

## **ICSA Companies Act Conference looks ahead to October implementation and beyond**

London, 11 April 2008: The 2006 Companies Act will be under scrutiny at a one day conference to be held in London by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA) on 24 June 2008. The keynote speaker will be Mike Penry, the Assistant Director at the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). His speech will focus on the latest developments in the implementation timetable and explain the transitional arrangements in further depth.

The Companies Act represents the most significant and wide-ranging change to company law for over fifty years. Everyone engaged with managing and advising companies will be required to become familiar with the detail and likely impact of the legislation which will not now be fully implemented until 2009.

The conference will be focusing specifically on the October 2008 and 2009 implementation stages of the Act and will be jointly chaired by Caroline Goodall, Head of Mergers and Acquisitions at Herbert Smith and Giles Peel, Managing Director of Company Secretarial Services at Capita Registrars. Kathryn Cearns, Consultant at Herbert Smith will be examining accounting and audit issues and in particular how the Act affects companies with accounting periods starting on or after 6 April 2008. James Burdett, Corporate Partner at Baker and McKenzie, Rita Dattani an Independent Company Law Consultant and Susan Henderson, Deputy Group Secretary at Prudential PLC will be discussing how boards should be responding to the Act. This will be followed by a round table discussion on the codification of the general duties of a company director. The acquisition of shares in private companies will also be under the spotlight. Peter Swabey, Company Secretary at Equiniti will giving an overview of the issues surrounding the objection to company names and providing some case studies from the initial part of the AGM season on proxies and corporate representatives at general meetings.

The conference will also feature a round table discussion with Susan Henderson, Philippa Keith, Chartered Secretary at MSP Secretaries Ltd and Janis Law, Chief Group Solicitor at Jordans who will be looking ahead to the challenges associated with the October 2009 implementation. This will be followed by a panel debate on the effects of the Act so far.

Roger Dickinson, ICSA's Chief Executive comments 'The Companies Act has significant implications for all businesses in the UK. ICSA is continuing to support the implementation process until it reaches its final stages next year and providing expert training and guidance. We're delighted to be hosting another Conference which provides a further opportunity for delegates to update their knowledge on this important piece of legislation.'

The third Companies Act 2006 Conference will be held at the Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE. It provides six hours of ICSA, Solicitors Regulation Authority, Bar Standards Board, ILEX, and PMI accredited CPD. Further booking information is available at: [www.icsaevents.com](http://www.icsaevents.com).

**Notes for Editors:**

1. For a press pass to the conference, please e-mail your name and publication to Rosie Hamilton, Communications Manager at ICSA on [rhamilton@icsa.org.uk](mailto:rhamilton@icsa.org.uk) or call 020 7612 7062.
2. Diligent Boardbooks are the lead sponsors of the conference.
3. The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA) is the qualifying body for company secretaries and a leading authority on corporate governance. It publishes guidance notes and best practice guides and through its subsidiaries provides events, information and training, boardroom performance evaluation and dedicated software. The ICSA has 36,000 members worldwide and is represented in over 70 countries.