

*IPA press release 7 September 2012*

*The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and Insolvency Practitioners Association (IPA) are pleased to announce that they have agreed terms for the IPA to handle complaints against solicitor Insolvency Practitioners in relation to their conduct of insolvency assignments. The IPA is the only one of the recognised professional bodies specialising in insolvency and it will use its established procedures and expertise in this field to investigate allegations of misconduct. This is a significant step in furthering the drive for consistency in the handling of complaints across the insolvency profession.*

*IPA President Edward Bible commented: "We welcome this move. It helps the SRA meet the requirements placed upon it as an insolvency regulator, whilst utilising the experience and specialist skills within the IPA team to best effect in the interests of the profession as a whole. At a time when we are working to increase public confidence in the processes for dealing with complaints against IPs, this can only help; it provides economies of scale, reduces the number of different bodies handling these complaints, and as a solicitor and President of the IPA this year I am particularly pleased to be able to announce this new arrangement. The IPA has been working closely with the SRA for some time on other aspects of insolvency regulation and this development is a credit to the strength of the secretariat team."*

*The IPA's CEO David Kerr added: "Solicitors are an integral part of the insolvency profession, and our relationship with the SRA has grown over the last three years. I am delighted that we have been able to take that to a new level in an area of regulatory activity that is very much in the spotlight at the moment. It not only works well for the bodies directly concerned, but it represents an important illustration of the ability of regulators to operate in unison where appropriate in the public interest. As Secretary of both the IPA and the Insolvency Lawyers Association, I am pleased that this enhances the links between the different strands of the broader profession, and as an active participant in and advocate for the complaints reform agenda under discussion with the Insolvency Service, I think this comes at an opportune moment. It is vital for professional bodies with an interest in insolvency to be seen to be able to work together effectively, and this very clearly demonstrates that it is not only theoretically possible but also achievable in practice."*