U.K. Regulatory Reform Timeline

1989 Lord MacKay's Green Paper

1990 Courts & Legal Services Act

Created Legal Services Ombudsman (LSO)

1999 Access to Justice Act

Expanded LSO powers
Authorize Legal Services Complaint Commission (LSCC)
(2003-2006) Heightened criticism of Law Society Complaint Handling

2003 - 2004

Clementi Review, Consultation and Final Report

Legal Services Act 2007 (Royal Assent Oct. 2007)

§ 1 Objectives

(a) protect & promote public interest;
(b) support constitutional principle of the rule of law;
(c) improve access to justice;
(d) protect & promote consumers' interests;
(e) promote competition in provision of services
(f) encourage independent, strong, diverse & effective legal profession;
(g) increase public understanding of citizen's legal rights & duties;
(h) promote & maintain adherence to the professional principles.

Legal Services Board (LSB)

Appointed Chair, Chief Executive, Board (May 2008 - Jan. 2009)
Significant consultations include:
Legal Disciplinary Practices authorized approved SRA and BSB;
Alternative Business Structures Consultation Report Pending (Nov. 2009 - Feb. 2010);
Regulatory Independence (Closes July 27, 2010)

Office of Legal Complaints (OLC)

Appointed Chair, Board, Chief Executive, Chief Ombudsman (Nov. 2008 - May 2009)
"Open for business" October 6, 2010

Professor Judith Maute, University of Oklahoma College of Law, prepared with assistance of Emily Mueller, J.D. Expected 2011