

SOLICITOR MEMBERS

The Law Society Continuing Professional Development Scheme

From 1st November 1998 all solicitors who wish to hold a practising certificate must comply with regulations concerning continuing training ('CPD'). Before this date the CPD rules already applied to solicitors admitted on or after 1st November 1982. On the extension of the scheme to the whole profession revisions were made, which enable members to claim and self-certify CPD after attending certain ELS events.

The ELS is *not* formally accredited for CPD provision by the Law Society, but attendance at ELS events will still often give rise to CPD credit if the session lasts at least thirty minutes and is of relevance to the individual's area of work. The actual time spent in attending (or indeed delivering) such sessions may be counted as CPD, in units of thirty minutes.

Solicitors joining the scheme in 1998 must acquire forty-eight hours' worth of CPD in every three years; the first period runs from 1st November 1998 to 31st October 2001. Note that at least twenty-five per cent of the total must be obtained from *accredited* courses, but seventy-five per cent may be satisfied by attendance at unaccredited courses or carrying out non-client related research and professional development activities. It is up to each individual to maintain a record of their CPD time collection, which the Law Society may wish to examine. In any event, every applicant for a practising certificate will be required to confirm that their CPD target has been reached in each three year period.

If further information is needed, for instance how the rules apply to those who joined the scheme before 1998 or how CPD may be earned through other activities, please contact Tiffany Nield at Slaughter and May on 0171-710 5199.