

Celebrating excellence

Legal & Medical looks back at a rewarding and enjoyable evening at the Personal Injury Awards 2009

A roundup of some of the UK's brightest talent in the Personal Injury world were honoured at the Eclipse Proclaim Personal Injury Awards, held in November. The evening ceremony highlighted some of the professionals who have made significant contributions to the industry as a whole.

Rosenblatts won the Outstanding Achievement Award for their work on the Atomic Veterans case (see page 21 for the full story); while the coveted Claimant Lawyer of the Year went to Neil Lorimer of Shropshire firm Lanyon Bowdler; with the Defendant Award going to Gilbert Anderson, one of Scotland's most respected insurance lawyers.

More than 350 industry professionals – from barristers to claims management companies – attended the glittering black tie event hosted by comedian Sean Lock, the irreverent star of *8 Out Of 10 Cats* and *QI*. Organised by Barker Brooks Media, the award ceremony was held at The London Marriott Hotel in Grosvenor Square and was a unique celebration of the excellence of individuals and organisations working across the PI claims sector. In addition to the festivities, before dinner guests were treated to an update on mediation within the sector from The Rt Hon The Lord Clarke of Stonecum-Ebony.

In addition to honouring talent in the PI profession, the Awards also raised over £2,800 for Candlelighters, the children's cancer charity based at St James Hospital in Leeds.

The judges

The judging panel featured a peerless gathering of industry insiders and representatives of professional bodies. Chaired by Nicholas Bevan of Bond Pearce LLP, the panel provided expertise in diverse

areas including law, medicine, insurance and rehabilitation. The judges included Tony Allen of the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR); Heather Batey of Reach Personal Injury Services; Lea Brocklebank of Bond Pearce; Sir Henry Brooke of Trust Mediation; Sir Graeme Catto, immediate past President of the General Medical Council; Carole Chantler of DWF LLP and Chair of Case Management Society UK (CMSUK); Professor Robert Douglas; Iain Goldrein QC; Hilary Meredith of Hilary Meredith Solicitors and Senior Fellow of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL); Joe Pendle of the Insurance Services Office (ISO); Professor Dominic Regan; Andrew Twambley of Amelans Solicitors and InjuryLawyers4U, and Ashton West of the Motor Insurers Bureau (MIB).

Eclipse Legal Systems were the headline sponsor of the Awards. Other sponsors included 1 Chancery Lane, ARAG, Bond Pearce LLP, Doctors chambers, Evolution Legal, Evolution Marketing, Goldsmith Williams, Insurance Services Office Ltd, Intelligent Claims Management, Just Costs, Kester Cunningham John, Mobile Doctors, Olympus UK Ltd, Park Lane Plowden, PINK Personal Injury Network, QuickDox, Reach Personal Injury Services, TLA Medico-Legal, UK Independent Medical and UKS Medical Diagnostics. ✚

www.personalinjuryawards.co.uk



THE WINNERS ARE:

Personal Injury Lawyer of the Year (Claimant)

Neil Lorimer of Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors (Shrewsbury)

Personal Injury Lawyer of the Year (Defendant)

Gilbert Anderson of Andersons Solicitors LLP (Glasgow)

Young Achiever of the Year

Hannah Rutterford of Kester Cunningham John Solicitors (offices in Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge, Norwich, Thetford)

Personal Injury Team of the Year

Keoghs LLP (Bolton and Coventry)

Claims Management Company of the Year

Winn Assist (Newcastle)

ATE Insurance Provider of the Year

ARAG Legal Services (Bristol)

Medical Agency of the Year

UK Independent Medical (Durham)

Rehab Provider of the Year

Remploy (Leicester)

Barrister of the Year

Barry Cotter QC of Old Square Chambers (London and Bristol)

Barristers' Chambers of the Year

Old Square Chambers (London and Bristol)

Outstanding Case of the Year

Corby Case (David Wilby QC, Old Square Chambers and Park Lane Plowden)

Mediation Achiever of the Year

Jonathan Dingle of 218 Strand (London)

Independent Expert Witness of the Year

Dr Victoria Wass of Cardiff Business School

Outstanding Achievement

Rosenblatt Solicitors for Atomic Veterans Group Litigation (London)