



**The Costs Lawyer Standards Board, setting and maintaining standards in the profession**

**Newsletter to Costs Lawyers no. 14: 6 October 2018**

**Roles on CLSB board**

On 24 October 2018, David Gamble (lay non-executive director) will be leaving the CLSB to pursue other interests. David has been on the CLSB board since November 2013. On 23 January 2019, Costs Lawyer Richard Allen's term in office as a non-lay non-executive director will come to an end. Richard has been with the CLSB since January 2011. We thank both David & Richard for their years of service and support.

This will therefore create two opportunities on the CLSB board:

1 x non-lay member (person who is/has been a qualified and authorised lawyer)

1 x lay member

The closing dates for applications (no prescribed form or format for applying) are as follows:

Non-lay NED: 5pm on Wednesday 17 October 2018

Lay NED: 5pm on Thursday 25 October 2018

Interviews will take place in Manchester on Friday 16 November 2018.

A job and person specification for each role will be made available upon request. The CLSB board meets approximately 4 times a year in Birmingham, a location considered fair to those commuting from either the north or south. A board member is remunerated at a day rate for a board attendance. Should you be interested in applying, please contact [enquiries@clsb.info](mailto:enquiries@clsb.info). Should you know of anyone who may be interested in the lay member opportunity, do please pass the information on. For that role we are looking for an individual with experience in regulation, risk management or business planning.

**2019 practising certificate fee**

On 3 October 2018, the Legal Services Board approved the fee for a 2019 practising certificate fee in the sum of £250.00. This is the eighth consecutive year the CLSB has been able to keep the fee the same for the profession.

**Legal Choices website**

The CLSB, along with the other legal regulators, established this site and we financially contribute towards its upkeep. Its aim is a one stop shop on consumer awareness of the legal professions, how they can be accessed and legal topics of interest. It has some interesting articles across the legal professions so do check it out at [www.legalchoices.org.uk](http://www.legalchoices.org.uk). It can also be accessed by clicking on the Legal Choices logo on the bottom of the home page of the CLSB website at [www.clsb.info](http://www.clsb.info).

They posted a recent article on confidentiality clauses, which from a regulatory perspective is interesting, so we reproduced it here:

### **Gagging clauses: Silence is not always golden**

Confidentiality clauses (also known as non-disclosure agreements, or ‘gagging’ clauses) are often found in employment contracts for senior executives, or in other commercial contracts. They are also common in settlement agreements that bring employment to an end if there has been a dispute between you and your employer. They are usually in place to protect legitimate business interests.

You might have heard concerns in the news that confidentiality clauses are being misused to cover up potential crimes such as harassment. How would you feel about signing a confidentiality clause? What if you had been harassed at work and your employer offered you a settlement on the condition you signed one?

It’s good to know you have got rights in these situations...and also that any lawyers involved have got responsibilities. Here are our top 4 things to know before you sign a confidentiality clause:

- they can’t be used to try and cover up potential crimes or to stop you or someone else reporting them to the police
- they can’t be used to stop you ‘whistleblowing’ and giving information to public authorities or certain regulators
- if you are asked to sign a settlement agreement at work, your employer should make sure you have access to independent advice from someone like a lawyer or a trade union – for example ACAS can help you negotiate these settlements
- you have the right to be given a copy of the agreement in writing

So – make sure you get advice about what you’re signing first, always ask for a copy, and remember that it can’t stop you speaking up about a criminal act or whistleblowing.

### **Registering an interest in qualifying**

As you are aware, we are working on a proposed new means of entry into the profession, on which we hope to update you soon. If you are aware of anyone wishing to qualify as a Costs Lawyer, please ask them to register an interest at [enquires@clsb.info](mailto:enquires@clsb.info) so that we can keep them updated on the proposed new Costs Lawyer Competence Assessment.

### **Have you changed employer or residential address?**

We are fast approaching that time of the year when we send out your practising certificate renewal packs. If you have recently changed your residential address or employment, and have not notified the CLSB, please do so via [enquiries@clsb.info](mailto:enquiries@clsb.info)

Email: [enquiries@clsb.info](mailto:enquiries@clsb.info)

Phone: 0161 956 8969

Website: [www.clsb.info](http://www.clsb.info)

**Costs Lawyer Standards Board**

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