

Business Network

The rule of law is characterised by legal certainty, accessible laws that are equally enforced and access to justice through fair trials before an independent judiciary.



The founding members are:

- BP
- BT Group
- Diageo
- HSBC
- Nestlé
- Rio Tinto
- Rolls-Royce
- Shell International
- Unilever
- Vodafone

Ten leading international companies have pledged their support for the Bingham Centre's new **Business Network** which is chaired by Graham Vinter, formerly of BG Group. These organisations are supporting the Centre's global initiatives on rule of law whilst identifying and addressing specific challenges in the countries where they operate.

In a recent survey, conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit for the Centre, the majority of executives had, in the past five years, experienced several failures of the rule of law in countries where they had invested.

The Business Network acts as a bridge between the Bingham Centre and the business community. An important aspect of this role is to assist the Centre in identifying rule of law issues which have particular relevance to the business community. Another is to help spread awareness of the Centre and its work among business leaders.

Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, The Lord Chief Justice, welcomes this initiative and has said:

"The rule of law provides the foundation for peace, political stability, human dignity and economic sustainability. The business community needs the firm and consistent application of the rule of law, thus contributing to economic development. Business can also play a key part in helping to build and sustain the rule of law in those countries where it has a presence, helping to make the world a safer and more equitable place."

The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law

The Bingham Centre was launched in 2010 to honour the work and career of Lord Bingham of Cornhill, a great judge and passionate advocate of the rule of law. The Centre is dedicated to the study, promotion and enhancement of the rule of law worldwide. It does this by:

- defining the rule of law as a universal and practical concept;
- highlighting threats to the rule of law;
- conducting high quality research and training;
- providing capacity-building on the rule of law to enhance economic development, political stability and human dignity.



The Centre helps countries, international organisations, corporations and legal bodies to build rule of law commitments, whilst improving the skills and abilities of legal practitioners and governments around the world to secure access to justice for their populations. The Centre is part of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL), an independent research institute established in London over 50 years ago.

www.binghamcentre.biicl.org www.biicl.org

Joining the Business Network

The Centre encourages other companies who may be interested in joining the Business Network to get in touch. All members make an initial pledge of £10,000 per annum over three years. It is also expected that the members will provide funding for relevant projects.

For more information please contact:

Sarah Taylor, Development Director, s.taylor@biicl.org
[+44 \(0\) 20 7862 5433](tel:+442078625433)