# PUBLIC LAW REVIEW

## Volume 20, Number 4

### December 2009

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# Taming the beast: Why a return to common law procedural fairness would help curb migration litigation – *Alice Ashbolt*

There has been an enormous increase in recent years in the number of applications made to Australian courts seeking reviews of migration decisions. This increase comes at a great cost and inconvenience to governments, and the inherent uncertainty it gives rise to is a burden to the courts, the applicants and their lawyers and advisers. This article examines the contributing factors that have led to this increase, and the efforts undertaken by governments and the courts to attempt to reduce the litigation. While there is some inevitability in the existence of migration litigation, the article argues that a return to common law procedural fairness rules would provide the most useful relief from some of the burdens and tensions that have arisen.

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- <sup>2</sup> Hayton, n 1, p 286.
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  - <sup>3</sup> Trindade R and Smith R, "Modernising Australian Merger Analysis" (2007) 35 ABLR 358.
  - <sup>4</sup> Trindade and Smith, n 3 at 358-359.
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