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Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018

## President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom officially opens The Resolution Centre

The Bar of Northern Ireland was delighted to have been honoured with the presence of the Right Honorable the Baroness Hale of Richmond DBE, President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom to officially open The Resolution Centre as part of the Supreme Court's historic visit to Belfast on 30th April 2018.

The Supreme Court is the final court of appeal for the United Kingdom hearing cases of profound importance to everyone in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and members of the Bar of Northern Ireland regularly and proudly appear in its normal London home, deploying their legal knowledge and advocacy skills on behalf of their clients.

The Resolution Centre has been established by the Bar of Northern Ireland to cater for a different and emerging need where the conditions lend themselves towards pursuing resolution by means of out-of-court mediation and arbitration. The Resolution Centre is therefore a venue within the local Belfast market for skilled mediators and arbitrators to use their specific set of core skills to assist parties in arriving at alternative resolution options.

Its facilities include private, acoustically sealed rooms; state of the art Wi-Fi, telephone and video conferencing; flexible opening hours; catering and dedicated staff and services to assist clients to resolve matters by means of alternative dispute resolution.

In addition to handling commercial disputes, The Resolution Centre is therefore available for handling private cases including divorce and family law and in certain situations may be the most appropriate option as it may offer a more timely and cost-effective solution with the added advantages of preserving the privacy and relationships of those involved.

Speaking at the official opening, Lady Hale said: "I congratulate the Bar of Northern Ireland for creating The Resolution Centre to cater for those

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circumstances where an opportunity exists for disputes to be properly settled by means of alternative dispute resolution.

The venue has been specifically designed to support the resolution process and to create the potential for skilled mediators and arbitrators to find solutions for the parties involved. I wish The Resolution Centre every success for the future.”

Liam McCollum QC, Chairman of the Bar of Northern Ireland said: “The creation of The Resolution Centre is good news for both local and prospective international clients as it provides another addition to the advantages that the jurisdiction can already offer to them. Clients already have direct access to a wide network of skilled local solicitors and the ability to engage the Bar’s existing expertise in providing trusted and independent advice and representation in court alongside the significantly lower cost of commercial litigation in Northern Ireland compared to other locations. The Bar of Northern Ireland are very grateful to the justices of the Supreme Court for visiting the centre and are honoured that Lady Hale has officially opened the centre as part of the Supreme Court’s historic visit to Belfast.”

Further details on the facilities and services available at The Resolution Centre can be found at <http://theresolutioncentre.co.uk/>

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