

Richard graduated in 1995 with an LLM in maritime law from the University of Southampton. He is currently writing his PhD (based at Kings College, University of London) on EU disability law and policy. Prior to his appointment at the University of Leeds, Richard was employed as a Lecturer at Middlesex University, London. Between 1998 and 2003, he was based in Brussels, Belgium, whereupon he gained experience working for the EU Commission and (prior to his appointments at the Universities of Middlesex and Leeds) as an independent consultant on disability law and policy.

For the academic year of 2004/5, Richard's employment at the University of Leeds has benefited from the generous support of the [City Solicitors Educational Trust](#). The purpose of this grant is to enable Richard to coordinate the efforts within the School of Law to revise its teaching portfolio in the light of the recent enlargement of the European Union and the EU's draft Constitutional Treaty.

Richard's principal research interest is in EU disability law and policy. Whilst at the EU Commission, he represented the Disability Unit of the Directorate General for Employment & Social Affairs in the development of Directive 2000/78/EC (the [Employment Framework Directive](#)); a directive that, in effect, is the first EC disability anti-discrimination law.

Richard is an expert advisor to the British Disability Rights Commission and the European Disability Forum and has been employed as a consultant to the EC Group of Experts on Combating Discrimination on Grounds of Disability and to the Norwegian Disability Rights Commission. He has published various papers on EU disability law and policy and is a regular speaker on this issue at national and international conferences.

Since 2003, Richard has been a registered expert on the EU Commission's DG Employment and Social Affairs AMI-INT Expert database (registration number: 20030225-0560).