

LAWYERS giving back:

the International Society of Lawyers for Public Service



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and wife of Prime Minister Tony Blair, The Lord Woolf of Barnes, president of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales and Justice Richard Goldstone of the South African Constitutional Court and former chief prosecutor of the UN International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

All fellows and members of the Society are required to:

- Conduct themselves with honour and integrity
- Promote pro-bono legal, charitable or civic service
- Commit to perform at least ten hours of free or substantially reduced fee legal work or ten hours of charitable service per year or an equivalent donation to charitable or civic organisations (this applies to lawyers in private practice or corporate counsel)

Such commitments are honour-based. The Society intends to establish a Public Service Achievement Award for a legal professional who has truly exemplified the principles of their Society through their work.

The benefits for members of the Society are that they will be able to inform their clients or potential clients and colleagues that they are committed to the principles of the Society through

their membership certificate, which the Society intends to become the “hallmark of honourable, public-spirited professionals”. Romary asserts that “those who perform public service enhance the reputation of our profession; those who will not help others, through public service, cannot complain when our profession is maligned.”

Members will also be listed by country and geographical information on the ISLPS web site as well as having the option of having their biography included on the web page. The Society intends to provide other benefits in the near future.

The Society offers only lifetime membership with a one-off fee. It seeks to attract those committed to honourable service both inside and outside the justice system. “We also want people, corporations and government entities seeking to retain or employ a lawyer to have a list they can refer to where they can find lawyers who give back to their communities” says Romary. **PL**

To apply or for further information, the web site is <http://www.islps.org> or the society can be faxed or mailed at The International Society of Lawyers for Public Service, PO Box 572, Greenville, North Carolina 27835 USA, Fax (252) 353 0732.

A new association, the International Society of Lawyers for Public Service, is aiming to create and promote new legal norms in the world. It is a society which was formed to recognise and certify lawyers and other legal professionals who are committed to promoting pro-bono legal, charitable and civic service and to inspire others in the field to do so. Rather than being a list of free lawyers, it aims to be an ‘honour roll’ of the finest and noblest members of the legal profession.

Founder Peter Romary says that “It’s sad that the legal profession has acquired a reputation for the love of money and greed when many lawyers dedicate their time and expertise to help those in need through legal, charitable and civic service.” There are ten honorary fellows of the Society, who include prominent figures such as Joseph Levin, president and co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Centre, Cherie Booth QC, a children’s rights advocate