



THE e-REPORT

CITY OF WESTMINSTER AND HOLBORN LAW SOCIETY NEWS

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In less than twenty-four hours' time it will all be over. I will have completed my year as President of your Society, and will pass beyond the veil from which muffled voices of Past Presidents are only occasionally heard. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year at the helm, and I hope that you have enjoyed the journey as well.

As we start a new Legal Year, and mark the consignment of the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords to the footnotes of history, we can look forward to the joys of grappling with appeals to the new Supreme Court, and the possibility of a future that allows firms to manage their own regulatory compliance.

Your Society is a vibrant and effective body, able to shape the future of your profession. Every year, it responds to countless consultations from the Law Society, SRA, Legal Services Board, Government and others. In short, it lobbies on your behalf. That you are able to go about your daily professional life with minimal hindrance is, in no small part, due to numerous people working behind the scenes who give up their time for the sake of the profession.

Communication has been the theme of my year, and I hope these e-Reports have given a flavour of what we do on your behalf. However, if I could achieve one thing from my year as President of your Society it would be for many more of you to play an active role in our activities - not just coming to the dinners or attending the CPD lectures, but working with us to make the profession a happy and prosperous place to be. If you would like to be a part of it, please e-mail our administrator at admin@cw hls.org.uk

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):

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Next month you will be in the very capable hands of your

Next month you will be in the very capable hands of your new President, Peter Adams. I wish him all the best for the coming year.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian A. Barham
President

UK Supreme Court replaces House of Lords



The traditional Opening of the Legal Year ceremony on 1st October took on a new dimension this year, marking the establishment of the new Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, which replaces the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords as the highest court in the United Kingdom.

The Supreme Court sits in the old Middlesex Guildhall, on the western side of Parliament Square, within our Society's catchment area. This new location is highly symbolic of the United Kingdom's separation of powers, balancing judiciary and legislature across the open space of Parliament Square, with the other two sides occupied by the executive (the Treasury building) and the church (Westminster Abbey).

The Court will hear appeals on arguable points of law of the greatest public importance, for the whole of the United Kingdom in civil cases, and for England, Wales and Northern Ireland in criminal cases. Additionally, it will hear cases on devolution matters under the Scotland Act 1998, the Northern Ireland Act 1988 and the Government of Wales Act 2006. This jurisdiction was transferred to the Supreme Court from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

With the creation of the Supreme Court, the former Supreme Court of England and Wales, made up of the Crown Court, High Court and Court of Appeal, is now to be referred to as the "Senior Courts of England and Wales".

The full title of a solicitor is now "Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales", a change which applies to all

Courts of England and Wales", a change which applies to all solicitors, including those admitted before 1 October 2009.

You can find out more about the new Supreme Court on its [web site](#).

Diversity Access Scheme



The Society's President, and the Secretary of the Society's Education & Training sub-committee, attended a reception at The Law Society on 7th October for the presentation of this year's Diversity Access Scheme financial awards by the Attorney General, Baroness Scotland.

PUTTING IDEALS INTO ACTION

The Diversity Access Scheme is designed to support promising entrants to the solicitors' profession who also face exceptional social, educational, financial or personal obstacles to qualification. It provides full scholarships for the Legal Practice Course (LPC), as well as help to gain relevant, early work experience and mentoring from practising solicitors.

Previous Diversity Access Scheme alumni have, for example, experienced time in local authority care, resisted coercion into arranged marriage, and battled for access to university and work experience with severe physical disabilities. Whatever their obstacles, all have shown tenacity, courage and commitment in the pursuit of their career.

Find out more about the scheme and how you can help to support it by reading the [brochure](#). If you would like to make a donation to the Law Society Charity, you can donate online [here](#).

Lord Hunt delivers report on regulation



The Law Society has published Lord Hunt of Wirral's report into the regulation of legal services. Lord Hunt was commissioned by the Law Society in October 2008 to advise on what was needed to establish best modern practice in the regulation of solicitors.

The legal sector is undergoing a radical transformation. Alternative Business Structures will have to be assimilated into the legal regulatory system, the ever changing demands of clients will need to be satisfied, and English and Welsh law

of clients will need to be satisfied, and English and Welsh law must maintain the high international reputation which provides so many business benefits for the UK. For these, and many other reasons, it is critically important that the regulatory system is constantly re-evaluated to ensure it is fit to meet both new challenges, and long standing regulatory needs.

Lord Hunt of Wirral said:

"It has been a great pleasure and privilege to lead this review and write this report, on behalf of the Law Society of England and Wales. The legal profession and the SRA now have an unrivalled opportunity to work in partnership, setting the pace for other professions with cutting-edge, principles-based regulation. I hope the ideas I set out in this report will help to form the basis for a new gold standard in professional regulation, based upon robust internal governance, comprehensive regulatory compliance and the highest professional standards."

Peter Williamson, Chair of the SRA said:

"In his report Lord Hunt makes a large number of constructive suggestions, many of which reinforce and complement the SRA's programme of public interest reforms. In particular, the recommendations on the regulation of law firms, and on improving the governance arrangements of the Law Society and SRA, are thoughtful and welcome contributions to the work we are undertaking in consultation with the Law Society and Legal Services Board. We shall consider and respond fully to Lord Hunt's recommendations soon."

You can read the full report [here](#).

Law Society Qualified to Answer campaign



To help solicitors attract new business and retain existing clients during the downturn, the Law Society is repeating last year's successful national advertising and PR campaign promoting the already strong solicitor brand to the general public.

The 2009 advertising and PR campaign focuses on the reassurance to be gained by seeking advice from a properly qualified professional. The campaign is running in the national press and in more than 200 railway stations across England and Wales as well as on board train services.

Promotional materials can be ordered from The Law Society free of charge and are available in both English and

free of charge and are available in both English and Welsh. The Law Society's in-house press team will offer PR support to members throughout the campaign by providing template press releases and articles that you can use in the local media as well as advice on how to handle interviews and broadcast media questions.

The campaign runs from 21 September to 21 November 2009.

For more details and how to get involved visit the [Society's web site](#).

Forthcoming Events

October

Tuesday 13th

Annual General Meeting & Informal Dinner

The Society's Annual General Meeting, held at The Law Society on Chancery Lane, at 6.15pm. Followed by an informal dinner at Coopers Restaurant, Lincoln's Inn Fields. (Tickets £40 each)

Wednesday 14th

Lecture - Employment Aspects of the Solicitor/Trainee relationship

Carolyn Brown of Finers Stephens Innocent outlines topical issues relating to the employment (as opposed to regulatory) aspects of the Solicitor/Trainee relationship. *A West London Law Society event*. (1.5 hours CPD) [Contact WLLS](#)

Monday 26th

Lecture - Costs Update

Costs Master Campbell talks about topical costs issues, including the recent case on terminating retainers. (1 hour CPD)

November

Monday 30th

Lecture - Professional Negligence

Nick Bird from the Professional Risks Group at Reynolds Porter Chamberlain LLP talks about the Shifting Sands of Professional Negligence Law at the beginning of the 21st

Professional Negligence Law at the beginning of the 21st Century. Includes some practical advice with tips on how to minimise the risks of practising. (1 hour CPD)

[More information & booking forms](#)

How to Contact Us

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