



## **CBA CHAIRMANS REPORT JUNE 2012.**

This is my last ordinary Committee meeting in the Chair, with just the AGM to go, on 17th July ( although of course there will be time for Committee business after the AGM ). However, apart from one week at the end of July, I shall be in post and in court until the end of August when I hand over to Michael.

I want to make my remaining time count, which is why Mark Borkowski joins us this evening, to introduce himself to the full Committee and to discuss his plans. I am delighted that he can be with us, and that his time with the CBA spans my term and the start of Michaels Chairmanship.

After this meeting, the leadership of the Bar - CBA, Bar Council and Circuits - are gathering to discuss our immediate agenda, on QASA and OCOF. I am pleased that Stephen Hockman, now at the helm of our OCOF group, will be joining us. We must speak with one voice on the big issues.

I am happy to discuss in Committee the other events since the last meeting, including:

- our very successful IET conference on 26th May, with thanks to the Education Committee
- recent publicity and media coverage, including the Law Society Gazette and the Financial Times
- the emergency meeting of the Northern Ireland Bar in Belfast on 6th June
- the valedictory lecture by Hooper LJ yesterday
- the ongoing consultation on a separate legal jurisdiction for Wales.

There is still time for candidates to come forward for Vice Chairman. I hope we will see a lively election with intense focus on the survival of the criminal Bar. We have never been more at risk. At a recent meeting between the Bar Council Chair and the MoJ, officials characterised our activity as 'throwing stones at the Ministry'. Characteristically dismissive of everything for which we stand. That is why we need to move up from stones to boulders, then the mountain itself.