



News Release

8 September 2010

New STEP Cheshire chapter launch

A new Cheshire organisation is to be launched providing valuable accreditation for anyone involved in will-writing or estate planning.

The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) is the leading worldwide professional body for all practitioners in this field – and on Thursday 30 September it will be launching a new Cheshire chapter for the county's top solicitors, accountants, financial advisers and independent will-writers.

Anyone who provides a professional service to the public in the field of trusts and estate planning may register to attend the inaugural meeting at the Doubletree Hotel, Hoole, Chester at 4pm.

Leading the meeting will be Frodsham solicitor Stephen Lawson, a partner at law firm Forshaws Davies Ridgway, who is a specialist in contentious probate and the only solicitor practising in the Warrington and Chester area who is a member of both STEP and the Association of Contentious Trust and Probate Specialists (ACTAPS).

He is the chairman designate of the new chapter and will be joined at the top table by Julia Abrey, chairman of STEP England and Wales.

The 2010 Finance Act, lifetime planning opportunities and the transferable nil rate tax band will be among the topics under discussion.

Stephen Lawson said: "The problem of disreputable will-writers has recently been highlighted in the media, so the formation of this group couldn't be more timely. The aim of STEP is to provide education and accreditation, so members of the public can choose professional services in this field with confidence.

"STEP Cheshire will also offer cross-profession networking, support and development opportunities and set high standards of professional service, providing a vital quality guarantee for anyone wanting to protect their family and affairs after they have died.

“Currently will-writers do not have to possess any qualifications in this field, so choosing the right person to give this vital advice can be a minefield. Selecting a STEP member will take the lottery factor out of tracking down an appropriately qualified person.”

To register for the launch event, please email: conferences@step.org. For more information about STEP, including their recently launched Certificate in Will Preparation, visit the website www.step.org or phone 0207 340 0500.

EDITOR’S NOTES:

For further information, please contact Stephen Lawson at Forshaws Davies Ridgway on 01928 739300 or by email at Stephen.lawson@fdrlaw.co.uk.

About Forshaws Davies Ridgway LLP (FDR)

- FDR is a full service legal practice with five offices in Cheshire and Warrington
- 18 Partners
- Over 120 staff
- Top 15 practice in NW
- Top 200 practice in England & Wales
- Mortgage Strategy Awards 2009 & 2010 ‘Best Conveyancer’ Runner Up
- Services include: Commercial Law, Conveyancing, Criminal, Family, Litigation, Wills & Probate

Issued by Lynn Pegler, Pegler Communications,

On behalf of Forshaws Davies Ridgway LLP

Tel: 01928 789042. Mob: 07783 686246. lynn@peglercommunications.co.uk