

Annual Report





President's report	2
Secretary's report	4
Activity report	6
Financial report	22
Report of the executive committee	24
Independent auditor's report	25
Financial statements	27
Chief executive's report	32
Past presidents and officers	33

REPORT contents

- To promote full and just compensation for all types of personal injury;
- To promote and develop expertise in the practice of personal injury law;
- To promote wider redress for personal injury in the legal system;
- To campaign for improvements in personal injury law;
- To promote safety and alert the public to hazards wherever they arise;
- To provide a communication network for members.

APIL objectives



PRESIDENT'S report

In this past year, during which I have been privileged to serve as APIL's president, I can say without fear of contradiction that APIL, all of its staff and officers, have performed this very important role with true dedication and not inconsiderable effect.



Victims of negligent injury need a voice but the law is such that, for victims to have that voice, they need the assistance of specialist qualified lawyers. This is not only to bring their cases but to promote the interests of victims past, present and future in dialogue with Government, the insurance industry, trade unions, consumer organisations, civil servants, journalists, the judiciary and others.

In this past year, during which I have been privileged to serve as APIL's president, I can say without fear of contradiction that APIL and all of its staff and officers, have performed this very important role with true dedication and not inconsiderable effect.

Meetings have been held with ministers; two vitally important consultations, *Case track limits and the claims process* and *The law on damages*, were responded to in considerable detail after full consultation with members and my own version of a countrywide tour.

Another 20 or more consultations were responded to across the different jurisdictions on topics such as the possibility of a consolidated pre-action protocol; Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit; civil court fees; compensating victims of violent crime; reviews of various parts of the CPR; a consultation on wrongful death in Scotland and civil court fees in Northern Ireland.

A large number of advances were made in relation to asbestos induced disease claims including the adoption nationwide of the Royal Courts of Justice fast-track system, the agreement with the NHS, TUC and victim support groups for a single leaflet for victims, badged by the NHS; improved response

times for employment histories; amendments to the Companies Act to make restoring companies easier, the announcement of an extension to 1979 Act payments to all mesothelioma victims; improvements to the ABI code of practice for tracing employers' liability insurers to name but a few, in which I have been involved.

Considerable work has been done on the issue of "third party capture" and a detailed dossier supplied to the Financial Services Authority as well as meetings having been held with them and others on the issue.

As ever, APIL is at its best performing its very important functions when the membership is involved. Conferences, regional meetings, regional forums, the new barristers' and *New to PI* groups are going from strength to strength.

Much remains to be done. From my personal perspective the tracing of employers' liability insurers will remain a priority, along with the continued need to properly campaign for improvements in personal injury law, to provide safety and full and just compensation as well as wider redress for injured people in the legal system.

As my year as APIL president draws to a close it would be very wrong of me not to acknowledge the efficiency and dedication of all of the staff in Nottingham, and to publicly offer my considerable thanks, as well as to wish Amanda Stevens all success in her forthcoming presidency.

Martin Bare
President

SECRETARY'S report

I was honoured to be elected into this position, having joined the executive committee in 2004, and I am delighted to be able to join a team of dedicated and hugely experienced practitioners, all committed to fighting for the rights of injured people.



Welcome to APIL's 2007 report and my first as APIL's secretary.

I was honoured to be elected into this position, having joined the executive committee in 2004 and I am delighted to be able to join a team of dedicated and hugely experienced practitioners, all committed to fighting for the rights of injured people.

In April, Richard Langton's presidency drew to a close with Martin Bare taking over the reins. I took over from Frances Swaine who served as APIL's secretary for two years. Amanda Stevens, solicitor with Charles Russell became vice president and Roger Bolt was once again returned uncontested as APIL's treasurer. Allan Gore QC stood down as immediate past president.

We said a sad farewell to Hilary Meredith who decided not to stand for re-election after serving nine years as an executive committee member and prior to that had been secretary and co-ordinator of the Military SIG. Our thanks and best wishes go to Hilary for her continued support of the association and its work.

Three APIL members were successful in their bid for a seat on APIL's executive committee. Harold Immanuel, Stuart Kightley and Matthew Stockwell ensured that new blood flowed into APIL's executive committee which met on eight occasions. Meetings were held in London, Manchester, Nottingham, Leeds and Belfast, to discuss key issues and policy formulation.

David Marshall, from Anthony Gold and an APIL past president, remained on the Law Society Council as APIL's representative and was elected onto the Law Society's Legal Affairs and Policy Board. Congratulations to David on this appointment and our thanks for another year representing APIL, something which involves a huge time commitment.

The work of the organisation continues to be directed and implemented by a staff team led by Denise Kitchener at APIL's offices in Nottingham. The average staff head count from January to December 2007 was 30. Two new posts were created to provide further assistance with APIL's accreditation scheme and PI Focus.

I visited the offices on two occasions in 2007 to meet staff and liaised with them throughout the year on code of conduct matters.

Tremendous support and energy is shown by the many volunteers who work as co-ordinators and secretaries for APIL's regional groups and special interest groups. Over 50 APIL meetings attracted a whole host of speakers and trainers keen to share their knowledge and experiences with APIL members. Our annual meeting to review activities with co-ordinators and secretaries was held prior to APIL's annual conference at the Celtic Manor in Newport, Wales.

In February we responded to members' requests and established a *New to PI* group to provide an APIL forum for our recently qualified members to discuss practice issues and hear from experts from various fields of the law and related issues.

Each year we call for more members to take the plunge and become more actively involved with us. APIL is a strong organisation, but to keep adding to that strength and effectiveness we need experienced minds and passionate practitioners, prepared to work constructively with our dedicated full time team of staff. Help us fight for the rights of injured people and gain information, knowledge and expertise which can benefit your day to day work.

Stephen Lawson
Secretary



Fighting for the rights of injured people

APIL featured in more than 200 print press stories in 2007, and dealt with more than 100 enquiries from journalists. Press coverage in the regional newspapers increased by 721 per cent compared with the previous year, largely through a concerted campaign to target particular towns through APIL's SafetyWatch stories. Many APIL members contributed to the success of these stories, by providing quotes for their local newspapers or assisting with case studies.

APIL launched an online press room in 2007, aimed at providing information to journalists visiting the website. Since its launch in July, the press room has had almost 5,000 visitors.

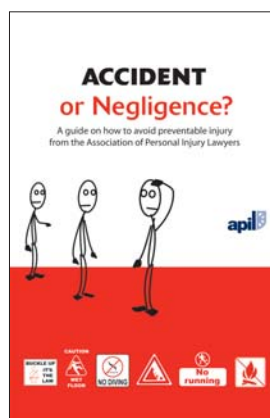
APIL has also featured regularly in online news articles – online coverage increased by more than 600 per cent when compared to 2006.

The majority of APIL's press coverage in 2007 was generated proactively. Press campaigns initiated by APIL, which raised the association's profile included the safety of workers abroad; dangers of carbon monoxide; young workers' health and safety and the regulation of the hairdressing industry.

'Accident or Negligence?' booklet

Press stories about conkers being banned in school playgrounds, health and safety being

taken too far, and hanging baskets being removed have created a false impression of the personal injury system. Confusion often arises about the difference between an accident and negligence, and this is tackled in APIL's 'Accident or Negligence?' booklet, which was launched at the 2007 AGM.



3,000 booklets have been sent to a variety of recipients including MPs, councils and play organisations. A key success saw the booklet being included in presentations the Health and Safety Executive gave to local authorities.

CONSULTATIONS

In 2007, APIL responded to more than 20 consultations across the different jurisdictions. Probably the most well publicised were the two consultations issued by the Ministry of Justice: *Case Track Limits and the Claims Process*; and *The Law on Damages*.

Claims process consultation



At APIL's annual conference Lord Falconer, the then Lord Chancellor, announced the publication of the long awaited consultation, *Case track limits and the claims process for personal injury claims*. In preparing a response, APIL president Martin Bare attended a series of special interest and regional members meetings around the country. Dozens of views were also received at the APIL office via the members' forum, letter and e-mail.

APIL's response to this consultation supported the proposal to leave the small claims limit for personal injury claims at £1,000 and opposed an increase in the fast track limit. We said that complexity, not value, should determine the track on which a case is to proceed. The response recognises that the process could be improved for claimants as it is sometimes too slow, and not enough injured people receive the rehabilitation they need. The Government has not yet issued its formal response to the consultation and APIL's staff continues to address relevant issues with civil servants at regular meetings.

Mesothelioma and pleural plaques

By the end of the year, APIL members had undertaken a great deal of campaign work in relation to mesothelioma issues and pleural plaques, following the desire expressed in 2006 by the then Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to improve the compensation system for people suffering from mesothelioma.

APIL, along with other stakeholders, continued its involvement in discussions with the Department for Work and Pensions and the Ministry of Justice, in an effort to deliver on campaign objectives set out in last year's annual report.

By the end of the year much had been achieved through dialogue between interested parties:

- The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill, which will introduce early lump sum payments to all mesothelioma sufferers, was well on its way through the parliamentary process.
- A new practice direction had been developed to extend Master Whitaker's fast track scheme to regional centres. This will come into use on 8 April 2008.
- Improvements had been made to the Association of British Insurers' code of practice for tracing employers' liability insurers, and a review of the new scheme is scheduled for early 2008. APIL will continue



to press for solicitors to be informed of insurance companies' failure to respond to tracing requests and for regular updates on success rates.

But there is more to do. We will continue to campaign with our members, other stakeholder groups and parliamentarians for some measure of address for those affected by the recent House of Lords test cases on pleural plaques (*Johnston v NEI International Combustion Ltd* and others).

Discussion with Government continues about the need for a central electronic register of employers' liability compulsory insurance details.

Members should also note that consistent representations about the need for an Employers Liability Insurance Bureau (ELIB) were made during the early part of the year. These discussions were temporarily shelved, however, when it became clear that the Government's priority was to introduce early lump sum payments to mesothelioma sufferers although the issue remains very much on the association's agenda for future discussion.

Damages

After long anticipation, the Ministry of Justice conducted a consultation on the law on damages, which ended in July. The issue of damages and fair redress is a key feature of APIL's *Agenda for injured people*, launched at the association's parliamentary reception in November.

APIL's response demanded detailed input from a large number of members and the association's paper expressed concern that

the Law Commission's recommendations in relation to damages for non-pecuniary loss were not discussed in the consultation.

There was, however, much in the document which was welcome, including a proposal that the statutory list of those who are able to claim for financial loss under the Fatal Accidents Act should be extended; recognition of the plight of mesothelioma sufferers and their families (for whom claims made after death are greater in value than settlements in life); and the proposal that where there is a statutory duty on public bodies to provide care and accommodation services to the claimant, the central principle should be that the defendant should pay for the costs of care.

A formal response from the Ministry of Justice was still awaited at the end of the year, although an announcement was made that bereavement damages were to increase from £10,000 to £11,800, effective from January 2008.

Other consultations

APIL has also responded to the following consultations this year:

Civil Justice Council (CJC): '**Consolidated pre-action protocol**' (May). APIL disagreed with proposals to introduce a consolidated pre-action protocol which would reduce the present nine protocols to one, incorporating the core steps and guidance common to all of the protocols, but with subject specific appendices.

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP): '**Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB)**' (May). Invited recommendations for a

new occupational injury scheme, and suggested industrial injuries benefits are outdated in light of changing patterns in occupation.

HM Court Service (HMRC): **'Civil Court Fees'** (June). Considers proposals to reform the fee remissions and exemptions system; increase fees for civil business in magistrates' courts; and re-balance the fee structure in the other civil courts. APIL opposed the principle of 100 percent cost recovery by the courts.

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP): **'A Review of Certain Provisions within the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Regulations 1998)'** (August). Sought views on certain regulations on the retention and display of ELCI policy certificates and the associated burden on business introduced to part of the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998. APIL argued that a database of EL insurance policies should be created.

National Audit Office (NAO): **'Compensating victims of violent crime'** (July). Sought views on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority's (CICA's), quality of customer service, focusing on the effectiveness of communication with applicants; the consistency and fairness of decisions; and the speed of processing applications for compensation. APIL made a number of suggestions on how to improve the operation of the CICA.

Ministry of Justice (MoJ): **'Review of Part 6 of the civil procedure rules'** (September). Sought views on proposals to simplify the rules in Part 6 of the Civil Procedure Rules 1998.

Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF): **'Staying Safe'** (October). Sought views on how best to protect vulnerable children and young people and how to respond when they are harmed. APIL replied with a letter explaining the 'Accident or Negligence?' booklet, and reiterated the need for a sensible approach to the management of risk.

Ministry of Justice (MoJ): **'Statutory duty for doctors and other public service personnel to report deaths to the coroner'** (September). Considers proposals in relation to three aspects of policy: the public service personnel on whom the duty to report deaths should rest; the specific circumstances and categories of death which should be reported to the coroner; and the sanctions which may apply if there is a failure to report a relevant death to the coroner. APIL agreed with many of the proposals, but thought the time limits suggested were arbitrary.

Consultations in Scotland

The year ended with a success for Scottish members, when a Scottish Law Commission report, *Personal injury actions: limitation and prescribed claims*, recommended changes to the Prescription and Limitation (Scotland) Act 1973, which will ensure disease victims no longer have to suffer because of the courts' often draconian interpretation of limitation rules. We now wait to see if the recommendations will be implemented.

APIL Scotland responded to a preliminary call for views in relation to a major civil courts review. A formal consultation document was published at the end of the year and will be a major focus of campaign activity during 2008.



Submissions were made to the Justice Committee of the Scottish Parliament, the Justice Secretary, Kenny MacAskill, and the Sheriff Court Rules Council to highlight concerns about the decision to make all personal injury cases up to the value of £5,000 subject to the summary cause procedure.

We also responded to a major consultation initiated by the Scottish Law Commission, which invited views about damages for wrongful death, and explored whether changes need to be made to reflect the changing nature of society.

Consultations in Northern Ireland

Increases in civil court fees were introduced in September, despite robust objections from APIL and other organisations made to the Northern Ireland Court Service during the consultation process. Research will be undertaken to monitor the impact of the increases on claimants.

Contact was made with the office of the Lord Chief Justice to request input into the work of a group convened to review recommendations made by the civil justice reform group in 2000.

APIL Northern Ireland also continued to make representations to the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission, both in meetings and in consultation responses, for the retention of legal aid for personal injury cases.

APIL IN PARLIAMENT

Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007

After a very long wait, this Act finally

reached the statute books. It provides for a new offence of corporate manslaughter (corporate homicide in Scotland) where the way in which a company's activities are managed or organised cause a person's death. APIL argued for the inclusion of the prison service within the scope of the offence in briefings sent to MPs and peers and this issue caused lengthy disagreements between the House of Commons and House of Lords. The Government finally conceded the point although it will not apply to the prison service until 2011. The rest of the Act will come into force on 6 April 2008.

Coroner reform

APIL was very disappointed that the coroner reform bill did not appear in the Queen's Speech in November, especially as the Bill was included in the Government's draft legislative programme published in July. APIL will continue to press for the Government to introduce much-needed reform to the coronial system. During this year, APIL has been active in pursuing that aim by means of various meetings with the Ministry of Justice, civil servants, MPs and other stakeholder groups.

Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill

Part four of this Bill provides for lump sum payments for mesothelioma sufferers and their dependants. APIL has been heavily involved in discussions with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and relevant stakeholders prior to the introduction of the Bill. The association welcomed the Government's commitment to ensuring mesothelioma victims receive early financial support. Activity during the year included written evidence submitted to public Bill committee scrutinising the Bill; APIL's evidence mentioned in debate by Michael

Clapham MP (Lab) and supported by Tim Boswell MP (Con) and work with other targeted MPs.

Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill

First published in draft form for pre-legislative scrutiny in May 2007, this bill aims to provide a wider range of sanctions to regulators than simply criminal prosecutions. These include fixed penalty notices, cessation notices and enforcement undertakings. It will also set up a Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO). APIL's response has focussed on the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and expressed deep concern at the low level of fines currently levied for breaches of health and safety law. It also drew attention to the funding cuts imposed on the HSE and the subsequent deleterious effect these will inevitably have on inspection and enforcement. The bill was introduced in the House of Lords in November. Briefing notes were sent to targeted Lords for the second reading debate in the House of Lords.

Directors' duties

APIL continues to press for the introduction of statutory health and safety duties for directors. Activity has included meetings with Lord McKenzie of Luton (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Department for Work and Pensions) David Anderson MP (Lab) Michael Clapham MP (Lab) Andrew Selous MP (Con) Jenny Willott MP (Lib Dem) and Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen (Lab). APIL has also submitted written evidence to the work and pensions select committee inquiry into the work and operations of the Health and Safety Commission and Executive and had meetings with other relevant stakeholder organisations.

Agenda for injured people



APIL's parliamentary reception took place in the House of Commons on Monday 19 November. The event was hosted by Michael Clapham MP (Lab) and was entitled, *An Agenda for Injured People*. It was attended by MPs, peers, press and representatives of relevant stakeholder organisations, such as the TUC, RoSPA and SmartRisk. APIL used the event to publicise its agenda document, outlining its continuing campaigns on behalf of injured people and their families. The document focussed on the need for prevention, fair redress and a fair debate. APIL's 'Accident or Negligence?' booklet was also handed out to attendees. The event provided an excellent opportunity for APIL's messages to be disseminated amongst parliamentarians.

Select committees

APIL has submitted written evidence to the House of Lords select committee on regulators inquiry into UK economic regulators. The evidence concentrated on the role of the Financial Services Authority (FSA). APIL argued that the FSA's regulation of firms

should be transparent and investigations into complaints should be carried out in the public domain.

In evidence to the Work and Pensions select committee inquiry into the work of the HSC/HSE, APIL argued that voluntary safety guidance is ineffective, statutory health and safety duties for directors should be introduced and the HSE should be properly funded.

Welsh Assembly

Proposed NHS Redress (Wales) Measure

The Welsh Assembly introduced this measure in July after being empowered by the NHS Redress Act 2007. The Bill is very similar to the Act and provides for redress for low value clinical negligence claims without the need to go to court. Once again, the details of the scheme will be fleshed out in regulations to be issued at a later date. The measure is currently being scrutinised by a Welsh Assembly committee, when APIL will brief targeted Assembly members.

Working with other organisations

Association of District Judges (ADJ)

APIL had two meetings this year with the ADJ together with the Forum of Insurance Lawyers (FOIL). These meetings allow a free exchange of information and ideas between the groups to help improve the way in which lawyers and the courts interact. Examples of this during 2007 include the claims process consultation and practical court issues such as Part 36 offers and court fees.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA)

This year the CICA began a root and branch review of its internal procedures. APIL was contacted to assist with this review and set up three focus groups of members who met officials from the CICA to discuss possible improvements to the way in which applications are dealt with by the authority. Following a series of meetings with the groups, changes to the way in which the scheme is administered are being piloted in various regions, with further discussions expected next year.

Motor Insurers Bureau (MIB)

The MIB offered to discuss proposals for a revised uninsured drivers agreement with APIL and other organisations and APIL has set up a working group to create a list of issues to be tackled with the MIB and a round-table meeting is planned for 2008.

International organisations

APIL's relations with similar organisations across the globe have always been cordial and this year more work has been put into enhancing those relationships, particularly with those countries whose judicial systems are similar to our own. Stronger links are being forged with the Australian Lawyers Association (ALA) and the American Association for Justice (AAJ – formerly ATLA). Regular email updates are sent to both organisations, and to the Hong Kong and Canadian Law Societies and more detailed quarterly updates have also started this year.



COMMUNICATIONS

On the web

In 2007, the web-based lawyers search was improved to ensure that lawyers' details provided to the general public are suitable to the injured person's claim. www.apil.com maintained its number one ranking on Google for the search term 'personal injury'. APIL also rose to the number one ranking on Ask and appears on the first page on MSN Live Search.

The top five areas of the APIL website in 2007 have been:

- Members' discussion forums
- Lawyers search
- Experts search
- Public homepage
- Members homepage (including what's new)

Weekly email alert

Key information continues to be provided to APIL members via the weekly alert, including information on the week's events and forthcoming activities. The weekly alert is circulated on Thursday afternoons, ready for members to read at their desks on Friday mornings.

Discussion forums

Postings on the discussion forums have ranged from tracing suitable experts to informed procedural discussions and case-solving brainstorming sessions. The forums remain a vital source of information for the association and are a useful touchstone for gauging the views of members. The forum continues to be the most

popular area of the website enabling members to query the collective knowledge of the wider APIL membership.

Expert database

A full review of the service has been carried out in 2007. The online expert search was refined and over 5,000 experts are currently being viewed by APIL members each month.

Information Exchange

The information exchange service continues to assist members with their cases by providing information on expert services, tracing cases, sharing information on cases being pursued by other members, monitoring product recalls, issuing briefing notes on aspects of legal practice as, and when, necessary.

Journals, books and other publications

PI Focus

PI Focus offers up to date, practical information to help members run their personal injury practices and case loads. Articles are mostly written by those who practise personal injury law and in addition, this year APIL published articles by those who have an interest in the subject matter, including a psychologist, a life coach, a professor of audiology, costs draftsmen, and APIL staff members.

This year, PI Focus was published six times with an additional themed issue.

Agenda

The last issue of Agenda was issued in December to be replaced by a new publication titled *Connect*. Members were updated throughout 2007 about APIL's press and parliamentary campaigning work, and were kept abreast of developments on issues such as streamlining the claims process; developments in asbestos cases and important judgments, Government Bills and all lobbying activity.

APIL Guides



Jordan Publishing has now produced nine publications since it began its successful partnership with APIL several years ago. During 2007 APIL and Jordans worked to increase the number of published titles and to produce further editions of existing works. There are pre-orders for new guides on accidents at work, CFAs (2nd ed) clinical negligence, model letters (2nd ed) and damages (2nd ed). An expanded guide on the Motor Insurers Bureau agreements was also commissioned this year.

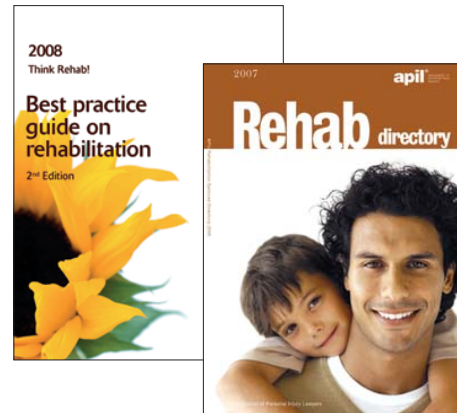
The loose-leaf publication, *APIL personal injury, law, practice and precedents*, has also attracted a healthy number of subscribers this year. To enhance the service to subscribers Jordans has sent out an updater document which provides summaries of recent cases, produced by Anthony Gold Solicitors.

Journal of Personal Injury Law (JPIL)



Published for APIL by Sweet & Maxwell, JPIL remains one of Sweet & Maxwell's best-selling journals. There were 730 subscribers for JPIL this year, slightly down on last year's figures. Muiris Lyons and Nigel Tomkins and a proactive editorial board continue to work hard to ensure the journal is a readable and useful publication.

Think Rehab! publications



The **Rehabilitation directory** which was published in January and APIL's **Best practice guide on rehabilitation** have strengthened APIL's commitment to its 'Think Rehab!' campaign this year.

NETWORKING

Regional and special interest groups

In addition to increased web-based forum activities via the web, APIL continues to communicate its messages via the regional and special interest group network: 39 regional group meetings and 17 SIG meetings were held during 2007. Scotland hosted two meetings in addition to the annual Christmas dinner and three meetings took place in Northern Ireland.

APIL's thanks go to all co-ordinators, secretaries and EC members who have continued to facilitate the group meetings, maintaining APIL's high quality standards.

Regional forums

In 2007, APIL took its regional forums to London, Edinburgh, Leeds and Bristol. Members had an opportunity to listen to presentations given by three special interest groups, followed by talks on the local perspective and a report from APIL's executive committee.

Barristers group

Following on from the inaugural meeting in the autumn of 2006, two meetings were held including speakers on periodical payments and associated financial issues and a quantum update.

New to PI group

APIL's New to PI group was established in February with the purpose of giving members who are new to this area of practice a platform upon which to share their experiences and listen to relevant speakers.

Conferences

APIL annual conference and AGM

In April 2007, APIL returned to the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport, South Wales for its 17th annual conference. The conference attracted over 400 delegates, exhibitors, sponsors and speakers.



APIL clinical negligence conference

Christopher Limb, Roger Wicks and Fran Pollard worked with the APIL team to develop another very successful program for the full subscribed two-day residential clinical negligence conference in Meriden, Warwickshire. Delegates listened to practitioners and experts in the field of cardiology, cardiac surgery and vascular medicine.

Rehabilitation conference

In December 2007, APIL held its first rehabilitation conference. The conference looked at the many issues surrounding



rehabilitation and was linked with the publication of the new IUA/ABI rehabilitation code and the revised APIL best practice guide on rehabilitation. The event attracted a diverse audience, including APIL members, rehabilitation providers and defendant solicitors.

Other major events

Throughout 2007, APIL ran a number of other specialist conferences, covering topics such as cost and funding, occupational disease and advanced asbestos litigation. APIL also took over the administration of the JPIL conference from Sweet and Maxwell.

APIL charity golf day



The 2007 APIL charity golf day took place at the Belfry. Experts, advertisers and members made up 27 teams and enjoyed playing 18 holes on the championship standard Brabazon course.

Training

APIL continues to offer high quality standard training events.

Public schedule

- 42 different topics have been covered in 2007;
- 116 events nationwide;
- 31 APIL certificate courses nationwide;
- Five contract training events organised for Accident Line scheme.

In-house training, joint training with local law societies and consortia

- 32 in-house training courses;
- 17 courses organised jointly with local law societies;
- The APIL certificate continues to run successfully with Blackpool and Liverpool Law Societies;
- APIL's first training consortium ran in Manchester with five participating firms.

Other jurisdictions

- Four events organised in Scotland, including the annual PI update which ran jointly with the Law Society of Scotland;
- Four events organised in Northern Ireland.

Web seminars

Another successful web seminar was organised in April, delivered by John McQuater and Frances McCarthy. The seminar covered the changes to the CPR Part 36.

APIL certificate in personal injury law

Five more delegates completed the certificate in 2007 and a further eight registered for all modules. In August, APIL achieved accreditation for the certificate from the

College of Law and all certificates are, from September, jointly awarded by the College and APIL.

Accreditation

Individual membership

1,555 practitioners have now joined APIL's accredited levels. A breakdown of the numbers identified by accreditation level, is listed in the statistics section on page 20. Almost one third of the membership is now individually accredited.

Corporate membership

Corporate accredited membership increased by 22 per cent this year with 248 branches of firms being accepted.

In-house accreditation

42 firms were accredited to run courses in-house, enabling accredited APIL members to accrue APIL CPD hours.

Accreditation of other training providers

APIL granted annual accreditation to 15 external providers. Central Law Training continue to offer the most APIL accredited courses. The academic quality council recommended that further measures are put in place to encourage other providers to improve the standard of their training.

Senior fellows' assessment panel

The senior fellows' assessment panel met twice and two applications were successful.

Monitoring

Monitoring was carried out in a number of key areas:

Individual membership: the senior fellows assessment panel made spot checks on a number of fellowship applications at their meetings in 2007. In addition, four senior fellows came into the APIL office to randomly select a number of approved applications for assessment or verification.

Training logs: 50 per cent of all training logs were monitored this year.

Corporate monitoring is carried out:

Remotely: APIL checks the validity of all answers on all applications, through telephone calls and checking membership of other organisations.

On-site: Monitoring of a number of corporate accredited firms is carried out by two independent assessors, one of whom is a retired practitioner and the other a quality assurance consultant.

All monitoring reports are reviewed by the training and accreditation committee and submitted to the AQC.

In-house accredited firms are asked to submit details of all personal injury training which has been carried out and records are checked against individual training logs. Course materials are examined to ensure that APIL's high quality standards are adhered to.

Internal business developments

Acquisition of apil.org and apil.org.uk

APIL acquired both apil.org and apil.org.uk domains. These domains currently forward to www.apil.com. APIL will move its website to one of these domains in 2008.



Intranet

APIL's customer management system has been integrated into its SAGE accounts system in order to automate the processing of payments, effectively halving the work required to process several types of income. Course budgeting has also been integrated into the intranet allowing the finance team to produce management reports in seconds rather than days.

Online booking system

APIL launched an online payment processing system in September which allows people to book places on courses through the APIL website. Already around five per cent of all enrolments have been made online.

Members' feedback

APIL receives lots of positive comments about its activities. Here is just one example:

"A valued aspect of APIL membership is the regional and special interest group meetings. I have been able to network with other solicitors there as well as benefit from the specific training these groups offer. As regional co-ordinators for the Northwest I aim to make the training specific to the needs of my group and we are always receptive to ideas for meetings."

Bridget Collier, Fentons LLP.

STATISTICS section

Attendance at executive committee meetings (maximum 8)

January – December 2007

Martin Bare (President) ^a 8
Morrish & Co Solicitors, Leeds

Amanda Stevens (Vice President) ^b 8
Charles Russell, Guildford

Stephen Lawson (Secretary) ^c 8
Forshaws, Frodsham

Roger Bolt (Treasurer) ^d 8
Bolt Burdon Kemp, London

Additional officers

Richard Langton
(Immediate past president) ^e 6
Russell Jones & Walker, Birmingham

David Bott 6
Bott & Co, Wilmslow

Allan Gore QC ^{g i} 2
12 King's Bench Walk, London

Stuart Kightley ^{f j} 5
Osbornes, London

Harold Immanuel ^{f j} 3
Immanuel & Co, London

Christopher Limb 7
Young Street Chambers, Manchester

Muiris Lyons 4
Irwin Mitchell, London

Robert Martin 4
Gray Magee, Belfast

John McQuater 7
Atherton Godfrey, Doncaster

Hilary Meredith ^{h i} 0
Hilary Meredith Solicitors, Wilmslow

Victoria Mortimer-Harvey 7
Pattinson & Brewer, London

Matthew Stockwell ^{f j} 4
India Street Buildings, Liverpool

Neil Sugarman 6
GLP Solicitors, Bury

Frances Swaine ^{h i} 1
Leigh Day & Co, London

Karl Tonks 7
Fentons Solicitors, Manchester

Mark Turnbull 8
Thompsons, Liverpool

Fred Tyler 3
Balfour & Manson, Edinburgh

a. Elected as president at AGM: 19 April 2007
Post as vice president ended at April 2007 AGM

b. Elected as vice president at AGM: 19 April 2007

c. Elected as secretary at AGM: 19 April 2007

d. Re-elected as treasurer at AGM: 19 April 2007

e. Post as president ended at AGM: 19 April 2007

f. Elected at AGM: 19 April 2007

g. Post as immediate past president ended at AGM: 19 April 2007

h. Did not stand for re-election at AGM.

i. out of a possible two meetings prior to the AGM.

j. out of a possible five meeting post election at the AGM.

Membership statistics

As at the end of 2007, membership numbers by category are as follows:

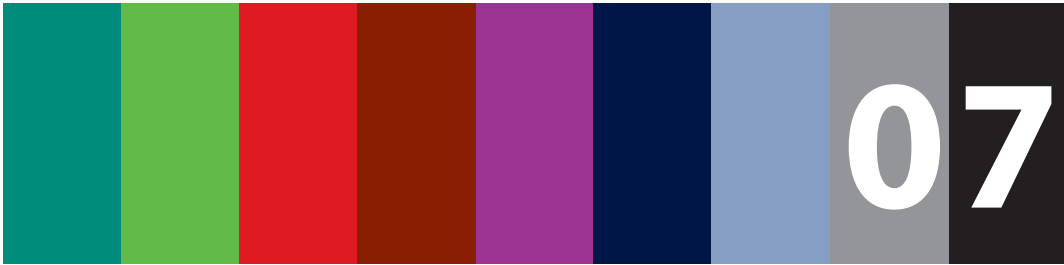
Practitioners	4562
Paralegals	199
Honorary	9
Non-practising	24
Students	53
Academics	17
Overseas	75
<hr/>	
Total	4939
<hr/>	

Accreditation statistics

Individual membership

The numbers of practitioners who have joined the accredited levels are as follows:

Litigators	618
Senior litigators	757
Fellows	171
Senior fellows	9
<hr/>	
Total	1555
<hr/>	



Financial Report

FINANCIAL report

It has been a pleasure and honour to have acted as your treasurer for the last four years. I stand down with sadness but also with confidence that my successor will enjoy the same dedicated and energetic support from the APIL management, staff, members and executive and thus be equipped to contribute to the continued success of the organisation whose work on behalf of accident victims is more vital than ever.



In the financial year under report, APIL has once again made a modest pre-tax surplus of £22,525 which following the Corporation Tax computation reduces to £15,421. This compares extremely favourably with the budget set for the year, where our target surplus projection was £16,180.

In terms of our income generation we have for the sixteenth successive year, shown an increase on the previous year's total. Although this year the increase in our operational income was a marginal three per cent, our annual turnover has now risen to £2.31M.

In addition to the increase in our operational income, we have also increased the income generated by our investments, by a further ten per cent on the previous year. This has been achieved by prudent investment decisions and an increase in the interest rates.

Looking at the detail behind the figures, there have been substantial increases in the number of accreditations during this financial year, with a 32 per cent increase in corporate accreditations and an 18.75 per cent increase in individual accreditations on the previous year, with a subsequent positive effect on our

income stream. Our total membership numbers are down on those for 2006, however our income generation from this activity remained constant, due to the fact that subscriptions for practitioners were raised by 2.7 per cent in April 2007. The total income generated by subscriptions totalled £883,183.

During 2007, we again demonstrated our skills and abilities in staging major residential events, such as the annual conference, clinical negligence conference and charity golf day. These activities realised a combined surplus of £103,990. This is due to our professionalism in marketing the events, increased numbers of delegates attending and our ability to attract more and more exhibitors and sponsors. Indeed, as can be seen from the above and within the detailed accounts, in almost all of our distinct service areas i.e. events, membership, conferences, accreditation and legal services there has been an increase in income generation from 2006.

Equally satisfying to me as treasurer, is the fact that we have also been able to manage our expenditure in almost all of the discrete areas of the business. This process being made possible, by the quality and integrity of the financial information and management accounts available to the budget holders, officers and members of the executive committee.

There have been two exceptional items of expenditure during this financial year which were not budgeted for, but to which I would draw your attention. The first being some £20,000 spent on a major research project commissioned in the early part of 2007, conducted by an external agency, Opinion Leader Research, on legal expenses insurance and referral fees. The additional expenditure for this project was approved by the executive committee. The second being the sum of £16,900 spent on the re-branding of APIL, prior to a launch on 1 January 2008.

There has been no spending activity from within APIL's reserves during this financial year. The reserves therefore remain in a

healthy position in line with our existing reserves policy and are currently sufficient to meet our known current and any future identified commitments.

APIL made three charitable donations during the financial year. £1,000 was given to Cancer Research UK from funds raised during the APIL charity golf day. In addition, £1,500 went to AVMA and a further £6,000 to Re-unite: both of these donations being found from general funds.

Our auditors have reported directly to me that APIL's finances continue to be sound and healthy and that the financial management control procedures currently in place are robust, effective and have integrity.

The financial results demonstrate that APIL is an extremely well managed organisation, with all areas of the business pulling in the same direction, to ensure that wherever possible, budgetary targets are met and as illustrated earlier, in many instances improved upon.

Finally, I would just like to add, that it has been a pleasure and honour to have acted as your treasurer for the last four years. I stand down with sadness but also with confidence that my successor will enjoy the same dedicated and energetic support from the APIL management, staff, members and executive and thus be equipped to contribute to the continued success of the organisation whose work on behalf of accident victims is more vital than ever.

Roger Bolt
Treasurer



ACCOUNTS

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

A company limited by guarantee

Report of the executive committee.

Year ended 31 December 2007

The executive committee present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2007.

Activity

The principal activity of the company is to promote, encourage and develop expertise in the practice of personal injury law by education and the exchange of information and knowledge.

Review of developments and future prospects

As can be seen in the treasurer's report, APIL's income generation has grown for the sixteenth consecutive year. We have been particularly pleased with the continuing growth in both corporate and individual accreditations and expect this trend to continue in the next financial year.

We are also delighted that APIL's major events (AGM and annual conference, clinical negligence conference, annual golf day) continue to appeal to more and more of our members and equally sponsors and exhibitors.

In 2008, our policy, campaign and lobbying activities will continue. Increased attention will also be given to extending and enhancing our public information and awareness activities. To support this work,

new income generating opportunities will be explored and targeted including increased advertising within our monthly PI Focus and other APIL publications. APIL's expert database service is also targeted for expansion and increased income generation.

Results

Details of the results for the year are set out in the income and expenditure account on page 27.

Charitable gifts

During the year donations of £7,500 (2006: £3,000) were made. Of this figure £6,000 was donated to Reunite and £1,500 was donated to AVMA.

Statement of responsibilities

Company law requires the executive committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements the executive committee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The executive committee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time

the financial position of the company and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The executive committee is responsible for ensuring that the reports and other information included in the annual report are prepared in accordance with UK company law.

Executive committee

M Bare*	A Stevens*
S Lawson*	R Bolt*
D Bott	H Immanuel (19 April 2007)
S Kightley (19 April 2007)	R Langton
C Limb	M Lyons
R Martin	J McQuater
V Mortimer-Harvey	M Stockwell (19 April 2007)
N Sugarman	K Tonks
M Turnbull	F Tyler

*are also directors of the company

Provision of information to auditors

So far as each of the members of the executive committee are aware at the time the report is approved:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware, and
- the executive committee members have all taken steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the executive committee and signed on their behalf

S LAWSON

Secretary and Director
11 March 2008

Independent auditors' report to the members of Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

A company limited by guarantee Year ended 31 December 2007

We have audited the financial statements of Association of Personal Injury Lawyers for the year ended 31 December 2007 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the executive committee and auditors

The executive committee's responsibilities for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law



and United Kingdom Accounting Standards ('United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice') are set out in the statement of responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the report of the executive committee is not consistent with the financial statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding the remuneration of the executive committee and other transactions is not disclosed.

We read other information contained in the annual report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. The other information comprises the Report of the Executive Committee. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also

includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the executive committee in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2007 and of its surplus for the year then ended; and
- the financial statement have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and
- the information given in the report of the executive committee is consistent with the financial statements.

PKF

PKF (UK) LLP
Registered Auditors
Nottingham, UK
12 March 2008

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
A company limited by guarantee
Income and expenditure account
Year ended 31 December 2007

	Note	2007 £	2006 £
INCOME			
Subscriptions	2	929,124	912,215
Other income		1,381,153	1,334,291
		2,310,277	2,246,506
EXPENDITURE			
Administration expenses		(2,345,085)	(2,268,200)
		(34,808)	(21,694)
(DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE			
Interest receivable	4	57,333	51,900
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE BEFORE TAX			
Taxation	6	(7,104)	(12,143)
		15,421	18,063
Surplus/(Deficit) after tax			
Balance brought forward		383,637	365,574
Balance carried forward		399,058	383,637

All activities derive from continuing operations.

There are no recognised gains or losses for the current financial year or previous period other than as stated in the income and expenditure account.

The notes on pages 28-30 form part of these financial statements

1. Balance sheet
31 December 2007

	Note	2007 £	2006 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	7	10,763	19,992
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	8	18,758	26,707
Prepayments and accrued income		106,502	42,236
Cash at bank and in hand		764,639	741,443
		889,899	810,386
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	9	(501,604)	(446,741)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		338,295	363,645
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		399,058	383,637
NET ASSETS			
		399,058	383,637
RESERVES			
Income and expenditure account		399,058	383,637

These financial statements were approved by the officers on 11 March 2008.

Signed on behalf of the executive committee

R BOLT

Treasurer and Director

The notes on pages 28-30 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the accounts

Year ended 31 December 2007

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The particular accounting policies adopted are described below. The financial statements depart from the Companies Act 1985 in that the profit and loss account has been replaced by an income and expenditure account. The executive committee considers that this policy is more appropriate given the nature of the company's activities.

Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Subscriptions income

Subscriptions to the association cover a period of twelve months to 31 March each year. Subscriptions received during the year have been credited to the income and expenditure account, subject to the deferral of three months of each subscription, representing that portion attributable from 1 January 2008 to 31 March 2008.

Investment income

Investment income is credited to the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets is calculated to write off their cost over the

period of their estimated useful economic lives at the following rate:

Computer equipment and fixtures and fittings: 20 per cent per annum on cost

Pension scheme

The company contributes to the personal pension schemes of certain employees. Costs are charged to the profit and loss account as they are incurred.

Leases

Operating lease rentals are charged against income in equal amounts over the lease term.

Deferred tax

Full provision is made for material deferred tax assets and liabilities arising from all timing differences between the recognition of gains and losses in the financial statements and recognition in the tax computation.

A net deferred tax asset is recognised only if it can be regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

Deferred assets and liabilities are calculated at the tax rates expected to be effective at the time the timing differences are expected to reverse.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

2. SUBSCRIPTIONS				
	2007	2006	2007	2006
	No.	No.	£	£
Practitioner members	4,586	4,677	856,825	849,624
Student members	53	71	2,120	3,050
Paralegal members	199	177	19,059	18,240
Academic members	17	19	1,325	1,350
Overseas members	75	79	6,256	6,905
Honorary members	9	9	-	-
	4,939	5,032	885,585	879,169
Add: Deferred income brought forward			224,643	226,289
Less: Deferred income carried forward (see note 1)			(227,045)	(224,643)
			883,183	880,815
Corporate accreditation income			45,230	33,613
Add: Deferred income brought forward			22,738	20,525
Less: Deferred income carried forward			(22,027)	(22,738)
			45,941	31,400
Total			929,124	912,215

3. COMMITTEE AND EMPLOYEES

	2007	2006
	£	£

Membership of the executive committee is voluntary. No remuneration for executive committee duties has been paid in the year.

Employee costs during the year

Wages and salaries	700,207	635,055
Social security costs	70,190	63,584
Pension costs	29,410	27,272
	<u>799,807</u>	<u>725,911</u>
Average number of persons employed	No.	No.
Administration	30	28

4. INTEREST RECEIVABLE

	2007	2006
	£	£

Bank deposit interest	<u>57,333</u>	<u>51,900</u>
-----------------------	---------------	---------------

5. SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE BEFORE TAX

	2007	2006
	£	£

The result for the year is after charging:

Depreciation	10,094	24,000
Auditors' remuneration	4,100	3,750
Rentals under operating leases – land and buildings	64,964	53,593
– other	2,624	3,812
Loss on disposal of fixed asset	1,582	225

6. TAXATION ON RESULTS FOR YEAR

	2007	2006
	£	£

United Kingdom corporation tax charge at an effective rate of 20%

(2006: 19%) based on taxable surplus for the year

Under provision in respect of previous year

	6,224	12,967
	897	(79)
	<u>7,121</u>	<u>12,888</u>

Deferred taxation

	-	(745)
	<u>7,121</u>	<u>(12,143)</u>

FACTORS AFFECTING TAX CHARGE FOR PERIOD

	2007	2006
	£	£

Surplus of income over expenditure before tax

Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by the effective rate of corporation tax in the UK of 20% (2006: 19%)

Effects of:

– Expenses not deductible for tax purposes

– Depreciation in excess of capital allowances

– Adjustments to tax charge in respect of previous periods

– Other timing differences

	22,525	30,206
	4,505	5,739
	1,814	6,152
	(220)	1,076
	897	(79)
	125	-

Current tax charge for the period

	<u>7,121</u>	<u>12,888</u>
--	--------------	---------------

7. FIXED ASSETS		
	Computer Equipment, Fixtures & Fittings	Total
Cost	£	£
At 1 January 2007	180,194	180,194
Additions during the year	2,447	2,447
Disposals	(29,612)	(29,612)
At 31 December 2007	153,029	153,029
Accumulated depreciation		
At 1 January 2007	160,202	160,202
Charge for the year	10,094	10,094
On disposals	(28,030)	(28,030)
At 31 December 2007	142,266	142,266
Net book amount		
At 31 December 2007	10,763	10,763
At 31 December 2006	19,992	19,992

8. DEBTORS		
	2007	2006
	£	£
Due within year		
Trade debtors	11,521	12,692
Other debtors	7,237	14,015
	18,758	26,707

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
	2007	2006
	£	£
Trade creditors	67,057	63,459
Corporation tax	7,121	12,967
Deferred income – subscriptions	227,045	224,643
Deferred income – corporate accreditation	22,027	22,738
Deferred income – courses	38,972	43,104
Deferred income – other	106,495	58,208
Accruals	32,887	21,622
	501,604	446,741

10. OTHER COMMITMENTS				
At 31 December 2007, the company had annual commitments under operating leases as follows:				
	Other 2007 £	Land and buildings 2007 £	Other 2006 £	Land and buildings 2006 £
Leases which expire:				
Between 1 and 5 years	2,623	64,964	3,812	53,593

11. SHARE CAPITAL
The company is limited by guarantee and does not have share capital.

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers A company limited by guarantee

Detailed income and expenditure account Year ended 31 December 2007

	2007	2006
	£	£
INCOME		
Membership (including other related income)	970,617	950,923
Conference, SIGS and Regional Meetings	383,820	350,707
Training Events	861,061	851,065
Legal Services	94,779	93,811
	<u>2,310,277</u>	<u>2,246,506</u>
DIRECT EXPENDITURE		
Membership (including other related expenditure)	41,586	36,591
Conference, SIGS and Regional Meetings	304,087	244,474
Training Events	598,484	632,019
Legal Services	40,962	35,275
Press and Parliamentary	73,354	44,794
	<u>(1,058,473)</u>	<u>(993,154)</u>
SALARIES AND OVERHEAD EXPENDITURE		
Staff Costs (including training and recruitment)	850,737	757,405
Property Costs	111,835	145,720
APIL Stationery, Postage and Other costs	247,485	297,365
Staff Travel	15,060	10,529
IT Costs	8,422	-
Executive Committee	42,979	40,028
Depreciation	10,094	24,000
	<u>(1,286,612)</u>	<u>(1,275,047)</u>
OPERATING (DEFICIT)	<u>(34,808)</u>	<u>(21,694)</u>
Interest Receivable	57,333	51,900
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	<u>22,525</u>	<u>(30,206)</u>

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S report



"Far reaching" is the phrase which came to my mind as I reviewed our activities in 2007. APIL made itself known to new contacts and we continued to push to increase its profile – nationally, regionally, locally and across all the UK jurisdictions.

Our work, views and comments reached a greater number of new and wider audiences than in any of our previous seventeen years. Press campaigns, safety and injury prevention work was supported by increasing numbers of our members. We tackled legal matters head-on, but, we also increased our work on consumer matters including raising awareness of carbon monoxide poisoning, lack of regulation for the hairdressing industry and the rights and of workers abroad. We got closer to victims groups and charities and worked more with trade unions, HSE and other safety organisations.

In addition, we published our *Accident or Negligence?* booklet which provides a brief guide to the difference between an accident and negligence, clearly and succinctly for all to understand. The booklet has opened doors for us and taken APIL into schools, councils and play organisations. There is still so much we can and must do to support the public, but this has been a very positive start and in 2008 we plan to build on relationships and provide more active support and information to injured people and the public generally.

The launch of our *Agenda for Injured People* in the House of Commons came at the end of 2007 and extended our reach across the three political parties. APIL's agenda calls for prevention of needless injury, fair redress and fair debate and clearly defines APIL's priorities, including the long overdue need to implement the Law Commission's proposals on the law of damages. These proposals to increase compensation for pain, suffering and

loss of amenity were overlooked by Government and as part of our agenda we will continue to lobby for action to settle this important issue.

We are proud to be a victims' organisation which continues, with your vital support and guidance, to fight for people's rights.

I appreciate that our reach does not extend anywhere near as far as that of the multi million pound insurers and big business generally, but our aims have always been very clear and with your help we have made our mark in many important areas and we will continue on with determination and a strong voice.

We are also very much alive to the difficulties of our members, in many areas of the country, who are trying to provide essential legal representation for the injured. In 2008 we want to get even closer to you through technological links, meetings and publications to provide information, education and training, specifically designed to help you run your cases and practices.

We aim to keep you more informed about what we are doing on a day to day basis, both locally and nationally and to gain your direct input to help increase the hard evidence we need to drive forward our campaigns and lobbying activities.

Supporting injured people, preventing negligent injuries, protecting our civil justice system and maintaining access to justice will remain our focus for 2008.

Denise Kitchener
Chief Executive

past presidents and officers

Past presidents

John Melville Williams QC	1990-1994
Michael Napier	1994-1996
Caroline Harmer	1996-1998
Ian Walker	1998-2000
Frances McCarthy	2000-2002
Patrick Allen	2002-2003
David Marshall	2003-2004
Colin Ettinger	2004-2005
Allan Gore QC	2005-2006
Richard Langton	2006-2007

Past vice presidents

Simon Walton	1990-1992
Michael Napier	1992-1994
Caroline Harmer	1994-1996
Ian Walker	1996-1998
Frances McCarthy	1998-2000
David Marshall	2002-2003
Colin Ettinger	2003-2004
Allan Gore QC	2004-2005
Richard Langton	2005-2006
Martin Bare	2006-2007

Past secretaries

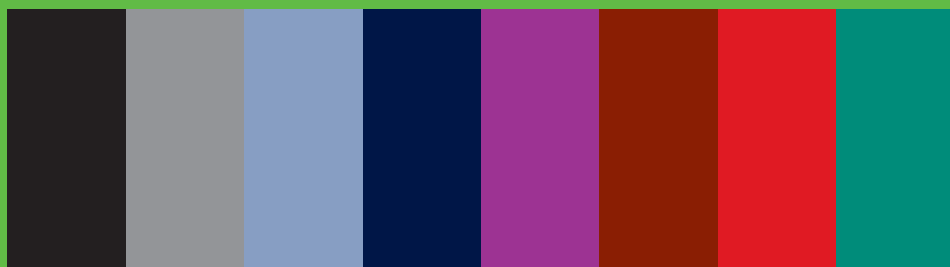
Michael Napier	1990-1992
Roger Goodier	1992-1997
John Pickering	1997-1998
Paul Balen	1998-2000
Mark Harvey	2000-2005
Frances Swaine	2005-2007

Past treasurers

Gillian Solly	1990-1994
Frances McCarthy	1994-1998
David Marshall	1998-2002
Allan Gore QC	2002-2004

Past executive committee members

Patrick Allen	1992-2000
Paul Balen	1996-2000
Martin Bare	2001-2005
Colm Barry	2003-2005
David Body	1990-1991
Roger Bolt	1997-2004
David Burnside	1990-1996
Christopher Carling	1990-1995
Andrew Dismore	1994-2000
Paul Donnelly	1999-2002
Colin Ettinger	1998-2003
Gordon Exall	2000-2003
Allan Gore QC	1995-2002
Frank Hanna	1990-1999
Caroline Harmer	1990-1994
Mark Harvey	1999-2000
Campbell Kennedy	1990-1992
Richard Langton	2000-2005
Stephen Lawson	2004-2007
Sarah Leigh	1992-1997
Russell Levy	1996-1999
David Marshall	1996-1998
Frances McCarthy	1990-2002
Peter McDonnell	1999-2003
Neil McKinley	1998-2001
Hilary Meredith	1998-2007
John Pickering	1990-1997
Andrew Ritchie	1996-1999
David Short	1999-2002
Arnold Simanowitz	1990-1997
Amanda Stevens	2003-2007
Frances Swaine	2001-2005
Nigel Tomkins	1996-1999
Ian Walker	1994-1996
Laura Walker	1996-1999
Jane Williams	2002-2005



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email: mail@apil.com www.apil.com
DX 716208 Nottingham 42

