



The Law Society

Council Bulletin, AGM and SGM

16-17 July 2008

Rule-making powers delegated to Solicitors Regulation Authority

The Law Society Council formally delegated its rule making powers to the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). This is the final step to separate the representation and regulation of solicitors. It allows the Law Society to further focus on representing and supporting solicitors in a changing and highly challenging legal market place.

PC fee for 2008-09 confirmed

The practising certificate fee to be collected in Autumn 2008 will be £995. The Compensation Fund contribution for the same year had already been set at £150.

Special General Meeting

Those members of the Society present at the SGM on 17 July support the Council's recommendation that amendments be made to the Society's Charter and General regulations to enable the Society to continue with its corporate membership structure following the repeal of the Solicitors Act 1974. Further proposals to allow the Council flexibility to create other non-membership categories of association with the Society were also supported. That flexibility is to allow the Council to develop support for new types of legal businesses that will emerge as a result of the Legal Services Act. A request for a postal ballot of the entire profession on those Charter and regulation changes was supported by 20 members as required by the Society's bye-laws. Accordingly, there will be a postal ballot in the Autumn.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM on 17 July received the Society's Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31 december 2007.

Also at the meeting, property lawyer Paul Marsh took as Law Society president. He undertook to continue the reform of the Society so that it provides services that solicitors want: helping them develop their practices and careers; representing them effectively to government and the regulator; and promoting the solicitor brand to the public. The incoming President's plan for his year in office had been considered by the Council of the law Society on 16 July.

Bob Heslett became Vice President and Linda Lee became Deputy Vice President.