

Statement by the Commonwealth Lawyers Association on the Decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Hamdan v Rumsfeld*

"The Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) welcomes the decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Hamdan v Rumsfeld*.

The Court's decision represents an important and powerful vindication of the rule of law and the CLA is delighted to have contributed to the ruling through the filing of an *amicus curiae* brief in support of the petitioners.

The CLA's intervention followed its earlier successful role in the landmark case of *Rasul v Bush* - where in 2004 the Supreme Court held that habeas corpus jurisdiction extended to Guantanamo Bay.

Welcoming the latest ruling, Graeme Mew, the President of the CLA, said the following: "As the United Kingdom's attorney general Lord Goldsmith has recently said Guantanamo Bay is now "a symbol of injustice". It is contrary to fundamental principles for any individual to be detained indefinitely without trial or charge. The detention facility at Guantanamo Bay should be closed and all those held there should either be released, or, if charged with any offence, tried speedily before courts capable of providing them with full fair trial rights. Further delay in resolving this situation is entirely unacceptable."

Commonwealth Lawyers Association
3 July 2006