

Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar:

Next steps for civil justice reform - court modernisation, civil litigation and fixed recoverable costs

Timing: Morning, Friday, 13th October 2017

Venue: Central London



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Faulks QC, former Minister of State for Civil Justice, Ministry of Justice
- 9.05 - 9.35 **Modernising the civil justice system - current and emerging priorities**
Professor Rachael Mulheron, Professor of Law, Queen Mary University of London and Member, Civil Justice Council of England and Wales
Question and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.30 **The future for civil litigation in England and Wales - costs, funding and personal injury reform**
Stakeholder perspectives on the future outlook for civil litigation reform in England and Wales, and priorities for policy in the new Parliament. Should government continue to pursue reform of personal injury compensation processes for whiplash, and if so, what challenges remain for developing a framework that can deter spurious claims, whilst also maintaining access to justice for claimants? What impact would previously stated proposals to introduce a rise in the small claims track - as well as a ban on offers to settle claims without medical evidence - have on litigation in this area, particularly in terms of the number of claims brought, the levels of compensation received, and the efficiency of dispute resolution? In the context of Lord Justice Jackson's current review, what appetite is there for the future expansion of fixed recoverable costs, and how can their use be developed in a way that delivers certainty, transparency and proportionality for litigants? What might be learnt from the existing use of fixed costs regimes in personal injury and intellectual property claims in this respect?
Brett Dixon, President, Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
Rob Cummings, Assistant Director, Head of Motor and Liability, Association of British Insurers
Annette Morris, Reader in Law, Cardiff University
Iain Stark, Partner, Weightmans
Question and comments from the floor
- 10.30 - 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Faulks QC, former Minister of State for Civil Justice, Ministry of Justice
- 10.35 - 11.00 Coffee
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Marks of Henley-on-Thames QC
- 11.05 - 11.30 **Next steps for the implementation of the online court**
Senior speaker to be announced
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 - 12.25 **Transforming civil justice - latest thinking on court infrastructure, alternative dispute resolution and access to justice**
Latest thinking on the challenges and opportunities surrounding the implementation of Lord Justice Briggs's Civil Courts Structure Review, which included proposals to deliver an online court for claims worth up to £25,000, expanded roles for case officers, improved enforcement procedures, increased use of private mediation, alongside wide-ranging changes to court structures and the deployment of judges.
Graham Ross, Head of European Advisory Board, Modria and Founder, The Mediation Room
Nick Gallagher, Chief Executive, Personal Support Unit
Robert Thompson, Vice Chair, Civil Court Users Association
Derek Sweeting QC, Barrister, Seven Bedford Row and Chairman, Legal Services Committee, Bar Council
District Judge Tim Jenkins, Brentford Country Court
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 **Priorities for reform of the civil courts**
Lord Justice Briggs, Deputy Head of Civil Justice and Lead, Civil Courts Structure Review
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
Lord Marks of Henley-on-Thames QC
Marc Gammon, Associate Editor, Westminster Legal Policy Forum