

Justice, Fairness and the Rule of Law

Better legal systems, better
governance



One-week professional development workshop
4 to 8 November 2019



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About the workshop

The rule of law is internationally recognised as a prerequisite of good governance. Its principles are embedded in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and are recognised in the constitutions of nation states around the world. The rule of law means that the norms of domestic and international law are equally applicable to everyone – the powerful and the powerless, the rich and the poor. Observance of the rule of law has major economic implications: confidence in the fairness and the accessibility of a country's legal system and in the independence of its judiciary affects the willingness of other countries to enter into commercial transactions.

In many countries, including the UK, there are debates about the extent to which government can and should be held accountable in the courts. At the same time, justice is increasingly recognised as a major public service – as important in its own way as other services like health and education, and requiring a very large investment of public money. Yet the administration of justice is often seen as distinctive, not least because of sensitivities surrounding judicial independence.

Should litigants be treated – as they are, increasingly, in the UK – as “customers”, whose needs and expectations should be given priority over the convenience of courts and lawyers? British judges have, in recent years, been given more responsibility for case-management; has this proved to be a positive development? Should litigants have unlimited rights of appeal? How can efficiency be enhanced by the effective use of information technology? How can access to justice be improved, particularly for people of limited financial means when only limited public funding is available – particularly at a time when public expenditure is being severely cut back?

Who is it for?

This one-week workshop is designed mainly for lawyers, judges, legal administrators and representatives from non-government organisations and funding agencies with an interest in the judicial sector. It will draw substantially upon recent and continuing developments in England and Wales and will also encourage you to share ideas and experiences with participants from other jurisdictions.

How participants will benefit

The workshop will:

- Introduce you to the justice system of England and Wales
- Examine the meaning and significance of the rule of law, drawing upon the UK experience and the shared experiences of participants
- Familiarise you with recent and current initiatives to modernise the management and delivery of justice – such as the reports on civil justice by Lord Woolf in the 1990s, the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 and the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishments of Offenders Act 2012
- Enable you to understand the financial and other obstacles to access to the justice system
- Identify aspects of UK experience which can be applied in other countries and aspects of overseas experience from which the UK system might benefit
- Help you to identify practical ways of initiating relevant and sustainable change to enhance respect for the rule of law and access to justice on return to your own country.

“PAI stands as an agent of change through the delivery of timely and relevant development programmes, affecting governments around the world. I am fortunate to have been a part of this dynamic global experience.”

Ingrid Cooper-Brooks
Deputy Registrar
Court of Appeal, Bahamas

What the workshop will cover

The workshop will explore practical strategies for reinforcing respect for the rule of law, with particular reference to the delivery of justice and access to the justice system. You will be able to examine how the key mechanisms and agencies, such as courts and tribunals, the Ministry of Justice and its executive agencies, the legal aid system and the legal professions relate to one another and deliver their services. The programme will include seminar sessions, discussions, case studies, practical work and visits. It has been designed to be flexible so that it can be adjusted wherever practicable to your requirements and those of your organisation.

The workshop has two main components:

- You will be briefed about the UK Government's justice policies; the measures being adopted to modernise the justice system in England and Wales; how successful these measures have been and how they fit into wider strategies for the delivery of accessible justice and respect for the rule of law
- You will consider, in the light of shared experience, options for reform in your own country, action plans and strategies for change.

You will be invited to give an informal presentation on your own system and to identify any particularly pressing problems relating to the management and delivery of justice and issues surrounding respect for the rule of law in your own country.

Programme outline

	AM	PM
Day 1	Welcome and introductions The rule of law - in theory and in practice	Introduction to action planning Participants' informal presentations: key issues and problems
Day 2	Modernising government and the administration of justice Overview of the English and Welsh civil justice system, including tribunals, appeals and judicial review	The role of the Ministry of Justice and the Legal Services Commission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to justice • Litigants as "customers" • The cost of litigation • Legal aid
Day 3	<i>Visit to a lawyer's firm (out of London)</i> The practical realities of legal aid and access to justice	<i>Visit to a county court or a crown court (out of London)</i> The role of the courts in civil and criminal proceedings Adjudicating small claims
Day 4	<i>Visits to the Citizens' Advice Bureau and to the Civil Appeals Office at the Royal Courts of Justice</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating access to justice: helping litigants in person • Managing the work of the Court of Appeal 	<i>Visit to the Supreme Court</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structure and role of the UK Supreme Court • Issues of change management and public access Attend an appeal hearing
Day 5	Courts and judges in a changing world: the role of the Judicial Office Round table discussion: challenges and prospects for the future	Action planning: participants' reports Evaluation of the workshop Presentation of certificates of attendance

We reserve the right to change the programme as necessary.

Language

The workshop is conducted in English. You will need to have a good working knowledge of the language.

Location and arrival arrangements

The workshop is based in central London. It will include presentations from and visits to people and organisations with direct experience of managing the civil justice system, including the court service and non-government organisations. We can arrange travel to and from one of the London airports into central London if you let us have your flight arrival details in good time. The cost of airport transfers is included in the fee.

Fees

The fee for the workshop will be £2,130. It includes tuition, travel to and from the airport in London, travel on scheduled visits which form part of the programme¹, presentation material and other documentation. It also includes a sim enabled Android tablet for you to use during the workshop and take home with you. We also provide a light lunch and refreshments during each working day as part of the fee.

Other costs

Airfares and daily travel to and from the workshop venue are not included. Our workshops are non-residential and you are responsible for your accommodation costs. We can help you with booking hotel accommodation so please let us know if you would like us to advise you or make a reservation. We suggest that you should allow approximately £160 per day for a modest standard of hotel (for example, three-star), local travel in the UK, meals (apart from a light lunch on working days) and other incidental expenses.

Value Added Tax

We do not have to charge UK Value Added Tax (VAT) if you can provide written confirmation from your government or its accredited representative that you are “employed by the government in furtherance of its sovereign activities”. In all other cases, we will have to charge VAT (currently 20%) in addition to the fee.

Ways to pay

You, or your government agency, can pay by bank transfer or by cheque, made payable to Public Administration International. We accept payment by credit or debit card but there is a surcharge for this way of paying. Please contact us if you would like to pay by credit or debit card.

Discounts

We offer a 10% reduction on the full tuition fee if we receive payment no later than 21 days before the first day of the workshop. If we receive payment after that, we will charge the full tuition fee.

Additional discounts may be available. Please contact us if you would like to discuss options.

Cancellation

If you have to cancel your booking, you must let us know in writing and we will acknowledge in writing your cancellation.

Substitutions and transfers

If you have booked a place on a workshop and are not able to attend, we will accept a substitute at any time without penalty but our normal terms and conditions will apply. Also, it is possible to transfer to a future workshop but only one transfer is permitted. Please get in touch with us and we will advise you about transfers.

Please see our website for our full terms and conditions. If you would prefer a hard copy of our full terms and conditions, please let us know.

<http://www.public-admin.co.uk/terms-and-conditions-for-booking/>

Insurance

We advise you to arrange travel and health insurance cover before you leave your home country.

¹Travel to and from the airport in London and on scheduled visits in the programme are provided at cost.

Workshop Director

The Workshop Director will be Professor Gavin Drewry. Gavin Drewry is Emeritus Professor of Public Administration in the University of London and Honorary Professor in Law at the University College London. He is a specialist in public administration and public law and has published widely in the field. He is also an experienced tutor and presenter. Our other contributors include a range of practitioners involved in the civil justice sector.

Who we are

PAI (Public Administration International) specialises in management consultancy, training and development services for organisations in, and associated with, the public sector worldwide. We provide advice and support for governments going through political, economic, structural and legislative change. Our extensive network of associates includes practitioners, academics and independent consultants. Our key objectives are promoting good governance and good practice in delivering public services. This workshop is one of a number of specialist UK-based professional development workshops designed to meet the needs of public services worldwide.

We pride ourselves on our:

- High quality, practical advice and support for our clients
- Professionalism and integrity
- Ability to offer excellent value for money
- Sound experience and track record internationally
- Networks and partnerships across the world
- Flexible, collaborative approach
- Friendliness and focus on putting people first.

How to apply

Please complete the PAI application form and post, fax or email it to Clare Walters, Programme Manager, at the address on the bottom of the page.

You can also apply online via our website www.public-admin.co.uk

If you would like to discuss this workshop, any of our other international workshops or our consultancy services, please contact Claire Cameron, Director.

We also have extensive experience of designing tailor-made training (from one day to two or three weeks) which can be run in your own country or in the UK to meet the specific needs of groups or individuals at all levels within your organisation. Please contact us if you would like further information.



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