

The conference will be of great interest to trade unionists, employment lawyers, academics and students.

To reserve your place, complete the form below and send your cheque, made payable to IER, to Institute of Employment Rights, 4th Floor, Jack Jones House, 1 Islington, Liverpool, L3 8EG, or book online at www.ier.org.uk/events or email carolyns@ier.org.uk

This conference counts for 1.5 credit hours under the Law Society's Continuing Development Scheme and the General Council of the Bar's New Practitioners' Programme and Established Practitioners' Programme.

Details of nearby hotels are available from the office. Name changes are accepted up until the time of the event. Delegates who advise IER of their cancellation more than 15 working days in advance will receive a credit note with 10% deduction for administration.

Euston or Kings Cross tube and rail.

IER subscribers and members £45.00

Trade unions £60.00

Commercial £120.00

The cost of the conference does not include lunch.

Please reserve__ places at the Friction Dynamics half day seminar in London at £__ each

Name

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Friction Dynamics: Learning the lessons from a forgotten dispute

**A half day seminar
Monday 2nd July 2012
1.30 – 4.15 pm
Diskus Room
Unite the Union
128 Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8TN**

London



Organised by
The Institute of
Employment Rights



in association
with Unite
the union

About the conference

In 2002 an employment tribunal in Liverpool announced that 86 workers dismissed by their former employer, Friction Dynamics Ltd, a car parts manufacturer in North Wales, had won their claims for unfair dismissal. The workers had been sacked for taking strike action in defence of their terms and conditions of employment and the recognition of their union, TGWU.

But the tribunal victory was next to worthless. Their jobs were lost. No reinstatement orders were issued because the employer went into administration. Despite the company reconvening some months later as Dynamex Friction, the insolvency of the original employer meant that the workers only recovered their basic awards, money that came from the taxpayer not from the employer. Nevertheless, the workers remained on strike and on picket duty for two and a half years – making the strike the UK's longest running workplace dispute.

In this, the 10th anniversary year of the tribunal decision, we meet to consider the implications of the dispute; the lessons to be learned for today and how and in what ways the law has changed, if at all, over the past 10 years. Friction Dynamics exposed the weaknesses in the UK's framework of labour law including the doctrine of 'protected industrial action', the inadequacy of unfair dismissal remedies, the restrictions on solidarity action and the enormous loopholes in the protections offered by the TUPE Regulations.

At this event some of the key individuals involved in the dispute, including the lawyers who represented the workers at tribunal, will come together to examine the dispute and discuss how the law might be changed to better protect workers in the future.

Programme

- 1.30 Registration
- 1.50 Introduction from Chair, *Carolyn Jones*
- 2.00 The history and facts of the dispute
Bryan Davies
- 2.30 A trade union view
Tony Woodley (TBC???)
- 3.00 Questions/Discussion
- 3.10 BREAK
- 3.25 Supporting the grass roots: the role of the local Trade Union
Gerald Parry, Unite the Union
- 3.45 Implications for the present day
John Hendy QC
- 4.05 Questions/Discussion
- 4.15 Close