



Public Lecture

The Christchurch Earthquakes: Insurance and Reinsurance Issues

Public Lecture presented by

Professor Robert Merkin

The Christchurch Earthquakes of 2010 and 2011 have thrown into sharp focus both the public and private insurance arrangements in place to protect homeowners and businesses against earthquake losses. They have raised a series of issues, some flowing from poorly thought-out policy wordings and some from the uncertainties in fundamental issues in the law, notably the application of causation principles to business interruption claims where losses are the result of both insured (earthquake) and uninsured (depopulation) perils. For New Zealand insurers, one of the most important considerations will be recoverability from their reinsurers, raising issues of the binding effect of settlements and whether an earthquake is an “event”. The lecture will consider the matters which have arisen and possible alternative models for dealing with earthquake losses.

About Professor Robert Merkin

Professor Robert Merkin is a consultant based in Devon. He is Research Professor of Commercial Law at Southampton University and has a wealth of experience in the legal arena. Robert has taught all aspects of commercial law, including marine insurance, insurance, competition, arbitration and dispute resolution at postgraduate level. He has published over 40 books and numerous articles on insurance, reinsurance and arbitration law, and is co-editor of the Lloyd’s Law Reports. He is on the arbitral panels of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre and the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre. Robert is a consultant to the English and Scottish Law Commissions for their project on insurance contract law reform, and has prepared a research paper for the Commissions on the Australian experience of reform. He is President of the British Insurance Law Association and Vice-President of the International Association of Insurance Law (AIDA). In 2010 he received a prize from the Australian Insurance Law Association for his contribution to insurance law and education in Australia.



Thursday, 17 May 2012, 5.30pm
Lecture Theatre 1, Old Government Buildings,
55 Lambton Quay, Wellington

NZ Centre for Public Law, Faculty of Law, Victoria University of Wellington
RSVPs not required