

Alan Watchman



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Alan Watchman is the Institute's Development Consultant and is playing a key role in putting together the IALS programme to construct a new building next to Charles Clore House.

This year the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies published *Law at the Centre*, a volume which commemorated the Institute's jubilee by providing both a history and a guide to what the future may hold. The book contains a contribution from the Director of the Institute, Professor Barry Rider, in which he puts forward a personal perspective for the future of the IALS which calls for a rather closer relationship to be fostered with the profession and those involved with the administration of the law while reaching out to scholars at both a national and international level.

The expansion of the Institute is a key element of this vision for the future, and in Alan Watchman the IALS has a development consultant with many years' experience of raising money for academic institutions. He has been involved in major building projects at Cambridge, both University and Collegiate, in an increasingly competitive fund raising environment.

When he arrived in Cambridge in 1989 to take up an appointment as Senior Bursar at Jesus College, he was also asked to become Director of the College's Quincentenary Appeal (Jesus College celebrated its 500th anniversary in 1996). The College has an active Alumni Association, and Alan and his colleagues were able to keep in touch with them through the College's annual report, occasional dinners and garden parties, and a carefully prepared brochure setting out the College's needs.

The appeal raised over £6 million, mostly from old members although the largest single donation came from a lady (now deceased) who was introduced by an old member. In addition, substantial amounts were raised from charitable trusts – usually through an introduction made by an old member, which illustrated the importance of networking in fund-raising activities.

'As a maths graduate myself, when I learned that Cambridge was seeking to develop a very large project to re-house the Faculty of Mathematics and needed substantial help, I offered to become a "fundraising volunteer". This project requires a total of around £40 million to complete, and so far well over £20 million has been raised from sources external to the university comprising companies, trusts, and wealthy individuals and Alumni. Here again, networking and hard

work from senior academics and fund-raising personnel provided most of the major gifts.'

Alan describes himself as having 'retired twice' as Senior Bursar of Jesus College, and is now able to devote time to helping with the Institute's building plans at their current early stage. In due course he will be involved in producing a brochure and putting together the fund raising process once the preliminary consultation and planning process is completed.

BUILDING PLANS

The Development Committee of the IALS has decided that the best way forward is to construct a new building on the vacant site at Russell Square next to Charles Clore House. This will include additional space for the library and the other activities and services provided by the Institute. A consortium of Shephard Epstein Hunter, architects, and Buro Happold, structural engineers, and Northcroft, project management, have been appointed to produce designs for the new building.

A feasibility study is under way for the team to develop a design with a construction plan and planning consent for the project. This involves a major consultation exercise, with members of the design team holding development meetings with Institute staff and producing a flow of documentation and information.

Alan is very positive in his assessment of the Institute.

'The IALS can point to many strengths. It contains the leading international law library in Britain, which is used widely by practitioners and academics. The Institute is of course part of the University of London, and many leading lawyers have been involved with the various activities taking place in Charles Clore House.'

The Russell Square site is one of the most prestigious undeveloped sites in this part of London, and has great potential. It is important to stress that the IALS is playing a central part in the development of law in Britain, and can also stand upon the international stage.'

Julian Harris

Senior Information Officer, IALS

CURRICULUM VITAE

Alan Watchman was born in Swansea, South Wales, and is now resident in Cambridge. He was educated at Swansea Grammar School and Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, where he graduated in mathematics with first class honours. His business experience was gained at the Unilever Group, where he worked for 11 years, and in city and consultancy work. His final business appointment was as Chief Executive of Bray Technologies plc, a group of companies involved with gas and electrical engineering. He also has service experience as a commissioned officer in the Royal Navy and Naval Reserve.