



JUSTICE STUDENT CONFERENCE 2019

A conference for students, trainee solicitors and pupil barristers

International Dispute Resolution Centre
Saturday 16 February 2019

JUSTICE is an all-party law reform and human rights organisation working to strengthen the justice system in the United Kingdom. We are a membership organisation, primarily of the legal profession, comprising barristers, solicitors, legal executives, academic lawyers, law students and interested non-lawyers. We work on an all-party basis, seeking to inform debate, frame issues and influence decision-makers from across the political spectrum. Our vision is of fair, accessible and efficient legal processes, in which the individual's rights are protected, and which reflect the country's international reputation for upholding and promoting the rule of law.

This conference will give you the opportunity to meet the JUSTICE team and some experts in this field, as well as new practitioners. We will be running exciting and thought provoking workshops on our new projects looking at school exclusions, the housing justice system, and disproportionality in the youth justice system.

You will also have the opportunity to hear about the experiences of our panel of junior lawyers and receive invaluable advice about the journey into legal practice, and you will be able to attend a clinical session to discuss ideas for dissertation topics.

As a delegate, you will:

- Discuss topical, cutting edge justice issues with leading practitioners.
- Gain a unique insight into the workings of one of the country's leading law reform and human rights organisations.
- Network with other students interested in careers in public interest law.
- Meet the JUSTICE team and explore crucial justice system debates.



JUSTICE Student Conference Saturday 16 February 2019

PROGRAMME

9.30 *Registration*

9.50 *Welcome*

Jodie Blackstock, Legal Director, JUSTICE

10.00 **Keynote address by Dr Leslie Thomas QC**

Leslie Thomas QC is joint Head of Garden Court Chambers and a practising barrister. He is a leading specialist in cases of death in custody and death at the hands of the police, as well as claims against corporate bodies with particular emphasis on individual civil liberties and human rights. He is currently representing families of victims in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. Leslie was named Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year in 2012. In 2014, he received The Lawyer Hot 100 Award in the field of campaigners.

Questions & Answers

11.00 *Coffee break*

11.15 **Morning Breakout Sessions**

(Choose one of the following three sessions)

1. A housing law forum for the 21st century

Alex Walters, Lawyer, JUSTICE

Housing law is likely to impact upon all of us at some point in our lives, but the housing law system is far from simple. The substantive law is difficult and the jurisdiction is largely “bifurcated” between the County Court and the First Tier Tribunal, creating access to justice obstacles for parties in the absence of legal aid funded representation. A new sole jurisdiction for housing law has the potential to promote access to justice, but what should this new jurisdiction look like? Should it be a tribunal, or a court? What costs regime should apply, how should digitisation be incorporated and should lawyers be favoured, or excluded in the new jurisdiction?

Join us for a discussion about a housing law forum for the 21st century.

2. Disproportionality in Youth Justice

Tariq Desai, Lawyer, JUSTICE

Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people make up around 13% of the population. However, the proportion of BAME youths in the youth secure estate is around 45%. This session will explore the reasons for BAME youths being overrepresented in youth custody.

It will discuss whether misperceptions, policing and trust play a role and ask what changes to the youth justice system could be made to reduce BAME overrepresentation in youth custody?

3. School Exclusions

Stephanie Needleman, Lawyer, JUSTICE

Being excluded from school has a significant impact on the lives of pupils and their future opportunities. There is a process which allows parents to challenge a school's decision to exclude their child, but is it procedurally fair, are parents and pupils able to participate effectively in the process and does it provide an effective remedy?

Join us to consider ways to improve the process for challenging school exclusions and to ensure that schools are held to account for their decisions to exclude.

12.30 *Lunch*

Option to attend a clinical session to discuss law reform ideas for dissertation topics

13.30 **Afternoon Breakout Sessions**

(Repeat of morning breakouts)

14.45 *Tea/Coffee*

15.00 **Careers panel of new practitioners**

Stephen Tawiah, Pupil Barrister at 10 King's Bench Walk

Mark McDonald-Loncke, Trainee Solicitor at Hackney Community Law Centre

India Burnett, Lawyer at B4 Justice and Public Law Litigation Team

Stephanie Needleman, Public Lawyer at JUSTICE, former solicitor at Freshfields and Supreme Court Judicial Assistant

This session will give delegates the chance to quiz a panel of lawyers early in practice about building a career in the law. Our panel is drawn from a range of backgrounds and areas of practice and will give delegates hands on, practical advice on the various routes they may wish to consider in the legal sector.

16.00 *Networking and drinks reception*