



PRESS RELEASE

BBC Fail Consumers

The BBC claims to be the people's champion with the production of programs such as Rogue Traders, Rip Off Britain and The One Show, but last night's One Show (11.01.2012) again attacked the will writing profession as if we had just crawled out from under a log!

The will writing profession has been around for over 20 years, and in the early days the Law Society and other organisations claimed that will writing as a profession was a "disaster waiting to happen"! Through self-regulation, a system much favoured by industry and Government alike this has not happened.

The profession knows that now is the time for regulation, the profession has grown over the past twenty years and is an easy target for rogue traders, and the Society along with other organisations with an interest are working with the Legal Services Board to introduce a level of soft touch regulation into the profession in order to stop these occurrences.

They failed to name the rogue company, thereby failing to properly warn the general public of the dangers, and this is the third such program where the BBC has for their own reasons not named the trader.

They failed to advise consumers as to how and where they can seek help when things do go wrong; rather too much emphasis was placed on making Dominic Littlewood look good. Yet he was not involved in any of the filming for this program he was just window dressing;

They failed to tell the consumer that the Society of Will Writers has helped hundreds of clients of the rogue company Minster Legal Services based in Gainsborough Lincolnshire;

They failed to inform the viewers that in this particular case the company's sole director at the time was a practicing solicitor, and that it was only his untimely death that brought this scam to light.

The Society of Will Writers (SWW) were called in when the files from this company were found dumped outside the offices of another will writing company; although Minster Legal Services had never been a member of the SWW the SWW retrieved the files, over 1100 of them, and contacted every client giving them a contact point. Over the ensuing months the SWW met with hundreds of Minster clients and were able to help most of those that wanted it to complete their documentation.

What is it with the BBC that they seem afraid to name and shame when dealing with the legal profession? They name builders and other trades people but when it comes to matters concerning the legal profession they appear to be gagged.

ENDS

Thursday 12th January 2012

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Society of Will Writers (SWW) is a non-profit making self regulatory organisation which seeks to Protect the Public and serve the interests of those men and women who are active professionals in our field.

All SWW members are covered by Professional Indemnity Insurance, with the Society main scheme being underwritten by the UK's leading insurance company Hiscox. Members are bound by the SWW's code of conduct and disciplinary and complaints procedures, copies of which are available from the society upon request.

All SWW members go through a stringent vetting procedure and continuing training to ensure that they are suitable persons to properly write a will.

For More information please contact Brian McMillan, Director General on 01522 687888