

Press Release

14 June 2016

City of London Law Society chairman Alasdair Douglas to retire

Alasdair Douglas, Chairman of the City of London Law Society (CLLS), the representative body for the 60 leading commercial firms in the City and Canary Wharf, will step down later this year, after five years in the role.

Commenting on his decision, Alasdair Douglas said: "It's been a great privilege to serve as Chairman of the CLLS for the last five years, working alongside our specialist committees, which bring together some of the most talented and expert lawyers in their fields. During that time, we have campaigned on a number of important issues for the profession and sought to promote the value that City Law brings to the UK plc, and to support our unsurpassed position as a global leader in legal services.

"The future of legal regulation is a crucial challenge facing the profession, and is one of a number of live issues which the CLLS is dealing with. I think the time is right to hand over responsibility to a new Chairman, who can lead our work in this area and represent the City of London interests in the debate."

Alasdair will formally retire once a successor has been appointed, which is expected to be in early autumn 2016. The process of finding a new chair has begun, and Simon Davis, Partner at Clifford Chance and Committee member of the City of London Law Society, is leading a special committee tasked with identifying and appointing Alasdair's successor.

Alasdair is to be appointed as the chair of LawWorks, the solicitors' pro bono charity, on the retirement of Paul Newdick CBE.

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For media enquiries, please contact Gemma Watts, Project Associates on behalf of the CLLS on +44 (0)20 7321 0773, gemma.watts@projectassociatesltd.com

Notes to editors

The City of London Law Society ("CLLS") represents approximately 17,000 City lawyers through individual and corporate membership, including some of the largest international law firms in the world. These law firms advise a variety of clients from multinational companies and financial institutions to Government departments, often in relation to complex, multi-jurisdictional legal issues. www.citysolicitors.org.uk

The City of London Law Society's professional work is conducted through nineteen specialist Committees drawn from the Society's membership, who meet regularly to discuss pending legislation, law reform and practice issues in their fields. Recent consultation responses are shared on Twitter <https://twitter.com/theclls>

Alasdair Douglas was appointed Chairman of the City of London Law Society in June 2011. He was previously Senior Partner of Travers Smith, in a legal career spanning 35 years which included Freshfields and Shepherd & Wedderburn. He became a Partner in Travers Smith in 1984 setting up the firm's tax department, before rising to Managing Partner in 1994. More recently, he was Chairman of Aviate Global LLP, a privately-owned institutional stockbroking group. Married with two grown-up children, he is an enthusiastic musician and is a member of the Royal Scottish Society of Pipers.