

about the conference

This is the fifth IER annual conference organised in association with the TUC and Old Square Chambers. The conference is timed to coincide with the introduction of new legislation, due to come in to force on 1st October. The aim is to ensure trade union representatives are kept up to date and well informed about developments in employment law. The platform of speakers includes some of the leading UK legal experts in individual employment rights and collective labour law.

Before considering the implications of new legislation, speakers will look at developments over the last 12 months. The emphasis on this year's Employment Law Update is the 2 aspects of legislation relating to the substantial current and planned legislation: economics and equalities.

The programme will begin with an assessment of how in the 60th year of ILO Convention 98, Collective Bargaining is being undermined by the Posted Workers' Directive. Speakers will also examine how blacklisting in the construction industry and performance pressure in the current economic climate are jeopardising hard-won rights while insecurity stalks dignity at work.

Afternoon contributions will revolve around the new Single Equalities Bill and speakers will highlight what they see as its strengths and weaknesses, through a series of recent case studies and a keynote speech from Sarah Veale, TUC.

Knowledge and understanding of the law and how best to use it are essential if we are to secure fairness at work. But raising expectations about where the law ought to be is just as important. The aim is to ensure trade union representatives are kept up to date and well informed about developments in employment law.

programme

9:30 Registration

9:50 Introduction from Chair: *Carolyn Jones, IER*

The Economics of Employment Law

10:00 Undercutting Collective Agreements and the Posted Workers Directive
Prof Keith Ewing, President IER

10:30 Blacklisting and the campaign for dignity at work
Steve Cottingham, O H Parsons

11:00 Whistleblowing and the Economic recession: 10 years of the PIDA
Catherine Hobby, University of East London

11:30 Tea and coffee

11:45 *Philip Mead, Old Square Chambers*

12:15 Discussion

12:30 LUNCH (not provided)

Equalities and Employment Law

1:30 The Single Equalities Bill: A Critical Overview
Laura Prince, Matrix Chambers

2:00 Equality Update 2009: Part A
Nicola Newbegin, Old Square Chambers

2:30 Equality Update 2009: Part B
Stuart Brittenden, Old Square Chambers

3:00 Tea and coffee

3:15 Fairness at work – the next step?
Sarah Veale, TUC

3.45 Panel discussion and questions

4:15 Close