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AIFL Seminar

Corporate Social Responsibility

Saul Fridman

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Friday, 4 May 2007, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Room 303, 3/F KK Leung Building, HKU

The call for legal rules to mandate or accommodate a greater degree of “corporate responsibility” have been widespread. In this presentation, Saul Fridman argues that present legal rules are sufficient to address what has been characterised by some as “psychotic corporate behaviour”. Rather than mandate revolutionary change to the way in which managers conduct corporate affairs, what is required is a reconsideration of the proper role of the state in conducting regulatory oversight, across a wide range of areas. There is no justification for subordinating the interests of owners to those of creditors or other corporate stakeholders. At best, legal rules could facilitate wealth transfers by corporations by providing a default constitutional rule permitting greater managerial philanthropy.

Saul Fridman is presently a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Sydney. He specialises in corporate law, corporate governance, corporate finance and insolvency. He is one of the authors of *Cases and Materials on Corporations and Associations in Australia* as well as numerous articles on corporate law. He is also an adjunct member of the Australian Graduate School of Management, where he lectures to MBA students on business and corporate law. Prior to becoming an academic, Saul worked in legal practice in Toronto, Canada as well as associate for the Chief Justice of Ontario. Saul studied law at the Universities of Western Ontario and Oxford.

All are welcome!