



The Law Society

Regulating success: the role of the regulator in the business of law

Speakers:

David Edmonds, Chairman, Legal Services Board
Eddie Ryan, Managing Director, Co-operative Legal Services
David Dickinson, Senior Partner, Simmons & Simmons

25 September 2008
8.00 am - 10.00 am



legal
breakfast series

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

Regulating Success: the role of the regulator in the business of law

Regulating success: the role of the regulator in the business of law

This event is the third in a series of 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 8.00 am with registration and breakfast. After hearing from the speakers there will be an open debate with contributions from delegates.

Speakers

David Edmonds was appointed as the inaugural Chairman of the Legal Services Board in May 2008. After a career in the senior civil service and as Chief Executive of the Housing Corporation, he was for seven years a Managing Director within the NatWest Group. David's regulatory experience includes serving as Director General of Telecommunications and as a founding member of the Board of Ofcom. He was the Chair of the Board of NHS Direct from 2003 to 2008 and was a Commissioner at the Legal Services Commission. He is a non-executive director of a number of PLCs and a Trustee of the Social Market Foundation.

Eddie Ryan joined the Co-operative Group in 2005 to set up The Co-operative Legal Services, of which he is Managing Director. Previously he spent ten years with the RAC as General Manager for Legal Services and then Managing Director for Legal Services. After qualifying as an accountant whilst at Girobank, Eddie joined Private Patients Plan Ltd (Medical Insurance) as Head of Commercial.

David Dickinson is Senior Partner of Simmons & Simmons, responsible for the strategic direction of the firm. As Managing Partner he was involved in the expansion of the firm's international network of offices. David joined Simmons & Simmons in 1988 to set up the Capital Markets practice. Previously he was Director, Legal Services at Union Bank of Switzerland, where he set up the legal services function. David qualified as a solicitor in England and Wales in 1974 and from 1978 was involved in international financial transactions with another City firm.

Issues

- What is the role of the regulator in enabling English law and English lawyers to thrive in a global marketplace?
- How can large firms operating in many jurisdictions be regulated without creating unintended harm to their international competitiveness?
- Can the new regulatory framework meet the need of legal businesses and investors for certainty that they can make money without undue restriction?
- Will the providers of commoditised legal services be served by a regime that ranges from the high street to the magic circle?
- Which model of regulation works best for legal services: one-size-fits-all or principles-based regulation as practiced by the FSA?
- Will innovative legal enterprises developing flexible new business models be viewed as embodiments of the spirit of the Legal Services Act by the LSB?



Who should attend?

- Senior partners, managing partners and practice directors in top 200 law firms
- Banks and potential investors
- Academics
- Parliamentary spokespeople
- General Counsel for FTSE 100 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:

- 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 also be available on the website.