

The School of Law Research Seminar Series Presents:

Day: Wednesday, 5 August 2015
Time: 11.30am -1pm
Venue: Moot Court, Building EO, Parramatta South Campus
Co-ordinator: Dr Masudul Haque – a.haque@uws.edu.au

Diversity in the Board

Professor Michael Adams, Dean of Law, UWS & Grace Borsellino, UWS



Bio: Michael's specialist areas are corporate law and governance. He is an expert in financial services regulation (particularly securities markets, insider trading) and the broader area of legal education and technology.

Professor Adams has been the Dean at UWS since 2007. Michael writes and presents regularly on these topics, as well as a major media commentator, through TV, radio, newspapers and online forums. Published ten books, 35+ chapters, 75+ articles and has presented at over 200 conferences in the last 20 years.



Bio: Grace Borsellino joined the UWS Law School in 2014 as a Research Assistant to the Dean of Law and sessional lecturer for Law of Associations. Grace teaches and researches in corporate law. Prior to joining the UWS law school Grace taught in the area of corporate and commercial law for 5 years at other tertiary and educational institutions. Grace graduated law at UWS and was admitted to practice law 2005.

Grace is currently undertaking post graduate studies at the University of Sydney in the faculty of law. Her research interests are corporate law and corporate governance. Grace has co-authored, researched and edited in a number of publications in relation to corporate governance. Grace has also been appointed course administrator for the new masters program, LLM in International Governance at UWS.

Abstract: One of the long term research questions for the multi-disciplinary study of corporate governance, has been the link between good governance and share price or other measures of value. This has been quite difficult to establish in either the legal or finance or management disciplines, but there appears to be clear evidence of corporate sustainability where quality governance practices are applied consistently. Isolating out individual factors, such as board structures, specific cultures and corporate policies, has been particularly difficult as there are so many permutations. There currently exists a significant volume of global research on the role of gender, as a part of the board composition and there are positive returns, with some caveats. This paper begins to examine and question as to whether there are positive links to a broader concept of board diversity, including gender, age and ethnicity. There have been a number of developments across Asia, including Japan, China, Singapore and Hong Kong, which provide a different paradigm from the traditional Australian comparisons with United Kingdom, America and even Europe. The hardest question is whether we should have targets or mandatory quotas.