



THE e-REPORT

CITY OF WESTMINSTER AND HOLBORN LAW SOCIETY NEWS

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I am delighted to send you this first edition of the e-Report, the new electronic newsletter of the City of Westminster & Holborn Law Society.

As you might know, the key theme for my year as President of the Society is 'communication'. So I am particularly pleased that we have managed to create this new member service, which complements our existing hard-copy newsletter, The Report.

I very much hope that you will enjoy what we have put together, and that you will want to receive further editions over the coming months. 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.

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:

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

If you have any views on anything in the e-Report, or there is anything you would like to see covered in future editions, please do not hesitate to contact us at feedback@cw hls.info.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian A. Barham
President

Review of Regulation of the Profession



At the end of last year The Law Society appointed Lord Hunt of Wirral (pictured) to conduct a wide-ranging review of the way in which the solicitors' profession is regulated. The former Beachcroft senior partner, now Shadow Minister for Business and Enterprise, will spend nine months considering how the profession should be governed in future.

Speaking to the Council of The Law Society Lord Hunt

Speaking to the Council of The Law Society Lord Hunt said he wanted this to be the Heineken of reviews - reaching the parts other reviews can't reach. He has previously suggested that he would be delighted to have an inbox stuffed to overflowing with responses from across the profession. The closing date for responses is Maundy Thursday, 9th April 2009.

The City of Westminster & Holborn Law Society is in a marvellous position to play a leading role in the review process, boasting as it does one of the widest ranges of practitioners within its membership. The whole spectrum of private practice is represented, from sole practitioners through to large commercial firms with an international reach. We also have in-house practitioners in commerce and industry, with a particularly strong showing in the media and technology sectors. There are large numbers of solicitors working in central government, local government and the public sector, including the Metropolitan Police and London Underground. In short, there isn't a type of practitioner we don't have in Westminster & Holborn.

CWHLs's Professional Matters sub-committee will be taking the lead on producing a response to Lord Hunt's review on behalf of all our members. We really do need everyone to consider how professional regulation could be improved to ease the day-to-day burden of their job. Please take a moment to read the [Call for Evidence](#) document, and let us have your thoughts - no matter how brief or long. E-mail us at feedback@cwpls.info.

[Visit the Regulation Review web site](#)

Surviving the Downturn

The current economic crisis is hitting hard, and many firms and businesses across Westminster & Holborn are suffering quite badly.



The Society's lecture programme over the coming months will offer practical training on issues connected with the recession, including insolvency and redundancy issues. Take a look at the 'Upcoming Events' section below to see what we have coming up in the next few weeks.

At the same time, The Law Society has developed a suite of information and guidance to help practitioners make the most of the opportunities available, as well as providing telephone helplines giving practice advice and pastoral care in relation to personal, financial, professional

care in relation to personal, financial, professional or employment problems. For more information, simply follow this link:

[Visit the 'Surviving the Downturn' page](#)

Annual Dinner Speaker Announced

The Principal Guest and speaker at the Society's Annual Dinner, which takes place at Middle Temple Hall on Tuesday 3rd March 2009, has been announced as Her Majesty's Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor, Paul Jenkins (pictured), who also holds the post of Head of the Government Legal Service (GLS).



Paul joined the GLS from the self-employed Bar in 1979 and spent much of his early career as a litigator in the Treasury Solicitor's Department. He then moved to the Treasury Advisory team before spending two years at the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In 1992 he returned to the Treasury Solicitor's Department to be the first Legal Adviser to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

From 1998 to 2004 Paul was the Legal Adviser to the Lord Chancellor's Department and then the Director General of the Legal and International Group in the Department of Constitutional Affairs. Immediately before taking up his appointment as Treasury Solicitor, Paul was the Director General of the Law, Governance and Special Policy Group in the Department for Work and Pensions as well as the Solicitor to both DWP and the Department of Health.

We are delighted that Paul will be able to join us for our Annual Dinner in the beautiful Hall at Middle Temple, where he is also a Bencher. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come along to hear him speak, and enjoy a convivial evening in the company of clients, colleagues, friends and family.

Tickets for the Annual Dinner are on sale now, and have been held at last year's price of £85 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](#)

New Members Welcomed

January 27th saw the first of this year's welcome drinks evenings for people who have only recently become members of the Society, with around 25 new members from a range of firms and organisations enjoying wine and nibbles and finding out more about the way the Society works from a number of members of its main Committee.



New members were encouraged to play an active role in the Society's various sub-committees, which cover a diverse range of topics from Access to Justice to Revenue law, via Membership Development and Professional Matters. In a brief address, the President stressed the need for new members to take advantage of all the Society has to offer, including networking opportunities and social events, but above all to make sure that they take the time to let the Committee know what they want from their Society.

Longstanding members of the Society are encouraged to seek out new members at forthcoming events (particularly the Annual Dinner) and make them feel especially welcome.

The Society would like to thank Bishop & Sewell LLP for the very kind use of its offices for the welcome drinks event.

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 and enjoy the words of our Principal Guest, Her Majesty's Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor, Paul Jenkins. Ticket price held at 2008 rate (£85) despite significant cost increases.

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)

[More information & booking forms](#)

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