



Events to celebrate the 21st birthday of the Bill of Rights Act 1990

Monday 29 August, 5.30pm, GBLT1

PUBLIC LECTURE by Rabinder Singh QC
The Moral Force of the UK Human Rights Act

See below for more information



Tuesday 30 August, 2.00 - 4.00pm, GBLT3

PANEL DISCUSSION: *Freedom from Discrimination, and the Jurisdiction of the Human Rights Review Tribunal*

Martha Coleman: *Issues Arising from A Crown Perspective*

Francis Joychild: *A Perspective from the Office of the Director of Human Rights Proceedings*

Commentator & Chair: **Professor Paul Rishworth**

Tuesday 30 August, 5.30pm, GBLT1

PUBLIC LECTURE by Professor Janet McLean
Bills of Rights and Constitutional Conventions

See below for more information



PUBLIC LECTURE by Rabinder Singh QC
The Moral Force of the UK Human Rights Act

The Human Rights Act is the UK's Bill of Rights. Like all such charters of fundamental human rights, it is more than an ordinary law: its influence ranges beyond the courtroom to Parliament, the executive, the media and to the public generally. It is intended to lay down fundamental values for society and not detailed rules of law.

The Act also has important rhetorical force and has generated some eloquent prose from some of the most senior judges in the UK such as Lord Steyn, Lady Hale and the late Lord Bingham. Reference will be made to the writings of such judges about fundamental values such as liberty, equality and the rule of law in a modern democracy. Finally, there will be reference to the ways in which the UK and New Zealand can learn from each other's experiences in relation to Bills of Rights and their suggested moral force.

Rabinder Singh QC is a barrister at Matrix Chambers in London, specialising in public law and human rights. He was called to the Bar in 1989 and, after serving on the Attorney General's panel of junior counsel to the Crown, became a QC in 2002. His publications include (as co-author) *Human Rights: Judicial Enforcement in the UK* (2008, Sweet & Maxwell). In 2006 he was given the award of Human Rights Lawyer of the Year by the NGOs, Liberty and JUSTICE. It was recently announced that in October 2011 he will be appointed a Justice of the High Court of England and Wales.

PUBLIC LECTURE by Professor Janet McLean
Bill of Rights and Constitutional Conventions

Do constitutional convention or constitutional propriety have a role to play in the operation of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, and, if so, what institutional changes might be needed for it to work effectively? Constitutional convention has always been an indispensable part of our constitutional tradition, and has worked to limit and constrain arbitrary government. The partial *legal* protection of human rights without the robust operation of constitutional convention has the potential to leave us worse off than before. Professor McLean compares the conventions developing in relation to the UK Human Rights Act with New Zealand practices and urges that we should think seriously about how to foster constitutional conventions in relation to the Bill of Rights.

Janet McLean is currently the Professor of Law and Governance at the Dundee Law School. She was previously Associate Professor at the University of Auckland, and Director of the New Zealand Institute of Public Law at Victoria University of Wellington. She has held visiting fellowships at The Australian National University (2001) and Princeton University (2010-2011) and was the George P. Smith Distinguished Visiting Professor at Indiana University Bloomington in 2003. She will shortly take up a chair at the University of Auckland. Her forthcoming book *Searching for the State in British Legal Thought* will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2012.

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