



# Annual General Meeting 2015

## Meeting Minutes

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**6pm Tuesday 12 January 2016**

Bristows LLP, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0DH

Recorded by: Willow Oddie (Administrator)

### **Present**

Alex Cisneros  
Alison Gerry  
Amanda Walker  
Anna Tkaczynska  
Dervla Simm  
Eeva Heikkila  
Emma Fenelon  
Kate Beattie  
Leanne Targett Parker  
Paul Dillane  
Shoaib Khan  
Tom Tabori  
Daniel Denman  
Angela Patrick  
Ayla Prentice  
Asma Nizami  
Caterina Franchi  
Chetna Varia  
Chucks Golding  
Jeremy Bloom  
Matthew Allan  
Michael Polak  
Oliver Carter  
Ben Stanford  
Agnes Onayemi  
Sarah O'Grady  
Jeremy Frost  
Sana Ibrahim

### **Apologies**

Brendan McGurk  
Nicola Jeffery  
Jessica Bernstein  
Hannah Manson  
William Horwood  
James Welch

## 1. Apologies and Minutes of the last AGM

Apologies were noted and the minutes of the 2014 AGM were approved.

## 2. Report from the Chair

Alison Gerry, the HRLA Chair, reported another good year for the HRLA, particularly in terms of delivering topical and a varied range of events with a number of high profile speakers—a strength which she hoped would continue in 2016. The schedule of events for 2015 were as follows:

Date	Topic	Chair	Speaker
<b>January</b>			
22nd January	Treatment of Women by the Police and Criminal Justice System		<b>Karon Monaghan QC</b> , Matrix Chambers; <b>Harriet Wistrich</b> , Birnberg Pierce & Partners; <b>Phillippa Kaufmann QC</b> , Matrix Chambers
<b>March</b>			
18th March	Who's Watching? Government Surveillance on Both Sides of the Atlantic	<b>Chip Pitts</b> , EPIC	<b>Geoffrey Stone</b> , University of Chicago; <b>Rosa Curling</b> , Leigh Day
<b>May</b>			
5th May	Fighting for Human Rights in Europe's New Democracies: What Will UK Withdrawal from the ECHR Mean?	<b>Philip Leach</b> , Professor of Human Rights Law at Middlesex University and Director of the European Human Rights Advocacy Centre	<b>Biljana Braithwaite</b> , Head of the AIRE Centre's Balkan Rule of Law Programme; <b>Vahe Grigoryan</b> , Human Rights Lawyer from Armenia and Legal Consultant at EHRAC; <b>Anna Maralyan</b> , Human Rights Lawyer from Russia; <b>Ramute Remezaite</b> , Legal

			Consultant at EHRAC, specialising in Azerbaijan
13 <sup>th</sup> May	Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights: Right to Liberty		<b>Colm O’Cinneide</b> , UCL; <b>Aswini Weeraratne QC</b> , Doughty Street Chambers; <b>Rory Dunlop</b> , 39 Essex Chambers
<b>19<sup>th</sup> May Student Career Day — London</b>			
26 <sup>th</sup> May	‘Expensive, Ineffective and Unjust’: What Next for Immigration Detention After the Parliamentary Inquiry?	<b>Celia Clarke</b> , Director, Bail for Immigration Detainees	<b>Paul Blomfield MP</b> , Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Inquiry; <b>Pierre Makhoul</b> , Assistant Director, BID; <b>Alison Pickup</b> , Doughty Street Chambers; <b>Emma Mlotshwa</b> , Medical Justice.
<b>July</b>			
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	An Evening with Judge Thokozile Masipa	Introduction by Lady Justice Arden	Judge Thokozile Masipa
<b>October</b>			
<b>21<sup>st</sup> October Student Career Day — Leeds</b>			
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Articles 6 & 7 of the European Convention on Human Rights: Right to a Fair Trial and No Punishment Without Trial	<b>Alison Gerry</b> , HRLA Chair	<b>Sir Keir Starmer QC</b> , MP and Former DPP; <b>Joel Bennathan QC</b> , Doughty Street Chambers; <b>Jago Russell</b> , Fair Trails International
<b>November</b>			
10 <sup>th</sup> November	The Refugee Crisis: What Awaits Syrian Refugees in the UK	<b>Colin Yeo</b> , Garden Court Chambers	<b>Nuala Mole</b> , AIRE Centre; <b>Professor Steve Piers</b> , University of Essex; <b>Steve Symonds</b> ,

			Amnesty UK
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights: The Right to Respect for Private Life, Family Life, Home Life and Correspondence		<b>The Hon. Sir Michael Burton</b> , President, Investigatory Powers Tribunal; <b>Hugh Tomlinson QC</b> , Matrix Chambers; <b>Yasmine Ahmed</b> , Rights Watch UK
<b>December</b>			
7th December	The Impact of Welfare Reform	<b>Emma Jones</b> , Leigh Day & Co	<b>Jonathan Manning QC</b> , Arden Chambers; <b>James Harrison</b> , Co-director of Centre for Human Rights Practices, University of Warwick; <b>Andy Kempster</b> , Policy and Campaigns Officer, MIND

Alison reported that the career days put on by the Young Lawyer's Committee remained a very important part of what the HRLA delivers and congratulated the sub-committee on their continued efforts. She also congratulated the Young Lawyers' on their activities for 2015, particularly the publishing of the first HRLA journal—a brilliant initiative.

The Chair congratulated the recipients of the 2015 HRLA Bursary Scheme. As part of the condition of the grant, awardees are asked to provide the HRLA with a two-page report on their experiences of the internship/work placement. The majority of the reports have now been submitted and are available on the HRLA website. The awardees are as follows:

**Fatima Jama** - Women's Legal Centre, Cape Town

**Michaela Stephenson** - World Service Authority

**Aphra Bruce-Jones** - Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

**Anushka Kangesu** - African Prisons Project

**Oliver Persey** - American Civil Liberties Union – Human Rights Program

**Olivia Rosenstrom** - The Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust

**Nathan Adams** - Fair Trials International

Alison said that while Leanne would cover finances in her Treasurer's report, it was worth mentioning that the bursary funds were in good shape, largely as the result of the generosity of the Sigrid Rausing Trust, finally obtaining the Peter Duffy grant from the Clifford Chance Trust, and the HRLA music event fundraiser in February 2015. On that note, the Chair added that not only did the fundraiser earn approximately £1000 to contribute to the bursary scheme, it was also a very fun event and something which she hopes continues in 2016.

Membership to the HRLA continues to grow with a total of 153 new members for 2015, the majority of them students. Alison reiterated the need to focus on corporate recruitment for 2016, a membership area that while healthy, has remained relatively static. The Chair thanked HRLA's current corporate members for their ongoing support.

### **3. Report from the Young Lawyers' Committee**

Michael Polak, Chair of the Young Lawyers' Committee (YLC), provided the following report on the Committee's activities for 2015:

#### *Journal*

The inaugural edition of the Young Human Rights Lawyer ((2015) 1 YHRL) was launched on 22 October 2015 at a seminar at the London School of Economics. Hard copies of the journal have been given to the contributors and to various organisations, and the standard of contributions has been repeatedly complimented as being very high.

The YLC wishes to place on record its gratitude to 1 Gray's Inn Square, Church Court Chambers, and Shoaib Khan for sponsoring the journal, to the members of the Executive Committee who acted as the reviewing board (Daniel Denman, Shoaib Khan, Angela Patrick, Anna Tkaczynska, Emma Fenelon, Dervla Simm, and Nicola Jeffrey), and to all members of YLC for taking part in the first sift. Particular thanks are due to Asma Nizami for her work liaising with the printers to ensure that sufficient hard copies could be produced.

#### *European Convention on Human Rights Seminar series*

Three seminars have been held in 2015. The seminar on Article 5 was hosted by University College London in May 2015. The seminar on Article 6 and 7 was, as stated above, hosted by LSE in October 2015 and combined with the launch of the journal. The seminar on Article 8 was hosted by BPP Law School in Holborn in November 2015. All three seminars were very successful. High profile speakers, including Colm O'Conneide, Sir Keir Starmer QC MP, Joel Bennathan QC, the Hon. Sir Michael Burton and Hugh Tomlinson QC, spoke at the events and it was excellent for our delegates to be able to hear them speak, ask them questions and interact with them at the receptions afterwards. The YLC is very grateful for the financial support provided by the EC towards the reception after the Article 6 and 7 seminar, which helped to ensure that the journal launch was properly celebrated.

### *Judicial Review Competition*

The third annual JR competition took place in 2015, with the final being held at Middle Temple Hall in June. The final was judged by a distinguished panel presided over by Arden LJ, sitting with Sir Louis Blom-Cooper QC and Professor Maurice Sunkin. The standard of advocacy was very high, and Arden LJ was particularly complimentary – one of the YLC was told by her clerk afterwards that she had never enjoyed a moot so much! The YLC is very grateful for the assistance of Kate Beattie in drafting the problem, Doughty St Chambers for hosting the preliminary round, and to those members of the EC who reviewed the written submissions and judged the semi-finals.

### *Career days*

Both the London and Leeds days were a great success, and the YLC is very grateful to all, including those members of the EC, who gave their time to speak at one or both of the events.

The feedback received from both events, and the Leeds event in particular, indicates that students gain a lot out of attending and being inspired by experienced human rights practitioners.

The full YLC report is available on the HRLA website.

Michael also put to the AGM a motion to increase the number of members on the Young Lawyers' Committee from 8 members to 10. Members present at the AGM voted and agreed the motion.

## **4. Accounts – Treasurer's Report**

Leanne Targett Parker, the HRLA Treasurer since 2010, provided the following annual report:

### Bank Account

Both accounts (current account and bursary savings account) are fully up to date and functioning without any issues.

The balances of the accounts as at 30.11.2015 are as follows:

- Current Account	£ 15,907
- Bursary Savings Account	£ 7,752

### Administration

Willow Oddie is the HRLA administrator and has been since June 2012. Due to her length of service and excellent work Willow was awarded a pay increase from £10,000pa to £11,000pa backdated in July 2015 to April 2015. Therefore, the administration services are now £916.66pm.

### Membership

Corporate membership has increased from 2013/2014 and this is due to Willow chasing the existing/previous corporate members. The HRLA must aim to ensure

that not only do the existing members continue to pay their annual membership but it aims to increase the membership in 2015/2016.

Membership for individuals (under and over 5 years) has remained relatively static. Any reduction could be attributed to the fact that a reconciliation has been undertaken with regards to individual members not paying their membership if their firm or chambers was paying a corporate membership.

#### Bursary

The Bursary account has received significant donations during the relevant period (2014/2015) as follows:

i) The Norman Trust	£ 500.00
ii) The Peter Duffy Memorial Trust (Clifford Chance)	£ 3,000.00
iii) The Sigrid Rausing Trust (SRT)	£15,000.00
iv) Hogan Lovells	£ 750.00
Total	<u>£19,250.00</u>

All donations are ring-fenced specifically for the Bursary Fund however, only the SRT donation has additional conditions such as when the fund should be used i.e. within 2015. However, due to one internship not being taken up (due to retaking of Bar exams) one bursary was not awarded in that period and therefore there was a surplus. An application was made to the SRT to carry this amount over into 2016 and this was granted.

The Bursary awarded 7 bursaries in 2014/2015 as follows:

i) Fatima Jama (winner of the Peter Duffy Award)	£ 3,000.00
ii) Aphra Bruce-Jones	£ 500.00
iii) Nathan Adams	£ 1,500.00
iv) Oliver Persey	£ 1,500.00
v) Anushka Kanesu	£ 500.00
vi) Michaela Stephenson	£ 1,500.00
vii) Olivia Rosenstrom	£ 1,500.00
Total	<u>£10,000.00</u>

Therefore, the balance of the Bursary savings account is £7,752.35, which includes £2.35 interest and requires a transfer from the current account of £1,500 for the bursary not awarded. This will be undertaken when the accounts for December 2015 to February 2016 are completed.

Despite the current healthy position of the bursary account, it is imperative that the HRLA focuses on raising further funds through events and/or donations. Fortunately, the remaining donations (save for the SRT donation) are not time limited however I would advise that it would be good practice to continue to raise funds and always have some fall back position if there are future years where donations are few and/or of low value.

#### Accounts

All of the accounts are up to date and the bank accounts have been balanced as at 30 November 2015. I have provided the following documents with this report:

- Profit & Loss account; and
- Comparison account for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.

Leanne reiterated that if anyone required additional information, not addressed in these reports, to please contact her and she would be happy to answer any other questions/queries.

Leanne's full report is available on the HRLA website.

## **5. Election of the Executive Committee Officers**

As the officer position for the Executive Committee were not contested, the 2016 HRLA Executive Committee is as announced:

### **President**

Lord Lester of Herne Hill

### **Chair**

Eeva Heikkila 9 Bedford Row

### **Vice Chair**

Emma Fenelon One Crown Office Row

### **Treasurer**

Leanne Targett Parker 10 Kings Bench Walk

### **Secretary**

Anna Tkaczynska Arden Chambers

### **Bursary Officer**

Paul Dillane UKLGIG

### **Executive Committee Members**

Brendan McGurk	Monckton Chambers
Nicola Jeffery	Ministry of Justice
Alex Cisneros	Bar Council
Jessica Bernstein	One Garden Court
Kate Beattie	One Crown Office Row
Shoaib M Khan	S&S Immigration
Dervla Simm	Hogan Lovells International LLP
Amanda Walker	Goldsmith Chambers
Tom Tabori	39 Essex Street Chambers
Alison Gerry	Doughty Street Chambers
Daniel Denman	Ministry of Justice (Co-opted)
Angela Patrick	Justice (Co-opted)
James Welch	Liberty (Co-opted)



Paul Dillane suggested co-opting a member of Amnesty onto the Executive Committee—those present at the AGM were in agreement. Sarah O’Grady, who was in attendance and also a representative of Amnesty, offered to be a point of contact until an appropriate candidate was confirmed. As Sarah Smith is no longer with the Law Society and therefore no longer their co-opted representative, Alex Cisneros offered to liaise with them in order to find a suitable replacement.

Alison Gerry, who decided to stand down as Chair earlier in 2015, thanked everyone on both the Executive and Young Lawyers’ Committees for their hard work, and gave particularly thanks to Leanne in her capacity as Treasurer and Willow Oddie for her work in the smooth running of all HRLA operations.

## **6. Election of the Young Lawyers’ Committee members**

The following candidates were elected onto the 2016 Young Lawyer’s Committee:

Asma Nizami  
Ayla Prentice  
Caterina Franchi  
Chetna Varia  
Chucks Golding  
Jeremy Bloom  
Matthew Allan  
Michael Polak  
Oliver Carter  
William Horwood

The Chair called the 2015 AGM to a close.