

## Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar

### Reforming civil justice - costs, funding and efficiency in dispute resolution

Timing: Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012

Venue: Central London

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Lord Thomas of Gresford QC**
- 9.05 - 9.25 **Civil Justice in England and Wales - a context to Government's agenda for reform**  
*How significant are Government's proposals for the reform of civil justice in England and Wales? To what extent would they represent a substantial change in the way society funds and enforces civil dispute procedures, particularly in conjunction with Government's wider reforms to justice?*  
**Professor Adrian Zuckerman**, Professor of Civil Procedure, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 - 9.55 **Costs and funding - reflections on implementation two years on from the review**  
**The Rt Hon Lord Justice Jackson**, Author, *Review of Civil Litigation Costs*  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.55 - 10.50 **Reforming costs and funding - general recoverability and the future of the conditional fee arrangement**  
*Perspectives from key stakeholders and service users on how Government has taken forward Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations on civil litigation costs and funding. In what ways has Government responded to concerns raised during its recent consultation paper on implementation? How will changes to the recoverability of success fees and after-the-event (ATE) insurance affect current levels of litigation in England and Wales, and how will legal practitioners and consumers respond? What impact will Government revisions to Jackson's reforms have - such as retaining the recoverability for the cost of expert reports in clinical negligence, or introducing qualified one-way costs-shifting for personal injury cases? Has enough been done to preserve access to justice for the most vulnerable?*  
**Don Clarke**, President, Forum of Insurance Lawyers (FOIL)  
**Karl Tonks**, Vice-President, Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)  
**Nick Starling**, Director of General Insurance, Association of British Insurers (ABI)  
**Nigel Muers Raby**, Chairman, Consumer Justice Alliance  
**Phil Bellamy**, Group Underwriting Manager, DAS  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 - 10.55 **Chairman's closing remarks**  
**Lord Thomas of Gresford QC**
- 10.55 - 11.25 Coffee
- 11.25 - 11.30 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Yasmin Qureshi MP**, Member, Justice Committee
- 11.30 - 12.00 **Costs and efficiency in civil disputes - the view from the Ministry of Justice**  
*In conjunction with wider Government reforms, in what ways might the "Solving disputes in the county courts" consultation provide ways to promote proportionality and efficiency in civil dispute resolution?*  
**Abigail Plenty**, Deputy Director, Civil Justice and Legal Services, Ministry of Justice  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.55 **Solving disputes in the county courts - challenges for ensuring efficiency and proportionality in civil justice**  
*What are the challenges for introducing a simplified claims procedure on a fixed costs basis - similar to that for road traffic accidents (RTA) under £10,000 - for more types of personal injury? Should the small claims limit for the RTA framework be increased itself, and what impact would this have? How can the use of online services for making small claims be encouraged, and what can be learnt from existing web-based services in this area? Should alternative dispute resolution be expanded in civil procedures, and what impact would proposed compulsory mediation have for small claims disputes? How can confidence in the debt recovery and enforcement functions of small claims courts be improved whilst also providing appropriate safeguards for consumers and vulnerable debtors?*  
**Graham Ross**, Managing Director, The Mediation Room and Fellow, National Center of Technology and Dispute Resolution, University of Massachusetts  
**James Sandbach**, Social Policy Officer, Citizens Advice Bureau  
**Peter Wallwork**, Chief Executive Officer, Credit Services Association  
Senior representative, **Civil Mediation Council**  
Senior representative, personal injury lawyer  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**  
**Yasmin Qureshi MP**, Member, Justice Committee  
**Sean Cudmore**, Senior Producer, Westminster Legal Policy Forum