

13 February 2011

## Access to Justice Foundation appoints a new CEO

The Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of its first CEO, Ruth Daniel, to take forward the task of raising the profile of the pro bono sector and raising vital funds to support its work.

Ruth Daniel is the first Chief Executive of the Foundation, a post that was created with principal funding from the Baring Foundation, and additional support from Linklaters. Ruth was formerly a solicitor at Charles Russell. She has experience outside law in the business and voluntary sectors.

Ruth's breadth of experience will enable her to push the Foundation to the next stage in its development, building on previous years' achievements.

Chairman of the Foundation Lord Goldsmith QC, a former attorney general, said:

"It is clear that the pro bono commitment of the legal profession remains as strong as ever. But it must not be seen as a substitute for funding legal aid. The advice and pro bono sector plays a vital role in supporting access to justice, and in the current circumstances agencies need support more than ever to ensure the public gets help. Supported by our recent appointment of Ruth Daniel as CEO, the Foundation will continue the work to create additional funds for the sector."

Ruth Daniel commented:

"I am delighted to be appointed the first CEO of the Access to Justice Foundation. Now is a key period of challenges and opportunities for the advice and pro bono legal sector, and I am looking forward to leading our organisation at such a time"

**ENDS**

### Notes to Editors:

1. The Access to Justice Foundation, together with the network of 7 Legal Support Trusts across England & Wales, provide grant funding to support advice and pro bono agencies that provide free legal help to the public in need. The Foundation was established in 2008 by Advice Services Alliance, Bar Council, ILEX and Law Society pursuant to section 194 of the Legal Services Act 2007. The Act introduced pro bono costs which are awarded to the Foundation. For more information visit [www.atjf.org.uk](http://www.atjf.org.uk)
2. Enquiries may be directed to [enquiries@atjf.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@atjf.org.uk) or telephone Ruth Daniel on 020 7092 3973.
3. Following a national grants round in December 2011 the Foundation made just over £60,000 of grants to 9 organisations: AdviceUK, Bar Pro Bono Unit, Citizens Advice, Environmental Law Foundation, ILEX Pro Bono, Law Centres Federation, LawWorks, Personal Support Unit, and RCJ Advice Bureau.
4. The Civil Justice Council is an advisory body chaired by the Master of the Rolls. The report on self-represented litigants can be downloaded at [civiljusticecouncil.judiciary.gov.uk](http://civiljusticecouncil.judiciary.gov.uk)