# THE ACADEMY EXPERTS

Volume 23 - Issue 4

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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
☐ Model Terms
of Engagement

#### This and past editions of 'update' are available from: www.academyofexperts.org

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

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# 'update'

## Chairman's Annual Report

#### A busy year

It has been a successful and busy year for the Academy.

The year saw the introduction of the 76th edition of the Civil Procedure Rules, which had some impact on the way that experts carry out their important duties in the dispute resolution arena. As we have come to expect, the changes did not make our task any easier! Fortunately, TAE was able to react quickly and provide advice and guidance to our members about how not to fall foul of the changed rules.

This year's President's Dinner, held at the Butchers Hall was another notable success. Those present enjoyed not only an exceptional meal, but also the award of honours to some of our long-time supporters in the legal world. The Chairman's Lunch, held again at the RAF Club was also a great success. It was preceded by Michael Cohen's annual version of 'TW3' (how many of us are old enough to remember that programme?) in which he summed up recent cases with an impact on expert work with his usual mixture of wit and wisdom.

Throughout the year we have had a variety of evening meetings featuring eminent speakers on various topics ranging from Privilege to Data



Protection. All were very important topics for the practicing expert and all accompanied by a great opportunity to network with other experts and share experiences and war-stories. For one such meeting we ventured outside of London to Leeds and had a very successful meeting which was attended by the Right Honourable Lord Justice Sir Rupert Jackson, who happened to be in Leeds and thought he would drop in. We have also had a successful visit to Northern Ireland this year in addition to our continued activity in Hong Kong.

#### **Looking forward**

While TAE continues to be a strong organisation and the predominant society in our field, we must never lose sight of the fact that, in order to flourish, we must constantly look at ways to promote our activities and to promote the benefits of membership to aspiring experts and mediators. We have done that this year through the President's membership initiative and through our programme of reaching out to contact organisations such as professional bodies who have an interest in expert issues. Our joint activity with the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators has been a good example of this

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#### From the Chairman continued

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cooperative approach. Such relationships are slow to build and work continues on a number of fronts. The task of recruiting new members remains a high-priority one for TAE and so we can expect to see further initiatives in the coming year.

Training is becoming an even more important issue for experts. The changes to CPR, various arbitration rules and the apparent predilection for 'expert bashing' shown by the judiciary and press mean that experts need not only to be initially trained, but also to continue to develop their skills. With that in mind, TAE, in association with ARACS is

"Training is becoming an even more important issue for experts"

developing some new training courses for the experienced expert and providing additional guidance notes which may be downloaded from our website.

On top of our model terms, model report and model CV, this provides a strong framework on which to base expert work.

Promoting and marketing our members' services is also an important aspect of TAE's work.

Our internet register continues to be an excellent platform for marketing and stands head and shoulders above its competitors in the informative way in which it demonstrates the capabilities and accreditations of our members. Hand in hand, the main website and the internet register provide a significant resource for experts, mediators and those that use them. We aim to continue to develop our web presence.

The market for Mediation continues to be a difficult one for practitioners. TAE continues its active involvement in training and certification and with the Civil Mediation Council in order to promote the interests of our members.

#### Thank you

All of this activity takes time and effort and I would like to record my sincere thanks not only to all our staff at Grays Inn, but also to the members of Council, Executive and our committees who give freely of their time to help make TAE the success that it is. All of these people go well beyond the call of duty to help make TAE the successful, friendly organisation that we all know and love.

Dr Chris McArdle Chairman October 2015



#### President's Dinner 2015 - Painters' Hall

#### Wednesday 4th November 2015

#### Painters' Hall, London EC4V

#### **New Venue**

Tickets to the Academy's most formal function of the year - The President's Dinner - are now on sale. As ever the dinner is being held in the first week of November on Wednesday 4th.

After three hugely successful years at the Butchers Hall refurbishment works mean that we are moving just down the road to the beautiful Painters' Hall for this year's President's Dinner.

Your Ticket price includes:

- Pre Dinner Reception
- Dinner including wine & port
- After Dinner 'night-cap' reception

£115<sub>inc val</sub>



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#### In Memoriam - Lord Howe

#### **Lord Howe of Aberavon**

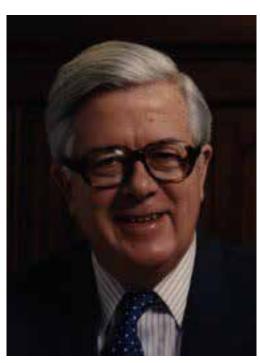
20th December 1926 - 9th October 2015

#### **TAE President - 1996-2006**

The Academy last saw Lord Howe almost exactly twelve months ago at the President's Dinner which he attended to receive an Honorary Fellowship. We can think of no better way of marking his passing than by reproducing what we said of him at the time.

"Geoffrey Howe is known around the world. For some as a brilliant lawyer, others as Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary and a host of other political roles that he has held. It seems impossible to travel without hearing about his name and achievements.

When in 1996 he accepted an invitation to become President of The Academy of Experts he stipulated it would be for a maximum of two years. During the next ten years as President he helped guide The Academy through interesting times and showed how to survive and achieve objectives in the increasingly bureaucratic world in which we now live. His quiet, thoughtful advice, guidance and support has been a positive influence lasting well beyond his presidency.



The Academy of Experts awards its immediate Past President Lord Howe an Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his contribution and untiring work for The Academy of Experts."



Past & Present - Lord Saville of Newdigate presents his predecessor, Lord Howe, with Honorary Fellowship of The Academy of Experts

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### **DIARY, NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Annual General Meeting**

Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting is taking place on Wednesday 28th October 2015. It will start at 12 noon and is being held at The Academy, 3 Gray's Inn Square, Gray's Inn, London.

#### **News from Northern Ireland**

In the last month TAE has run a very successful seminar at the Royal Courts of Justice in Belfast. In addition to over sixty experts and lawyers were:

- ☐ Lord Chief Justice Sir Declan Morgan
- Lord Justice Weatherup
- The Hon Mr Justice Deeny, head of the Commercial Court in NI
- ☐ Michael Humphreys QC, Chairman of the Commercial Bar

### Accredited Environmental Expert Witness

TAE members who are also members of SocEnv are reminded that for those who are CEnv we run a specialist register.

If you would like more information please call us on  $020\,7430\,0333$ .



#### **Self Regulation of Family Mediation**

Following the path taken by the Civil Mediation Council earlier this year a public register has now been launched for practising family mediators. Taking a slightly different route to the CMC the Family Mediation Council has launched the Family Mediation Standards Board (FMSB)as an independent regulatory board with a central registration system for mediators. The register goes live and will be accessible by the public and practitioners from November 2015.



In August the newly appointed Chairman, Robert Creighton said of the FMSB:

"It is only a few months since the FMSB was established by the FMC. We are paying a lot of attention to the way we work on a number of dimensions — as a regulatory board, with our sponsor the FMC, with the family mediation profession, and with the wider justice system including the Ministry of Justice.

The Board will be guided by its core purpose – the protection of the public. In so doing it will secure the integrity of the profession of family mediation and provide the appropriate protection and support for mediators working to the high standards expected of them.

The hallmarks of the Board's work will be rigour, independence, sensitivity and transparency."

#### **Meetings & External Events**

**Evening Meeting - 9th December** 

'Expert Evidence - Hazards & Opportunities'

The next TAE evening meeting will be given by Jeremy Nicholson QC and is likely to be both provocative and thought provoking - full details to follow.

#### **NEC Asia Pacific Users' Group Conference 2015**

TAE is supporting this event which will showcase some high profile case studies on the successful application of NEC3 across large-scale multimillion public and private projects in the region. Renowned industry experts will discuss the progress, challenges and developments for NEC3 in Hong Kong.

See www.neccontract.com/APConference15



Key to events:

**Academy Courses** 

Academy Events & Meetings

External/Joint/Supported Events