



The Slynn Foundation



The Rt Hon
Lord Slynn of Hadley

Friends of The Slynn Foundation E- Bulletin No 16 November 2017

A letter from the President



Slynn Lecture 2018 – save the date

I am delighted that The Rt Hon the Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales until October 2017, has agreed to give the 2018 Slynn Lecture on a Brexit topic. After discussion, it was agreed to call the Lecture, “Some aspects of the legal issues and implications of Brexit for the UK and for Europe” since we cannot predict at what stage the negotiations will be in March and therefore put forward a more precise title at this stage. What is certain is that we are assured of a rigorous analysis whatever the state of affairs. Lord Thomas’ Lecture will be followed by Q&As.

The Lecture will be held in the early evening on **Monday 5 March 2018** and we are very grateful to Clifford Chance for agreeing to host the event at their offices. Further details will follow in due course.

Current and future activities

The Foundation’s activity in recent months has focussed again on Albania, whilst we have continued to develop our on-going work in Eritrea. At the same time we have been active in developing new relationships, both with other organisations such as ILAC (International Consortium for Legal Assistance) and UN – Global Judicial Integrity Programme (see the Executive Director’s report below) and through requests for assistance from other countries.

It is worth noting that between 2013 and the present the Foundation has received some initial interest from approximately 22 countries. This interest has varied in nature from an initial general enquiry to submitting a full proposal. Whilst the Foundation is not always able to follow through for a number of reasons, such as lack of funding, we are presently exploring possibilities in Belize, Cyprus, East Africa, Guatemala, Libya, Pakistan, Tanzania and Ukraine. We will report on these prospects in future E-Bulletins.

Russia

In July I met with representatives of the Russian State University of Justice who are thinking about establishing a training course for English-speaking students who are going to become judges. Their focus is on e-justice and they are hoping to arrange a seminar early in the New Year to explore this further.

*Sir Stanley and Dr Alexander Pashinsky
Dean of the Continuing Education Faculty*



Kazakhstan

Also in July, the Slynn Foundation and the Law Society hosted an evening event for a delegation of 14 Kazakh judges including a member of Kazakhstan's Supreme Court. I spoke on Meeting the Challenges of Maintaining an Independent Judiciary, and you can read more about this occasion below.

Support the Foundation

If you would like to do more to support the work of the Foundation, please see the item at the end of this Bulletin. These gifts increase the scope of the work we can do.

With warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanley Burnton'.

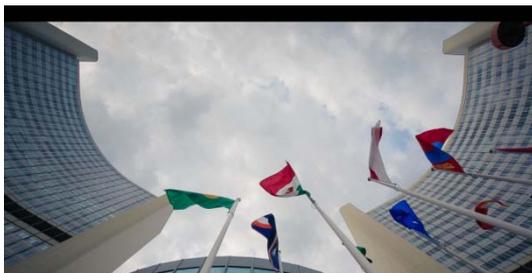
[The Rt Hon Sir Stanley Burnton](#)

President, The Slynn Foundation
November 2017

A Note from the Executive Director

In the past few months the Foundation has continued to consolidate its existing projects as well as developing new relationships.

For example, in August I represented the Foundation at a meeting in Vienna of the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC). UNODC is seeking to work closely with judges, educational experts, judicial training institutes to develop and implement a universally applicable e-learning course and a manual for face to face workshops. The



UN Building in Vienna

meeting in Vienna brought together experts from the fields of judicial ethics and training from different regions to discuss and guide the development of this project.



Discussions with representatives from Belize and Pakistan



Plenary Session

I also continue to represent the Foundation on the board of ROLE UK (for more information, see <http://www.roleuk.org.uk>). The Department for International Development (DfID) has confirmed that funding for Role UK will cease in March 2018. However it has strongly indicated that it values the contribution that the international pro bono sector makes in furthering the Rule of Law, particularly in the global south, and is looking at ways to continue the relationship beyond March 2018. The Foundation looks forward to supporting any new initiative that may emerge.

Alison Fenney,
Executive Director

Albania

In September, Michel Aslangul visited the Magistrates' School to discuss the Professional Examination for the general annual competition for places at the School and his report has been submitted. The Judicial Appointments Commission has very kindly agreed to help the Foundation with this part of the project..

The Foundation has been involved in setting up in a new "training the trainer" course in Albania, running in conjunction with the Judicial College. The two trainers are His Honour Judge Burbidge QC and Regional Tribunal Judge Hugh Howard, accompanied by Sir David Latham. Sir David will be chairing the sessions and taking the opportunity to explore how the Foundation can continue to support future work. ☒

Cyprus

Trustee Amanda Pinto recently attended the English Cypriot Law Day in Limassol and linked the Foundation with the High Commissioner who has indicated that the Foundation's support would be welcome in the modernisation of both law and procedures in Cyprus. A retired Supreme Court judge, George Erotocritos, has taken up the new post of Director of Reform and Training attached to the Supreme Court and will take this forward. The Foundation has agreed to work with the Bar Council on this as a joint project and we will report further in the next E-Bulletin.

Eritrea

Following on from the successful visit to Eritrea a year ago, the Foreign Office has approved funding for the Foundation to undertake a second visit to Eritrea and it is hoped that the visit will take place early in the New Year. ☒

Kazakhstan

The Foundation was invited by the Law Society to organise an evening event for a group of 14 visiting judges from Kazakhstan who were participating in a programme aimed at providing the judges with an overview of the English common law system. The programme was organised by the Law Society together with the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan, the Astana International Financial Centre (“AIFC”), and City Law School.

L-R: Sir Stanley Burnton and Peter Williamson

The judges were given a brief introduction to the work of the Slynn Foundation by Chairman of the Trustees Peter Williamson, and Slynn Foundation

President Sir Stanley Burnton then addressed them on “Meeting the Challenges of Maintaining an Independent Judiciary”. This was followed by a very lively question and answer session, and the evening ended with a drinks reception at which the judges were able to chat informally to the speakers, a number of Slynn Foundation Trustees and other members of the English legal profession. ☒

*A question from Madiyar Balken,
a judge of the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan*



Tanzania

Trustee Sir James Dingemans attended the Commonwealth Magistrates’ and Judges’ Association conference in Dar Es Salaam in September where he had the opportunity to talk about the work of the Slynn Foundation to the British High Commissioner, Sarah Cooke. Ms Cooke is pursuing attempts to strengthen the rule of law in Tanzania by supporting an independent judiciary, and is interested in pursuing practical support for the judiciary in Tanzania. The Chief Justice is seeking assistance from experienced judges in reforming the process of committals; case management; judgment writing; and general assistance in reducing delays in criminal and civil proceedings. He is also keen to receive assistance with the new Judicial Training College being established and the Foundation has now provided further information about its work and activities and is awaiting their response. We will report further in the next E-Bulletin. ☒

Slynn Fellow 2017



Our Slynn Fellow this year was Ms Dima Alexandrova who, having completed an LLM degree in Business Law and Dispute Resolution at King's College London, then went on to carry out the Slynn Fellow programme designed for her by Trustee Ms Marie Demetriou QC.

In the course of her Fellowship programme, she participated in a marshalling scheme at the Commercial Division of the Royal Courts of Justice, observing trials of Queen's Bench Division Judges with Sir Robin Knowles, Sir Simon Picken, and His Honour Judge Waksman from the commercial Division.

She carried out the rest of her Fellowship at Brick Court Chambers, assisting Mr Daniel Piccinin in a state aid case, and she also worked with Mr David Bailey on a competition case he pleaded before the European Court of Justice. In the last week of her fellowship she worked primarily with Ms Marie Demetriou QC and attended a trial of hers at the Royal Courts of Justice about the abuse of EU Citizen rights and the problem of rough sleeping in particular.

She was also able to attend a one-day commercial mediation session with Mr Stephen Ruttle QC at Kingsley Napley LLP.

You can read Ms Dimitrova's full report of her activities and personal impressions on the Foundation website <http://slynn-foundation.org/fellowships/>

Coaching for the IBA-VIAC Consensual Dispute Resolution Competition

Along with her LLM at King's College London, Ms Alexandrova coached a team for the IBA-VIAC Consensual Dispute Resolution Competition in Vienna (10-14 July 2017). The King's team won 3rd Prize and a trophy. The event is at world level where 33 teams (selected out of approx. 60) with established ADR in particular mediation practices compete.



Bulgaria



In the May issue we reported on the visit in March of Sir Stanley Burnton and Sir Stephen Silber to Sophia at the invitation of HM Ambassador, Emma Hopkins.

Sir Stanley speaking at the Supreme Court with Ambassador Emma Hopkins and Mr Lozan Panov, Chair of the Supreme Court of Cassation



Please support the Slynn Foundation

Please contact our Executive Administrator, [Ruth Eldon](#), for further information about the Foundation and how you may be able to support us. There is an increasing demand for our work and offers to assist on projects, or financial donations, are very much appreciated. The Foundation is a charitable trust and a non-profit making company limited by guarantee. 