

Leading health policy researcher joins Buddle Findlay

Harkness Fellow **Dr Marie Bismark** has joined the Health Law team at national law firm Buddle Findlay.

Dr Bismark has accepted a role as a Senior Solicitor and will work with Buddle Findlay partner Dr Jonathan Coates Buddle Findlay chairman Sarah Roberts said the firm was delighted that Dr Bismark had accepted a position with the firm's Wellington practice, which further strengthened its leadership in public health law and medico-legal expertise in particular.

Dr Bismark, who is a medical doctor as well as a barrister and solicitor, completed several pieces of research into New Zealand's medical compensation and complaints systems while she was a Harkness Fellow based at Harvard University in the United States from 2004 to 2005.

Wellington-based Dr Bismark studied medicine at Otago University, including a Masters in Bioethics and Health Law and studied law at Victoria University. She has won numerous scholarships and prizes in law and medicine.

The first phase of her research, co-authored with Health and Disability Commissioner Ron Paterson, comparing New Zealand's 'no fault' Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) system with the US medical malpractice system, has recently been published in US journal 'Health Affairs', one the world's leading health policy journals (see also Publications, page 23).

In addition to her work with Buddle Findlay clients in the health sector, Dr Bismark will continue collaborating with Harvard researchers to complete follow-up research.