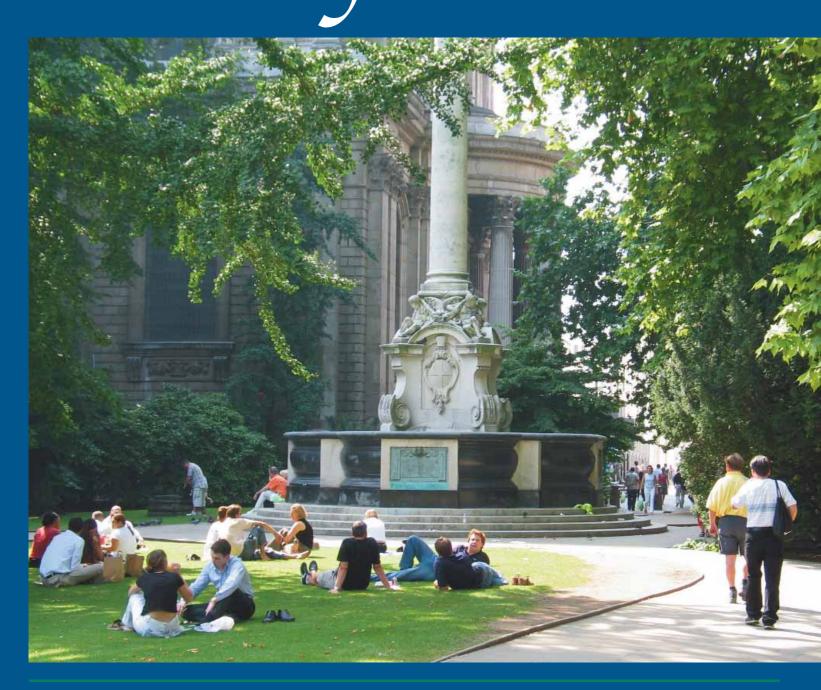
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City of London Law Society

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Senior Warden

Ms A.L. Marks

Junior Warden

Alderman & Sheriff D.T.R. Lewis

Court of Assistants

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N.A. Cameron

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* Ex-officio, appointed by the CLSC † Ex-officio as members of the Council of The Law Society

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Editorial



As indicated by the outgoing Master, Karen Richardson, in her address to the Company's AGM (reproduced in this edition), the parallel operation of the City of London Solicitors' Company and the City of London Law Society has clearly enhanced the delivery of services to our mutual

constituency. Karen has ably presided over a year of transition in the organisation, and has done so with her customary implacability and unwavering good humour. And she was generous in her thanks, too, tipping her cap in my direction and our redesigned newsletter.

While on the subject, I also wish to express my gratitude to the members of the editorial team – Liz Thomas, who shoulders much of the editorial burden, and does so ruthlessly efficiently; the clerk, Neil Cameron, for his hawkeyed proof reading and always sensible judgement calls; and finally Amanda at Manor Creative who has terrific design skills and seamlessly manages production and delivery.

Our vision is clear: the newsletter is at once the notice-board of the Company and the mouthpiece of the Committee. We aim to inform, to report, sometimes to advise, always to entertain. Contributions should range from comments on the profession, reports on members' activities (professional or other), notices of events and, and some pure fun. We remain the only publication by and for our City colleagues. The newsletter should be their publication of choice.

In this edition, we tick many of those boxes: We welcome the new Master, Bill Knight, and wish him a successful and enjoyable term of office. We also welcome his wise insight as revealed in this edition, and look forward to more of the same. We report on the views of our Council members, on various Company events and inform about the Wig and Pen Prizes; and we are entertained by Auld Broad.

Happy Summer!

plula

John Abramson AIG, Editor

Dates for 2007

THE CITY OF LONDON SOLICITORS' COMPANY

Mon. 17th Sept. General Purposes Committee, at

the Company's offices at

4 College Hill, EC4 at 5.00 p.m.

Thurs. 20th Sept. "Legal Haunts" Guided Walk

For more information contact

mail@citysolicitors.org.uk

Thurs. 27th Sept. Wine Tasting Evening

Tallow Chandlers' Hall More details to follow.

Mon. 1st Oct. Election of Lord Mayor,

Guildhall, 11.45 a.m.

Followed by lunch at venue

to be arranged. Liverymen.

Mon. 8th Oct. *Court meeting at 4.30 p.m.

followed by Court Dinner at

6.30 p.m. L.

Sat. 10th Nov. Lord Mayor's Show

Tues. 13th Nov. General Purposes Committee, at

the Company's offices at

4 College Hill, EC4 at 5.00 p.m.

Mon. 26th Nov. *Court meeting at 11.00 a.m.

followed by luncheon at 1.00 p.m.

Thurs. 29th Nov. Livery Dinner, Clothworkers'

Hall, Dunster Court, Mincing

Lane, EC3 at 7.00 p.m. Liverymen and Guests. D.

THE CITY OF LONDON LAW SOCIETY

Wed. 26th Sept. †Committee of the City of

London Law Society at

11.00 a.m.

†Carvery Lunch at 1.00 p.m.

Wed. 28th Nov. †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:

D Dinner Jacket (black tie)

L Lounge suit



Master's Word

Bill Knight, Master



A Master of the City of London Solicitors' Company taking office in 2007 has to ask whether the Company has a meaningful role in the modern City.

From its foundation nearly 100 years ago the Company acted as the City of London's Law Society. Some of the best lawyers in the world work in the City and for many years the Company's specialist Committees gave advice to Government and others about the development of the law and regulation. But last year the Company formed the City of London Law Society as a separate body whose members are the firms practising in the City. This has been a great success. All the leading firms have joined and support the CLLS as it performs the traditional role of the local law society, continuing the specialist Committees and speaking for the firms of the City of London on the issues of the day. We maintain close links with the CLLS but it is now run by its own committee.

So where does this leave the Company?

First as the social side of the City of London Law Society. That is important - really important. We all know that a high degree of trust makes business easier and that is certainly true of trust between solicitors. It is easier to trust someone if you know them. The solicitors of the City of London ought to know one another and enjoy one another's company. The Company provides opportunities for that, using the marvellous facilities the City has to offer. We aim to involve all our members, and also to interest the senior partners of the CLLS member firms in events aimed at them.

And of course the Company has an important charitable side, and we play our part in the education of lawyers through the City Solicitors' Educational Trust.

But beyond that, where do we go? Are we going to become a traditional livery Company like the Mercers, the Drapers, the Grocers or the Skinners? They retain a connection with the trades from which they sprang but they are essentially social and charitable associations. They do good work and we are the richer for their existence but if they did not exist it is hard to believe that they would be re-invented.

That road is closed to us. We do not have the money. These great Companies with their halls and the wealth are sustainable in a way we are not. If we are to have meaning and relevance we have to retain the interest and support of the City profession, continuing as a working Company, restricting our livery to solicitors and acting in the interests of the City profession.

I believe that our aim should be the development of the influence and importance of City solicitors - the use of their training, experience and skill in practice, and beyond.

There is no City solicitor on the board of the Financial Services Authority. There is only one on the Take-over Panel and none on the Court of the Bank of England. There are very few City solicitors on the boards of our great commercial companies or of our regulators. I would like to see that change and I would like to see the Company calling for that change and playing a part in that change. First, that involves encouraging solicitors to get involved, perhaps while they are in practice and certainly once they cease to practice. I think that would be good for the profession and good for the country.

I would like to see the Company participate in the modern City as it does in the traditions of the City. In my year in office I will do my best to further that aim.



Outgoing Master's statement at the Company's AGM on 11 June 2007

This week is a very special personal one, as it marks for me both the 10th anniversary of my election to the Court, and the 20th anniversary of my election to the Committee of the City of London Law Society – and today is a great way to celebrate!

Half way through my term of office as Master, on 1 January this year, the City of London Solicitors' Company formed a new association to be the City of London Law Society. These two had previously been run as one organisation throughout our existence, but for a number of technical reasons it became appropriate to separate them. For that reason, we have a second AGM immediately following this one; that will be the AGM for the local Law Society rather than the Livery Company.

The separation was a dramatic move for the Company, but, as we had hoped, it has ended up being largely invisible. That is in no way to marginalise the enormous amount of work which went into the move, for which we have to thank in particular the previous Master, Nigel Bamping, the Chairman of the City of London Law Society, David McIntosh, and our drafting "guru", John Young, who prepared and explained the new Constitution so clearly. I would also like to record my thanks to the members of the Court, who have been so forward-thinking and ready to apply a flexible approach in deciding what was best for the Company and all our members.

So now we have two vibrant organisations, working in close co-operation in parallel. This makes us all the stronger.

We have been able to use our contacts and links to organise a number of events during the last year for senior partners of our member firms, including private dinners or breakfasts, often at Guildhall or Mansion House - for example, with Richard Lambert, the Director-General of the CBI, with Mervyn King, the Governor of the Bank of England, as well as with the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Mayor.

The enormous support we have seen for all our Company events this year is witness to the strength of our united force. I think in every case we have seen attendance numbers cheerfully higher than even our optimistic clerk predicted. It's always reassuring to surpass the budget, but more

importantly it's gratifying to see such a high level of interest from our members.

We have found a number of new outlets for our charitable and educational activities, including some involvement with the Sheriffs' and Recorders Fund, which helps the families of prisoners and the rehabilitation of offenders, and with the City of London Girls' School, where we are taking an interest in their newly established Women Lawyers Forum.

I'm also delighted that, as I had hoped, we have seen an increase in the number of younger people getting involved. This naturally helps to enliven the Company and brings a fresh perspective to what we do.

Thank you, all our members, for supporting the Company so wholeheartedly during this very active year.

And what an active year it has been! We have been entertained by incisive guest speakers, Baroness Williams and Baroness Kennedy, we have dined in marvellous surroundings at Drapers' Hall and the Mansion House, we have plunged into history at the magical Sir John Soane's Museum and the Tower of London for our Annual Guild Service, followed by a splendid supper at Trinity House; we have tested out the cells at the Old Bailey and we've inspected the control room at the City Police headquarters, where they video our every move as we travel around the City - in glorious technicolour, I might add!

Of course, the year has been much enhanced by having as our Junior Warden the Aldermanic Sheriff, David Lewis. As a result of our role as his Mother Company, on your behalf the Clerk and I have ridden in a horse-drawn carriage at the Lord Mayor's Show and dined in splendour at the Lord Mayor's Banquet at Guildhall, as well as attending numerous other events. David, of course, has some interesting prospects for next year, so we look forward to continuing to bask in his reflected glory as he moves from the Old Bailey into the

Karen Richardson, Outgoing Master

Mansion House later this year. David, we wish you every success in the next stage of your Civic career.

As well as being heavily involved in all our own activities, I have been honoured, as Master, to represent the Company at what seem like hundreds of events during the year, often as the guest of other livery Companies.

Wherever I have gone this year as Master, I have received a warm welcome and unfailing courtesy on all sides. Our Company is the only one of the City Livery Companies which still requires a working connection with the City, and it's clear that it is very widely respected. It has been not only an honour, but also a tremendous pleasure, to have been so involved.

During the course of the year we have introduced a new-look newsletter, or Company magazine, the "City Solicitor", which I hope you will agree now has a rather more professional feel to it.

I would like to thank our editor, John Abramson, who has also just been elected a Steward on our Court today. At the same time we welcome Iain Morpeth, who was elected as the other Steward, and I am delighted that as of this afternoon we also have two new Court members: Vincent Keaveny, and the President of the Law Society, Fiona Woolf. You are all very welcome, and we look forward to working with you.

I must mention our Clerk, Neil Cameron, and his team in the office – Liz Thomas, Stella Dunn and Denise Llewellyn – for the amazing dedication and hard work which they all bring to their roles, whilst somehow remaining permanently

positive and cheerful through everything. We as a Company depend on them very heavily, and I would like to record our warm thanks to them.

I also want to record my thanks to our Wardens for their support to me during the year. I am delighted that David Lewis has agreed to continue as our Junior Warden despite what we expect to be rather a busy schedule for him in the year ahead. Our Senior Warden, Bill Knight, is of course about to become Master within the next few minutes, and I know that the Company will continue to be in very good hands under his stewardship.

We have a great year ahead! We are celebrating our centenary, we expect to have our own Lord Mayor in the Mansion House, and we have a new Master who I can confidently predict will stand "head and shoulders" above the rest of us. (He is, of course, well over six feet tall.) I'm quite sure that he can't fail to have a brilliant year, and I wish him great enjoyment as well.

At the beginning of my year as Master I had plenty of high hopes, and a degree of trepidation. At the end of the year, I'm pleased to say that the trepidation has long disappeared, and the hopes have all been fulfilled. I believe that we have a strong, energetic Company, and that it continues in very good heart.

What more could any retiring Master ask for?

So, thank you for electing me as the Master of such a great Livery Company, and for such a thoroughly memorable experience.

ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT 2007

The City of London Law Society's Annual Quiz Night made a welcome return on 17th May 2007. This year's event saw 21 teams heading south over London Bridge to Balls Brothers at the Hop Cellars (which proved to be an excellent venue) preparing to do battle for first place.

As usual the teams were tested on a broad range of subjects from general knowledge, entertainment, sport and geography to science and history and also had to tackle a number of "lateral thinking" questions during supper.

A well-deserved first prize was won by Reed Smith Richards Butler LLP represented by Richard Milestone, Will Sutton, David Brighton and Anjulie Rao.

Baker & McKenzie represented by Sam Dollery, Paul Ganley, Francesca Towers and Charlotte Harrington took the second prize.

This year, we also awarded a prize for the best team name and this went to "If Carlsberg made Quiz Teams...."

The quiz night continues to be one of our most popular events of the year. Our thanks go to Gareth Ledsham at Pritchard Englefield for being a fantastic Quiz Master, to Emma Streets, Lara Clarke and Lisa De'ath our team of valiant markers, and to everyone who took part (firms listed below), for making it such a successful and fun evening.

Baker Botts
Baker & McKenzie
Clifford Chance LLP
Dechert LLP
DLA Piper (UK) LLP
Faegre & Benson LLP
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Herbert Smith LLP
Irwin Mitchell

Lewis Silkin Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw Reed Smith Richards Butler LLP Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom Slaughter and May TLT Solicitors Travers Smith

Wedlake Bell

Chairman's Column



CHAIRMAN, DAVID MCINTOSH'S REPORT DELIVERED AT THE CITY OF LONDON LAW SOCIETY'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Tallow Chandlers' Hall – Monday, 11 June 2007

EMPOWERMENT

As someone who has led the national and now the City's Law Society, I will let you guess from what I now say which is the most stimulating role!

The Society's strength comes from its membership and unlike any other Law Society from its relationship with the Company which binds it into the fabric of this great city.

Being part of the City establishment through the Company and Society's cross membership is not our only unique advantage.

We also benefit from the corporate membership of 51 City firms including the UK's top 25 leading firms. No other Law Society has this advantage.

Although individual membership is confined to solicitors who practice (or have practiced) in the City (which by our definition most certainly includes Canary Wharf) many of our member firms are truly international which gives the Society standing well beyond this City.

Now that we are widely recognised as <u>the</u> representative body for the City's leading firms, we have become visible to government and our regulators as such and are also seen as one of the first ports of call for many others, including, sometimes helpfully, the press.

What this has led to is:

 the enhancement and increased visibility of our 18 specialist Committees which always have been and remain the roses in our crown.

Their influence on Law Reform is widespread and it is one of my pleasures to regularly read their Reports to Government and elsewhere under the Society's banner.

They are likely to become of even greater importance as the National Law Society rationalises its specialist Committee functions.

I thank all of our Committee Chairs and their 250 or more members and the firms supporting those roles.

- the ability to "tap" our corporate members at their top levels for expert support for special needs. These include:-
 - lobbying our members and their clients for desirable changes in the Legal Services' Bill.

We are the only local Law Society to have been invited to give evidence, alongside the National Law Society before Lord Hunt's joint Parliamentary Committee.

We are continuing to lobby as the Bill faces its Committee stages during its second reading in the House of Commons with the Government remaining implacably against the changes which are needed to preserve independence and reduce the Lord Chancellor's power of patronage over the appointment of the members of the Legal Services' Board. The amendments made in the House of Lords have been rejected by the Government which continues to want to control both ends and middle of our profession.

It is appropriate to thank our Legal Services Bill Working Party for their very considerable and continuing efforts. They have been drawn from Freshfields, Slaughter and May, Herbert Smith LLP, Allen & Overy LLP and Linklaters.

 we have formed a Professional Rules and Regulatory Committee chaired by Chris Perrin of Clifford Chance through which to respond to other hybrid regulatory challenges with the support of our specialist Committees.

It is through this Committee that we have set up our direct consultative relationship with the Solicitors Regulatory Authority with whom we are already liaising in the context of responding to the current FSA investigations into how sensitive information is handled within the City.

 we are also, with the help of our international member firms, in the process of setting up a similar direct consultative relationship with the EC and its Directorates in Brussels.

We recognise we cannot afford to rely solely upon the National Law Society looking after all of the interests of City practices here or upon the CCBE (which is not fully supportive of major law firms and their business needs) before our own Regulator and our European law maker.

- we have also created an Associates Forum through which
 we have responded to the National Law Society's "lifestyle"
 debate led by our member and the current President of the
 National Law Society, Fiona Woolf. We will be sending the
 Associates Forum's Report to our corporate members.
- we are continuing to lobby for sensible, and not dumbeddown, changes to our professional training and entry

David McIntosh, Fox, Chairman of the City of London Law Society

regime whilst recognising the need for improved access and diversity:

- we are seen as a leading light by other City and commercial bar associations and will be hosting the fifth World City Bar Leaders Conference here in the City of London in the Autumn of 2008. This major legal event will be opened by the then Lord Mayor, who is expected to be our member Alderman David Lewis:
- we are raising our profile internationally but only where necessary for we are otherwise content, on behalf of our members, to rely on the good work of the National Law Society's International Directorate with which we have very close links.

We have also been involved in important networking events, often under "Chatham House" rules. These have included a private dinner with the Governor of the Bank of England attended by the senior partners of our top ten corporate member firms by size. This took place in the aftermath of the Governor's Mansion House speech when he criticised our civil litigation system with regard to the BCCI and Bank of England case. Others involved more of our senior partners, one at the Guildhall where our main guest was the Director of the CBI and another with the Lord Mayor at what is becoming an annual breakfast at the Mansion House. Following that breakfast the Lord Mayor invited a follow up briefing from us. All of these events focussed on what is good for City legal practice and our clients.

I could go on – indeed perhaps you think I have!

But I do believe the CLLS has found its feet and a valuable ongoing role on your behalves.

For my part, the task of Chairman has been enjoyable - well at least so far! – with rewarding progress.

I am enjoying it almost as much as relaunching my advisory career in the City with Ronnie Fox whose own support for the Society and the Company encourages me to continue as Chair if and as needed.

I also especially thank Liz Thomas who has looked after me very well during the three years (doesn't time fly) since I took over the Chairmanship. She is of course a good friend to all of our members, whose cause and needs are looked after very efficiently and with good cheer.

I also thank Neil Cameron who provides an excellent interface between the Society and the Company and whose support is also never wanting.

Finally, I must thank Stella Dunn who we recruited to assist in playing a coordinating role for our increasingly busy specialist Committees. Because of the skills she has brought to bear, her job specification is being changed to reflect her effective Policy and Public Affairs contributions which extend beyond Committee responsibilities.

So what we have is a small committed team; not a bureaucracy and we intend to keep it that way with only necessary expansion dominated by the needs of our members who I also thank for their increased support.

I think that an appropriate note on to which end my report which I thank you all for receiving.

New Members

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

James Morgan DRISCOLL Jonathan Frank EVANS Marc Samuel KEIDAN Megan Mireille NEWHOUSE Samuel George

- Trowers & Hamlins

- Linklaters LLP - Masseys LLP - Linklaters LLP

Anthony NEWHOUSE - Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP

Helena PASK - Baker & McKenzie LLP

Jason Henry Corti RICHARDSON - McClure Naismith

The following Freeman was admitted as a Liveryman of the Company:-

Clive McCallum MARTYR

- Kraft Foods

The following people have joined as Members of the City of London Law Society only:

Natasha Harrison

- Bingham McCutchen

(London) LLP Sara Hanrahan - Winckworth Sherwood

Charles Claisse - Kemp Little LLP

Matthew Stewart - Lattey & Dawe Solicitors

Auld Broad

CHANNEL CROSSING

"Are we nearly there yet?"

The inevitable question emanates from a small piping voice strapped in somewhere at the back of the people carrier - just as you tentatively turn out of your drive and commit to the public highway with the prospect of three hours self-flagellation ahead in order to reach a Channel port in time for the departure of whatever form of transport was offering the cheapest fare to France. Previous experience tells you that it will not be the last time the question is asked before reaching the finishing line. But, you will have prepared – won't you? - all sorts of in-car entertainment to meet the challenge.

For Auld Broad it was thinking up titles for literary masterpieces and devising a suitable name for the author. It was in consequence of this activity on one such journey that the title of this anecdote was coined and became a constant with Auld Broad's family – not least because once aboard it had a familiar redolence.

And to many people's surprise, you can be just as sick on a Hovercraft as you can on a conventional ship. More to the point you can't lean over.

It all depended on the sea-state. An SRN4 Hovercraft– the large one with

four propellers which carried cars – would cope happily with a short sea, its skirts tripping daintily over the ripples with disdain. But a long sea, rising and falling with the swell, was a recipe for disaster. But it was not this feature that led to the early demise of the Hovercraft as a medium for channel crossings.

The development of the Hovercraft for both commercial and military use remains a fascinating chapter in this Nation's long love affair with the sea. It was quintessentially British and undoubtedly Heath Robinson. Was it a ship or was it an aircraft? It looked as though it would never work. But it did work and, like so many British inventions, it was in consequence exploited by other nations before, as a serious competitor for cross-channel business, it was consigned to the scrapheap of transport history. There was a lack of imagination and investment. It was another famous maritime nation – the Swedes – who exploited and made the most of such opportunities.

From Auld Broad's perspective it was a coincidence, but a stroke of good fortune for him – in most senses – to have

become involved. Auld Broad has little claim to a place in this Nation's maritime Hall of Fame – other than the unerring ability to capsize his dinghy on each outing - even when moored. But the fates had determined that an important part of his firm's activities was derived from the sea and the air. Auld Broad's pre-occupation was with the land. But a unique feature of the hovercraft is that it combines all three elements. It sort of flies, it goes over water and it can land pretty well anywhere there is a stretch of open beach. But if this versatility was to be exploited it did require port facilities of a somewhat different nature to conventional shipping.

The first task was to identify a suitable site for a hoverport. This entailed numerous journeys up and down the south coast by helicopter or car. At one time Lympne Airport was in contention. In theory it would have been possible to run the hovercraft several miles inland, closer to good internal communications and with existing terminal facilities. But one particular feature of the hovercraft's design put an end to this prospect - its skirts - which hung down from the frame of the hovercraft to provide a sealed vacuum into which air was driven to provide the necessary uplift for flight. At the end of each journey, as the vacuum was released, it would "subside" gently on to the landing area like a huge hen settling on to her eggs. Skirts were the most vulnerable and expensive parts to maintain. Miles of heavy shingle from the coast to Lympne Airport would cut them to pieces. This factor alone frustrated that option.

It is a matter of history that Pegwell Bay, Ramsgate with its large, gently shelving beach and mudflats exposed at low tide and the Goodwin Sands just offshore, was chosen and built, after a prolonged Public Inquiry. Dover (though it was subsequently used by other operators) had been rejected for reasons of perceived conflict with conventional shipping arising from the limitations on the operational capacity of the

respective harbour entrances. The use of the Western entrance was restricted to anything but the mildest seas, thus putting all the pressure on to the Eastern entrance used at frequent intervals by conventional and less manoeuvrable ships.

And while all this was going on, what of Calais? A parallel exercise had been undertaken and a site chosen to the east of the conventional harbour – again with a large and gentle beach approach. The level of co-operation and camaraderie between the prospective operators and the Calais Chambre de Commerce was agreeably sustained at a series of meetings – underpinned by a level of refreshment which somewhat outshone Aunt Betty's Burger Bar in Ramsgate. It threw into stark contrast the difference between the French and British planning systems. The authority vested in M. le President de la Chambre de Commerce de Calais was awesome. It will surprise no one to know that the Calais Terminal was built and running before the Public Inquiry into Pegwell Bay as a suitable site for the UK end of the service had even opened!

There were, of course, objectors at Pegwell Bay of whom the most strident were worms and birds, or those promoting their interests! Pegwell Bay was an important site treasured by local fishermen for harvesting worms. The fishing lobby's initial response was, to put it mildly, unhelpful. But trials unearthed – quite literally – a curious phenomenon. After the hovercraft passed over the mudflats the worms popped up, no doubt wondering what the devil all the noise and disturbance was, and were more easily harvested. This proved a bonus point which won over the fishermen. A somewhat similar experience occurred with the birds. The Bay was adjacent to an important bird sanctuary and every ornithologist in the land - bar one - was paraded to convince the Inspector that the demise of the sanctuary was inevitable if operation of the hovercraft was permitted. The odd one out -the Applicant's expert witness - stuck to his guns and on the trials conducted as part of the Inspector's site visit it was observed that when a hovercraft passed over the Bay the birds in question, feeding happily on the worms which had popped up, would rise gently from the water (or mud according to the tides) and then drop leisurely back down to resume their predatory activities. Game, set and match to the hovercraft!

But in spite of the SRN4's ability to cross from Ramsgate to Calais traversing all the sea lanes with sporting ease – Auld Broad recalls making a trial run when a record crossing time of 26 minutes 48 seconds was established (in a flat calm!) – the venture did not survive. It was, in part, scuppered by the much improved crossing times of a new generation of conventional ships and fast catamarans but more particularly by the very heavy cost of maintenance. All very sad, but noble while it lasted.

Auld Broad recalls one other channel crossing (of a very different nature) with some amusement, though it had long

preceded his conjunction with the legal profession. At the time of joining his firm he found that quite a number of his principals had distinguished war service behind them. One such was a man who had first been employed in the thirties as an untrained office boy and had ended the war as a Lieutenant-Commander RNVR. His experiences and savvy were legion but Auld Broad particularly savoured that relating to D-Day. This Lieutenant-Commander's task was to deliver to Gold Beach on D-Day a fleet of large landing craft carrying the first batch of self-propelled artillery – 25-pdrs.mounted on a Sherman chassis – known as Rams. They were a remarkably effective bit of kit with which Auld Broad later became familiar when his time for serving Her Majesty arrived and he found they were still in service.

Much training and preparation had been required. The bulk of it was undertaken on the wildest, coldest shores the UK could provide – the west coast of Scotland. Time and time again the landing craft were run ashore; time and time again the ramps were let down; time and time again the first Ram rumbled down the ramp into the cold, dark waters; time and time again it stalled; time and time again engines were stripped down and all possible mechanical causes examined in detail. The deadline was at hand – desperation was setting in.

All praise therefore to the young Gunner subaltern stationed at the top of the ramp who solved the problem. As the Ram rolled down the ramp and met the fearfully cold waters of the Atlantic he observed that they quickly and forcibly reached the most sensitive part of the driver's anatomy. The driver instinctively flinched, hunched his knees, took his feet off the clutch and accelerator and the Ram stalled.

The solution was simple. Who would now guess that the beaches of Northern France would be secured by an extra issue of thermal underwear to all Ram drivers? It was a characteristically British solution. As with the Hovercraft may we never lose our capacity for innovation – with a healthy



The Wig and Pen Prizes 2007

City of London Law Society and the City of Westminster and Holborn Law Society invite applications for the annual Wig and Pen Prizes for pro bono legal work by young solicitors. Nominations for the Wig and Pen Prizes which form part of the YSG Pro Bono Awards, have now opened and the closing date for nominations is 21St September 2007. Nomination packs are available from www.ysg.org.uk

Applications for the Wig and Pen Prizes are invited from individuals who have been nominated for the Young Solicitors' Group Pro Bono Awards and have been admitted as solicitors for less than 5 years. There is also a requirement that a candidate must either be a member of the City of London Law Society or the City of Westminster and Holborn Law Society or work as a solicitor within the catchment area of either Law Society.

The Prize is awarded to a candidate who has made a significant contribution to the quality of justice in their communities between 21 September 2006 and 21 September 2007 and in helping to ensure the legal system is open and available to all. In particular, the judges will take into account -

- (a) the length of time involved in giving free legal advice or representation to people who have otherwise failed to obtain access to justice;
- (b) the candidate's involvement in setting up new or innovative projects providing free legal services to people who would otherwise fail to obtain access to justice;
- (c) the significance of the candidate's service to their clients and their community; and
- (d) the extent to which the candidate's contribution was made in his or her own time outside that person's normal employment.

Two Prizes may be awarded. The first Prize consists of a silver ink stand and quill pen to be held by the winner for

one year and a cash sum of £1,000 which is paid to the charity or project of the winner's choice as approved by CWHLS and the City of London Law Society. A second Prize may be awarded to a candidate who is not in receipt of the first Prize and, at the closing date for entries, does not work within the local Law Society catchment area of the first Prize winner. The second Prize consists of a cash sum of £500 to be paid to the charity or project of the winner's choice as approved by CWHLS and the City of London Law Society.

The winner of the Wig and Pen Prize in 2006 was Rachel Bennett from Herbert Smith LLP. Rachel was chosen as winner in recognition of her work in setting up and negotiating an agreement with the Independent Panel for Special Education Advice ("IPSEA"). IPSEA offers support, guidance and advocacy to parents of children with special educational needs across the country.



As usual, the City of London Law Society Committees are busy responding to consultations, ensuring their views are put to a wide range of bodies, including Parliament and regulators.

The Legal Services Bill has now reached the Commons. CLLS amendments were debated at Committee stage. These called for the representation of in-house counsel on the Consumer Panel and the exclusion of certain LDPs from the ABS regime. Unfortunately the Government refused to accept our suggestions. The CLLS is continuing to work with colleagues in the national Law Society in the hope that the Bill can be amended to at least allow pragmatic transitional arrangements for LDPs employing non-client facing, non-lawyer partners.

Elsewhere, members of the CLLS Professional Rules and Regulation Committee met with the policy team from the SRA to discuss the new Code of Conduct and their approach to implementation. Members were reassured that the SRA will be monitoring firms from the perspective of principlesbased regulation and not carrying out a "tick-box" exercise to ensure compliance.

CLLS members may have seen the recently published findings of the FSA review into controls relating to public takeovers. Member firms expressed concerns about the scope of this project. The CLLS convened an ad hoc working party and then promptly raised its concerns with the FSA. The CLLS argued any Code or Statement of Good Practice should exclude those organisations already subject to professional rules of confidentiality. It also encouraged the FSA to work with the SRA if it believed any changes to those rules were necessary.

Contact Stella Dunn at the CLLS offices with any queries (<u>mail@citysolicitor.org.uk</u> or 020 7329 2173).



Committee Reports



COMPANY LAW

The Company Law Committee meets every other month. Part of its

work is done through working parties formed by the Committee, some of which act jointly with groups set up by the Law Society's Standing Committee on Company Law. The minutes of the Committee can be found on the City of London Law Society website. Details of recent consultations to which the Committee has prepared responses are provided below.

PROSPECTUS AND LISTING RULES AMENDMENTS

In October 2006 the FSA published a consultation paper relating to amendments to the Prospectus and Listing Rules. The Committee submitted a written response to the paper jointly with the Law Society's Standing Committee on Company Law. The response is available on the City of London Law Society website.

SHAREHOLDER VOTING RIGHTS

In October 2006 the DTI published a consultation paper relating to the European Commission's proposal for a Directive on the exercise of voting rights by shareholders. The Committee submitted a written response to the paper, a copy of which is available on the City of London Law Society website.

In April 2007 the European Commission announced that it is now considering introducing a recommendation in relation to shareholder voting rights rather than a directive and has published a third consultation paper on the topic. The Committee is preparing a written response to the paper, a copy of which will be available on the City of London Law Society website in due course.

DAVIES' REVIEW ON ISSUER LIABILITY

In March 2007 Professor Paul Davies QC published a discussion paper on issuer liability for misstatements to the market. The Committee submitted a written response to the paper, a copy of which is available on the City of London Law Society website.

CROSS-BORDER MERGERS

In March 2007 the DTI published a consultation paper on the implementation of the Directive on cross-border mergers. The Joint Takeovers Working Party has submitted a written response to the paper. The response is available on the City of London Law Society website.

William Underhill, Chairman, Slaughter and May

COMMERCIAL LAW

The main objectives of the CLC centre on its meetings which provide a forum for the discussion of a wide range of legal topics reflecting the very diverse practice areas of the membership.

The membership includes people who combine the practice of Commercial Law with Corporate transactions, in the style of traditional Company/Commercial departments still found in many firms. Increasingly, however, the members are drawn from firms which recognise Commercial Law as a significant practice area in its own right. Some members work predominantly within particular niche areas as diverse as advertising, charities, consumer law, IT, PPP/PFI, and the utilities. Others work in a varying combination of these areas. We believe that the breadth of topic addressed by members of the Commercial Law Committee is probably greater than is the case with any other committee of the Society.

The Committee reviews unusual and novel developments in law and commercial practice with a view to enhancing their understanding and encouraging best practice within the profession by various media as appropriate. This will ordinarily involve, as a minimum, the publication of minutes of the discussion on the Society website. Where appropriate it might also involve the writing of articles for publication in appropriate professional and other journals and may at the extreme lead to suggestions for reform.

As well as these internally generated topics, the Committee monitors legislative proposals of relevance to its membership whether they are derived from the EU or UK legislatures and participates in appropriate consultations. As such it has recently made submissions in response to Green Papers or the like issued by the Gambling Commission, by the European Commission on the Consumer Acquis, and by the DTI in relation to representative actions.

Committee Reports

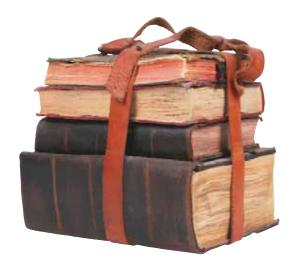
The Committee is also assisting the European Commission's long-term review of Contract Law. In this area, the Committee is acutely aware of a tension between the interests of many clients, who have expressed a preference for a greater degree of harmonisation across Europe, in the interests of encouraging cross-border trade, and those of many of our City colleagues, particularly in the wholesale markets, who wish to see English law preserved. It may be too much to hope for pan-European harmonisation on the English model! The Committee cooperates with members of other committees of the Society as appropriate.

The Committee also cooperates with other bodies (for example the City of London, the Law Society, the Department of Constitutional Affairs, HM Courts Service, the CBI and the DTI) in the formulation of their responses to such consultations and reform proposals generally.

Although the volume of relevant proposed legislation is variable from year to year, and 2007 is perhaps not an especially busy year in this respect, the workload of the Committee particularly in light of the breadth of its remit, is by no means insignificant.

Currently, therefore, the Committee plans to continue to do what it does, and to increase the breadth and depth of its activities by, amongst other means, recruiting further specialists. If any reader is interested in joining the Committee, or learning more about its activities, please contact the Chairman, Nick Mallett, of Martineau Johnson, at nick.mallett@martjohn.com.

Nick Mallett, Chairman, Martineau Johnson



TRAINING

Over the past few months the Training Committee has been active in lobbying the SRA in relation to the various training-related Consultations which have been issued.

These are the Consultations on the LPC, the work based learning (Training Contract) element of the training framework and the trainees' minimum salary. (The Responses the Training Committee has submitted are available on the CLLS's website.)

The SRA has recently announced there will be no change on the minimum salary and the work based learning pilot planned to start this Autumn has been delayed. This is because of the challenge of creating a model "which is robust enough not to be seen to be a 'second class' route to qualification" (according to an article in "Legal Week" on 7 June 2007).

That view of the proposals (shared by many interested parties) on the work based learning element was at the heart of the Response the Training Committee submitted to the SRA on the CLLS's behalf. It is gratifying that the SRA is taking on board the views of the profession.

Some aspects of the LPC review are primarily of interest to LPC providers. However, others could have a significant impact on firms (for example, the proposal to disconnect the Electives from the Compulsory topics and to allow the former to be studied during the work based learning period). The outcome of that review is still awaited but as it could affect the work based learning period, the Committee has advocated strongly that the SRA should consult the profession on a comprehensive set of proposals for a new training framework rather than adopting a piecemeal approach.

While there are no Consultations currently running, the Committee will continue to liaise proactively with the SRA on all training-related matters to ensure the views of the City are heard and the training framework continues to service appropriately the needs of the CLLS member firms, would-be entrants and the public at large.

Tony King, Chairman, Clifford Chance LLP

Council Members' Report

Simon Davis, Alexandra Marks, David McIntosh, Michael Webster, John White.

MEETING OF CITY OF LONDON CONSTITUENCY COUNCIL MEMBERS

On Thursday 22 March, four of the five City of London constituency Council members (Simon Davis, Alexandra Marks, David McIntosh, and Michael Webster - with apologies, and a brief paper, from John White) met to discuss the Governance Review paper (agenda item 11) for the forthcoming Law Society Council meeting (on Thursday 29 March).

The impetus for our meeting was the recognition that, with the possible exception of the Association of Women Solicitors, the City of London constituency represents the largest single group of solicitors on the Law Society Council - and, by some margin, comprises the largest electorate of any of the geographical constituencies represented on Council.

Moreover, quite fortuitously, the five City of London Council members between them cover a surprisingly wide-ranging spectrum of the profession - including Magic Circle firms, medium-sized City Firms, very small firms, in-house lawyers, BME solicitors, and women solicitors. We therefore consider ourselves representative of various interested groupings within the profession, beyond merely the stereotype of "the City".

Collectively, we are disappointed by the lack of progress in restructuring of the Law Society's internal mechanisms - not because this is particularly visible to the profession nor, probably, of great concern to it. However, the prolonged discussions by the Council - without discernible change - is, we feel, holding the Society back at a time when its professional body could be, should be and (thanks to the efforts of the office-holders, staff and certain Council members) is to some extent transforming itself into a nimble, responsive, proactive, relevant, vocal and highly visible representative organisation.

We began our discussions on the following premises

- Attending Council meetings is presently a chore
- Council is not an effective discussion and decisionmaking body
- Council should be a small, effective, decision-making body with few enough members to be able to meet in a "round forum" venue
- A small Council would have much more effective discussions with the SRA and Legal Complaints Service

 The Council could delegate work to a few standing and specialist committees - which need not be populated largely, or even at all, by Council members.

We concluded that, with the enhanced communication tools now available through technology (principally the internet and email) much of the original rationale for local Law Society representatives comprising the majority of Council members (namely communicating with members) is now obsolete.

The fact that there is widespread detachment of local Law Societies from Council suggests that the current mechanism does not provide the degree of connectivity we might hope: local Law Societies might feel better represented, and able to hold Council members to account, were they to select from a pool of possible local Law Society representatives.

We find it difficult to see how the interests of members of the profession in one part of the country differ greatly from the interests of members in another part of the country. Again, perhaps a small number of regional - or, like the Bar, Circuit-based - representatives would be sufficient.

Nowadays, we feel, the interests of members are differentiated by types of practice (commercial, private client, legal aid, in-house etc.), types of firm (global, large national, provincial, high street, rural etc.) and types of practitioner (sole, women, BME etc.) more than geographical. This is an argument for representation being by type rather than geography, and the electorates being devised accordingly.

Moreover, we concluded that the current role of Council, and Council members, is unclear. Unsurprisingly, given the make-up of Council (we are all lawyers, after all!), there is far too much detailed nit-picking discussion about the reports on others' work with too little decision-making or direction-setting by Council.

We propose that, if the structure proposed in the Governance Review paper currently before Council were to be adopted, a sensible role for Council would be to review, approve, prioritise and monitor the performance of annual workplans produced by each of the four principal boards. In this way, Council would have a strategic and policy-making function without delving into the minute detail of work undertaken by the boards, whose reports to Council would indicate progress against agreed workplans (perhaps using a "traffic light" system), with particular attention being paid to problem areas, or new initiatives (originating either from the boards themselves, or from Council).

In this way, a Council comprising relatively few members - no more than 40 - would be sufficiently large to be representative of the profession, capable of meaningful discussion and decision-making and able to hold to account not only the staff but also its own boards and committees (of which Council members need not be Chairs or members, provided the appropriate accountability mechanisms were in place).

Making sixth sense of the latest title

Warren Gordon looks at the implications of the sixth edition of the CLLS Land Law **Committee Long Form** Certificate of Title

The City of London Law Society (CLLS) represents the professional interests of City solicitors by commenting on matters of law and practice, and by lobbying extensively on the issues and challenges facing the profession. The land law committee is one of the specialist committees of the CLLS. One of its primary products is the CLLS Land Law Committee Long Form Certificate of Title.

Certificates of title are used in many different transactions, including secured loans and acquisitions of properties and businesses. Over a decade ago, the CLLS decided to produce its own form of certificate of title to reduce the negotiations over the form of certificates. The certificate has now reached its sixth edition and is accepted as the standard by most firms in England and Wales. A number of Scottish firms have collaborated in producing an equivalent certificate – the PSG Certificate of Title – for use in relation to properties in Scotland (see www.psglegal.co.uk).

For the purpose of rule 6(3) of the Solicitors Practice Rules 1990, the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) recognises that the sixth edition of the CLLS certificate of title may be provided by a solicitor, acting only for a borrower, to a lender in cases where the property is not to be used solely as the borrower's private residence. The sixth edition was recognised by the SRA on 16 April 2007. It will be published in the Encyclopaedia of Forms and Precedents and on the CLLS website (www.citysolicitors.org.uk). There are various aspects of the new edition that have changed.

Format

As well as updating, the committee has decided to make some important alterations to the format of the certificate, which it hopes will improve the certificate's user-friendliness. The certificate better highlights key provisions by putting them at the

front of the certificate. Most of the 'variable' information is now in one place - schedule 5 provides details of the particular property, searches, lease, letting documents and qualifications to the certificate's statements.

Statement of lease provisions

An important change from the fifth edition is that, in relation to the lease and letting documents, the certificate contains an additional series of statements describing material provisions of a 'typical' headlease and institutional occupational lease Such an approach is intended to reduce the amount of information which needs to be incorporated in the certificate. The certificate provider will highlight any departures from the certificate's statements in the qualifications in schedule 5.

Since the precise wording of the certificate's statements may not be reflected in the wording of the particular lease or letting document, the committee's view is that a qualification should be made when the certificate provider considers that there is a material difference in the wording. While this introduces an element of subjectivity, that position is no different from the requirement under the fifth edition to specify 'material' details of the lease and letting documents. The committee also considers that this approach makes the certificate more useful because it focuses on those aspects that are different from

Matters no longer dealt with

Certain issues covered in the fifth edition are no longer covered in the new certificate, mainly because they are usually dealt with outside of the certificate. Examples include specific insurance details in relation to the property, licensing, environmental matters and details of the valuation report.

General comments

It is for the solicitors giving the certificate to decide how best to elicit necessary information from the owner of the property. To assist solicitors, examples of letters or questionnaires seeking

from the owner may appear on the CLLS's website, but the use of such letters and questionnaires is not obligatory.

Often the certificate will be given to a lender that is providing finance for the company (for which the certifying solicitor acts) to purchase the property. The company's knowledge of the property will be slight and it will rely on information provided by the seller's solicitors. There is sometimes a mismatch between the information received from the seller and that needed to produce the certificate for the . lender. Some companies' solicitors ask the seller further enquiries to enable them to produce the certificate, but resistance is sometimes encountered. If the seller is not prepared to answer such enquiries, an appropriate disclosure will have to be made to the recipient of the certificate.

It is not suggested that the sixth edition can be used unchanged in every situation. There will be transactions where its use will be inappropriate and a certificate in a quite different, probably shorter, form is required. Consideration should be given to using the CLLS Short Form Report on Title. A new third edition, recognised by the SRA for rule 6(3) purposes on 16 April 2007, can be found on the CLLS website. The certificate is intended to

be comprehensive, striking a reasonable balance between the interests of the addressee and the solicitors who give it. If the certificate provider wishes to change the certificate's form, he should make this clear to the recipient. This is particularly important in view of the fact that the form of the sixth edition has been approved for rule 6(3) purposes. The committee has introduced a new paragraph in schedule 1 to highlight this point. If the provider is unable to give the statements in the certificate, he should make appropriate disclosures or qualification.

The committee has always considered that the function of the certificate is to provide specific information about the property. The recipient of the

certificate, with the help of his own professional advisers, car then assess any risks and decide whether the property is acceptable.

. The committee's view is that normally the certificate should summarise any relevant documents and it should be unnecessary to annex copies. The certificate is intended to replace an investigation of title by the recipient's solicitors. If they have to read not only the certificate but other documents, the point of the certificate is to some extent lost. However, there may be circumstances when a document is so important or complex that it cannot be summarised accurately and needs to be annexed.

The committee recognises that the solicitors giving the certificate may seek a limitation on liability where the same certificate is addressed to more than one person to ensure that the solicitors' liability to all ultimate addressees does not exceed the liability to the original addressee. The committee's view is that any such limitation must be a matter to be agreed by the solicitors and the addressees.

The firm giving the certificate will need to draw the company's attention to the fact that the certificate states the company has inspected the property not more than 20 working days before the date of the certificate. If this is not the case, a qualification will have to be made.

The committee considers that the new format of the sixth edition means there is no longer a need for an alternative version of the letting documents scheduled for use where the property is subject to a large number of leases in a standard form. The certificate provider can agree with the recipient a reduced version of part 8A of schedule 5 to limit the amount of specific information required in relation to each letting document. Warren Gordon is head of real estate know-how at London firm Olswang and a member of the Law Society's conveyancing and land law committee, and writes on behalf of the CLLS's land

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GAZETTE

One of the City of London Law Society Land Law Committee's primary products is the "CLLS Land Law Committee Long Form Certificate of Title". The Certificate has now reached its sixth edition and is accepted as the standard by most firms in England and Wales. The new sixth edition was launched in April 2007. As well as general updating, the Land Law Committee made some important alterations to the format of the Certificate, which the Committee hopes will improve the Certificate's user-friendliness and usefulness. The Committee has also produced a new third edition of the companion short form Report on Title. Both the Certificate and Report have been recognised by the Solicitors Regulation Authority for the purposes of Rule 6(3) of the Solicitors' Practice Rules 1990.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE LAWYERS GONE?

Why doesn't anyone want a City solicitor on their Board? Their firms are some of the most successful in the world – particularly internationally - but very few of them get a good job when they retire from practice in their 50s. Former senior partners are not represented on the Board of the Financial Services Authority or the Court of the Bank of England. In the United States each of the five Commissioners of the SEC is a lawyer.

On 6th June 2007, I chaired a seminar at Oxford University's Said Business School, sponsored by the City of London Law Society, which tried to answer these questions. What we heard was uncomfortable for solicitors and echoed what Chairmen and CEOs had already told me. They did not like the lawyer's mindset: 'Prepared to debate, but not prepared to agree'; 'never prepared to be wrong'; 'just a craft industry'; 'don't give me a lawyer - I'm in enough trouble already.'

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.

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, who is an executive coach and Simon Kingston, a headhunter from Russell Reynolds.

What is to be done? The seminar, which was held under the Chatham House rule, 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. 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 invaluable 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 comes to applying for jobs you should think about your CV in a different way, and be prepared to be rejected often.

Vanessa Knapp, from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, who attended the seminar said afterwards, "It was sobering to hear some of the views about lawyers, and there was also much food for thought. Lawyers can offer an independence of mind and ability to get to grips with a problem quickly but may need to add more skills before they can contribute fully." David Isaac said that, "Becoming a Board member of a charity can provide City solicitors with very valuable skills and experience. However, becoming a charity trustee should not just be seen as a stepping stone to joining the Board of a plc. The experience of helping to run a charity can be just as rewarding as being involved in a plc."

The world is run by Boards and lawyers who want to play a part in running the world will find they have to join one. Above all you have to want it. As Antoine St Exupery said, "If you want a man to build a boat, do not send him out for wood and nails, but teach him to yearn for the wide and endless sea."



The Prize for 2007 was awarded to Nicholas Pacheco, a trainee with Jones Day.

Inter-Firm Clay Pigeon Shooting Trophy

The winning team for 2007 was Ken Baird and Simon Stebbings from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. The prize for individual best gun was won by Nicholas Phillips from Hill Dickinson.

Inter-Livery Bridge Competition

The Company's team of Chris Larlham and Roy Griggs of CMS Cameron McKenna finished 37th out of 60 teams in the 2007 Inter-Livery Bridge Competition.

Prince Arthur Cup Inter-Livery Golf Competition

The Company finished 45th out of 54 in the Prince Arthur Cup Inter-Livery Golf Competition.

Our congratulations to them all.



