

# A Birmingham Law Society Debate: Motion: Professional Ethics Is An Outmoded Concept In A Modern Age

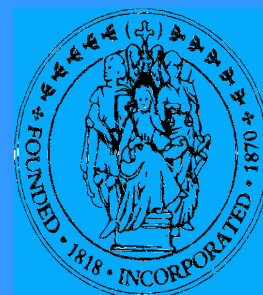
**Date:** Tuesday 28th of February 2012

**Time:** Registration at 5.30pm, Debate from 6pm to 7pm including  
a Q&A session, 7pm to 8pm - drinks and networking

**Venue:** Gateley LLP, One Eleven Edmund Street, Birmingham B3 2JH

**CPD:** 1hour accredited by the SRA

**Fee:** FREE



Against the motion is John Wotton, President of our national Law Society and for the motion is Michael Ward, Senior Partner at Gateley LLP

**Topic:** Are law firms no more than businesses competing to sell products as cheaply as possible or are there foundational ethics and values to the legal profession that need to be safeguarded and preserved as the market perhaps drives us in different directions? What do we stand for as a profession? What are our core values that are non negotiable in a changing climate? Join us for a lively debate on these issues with Mike Ward, Managing Partner of Gateleys speaking for the motion and the President of the national Law Society speaking against it. There will be opportunity for questions and comments from the floor and a vote will be taken at the end of the debate.

## Speakers:

**John Wotton, President of the Law Society 2011-2012.** John Wotton has represented the EU Matters constituency on the Law Society's Council since 2007. He is also an ex officio member of the Legal Affairs and Policy Board, the Management Board, the Membership Board and the Regulatory Affairs Board of the Law Society, and chaired the Society's EU Committee. John is a consultant to the Antitrust Practice at Allen & Overy. He was a partner from 1984 to 2007, heading the UK Antitrust Group and the Public Procurement Group. He has advised clients on many important cases before the UK competition authorities and the European Commission. He is closely involved in the media sector, with a focus on regulation and judicial review. In utilities, energy and transport, his work has focused mainly on the water, oil, gas and rail industries. John became a member of the Co-operation and Competition Panel for NHS-funded Services, on its establishment by the Department of Health in 2009. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Competition Law Forum of BIICL. John has been on the Law Society's Council since September 2007 and became President at the AGM on 14 July 2011.

**Michael Ward, Joint Senior Partner at Gateley LLP.** Michael heads the firm's corporate team in England and is the firm's joint Senior Partner. He has considerable experience in corporate transactions (acting for sellers, buyers and debt or equity providers), corporate restructuring and shareholder disputes. He is regularly involved in contract negotiations, deal origination and deal restructuring. He has been instrumental in the development of the corporate team becoming one of the leading corporate teams in the Midlands. Michael has influence among all the major business bodies in the West Midlands as demonstrated through his current role as President of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is a former President and Treasurer of Birmingham Law Society.

**To book onto this conference, telephone Glenda Rogers,  
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