



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

**Legal records, confidentiality and access: breaking
down the barriers**

3rd Legal Records at Risk seminar, 27 October 2017

The Legal Records at Risk Project seeks to

- Broaden the concept of "legal records" to include records of institutions and individuals specialized to law, mainly in the private sector eg the records of law firms and solicitors, barristers' chambers and barristers, legal executives, patent agents, licensed conveyancers, arbitrators and mediators.
- Identify - and facilitate the rescue of – C20 private sector legal records of potential research value which may be at risk.

What categories of legal records may have research value?

- Records of professional legal associations and pressure groups
- Administrative and policy records of legal service providers
- Client files and documents
- Papers of individual legal practitioners and other professionals



What are the barriers to rescuing these legal records for posterity?

Some legal institutions are quite reluctant to deposit records with archives. Why?

- Lack of awareness of/just not interested in historical relevance/value of records?
- Not seen as part of core functions/responsibilities?
- Little sense of themselves as part of the community? AND/OR....



Confidentiality concerns

- Are client confidentiality and legal professional privilege real - or just perceived - barriers to rescuing legal records for posterity? In other words...
- Do client confidentiality and legal professional privilege last forever or are they finite?

This seminar seeks to find answers to these questions.



The solicitor's perspective

Tracey Calvert

Director, Oakalls Consultancy Ltd

For Tracey's talk notes see Seminar Proceedings

The barrister's perspective

Nicholas Le Poidevin QC

New Square Chambers, Lincoln's Inn

For Nicholas' talk see Seminar Presentations

The researcher's perspective

Dr Lisa Webley

Professor of Empirical Legal Studies,
University of Westminster

For Lisa's talk see Seminar Proceedings

The archivist's perspective

Philip Gale

Head of Standards and Improvement Team,
Archives Sector Development, The National
Archives

For Philip's talk see Seminar Proceedings

Dr Elizabeth Lomas

Senior Lecturer in Information Governance,
Department of Information Studies, University
College London

For Elizabeth's talk see Seminar Presentations

Thankyou for attending this
seminar

The Legal Records at Risk project

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<http://ials.sas.ac.uk/research/areas-research/legal-records-risk-lrar-project>