



**INUK Spring Meeting/Student Conference, 24 April 2009**  
**SHARING GOOD PRACTICE – STUDENTS SUPPORTING STUDENTS**

**SPRING MEETING/STUDENT CONFERENCE**  
**FRIDAY APRIL 24<sup>th</sup>, FRESHFIELDS, LONDON**  
**Agenda**

	1.00 - 1.30 pm	<b>Registration</b>
	1.30 - 1.40 pm	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>
1	1.40 - 2.30 pm	<b>Brief Report from Each Innocence Project</b>
2	2.30 - 3.20 pm	<b>Focus Group Discussions on Key Aspects of Innocence Project Work</b>
	Group 1	<i>Obtaining, organising and managing case documents (paper, and electronically)</i>
	Group 2	<i>Approaches to case investigation</i>
	Group 3	<i>Building a workable relationship with the client and his/her family, and working with supervising lawyers</i>
	Group 4	<i>Planning to start an innocence project/putting into place foundations/very early stages/structures</i>
	3.20 - 3.40 pm	<b>Tea Break</b>
3	3.40 - 4.20 pm	<b>Presentation of Outcomes from Focus-Group Discussions</b>
4	4.20 - 4.40 pm	<b>Student ideas for specific network tasks to be undertaken voluntarily</b>
5	4.40 - 5.00 pm	<b>Q &amp; A/Feedback / Conclusion</b>
6	5.00 – 6.00pm	<b>Keynote Speaker: Mark Ellison QC; drinks and light refreshments</b>



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**Welcome and Introduction**

1.30 – 1.40 p.m. (including warm thanks to our hosts, Freshfields).

**Programme Details**

1.40 - 2.30 p.m.

**Session 1: Brief Report from each Innocence Project**

Representatives from each institution will give a brief update on their innocence projects, including (but not limited to): number and make-up of student members; structure; funding; number of cases currently being worked on and progress to date; other community engagement activities undertaken by the innocence project.

2.30 - 3.20 pm:

**Session 2: Focus Group Discussions on Key Aspects of Casework and Innocence Projects**

This session will consist of four simultaneously-run focus group discussions on key aspects of innocence projects work. Chaired by an innocence project Director, each group will consist of student and/or staff representatives from different innocence projects. The aim of this session is to encourage and facilitate the sharing and exchange of best practices between member innocence projects. Issues to be discussed by the respective focus groups are as follows:

**Group 1: Obtaining, organising, managing and analysing case documents (paper, and electronically)**

- *What are the key documents essential to a case investigation, and, how do you obtain them?*
- *What are the practical and financial obstacles faced in obtaining case documents, and, how do you overcome them?*
- *How do you organise and make sense of case documents?*
- *How do you analyse, and, fully utilise the case documents and evidence in your possession, such as, pathologists' reports; witness statements; schedule of unused evidence; and trial judges' summing ups?*



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**Group 2: Approaches to case investigation**

- *What are the aims of innocence projects investigation: is it to seek the truth, or, simply to overturn a case?*
- *Testing the safety of a conviction and questioning the reliability of evidence.*
- *Thinking outside the box: finding new ways of proving the guilt/innocence of the client.*
- *How do you test the strength of your case?*

**Group 3: Building a workable relationship with the client and his/her family; confidentiality; working with supervising lawyers; prison visits**

- *Fostering a relationship of trust with the client.*
- *What can family members and/or supporters of the client bring, what are the potential difficulties of soliciting information or help from family and supporters of the client, and, how do you overcome or manage them?*
- *How do you manage the expectations of families and supporters?*
- *Why is confidentiality important, and, what are the best practices to ensure compliance with data protection/confidentiality requirements?*
- *Do you need to make a prison visit?; family/legal visits; supervision*

**Group 4: Planning to start an innocence project/putting into place foundations/very early stages/structures; managing student caseworkers**  
(This Group is aimed at those very new to innocence project work, and those planning an innocence project, to exchange practical ideas on day-to-day aspects)

- *Selection, retention and turnover of student caseworkers*
- *Funds needed/costs involved/fundraising*
- *Physical requirements to comply with client confidentiality and supervisory aspects of casework*
- *What is the role of supervising solicitors/barristers, and, how should you utilise them?*
- *What are the possible limitations of supervising solicitors/barristers?*
- *Distinctions between the legal strategies/practices and the innocence project approach.*

3.40 - 4.20 pm:

**Session 3: Presentation of Outcomes from Focus Group Discussions**

Following the various focus group discussions in the previous session, the respective chair and rapporteur from each focus group will present and share the key outcomes and findings from their group discussions and gain feedback from other student and



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staff participants of the meeting.

4.20pm - 4.40 pm:

**Session 4: Student ideas for specific network tasks to be undertaken voluntarily**

Some annual reports from members remain outstanding, so we only have an incomplete picture of casework activity and member funding. However, from reports received so far, there appears to be a clear will among student members to share ideas and good practice with colleagues nationally.

This session will explore how student members might volunteer to take on specific roles within the network, to expand the student support aspects of the INUK. The aim is to explore interest in creating new volunteer key student roles within INUK to assist and expand the network, and at the same time to enable students to learn and experience transferable skills such as aspects of managing a national student network, co-ordinating key innocence project student events and forums.

Views will be invited on the possibility of a free Legal Practice Course place being offered to an outstanding INUK student, and student opinions will be sought on the mechanics of a competition to decide how a winner can best be decided.

4.40pm- 5.00pm

**Q & A**

The aim of this session is to provide an opportunity for participating staff and students to clarify any questions or issues that may be raised from the presentations.

5.00pm – 6.00pm

**Keynote Speaker: drinks and light refreshments**

**Profile of Keynote speaker, Mark Ellison QC (QEB Hollis Whiteman Chambers):**

Having advised and acted for both the defence and prosecution in a number of high profile serious fraud cases including Guinness and Blue Arrow and corruption involving North Sea Oil and Channel Tunnel contracts, he accepted an invitation to become Treasury Counsel in 1994.

Thereafter as Treasury Counsel, he advised and acted in high profile and complex terrorist, official secrets and other sensitive cases, and was appointed First Senior Treasury Counsel in 2006.



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His work has involved: complex (often trans-national) serious fraud connected to funding terrorism; corruption in public and private bodies; extradition; 3rd party disclosure involving UK and foreign authorities, individuals, companies and journalists; trial secrecy and press freedom issues; contempt of court; the admissibility and gathering of foreign evidence including intercept; medical and corporate manslaughter cases; advice as to the merits of prosecuting members of political parties for donation offences, and, public, international, and domestic criminal law issues connected to the alleged illegality of the war on Iraq.

He has conducted cases at all levels in the courts and while Junior Treasury Counsel advised on and conducted a number of professional conduct cases before the General Medical Council.

His appointment as First Treasury Counsel ended in 2008 and he is now able to devote more time again to private practice in the knowledge that the further experience gained is directly relevant to many private practice areas.

In 2008/2009 he has: acted for a director of Dunlop Oil and Marine in the first OFT prosecution for a cartel offence under the Enterprise Act 2002; advised foreign nationals on immigration and extradition matters; advised the authorities in the Turks and Caicos and Jersey on a range of issues; advised foreign and UK companies on employee and competitor fraud-related issues; advised UK and foreign nationals and companies in connection with investigations and disclosure issues, and advised the Home Office in relation to the possible admission of intercepted communications as evidence in proceedings.

**Recent significant cases include:**

R v Jones and others (2004-2006) - impact of alleged illegality of Iraq war on domestic criminal defences (House of Lords)

Operation Antler (2002-2005) - merits of prosecuting personnel at Porton Down who conducted/authorised experiments on servicemen from 1950-1985.

R v Copeland – the London nail bomber

R v Kenneth Noye – the M25 murder

R v Jeffrey Archer - perverting the course of public justice