



30 April 2015

### **IPA Announces New President**

The Insolvency Practitioners Association has appointed Mark Sands FIPA as its new President for the coming year. Following the IPA's Annual General Meeting held yesterday Mark takes office with immediate effect, and serves as the Association's figurehead and Chairman of its board of directors for the next twelve months.

Mark is a personal insolvency specialist at Baker Tilly Creditor Services LLP, and qualified as an IP in 1991. After a career encompassing all aspects of insolvency, Mark has specialised in personal insolvency, professional practices and investigating fraudulent transactions for the past fifteen years. Mark has worked on several high-profile personal insolvency matters.

He is an active member on the Council of the Insolvency Practitioners Association and a leading commentator on personal insolvency and financial issues, regularly contributing to national print and the broadcast media.

Commenting on his appointment, Mark said: "The IPA has played an integral role in the development of my career, so I am honoured to devote some of my time to this important membership body. Over the past seven years, the number of people choosing to use the IPA for their insolvency licensing has increased in an environment where the number of insolvency practitioners (IPs) has remained fairly static. I look forward to helping the IPA build on its success and to serving its members."

The IPA is at the forefront of developing professional standards, creating insolvency qualifications, widening access to insolvency knowledge and encouraging those involved in insolvency-related work to maintain appropriate levels of competence, skills and integrity.

It also leads in debates on regulatory reform, and has been at the forefront of developments in personal and corporate insolvency, not least through its annual personal insolvency and national conferences which Mark chaired recently.

Commenting on the appointment, the IPA's CEO David Kerr added: "Mark has been a big contributor to the work of the IPA for a number of years through its various committees and latterly as Vice President, and I look forward to working with Mark in the year ahead to maintain and develop our position as the leading specialist insolvency regulator in the UK."

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For further press information, please contact:

For the IPA, Hermes Financial PR:

Trevor Phillips                      07889 153 628 [trevor.phillips@hermesfinancialpr.co.uk](mailto:trevor.phillips@hermesfinancialpr.co.uk)

Chris Steele                            07979 604 687 [chris.steele@hermesfinancialpr.co.uk](mailto:chris.steele@hermesfinancialpr.co.uk)

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About the Insolvency Practitioners Association**

The IPA is the only one of the Recognised Professional Bodies (RPBs) specialising solely in insolvency. It has approximately 2,000 individual and firm members and students and is the second largest, in terms of the number of licensed IPs, of the professional bodies recognised for the purposes of authorising IPs under the Insolvency Act 1986. The IPA currently licenses around 560 IPs, regulating around one third of the UK market.