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## Members Information

All of The Academy's information is available for Members from the Member Resources page of the website.

This includes:

- Guidance
- Publications
- Reports
- Member's Handbook
- Model Terms of Engagement

This and past editions of 'update' are available from:  
[www.academyofexperts.org](http://www.academyofexperts.org)

Further information about anything contained in this publication may be obtained from The Academy of Experts

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## From the Chairman

As I write this, in May, the Spring weather seems, at last, to have turned a corner. It has been a little while since the last 'update', but there seems to have been a lot going on, or at least a lot planned for the future.

### Seminars

The 25th Anniversary series of lectures is well under way. Mr Justice Akenhead regaled us with his topic on "What the Court Expects from Experts", a very useful reminder of the key attributes of having the relevant expertise, maintaining independence and impartiality, getting the basics right and having the willingness to concede, when appropriate.

This was followed up swiftly by Sir Peter Cresswell, an old friend of The Academy, with his topic on the "Contribution of Experts to Dispute Resolution"; Sir Peter deftly provided a whistle-stop tour of so many important topics such as the Ikarian Reefer, the recent Jackson report, Case Management Conferences and key issues in relation to arbitration, mediation, adjudication, DABs and Expert Determination. Other presentations are in the pipeline, with the next one planned for July.

Other evening seminars have included Philip Newman QDR on "Disciplinary Action: How to avoid complaints", and (by the time of publication) we will have heard from Jo Delahunty QC on the "Use and Abuse of Experts in the Family Courts".

We are always hugely grateful to our presenters who volunteer their time and we encourage our members to take full advantage of attending the free lectures from those at the top of their game.

### Changes to CPR

You will all no doubt be aware of the recent important changes to CPR/FPR. There have been several advertising emails to the membership of the salient points, which I hope have been helpful; I strongly encourage you all to bring yourselves up to date, particularly on issues relating to the control of costs and concurrent evidence, by visiting the Ministry of Justice website. In addition, The Academy, through ARACS, held a course



specifically to cover these matters on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

### New Courses

You will recall that we have a very good relationship with the Society of Construction Law (SCL) and progress is being made with the SCL's review of the use of experts, headed by Her Hon Judge Frances Kirkham CBE; I will provide further details on the findings in due course.

In the meantime, a new initiative, in conjunction with the SCL, is to provide a Masterclass on Cross Examination. The first opportunity for this 3-hour session, focussed on experienced experts, was on 22 May 2013

*continued inside...*



*from the archive...* TAE President Lord Saville at the 'ADR Lecture' - one of the 21st Anniversary Lecture series

## From the Chairman continued

...continued from page 1

and included an interactive session with Counsel. It was completely sold out which bodes well for repeat sessions.

### Transforming Legal Aid

Many of our membership will not be aware that there are a number of consultations circulated for comment, which have an effect on experts in general and to which The Academy responds.

Presently, the Ministry of Justice has a paper out entitled "Transforming Legal Aid – delivering a more credible and efficient system", aimed at providers of publicly funded legal services. There is a proposal to cut expert fees by 20%. There will be members who take on legal aid work, and I encourage all members to consider the paper closely and quickly, as time for response is not long and a response is required by 4 June 2013.

Please could all interested members who wish to comment inform the Chief Executive of your comments as soon as possible to enable a proper response to be made. The paper is available on

**Quote of the Month:**  
*"An expert is a man who has made all the mistakes which can be made, in a narrow field."*  
**Niels Bohr, Danish Physicist, 1885 - 1962**

the Ministry of Justice website at [www.justice.gov.uk](http://www.justice.gov.uk) and the principle pages are Pages 97 – 99 and 139 – 142.

### ARACS visit to Hong Kong

My final point this month is expressing my continuing thanks to ARACS. You will all be aware of the regular and very successful courses that ARACS runs on The Academy's behalf. ARACS has, for a number of years, also run a training programme in Hong Kong which is very well received and makes a very significant contribution to our growing membership.

During their regular visits, Michael and Nicola Cohen continue to keep The Academy firmly in the public eye

and they have recently met with the Secretary of Justice, the Deputy Solicitor General, the Secretary to the Law Commission and other members of the Hong Kong Judiciary, amongst other leaders in the construction field. I am quite sure that their efforts provide not only a great service to The Academy as well as keeping interested parties abreast of the services which we provide.

As I close, I wish you all a good (albeit late...) spring and early summer. Keep busy and keep up to date with developments.

**Richard Swan**  
Chairman  
May 2013

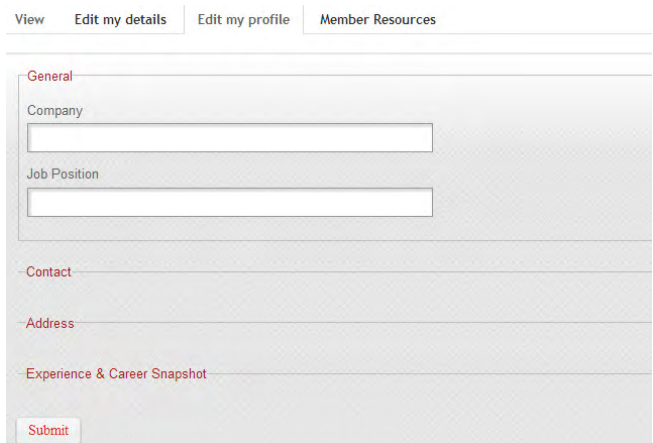
## Check your membership details online - are they accurate

Hundreds of members have already logged into the new website to check and update their contact and professional information as well as adding to and rewriting their Expert and Mediator snapshots.

If you have not already done so (and most members haven't) why not log on to the website and check that all your information is correct - remember that this is the data that we use to contact you and that solicitors will use when trying to get in touch.

To access your record simply go to the website and click on 'MEMBERS' at the top of the page. If you do not have your username (your membership number) or your password just send the office an email.

As well as editing your profile you will also gain access to a host of 'member only' information in the 'Member Resources' section.



# TAE ExpertSearch

**Are you online yet?**

**Bronze £60**

**Silver £90**

**Gold £150**

## 25th Anniversary Lectures

### More Lectures announced

After the success of the lectures given by Mr Justice Akenhead and Sir Peter Cresswell we can now announce further information about the lectures in the series commemorating TAE's 25th Anniversary.

We are delighted to have added two more sponsors which are:

- GBRW Consulting
- Kennedys Law LLP

The next lecture will be the **Medico-Legal Lecture** sponsored by **39 Essex Street** and taking place on 3rd July. Details are currently being finalised and we will be publishing full details of this lecture and dates of the other lectures shortly

### Applying to attend

Please do remember when requesting a place at the lectures that places are limited. When allocating places precedence is given to those who have not already attended one of the series so if you have already attended a lecture you should expect to be placed onto a waiting list in the first instance.

It is always helpful to us if you can indicate if you would be able to accept a late place when applying for a place.



Mr Justice Akenhead - speaker at the first of the 25th Anniversary Lectures



## Experts in the Family Courts

On 16 May 2013, the Ministry of Justice published a consultation paper seeking views on proposals to introduce minimum standards for expert witnesses.

The consultation paper, seeks views on the following issues:

- the expert's area of competence and its relevance to the particular case;
- maintaining expertise through Continuing Professional Development activities;
- statutory registration or membership of an appropriate professional body;
- applying the standards to overseas experts;
- compliance with the Family Procedure Rules and Practice Directions;

- seeking feedback from solicitors and the courts; and
- good practice in relation to fees in publicly funded cases.

### TAE Response

The consultation will run until 18 July 2013. TAE will, of course, be preparing a substantive response to what may be a game-changing proposal by the MoJ. Members are invited to respond to the Consultation directly as well sending your thoughts to TAE to help us in formulating our response.

If you would like to take part in the writing of our paper please contact the Chief Executive, Nicola Cohen by email to - admin@academy-experts.org

[consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/expert-witnesses](http://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/expert-witnesses)

# DIARY, NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Joint Evening Meeting

Tuesday 25th June, Belfast

TAE & the Northern Ireland Chapter of the CI Arb Irish Branch will be running a joint meeting entitled 'Problems facing the Expert'.



There will be a panel of Expert & Lawyers who will discuss difficult areas for Experts and any problems which members attending would like to raise.

## All Change at the Ministry ... again

In keeping with government policy the Ministry of Justice website has now been moved to the .GOV.UK website. Apparently rather than a dedicated www.justice.gov.uk the new website:



*makes it simpler, clearer and faster to find out:*

*how the government works*

*what the government is doing*

*how you can get involved*

Resources such as the Civil Procedure Rules are still to be found under the old url's and we are not, at present, aware of an intention to move them.

We will, of course, keep you informed as and when there are further ministry website changes.

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice)

[www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules](http://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules)

## Your Academy needs you

The Annual General Meeting will be taking place in October. Whilst this is still a little way off, if you are thinking of becoming more involved in TAE this is the time to be considering standing for Council.



Whether you have been a member for twenty years and want to 'give a little back' or have only recently become a Full Member and want to help please contact the office for more information.

## Legal Aid Survey

There is still time, if you have not already done so, to complete our short survey on the Legal Aid consultation paper.

There are only six questions so it should take no more than a minute or so to complete and every additional survey completed adds extra weight to our response. Use the link below or the QR-Code opposite to access the survey.



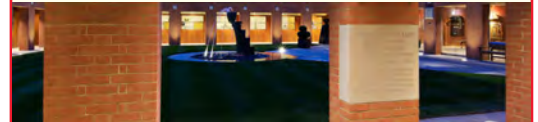
<http://goo.gl/DULJ9>

## President's Dinner Haberdashers' Hall

Wednesday 6th November 2013

The Academy's most formal function of the year - The President's Dinner - will be taking place on 6th November at a new venue this year - Haberdashers' Hall.

The early-bird rate of £89.50+vat is valid until 16th September and places are already selling fast so book early to secure your place.



May		
Wednesday	1	➤ Mediation Training - Module 5
Thursday	2	➤ CMC Conference
Monday	6	Bank Holiday
Wednesday	8	➤ Evening Meeting
Thursday - Friday	16-17	➤ Law & Procedure Course
Wednesday	22	➤ TAE/SCL Masterclass
Friday	24	Gray's Inn Hall closes for Lunch
Monday	27	Bank Holiday
June		
Monday	3	Gray's Inn Hall opens for Lunch
Wednesday	12	➤ Council Meeting
Wednesday	12	➤ Evening Meeting
Tuesday - Wednesday	18-19	➤ Foundation Course (2 Days)
Tuesday	25	➤ TAE/CI Arb Evening Meeting - <b>Belfast</b>
Thursday	27	➤ TAE/ICAEW Training Going into the Witness Box
July		
Tuesday	2	➤ Into Court
Wednesday	3	➤ 25th Anniversary Lecture
Friday	26	➤ Gray's Inn Garden Party
Wednesday	31	ED Assessment Application Deadline
August		
Thursday	1	Gray's Inn Hall closes for Lunch

Unless otherwise shown all courses/meetings will be held in London  
TAE dates are published in the **Events Calendar** - [www.academyofexperts.org](http://www.academyofexperts.org)

Key to events:  
 ➤ Academy Courses  
 ➤ Academy Events & Meetings  
 ➤ External/Joint/Supported Events