

Dear Member

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2011

Your membership subscription for 2011 is due on 1 January 2011. I would be grateful if you would complete the attached form and return it with payment, or payment details.

I have pleasure in enclosing your 2011 membership card. Thank you for your support during the past year. I hope that in turn, we are providing the support you need in your studies, and in your career.

You can assist the Institute in its commitment to improve its services for you, by paying by direct debit. This option enables members to make either a single payment or spread the cost over four quarterly payments. I would encourage you to consider this option.

Fellows, Graduate Members and Associates, please make sure that you have completed your CPD hours for 2010. Through the 'MyILEX' web site you can record your 2010 CPD activities. You must inform us by year end of those activities, and the MyILEX on-line facility will aid you to do this simply and easily.

Those members intending to enter for the ILEX examinations in 2011 must ensure that their 2011 subscriptions have been paid. It would greatly assist us if your subscription is submitted now, in advance of the examination entry.

From next year, ILEX as an Approved Regulator under the Legal Services Act will be obliged to explain to Fellows how the Practising Certificate fee has been arrived at. The Council of ILEX has decided that all members are entitled to that explanation, in relation to their own subscriptions, and have asked that I set this out in a letter to you commencing this year.

At their meeting in May, the Council agreed that the £50.00 subscription for students i.e. (those with no previous qualification or experience in law) should remain at £50.00 per annum; Affiliate, Associate and Graduate Member fees should be increased by 10% and Fellows subscriptions by 13%.

The Institute is in the middle of an unprecedented period of change and growth. The introduction of the Legal Services Board under the Legal Services Act 2007, and the status of ILEX as an Approved Regulator under that Act, has brought in a whole new set of costs that ILEX must meet. The budget for 2011 makes provision of over £475,000.00 for fees which will to be paid to the Legal Services Board (towards implementation costs and running costs to the Office of Legal Complaints (implementation costs); and the Office of Immigration Services Commissioner). Additionally, provision of over £165,000.00 has been made to enable ILEX and IPS to advance work on additional practice rights in probate, civil and family litigation, immigration, criminal litigation, conveyancing, and to enable IPS and ILEX to become a Licensing Authority for regulating legal businesses under the Legal Services Act. These are all developments that research highlights as important to you.

We are budgeting for 'nil growth' in terms of overall numbers of members. Income from advertising through the Journal, and from investments, has been difficult to generate for the last two or three years, and we do not anticipate an improvement in 2011. Staff costs have been tightly controlled; there was no staff pay rise in 2009, although there is provision for minor rises in 2010 and 2011.

Council took the view that the new regulatory regime is of greatest direct benefit to Fellows, hence the distinction between the percentages rises for Fellows and those for other grades of members.

We are all mindful of the increasingly difficult economic situation, and remain gravely concerned at how cuts to legal aid and changes to legal services delivery may be affecting you. Should you decide it is opportune, or necessary, to move from your current specialist field of practice, please remember that you can at any time study for Level 6 Law and Practice papers in a new specialism of your choice.

Please also remember that we have a charitable fund, The ILEX Benevolent Fund. The Fund exists to provide help to members when life throws up unexpected financial problems. The Fund is not large, but if any member is having difficulty meeting their financial commitments/supporting their families due to sudden loss of income, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Trustees here at Kempston Manor.

For those of you in more secure employment, could I encourage you to add a donation to the Benevolent Fund when paying your subscriptions. The Benevolent Fund is not large, and your donations will help to support your professional colleagues who need your help.

One more thing. Do, please, look on the item on page 15 of the July Journal. This is about your new responsibility to tell clients about the new Legal Ombudsman. Have a look on the ILEX web site for more information.

ILEX is here to help you. Do not hesitate to get in touch with me, the staff here at ILEX and your Council members if you think there may be any way in which we can help support you better in your careers. I wish you a very successful year in 2011.

Yours sincerely



MRS. D. BURLEIGH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Encl.