

Editorial News

Legal Eagles Helped to Spread their Wings

Kamlesh Bahl, vice-president of the Law Society and chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission launched a new network for London's lawyers on September 22, 1998.

The new network, developed by the University of North London and supported by the European Social Fund, aims to help solicitors, barristers and legal executives, working in small to medium size practices in the London area, to keep on top of current developments in the legal world, through a series of evening seminars.

Additional benefits of joining the network include:

- The use of the University's Law library;
- Use of legal CD Roms and Eurolaw;
- Access to professorial lectures and talks given by outside speakers;
- Reduced price places on short courses run with the University of North London's Faculty of law;
- All network sessions will be eligible for three Law Society continuing professional development hours.

For further information please contact Patsy Lingley at the University of North London on 0171 753 5167 or email p.lingley@unl.ac.uk

Glamorgan One Step Ahead of the Law

Ten law lecturers from the University of Glamorgan are now officially geared up to settle out of court disputes, in anticipation of new legislation expected early next year.

The ten lecturers have successfully completed an intensive, forty-hour course to become qualified mediators and mediation trainers. Currently in the UK no specific qualifications are required for a lawyer to practise mediation, conciliation or arbitration as alternatives to going to court to settle legal disputes. However, legislation is expected to be introduced soon whereby anyone wishing to become a mediator in the UK will have to follow a coherent training programme, and when it is, the University of Glamorgan will be ready to provide the necessary training.

Specific mediation qualifications are already in demand in America as the legislation has already been introduced and the lecturers were trained by a Texan judge, Richard Faulkner, and Supreme Court Justice Robert Gammage.

Corbett Spurin, senior lecturer in the University of Glamorgan's Law School and a fully qualified international arbitrator, explains why Judge Faulkner's course has been so beneficial to the University.

"Mediation is an increasingly important facet of legal practice. By bringing the two parties together, out of the public eye, a mediator can provide an acceptable solution much more cheaply, more quickly and hopefully without destroying relationships."

Before too long, however, British mediators are likely to need specific qualifications if they want to

practise mediation. Since so many of our staff are now qualified to teach these subjects, the University of Glamorgan will be one of the first institutions in the UK to be able to offer an accredited course in mediation and conciliation.

We are in the process of extending the Masters course in Commercial Dispute Resolution, to meet the needs of Malaysia and China, making us a world leader in training lawyers and managers in this important sector of law and commerce."

Easier Access to the Inland Revenue

PAYE Information Goes On-line: Changes to PAYE Regulations

On 7 October the Inland Revenue laid Regulations before the House of Commons to make it possible for more information to flow electronically between itself and employers.

The Regulations (SI 1998 No 2484) will be available from the Stationery Office Limited shortly.

Section 119, Finance Act 1998 enables the Inland Revenue to make changes to the Regulations so that it can rely on information exchanged electronically between itself and employers to the same extent as on versions received on paper.

Changes are also made to the PAYE Regulations to enable information exchanged electronically to be brought within the PAYE scheme.

The Regulations now made mean that electronic exchange of information with employers can be introduced nationally towards the end of the 1998-99 tax year.

NetBenefit Launches I-Watch For Worldwide Protection of Brand Names

NetBenefit, a leading domain name registrar, has launched I-Watch, an automated global domain name watch service, providing companies with immediate and accurate notification of any domain name registrations that may impact on their own established company or brand names. The launch of I-Watch is timed perfectly in the light of major forthcoming changes in the way domain names industry will be governed and the opening up of the top-level domain structure.

The recent 'One in a Million' judgment and other well publicised legal wrangles over domain name registration malpractices such as cybersquatting and warehousing have clearly illustrated the importance of effectively monitoring company and brand names. Furthermore, the expansion of the domain registration structure will ensure that more domain names are available, but it will also mean that brand owners and intellectual property lawyers will have to be extra vigilant about domain name activity in cyberspace.

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I-Watch will assist companies worldwide with monitoring any possible infringement of their on-line brand or identity.

For an annual fee of £120 plus VAT, I-Watch allows companies to customise the 'watch' they wish to perform on any given domain name. In addition it will monitor the entire Internet or targeted geographical areas for new registrations using varying types including; exact matches with name, matches containing company trademark and matches that sound like the company or product trademark.

Once the account is set up, I-Watch will alert users via email whenever a new name is registered within

the chosen categories. The account is totally flexible, enabling the user to add new names, change the watch criteria or update the email contact address.

NetBenefit may be contacted on 0171 336 6777; email: sales@netbenefit.co.uk