

# Homelessness & Lettings Conference 2010

## Law and Practice

The unmissable conference for local authority and RSL personnel involved in assisting the homeless and in the allocation of social housing

### LONDON

**Thursday 29th April 2010**

The Copthorne Tara Hotel,  
Kensington,  
London, W8

#### Fee

Only £295 + VAT

### Special Offer

**THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT  
DELEGATES HALF PRICE\***

(\*see booking form)

the cost effective way  
to get top quality training  
for your department.

 **Book on-line at**  
**[www.limelegal.co.uk](http://www.limelegal.co.uk)**

#### This year's brand new programme includes:

- **Lettings 2010: a year of change**
- **Problem areas and suggested solutions**
- **Homelessness: the threshold questions**
- **Do you want reasons with that? A guide to lawful decision making**
- **Homelessness duties and powers to provide accommodation**
- **Lettings & Homelessness: back to basics?**

### SPEAKERS

- **Jan Luba QC**  
(Chairman and lead speaker),  
Garden Court Chambers
- **Andy Gale**, one of the country's top  
experts in Homelessness and Lettings
- **Liz Davies**, Barrister, Garden Court Chambers
- **Steve Povey**, Senior Solicitor and Housing Law Trainer

**All the latest  
case law  
and other  
developments**

# Homelessness & Lettings Conference 2010

This is the conference to help you get to grips with all of the key developments in the field of homelessness and lettings. **BOOK NOW** so that you can benefit from:

- Guidance and insights on best practice
- Updates on all the important legal cases and legislation
- Practical tips and pointers
- Updates on the latest Policy initiatives that will affect you
- Information about future developments that will impact on the work you do
- Ask the Experts 'Questions and Answers' sessions. Plenty of time has been allowed for questions so that you can raise your own concerns with the experts as well as benefiting from the experience of colleagues.

This year's conference is chaired by **Jan Luba QC**, one of the country's leading authorities on homelessness and lettings work. He will open the conference with an invaluable review of the key developments and their implications in lettings. Later in the programme he will go on to offer insights into the changes and developments in both homelessness and lettings that are planned and what they will mean for you.

**Andy Gale** really needs no introduction because he is so well known within the sector. His talk at this year's conference tackles a cluster of problem areas, including common housing registers, development of common allocation policies, nominations and exchange policies within RSLs and, perhaps the most difficult of all: waiting lists. Andy will offer much needed guidance on each of these challenging issues.

**Liz Davies**, specialises in the legal aspects of homelessness and lettings work. At this year's conference Liz's contribution to the morning session will deal with the perennial problem of Threshold criteria in homelessness cases. In the afternoon she continues the homelessness theme with her review of all of the latest case law and other developments arising from homelessness duties and the exercise of powers.

**Steve Povey** has a richly deserved reputation as one of the leading housing law trainers in the country. He will combine penetrating insights into the implications of case law with practical guidance on effective decision making. He manages to distil complex judgments into digestible summaries and what's more he does so in a way which is memorable, refreshing, and, often amusing, a rare talent.

**Ask the Experts** – This distinguished panel of speakers will also be available for sessions devoted to question and answers so that everyone will have the opportunity to seek their input in respect of issues arising from the presentations or indeed something which arises from their own or their colleagues' experience.

**Don't miss out on this unique opportunity – BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW.**

## Who should attend?

- Housing Options Team Managers and Officers
- Homelessness Managers and Officers
- Lettings/Allocations Managers and Officers
- Housing Policy Managers and Officers
- RSL Staff responsible for contracted-out homelessness or lettings work
- Heads and Directors of Housing
- In-house Social Housing Lawyers
- Legal Advisers in private practice
- Advice agency staff

## SPEAKERS

**Jan Luba QC** (Chairman and lead speaker) Garden Court Chambers. Jan has been described in *Chambers & Partners Directory* as 'the leading QC for housing related public law matters' and as 'a walking encyclopaedia of housing law'.

**Andy Gale** is one of the best known names in the field of homelessness and lettings. He trains and advises Local Authorities around the country. He has a wide range of first hand experience of Local Government work including that acquired as Housing Needs Manager for Harrow Council. He was formerly in charge of Homelessness and Advice at Ealing Council. He has been active in the field of homelessness since the mid 1980s. He is also the author of 'The Local Authority Good Practice Guide to Tackling Homelessness'.

**Liz Davies** Garden Court Chambers. Liz specialises in all aspects of housing law, but she has particular expertise and vast experience in homelessness and allocation of social housing.

**Steve Povey** Senior Solicitor, enjoys a deserved reputation as one of the country's leading housing law trainers combining an in-depth knowledge with a real understanding of the practical problems faced by front-line homelessness and lettings teams.

**Year after year this conference receives superb feedback. Just look at what past delegates have said:**

**'Really useful day packed with facts and information'**

Local Authority Housing Adviser

**'Excellent conference – very informative and interestingly presented'**

Local Authority Head of Accommodation Services

**'Excellent as always'**

London Local Authority Homeless Persons Manager

**'Very impressed – informative and thorough'**

Housing Options Manager

**'As always, very informative and enjoyable'**

Housing Advice Manager

**'Excellent programme, really informative'**

Lettings Manager

**Book on-line at [www.limelegal.co.uk](http://www.limelegal.co.uk)**

## Programme

09.15–10.00

### Registration

10.00–10.10

### Chairman's Introduction

*Jan Luba QC*

10.10–11.00

### Lettings 2010: A Year of Change

*Jan Luba QC*

- The new TSA standard on Lettings – three weeks in force
- The new Code of Guidance (England) – four months in practice
- Reviewing and revising the local allocation scheme – a 'how to' guide
- CBL schemes in practice: the feedback
- Taking account of past 'bad behaviour'
- The latest developments in the Courts (including 'when is a letting not an allocation?')

11.00–11.15

### Refreshments

11.15–12.00

### Problem Areas and Suggested Solutions

*Andy Gale*

- Common Housing Registers
- Developing Common Allocation Policies
- Nominations and exchange policies within RSLs
- Waiting lists

12.00–12.45

### Homelessness: The Threshold Questions

*Liz Davies*

- Priority Need, separated parents and dependent children;
- Latest developments on 'becoming homeless intentionally'
- Are you homeless if you live in a woman's refuge?
- Latest developments on eligibility
- European Court of Justice decisions

12.45–13.00

### Questions and Answers

*Panel*

13.00–14.00

### Lunch

14.00–14.45

### Do You Want Reasons With That? A Guide to Lawful Decision Making

*Steve Povey*

- The purpose of public law
- Who makes the decision (and who does not)
- Identifying a decision
- The components of a lawful decision
- The benefits of following the rules

14.45–15.35

### Homelessness Duties and Powers to Provide Accommodation

*Liz Davies*

- What is suitable accommodation?
- Refusal of offers: how should the applicant be notified?
- Contracting out decisions and reviews;
- An end to human rights arguments?

15.35–15.50

### Refreshments

15.50–16.30

### Lettings & Homelessness: Back to Basics?

*Jan Luba QC*

- The new home-finding scheme
- A new single set of Guidance
- All change in Wales
- Lettings and homelessness: a new political agenda?
- Deadline 2010: all targets achieved?

16.30–16.50

### Any Questions?

*Panel*

16.50

### Close of Conference



### ALSO OF INTEREST SOCIAL HOUSING LAW & PRACTICE CONFERENCE 2010

The annual conference for all social housing advisers.

London 13th May 2010

Full details at [www.limelegal.co.uk](http://www.limelegal.co.uk)

