

Media Release

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Bingham Centre announces new Senior Research Fellow in Parliaments and the Rule of Law

The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law announced today that it has appointed **Dr Jack Simson Caird** to a newly created post of Senior Research Fellow in Parliaments and the Rule of Law.¹ The Parliaments and Rule of Law Programme is a central part of the Bingham Centre's new Five Year Strategy, *Proactively Advancing the Rule of Law*.² The Centre's strategic aims include democratising the Rule of Law, by making its relevance to the political process more apparent to a wider audience, including parliamentarians and the public; and embedding the Rule of Law, including in democratic institutions, by helping to develop the necessary institutional machinery, processes and procedures to give it practical effect.

Jack is currently a Senior Library Clerk in the House of Commons Library where he works in the Parliament and Constitution Centre. Jack is the Commons Library's specialist in constitutional law and since 2016 his work has focused on informing Parliament about the domestic constitutional implications of the UK leaving the European Union. Jack led the Commons Library's work on briefing Members of Parliament on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill. More recently his work in the Library has focused on the Government's proposal for a vote in Parliament to approve the agreements negotiated with the EU.

He was previously a Lecturer in Public Law in the School of Law, Politics and Sociology at the University of Sussex. Jack's research has included work on legislative standards and he is the principal author of a Constitution Unit Report on *The Constitutional Standards of the House of Lords Constitution Committee*. His recent work has focused on the importance of explanatory material to effective parliamentary scrutiny of legislative proposals.

In his new role as Senior Research Fellow, Jack will lead the Centre's Programme of work on Parliaments and the Rule of Law and his role will include devising an

¹ The creation of this new post has been made possible by the generous support of The Legal Education Foundation.

² <https://binghamcentre.biicl.org/newsitem/6281>

ambitious five year Strategy for mainstreaming the Rule of Law in parliaments, both in the UK and worldwide.

Murray Hunt, Director of the Bingham Centre, commented: "We are delighted to have appointed Jack to this central role in the Bingham Centre's new Strategy. Democratising the Rule of Law is one of the most urgent challenges of our times, as the legitimacy of legal institutions for protecting the Rule of Law is increasingly challenged. Parliaments have a vital role to play in advancing the Rule of Law and legitimising the values that underpin it. Jack's expertise in articulating and promoting constitutional values in the political process, his practical experience of how parliaments work in practice, and his proven commitment to promoting a democratic vision of the Rule of Law, make him perfectly placed to lead the Bingham Centre's programme of work in this area."

Jack Simson Caird said: "I am excited to have this opportunity to play a role in realising the Bingham Centre's new Strategy. I have always admired the work of the Bingham Centre, and the new Strategy's focus on democratising the rule of law is something I have long been committed to. Legislative scrutiny can and should play a vital role in promoting and securing Rule of Law values. Brexit has highlighted the increasing significance of the UK Parliament's scrutiny of the constitutional implications of the Government's legislative proposals. This fellowship will give me the chance to build a programme of research to demonstrate the practical steps that all parliaments and legislatures can take to promote a democratic vision of the Rule of Law."

Jack will join the Bingham Centre with effect from 1st July 2018.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law exists to advance the Rule of Law worldwide. Its strategic aims are to democratise the Rule of Law, to embed the Rule of Law, to build Rule of Law leadership, and to broaden agreement globally about the core meaning of the Rule of Law as a practical concept. The Centre carries out independent, rigorous and high quality research and analysis of the most significant Rule of Law issues of the day, both in the UK and internationally. The Centre's proposed areas of focus in the coming years include Parliaments and the Rule of Law. The Bingham Centre is part of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (see below). For more details about the work of the Bingham Centre please visit: www.binghamcentre.biicl.org/

The Bingham Centre is the secretariat to the **All Party Parliamentary Group for the Rule of Law** which was established in June 2015. The purpose of the APPG is to promote parliamentary and public discussion of the Rule of Law as a practical concept. For more details about the work of the APPG on the Rule of Law see its website: <https://binghamcentre.biicl.org/appg-rule-of-law>



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