



## Supporting Solicitors



Law Society Regional Report

**July 2013**

Regional manager: Fiona Tatton

Email: [fiona.tatton@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:fiona.tatton@lawsociety.org.uk)

Telephone: 07980 725 964

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/yorkshire](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/yorkshire)



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## Law Society news and events

### Law Society AGM

**Price:** Free

**Date:** 11-07-2013

**Time:** 14.30

**Venue:** The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL

### Admissions ceremony for solicitors admitted to the roll prior to 2009

On 12 July 2013, the Law Society is running an admissions ceremony for solicitors admitted to the roll prior to 2009. For further information, please visit:

<http://bit.ly/119BOdF>

### MPs listen to Law Society on PCT proposals

We have pressed for parliamentary scrutiny of the government's controversial PCT proposals and welcomed the opportunity to take part in a Justice Select Committee hearing. The committee considered written and oral evidence from the Law Society and other representative bodies on 11 June.

Along with Maura McGowan QC, Bar Council chair, Michael Turner QC, Criminal Bar Association chair, Bill Waddington, Criminal Law Solicitors Association chair and Law Society President Lucy Scott Moncrieff spent two hours responding to queries on price-competitive tendering (PCT) by the Justice Select Committee, many of whose members were lawyers.

The Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) case for the proposed PCT regime is that it will help the profession survive the cuts that it says have to be made. Lucy and the rest of the group explained why, in reality, such a regime would have the very opposite effect.



They also spelled out why the removal of client choice would undermine clients' trust in their lawyers and make the criminal justice system less efficient and less effective. They all advanced alternative ways of making savings and expressed their desire to work with the MoJ.

Watch the session at:

[www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/Player.aspx?meetingId=13273](http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/Player.aspx?meetingId=13273)

## **Society urges Lord committee to hear evidence on civil legal aid proposals**

In a letter to the chair of the House of Lords Constitution Committee, the Law Society president has set out our serious concerns about the proposed changes to civil legal aid eligibility and scope. We have urged the committee to consider how the proposals will infringe upon the basic right of access to justice.

Read the full letter at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/articles/civil-legal-aid-proposals-Society-urges-Lords-committee-to-hear-evidence/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/articles/civil-legal-aid-proposals-Society-urges-Lords-committee-to-hear-evidence/)

Read our parliamentary briefing on civil legal aid proposals at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/government-parliamentary-affairs/miscellaneous-briefings/civil-legal-aid-proposals-briefing/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/government-parliamentary-affairs/miscellaneous-briefings/civil-legal-aid-proposals-briefing/)

## **Client choice of solicitor: sign the petition**

The right to choose your own solicitor is under threat - we urge members to sign this petition, created by solicitor, Rachel Bentley, to ensure that this key issue is debated in parliament.

By 28 June the petition had received over 100,000 signatures, so the Leader of the House will write to the Backbench Business Committee inviting the committee to consider whether there should be a debate. There have already been debates over legal aid, including one on 27 June.

Sign the petition at:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/48628>

## **Personal injury campaign launches**

This week saw the launch of our new campaign to promote solicitors as the best source of legal advice on personal injury. It will run for six weeks and includes:

- online advertising and PR



- advertising on trains and at railway stations across England and Wales
- PR coverage in the regional and local media
- digital roadside advertising



Solicitors firms can order free materials including posters, postcards and customer guides at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/promoting-the-profession/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/promoting-the-profession/)

### **Free PII bulletin: new edition available**

Get off to a flying start as you prepare for renewal of your professional indemnity insurance (PII). The latest edition of Insurance Matters focuses on the key elements that solicitors should consider when seeking cover in 2013.

Read the latest edition of the bulletin at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/regulation/pii/documents/insurance-matters-11/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/regulation/pii/documents/insurance-matters-11/)

### **Check your insurer's financial security**

The news this week about unrated insurer Balva has shown how important it is to consider whether your insurer will be able to meet claims under your professional indemnity insurance (PII) policy. Our guides highlight an insurers' financial security rating and which insurers are prepared to cover your type of firm.

Download our guide to insurers financial security at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/articles/pii-insurer-insolvency/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/articles/pii-insurer-insolvency/)

View all our PII guidance and support at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/regulation/pii/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/regulation/pii/)



## **A year in the life of the Law Society...**

Our new online annual review summarises the highlights of the work we've done to support solicitors over the last 12 months.

Visit the annual review webpage at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/about-us/annual-review/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/about-us/annual-review/)

## **Excellence Awards 2013: nominations continue**



Nominations for the 2013 Excellence Awards are now open. The awards celebrate the very best in the legal profession and are the perfect opportunity to showcase your achievements. Details of this year's categories and how to enter are available on our website.

Learn more at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/excellence-awards/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/excellence-awards/)

## **Nominations for honorary QCs**

The Ministry of Justice is inviting nominations for honorary Queen's Counsel and we are looking for suitable candidates to be put forward as Law Society nominees. Honorary silk is available to all practising lawyers who have made a major contribution to the law of England and Wales.

Learn more about the role and how to nominate at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/news/stories/nominations-for-honorary-qcs/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/news/stories/nominations-for-honorary-qcs/)

## **Law firms leave smaller carbon footprint**

Leading UK law firms have reduced their carbon emissions by the equivalent of over 29,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>, according to the latest report by the Legal Sector Alliance. Membership of the alliance has increased to 261 as more firms commit to reporting their carbon performance.

Read the report at:

<http://www.legalsectoralliance.co.uk/node/678>

The Legal Sector Alliance is free to join. Find out how at:



[www.legalsectoralliance.co.uk/join](http://www.legalsectoralliance.co.uk/join)

## **Chief Legal Ombudsman's third annual report**

Read the Chief Legal Ombudsman's third annual report, which was published on 13 June 2013.

[www.legalombudsman.org.uk/reports/annual-report-2013/report.html](http://www.legalombudsman.org.uk/reports/annual-report-2013/report.html)

## **Practice Notes**

### **Whistleblowing**

Our practice new note explains what you need to know about raising concerns and whistleblowing. It highlights relevant legislation and provides a template for practices to develop their own whistleblowing policy.

Read the practice note at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/practice-notes/raising-concerns-and-whistleblowing/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/practice-notes/raising-concerns-and-whistleblowing/)

### **Financial abuse**

Financial abuse covers a wide variety of activities from mishandling finances to fraud. This new practice note will help you identify and act upon suspected or actual financial abuse.

Read the practice note at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/practice-notes/financial-abuse/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/practice-notes/financial-abuse/)

## **Forthcoming JAC Selection Exercises**

Visit [www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/selection-process/selection-exercises/forthcoming.htm](http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/selection-process/selection-exercises/forthcoming.htm) for details of up and coming selection exercises and to subscribe to electronic alerts.

## **Consultation responses from the Law Society**

### **Transforming Legal Aid consultation: Law Society response**

The Law Society believes that the government's proposals for introducing competition in the criminal legal aid market present unacceptable risks.

Read our full statement and response at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/policy-discussion/transforming-legal-aid-consultation-law-society-response/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/policy-discussion/transforming-legal-aid-consultation-law-society-response/)



## **SRA consultation on overseas rules: Law Society response**

We have responded to the SRA's consultation on its proposals for new overseas rules, as part of its ongoing review of international regulation. We support this review as the manner in which the SRA currently regulates firms in this sphere is complicated and can yield illogical results in terms of who is captured by regulation.

The latest SRA proposals represent a sensible and proportionate regulatory framework for overseas practice and our response to this consultation primarily addresses points of drafting on the proposed new rules. The SRA plans to include these new rules in the October 2013 update of the SRA Handbook.

Read our full statement and response at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/policy-discussion/sra-consultation-on-overseas-rules/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/policy-discussion/sra-consultation-on-overseas-rules/)

For a full summary of all the recent Law Society consultation responses, please visit:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/policy-discussion/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/policy-discussion/)



## **Electronic newsletters and updates – stay up to date**

Visit the our newsletters page to subscribe to update bulletins

<http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/news/newsletters/>

Professional Update - **top issues from across the profession, every Thursday**

Anti-money Laundering Update - **bi-monthly developments and support for anyone interested in compliance**

International Update - **monthly international legal news and developments**

Legal Aid Update - **regular news and developments in legal aid**

Junior Lawyers Update - **regular updates for students, trainees and junior lawyers**

Gazette Online - **daily updates and breaking news from the Law Society Gazette**

In-house Forum - **latest news and advice for in-house lawyers**

From the President - **weekly updates from the Law Society President**

## **Sign up to receive Law Society Press releases via e-mail**

Stay up to date with what's happening at the Law Society and how this affects our members.

<http://lawsocietymedia.org.uk/maillinglist.aspx>

*Report ends. July 2013*