

Speakers and presenters

The Legal Empowerment Conference

How does PLE advance a culture of civil and social justice?

10 February 2010 at Inmarsat Global, London

Lord Bach

Willy Bach was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice on 6 October 2008, where his responsibilities include departmental business in the Lords, EU and international, Supreme Court, and legal aid.

He previously served as a Minister in the Whips' office, the former Lord Chancellor's Department, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

He was raised to the peerage as Baron Bach, of Lutterworth in the County of Leicestershire in 1998.

Lord Bach is married, with three children, and lives in Lutterworth. His interests include watching cricket and football (he is a Leicester City fan).

Sir Henry Brooke

Sir Henry Brooke is Chair of Plenet's Steering Committee and Chair of the Civil Mediation Council. He writes and lectures extensively on current developments in civil and commercial mediation and was a member of the Public Legal Education and Support Task Force.

Chair of The Law Commission from 1993 to 1995, Sir Henry was promoted to become a Lord Justice of Appeal in 1996. He was the judge in charge of the modernisation of the English law courts from 2001 to 2004, and Vice President of the Court of Appeal (Civil Division) from 2003 to 2006.

Dr Nigel Balmer

Nigel Balmer joined the Legal Services Research Centre in 2001 following the completion of his doctorate. An expert in statistics and research methodology, he brings this expertise to bear on a broad range of projects in empirical legal studies, most notably the English and Welsh Civil and Social Justice Survey. His research interests span statistics and research methods, decision-making and risk, civil and criminal justice, issues around diversity and representation, social epidemiology, social policy and the public experience of the law.

Nigel is affiliated to the Centre for Empirical Legal Studies at the Faculty of Laws, University College London and is a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society. He has worked as an advisor on legal need research programmes in Australia and has been invited to present his work worldwide (including Japan, Taiwan, Canada and Australia).

Outside the LSRC, he has also worked on large scale research projects on diversity and fairness in the jury system (for the Ministry of Justice), diversity in tribunals (for the Department for Constitutional Affairs) and judicial appointments (for the Commission for Judicial Appointments). He has also published widely in the field of sports psychology.

Julie Bishop

Julie Bishop has been the Director of the Law Centres Federation since the beginning of 2008. Prior to that she held the post of Director of the National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) in Australia for over 5 years.

Julie worked with community legal centres and NACLC for 15 years in a number of roles before taking up the Director's post.

She worked in Central America in the mid-eighties for two years after resigning her position at Australia's largest Telco. Her professional training is in IT, but in a younger incarnation she taught Philosophy at the University of Sydney.

Roisin Cavanagh

Roisin is the Poverty and Human Rights Officer at The British Institute of Human Rights, having joined BIHR in February 2007. She initially led BIHR's work on building the capacity of civil society organisations to understand and use human rights in their work. She currently manages the Poverty and Human Rights project, a 2 year project which aims to help people and communities in London experiencing poverty to use human rights to challenge their situation.

Prior to coming to BIHR, Roisin managed the UK-wide Refugee Week education project Global Communities at the Refugee Council, which aimed to provide educational resources and training to teachers, educational professionals and young people around the UK on global migration issues, with the aim of reducing discrimination towards those seeking sanctuary in the UK.

Before moving to London, Roisin lived and worked in Brighton where she undertook roles providing practical and emotional support and advocacy to young people experiencing poverty and other forms of social exclusion.

Before embarking on these roles, she studied an MA in Gender & Development at the Institute of Development Studies - gaining a wide knowledge base of social and economic development, the gender implications of poverty and participatory methodology within a community development context.

Ruth Cohen

Currently the Programmes Manager of Corporate Partnerships at the Citizenship Foundation, Ruth began her working life as a youth worker and has been working in the field of school-based employee volunteering since 2003.

She manages the Paying for It (economic citizenship) and Lawyers in Schools (legal education) programmes, as well as other employee volunteering initiatives and new programmes.

Martin Curtis

Martin Curtis is one of two Heads of Projects at the legal pro bono charity, LawWorks. Martin has a background as a practising solicitor, having trained with Herbert Smith, then working with Addleshaw Goddard for several years.

Martin has been at LawWorks since 2007 and manages several projects including legal advice clinics, students and law schools, mediation, and training. He has also been involved in a pilot PLE project aimed at working with advice agencies and partnering them with volunteer lawyers to provide the relevant training.

Howard Gannaway

Howard is a Research Fellow in Financial Education, with the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE). NIACE is the national charity responsible for advocacy for adult learning. Its 700 members include a large number of colleges and universities, together with voluntary organisations and others with an interest in adult learning.

Howard is responsible for developing NIACE strategy on Financial Learning for adults, for research into the current state of activity in the UK and for the development of programmes for further research and development.

His particular interests include developing a wide-ranging definition of Financial Learning, integrating it into the wider discipline of Economics and encompassing not only aspects of personal finance to do with consumption and savings but also financial knowledge and skills associated with employment, wealth creation and entrepreneurship. He has led a number of pieces of research funded by Government and the voluntary sector and is also responsible for the NIACE's flagship financial learning website, Money Matters to Me.

In recent years he has also led NIACE's work on Public Legal Education, contributing a discussion paper and two pieces of research involving expert from various fields of adult learning.

Howard has a degree in Archaeology and Anthropology from King's College Cambridge and is also a qualified teacher. He is a Certified Financial Planner and Fellow of the Institute of Financial Planning. He ran his own fee-based financial planning practice from 1990 to 2004 before joining NIACE.

Dr Theo Gavrielides

Dr Gavrielides became ROTA's Chief Executive in August 2008. Between 2006-8, he was ROTA's Head of Policy while previously he worked as the Human Rights Advisor of the Ministry of Justice. He also worked for the Centre of Human Rights of the London School of Economics as a Research Officer. Dr. Gavrielides is also the founder and Chief Executive of the youth-led social policy think-tank Independent Academic Research Studies (IARS), which aims to empower young people and the youth-led sector to influence policy.

Dr Gavrielides is a qualified lawyer specialising on equality and human rights law, criminal law and EU law. He taught criminal law and common law reasoning and institutions at the University of London, and has acted as a human rights and criminal justice consultant for various Chambers and government bodies.

Dr Gavrielides holds a doctorate from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences and a Masters in Human Rights Law from Nottingham University. He graduated from the National University of Athens with a law degree and practised law at Gavrielides & Co.

Dr Gavrielides has published extensively in academic journals. His book "Restorative Justice theory and practice" has been published by the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control affiliated with the UN (HEUNI).

Gill Hind

Gill worked in a Further Education College for many years and developed a special interest in adult numeracy issues. For five years she was an Education Advisor for the BBC working on programmes for TV, radio and the World Service – everything from the First World War to cooking with Gary Rhodes.

In 1998 Gill moved to the Financial Services Authority and helped set up their Consumer Education Department. Now retired, she has her own consultancy and works on a variety of educational projects in personal finance. She is a Non-Executive Director for NHS SE Essex Primary Care Trust, a member of the Independent Monitoring Board for HMP Chelmsford and is Independent Chair of the Adoption & Fostering Panels for the London Borough of Newham.

James Kenrick

James is Youth Access' Advice Services Development Manager. Before joining Youth Access in 2000, James worked for 10 years as an advice worker in independent advice agencies in London. He is now responsible for leading Youth Access' work to develop the quality and quantity of youth advice services nationally. An expert on young people's needs for advice, James has written publications on the subject including Rights to Access: meeting young people's needs for advice, and Locked Out: The prevalence and impact of housing and homelessness problems amongst young people and the impact of good advice.

James represents the youth advice sector on a number of national fora, including the National Youth Homelessness Scheme Stakeholders' Group, the Civil & Social Justice Survey Steering Group and the Financial Services Authority's Young Adults Advisory Group. James is also Chair of the London Youth Advice Forum and has led Youth Access' recent work on monitoring the outcomes of youth advice work.

Karen Kirkwood

Karen is the Artistic Director of Theatre ADAD. After graduating from Rose Bruford College with a degree in Community Theatre Arts, Karen began a career as an actor, director, writer and workshop leader. Karen has co-developed projects for young people on drugs, bullying, domestic violence, gang culture, eating disorders, homelessness, homophobia and racism, to name but a few!

Karen has also created specific, conference and training work for adults on issues such as elder abuse, dementia and domestic violence. She facilitates workshops with working professionals, parents, older people, prisoners and young people, in mainstream education, Pupil Referral Units and in YOI's.

Myles Kunzli

A Development Consultant with Law Centres Federation, Myles has a background in the Australian legal aid system having managed a Law Centre and as a PLE coordinator and development worker.

Before joining LCF in 2008 he worked in organisational development with the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture and Peace Corps Mauritania. Myles has a Masters in International & Community Development and is a qualified teacher and social worker.

Sarah McCoubrey

Sarah is the Executive Director of the Ontario Justice Education Network. After 10 years of experience as a staff member, as a volunteer, and on the Board of Directors of education related non-profits, Sarah subsequently pursued a career in law. She clerked for the Nunavut Court of Justice where she developed and delivered a law course to students at Iqaluit High School. Her legal education and professional development focused on Education law, including the development of a supplemental unit taught in teacher education programs to address Charter rights in the classroom. Sarah practiced Education law in Ontario with the firm of Shibley Righton, LLP in Toronto.

Most recently, Sarah completed her Master's in Education from OISE. She has written and spoken on issues of education at a number of conferences in both the legal and the education fields. She joined OJEN as its Executive Director in 2005 and is now combining these various experiences and education to advance justice education in Ontario.

Lewis Parle

Lewis is IARS' Deputy Director. He develops and manages its youth-led projects and team of project officers. He has been with IARS since December 2006 as a volunteer, consultant and now full-time employee and has worked on a number of youth-led projects and publications including: a research project commissioned by Plenet, Measuring Young People's Legal Education, the homophobic bullying and human rights project, The Equality and Human Rights Commission funded research project on the community cohesion dimension of human rights and IARS' youth-led policy journal Youth Voice. He is also developing IARS' training and skills development programme focusing on youth-led research and improving young people's legal capability.

He was called to the bar in 2009 after studying at the Inns of Court School of Law and having completed the Graduate Diploma in Law at BPP Law school in 2007 with a scholarship from the Honourable Society of Middle Temple. He graduated with BA(Hons) in History from the University of Liverpool in 2005 studying the economic and social history and completed a Masters in Historical and Sociological Research from the University of Liverpool in 2006. Lewis is also a volunteer legal representative for the Free Representation Unit.

Andrew Phillips (Lord Phillips of Sudbury) OBE

Lord Phillips has been President of the Citizenship Foundation since retiring as Chair in October 2000, a post which he held since setting up the organisation in 1989. He qualified as a

solicitor in 1964, and in 1970 founded Bates, Wells & Braithwaite, London, remaining Senior Partner until 1998 and continuing today as a partner.

In 1971, Lord Phillips co-founded the Legal Action Group. He is President of the Solicitors' Pro Bono Group which he co-founded in 1996. He is member of the Lord Chancellors Advisory Committee on Legal Aid. He has been a working Life Peer (Liberal Democrat) since 1998.

John Seargeant

John Seargeant is a researcher/evaluator, policy analyst, trainer, and project manager, with a special interest in the development of high quality research and evaluation and in advice and legal services development overall.

As a Senior Fellow at Policy Studies Institute John contributed to several national studies on the development of the Community Legal Service in England and Wales. As a consultant he has undertaken research commissions, project evaluations and development plans for third sector organisations including Advice Service Alliance, Shelter, Mind, Age Concern/HtA, and CAB. He has also written widely on service development and quality issues in the legal and advice sectors. Recently he has been working to support the development of Public Legal Education and was Secretary to the PLEAS Task Force. John is currently contributing to several developments in research and evaluation for the Public Legal Education Network (Plenet) hosted by Advice Services Alliance.

John began his career as a CAB adviser and Manager, before moving to national Citizens' Advice to edit and write guidance materials for advisers. At CitA he also researched, wrote and marketed the Citizens' Advice Basic Information Pack that formed the basis of the online service now known as Adviceguide. John later moved on to senior management positions in charitable organisations, including Age Concern, and was research and policy director for a national regeneration network. In the early 1990s he consolidated his research experience with an MSc in Research Methods at the University of Surrey.

John is the founder of John Seargeant Associates, a research and consultancy network specialising in research, evaluation, management support, and training in the third and public sectors.

Clare Shirtcliff

Clare Shirtcliff works in the advice sector as an adviser, evaluator, researcher, trainer and writer. She has worked with individual advice agencies as well as for the Law Centres Federation, Citizens Advice, Advice Services Alliance and Advice UK. She has taught in Adult & Community Education and tried to devise classes that improved her students' language skills as well as delivered public legal education aimed at helping new arrivals find their way around UK society.

Clare has devised and delivered law related classes for women returning to education for the Workers' Educational Association. She has written public legal information materials for the Advicenow website including 'Claiming Compensation', 'How to get good asylum advice' and 'Do I need a lawyer?' She was the independent evaluator for the Everyone is Equal Project.

Carol Taylor

Carol Taylor (CertEd., BEd (Hons), PG Adv Dip, MEd) is the Operational Director for the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE). She has 30 years' experience of teaching and managing basic skills with learners of all ages. Carol has been a primary and secondary teacher, worked in HE and FE, and in local authorities. She was formerly an adviser for Travellers and for Family Literacy, head of outreach at an FE College and a Community Tutor for Derbyshire's Adult Community Education Service.

In 1997 Carol was appointed Director of *Read On Write Away!*, a newly created literacy organisation in Derbyshire. This developed into a nationally recognised example of partnership working, and community-focused basic skills, winning awards and leading on literacy, language and numeracy in the region.

In 2004 she became the Deputy Director at the Basic Skills Agency; in 2006 she became the Joint Director of the BSA, and later, as the Director of the BSA, managed it through its closure and its merger with NIACE. Carol is now the Operational Director at NIACE.

Carol has served on a number of national bodies concerned with family literacy, language and numeracy and community focused basic skills and has contributed to a range of publications particularly on family and community literacy.

Flora Williams

Flora Williams is the Equality and Diversity Manager at Law Centres Federation. She has worked in the advice sector in numerous positions since 1989. She co-ordinated an EU funded PLE project in 2009 and also works as the Discrimination workstream co-ordinator on the BLF funded, cross sector initiative project known as Working Together for Advice.