

CHARLES CHRISTIAN'S

LEGAL TECHNOLOGY INSIDER

THE SOURCE FOR INDEPENDENT LEGAL TECHNOLOGY NEWS, COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

NINE MAKE IT INTO LAW SOCIETY SUPPLIER LIST

A total of nine legal systems suppliers have made it into the latest 2001 edition of the English Law Society's *Software Solutions Guide* for smaller firms. The nine are Edgebyte, Gavel & Gown, JCS, Mountain Software, MSS, Practice, SOS, Technology for Business (TFB) and Videss.

All the suppliers were selected for their practice management systems, with Gavel & Gown winning its place for the Amicus Attorney product. The guide, now in its third year, is in a new loose leaf format to simplify updating and features a number of innovations, including star ratings for value for money and ease of use. Further enhancements are planned for the future.

Law Society members will be pleased to note that the 2001 edition, which is formally launched on 27 October, has not only come in on time but is also self financing.

FIRST QUALITY DISPUTE OVER ONLINE LEGAL SERVICES

It may still be a novel form of legal practice but already the first dispute has arisen over the quality of service being delivered by a web site offering online legal advice.

The site belongs to a London law firm and the complaint is that a pay per view service it offers on the web generates allegedly incorrect information relating to the legal and financial liabilities of the virtual client. As the firm in question has agreed to an independent expert reviewing the allegations of inaccuracy, it would be wrong to name names at this stage but the incident does raise the wider issue of how to protect the public from unreliable online legal advice services.

The good news is that both the Law Society and the Lord Chancellor's Department have adopted a proactive approach to this issue.

In the case of the Law Society, its e-commerce working party (the same body that produced the recent guidelines on the use of email by solicitors) is currently drafting rules on the online provision of legal services by law firms. These are expected to say solicitors have a duty of care with regards to their clients - both existing and potential - to ensure the advice and the information they provide is as accurate and clear as possible. If a solicitor does not follow these rules then, regardless of whether advice is delivered online or offline, the solicitor in question may face a claim for professional negligence.

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BREAKING NEWS

■ After the successful completion of a pilot project involving solicitors' practices THOMAS HIGGINS & CO on Merseyside and GEOFFREY PARKER-BOURNE in Stratford-upon-Avon, the COURT SERVICE BULK CENTRE in Northampton is now open to business for claimants wanting to use electronic transfer to send requests for claims, judgments and warrants. Law firms wanting information about the new service should contact KEN FRASER on 01604 609500.

■ The SOCIETY FOR COMPUTERS & LAW has announced plans of its 2001 award for the most outstanding application of IT to the law in the UK and Ireland. The closing date for entries is 17 November and the winner will be announced at a reception on 22 January. The chairman of this year's judging panel is ANDREW LEVISON, the well-known consultant and head of the London office of BAKER ROBBINS & CO. There is an online entry form on the SCL web site.

www.scl.org/award

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LEGAL TECHNOLOGY

Online

www.legaltechnology.org

Visit the Legal Technology Online site for regularly updated news, a diary of legal IT events, web bookmarks, the latest hoax and virus reports, an archive of back issues of the Insider, extensive search facilities plus portal links to the LSSA Solution Finder and ILCA web sites.

DPS PROGRESSES ONTO THE WEB AND INTO ASP

DPS Software (020 8804 1022) has launched a new version of its case management system that will allow law firms to publish case file status reports onto a secure web site where they can be directly accessed by clients wanting answers to "where are we now with this matter" questions.

Called DPS Progress, the system will automatically compile and post information onto the internet, where it can be accessed on a 24/7 basis - but only to users with appropriate security rights. The type of material that can be made available includes work completed to-date, cost incurred and work in progress, as well as additional notes attached to the file for client or internal use.

Inevitably Progress covers similar ground to other online status reporting systems but DPS has added one further refinement. This is an ASP (application service provider) option (available through the www.dps-net.co.uk site) for firms that either lack a suitable web presence of their own or would rather outsource the operation, maintenance and associated security aspects of running such a site.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

■ GENESYS CONFERENCING (020 8288 4422) has launched a new version of its managed audio conferencing service for the UK legal community. The service, designed to meet the "Woolf" Civil Procedure Rules case management provisions, giving courts the power to hold pre-trial hearings in the format of audio conferences, includes the provision of conference co-ordinators to set up and manage the session, plus a recording of the proceedings to provide an instant replay plus archive facility. The cost of Genesys legal conferencing is £0.20 per minute per participant for the duration of the conference call. This is substantially less than the £0.46 per minute BT charges for its comparable conference call service.

www.genesys.com

■ With the Human Rights Act 1998 coming into force on Monday 2nd October, LAWTEL (020 7970 4834) has gone live with its new *Human Rights interactive* subscription service. This will offer a range of facilities and information relating to the implementation and interpretation of the Act, including case law, expert commentary, legislation, articles and a daily update. Prices start at £360 for a sole practitioner with special discounts for existing subscribers.

■ Legal publisher CONTEXT is formally launching its new service Human Rights on JUSTIS.com on Monday 9 October, at a reception at the Law Society in Chancery Lane. The event will feature presentations on the Act by Professor CONOR GEARTY of Matrix Chambers and FENELLA MORRIS of 39 Essex Street Chambers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ With the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Armed Forces Discipline Act 2000 due to come into force in the UK next week, the ARMY PROSECUTING AUTHORITY is to install case management software supplied by AXXIA SYSTEMS to help manage an anticipated increase in the APA's workload. Because the 2000 Act gives soldiers a new right of appeal, the APA has turned to IT to ensure cases are processed in accordance with the new 14 days statutory period for lodging appeals. The system will be used in APA offices in the UK and Germany.

Following a successful pilot in its personal injury department, London law firm HEXTALL ERSKINE is now planning to roll out Axxia case management software throughout the practice.

■ Another four local government authorities - MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, ELLESMERE PORT & NESTON BOROUGH COUNCIL and SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL - have placed orders with SANDERSON IT SYSTEMS for the company's Galaxy Premier integrated practice and case management system.

MSS-AM LINK SEES IRISH MARKET BOOM

MSS Management Support Systems report that since linking up with Belfast based AM Systems (0044 028 90456700) in late 1998, sales of the AlphaLAW legal accounts and case management system have been booming both in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

AM Systems, which was set up by Irish legal IT specialists William Millar and Deirdre Cooke, now supports over 200 AlphaLAW sites and has recently moved into new premises to house extended sales and support facilities.

■ In a related development, MSS has become one of the first UK legal systems suppliers to offer full integration between one of its products - the AlphaLAW debt recovery application - and the Everyform electronic forms and HotDocs document assembly software.

SCOTTISH LAW SOCIETY PLANS ONLINE DX FOR MEMBERS

The Law Society of Scotland has appointed Edinburgh internet consultancy Electrum (0131 555 4241) to advise on the development of the Society's www.lawscot.org.uk web site and evaluate the viability of creating a secure electronic document exchange for members. Electrum will also be investigating requirements for hardware, software and training for law firms that do not yet have the technology or access to the internet.

The project is part of Scottish Law Society president Alastair Thornton's commitment to "help our members face the challenge of IT." Electrum, which recently developed an e-commerce site for legal publisher W.Green, is expected to report back to the Society within the next few weeks.

KEEPING THE DRAGON AT BAY

UK speech recognition system developer AllVoice Computing applied to the US Court of Appeals for a preliminary injunction preventing Dragon Systems (now part of the Lernout & Hauspie group) from "further releasing, marketing, distributing or offering for sale its latest - and soon to be widely distributed - version 5.0 of Dragon NaturallySpeaking software" (see **previous issue**) containing playback features allegedly protected by an AllVoice patent.

The patent in question relates to an "automated proof reading using interface linking recognized words to their audio data while text is being changed" that was issued to AllVoice in the United States in August 1998.

In a separate action, AllVoice is also pursuing a long running legal dispute, including a complaint to the European Commission, against IBM. The complaints here include predatory pricing and the alleged infringement of AllVoice intellectual property rights in versions of IBM's ViaVoice speech recognition software.

LEGAL DOMAINS FOR SALE

We have another vendor with a selection of legal web site domain names for sale. The list includes: the-lawyers.co.uk, we-sue.com, no-win-no-fee-lawyer.co.uk, l-a-w.co.uk, thesurveyors.co.uk, thebestwillintheworld.com, trusted3rdparties.com and, for the ever hopeful litigant, betterlucknexttime.co.uk. Many of the names are available in TLD sets (.com, .co.uk, .net and .org) with hyphenated variants to help protect against passing off. Offers are invited and should be sent by email to:

info@cloudnine.co.uk

PLASTIC - FANTASTIC

Legal Technology Insider subscribers can now pay by credit card - we accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express. We have also reduced the price of LTI-NET, the digital edition of the Insider. See page 7 for details.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ London based WINCKWORTH SHERWOOD has selected ELITE to replace its current practice management system. The firm's IT manager said key factors were Elite's use of MICROSOFT BackOffice products and the attraction of Elite's own WebView internet interface. The order was secured by Elite London salesman HARRY TOWNSEND.

■ Free demonstration versions of the new JORDANS/ANYA DESIGNS CaseKeeper case management software for LSC work (see **last issue for full story**) are now available from PHILIP WILMOTT at Jordan Publishing on 0117 918 1223.

■ DENTON WILDE SAPTE has chosen the exotically named Eye of the Storm network management software system from ENTUITY (020 7444 4821) to control and monitor the operation of its various networks, including those inherited during recent mergers. DWS computer services manager PAUL WILKINSON said the Entuity system met the firm's need for an out-of-the-box solution offering a proactive response to performance problems, so brownouts could be corrected before they became blackouts.

OUT OF AFRICA

Ashwin Patel, the chief accountant of Kenyan based Hamilton Harrison & Mathews - the second largest law firm in East Africa, was in the UK recently to visit Linetime in Leeds. HH&M have been using Linetime's legal software for over a decade and the firm is now talking to the company about installing a new fee earner focused practice management information system.

■ In the six months since becoming an accredited reseller of the Equinet NetPilot internet server, Linetime has installed the system at six UK firms. These include Rayner de Wolfe and Smyth Barkham in London, Boys & Maughan in Margate and Hatch Brenner in Norwich. NetPilot controls internet usage by LAN-based PCs through a series of utilities, including security firewalls, automatic email archiving and web site access monitoring.

NIKU & KPMG HEADING FOR THE UK ?

In the United States one of the fastest growing legal systems companies today is the Niku Corporation. The latest version of its flagship product Niku for Legal 5.0 is a "best of breed" intranet/extranet development system that allows law firms and inhouse legal departments to build browser based, collaborative, knowledge management networks. In other words, virtual dealroom technology.

During the summer Niku announced four major new licensing deals with US law firms, including 650 lawyer Greenberg & Traurig in Miami and Goodsell Anderson. The latter, which is based in Honolulu, is using Niku for Legal to provide clients and co-counsel in Asia, as well as on the mainland United States, with access to a "secure electronic filing cabinet" of pleadings and documents.

In the latest development Niku has announced an implementation deal with KPMG Consulting that will see KPMG supporting Niku in internet integration projects with law firms in the US and Europe.

■ Another American product expected to appear in some UK law firms soon is CaptureIt from Ontrack. This utility program allows organisations to capture data from a computer network for evidentiary purposes without having to take the whole device out of service. CaptureIt can be purchased from Ontrack's web site for £35.

www.niku.com
www.ontrack.com

WINDOWS DEVELOPMENTS

■ Last week saw the UK launch of Microsoft Millennium Edition - or Windows ME - the new upgrade for Microsoft's "consumer" operating system Windows 98. The launch seems to have left the IT industry largely underwhelmed and many US commentators, particularly those who have had rather longer to test the product, are suggesting the cost and effort of upgrading from Windows 98 outweighs any benefits of moving to ME. There are also reports that some new PCs, supplied with ME pre-installed, are prone to stability problems and contain bugs. One suggestion now being mooted is to wait until next year when Microsoft is expected to launch a new consumer version of its Windows 2000 operating system, code-named Whistler.

■ Symantec has launched the new 2001 editions of its well known Norton AntiVirus, Norton Utilities and Norton CleanSweep products for Windows 95, 98, NT, 2000 and ME platforms. The individual applications retail for £29.99 each however all three are also available within the Norton SystemWorks 2001 suite for just £59.99. The products can be purchased through the usual retail channels as well as online directly from Symantec.

www.symantecstore.com

PEOPLE & PLACES

■ As part of its plans to expand its online legal and current awareness product range, BUTTERWORTHS TOLLEY is looking for a new group publisher, current awareness publisher and list development manager. Salaries range from £28k to £50k and the closing date for applications is this Friday. Email: recruitment@butterworths.com

■ UK legal ISP LAWYERSONLINE.CO.UK and US based LAWYERSONLINE.COM have agreed to form a strategic alliance that will permit consolidation and global marketing of the LawyersOnline brand. Existing products and services of both companies, as well as those under development, will be available on the site. The deal was struck at a recent meeting in New York between ROSIE HOUGHTON, the UK company's founder, and PETER ZACHARY, the president of Find-A-Site Inc, the US corporation that owns LawyersOnline.com.

Houghton was also the runner-up in the professions category at this month's Women of Achievement Awards, run by COSMOPOLITAN magazine in London. The joint overall winners were HEATHER MILLS and HELEN SMITH who campaign for the rights of disabled people.

■ SOLUTION 6 HOLDINGS, best known in the legal world as the parent of legal PMS supplier CMS DATA, is back on the acquisition trail, announcing the acquisition last week UK IT solutions provider MICL HOLDINGS for \$16.7 million in cash. MICL's flagship product is Vitztopia, a software application for chartered accountants.

LCS PREVIEWS XML

The Legal Software Suppliers Association last week had one of its best attended meetings to-date when representatives of the Legal Services Commission gave a presentation on the pilot projects they are running into the use of XML as a way of handling file transfer applications between the LSC and law firms. LSSA chairman Neil Ewin said that contrary to some reports XML does not stand for "exterminate more lawyers".

ONLINE QUALITY continued from front page

The working party is also expected to advise that solicitors should actually take greater care when providing legal services online because there is a higher risk of lay clients misinterpreting the information and advice they are given, as there are no face-to-face meetings to deal with queries.

The Law Society will also recommend that solicitors include clearly marked disclaimers of liability on the web sites. The suggested wording is: "The content of this site is for general information purposes only. It does not constitute professional advice (legal or otherwise) nor should it be used as such." But, this does raise the moot point of where does information end and advice begin?

One approach adopted by other professional bodies is to treat "information" as material where no matter who asks the question there can only ever be the same response. On the other hand, if the answer can differ depending upon who asks the question, then this is "advice". For example, the answer to the question: what are the income tax rates for the year 1999/2000 is information, whereas the answer to "what is my income tax liability for the year 1999/2000" would clearly be advice.

The second initiative is being pursued by the LCD as part of its plans to create a Community Legal Service (CLS). Currently the LCD has a working party, which includes representatives of the Legal Services Commission, Law Society and Society for Computers & Law, preparing a consultation paper on online legal services. This is planned for publication later this year and is expected to introduce a "quality mark" scheme that will cover both the reliability and accuracy of public legal advice sites and their "accessibility" in terms of web site design and ease of use.

As regards reliability, the working party is understood to be interested in the 12 point best practice guide for legal web sites drawn up by the Legal Information Standards Council (LISC) in New South Wales. On the accessibility front, the group is keen to follow the view of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) that public information sites should be usable by people with disabilities, for example people with vision impairment may be using audio or braille browsers, as well as those who are not equipped with the latest technology.

Do the LCD's views matter? The answer is yes, as it is likely that legal sites failing to win a quality mark will in future be excluded from the CLS Just Ask! web portal.

■ You can discover whether your own site meets W3C standards by running the so-called "Bobby" test (**see below for a link to the D-I-Y test site**). The bad news is Insider sources suggest nearly two-thirds of UK law firm sites would currently fail. The good news is although many sites containing multimedia features, including a lot of the popular plug-ins and applets, will be excluded, most sites will only need to revise their HTML coding to include text alternatives, such as the <ALT> tag, to pass.

www.lawfoundation.net.au/lisc/recommend/bpguide.html

www.cast.org/bobby

LEGAL TECHNOLOGY EVENTS DIARY

■ OCTOBER 2, LONDON. Cost effective web sites for law firms. Seminar (starts 4:00pm til 7:00pm) for practitioners wanting a step-by-step guide to creating an internet presence. Presented by Gerald Newman at the Law Society. The event will be repeated at other locations during the autumn. Admission free, call 020 7320 5715.

www.events.lawsociety.org.uk

■ OCTOBER 3, LONDON. Document Management Executive Briefing - half day (starts 8:45am) seminar at Gray's Inn looking at the evolution of document management systems into knowledge management portals. Organised by PC Docs supplier Hummingbird and featuring a presentation by Richard Russell of Butterworths. Admission free, for details call 0118 979 2800.

■ OCTOBER 3-to-5, LONDON. E-commerce for the Legal Profession two day conference plus optional workshop at the Kensington Palace Hotel. Speakers include Nicola Webb of Osborne Clarke, Neil Cameron and Mark Boggis of Blue Flag. Fees from £995 + VAT. The event qualifies for 12 CPD hours. For details call the Ark Group on 020 8785 2700.

■ OCTOBER 10 & 11 EXETER. Part of Laserform's autumn roadshow series of product presentations around the UK. The Exeter event takes place at the Southgate Hotel. For details email:

marketing@laserform.co.uk

■ OCTOBER 18-to-20, GLENEAGLES. Legal IT Forum 2000 - the "Glen Legal" conference has its second outing at the world famous Scottish resort. Speakers include David Maister, Christopher Millard and Tony Williams of Andersen Legal. The event includes full conference sessions, three optional streams - technology, clients and management - co-chaired by Richard Susskind, Charles Christian and John Irving, plus a range of social events. For details, including delegates rates and travel arrangements, call Jennifer Dodd on 020 7566 5612.

LAW SOC LAUNCHES CATEGORY KILLER SITE

The English Law Society has launched an online version of its directory of solicitors. Called Solicitors-Online.com, not only does it offer 24/7 access to a directory of 80,000 lawyers in England and Wales but its extensive search facilities allow searches to be made on the basis of location, name, languages spoken and up to 52 different categories of legal specialism and work type.

In addition, because the listings are updated daily and based on information taken directly from the Society's own official REGIS membership database, users can be certain this is the most up-to-date and authoritative source of information about solicitors on the web.

Although the service is primarily designed for members of the public looking for legal assistance, we understand from law firms involved in pilot tests of the service that it has also proved a useful way of vetting the credentials of job applicants, including whether they have a current practising certificate. Would-be counterfeiters should note that the service contains a number of security measures to prevent it being ripped off and copied.

■ The Law Society have what is known in internet circles as a "category killer" - a site offering such a comprehensive service that it is hard to see how anyone else can compete. With over 20 UK sites already offering little more than online marketing directories of solicitors and law firms searchable by speciality, the Law Society service threatens to render most of them redundant.

Why should lawyers pay to be listed on one of these sites when they will now automatically qualify for a free listing in Solicitors-Online and benefit from the Law Society's accompanying marketing activities? Over the next six months a number of services, currently relying on law firm banner advertising for their revenue, risk going to the wall. Files seen by the Insider reveal the owners of one such site, which in May this year valued itself at £100-£150 million, have already downgraded this valuation to £20 million.

www.solicitors-online.com

LINKLATERS NEW EXTRANET

Linklaters has become the latest UK law firm to launch an extranet for its clients. Called Clients@Linklaters, the new service is being piloted in conjunction with Barclays Bank and will allow clients 24/7 direct access to copies of their documents on file, along the same lines as the Allen & Overy Newchange and Clifford Chance Fruit.net virtual dealroom services. Linklaters is using Documentum to handle document management and version control.

■ Recently merged Dechert has based its virtual dealroom on the Doc-Share system developed by the US application service provider InterNetEx. The US company says the ASP approach provides better security.

www.legalnetex.com

SECURE EMAIL? SPOILT FOR CHOICE

Clearly undaunted by the fact there are already a number of secure email services available to the legal profession, this summer has seen the launch of two more in the UK.

The first to launch was 5GM-Mail, which claims as its unique selling point the fact that its software complies with BSI-DISC PD 5000 - an international standard governing the legal admissibility of e-commerce transactions. The service offers authentication of origin - so you know who sent it, integrity - so you know the message has not been tampered with, and proof of delivery - so the sender knows the message and any attached documents have been received by the intended recipient.

5GM-Mail also offers encryption and 5GM (020 8422 5227) say the service's proprietary technology is compatible with most popular law office automation products. Prices start at £295 per server and this includes a 10 user licence.

Two days later Docklands-based e1mail (020 7987 5460) launched its Encrypted 1st Class Mail service.

Described as a "secure electronic messaging and document exchange", this is a web browser based system as opposed to a conventional email service. It too encrypts the contents of a document, certifies its delivery and collection but will even go on to destroy documents that are not collected!

In what sounds suspiciously like yet another variation on the ubiquitous extranet/virtual dealroom theme, e1mail allows organisations to create a secure group account to exchange encrypted documents between their staff and external clients. The service also offers message tracking and secure online conferencing/chat room facilities.

■ In a related development, the Zurich based "secure electronic courier" service UPAQsend reports it enjoyed a marked increase UK business during the recent petrol crisis. The UPAQ service, which has been operating since spring 1999, also offers online document tracking.

www.5gm.com

<http://e1mail.com>

www.upaq.com

INTERNET NEWS IN BRIEF

■ FULL FORCE MARKETING has rebranded its media law service, dropping the name JOURNO LAW in favour of MEDIA SOLICITORS. The site can be found at:

www.media-solicitors.co.uk

■ This week sees the flotation and full listing on the London Stock Exchange of online business intelligence provider WMRC plc. The move is expected to raise £18.6 million in funding. WMRC is best known in the legal sector for its online subscription services *World Markets Online* and *IMPACT Global* which monitor tax, legislative and regulatory developments in 185 countries worldwide.

■ BUSINESS ASSISTANCE is the latest site to carry the *Legal Technology News.com* service on a syndication basis.

www.business-assistance.co.uk

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LEGAL HIT LIST TOP 25

The figures are for August so it is no surprise to see overall legal web site traffic down for the long vacation. You can find the complete chart plus hyperlinks to all sites at:

www.legalhitlist.com

1. (1) interactive-lawyer (inc LAWTEL) www.interactive-lawyer.com
Page Views 1.1 million - Sessions 51,110 - Hits 7.0 million
2. (2) Butterworths LEXIS Direct www.butterworths.com
Page Views 813,552 - Sessions 100,625 - Hits n/a
3. (3) International Centre for Commercial Law www.icclaw.com
Page Views 781,972 - Sessions 71,118 - Hits 1.79 million
4. (4) Law.com/UK www.law.com/uk
Page Views 456,343 - Sessions 24,775 - Hits 1.36 million
5. (5) Law Gazette Online www.lawgazette.co.uk
Page Views 352,595 - Sessions 37,026 - Hits 1.1 million
6. (7) Legal Week www.legalweek.net
Page Views 298,464 - Sessions n/a - Hits 659,372
7. (8) Desktop Lawyer www.desktoplawyer.co.uk
Page Views 293,025 - Sessions 66,712 - Hits 2.09 million
8. (6) The Law Society www.lawsociety.org.uk
Page Views 241,179 - Sessions 53,189 - Hits 1.22 million
9. (10) Sweet & Maxwell www.sweetandmaxwell.co.uk
Page Views 213,098 - Sessions 51,621 - Hits n/a
10. (11) DLA Solicitors www.dla.com
Page Views 208,649 - Sessions 94,231 - Hits 536,051
11. (9) Employment Law www.emplaw.co.uk
Page Views 196,961 - Sessions 12,205 - Hits 543,645
12. (-) Casetrack www.casetrack.com
Page Views 187,627 - Sessions 22,187 - Hits 519,246
13. (12) EveryForm www.everyform.net
Page Views 178,751 - Sessions 12,447 - Hits 463,729
14. (13) Delia Venables Legal Resources www.venables.co.uk
Page Views 109,461 - Sessions 24,250 - Hits 387,474
15. (-) Divorce Online www.divorce-online.co.uk
Page Views 61,611 - Sessions 14,500 - Hits 470,116
16. (22) Employment Solicitors www.employment-solicitors.co.uk
Page Views 54,963 - Sessions 23,947 - Hits 540,190
17. (15) Law on the Web www.lawontheweb.co.uk
Page Views 53,347 - Sessions n/a - Hits 150,602
18. (-) Swarbrick & Co www.swarb.co.uk
Page Views 53,277 - Sessions 15,168 - Hits 92,089
19. (19) Lawyers Online www.lawyersonline.co.uk
Page Views 48,138 - Sessions n/a - Hits 67,849
20. (18) Semple Piggot Rochez www.spr-law.com
Page Views 46,171 - Sessions 7800 - Hits n/a
21. (14) Osborne Clarke www.osborneclarke.com
Page Views 41,439 - Sessions 24,169 - Hits 222,191
22. (21) Infolaw www.infolaw.co.uk
Page Views 40,508 - Sessions 14,229 - Hits 48,962
23. (16) Legal ISP Net www.legalisp.net
Page Views 37,803 - Sessions 3668 - Hits n/a
24. (23) Legal Technology Online www.legaltechnology.org
Page Views 31,986 - Sessions 8188 - Hits 74,496
25. (24) Just Ask! (CLS) www.justask.org.uk
Page Views 31,209 - Sessions n/a - Hits 444,057

BREAKING NEWS

■ This week sees the launch in London of what is described as the world's first fully interactive legal web site. The service, to be called FREELAWYER, will feature a diagnostic program - described as a "virtual lawyer" - that will guide users through some 5000 alternative legal scenarios, so they can assess their legal position on a particular problem. The service will be free to users and will also contain a lawyers directory "guiding consumers to their local specialist." There will be a full report in the next Insider.

■ Within the next few days the US legal services company IKON is expected to announce its acquisition of IGL, the London-based litigation support services bureau. IGL, which has recently won some major orders including the EQUITAS insurance run-off project, says its imaging business will make a very good match with Ikon's reprographics services.

■ FIRST LAW.CO.UK, the UK's first internet only law firm, has appointed DAVID McINTOSH, currently the vice president of the LAW SOCIETY, as its non-executive chairman.

■ NICOLA BATEMAN, head of legal sales at iMARK COMMUNICATIONS and responsible for next year's LEGAL TECH LONDON show, is leaving the company to join the management team at North London's BUSINESS DESIGN CENTRE exhibition venue. JUSTIN OPIE is now handling the LegalTech brief at iMark.

■ Legal systems integrator RAMESYS (previously THE DATA BASE) is expected to announce details of a new strategic relationship with a practice management systems supplier at next month's GLEN LEGAL legal IT forum in Scotland.

THE NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Legal Technology Insider - No. 108 - will be published on Wednesday 11 October. Until then, keep up with the latest news reports with Legal Technology News.com, available both on the web and via email.

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