



28<sup>th</sup> January 2009

## **THE E-HOMEBUYING FORUM ANNOUNCES TWO NEW AFFILIATE MEMBERS**

The E-Homebuying Forum, which is leading calls for the modernisation of home buying in the UK, today welcomes SDLT.co.uk, and Gaby Hardwicke Solicitors as new Affiliate Members.

SDLT.co.uk is designed for property professionals, providing software for online submissions of Stamp Duty Land Tax. The software stops SDLT form rejections, pre-populates the form and, upon successful submission, prints SDLT5 certificates instantly, saving property professionals immense amounts of time.

Archie Courage, Managing Director at SDLT.co.uk said: "We fully support the aims of the E-Homebuying Forum; in this volatile market, we need such a body to bring together all industries involved in homebuying process. To date, SDLT.co.uk has enabled law firms to make over 200,000 Stamp Duty submissions, saving them a huge amount of time and improving efficiency. Combining our efforts with the Forum, we hope to move the industry forward."

Similar sentiments are felt by Christopher Bean, Head of Residential Conveyancing Services at Gaby Hardwicke Solicitors who said: "Our company is very much behind the ideas of the Forum and we are excited by the prospects of working together. As a company that provides a range of legal services, membership of the Forum will really enable us to stay at the forefront of developments in the property sector."

Gaby Hardwicke is a Legal 500 Firm on the South Coast with a specialist conveyancing department providing a nationwide legal service to both corporate and independent estate agents as well as private individuals. The firm has been at the forefront of developments in relation to HIPs and Christopher Bean is a regular speaker at the annual Conveyancing Congress.



Mark Riddick, Chairman of the Forum, said: "The aim of the Forum is to bring faster certainty to the whole home buying process, making it easier for everyone involved. We believe this can only be achieved if industry demonstrates unity of purpose, with the support of everyone from Estate Agents and Mortgage Lenders to IT companies and Conveyancers. We wholly welcome our new members with their diverse experience and expertise in the housing market to help us achieve our goals."

**-ENDS-**

**Notes for Editors:**

- The E-Homebuying Forum was established in April 2008 in order to bring together a group of like-minded companies and individuals who have a commercial interest in the home-buying and selling process, and who are interested in effecting real change within both industry and Government to speed up property transactions.
- The Forum intends to build on the Government's vision of easier home buying and selling, first announced in 1999, to ensure modernisation of the home buying process – by harnessing technology to facilitate marketing, investigating and transferring residential property with greater ease, security, transparency and minimal environmental impact.
- The E-Homebuying Forum has signed memoranda of understanding with the Council of Property Search Organisations (CoPSO), the Council of Licensed Conveyancers (CLC), the Legal Software Suppliers Association (LSSA) and PISCES, and has received support for its aims from the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the Law Society and Which?.
- For further information on the E-Homebuying Forum please contact Harriet Crosthwaite or Matt Flanders on 020 7340 6260 or [harriet@quintuspa.com](mailto:harriet@quintuspa.com) / [matt.flanders@quintuspa.com](mailto:matt.flanders@quintuspa.com). Further information can also be found at the E-Homebuying Forum's website: [www.e-homebuyingforum.com](http://www.e-homebuyingforum.com).