

# CONFERENCE

## The Challenges of Historic Allegations of Past Sexual Abuse – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Garden Court North Chambers are pleased to present the first national conference on “The Challenges of Historic Allegations of Past Sexual Abuse” in Manchester on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

The conference will address the challenges faced by both Care Home and domestic cases of historic sexual abuse and question whether the law can satisfy the expectations of victims and the public, whilst protecting those who have been falsely accused.

By bringing together a panel of expert speakers with a range of backgrounds and experience the conference aims to highlight the challenges faced at all stages of the legal process in such cases.

Our Keynote speaker, Lord Justice Hooper, provided the judgments in two care home cases of *R v Burke [2005] EWCA Crim 29* and *R v Sheikh [2006] EWCA Crim 2625* which highlight the prejudices caused by the delay and that in certain circumstances no fair trial was possible.

The overall question the conference will consider is whether there is a need for the law to develop further to protect the innocent or has the law ignored the rights of the victims of sexual abuse.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This conference is aimed at all those involved in practicing criminal law, whether defending or prosecuting. It is relevant to solicitors, barristers, paralegals and is also suited to academics, police forces, social services and associated policy workers and support groups working in this field.

#### VENUE

Manchester Cathedral Conference Centre,  
10 Cateaton Street, Manchester M3 1SQ

#### CPD ACCREDITATION

5.5 CPD SRA (Law Society) and Bar Council



### Speakers:

**Lord Justice Hooper** - Appointed Lord Justice of Appeal 2004 and formerly High Court Judge (QBD) 1995 – 2004.

**John Weeden CB** - Criminal Cases Review Commission.

**Claire Curtis-Thomas MP** – Former Home Affairs Select Committee member and a serving member of the Council of Europe.

**Professor Martin Conway** - Cognitive Psychologist at University of Leeds. Co-author of “Guidelines on Memory & the Law” pub. The British Psychological Society (2008).

**Bob Woffinden** - Author and freelance journalist who has campaigned in a number of miscarriages of justice.

**Jim Gamble QPM** - Deputy Chief Constable and Chief Executive of Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre.

**John Holt** - Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS Manchester.

**Mark Newby** - Solicitor advocate at Jordans LLP.

**Mark Barlow** - Barrister at Garden Court North Chambers.

*Garden Court North Chambers has an established reputation for representing defendants against historic allegations of both care home and domestic abuse and a strong commitment to offering representation to those disadvantaged by discrimination and inequality.*

People's rights through justice

# Programme:

09.30	<b>Registration and coffee</b>	
10.00 – 10.10	<b>Welcome and introduction</b>	<i>Chair</i>
10.10 – 10.40 (30 mins)	<b>Keynote speech</b>	<i>Lord Justice Hooper</i>
10.40 – 11.20 (40 mins)	<b>The safety of convictions for historic abuse</b> The CCRCs perspective on the real difficulties faced when reviewing the safety of such convictions. Would more guidance from the Court of Appeal or more funding to allow solicitors to make more detailed submissions be welcomed? Could police evidence gathering techniques in these cases be fairer?	<i>John Weeden, CCRC commissioner</i>
11.20 – 11.40	<b>Coffee</b>	
11.40 – 12.10 (30 mins)	<b>How MPs have tackled concern over miscarriages of justice</b> The role of MPs in relation to concerns over miscarriages of justice in historic abuse cases and the Home Affairs Select Committee report on “The Conduct of Investigations into past cases of abuse in Children’s Homes”. What has been learned and the way ahead.	<i>Claire Curtis-Thomas MP</i>
12.10 – 12.50 (40 mins)	<b>Young memories and the law</b> A consideration of some common and erroneous beliefs held about human memory and how these can lead to acceptance of accounts purportedly of memory when most likely they are not. The presentation will include examples from cases to illustrate how the memory expert can best assist in cases where memory is an issue.	<i>Prof. Martin Conway</i>
12.50 – 1.00 (10 mins)	<b>Q&amp;A – morning session</b>	<i>Chair</i>
1.00 – 2.00	<b>Lunch</b>	
2.00 – 2.30 (30 mins)	<b>Media reporting of historic cases – beyond “legitimate comment”?</b> The role of the media in historic cases and the dangers of miscarriages - does the media become an accessory of the prosecution in such cases?	<i>Bob Woffinden, freelance journalist</i>
2.30 – 3.10 (40 mins)	<b>Police investigations: lessons learned</b> A consideration of lessons learned from conducting retrospective enquiries into allegations of abuse in care homes and how the ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) guidelines on The Investigation of Historic Institutional Child Abuse (2002) assist in such investigations.	<i>Jim Gamble QPM, Chief Executive CEOP Centre</i>
3.10 – 3.30	<b>Coffee</b>	
3.30 – 4.00 (30 mins)	<b>The CPS perspective on domestic historic allegations</b> The difficulties faced in conforming to CPS guidelines and public expectations in relation to domestic historic allegations of abuse.	<i>John Holt, Chief Crown Prosecutor, Manchester CPS</i>
4.00 – 4.40 (40 mins)	<b>The way ahead</b> Mark Newby and Mark Barlow have together been responsible for most of the major historical care home appeals over the last 5 years including R v Basil Rigby Williams [2002] ; R v Sheikh [2004] ; R v Robson [2006]; R v Sheikh [2006]; R v Wake [2008]; R v Gillam [2008]; R v Joynson [2008]. They will round off the conference by providing a perspective on the issues that arise in defending historic abuse cases along with practical suggestions to assist lawyers with both funding and the approach to preparing the case for trial or appeal.	<i>Mark Newby (Jordans LLP) and Mark Barlow (Garden Court North Chambers)</i>
4.40 – 4.50 (10 mins)	<b>Q&amp;A – afternoon session</b>	<i>Chair</i>
4.50 – 5.00	<b>Closing remarks</b>	<i>Chair</i>
5.00 – 6.30	<b>Drinks reception</b>	

## Book your place now

Delegate places at the conference are limited to the venue capacity and it is therefore recommended that places are reserved as soon as possible. The registration fee, inclusive of conference documentation, lunch and refreshments is **£180.00 + VAT**. Please complete the attached booking form and return to chambers with your cheque payable to “Chambers of Ian Macdonald QC”. For more information please contact **Helen Ray** or **Nicola Carroll** on **0161 236 1840** or [ncarroll@gcnchambers.co.uk](mailto:ncarroll@gcnchambers.co.uk)



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# The Challenges of Historic Allegations of Past Sexual Abuse – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009

## Booking form *Please complete one booking form per delegate.*

I would like to book a place on **The Challenges of Historic Allegations of Past Sexual Abuse** on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009 in Manchester.

I would also like to stay for the drinks reception after the conference from 5.00 – 6.30pm.

Special dietary requirements

Access requirements

Delegate name

Firm / organisation

Address

DX

Booking contact Name

Booking contact Email

Booking contact Telephone

I enclose a cheque for £

*If a VAT receipt is required, please tick here*

**Standard fee: £180.00 + VAT per delegate** (£207.00 inc VAT @ 15%)

**Terms and conditions of booking:** Cancellation, giving more than 7 days' notice prior to the conference date (i.e. by 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009), will attract a total conference fee refund. Cancellation giving less than 7 days notice prior to the conference date will attract no refund of fees. Cancellation requests must be made in writing and received within the required notice period. If you do not attend a conference or course, and have not previously informed us, the full fee remains payable.

To reserve a place on the above conference, please complete and return this form to  
**Nicola Carroll, Garden Court North Chambers, 22 Oxford Court, Manchester, M2 3WQ**  
**DX: 715637 Manchester 2 Fax: 0161 236 0929**



[www.gcnchambers.co.uk](http://www.gcnchambers.co.uk)

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