

SPTL Annual Conference 1998



Hulme Hall

The theme of the Society for Public Teachers of Law's conference this year, which is taking place during 8–11 September at Hulme Hall, University of Manchester, is 'Human Rights and Legal Traditions'.

The plenary sessions on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning will include contributions by the speakers listed below:

Lord Williams of Mostyn: *Human rights brought home*; Dr Joseph Jaconelli, University of Manchester: *Human rights brought home – an alternative perspective*; Professor Andrew von Hirsch, Institute of Criminology, Cambridge: *Television surveillance and privacy in public space*; Professor Shahin Sardar Ali, University of Peshawar: *Islam and human rights*; Mrs Justice Hale: *Children are humans too*; Professor Katherine O'Donovan, Queen Mary & Westfield College, London: *Engendering rights within legal traditions*; Professor Ian Kennedy, University College, London: *Human rights in the curriculum*.

In addition to the plenary sessions, a wide number of specialist subject sections are meeting. The following groups meet on Tuesday and Wednesday:

- Contract & commercial law;
- Criminal justice;
- Environmental law;
- EC law;
- Family law;
- Jurisprudence;
- Labour law;

- Media law;
- Medical law;
- Practice, the profession and ethics;
- Property and trusts; and
- Tort.

While the following groups meet on Thursday and Friday:

- Company law;
- Comparative public law;
- Comparative private law;
- Competition law;
- Consumer law;
- Intellectual property law;
- Legal history;
- Maritime law;
- Public law; and
- Restitution.

The programme for the subject section groups is a very detailed one and, in a brief review, it is only possible to pick out a few contributions. Labour Law contains a number of topical contributions, including material on the proposals in the recent White Paper *Fairness at Work*, and a contribution from Stephanie Palmer (Cambridge) which deals with the implications of the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Further human rights issues will be discussed in the Criminal Justice group, where Professor Tony Smith (Cambridge)

will speak on *The Human Rights Act in action*. The theme will be developed by Steve Uglow (Kent – 'Article 8 and surveillance'), Sybil Sharpe (de Montfort – *Article 6 and disclosure*) and Professor Andrew Ashworth (Oxford – *Article 6 and fairness of trials*).

The EC law sessions include two contributions on state liability – *Thinking the unthinkable? State liability for judicial act after Factortame III* from Helen Toner (Oxford) and 'The complementary relationship between enforcement procedures of Articles 169/171 ECT and the state liability principle' from Annie Bonnie (Exeter). In a further EC contribution Peter Cullen, from Edinburgh, poses the question '*Controlling Europol: mission impossible?*'

Christine Piper (Brunel) asks '*How do you define a family lawyer?*', and a number of other Family law contributors also ask questions which reflect social policy issues. Examples include May Hibbs (Staffordshire) with *The weight attached by the affianced to their perception of the legal consequences of marriage*, and Katherine Wright (Sheffield) on *Negotiating marital divorce: solicitor and working class divorce*.

A strong company law offering includes The Hon Mrs Justice Mary Arden on *Company law initiatives and the Law Commission* and Diana Faber on *Reforming partnership law*. Paul Davies (LSE) assesses *Corporate governance: the future developments in EC law*.

This is a very brief summary of a few contributions in what is a very full programme. For further information about the conference contact Shirley Tiffany, SPTL Conference Co-ordinator, Faculty of Law, University of Manchester M13 9PL (Tel: 0161 275 7556; Email: shirley.tiffany@man.ac.uk). ☎

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 8 September

10.00am – 5.30pm Registration for SPTL conference, – Hulme Hall
 11.00am – 100pm CHÜLS – Hulme Hall Chapel
 2.00pm – 5.30 pm Specialist subject section meetings – Hulme and St Gabriel's Halls

Evening

Whitworth Art Gallery followed by dinner at Hulme Hall

Wednesday 9 September

9.00am – 12.00pm specialist subject section meetings – Hulme and St Gabriel's Halls
 12.00pm – 12.30 pm Presidential address – Hulme Hall
 12.30pm – 2.00pm Lunch
 2.00pm – 3.00pm Plenary session I – Hulme Hall
 3.30pm – 4.30 pm Plenary session II – Hulme Hall
 4.45pm – 6.15pm Panels and workshops Hulme Hall and Manchester Metropolitan University

Evening

Butterworths reception and buffet supper – Whitworth Hall
 Late night entertainment sponsored by Cavendish Publications Ltd

Thursday 10 September

9.00am – 10.30am Panels and Workshops Hulme Hall and Manchester Metropolitan University
 11.00 – 12.00am Plenary session III – Hulme Hall
 12.00pm – 1.00pm Plenary session IV – Hulme Hall
 1.00pm – 2.30pm Lunch
 2.30pm – 5.30pm Specialist subject section meetings Hulme and St Gabriel's Halls
 4.00pm SPTL Council meeting – Hulme Hall Chapel

Evening

Annual dinner sponsored by Sweet & Maxwell Ltd – Manchester Town Hall

Friday 11 September

9.00am – 12.00pm Specialist subject section meetings – Hulme and St Gabriel's Halls
 12.00 Annual general meeting – Hulme Hall Chapel
 1.00 Lunch (if booked)

Julian Harris

Senior Information Officer, IALS