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THE BRIEF



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Woolf picks up justice excellence award

Lord Woolf, the former lord chief justice of England and Wales, was recognised by the International Institute for Justice Excellence in The Hague this month for his “unique contributions to the global improvement of the administration of justice”.

He was unable to travel to The Netherlands, so the institute sent a delegation to the House of Lords yesterday to present him with its “award for justice administration

excellence”.

Michael Walker, a board member at the institute and a retired district judge, said that Lord Woolf, 84, “has always accepted that justice delayed, or justice that came at too high a cost, cannot in all fairness be called justice at all”.

Referring to the renowned Woolf reforms of the civil justice system, which came into force in 1999, Walker continued: “What he started back in 1994, and which led eventually to the Civil Procedure Rules for England and Wales ... seemed at the time to be little short of revolutionary. Looking back, it undoubtedly was.

“And the effects of Lord Woolf’s reforms were felt not only in England and Wales. The civil procedural code ... now serves as a world model, crossing both national and jurisdictional boundaries, for the efficient administration of justice.”

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