**Sir John Cyril Smith**

Sir John Cyril Smith, CBE QC FBA was for thirty years a professor in what is now the School of Law at the University of Nottingham, serving as Head of Department for most of that time.

John had a huge influence on the teaching, practice and reform of the criminal law; in the eyes of many he was the outstanding criminal lawyer of his time. He was an inspirational teacher who pioneered the use of the Socratic or ‘casebook’ method, co-authoring the casebooks that supported his teaching.

Through his writings, and in particular his monthly commentaries on recent cases in the Criminal Law Review, he brought a new immediacy to the dialogue between academics and practitioners the benefits of which can still be seen today. His many publications include Smith & Hogan’s Criminal Law (with Brian Hogan), which has the great distinction of being both a classic undergraduate textbook and the standard reference work for practitioners.

John Smith’s work in law reform saw him helping to draft the two Theft Acts (1968 and 1978) with the Criminal Law Revision Committee, and the Draft Criminal Code produced by a team of academics for the Law Commission’s 1985 Report on the Codification of the Criminal Law; a major contribution to the development of legal principle which has sadly not been fully implemented. In 1993 he was knighted for his services to the law.