

# HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Hardwicke Chambers

### Present

Alison Gerry (Chair)  
Leanne Targett-Parker  
(Treasurer)  
Eeva Heikkila (Vice Chair)  
Anna Tkaczynska (Secretary)  
Hannah Manson (Secretary)  
Daniel Denman  
Amanda Walker  
Nicola Jeffery  
Asma Nizami  
Jessica Bernstein  
Michael Polak  
Shoaib Khan  
Emma Fenelon  
Clare Dundon  
Dervla Simm  
Kate Beattie  
Chucks Golding  
Alexandra Nelia  
Ben Stanford  
Matthew Allan  
Willow Oddie (Administrator)

### Apologies

Anthony Lester (President)  
Angela Patrick  
Kerenza Davis  
Adam Fullwood  
Brendan McGurk  
William Horwood  
Chetna Varia  
Jessie Brennan  
Rebecca Bruce  
Aroosa Ulzaman

### 1. Apologies and minutes of the last AGM

Apologies were noted and the minutes of the 2013 AGM were approved.

### 2. Report from Chair

Alison Gerry, the HRLA Chair, reported another good year for the Association, expressing gratitude to the 2014 Executive and Student Committees, and particularly those who would not be standing again in 2015; special thanks was given to Martha Spurrier, for her tireless efforts as the HRLA Bursary Officer. Members of the 2015 Executive Committee are as follows:

Lord Lester of Herne Hill	Blackstone Chambers	President
Alison Gerry	Doughty Street Chambers	Chair
Eeva Heikkila	9 Bedford Row	Vice Chair
Leanne Targett-Parker	10 Kings Bench Walk	Treasurer

Anna Tkaczynska	Hardwicke Chambers	Secretary
Hannah Manson	Mischon de Reya	Secretary
Adam Fullwood	Kings Chambers	
Amanda Walker	Mansfield Chambers	
Brendan McGurk	Monckton Chambers	
Charlotte Haworth Hird	Bindmans LLP	Bursary Officer
Emma Fenelon	Odysseus Trust	
Nicola Jeffery	Ministry of Justice	
Jesse Nicholls	Garden Court Chambers	
Jessica Bernstein	One Garden Court	
Kate Beattie	One Crown Office Row	
Shoaib M Khan	S&S Immigration Law	
Dervla Simm	Hogan Lovells International LLP	
Clare Dundon	Hogan Lovells International LLP	
Angela Patrick	JUSTICE	Co-opted
James Welch	Liberty	Co-opted
Sarah Smith	The Law Society	Co-opted
Daniel Denman	Ministry of Justice	Co-opted

A vote for both the Executive Committee and the officer positions was not necessary as there were the requisite number of nominations. Alison Gerry will remain as Chair, Leanne Targett-Parker as Treasurer, Eeva Heikkila as Vice Chair, Anna Tkaczynska and Hannah Manson as joint Secretary and Charlotte Haworth-Hird will replace Martha Spurrier as Bursary Officer. Alison also welcomed Nicola Jeffery, a longstanding Student Sub-Committee member, Clare Dundon and Dervla Simm from Hogan Lovells, and Emma Fenelon from Odysseus Trust to the Executive.

2014 boasted a number of excellent and diverse events, including a number of successful series. Events for 2014 were as follows:

Date	Topic	Chair	Speaker
<b>January</b>			
7 <sup>th</sup> January	Reviewing the Balance of Competences between the United Kingdom and the European Union: Fundamental Rights		<b>Elsbeth Rainbow</b> , Ministry of Justice; <b>Jodie Blackstock</b> , JUSTICE; <b>Dr Cian C. Murphy</b> , King's College London
<b>March</b>			
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Care and Human Rights: Is the Human Rights Act		<b>Alison Millar</b> , Leigh Day; <b>Alan</b>

	Protecting the Vulnerable?		<b>Rosenbach</b> , Care Quality Commission; <b>Joanna Owen</b> , Equality and Human Rights Commission; <b>Helen Wildbore</b> , British Institute of Human Right
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Deprivation of Liberty Following Cheshire West		<b>Simon Burrows</b> (Junior Counsel for P)
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Student Seminar Series (Part 1) Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights: The Rights to Life		<b>Professor Bill Bowring</b> , Birkbeck College and Field Court Chambers; <b>Robert Weir QC</b> , Devereux Chambers; <b>Jenni Richards QC</b> , 39 Essex Street Chambers
<b>April</b>			
10 <sup>th</sup> April	Deprivation of Liberty in Health and Social Care: the Reach of Article 5 ECHR		<b>Lucy Series</b> , Cardiff University; <b>Martha Spurrier</b> , Doughty Street Chambers; <b>Ulele Burnham</b> , Doughty Street Chambers (Chair)
<b>May</b>			
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Where Now for Civil Legal Aid?	<b>Sir Anthony Hooper</b> , former Lord Justice of Appeal and member of Matrix Chambers	<b>Helen Mountfield QC</b> , Matrix Chambers; <b>Polly Glynn</b> , Deighton Pierce Glynn Solicitors; <b>Anita Hurrell</b> , Coram Children's Legal Centre;

			<b>Naina Patel</b> , Blackstone Chambers
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Student Seminar Series (Part 2) Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights: Anti- Torture and Inhuman Treatment		<b>Sapna Malik</b> , Leigh Day; <b>Adam Wagner</b> , 1COR; <b>Kat Craig</b> , Reprieve
<b>June</b>			
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> June Student Career Day — London</b>			
26 <sup>th</sup> June	The Future of Judicial Review	<b>Baroness Helena Kennedy QC</b> of Doughty Street Chambers and Chair of JUSTICE.	<b>Michael Fordham QC</b> , Blackstone Chambers; <b>Nicola Mackintosh QC</b> , Mackintosh Law; <b>Michael Spencer</b> , Child Poverty Action Group
<b>October</b>			
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> October Student Career Day — Leeds</b>			
<b>November</b>			
27 <sup>th</sup> November	The EU and the ECHR: What will it mean for the UK when the EU signs up to the Convention?	<b>Nuala Mole</b> , Founder of the AIRE Centre	<b>Professor Steve Peers</b> , University of Essex; <b>Marie Demetriou QC</b> , Brick Court Chambers; <b>Tim Jewell</b> , Cabinet Office
<b>December</b>			
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Regional Human Rights Systems: Under Siege?	<b>Joshua Rozenberg</b>	<b>Adam Wagner</b> , 1COR; <b>Professor Douglass Cassel</b> , University of Notre Dame; <b>Jessica Simor QC</b> , Matrix; <b>Dr Michael Pinto- Duschinsky</b> , Policy Exchange

8 <sup>th</sup> December	Student Seminar Series (Part 3) Article 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights: The Prohibition on Slavery and Forced Labour		<b>Parosha Chandran</b> , 1 Pump Court Chambers; <b>Dr Aiden McQuade</b> , Anti-Slavery International; <b>Philippa Southwell</b> , Birds Solicitors
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A number of events are already underway for 2015, including an event on victims/women's rights and police treatment in January, with speakers including Phillippa Kaufmann QC and Karon Monagan, a music event in February to fundraise for the HRLA bursary scheme, and a collaborative event with the University of Notre Dame in March, focusing on the topic of surveillance. Alison reiterated that if anyone has any ideas for an event or if they need assistance in putting one on to contact Willow Oddie, the HRLA Administrator, at [administrator@hrla.org.uk](mailto:administrator@hrla.org.uk).

It was another successful year for the HRLA bursary, with approximately 40 applications. The four awardees are as follows:

<b>Laura Pasternak</b>	Council of Europe, Strasbourg
<b>Lawrence Corr</b>	The Centre for Human Rights Education, Advice and Assistance, Malawi (Peter Duffy)
<b>Nino Dolbaia</b>	Council of Europe, Strasbourg
<b>Adam Harnischfeger</b>	United Nations - International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY): Goran Hadžic Trial

Recipients of the 2013 HRLA bursary successfully completed their internships (with the exception of Aleisha Ibrahim who, due to the crisis in Syria, was unfortunately unable to take up her internship with Adameer) and their reports are now available for viewing on the HRLA website.

<b>Gift Nyoni</b>	Mental Disability Advocacy Centre, Budapest, Hungary
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<b>Jodie Anderson</b>	Texas Defender Service, via Amicus, USA
<b>Kate Jones</b>	Women's Legal Centre, Cape Town, South Africa
<b>Olivia Bliss</b>	Women's Legal Centre, Cape Town, South Africa
<b>Naomi Loomes</b>	Advocacy Forum, Kathmandu, Nepal

It was the second year of the HRLA Student Judicial Review competition, with the final held at Middle Temple. Finalists were **Ben Woolgar** and **Jyoti Wood** (Defendant) and **David Isenberg** and **Mickey Keller** (Claimant). Beatson LJ ruled in favour of the claimant, making Ben Woolgar and Jyoti Wood the winners for 2014. Well done to all those involved—contestants, judges and organisers alike.

Finally, the Chair reported that membership continued to grow in 2014, particularly in student members. No new corporate members were gained this year, making it an area of focus for 2015. Alison reminded people to get in touch if they thought their chambers or firm might be interested in taking up corporate membership.

The summary of membership for 2014 is as follows:

<b>Type of member</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>New in 2014</b>
Students*	420	157
Corporate	15	0
	[4 firms and 11 Chambers]	
	Clifford Chance LLP	
	Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	
	Bindmans LLP	
	Hogan Lovells LLP	
	Chambers of A Caldecott QC	
	Blackstone Chambers	
	Doughty Street Chambers	
	Essex Court Chambers	
	Arden Ltd	
	Hardwicke Chambers	
	1 Pump Court	
	Landmark Chambers	

	Monckton Chambers	
	Thirty Nine Essex Street Chambers	
	Three Raymond Buildings	
Solicitors - 5 Years	62	6
Solicitors + 5 Years	61	4
Barristers - 5 Years	48	2
Barristers + 5 Years	252	2
Acadameic s	19	0
NGO	51	7
Judge	1	0
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>178</b>

The Chair thanked both Jessie Brennan and Willow Oddie for their respective roles as the HRLA Administrator.

No questions were put to the Chair regarding her annual report.

### 3. Report from the Treasurer

Leanne, the HRLA Treasurer, provided copies of the full financial report as well as her condensed report. The balance of the accounts as of 30.11.2014 and summary of the report are as follows:

Current Account:	£11,039.95
Bursary Savings Account:	£ 0.84

- While this is a healthy position for the accounts to be in, particularly as annual membership income is received in February, the current balance is entirely attributable to the fact that HRLA has not had to fund any of the bursaries paid out in 2014 or 2013, thanks to the £10,000 grant from Sigrid Rausing Trust. Unless a further grant is given in 2015, HRLA will have to fund future bursaries. Therefore, fundraising for 2015 is a relatively pressing issue.
- HRLA's running costs have remained constant at £10,000 pa.
- Leanne also reported that there had been slow progress with the Peter Duffy grant (now thought to be £3,000 as opposed to £5,000)—once (and if) these funds become available, they will help toward the bursary.
- The total income received in 2012-2013, including the SRT grant, is £26,941.35 and increase of 224% from 2012 and an increase of 169% from 2011. The expenses for 2012-2013 is £18,910.84 and when taking the increase in the bursary of £2,000 into account is similar to the expenditure in 2012 despite investing in a new website. However, a contributing factor is that the expenses for the Leeds students' day have not been included in the 2013 accounts. The surplus is therefore £8,030.51 whereas in 2012 there was a deficit of £4,576.25 and in 2011 a deficit of £284.70.

No questions were put to the Treasurer regarding her report.

Alison also thanked Leanne for all of her hard work.

#### **4. Report from Student Sub-Committee**

Michael Polak, Chair of the Student Sub-Committee, reported on the events of 2014, summarised as follows:

- Thank you to the Executive Committee for all their help and support over the year.
- The second Student Judicial Review Competition went well, with preparations already underway for 2015. Middle Temple has offered dates in either February or June, neither of which fit with the timing of previous years, so some further negotiation is required.
- The ECHR Articles series has gone extremely well, with the exception of the Article 4 event yesterday (8/12/2014), but there was some factors—such as the time of year and amount of competing events—weighing against it.
- Both the London and Leeds careers days were very successful this year—thank you to all those involved.
- The Annual Student Law Journal closes for submissions on December 31<sup>st</sup> and so far, the response has been positive—approximately 12 entries to date. Once all submissions are in, the committee will decide whether to publish in an online format or, if the quality of submissions is sufficient, will consider publishing in hardcopy.

Michael also provided a revised version of the Student Sub-Committee constitution which, among other things, included a name change to “HRLA Young Lawyers Committee”. All those present agreed to the changes. However, before the changes can be put into action, a redrafting of the general HRLA constitution will need to occur in order to bring the two into accord. It was agreed that such changes would be discussed in the following Executive Committee meeting.

#### **5. Election of Young Lawyers Committee members**

All present members voted for the 2015 HRLA Young Lawyers Committee.

The following members were elected to the HRLA Young Lawyers Committee:

##### **HRLA Young Lawyers Committee 2015**

Asma Nizami	Michael Polak
Chetna Varia	William Horwood
Chucks Golding	Matthew Allan
Alexandra Nelia	Ben Stanford

The Chair called the AGM to a close.