



**Scottish University Law Clinic Network  
2015 Conference  
Pushing the boundaries of Law Clinic Activity**

*Hosted at the University of Aberdeen,  
with thanks to the Law Society of Scotland for its support*



**3 June 2015**

**10:30 Registration (Old Senate Room)**

**11.00 Welcome from SULCN**

*then*

**Plenary session (Chair: Malcolm Combe, University of Aberdeen)**

**How to push the boundaries**

**Steven Budlender** and **Gilbert Marcus** (via Skype), discussing their research, 'A Strategic Evaluation of Public Interest Litigation in South Africa';

*Introductory sessions will then follow from:*

**Lindsey Reynolds**, Senior Solicitor at the Equality and Human Rights Commission, who will provide an overview of the EHRC's role and legal powers and how it assesses which cases to take forward as raising strategic issues; and

**Julie Price**, Head of the Pro Bono Unit, Cardiff Law School, will introduce the clinical activities at Cardiff, with a particular focus on the Cardiff Innocence Project, highlighting a noteworthy success (explained below) and a few ongoing hurdles

**12.15 Parallel Session 1**

**Workshop A – Pushing the boundaries with the Equality Act 2010 (NK11)**

**Lindsey Reynolds** leads a workshop, looking at where and when Equality Act arguments might arise, how to identify them and how to pursue them. Reference will be made to the EHRC's legal powers and how they have been used in a range of cases.

**Workshop B – Pushing the boundaries with mediation (NK15)**

**Charlie Irvine**, Senior Teaching Fellow at the University of Strathclyde and the Director of its Mediation Clinic will chair a session on the potential for law clinics, drawing particularly on the small claims project at Glasgow Sheriff Court. Charlie will be joined by **Linda Paterson** and **Aileen Riddell** of the Aberdeen-based Mediation Partnership, who have experience in areas including workplace, neighbour and community, victim/offender, sheriff court, family and legal complaints.

**Workshop C – Law Clinics: What is Possible? (NK19)**

This session, chaired by **Donald Nicolson OBE**, University of Strathclyde, provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and experience in setting up and running law clinics. *Representation or advice only? Voluntary or curricular? Of a particular relevance to today's theme, client-based work or community projects?* These questions and more will be discussed by representatives from the various law clinics. This session is particularly aimed at those looking at creating a law clinic, so issues like funding, insurance and staffing will also be discussed.

**13:30 Lunch**



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14.30 **Parallel Session 2**

**Workshop D – Innocence Projects: Challenges, Opportunities and More Challenges (NK11)**

**Julie Price** leads an interactive session, drawing on her successes and experiences at Cardiff. Cardiff were the first university innocence project in the UK to successfully have a case referred to the Court of Appeal after submission to the Criminal Cases Review Commission and on 9 December scored a notable success as part of a team that overturned a conviction for murder.

**Workshop E – Pushing the Boundaries with litigation: reflections on a housing law test case, and what practical lessons for law clinics (NK15)**

**Douglas Bain**, Teaching Fellow at the University of Aberdeen, chairs a session about an important private rented sector case, *Cross v Aberdeen Property Leasing* 2014 SLT (Sh Ct) 46. This will begin as a case study on illegal tenancy premiums, with input from **David Ridley**, a volunteer at Aberdeen Law Project, who assisted the pursuer. Other clinics with experience in raising similar strategic cases, or with an interest in doing so, are invited to participate here.

**Workshop F – Pushing the boundaries with education: Street Law (NK19)**

**Rob Marrs** of the Law Society of Scotland leads a “how to” session about public legal education.

16.00 **Plenary session (Chair: Jacqueline Kinghan, University of Edinburgh)**

**Integrating impact work into law clinics**

**Rachel Knowles**, Centre for Access to Justice solicitor at UCL (via Skype) will discuss her experience of consultation responses, FOI requests and strategic litigation.

**Donald Nicolson** will bring insight from a recent paper on “retail” versus “wholesale” legal services. Further thoughts will then be provided by the branches of the Scottish profession, with contributions from **Ross Anderson**, advocate at Ampersand Stables, on behalf of the **Free Legal Services Unit** of the Scottish Bar, and **Christine McLintock**, Vice-President of the Law Society of Scotland, offering their insights and reflections on the day.

17.15 **Closing comments and thanks**

**Lindsay McCormick**, Student Director of the Aberdeen Law Project, and **Malcolm Combe** will round off proceedings

17:30 Drinks reception and close (Old Senate Room)

*Students and unwaged delegates can attend for free. Other delegates may attend for a fee of £30. Please email [events@abdnlawproject.com](mailto:events@abdnlawproject.com) to register your interest in attending. In that email, please indicate your preferred parallel sessions, to allow the chair of those sessions a chance to plan activities accordingly.*

*The organisers of the conference may need to change content on the day. Such changes will be advertised in advance if possible*