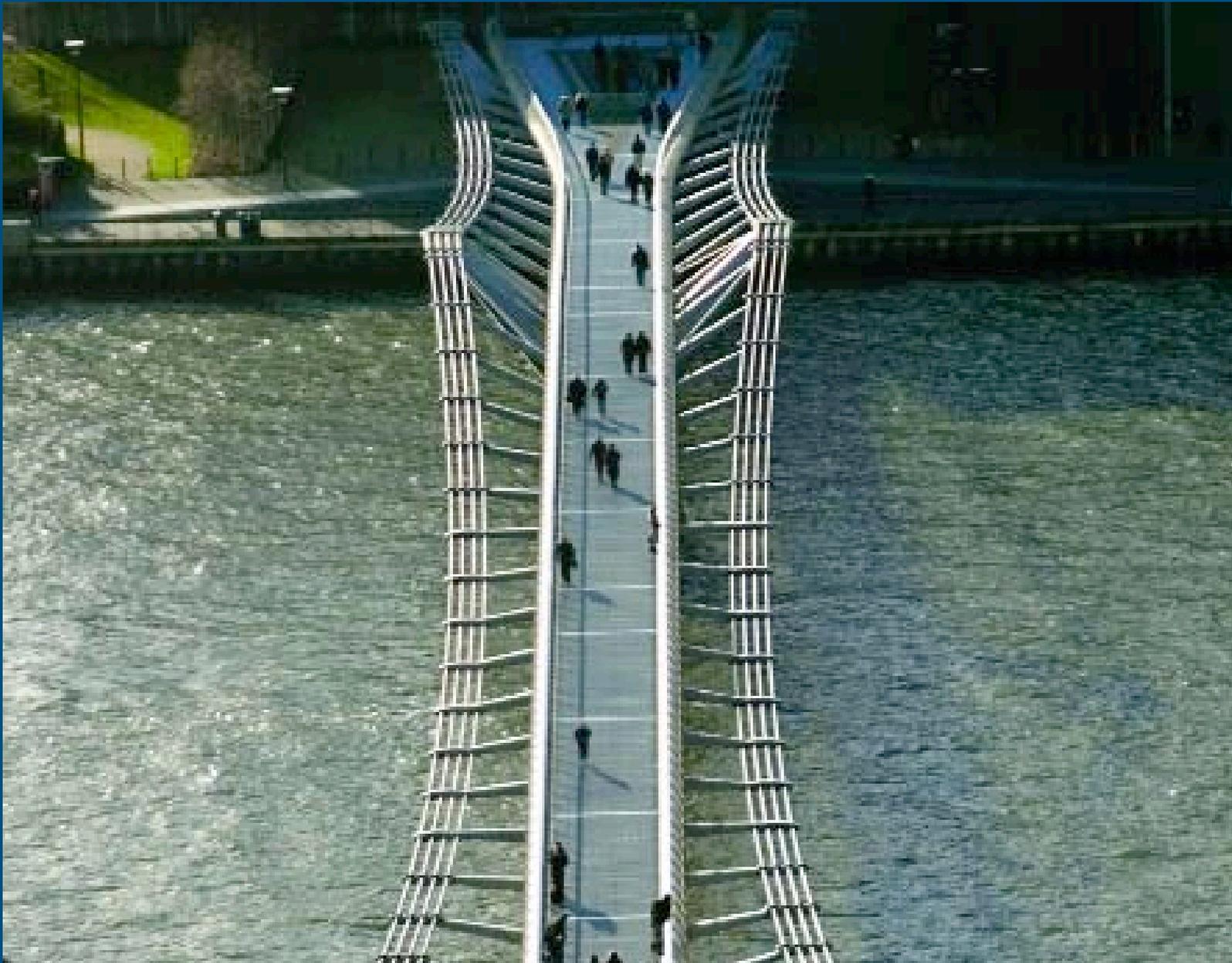




City Solicitor

The newsletter of the City of London Solicitors' Company and the City of London Law Society



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Cover photograph: The Millennium Bridge taken by the Master, Bill Knight

Editorial



As winter moves (slowly) into spring, we allow ourselves some introspection about the value residing within the City profession, other than the purely professional. City lawyers, by and large, are extremely capable people. They have interests in many areas outside of the law – charity work, the arts and sport, to name just a few. We, in these pages, are always welcoming of news about the activities of City solicitors in their real lives.

However, the notion that City solicitors add value outside the profession is one of the Master's firmly held beliefs which informs many of his activities. His views are amplified in his column in this edition. We are also delighted to carry a profile of the Master, providing an introduction to the Master as a person rather than as a Master.

The Company has been active socially during the first few months of this year. Our intrepid maiden entry in the Inter-Livery Shove Tuesday Pancake Race is reported, as well as the first in what is hoped will be a series of soirees organised by the Master.

We continue to enjoy pieces from our regular contributors, including the redoubtable Auld Broad. Our highly skilled motoring correspondent has raised his game somewhat from his battery-powered adventures in the last edition.

Finally, we are delighted to carry an invitation to the Company's Centenary Banquet which will take place in April this year, an opportunity to celebrate the Company's 100th birthday in the glorious surroundings of the Mansion House, and in the presence of the Lord Mayor. This is sure to be a glittering occasion which the Company is organising with justifiable pride.

John Abramson
AIG, Editor

Dates for 2008

THE CITY OF LONDON SOLICITORS' COMPANY

- Mon. 31st Mar.** * Court meeting at 11.00 a.m.
followed by luncheon at 1.00 p.m.
- Thurs. 10th April** Banquet, Mansion House, at 6.45 p.m.
Liverymen, Freemen and Guests.
E or D.
- Mon. 12th May** Court meeting at 5.30 p.m.
Annual Service at 6.30 p.m. H.M.
Tower of London, followed by
Reception/Supper at Trinity House.
Liverymen, Freemen and Guests. L.
- Wed. 11th June** Legal Charities Garden Party,
Lincoln's Inn Fields.
- Mon. 16th June** Court meeting 4.30 p.m.
Annual General Meeting and
Champagne Reception at
5.30 p.m. at Tallow Chandlers' Hall,
Dowgate Hill, EC4.
Liverymen and Freemen
- Tues. 24th June** Election of Sheriffs, Guildhall,
noon. Followed by lunch at venue
to be arranged. Liverymen.
- Mon. 22nd Sept.** * Court meeting at 4.30 p.m.
followed by Court Dinner
at 6.30 p.m.
- Mon. 29th Sept.** Election of Lord Mayor, Guildhall,
11.45 a.m. followed by lunch at
venue to be arranged.
Liverymen.
- Thurs. 2nd –
Sat. 4th Oct.** World City Bars Conference,
London.
- Sat. 8th Nov.** Lord Mayor's Show
- Mon. 24th Nov.** * Court meeting at 11.00 a.m.
followed by luncheon at 1.00 p.m.
- Thurs. 27th Nov.** Livery Dinner, Goldsmiths' Hall,
Foster Lane, EC2 at 7.00 p.m.
Liverymen and Guests. D.

THE CITY OF LONDON LAW SOCIETY

- Wed. 16th April** † Committee of the City of London
Law Society at 11.00 p.m.
† Carvery Lunch at 1.00 p.m.
- Mon. 16th June** Annual General Meeting and
Champagne Reception at
5.30 p.m. at Tallow Chandlers' Hall,
Dowgate Hill, EC4.
- Wed. 18th June** † Committee of the City of London
Law Society at 11.00 a.m.
† Carvery Lunch at 1.00 p.m.
- Wed. 24th Sept.** † Committee of the City of London
Law Society at 11.00 a.m.
† Carvery Lunch at 1.00 p.m.
- Wed. 3rd Dec.** † Committee of the City of London
Law Society at 11.00 a.m.
† Carvery Lunch at 1.00 p.m.



- * At Cutlers' Hall, Warwick Lane, EC4.
† At Butchers' Hall, Bartholomew Close, EC1.

For the assistance of members, the dress for evening functions is indicated in the programme as follows:

- E Evening Dress (white tie)
D Dinner Jacket (black tie)
L Lounge suit



Lawyers on Boards

During my time as Master of the City of London Solicitors' Company, and before, I have been trying to get more solicitors on boards. The world is run by boards: school boards, hospital boards, company boards, advisory boards, parole boards, quango boards and regulatory boards and, by and large, we are not on them. There are, apparently 19 qualified solicitors on the boards of the FTSE 250 – about 2,000 people. There are no solicitors on the board of the FSA or the Court of the Bank of England. The Chairman of the Takeover Panel is a barrister.

People I talk to about this are invariably surprised. Surely, they say, these City solicitors have spent their lives dealing with other people's crises, they are people of integrity, they can read the small print, and they are experienced in the ways of the world. Is there no demand? Are the solicitors themselves unwilling? What is the problem?

Well, on the whole, there is no demand. Chairmen and CEOs are not keen. 'Willing to debate but not prepared to agree.' 'Just a craft industry – if I want one I'll hire one.' 'Don't give me a lawyer; I'm in enough trouble already.' Headhunters confirm that nobody asks for lawyers. One told me that as soon as a lawyer walks through the door she is working out how to let him down gently. One retiring senior partner told me that he spent half an hour telling a headhunter that under his stewardship his firm had grown mightily in turnover and profit per partner. The headhunter listened politely and then said, 'But you are a lawyer, aren't you?'

Partners in City firms turned away from involvement in outside interests some time ago. It was not always so. In the 1960s a number of partners in the big City firms were directors of important companies. But times changed and the competition got stiffer. For good reason firms decided that the possibility of conflict of interest and the need for total commitment meant that every equity partner became a full time lawyer. Now when the senior partner suggests that a partner should consider outside interests most believe that

their days are numbered and they might as well retire into the library with a revolver. So when City lawyers leave practice, and they do so at quite an early age, they find that they have no other business or public service activity to fall back on.

In the United States the position is very different. As the Financial Times reported earlier this year, chief executives with law degrees are becoming more common as regulation increases. Although the tendency of lawyers to be risk-averse is recognised, so is the lawyer's analytical ability and his or her trustworthiness in a crisis.

I have arranged two seminars about this. At the first, which was held at Oxford University's Said Business School, we talked about the problem. The subject aroused interest in the City firms – particularly from the senior partners! Of the fifty who came to the seminar approximately thirty were City lawyers and the rest from a wide variety of backgrounds. Business was represented by Bob Ayling and Clare Spottiswoode, the public sector by Pam Chesters, Chair of the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust and Eve Salomon from the Better Regulation Commission and the voluntary sector by David Isaac, Chair of Stonewall and Modern Art Oxford and a partner at Pinsent Masons. The speakers also included Mairi Eastwood from Praesta, the executive coaching firm and Simon Kingston, a headhunter from Russell Reynolds.

The seminar, which was held under the Chatham House rules, agreed that there is a problem, which was put down to the lawyer's specialisation and general reluctance to get involved with the business of their clients. What boards needed was experience in business and financial knowledge and lawyers did not tick the boxes.

Edmund Burke (not at the seminar) famously said that the legal education sharpens the mind by narrowing it. Although the lawyer's analytical and deconstructionist approach to a problem may have its place in the boardroom these are not the first skills the UK CEO thinks of when putting his or her team together – after all lawyers can be hired when necessary.

Master's Word Cont..

Bill Knight, *Master*

So the first thing is for lawyers to take a step away from the law, to change their minds and broaden their horizons.

Lawyers should start thinking about this sooner in their careers rather than later. The public and voluntary sectors might be more prepared to take a chance on a lawyer without board experience who was committed to their aims, and this could provide experience. Firms should consider encouraging lawyers to take up these non-commercial appointments. They should not give rise to problems of conflict of interest, and should result in more business-minded lawyers. When it came to applying for jobs you should think about your CV in a different way, and be prepared to be rejected often.

With the hint that the public and not-for-profit sectors might be more interested I arranged the second seminar which Freshfields very kindly accommodated in their smart conference suite. At this seminar we decided we had had enough criticism and we focused on answering Lenin's famous question, 'What is to be done?' (Lenin wasn't at the seminar either). 60 solicitors turned up and we heard from Janet Gaymer, the Commissioner for Public Appointments, Sally Cantello the Chief Executive the Whitehall and Industry Group, Susanna Cheal from the charitable sector, Mairi Eastwood again, Hedley Harper from School Governors One Stop Shop, and Janice Scanlan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Appointments at the Appointments Commission. The emphasis was on the practicable steps a solicitor can take if he or she wants to be considered for an appointment.

But why bother? Why should focused lawyers, working all the hours they can, put more pressure on themselves by seeking

an outside appointment. Well, if we don't nothing will change and we will not have much influence in society, which I regard as a frustrating state of affairs. Of course lawyers are not a class – we have no more claim to influence society than blondes or chiropractors, but I do get cross at being discriminated against – you can call it board rage.

But the best reason is to do it for ourselves. Service on a board changes you in ways you do not expect. It forces you to respect the skills required to run any enterprise, however small. You learn a tremendous amount about the abilities of others and realise that knowledge of the law and lawyers can sometimes be of very little help. And it is great for those approaching retirement. I have come to realise that retirement for the City solicitor is not something to be taken lightly. It is a major shock to the system which takes you at least a year to get over. A job on a board gives you a bridge into retirement and it is great to be welcomed and valued for what you are, rather than as a working lawyer with a position in your firm.

And it is fun. I would not have missed my time as a governor of Argyle Primary School, and believe it or not, I have enjoyed being a Gambling Commissioner, Deputy Chairman of Lloyd's and (although you may find this hard to credit) Chairman of the Financial Reporting Review Panel. Work like this keeps you with young people and makes you stretch your brain in most unexpected ways.

Alexandra Marks, our senior warden, says that she will keep up this initiative. I am sure she will, and we shall all be better for it.





Open letter from CLLS Chairman to all Members of City of London Law Society

The Society has been revitalised by its members. This is because approximately 12,000 of our total of 14,000 individual memberships come through the corporate membership of 51 of the City of London's leading law firms.

This means that thanks to those firms and to you, we are increasingly seen by government, the EC Directorates, the SRA and also the FSA as a first line consultee when it comes to City legal practice proposals which impact on our regular commercial clients.

Because of this empowerment we are living up to our promise, made when law firm membership was introduced two years ago, to fill the representative gap between what the national Law Society can and should be doing for City of London practitioners and the self-sufficiency of our member firms.

As a consequence, the work of our 17 Specialist Committees who have for many years been the jewel in our crown, has become more visible in its relevance to City practitioners.

All of this has enabled us to continue to work closely with the national Law Society on issues of common concern as we have established our own identity on purely City matters.

Here are some examples, mostly foreseen in our 2007 Business Plan:-

1. Playing a major role in the consultations leading to the Legal Services Act and being the only local Law Society invited to give evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee, through which helpful changes were achieved
2. Creating a Professional Rules and Regulation Committee which meets on a six-monthly basis with the SRA as part of our front line consultee role
3. Setting up a direct consultative relationship with the EC's Directorates and arranging regular meetings in Brussels so that we are not reliant upon others involving us on law reform proposals as an after-thought
4. Responding to the request from a number of our corporate members to intervene with the SRA and take part in the FSA's Thematic Review of Confidentiality within mergers and acquisition transactions, to avoid FSA regulation by the back door
5. Setting up an Associate Forum for junior City lawyers
6. Meeting with the SRA regarding the possibility of Practice Unit visits upon City firms and on how to otherwise build

productive relationships with the potential of improving regulatory compliance

7. Successfully lobbying the SRA against interim changes to the QLTT, which had they come into effect next month would have been contrary to the interests of many of our member firms.

In all of these activities, you as members have contributed through our Specialist Committees and Working Parties with the result that when we interface with regulators, they know that they are conversing with experienced practitioners in relevant disciplines: not just someone who has been briefed on a topic. This combined with our mandate to represent major law firms distinguishes us from most, if not all other Law Societies and Bar Associations.

Encouraged by all of this, our Main Committee (on which 4 of our corporate member law firms sit, namely DLA Piper UK LLP, Clifford Chance LLP, Pinsent Masons LLP and Olswang), have approved an increasingly ambitious Business Plan for 2008 involving more of the same and a little bit extra. The extra involves increasing our role in promoting City solicitors in respect of their contributions to the UK economy and the status of the City of London; improving our communication with you, our members by way of quarterly newsletters; improving our web site; developing a communications strategy with all of our stakeholders from the government to the Corporation of London; polishing our branding and improving our governance as our role expands.

These additional targets will sit alongside our intent to continue to support and enhance the roles of our Specialist Committees, to continue to lobby for a proportionate and risk based regulatory framework and to respond effectively to regulatory and other challenges as and when they arise.

Our programme involves our now Annual Breakfast meeting for senior partners with the Lord Mayor at Mansion House, a senior partners dinner with a well known legal or business speaker at Guildhall, hosting the World City Bar Leaders Conference in October, organising seminars campaigning for an increased incidence of solicitors on Boards in the voluntary and private sector and the possibility of organising an event for law firms' financial partners/directors.

We also intend to survey our member firms on the relevance of our 2008 programme to them and on what else might be required of us. **In the meantime do not hesitate to let me know how you think our role on your behalf should be developed.**

Centenary Banquet

Neil Cameron, Clerk,
City of London Solicitors' Company



CENTENARY BANQUET AT THE MANSION HOUSE ON THURSDAY, 10th APRIL 2008 at 6.45 p.m. for 7.15 p.m.

As many of you may know, the City of London Solicitors' Company was founded in 1908 and so is celebrating its centenary this year. The main event to mark the occasion will be a Centenary Banquet, which the Company is privileged to hold in the Mansion House in the presence of the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Alderman David Lewis, our very own Junior Warden.

Sir David Clementi, Chairman of Prudential PLC has also agreed to be our guest speaker.

Tickets cost £100.00 each (inclusive of V.A.T.) and this will include all wines, port, armagnac and a stirrup cup in the Salon after the meal. The dress code is evening dress. For a booking form, visit www.citysolicitors.org.uk or if you would like more details, please email the Clerk at mail@citysolicitors.org.uk

The closing date for applications 3rd April 2008. (No refunds can be made after this date).

New Freemen and Liverymen

The following people have been admitted as Freemen of the Company, in person and in absentia:-

NAME	FIRM
Conan Martin Maximillian CHITHAM-MOSLEY	- Withers LLP
Nicholas Paul ROGERS	- The Specter Partnership
Shireen SMITH	- Azrights Solicitors
Sarah WHITTY	- Denton Wilde Sapte LLP

The following Freemen have been admitted as Liverymen of the Company:-

NAME	FIRM
Jonathan Keith FIFE	- Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP
Neil LOGAN GREEN	- Eversheds LLP
Ian Kerr MATHERS	- Allen & Overy LLP
Christopher Ian WATSON	- Dechert LLP



John Howard Walford, Past Master 1927-2008

It is a great privilege for me to pay tribute to my old friend, colleague, partner and mentor, John Walford. John was a great family man, he loved his family and rejoiced in their successes.

Second only to his love of his family was his love of the law, both as an academic subject and as a practical application of justice. Indeed in his early years he acted as a volunteer Poor Mans Lawyer at Hammersmith, the forerunner of Legal Aid Centres. And he loved his firm, its partners and its staff, in whom he took a great interest. As a lawyer, John never compromised. He always sought the right solution; a man of utmost integrity. If that sounds rather pompous and severe, that was not John. He also had a great sense of fun.

After leaving Cheltenham and coming down from Cambridge, he joined Bischoff & Co, a highly respected and renowned smaller City firm, in 1948 as an articulated clerk, qualifying in 1950 and becoming a partner shortly after. He was a corporate lawyer, but such a narrow specialisation did not sit happily on his shoulders. He was as much a family lawyer, a personal adviser, a true all-rounder.

What were the pinnacles of John's professional career? He acted for various major City institutions, including Royal Exchange Assurance for whom in the '60s a weekly surgery at the Royal Exchange to review policy claims was routine, and companies linked with Canada and South America, which were Bischoff's special areas.

Sir George Bolton, Chairman of Bank of London and South America, was probably the foremost banker of his time. He and John worked on many innovative banking products, particularly in the wholesale banking market. And he advised on BOLSA's corporate links with Mellon Bank of Pittsburgh, Bank of Montreal and later LloydsBank.

John was always interested in doing something different and he brought this skill to the fledgling unit trust industry where Tim Simon at Target's creative ideas were well matched by John's ability to think crisply and to encapsulate complicated theories in the then obligatory lengthy trust deeds. I experienced this in developing with him the concept of accumulation units, a product which immediately became the industry standard and has remained unchanged to this day. John took pleasure in seeing how "his" unit trust practice, beginning with Target Group and his brother-in-law, Oliver Jessel, at Jessel Securities, grew with me into the highly regarded and successful fund management advisory team now at Eversheds.

Any description of John's career must include reference to the two Chilean Arbitrations which took up so much of his time. The first concerned the border with Argentina in a deserted part of the Andes. John and his leader, Professor Sir Eli Lauterpacht, had to ride police horses into the High Andes to inspect the watercourses referred to in the original Victorian Border determination. One night they even shared a police cell, being the only place to sleep. When they returned, the geographers were intrigued by an unexpected cross on John's map. "Oh, that is where I fell off the horse" said John.

The second arbitration was more politically sensitive, involving three islands in the Beagle Channel, with much at stake both in terms of national pride, waterway access and mineral ownership. Military conflict was a real possibility. John was taken in a Chilean Naval destroyer to inspect the Channel, which led to many 'Darwinian' dinner party stories. Both arbitrations were found in Chile's favour, to the extent that Argentina appealed to the Pope, who upheld the awards. President Allende of Chile made John a Commander of the Order of Bernardo O'Higgins – a medal he wore with pride whatever the changing political affiliation of the Chilean Presidents.

John was senior partner of Bischoffs from 1979 until 1987, a time of some difficulty in the firm, in which he provided forthright and balanced leadership. During this time he also suffered serious heart problems, leading to the insertion of a pig's valve in his heart - as he used to say "Kosher? Of course, Old Boy".

John served on the Council of the Law Society from 1961 to 1969, when he had to resign to give time to the Chilean arbitrations. The youngest ever council member at that time, and I think first Jewish member, he was punctilious in reading the thick folder of papers before every meeting. If he had not resigned he would have been the Law Society's first Jewish President. For many years he was a Governor of the College of Law, and he sat on the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal, becoming its Chairman.

John was on the Court of the City of London Solicitors' Company from 1970 until his death and was Master in 1981-82, which gave him much pleasure. Indeed his membership of the Court gave him great satisfaction and he valued the friendships he made there.

John had various charitable interests, particularly being Governor of St John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin for over 20 years. On retiring from Bischoffs he became Chairman of Petworth Cottage Nursing Home and he also joined the Office of the Banking Ombudsman, where he could apply his knowledge of how banks work to bring fairness to their customers.

In conclusion, John was one of the creative and innovative legal brains of his time, liking to be different, some might even say contrary. Lucky indeed were those who were his clients. He radiated friendship and good humour. We shall all miss his intellect, his infectious good company and his love of life.

Richard Millar
Additional Assistant
Court of the City of London Solicitors' Company

Auld Broad

Concrete Jungle

It could happen to you and you probably wouldn't like it. It's one thing to be relaxing on your patio, suffused in globally warmed, post-prandial contentment eyeing one bag of cement, two bags of sharp sand, a shovel, a trowel and a watering can which are all that is needed to finish the job which has patiently awaited your attention for some months.



It is another thing if, in the interests of limiting the physical exertion demanded by the simple option, you resign yourself to the hire of a small electrically powered concrete mixer. Even the “ubergruppenfuhrer” – a German synonym for “wife” – might understand if the prospect of rising slowly to your feet, drawing off a bucket of water from the mains (subject to there being no ban), and shifting it yourself with a shovel and cement trowel does not appeal. It could be easier to feed the components into the electrically powered concrete mixer, apply the recommended amount of water and let the machine get on with it.

But even if you get the mix wrong first time, as you probably will, it is quite a shock to sink slowly back into your deckchair admiring your handiwork, pick up the local newspaper and read that a company called – shall we say – Palace Cement proposes to apply to the local Council to construct a concrete mixing plant on the one area of open waste land which is the only disfiguring feature of your idyllic rural village – a village in all other respects a sure winner of the annual Best Kept Village Competition run by the County Council in order to keep a few more people occupied who would otherwise have to work.

What is more the site in question adjoins your Grade 2* Listed Property. There could be few other disclosures that so rapidly make the Dows '62 you were contemplating taste like an Algerian blend.

Happily – if that description could ever apply again to the prospect of life in your little share of middle England in harmony with a concrete mixing plant – you find that your shock and horror is shared by just about everyone else in the village. Inevitably a protest group is formed – an unincorporated association of the nature which Auld Broad came to call over many years of experience a “Rural Perspiration Society”. The campaign to turn this unwelcome

neighbour away took off with a meeting in the Village Hall which would have put Anfield to shame when Liverpool play Everton.

Let Auld Broad move the play forward a little. After a great deal of the tears, toil and sweat so favoured by that great wartime leader Winston Churchill and a lot of lobbying of local Councillors – particularly those on the Planning Committee – the Application was turned down. But the enormous sigh of relief that rustled through the leaves of the ancient oaks that lined the village cricket ground was tempered by the news that the Applicant had appealed. A Public Inquiry loomed.

Which brings Auld Broad to the core of this somewhat mysterious experience. The village of which he writes was about two miles from a small County town where the Inquiry was to be held. It so happened that the street pattern of that little town, unchanged over centuries, was such that it was not possible for two lanes of traffic to move in opposite directions at the same time. In an inspired moment of traffic management the County Council had long ago introduced a one-way circulatory system as a means of navigating the historic warren of roads it had inherited.

It normally worked well. But on this one occasion it was to play a significant role in events and ultimately become the key which unlocked the protesters' door.

The morning of the Inquiry arrived. Auld Broad, who was representing the Rural Perspiration Society, made his way with his witnesses to the Town Hall in good time. There he met and received a final briefing from the Chairman of the Rural Perspiration Society and spoke re-assuringly to the serried ranks of “perspirers” who packed the benches. He introduced himself to the Inspector as the latter shuffled his papers importantly. Even the Council team arrived from the coffee shop next door at one minute to ten.

Ten o'clock – the appointed hour for the opening of the Inquiry – came and went. Where was the Appellant? The Inspector testily announced an initial adjournment of 15 minutes in the expectation that the Appellant and its team would arrive within that tolerance. 15 minutes passed, 30 minutes passed, 60 minutes passed and still no Appellant. The Inspector was getting very restless. Auld Broad sensed a unique opportunity had arrived. After 75 minutes had passed, he was about to rise to his feet, suggest to the Inspector that the Council and he should complete their cases, make their closing speeches and that the Inspector could then determine the matter on the basis of the evidence before him at that point. And he was going to apply for his costs as well!

At that moment the door of the Town Hall burst open and the Appellant with its entire team rushed in at the double, led by a heavily perspiring QC of considerable repute, but whose girth and general physical disposition suggested there had been a long lay-off from such frenetic athleticism.

Auld Broad had rarely seen leading counsel grovel, but as an exhibition of that genre, this one was a peach. Counsel explained that having chosen, as in Auld Broad's experience counsel was wont to do on these occasions, to delay his visit to the site for the first time to the morning of the Inquiry, he had inexplicably found the narrow country lanes which led from the village to the County town remarkably hazardous. On approaching the Town the situation had deteriorated even further. The one-way circulatory system presented a "bouchon" of which the Boulevard Peripherique in Paris would have been proud. It was absolutely impenetrable. Counsel had counted at least three tractors and trailers broken down, numerous accidents and other incidents, none of the traffic lights were working and the "lollipop" ladies were doing overtime with hoards of reluctant children although, curiously, it was the school holidays – a fact which leading Counsel had appeared to overlook. He had been stuck behind the municipal dustcart for fifteen minutes while its lethargic staff wrestled with some particularly intransigent wheelie bins. Sacrificing all dignity he had walked – or trotted - the last mile and a half. His humble apologies on his own behalf and those of his clients were profuse but demonstrably fell on deaf ears. The Inspector reluctantly and with ill-concealed impatience brushed the apology aside and told Counsel to get on with it.

Auld Broad's sympathy would have been misplaced even on a "there but for the Grace of God go I" basis but it was bad luck for the Appellant as it transpired that the essence of its case (after a brief and somewhat unconvincing submission that the Application met all policy requirements) relied on the capacity of the local highway network making it possible for the Appellant to move one cement mixing lorry

through the little County town in each direction every five minutes.

The expression on the Inspector's face in the light of this proposition needed no subtle interpretation. Auld Broad – and the Council – barely had to make any further contribution to the debate. It was no surprise that the Inspector's decision was about the quickest that Auld Broad had come across. He chucked out the proposal unceremoniously.

Auld Broad contemplated the situation with satisfaction. He had obviously got it right again and had put such a convincing case to the Inspector on behalf of the Rural Perspiration Society that the Inspector was left with no option but to dismiss the Appeal. Yet, at that point, Auld Broad began to feel just a little uneasy. Had there been any previous experience of traffic conditions in the little County town comparable to those which prevailed on the day of the Inquiry? He had not been told of it.

Over a pint or two in the village pub celebrating the decision Auld Broad communicated his curiosity to the Chairman of the Rural Perspiration Society who by then was well into his cups. The Chairman pityingly contemplated Auld Broad for some time. Auld Broad twiggled. What a fool he was! He had been completely conned, as had the Inspector and the Appellant. The look on the Chairman's face told him everything.

As a final gesture of undeserved sympathy for Auld Broad the Chairman pulled out of his pocket a long and detailed document. It was headed "Order of the Day" with the date of the Inquiry. It was also marked "Highly Confidential". Not for nothing had the Chairman been a senior Staff Officer for Operation Overlord. The Order of the Day read like a transport mobilisation order for the landings on Juno, Gold and Sword beaches on the 6th June 1944. Everything in the village and the adjoining countryside with at least two wheels had been mobilised. Those who were to "collide" were provided with Ordinance Survey co-ordinates identifying the "accident" sites, tractors and trailers were similarly detailed where to break down, the local electrician was delegated to take out the traffic light system and all the village children were bussed in good time to their assembly areas adjacent to the town's zebra crossings, each with their appointed "lollipop" lady in charge. No stone was left unturned – even one lorry load full of rubbish contrived to shed it at the most tricky corner on the route. The municipal dustcart went over to working to rule - though few noticed the difference in this particular assignment.

Auld Broad conceded defeat. With such inspiration, initiative and organisational skill who needs expert witnesses, advocates and skillfully crafted closing speeches?

Master's Musical Evening



Master's Musical Evening - 20 February 2008

Being redolent with culture, the Master commissioned a Master's Musical Evening. The Master chose a unique venue for the performance. It took place in a house at 22 Mansfield Street, W1, just off Langham Place north of the BBC. The house was built between 1772 and 1774 by Robert Adam and his brother John who were then developing the whole of Mansfield Street and much of Portland Place and other nearby property. When complete, the Adam brothers took a lease on the property from the Duke of Portland for 25 years at £37.16s per annum. The Portland Estates devolved through marriage to the Howard de Walden family, who are still the freeholders.

Having been a substantial residence for many notable figures including Sir Edward Deering MP, the Countess of Gosford and the Hon. Emily Louise Ann Digby, it was bought by the National Federation of Building Trades Employers in 1938 and converted unsympathetically into offices. The present owners acquired the property in 1998, and renovated it completely for residential use.

A word about the present owners, who are personal friends of the Master. The house is owned by Bob and Elisabeth Boas, who in their retirement have devoted themselves to the support of young and aspiring musicians. Their home has at its centre a substantial drawing room, easily accommodating a grand piano and enough seating for an audience of about 60. The room is blessed with a warm and true acoustic, ideally suited to chamber music and vocal recitals. Bob and Elisabeth have established a trust in memory of their son who tragically died some years ago. The Nicholas Boas Charitable Trust gives grants currently running at around £30,000 per annum to young musicians early in their careers. The funds are raised by regular concerts at 22 Mansfield Street. At present, about three concerts per week take place.

The house is truly magnificent. It is an imposing property, and the owners have restored it meticulously, even having certain items of furniture designed in Adam style. The walls in every room are covered with mainly 20th century British art, collected by Bob and Elisabeth over a 20 year period. All in all, a visit to 22 Mansfield Street for a concert assails the cultural senses.

And so to the music. This was provided by Sally Burgess, a mezzo soprano with a distinguished career in several opera companies including the ENO, Opera North, Scottish Opera and Glyndebourne. Born in South Africa, Sally came to England as a child and has enjoyed a long international career that has included the key roles of Verdi, Bartok, Massenet and Monteverdi, appearances in musicals by Stephen Sondheim and Jerome Kern, and jazz recitals with her husband, Neal Thornton.

Sally opened her recital with the Habanera from Carmen – one of her signature roles. This was followed by Rosina's aria "*Una voce poco fa*" from the Barber of Seville. The personality of her characters – in two quite contrasting pieces – was beautifully and precisely communicated. For these pieces, Sally was accompanied by Joseph Middleton, a college musician at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and a distinguished prize winner for accompaniment. Joseph also provided us with a solo piece, one of the Goyescas by Granados, a richly textured neo-impressionist piece demanding much of player and piano.

Changing tack, Sally moved from opera to jazz and musical theatre, accompanied this time by her husband, a truly terrific jazz pianist. In these songs, we met Madame Butterfly, Stephen Sondheim, and another of Sally's favourite characters – Julie La Verne from Jerome Kern's Showboat. The effortless movement between genres amply demonstrates Sally's tremendous versatility and adaptability.

Joseph returned to accompany Sally in two languidly beautiful songs by Duparc, yet another different style. The final number was Delilah's huge and intense outpouring of emotion "*Mon coeur s'ouvre à ta voix*" from Samson and Delilah. The aria is the centrepiece of Delilah's seduction of Samson, highly charged, and composed of a truly magnificent melody. Sally's rendition was exquisite, and it was breathtakingly powerful in the close quarters of the drawing room at 22 Mansfield Street.

The recital was followed by dinner at the house. The accompaniment for this part of the evening was well chosen wine and convivial company. This was indeed a most enjoyable event, and we hope that the Master will continue to provide us with such delectable treats.

John Abramson, AIG

Future recitals at 22 Mansfield Street include:

1 April Gemma Rosefield – cello and Morgan Szymanski – guitar

Preparatory to a series of concerts in Mexico of Latin American and Spanish music
Works by Piazzola, Ponce, da Falla, Villa-Lobos and Paganini

2 April A fundraiser for the New Professionals Orchestra

Including Walton's Façade conducted by Rebecca Miller with
Richard Baker and Richard Sissons as narrators

3 April Tasmin Little – violin and Piers Lane – piano

Brahms, Elgar, Ravel, Schubert

15 April Mark Bebbington – piano

Scarlatti, Schubert, Grieg, Ireland, Liszt/Wagner, Liszt/Verdi

21 April – Imogen Cooper – piano and Sonia Wieder-Atherton – cello

Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert, Ravel

Email is the best method of booking – boas22m@btinternet.com



Neil Cameron, Clerk

Inter Livery Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race

We had not previously entered this annual event, which is now in its fourth year, but we plucked up courage this year and, as novices we were drawn in the wooden spoon race only.

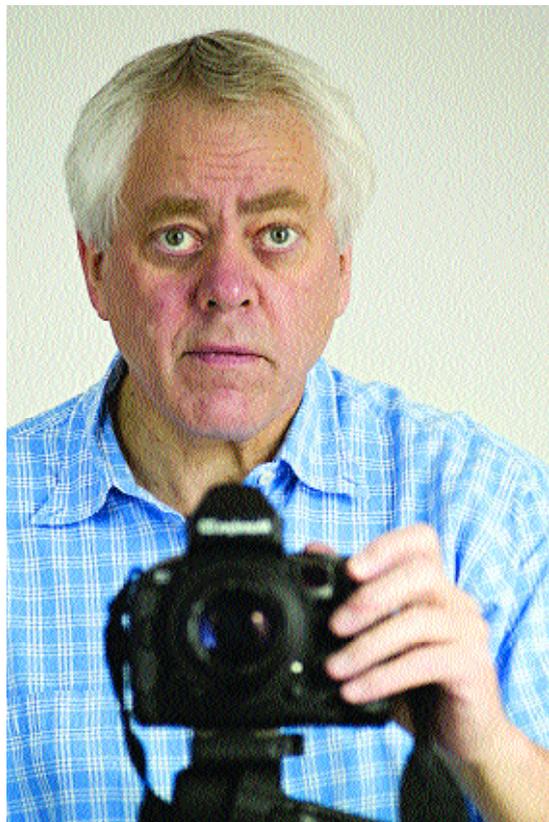
Unfortunately, the Master was unable to participate but the Senior Warden proved to be an able deputy. Drawn against some experienced competition, Senior Warden Alexandra Marks put up a good show but the Wooden Spoon proved elusive.

24 Livery Companies and City departments took part in the main races with the overall winner being the Remembrancer's Department of the City Corporation.

The Lord Mayor, our very own Alderman David Lewis started the event; which is open to all Livery Companies with some connection to the pancake race, however tenuous. This year the solicitors offered to help with any possible litigation in relation to the rules but fortunately so far there has been none.

We are all set to enter again next year when hopefully we will be allowed to graduate to the main event.





Profile of the Master

“It all started with a call on my Blackberry. I was asked if I wanted to join the Court as an Additional Assistant”. Bill Knight explained how his involvement with the Court of the City of London Solicitors’ Company began. By answering his Blackberry, he began the process that would lead to his present role as Master of the City of London Solicitors’ Company. When Bill describes his role as Master, he does so with a combination of laid back affection for the Company and its ideals, as well as a certain pride in his achievements of his year so far as Master.

Bill joined Simmons and Simmons as an articled clerk in 1967 and qualified as a solicitor in 1969, specialising in company law. He became a partner in 1973. In 1979 he opened the firm’s Hong Kong office (becoming admitted as a solicitor in Hong Kong along the way) and returned to England in 1982. In 1994 he was appointed head of the corporate department and was elected Senior Partner in 1996. He retired from the firm in 2001. These days, younger lawyers will express surprise at an entire career spent in one law firm, but this does not seem unusual amongst Bill’s contemporaries in City firms.

However, Bill’s career did not end upon his retirement. Since then, he has been active as a member of various regulatory authorities. He chaired the Enforcement Committee of the General Insurance Standards Council, regulating the wayward activities of insurance brokers, until its functions were taken over by the FSA in 2005. Since then he has turned his hand to regulating the gaming profession, acting as a Gambling Commissioner, a job he acquired by responding to a vacancy advertised on the internet.

Bill is also Deputy Chairman of the Council of Lloyd’s, a position he has held for nine years. At Lloyd’s he chairs the Nominations, Appointments and Compensation Committee, and is Deputy Chairman of the Audit Committee. He has had a lengthy relationship with Lloyd’s, having acted for various Lloyd’s entities and individuals since the early 1980’s.

Bill clearly enjoys his association with this institution, which has a long and most interesting history as a fundamental part of the City’s financial activities.

Bill is well known for his views on the role of lawyers in corporate life, and advocates often and articulately for greater involvement by lawyers on corporate boards. He was recently quoted in *The Times*: “The individual experience of senior partners provides a lot: they can assimilate vast amounts of information, they’ve been in many people’s crises, in takeovers, in listings, they know when times are rough people trust them. They’ve had a lifetime of acting with discretion and common sense.” The same article reported that there are only 19 qualified solicitors (of more than 2,000 directors) sitting as non-executive directors of the FTSE 250, and none on the boards of the Takeover Panel, the FSA and the Bank of England.

As Master, Bill has set himself the objective of involving a greater number of younger City lawyers in the Company, and by doing so, bringing the livery closer to the profession. One of his first completed tasks was a roadshow of City firms, meeting senior partners and introducing them to the Company and its activities. Although he describes the response as “quite good”, there are now more junior freemen of the Company than ever before. Bill followed this with a programme of more formal meetings with senior partners, inviting small groups to dinners attended by prestigious and

John Abramson, AIG

influential speakers including the editor of *The Times* and the Lord Chancellor. His dinners, and the associated senior partners' breakfasts at the Mansion House, are now always oversubscribed.

Bill's vision for the Company is clearly one of inclusion with the City profession. By harnessing the talents, experience and contacts of senior partners of City firms, and with their support, Bill believes that the Company and the City of London Law Society can work together socially as well as professionally.

It is always fortunate for a Master to hold office at the same time as a Lord Mayor from his own Company. Bill is seriously enjoying his association with the current Lord Mayor, Alderman David Lewis, who is a liveryman of the

Company and its Junior Warden. This association not only ups the quality of dinners that Bill is required to attend, but has also provided him with a close quarters involvement in the highpoint of any Lord Mayor's term – the Lord Mayor's show.

Bill still manages to find time for the other passion in his life – photography. He has taken pictures all his life, and now gets much fulfilment from assisting theatre companies by photographing their rehearsals. Being quite technologically proficient (we have already mentioned Blackberry and internet in this profile), Bill has his own photography website at www.knightsight.co.uk. He is married with two grown up children, and a resident of Highbury in Islington. Not surprisingly, he is a lifelong Arsenal supporter.

News from the Office

Robert Leeder, *Policy and Committees Coordinator*,
City of London Law Society



Robert Leeder is the new Policy and Committees Coordinator at the City of London Law Society.

Robert qualified as a solicitor in 1996 while working with Clayton Utz in Sydney, Australia. In 1997 he joined the Law Society of New South Wales, where he worked for over eight years in various roles, including as a Parliamentary lobbyist, as a responsible legal officer to the Society's various professional committees and as the Society's Senior Advisor - Government Relations.

While working in Sydney, Robert attained a Master of Public Policy (Honours) Degree from the University of Sydney. During periods of leave from the Law Society of New South Wales, Robert worked as an intern and, later, as a paid consultant with the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York City, where he wrote several chapters of the UN "Disarmament Yearbook", 2004.

Robert moved to the UK in 2005. His previous UK work experience has included working with the Law Society of England & Wales' International Department as its International Policy Executive - North East Asia. As part of this role, he worked with a team that coordinated the Society's efforts to improve international access to the various North East Asian legal services markets.

In his new role Robert hopes to capitalise on the valuable work of the 17 CLLS specialist committees, and to raise the profile of the CLLS with Government bodies, the media and other relevant organisations.

Robert can be contacted at the office on 020 7329 2173 or at mail@citysolicitors.org.uk

Committee Reports



COMMERCIAL LAW

The Commercial Law Committee has a schedule of six meetings in 2008.

The Committee continues to monitor and comment on draft legislative proposals from both the EU and the UK government. As we go to press, its members are awaiting, with barely restrained excitement, the publication of the revised and final draft Regulations to implement the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive and the associated Guidance Notes, having made copious submissions in the legislative process. Its members are looking forward, later this year, to a meeting with the Director of the Competition and Consumer Policy Division of BERR, to discuss anticipated reform proposals.

The Committee currently has more members than it has for a long time, and meetings are all the better for that. However, its remit is among the widest of all the Society's Committees, and new members are always welcome.

Nicholas Mallet, *Chairman*, Martineau Johnson



EMPLOYMENT

The centrepiece of our meeting in December 2007 was a discussion about deeds of indemnities for directors.

As readers will be aware, in response to concerns about the potential liabilities to which directors are exposed, the restrictions on companies indemnifying their directors were reformed by the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004. The reformed provisions are largely re-stated in the Companies Act 2006 (Section 234). As before, provisions which purport to exempt a director from liability are void, but specific exemptions are provided for the purchase of insurance for a director of a company or associated company and the indemnification of a director for liability to third parties by means of a "qualifying

third party indemnity provision" or "QTPIP". Many members had advised both companies and directors on QTPIPs so the purpose of our discussion was to focus on the issues that were often debated between company and director.

Often the first issue is whether one needs a deed at all! If a company's Articles of Association provide an indemnity should this not be sufficient for a director? Members' experience was that while on the one hand there are cogent arguments for contending that a director can rely on such a provision in the Articles, on the other hand a director will feel more comfortable with a deed of indemnity in his or her favour, especially when they have ceased to be a director but remain liable for their acts or omissions while a director. Members felt that while QTPIPs might be found in service agreements or, indeed, deed polls, the overwhelming practice is for stand-alone deeds of indemnity. This has the advantage of a "standard form" that can be used for each director with very little tailoring. It was noted that if one has a deed then the parties will want to check that there is power to grant the indemnity under the company's constitution. Also, one will want to check that the deed, the Articles and any service agreement/letter of appointment all "hang together".

The legislation places a number of limits on a QTPIP. Unsurprisingly, employers sometimes want to go further by excluding liability for fraud, fraudulent concealment, wilful deceit, and gross negligence. Directors are likely to accept the first three but may quibble about the last. Members had also seen exclusions for personal benefit or profit together with express obligations to mitigate loss. Perhaps another variety of limitation is requiring a director to claim first under the company's or a third party's insurance. Indeed, the relationship between a QTPIP and directors and officers insurance is one that needs to be fully understood by both parties. A director will be concerned about those liabilities excluded by the company's insurance policy, such as pollution claims in the US. The company will not want its insurance adversely affected by the grant of a QTPIP.

At the same time as the reforms in 2004 to indemnities from companies, legislative changes were made in relation to the ability of a company to fund a director's expense in defending proceedings. The law is re-stated in Sections 205 and 206 of the Companies Act 2006. A deed that is a QTPIP is a convenient place to include any agreement between company and director. A contentious issue can be how far the company is prepared to go in funding legal costs. From the company's perspective there is much to be said for agreeing the terms of funding once an issue has arisen. In any event, the company will want to exercise some reasonable control of costs. From the director's perspective, the timing of funding and any income tax consequences will be important.

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Members were agreed that “conduct of claims” provisions were common in the deeds we were considering but they could be the trickiest issue for the parties. Naturally enough, if the company is granting an indemnity, its starting point might be to assume sole conduct of all claims that are indemnified under the deed. But, from the director’s perspective, this raises a number of concerns. These include who chooses the lawyers to fight any claim, who decides what admissions to make, and should the company be able to settle proceedings without the director’s consent? It does not take too much foresight to see that there could be conflicts of interest between the company and the director in relation to some legal proceedings against the director. Members concluded that while many QTPIPs were similarly worded, “conduct of claim” issues and some of the other debates noted above led to variations. There is no “one size fits all” standard form deed of indemnity!

Raymond Jeffers, *Chairman*, Linklaters LLP



INSURANCE

The Insurance Law Committee’s primary focus has continued to be on the English and Scottish Law Commission’s review of insurance contract law.

Most recently, the Commissions have published their Issues Paper 4 on Insurable Interest. In brief, their tentative views are that (1) case law and the Gambling Act appear to have abolished (in England) the requirement of insurable interest in indemnity insurance and they do not propose that it should be reintroduced; and (2) as regards life insurance, the requirement for insurable interest should be retained but should be subject to some amendments, notably to extend the categories of interest based on natural affection so as to cover, for example, cohabitants. These views, and other points raised in the paper, are currently being considered by a working party of the Committee.

Ian Mathers, *Chairman*, Allen & Overy LLP

PROFESSIONAL RULES & REGULATION

The remit of the PRRC is to lobby for a proportionate and effective regulatory regime for City solicitors, including establishing a constructive relationship with the SRA and other bodies as appropriate.

With the arrival of the SRA and the new Code of Conduct, the last year has been a busy time for the Committee. But its focus has extended to other areas as well.

Representatives of the PRRC meet with Peter Williamson and Anthony Townsend of the SRA at least twice a year. These meetings seek to help frame how the SRA operates and to ensure issues of relevance to City firms are addressed. We have had particular discussions in relation to expectations under Rule 2.02 client care provisions and their relevance to sophisticated users of legal services, how the SRA intends to apply a truly risk-based approach to regulation, the application of Rule 5 and the tendency to “gold-plate” legislation (with particular reference to Rule 6 (equality and diversity)). We have also discussed the implications of proposed changes in New York affecting ethical duties of New York lawyers where the predominant effect of their work is outside New York, and whether a similar approach might be adopted by the SRA.

The PRRC is pushing for limited reform to the conflicts and confidentiality rules (Rules 3 and 4). On Rule 3, we are seeking to make it permissible for sophisticated clients to waive a conflict where it wishes to do so (i.e. in circumstances other than the existing common interest / competing client exceptions in Rule 3.02). Under Rule 4, we seek to remove the “gold-plating” of the Prince Jefri rule which prevents a firm from acting adverse to a client or former client from which it has relevant confidential information unless it has consent. These proposals are now being considered by the SRA Ethics Committee.

We have also been active in responding to the FSA’s “thematic review into management of M&A inside information”. Concerned how this project could effectively lead to regulation of City solicitors other than through the SRA, we drew the attention of the SRA to the initiative. In consultation with the Law Society, we have since worked with the SRA and other professional bodies to ensure - while fully

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supporting the FSA / CBI objectives - that unnecessary and inappropriate rules do not apply to solicitors given our existing well recognised and understood professional duties.

The PRRC has also met and coordinated with the Law Society's Regulatory Affairs Unit, in particular in relation to plans for the Legal Services Board and how Alternative Business Structures might be licensed. Two members of the PRRC have joined the Law Society's LDP working party. We have also recently met with the SRA to obtain an update on its planning for LDPs and we are now preparing responses to the new SRA consultation papers relating to LDPs.

Members of the PRRC have also combined with other CLLS Committees in countering proposals from the Land Registry which would impose new obligations on solicitors acting for buyers / lessees of property to verify the identity of sellers / lessors.

We have also worked with the Financial Law Committee in seeking change to rule 2.07; sought amendment to deal with concerns over rule 11.01 (2) and monitored planned regulation of EU lobbying activities. We have put in submissions in response to numerous SRA consultations, including on the Modernisation of regulatory and disciplinary decisions; Residual client account balances; Regulatory Decision Making and Adjudication; Property selling and mortgage conflict rules; LCS Proposal to Publish Complaints and the Suitability test for non-lawyer managers of an LDP. We are currently working on the SRA consultations on risk-based regulation and LDPs.

Chris Perrin, *Chairman*, Clifford Chance LLP

REGULATORY LAW

The CLLS Regulatory Law Committee meets monthly and has recently submitted the following papers: -

- a response to HM Treasury's second consultation on amendments to the CIS border for property transactions.
- A response with the assistance of the MLRO sub-committee to the Law Society's draft anti-money laundering practice note.
- A response to The Home Office's Consultation Document 2007: "Suspicious activity reports: prescribed form and manner".

The Committee has written a detailed letter to the FSA on various financial promotion issues arising out of the new FSA

rules. Stuart Willey and Mark Threipland of the FSA kindly came to the January meeting to discuss it, which advanced thinking on all side. In due course we hope to be able to provide more clarity on certain complex issues, or that the FSA will do so. There remain however some issues still to be resolved.

Margaret Chamberlain, *Chairman*, Travers Smith



TRAINING

The past few months have seen a lot of activity in legal training.

1) Work-based learning

The SRA announced on 29 October 2007 their plans for the future of trainees' "work-based learning" (to replace the current Training Contract system) including their plans for a two year pilot (starting in September 2008) of their proposed new structure.

The link to the detail of the SRA's plans is <http://www.sra.org.uk/news/337.article>.

The revised plans have taken into account many of the concerns expressed by the Training Committee in their response to the SRA's Consultation Paper. The Committee will be monitoring the progress of the pilot and will continue to represent the interests of the City on this important issue.

Should member firms of the CLLS wish to take part in the pilot of the "work-based learning", they should contact:

Tim Pearce, *Development & Information Manager,
Education & Training,
Solicitors Regulation Authority*
Tel: 01527 88 32 42, 0797 618 22 44
Email: timpearce@sra.org.uk

2) The Qualified Lawyers Transfer Regulations

These Regulations set out the process by which EU lawyers and lawyers from specified common law jurisdictions can requalify as English solicitors. Approximately 20% of all solicitors qualifying each year follow this route to qualification and many CLLS member firms recruit significant numbers of lawyers potentially eligible to requalify under these Regulations.

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The Regulations have remained unchanged for a number of years and a review of them to ensure they remain “fit for purpose” is overdue. The SRA has recently announced a full scale review which will be conducted in the next couple of years.

In the meantime, the SRA announced a number of interim changes to the Regulations which were to take effect on 1 March 2008. However, those interim changes raised concerns across the profession and following submissions from, among others, members of the CLLS, the SRA has delayed their implementation. Instead, the SRA has launched a full consultation on their planned interim changes.

A link to an SRA news article about this Consultation is <http://www.sra.org.uk/news/383.article>

The link to the Consultation Paper itself is <http://www.sra.org.uk/consultations/471.article>

The consultation will close on 14 April 2008 and all member firms who employ lawyers potentially eligible to requalify

under these Regulations are urged to submit Responses to the Consultation Paper. The Committee will be preparing a response on behalf of the CLLS and information on that will be available on the CLLS website.

3) OTHER ISSUES

The SRA has announced changes to the Legal Practice Course (including “disengaging” the Elective subjects from the Compulsory topics) to take effect in September 2010 though teaching institutions will be able to make some changes to their courses from September 2009.

In addition, the Committee is contributing to a project called “What is a solicitor?” This is intended to help the CLLS be a thought leader in terms of identifying the essential personal, managerial and business skills all solicitors need and to help influence the future path of legal professional development. Again, more details will be available on the CLLS website.

Tony King, *Chairman*, Clifford Chance LLP

SPORTS AID



SportsAid is the charity for sports people. We don't run programmes, we don't build buildings; we simply help talented young sports people when they need it most – as they begin their sporting careers.

Lottery funding has helped British sport enormously in recent years, but it cannot fund every aspect of sport and money rarely trickles down to athletes between the ages of 12-16 years old. That's why our work is so vital – if SportsAid doesn't fund this generation, who will? Our aim is to provide this age group of talented young athletes in Britain with a better chance of realising their potential.

“No other national charity does what we do, in the way that we do it. We are the first organisation to say “yes,” providing the link between aspiration and inspiration, supporting tomorrow's heroes. SportsAid can help every pound to count because of the way we work, helping the right athletes at the right time,” said Tim Lawler, SportsAid Chief Executive.

Over the years we have supported athletes such as Sir Matthew Pinsent, Paula Radcliffe, Sir Steve Redgrave, Dame Kelly Holmes, Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson, Amir Khan, Sharron Davies, and Ben Ainslie just to name a few.

Funding Britain's talented athletes is more important than ever and to do this, we need your help.

SportsAid relies on personal donations and funding from our corporate partners to help support athletes. In London alone we need to raise more than £150,000 a year to make a significant impact. A young athlete spends on average £5,000 a year on competition fees, travel, accommodation and equipment, a big expense for mum and dad. To fund just one SportsAid athlete a year it only costs £1,000.

We fund athletes like Jenna and Lauren Turner, swimmers from London. The sisters are quite the swimming duo despite personal circumstances. They have helped their dad get through cancer treatment, kept up with schoolwork, and still managed to keep their focus in the pool. Both girls are currently ranked in the top 5 in the country for their age groups in their different swimming events. Jenna was selected for the GB Junior Team and won a silver medal in the 4 x 100 relay at the European Junior Championships. Lauren holds the National Junior Speedo League record for 50m backstroke.

If you think your firm would be interested in helping athletes like Jenna and Lauren Turner, or any of our other young talented athletes please contact us on 020 7273 1978 or via email London@sportsaid.org.uk to learn how your company can get involved.



FOX GETS BIGGER

Ronnie Fox, *Past Master*,
Motoring Correspondent

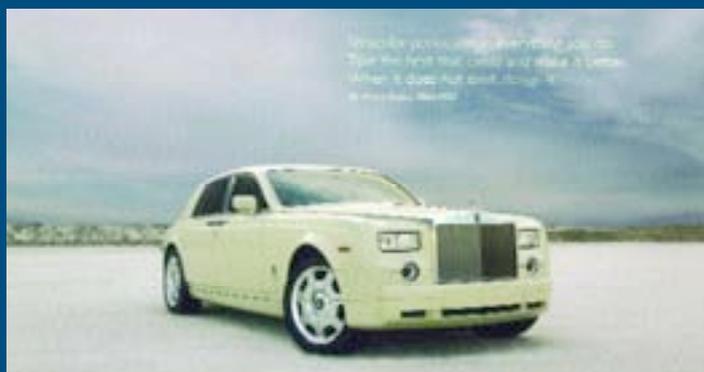
My recent column ("Fox Goes Green") provoked criticism from my colleagues at Cornhill. "Driving a G-Wiz or a Smart gives the wrong impression," they said, "our firm is doing well and you ought to be seen driving a serious car."

So I have been driving a superb 1964 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud III. Many enthusiasts regard the SCIII as the last and best of the proper Rolls-Royces with a separate chassis, drum brakes, a live axle and an elegant, coach-built body.

Large comfortable seats, a high driving position and precise (though low gear) steering flatter driving technique. Despite weighing two tons, the SCIII is a delight to drive. The 6.2 litre V8 engine generates a surprising turn of speed. The downside is a distinctly non-green fuel consumption of approximately 11 m.p.g.

The car is 17ft 6 in long and 5ft 4in high - longer and higher than most modern cars. I noticed admiring glances from drivers of more mundane machinery. Even my passenger, the CLLS Chairman, was impressed.

Driving the classic Rolls-Royce was great fun, a truly special experience. A surprisingly cost-effective way of replicating that experience is to join a car club. The idea is to offer members the opportunity of driving a variety of interesting cars without concerns about maintenance, insurance or storage. The London Classic Car Club (telephone 020 7490 9090) based near the Old Street roundabout has a fleet ranging from a 1989 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit to a 1984 Fiat X19. There is a joining fee of £500 and annual membership costs up to £5,000; more information is at www.classiccarclub.co.uk.



Access to more exotic cars is offered by the recently launched Segrave Club located in Knightsbridge. Their fleet includes the ultimate supercars: Ferraris, Lamborghinis, a Mercedes McLaren SLR, a Bentley Continental and a Rolls-Royce Phantom. The one-off joining fee of £5,000 and annual membership fee of £16,000 enables members to drive one of the world's great cars for between 50 and 60 days.

The Segrave Club (www.segraveclub.com; telephone 020 7581 9985) arranged for me to drive their new Rolls-Royce Phantom for an afternoon.

Comparing the Phantom with the Silver Cloud was a most interesting exercise. The Phantom is a foot and a half longer than the Silver Cloud, six inches wider and roughly the same height. The Phantom's engine is a 6,750 cc. V12. Despite the extensive use of aluminium, the Phantom is, as one would expect, the heavier car.

The SC111 was a fast car for its time but the Phantom's performance is phenomenal with a 0 – 60 time of 5.7 sec and a governed top speed of 149 mph. Air suspension gives an exceptionally smooth and quiet ride. The BMW-derived V12 engine is virtually inaudible both in town and on the motorway. The magnificent seats are upholstered in the most beautiful soft leather.

The coachwork is of the highest quality. But I find the Phantom's styling brutal and aggressive. The massive radiator grille makes the headlights look small and inconsequential. The windows of the rear doors are too small and the door handles too large. The shape of the boot lid does not begin to compare with the satisfying curve of the Silver Cloud's shapely rump.

Gadgets bring colour and amusement to our lives. The Phantom has a long list. Full-length umbrellas live in a special fan-warmed compartment in each rear door. Front and rear colour television cameras help when parking. The Rolls-Royce mascot and plinth disappear automatically when the car is locked. The engine can be started remotely to ensure that the car interior is at the right temperature before the doors are opened. The self-closing doors lock automatically as the car begins to move. The traditional thin-rimmed steering wheel has integrated control switches for operating the radio/CD, telephone and satellite-navigation systems.

Best of all is the very special feeling of well-being induced by driving behind the Rolls-Royce Spirit of Ecstasy mascot surrounded by the finest polished wood and leather trim, perfectly tailored carpeting and tactile chrome-plate. It was a joy to drive both Rolls-Royces.

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