



THE e-REPORT

CITY OF WESTMINSTER AND HOLBORN LAW SOCIETY NEWS

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Issue: 4

May 2009

Don't worry - you didn't miss one. This is the fourth edition of the e-Report, the electronic newsletter of the City of Westminster and Holborn Law Society. Following one or two comments, we skipped April with a view to moving the e-Report closer to the start of each month, so that it wouldn't arrive at the same time as the hard copy Report every other month. Let's see how that works for a while ...

On Monday 18th May it is the annual London Legal Support Trust sponsored walk round London. I will be leading the Society's team round the 10km course. You are more than welcome to join us. We are looking to raise lots of money for legal advice centres in London, so please dig deep and sponsor us at www.justgiving.com/cowhls. In the current economic climate, every penny we can raise for this worthwhile charity is much needed.

I am also delighted to report that the Master of the Rolls, Sir Anthony Clarke, has just agreed to give our annual fundraising lecture for the Mary Ward Legal Centre, in July. The details are still to be finalised, but mark the date - Wednesday 15th July - in your diaries. I'm sure it will prove to be a most interesting evening.

As always, 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 (which allows them to sign up for their own copy):



Do let me know if there's something in particular you would like us to include more (or less) of in the next edition.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian A. Barham
President

Colombia Report Published

In August 2008 a delegation of forty-two members of the UK legal profession, including a significant number from our Society, joined an international delegation of lawyers, the 'Caravana



an international delegation of lawyers, the 'Caravana Internacional de Juristas' in Colombia, as part of a campaign by Colombian human rights lawyers called "No Justice without Lawyers".

The delegation investigated the life threatening working conditions of human rights advocates in Colombia, meeting with human rights lawyers and victims' groups as well as judges, police and prosecutors, UK embassy staff, senior central and local government ministers, academics, and commercial lawyers. They returned home with a commitment to support and to seek international protection for their Colombian colleagues.

Earlier this month the international delegation published a report of its findings in Colombia. Former President of our Society, Sara Chandler, who was part of the delegation commented:

"The courage of the Colombian lawyers has left a lasting impact on us all. We heard shocking and detailed eye witness accounts of harassment and attacks. During our visit, a lawyer was murdered in one of the regions we were investigating.

"Lawyers we met during the visit continue to suffer harassment and death threats. The offices of the host organisation ACADEUM have been broken into and documents seized, while two lawyers have gone into exile after receiving death threats in February and March this year."

You can download a podcast of Sara talking to legal commentator, Mike Semple Piggot, about the situation in Colombia by clicking [here](#). The full report is available from the Law Society by clicking on the link below.

[Download the full report](#)

Legal Charities Garden Party

June will soon be upon us, and once again it will be time for the social event of the summer - the annual Legal Charities Garden Party.

Held as ever on the North Lawns of Lincoln's Inn, the Garden Party this year will be on Thursday 18th June from 6-8pm (please note changed date).



Come and be entertained by the sounds of the Tony Charles

Come and be entertained by the sounds of the Tony Charles Trinidad Steel Band and Southern-Rag-A-Jazz.

Tickets are on sale now for only £15 each, which includes canapés. All profits go to the legal charities.

[Download booking form here](#)

Latest from Chancery Lane

Law Society AGM set for 23rd July

The Law Society has announced the date for this year's Annual General Meeting. This will be on Thursday 23rd July, at 2.30pm, in the Law Society's Hall at 113 Chancery Lane.



Formal notice of the AGM is no longer sent to members in hard copy, and is instead made available electronically from the Society's web site. It can be downloaded [here](#).

We would like to encourage as many members of the Society as possible to come along to the AGM and make their presence felt. The Law Society often comments that the event is not very well attended, and suggests that this shows the profession's satisfaction with the way the Society is being run. If you don't agree, you need to say so.

Survey on the Regulation of Solicitors

The Society will shortly be undertaking a survey of private practice solicitors' views on the regulation of the profession.

The main objectives of this research are to gather information on the views of senior decision makers within firms on how the profession is regulated and to provide the Society with information on the effect of regulation on firms. The survey and its results will also help the Society to identify the issues and themes to which it should devote its resources. So that it might track the development of views about regulation over time it will be repeating the survey every two years or so.

The Society will shortly appoint an independent market research company to conduct a series of telephone interviews. Naturally, when returning the information to the Society, the research company will anonymise the data.

We would encourage all our members' firms to assist with this development and participate fully.

Barcelona Calling



While away the evening with friends and colleagues to the sounds of Southern-Rag-A-Jazz and the Tony Charles Trinidad Steel Band, snacking on canapés and drinking champagne. Tickets cost £15 each, with all profits going to the legal charities.

Monday 22nd

Lecture - Employment and Redundancy

Nigel Porter of 11 King's Bench Walk chambers covers issues of employment and redundancy arising from the downturn in the economy. (1 hour CPD)

July

Wednesday 15th

Mary Ward Legal Centre Annual Lecture 2009

Our annual showpiece lecture in aid of the Mary Ward Legal Centre, given this year by the Master of the Rolls, the Rt Hon Sir Anthony Clarke. (1 hour CPD)

[More information & booking forms](#)

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