

## Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar

### Alternative business structures and the legal services market - impact one year on and future challenges

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Venue: Wellcome Trust Lecture Hall, Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG



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Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town**, Shadow Cabinet Office and Consumer Affairs Minister
- 9.05 - 9.25 **Alternative business structures one year on**  
*In what ways have alternative business structures (ABSs) impacted on the legal services market so far? What indications are there of their longer-term implications for practitioners, consumers and legal regulation?*  
**Professor Stephen Mayson**, Professor of Strategy and Director, Legal Services Institute, The College of Law  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 - 9.40 **Licensing and enforcement**  
*What appetite has there been for ABSs since the Solicitors' Regulation Authority (SRA) became a licensed regulator in January? In what ways might an outcomes focused approach support the effective regulation of a liberalised market?*  
**Antony Townsend**, Chief Executive, Solicitors Regulation Authority
- 9.40 - 10.25 **Next steps for regulation**  
*What are the key challenges ahead for regulating ABSs that incorporate a variety of professions and services, from both lawyer and non-lawyer sectors? How might regulatory approaches need to vary for ABSs undertaking different functions and specialisms? What can be learnt from the experiences of the Council for Licensed Conveyancers and Solicitors Regulation Authority, particularly as more bodies apply to become ABS licensing authorities?*  
**Anna Bradley**, Chair, Council for Licensed Conveyancers  
**Dr Vanessa Davies**, Director, Bar Standards Board  
**Felicity Banks**, Head of Business Law, ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales)  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Antony Townsend**, Chief Executive, Solicitors Regulation Authority
- 10.25 - 10.55 **Regulatory standards in an evolving legal services market - progress made and challenges ahead**  
**Chris Kenny**, Chief Executive, Legal Services Board  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chairman's closing remarks**  
**Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town**, Shadow Cabinet Office and Consumer Affairs Minister
- 11.00 - 11.30 Coffee
- 11.30 - 11.35 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Lord Phillips of Sudbury**, Consultant, Bates Wells & Braithwaite
- 11.35 - 12.00 **Investing in the UK's legal services market - an international perspective**  
*To what extent has the introduction of alternative business structures, alongside the wider regulatory framework brought about by the Legal Services Act 2007, made the UK an attractive location for legal investment? What can be learnt from other jurisdictions that have previously adopted similar reforms to their legal services market, such as Australia?*  
**Ken Fowlie**, Executive Director, Slater & Gordon, Sydney  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.55 **New business models, external investment and consumer attitudes**  
*What licensing models are proving most successful across the legal services market since the introduction of ABSs? Is market liberalisation acting as the catalyst for innovation envisaged by policymakers, and what areas of legal provision are proving the most receptive to change? What appetite is there for law firms to seek external investment, and what impact has flotation had for those that have sought it? In what ways have consumer attitudes responded to reforms, and what might this say about the future direction of the market?*  
**Paul Munden**, Member, Legal Services Consumer Panel  
**John Pickering**, Group Chief Executive, Irwin Mitchell  
**Judy Lee**, Director of Legal Process Outsourcing, Integreon  
**Jeremy Hand**, Founding Partner, Lyceum Capital  
**Christina Blacklaws**, Director of Family Law, Co-operative Legal Services  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**  
**Lord Phillips of Sudbury**, Consultant, Bates Wells & Braithwaite  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Legal Policy Forum