletcher, University College London, who makes himself available to assist the Committee.

#### **2. Future planning**

There are three themes upon which the Steering Committee will focus during the next few years: First, we will seek to expand the regions from which academics attend and on which they research. This not only supports INSOL International's mission to provide 'a forum to exchange knowledge and learn from the experiences of other countries' but also aligns with our goals as academics to research issues of global commercial and social significance.

Secondly we will work to facilitate collaborations among academics. Some potential outcomes include joint publications, multi-jurisdictional research projects and teaching collaborations. We would also like to encourage collaborations between academics and practitioners. Commencing with the INSOL Fellows, we will explore opportunities for joint projects with the other INSOL Specialist Groups. It would also be good to engage more with practitioners who attend the main conference.

Thirdly, to underpin these activities, we will explore ways of improving communication, within the Group as a whole and also within the different INSOL regions of the world. This could be through investigating additional opportunities to meet in person within our regions and through making use of the internet and social media channels.

### **3. Reflections on the 2015 Colloquium in San Francisco**

The 17th Colloquium of the Academics' Group was held over two days on 21-22 March 2015 at the Fairmont Hotel atop a steep hill overlooking San Francisco. It commenced with a convivial dinner on the prior evening to mark the retirement of Professor Ian Fletcher as Chair of the group since its formation in 1993. First, Claire Broughton and Neil Cooper on behalf of INSOL acknowledged Ian's many contributions. Then followed a delightful surprise for Ian. On behalf of the insolvency academic community Professor David Burdette presented Ian with an elegant bound Festschrift to honour his leadership of the community of insolvency scholars. Numerous academics from around the world contributed articles which, have since appeared in a special edition of the *Nottingham Insolvency and Business Law e-Journal*. A copy of David's speech is available at [https://www.ntu.ac.uk/nls/document\\_uploads/174810.pdf](https://www.ntu.ac.uk/nls/document_uploads/174810.pdf)

The academic program show-cased excellent research on topical issues and the discussions during the Colloquium and break-out sessions was collaborative and collegial. There were ten sessions of 29 papers in all, covering wide ranging practical issues, complex challenges of intersecting laws and thought-provoking reflections on theory. The presenters included a number of scholarly practitioners including a member of the INSOL Fellows. There were some 55 registrants including a number of practitioners interested in the diverse program.

A special session on Insolvency and Human Rights was dedicated to the memory of Dr Jan van Apeldoorn (1946-2014), a long-standing member of the Academics' Group whose passionate commitment to the study of human rights culminated in the publication in 2012 of his book, *Human Rights in Insolvency Proceedings*, based upon the thesis for which he was awarded his Doctorate by the University of Tilburg.

For more information on the Colloquium, see the article by Professor Juanitta Calitz in the issue of INSOL World for the Third Quarter of 2015, on page 33. This Quarterly Journal is sent to all members of INSOL International, whose global membership now exceeds 9,800 across 80 countries. INSOL World is distributed to all members of INSOL. If you are interested in becoming a member please email [tina@insol.ision.co.uk](mailto:tina@insol.ision.co.uk).

The colloquium concluded its first day with a business meeting of the Group, at the end of which the baton of leadership was handed on by Ian who had chaired the first day to Ros who then led a discussion on the next Colloquium. Because of the timing of the annual INSOL International Conference, it was decided to hold a separate Academics Colloquium in mid-2016 in London. A number of potential topics were proposed for inclusion in the programme and the First Call for Papers appears below.

#### **4. Planning for 18th Colloquium – London – 13 – 15 July 2016**

##### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

The London colloquium will be a 2-day colloquium commencing with a Welcome Function on the Wednesday evening and running over Thursday – Friday in Central London.

The following topics have been selected for inclusion in the programme:

- i) Law reform and policy trends
- ii) Regional developments
- iii) Sovereign bankruptcy
- iv) Insolvency of financial institutions
- v) Cross-border insolvency issues in the maritime industry
- vi) Insolvency issues and small business
- vii) Insolvency theory – normative insights informing research
- viii) Socio-legal perspectives on personal insolvency
- ix) Teaching innovations and collaborations in insolvency
- x) Hot Issues

Not all of the topics listed above will necessarily feature on the final programme. Additionally, consideration can be given to proposals for papers which fall outside the list of proposed topics. Members are urged to contact the Chair ([rosalind.mason@qut.edu.au](mailto:rosalind.mason@qut.edu.au)) as soon as possible to advise their interest in presenting a paper in London.

**5. Ian Strang Award** - Deadline for applications 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015

**6. INSOL Scholar** – Deadline for applications 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015

**7. INSOL Academics LinkedIn Page** 

The Academics LinkedIn page is now up and running and will become the online resource for the group. To join the group please click on the logo above.

Finally, if you are aware of any academics with an interest in insolvency and who do not currently receive this email, please send their details to Tina McGorman [tina@insol.ision.co.uk](mailto:tina@insol.ision.co.uk) so that we can be in touch.

I look forward to receiving your proposals for papers for the London Colloquium and to meeting as many of you as possible at INSOL International gatherings.

Kind regards

Professor Rosalind Mason

Chair, INSOL International Academics' Group

E-mail address: [rosalind.mason@qut.edu.au](mailto:rosalind.mason@qut.edu.au)



## INSOL INTERNATIONAL

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The Ian Strang Founders' Award provides an educational opportunity for a postgraduate specialising in insolvency and turnaround to attend the Annual INSOL International Academics Colloquium and the annual INSOL International Conference (when held jointly).

The Ian Strang Founders' Award will be awarded to the best paper put forward by a postgraduate covering this specific field of study. The criteria for applying for the award are as follows:

- Be a postgraduate or early-career academic researcher in the field of law or accountancy specialising in insolvency & turnaround, or a recently qualified lawyer or accountant interested in the academic as well as the practical aspects of the subject.
- Provide a paper of not more than 10,000 words with regard to areas concerning cross-border issues.
- This paper should be an original piece of work, which has not previously been published in the form in which it is submitted.

The paper should be submitted by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015. A panel of international academics and professionals will judge the papers and make the award by the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Applicants are asked to submit their CV along with the paper.

The successful applicant will:

- Be invited to attend either the INSOL Dubai Annual Regional Conference or the Academics Colloquium in London which will be taking place at a different time in 2016. An allowance will be provided to cover travel and accommodation.
- Have the opportunity to present the paper at the INSOL International Academics Colloquium;
- Be recognised at the conference and receive a framed certificate of the Ian Strang Founders Award.
- Be encouraged to submit the paper to the International Insolvency Review with a view to its publication. The paper will also be published on the INSOL website.



**INSOL INTERNATIONAL**

**INSOL Scholars Award**

As a result of the tremendous success and enthusiasm of the INSOL Academic Group, INSOL is looking to work more closely with the academic profession.

INSOL would like to appoint a scholar for a period of two years to work with INSOL on a specific area of research for the benefit of the INSOL membership. The research work will be published and made available to members of INSOL International.

Academics applying for the scholarship are asked to submit their suggested research topic for consideration, an outline of scope of the work including a timeline for submission, provide a copy of their CV (to include the name of one referee) and a list of published works.

The scholarship will be awarded based on the strength of the application and supporting documents provided. Whilst the requirements of the scholarship will favour academics with a minimum of 5 years' experience in academia, academics of all experience are invited to apply.

The INSOL Scholar will be part-time. Please note that the academic applying will need the support of their University for them to properly fulfil the Scholar's obligations to INSOL resulting from the award and where possible confirmation of the necessary support should be filed with your application.

The stipend will be £10,000 a year and does not include benefits. The stipend will be used to fund the INSOL Scholar's research. An additional benefit is that the INSOL Scholar will be invited to attend an INSOL International Academics Colloquium at an INSOL Annual Conference free of any conference enrolment charge.

The deadline for receipt of applications is 1 October 2015. Timing of the tenure of the scholarship can be adjusted so as to enable the holder to coordinate their plans with the teaching cycle of their home university, and so optimise their opportunity to carry out productive research during periods when their teaching obligations are less heavy.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with Dr. Sonali Abeyratne, Technical Director of INSOL international at [sonali@insol.ision.co.uk](mailto:sonali@insol.ision.co.uk) the first instance.