

# RETHINKING THE SOCIAL CONTRACT: LAW IN TIMES OF TURMOIL

(Conference in honour of George Dobry CBE QC and Prof. William Cornish (MG QC (Hon) FBA))



FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2023

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## *Rethinking the Social Contract: Law in times of turmoil*

Conference (in honour of George Dobry CBE QC and Prof. William Cornish CMG QC (Hon) FBA)

Warsaw: Friday 17 November 2023

The British Law Centre (“BLC”) has been based at the University of Warsaw, Faculty of Law & Administration (“UW WPiA”) since 1992. The BLC’s prime movers were George Dobry CBE QC and Prof. William Cornish CMG QC (Hon) FBA, both of whom were instrumental in its creation and ongoing success.

The conference addresses the need to rethink the ‘social contract’ for the 21st century and beyond. The war in Ukraine, climate catastrophe, cyber-crime, political populism, Brexit, AI and many other aspects of a rapidly-changing political environment require us to think whether existing legal solutions are fit for purpose in contemporary society.

The conference brings together renowned speakers from the UK, Poland and Ukraine, including experts from senior courts (inc. the Court of Justice of the EU, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal of English & Wales), important constitutional offices (inc. the Polish Ombudsman for Citizens’ Rights), leading academic institutions (inc. University of Oxford) and civic society (inc. the global charity, Oxfam). It will foster international, academic and legal cooperation and strengthen ties between common law and civil law cultures.

### Conference timetable

Time	Speaker	Speaker Description	Paper title
09:00	Introduction words: Prof. Tomasz Giaro Dr. Stephen Terrett Rosemary Alexander Tomasz Wardynski Lord Robert Carnwath		
09:40	Lord Robert Carnwath	Justice of the UK Supreme Court for 8 years (2012-2020), during which time he gave numerous leading judgements.	<i>Brexit and the case-law of the UK Supreme Court</i>
10:00	Sir Stephen Irwin	Former Lord Justice of Appeal, Court of Appeal (England and Wales), Privy Councillor	<i>Will the United Kingdom depart from the Council of Europe? Some suggestions for understanding the itch to leave.</i>
10:20	Prof. Marcin Wiącek	Polish Ombudsman on Citizens' Rights and Professor of Human Rights, University of Warsaw	<i>The impact of new technologies on human rights protection, plus Q&amp;A</i>
10:40	Q&A		
11:00	Coffee break		
11:20	Advocate-General, Prof. Maciej Szpunar	1st Advocate-General of the Court of Justice of the European Union	<i>How new technologies affect existing legal concepts</i>
11:40	Marcin Olender	Public Policy and Government Relations Manager Central and Eastern Europe at Google	<i>(Dis)information in the digital age</i>
12:00	Prof. Adam Łazowski	Professor of EU law at the University of Westminster. Visiting Professor at the College of Europe (Natolin) and at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (Ukraine).	<i>Brexit as a breach of the social contract?</i>
12:20	Q&A		
12:45	Lunch		
14:00	Prof. Adam Bodnar	Professor of Constitutional and Human Rights law, SWPS University, Warsaw. Polish Ombudsman on Citizens' Rights (2015-2021)	<i>The rule of law crisis in Poland: how to fix it.</i>

14:20	Prof. Marcin Matczak	Professor of the Theory and Philosophy of Law, University of Warsaw	<i>Rewriting the social contract in the language of populism</i>
14:40	Prof. Tomasz Koncewicz	Professor of EU Law, University of Gdańsk	<i>The Court of Justice to the rescue? Of the promises (and limits too) of the courtroom.</i>
15:00	Q&A		
15:20	Coffee break		
15:40	Joss Saunders	Oxfam's General Counsel and Company Secretary, Charity lawyer.	<i>From WW2 to the war in Ukraine: the lawyer's work in organisations meeting social needs, from the perspective of the General Counsel a global Humanitarian organisation</i>
16:00	Dr. Daryna Dvornichenko	Visiting research fellow at Oxford University's Department of Politics and International Relations	<i>Legal aspect of internal displacement: amplifying the voices of internally displaced women in Ukraine</i>
16:20	Prof. Tetyana Komarova	Professor of EU Law and Head of EU Law Dept, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University.	<i>Ukraine's road to EU membership - past, present and future challenges</i>
16:40	Q&A		
17:00	Coffee break		
17:20	Damian Falkowski	Commercial barrister, specialising in banking and property law.	<i>The future of financial transactions: Cryptoassets, Smart Contracts and Artificial Intelligence</i>
17:40	Dr. Robert Rybski	Assistant Professor Of Law, University of Warsaw. Head of Sustainable Finance - Postgraduate Studies.	<i>How should we regulate fusion power?</i>
18:00	Dr. Christopher McNall	Barrister (18 St. John St. Chambers) and former British Law Centre tutor (1994-1996).	<i>The judge in the age of Artificial Intelligence</i>
18:20	Q&A		
18:40	Concluding remarks		

After the conference, a short graduation ceremony will take place for those graduating the British Law Centre [Diploma in English Law & Legal Skills](#), starting at 18:45. If you are able to join us for this, please do so.