

The Rule of Law: From Principles to Practice

Speakers' biographies

Dr Lawrence McNamara is a Senior Research Fellow with the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law and a Reader in Law at the University of York. Prior to joining the Bingham Centre, Lawrence was an academic for 17 years, holding tenured, adjunct and visiting posts at universities in the UK, Australia and the United States.

Lawrence's research interests lie primarily in the legal regulation of speech, especially as it relates to the media, and in the application of empirical research methods. He has published and presented widely in these areas. His book *Reputation and Defamation* (OUP 2007) was shortlisted for the Birks Prize for Legal Scholarship and his research has been used by courts, governments, parliaments and civil society organisations.

Professor Ian Cram is Professor of Comparative Constitutional Law at the University of Leeds where his main research interests are in the fields of public law and comparative constitutional Law, with special reference to freedom of expression.

His published work includes three monographs, including 'Terror and the War on Dissent - Freedom of Expression in the Age of Al-Qaeda' which was published by Springer (2009) as well as numerous articles in leading international law/politics journals. His latest book, *Citizen Journalists: Newer Media, Republican Moments and the Constitution* was published in January 2016 as part of the *Elgar Monographs in Constitutional and Administrative Law* series. The book explores the phenomenon of 'citizen journalism' from a legal and constitutional perspective.

Kathryn Rand is the Assistant Director of the Great Britain China Centre a non-departmental public body of the FCO focusing on UK legal and judicial cooperation with China. Temporarily based in China, she is currently working on a project to develop a UK-China Rule of Law for Business programme in collaboration with the FCO.

Kathryn has extensive experience working on legal reform, human rights and civil society in China. She is particularly interested in environmental rule of law in China.



Dr Julinda Beqiraj is an Associate Senior Research Fellow with the Bingham Centre. She has lectured courses on public international law, EU law and international economic law at the University of Trento and works occasionally as scientific expert for the Council of Europe's Commission on the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ).

Julinda has published on topical issues of public international law and has carried out research in a series of projects covering subjects, such as, international migration, international economic law, regional human rights protection in Europe, European Union law, child labour issues, access to justice and international criminal law.

Dr Jan van Zyl Smit is an Associate Senior Research Fellow with the Bingham Centre. His main area of research concerns the appointment and dismissal of judges, with a particular focus on the judiciary in constitutional transitions. Jan has worked for the Judges and Magistrates Vetting Board in Kenya as a consultant and has advised the Truth and Dignity Commission in Tunisia on judicial vetting and institutional reform. He is the author of a study of judicial appointments, tenure and removal undertaken on behalf of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and contributed to the development on the Cape Town Principles on the Role of Independent Commissions in the Selection and Appointment of Judges.

Jan's other research areas include the impact of the UK Human Rights Act on the interpretation of primary legislation, and the codification of administrative justice rights and training of civil servants in administrative law (UK and Commonwealth). He has lectured on subjects including constitutional law, administrative law, transitional justice, international criminal law and international human rights law.