

THE UKLSA 5TH ANNUAL NATIONAL EQUALITIES CONFERENCE

PROMOTING EQUAL ACCESS TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND JUSTICE



The event is organised with the support
of the Junior Lawyers Division of the
Law Society

2nd February 2016 5:15-9pm

Law Society, 113 Chancery Ln, London WC2A 1PL

UKLSA

UK LAW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

PROGRAMME

17:15-17:55	Registration
18:00-18:10	Opening remarks Fatos Selita, <i>President of the UKLSA</i> Fergus Randolph QC, <i>Chair of the Conference</i>
18:10-19:25	Talks by: Jonathan Smithers, <i>President of the Law Society</i> Chantal-Aimee Doerries QC, <i>Chair of the Bar Council</i> Hilary Heilbron QC Koser Shaheen Sir Robin Knowles CBE
19:25-19:45	Questions
19:45-19:50	Junior Lawyers Division remarks Max Harris
19:50-21:00	Drinks reception and discussions
21:00	Close of Conference

TALKS

Jonathan Smithers, President of the Law Society

18:10 – 18:25

The importance of equality in the law and the legal profession.
What the Law Society is doing to promote equality in access to the profession and access to legal services by consumers.

Chantal-Aimee Doerries QC, Chairman of the Bar Council

18:25 – 18:40

The importance of equality in the law and the legal profession.
What the Bar Council is doing to promote equality in access to the profession and access to legal services by consumers.

Hilary Heilbron QC

18:40-18:55

The Last Hundred years – women barristers, solicitors, judges and arbitrators – how has it changed?

TALKS

Koser Shaheen

18:55 – 19:10

"...Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure..."

Legal career: Do I want to be a lawyer? Who are my competitors? How can I stand out?

Mature students: Is it too late? Is it an advantage or disadvantage? What's my leverage?

Diversity in the legal profession: Is it really a problem? Is it my problem? Who has the solutions?

Sir Robin Knowles CBE

19:10 -19:25

Access to Justice; Justice without access?

- "Justice without access"
- Increasing public understanding
- Putting the user at the heart of the system
- Taking practical steps
- The international dimension
- Professionalism and purpose for the lawyer
- Equality before the law

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Speakers

**Chantal-Aimee
Doerries QC**



Chantal-Aimée Doerries QC is the Chairman of the Bar Council of England and Wales (“BCEW”) for 2016. She was called to the Bar in 1992, took silk in 2008 and was elected Bencher of Middle Temple in 2010. Practising from Atkin Chambers, Chantal has over 20 years’ experience of representing clients in commercial dispute resolution. She is recognised by the main independent legal directories as a leading silk for energy and natural resources, construction, international arbitration and professional negligence. In addition to her domestic work, recent cases have involved disputes arising in the Middle East (Qatar, Dubai), Europe (Norway, Germany, Switzerland), Ukraine, South America (Peru, Costa Rica), Asia (Singapore, China, Indonesia). Most of her work is as advocate, but she also sits as arbitrator. Chantal is a past Co-Chair of the IBA Forum for Barristers and Advocates and a past Chairman of the BCEW International Committee and of the Technology and Construction Bar Association. She is Co-Editor in Chief of the International Construction Law Review, a Co-Editor of the Building Law Reports, and a Contributing Editor of Hudson’s Building and Engineering Contracts.

**Hilary Heilbron
QC**



Hilary Heilbron is a Queen’s Counsel and a member of Brick Court Chambers. She has extensive experience as counsel both in international arbitration and commercial litigation acting for a wide range of national and international clients in very substantial disputes. She has appeared as leading counsel in the Supreme Court, House of Lords and Privy Council. She also regularly sits as an international arbitrator and is a qualified mediator and is a Deputy High Court Judge. Hilary is a regular speaker at both arbitration and international litigation conferences and has contributed articles to various journals on both subjects. She is admitted as a Legal Practitioner in New South Wales, Australia and is a member of the New South Wales Bar Association.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Sir Robin Knowles
CBE**



Sir Robin Knowles CBE practised at the Commercial and Chancery Bars for 30 years (15 of them as Queen's Counsel) before his appointment as a High Court Judge. He sits in the Commercial Court, the Administrative Court, the general Queen's Bench Division, and the Court of Appeal Criminal Division. He is a nominated Judge of the Financial List, and a member of the Financial Markets Law Committee.

Sir Robin has a longstanding involvement in the encouragement and coordination of legal pro bono work, nationally and internationally, and across the profession. He is Chairman of the Bar Pro Bono Unit, a Trustee of LawWorks, Patron of the CILEX Pro Bono Trust and a Trustee of the National Pro Bono Centre.

He chaired the working group that established the Access to Justice Foundation and he serves as chairman or trustee of a number of advice agencies. A member of the Civil Justice Council, he chairs the Council's work on LIPs and access to justice for those without means.

More generally, Sir Robin has a close interest in the fields of professionalism and ethics. And outside the law, he has long been closely involved with children's hospices and children's palliative care.

Koser Shaheen



Koser Shaheen is a Knowledge Management Attorney for Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, a leading international law firm. She is also General Secretary of the Association of Muslim Lawyers, Vice-Chair of the Law Society's Ethnic Minority Lawyers Division, a Law Society Social Mobility Ambassador and a member of Cleary Gottlieb's London Diversity Committee. Before working at Cleary Gottlieb, Koser did her Legal Practice Course as part of a training contract with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP where she qualified as a Capital Markets Associate. She graduated from Birmingham City University in 2007 with the highest first in her year.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Jonathan
Smithers**



President of the Law Society, 2015 – 2016

Jonathan Smithers began his articles in 1984 at the firm CooperBurnett in Tunbridge Wells. He qualified in 1986 and became an equity partner at the firm in 1990. He is now the Senior Partner. Jonathan has been involved in local law societies for over 25 years. He was elected President of Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge & District Law Society in 2002 and President of Kent Law Society in 2007/8.

Jonathan joined the Law Society Council in 2007 representing over 2,000 solicitors in the Kent constituency. He has also held positions on the Membership Board and the Law Society Gazette Editorial Advisory Board.

He is the immediate past chair of the Conveyancing and Land Law Committee and was instrumental in setting up the Conveyancing Quality Scheme, first on its project board and then as a member of the technical panel. He co-authored the Conveyancing Protocol and the Law Society's Code for Completion by Post.

Jonathan has previously represented the Society as a media spokesperson on a range of legal issues and also represents the law Society on the Land Registry Rules Committee.

Jonathan is a member of the Oriana Singers, one of the most active choirs in the south east, based in Tunbridge Wells, and has sung in over 40 English cathedrals.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Conference Chair

Fergus Randolph
QC



Fergus is a leading Silk in EU and competition law litigation practising from Brick Court Chambers (previously 15 years at the European Commission, Brussels). He is a Bencher of the Middle Temple; Chairman of the Bar Council's Law Reform Committee; Bar Council representative for the European Commission's initiative on contract law; Committee member of the Bar European Group; a Committee member of the European Maritime Lawyers Organisation; Member of the Slynn Foundation's Delivery Group with special responsibility for EU law; and a former Leader of the European Circuit of the Bar Council. Fergus has numerous publications and lectures on all aspects of EC law and UK litigation.

President of the UKLSA

Fatos Selita



Fatos is a barrister, a practising Attorney & Counselor at Law of the State of New York, USA and a lecturer. He is a Consultant at Emerging Law; Director of AIR Courses at Goldsmiths, University of London; the Director of the Department of Intellectual Property Transfers at National Research Tomsk State University (TSU) in Russia; and a visiting lecturer at TSU and at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow.

Fatos specialises in areas of International Business Law and technology transfers, and works with research laboratories internationally on issues related to legal, ethical and societal implications of genetic findings. He is a member of the Ethics Committee for Interdisciplinary Investigations at the International Centre for Research in Human Development and Chairs the Council on Ethical, Societal and Legal Implications of Genetic Research in Child Development and Education. Fatos has published in different areas, including cross-border secured transactions, and genetics and its legal implications; and also delivers Advocacy, Public Speaking and Science Dissemination training internationally.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Immediate Past Chair of the Junior Lawyers Division of the Law Society

Max Harris



Max was the 2015 chair of the Junior Lawyers Division of the Law Society.

In 2015, Max was involved in the introduction of the Law Society's recommended minimum salary for trainee solicitors, the drafting of the new voluntary code of recruitment for trainee solicitors, and the production of an information pack for those seeking to qualify through the "equivalent means" route.

An associate at Baker & McKenzie LLP in London, Max specialises in technology and commercial law. Before this, he studied law at King's College London and the LPC at the College of Law.

Max has written for Solicitors Journal on several matters relating to junior lawyers, as well as other publications including The Guardian.

During 2014 and 2015, Max sat on Lord Dyson's Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Legal Committee, and was involved in the promotion of the "Junior Lawyers In Schools" programme.

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The Law Society of England and Wales has sponsored the venue of this conference. The Law Society's support is crucial to the success of this conference in promoting equal access to the profession and justice.

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Conference Organiser

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The Organising Committee

Fatos Selita, President of the UKLSA

Max Harris, Immediate Past Chair of the Junior Lawyers Division of the Law Society

Yvonne Treacy, The Law Society

Olga Popova, Equalities Co-ordinator, UKLSA