

# CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW

## Seminar Series

# CIL

**19 January 2010, Tuesday, 3.30 PM to 5.00 PM**

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

## WHAT IS DISTINCTIVE ABOUT WTO LITIGATION?

### SPEAKER



THOMAS SEBASTIAN

Thomas Sebastian is with the Global Arbitration Group at Allen & Overy LLP where his practice focuses on public international law disputes, particularly investment treaty arbitrations. Previously, he was a Counsel at the Advisory Centre on WTO Law in Geneva where he represented developing country governments in numerous disputes before WTO panels and the Appellate Body and provided advice on all aspects of international trade law.

Mr Sebastian has published in the Harvard International Law Journal, the Journal of International Economic Law and edited volumes. He holds a BA, LLB (Hons) degree from the National Law School of India University as well as BCL and MPhil degrees from Oxford University which he attended on a Rhodes Scholarship.

### Introduction

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) dispute settlement system is, without doubt, the most successful system of inter-state dispute settlement that states have been willing to submit to in recent times. This talk focuses on features of WTO litigation that set it apart from other types of international proceedings. Topics touched upon include the WTO's unique remedial regime, applicable law, the system of appellate review, opportunities for multilateral influence and the advocacy format.

An understanding of these features is essential for counsel appearing before WTO panels and the Appellate Body and useful for obtaining an understanding of the role that the dispute settlement system plays in commercial diplomacy.

### FREE ADMISSION

Please register your interest to attend by calling or emailing Ms Geraldine Ng at (65) 65166842 / [cilnwfg@nus.edu.sg](mailto:cilnwfg@nus.edu.sg)

### 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)