

# Housing Law Conference 2012

Young people, homelessness  
and housing



*Royal College of Surgeons  
London  
11 December 2012*

# Introduction

**In March 2012 Centrepont estimated that the numbers of young people in hostels or sleeping rough in England could be around 60,000. With housing benefit cuts and more than a million young people unemployed, this figure is only likely to rise. The issue of young people and housing is therefore of paramount importance. The 2012 HLPAs Conference seeks to provide as much practical advice and assistance as possible to enable attendees to tackle many of the problems faced by young people including homelessness, anti social behaviour and capacity.**

We will begin the day with a panel session investigating the issues from a number of different points of view and are pleased to be welcoming many distinguished names to the table. Speakers will include:

**Jon Snow** the presenter of Britain's award winning Channel 4 News and in depth one-hour nightly news and current affairs programme.

**Emma Loach** Joint Head of Documentaries at CTVC and director and producer of *Fix My Family* for BBC2.

**Diane Astin** a solicitor specialising in housing law with many years' experience in private practice and in the voluntary sector.

**Shauneen Lambe** Executive Director, Just for Kids Law.

**Ian Brady** Deputy Director, Troubled Families Team, Department for Communities and Local Government.

**Jan Luba QC** Garden Court Chambers, who will round off the day with his annual perspective on the problems and challenges that housing lawyers will confront in 2013.

The conference will include seminars on:

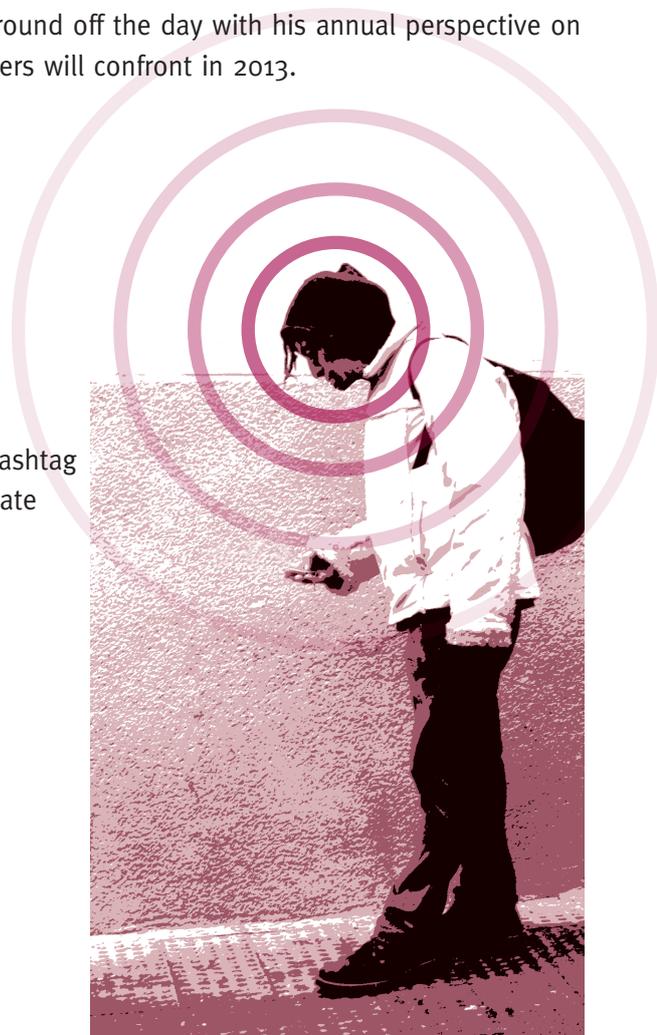
- Legal aid
- The Localism Act
- Capacity
- Anti-social behaviour
- Homelessness

Delegates will have the opportunity to submit questions to the panel in advance. A Twitter #hashtag will be set up for the conference where up to date information will be posted.

We hope that you will be able to join us.

**Bar Standards Board Accreditation: 6 hours**

**Law Society Accreditation: 6 hours**



# Further details

The conference is aimed at all those involved in practising housing law, whether acting for tenants and occupiers of housing or local authorities and social or private landlords. It is relevant to solicitors, barristers, paralegals and advisers in the voluntary, public and private sectors, together with academics and policy workers in the housing and social welfare fields.

The conference is an accredited course for both solicitors and barristers and is designed to offer information and training for all levels of practitioner.

## Venue

The conference will take place at the Royal College of Surgeons, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE ([www.rcseng.ac.uk](http://www.rcseng.ac.uk)). A location map and travel information will be sent with acknowledgement of registration.

## Registration

Attendance at the conference is limited and it is therefore recommended that places are reserved as soon as possible by returning the attached delegate registration form or by registering on-line at [www.profbriefings.co.uk/hlc2012](http://www.profbriefings.co.uk/hlc2012). The registration fees, inclusive of conference documentation, lunch and refreshments, are as follows:

<b>HLPAs members</b>	<b>£230.00</b>
<b>Non-members</b>	<b>£270.00</b>
<b>HLPAs members voluntary sector</b>	<b>£170.00</b>
<b>Non-members voluntary sector</b>	<b>£185.00</b>
<b>Pupils and trainee solicitors</b> (subject to availability)	<b>£120.00</b>

*Please note that the voluntary sector fee is intended for organisations such as Law Centres and advice centres.*

In the event of cancellations notified in writing before 30 November 2012 a 20% administration charge will be applicable. The registration fee must be paid in full in respect of cancellations received after 30 November 2012. Please note that cancellations must be confirmed in writing and acknowledged by the conference administrators or delegates will remain liable for the full registration fee. Substitutions can be made at any time but should be confirmed in writing.

## Administration

The conference administration is being undertaken by:

Professional Briefings  
1 St Mary's Courtyard  
Church Street  
Ware  
Hertfordshire  
SG12 9EF

Telephone: 01920 487672

Fax: 01920 462730

Email: [bookings@profbriefings.co.uk](mailto:bookings@profbriefings.co.uk)

# Programme

09.30 Registration and refreshments

10.00 Welcome and introduction

**Giles Peaker**

*Chair, Housing Law Practitioners' Association*

10.05 Introduction to Panel Discussion

**Jon Snow**

*Journalist and Broadcaster*

10.20 Panel Discussion on Youth, Homelessness and Housing, followed by questions

Chair:

**Jon Snow**

*Journalist and Broadcaster*

**Excerpt from BBC2 documentary Fix My Family**

Speakers:

**Emma Loach**

*Joint Head of Documentaries at CTVC and Director and Producer of Fix My Family*

**Diane Astin**

*Solicitor, Trainer and Lecturer in Housing Law*

**Shauneen Lambe**

*Executive Director, Just for Kids Law*

**Ian Brady**

*Deputy Director, Troubled Families Team, Department for Communities and Local Government*

11.20 Refreshments

11.50 Panel Discussion (continued)

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Parallel Seminars Session 1

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## Seminar 1: Legal Aid

Speakers:

**Carol Storer**

*Director, Legal Aid Practitioners Group*

**Ole Hansen**

*Partner, Hansen Palomares Solicitors*

*It is no secret that the last few years have been something of a nightmare for legal aid lawyers. The introduction of fixed fees, endless contract bidding rounds and now the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012. Understandably we are all concerned about how these changes will affect us. We remain committed to assisting clients in housing who are in receipt of legal aid but fear that with the implementation of changes brought about by LASPO this task will become increasingly difficult. This seminar is designed to help ease our anxieties by guiding us through the changes and giving us practical advice about surviving them.*

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## Seminar 2: The Localism Act

Speakers:

**Robert Latham**

*Barrister, Doughy Street Chambers*

**Rosemary Westbrook**

*Director for Housing and Adult Social Care, London Borough of Camden*

*This session will focus on the greater flexibility which the legislation now affords to social landlords, in particular as regards security of tenure and the discharge of homelessness duties. It will include an overview of the legislative changes, and then explore how the Act is being implemented by different local housing authorities and housing associations within London and elsewhere.*

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## Seminar 3: Capacity

Speakers:

**Brid Breathnach and Susan Hardie**

*Solicitors, Office of the Official Solicitor to the Supreme Court*

**Paul Ridge**

*Head of Housing Team, Bindmans LLP*

*A seminar addressing the thorny problem of housing problems for people who lack mental capacity and how the Court of Protection (COP) can assist in resolving housing issues, including those faced by young people. This can often be for those with mental health problems but also, for example, in the context of dementia, Alzheimer's and in the context of substance abuse.*

*What is mental capacity?*

- *What difference does it make to proceedings in the court? How can the COP help?*
- *How can it help your client? What do you do if you are the landlord?*
- *Capacity to hold a tenancy including young people*
- *How do you deal with the problems of: tenant's hoarding; waste and allegations of dirty and filthy properties; possession proceedings and nuisance; access problems e.g. gas inspection, repairs*

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## Seminar 4: Anti-Social Behaviour

Speakers:

**Simon Foster**

*Head of Housing Team, Tyndallwoods*

**Bryan McGuire QC**

*Barrister, Cornerstone Barristers*

*This seminar will address recent developments in ASB possession hearings, focusing on vulnerable tenants and those with mental health problems as well as common ASB issues faced by young people. It will discuss:*

- *Recent developments in case law*
- *What community care services can be utilised to support tenants?*
- *How the Equality Act can be used*

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## Seminar 5: Homelessness

Speakers:

**Adrian Berry**

*Barrister, Garden Court Chambers*

**Rachel Knowles**

*Education and Community Care Solicitor, Just for Kids Law*

*This seminar will review developments in homelessness law, looking at the legislative changes to eligibility and case law on the right to reside. It will look at homelessness from a young person's perspective, focusing on the interaction between duties of the children service authorities under the Children Act 1989 and the role of local housing departments.*

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15.30 Refreshments

16.00 Parallel Seminars Session 2

(repeat of Session 1 Seminars)

17.30 Closing address

**Jan Luba QC**

*Barrister, Garden Court Chambers*

18.15 Closing remarks

**Giles Peaker**

*Chair, Housing Law Practitioners' Association*

18.20 Close

# Speakers' biographies

## **Diane Astin**

Diane Astin is a solicitor specialising in housing law, with many years' experience in private practice and in the voluntary sector. She was previously director of Public Law Project, a part-time visiting lecturer at Westminster University and London Metropolitan University and was a member of the Law Society Housing Law Committee from 1997 to 2006. Diane regularly trains and lectures in housing law, community care and asylum support for organisations including Legal Action Group, the Law Centres Federation, the Red Cross and the Refugee Council.

## **Adrian Berry**

Adrian Berry is a barrister at Garden Court Chambers, whose work spans a range of inter-related social welfare and human rights based areas of public law. He regularly acts and advises in all areas of homelessness and allocations law concerning matters that are amenable to judicial review and in statutory homelessness appeals in the county court. In particular, he specialises in eligibility issues for migrants, appearing in numerous, reported cases.

## **Ian Brady**

Ian Brady joined the Troubled Families Team as Deputy Director in July 2012. Prior to this he had spent four years at the Department for Education, initially as the Head of the Implementation and Delivery in the Youth Taskforce before moving on to lead on setting up the Office of the Schools Commissioner for the department. Prior to joining the Education Department, Ian worked in the Home Office firstly within the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit which was established in 2003 and later as Deputy Director of the Government's Respect Task Force. Before he joined the Home Office he headed up the rough sleepers team in the Homelessness Directorate at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Prior to joining the civil service he worked in the voluntary sector for several years and was deputy Chief Executive of the National Youth Charity Centre Point.

## **Brid Breathnach**

Brid Breathnach spent 12 years working as a tenancy relations officer in a London local authority before going on to study law and taking up a training contract with Anthony Gold solicitors. On qualification as a solicitor Brid joining the Government Legal Service, initially as a lawyer at the Administrative Court before moving to her current post of Civil Litigation lawyer at the Official Solicitor's Office. The Official Solicitor acts as litigation friend in proceedings where a party lacks capacity, has no one else who can so act and where the Official Solicitor's costs are covered. Brid has responsibility for running her own case load and supervising the work of a number of case managers. A significant percentage of her work involves possession and injunction proceedings brought by social landlords on the grounds of anti-social behaviour. In addition a significant proportion of Brid's caseload involves claims by or against public bodies in the housing, community care and mental health fields.

## **Simon Foster**

Simon Foster qualified as a solicitor in 1985 and has specialised in Housing Law since then. He worked in a Law Centre until 1989. Simon has been Head of the Housing Team at Tyndallwoods since 1989 and a Partner since 1990. He will be joining the Community Law Partnership (CLP) in October 2012. Simon has had experience of or has specialised in a variety of different areas of Housing Law throughout his career including in particular Anti-Social Behaviour related work. He is identified in Chambers and Partners as a notable practitioner.

## **Ole Hansen**

Ole Hansen has been involved with legal aid for more years than he wants to remember as a practitioner, campaigner, lecturer and writer. A former Director of the Legal Action Group and lecturer at South Bank University he is now a partner in Hansen Palomares with LSC contracts in Housing, Community Care and Welfare Benefits.

## **Susan Hardie**

Susan Hardie trained at Bindman and Partners before moving to Hodge Jones and Allen Solicitors to lead their mental health work. Susan then moved to Guile Nicholas solicitors, a niche firm best known for their specialism in mental health and incapacity work, before joining the Official Solicitor's office in 2010. Whilst in private practice Susan gained extensive experience representing mainly mentally disordered clients in Judicial Review matters in the Administrative Court, housing possession and other housing related matters in the County Court, cases brought under the Inherent Jurisdiction and later in the Court of Protection, and providing advice and assistance to other colleagues in cases where there was a mental health element including in family, prison law and criminal matters. She regularly represented clients before the Mental Health Review Tribunal (as was) including clients from Broadmoor, Rampton and Ashworth Hospitals. Susan has acted in numerous reported cases.

## **Rachel Knowles**

Rachel Knowles qualified as a solicitor in 2009. She manages the Education and Community Care law project at *Just for Kids Law*, a charity which provides advice, support and representation to vulnerable young people. Rachel specialises in representing children and young people who require accommodation and support from social services.

## **Shauneen Lambe**

Shauneen Lambe qualified as a criminal barrister in the UK but left the bar to qualify as an attorney in Louisiana representing impoverished defendants facing the death penalty, including children. In 1999 Shauneen helped set up *Reprieve*, the UK human rights charity. In 2006 she set up *Just for Kids Law* in London, an organisation that provides support, advocacy and representation to young people in trouble. In 2010, Shauneen became a World Economic Forum *Young Global Leader*; in 2011 a Shackleton Fellow and in 2012 she was chosen as one of NESTA/The Observer *Britain's New Radicals*.

## **Robert Latham**

Robert Latham is a barrister at Doughty Street specialising in housing law, administrative law and human rights. He has particular experience of the allocation of social housing and the regulation of social landlords. Chambers and Partners record that he "gets right to the heart of the case and knows where to land the punches". He was Legal Aid Barrister of the Year in 2008. He is a former borough councillor. He sits part-time as a chair of the Residential Property Tribunal. Over the past 6 years he has been extensively involved with the Bar Council and HLPAs in opposing the dismantling of civil legal aid. He looks forward to new challenges in 2013.

## **Emma Loach**

Emma Loach is Joint Head of Documentaries at CTVC. For many years she has been an observational documentary film-maker. She joined CTVC in March 2010 to direct and produce *Fix My Family* for BBC2 - a film following life at a unique hostel that looks after homeless families and tries to keep their children out of care. Recently she has executive produced *Ian Brady: Endgames of a Psychopath* which transmitted on C4 on 20 August 2012. Previous films include *The Child Protectors* [BBC1's Panorama], *Having A Baby To Save My Child* [BBC1's Being Mum season],

# Speakers' biographies

*Madeleine Was Here* [C4's Cutting Edge], *Madeleine McCann: One Year On* [ITV] and the *Children Fighting Cancer* series [BBC1].

## Jan Luba QC

Jan Luba QC is a barrister practising from Garden Court Chambers in London. He was called to the Bar in 1980 and in 2000 was made a Queen's Counsel. He specialises in Housing Law with particular emphasis on housing management law, homelessness and housing conditions. Jan has considerable experience as a housing law trainer and has written widely on housing issues in both the legal and housing press. He sits part-time as a Recorder in the Civil Courts and at the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

## Bryan McGuire QC

Bryan McGuire is a barrister at Cornerstone Barristers. He is an experienced litigator whose practice involves advocacy, advice and drafting, often in public law matters, across the full range of work undertaken by adult social services, children's services and housing departments. He often lectures at and chairs seminars on social services, community care and homelessness issues. He was editor in chief of Tolley's *Claims to the Possession of Land* and was an assistant editor on the Damages section of *Halsbury's Laws (4th Edition Re-Issue)*.

## Paul Ridge

Paul Ridge is a solicitor and partner in the Civil Liberties and Social Welfare Law team at Bindmans LLP, the UK's leading Administrative and Public law firm. He specialises in housing and community care and frequently works with the Official Solicitor on behalf of tenants who lack capacity.

## Jon Snow

Jon Snow is the presenter of Britain's award winning Channel 4 News and in depth one-hour nightly news and current affairs programme. His

many awards include the Richard Dimbleby BAFTA award for *Best Factual Contribution to Television* (2005) and Royal Television Society awards for *Journalist of the Year* (2006) and *Presenter of the Year* (2009). He has been a reporter in most of the world's trouble spots, has made several documentary films and chaired many television debates and discussions on a wide range of topics. He is also Chairman of the New Horizon Youth Centre and Deputy Chairman of the Media Trust.

## Carol Storer

In April 2008 Carol Storer became Director of the Legal Aid Practitioners Group. Prior to that Carol was a practising solicitor, moving into legal aid work in 1983 when she worked at a law centre for two years and then moving into private practice. She started working life carrying out a range of subjects and over the years gradually dropped other areas of law to do nothing but housing law and LSC contract management work both in private practice and the not for profit sector. Before moving to LAPG, Carol spent 5 years at Shelter first as an assistant solicitor and then as the manager of the legal team based in London. Carol is a member of the Law Society's Access to Justice Committee and a Board Member of the Legal Action Group and Advice Services Alliance.

## Rosemary Westbrook

Rosemary Westbrook joined the London Borough of Camden as Director of Housing and Adult Social Care in 2012. Prior to that she was Director of Housing at Westminster City Council from 2004. She was Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services at Slough Borough Council and has over 20 years experience in local government. She has also worked for Shelter and Notting Hill Housing Trust. She began her career as a graduate trainee in the Department of Health. She has a degree in sociology and masters degree in urban and regional studies from the University of Sussex.

## About HLPAs

The Housing Law Practitioners' Association was set up to provide a forum for practitioners working in the housing field to share knowledge and information. Membership is open to all those who use housing law for the benefit of the homeless, tenants and other occupiers of housing. Current members include solicitors, barristers, advice workers, independent environmental health officers and other housing specialists.

HLPAs hold regular meetings for its members. These comprise presentations by experienced practitioners on aspects of housing law together with an information exchange session about current issues in housing law practice. In addition to its annual conference, HLPAs arrange a programme of training seminars for members each year on specific topics of housing law at both advanced and introductory level. HLPAs also campaign for the improvement of housing law and procedure for the benefit of occupiers and undertake lobbying to protect the interests of housing law practitioners.

Although the membership is drawn predominantly from practitioners and advisors assisting tenants and occupiers, the conference is an occasion for all sectors of the profession – including those who represent local authorities and social and private landlords – to participate both as delegates and speakers.

For further information, contact:

Housing Law Practitioners' Association  
London City Forum  
Unit 13, 250 City Road  
London EC1V 2PU

Telephone: 020 7505 2231  
Fax: 020 7505 1246  
Email: [Chandra\\_Rao@shelter.org.uk](mailto:Chandra_Rao@shelter.org.uk)  
Website: [www.hlpa.org.uk](http://www.hlpa.org.uk)

# Registration form



## The **Housing Law Conference** 2012

11 December 2012 | Royal College of Surgeons, London

Title (Mr, Ms etc)                      First Name                      Last Name

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Position

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Organisation

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Address for Correspondence

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Postcode

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Telephone                      Fax

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Email

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Specific dietary requirements eg vegetarian (if applicable, please give details below)

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Other needs eg access (if applicable, please give details below)

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How did you hear about this conference? (please give details below)

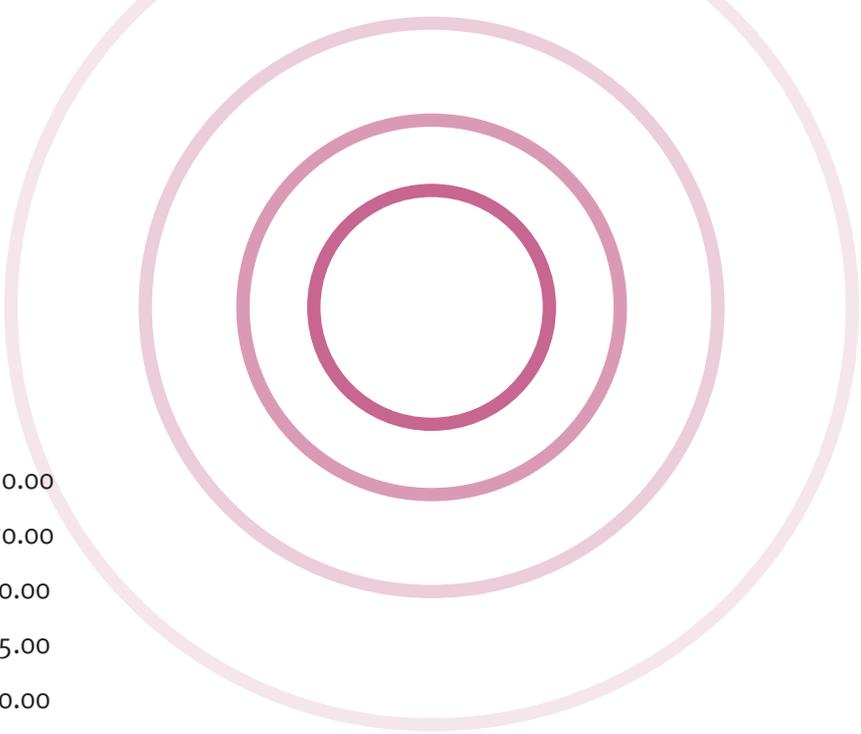
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## Seminars

The conference includes two parallel seminar sessions during the afternoon. You can consequently attend a total of two seminars during the day.

Please mark boxes 1-5 indicating your order of preference for each parallel seminar session. Places will be allocated to seminars in order of receipt of registration forms. Space is limited in each seminar, however, and whilst every effort will be made to allocate delegates to their first choices this cannot be guaranteed.

- Seminar 1**      Legal Aid
- Seminar 2**      The Localism Act
- Seminar 3**      Capacity
- Seminar 4**      Anti-Social Behaviour
- Seminar 5**      Homelessness



## Fees

(please tick appropriate boxes)

- |                          |   |         |
|--------------------------|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HLPAs members   | £230.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-members   | £270.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HLPAs members voluntary sector                                    | £170.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-members voluntary sector                                      | £185.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pupils and trainee solicitors<br><i>(subject to availability)</i> | £120.00 |
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Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return by 30 November 2012 to the following:

### Professional Briefings

1 St Mary's Courtyard  
Church Street  
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