










Solicitors Support Network


The legal profession is fortunate in having so many practitioners who feel able not only to cope with the demands of their own business and personal lives, but also to look to providing help and support for their colleagues. Through the commitment and dedication of such individuals, various specialist groups have developed over the years, so that in 2004, every period of a Solicitors' life, from studentship through to retirement, is covered by a group; special interests / modes of practice are covered; and there is legal, financial and health support as well.

In order to maximize the help that they can offer to the profession, these groups have, with the assistance and support of the Law Society, formed an ancillary organization called the Solicitors Support Network.

The groups will continue to function exactly as they always have, and those who want to contact them direct will continue to do so. However, for those who are unsure how to contact a group, or which group / groups would be best suited to deal with the problem that they are facing, there is no longer the risk that they might "fall through the holes" and not receive the right help. There is now one single, dedicated telephone number that they can ring and speak, *in absolute confidence*, to someone who will be able to talk their problem through with them and then put them in touch with those best able to assist. The following groups are taking part in this initiative:-

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| <p>•Solicitors Assistance Scheme</p>  <p>www.thesas.org.uk (advice ref. professional/personal difficulties)</p> | <p>•Solicitors Benevolent Association</p>  <p>www.sba.org.uk</p> <p>(living expenses support for Solicitors & their dependants)</p> |
| <p>•LawCare</p>  <p>www.lawcare.org.uk (support ref. personal/ alcohol / addiction / stress problems)</p> | <p>•Solicitors' Sole Practitioners Group</p>  <p>www.spg.uk.com</p> <p>(support for sole practitioners)</p> |
| <p>•Junior Lawyers Division</p> <p>http://juniorlawyers.lawsociety.org.uk</p> <p>(Support, advice and information for enrolled students (ie, with enrolled student status of the Solicitors Regulation Authority), including those working as paralegals, trainee solicitors and solicitors who have been practising for up to five years.)</p> | |
| <p>•Black Solicitors Network</p> <p>www.blacksolicitorsnetwork.co.uk</p> <p>(advice for African and Caribbean Solicitors)</p> | <p>•Association of Women Solicitors</p>  <p>www.womensolicitors.org.uk (advice/re-training/mentoring/maternity helpline for women Solicitors)</p> |
| <p>•Group for Solicitors with Disabilities</p>  <p>www.gsdnet.org.uk (assistance for disabled lawyers)</p> | <p>•Solicitors in Local Government</p> <p> 020 7320 5801</p> <p>(assistance for local government lawyers)</p> |

So, practitioners no longer have to suffer in silence and alone. There are fellow Solicitors ready and willing to assist. All it takes is a phone call.

 **0800 328 4203**

www.solicitorssupportnetwork.com