

## NOTICES

## Regional administrative court centre for Bristol

*BLS speaks for its members.*

ROBIN TOLSON QC is the Leader of the Western Circuit. In April of this year he learned that selected Circuits in England and Wales had submitted 'bids' to the Court Service which would influence recommendations to Government; such recommendations to be made in a report entitled 'Justice Outside London'.

The report would look at regional centres for the probable location of certain courts which usually sat in London. One such court was the Administrative Court; however, conceivably, this could extend to Regional sittings of the Court of Appeal.

The Western Circuit (covering the South West of England) in general and Bristol in particular did not feature in these initial considerations and was not part of the original 'bids'. There was a danger that the Western Circuit (and particularly Bristol as its commercial heart) would not be considered unless very urgent, concerted and reasoned action was taken to bring to the attention of the decision-makers the virtues of Bristol as an attractive and worthy Regional Court Centre for the Administrative Court in particular.

BLS was called upon to find out which were the relevant practitioners, get some statistics, mobilise and articulate support for Bristol to be considered as such a centre for regional justice. There was very little time to find out who the relevant practitioners were, the frequency of their use of the Administrative Court, and the range of cases which they might present or to which they might respond before the Administrative Court.

Over the course of less than 4 days at the end of April 2008 BLS was able to seek and obtain some very vital statistical information as well as well-reasoned support from 12 firms of solicitors (from sole principal to multi-partner LLP) and also support from Bristol City and South Gloucestershire Councils. This information was then fed into a larger submission prepared over the weekend of 25/27 April 2008 by Robin Tolson QC, who (having received similar



support from local Bar and other interested local court users) sought and obtained a meeting with May LJ before submitting a substantial body of evidence to support Bristol's claim to being a worthy centre for the regional administration of justice.

The outcome is still to be determined, but I would like to record my thanks to all of those who took part in this work. There was very little prompting, but a very substantial effort within a very tight timetable, at very short notice. The response was tremendous and a credit to those practising in this great City. Thank you all.

As soon as we have news on the outcome of our submission, we shall let you know. Anyone who wishes to consider the submission prepared by Robin may do so by contacting me on: 0117 909 8450.

*By Tony Woodburn, (pictured), Snn Vice President, Bristol Law Society*

## Noticeboard

### **Bristol Bridge**

On 6 September 2007 a new club was formed in central Bristol under the umbrella of Rotary International. The club is called 'Bristol Bridge', and its aims are threefold: social, charitable, and business networking. It meets every Thursday morning for breakfast at 7.15am for 7.30am on the Glassboat Restaurant, Welshback, Bristol. Members should be under 45 years of age, have an outgoing personality and be able to make meetings regularly. Anyone interested should contact Neil Gilbert on 0117 9349900 ([ngilbert@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ngilbert@hotmail.co.uk)) or Beth McHugh on 0117 904 6000 ([bmchugh@lyonsdavidson.co.uk](mailto:bmchugh@lyonsdavidson.co.uk)).

### **Missing Will - Peter Williams (deceased)**

Late of: 14 Short Lane, Long Ashton, Bristol BS41 9EH. Date of Birth: 15 January 1950; Date of Death: 7 August 2006. Anyone with any information should contact Mr Michael Kelly at Michael Kelly & Co., Solicitors, 52 High Street, Hanham, Bristol BS15 3DR. Tel: 0117 9676 559.

### **Bank Holiday**

Please note that the Bristol Law Society Law Library and administrative offices will be closed on Monday 25 August for the Bank Holiday.



### **Bristol Briefing Copy Deadlines**

**September** Editorial Deadline: 8 August  
*Focus on Civil Litigation*

**October** Editorial Deadline: 5 September  
*Focus on Property Law*

**November** Editorial Deadline: 10 October  
*Focus on CSR/Environmental Law*