

Legal Risk LLP opposes Legal Ombudsman proposal on third party complaints

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Legal Ombudsman has proposed an extension in jurisdiction so that it can take complaints from third parties.

Legal Risk LLP's response opposes the change.

Partner Frank Maher explained –

‘Lawyers are required to act in their clients’ best interests. It is inevitable that in doing so they may act to the detriment of opponents. If complaints were permitted, they would almost always be prevented from defending themselves because they would be bound to protect their clients’ right to confidentiality and legal professional privilege. This appears to be little more than a land grab by the Legal Ombudsman facing a reduced number of complaints.

‘It is easy to envisage a deluge of complaints in debt collection, divorce and child care and could present a massive problem for City firms defending financial institutions in group shareholder actions.’

ENDS

1 April 2016

NOTE TO EDITORS

1. The Legal Ombudsman currently deals with complaints from consumer clients and limited categories of third parties – principally beneficiaries of trusts and estates. The Legal Ombudsman’s Consultation 2016-2017 Draft strategy March 2016 proposes an increase in jurisdiction to include complaints by third parties.
2. Legal Risk LLP is a niche law firm which specialises in advice to law firms on professional regulation and professional indemnity insurance.
3. Legal Risk LLP’s response to the consultation is [here](#).

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