

17 July 2015

## Oration by Dr Umut Turksen

Pro Vice-Chancellor, it is a great honour and a privilege to present Jonathan Fisher QC today for the conferral of the degree of doctorate of law by *honoris causa*.

When universities bestow honorary degrees they are acknowledging an individual's achievements and all they represent. They are also, of course, making statements about themselves: what they value, aspire to achieve, and wish to encourage in others. All of this is true for Jonathan Fisher; If I was to put aside Jonathan's achievements and only cite the wonderful adjectives that have been used to describe him, we would be here for quite a long time!

I will give you a little taster however:

Jonathan is considered as one of the outstanding barristers in the UK, and has been described as:

***"... calm, sure, and deadly at spotting the weaknesses of the opponent's case"***

***"an experienced and active silk with a diplomatic and thoughtful style" and***

***"once in the heat of battle he tells it as it is and pulls no punches ...."***

It was clear to Jonathan's grandfather that he would become a lawyer: even at the age of 5, he would introduce Jonathan as his solicitor! Whether it was providence or destiny, here we are today, in the presence of one of the most eminent financial crime advocates in the UK.

Since being called to the Bar, Jonathan has worked on some of the highest profile cases concerning financial crime. He has advised the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee on LIBOR, Lloyds TSB and FOREX trading cases and cases

concerning Russian, Iranian, Sudanese and Congolese economic sanctions. His expertise in the financial crime arena has also resulted in Jonathan advising regulatory and law enforcement agencies in the United Kingdom and Channel Islands. He also provides professional training on anti-money laundering issues for the European Union, Council of Europe and UK Trade and Investment. He also served as Commissioner on the Bill of Rights Commission between 2011 and 2012.

In addition to his formidable achievements as a leading Queen's Counsel, Jonathan has been at the forefront of academic work in his specialist practice areas. Jonathan currently teaches postgraduate law students at the London School of Economics.

He is also a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, Editorial Board Member for Simon's Taxes and General Editor of Lloyds Law Reports: Financial Crime. The academic work complements Jonathan's practice, and his suggestions for law reform continue to generate considerable interest in political and academic circles. I have had the privilege of being one of the editors for a book in which Jonathan has written a chapter on criminal liability for reckless risk taking by the financial sector. A contribution that is innovative, thought provoking and given the scandals we have witnessed recently, it is very timely indeed.

Jonathan has extensive links and shared interests with the Department of Law at UWE and members of our Commercial Law Research Unit. He has worked with our colleagues on several research projects, presented at conferences hosted by UWE and contributed to our Faculty of Business and Law Distinguished Professorial Lecture series.

Jonathan's contribution to law has inspired us all and it is a great privilege to be working with him.

Pro Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of the University and in recognition of his contribution to financial regulation and corporate law, I present Jonathan Fisher for the award of Honorary Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.