

## INVITATION TO A FREE CONSULTATION EVENT ON THE LAW OF WILLS

### What is this about?

The Law Commission has recently published a consultation paper, *Making a Will*. Reform of the law of wills was suggested by leading representative legal bodies and by a wide range of practising lawyers specialising in wills work.

The law in England and Wales that governs wills is, in large part, a product of the 19th century: the main statute is the Wills Act 1837, and the law that specifies when a person has testamentary capacity is set out in the case of *Banks v Goodfellow* from 1870. The law of wills needs to be modernised to take account of the changes in society, technology and medical understanding that have taken place since the Victorian era.

The central issues considered in the consultation paper are:

- testamentary capacity
- formality rules
- protecting vulnerable testators (undue influence, and knowledge and approval)
- electronic wills

We also cover other topics such as statutory wills, interpretation and rectification, ademption, revocation, mutual wills, donationes mortis causa, and whether children should be permitted to make wills.

### Your invitation

You are invited to a Law Commission public consultation event, hosted by Bond Dickinson, with the support of STEP and ACTAPS. The event will be held on Monday 18 September 2017 at St Ann's Wharf, 112 Quayside, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 3DX. Please arrive at 5pm for 5:30pm. Light refreshments will be available on arrival. The event will last for one and a half hours.

Professor Nick Hopkins, Law Commissioner for Property, Family and Trust Law, and Spencer Clarke, the lawyer leading the wills project, will give a presentation, following which there will be the opportunity for attendees to contribute their own experiences and views on the provisional proposals made and questions asked in the consultation paper.

The Law Commission also hopes to encourage written feedback to the questions posed in the consultation paper which is available, together with a response form, on the Law Commission site, at [www.lawcom.gov.uk/wills](http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/wills).

If you wish to attend, please respond by email by no later than 11 September 2017 to Damien Bruneau at: [damien.bruneau@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:damien.bruneau@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk).