

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

City of London Law Society appoints new chairman

Edward Sparrow has been appointed as the new chairman of the City of London Law Society (CLLS), the professional representative body for 56 of the largest national and international law firms in the City of London (Square Mile and Canary Wharf). Edward is a highly experienced litigator; a partner at Ashurst for over 35 years, he specialises in financial services regulation and City-related disputes.

Outgoing CLLS chairman Alasdair Douglas, former senior partner of Travers Smith, announced his intention to step down in June, after five and a half years in the role. He was recently appointed as the new chairman of LawWorks, the solicitors' pro bono charity.

Reflecting on his time as CLLS chairman, Alasdair said, "We have gained good traction with government over the last five years, who now understand the importance of City firms' contribution to the economy, and the vital underpinning we give to financial services. We have also played an important part in improving the regulation of our profession. There is still much work to be done - on ensuring that legal services are given a high priority in the Brexit negotiations; on regulatory changes to training and education; on diversity and social inclusion; and on promoting our sector."

Edward will take over from Alasdair in October, and will continue to be a partner at Ashurst. The role of the chairman of the CLLS is to represent the views and concerns of member firms, and to promote good relationships between City firms, policymakers and other key stakeholders. Senior Partners of the CLLS's member firms were told about the appointment this week.

Edward said, "I am honoured to have been appointed by the CLLS and look forward to building on the progress that the CLLS has made under Alasdair's chairmanship. As he rightly says, there are many significant challenges ahead."

In September, the Secretary of State for Justice, Liz Truss, and a team from the Ministry of Justice including Lord Keen and Sir Oliver Heald, met representatives from the CLLS and a dozen senior partners from the leading London-based commercial law firms to discuss the priorities for the legal sector in the forthcoming Brexit negotiations.

CLLS chief executive David Hobart said, "The CLLS has grown substantially under the leadership of Alasdair Douglas, who has overseen significantly strengthened relationships between member firms and key decision makers in business and politics.

"Edward Sparrow has a deep understanding of the issues currently facing the profession, and recognises the core priorities of City firms. I am very pleased to welcome him to the role."

*** Ends ***

For further information, please contact Gemma Watts or Anna Bailey at Project Associates on +44 (0)20 7321 0773

Notes to Editors

The City of London Law Society (“CLLS”) is the professional representative body for 56 of the largest national and international law firms in the City of London (Square Mile and Canary Wharf). It represents 17,000 practicing solicitors, who make up 15% of the profession in England and Wales.

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> www.citysolicitors.org.uk