Penelope Mathew, an Australian expert in international and human rights law is slated to take over this fall as interim director of Michigan Law’s acclaimed Refugee and Asylum Law Program.

Penelope Mathew is currently on leave from the law faculty at the Australian National University College of Law in Canberra. In addition to her new duties as interim director at Michigan, she’ll also join the Law School faculty as a visiting professor for a term of two years.

The appointment fills a temporary vacancy resulting from the granting of a multi-year leave to current Program Director James C. Hathaway, who is himself headed to Australia to become Dean of Law at the University of Melbourne.

“Professor Mathew will be a marvelous addition to what is already an internationally recognized refugee and asylum law program,” said Michigan Law Dean Evan Caminker, who noted that Mathew spent time in Ann Arbor as a visiting scholar several years ago. “The breadth and depth of Professor Mathew’s international experience will be a tremendous asset to shaping our students’ understanding of refugee and asylum law.”

Mathew earned her B.A. and LL.B. at Melbourne and her LL.M. and J.S.D. at Columbia. She has published widely in journals such as the American Journal of International Law, the International Journal of Refugee Law, and the Georgetown Immigration Law Journal. She also is one of the authors of International Law: Cases and Materials.

Mathew also has taken an active role in practice as a human rights and refugee lawyer. She has worked for various NGOs as a researcher, caseworker, and advisor, and has hard-won experience working with the Jesuit Refugee Service in Hong Kong’s refugee camps. More recently, she’s also worked as the human rights legal and policy adviser to the Human Rights Commission in the Australian Capital Territory, the Australian equivalent of the District of Columbia.

“We’re eager to welcome Professor Mathew back to Ann Arbor,” Caminker said. “Our Refugee and Asylum Law program is in very good hands.”

David A. Moran, ’91, who has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court five times in the last five years, joins the Michigan Law faculty this fall as a clinical professor and the first Orrick Fellow. He will split his time during the fall term teaching and planning the launch of the Law School’s new Innocence Clinic, which he will co-teach with Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs Bridget McCormack. (See story on page 82.)

In addition to his law degree, Moran earned a B.S. in physics at the University of Michigan. As an undergraduate, he won a Power Scholarship to study at Cambridge University in England, where he earned a B.A., M.A. and Certificate of Advanced Study in mathematics. He also holds a Master’s degree in theoretical physics from Cornell University.

After earning his J.D., Moran clerked for the Hon. Ralph B. Guy Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He then joined the State Appellate Defender Office in Detroit, where he represented indigent criminal defendants in state courts and in federal habeas corpus appeals.

He taught as an adjunct professor at Wayne State University Law School while with the State Appellate Defender Office, and joined the Wayne State Law School faculty fulltime in 2000, teaching criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence, an advanced seminar in criminal law, and a criminal justice internship.

Wayne State law students voted him Upperclass Professor of the Year each year from 2000-2007. In 2003 he also received the Wayne State university-wide President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and the law school’s highest teaching honor, the Donald H. Gordan Teaching Award.

Active in pro bono representation, Moran has repeatedly argued cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. His most notable cases are Halbert v. Michigan, in which the Court ruled in Moran’s favor and struck down a Michigan statute denying appellate counsel to indigent criminal defendants, and Hudson v. Michigan, in which the Court rejected Moran’s argument that the exclusionary rule should apply to violations of the Fourth Amendment “knock and announce” rule. Moran is a founder and board member of the Michigan Innocence Project and helped draft the legislation that allows Michigan inmates to request DNA testing of potentially exculpatory evidence. His articles have appeared in journals such as the Ohio State Law Journal and American Criminal Law Review, his op-ed pieces have appeared in Detroit newspapers.