

Mark Adler, U.K.

May I introduce you to our second PLAIN award winner, Mark Adler, from the U.K.

Mark Adler graduated in philosophy from Warwick University in 1971, and obtained a teaching certificate the following year.

He taught briefly in a primary school in London before joining his father as an articled clerk in 1972. He stayed on after he qualified as a solicitor (**that's lawyer to you Americans**) in 1979 and inherited the practice (doing a wide range of civil work) on his father's death in 1980. He soon adopted a "plain language" policy for the firm and as legalese began to fall out of favour he combined general practice with plain language consultancy. Since 1991, he has given seminars in the UK and overseas.

He was for many years chairman of Clarity — the lawyers' movement for plain legal language — and edited its journal from 1987 until 2000. He is the author of *Clarity for Lawyers* (the Law Society's book on plain legal English) and of many articles.

This year in June, he retired to France but plans to continue *some* plain language work. In an e-mail to the PLAIN discussion group, Mark wrote that he would continue to look after the *Clarity* email list and the website, convert the remaining journal back numbers to PDF files, and start to index and hyperlink the archive. Perhaps we can persuade Mark to become part of the proposed PLAIN Institute. Certainly we will want all the *Clarity* issues in *our* Institute archives.

We in PLAIN are grateful to Mark's single-minded dedication to *Clarity* that helped to attract over 1000 members from 40 countries around the world. What would we do without the journal *Clarity*? Or without Mark? I know you will join me in thanking him most warmly.

