

HOUSING LAW CONFERENCE 2016

THE MARCH OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Royal College of Surgeons | London | 13 December 2016

HOUSING LAW HAS UNDERGONE many changes over the last decade and it faces yet more challenges ahead. The Housing and Planning Act has now been passed, and it brings about a major revolution for tenants and social landowners alike. For large social tenancy providers, it means mass sale of their units as Right to Buy is extended to all social tenancies for the first time. Local authority landlords have to finance this by selling their housing stock as they become vacant to finance the change. It all means less homes available to vulnerable people on a social rent.

As the demand for housing continues to grow, there is a real crisis of affordable housing as more and more people are forced into the private rented sector for their accommodation. Such housing is relatively insecure, expensive and short term and will have an impact on social mobility as children are forced to move homes more often and families are forced to pay higher rents.

In this climate, housing lawyers have to find a way to ensure that the greater protections for the private sector tenant introduced by the Deregulation Act 2015 are enforced and that social landlords live up to their responsibilities for the tenants that remain. These challenges cannot be met with dedication alone. There must be a strategic approach where best practice will have to be found and adopted to ensure efficient justice for our clients. It is a sign of the times that our ability to enforce a right against the landlord, whether social or private, is as important as having the right itself. So join us for the 2016 HLPA Conference to discuss the issues housing lawyers face and find solutions for the new challenges around the corner.

Robert Latham will chair our panel session which convenes leading lawyers, academics, senior policy advisors and Local Government representatives to discuss challenges facing the sector, including the changes imposed by the Housing and Planning Act and how the move away from social tenancies in favour of reliance on private sector tenancies impacts on tenants. The Panel will include Jesse Hohmann (author and lecturer at Queen Mary, University of London) and Rhona Brown (Senior Policy Advisor to London Mayor Sadiq Khan). There will also be a special presentation on using mediation effectively to negotiate a settlement.

An excellent selection of seminars will gear you up for a successful year to come by providing training on current areas of practice, each of which will include 'hot topics' for the year ahead. Full details are given overleaf.

Delegates will have the opportunity to browse the stands of a number of fellow organisations to meet colleagues, discuss casework and pick up those all important giveaways. Our usual 'walk about' lunch will enable delegates to catch up with colleagues. Conference will include a concluding keynote speech from HHJ Jan Luba QC providing us with his observations from the Bench; your perfect precursor to the Christmas season, which opens with the HLPA Christmas social which will follow on after the conclusion of conference.



THE STANDARD RATE REGISTRATION FEES HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED AT THE SAME LEVEL FOR THE SEVENTH YEAR IN SUCCESSION. AN ADDITIONAL 10% DISCOUNT IN THE FEES IS OFFERED FOR HLPA MEMBERS WHO REGISTER BY 18.00 ON 17 NOVEMBER. BOOK EARLY TO ENSURE YOUR PLACE.

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SEMINARS

Homelessness: Eligibility

In the face of Brexit and the challenges posed by Right to Rent provisions, this seminar will discuss the vexed question of eligibility for housing under Part VII and assisting those who fall outside of the Housing Act. Can the Childrens Act or the Care Act provide genuine alternatives? Speakers will include David Cowan.

Illegal eviction and enforcement

The seminar will provide an update on recent case law on illegal eviction, and in particular quantifying such claims. It will also give practical advice on enforcement measures. Speakers will include Ben Reeves.

Disrepair and EPA prosecutions

The seminar will deal with bringing claims for housing disrepair in the County Court and the Environmental Protection Act in the Magistrates Court. Speakers will include Tim Waite.

Making the victory count

Bringing money claims against large landlords and social housing providers is a relatively simple matter in comparison to bringing such a claim against individuals who are renting out one or two properties and have possibly financed their investments with 100% mortgages. In such cases, winning the claim is only half the battle. This seminar will discuss tips for successfully bringing money claims against private landlords and then suggest best practice for how to enforce money judgments (both compensation and costs orders) against private landlords when you are successful. This is a seminar you cannot afford to miss.

Human Rights in private rented sector. Time to talk about Gateways again

A comprehensive update on using Human Rights law post the Supreme Court decision in McDonald v McDonald, including the rights of property guardians, the survival of Weaver, and more. Speakers include Nic Nicol.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

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 accredited by the Bar Council and the Law Society.

REGISTRATION

Further information and online booking is available from:
www.profbriefings.co.uk/hlc2016
or contact Professional Briefings:
london@profbriefings.co.uk
or 01920 487672

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