



**MACQUARIE  
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF ARTS

**The Centre for Legal Governance, Macquarie University**  
and the

**International Law Association (Australian Branch)**

*cordially invite you to a talk about the*

## **'Super Sovereign'**

*Featuring our distinguished guest speaker*

**Professor Lea Brilmayer**

Howard M Holtzmann Professor of International Law, Yale Law School

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**Thursday 16 September 2010**

**Courtroom 1, Federal Court of Australia**

*Level 21, Law Courts Building, Queens Square, Sydney*

**6.30pm drinks for a 7pm start**

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Two decades have passed since the end of the Cold War, a period of unchallenged US superpower status. Some people believe that the US position as the only remaining superpower qualifies it for special recognition and a special role in international legal institutions. But conventional international legal doctrine is based on the fundamental principle of the legal equality of sovereign states. There is no legal basis for singling out one state - even the world's sole superpower - as being entitled to more authority or privileges than the other states.

The US ambition to be recognised as 'super sovereign' is a demand for legal recognition of its unequal status in the new world order. It is too early to tell what the future of US power will be, particularly given the rise of China. But even if the extent to which US ambitions will be fulfilled cannot be predicted, in the meantime it should be possible to clarify what is at stake, and what are the moral issues. If nothing else, we should consider whether greater legal recognition of power inequalities is a trend to be encouraged or resisted.

**RSVP by 1 September 2010** (NB limited seating available) to  
Shideh Modabber on 02 9850 7098 or email [shideh.modabber@mq.edu.au](mailto:shideh.modabber@mq.edu.au)

Our warm thanks to the Federal Court of Australia for providing these facilities.

## About the speaker



### Professor Lea Brilmayer

Lea Brilmayer is the Howard M. Holtzmann Professor of International Law at Yale Law School. In addition to teaching Contracts to first-year students, she also teaches Conflict of Laws and International Courts and Tribunals, as well as seminars on the laws of war and on African current affairs.

During her first decade of teaching, Professor Brilmayer's writing interests mainly concerned conflicts of laws (in particular, personal jurisdiction and choice of law); federal jurisdiction; and jurisprudence.

Her interests have gradually turned to international law and international relations, which has led to two books: *Justifying International Acts* and *American Hegemony: Political Morality in a One-Superpower World*.

Professor Brilmayer received a BA in Mathematics, a J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley and an LL.M from Columbia Law School.