

# EDITORIAL

Welcome to Volume 18 of the Charity Law & Practice – the fifth Volume which I have had the pleasure to edit. Thanks are due to both the contributors to this Volume and also the readers who have made contact during the year to comment on various articles contained within it.

I have attempted to continue the good work which has already gone into the Review since its inception, so as to maintain the quality and variety of relevant material that is published. The introduction of a refereeing process for academic articles has proved to be a successful addition in that it has achieved the aim of encouraging more contributions from academics who wish to publish their work in a peer-reviewed journal. Of course, this does not preclude contributions from practitioners, which are always very welcome, be they short or long, and this issue is no exception.

I am very pleased to report that the bulk of this Volume consists of papers that emanated from a meeting of charity law experts that took place in December 2014 in Melbourne, Australia.

Under the auspices of a research project funded by the Australian Research Council, a small group of charity law experts from around the common law world met to discuss the state of charity law today. One of the aims of the meeting was to set a research agenda that is focused on the key questions and challenges facing charity law in the coming years. The discussions were wide-ranging but by the end of the meeting a clear consensus had emerged: the relation of charity and politics remains, as it has been at least since the case of *Bowman v Secular Society* [1917] AC 406 was decided by the House of Lords just under one hundred years ago, a topic of the greatest significance for charity lawyers everywhere. Not only is charity and politics an important topic, but it is also a topic of unusual complexity, raising questions about the division between public and private, the relation of citizen and state, and the principles and commitments that constitute the bedrock of political communities the world over.

One outcome from the discussions that took place over those two days at Melbourne Law School is the writing and publication of six articles that appear in

this volume. The authors are: Professor Adam Parachin from Western University, Canada; Dr Darryn Jensen from Australian National University; Dr Jenny Beard of University of Melbourne, Australia; Professor Mark Sidel from University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA; Professor Fiona Martin from University of New South Wales, Australia; and myself. Five out of the six authors were present at the discussions. The sixth (Dr Darryn Jensen) was invited to contribute to the Volume, having been a member of a panel discussion on Political Purposes and Advocacy at the 2015 annual conference of the Charity Law Association of Australia and New Zealand.

I am very grateful to Professor Matthew Harding of Melbourne Law School for helping me to bring these articles together and to Dr Joyce Chia for the editorial assistance that she kindly and ably provided. This was truly a collaborative project across the miles, with each of the authors and Professor Harding agreeing to read and comment upon early drafts of all the papers. I hope that the end products published in this Volume provide readers with a flavour of the rich and meaningful discussions that were held in Melbourne in December 2014.

In-keeping with the international theme, the final article in this Volume concerns the litigation which has played out in Hong Kong over a long period regarding the will of Nina Wang, who, before her death in 2007, was reputedly Asia's richest woman. The article, written by Hubert Picarda QC, the previous editor of the *Charity Law & Practice Review*, makes interesting reading for those drafting wills in other jurisdictions as well.

This volume also contains a review by John Picton, my colleague here at the University of Liverpool, of Mary Synge's new book 'The 'New' Public Benefit Requirement: Making Sense of Charity Law?'

I very much hope that readers enjoy the contributions in this Volume. I now look forward to receiving and publishing contributions in the next Volume. I am happy to discuss any potential pieces with those who have interests in charity law and practice.

Happy Reading!

Debra Morris  
Managing Editor

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Please address any correspondence concerning the Review to:

Debra Morris

Director, Charity Law & Policy Unit

The Liverpool Law School

University of Liverpool

Liverpool L69 7ZS

England

Tel: + 44 151 794 2825

E-mail: [Debra.Morris@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:Debra.Morris@liverpool.ac.uk)