“Property Voices in the shadow of Grenfell”

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Since the terrible tragedy of the Grenfell Tower fire in which 72 people died on 14th June 2017 it has emerged that thousands of other residential buildings also fail to meet fire safety requirements. Property law is letting down those living in these blocks. They want their homes made safe to live in, but have no power to compel anyone to fix the problem. They lose sleep worrying about personal safety, and the crippling bills that they have to pay for interim safety measures and for fixing the building. They are trapped in homes that they cannot sell or mortgage.

The cladding scandal, as well as the wider contemporary debates around leasehold reform and commonhold, should cause us to pause and ask whether the way in which leasehold law presently distributes power and control is right. By listening to the voices of leaseholders, this lecture reflects on theoretical questions about the structure of property law, or more particularly leasehold law, and suggests that the time has come to rethink the idea of ownership in relation to multi-owned properties. It is time to ask what a model of property that supports propriety would look like.

This Liverpool Law School event is held in conjunction with Chancery & Commercial Practice Group, Atlantic Chambers Liverpool.

The public lecture will be followed by a reception.