



THE e-REPORT

CITY OF WESTMINSTER AND HOLBORN LAW SOCIETY NEWS

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You may have noticed that summer has well and truly arrived. It's far too hot to do anything energetic, and getting anything done in this weather takes an absolute age. That's not an excuse for the delay in this edition of the e-Report, though - that was entirely my fault, as it should have been done before I escaped for a much needed break. Mea culpa!

Anyway, I wanted to start this month by thanking everyone who was kind enough to sponsor our intrepid band of walkers for the annual London Legal Support Trust sponsored walk round London, which we did in May. We successfully made it round the 10km course, and raised a little shy of £1,000 for the charity. Overall, the 4000 walkers raised in excess of £380,000 for legal advice centres in London, so a huge thank you to everyone who contributed.

This issue of the e-Report gives details of the forthcoming Mary Ward lecture, which will be given by the Master of the Rolls, Sir Anthony Clarke. The lecture will be one of his last speaking engagements as the Master of the Rolls before he moves to the new Supreme Court in the autumn. Do please come along, and encourage friends and colleagues to do the same. I'm sure it will prove to be a most interesting evening, and it is all in aid of a very worthy cause. I hope to see many of you there.

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):

 Forward to a Friend

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

P.S. The e-Report will take a break over the summer, returning in early September.

[Master of the Rolls to give Mary Ward lecture](#)

Master of the Rolls to give Mary Ward lecture

As we mentioned in the last edition of the e-Report, we are delighted that the Master of the Rolls, Sir Anthony Clarke, has agreed to give our annual fundraising lecture for the Mary Ward Legal Centre. This is to be held at the offices of Linklaters LLP, on Wednesday 15th July at 6.30pm.



Tickets cost £25 (£10 for Trainees or students), with all proceeds going to the Mary Ward Legal Centre.

The most senior civil judge in England and Wales, Sir Anthony has held the post of Master of the Rolls since 2005. However, he has recently been appointed to the new Supreme Court and, therefore, the Mary Ward Lecture will be one of his last speaking engagements before taking up his new position.

Sir Anthony's career was in admiralty and commercial work: at the Bar he specialised in maritime and commercial cases and when he became a High Court judge in 1993 it was as the admiralty judge. He sat in the admiralty and commercial court for five years until being promoted to the Court of Appeal in 1998. Soon after he took charge of the Thames Safety Inquiry and in the following year the judicial inquiry into the Marchioness disaster. Likeable, sociable and thoughtful, since becoming Master of the Rolls he has sought to continue the civil reforms started by Lord Woolf. In a speech in 2007 he was critical of the "aggressive posturing" adopted in some commercial litigation and urged better co-operation between parties and lawyers to "achieve justice in the individual case at a reasonable cost and within a reasonable time frame". His pragmatic footnote was: "If past experience teaches us anything, it is that the successful implementation of reform is never easily achieved."

The Mary Ward Legal Centre (registered charity no 1024148) is located in Holborn and provides free legal advice to those on low incomes. Established in 1900 through the pro bono 'Poor Man's Lawyer Service', Mary Ward Legal Centre has a specialist team of 24 solicitors and advisers helping clients from all over London with complex legal cases including multiple discrimination, unfair dismissal, bankruptcy, homelessness, mortgage and tenancy evictions. They specialise in Housing and Employment law, Debts and Welfare Rights.

The centre helps over 5,000 people a year with their

The centre helps over 5,000 people a year with their legal problems, with 60% of clients not eligible for legal aid yet unable to afford a private solicitor.

The Centre's costs have to be met by grants and donations. All support is gratefully received by the Centre and their clients. Click [here](#) to visit their website.

[Book a ticket for the lecture](#)

Legal Charities Garden Party

Around 2,000 people joined us for the social event of the summer - the annual Legal Charities Garden Party - on the North Lawns of Lincoln's Inn on Thursday 18th June.



Entertained by the sounds of the Tony Charles Trinidad Steel Band and Southern-Rag-A-Jazz, attendees whiled away a mild evening with champagne and canapés.

Early indications are that the amount raised by the evening was on a par with last year (in excess of £30,000), with the proceeds of credit card sales still to be processed. A huge thank you goes to everyone who came along or who sent donations for the charities.

Law Society AGM - 23rd July at 2.30pm

Members are reminded that the Law Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd July, at 2.30pm, in the Law Society's Hall at 113 Chancery Lane.



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.

Nominations sought for Wig & Pen Prize

Cherie Booth QC has opened nominations for the 2009 Wig & Pen Prize, which is offered by the City of Westminster and Holborn Law Society and City of London Law Society to students, trainee solicitors and solicitors up to five years qualified involved in pro-bono initiatives.



Speaking to a crammed lecture theatre at the College of Law's Bloomsbury Centre, Cherie Booth said:

"I have always been involved in pro-bono work myself and encourage others to take on pro-bono commitments. This work is essential for many people in need of legal advice and representation. From the lawyer's viewpoint, you cannot beat pro-bono work as a way of gaining valuable experience as a junior lawyer."

The Wig & Pen prize - a silver quill and ink stand - is awarded as part of the Law Society Junior Lawyers Division's Pro Bono Awards, and provides an opportunity for this Society to give public recognition to the invaluable pro bono work undertaken by Junior lawyers in our area. The prize will be awarded at a ceremony at the Law Society on Thursday 12th November, as part of National Pro Bono Week.

Nominations are now open for projects undertaken by individuals between 20th September 2008 and 11th September 2009.

The closing date for nominations is 11th September 2009.

[Download nomination form](#)

Forthcoming Events

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)

Monday 20th

Lecture - Litigation Funding

Timothy Maher of Allianz Litigation Funding explains what tactical advantages litigation funding can provide, and discusses Lord Justice Jackson's costs review. (1 hour CPD)

September

September

Wednesday 30th

Lecture - Nigel Mayhew Memorial Lecture

Robert Lewis of Radcliffe Chambers talks about the influence of human rights on town and country planning. (1 hour CPD)

[More information & booking forms](#)

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