



The Law Society

Conveyancing Quality Scheme

Appeals Panel Biographies

Alison Gowman

Alison is a partner in the real estate group of DLA Piper UK LLP, London office - specialising in commercial property. She trained at the firm and has been a partner at DLA (or its predecessor firm) since 1985. She has a breadth of experience in property and conveyancing matters specialising in landlord and tenant issues, investment and development as well as property finance. She has a specialist knowledge of green leases and has acted in relation to various waste issues.

Alison has previously been the head of her firm's real estate know-how and precedents and prepared and led the induction for the new Land Registry reforms in 2003 and the introduction of stamp duty land tax. She was also the group training partner for many years during in parallel with a heavy transactional work load. She is a regular contributor of articles and seminars - most recently on the subject of green leases.

Alison was a member of the Law Society's E-conveyancing task force and is a current member of the City of London Law Society Land Law Committee as well as Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Solicitors.

David King

David is a solicitor (non-practising). He was admitted in 1975 and spent the next 18 years in private practice before joining the Law Society in 1993 as an Assessor in the Remuneration Certificates Department. He was the manager of the department between 1994 and 1998 and then became a Senior Advisor in the Clients Relations Office (the predecessor of the Legal Complaints Service) which dealt with complaints about the service provided by solicitors and disputes regarding solicitors' costs under the Remuneration Certificates procedure.

In 2000 David was appointed as an Adjudicator and was responsible for making formal decisions on the outcome of service complaints against solicitors, Remuneration Certificates and conduct and regulatory matters for both the Solicitors' Regulation Authority and the Legal Complaints Service.

Since 2001 David has also been a member of Nominet UK's Panel of Experts which adjudicates website domain name disputes in the co.uk registry under Nominet's Dispute Resolution Service. In 2008 he became a member of Nominet's Expert Review Panel which reviews Experts' first instance decisions before they are published and deals with any appeals against those decisions.

Ian White

Prior to his recent early retirement, Ian was compliance partner at Knights Solicitors LLP in Newcastle-under-Lyme Staffordshire, Cheltenham and Alderley Edge in Cheshire. Spending

24 years at the firm Ian was from 2002 the firm's Managing Partner for a decade and also spent 15 years as Head of the Property department.

Ian was instrumental in Knights being one of 14 firms across the Country who engaged with the SRA in their Relationship Management Pilot during 2011. In 2002 he was elected the first Law Society Council member for Commercial Property representing 18,000 solicitors nationally.

Actively involved in the Property Section since its inception in 2002 Ian remains a member of its Executive committee with particular involvement on the editorial committee for Property in Practice and the planning committee for the annual Conferences. Outside of the profession Ian has been actively involved in education as a Governor of a large comprehensive School for 24 years, of which 10 years as Chairman.

Ian has also held compliance roles in the Methodist Church in various Districts. Ian is past President of the North Staffordshire Law Society and until his retirement was co-coordinator of the Conveyancing Specialist Interest Group for North Staffordshire which is organised in conjunction with Staffordshire University where he is a guest lecturer. Ian has been involved in the discussions on CQS from the outset and is a keen supporter of the accreditation scheme and the benefits it can bring both to individual firms and the wider profession.

Andrew Winfield

Andrew qualified in March 1984 and started his own legal practice in 1988 specialising in residential and commercial property transactions.

In 1992 he was approached to help co-found EMW LLP, a corporate & commercial boutique firm, who are now based in London and Milton Keynes, formerly Northampton. He initially combined his real estate work with practice management which he dropped when the firm grew and his work occupied more and more of his time.

From 1992 to 2010 he was head of the firm's real estate team managing 17 lawyers and six virtual teams.

In 2009 he became an Ambassador for business for Northamptonshire.

In 2010 he concentrated on business development for real estate and a wider role within the firm and took up a post of legal trustee to the MK Theatre & Gallery company.

For four months of 2011 he worked as a full time consultant for Santander working on panel rationalisation and an extranet business banking platform.

He joined Santander in October 2012 to manage its commercial and corporate banking legal team and has the enviable task of managing its relationship with The Law Society.

When he is not engaged in practising law he loves playing golf and climbed Kilimanjaro for charity hitting a golf ball off its summit.