



5th *London Legal* Sponsored Walk

Monday May 18th 2009, 5.30 p.m.
from the Royal Courts of Justice

News release- May 20th 2009 Legal walk breaks all records

Over 4,000 lawyers walked in the 2009 *London Legal* sponsored walk on May 18th making this year's walk the largest ever. It was also the most productive raising £380,000 for London's legal advice agencies

The walk was led by a glittering array of legal heavyweights including the Lord Chief Justice, The Master of the Rolls, The Attorney General the Presidents of the Law Society and ILEX and the Chair of the Bar Council, walkers are raising funds for London's beleaguered Law Centres and legal advice agencies.

Guest walkers included Kier Starmer QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions leading a large team from the Crown Prosecution Service, and Olympic gold medal winner, David Hemery CBE, Vice Chair of the British Olympic Committee who walked with the Allen & Overy team. The Official Solicitor, the First Parliamentary Counsel and the Recorder of London all walked with departmental teams to lend their support.

Support came from all sections of the legal profession from the top of the judiciary to first year law students. Over 50 Judges and over 200 very senior lawyers, including 20 heads of firms and chambers took part.

Law Society President, Paul Marsh, said the response so far from solicitors has been outstanding. He explained,

"Justice starts on the high street with the agencies that are being supported by the sponsored walk. These lawyers were raising valuable funds to assist legal advice charities that help with real life crises and support people in dire need. It is a superb demonstration of support for the work of lawyers in the voluntary sector helping the most disadvantaged people in society."

Baroness Scotland, the Attorney General added

"I am delighted to, once again, be one of the 4,000 lawyers who will be walking on Monday to raise funds for free legal advice agencies."

These agencies provide a tremendous service to people in need of help with housing, debt, benefits, community care and other areas of social welfare law, their work is particularly valuable in this tough economic climate."

The paid and volunteer lawyers in those agencies have the respect of the whole legal profession and this event allows us all to demonstrate that respect in a most tangible way – by raising funds to support the essential work that they do.”

Notes for editors

The walk is organised by the London Legal Support Trust which funds agencies such as Law Centres and Citizens Advice Bureaux.

The money is being raised to help legal advice charities that:

- Prevent homelessness
- Reduce debt
- Ensure proper community care
- Stop older people going short of heat or food
- Help to keep young people from sleeping on the streets
- Challenge exploitation
- Stop destitution
- Are desperately short of funds

For more information journalists should contact the London Legal Support Trust
101a Tooting High Street
London SW17 0SU
Tel: 01372 810466
chair@londonlegalsupporttrust.org.uk
www.londonlegalsupporttrust.org.uk

Or the Law Society press office on 0207 320 5764

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The walk is also supported by:



The LONDON LEGAL SUPPORT TRUST, 101a Tooting High Street, London SW17 0SU

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