
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Niloufer Selvadurai is the Director of Higher Degree Research at the Macquarie University Law School. She has published extensively in the field of telecommunications and technology law, including two books and over 20 scholarly journal articles. She is presently the Section Editor of Telecommunications for the *Australian Journal of Competition and Consumer Law*. Prior to joining Macquarie, she was the Manager of the Research Unit at the Law Book Company Ltd., Thomson Reuters, and practiced as a Solicitor in the Sydney Office of Blake Dawson Waldron.

Few would contest the primacy of technology and technology enabled operations in contemporary society. The cold light of cyberdawn has well and truly faded and been replaced with the dazzling glare of cyberday. As Bill Gates has noted, "Information technology and business are becoming inextricably interwoven. I don't think anybody can talk meaningfully about one without the talking about the other". Tantamount with the centrality of technology has been a growth in the volume and complexity of the law in the field.

And yet, despite this exponential growth in both technology enabled enterprise and technology law, the body of scholarship in the area has remained relatively slim when compared to more entrenched fields of the law. This problem is compounded by the pace at which technology policy and law is required to be reformed and refined to keep pace with technological evolution.

In this context of the widening gap between the need for constant law review and the relatively limited opportunities for scholarship, the launch of the *International Journal of Technology Policy and Law* is extreme timely. The *IJTPL* provides an additional avenue for scholars and practitioners to disseminate their research and writing in this compelling and dynamic area of law.

The areas of legal inquiry covered by the *IJTPL* include all aspects of regulation relating to the internet and e-commerce, intellectual property, consumer protection, competition law, privacy law, telecommunications, broadcasting, e-government and international law.

A distinctive feature of the *IJTPL* is the wide ambit of its coverage and its conscious desire to examine issues of technology law and policy in the broader context of related disciplines. It is recognised that in order to design effective and precise technology laws, it is necessary to integrate insights gained from other interconnected fields. Accordingly, insights gained from the fields of economics, computing, engineering, political science, informatics, sociology and business are within the ambit of consideration of the *IJTPL*. Such insights serve to add both depth and width to the analysis of technology law and

policy, and facilitate, to borrow the words of Fisher (2001), the creation of solutions which are “within the zone of political feasibility”.

The objective of the *IJTPL* is to hence establish an effective channel of communication between policy makers, government agencies, academic and research institutions and persons concerned with the complex role of technologies in society. The international dimension is emphasised in order to overcome cultural and national barriers, and to meet the needs of accelerating global technological, social, and economical change. Articles published in the *IJTPL* will be of interest to not only lawyers but also those practising in any area of technology related enterprise. Professionals, policy-makers, government officers, academics, researchers, and managers in information technology, business and commerce will find the journal of relevance.

The editorial board of the *IJTPL* is composed of leading technology lawyers from around the world. The talent, expertise and experience of the board will ensure the high quality of material published in the journal. The inaugural issue of the *IJTPL* contains consideration of a variety of compelling issues in technology law, including open source software licensing, the need to refine intermediary liability for copyright infringement in the P2P file-sharing world, telecommunications interception and access laws, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement, and the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy implemented by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

I take great pleasure in commending the *International Journal of Technology Policy and Law* to you, and trust that you will enjoy reading the articles in this and future issues of the journal.

References

- Fisher, W. (2001) ‘Intellectual property and innovation: theoretical frameworks, empirical and historical perspectives’, in Munzer, S. (Ed.): *New Essays in the Legal and Political Theory of Property*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.