

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LSB ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBERS OF THE OFFICE FOR LEGAL COMPLAINTS

The Legal Services Board (LSB) is today announcing two new members of the Office for Legal Complaints (OLC). The OLC is responsible for overseeing and administering the independent Legal Ombudsman scheme.

The two new lay members are:

Karen Silcock

A Chartered Accountant, Karen is currently an independent consultant. Her portfolio career also includes non executive director work with one of the regional Wildlife Trusts and recently advisory work with The High Street Fund. Karen was a partner at Deloitte LLP from 1993 to 2010, and her public policy roles have included Chair of the Federation of European Accountants Money Laundering Working Party, ICAEW money laundering chair (Karen was also an elected member of the ICAEW council from 2007 to 2009) and government appointed accountancy representative on the SOCA SARs Regime Committee.

Maureen Vevers

Maureen has been an independent IT consultant since 2002, where her roles have included work with the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Institute of Cancer Research, Natural England and several charities. Prior to this, Maureen was Group IT director for Powergen Plc.

LSB Chairman David Edmonds said:

"I am delighted with the appointments of Karen and Maureen and have every confidence that they will add significant value in terms of the finance and IT experience to the OLC as it moves from start up phase to business as usual"

Elizabeth France, OLC Chair, said:

“From a strong field of candidates we have two excellent new members whose skills complement those of the existing team. I am looking forward to working with them to build on our achievements to date”

The new members have both been appointed from 1 February 2012 to 31 March 2015.

For more information please contact Craig Jones, Media and Public Affairs Manager, on craig.jones@legalservicesboard.org.uk or by calling 020 7271 0068 / 07702 428210.

Notes for editors:

1. The OLC is independent from government and the legal profession. It is a public body sponsored by the Ministry of Justice. The chair and other board members are responsible for the Legal Ombudsman, including appointing the Chief Ombudsman and for oversight of the scheme that deals with all consumer complaints about legal services.
2. Schedule 15 of the Legal Services Act requires the LSB to appoint the members of the OLC, which must have a majority of lay members.
3. The OLC is required to have at least six members. These appointments bring the OLC to eight in total.
4. The other members of the OLC are: Elizabeth France (Chair), Margaret Doyle (Lay), Mary Seneviratne, Rosemary Carter, Tony Foster (Lay), David Thomas.
5. The Legal Services Act (“The Act”) created the Legal Services Board as a new regulator with responsibility for overseeing the regulation of legal services in England and Wales. The new regulatory regime became active on 1 January 2010.
6. The LSB oversees eight approved regulators, which in turn regulate individual lawyers. The approved regulators, designated under Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the 2007 Act, are the Law Society, the Bar Council, the Master of the Faculties, the Institute of Legal Executives, the Council for Licensed Conveyancers, the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys, the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys and the Association of Costs Lawyers.
7. In addition, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants are listed as approved regulators in relation only to reserved probate activities.
8. The legal profession currently consists of 15,309 barristers, 119,641 solicitors and 12,145 individuals operating in other aspects of the legal profession such as conveyancing. The sector is currently valued at £25.49 billion per annum (total turnover in 2010).