



# Commonwealth Association of Law Reform Agencies

*Encouraging international cooperation on law reform*

## **CALRAs Conference Programme 2025: St Julian's, Malta**

Date: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Venue: Rooms Skuna I and II, the Business Centre, The Hilton Hotel and Conference Centre, St Julian's, Malta



Friday 4 April 2025	
8.45 – 9.00am	<b>Registration</b>
9.00– 9.20am	<b>Opening of Conference:</b> Malcolm McMillan, General Secretary, CALRAs
9.20– 9.30 am	<b>Welcome address:</b> Mr Jonathan Attard, Minister for Justice and Reform of the Construction Sector, Malta
9.30– 10.30 am	<b>Milestones in Law Reform: Reflecting on Successes and Challenges</b> Chair: Professor Luis Franceschi, Assistant Secretary General and Head of Governance and Peace Directorate, the Commonwealth Secretariat Presentations and reflections from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Australian Law Reform Commission at 50 years, The Honourable Justice Mordecai Bromberg, President</li> <li>The Law Reform Commission of Ireland at 50 years, Eileen Roberts, Commissioner</li> </ul> Questions and discussion
10.30 – 11.00 am	Coffee/tea break
11.00 – 12.00pm	<b>Milestones in Law Reform continued</b> Chair: Dr Elizabeth Macharia, Legal Adviser, Law Development Section, the Commonwealth Secretariat Presentations and reflections from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Law Commission of England and Wales at 60 years, Sir Peter Fraser, Chair</li> <li>The Scottish Law Commission at 60 years, Lady Ann Paton, Chairman (recorded presentation)</li> </ul> Questions and discussion
12.00 – 1.00 pm	<b>The Commonwealth Secretariat: Law Reform and Model Laws</b>

	<p>Chair: Rosemary Kumitsonyo, the Law Commissioner, Malawi</p> <p>Presentation on the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat and law reform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Luis Franceschi, Assistant Secretary General and Head of Governance and Peace Directorate</li> <li>• Dr Elizabeth Macharia, Legal Adviser, Law Development Section</li> </ul> <p>Presentation on the Model Law on Virtual Assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loretta Joseph, Digital Commonwealth Ambassador</li> </ul> <p>Questions and discussion</p>
1.00 – 2.00 pm	Lunch break
2.00 – 3.30 pm	<p><b>Working with the legal profession and academia:</b></p> <p>Chair: Louiza Christodoulidou-Zannetou, Law Commissioner, Republic of Cyprus</p> <p>Law Societies and Bar Associations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: Michael Clancy OBE, Director of Law Reform, Law Society of Scotland</li> </ul> <p>Law Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: Emily Conroy, Researcher, South Australian Law Reform Institute</li> </ul> <p>Questions and discussion</p>
3.30 – 4.00 pm	Coffee/tea break
4.00 – 5.00 pm	<p><b>Artificial Intelligence and the Law</b></p> <p>Chair: Andy Beattie, immediate Past President, Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel and Chief Parliamentary Counsel for Scotland</p> <p>Presentation: Professor Richard Susskind, OBE KC (Hon), Commonwealth Special Envoy on AI and Justice (NB this is a remote presentation)</p> <p>Questions and discussion</p>
5.15pm	Informal drinks

## Saturday 5 April 2025

9.00 – 10.30 am	<p><b>Law Reform Agencies in Small States</b></p> <p>Chair: Reshma Sharma KC, Solicitor General, Cayman Islands</p> <p>Presentations and reflections of –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law Reform in Zanzibar, Dr Abdul-Nasser Hikmany, Director, Department of Law Review and Research, Attorney General's Office</li> <li>• The Law Reform Commission of Trinidad and Tobago, Paula Cross-Horton, Senior Legal Research Officer</li> </ul> <p>Questions and discussion</p>
10.30 – 11.00 am	Tea/coffee break
11.00 – 12.30pm	<p><b>Consultation: The Challenge of Difficult to Reach Consultees</b></p> <p>Chair: Fleur Kingham, Chair, Queensland Law Reform Commission</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A view from Victoria, by the Hon Anthony North KC, Chair, Victorian Law Reform Commission</li> <li>• A view from Namibia, by Saara Dama, Chief Legal Officer, The Law Reform and Development Commission of Namibia</li> </ul> <p>Questions and discussion</p>
12.30 – 12.45pm	<p><b>Concluding Remarks:</b></p> <p>Malcolm McMillan, General Secretary, CALRAs</p>
12.45 – 2.00 pm	Lunch break
2.00 – 3.00pm	<p><b>CALRAs General Meeting</b></p> <p>Agenda issued</p>
3.00 pm – 3.30pm	<b>The Role and Future of CALRAs</b>

	<p>Chair: Matthew Jolley, Head of Legal, Law Commission for England and Wales</p> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malcolm McMillan, General Secretary, CALRAs</li> </ul> <p>Questions and discussion</p>
3.30pm	<b>Close</b>