

Monday 20 January 2014

## **LSB welcomes the result of the QASA judicial review**

The High Court ruled today in favour of the Legal Services Board (LSB) in the matter of the Quality Assurance Scheme for Advocates (QASA) Judicial Review.

The ruling supports the LSB's decision to approve the joint scheme to assure the quality of criminal advocacy put forward by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA), Bar Standards Board (BSB), and ILEX Professional Standards (IPS) via the Joint Advocacy Group.

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

*"The High Court's judgement has vindicated the integrity of the LSB's process and the detailed work put in beforehand by the BSB, SRA and IPS.*

*Over five years, the LSB has sought to raise standards. Those who need access to justice have a right to expect that regulators and advocates alike, acting in the public rather than self-interest, will constantly seek to assess and improve the quality of legal services.*

*Let us now see that put into practice, as implementation proceeds in the measured way set out by JAG, allowing for its continued development and evaluation in the light of practical experience and the helpful guidance offered by the Court."*

ENDS

## Notes for editors:

1. The Joint Action Group (JAG) announced the agreement of a way forward for the joint scheme to assure the quality of criminal advocacy on 14 December 2012. More information can be found on the websites of the [SRA](#), [BSB](#) and [IPS](#).
2. The Legal Services Board (LSB) approved this agreement at its meeting on 24 July 2012.
3. The Legal Services Act 2007 created the LSB 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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).