

May 2003

AP 220

SAFETY AGENDA FOR APIL'S NEW PRESIDENTIAL TEAM

A new presidential team at the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers will put health and safety, and rehabilitation at the top of the agenda for the coming year.

Incoming president David Marshall (40) outlines his plans for the reform of personal injury litigation in his speech to delegates (see separate release for details). A solicitor for 16 years at Anthony Gold in London, David has always specialised in personal injury, and is still attracted by the challenge of “using the law for the benefit of people who suddenly find themselves injured, isolated and disadvantaged through no fault of their own”. He is particularly interested in the link between personal injury and employment law.

David has been on APIL's governing executive committee since 1996, prior to which he ran the costs and funding special interest group. He is married with two young children, and family life occupies most of his time. “I used to say my hobby was exotic travel,” he said, “but now all I can do is read about it!”

Colin Ettinger (50) APIL's new vice president, has practised personal injury law for 25 years, spending the last seven years at Irwin Mitchell in London, where he specialises in occupational health and catastrophic cases. He has been a member of the association's executive committee for five years.

Colin is committed to the concept of rehabilitation, and plans to use the next year to promote its use to fellow solicitors. “It's becoming more and more important to encourage claimant lawyers to see rehabilitation as part and parcel of the aim of providing the best possible service to injured people,”

he said.

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With a keen interest in occupational health and safety, Colin led the association in its recent meetings with the Department of Work and Pensions and the Office of Fair Trading to discuss the reform of employers' liability insurance.

“It's vital that the provision of full compensation for vulnerable workers is protected, especially in the face of the vigorous - and often completely spurious - arguments being made by the insurance industry,” he said. “The fact that so many employers have such scant regard for their employees' safety is an absolute disgrace.

“The answer to the problem is obviously prevention,” he went on. “And when the worst thing happens, rehabilitation should be the top priority, followed by provision of financial compensation.”

Colin is married with three teenaged children and enjoys spending spare time with his family, at the gym, or listening to jazz. He is also an enthusiastic spectator of football and admits to supporting Spurs.

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