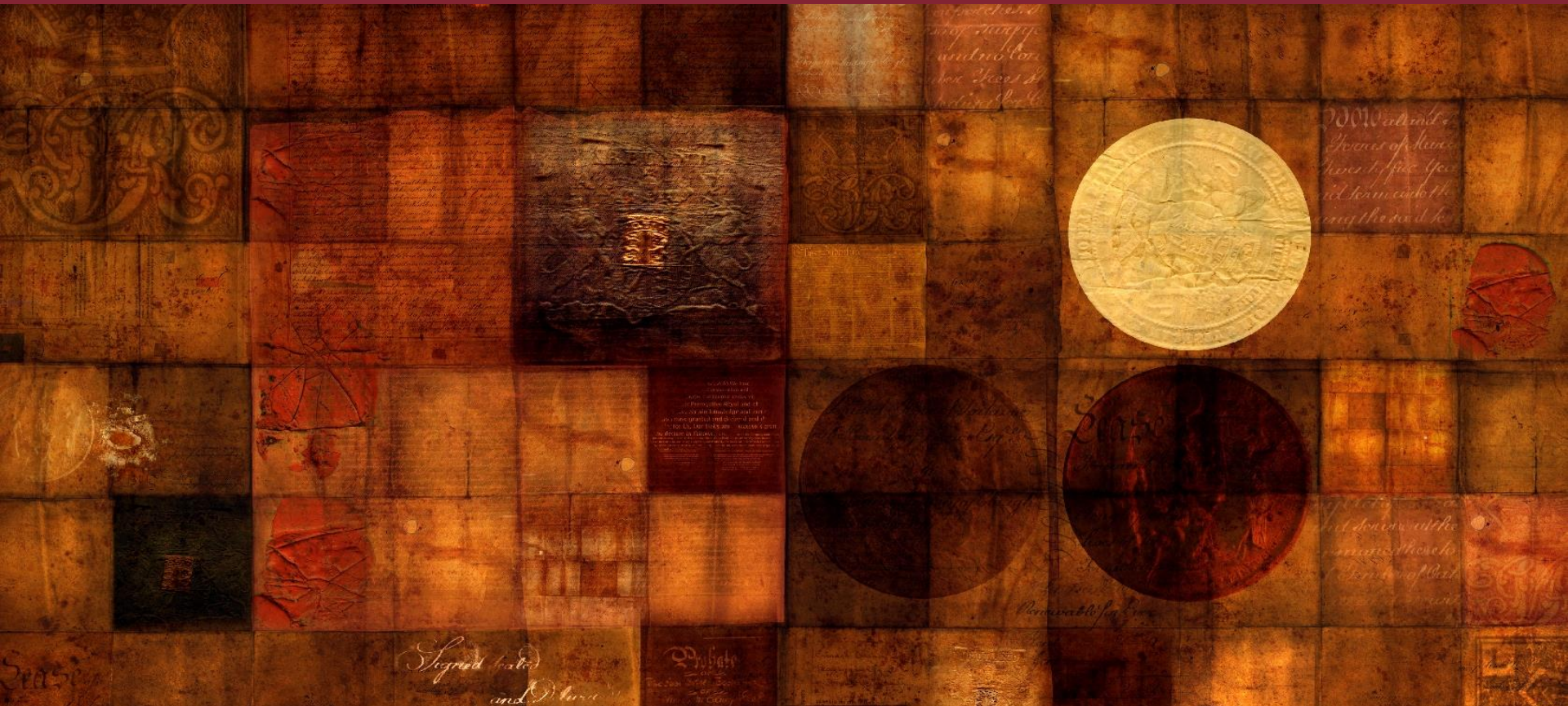


CLA Conference

Brexit and the Commonwealth

April 2019

THE LAW SOCIETY  
OF NORTHERN IRELAND



Alan Hunter

## Introduction

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Role of the UK within the EU

Strong trade links between UK and Commonwealth

Brexit and trade

## Commonwealth Trade Advantage

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Intra-Commonwealth trade has almost tripled (2000-2015)

- 2000: just over 200 billion USD
- 2015: more than 600 billion USD

“Commonwealth effect/advantage”

- Trading costs are on average 19% lower
- Common factors among Commonwealth countries

Further strengthen trade links

## Trade Arrangements

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### Current Trade Arrangements:

- EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)

### Post-Brexit Trade Arrangements:

- UK may have autonomy to develop own independent trade policy
- EU Customs Union

## Opportunities for Commonwealth

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Commonwealth can assist its members to prepare for negative effects that could arise from Brexit and take advantage of potential opportunities

- Trade
- Development finance
- Commonwealth-G-20-Francophonie dialogue
- Debt management

## Risks



Trade links between the UK and Commonwealth countries are strong

- Individual Commonwealth members' trade relations with the UK has long been governed through EU policies
- Several Commonwealth developing countries depend heavily on the UK market for their exports

Conclusion

Brexit and the Commonwealth

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Discussion/Questions?