



Competition Law Association

British Group of the
Ligue Internationale du Droit de la Concurrence
(International League for Competition Law)

www.competitionlawassociation.org.uk
www.ligue.org

The **Competition Law Association** invites you and your colleagues to

The 24th Burrell Lecture and Dinner

Thursday 30 November 2023

The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn:
8 South Square, London WC1R 5ET

We are delighted to announce that

Lord Justice Birss

will deliver this year's lecture entitled:

***“Is a focus on data the way to improve access to justice
in a multifaceted world?”***

(Big) data has presented a new world of challenges and opportunities. Many are still in their infancy but there have been rapid developments, with the arrival of ever-more sophisticated machine learning and artificial intelligence. At its best, it allows for solutions to complex and multifaceted problems which can challenge traditional categorised approaches. How technology uses information may be the key to advancing human justice in a digital age.

The justice system puts things into case categories: e.g. housing, employment and family; but the reality is that many people face difficulties which do not fit in so neatly. An employment problem may in turn cause rent arrears which impacts on the family. Which part of the system a person encounters (an employment tribunal, a housing ombudsman or county court possession list, or the family court) may make a profound difference to the human outcome.

The new Online Procedure Rules Committee (OPRC) has a wide remit. It includes the pre-action space and it is cross-jurisdictional in nature, encompassing civil, family and tribunals. The IT system being built in the HMCTS Reform programme is constructed on a database common to those same three jurisdictions.

Together these features present an opportunity to bring about a new justice network which may be able to better handle the multifaceted nature of real world problems, and to complete the creation of a truly Digital Justice System. The key to it all is data. A set of common data standards would allow the various parts of the system to interact, to the benefit of all. Birss LJ will examine these issues and seek to explain how data, and the new OPRC, may advance the cause of access to justice in these and other areas.

Colin Birss is a judge of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales and Deputy Head of Civil Justice. He was called to the English Bar in 1990 and practised in intellectual property law. He was appointed Standing Counsel for the Comptroller 2003-2008 and took silk in 2008. In 2010 Colin Birss was appointed judge of the Patents County Court (now Intellectual Property Enterprise Court (IPEC)). In 2013 he was appointed to the High Court, Chancery Division and in 2019 became Judge in Charge of the Patents Court. In 2021 he was appointed to the Court of Appeal and as Deputy Head of Civil Justice. Colin Birss was a member of the Civil Procedure Rules Committee for many years and now chairs that committee. He served as Supervising Judge for the Business and Property Courts on the Midlands, Western and Wales Circuits from 2017-2019. He is an independent judicial member of the EPO Boards of Appeal Committee and serves on the Advisory Board of Judges for the WIPO Judicial Institute. He is also General Editor of Terrell on the Law of Patents, and a Council member of the UK Foundation for Science and Technology.

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Registration will open at **6.15 pm**
 Lecture will begin promptly at **6.30 pm** in the Large Pension Room
 Drinks Reception and Dinner from **7.30 pm**
 Dinner will take place in the Main Hall and the event will conclude at approx. **10.30 pm**

Rates and Registration

Full Rate:	£120 (Dinner & Lecture) / £55 (Lecture Only)
Concessionary Rate:	£75 (Dinner & Lecture) / £35 (Lecture Only) <i>Full-time academic or public sector/regulator employees only (other than secondees from private practice)</i>
Associate Rate:	£20.00 (Lecture Only) <i>Students, trainee solicitors & pupil barristers only</i>

To register for this event, please visit the “**new events**” section of the CLA website

If you are attending the dinner and have any special dietary requirements/food allergies, please email the CLA Administrator, Suzanne Snook (admin@competitionlawassociation.org.uk), following your online registration.

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