

OFFICIAL LAUNCH - NEW IMMIGRATION & PUBLIC LAW AND ANIMAL RIGHTS TEAMS

Tuesday, 8 December 2020

Thank you to all those who registered and attended our launch, we hope you enjoyed the evening with us. For those who were not able to join us, we are happy to share our launch via this link - <https://youtu.be/oIsaaEDuDy4> - as well as some festive cheer! :) The lucky ones who are due a goodie bag, will receive this in the New Year.



As we approach the end of a difficult 2020, a year which will never be forgotten, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the positives. It has been a time of discovering new ways of working and developing new skills so we can meet the challenges of changing work practices but also to ensure Chambers collegiate spirit continues.



With an eye to the future, we have worked hard throughout the year with all our staff, collaborators and friends, who remain an integral part of our team. It was therefore with great pleasure that Chambers hosted the official launch of two new teams on 8th December 2020: the first team expanding from our established immigration team into an immigration and public law team and the second being the first ever animal rights team at the Bar.

Jane Heybroek, of the newly expanded immigration and public law team, welcomed all those who attended. She was the secret producer of the very stirring and powerful opening credits, which showcased the challenges that we all face as lawyers and some of the many achievements of the team!

Head of Chambers, Anthony Metzger QC, expressed his gratitude to all those involved in organising and presenting the launch and celebrated the growth of the team with our 'magnificent seven' joining Chambers in November and early December of this year.

We were delighted that The Hon. Mr Justice Fordham, High Court Judge and Kevin Schneider, Executive Director of the Nonhuman Rights Project (NhRP) in the US were able to join us to celebrate this special occasion. Kevin inspired us with an eloquent and informative talk on the work of the NhRP and Mr Justice Fordham, taking a very active role in the event, charmed the audience, posing a number of questions to the team leaders and to Anthony, probing how our new teams are seeking to utilise their public law specialisms to protect those most vulnerable and break new ground on animal rights. He revealed secrets about each member of the team hosting the launch (if you are curious delve into the recording)!



Samina and Sarah highlighted that with the team already leading in immigration law, the time was right to take on these new areas in a more specialised way to further maintain

that *Justice for All* can be achieved. Similarly, Fran reflected on the growing social awareness of humans' impact on other animals and recent cases abroad where Courts have grappled with the issue of nonhuman rights. The time is right for a specialised team of lawyers dedicated to animal rights to lead the way in the development of this area of law.

We therefore move towards 2021, with hope and understanding of what is needed to ensure that we emerge fully prepared to face the incoming challenges. In the meantime, the Immigration & Public law and Animal Rights teams wish you all a well-deserved break during this festive period and a Happy New Year.

