



CITY SOLICITORS' EDUCATIONAL TRUST

PRESS RELEASE

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200 STUDENTS TO ATTEND 2009 CSET SUMMER SCHOOL

An important step towards greater diversity within the legal profession

Following the success of the inaugural City Solicitors' Educational Trust ("CSET") Summer School in 2008, this year's CSET Summer School is set to accept 200 students, double last year's intake. The CSET Summer School was launched last year by a group of the City's leading law firms which joined together to establish this serious, collaborative initiative to identify and encourage university students from a diverse range of backgrounds to consider a career in the law.

This year, two Summer Schools will take place at Imperial College, London between 13-18 July and 27 July-1 August respectively. 200 students from 44 universities around the UK will attend, having successfully completed a rigorous and competitive application process. CSET has targeted undergraduates studying at universities from which the legal profession does not usually recruit and who, for any number of reasons such as indifferent A levels, may believe that they fall short of the requirements for a professional career. The class of 2009 will comprise undergraduates studying law entering their second year and non-law students with a proven interest in law entering their third year. Accommodation will be provided on the Imperial College campus and each place will be fully expense-paid.

The CSET Summer School is an intensive five day programme that uses law as its context. Students will attend group and individual structured sessions, giving them insights into the wide variety of careers that are available in the law ranging from public sector work to private practice in City firms. Students will participate in workshops demonstrating the many different areas of practice that exist and they will take part in debating and writing exercises to assist them in developing their verbal reasoning and written skills. Speakers will include representatives of sponsor firms, the 2008 CSET alumni, the Government Legal Service, the Crown Prosecution Service and the FSA. Margaret Mountford from the BBC's "Apprentice" series will also be a guest speaker, sharing her experiences of becoming a successful lawyer.

Throughout the course of the Summer School week, students will have the opportunity to hear first hand what it is like to work in a law firm from trainees who recently embarked on a career in the law. They will also learn from leading graduate recruiters about the attributes required to secure a job within a law firm or legal department. The week will conclude with a graduation dinner at the Law Society.

Howard Jacobs, CSET Chairman, comments: "There is widely acknowledged concern at the shallowness of the pool of entrants to the legal profession. While the profession is actively addressing this concern, little activity relates to university students, especially those at universities from which the legal profession does not usually recruit and who have no family experience of higher education. CSET is committed to helping this group and we are delighted that thanks to the generous support of our sponsor firms, we have been able to offer double the number of places on the 2009 programme.

"The feedback received from students, lecturers and sponsors involved in last year's CSET Summer School confirmed that it overwhelmingly succeeded in its objective of unlocking the potential in students who might not otherwise have considered a career in the law."

ENDS

For further media information, please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The current sponsors of the CSET Summer School are: Allen & Overy, Ashurst, Clifford Chance, CMS Cameron McKenna, Faegre & Benson, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Herbert Smith, Kirkland & Ellis, Lovells, Macfarlanes, Mayer Brown, Nabarro, Norton Rose, Olswang, Penningtons, Simmons and Simmons, Slaughter and May, Stephenson Harwood, Watson Farley & Williams and Weil Gotshal & Manges.

The CSET Summer School is open to students studying at university who will typically be law undergraduates in their first year, non-law undergraduates in their second year and UK national students. Particular attention will be paid to students who are studying at universities from which the legal profession does not usually recruit and who have no immediate family history of university attendance by their parents or guardians.

Any law firm wishing to learn more about membership of CSET should contact Howard Jacobs, Chairman Management Committee, City Solicitors' Educational Trust on 020 7090 5403, email chair@cset.org.uk