

NEW APIL PRESIDENT DEFENDS RIGHT TO COMPENSATION

7 April 2008

New APIL president Amanda Stevens will defend people's right to claim compensation this week when she takes the stand at the association's annual conference.

Voicing her concerns about claimants' rights being consistently undermined, she will tell delegates that APIL's cause is becoming "ever more pressing and urgent" in light of current Government plans to reform the claims process.

"APIL members represent individuals in all their uniqueness," she will say, "not goods such as baked beans with bar codes attached to indicate price."

Stevens will call for a claims process which focuses on protecting victims' rights to independent legal advice, and in which the small claims limit, and the fast track limit, remain unchanged. Any reforms should be about the injured, vulnerable person, she will say, and not be geared towards the needs of other stakeholders who are "keen to see the process changed for their own ends, not those of the injured."

-ends-

Note to editors:

- APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers) was established in 1990 by a group of lawyers working on behalf of personal injury victims and now has more than 5,000 members. APIL campaigns for improvements in the law to help people who are injured or become ill through no fault of their own.

APIL's annual conference is being held at the Hilton Brighton Metropole on 10 and 11 April.

A full copy of the speech will be available on request on 10 April after 14:00.

For more information, contact:

Lisa Wardle, t: 0115 9388715 or Andrew Brentnall, t: 0115 9388702

Photographs are available on request

Further information can also be found at the organisation's website- www.apil.org.uk