



11 April 2011

New APIL president: Injury victims face 'ever tightening screw'

Injured people face an "ever tightening screw" and claimant lawyers must be "better at everything we do," according to the new president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).

In his inaugural speech at the 2011 APIL annual conference this week, David Bott will reaffirm the association's position that it is "plain wrong" for injury victims to take a cut of up to 25 per cent of their rightful compensation to meet some legal costs.

"In my view, and as president of APIL, I believe that payment in full is the minimum that individuals in the UK should expect and demand," David will tell delegates on 14 April.

"Claimants have not chosen to litigate. They did not arrive at the decision after a cost-benefit analysis. They were injured and rightly expect redress. All that they want, and all that the law can give them, is to get back to where they were before the injury.

"Now to turn to a seriously injured person and say, I am very sorry but the law says we cannot get you everything you are entitled to, is literally adding insult to injury.

"APIL will work with as many claimant bodies as possible to try to get the voice of injured people, the voice of ordinary people, the voice of the voting public, heard."

David will say that lawyers must "improve, adapt and be flexible" in the year ahead because of the many changes facing the world of personal injury law.

"Taking care of people is not an option in the 21st century. It is a basic expectation," he will say. "It will be expected that we should be great at what we do, as being great will be the minimum our clients require."

-Ends-



Notes to editors:

- David Bott is the managing partner of Bott & Co, a specialist personal injury and property practice based in Wilmslow, Cheshire. He is an executive committee member of the Legal Management Section of the Law Society. He also chairs the Law Society Lexcel conference, the Law Society business development conference and regularly speaks at APIL and Law Society events.
- APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers) is a not-for-profit organisation, whose members are dedicated to campaigning for improvements in the law to help people who are injured or become ill through no fault of their own.
- For more information, please contact Chris Birkle, press and communications officer, t: 0115 943 5409, e: chris.birkle@apil.org.uk, or Jane Hartwell, assistant press and communications officer, t: 0115 943 5416, e: jane.hartwell@apil.org.uk.
- Visit the association's website at www.apil.org.uk.