



Association des Juristes Franco-Britanniques  
Franco-British Lawyers Society



#### ANNUAL COLLOQUE

DREYFUS, OSCAR SLATER AND MODERN MISCARRIAGES OF JUSTICE

EDINBURGH 18-20 SEPTEMBER 2025



## THE 2025 COLLOQUE

L'Association des Juristes Franco-Britanniques/ the Franco-British Lawyers Society (AJFB/FBLS) will be holding its Annual Colloque in person in Edinburgh, Scotland on Thursday 18 to Saturday 20 September 2025.

The conference will be centred in the historic surroundings of Parliament House in Edinburgh, home of the Scottish Parliament until 1707 and now the seat of the Scottish Supreme Courts.

The theme of the conference is Dreyfus, Oscar Slater and Modern Miscarriages of Justice.

Panels of distinguished judges, academics, practitioners and others from Scotland, France, England and Wales and Northern Ireland will look at the issue of Miscarriages of Justice from both historic and contemporary perspectives. We will explore the similarities between the Dreyfus Affair and the case of Oscar Slater, often referred to as the "Scottish Dreyfus". We will look at the procedures currently used by these various legal systems to deal with miscarriages of justice, and consider recent examples, such as the Outreau case in France and the Post Office case in the UK.

The conference will conclude with a dramatic re-enactment of the Oscar Slater trial by Donald Findlay KC, in the same courtroom as the original trial.

There will be an exhibition of materials relating to Oscar Slater.

The conference weekend coincides with the Opening of the Legal Year in Scotland. Anyone who wishes to stay on in Edinburgh for the weekend is welcome to attend the Opening of the Legal Year ceremonies. On the morning of Sunday 21 there will be a Red Mass in St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral. On the morning of Monday 22 the formal Opening of the Legal Year Ceremony will take place in Parliament House, followed by a procession of the judiciary and legal profession from Parliament House to St Giles Cathedral for a church service to mark the occasion. The ceremonies will be complete by lunchtime on the Monday.

This brochure will be updated from time to time. A final version with final details of speakers and timing will be issued nearer the time of the colloque.

## MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

**The Clark Foundation** *for Legal Education*



**Pinsent Masons**

**OPENING RECEPTION AND EXHIBITION**

**J'ACCUSE...! SCULPTURES BY NICOLE FARHI**

**THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 5-7.30 PM**

Fine Art Society, 6 Dundas Street, Edinburgh EH3 6HZ



Dreyfus



Oscar Slater

A celebrated designer turned full-time sculptor, Nicole Farhi CBE is widely known for her eponymous fashion brand but has dedicated the past two decades to her artistic practice. Having trained under Jean Gibson and Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, she has exhibited at Gainsborough's House and The Harley Gallery. Farhi, a member of the Royal Society of Sculptors, has often focused on the human form, and **J'Accuse...!** marks a new focus — one that uses portraiture to depict the victims behind miscarriage of justice cases that have made legal and political history.

**J'Accuse...!** invites visitors to consider the people behind these cases. Each bust, crafted with personal care, offers a portrait of an individual who endured years, even decades, of wrongful imprisonment, some faced torture, some lost their lives.

We are delighted that Nicole Farhi has agreed to bring this exhibition to Scotland for our Colloque, and sculpt a bust of Oscar Slater to join those of Dreyfus and other victims of miscarriages of justice world-wide.

**Sponsored by the  
Faculty of Advocates**



**FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER**

**MACKENZIE BUILDING, OLD ASSEMBLY CLOSE, 172 HIGH STREET EDINBURGH EH1 1QX**

**9.00 to 9.30- coffee**

**9.30 to 9.45 WELCOME**

THE RT HON LORD ERICHT

Scottish Vice-President of the AJFB/FBLS, Senator of the College of Justice and Lord Commissioner of Justiciary

THE RT HON LORD PENTLAND

Lord Justice General of Scotland and Lord President of the Court of Session

THE RT HON LADY ARDEN OF HESWALL DBE

President of the AJFB/FBLS and former Justice of the UK Supreme Court

**9.45 to 11.15 Session 1 MISCARRIAGES OF JUSTICE: THE COURT AND REVIEW COMMISSION PERSPECTIVE**

CHAIR: LADY ARDEN

THE RT HON LORD PENTLAND

SIR BERNARD MCCLOSKEY, Lord Justice of Appeal, Northern Ireland

MICHAEL WALKER, Secretary, Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission

LISE JAULIN, French Liaison Magistrate for the UK

**11.15 to 11.30 coffee**

**11.30 to 1 Session 2 MODERN MISCARRIAGES OF JUSTICE**

CHAIR: FREDERIC GOLDBERG, French Vice-President of the AJFB/FBLS

ANDRE VALINI, lawyer and politician (formerly a Government Minister and member of the Assemblée Nationale and the Sénat), President of the Parliamentary Enquiry into the Malfunction of Justice in the Outreau Affair

ANDREW TICKELL, Glasgow Caledonian University, on the Post-Office case

STUDENTS from Glasgow Caledonian University Law Clinic

**1-2 sandwich lunch**

Sponsored by Brodies LLP

## **2-4 Session 3 DREYFUS AND OSCAR SLATER**

CHAIR The Rt Hon Lady Dorrian, former Lord Justice Clerk, Scotland

OLIVIER BRAY, avocat général près la Cour d'appel de Dijon

GERALDINE KEIFLIN, screenwriter and author of the AJFB/FLBS play about Dreyfus

Dr KARINE VARLEY, Strathclyde University

PROFESSOR LINDSAY FARMER, Glasgow University

## **4-4.15 CLOSING REMARKS**

JIM CORMACK, Deputy Keeper of His Majesty's Signet and partner in Pinsent Masons

## **7 for 7.30 GALA DINNER**

**PARLIAMENT HALL, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 11 PARLIAMENT SQUARE, EDINBURGH EH1 1RQ**

Highland dress, black tie or lounge suit.

Those attending the conference may bring guests to the Dinner.

Members of the AJFB/FBLS and others who are unable to attend the conference sessions but wish to attend the dinner are welcome to do so and bring guests.

## **SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER**

### **SESSION 4**

**COURT 3, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 11 PARLIAMENT SQUARE, EDINBURGH EH1 1RQ**

9.30 – 10.00 Arrival and viewing of exhibition of documentary materials about Oscar Slater

10- 11.30 **The Trial of Oscar Slater, Donald Findlay KC**

11.30 – 12 Closing remarks

LORD ERICHT

SIMON HORSINGTON

LADY ARDEN

## BOOKING DETAILS

**NB BOOKINGS CLOSE ON FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**PLACES ARE LIMITED: PLEASE BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO GUARANTEE A SPACE**

## CONFERENCE PRICES

### OPENING RECEPTION AND COLLOQUE

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Members of AJFB/FBLS | £100 |
| Non-Members          | £130 |
| Academics            | £75  |
| Trainees and Devils  | £50  |
| Students*            | Free |

### GALA DINNER

|                                       |      |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Members of AJFB/FBLS and their guests | £100 |
| Non-Members and their guests          | £130 |
| Academics                             | £75  |
| Trainees and Devils                   | £50  |
| Students*                             | £30  |

There is no charge for attendance at the Red Mass, Opening of the Legal Year or St Giles Cathedral service. Further information about these events will be available at the conference.

## BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

To book, please complete the Booking Form available here

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkvarsSKvAFmNYIBcGH-XfKSos1C5gVNrlgsOFngpp1XrVw/viewform>

\*There are a limited number of student places available. To apply for a student place, students should not fill in the booking form but instead email us at [scotland@ajfb-fbbs.org](mailto:scotland@ajfb-fbbs.org)

## PAYMENT

Payment in **pounds sterling** should be made to the following account:

HSBC Sort Code 40-22-47 Account Number 31594931

Account Name : Franco-British Lawyers Society

International Bank Account Number GB67HBUK40224731594931

Branch Identifier Code HBUKGB4112A

Payment in **euros** of the amount equivalent to the sterling price should be made to the following account:

Association des Juristes Franco-Britanniques

Bank : BNP Paribas

RIB: 30004 00189 00000645358 78 - IBAN: FR76 3000 4001 8900 0006 4535 878

BIC: BNPAFRPPRG