



The Law Society

Collective Redress: justice for all or free-for-all?

Speakers:

Richard Wiseman, Shell International Ltd
John Wright, Federation of Small Businesses
Philip Cullum, National Consumer Council

30 June 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 second 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.

Speakers

Richard Wiseman is the Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer for Shell, having previously served as Shell's General Counsel for Mergers and Acquisitions and Project Finance. He qualified as a solicitor in England and Wales in 1974 and as a solicitor and barrister in Victoria, Australia in 1985. Richard joined the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies in 1975 and has advised on a succession of high-profile matters, including most recently the unification of the former Dutch and English parent companies as Royal Dutch Shell plc.

John Wright is the National Chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses. He is actively involved in the regional business community as a member of the Northern Business Forum and has been a Director of Tees Valley Business Link. He is a member of the Northern Regional Employment Tribunal panels. John was nominated by his staff for the DTI/Fair Play at Work Award in the Small Business Category. He won this award and was judged the best small business employer in the region.

Philip Cullum is the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the National Consumer Council. He is a member of the Government's Risk and Regulation Advisory Council and is the first chair of the Food Standards Agency's Advisory Committee on Consumer Engagement. His publications include 'The stupid company: how British businesses throw away money by alienating consumers' and 'Better regulation: the consumer contribution'. Before joining the NCC, Philip was Executive Director at Opinion Leader Research. Prior to that he was an Associate Partner at Accenture and has also worked at Which?, where he was Head of Policy.

Issues

- Can small businesses deal with powerful producer interests higher up the value chain, while simultaneously meeting consumers' expectations?
- What regulatory issues affect the ability of large corporations to do business in the current market across a number of jurisdictions?
- Are consumer organisations able to secure effective redress for large numbers of individuals with low-value claims?
- Can there be a single market for consumer redress in the EU or will the passport lottery persist, with a variety of domestic remedies available and forum shopping increasing?
- How will the business of law be changed if third-party funding of class actions becomes an attractive proposition for new investors?
- Has the focus on opt-in or opt-out systems hindered a broad-ranging and inclusive debate on the purpose of collective redress?



Who should attend?

- Senior partners, managing partners, practice directors and heads of litigation and dispute resolution in top 250 law firms
- Banks and potential investors
- Academics
- Parliamentary spokespeople
- General Counsel for FTSE 250 companies
- 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 brings 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 contribute to an emerging understanding of the public policy and business strategies required for growth in the legal services sector and inform the Law Society's position as the voice of the profession.

The events consider the commercial structures, regulatory environment and global economic framework within which legal business will operate. Future topics will include:

- Establishing the new regime - how will the Legal Services Board shape up to the regulatory ambitions of the Legal Services Act?
- 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
- Talent management - attracting, managing and retaining the quality of professionals needed by the successful legal business

After each event, a webcast of the speakers will be available to view at www.lawsociety.org.uk/legalbreakfast. A summary of the proceedings will be sent to participants and will also be available on the website.