

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Major new LSB publication sets out top commentators' vision for legal services

Conference brings together leading academics to discuss future shape of sector

Today the Legal Services Board (LSB) launched the results of a research project examining the views of leading commentators on the future shape of the legal services sector.

The publication [*The Future for Legal Services*](#), which was launched at a research conference held in Central London, brings together emerging thinking from 14 commentators, including academics such as Julia Black, Stephen Mayson and Professor Pascoe Pleasence, as well as leading industry figures such as Tony Williams from Jomati Consultants LLP and Lucy Scott-Moncrieff from Scott-Moncrieff Harbour & Sinclair.

The collection of essays, which was launched by LSB Chief Executive Chris Kenny at the research conference, represents a major strand of the Board's early research output. Key policy areas covered in the publication, which also featured in presentations by authors during the morning conference, include ABS, the impact of outcome-focused regulation, changing business models and workforce development needed to reflect the changing market.

Setting out next steps in the Board's work to both generate and facilitate new evidence, the Chief Executive also launched the Board's Research Strategy during the conference.

Chief Executive of the Legal Services Board, Chris Kenny, said:

“The LSB has made a commitment to evidence-based policy, and this applies not only to our regulatory decisions but also to the role we play in identifying long-term, strategic challenges facing the sector – as well as their solutions. This new publication will play a major role in forming a clearer view of what the future holds for legal services providers. I am delighted we have created a platform for these distinguished commentators to contribute to our understanding of that future”.

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

Notes for editors:

1. The Future of Legal Services conference took place on Monday 14 June 2010 at The Clore Management Centre, Birbeck College, Malet Street, Bloomsbury, London, WC1E 7HX.
2. The publication, entitled *The Future of Legal Services* will be published on www.legalservicesboard.org.uk on Monday 14 June 2010.
3. The Legal Services Act ('The Act') provides 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.
4. The legal profession currently consists of some 16,455 barristers, 112,246 solicitors and 12,200 individuals authorised to operate in other aspects of the legal profession such as conveyancing. The sector has been valued at £25.97 billion per annum. In total the legal sector employed 323,000 individuals in 2008. [ONS]
5. Section one of the Act defines the following regulatory objectives that guide the work of the Legal Services Board and its partners the Approved Regulators:

- 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 provision of legal services;
- Encouraging an independent, strong, diverse and effective legal profession;
- Increasing public understanding of the citizen's legal rights and duties;
- Promoting and maintaining adherence to the professional principles;

6. The 2009/10 LSB business plan can be found at:

http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/news_publications/publications/pdf/final_annual_plan_2010.pdf

7. 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. 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: