



# April 2026 Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel Newsletter

---

Published online at [calc.ngo/publications/newsletters](https://calc.ngo/publications/newsletters)

---

## What's in your April edition

### **CALC Council Spotlight:**

Michelle Daley

### **CALC Secretary Update:**

Welcome Philip Chessum

### **Member Connections: CALC Conference Singapore 2026**

Conference Update and extended deadline for papers!

### **In memoriam:**

In memory of Janet Erasmus, KC

A poem by Janet Erasmus: The Preamble — a drafter's caution

### **Jurisdiction Updates:**

Matthew Waddington, States of Jersey LDO

### **Member Contributions & Updates:**

Patrick Kamugisha, Artificial Intelligence and Copyright in Rwanda

John Wilson, Who writes the laws?

### **Upcoming 2026 CALC Events:**

June 2026 Webinar on Legislative Drafting and the Environment

June 2026 Drafting Institute, New Orleans

June 2026 IALS Legislative Drafting Course, online

July 2026 CALRAs Conference Singapore

July 2026 CALC Singapore

## CALC Council spotlight: Michelle Daley

Michelle is an Attorney-at-Law and holds a LLM in Legislative Drafting. An experienced legislative drafter with nearly three decades of practice across the Commonwealth Caribbean and beyond, Michelle began her career in the Office of the Parliamentary Council, Jamaica in 1997. And has held drafting positions in the Government services of the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, as well as the Deputy Solicitor General (Legislation) of Belize and Chief Parliamentary Counsel of Anguilla. Michelle also served as acting Attorney General of Anguilla. She is currently the lead Consultant on the Accessibility of Laws and Law Revision Project of the Government of the British Virgin Islands and Principal Consultant at [LegislationMD Ltd](#) providers of bespoke legislative drafting consulting services.

**A member of CALC for thirty years, she is currently serving her second term as Vice President.**

She previously served two terms as Americas Representative, being first elected to Council in 2017. She was also the chair of the 2024 CALC Conference Planning Committee.

Michelle is a strong supporter of CALC's objectives and believes it is an excellent forum for information sharing and networking through its publications and conferences. A very active member of CALC, her commitment is demonstrated by her participation at CALC events including attendance at seven CALC conferences (Kenya 2007, South Africa 2013, Australia 2017, Zambia 2019, Virtual 2022, Africa Region 2023 and Jamaica 2024) and presenting papers in South Africa, Zambia and Jamaica. She has also published papers in the Loophole. She believes the exposure and experiences has significantly influenced her both professionally and personally, through the diversity of ideas shared and friendships formed. She strongly supports promoting cooperation between drafting offices towards enhanced knowledge exchange, technology transfer, innovation and increased efficiency.

Michelle is very passionate about the development and mentoring of the next generation of drafters and enjoys promoting forums that exposes persons to careers in legislative drafting. She is also a visiting lecturer at the International Legislative Drafting Institute, Public Law Center, Tulane University.



## CALC Secretary Update

We would like to share an update regarding the CALC Secretary.

Following Annette O’Callaghan’s departure, we are pleased to welcome **Phil Chessum** as the incoming Secretary. Phil has kindly stepped in to support CALC during this transition, and we are very grateful for his continued involvement and leadership. A formal handover is currently underway.

During this period, **Phil can be contacted at the new CALC Secretary email:**

[calcsecretary01@gmail.com](mailto:calcsecretary01@gmail.com)

---

### Introducing Phil Chessum

Phil Chessum is a **Director General at the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel**, a role he has held since 2022.

He lead the team responsible for delivering primary legislation across several major government departments, including foreign affairs, trade, housing, and health, and has particular expertise in equalities law and legislation relating to the UK’s relationship with the European Union.

Phil joined the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel in 2008 and has since built extensive experience across a wide range of legislative areas, including tax, public spending, criminal law, national security, planning, and international relations. His work has also contributed to internationally recognised legislative developments, including the implementation of OECD recommendations.

In addition to his UK experience, Phil has worked internationally on legislative reform and financial services law, including secondments in private practice. Phil’s background includes studies in philosophy and law, followed by early legal practice in commercial litigation and arbitration across sectors such as energy, transport, and healthcare.

**Welcome, Phil!**



## Member Connections: CALC Conference Singapore 2026 Update

### Calling all CALC members!

The CALC Conference to be held in sunny Singapore is fast approaching on 15—17 July 2026.

### Registration closes 15 June 2026:

- For those who have not yet signed up, delay no further. There is still time! Click [HERE](#) to register

### Paper submission due 29 May 2026 (\*\*new date - deadline extended\*\*):

- Proposals for papers should be sent to [CALC2026\\_Papers@agc.gov.sg](mailto:CALC2026_Papers@agc.gov.sg), with the subject line “CALC 2026 Paper Proposal: [Title]”. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.



<https://calc2026.agc.gov.sg/>

---

You can look forward to a stimulating conference on the theme “*Legislating in a Changing World*” with various distinguished speakers covering topics such as legislative drafting for emerging digital contexts, rules of interpretation, the role of international treaties in developing domestic legislation, and much more.

All delegates are cordially invited to a **Welcome Reception hosted by the Attorney-General’s Chambers of Singapore (AGC) on the evening of 15 July 2026** (Wednesday) at the Supreme Court Terrace of the National Gallery Singapore, an art museum integrated within Singapore’s former Supreme Court Building and City Hall.

Come dressed in your cultural or national dress and meet and mingle with fellow CALC members and guests from all the CALC regions (Africa, Americas, Asia, Australasia and the Pacific and Europe).

The Conference Gala Dinner which is always a highlight of every conference, **will be held at the Fullerton Hotel, on 16 July 2026** (Thursday) and promises to be a fun-filled evening with good food and company and riveting entertainment.



*Welcome Reception at the Supreme Court Terrace in the National Gallery Singapore*



*Gala Dinner at the Fullerton Hotel*

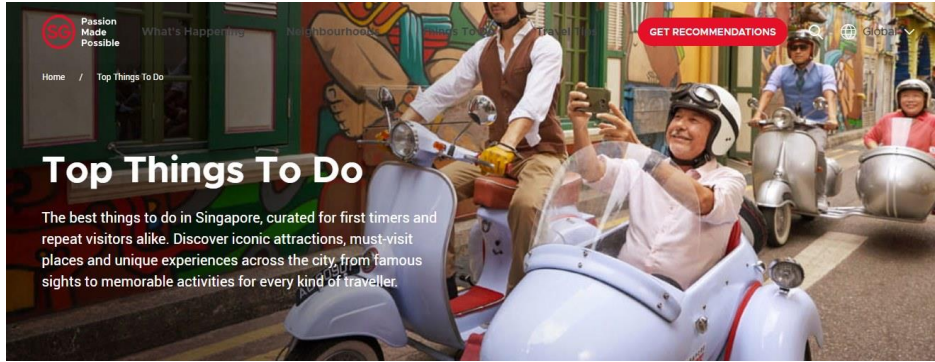
---

## **OPTIONAL SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

We are planning optional social activities after the conference, including a guided tour of Singapore's Parliament House on 17 July 2026 (Friday), Gardens by the Bay on 18 July 2026 (Saturday) and more.

There are other events scheduled for 18 July 2026 (Saturday), so do consider extending your stay in Singapore (more details will be announced soon).

For those interested in “free and easy” exploration, you can visit [this website](#) for some other interesting places you can visit while in Singapore!



<https://www.visitsingapore.com/things-to-do/top-things-to-do/>

---

## BEHIND THE SCENES CONFERENCE PLANNING

Planning for the conference is well underway and we at the AGC are excited to welcome all CALC delegates to Singapore this year.

Here are some photos from the conference planning team's recent visit to the Fullerton Hotel. It's a stunning building and is the perfect location for the [CALC Conference in July](#).



*The planning team visiting the Fullerton Hotel in March 2026*



*The Fullerton Hotel! Cars and chauffeurs not included in the conference experience 😊*

## THE FULLERTON HOTEL

The impressive Fullerton Hotel was built in 1928 and formerly housed the General Post Office and Government departments such as the Inland Revenue Department. It is one of the most important landmarks in Singapore's civic district and was gazetted a national monument in 2015.

You can read more about the Fullerton Hotel [HERE](#).



---

## MESSAGES FROM SINGAPORE

### Singapore Conference Committee

*"There is still plenty of caffeine (☺) and planning ahead of us but imagining you here with us really keeps us going! Do visit our [conference website](#) for more details. And don't forget, proposals for papers and presentations are also very much [welcome](#). We look forward to seeing you in July!"*

---

### Ms Jeanne Lee, Chief Legislative Counsel, Singapore

*"The organising of the CALC Conference is a big undertaking for us but we consider it an honour and we are looking forward to welcoming you in Singapore in July 2026."*



*The Singapore Conference Committee 2026 spelling out C-A-L-C!*



*Ms Jeanne Lee, Chief Legislative Counsel, Singapore*

## In memoriam: Janet Erasmus, KC

### **In Memory of Janet Erasmus**

*by Kerri Sinclair*

We are saddened to inform CALC members that Janet Erasmus, K.C., passed away on January 1 of this year.

Janet was a distinguished legislative counsel (and one-time Chief Legislative Counsel) in British Columbia, Canada, who leaves behind a unique and enduring legacy. Janet's work emphasised the coherence and durability of laws and the long-term maintenance of the statute book. She was the originator of ongoing statute revision in British Columbia. Her writing included articles on the role of legislative counsel as "keepers of the statute book". She was committed to the promotion of plain language drafting. Janet developed and delivered training for lawyers and judges. She was also a pioneer in the use of technology for legislative drafting. She was a wonderful mentor to other drafters in the British Columbia Office of Legislative Counsel. And she was always kind and gracious in sharing her time and wisdom with others, both in that drafting office and across the Commonwealth. Janet was with the BC Office of Legislative Counsel from 1988 until her retirement in 2021 (33 years).

Janet was a longtime and very strong contributor to CALC and its objectives. She served several terms as a member, including as Vice President, of CALC Council. She gave presentations at CALC conferences and wrote articles for CALC's publications. She also did a stint as Guest Editor of the Loophole. At the 2024 CALC conference in Jamaica, Janet was among those awarded CALC Long Service Awards. She made similar contributions to the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice (CIAJ)'s legislative drafting conferences and to the Joint Associations of Parliamentary Counsel of Canada and Legislative Counsel of Canada. She was also involved in the plain language organizations Clarity and PLAIN.

Janet was thoughtful and meticulous and deeply committed to public service. In addition to working in the BC Office of Legislative Counsel, Janet was a sessional lecturer at the University of Victoria (Victoria, BC, Canada)'s law school, participated in a Canadian International Development Agency project to develop legislative drafting expertise for the National Assembly of Vietnam and, in 2003, was one side of a work exchange between the BC Office of Legislative Counsel and the Australian federal Office of Parliamentary Counsel. In 2005, with Rod Fehr of the BC Office of Legislative Counsel, she taught a short international law institute course at the University of Trinidad and Tobago on plain language drafting.

Janet was awarded the Queen’s Jubilee medal in 2003 with particular recognition of her work in developing the BC *Community Charter*. In 2010 she was honoured with a Queen’s Counsel appointment.

I first met Janet in 1992 when I was an articulated student with the BC Ministry of Attorney General and she shepherded me through my rotation in the Office of Legislative Counsel. Throughout my career, first as a solicitor and later as a legislative counsel, I enjoyed many other opportunities to work with Janet and experience first-hand her expertise and her enthusiasm for her work. To give a further sense of Janet’s unique spark and dedication to her field, I’ll close this article with some comments from others:

.....

**from John Mark Keyes, Professor at University of Ottawa and former Chief Legislative Counsel of Canada, former CALC Treasurer, and former editor in chief of The Loophole:**

Janet incarnated what it meant to be a “keeper of the statute book” (a phrase she coined). Although the statute book she mostly kept was British Columbia’s, she spoke and wrote eloquently about the role that all legislative counsel have to help legislation communicate its substance and achieve its purposes, particularly over the long term during which it is often in force. She left her imprint in this regard on the 1996 Revised Statutes of British Columbia with significant improvements across this voluminous statute book that are an enduring reminder of what legislative counsel can accomplish. And she did all this with the warmest of personalities that turned colleagues into friends.

**from Jeanne Lee, Chief Legislative Counsel for Singapore, and member of CALC Council:**

I met Janet when I first attended CIAJ in 2016 and she was very kind to talk me through BC’s experience in carrying out revision of statutes as we were just embarking on our universal revision of laws in Singapore. She also conducted a session on drafting which was brilliant. I will remember her fondly.

**from Melanie Mortensen, Legislative Counsel, BC Office of Legislative Counsel, and CALC member:**

I spoke about Janet Erasmus, K.C., so frequently when I taught legislative drafting that I felt like she was a presence in the classroom. Her work, grace, steady presence and calm diplomacy were so valuable. I appreciate every interaction we had and all the wisdom she shared. In addition to her influence on our drafting style in the BC statute book, her artistry, dance background, love of birds, collection of legislative drafting miscellany, and fascinating career were treasured at our BC Office of Legislative Counsel. I am grateful to have so much of her advice recorded in her careful and inspiring presentations. I will miss her.

**from Peter Quiggin, former First Parliamentary Counsel of Australia, and former CALC President:**

Janet was someone who struck me as a person who lived and breathed legislative drafting. I first met Janet on my very first overseas trip when our first stop was the drafting office in BC. The warm welcome that we received was a wonderful way to start the trip. I then dealt with Janet when she came to our office for an exchange. It was highly successful and led to a number of other exchanges being done with other overseas offices. It was then great to see her over the years at CALC conferences. Her passing is a huge loss to the profession of legislative drafting.

.....

We deeply mourn the loss of our highly respected colleague (and joyful friend) and are grateful for all that she leaves behind for us.



*Janet Erasmus, KC*

## THE PREAMBLE — a drafter's caution

*a poem by Janet Erasmus, 1998*

**Whereas** there was a preamble with phrases grand and lofty,  
And lots of glowing rhetoric – for their drafter was a softie.  
The politicians loved it, the language tripping on the tongue;  
For communication gurus, 'twas a press release that could be sung.

And for many years of comfort it sat unused within its Act,  
A statement of high purpose with somewhat little fact.  
But then the day – alas, alay! – in litigation strife,  
When a judge was asked, respectfully, to give it solid life.

Our pretty little preamble (with reluctance to be blamed)  
Crept shyly up before the court, which solemnly proclaimed:  
“The legislature, when it speaks, never speaks to be absurd.  
Therefore I must give full effect to each and every word.”

The court did that – in spades in fact – emphasizing duties,  
To grinning plaintiffs gleefully counting up their booties.  
The moral then – for there is one, as well there should be here:  
A preamble written for one triumphant day will sandbag you some later year.

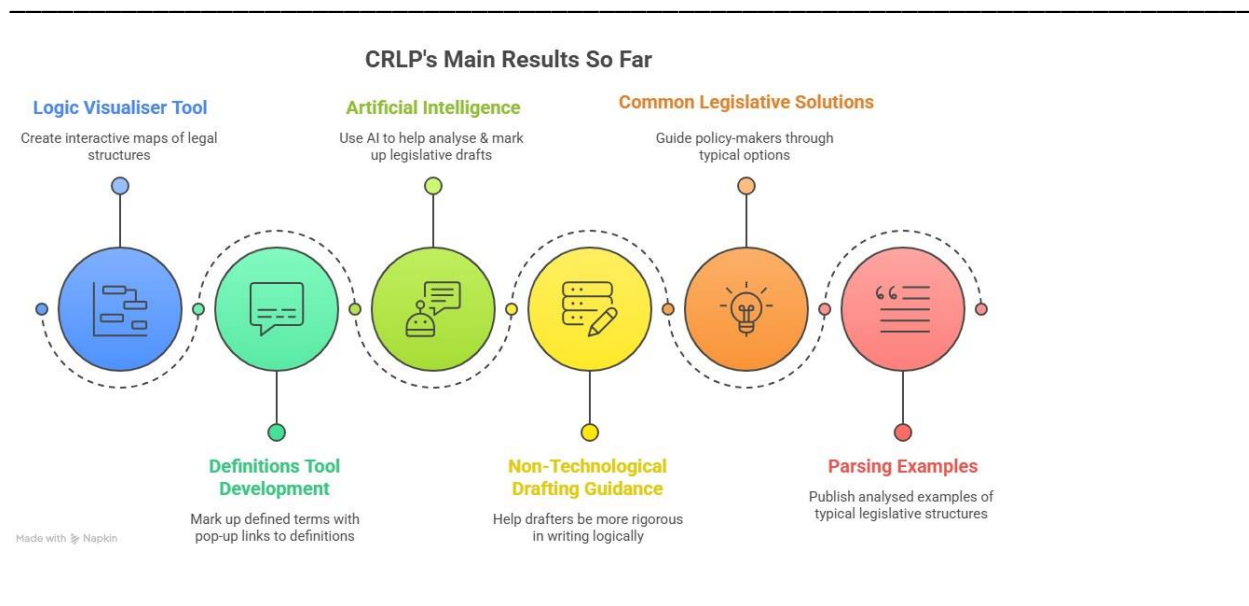
## Jurisdiction Update: States of Jersey LDO

### Jersey LDO's Computer-Readable Legislation Project publishes report

By Matthew Waddington

Jersey's Legislative Drafting Office has been working on its Computer-Readable Legislation Project (CRLP) over the last 3 years.

They have now reported to the Assembly (Jersey's parliament) who have [published the report](#). The report starts with a 4-page summary, and also includes a separate 1-page executive summary [HERE](#).



#### The full report has chapters covering the project's work on:

- *a logic visualiser making an interactive map of the logical structure of a legislative provision;*
- *tools to mark up definitions (& help drafting generally);*
- *Artificial intelligence;*
- *non-technological guidance for legislative drafters;*
- *a demo of an automated questionnaire for "Common Legislative Solutions"; and*
- *how the project has been making its work freely accessible.*

The report also has background notes on related topics, including an attempt to explain [what legislative drafting involves](#).

We would be very interested in hearing from other CALC members who have tried to explain what we do.

Please email Matthew with your feedback: [matthew.waddington@gov.je](mailto:matthew.waddington@gov.je)

---

#### URLs:

- Report: <https://statesassembly.je/getmedia/aded03e3-3f6e-4d70-ba2a-686df67dc1d3/R-24-2026.pdf>
- Project websites: <https://crlp-jerseyldo.github.io/> and <https://osf.io/m4che>
- One page executive summary: <https://osf.io/5ne3c>
- What is Legislative Drafting: <https://crlp-jerseyldo.github.io/about/legislative-drafting>



## Member Contributions & Updates

### **Artificial Intelligence and Copyright in Rwanda: Does the New IP Law Protect AI-Generated Works?**

*By Patrick Kamugisha, Rwandan legal practitioner*

Rwanda has recently taken a major step in modernizing its intellectual property framework with Law No. 055/2024 of 20 June 2024 on the Protection of Intellectual Property.

The law consolidates copyright and related rights, offering protections for “original works” in literature, art, music, computer programs, and other creative fields.

However, the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) raises an important question: does this law protect works created by AI, and is there a need for legal reform?

#### **Understanding the Current Law**

The 2024 IP law defines copyright protection as applying to original intellectual creations by an author, listing protected works such as books, speeches, musical compositions, audiovisual works, artistic works, and software. It also explicitly excludes ideas, procedures, systems, methods, principles, discoveries, or mere data.

A key feature of the law is its emphasis on human authorship. Copyright is granted to “authors” of original works, implying a human creator. While the law does not explicitly address AI, this human-centric approach leaves room for ambiguity:

- If a work is fully autonomously generated by AI, it may not qualify for copyright protection because there is no human author.
- If a human provides substantial creative input—through prompts, selection, editing, or curation—the work could arguably be protected as human-authored.

#### **AI as a Program vs. AI-Generated Works**

It is important to distinguish between AI itself as a computer program and the works produced by AI. AI programs—such as machine learning models, neural networks, or generative algorithms—are written by humans. Under Rwanda’s Law No. 055/2024, the software itself can be protected as a copyrighted work, similar to other computer programs.

However, the outputs of AI programs—such as text, images, music, or other creative works—raise a different question. Copyright law protects original works created by humans, and the notion of “author” is currently defined as a human creator. When AI autonomously generates content without substantial human intervention, it is unclear whether the output qualifies as a protected work.

- If a human provides meaningful input—such as prompts, selection, editing, or curation—the resulting work may be considered human-authored and thus copyrightable.
- If the AI operates fully independently, current law does not recognize the AI or its developer as the author, leaving the work in a legal gray area.

### **When AI Creates Works Independently: The Ownership Gap**

Consider a scenario where an AI program, once trained, produces a painting, a piece of music, or a short story without any human directing its output. In this case, the AI essentially “creates” the work on its own.

Under Rwanda’s current law:

- No one can claim ownership of the AI-generated work.
- If someone copies, distributes, or sells the AI’s creation, there is no legal party who can sue for infringement or claim damages.
- The work exists, but it is effectively ownerless under copyright law, creating a legal vacuum.

This gap highlights the urgent need for legal clarification or reform. Possible approaches could include:

- Assigning ownership to the person who directed or commissioned the AI, even if the AI did most of the work;
- Creating a special legal framework (*sui generis* protection) for AI-generated works to ensure rights and enforceability;
- Issuing guidelines or regulations to clarify how AI outputs should be treated under existing copyright law.

In short, without legal recognition, fully autonomous AI works cannot currently be protected, and their creators, users, or developers have no recourse if the works are copied or exploited commercially.

## **The Gap: Why Legal Reform is Needed**

### **Several factors make reform or clarification essential:**

1. **Growing AI Use:** AI is increasingly used to generate music, literature, visual art, software code, and more. The law needs to keep pace with technological realities.
2. **Economic Incentives:** Clear rules encourage investment in AI development and creative industries, while protecting the rights of creators who collaborate with AI.
3. **International Alignment:** Other countries are actively considering or implementing AI-specific IP regulations. Rwanda can benefit from early alignment to facilitate international trade and collaboration.
4. **Legal Certainty:** Businesses and creators require certainty about ownership, rights, and enforcement to operate confidently in AI-driven innovation.

### **Recommendations**

#### **To address these issues, the following steps are recommended:**

1. **Legal Clarification or Reform:** Amend the IP law to explicitly address AI-generated works, defining authorship, ownership, and protection criteria.
2. **Consider a Sui Generis Regime:** For works fully generated by AI with minimal human input, Rwanda could adopt a special IP framework.
3. **Stakeholder Consultation:** Engage AI developers, artists, academics, and the legal community to understand practical implications and design workable regulations.
4. **Align with International Standards:** Study approaches by WIPO, EU, and US to ensure Rwanda's IP system remains compatible with global norms while supporting local innovation.

### **Conclusion**

Rwanda's Law No. 055/2024 marks a major step in protecting intellectual property, but it does not explicitly cover AI-generated works. As AI technologies advance rapidly, clarifying authorship, ownership, and copyright eligibility is essential. Legal reform or regulatory guidance would provide certainty for creators, stimulate investment in AI-driven innovation, and position Rwanda as a forward-looking hub for technology and creative industries.



*Patrick Kamugisha*

---

## Who writes the laws? The Mystique of Legislative Drafting

By John F Wilson

*John was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1966 and after 10 years in practice at the Bar in Birmingham, went overseas on government legal service. He worked for many years as a legislative drafter in small jurisdictions in the Commonwealth, and in Hong Kong. He became a law drafting consultant in the UK in 2004 but is now retired.*

*John was a founding member of CALC in Hong Kong in 1983 and has attended conferences and contributed articles - and poems - to the Loophole and Newsletter over the years.*

The libraries of all the Inns of Court are wonderful repositories of legal textbooks, law reports – and statute law. The Inner Temple library is particularly well-stocked with volumes of statutes from former British territories, and some existing Overseas Territories; it shares this distinction with Lincoln’s Inn library. Some of them are in store but many are accessible on the shelves. I sometimes wonder whether users of the library ask themselves who writes the laws that are contained in those volumes from Britain and from many parts of the Commonwealth.

Most lawyers know the names of some of judges who have made rulings in key cases, which have helped to create the law. There is the famous one in *Donoghue v Stevenson*, the 1932 House of Lords case in which Lord Atkin pronounced his ‘neighbour principle’, the foundation of the law of negligence. Most readers will also know the names of the writers of legal textbooks whose names appear on the book. But no one knows the names of the people who wrote the thousands of statutes contained in hundreds of bound volumes on the shelves of every law library.

It perhaps never occurs to people, even lawyers, that there are specialists who actually write the text of the laws. It seems that in law schools and in court the writer of a statute is referred to, if at all, only as ‘the draftsman.’ (*See Note below.*) (These days, it would be a gender-neutral term, but still anonymous.) If there is to be criticism of a piece of drafting, perhaps anonymity is a useful protection. So I am not saying that the writers of statute law should be named, in the same way that judges who make significant judgements are known, and textbook writers are known. But it would be nice to think that users of statutes realise there was a legal mind at work in the creation of the original Bill.

So who are these people? They are usually law graduates; they might be barristers or solicitors or neither, but will have had some experience of law in practice. They are recruited through advertisement in the legal press, or by word of mouth, and will be people with a particular

affinity for writing and for legal analysis. They will be prepared to spend hours in solitary contemplation of a set of 'drafting instructions' provided by a government agency (or occasionally by a law firm for a commercial entity). They will understand the need for a 'plain English' style of writing, rather than the archaic style of the past. They will know how to use good precedents without slavishly following them. They will be ready to defend their draft against criticism from a senior civil servant or a Minister or members of the legislature.

Statute law is, of course, not the product of a single mind, although some statutes are known to have been drafted in a single day by an experienced drafter. And some significant statutes carry the name of their main promoter in Parliament. But normally a statute is the product of a legislative process only part of which is the responsibility of the original drafter. The drafter might be required to draft Government amendments in response to decisions at Committee Stage, and the end-product might be significantly different from the draft Bill that left the drafter's desk or computer. (Non-government amendments are usually drafted by the members of the legislature or by 'Parliamentary Agents'.) In some jurisdictions, such as Canada and Hong Kong, there will also be a bilingual version of a statute, which might have been drafted by someone else.

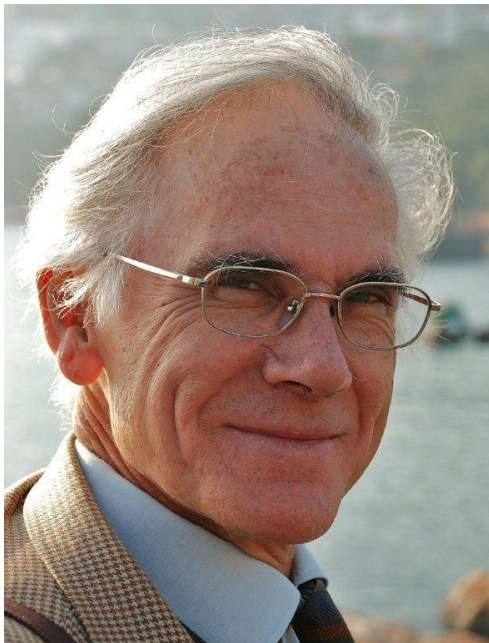
In the larger Commonwealth countries, law drafters do not receive formal training of an academic kind, but they learn 'on the job' by pairing with a senior member of the office. In England this is called the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, a term which has been used since the inception of the office under Lord Thring in 1869. The head of the office is 'First Parliamentary Counsel' and I was privileged to hold that title in Fiji for a few years. In other jurisdictions, the office might be called 'Legislative Drafting Office' or similar. In some small jurisdictions there is no separate law drafting office, and the drafting work is done in the Attorney General's Chambers (which was my first experience of drafting in Tuvalu and in Montserrat.) In Hong Kong, where I really learnt my trade, the large Law Drafting Division is now part of the Department of Justice.

For potential drafters from emerging Commonwealth countries there is a legislative drafting course run by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies at the University of London, and courses are also run in-person and online by some overseas universities. There are also several textbooks on legislative drafting, and on Plain English drafting. But perhaps the best training for law drafters of all ages is the [Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel](#). This is a professional body set up in Hong Kong in 1983, which is free to all law drafters in the Commonwealth. It holds conferences every two or three years and publishes a regular journal and a newsletter. The journal is called 'The Loophole' which is the logo of the Association and represents that which every law drafter tries to avoid creating....

So legislative drafters – or law drafters – must get used to not having their name appear on the legislation that they help to produce. The one exception is when a jurisdiction publishes a Revised Edition of the Laws, when the Law Revision Commissioner’s name will usually appear. *(See the St Helena Revised Edition of 2017 which has my name on it.)* But otherwise, our satisfaction is knowing that we have helped achieve a new piece of legislation that will presumably benefit the community.

*Note In his judgement in Mirvahedy v. Henley and another, (Times LR 24.3.03) referring to section 2 of the Animals Act 1971, Lord Nicoll said, “Unfortunately, the language of the section is itself opaque. The draftsman’s zeal for brevity had led to obscurity. Section 2(2) has attracted much judicial obloquy.”*

*This article was also published in the Inner Template newsletter, December 2025.*



*John F Wilson*

---

Coming up in 2026!

**WEBINAR — ONLINE**

**Legislative Drafting and the Environment: From Backyards to Biomes**

Date: 4 June 2026 at 3:30pm (ET)

Presented by: Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice

**Important links:**

- More information is available on the [CALC website](#)
- For registration, overview and speaker bios, please visit the CIAJ page [HERE](#)

**Contact:** please email [mihail.matache@ciaj-icaj.ca](mailto:mihail.matache@ciaj-icaj.ca)



---

**REGISTRATIONS OPEN**

**International Legislative Drafting Institute**

Dates: 8—19 June 2026

Where: Tulane Law School, New Orleans

**Important links:**

- More information is available on the [CALC website](#)
- Download information sheet [HERE](#) or visit the [Institute website](#)

**Contact:** please email [tplc@tulane.edu](mailto:tplc@tulane.edu)



## APPLICATIONS OPEN

### 2026 IALS Legislative Drafting Course

Dates: 15 June—3 July

Where: Online

#### Important links:

- More information and application form is available on the [CALC website](#)
- Download course brochure [HERE](#)

**Contact:** please email [Constantin.Stefanou@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Constantin.Stefanou@sas.ac.uk)



---

## REGISTRATIONS OPEN

### CALRAs Conference Singapore 2026

*The CALRAs Conference Singapore 2026 is **separate** to CALC Singapore 2026. It takes place immediately before, and in the same location, as CALC Singapore 2026.*

Dates: 13—14 July

Where: The Fullerton Hotel, Singapore

#### Important links:

- More information is available on the [CALC website](#)
- Register your interest for CALRAs [HERE](#)

**Contact:** Please send all CALRAs conference queries to [Courtney.Rose@lawcommission.gov.uk](mailto:Courtney.Rose@lawcommission.gov.uk)



## REGISTRATIONS OPEN and CALL FOR PAPERS

### CALC Singapore 2026

Dates: 15—17 July

Where: The Fullerton Hotel, Singapore

#### Key dates:

Call for papers: Deadline for submissions is **29 May 2026** (\*\*new date - deadline extended\*\*):

Registration deadline: Monday 15 June 2026

#### Important links:

- Visit the official CALC Singapore 2026 website [HERE](https://calc2026.agc.gov.sg/) (https://calc2026.agc.gov.sg/)
- More information is available on the [CALC website](#)

**Contact:** Please send all CALC Singapore 2026 queries to [calc2026@agc.gov.sg](mailto:calc2026@agc.gov.sg)

