

## CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW Seminar Series

# CIL

16 September 2009 (Wed), 4.00 PM to 5.30 PM

Bukit Timah Campus, Block B, Level 3, Executive Seminar Room

# The New World of International Law

*How the granting of private rights of action under international treaties is changing international economic law*

### SPEAKER



J Christopher Thomas QC

J Christopher Thomas, QC, is a renowned lawyer and Chartered Arbitrator who has practiced in the field of international trade and commercial law with an emphasis on trade and investment regulation and dispute settlement.

**This seminar is free of charge.**

Please register your interest to attend by emailing or calling:

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### Introduction

**International law** was once thought to be a body of rules of conduct and agreements of varying degrees of formality, between States, all to be enforced (if at all) by States themselves.

However, with the negotiation of various international human rights treaties that accorded rights of complaint to natural persons, and more recently, the creation of institutions such as the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and bilateral investment treaties that have conferred rights of action upon private persons, in recent decades international law has begun to undergo fundamental and accelerating change, the full effects of which are only now being grasped. Put simply, States have agreed to abandon their once exclusive monopoly over international dispute settlement for specified subject matters. The timing, incidence, and conduct of international dispute settlement began to change once private persons began to accept States' offers to submit to binding arbitration.

This seminar will describe the dynamics of a dispute settlement system that does not fall within the exclusive control of States. It will compare and contrast State-to-State dispute settlement with investor-State dispute settlement, in an attempt to demonstrate the significance of this development in international law.

### ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW (CIL)

The Centre for International Law (CIL) is based at the Bukit Timah campus of the National University of Singapore. CIL's mission is to enable Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region to play a more significant role in the promotion and development of international law and policy. The Centre's aim is to become the region's intellectual hub and thought leader for research on and teaching of international law and policy. The Director of CIL is Associate Professor Robert C Beckman and the Deputy Director is Dr Navin Raj. For more information, please visit the CIL website at <http://www.cil.nus.edu.sg> or email: [cil.info@nus.edu.sg](mailto:cil.info@nus.edu.sg)