



The Law Society

Building successful legal businesses in the post-Legal Services Act world

Speakers:

Lord Falconer of Thoroton

Alan Hodgart

20 May 2008

8.00 am - 10.00 am



legal
breakfast series

Venue: The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL

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This event is the first in a series of monthly legal breakfasts being held by the Law Society to explore the business of law in the new landscape created by the Legal Services Act.

The event will begin at 8 am with registration and breakfast. After hearing from the speakers there will be an open debate with contributions from delegates. The roundtable format will facilitate professional networking and enable participation.

Speakers

Lord Falconer of Thoroton served as Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, during which time he launched the draft Legal Services Bill and unveiled plans to surrender some of the office's historic powers through the creation of a new Supreme Court and an independent Judicial Appointments Commission.

Charlie Falconer is a Labour Peer. He was called to the Bar in 1974, and entered the House of Lords in 1997. He variously held the positions of Solicitor General, Cabinet Office Minister, Minister for Housing & Planning and Criminal Justice Minister at the Home Office before entering the cabinet in 2003 as Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, the first holder of this new position. He subsequently became the first Secretary of State for Justice in May 2007 before leaving the Government in June 2007.

Alan Hodgart is a leading strategic consultant with extensive experience in the legal and professional services sectors. He has worked with professional services firms of all sizes across Europe and in other international jurisdictions, helping businesses improve and sustain their competitiveness by establishing effective strategic management and leadership processes. He has expert knowledge of competitive trends in all major professional services markets and is the author of the recently published 'Strategies and Practice in Law Firm Mergers'.

Issues

- How will the legal profession take advantage of the new freedoms of the Legal Services Act?
- Will simpler and more effective regulation become a reality?
- How can the competitiveness of our legal sector be sustained and expanded in a global market?
- What development strategies will deliver success for the future legal business?
- How can law firms work with new investors and business partners without losing their identity?

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Who should attend?

- Senior partners, managing partners and practice directors in top 250 law firms
- Banks and potential investors
- Academics
- Parliamentary spokespeople
- Senior Government departmental officials
- Non-lawyer practice managers and senior practitioners in related professions
- Others with an interest in the future development of legal businesses

The Law Society's legal breakfast series

This series of monthly discussion events will bring together business leaders from the legal profession with potential partners, investors and policy-makers with high-profile speakers to debate the construction of a successful and sustainable legal business sector for the 21st century. The events will contribute to an emerging understanding of the public policy and business strategies required for growth in the legal services sector and will inform the Law Society's position as the voice of the profession.

Events will consider the commercial structures, regulatory environment and global economic framework within which legal business will operate and will cover such topics as:

- Collective redress - EU and domestic approaches to class actions
- Thriving in a downturn - future prospects for the legal business in challenging market conditions
- Risk-based regulation - what is the most effective model for assessment and enforcement in the regulation of legal services?
- Leadership in law firms - what are the qualities that will shape the successful legal business of the future?
- Valuing the legal business - exploring models for the valuation of law firms