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APPROACHES TO TEACHING LAW

The work of Avrom Sherr, Woolf Professor of Legal Education at the IALS, and his team is of central importance to the Institute. Research projects undertaken in recent times have included work into the block contracting of legal aid advice and assistance, the provision of legal services for those experiencing HIV/AIDS-related discrimination, and the commission of an independent study (to be undertaken by Professor Sherr and Research Fellow Richard Moorhead) into the complaints procedures operated by the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors. Details of a recently-published review by Lisa Webley of the literature on family mediation are given later in this issue (see the IALS News section in the centre pages). However, the success of the Woolf team in its research role should not obscure the importance of Professor Sherr's position as a teacher and supporter of scholarship within the Institute, the School of Advanced Study, and the University of London itself.

From October 1999, the Institute will be offering a *Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Education and Training* over a one-year or two-year period. The diploma year will provide a strong basic foundation in the literature of legal education, as well as a range of approaches to teaching law. It will be possible for each participant to take forward a particular aspect of study in the diploma year to a specific project. This will be researched and developed on an individual basis under supervision. The course will be lead by Professor Sherr, and taught by him with invited tutors from all levels of legal education and training. Both theoretical and practical, the diploma will consider academic literature on legal education and learning as well as provide practical training in a range of different teaching approaches.

The span of legal education will cover undergraduate level through to vocational and post-qualification continuing professional development. The course is intended for those working in, or interested in, legal education at all levels. An international perspective and a multi-disciplinary approach will be provided to the subject matter of teaching law and teaching about legal practice. As the main architect of the Warwick University clinical law programme, and a former practising solicitor with great experience in the research field, Professor Sherr is ideally qualified to teach the teaching of law to all those with an interest in the subject.

Professor Barry Rider