

JUSTICE Student Human Rights Network Seminar

The Impact of the Human Rights Act

A seminar for **law students, trainee solicitors** and **pupil barristers**

Friday 20 and Saturday 21 November 2009

Allen & Overy LLP, One Bishops Square, London E1 6AD

The Human Rights Act (HRA) is transforming the legal and constitutional landscape. Unsurprisingly, this has led to some opposition and distrust. Both major political parties are considering the desirability of bills of rights and responsibilities or duties which might inhibit or limit the effect of the HRA.

This event is designed to consider the achievements so far and to explain the enormous impact of the Act on court proceedings, the legal profession and, in particular, on areas of work in which JUSTICE specialises. More information on JUSTICE's work is available at www.justice.org.uk. The conference is suitable for students of all levels who are interested in human rights.

For further information on this seminar please contact JUSTICE on **020 7762 6422** or jshrn@justice.org.uk

PROGRAMME

Friday 20 November 2009

- 5.30pm Tea and Registration
- 6.00 **Welcome, Overview and Introduction**
Roger Smith, director of JUSTICE
- 6.30 **The impact of the HRA in the courts**
Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, Doughty Street Chambers
Helena is also chair of JUSTICE's council. She is an experienced criminal advocate who has appeared in a number of important trials.
Shaheen Rahman, One Crown Office Row
Shaheen is a public law barrister who also acts as a special advocate in control order cases. She is a council member of JUSTICE.
- 7.30 **The HRA and legal practice – from legal aid to City law firms**
Roger Smith, JUSTICE
The Human Rights Act has shaped practice at the Bar and has affected solicitors' practices from small legal aid firms to the largest commercial practices.
- 8.00 Refreshments
This will be an opportunity for informal discussion with JUSTICE's staff and others attending the seminar.
- 9.00 Finish

Saturday 21 November 2009

- 9.30am Coffee
- 10.00 **The impact of the HRA on public law**
Eric Metcalfe, director of human rights, JUSTICE
Eric has undertaken most of JUSTICE's third party interventions and will talk about the effect of the HRA on the development of public law.
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.30 **The impact of the HRA on crime**
Sally Ireland, senior legal officer (criminal justice), JUSTICE
Sally will talk about the impact of the Human Rights Act on the criminal justice system generally and, in particular, for prisoners and public order.
Jodie Blackstock, senior legal officer (EU), JUSTICE
Jodie will consider the link between the European Convention on Human Rights and initiatives in relation to greater judicial co-operation within the EU such as the European arrest warrant.
Eric Metcalfe, JUSTICE
Eric will discuss the impact of the HRA on crimes relating to terrorism.
- 1.00 Lunch
- 1.45 **The impact of the ECHR on access to justice in Europe**
Roger Smith, JUSTICE
Hayley Smith, research assistant, JUSTICE
Roger will discuss the way in which the European Convention on Human Rights has affected the development of legal aid, particularly in central and eastern Europe. Hayley will talk about a major research project on criminal defence rights in nine countries in Europe in which JUSTICE is engaged.
- 2.45 Tea
- 3.00 **A British bill of rights: good idea or not?**
Roger Smith, JUSTICE
Qudsi Rasheed, legal officer (human rights), JUSTICE
Qudsi works on a new JUSTICE project focusing on issues surrounding the Human Rights Act and any proposed bill of rights. He and Roger will talk about the political future of the Human Rights Act.
- 4.30 Finish