



*The Australian Institute
of International Affairs*

Media Release



Call for applications: 2012 Nygh Internship

The Australian Institute of International Affairs and the International Law Association (Australian Branch) call for applications for the 2012 Peter Nygh Hague Conference Internship.

2012 marks the sixth year that the Nygh Internship will be awarded. Each year, the internship provides a student, graduate or post graduate with the rare opportunity to travel to The Hague in the Netherlands 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 or email Coleen Fernandez at Coleen.Fernandez@aar.com.au

The Hague Conference is a permanent intergovernmental organisation based in the Hague with over 60 member States including Australia. It addresses the challenges arising from differences in law between jurisdictions by developing and implementing global legal conventions. More than 130 countries are party to conventions developed and administered by the Hague Conference. The ultimate goal of the Hague Conference is to work for a world in which both individuals and companies can enjoy a high degree of legal security despite the differences between legal systems.

So far Nygh Interns have worked on projects at the Hague Conference in fields ranging from family law, evidence and access to justice to cross border flow of personal data, migration, civil liability for trans boundary harm and commercial dispute resolution. For many interns the opportunity to observe the negotiation of an international convention first hand has been a highlight of their internship. It is also an exciting opportunity for young Australian lawyers to live and work in the Hague which is home to many of the world's leading international law institutions.

Katie Price said of her experience living and working in the Hague as the 2008 Nygh Intern 'for an international law nerd it is much like nirvana' and 'I had the time of my life thus far.' Although the award is still relatively new, past Nygh Interns are beginning to develop careers in private international law. In 2011 the inaugural Nygh Intern, Zoë Justice, was awarded a Hugo Grotius Fellowship to undertake a Masters in Law at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, specialising in private international law.

The Peter Nygh Hague Conference Internship is an award in memory of the late Hon Dr Peter Nygh AM, a leading international lawyer and former judge of the Family Court of Australia. Dr Nygh was also an Australian delegate to, and a rapporteur of, The Hague Conference. In 2002, he 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 Robinson generously supports the administration of the award. Further donations are being sought to support this initiative. All donations are tax deductible.

Further information about the Nygh Internship is included in the following article:
<http://sydney.edu.au/news/law/436.html?newscategoryid=67&newsstoryid=7553>

Background information

The Australian Institute of International Affairs www.aiia.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 1,300 members across seven State and Territory branches. The AIIA provides a forum for discussion, and 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 International Law Association (Australia Branch) 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.

Further enquiries:

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