

International Intellectual Property and the Common Law World

Edited by
CHARLES E. F. RICKETT
and
GRAEME W. AUSTIN
The University of Auckland, New Zealand

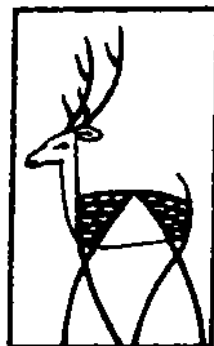


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Preface

In July 1999 the Research Centre for Business Law at The University of Auckland convened a two-day conference to examine a range of topics under the title of the present book. The Conference attracted a strong field of international experts, and resulted in the presentation of a range of papers of very high quality. Those papers, reworked by their authors after the Conference, form the contents of this volume.

We, and the Research Centre, are very grateful to the essayists. Each essayist approached their task with enthusiasm, skill and scholarship. The volume is testimony to the intellectual capacity, foresight and experience of some of the common law world's leading intellectual property lawyers. It also contains considerable material of interest for those who work in this exciting, challenging and important area. As Justice Gummow says in his introductory chapter, "[t]here is a need to increase an awareness in all branches of the profession, both of the basics of the subject and of its immediate 'cutting edge'". Our conviction is that this collection will aid that task.

We express our gratitude also to Richard Hart for his willingness to undertake this volume's publication, and for his understanding and patience. Further, we are indebted to Rachel Carnachan, generously sponsored by Chapman Tripp Sheffield Young, for her invaluable research assistance in the preparation of this volume.

The Research Centre for Business Law, in convening an international conference of the quality witnessed to by the contents of this book, depends in large measure upon the willingness of sponsors to be involved. The July 1999 Conference was most generously supported by a number of organisations. First, the primary sponsor was the merchant banking firm of Fay, Richwhite & Co. This was the third of the Centre's conferences to be sponsored by Fay, Richwhite, and the Centre once again expresses its sincere appreciation. Secondly, the New Zealand Law Foundation supported the attendance of several law students from the various New Zealand law schools. Thirdly, the Ministry of Commerce, which is the government department responsible for administering New Zealand's intellectual property law statutes, generously sponsored a session. Fourthly, but by no means least, many of New Zealand's national law firms sponsored sessions and provided speakers to comment on the main papers. These firms were A.J. Park & Son, Baldwin Shelston Waters, Bell Gully, Buddle Findlay, Chapman Tripp, James & Wells, Rudd Watts & Stone, and Simpson Grierson. The financial commitment of these organisations made possible the Conference which generated this volume of papers. The authors of

those papers also benefited from the lively contributions of participants at the Conference, which was as it should be.

CHARLES E F RICKETT
GRAEME W AUSTIN

*The University of Auckland
Auckland Anniversary Day
31 January 2000*

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