

## Expert Witness Network

The current state of the housing market means that the level of claims against Valuers is increasing and as a company we are increasingly being asked if we can provide support for Expert Witness cases in connection with repossession work. We currently have a number of schemes operating, where we are giving varying levels of advice from desk top reviews to full blown expert reports. In addition we have had representations from a number of clients who are totally dissatisfied with the expert advice that they have been provided with. Therefore we have a limited number of places in our Centre of Excellence for Experts to focus principally on defending Valuers.

The network will be managed through BlueBox partners, but work will be done in your own name. We are looking for Chartered Surveyors with considerable expertise in their skill area, who are prepared to do the initial analysis for the case, can write good objective reports and meet the needs of the Expert Witness as defined by the RICS.

One principle client who is looking to give us a significant amount of work has insisted that as part of the Registration process it will be necessary to attend a course run by BlueBox partners and Robin Simon Solicitors, which will cover among other things – The Product offering, Case Studies and Writing Expert reports, more details attached. This course will give a BlueBox/Robin Simon Accreditation and we do not propose to accept those who have not been on the course. This is because we are offering a specific product and we need consistency across the network that we can use as a selling point. Regular attendance at training courses related to this area of work will be necessary to retain the registration, the frequency will be in the region of one course every 6 months, but will depend upon need.

We will not be covering Court Appearance training at this stage, but will offer that as a coaching type course for those who need it in due course. Few cases actually get to Court, especially in the area where we will focus. This does not mean that we will not undertake other forms of work if we have the right Expertise.

Fees will be agreed with the client and be subject to a small charge for administration, monitoring and advertising.

For those interested in joining this Specialised Network then please complete the attached form electronically (hard copies are not acceptable) and return as an email attachment as soon as possible (as we have clients with instructions already) to [Expert@blueboxpartners.com](mailto:Expert@blueboxpartners.com)

The form supplied is in a standard format and is typical of the information that you are required to provide to become an Expert. If you have had no previous experience then please scan in two mortgage valuations including site notes and email them to the above address. All information will be treated in strictest confidence.

Courses start in August 2008 and are likely to be priced in the region of £199 + VAT, which will include the Accreditation process.

Successful candidates will be issued with a membership number which will give access to the Expert Witness part of the BlueBox website. You can view a specimen agreement for your services and a sample fee scale

Please note the CV you provide could be forwarded to clients to support your appointment as the expert

## Expert Witness training

In association with Robin Simon solicitors, BlueBox partners are offering a one-day training and accreditation workshop that is part of their recently launched nationwide Expert Witness Service for the property sector.

Our product is a unique approach to providing surveyors, legal teams, insurers, lenders, etc. incremental advice when faced with a challenge to a property valuation. This will give all those involved an indication of what action is required at an early stage in the process. Not only can this save thousands of pounds in legal fees and court costs but it can also reduce the stress and anxiety of operating in a falling market.

The seminar is designed for experienced practitioners who want to join our register of experts. The objectives of the day are to:

- introduce participants to the civil procedures that govern the conduct of expert witnesses;
- understand the legal team's perspective – what they want from an expert witness;
- analyse a valuation – providing an objective assessment of an existing valuation using the latest techniques and tools;
- write an effective and compliant report – the RICS Practice Note for Expert Witnesses;
- present an effective report – using highly illustrated case studies, participants will be allocated a realistic case study that they will have to complete and submit to BlueBox partners for assessment within two weeks of the course date.

Presented by an experienced team from both Robin Simon and BlueBox partners, the seminar is a mandatory part of our accreditation process and all participants will have to achieve a competent standard before they are sent instructions.