

# Save the Date

## *Globalization of the Legal Profession*



**oxford**  
SAID BUSINESS SCHOOL



**A joint event between the Harvard Law School Program on the Legal Profession, the Centre for Professional Service Firms at Oxford University's Saïd Business School, the Jindal Global Law School, and the American Society of International Law.**

**Friday-Saturday, September 11-12, 2009  
Oxford University – Magdalen College  
8.30am - 4.30pm**

Legal practice historically has been a largely parochial endeavor, but it is clear that vast changes are underway in a changing context spurred by rapid globalization. One need look no further than the complex debate over multi-jurisdictional practice between nations, forthcoming trade agreements on legal services, and client needs that transcend both time zones and national boundaries to see that the inherent complexities of the emerging global bar extend far beyond fitness and character to practice law.

The largest law firms now span the globe, with thousands of lawyers carrying the banner of a single firm, yet residing in geographically diverse offices and practicing law in numerous states. Large corporations and non-profit entities face similar challenges in creating a common legal identity among in-house attorneys practicing in a multitude of jurisdictions that typically report upward to a single general counsel resident in one nation.

This two-day symposium follows up on a highly-successful symposium held at Harvard Law School in November 2008. It will feature numerous panels and individual presentations examining globalization from the varied perspectives of private law practitioners, government lawyers, academic scholars, government officials, consultants, corporate counsel, and the judiciary. Does international commerce or finance provide common ground for practitioners, for example, or is there broader commonality among counsel in other fields, such as human rights lawyers? What are the proper contours of a genuine debate over matters such as ensuring minimum standards of qualification, guarding domestic province from outside intervention, protecting clients and the public, the role of lawyers as aspect of national identity, and the like? What can we do – as international scholars, educators, and practitioners – to adapt to the rapidly-changing economic, social and political environment and prepare the next generation of lawyers – domestic and international – to meet the challenges that globalization will continue to present?

Attendees will include practicing lawyers, academics, and students. The conference is free, but space is limited and advance registration will be required (details to follow in the coming months). Overnight rooms will be available on campus for an additional fee, and a formal dinner will be held in hall at Magdalen College on Friday evening, Sept 11, 2009.

Registration information and event details will follow in due course.