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## The Second McNair Lecture by Sir Geoffrey Vos, the Master of the Rolls

*The Future of London as a Preeminent Dispute Resolution Centre: Opportunities and Challenges*

On 19 April 2022, McNair International hosted Sir Geoffrey Vos, the Master of the Rolls, for his delivery of the Second McNair Lecture, dedicated in honour of Lord Arnold McNair, on the theme “*The Future of London as a Preeminent Dispute Resolution Centre: Opportunities and Challenges*”.



An audience consisting of ambassadors, senior judiciary (including Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, Lord Justice Flaux and Lord Justice Dingemans), commercial and international lawyers were present for Sir Geoffrey Vos’ address at Lincoln’s Inn Old Hall, London.

Sir Geoffrey was called to the Bar in 1977, and specialised in commercial and chancery disputes. He was appointed as a High Court Judge in October 2009, having previously sat in the Courts of Appeal in Jersey, Guernsey and the Cayman Islands. He was appointed as a Lord Justice of Appeal in 2013, and

served as Chancellor of the High Court from October 2016 until January 2021, when he became Master of the Rolls.

In his address, Sir Geoffrey gave his view that, in many ways, the opportunities and the challenges for London are the same. In the face of growing competition from the proliferation of commercial courts in other jurisdictions across the globe, London's challenge is to be the centre that acts the most swiftly to embrace the benefits that technological advances can bring to dispute resolution.

Work done within the English civil justice system so far had already demonstrated how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can contribute to removing delay. Evolution would always be necessary to maintain London's place as a pre-eminent dispute resolution centre, and there would need to be a fast pace of change to address the fundamental issues of litigation and arbitration practices properly.

As jurisdictions around the world work to improve their commercial dispute resolution offerings, Sir Geoffrey noted that:

*“The prizes will go to the bold, not to those reluctant to change. Covid has undoubtedly led to the prioritisation of court-led case management. But some jurisdictions are still reluctant to change anything and, others, having changed some of their most old-fashioned court-based practices, have simply gone back to their bad old ways, now that the pandemic has abated”.*

In his closing remarks, Khawar Qureshi KC, Head of McNair International, thanked the Master of the Rolls for his insights into the work taking place within the English legal system to modernise London's litigation and arbitration offerings – which were essential to remain competitive.

To view or download the lecture: [click here](#)

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