



PRESS CUTTING

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The Water Cooler

What the legal world is buzzing about this week

The buzz

* Recent research by Russell Walker & Jones found that 68 per cent of professionals in the City were under the age of 40. Meanwhile, law firms such as Freshfields are grappling with the issue of partners in their mid-50's who want to keep going. So where will it all lead? Of course there is the anti-ageism legislation but it is also a matter of sentiment. According to Alan Summers of S&H Consulting, even the investment bankers are becoming slightly more friendly to the idea of employing people with grey hair (or no hair at all). And where the banks go the lawyers will surely follow. A decade hence partners in their 60s could well be a commonplace. But what impact will that have on partners in their 30s? That's the next question.

* What do you do after years of running the State that hosts the City that never sleeps? Go and work in a law firm of course. **George Pataki**, former Governor of New York, is joining **Chadbourne & Parke** - and taking his former chief of staff with him. Mr Pataki, who ran NYC for 11 years, and John Cahill, his right hand man for most of them, join the firm as counsel. They follow fellow New York politico Rudy Giuliani back into the law. The former Mayor joined what has since been rebranded as Bracewell & Giuliani shortly after leaving office.

* Two of the biggest names in restructuring law are moving jobs but in opposite directions. **Andrew Wilkinson**, restructuring guru and London managing partner at Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft, is joining Goldman Sachs as its co-head of restructuring for Europe, reports *The Lawyer*. While **Harvey Miller**, vice chairman of investment bank Greenhill, is going back to his old job as an insolvency partner at Weil, Gotshal & Manges in New York.

* The number of **women** appointed to the **judiciary** has almost doubled over the last seven years, according to official figures released today. The Department for Constitutional Affairs said women accounted for 41 per cent of appointments last year up from 24 per cent in 1999.

* Two lawyers in the news this week, but we reckon only one of them is glad they left the noble profession. The happy one: **Russell Chambers** - the man labelled Tony Blair's favourite banker - who has been appointed head of UK operations at investment bank Credit Suisse. Mr Chambers, famous for lending the PM his designer swimming trunks, is less well-known for his stint as a corporate lawyer at Lovells. Our other legal friend is **Lewis "Scooter" Libby**, for whom things have gone markedly less well since he quit as managing partner of Dechert's Washington DC office for the murky world of politics in 2001. His lawyer says he plans to appeal.



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* Imagine if **Bill Gates** decided to walk away from Microsoft and start back all over again in his (admittedly very large) garage and begin building up an entirely new IT company called, say, Gates. And then he invited over, for example, Steve Jobs of Apple to join him. Granted, it's a bit of an exaggeration but **Ronnie Fox** – original name partner of Fox Williams – is now doing something similar with his new firm Fox, the employment and partnership specialist. Ronnie's achievements in his first career would have been enough for most people. Now he's gone back to the metaphorical garage and is expanding fast. His latest coup is to attract David McIntosh, one of the best known faces on the City legal scene. Not only was McIntosh the senior partner of Davies Arnold Cooper for, literally, decades but he also managed to pack in being President of the Law Society as well. Even now he is Chairman of the City of London Law Society, Chairman of Solicitors Indemnity Fund Limited and Chairman of the Professional Standards Board of the Institute of Chartered Insurers. So what started out as a little exercise to stop Ronnie Fox getting bored is now escalating into a very serious practice with top notch highly experienced lawyers. So who cares about age! It just shows you can't keep quality down.

* City law firms seem to be going to ever-increasing lengths to make their **associates** into **partners** without actually having to share any of the real money with them. After salaried partners, associate partners, junior partners etc. comes the latest invention from Field Fisher Waterhouse in the form of fixed-share partners. According to *Legal Week*, the four lucky associates promoted to the new role today will get some equity – but FFW aren't saying how much.

* The **Lord Chancellor** gave a hint last week on reform of the office of **Attorney-General**. Clearly he thinks it should no longer be part of government. He outlined three options for change — and, while insisting that he was not giving a view, seemed to favour a non-party-political attorney answerable to Parliament but with “some ministerial functions”. There was “considerable merit”, he told the Constitutional Affairs Committee, in an attorney still accountable to Parliament — so that he could be questioned on controversial decisions as to whether prosecutions should go ahead or not.

* A long-serving magistrate has been reprimanded after complaining about “bloody foreigners” in court. Alan Mitchell, 68, made the remark when he was sitting as chairman of the bench at a court in Manchester. A female colleague overheard his comment and pointed out she was offended. The JP, who joined the bench in 1971, replied: “Don't talk to me about bloody foreigners. I have to travel three miles to go to a decent chip shop.” No members of the public were said to be in the court at the time of the incident last April. An internal inquiry was launched following a formal complaint. The Greater Manchester Magistrates Advisory Committee recommended that Mr Mitchell should receive a serious reprimand for his behaviour. It also urged that he should be demoted from the “active list” of magistrates to the “supplemental list” - a reserve list rarely called upon to sit on the bench.



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Foreign ways

* The Water Cooler didn't listen to its mother about much, but she was right when it came to tattoos: you'll only end up regretting it. But what can be said for Michael Duplessis, a 40-year-old Chicago man suing a tattoo parlour for allegedly **mis-spelling a tattoo**? The patriotic Chicagoan (or should that be Chicagoer? Or Chicagoite?) asked for the phrase CHI-TOWN to be inked across his chest, but instead for his \$250 came away with CHI-TONW, reports the *Chicago Tribune*. Oops. Now he is suing tattoo artist Sam Hacker for causing "emotional distress from public ridicule". "It was so embarrassing," Duplessis said. "I had to deal with all the people teasing me about it."

Trading Places

* **Neil Templeton**, former global marketing director of FLAG Telecom, has joined Berwin Leighton Paisner to replace marketing director Gillian Khan, who left the firm in October 2006.

* Fraud specialist **Jonathan Fisher, QC**, has joined the chambers of Christopher Kinch, QC, at 23 Essex Street after a short spell as in-house counsel at the London office of Scottish firm McGrigors. He will work across the fields of white-collar crime, serious organised crime and regulatory cases.

* **Clive Tulloch** has been appointed chief executive of the Free Representation Unit (FRU), the largest provider of pro bono advocacy services for social security and employment law. Tulloch is a former tax partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers and was responsible most recently for the risk and regulation arm of its UK tax practice. Before that he specialised in the tax aspects of employment and was a speaker and author on company cars.

* **Charles Foster**, a tenant at Outer Temple Chambers, has been elected to a Visiting Fellowship at Green College, Oxford. During the fellowship he plans to write two books on medical law and ethics and to lecture. He will continue to practise.

* **Patrick Cook**, who set up Osborne Clark's insolvency practice in the 1980s, is jumping ship to Taylor Wessing where he will run the UK reconstruction and corporate recovery group. Mr Cook's hire is part of Taylor Wessing's strategy to develop its bank-led restructuring and corporate recovery practice.