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OF ANNUAL DINNERS AND ECONOMIC CRIME

The first Annual General Meeting of the Society for Advanced Legal Studies took place at the Institute on 19 June 1998, followed by the Society's First Annual Lecture, kindly delivered by Lord Mackay of Clashfern on the future of the courts (which is to be reproduced in a forthcoming issue of *Amicus Curiae*).

The meeting and lecture were chaired by the Chairman of the Society's Advisory Council, Lord Steyn, and both events were well attended. The main business of the meeting was to review the development of the Society since its foundation early last year, and to endorse the arrangements for its governance, now that the transitional period has elapsed. The report submitted to the AGM by the Transitional Executive Committee appears in the SALS news at p. 18. The AGM agreed with Lord Steyn that the first stage of the Society's life had been a great success and augured well for the future. All members of the Transitional Executive Committee were unanimously appointed to the Executive Committee, together with Professor Sir David Williams QC, Vice Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Cambridge; Sir Franklin Berman KCMG QC, Chief Legal Adviser to the FCO, Mr Philip Wood of Allen & Overy and Mr Justice Mance. Lord Steyn agreed to serve as Chairman of the new Advisory Council and Mr Richard Southwell QC as Deputy Chairman.

The second annual dinner of the Society will take place in the Hall of the Middle Temple on 29 October. Last year this dinner was very well supported and was a most enjoyable occasion. We sincerely hope that this year's event will be as enjoyable and even better supported by members of the Society and the legal fraternity. Details can be obtained from Ms Juliet Fussell at the Institute on 0171 637 1731.

The Institute and the Society have become organising institutions of the successful annual symposium on economic crime which has taken place in Cambridge over the last sixteen years. This year the symposium will take place from 13–19 September 1998 and will focus, in concurrent and alternative programmes, on the prevention and control of fraud and abuse in the public sector and the policing of the financial markets. The symposium regularly attracts over 900 participants from around the world and this year's programme brings together well over 250 expert speakers from over 60 different jurisdictions. On 19 September, at the request of a number of governments and organisations, there will be a series of four one-day regional programmes.

The first will examine the legal and other issues that arise from the extent of the shadow and underground economies in Central and Eastern Europe; the second will analyse the implications for the rest of the global financial community of deregulation in Japan. The third programme will focus on the control of corruption and money-laundering in South America and the implications for international trade; the fourth conference will be concerned with developments in the law in Southern Africa designed to promote stability and probity.

Although some of the papers presented at main and regional programmes will be published in the *Journal of Financial Crime*, those that are able to attend some or all of the proceedings have a unique opportunity to meet an amazing spectrum of experts on the various subjects under discussion from around the world. It is perhaps this factor which has led to the annual Cambridge symposium receiving the level of support that it does from governments and international organisations from around the world. It is a unique and extremely important forum for officials, practitioners, academics and those engaged in business.

Further details on the symposium can be obtained from Ms Anita Bishop at the Institute, or on the Internet at <http://www.sas.ac.uk/ials/16sympos/cover.htm>

Professor Barry Rider