
MARCH 2011

Welcome to the London Region Committee of the Commerce & Industry Group newsletter for 2011.

We continue to look ahead, understand the trends and forces that will shape our profession in the future. One such area is the launch of the new Handbook on self regulation by the SRA and Alternative Business Structures. The C&I Group is holding courses on these and other topics including online webinars, these can be found on our website www.cigroup.org.uk

Last year was an interesting and exciting year. Successful lobbying by the current and former Chairs of the C&I Group and council members led to the SRA reducing the practicing certificate fee for in-house solicitors by more than 50%. This was a remarkable and outstanding achievement, which benefits all in-house solicitors.

Our Mission Statement and Objectives (March 2010 newsletter) remain strong. We are focusing on certain key areas within the London Region and have consolidated our 'working groups' to provide continued support, additional benefits and networking for all our members. We encourage you to contact Christine Smith christine@cigroup.org.uk who will be able to provide you with details of the respective Champions within these groups.

1. Mentoring – Drew Allen, Jane Purdon and Gordon Youngson
2. Social/Networking – John Cush, Ska Jacques, Suheda Kahveci, Anisha Mitha and Sarah Ruston
3. Sole In-House Counsel/Small In-House Legal teams – Jonathan Beak, Dan Pickard and Iain Thom
4. Training –David Kemp and Smita Oza

In addition to these groups, we have the support of the National Executive Committee in areas such as PR and Communications, Corporate Governance, Junior Law Division, Law Society Policy through whom we are able to seek further support and provide value for our members.

The London Region held a number of events throughout the year and with continued support of its sponsors and friends. We are pleased to announce further events in 2011 including our National Dinner in September 2011, these will be posted on our website. We give our warm thanks to Bill

Graydon and Christine Smith for their continued support and ensuring that our ideas come to fruition.

We encourage and welcome feedback, ideas or thoughts on the London Region, its activities and events and ask you email info@cigroup.org.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Smita Oza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and a distinct 'Oza' at the end.

Smita Oza

Chair, C&I Group London Region