AGENDA

Thank you for joining us today to celebrate the launch of the Professional Paralegal Register.
Here is the agenda of the day:

11.00     Welcome - Refreshments
11.15     Official Launch of the PPR - Baroness Dianne Hayter
11.20   PPR Overview - Rita Leat, Director PPR Limited
11.30   Governance - Chris White, Chair of the Advisory Board
11.40     Steve Green, Chair of the Office for Legal Complaints at Legal Ombudsman
11.45   Closing remarks - Baroness Dianne Hayter
12.00   Close

ABOUT THE PROFESSIONAL PARALEGAL REGISTER (PPR)

The Professional Paralegal Register is a not-for-profit voluntary register seeking to provide self-regulation for the paralegal profession, brought to the sector by the combined resources, experience and knowledge by a unity between the National Association of Licensed Paralegals (NALP) and the Institute of Paralegals (IOP).

This new development will set the benchmark for the sector, which consists of approximately 200,000 paralegals across the country, assuring all purveyors of the register that every member is operating at a high, professional standard in the industry; with measures in place to investigate and compensate those that are wronged by any misdoing.

The register has received positive feedback from the major legal regulatory and membership bodies in England and Wales including the Legal Ombudsmen’s Office. It will be overseen by an independent advisory board, chaired by Chris White, the founder of Aspiring Solicitors.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The PPR will promote professional paralegals as a recognised fourth arm of the legal profession and to enhance consumer choice and protection.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Encourage the development of clear pathways for paralegals to meet the needs of consumers and the sector as a whole
- Provide a regulatory function for paralegals who are not working in law firms and define a paralegal’s abilities based on qualifications and/or experience
- Increase consumer awareness of paralegals and provide protection of consumers with a rigorous complaints procedure
- Raise standards, increase diversity of opportunity within the legal sector and promote an effective way to discourage poor or unprofessional service
- Provide easier and less costly access to justice for the consumer to comply with the main provisions of the Legal Services Act 2007
THE PPR ADVISORY BOARD

The independent PPR advisory board provides strategic guidance and oversight for the operation of the register, to ensure the PPR stays true to its mission. To this end, the board consists of an array of independent members, voted onto the board under the management of the Chairman, Chris White. Duties of these members include tracking developments, assisting to advance the PPR goals and mission and engaging in reflective, self-evaluative processes to improve the effectiveness of the register.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHIES

RITA LEAT:

Rita Leat took up post as the COO for The National Association of Licensed Paralegals in 2012 managing the strategic and operational functions of the organisation. She added to her role in 2013 by becoming the Responsible Officer for Ofqual, dealing with compliance. She became a founding Director of The Professional Paralegal Register in 2014. Her early career was in teaching and lecturing in Law, where she held a variety of posts including delivery on the L.L.B. and other post-graduate courses. As a legal editor for five years at ILEX, she enhanced her skills for developing legal qualifications for the Paralegal sector.

From 2007 to 2009 she utilised her commercial law expertise as a commercial lawyer for GlaxoSmithKline. Her role as a Director of the PPR encompasses the strategic development of a voluntary registered scheme for Paralegals who work in the unregulated market.

AMANDA HAMILTON:

Amanda is Chief Executive of NALP (National Association of Licensed Paralegals) and Managing Director of AH Paralegal Training. Amanda has been at the forefront of raising awareness of the Paralegal role and to the promotion of a Professional Paralegal Status for 18 years. She teaches paralegal practical skills, and law, at all levels and has been involved with developing bespoke paralegal qualifications and pathways during this time. She has recently written an academic article for the Law Teacher Journal entitled: ‘In an ever-changing legal landscape, Paralegals are the way forward’. Amanda became a founder Director of the Professional Paralegal Register in 2014.
DAVID HOLLAND:

David Holland is Chief Executive of Skills CFA, following nine years’ service as a Trustee. He is also the Chief Executive of the Instructus group, a family of education charities which includes Skills CFA and CEO of IoP (Institute of Paralegals). He has a wealth of business experience spanning 50 years, with 36 years working at CEO Level. He started out as a commercial apprentice for paper company Bowater in 1964 and quickly gained experience to become Finance Manager for a group of businesses in Manchester. After qualifying as a management accountant, he became involved in strategic roles in all continents of the world, including overseeing joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions.

Apart from serving as a Chair of pension Trustees for two separate bodies he has had profit responsibility for over 50 businesses of varying sizes. David became a founder Director of the Professional Paralegal Register in 2014.

CHRIS WHITE:

Chris is the founder of Aspiring Solicitors. He is a qualified Solicitor having trained at a leading US law firm and also practised as a corporate solicitor at a leading global law firm in London for over three years. Chris personally experienced barriers throughout his career due to his diversity as a state educated, first generation graduate/solicitor, non Russell Group university graduate with an accent. He found that each of these factors acted as a barrier to entry to the profession at various stages of his career. He is passionate to remove barriers to increase diversity in the profession.
BRITISH PARALEGAL INDUSTRY ON PATH TO REGULATION FOLLOWING LAUNCH OF NEW VOLUNTARY REGISTER

A new voluntary paralegal register has been launched by the National Association of Licensed Paralegals (NALP) in association with the Institute of Paralegals (IOP), designed to boost consumer confidence, improve industry standards and make legal services more affordable and cost-effective for consumers. The launch of the Professional Paralegal Register (PPR) will be celebrated at an exclusive event held at the House of Lords on 4th December 2014.

The National Association of Licensed Paralegals (NALP) and the Institute of Paralegals (IOP) have joined resources to launch the Professional Paralegal Register (PPR), a register that aims to provide self-regulation for the paralegal profession. It will provide a benchmark for the sector, consisting of an estimated 200,000 paralegals across the country. The register will help consumers and other members of the legal profession to provide the best value service, to assure purveyors of the register that every member is operating at a high, professional standard in the industry; with measures in place to investigate and compensate those that are wronged by any misdoing.

The Professional Paralegal Register will be launched on the 4th December 2014 and marked with a prestigious gathering held in the House of Lords. Baroness Diane Hayter of Kentish Town will host the launch, which will be attended by many of the top legal professionals in the country.

As the British paralegal sector is not currently held under any regulations, an individual can describe themselves as a paralegal without any necessary experience or qualifications, thus leaving consumers open to unprofessional and poor service, often with little access to any compensation or support if things go wrong. Registration on the voluntary PPR will require applicants to already hold membership of a recognised membership body to ensure the membership acts as a form of internal regulation, with sanctions and penalties in place for bad services.

The creation of the register has seen the NALP and the IOP consult with, and gain support from, many of the legal regulatory and membership bodies in England and Wales as the PPR seeks to establish the register as the first form of regulation within the legal services profession for paralegals.
“Many consumers don’t understand what a paralegal is, let alone what to expect from one. We have spent 18 months gathering evidence that the paralegal role requires further professionalism and regulation. The advent of the register should not only signal good news for the consumer, but for those legal services providers that use paralegals themselves. Although the service is voluntary, our aim is to push for non-membership of the register to be seen as detrimental, thus protecting the consumer whilst offering the paralegal a marketing vehicle to promote the quality of their work.”

- Amanda Hamilton, Director of the Professional Paralegal Register

“I am delighted to host the launch of the PPR as it is another step towards improving consumer confidence in the legal services market.”

- Baroness Dianne Hayter, Consumer Champion

“I welcome the launch of the Professional Paralegal Register, this is a welcome step forward in helping consumers find Paralegals and adds in additional steps of protection should things go wrong. We are pleased to be involved in the start of this project and look forward to the continued developments in the legal market.”

- Steve Green, Chair of the Legal Ombudsmen