

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING: DEBATING THE ISSUES**

### **LSB SEMINAR SERIES TO LAUNCH AT THE COLLEGE OF LAW**

A series of seminars to add to the debate about education and training for the legal workforce is announced today by the Legal Services Board (LSB). The series will comprise five events in England and Wales between February and May and will bring together individuals and groups to debate how the education and training framework needs to adapt to reflect the changing legal services market.

The seminars will feed into the review of legal education and training being led by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA), the Bar Standards Board (BSB) and ILEX Professional Standards (IPS). That review is planned to be the most substantial since the 1971 Ormrod Report. The aim is to produce recommendations capable of reforming education and training and to equip current and future practitioners with the skills they need as the market continues to evolve.

The first event, entitled *The Removal of Barriers*, will be held in partnership with the Legal Services Institute at The College of Law. Delegates will discuss the impact of removing barriers between the education and training of different parts of the legal profession, and also between lawyers and other professional services providers. This is especially important as the first Alternative Business Structures (ABS) begin to operate.

Debate at the first event will be led by a panel including LSB Chairman David Edmonds; Professor Stephen Mayson, Director of the Legal Services Institute; Rosemary Evans,

Legal Education Consultant; and Stephen Denyer, Global Markets Partner at Allen & Overy.

The series will continue with the following events:

- 15 March, in partnership with Westminster University, *Demonstrating competence, identifying incompetence*
- 29 March, in partnership with BPP Law School (Leeds), *Pupillage and training contracts – a means to an end or an end to the means*
- 18 April, in partnership with Warwick University, *Activity-based authorisation – turning process measures in to outcomes*
- 10 May, in partnership with Cardiff Law School, *The impact of changes in Welsh jurisdiction*

**Chairman of the Legal Services Board David Edmonds**, said:

*My Board is committed to regulation that makes the market work better for consumers, a major part of which is the education and training framework. New ways of doing business, changed technology, as well as heightened expectations from consumers have all meant that the world has moved on, but the education and training framework may not have done. To stimulate further discussion and to provide evidence to the review, I am delighted to launch this seminar series.*

**Director of the Legal Services Institute Professor Stephen Mayson**, said:

*A liberalised market for legal services cannot work effectively without people who are appropriately trained. It's time, therefore, to move from a system that has concentrated on the legal competence of qualified lawyers practising in England and Wales. We need to look at a broader range of people - many of whom will not need to be fully qualified lawyers - and in a broader range of professional, ethical, business, and service competencies. We also need to ensure that this training and its regulation enhances rather than inhibits the status and attractiveness of English law and lawyers in the global marketplace. I'm delighted that we are able to help the Legal Services Board launch this vital and timely debate about the future of education and training in the legal services market.*

For more information please contact **Craig Jones, Media and Public Affairs Manager** on [craig.jones@legalservicesboard.org.uk](mailto:craig.jones@legalservicesboard.org.uk) or by calling 020 7271 0068 or 07702 428210.

## Notes to editors

1. The LSB is publishing a paper in advance of the event, entitled *Education and Training: Its Role in Regulation?* which is available at [http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/Projects/workforce\\_development/index.htm](http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/Projects/workforce_development/index.htm)

The College of Law has also published a paper to inform the discussion, entitled *Reforming Legal Education*, which is available at [http://www.legalservicesinstitute.org.uk/LSI/Reforming\\_Legal\\_Education/](http://www.legalservicesinstitute.org.uk/LSI/Reforming_Legal_Education/).

2. The website of the joint review of education and training, led by the SRA, BSB and IPS, is accessible at <http://letr.org.uk/>
3. The event on the 29 February is necessarily invitation only, but places are available at the subsequent four events. To reserve a place please email [LSBevents@legalservicesboard.org.uk](mailto:LSBevents@legalservicesboard.org.uk) It is also possible to email questions for the panellists at each of the events to the same address. Summaries of the speakers' remarks and the subsequent discussion will be published following each event.
4. The Ormrod report [Report of the Committee on Legal Education, Cmnd 4595] was the last major review into education and training, and was published in 1971.
5. The Legal Services Act ("The Act") provided for the creation of the Legal Services Board as the oversight regulator for legal services in England and Wales. The new regulatory regime enacted by the Act became fully active on 1 January 2010.
6. The LSB oversees eight "Approved Regulators", which in turn regulate individual lawyers and organisations. The eight 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 Law Costs Draftsmen.
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. Section 1 of the Act defines eight Regulatory Objectives shared by the LSB and the Approved Regulators. The sixth of these directly concerns education and training of the legal workforce. The full range of Regulatory Objectives is:
  - Protecting and promoting the public interest
  - Supporting the constitutional principle of the rule of law
  - Improving access to justice

- Protecting and promoting the interests of consumers of legal services
- Promoting competition in the delivery of legal services
- Encouraging an independent, strong, diverse and effective legal profession
- Increasing public understanding of the citizens' legal rights and duties
- Promoting and maintaining adherence to the professional principles

9. 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).

10. The 2011-12 LSB business plan can be found at:

[http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/news\\_publications/publications/pdf/lsb\\_business\\_plan\\_11\\_web\\_final.pdf](http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/news_publications/publications/pdf/lsb_business_plan_11_web_final.pdf)

The draft 2012-13 LSB business plan, currently being consulted upon, can be found at:

[http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/consultations/open/pdf/20111215\\_plan\\_for%20consultation\\_final.pdf](http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/what_we_do/consultations/open/pdf/20111215_plan_for%20consultation_final.pdf)