

The Bingham Centre was launched in December 2010 and is an independent research centre devoted to the study and promotion of the rule of law worldwide. The Centre works in partnership with many organisations and institutions around the world, and has successfully delivered rule of law projects in a range of countries. The work of the Centre is focused on understanding and promoting the rule of law; considering the challenges that it faces; providing an intellectual framework within which it can operate; and fashioning the practical tools to support it. The Centre is named after Lord Bingham of Cornhill KG, the pre-eminent judge of his generation and a passionate advocate of the rule of law. The Centre is part of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, a registered charity based in London.

**The Rule of Law, Development and Transitional Societies**

**Constitutional Options for Libya:** The Centre prepared a manual of training materials (kindly supported by White and Case) for a new campaign called Destoori ('My Constitution') launched by Lawyers for Justice in Libya, which has employed the manual in country-wide discussions introducing the public to constitutional options. In September 2012, the Centre went to Tunis to "train the trainers", who then took the manuals around Libya.

**Bahrain Advisory and Training Programme:** The Bingham Centre has been assisting Bahrain to comply with international human rights standards on freedom of expression. A delegation visited Bahrain in January and June 2013 to conduct a scoping study and further work is planned.

**Nepal:** The Bingham Centre is exploring, with non-governmental organisations in Nepal, opportunities for engagement in the transitional justice field as well as potential training and education initiatives.

**The Rule of Law in Business and Finance**

**Corporate Decision-Making in Foreign Direct Investment:** This unique study (kindly supported by Hogan Lovells) seeks to discover, via a survey of executive opinion, which factors multinational corporates consider in selecting where to invest internationally, examining especially how legal environment and rule of law considerations affect FDI decisions.

**The UN's Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights:** A project for the Association of Independent Petroleum Negotiators to provide practical recommendations to the oil and gas industry on the implementation of The United Nations' Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (the "Ruggie Framework").

**The Rule of Law and Taxation:** In March 2013, the Bingham Centre held an event at Berwin Leighton Paisner, 'Does Our Tax System Meet Rule of Law Standards?' which examined tax law and practice against rule of law principles. This event will be followed by a one-day conference on 20 November 2013, which BLP have again generously offered to host, the proceedings of which we hope to publish.



**Rule of Law Education and Training**

**Rule of Law Training in Russia:** In March 2012, the Bingham Centre delivered a training programme in St Petersburg, Russia, relating to the rule of law. Courses aimed at judges, students and administrators took place over a fortnight. The Centre also developed a training manual, 'Building Human Rights into Practice', which it is hoped will form the basis of future training projects.

**International Human Rights Training for Law Firms:** The Bingham Centre delivered a webinar series on 'International Human Rights in Practice' for lawyers at Linklaters. Topics included the UN Framework and Human Rights, the EU Framework and Human Rights, International Women's Rights, International Children's Rights, Economic and Social Rights, and War and Human Rights. This followed a similar series at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. Further training is planned at other London-based firms to equip lawyers better for engagement in pro bono projects worldwide.

**The Rule of Law in Schools:** The Centre is in the founding stages of a project to teach Tom Bingham's eight rule of law principles to school age children. The project will seek to disseminate the importance of the rule of law, initially in secondary schools across the UK, with pilots being held during this academic year.

**The Rule of Law and Access to Justice**

**The Rule of Law and Immigration Detention:** The Bingham Centre was awarded a generous grant by the Nuffield Foundation to fund its study on 'The Rule of Law and Immigration Detention' and to produce practical guidelines on detention for decision-makers.

**Centre's Response to Government's Attack on Judicial Review:** In January 2013, the Bingham Centre responded to the Government's announcement that it planned to reduce the opportunity for judicial review of official decisions. The Centre's response to the subsequent consultation document highlights the dangers in curtailing judicial review and puts forward some practical proposals.

**Compendium of Judicial Appointment and Removal Procedures:** The Commonwealth Secretariat is funding the Bingham Centre to prepare a compendium of provisions, procedures and practices for the appointment and removal of judges in the Commonwealth, including Chief Justices; and to review and analyse the material in order to identify contemporary best practice in the Commonwealth in the context of the Latimer House Principles.

**The Rule of Law in International and Regional Standard Setting**

**United Nations, Rule of Law and Developments:** In September 2012, the UN General Assembly held the first-ever High-Level Meeting on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels. The Bingham Centre submitted comments on various drafts of the Declaration, which was agreed by States at the meeting. The Centre also hosted a side event at the UN Headquarters in New York, US, (together with the Open Society Foundations and the Republic of Senegal) on 'The Rule of Law and the Post-2015 Agenda'.

**Code of Practice on the Role and Independence of Government Lawyers:** The President of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association has asked the Bingham Centre to develop a code of practice on the Role and Independence of Government Lawyers – politician or protector of the rule of law? We are seeking funding for this project. Aspects of this study were presented by the Centre's Director at the Commonwealth Law Conference in April 2013 in Cape Town.

**African Regional and Sub-Regional Courts:** The Bingham Centre is undertaking an in-depth study on 'The Impact of Regional African Courts in Setting Standards for the Rule of Law in Domestic Jurisdictions in Africa'. Aspects of this study were presented at the Commonwealth Law Conference in April 2013 in Cape Town.



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