

## Events

# The Revolution in Foreign Relations Law in the UK and Other Commonwealth Jurisdictions

Arthur Watts public international law seminar series  
sponsored by Volterra Fietta

Tuesday 7 Oct 2014  
18:00-20:30

British Institute  
of International and  
Comparative Law,  
Charles Clore House,  
17 Russell Square,  
London WC1B 5JP

1.5 CPD points

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**Volterra Fietta**

THE PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM

Event convened by  
*Jill Barrett*, Arthur Watts  
Senior Research Fellow  
in Public International  
Law, British Institute  
of International and  
Comparative Law (BIICL).

What legal principles govern the external exercise of state power within the common law legal systems of the UK and other Commonwealth states? Traditional doctrines served largely to exclude foreign relations from the purview of municipal law. But recent developments have challenged those assumptions across many fronts, from the state's commercial transactions to the battlefield.

Cases pending in the English courts – such as *Belhaj*, *Khan* and *Serdar Mohamed* – continue to contest the contemporary scope of the act of state doctrine in cases involving the actions of the British and foreign governments in dealing with defence and security issues abroad. Has there been a revolution in Anglo-Commonwealth foreign relations law? If so, what are the guide-posts to this changing landscape?

This seminar will examine the contemporary function of foreign relations law and how it is changing, from both academic and practitioner perspectives. Speakers will comment on the tension between foreign relations law and human rights, and between the rule of law and other forms of public accountability.

The seminar will start at 18:00 and will be followed by a drinks reception from 19:30-20:30.

### Speakers

- **Richard Hermer QC**, Matrix Chambers
- **Iain Macleod**, Legal Adviser, Foreign & Commonwealth Office
- **Professor Campbell McLachlan QC**, Victoria University of Wellington Law School, Author of [Foreign Relations Law](#)

### Chair

- **Lord Collins of Mapesbury**, former Justice, UK Supreme Court

## Pricing and Registration

### Members:

Individual	£35
Full-time Academic	£20
Full-time Student	£12

### Non-members:

Individuals	£59
Full-time Academic	£35
Full-time Student	£20

N.B. The Academic rate also applies to staff of government and non-profit organisations.

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