



ACADEMIC BOARD

ANN HALPERN BARRISTER LLB, LLM,

After studying law and qualifying as a barrister, Ann spent the early part of her career as an academic lawyer and, still retaining that interest, she is currently a visiting professor at Buckingham University. Having spent time at the Bar, she used her understanding of the professional skills required to become a successful practitioner to redesign the vocational training for student barristers at the Council of Legal Education. Her expertise in understanding both the skills required to become successful in practice and creating effective development programmes that short circuit the process of learning on-the-job led her initially to join Rowe & Maw (now Mayer Brown) and then Norton Rose LLP. Altogether, Ann has spent the last 21 years working with lawyers both in the City and all over the world. At Norton Rose LLP, as Director of Practice and Organisational Development, she was a member of the senior management team. Ann is qualified to use a number of psychometric tests (including Thomas International DiSC, FIRO B and MBTI). She is the author of Negotiating Skills (published by OUP). Ann continues to act as an advisor to the professional bodies and is a governor of a state primary school in the east end of London where she is Chair of the Pay & Personnel Committee. For her voluntary work with children in the East End she received an award from Tower Hamlets EPB.

AMANDA HAMILTON LLB (HONS) CEO, NALP

After completing her LLB, Amanda spent five years working as a Paralegal in a small international law firm in London's West End. Then due to personal loss of a family member, Amanda branched out into the property business and spent eight years running her own Lettings Consultancy before being head-hunted to work for an exclusive estate agency, where she worked for a couple of years before being made redundant. Amanda started teaching purely by chance and has been teaching practical paralegal skills to graduates and undergraduates now for sixteen years. She has her own training company. During this time she worked closely with the former head of NALP until his retirement in 2008 when she was offered the opportunity to take over the NALP. Amanda is a senior tutor for ILSPA (Institute of Legal Secretaries and PAs) and also has taught various units of the NALP Level 7 Diploma in Paralegal Practice. Amanda is a trained actor and has performed on stage as well as trying her hand at stand-up. She is an obsessive Argentine Tango dancer and enjoys cooking, eating and fine wines. She also loves football!

IAN GRANT BARRISTER

Ian is a trained Barrister and has extensive knowledge and expertise within the legal education sector, having chaired many academic boards and contributed the writing of many legal academic texts.

JOHN JOHNSON MA, BSC, F.PLL.

John sits as a Tribunal Chairman and also on various health related panels. His qualifications include an MA in education and he has experience of writing, marking and auditing exam papers. As a licensed paralegal he has been involved in the legal sector for over 25 years. As a result of his voluntary work he has been admitted to the order of St John.

RACHEL KEENAN F.ILEX

With over 11 years of practice of property law Rachel has provided conveyancing to a broad range of clients from residential private clients selling and buying their homes, to commercial clients providing services ranging from a brewery and drinks plc to retirement villages. Rachel has also been working with NALP as a tutor in conveyancing on the Level 7 Diploma over the last two years.

RACHAEL MEECH BA, EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT

For the past four years, Rachael has been a freelance educational consultant who has worked with a wide range of education and training organisations providing specialist advice and guidance on qualifications development and accreditation, providing support for awarding bodies and trial sites for new initiatives such as the 14-19 Diploma, the Qualifications and Credit Framework and the Foundation Learning Tier and carrying out research into new areas of work and evaluating projects on behalf of organisations.

PROFESSOR TOM MORTIMER DIRECTOR OF LAW

Dr Tom Mortimer is Head of the Anglia Law School and Director of the International Law Unit both within Anglia Ruskin University. Tom has almost thirty years of teaching and examining experience. He has published widely in the areas of commercial and corporate law and acts as an Advisor to a number of professional, academic and commercial bodies including the Capital Markets Authority in Oman and the Ukrainian Academy of Banking. Tom is also an External Examiner for a number of professional bodies.

MARIA RICHARDS F.ILEX

Maria is a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives and has over 13 years experience practising for one of the largest firms in the Southwest. Maria specialises in conveyancing, however her teaching experience extends from legal secretary courses to graduate and postgraduate levels in all areas of law. She thinks positively and enthusiastically about people and what they are capable of becoming and sees each student as a unique and valuable individual. In her spare time Maria is a keen pianist, enjoys cake decorating, surfing and kayaking and makes the most of the Cornish beaches when the weather permits.