

# THE HUMAN RIGHTS LAW CONFERENCE 2010

12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NEW POLITICS AND A NEW ERA FOR RIGHTS?

WEDNESDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2010, HOLIDAY INN BLOOMSBURY, LONDON WC1N 1HT



## HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Human rights under the new government
- Review of the year
- Updates on criminal law and judicial review
- The Equality Act 2010
- Human rights in the EU
- The new law on inquests
- The Independent Police Complaints Commission
- Religious freedom in the workplace
- Is there a right to reputation?

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

*Lord Justice Sedley*, Lord Justice of Appeal

## CHAIRS:

*Jennifer McDermott*, Withers LLP

*Roger Smith*, JUSTICE

## PLENARY SPEAKERS:

*Monica Carss-Frisk QC*, Blackstone Chambers

*Dominic Grieve QC MP*, Attorney General (*invited*)

*Professor Francesca Klug*, LSE

*Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC*

*Gareth Peirce*, Birnberg Peirce

*Plus a wealth of leading experts speaking at specialist breakout sessions*

**EARN 6 CPD HOURS**  
ACCREDITED BY THE SRA/  
BAR STANDARDS BOARD



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The Human Rights Act - conceived, born and raised under a Labour government - has new parents. How will it fare? Prior to the election in May, the two partners in the coalition government expressed very different attitudes about the Act and human rights in general. How will the new government square the circle? And what will this mean for practitioners and policy-makers?

Away from the political arena, human rights law continues to develop apace. The Supreme Court has replaced the House of Lords. The Lisbon Treaty is now in force. So are major new laws on equality and inquests. There have been important new judgments in the UK and European courts. And human rights arguments dominate controversial issues such as religious freedom and libel.

From the big picture brought about by political change to the fine detail of the latest developments, the Human Rights Law Conference provides comprehensive and expert analysis. Now in its 12th year, this annual conference is *the* forum for ensuring you are fully up to date with all the key developments across a wide range of practice and policy areas.

## FIND OUT WHAT'S NEW AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUR WORK

- Update your knowledge of key areas – at popular updaters sessions on criminal law and judicial review
- Ensure you are aware of major developments – such as the implications of the EU Lisbon Treaty and new laws on equality and inquests
- Learn how the law is striking the balance in controversial and contested areas – such as libel, religious freedom and complaints against the police
- Get a glimpse of the future – as likely trends are highlighted and analysed and the policies of the new coalition government are put under the microscope
- Discuss the issues that affect your work, and exchange experience and ideas with delegates from government departments, the legal profession and academia

## ENHANCE YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH SPECIALIST WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Specialist breakout sessions, each run by leading experts, will provide in-depth coverage of particularly topical areas:

- Criminal law
- The Equality Act 2010
- Inquests
- The Lisbon Treaty
- Judicial review
- The Independent Police Complaints Commission
- Religious freedom
- The right to reputation

## BENEFIT FROM EXPERT ANALYSIS OF IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

- **What's new and why it matters** – a comprehensive review of the past year
- **Hearsay evidence** – what is the impact of *Horncastle* and *Al-Khawaja and Tahery v UK*?
- **The Equality Act** – welcome simplicity or a new monster?
- **Luxembourg v Strasbourg** – what does the Lisbon Treaty mean for human rights in Europe?
- **Policing and human rights** – is the Independent Police Complaints Commission fit for purpose?
- **Libel** – where should the balance between privacy and freedom of expression be struck?
- **Inquests** – billed as 'transparent and responsive' yet allowing secret hearings, how will the new law work in practice?
- **Faith and the law** – how are the courts interpreting Article 9 ECHR?
- **The Supreme Court** – one year on, how has the UK's highest court fared?
- **New politics, new law** – what does a change of government mean for human rights law?

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# BENEFIT FROM A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF TOPICS

## 9.00 REGISTRATION

### 9.30 MORNING PLENARY SESSION

Chaired by **Jennifer McDermott**, Withers LLP  
Introduction from the chair

#### KEYNOTE SPEECH

**Lord Justice Sedley**, Lord Justice of Appeal

### 10:00 REVIEW OF THE YEAR

**Monica Carss-Frisk QC**, Blackstone Chambers

A thorough analysis of all the significant developments over the past year, from a leading expert hailed as 'a frankly superb practitioner' by Chambers Directory.

### 10.30 DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

## 11.00 COFFEE BREAK

### 11.15 MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(please choose one session from the following four)

#### 1. CRIMINAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS UPDATE

**Alex Bailin QC**, Matrix Chambers

**Peter Binning**, Corker Binning

This session provides an overview of key cases and legislative developments in the field of criminal law and human rights. It covers the key decisions of the Courts, and analyses the impact of the Crime and Security Act 2010.

#### 2. THE EQUALITY ACT 2010

**Ulele Burnham**, Doughty Street Chambers

**John Wadham**, Equality and Human Rights Commission

After many years of consultation, the Equality Act 2010 became law in April this year, bringing together a host of existing equality provisions with a number of new measures. This session looks in detail at some of the Act's key features, as well as some of the changes introduced during its passage through Parliament.

#### 3. THE NEW LAW ON INQUESTS

**Alison Macdonald**, Matrix Chambers

**Deborah Coles**, INQUEST

The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 introduced a comprehensive overhaul of the law relating to inquests, including controversial provisions allowing inquiries involving secret evidence to be held in place of an inquest in sensitive cases. This session looks at the current law, the latest case-law and examines how the legislation will operate in practice.

#### 4. AFTER LISBON: HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE EU

**Marie Demetriou**, Brick Court Chambers

**Professor Paul Craig**, University of Oxford

Among other things, the Lisbon Treaty introduces the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights and allows for the EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights. The UK has negotiated a series of opt-outs from the impact of the Charter. What is the likely impact of the Lisbon Treaty on UK law, including the relationship between the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg?

## 12.45 LUNCH

## 13.45 AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(please choose one session from the following four)

#### 5. JUDICIAL REVIEW AND HUMAN RIGHTS UPDATE

**Helen Mountfield QC**, Matrix Chambers

**Angus McCullough QC**, 1 Crown Office Row

This session provides an overview of key cases and legislative developments in the field of public law, judicial review and human rights.

#### 6. THE INDEPENDENT POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

**Deborah Glass**, Deputy Chair, Independent Police

Complaints Commission

**Stephen Cragg**, Doughty Street Chambers

During its six years of operation, the IPCC has had to address a number of controversial cases, including the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes and the death of Ian Tomlinson during the G20 protests. This session examines the work of the IPCC, including recent cases and legal challenges to the scope of its investigations.

#### 7. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE WORKPLACE

**Robin Allen QC**, Cloisters

**Professor Aileen McColgan**, King's College London

Article 9 ECHR guarantees everyone the freedom of thought, conscience and religion. However, the right is not absolute and the issue of religious freedom in the public sphere continues to attract controversy in cases such as *Eweida v British Airways* and *Ladele v London Borough of Islington*. This session examines the content of the right in the important context of employment.

#### 8. IS THERE A RIGHT TO REPUTATION?

**Heather Rogers QC**, Doughty Street Chambers

**Padraig Reidy**, Index on Censorship

Having gained a reputation as the libel capital of the world, the English law on defamation is now subject to increasing domestic criticism. The new government has promised a 'review of libel laws to protect freedom of speech'. This session considers the state of the current law, and proposed changes, in light of the broader relationship between the right to respect for private life under Article 8 ECHR and the right to freedom of expression under Article 10 ECHR.

## 15.15 TEA BREAK

### 15.30 AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION:

#### HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER THE NEW GOVERNMENT

**Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC**

The new government has promised 'a full programme of measures to reverse the substantial erosion of civil liberties'. Plans include scrapping ID cards; extending the Freedom of Information Act; protecting jury trial and the right to protest; regulating CCTV and storage of internet and email records; enhanced protection of the DNA database; and safeguarding against misuse of anti-terrorism legislation. Ten years after the Human Rights Act came into force, is human rights law entering a new era?

An assessment of the government's first six months in office and its future plans. Followed by discussion and analysis from a panel of experts.

### 16.00 PANEL DISCUSSION:

Chaired by **Roger Smith**, JUSTICE

**Dominic Grieve QC MP**, Attorney General (*invited*)

**Gareth Peirce**, Birnberg Peirce

**Professor Francesca Klug**, LSE

## 17.00 CLOSE

*Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice*

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<http://www.sweetandmaxwell.co.uk/humanrightsconference>  
**FOR ADDITIONAL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL (020) 7393 7589**  
**OR EMAIL [conferences@sweetandmaxwell.co.uk](mailto:conferences@sweetandmaxwell.co.uk)**

