**The Paralegal**

**Essential News for all Paralegals**

**April 2011**

**[New Law Journal Logo](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WtUFJED-8TBUmW9qb1Ec49VI64qs0H2xU98GmJsRXwr2LG5H9MbJyDHb4LpaKzkR1w2xhTlK3frrbqjZh_H0aQRBPo5yL0pYpHwXckDwdI9nxxZ5s06mxKQ)**

In this month's e-journal:

**1. Breaking News & Time Critical Matters**

**1.1. Paralegal Wanted Willing to Relocate to Bermuda**

The highly regarded Bermudian law firm of Mello Jones & Martin is looking for a paralegal or legal executive willing to relocate to Bermuda. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WuCGH1SdPIP8X6bGcRMLJrmGu8F-hmE5c90U3-PxWO6eph7RGEBZVA6mil-ouYtsYEBJk63-KCnIULXKhXFNSODP0LuLsen_bpTT7pW_IerRqczhrDpdsOLmd1tVyR1MfuO8pqLYiTuou1ffSd8I2T_Cu_E2hYnIYj3S8Tua9J5baBQkxaZ7gT3c6Zc6IRpaVw=)

**1.2. New Batch of Regulations Commenced 6th April**

A host of new regulations affecting businesses came into force this month on one of the two common commencement dates (CCDs) each year - 6th April and 1st October. Find out about the April CCDs. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WtxcpT8-NK1h4z2au83uiPajR9ihMWZOaxRrnxiUi8Tlkyt37gWjhPtYPTscX4p8ceIUAjAhBOSnQBmEBbznS39GZ_b_oJxONOkHrVXg7U7R0O9AhfyNQvXOmlNVx4eYd4kWjA1QTRv5tEr3VKFHqZxCGTTQI__SHGGTWVeFGbnfGKGwZy6iamXvFiYC4Lqf5Urm9BHJ9rcUUs8y1UMKKT8c70bQwSgoqc=)

**1.3. Family Law Changes Commenced 6th April**

Parts of the Family Procedure Rules 2010 came into force on 6th April. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8Wvy0QT4GG0fUTmpcJIcvezjr0C0vrDxb-gj0ojsBNEP5AmGDZ33zOLGDhvoaxQMsBD6JWV1EGSVxZlYAzF7Vge4Emz32pXj_IcTM3LJ4vpP7unIBehjthCyGG32zIaFRNvtyHxuaQqAZIauBq_we5-g)  
  
Also from 6th April the majority of litigants seeking certain family law related court orders will be expected to first attend a Mediation Information Assessment Meeting before making their court application. The Law Society of England & Wales has issued as practice note on the matter giving guidance to practitioners. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WsLaeaQLIDxtqUC8nW93MhmrrhJT5Z5US-PiVBkXdcy_5hISPK10psBN7p_kJGzpP6nVNsPPpwOBuwn0M0WZ-tZFll9bZr-tt2WpceGf9rypw7K0cqOIFmNSb8v33R1SasEn9gmyCdzDuOwAHXbILibbqq1Nx0e2VTpWvNDIGP8D_zyr4EvPbTBFxrabkGCGrs=)

**1.4. Changes to Companies House Fees From 6th April**

A wide variety of Companies House fees changed on 6th April. Some fees were actually reduced! [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WuWhHaoItS9YstHX05uK8vkRnZKM-vFRcXxj0JQfMpmkIFQKv1Yb16REnkyXYOBTPjtO2b5BXF2Wkod0LqVYh-cHxKj0aZQY4bYICs2bstxBTAUtHIkfOk_aIgEXw4SRbrZhg-tcqtl_VRvtb6d-yKsCpRo6VNpThE=)

**1.5. Change in Information Required to Make a Stamp Duty Land Tax Return**

The introduction of a new IT system will change the way SDLT returns are submitted to assist in the management of Stamp Duty Land Tax is planned to be introduced in July 2011. However the return forms are being amended from this month. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WtWmsaBgfZ_-QGYo-_n08_okncmP18_FBQFZ0yYJ0FnBbQmPu4scQnjIx6plckrN1kAj88DaOZWiJAcTexbXhbu9G_Dy1Qo1IRJD19GAwijaCZJvasx5gW4XFb52bseSoT60D52wLjoOw==)

**1.6. Government Funding Available to Legal Employers for Training**

The Institute of Paralegals is partnering government to promote a new government funding scheme to support work-based learning. Legal employers can access a straightforward, non-bureaucratic programme under which all/any their new/existing staff who meet simple criteria can be wholly or largely funded to receive national qualifications whilst working. Two top-ten law firms have already joined the Programme, looking to professionalise, respectively, their accounts and library staff. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WutMMynUUCD51qEYbLTi6KRFhP9Jv-jgNspFCoJppOx46NQ_KocONzCtqEINm2bdchAFm4fizDohgt8zWJ_s6GIgUnwRFpOnaoqoTddoPQ4qI5cnRqGyZEXFRybM4YvPhGu5oqFqnbOlQ==)

**1.7. Get 20 Copies of Your CV Printed for Free**

Staples the stationery store is offering to print up to 20 copies of your CV for free. Download the voucher and see the offer in detail by clicking here. Ends 31st December 2011. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WssKJh3kh2wSXJPB0JRYpkJ7A_3YqIlVqRTvXV2_6vG8rBLFqpJLvoFs8fnpbrW7RW_KqPmyHFslq35Zfz_88nE_EhZ486FDmjFEvY5HLz3lYmwcsM8EJMPCvyitNIf8441FO_j8IFShBkgDVqP2xQ3KXfUOoyA6a4tFbiWodlT7Dc_C5CDTjs2YGtByMu7wKG6Ic8aO4sLYrrV0ET8aPxusMzWx6SIAFhcaTF0zc-tPNx2vBk4qj6ITyHpWzME5aMz0o87UOi0NIma5FP6QXCzSNUaseovZ0jIDjh4xLyyb_5qh-awid7a9YrzPl28UaUAo9twm5uowMYQKUPc2LYloP4PG9f5mINJuX8wHeEwNouY6S7j_qM8cY3weJHnaufRftzhmxLxVY0iws6Vigll)

**1.8. New Mortgage Repossession & Debt Recovery Enforcement Courses Launched**

The well-regarded law agency Ashley Taylors has over thirty years experience in representing solicitors' firms and others in County Court hearings. They have put their expertise to good use and through their training arm Ashley Taylors Legal Training are now offering the above two courses online. The Institute of Paralegals has recognised both courses as Mandatory Courses as part of its Route to Qualification career path for professional paralegals. Both courses are Mandatory Courses for Qualified Paralegal status and both lead to a legal qualification from the Institute (LPQ Certificate in Mortgage Repossession Practice and LPQ Certificate in Debt Recovery (Enforcement) Practice). [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WtJPtykN-fSMucerauf0qvg2_Xmg9vzxwt_DuN_6w4c46JIFUk0rtZk5qN-fARqkdPIubNrs6yvlRjKcFXRBRff7nbBoTXyZUu7OY3Ngf_s_V2t2TykC58TXQSkMSmBDoFpjpvo7frY_XKzIDpzVFCi).

**2. Company & Commercial**

**2.1. Change to the Default Retirement Age**

The default retirement age has now been removed. The changes apply to every business with employees.

What does this means for you, your business and your clients? [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WsLvsAvG6Pz6NFjjYmeDqG7Uzpa_RN8aHhyN-eKvHJ0CzpnWWJTUjsOXz5ibPtI8F2lFteDB2cGfMf1Pp1zGsYb3FURm2z4F89nnhNAspd4_LZmmVmqJN1Jm3A8upXdERbwCU10On5Uw91Cv8O_Nu9Sa0qUAffnS_w0goC6S9HakzgCeJGMs061RUMGetIUXM1jzFX_3in20EKgahI58mPvTvGIZ6Ciw_pjX83dTU3qx5LlogSya8bPUBZhi3o_7VRQy9Trs6-0_6cCTcli8ORTc3kMoQOXEt90obejUHybZBO4jP4uSJyyC2EQmqlD8z14o1t3Mvdf3A==)

**2.2. Companies House Launches Online Registration Service**

Since 6th April it has been possible to incorporate private limited companies on-line via a new Companies House service. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8Wua9nhCKnM5KtUCTuobAatqvK9Utn7R0n6IoS4mx6ULw0dZHXNZJmmmJgUR9d0KW98cc5pQNDY2JtSaaOEECbMWnMBx0dzoOqoLvvgJ4Qz13ua8S8I9HB77)

**2.3. Bribery Act Coming into Force 1st July**

The Ministry of Justice has published guidance to help businesses understand the Act and when it is applicable. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8Wv3_033AMUAoRg_snTb2viXIUNOjy24Z5aNhhXDhHsqnFOmlc_koThZK8tpFC5wGb2gCG-yt2sThga8Y5G4I3NlCYBygw6MHUbnPz0-9gMTd83QVqRN-5o8mhmGbei_dhuxIua1PPxqi1C-oKG8UoMH9yubtS-gtlI4GItkQSvah8tXUyaJ9LVW)

**3. Current Consultations**

**3.1. Department for Communities & Local Government**

Planning for traveller sites

Draft Statistics Plan for 2011-12

Best value: new draft statutory guidance

Relaxation of planning rules for change of use from commercial to residential

The Draft Housing Revenue Account (Accounting Practices) Directions 2011

Future of local public audit

Sustainable Communities Act 2007: Inspiring the Big Society

Proposed amendments to the Architects Act 1997

Proposals to introduce a Community Right to Challenge

Proposals to introduce a Community Right to Buy - assets of community value

[Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8Ws_xx96ooNp19ZDSG8bxNZGKeUNMrHBI1Ohpbm6GsvzlMBpqz71n48iJwnS42nCLZp2ad39gVYnq-DMGMw-Dxi4YV_Zr7XIHtTI9YaNHZNOUHMXJLPk_6VM5ZN0-EHV68DOrDALc1ss_2pwnO8pwhSiEKpQLvJ1IO2Ur75XBSXF0A==)

**3.2. Department of Work & Pensions**

European Social Fund: support for families with multiple problems

A state pension for the 21st century

Sharing customer data between DWP and local authorities

Local support to replace Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for living expenses

Preparing for automatic enrolment

[Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WsmqWK7WQWzOwwogf5h8aMZo_ujSh9stxe3aL_uG6S22SUv_nwRrP0EtLk4KtORIknAOBXw5rYNAV4AMXhXxqY9Fbh091IXpFdDVCAaZHstV3B6ahiS09xdAoXOzPSLDyE=)

**3.3. Home Office**

Review of police leadership and training

More effective responses to anti-social behaviour

Access to elected office

Ending age discrimination in services, public functions and associations

A code of practice relating to surveillance cameras

New code of practice on the use of CCTV systems andsurveillance camera systems

Reform of the Equality and Human Rights Commission

Relaunch of amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001

Civil partnerships on religious premises

[Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WsKpxDsd1AwTBbWP3AbVUowur0kL5kCTEMigmfaFLABknEK-4XQF5VO6yU2KA_XU8Wo8KXoFV5uyh_jKhE3zbGy6kAYjVec-iQZPZmdgOEIpJk24is1zl3F67vDkYcwBATWx_DmlAZTGudRshvACgpt)

**3.4. Law Commission**

Consumer Redress for Misleading and Aggressive Practices

[Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WvvZXZC7MW_Y-nOkFZvd6vNhdzGxqAxsnjpW43oIVvG77eAsYdD7Ejz4jWUPKXZ9l0pckA9WtyIngb1IDilUrw006mDxv8qiy_fLz-DSKSkFk8U_ChmBcif7GjAEW2KiPvNkZztgsGfzg==)

**3.5. Solicitors Regulation Authority**

Equality Framework and Engagement Strategy For 2011/12

[Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WvTFQFkRvK2apybEqat-gTh2NtDS3axot9uoTqQJLqjTpMVBj1N7BaxVUZ6Qc-g1tfblJPxLNNaUbgCO9W1M6_R_cAuw4qFrlxOJ9-d6w5g_foC2v4NSG4raFgOUvS7RHHPfXRt8_DWDB9qOX4N_Hk13MsNlo68AoIZcbC-DRUeo_3ghuaMvbYe_5NVSLlFJKc=)

**4. Contract Law & Deeds**

**4.1. The Importance of Boilerplate Clauses**

The solicitors' firm Clifford Chance consider the recent case law on boilerplate clauses, which demonstrates the need to understand the benefits that boilerplate clauses can provide, but also their limits. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8Wt3B-njXCBv8NgyIqU2790huKA2pWolvWZImHd4vNTfOtdwV9RVOOyZZpen7I7jVExUCRQpkqzkPOCKqd2_aVp-Ly1yLSEb0wNpEtynBcoRWtZNr-7ggs4LxEo-VAC0PTuPu6vp4I-jHXQhYIYEOT1sli3gZcPQRWnsLnoPbU7AvqCmv9HY5rrC3PgQke3zQvxO6RvfleAqt5ZfdQaMTU0MKPe6z4rleBf0R34I4Rk31OuUmqLeCNYFFPtCwm84xH2wwav9xSiHu83W5W5jaxJpTXVjvqoy4-phhMe6t_d56cMLVRFkifpD1c16gtODRGOqypBbd9ScmA==)

**4.2. Consumer Expectation the Vital Element in Contract Fairness, Says OFT**

The Office of Fair Trading has set out the criteria it will use to judge whether or not consumer contracts are unfair and should be investigated by it. The crucial factor determining the fairness of contracts will be the consumer's understanding of what the contract means. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WuCNG0maui1qVd9UL4-JaOosdtERcB9kEFwAprGX6qUkVjD84LycbnhpyvjCrRKiH5h--brH0r3ZWMNxOoSNPtwfcVbXBcDVm33WKZ_v0vPzRp8Wa6-oB_KFxsXAVS2z3UYGEzoLMEwa_fKDaWDvdVmrmIcQUK-fiNMVk8TBg7JJgEaXSfNeI-eUDi2F5JEaUkiEkwfqg_KYrvihh4Wc_TatdOqTZRwXXw2LU12SYl56JHoTVWaRNNJJsC0gXgoQy80Fk3kAMcCeTUPHJypM7vi5smIwhM_lMEUaDygixjxjctyOXO3DrtHVBORI-9hQ3xtlcNKdyG4wg6oGUzBjhDFXn-Accw0Yrs=)

**4.3. Executing Deeds - a Handy Guide**

The Land Registry publishes a handy free guide about the execution of deeds. In particular it is useful for identifying who needs to sign deeds on behalf of companies, limited liability partnerships etc, and the wording to use. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8Wv6eXMAxUnG1RdoZDmrPsulDYTYRXYbCpUeOyIT7wG9IWRikKaQVt2-w9ucXRbDGLfIrGOCUIYXX5RKaiQiab2v4g9F4dfWZWeG11B7WNaRY8J02PusMhCrqBmHxsI9JlJSeU5g5Aiggto6evVbrMBn-JTW0lBY5kU=)

**5. Criminal Law**

**5.1. New Time Limits for Criminal Defence Disclosures**

New regulations from the Ministry of Justice have amended the time limits for defence disclosure in criminal cases (an increase to 28 days in Crown Court cases). [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8Wv1g8Jm1XpcqKtsB5BQ0MIpaqyMclRurNy_gDD3LgHIjNTw-bjOKsand17fqXVfdO_ChuX5GZLJkQvV1XqsknFc5wgI3ErjaXOulV_PC50NR1qPhEpSmOQLrFNAf_c5H4FGL0VkILj7nnGe9yLw8K0zIs1MmAI2dVoW6xRn9_JrqK-HjWrDEsLktcwKecaDGeOywqO8z8QsOg==)

**6. Employment**

**6.1. Employees Exploiting Information Acquired During Employment**

The problems that can occur when employees seek to exploit knowledge, information, and opportunities obtained during the course of their employment for their own financial gain are highlighted in a recent case. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WtL55yq6PZv5S13dHeQfp6lo8xEpNupWI8-QOld_1JkIMazC5SXJ79WTslMGIesQmyp_LovNudNCj0rkAWyf1IaxBIdhZUIWiLew2PwIOpNxsUmkv02-gkBQOmKL2I5_WQDVYkHirzAoPWXJ5yDnvNOoVVR2kfnGow=)

**6.2. An Update on Vicarious Liability**

The law on vicarious liability is revisited after a recent case. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WuN8LQPR5CWhhNlc_KFxEKUww3T8ggcCZ2BqJQBvjnNZiHI97SwAs61fgdd2gUlL5W52zmV1r_Gua7WYqn8i_ESuGXab4EWCaWzfcdL76fUcUI5ey6tVHunmvdjqMfSiFfDOeYW_WoskQ7KepHM8-PqQNPHZNhSn2o=)

**7. Family Law**

**7.1. Pre-Nuptial Agreements Are Here to Stay: Who Wins?**

An analysis of the consequences of the widely publicised recent case. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WuH7aHIQVsp87-vT59CCLadZpfVpqjE3SOhsVhEdzm_SJPVMdgjc6lKpI5W207TMWPY60gdSnc6KunEW5LKmFh6-FmedwXjez9JWVeO7KlOSitWuk1nzxi4XhHETZxUdoO8DowaapzEzWYj6TXoOsol3yLtK-38VyNK_wUlq31Ek4OtnwiBMcdt)

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**8. Hong Kong**

**8.1. Arbitration Ordinance**

The new Arbitration Ordinance will come into operation on 1st June. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WugEV0gmdYVlCW-pEg4Zdezw2At9ngm-2IQmdeZE_Wo1N_fun2zZ1CpH1fcTxIJpMWHKzElThcGyWh8ilaVFy6lAyEzcjX9zdslczgN6ZJUZuE3hMboEwjxcEqYwTAQY8pRA7OJPN1KEtzwN4WszqHae7HrHsDJoGL18hwSL9-in9CERbJoFR_j8mJ-eYGtnGw=)

**8.2. e-Registry Launched**

Companies House has launched its e-Registry service - a one-stop location for electronic incorporation and business registration. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WsNlot7pnWbx6pufhfvTe814nxfv-w_sVRF2yYxC4ibeaY5XofGPS45-SuD4oy8EvDv_jCT5XAptBVuwQjX2-hh-prILXAlEG8eq2FwYjaQGFlFzy3GPzuWQrNV4EFAYNAtSwIPgwCoLPNfaoffx5EQZm7wvTKTMPeJfhzpm5Vrf87oNlBXWjhC78gVNpXEsD0=)

**8.3. Matrimonial Proceedings and Property (Amendment) Ordinance 2010**

The Department of Justice has prepared a brief setting out the main features of the Ordinance. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8Wv5QyA843hXNvbffuvvkEe3r53VKLcS830E3dCL5Ao_U8wCs5_nisp1bQxL3Xq7c-FkD1OyN8gzYQ8mLfjn7Q-qM_F2oNnqwofwg0MYubKsP75ArClgX46ipAM1dVEWjJoDH78W39rSAVvkwnXEFcTpMk57k37WK3sTZXhWPl7D5jTWjWs9HN-c)

**9. Institute of Paralegals News**

**9.1. U.K.'s First Open Online Paralegal Forum**

Last month, the Institute opened the UK's first online Paralegal Forum where anyone, whether Institute members or not, can discuss paralegal issues, hear essential news, post vacancies and seek work, ask for advice and assistance, hook up with other paralegals locally and refer work. There are already well over 200 members. Anyone interested can view/join the Forum for free. Free registration at [www.linkedin.com](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8Wtf3efpK6q-EfToj4LE8WG-TzMuvROiJVvp-_grhQ3xSdYwhKHr2iZKNJUIjTV9EHs2H4msc6siFPICxx2kp8naPhCxGRg25pK-ljMBc4PeAA==) is required. Then just type "Paralegal Forum" into the groups search facility.

**9.2. Special Lexis/Nexis Discounts for Institute of Paralegal Members**

The Institute of Paralegals has agreed with Lexis/Nexis that Institute members are entitled to a special discount on any legal LexisNexis periodicals listed on the dedicated Lexis/Nexis web-page. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WuShAw9OTb8YpUiFDmTcf2qs5r6pIzFsRyDN3NjDTaHPnn-Ce9EKeTdMU_N-lBGQuonqYMzpEzUt0IwY8ZYuEezEoromMnTSpvdp_cyWW5mlJ38xnVAkh91DQUL5AQaVFZPtQoq4USCrg==)

**9.3. IOP Presents Paper at Association of Law Teachers Conference**

The Institute presented a joint paper at the Association of Law Teachers' 46th annual conference this month in partnership with the law school at the University of Portsmouth. The theme of the paper was the overwhelming need for undergraduate law degrees to include professional legal training.

**9.4. Mixed Lobbying Results**

The IOP has had mixed lobbying results recently:

- Our approach to Lord Neuberger (head of the civil justice system in England and Wales) about greater recognition of the growing paralegal presence in civil cases was received with warmth and interest.

- Our request to the Law Reform Commission that it undertake a fundamental review of the rights, status, recognition and obligations of paralegals as professional legal practitioners was turned down.

- The reason given was that the Legal Services Act 2007 was such recent legislation that the whole matter was still in the political arena and therefore outside their scope.

- Our three year lobby of the Judicial Appointments Commission to have them reconsider the eligibility of paralegals for junior judicial posts was successful. The JAC now acknowledges that senior paralegals are eligible to apply for judicial positions at first-tier tribunals

- Our request to the Minister at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills that paralegals be added to the list of persons authorised to advise on employee compromise agreements was rejected. The Minister cited an informal review of the list of approved advisers a few years ago which, he claimed, showed no demand for an extension of the list of authorised advisers.

- We lobbied the Legal Services Board Consumer Panel arguing against the regulation of will writers and arguing, in the alternative, that if regulation were to be pursued it be done so with a sufficiently light touch that consumers could continue to access affordable, accessible and user-friendly paralegal advisors.

**9.5. Support and Advice to Institute Members Being Made Redundant**

Any Institute members who have Registered Paralegal, Certified Paralegal or Qualified Paralegal status with the Institute can use the free Samaritans-type advice/support helpline for legal practitioners run by LawCare ([www.lawcare.org.uk](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8Wt8PTnqRymvxzFEjjK7dj4qOoXJougtUivv6vyHHJQ1ZTQdZN9Miap1_FCbz6BRip6jXM2eHv3eBvgY4A23-f9P-OBTERopXEpItTLwM_LMEw==)). However anyone can download and use their advice leaflet on the subject. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WsP08-wQtXQtn2IbNN80IcSs0Y9Qm0mCQMy42wkE44Z-Rzv0ktr1yKtQXeqr7c9RoIYN7o3tqUCC2s0aESS-47DUdF0SzBGrj7W7R4HhwKYto-IeVaVdXS_iCSGH_3uW2kxEe8uURYBnw==)

**9.6. Institute Members Can Access Over 80 Prestigious Clubs Worldwide**

All Institute members are automatically eligible to join the Royal Over Seas Club, with clubhouses in London and Edinburgh. Members are also eligible to join at the significantly reduced corporate membership rates. Upon joining the ROSC, members become immediately eligible to enjoy short term access to over 80 other clubs when travelling overseas. There are reciprocal clubs in Australia, Brunei, Canada, Canary Islands, Channel Islands, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, India, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Philippines, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain and the USA. For more information [click here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WuBEXxWj6tasgskwSkNwwi7tHtss7ctwtzQ-Pd4xKHcopxdZ7Zbm1KUoZCsAH37wHKfM4QP2nFOULeoXq-fTgXK2Aw9hHXOeOhhcNAoBuwAdC0tWbnfZPaEyCBqObN3FUXYnCgYWY99kiJr-Jd2VlCB). The Institute is listed in the [corporate rates section](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WsH69IfYa8xzBQ8-iT1eGuS54GthJopcdiijm53O-x06VcqABtjbTN5pMzLfRmd0uLgNS6RrgnyHXBoWVPKgcdz4mcwqofgneDEQlGm8cTVpueF43l1MZCDxg7ldKBouL3GnHJ3hNZNu55MLKQRqTPPFxxf92-l2sA=).

**9.7. Equality & Human Rights Commission**

The Institute has been singled out for positive mention in the Commission's recent report *"Equally Professional topic report: Diversity monitoring in professional bodies."*

**9.8. New Mortgage Repossession & Debt Recovery Enforcement Courses Launched**

The well-regarded law agency Ashley Taylors has over thirty years experience in representing solicitors' firms and others in County Court hearings. They have put their expertise to good use and through their training arm Ashley Taylors Legal Training are now offering the above two courses online. The Institute of Paralegals has recognised both courses as Mandatory Courses as part of its Route to Qualification career path for professional paralegals. Both courses are Mandatory Courses for Qualified Paralegal status and both lead to a legal qualification from the Institute (LPQ Certificate in Mortgage Repossession Practice and LPQ Certificate in Debt Recovery (Enforcement) Practice). [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WtJPtykN-fSMucerauf0qvg2_Xmg9vzxwt_DuN_6w4c46JIFUk0rtZk5qN-fARqkdPIubNrs6yvlRjKcFXRBRff7nbBoTXyZUu7OY3Ngf_s_V2t2TykC58TXQSkMSmBDoFpjpvo7frY_XKzIDpzVFCi)

**10. Intellectual Property**

**10.1. Employee Inventions: Sharing the Profit**

An employee who made an invention in respect of which his employer secured a patent was entitled to a fair share of the employer's £23m royalties. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WugFxwZkZb6JQ18ORBxJ4JK02dRIhmbocPea4xjLA9v2jdF7Rq81c7B6rfoT-8dYi75RRqZBIMUqp-IFU92TsVgOUHugIfw3A2bWz9tFS7qbBaLxg_ZDNIWQjLus-bS2sP3QUxuqc8q4bKSpEo4iluRvHrYo7tFIiZXw5bAjywOxg==)

**10.2. Trade Marks and the Internet: Invisible Infringements - Banners, Reserved Words and Metatags**

On 3rd March, the Court of Appeal gave judgment in an important case re the use of trade marks on the internet, including in banner advertising, reserved words and metatags. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WsAPeQpTg6SLJsGLfx2gpA6YZvhgUK-I1YLlPZaNnj6rJ5vFJ86II4G0WprG_wrJYIaCMTyYpVs_hzQ4dxBnm117uaZ5s5zwyTRik39wbKXsJsBaL3TC1reWAkH7BseMMOpygU8YXXJI_91WwkK4J5NkZw1UqGFIXUQq3wDMoTE6-W7PEcFPB29ljjwCgIcRroYeprbX0Z5QQ-llLh1-8_6S7QGJmgMv0smoxFJn5b-ysknOB2S98YpslEHJ7XuyiIYWJ9V2lj1xQ==)

**11. Legal Aid**

**11.1. Community Legal Advice Service Changes**

From 6th April, access to Community Legal Advice (CLA) online services will change as the website closes. Information about legal aid and how to access CLA services, including the legal adviser directory and the eligibility calculator will be moving to Directgov (the government website that has information about government services). [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WtfKPcSVctB0xM-CqcsP23yu4x-dwcLXyk40VAPyfsZn8_4RNlsAL5L8AdqMxget32ACzeeXjkA0DgUWYcBvJkNz9xlN0Ik5vWlVeYDu3QkXbD6EBZTa3TNCHmpqO83NbuDqvSP-E2tR84kUhXZstVx31h21eerSpmYRHKKB4gGmxDA_twjPxdTATewlkFj8wij33a_IW21uBDrhIrfbO-9_M0Wirk7V-PXs-akBASFFd6OKN7h56d65R0QGFvRuy8FlP_0z459DNwxJ4m6mWSrwq35yl4_tMOEgzfcngoTYYDdMO2vTdHf)

**12. Legal Education**

**12.1. New Mortgage Repossession & Debt Recovery Enforcement Courses Launched**

The well-regarded law agency Ashley Taylors has over thirty years experience in representing solicitors' firms and others in County Court hearings. They have put their expertise to good use and through their training arm Ashley Taylors Legal Training are now offering the above two courses online. The Institute of Paralegals has recognised both courses as Mandatory Courses as part of its Route to Qualification career path for professional paralegals. Both courses are Mandatory Courses for Qualified Paralegal status and both lead to a legal qualification from the Institute (LPQ Certificate in Mortgage Repossession Practice and LPQ Certificate in Debt Recovery (Enforcement) Practice). [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WtJPtykN-fSMucerauf0qvg2_Xmg9vzxwt_DuN_6w4c46JIFUk0rtZk5qN-fARqkdPIubNrs6yvlRjKcFXRBRff7nbBoTXyZUu7OY3Ngf_s_V2t2TykC58TXQSkMSmBDoFpjpvo7frY_XKzIDpzVFCi)

**13. Litigation**

**13.1. Expert Witness Immunity Removed After 400 Years**

On 30th March the Supreme Court held that there to be no justification for continuing to hold expert witnesses immune from suit in relation to evidence they give in Court or for views they express in anticipation of Court proceedings. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WselMAqLZEbtV94DMPOYv13zJug-tXQsfay3PKJ6ZQzZs2WBBToBI7MUcD9pwEmT_xU3wQD339EZ9yZnbDNlMkV_GPeDoo7RPsg1nyiKPE0eNpkqEQSokgxoXpP9N2m_sYbkhe5WcAu2MJ6oaIq2WOFRKOanPxpozJOmtCc-z28m4bi9DndpOmoc-uGiU0aXTdq-eL2rOoheQ==)

**13.2. Evidence Obtained From Rubbish Bins Not Unlawful**

In Consolidated Contractors International v Masri [2011] EWCA Civ 21, enquiry agents searched through documents discarded as rubbish on the pavement outside the offices of the judgment debtors, made copies of some documents, returning the originals to the bin. The copy documents were adduced as evidence in support of an application for committal for contempt. The judgment debtors argued that the documents had been obtained illegally and should be excluded from evidence. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WugMkzsxgLZfpcyKOwnvdSSoHq0hG_PzMkMWuGLR2OqSJK3YRW8bzB9KQ-aY9LfhhIxlh6COTrNixfhoRzGcKk9ZgQcwYDzpOoaT--Cstw4fzLSH6Jo_TZOPlMPmBRCPi385luW0VokIg_pQeeUoahRLp9fLV9CLqCEuD568TWyIqCoR3lQCOGXhylWCka6Tqs49wlvc-HK1MSj4D9jZN7J--SIuXW8m8jufvU4wJ-v9f_N0BuBP3QorgSfxtH-Y7Y=) (NB report is item # 10).

The Court of Appeal endorsed the judge's conclusion that there was not even a prima facie case of unlawfulness, whether on the basis of theft, trespass or breach of confidentiality. It therefore refused the application for disclosure. The judgment is also of interest regarding the extent to which the source of information in an affidavit or witness statement must be identified. The judgment creditor's solicitor had sworn on affidavit that the enquiry agents had confirmed that they had used these methods previously and that their conduct had not been criticised by the court. The judgment debtors sought an order requiring the solicitor to identify the source of this information by name, based on paragraph 4.2 of practice direction 32 of the Civil Procedure Rules which states that an affidavit must "indicate" the source for any matters based on information or belief. (Note that there is an identical requirement for witness statements at paragraph 18.2 of the same practice direction).

The Court of Appeal interpreted this requirement as meaning that, save in exceptional cases, the deponent must identify the source with sufficient certainty to enable the opponent to investigate the information or belief. The court therefore held that the individual who provided the information must be identified, together with the enquiry agent by which he or she was employed.

**13.3. Transcripts of Judicial Proceedings**

Anew version of the Inner Temple Library's guide to sources of transcripts of judicial proceedings in England & Wales is now available as a 165-page PDF document. This new edition has a greatly expanded coverage of tribunals. The single-use license costs £19.99. Further information and details of how to order the guide can be found by [clicking here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WuFW3zKJn-NINtJsAaOh6sBm8Z7kHUNl8TYd7jZJjBcnS-YwOcK9mGidjC5s-WPDh0Fs4c1do4Bg0NQnPW2tq8REaC05IVZaBZ8dX45akrnanUM7_l_4643O-5dh_0RVpxVgN-VhwL85gbiWFj-VV6JKgJE9I95_tULzzuYV9hLwA==).

**14. Professional Matters**

**14.1. Former Chairman of the Bar Voices Concerns About Paralegals, Costs and Too Many Lawyers**

The Law Society Gazette reports on a speech by Nick Green, QC ex-Chairman of the Bar about burgeoning paralegal ranks and other concerns. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WvYTdOBWzSWkJuB7A0IAP5Gr6IabBf6u-QmXVjFj12HOQZoSQPgtA5VK1A4wQ4KHMq7jS4dqp0bQr9vePaLLDJkYkCbBcLIi31TpABpFw94iKGNnuF_D_XqmIubSQ5722D2PEpjUb8HSSUBgm7IimF95TBcFaGiDJYndUL6WToQ13NpoJfhuD5S)

**14.2. VAT Status of Disbursements in Your Bills to Clients**

The VAT treatment of disbursements listed in your bills to clients is not always clear-cut. The Law Society of England and Wales has produced a useful practice note that you may find helpful. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8Ws9RQYNzWGBPp0wjfwZJCrvfgwyutfW8Qq5AEZyLawLNCXAisX__gHYWARADOrDnBs9VnMWTdhb7cHbsLIYDTihvS9z3mmre0ryTEm0Jr3uoF60tkvk5LqVSRXVkQdpPlZzYxivk6B5lWyUTeWGabVxJGs4WntNoKT99-yhJP-OSMbLeoGSHHcqWtd2euVdX-A=)

**14.3. Rethinking the Legal Profession in the 21st Century - Speech by Lord Justice Carnwath**

Interesting speech by Lord Justice Carnwath, Senior President of Tribunals about rethinking the legal profession in the 21st century and future models for delivering legal services, given at the Commonwealth Law Conference this year. [Read the speech](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8Wtb39Pfyrr4gM2-qDwRbo6pO48KZ7kdCslVzhRPua3ak_7YhNZh_F6uFR5H8BFvw-zk7pPcWGpg43_kho6Uj0L7q0ymov7gCY9rQ3ASy14RaEF9dWiBjwuClcxY5T76eK0YruhSb4cC9OgLqyaZS8W-ztlpuxetEAt-fxMEYM4X3RxDX6Q6QZHfxhakz13FGKQ=).

**14.4. Tribunal Suspends Solicitor Over a 19 Year Delay in Settling an Estate**

The Law Society Gazette reports on a remarkable Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal hearing. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8Wua-niSrSagfB0BIbhFkL1iZJa6Kw8p5UtfnvPb8zCfQPcLuQQEzWWQ5d3PrGpb9Hg3_YfKGsFyF1XuKRtDiC9-4jXxPoXathOwE2TqgdzBfkm_xRyLpcJKZntUzceMwRx6kw9zYQWdOfxuw54_WcElEqv0-gh-snP086Tch92DUla4YQrQzqJV)

**15 Property**

**15.1. Definition of Vacant Possession**

The definition of vacant possession could be due for a shake up as the Court of Appeal is being asked to clarify the law. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8Wt5lcpzpVa8S-RAzJCLBiT6Zu3a1KCLLMfSygQP2dI0vyLKz_b8ueMFil8gwJ2IPmm798ZAx1mdGsGkISKWO47gQM-nY8Lk6OFoXumW2rHjb-2lBe5CLfVREs-yppLVqnp4rUqQL_Hsvl3v7R_ZfGv_4j_nHQZJucWvdnxO6C4YGgDwL-iPamkwyToK7OWphXz4xfn12UmVLA==)

**15.2. Land Registry Guidance on Statements of Truth**

The Land Registry has issued a practice note detailing requirements relating to statements of truth which support applications to the Registry. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WvMErJZeM0q8wFTKboCiv9ByQZtdK7VNwLrECa3Jp1NT9Tcpl8SoGnw8sgdZWOZmm4tIYa9_hS4V-XOVlQu1lzgBsC7HVP0p2sDQ3goGF7M8f-uDSY3xYv05c3KEEkGV-cZHkYBghi8wvk1NZ2vxIXFrjaP_kSD5eBpKqk-AspcMw==)

**16. Paid/Unpaid Public Committee Vacancies**

The Council for Licensed Conveyancers is seeking to appoint the Chair and Deputies to its newly established Adjudication Panel. The Panel has been created to streamline our committees including appeal mechanisms and create one new group that will address most appeal issues. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8Wt5ZJIvn_r2N7pk7Ojr9oL4u43a2Zv8UbfqZadwAOjHeX7Q3_7H_hgmhN3z7awcVjp7cjo8jjvbg_Z-TldhunyCuaIvA7yTMJjsKnevwax9wN9uW1OMo-dsfyCOiDmramVWsBJofp77GAYV49hKPyWt-I9LnP3F9xnP0wCKiK2AVyRJ_KfmR90V)

As above, but in respect of six members of the Adjudication Panel. [Read more >>](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WscfoR_-FIYMQ1aIYox6vwr1Tvhi_reetOYUOvUvp9BGehJT2ssXVBTMrwAgVKvTmpAHfbyKbm51JS8_05Te4OEWSedJBxVb7-CTCDYx3S7CRuPw389qhfqsm4tw6abwubZWaUKsRvZvXxXY7NjP3u7x-Lxd5Pj2HGjdWqEBapaQLxPMLwpCXaM)

**17. Quick Links**

The Paralegal website: [click here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WsGe6tjQcIm4Bv0pCXbf3la_KzcaDGk-gR3Z4wnI2G_Fq8gLLQ7-6H1P7y5iSeftApeF3FD5S0x9VyZLUIdUPgILV7gg0jhBCCdqoQrzlVBSQ==)

The Institute of Paralegals: [click here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WsP3eCqXZfX1ruEuTSWpe8tiUoGiK_KoXnKjJxkkaMrU8Z7nvwxviudpZowlGfMbp6Dch9SO2-9kS5WOYrsSTw1r6Q6fqDW5ek=)

The New Law Journal: [click here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WtUFJED-8TBUmW9qb1Ec49VI64qs0H2xU98GmJsRXwr2LG5H9MbJyDHb4LpaKzkR1w2xhTlK3frrbqjZh_H0aQRBPo5yL0pYpHwXckDwdI9nxxZ5s06mxKQ)

LexisNexis special discounts for Institute members: [click here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WuShAw9OTb8YpUiFDmTcf2qs5r6pIzFsRyDN3NjDTaHPnn-Ce9EKeTdMU_N-lBGQuonqYMzpEzUt0IwY8ZYuEezEoromMnTSpvdp_cyWW5mlJ38xnVAkh91DQUL5AQaVFZPtQoq4USCrg==)

Ashley Taylors Legal Training: [click here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=s7ohqmcab&et=1105325591873&s=5150&e=001qJ1R-Qwv8WtJPtykN-fSMucerauf0qvg2_Xmg9vzxwt_DuN_6w4c46JIFUk0rtZk5qN-fARqkdPIubNrs6yvlRjKcFXRBRff7nbBoTXyZUu7OY3Ngf_s_V2t2TykC58TXQSkMSmBDoFpjpvo7frY_XKzIDpzVFCi)

**18. Contact Information**

Outside the United Kingdom fax: +44 207 904 3750

Articles, news items and comment welcomed. Please contact the Editor at editor @ theParalegal.org *(note breaks in link)*

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