

REVIEW OF TRAINING FOR LAWYERS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

David Edmonds, the Chairman of the Legal Services Board (LSB), the oversight regulator for legal services, will announce on Friday – as part of the annual Lord Upjohn lecture - the LSB's support for a fundamental review to be carried out jointly by the major Approved Regulators of legal services, into the education and training of lawyers in England and Wales.

He will say that the LSB would be working with the Solicitors Regulatory Authority (SRA), the Bar Standards Board (BSB), and ILEX Professional Standards (IPS) in a major review which would assess current arrangements against the skills and competencies needed for the workforce of the future, the ability to increase workforce diversity, and the degree to which continual professional development is ensuring lawyers are capable of adapting to changed practices. It would look at the major challenges facing educators, regulators and the profession in reflecting current practice, as well as analysis of the impact of market changes expected over the next decade.

The Review will be the most penetrating enquiry into the training needs of lawyers since the Ormrod Review in 1971.

The Chairman's speech sets out the key questions for the review - which have been agreed with the Approved Regulators - and also makes clear the LSB's expectations that the review should be broad in its scope, practical in its recommendations and informed by experience in other sectors and from beyond the UK.

LSB Chairman David Edmonds said:

The hypothesis to be tested is that the traditional models for training lawyers in England and Wales have become outdated. There are major changes happening in the legal services market place. Is training as presently organised producing lawyers equipped to work in this new world? What will the public will expect of the lawyer of 2020? What will employers be looking for? How should the very high ethical standards we expect of the legal profession be inculcated and reinforced through the training process? The Legal Services Board has a statutory objective –

shared with the Approved Regulators – to encourage an independent, strong, diverse and effective legal profession. We are therefore delighted to be working with the SRA, the BSB and ILEX on this major initiative, which we are confident will produce practical and speedy conclusions on the shape of the legal workforce of the future.”

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

A copy of the lecture will be released under the same embargo on Friday afternoon.

Notes for editors:

1. The Lord Upjohn 2010 lecture will be delivered by Legal Services Chairman David Edmonds at Inner Temple, London on Friday 19th November, beginning at 1830. To book a place at the event please email Chris Maguire at ChrisMaguire@bpp.com.
2. The Legal Services Act 2007 provides for the creation of the Legal Services Board as the oversight regulator for legal services in England and Wales.
3. 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 Agents, the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys and the Association of Law Costs Draftsmen.
4. The Lord Upjohn lecture is organised by the UK Association of Law Teachers (ALT). The ALT is comprised of law teachers from both higher and further education, and for over 40 years has played a role at the heart of legal education. Its focus is the development and dissemination of best practice in the education of students, in the study and practice of law and in issues arising in the wider environment of legal practice.
5. The Joint Review of the education and training of lawyers will be led by three of the frontline regulators in the legal services sector: the Solicitors Regulatory Authority (SRA), the Bar Standards Board (BSB) and ILEX Professional Standards (IPS).
6. The 2010-11 LSB business plan can be found at:
http://www.legalservicesboard.org.uk/news_publications/publications/index.htm