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## PERSPECTIVES ON CAUSATION

KING'S COLLEGE CONFERENCE CENTRE  
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN  
SCOTLAND

22 & 23 JUNE 2009

KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
RT. HON. LORD HOFFMANN  
LORD OF APPEAL IN ORDINARY



The University of Aberdeen is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC013683

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<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/causation/>

# Perspectives on Causation

The School of Law at the University of Aberdeen is pleased to announce its hosting of "Perspectives on Causation", which will take place in the University on 22-23 June 2009.

This event follows several landmark decisions concerning the law of causation in the UK over the last few years, as well as significant developments in Canada, Commonwealth countries and the United States. It is generously sponsored by the Clark Foundation for Legal Education (primary sponsors), the Society of Legal Scholars, the London Chambers of Four New Square, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, Simpson and Marwick, the Faculty of Advocates and Stronachs.

"Perspectives on Causation" will attempt to examine the way in which legal doctrine in causation should develop over the next few years in the United Kingdom, and how British law should seek to influence and be influenced by developments in other countries. It will serve as a focal point for the study of this important area of law.

The conference is targeted at legal academics, policy makers in the field, specialist legal practitioners, those in the pharmaceutical and bioscience sectors, physicians and scientists.

A truly international group of speakers have agreed to present papers, which will explore the problems of causation from three linked perspectives, viz:

- Doctrinal Law
- Scientific Evidence
- Legal Theory

## Doctrinal Law

Major arguments have emerged about how legal doctrine will develop in cases involving indeterminate defendants and evidential gaps in causation. The event will examine the ways in which legal doctrine should develop over the next few years, in particular in England, Scotland, Canada and the United States.

## Scientific Evidence

The importance of the role of scientific evidence in the assessment of causation in civil litigation has never been greater. The extent to which such evidence can be admitted and used in causation disputes is controversial. This perspective will therefore be devoted to exploring the role of statistical evidence in resolving causation problems.

## Legal Theory

This perspective will be devoted to analysing some of the philosophical aspects of causation and the law. In particular, areas such as distributive justice in the context of the characterisation of risk as damage, societal responses to causation, scientific evidence and risk; and the use of causation as an instrument of policy and social change will be explored.



## Keynote Presentation

**Rt. Hon. Lord Hoffmann**, Lord of Appeal in Ordinary

## Speakers will include:

**Roderick Bagshaw**, University of Oxford

**Professor Vaughan Black**, Dalhousie University

**Professor Russ Brown**, University of Alberta

**David Cheifetz**, Bennett Best Burn LLP, Toronto

**Professor Carl Cranor**, University of California Riverside

**Professor Philip Dawid**, University of Cambridge

**Dr Duncan Fairgrieve**, British Institute of International and Comparative Law

**Dr Peter Feldschreiber**, Four New Square, Medicines and Health Care Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

**Dr Richard Goldberg**, University of Aberdeen

**Greg Gordon**, University of Aberdeen

**Dr Martin Hogg**, University of Edinburgh

**Professor Chris Miller**, University of Salford

**Jonathan Morgan**, University of Cambridge

**Professor Ken Oliphant**, Institute for European Tort Law

**Dr John Paterson**, University of Aberdeen

**Professor Stephen Perry**, University of Pennsylvania

**Professor Ariel Porat**, Tel Aviv University

**Professor Horacio Spector**, La Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Buenos Aires

**Professor Jane Stapleton**, University of Texas

**Professor Alex Stein**, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University

**Professor Joseph Thomson**, Scottish Law Commission

**Professor Richard Wright**, Chicago-Kent College of Law

## The event will be chaired by:

**The Rt. Hon. Lord Eassie**, Senator of the College of Justice

**The Rt. Hon. Lord Hoffmann**, Lord of Appeal in Ordinary

**The Rt. Hon. Lord Mackay of Clashfern**, Former Lord Chancellor

**Margaret Ross**, University of Aberdeen

## Additional Information

If you have any questions please visit our website for more information at [www.abdn.ac.uk/causation/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/causation/) or contact Nikki Musgrave, University of Aberdeen, Room 29 University Office, King's College, Aberdeen, AB24 3FX. Tel +44 (0)1224 272523; Fax: +44 (0)1224 272319 Email: [cpd@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:cpd@abdn.ac.uk)

## Registration

Please visit our website at [www.abdn.ac.uk/causation/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/causation/)

## Fees

Delegate Fee	£445.00
Academic Fee	£345.00

*Fees include attendance at the conference, delegate pack, refreshments and lunch throughout the event and attendance at the conference dinner on Monday 22 June 2009.*

## Law School at the University of Aberdeen

Law has been taught at Aberdeen since the University's foundation in 1495. The School is ranked first in Scotland and sixth in the UK by the Times Good University Guide 2009 and the Complete University Guide 2009.