

EQUALITIES ACT/LEGAL AID

*Wednesday
19 January*

HOUSING AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

*Wednesday
23 March*

POSSESSION AND HOUSING BENEFIT

*Wednesday
18 May*

BRINGING DISREPAIR CLAIMS

*Wednesday
20 July*

HOMELESSNESS AND ALLOCATIONS

*Wednesday
21 September*

HOUSING LAW UPDATE

*Wednesday
16 November*

All meetings will take place from 7.00-9.00pm at the following venue:

Portland Hall
University of Westminster
4 Little Titchfield Street
London, W1W 7UW



The Association was set up to provide a forum for practitioners working in the housing field to share knowledge and information. Current members include solicitors, barristers, advice workers, independent environmental health officers and other housing specialists.

Meetings for members are held every two months (see 2011 programme overleaf). These consist of discussions led by experienced practitioners which cover recent developments in housing law and topics suggested by members. The discussion is followed by an information exchange when members are encouraged to raise queries and points of interest arising from their own practice.

Members will also receive mailings, containing notices of meetings, detailed minutes of previous meetings and circulars from other members. The Association also contributes to the development of housing and legal policy by responding to consultation documents and proposed legislation.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Introduction

Membership of HLPAs is on the basis of a commitment to HLPAs' objectives as set out in the Articles of Association and this Code.

HLPAs' objectives are:

- **To promote, foster and develop** equal access to the legal system.
- **To promote, foster and develop** the rights of homeless persons, tenants and others who receive housing services or are disadvantaged in the provision of housing.
- **To foster** the role of the legal process in the protection of tenants and other residential occupiers.
- **To foster** the role of the legal process in the promotion of higher standards of housing construction, improvement and repair, landlord services to tenants and local authority services to public and private sector tenants, homeless persons and others in need of advice and assistance in housing provision.
- **To promote and develop** expertise in the practice of housing law by education and the exchange of information and knowledge.

HPLA members recognise the need to:

- **provide** a professional service
- **keep** their clients regularly informed
- **proceed** expeditiously with all matters on which they are instructed
- **keep** themselves informed, educated and up to date with current law, practice and procedure in their relevant areas of expertise
- **share** information with other HPLA members
- **ensure** that clients are fully aware of and fully and professionally advised on all costs issues including legal aid
- **ensure** that clients have the opportunity to receive advice on the investment and/or use of damages.

HPLA members recognise that breaches of this Code of Conduct will be deemed to be contrary to the interests of HPLA. Alleged breaches will be dealt with in accordance with Article 3 of the Articles of Association and, if proved, membership may be terminated as set out in that paragraph.

Code of Conduct

1. HPLA members will act in the best interests of clients when advising them and conducting litigation on their behalf provided there is no conflict with the Code of Conduct of the member's professional body or duty to the Court.
2. HPLA members will at all times behave and act in a manner which will uphold the standing and good reputation of housing specialists and HPLA.
3. No HPLA member shall pursue a frivolous claim or issue. However, no HPLA member should refrain from taking or pursuing a claim or issue that s/he believes to have merit.
4. No HPLA member shall make excessive or unnecessary monetary charges to the client. HPLA lawyers and legal advisers will ensure that prospective and existing clients are at all times fully informed, where relevant, of the availability of legal aid.
5. No HPLA member shall personally or through an agent make representations of experience or specialist skills which they do not possess.
6. No HPLA member shall knowingly make any statement, whether in publicity material or otherwise, to a prospective client or to an existing client which may give the client false expectations.
7. No HPLA member shall undertake false, deceptive or misleading advertising.

- 8. No HPLA member shall pay or receive a fee or any other consideration for a client introduction or seek such payment or other consideration.
- 9. No HPLA member shall personally or through a representative directly contact a potential client where there has been no request for such contact save by use of “permitted advertising”. “Permitted advertising” is such advertising as complies with the Code of Practice of the Advertising Standards Authority and the rules of the member’s relevant professional body. For the avoidance of doubt, no HPLA member shall personally, or through a representative, telephone or attend at private dwellings in order to obtain potential clients. This section does not apply to HPLA members working in the not for profit sector.
- 10. No HPLA member shall accept a referral where any condition attached to the referral seeks to compromise the member’s discretion as to instruction of experts.
- 11. No HPLA member shall knowingly accept a client introduction from any third party, whether a HPLA member or not, who obtained the said introduction by means contrary to this Code.
- 12. No HPLA member shall make public statements or write articles or publish other written material on behalf of HPLA without prior approval from the Executive Committee.

HOUSING LAW PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION

Membership Information

For further information and a membership application form, please complete and return the reply slip below.

Name:

Organisation:

Address:

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..... Postcode:

Telephone:

To: HOUSING LAW PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION
 London City Forum, Unit 13, 250 City Road
 London EC1V 2PU
 Telephone: 020 7505 4693 Fax: 020 7505 2168
 E-mail: Chandra_Rao@shelter.org.uk
 Website: www.hlpa.org.uk