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## **Network offers cost-cutting service**

Post Magazine, 06 July 2006

A new medico-legal network has launched with an online service aimed at cutting costs from typical agency operations.

Macbeal.com is the brainchild of a group of doctors, solicitors and the site's financial backer, Amer Amin, which allows subscribing users to locate medical experts and solicitors through a postcode search, including an online appointments diary.

The business is beginning an awareness campaign this week, marketing the system to a target group of solicitors, insurers, medico-reporting organisations and medical expert witnesses, highlighting the point that instructing an expert through a typical agency costs between £50 to £200. MacBeal charges £1 per instruction on top of a monthly user subscription of £9.95.

Mr Amin, who is managing director of Macbeal and MD at midlands-based medico-legal agency, Doctors Evidence, explained: "It is in the interest of insurers to reduce costs.

"With every report through an agency including an uplift of £50 to £200 per instruction, if you have, for example, 60,000 claims per year this would mean potentially millions in savings."

He added: "We will also offer MacBeal.com to agencies with the aim that they can reduce their costs and pass the savings to customers. Better communication and improved exchange of information is required in the medico-legal industry.

"We have created a service that addresses the key issues and we believe that MacBeal will change the industry paradigm."