

# Internet Newsletter for Lawyers: Barristers' Extra

May/June 2006

## Chambers Offering Significant Legal Resources on their Sites

by Delia Venables

Now that solicitors are increasingly using the web to find legal information, they will surely be impressed by barristers or chambers who provide what they need.

I am not suggesting that solicitors will be using search engines as their main way to find barristers on the web: that surely is too casual an approach for a legal professional. However, they will be using registers of barristers' sites such as my own at [www.venables.co.uk/bar.htm](http://www.venables.co.uk/bar.htm) and will be looking for "proof of expertise" on particular topics. One good way for barristers to indicate expertise is to provide legal resources on their site.

One thing which I have noticed over the last couple of years is that the sites with good legal information seem to come and go with alarming frequency! It is often just one or two barristers who provide the new material for these web sites and if *they* lose interest, or move to another chambers, the site quickly becomes out of date. Here are some of the most interesting chambers' sites – and which (most of the time) are kept up to date. I start with my three "best chambers' resources sites" and then cover a number of other good ones as well.

### Human Rights Update from One Crown Office Row at [www.humanrights.org.uk](http://www.humanrights.org.uk)

This is a database of reports and commentaries on civil cases dating back to 1998 and updated weekly. The cases are taken from domestic courts and the Strasbourg court involving human rights points that demonstrate the impact of the European Convention on domestic law and the site also explores the practical impact of these cases for practitioners.

The site is divided into practice areas including agriculture, children, costs and procedure, disciplinary proceedings, education, environment and so on. Some of the work areas are further subdivided.

Listed with each practice area are relevant cases, each with a short summary, a report of the judgment and a comment. Cases can be found under multiple work areas, as appropriate, and also under the corresponding Incorporated Rights.

The whole database is edited and largely written by Rosalind English, former public law academic and now an associate member of One Crown Office Row. Other barristers there are also writing reports and articles within the overall framework.

There is a good search engine which is easy to understand (options offered are "find pages with all the words", "with the exact phrase", "with any of the words" and "without the words" and it is possible to sign up for a weekly update by email. You have to register for much of the detailed material, but it is all free and there are apparently almost 10,000 registered users, 320 of whom are receiving the weekly email alerters.

As well as being a resource for practitioners, it is widely used by students and less experienced lawyers, and also by members of the public, since it includes a practical guide to the Convention and the Act; what are "Incorporated Rights", "Procedures and Remedies" and so on. Head of Chambers Robert Seabrook QC says "Since almost every area of law has already been touched by the Human Rights Act, the site will be of value to a wide audience and we have tried to make it correspondingly accessible to all - and free."

## 5RB (5 Raymond Buildings) at [www.5rb.co.uk](http://www.5rb.co.uk)

5RB is a leading set of barristers specialising in all areas of media and entertainment law, defamation and freedom of expression. Many of the leading cases in recent times have involved their members.

There are over 300 case reports on the site covering Media and Defamation, Privacy and Data Protection, Freedom of Information, Sports Law, Intellectual Property and other areas. The case reports include very recent ones and in many cases, copies of the judgments are appended. You can view these by subject area and then within subject area, alphabetically or by date. You can also register on the site for email briefings.

There is a sub committee set up in chambers to encourage everyone to provide the new input and great efforts are made to involve everyone in chambers in this project.

**Doughty Street Chambers** [www.doughtystreet.co.uk](http://www.doughtystreet.co.uk) provides information on Human Rights topics, including articles and comment on the act, European Convention material, international material, a news section and a good set of Human Rights links. They also offer email updates.

There is also information on the HRA Research Project, a research initiative to monitor and evaluate the Human Rights Act 1998 and the enjoyment of human rights in the UK.

Note that the website is a good mixture of press comments on chambers and "mug shots" (direct marketing) and legal

news (indirect marketing). It appears to be (and is) up to date with the latest cases and news. They have also taken particular care to make the site compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005.

## **More chambers' sites with significant legal content** (*alphabetically*)

**Arden Chambers**, [www.arden-chambers.law.co.uk](http://www.arden-chambers.law.co.uk), offers a series of "EFlashes" which are quick responses to recent decisions or legal developments. These can be sent direct to peoples' mailboxes or viewed on site. There is also a service called HousingLawDirect which allows Corporate and Fellow members of the Chartered Institute of Housing in England and Wales to access advice on housing law from specialist housing barristers.

**1 Chancery Lane**, [www.1chancerylane.com](http://www.1chancerylane.com), previously No. 1 Serjeants' Inn, are a leading civil common law set and their practice areas include novel duty of care claims against public authorities, education negligence, travel law, consumer law, health & safety, human rights, discrimination, social welfare law, undue influence claims and judicial review. There are large numbers of articles and briefings provided on the site.

**Hardwicke Building**, [www.hardwicke.co.uk](http://www.hardwicke.co.uk), provides an extensive and well presented Property section with cases, news and developments; you can register to receive their newsletter. There are 400 cases in the searchable archive and more than 60 articles on the site and several online "calculators" including Redundancy, Rents Arrears/Mesne Profits and a simple interest calculator.

**1 Hare Court**, [www.1hc.com](http://www.1hc.com), (previously 1 Mitre Court Buildings) offers case reports and developments in family law, an article on the Human Rights Act as applied to family law, some "calculators" for tax, benefits and currency conversion, and a set of links to family law sites.

**11 Kings Bench Walk**, [www.11kbw.com](http://www.11kbw.com), has a "newsy" format and offers topical case notes, seminar papers and other articles written by members of Chambers in the areas of employment law, public law and European and human rights law. These are kept well up to date. Viewers can register on the site for a newsletter containing articles on cases of particular interest.

**3-4 South Square**, [www.southsquare.com](http://www.southsquare.com), provides a monthly newsletter of case summaries, news and articles relating to commercial law developments called "3/4 Digest" in pdf format which can be downloaded from the site. Note the disclaimers on this site to prevent the viewer relying on the information provided; not many sites do this.

This article is online at [www.venables.co.uk/n0605chambers.htm](http://www.venables.co.uk/n0605chambers.htm) and [www.venables.co.uk/n0605chambers.pdf](http://www.venables.co.uk/n0605chambers.pdf).

See [www.venables.co.uk/n0605bru.htm](http://www.venables.co.uk/n0605bru.htm) for the rest of the May/June 2006 newsletter online.

**Coming in the July/August 2006 issue - Individual Barristers offering significant legal resources on their sites**

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## **Recent articles of particular interest to barristers**

Clerksroom - how does it work? - by Delia Venables and Jonathan Dingle, March/April 2006  
[www.venables.co.uk/n0603clerkroom.htm](http://www.venables.co.uk/n0603clerkroom.htm).

Web Marketing for Chambers by David Rose, November/December 2005  
[www.venables.co.uk/n0511chambersmarketing.htm](http://www.venables.co.uk/n0511chambersmarketing.htm)

Chambers without walls - BarristerWeb by Neil Goodman-Smith, September/October 2005  
[www.venables.co.uk/n0509withoutwalls.htm](http://www.venables.co.uk/n0509withoutwalls.htm)

How Barristers use the Internet by Martin Poulter, July/August 2005  
[www.venables.co.uk/n0507barristers.htm](http://www.venables.co.uk/n0507barristers.htm).

A Second Generation Website for a Chambers by Karen Rock Monnick, March/April 2005  
[www.venables.co.uk/n0503secondgeneration.htm](http://www.venables.co.uk/n0503secondgeneration.htm)

Search Engine Optimisation by Nick Holmes  
March/April 2006, [www.venables.co.uk/n0603searchengine.htm](http://www.venables.co.uk/n0603searchengine.htm).  
Note: the full article by Nick Holmes can be downloaded as a pdf file from [www.venables.co.uk/n0603searchengine.pdf](http://www.venables.co.uk/n0603searchengine.pdf).

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- \* What free legal material is available on the web - case law, transcripts, forms, news
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- \* What firms and chambers are doing already on the web
- \* The benefits of email, areas to be cautious and practical advice on using email
- \* Searching on the web - how to search and places to start

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- \* Selling Legal Services Online

### **Second Set of Advanced Studies for Lawyers - Five Online Tutorials (5 CPD) - £50 + VAT**

- \* Most Important Legal Sites in Europe and particularly in Ireland
- \* Most Important Legal Sites across the World
- \* Scottish Legal Sites and Resources
- \* Legal Resources Provided by Barristers on their websites
- \* Marketing on the Web for Barristers and for Solicitors (separate sections)

**Note - both sets of advanced internet studies for lawyers, if purchased together, cost just £80 plus VAT. 10 Southway, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1LU, tel & fax 01273 472424, [delia@venables.co.uk](mailto:delia@venables.co.uk).**

## **Whither the Legal Web?**

A new e-book (with CPD) edited by Delia Venables and Nick Holmes, two of the U.K.'s best known independent legal website authors, commentators and publishers. Each section is written by an expert in the field concerned.

The e-book (published in pdf) is designed for use in any of three ways:

- reading on screen, with live links to follow up on areas of interest
- printing off in sections for armchair reading
- as an online course qualifying for CPD (with a simple test at the end).

Part 1 looks at the way that the law itself is presented on the web. It covers the public provision of law on the web and ongoing initiatives to improve it: BAILII and the Statute Law Database (will it ever arrive?), EU Law and the Europa site, the UK Parliament, e-Government, access to justice, devolved parliaments and legislation, FOI and public sector information, how legal publishing is developing and new technologies for accessing legal information.

Part 2 covers the way that the web affects legal practice. There are articles on how communication is changing, managing email, electronic signatures, a virtual law firm, a virtual chambers, practice developments made possible by the internet, harnessing web resources for knowledge management, web marketing for solicitors and for barristers, selling legal services online, new risks, e-conveyancing and pro bono on the web.

Each part costs £40 plus VAT and includes the use, by one person, of the e-book as a course, qualifying for 5 CPD points per part. Both parts, if purchased together, cost £60 plus VAT.

Further details are on Nick's infolaw site [www.infolaw.co.uk](http://www.infolaw.co.uk) and Delia's site at [www.venables.co.uk](http://www.venables.co.uk). You can see the questions at any time (even before purchase) on Delia's site.

Purchase the e-book on the infolaw site by secure credit card processing or on payment against invoice. After completing the purchase, you can immediately access and download the e-book, and when ready, complete the brief test and be credited with CPD. *Note - the e-book can only be purchased online from Nick's site.*

***There are multiple use licences for all these courses - please ask for details.***

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