

First of all may I wish all C&I members a very happy and successful 2011!

2010 was a good year for the C&I Group having survived 2009, when Company's training budgets all but disappeared and decimated our training income. However, the good news is that we are now back on track and our training offering recovered ahead of the industry norm due to its very competitive nature.

I will be Chairing the Group's Annual Legal Update which takes place in London on 10 March. This is our most popular conference and provides our members with an up to date analysis of important new cases, new legislation and future proposals – all presented by some excellent speakers. To view the full programme [click here](#). If you would like to book a place then you can do so either online (www.cigroup.org.uk) or by calling 0161 477 7670.

2010 was significant for the Group and all In-house Solicitors with the introduction of the new calculation of the Practising Certificate Fee. The new calculation meant that the basic PC Fee (payable by In-house Solicitors) would be about £450 instead of the £1100 paid in the most recent years. The new fairer fees policy is something the Groups has campaigned for over the past 8 years.

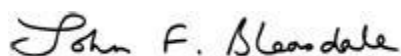
The Group held a number of regional events in 2010 which for me culminated in a very enjoyable Black Tie Dinner held in Leeds by the Group's North East region in November. Carol Williams and Sapna Bedi FitzGerald and the NE committee are to be congratulated on an excellent evening.

Congratulations must also be passed to Eleanor Boddington of Wellcome Trust the joint chair of our In-house Charity Lawyers Group on the birth of twin girls in December.

The result of the decision in the Akzo Nobel case was disappointing. The Group will work closely with the Law Society to try and ensure that the effect of the judgement is limited to the particular circumstances of the case in question.

Bill Graydon , our CEO, attended the second Corporate Counsel World Summit in Canada and made contact with several In-house groups from around the World. These International contacts will be maintained during 2011 via a series of telephone conferences the first of which will take place at the end of January.

2011 will be a challenging year with the introduction of the ABS and the new Solicitors Handbook on self regulation. The Group will post information on the website on both these topics during the course of the year and if you have any thoughts or opinions on them from the In-house perspective please let us know by e-mailing info@cigroup.org.uk.



John Bleasdale
Chair – C&I Group

