

## JOHN RASON SPENCER

**Current position:** Professor Law, University of Cambridge; Fellow of Selwyn College.

**Date and place of birth:** Chelmsford, Essex, 19 March 1946.

**Nationality:** British.

**Languages:** English, French, Italian (spoken and reading); Dutch and German (reading)

### Education:

1965-69      B.A. (Cantab.) 1968 (2.1)  
                 LL.B. (Cantab.) 1969 (First Class)  
                 M.A. (Cantab.) 1972

### Honours etc.

France: Chevalier de l'Ordre des palmes académiques (2000)  
Honorary consultant to the NSPCC (2000)  
Academic Bencher of the Inner Temple (2003)  
Honorary Queen's Counsel (QC) (2003)  
Docteur en droit, honoris causa, University of Poitiers (2004)  
Doctor of Laws (LLD), University of Cambridge (2007)

### Teaching career:

1969-70      Assistant Professor, Faculty of Commerce, University of British  
                 Columbia  
1970 -      Fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge  
1973-91      Assistant Lecturer, then Lecturer, Law Faculty, University of  
                 Cambridge  
1991-95      Reader in Common Law, University of Cambridge  
1995-      Professor, Law Faculty, University of Cambridge

### Other academic activities in Cambridge

Chairman, Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge 1.12.1995 to 31.12.97.

Responsible for creating and then helping to run the Law Faculty's various exchange programmes with Europe: from 1993, student exchange programmes under Erasmus/Socrates scheme with Poitiers, Utrecht and Regensburg; and from 1999, the Joint Degree (*Double Maîtrise*) with the University of Paris II.

Acting Director of the Faculty's Centre for European Legal Studies (CELS) 2000 – 2002;  
Co-Director, 2009 -

Director of Studies in Law at Selwyn from 1974-1995, and again as “stand-in” at various times thereafter (including the calendar year 2005).

2004-5: Director of the Law Faculty's LLM Programme.

2001-2005: member of the University of Cambridge Board of Scrutiny; Chairman 2002-3 and 2004-5.

At various times, service on many other University Boards and Committees.

### **Academic activities outside Cambridge**

From 1990 onwards some 15 periods, of various lengths, as *professeur associé* or as *professeur invité*, in different French law schools.

In 1999, member of the internal research review committee at the University of Utrecht.

In 2008 and 2009, two periods as a guest lecturer in law schools in Italy.

2009 onwards: Honorary President of the European Criminal Law Association (UK) (ECLA – UK)

### **Lectures for judges (in the UK and elsewhere)**

1988 onwards: lectures to English judges as part of the continuing education programme of the Judicial Studies Board; lectures on criminal law, and on criminal evidence.

1992 onwards: lectures to French *magistrats* as part of the continuing education programme of the Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature.

1998 organised a seminar on English criminal procedure Italian magistrati for the continuing education programme of the Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura.

2004-5 teaching judges about the 'bad character' evidence of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, and producing training material.

2012 training English judges on EU criminal law(forthcoming)

**Publications** : Many; a full list is available on the Cambridge University Law Faculty website. To access it, use the following link

<http://www.law.cam.ac.uk/faculty-resources/summary/professor-jr-spencer-publications-list/5823>

**Radio and TV**: since 1991 I have taken part in a number of programmes on justice. Two of these I helped to plan and organize. Most were in Britain; one was in France.

### **Law reform activities:**

In the course of my academic career I have been extensively involved with a number of projects for law reform. These include:

in the late 1980s and early 1990s, campaigning with the NSPCC and other bodies for changes in the law relating to children's evidence; in 1989-90, membership of the Calcutt Committee (on

privacy and the press); in 1994-5 consultant to a project on mentally handicapped persons as victims of crime at the Centre for Criminological Research, Oxford; 1994, Consultant to the Law Commission on a project to reform the hearsay rule; 1995-1996, member of a committee of experts set up by the European Commission (Direction XX) to study fraud on the Community finances, which produced the 'CORPUS JURIS' project (published by Economica, 1996); 1997 – 2001, further extensive work, at the behest of the European Commission, on committees studying the problem of 'Eurofraud'; 1999-2001, member of Home Office group that drafted “Achieving Best Evidence in Criminal Proceedings” (Guidance for vulnerable or intimidated witnesses, including children); 2001 - member of the NSPCC "Which of You Did it?" (to study the evidential problems that arise where a child is killed or injured by one or other of its carers, each of whom then blames the other); 2000 - consultant for Lord Justice Auld's Criminal Courts Review; 2002 – member of group of experts advising the International Criminal Court on speedy trials; 2003 – 2005 member of a study group created by the Nuffield Foundation to examine the ethics of scientific experiments on animals; 2005 onwards: member of the Codification sub-group of the Criminal Procedure Rule Committee (charged with producing a Criminal Procedure Code).

December 2011