



Housing Advice Conference 2015

CONTRIBUTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Chair (and speaker)

Jan Luba QC

Jan is a barrister at Garden Court Chambers in London. He specialises in Housing Law with particular emphasis on homelessness, allocations, housing management law, anti-social behaviour, and housing conditions. Jan has considerable experience as a housing law speaker and trainer and has written widely on housing issues in both the legal and housing press. He sits part-time as a judge in the civil courts.

Keynote Speakers

Siobhan McGrath

Siobhan is the President of the First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber). Prior to her appointment, she was the Senior President of the Residential Property Tribunal Service for 13 years and had been a barrister specialising in Housing and Landlord & Tenant law. She has edited a number of publications including the Housing Encyclopaedia and the Housing Law Reports and was a part-time lecturer at the London School of Economics.

Campbell Robb

Campbell has been Chief Executive of Shelter since January 2010. Prior to that, he was responsible for the creation of the Office of the Third Sector as director general. Campbell was the lead civil servant within government on voluntary sector policy and practice. Before joining the Cabinet Office, he was director of public policy at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO).

Contributors

Ben Reeve-Lewis

Ben has recently spent 23 years investigating allegations of harassment and illegal eviction and prosecuting landlords and agents for the London Borough of Lewisham. In 2013 he created the council's Rogue Landlord Enforcement Team, a multi-agency taskforce targeting criminal activities in rented properties. He is now a director of *Easy Law Training Ltd*, passing on his knowledge and experience to others in the field.

Giles Peaker

Giles is a partner in the Housing and Public Law team at Anthony Gold Solicitors in London. He is the editor of the '*Nearly Legal: Housing Law News*' website and the current chair of the Housing Law Practitioners Association.

Desmond Rutledge

Desmond is a barrister at Garden Court Chambers in London. He specialises in Social Security Law and in housing cases which raise welfare benefit issues. He is co-author of the Housing Benefit Update in *Legal Action* magazine.

Diane Astin

Diane is a solicitor who has specialised in Housing Law for more than 20 years, both in private practice and the voluntary sector. She is the author of the Legal Action Group's *Housing Law Handbook* (3rd ed. April 2015) and is currently a senior lecturer at the University of Westminster and the Director of the Law School Student Law Clinic.

Jayesh Kunwardia

Jayesh is a solicitor. He is Head of Social Housing at Hodge Jones & Allen solicitors, in London. Jayesh handles cases across areas of housing ranging from disrepair claims, landlord and tenant disputes, judicial review, possession claims, and reviews/appeals relating to local authority housing decisions. In 2015, he won the Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year award in the Housing category.