



Call for Submissions to the *University of New South Wales Law Journal* Issue 40(3)

‘Business and Human Rights: The Limits of the Law’

The *UNSW Law Journal* is currently welcoming submissions for Issue 40(3). The Issue will comprise both a thematic component and a general component. The topic for the thematic component is ‘Business and Human Rights: The Limits of the Law’.

Businesses, especially transnational corporations, have enormous capacity to affect the rights of their employees, customers, and the environments in which they operate. Yet historically, international human rights law has been primarily directed at and enforceable against governments. As a result, domestic governments, industries, and NGOs have developed a diverse range of legal and ‘soft law’ mechanisms to improve transparency and accountability, and provide redress for victims and sanctions for perpetrators of corporate violations of human rights.

Now is an opportune time to assess the strengths and limitations of legal approaches to business and human rights. Internationally, a UN Human Rights Council working group is currently investigating the possibility of a human rights treaty that would bind transnational corporations and other businesses. In Australia, the government recently announced that it would conduct national consultations on business and human rights during 2016.

The *Journal* is seeking contributions that explore the extent to which law is an effective means to encourage businesses to adopt a proactive and responsible approach to human rights.

In addressing the current and future legal measures directed at business and human rights, authors may wish to consider, but are not limited to, issues such as:

- the potential content of Australia’s National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights;
- comparative analysis of other states’ National Action Plans;
- the potential content of a business and human rights treaty, its scope, depth and implementation analysis;
- evaluation and comparison of industry-specific regulation and multi-stakeholder initiatives, both domestic and international; and
- the effectiveness of regulatory incentives to promote human rights.

In relation to the themes of accountability, remedy and transparency more broadly, authors may wish to consider, but are not limited to, issues such as:

- the limitations of legal accountability frameworks for business in countries with uncooperative governments;

- the (in)adequacy of consequences when companies engage in corruption or fraudulent conduct;
- the (in)adequacy of civil remedies for persons wronged by corporate human rights abuses;
- the effectiveness of various complaints handling bodies at securing redress for victims;
- the effectiveness of attempts to bring human rights abuses to light, such as reporting requirements and the use of high-profile litigation; and
- the challenges presented by global supply chains and the effectiveness of consumer information movements.

The submission deadline for the thematic component of Issue 40(3) is **1 March 2017**. Publication of Issue 40(3) is set for late September 2017. In addition to submissions for the thematic component, authors are welcome to submit on any topic for the general component. Submissions for the general component will be considered on a rolling basis, and will be published in a forthcoming Issue of the *Journal*. Any changes to these deadlines will be indicated on the *Journal*'s website at <http://www.unswlawjournal.unsw.edu.au>.

Articles must be between 7000 and 12 000 words in length (excluding footnotes). The style guide for the *Journal* is the third edition of the *Australian Guide to Legal Citation*, available online at <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/mulr/aglc>, as supplemented by the latest edition of the *Journal*'s 'Additions', available at <http://www.unswlawjournal.unsw.edu.au/submission>.

The *Journal* is an independent, peer-reviewed publication. Although all submissions received are subject to peer review, decisions as to publication remain at the discretion of the Editor, in council with the Executive Committee of the *Journal*.

The *Journal* does not publish articles that have been, or will be, published elsewhere, either in identical or substantially similar form. If articles are posted on online repositories, such as SSRN, they should be removed at the time of submission to ensure the anonymity of the peer review process.

If you are interested in, or have any queries about, submitting for Issue 40(3), please contact the *Journal* at law.journal@unsw.edu.au. If you intend to submit an article, it would be greatly appreciated if you could provide some early indication of your proposed topic or area of research. We strongly encourage you to pass on this call for submissions to any colleagues, research networks or organisations who may be interested in making a submission.

Yours sincerely,

Josiah Fajardo
Editor, Issue 40(3)

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