



July 2010

NOTTINGHAM CAMPAIGNERS REACH 20-YEAR MILESTONE

A national campaign group, based in Nottingham, celebrates 20 years fighting for the rights of vulnerable and injured people today (July 7).

The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) is a not-for-profit organisation with a membership of more than 4,500 lawyers from across the UK and overseas. Its staff of 30, based on Nottingham's Castle Quay, works with APIL members and other supporters to campaign for the rights of people injured through no fault of their own, to prevent needless injury, and to offer education and training to its members to help them provide the best possible service to injured people.

Reflecting on the organisation's achievements over the past 20 years, APIL chief executive Denise Kitchener said: "I am immensely proud of our work, which has been so actively supported by dedicated personal injury lawyers. APIL has had to face many challenges to injured people's rights and we have faced them head-on. Our aim is always to protect the fundamental rights of injured people and to ensure access to justice and full redress for those whose lives are turned upside down by someone else's negligence."

Over the last two decades APIL has gained wide recognition for its work from government ministers and officials, MPs, the press and other opinion formers. One of its key achievements in the past ten years has been the development of a quality kitemark, backed by a telephone helpline, to help injured people be clear about, and confident in, the service they can expect from an APIL-accredited lawyer.

Another major development has been a booklet, the first in a proposed series, designed to educate people about dealing with risk and responsibility, the compensation system and helping to dispel many of the myths connected with this area of the law.



“Our Accident or Negligence? booklet has been an important initiative for APIL, offering much needed guidance on how the law interprets the difference between an accident and a negligent act, as well as promoting personal responsibility and other key messages, at a time when there is so much misleading information being peddled,” said Denise.

“The lives of people who have been injured needlessly can often be completely shattered. Helping to repair that damage is a very serious business indeed, and one to which our members are totally committed” she went on. “Very often people have no idea where to turn for help and that is why we have also created a series of fact sheets available on our website to offer guidance and support when people need it most.”

APIL has run a number of safety campaigns in Nottingham over the years, always focussing on the prevention of needless injury. These include advice to holiday-makers about the dangers of using quad bikes abroad; advice to parents confused about the safety of childproof caps around the home; and how to avoid injury from cows with calves while out in the countryside.

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Note to editors

- APIL has almost 200 individual members based in around 100 solicitors’ firms and barristers’ chambers in the East Midlands (Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire).
- For more information, contact Lisa Wardle, Press & Communications Officer (tel 0115 938 8715) or Jane Hartwell, Assistant Press & Communications Officer (tel 0115 938 8702).
- Further information can also be found at the organisation’s website: www.apil.org.uk.