



THE e-REPORT

CITY OF WESTMINSTER AND HOLBORN LAW SOCIETY NEWS

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Issue: 2

February 2009



The first edition of the e-Report, last month, seemed to go down well with you all. I received several e-mails from people saying how much they liked the new service, and congratulating us on the initiative. I'm delighted that you enjoyed it.

But we must not rest on our laurels. I'm sure there are things that you would love to see us cover (and things that you wouldn't!). Unless you drop us a line and let us know, we won't know what you want.

I said last time that the key theme for my year as President of the Society is 'communication'. But that is a two-way thing. Whilst we can keep providing you with what we think you want, there's no substitute for you actually contacting us and telling us what you want. The ball's in your court ...

If you didn't get chance to do it after last month's e-mail, please take a moment to check we have the right details for you by clicking on the 'Update Profile' link at the bottom of this e-mail. It will help us to make sure you get the right information at the right time.

If you enjoy the e-Report, please do feel free to forward on your copy to others who you think may also enjoy it, using this link:



With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian A. Barham
President

P.S. I hope to see many of you at the Annual Dinner, on Tuesday 3rd March.

Aon Risk Services sponsors Annual Dinner

We are delighted to announce that Aon Risk Services has agreed to sponsor the Society's Annual Dinner, which takes place at Middle Temple Hall on Tuesday 3rd March 2009. As a result, we are able to reduce the ticket price this year to only £75 - which is £10 less than last year!



We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come along to listen to the speech from our Principal Guest, Her Majesty's Procurator General & Treasury Solicitor, Paul Jenkins, and enjoy a convivial evening in the company of clients, colleagues, friends and family.

Tickets for the Annual Dinner are still available, **now at the reduced price of £75 each**, which includes a sparkling drinks reception, three-course dinner with wine, coffee and port. A booking form can be obtained by clicking below:

[Download Booking Form](#)

Your views on the SRA so far

As mentioned last month, the Professional Matters sub-committee of the Society will be taking the lead on producing a response to Lord Hunt's review of Professional Regulation on behalf of all our members.



As part of the response, we would like to include a section dealing with our members' experiences of the SRA to date - both good and bad. Please take a moment to drop us an e-mail at admin@cwhls.org.uk to let us know your views. We really would like to hear your stories of things that went wrong, and of the miracles that the SRA can work when it really tries.

At the same time, the Education & Training sub-committee will be considering whether the current regulatory regime is sufficiently refined to cater for the various ways in which people may wish to train to be able to practise in the future, and will be feeding that in to the Professional Matters sub-committee. Please do let them have your views, as well. E-mail them at admin@cwhls.org.uk.

[Visit the Regulation Review web site](#)

New Advice from Chancery Lane

The Law Society has recently issued two new Practice Notes covering VAT on Disbursements and Data Protection issues, and has also updated two further Practice Notes on Mortgage Repossessions and on Difficulties Paying Tax.



VAT on Disbursements

HM Revenue and Customs and solicitors sometimes mean different things by a disbursement. This Practice Note seeks to clarify this issue to help you identify what is or is not a disbursement under VAT rules.

[Read the Practice Note](#)

Data Protection

Processing personal data is fundamental to the work of a solicitor. The Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) regulates the processing of information relating to individuals. Solicitors must comply with the DPA. Failure to do so may constitute a criminal offence. This Practice Note sets out how solicitors can comply with the Act.

[Read the Practice Note](#)

Mortgage Repossessions

A recent pre-action protocol on mortgage repossession raises issues for solicitors acting for borrowers facing mortgage possession proceedings and the loss of their homes. The Law Society has updated its Practice Note to include information on the Mortgage Rescue Scheme and changes to income support rules.

[Read the Practice Note](#)

Difficulties Paying Tax

The Law Society has updated its Practice Note on the HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) arrangements for helping firms in financial difficulties. The new advice covers what to do if you enter into an arrangement with HMRC to defer tax payments and your circumstances change so that you cannot maintain the original agreement.

[Read the Practice Note](#)

These boots were made for walking ...



At 5.30pm on Monday 18th May 2009 thousands of lawyers will again take to the streets of London for charity.

Led by the Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls and the heads of all three branches of the legal profession, the walk raises funds for the London Legal Support Trust (registered charity No. 1101906).

With over 3,400 walkers taking part in 2008, the walk raised more than £360,000. It attracted teams from over 90 firms and 38 chambers. 28 legal advice agencies entered their own teams and Government lawyers added 10 teams. There were 15 in-house legal teams while the Judiciary, law schools and the professional bodies entered half a dozen teams each.

This year, CWHLS will once again be fielding a team of intrepid walkers, headed up by the Society's President, to raise money for legal advice agencies across London.

The London Legal Support Trust's fundraising target for the 2009 walk is £305,000 - which would make £1 million raised in the walk's first five years! Help us to help the London Legal Support Trust meet this target by giving a couple of hours of your time to walk round our beautiful city as part of the CWHLS team.

To join our walking team, simply send an e-mail to admin@cwahls.org.uk and we'll be in touch closer to the day.

Upcoming Events

February

Monday 23rd

Lecture - Credit Crunch Insolvencies : Duties & Opportunities

Mike Stubbs of Mishcon de Reya talks about Directors' duties in the context of insolvencies, and the effects of the credit crunch, including working with banks in difficult times. Come out of the credit crunch a winner. (1 hour CPD)

March

Tuesday 3rd

Annual Dinner - Middle Temple Hall

The highlight of the Society's social calendar, held in the architectural splendour of Middle Temple Hall.

Share the evening with clients, colleagues, friends and family



Share the evening with clients, colleagues, friends and family and enjoy the words of our Principal Guest, Her Majesty's Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor, Paul Jenkins. Ticket **price now reduced to £75** due to generous sponsorship from Aon Risk Services.

Monday 30th

Lecture - Contract Law

Don McCue of 11 Stone Buildings provides a refresher on a wide range of contract topics, including damages, exclusion clauses, express and implied terms, restraint of trade in employment, compromise agreements, and more ... (1.5 hours CPD)

April

Monday 27th

Lecture - Climate Change Act 2008

Alex Cooke from the Department of Energy and Climate Change presents an overview of the new Climate Change Act 2008, including issues of particular relevance to firms and their clients. (1 hour CPD)

[More information & booking forms](#)

How to Contact Us

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