

SALS and BILA: the New Link

By Julian Harris, Secretary, Society for Advanced Legal Studies

The Society for Advanced Legal Studies is delighted that the Secretary of SALS, Julian Harris, and Membership Secretary Sue Rogers, have been appointed as BILA's new Secretariat. BILA and SALS pursue similar objectives without being competitors, and both organisations should benefit from future co-operation.

SALS was established in 1997 as a learned Society to stimulate legal research and scholarship. It seeks to encourage greater collaboration between members of the legal profession by fostering interaction amongst academics, practitioners, members of the judiciary and others involved in the administration of justice both in Great Britain and overseas. The Society also involves those who are not members of the legal profession, but whose work brings them into contact with legal issues (eg accountants, regulators, policemen and civil servants). SALS is governed by an executive committee, and receives guidance from an advisory council chaired by Lord Scott of Foscote.

One key benefit of SALS membership is a set amount of access to the prestigious law library at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies at Charles Clore House, Russell Square, where the Society is based. Open lectures and seminars are held regularly by SALS: so far this year, topics to be addressed include the Basle Committee and banking regulation in China; interim injunctions in intellectual property cases; the anti-money laundering landscape after the Proceeds of Crime Act and the EU Financial Services Action Plan. The annual SALS lecture is held on the same day as the annual general meeting in June, and this year's speaker will be Lord Alexander of Weedon QC, chair of the Council of Justice. The popular annual dinner is held in November, and is attended by senior legal figures from many countries.

SALS is keen to serve the interests of its student members, who are mostly studying for LLM and PhD degrees, and assistance has been forthcoming from a number of law firms. Clifford Chance has been particularly helpful this year, sponsoring a series of lectures and providing both speakers and graduate recruitment advice. The Society is keen to liaise with other organisations, and has co-operated with the Law Commission in holding seminars on law reform issues including trustee exemption clauses, the registration of security interests, and partial defences to murder.

The Society has been involved with a number of events outside London, including lectures at Oxford Brookes University (in association with the *Journal of International Banking Regulation*) and Jesus College, Cambridge (in association with Taylor Wessing). In Newcastle, Watson Burton has sponsored an annual northern SALS event in the form of a January seminar, and this has been well attended by local professionals. SALS itself is a sponsoring organisation for the annual Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime.

On the publishing front, SALS produces a bi-monthly journal, *Amicus Curiae*, which features articles on a range of subjects and news of Society and Institute activities. SALS multi-disciplinary working groups have published reports, including the following titles: “*The funding of terror: the legal implications of the war on terror*”; “*The ethics of conditional fee arrangements*”; *Banking on corruption: the legal responsibilities of those who handle the proceeds of corruption*”; “*The cross border movement of children*”; and “*The simplification of planning legislation*”.