



LAW, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

VII Annual Public Evening Seminar Series 2013-2014

Wednesday 5 March 2014

Litigating for asbestos justice

*Projection of documentary "Dust: the Great Asbestos Trial"
followed by a talk by Mr Vijay Ganapathy (Leigh Day)*

With the increasing use of asbestos in China, Russia and other countries, asbestos production has grown apace, so that 70% of the world population is now exposed to this carcinogenic material. Starting from the first court hearings in Turin involving the multinational Eternit, which now faces claims of having caused the death of nearly 30,000 former plant workers and among the local populace at Casale Monferrato, the film takes us to India and Brazil on an exploration into a multi-million dollar business managed by a lobby that holds sway over the policies of many countries. "Dust: The Great Asbestos Trial" was awarded Best Film at Baghdad International Film Festival 2012, Best Film at Rio de Janeiro Filmambiente 2012, Subti-Prize at Torino Cinemambiente 2011, Agamar Prize at Maratea Film Festival 2012, and Parco Colli Euganei Prize at Euganea Film Festival 2011.

Vijay Ganapathy is a Senior Solicitor who undertakes industrial disease cases solely acting for claimants. He studied law at King's College London and is trained as both a barrister and solicitor. After undertaking a mixture of both commercial and voluntary legal work, he realised his sole interest lay in acting for claimants. After completing his training contract at Hodge Jones & Allen, he joined Leigh Day in February 2007. He acted for Mr Chandler in the Court of Appeal case of Chandler v Cape Plc [2012] which set a new legal precedent both in tort and company law because it was the first case of its kind to hold a parent company liable for one of its subsidiary company's operations despite the 'corporate veil' argument used to defend such claims. He has written and contributed to various legal journals including the Lawyer, New Law Journal, the Journal of Personal Injury, APIL's PI Focus Magazine, and Solicitors' Journal.

The seminar will take place from **5:30 to 8:00 pm in Room T101**, SOAS, 21-22 Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG

For further information contact Virginie Rouas: ledc@soas.ac.uk