



**New Diplomacy and International Law: A discussion with Independent Diplomat
Thursday, April 8, 2010
Room 110 Furman Hall (245 Sullivan Street): 12:30pm - 1:40pm**

Join us for a discussion with senior team members of the organization, Independent Diplomat. ID provides confidential and independent advice and assistance in diplomatic technique and strategy to governments, political groups, international institutions and non-governmental organizations. Their work assists those facing complex international and political challenges to achieve their objectives. Independent Diplomat is a unique non-profit venture in the world of international relations, diplomacy and conflict prevention. The speakers will discuss the negotiations they are and have been involved with as well as the role that international law plays in their work.

Speakers: Carne Ross, Executive Director; Dean Bialek, UN Representative; Jennifer Lake, Legal Advisor. This panel will be moderated by Brian Abrams (3L).

Bios:

Carne Ross is the founder and Executive Director of Independent Diplomat. He has over fifteen years diplomatic experience in the British Foreign Office and United Nations. His work and experience have covered a wide range of issues and regions, including Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the global environment, terrorism and post-conflict reconstruction. He is experienced in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy and familiar with major international institutions, in particular the United Nations. Between 1997-98, he served as the speechwriter to the British Foreign Secretary, preparing speeches on all areas of British foreign policy. He then spent four and a half years in the UK delegation on the UN Security Council, where he was the delegation's Middle East "expert" (with the rank of First Secretary). His work included the drafting and negotiation of several important Security Council resolutions, such as SCR 1284 which rewrote the Council's Iraq policy and established UNMOVIC, the weapons inspection body. He also negotiated for the UK the resolution establishing the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan and the Council's resolution of 12 September 2001 condemning the attacks of the day before. Most recently, he served as Strategy Coordinator for the UN in Kosovo (UNMIK) where he devised and led a joint UN and government policy to implement a series of standards to improve governance, the rule of law and human rights protection, and advised the Secretary-General's Special Representative on diplomatic and political tactics. Carne Ross is a trained negotiator and economist. He is also a playwright (*The Fox* enjoyed a short run in New York in early 2001) and author. His book *"Independent Diplomat: Dispatches from an Unaccountable Elite"* was published in 2007 by Hurst & Co. (UK) and Cornell University Press (US).

Dean Bialek, one of ID's UN representatives, leads our work on climate change and Western Sahara. Before joining ID, Dean had over five years' experience in the Australian foreign service, most recently as adviser on economic and environmental affairs and law of the sea at Australia's Mission to the United Nations in New York. Prior to his New York posting, Dean was a Legal Adviser at Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, primarily as a key member of the team negotiating maritime boundary and revenue-sharing arrangements for offshore oil and gas resources in the Timor Sea. Dean worked previously at the World Trade Organization, as a lecturer at the Melbourne University Law School, as a consultant to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and as an intern at the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD) in London. Dean has a PhD (International law) from the University of Melbourne and a Master of Laws (Environmental Law) from University of London.

Jennifer Lake is ID's Legal Advisor and leads our Burma project. She is responsible for legal advice on ID's projects and maintaining ID's pro bono legal relationships. She has previously served on the legal staff of the United Nations, the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization and the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal. She represented the New Zealand Government in the Rainbow Warrior arbitration and also headed the division of the Crown Law Office responsible for both international law and Treaty of Waitangi issues. Educated in New Zealand, she started her career in private practice there.