



Public Law Project



The
Legal
Education
Foundation

BPP
LAW
SCHOOL



A&O

The fight for social justice: Young lawyers making change

Saturday 16 March 2019
9.30-17.15

BPP Law School Waterloo, 137 Stamford Street, London SE1 9NN

Agenda and speakers

9.30 Registration

10.00 Opening keynote

Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC, Doughty Street Chambers

10.30 Plenary – Using the law to effect social change

Jo Hickman, Public Law Project
Mark McDonald-Loncke, Hackney Community Law Centre
Connor Johnston, Garden Court Chambers

11.30 Coffee

12.00 First breakout session

1. *Crime*

Chair, Oliver Carter

Raj Chada, Hodge Jones and Allen
Mel Evans, Stansted 15
Ben Smoke, Stansted 15

2. *Inquiries*

Chair, Sophie Earnshaw
Ed Daffarn, Grenfell United
Remy Mohamed, Inquest
Marcia Willis Stewart QC

3. *Universal Credit and welfare benefits*

Chair, Matthew Ahluwalia
Carla Clarke, Child Poverty Action Group
Ayaz Manji, Mind
Tom Royston, Garden Court North

13.00 Lunch

13.45 – Self-care with Claiming Space

Joanna Fleck and Rachel Francis

14.25 Second breakout session

1. *Children*

Chair, Alex Temple

HHJ Dafna Spiro
Kate Aubrey Johnson, Youth Justice Legal Centre

2. *Legal aid and ECF*

Chair, Katy Watts
Chris Minnoch, LAPG
Rohini Teather, LAPG

3. *Careers*

Chair, Tara Mulcair

Mandy Groves, Ealing Law Centre
Alexandra Wilson, 5 St Andrews Hill
Joanna Bennett, Hodge Jones and Allen

4. *Litigating Brexit*

Chair, Oliver Carter

Jessica Simor QC, Matrix Chambers
Alexandra Sinclair, PLP

15.25 Coffee

15.40 Third breakout session

1. *Housing*

Chair, Oliver Him

Wallace White, Anthony Gold
Daniel Clarke, Doughty Street Chambers
Jo Underwood, Shelter

2. *Challenging unlawful decisions: The British Red Cross & DPG PAP Project*

Chair, Parissa Najah/Sophie Earnshaw
Polly Glynn, Deighton Pierce Glynn

3. *Campaigning*

Chair, Lucie Boase

Zehrah Hasan, Liberty
Fiona Bawdon, Just for Kids Law
James Farrar, United Private Hire
Cara Sanquest, London Irish Abortion Rights Campaign

4. *Detained by the State*

Chair, Katherine Barnes

Jane Ryan, Bhatt Murphy
Sam Grant, Liberty
Beatrice Collier, 5 Essex Court

16.40pm Closing Keynote

Karon Monaghan QC, Matrix Chambers

17.15 Drinks

Speaker biographies

Carla Clarke, Child Poverty Action Group

Carla Clarke is Head of Strategic Litigation at Child Poverty Action Group where her current case load includes challenges to the benefit cap, the 2 child rule, the bedroom tax and particular aspects of universal credit. Before joining CPAG in 2016 she worked in various litigation and legal advisory roles within the Government Legal Department (where she trained as a solicitor) and also worked on a number of international human rights cases at Minority Rights Group International.

Joanna Fleck, Claiming Space

Joanna Fleck is a qualified solicitor practicing in civil liberties and inquests. She now combines legal work with teaching yoga and meditation. She also works with a mental health charity to deliver specialist support and mental health awareness training. She recently completed a Master's degree in psychology, researching secondary traumatic stress in the legal profession.

Rachel Francis, Claiming Space

Rachel Francis is co-director of Claiming Space and a barrister practising in immigration and family law at One Pump Court Chambers. She is the former co-chair of Young Legal Aid Lawyers. During her time as co-chair, Rachel saw first-hand the effects of working with trauma in the legal profession. She was jointly responsible for the strategic direction of the group and for co-ordinating its campaigning, promoting social mobility and protecting the interests of junior lawyers who believe in the importance of legally-aided work as a means of achieving social justice.

Sam Grant, Liberty

Sam is a policy and campaigns manager for Liberty. He is their lead on their campaign to end indefinite immigration detention and has worked on immigration detention for five years. He also works on issues of mental capacity and military justice. Previously Sam has worked at René Cassin where he led on work tackling discrimination against the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and has an MSc in Human Rights from LSE.

Ayaz Manji, Mind

Ayaz is Mind's Senior Policy and Campaigns Officer. He leads Mind's work on campaigning for a welfare benefits system which supports people with mental health problems to stay financially secure.

Tom Royston, Garden Court North

Tom is a barrister at Garden Court North Chambers. Tom is a social welfare law specialist, with a particular interest in social security. Tom's background in CAB and a Law Centre gives him long experience in, and dedication to, administrative social welfare law. He deals with a mixture of judicial review and statutory appeals. He won a Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year award in 2017 and is listed in both Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500.

Jane Ryan, Bhatt Murphy

Jane is a solicitor at Bhatt Murphy solicitors. She specialises in public law and human rights with a particular focus on the civil liberties of prisoners and those detained under immigration powers. She regularly represents prisoners in proceedings before the Parole Board and in claims against the Prison Service. She has a number of cases working with transgender people who have been mistreated in police and prison custody. Her recent cases include [R \(Grantham\) v The Parole Board \[2019\] 1 WLUK 150](#) an IPP sentenced prisoner who had served nearly three times his tariff successfully challenged the Parole Board's decision to refuse to direct his release or recommend his transfer to open conditions. [R \(MS, a child by his litigation friend MAS\) v SSHD \[2019\] UKUT 9 \(IAC\)](#) in an important case for asylum seeking children's rights, and for the first time in a judicial review of a take charge refusal

under the Dublin III Regulation, the Upper Tribunal determined the family relationship for itself and gave guidance on the right to an effective remedy for children seeking asylum. *R (KXJ) v SSJ and Governor of HMP Wymott CO/1267/2018* a successful challenge by a transgender prisoner on the grounds of Article 8 ECHR and procedural fairness in transgender case boards, the process in prison by which transgender prisoners are managed. *C v Avon and Somerset Police C00MY212 (2017)* Avon and Somerset Constabulary admitted discrimination on the grounds of gender reassignment for the presence of male officers during the strip search of a transgender woman. This was the first time a police force has admitted gender reassignment discrimination in a non-employment context and has led to changes in practices within the police.

Jo Underwood, Shelter

Jo Underwood, Jo Underwood is a housing and public law solicitor at Shelter, a housing and homelessness charity, where she heads up the strategic litigation team. Jo has acted for Shelter on interventions in a number of high-profile housing and social welfare cases, most recently including Supreme Court challenges relating to homelessness, the benefit cap and out of area temporary housing placements. Jo also carries out training, policy and research activities at Shelter in relation to homelessness and poor housing.

Prior to joining Shelter, Jo was a housing solicitor with South West London Law Centres. She is on the steering group for one of the first communities in the UK to house and resettle a refugee family under the Community Sponsorship scheme. She has co-founded several initiatives in her local community, including an anti-trafficking group and a pro bono advice centre.