

LEGAL SERVICES IN NORTH WEST ENGLAND: THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE

SECOND MAILING

A ONE DAY CONFERENCE AT LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2007 10.00 AM-4.45 PM

AN EVENT FOR: lawyers, judges, law centres, citizen's advice bureaux, consumer representatives, legal services regulators, policy makers and academics



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The Conference will address the current state and future development of the legal profession and legal services in North-West England, especially in the light of the Legal Services Bill.

An exceptionally strong group of keynote speakers includes:

Des Hudson - Chief Executive, The Law Society of England and Wales

Zahida Manzoor CBE - Legal Services Complaints Commissioner and Legal Services Ombudsman for England and Wales.

Steve Hynes - Director, Legal Action Group; formerly Director, Law Centres Federation.

Bill Braithwaite QC - Exchange Chambers, Manchester

Rachel Dobson – Partner and Director of Support Services, Pannone LLP

Professor David Sugarman – Lancaster University Law School

Law Society CPD accreditation (6 points). Bar CPD accreditation is being sought. The Conference fee is £60 and includes registration, day-time refreshments and lunch.

RATIONALE: In the 21st century, the legal profession is facing its greatest challenges. It must deal with issues of public accountability, commercialisation, competition, ethics, diversity, gender, values, globalization, and fragmentation. Organizationally it has changed: there are large, transnational “mega-firms”, virtual Multi-Disciplinary Practices, limited liability partnerships, and calls for law firms to become public limited companies. Restrictive practices are under sustained attack as the state wrests self-regulation from the profession. The Legal Services Bill currently before Parliament will, if implemented, accelerate these trends. Even the holy grail of lawyer-client privilege is under threat in this post-Enron age. Meanwhile, the voluntary provision of legal services is experiencing increasing pressure as more is demanded from Citizens Advice Bureaux, law centres and *pro bono* work.

The debate on these developments has primarily focussed on the large law firms of London. This Conference will address their impact on the distinctive trajectory of the North West. The Conference will also deepen links between scholars, legal and allied professionals and other relevant parties, locally, nationally and internationally.

Further details including travel information and a receipt will be sent to all those who have registered prior to the Conference.

A Conference programme and booking form are attached. For further information, please contact:

Angela Turner
Legal Services Conference Secretary
Law School
Lancaster University
Lancaster LA1 4YN
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This event is co-sponsored by the Centre for Law and Society and Institute of Advanced Studies, Lancaster University and the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, School of Advanced Studies, University of London

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MEETING ROOM 2-3
INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES BUILDING
LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

From 09:15	Registration, Coffee/Tea and Refreshments
10:00	Welcome <i>Professor Paul Wellings</i> Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University
10:10	“The changing landscape of North West legal services” <i>Professor David Sugarman</i> Director, Centre for Law and Society, Lancaster University Law School
10:30	'A Law Firm's view of the changing landscape'. <i>Rachel Dobson</i> Partner and Director of Support Services at Pannone LLP
11:00	Q & A
11:15	Coffee/Tea
11:45	“Legal services in a changing environment” <i>Zahida Manzoor CBE</i> The Legal Services Complaints Commissioner and Legal Services Ombudsman for England and Wales
12:15	Q & A
12:30	“Advocacy as an important public service” <i>Bill Braithwaite QC</i> Exchange Chambers, Manchester
13:00	Q & A
13:15	Lunch

14:15	<p>“Law Centres and the future of community based legal services”.</p> <p><i>Steve Hynes</i></p> <p>Director, the Legal Action Group; formerly Director, the Law Centres Federation</p>
14:45	Q & A
15:00	<p>"Is profit our only principle in the new legal services market"?</p> <p><i>Des Hudson</i></p> <p>Chief Executive, The Law Society of England and Wales</p>
15: 30	Q & A
15:45	Coffee/Tea Break
16:15	Informal roundtable discussion - the future of legal services in the North West.
16:45	Close



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CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

BILL BRAITHWAITE QC

Bill Braithwaite has been a QC for 15 years. He has always practised as a personal injury lawyer, and since taking silk has worked exclusively for claimants who have suffered catastrophic brain and spine injury. He never works for defendants – ie those responsible for causing the injury. He has represented well over 1,000 claimants and in 2006 finalised claims worth about £60 million (90% of which did not come to trial).

Bill was the consultant editor of Kemp & Kemp on The Quantum of Damages from 1995 to 2004 – the standard lawyers’ textbook on compensation. He is the author of “Brain and Spine Injuries – the Fight for Justice” and the joint editor of “Medical Aspects of Personal Injury Litigation”.

Bill travels the country seeing injured people and their families at their convenience. He believes strongly in the rights of those who have suffered catastrophic injury, and their families

WWW.BILLBRAITHWAITE.COM

RACHEL DOBSON

Rachel is a Partner and Director of Support Services at Pannone LLP. She is head of HR and is also responsible for facilities, professional standards and projects (e.g., the recent LLP conversion).

Rachel joined Pannone LLP in 1992 as a trainee solicitor. After graduating from Oxford with a very useful degree in history, she had joined Marks and Spencer’s Commercial Management training scheme and stayed with them for 5 years, ultimately managing their Graduate Recruitment. She was working long hours, had no social life but did have a 2.5 hours commute and so decided on a career and location change.

After retraining as a lawyer, Rachel specialised in Commercial Litigation becoming a partner in 1998. She moved away from fee earning work completely in 2000 to help the Managing Partner Joy Kingsley run the firm. Three years ago Pannone entered the Sunday Times Top 100 companies to work for list and came sixth, the highest place law firm in the survey. Last year Pannone came fourth and this year third – Pannone is the largest single site firm in Manchester with a turnover of £40 million and 660 people.

DES HUDSON

Des Hudson graduated in law from the University of Leeds in 1977. He qualified as a solicitor in 1980 and worked in private practice until 1987. During that time he became a partner in a major provincial law firm in the north west of England, specialising in crime and child protection work.

In 1987 Des joined the Yorkshire Building Society as an assistant solicitor and held a number of positions becoming Director of the Society during five years there.

Des joined the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland in September 2004 as chief executive designate, subsequently becoming chief executive.

On 4 September 2006 Des took up the position of chief executive of the Law Society of England and Wales.

STEVE HYNES

Steve is the Director of the Legal Action Group (LAG). LAG is a charity that through its publishing and training services plays an important role in increasing lawyers and advisors knowledge of the law. It also carries out policy and campaigning work mainly focused on publicly funded legal services, advocating for the voice of the end user to be heard.

Prior to joining LAG Steve was the Director of the Law Centres Federation (LCF). LCF is the national organisation for Law Centres and it provides representation and support to the network of 60 Law Centres in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Over the years Law Centres have played a prominent role in providing legal services to disadvantaged communities.

Steve has strong connections with the North West. He started his advice and legal services career as a manager of a Citizen's Advice Bureau in Manchester, before moving on to become a manager of a large independent legal advice centre in Hyde near Manchester. He spent six years as co-ordinator of the Rochdale Law Centre, where he also undertook casework mainly in employment and discrimination law.

ZAHIDA MANZOOR CBE

Ms Manzoor was appointed as Legal Services Ombudsman in March 2003 and as Legal Services Complaints Commissioner in February 2004. She has received various awards in recognition of her achievements, including the CBE in 1998 for her work in the Health Service and for race relations within the UK. A former member of the NHS Policy Board and Regional Chair of the NHS Executive, Northern and Yorkshire Regions, she oversaw many improvements in the Health Service for over 60 hospitals and Health Authorities. Ms Manzoor was Commissioner and Deputy Chair of the Commission for Racial Equality and Chair of the Bradford Health Authority, the first Asian woman to fill these posts. Her priority away from work is her family, including her two daughters.

DAVID SUGARMAN

David Sugarman is Professor of Law and Director of the Centre for Law and Society, at Lancaster University. He has been an academic for thirty-five years and a Professor for nineteen. During this time he has contributed to an exceptionally wide range of subject areas - legal history, the legal profession, corporate law and international human rights - in an interdisciplinary fashion. A graduate of Hull, Cambridge and Harvard, his publications include 15 books (encompassing sole authored books, edited and co-edited books and special issues of law reviews); and over 60 articles and essays. His work has been widely cited, re-printed and translated into French, German and Japanese.

His principal publications on the legal profession include: *A Brief History of The Law Society* (1995); *Professional Competition and Professional Power: Lawyers, Accountants and the Social Construction of Markets* (1995) co-edited with Y. Dezalay (1995); and *Lawyers and Vampires: Cultural Histories of Lawyers*, co-edited with W. Pue (2004). He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and has held Visiting Professorships and/or Fellowships at several of the world's foremost universities, including Amherst, Barcelona, Johns Hopkins, London, Manchester, McGill, Munster, Osaka, Princeton, Toronto and Wisconsin. He has briefed non-governmental organisations and government departments, acted as a consultant to the BBC and Independent Television News, and has contributed invited articles to *The Times* and *The Guardian*.

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BOOKING FORM

Name and title

Affiliation

Postal address

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Telephone (include mobile if possible)

Email

Have you enclosed payment (£60)? Yes No

Do you require an attendance certificate for CPD purposes? Yes No

Dietary Requirements (please specify for catering on day of Conference)

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Please return this form, enclosing a cheque for £60 made payable to 'Lancaster University', to Angela Turner, Legal Services Conference, Law School, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YN. Further details including travel information and a receipt will be sent to all those who have registered prior to the Conference.