

LiverpoolLaw

June 2019

The magazine for the legal sector in Merseyside and the North West



**When two worlds collide
and the CPS turns up in
the family courts**

By Gillian Kelly, MSB



**Leadership and the
Law**

This month we feature
Alison Lobb of Morecrofts



**Ian Munford celebrates
40-year Milestone at
North West Law Firm**



**The Liverpool Law Society
Legal Awards 2019**

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Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

All members' contributions to Liverpool Law are warmly welcomed. Please send your article (and photo captions where possible) or request for further information, or assistance to the editor at editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Photographs should be provided in the highest resolution possible to ensure a good reproduction.

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j.baskerville@jbaskerville.co.uk

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Welcome to the June 2019 edition of Liverpool Law



Jennifer Powell
Editor

editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Last month saw the Liverpool Law Society Awards, and what a night it was! Well done to all of the organisers, you really did the Society and the City proud.

The awards are really important to celebrate and acknowledge the amazing work going on in our region and I hope everyone, nominees, those shortlisted and winners feel their efforts have been rightly recognised.

Special mention to Charlie Jones who received a well deserved Lifetime Achievement Award, I made my personal sentiments about Charlie clear in my last article but it was nice to see him receive such a lovely award and have the sign off he deserved after everything he has given to the profession and both the local and national Law Society.

It was great to see some smaller firms at the awards and the great work going on. I appreciate these firms may not have the resources to contribute to the magazine as easily as others and we would like to assist with this. If you have anything you wish to report on, be that case success stories, movers and shakers, mergers, CSR activity or anything else, feel free to contact me or our publisher Julia Baskerville and we can assist with this.

It was discussed at the last editorial meeting that the awards have been running for a number of years now and we would like to do a feature on previous winners, in particular previous individuals and smaller firms who have won awards and what the platform has done for them. We will be searching through the archives and contacting who we can, but in this fluid profession this may prove difficult so please get in touch with us.

We also discussed how we would like to hear about your sporting events, we tend to feature sport when it has a CSR element but not otherwise. So again, please contact us with details of your sports activities and encourage some healthy competition amongst your peers!

Finally I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Legal Walk on 11 June. Feel free to have a chat to me or any of the other Directors taking part and provide your feedback and ideas for the Society and magazine, all welcome.

Many thanks

Jennifer Powell
Solicitor
Weightmans

Editorial Committee Dates

All meetings start at 1pm

Tuesday 18th June
Tuesday 16th July
Tuesday 20th August
Tuesday 17th September
Tuesday 15th October
Tuesday 19th November
Tuesday 17th December

Diary Dates

Wednesday 12 June	Personal Injury Conference
Fri/Sat 14 – 15 June	Presidents' and Secretaries' Conference
Tuesday 18 June	Private Child Law Conference
Friday 5 July	Conference for In House Lawyers
Thursday 11 July	GC & local councillors' meeting
Thursday 11 July	Professionals' Dinner in conjunction with the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment
Saturday 7 Sept	Joint Walk with Cheshire & North Wales Law Society
Wednesday 11 Sept	Residential Property Conference
Thu - Fri 19-20 Sep	National Local Law Societies' Conference
Wednesday 25 Sep	Family Finance Law Conference
Wednesday 9 October	Employment Law Conference

For further information on any of these events, please view our website or contact the Society.

Deadlines 2019

26th June
22nd July
22nd August
25th September
25th October
25th November

The latest news from Chris Topping, the President of Liverpool Law Society...



President's Mentions

The Liverpool Law Society Awards evening is the major focus of Liverpool Law this month. It was, as you will read elsewhere, a wonderful evening of celebrating what is great about the practice of law in our region. The Awards provided a timely and positive environment in which to mark our successes and enabled us to take a moment celebrate the amazing work that our members do.

The unsung heroes of the evening were the staff; the evening didn't happen by magic, it was months in the planning so very special thanks to Sarah, Liz, Jo, Ann, Kimberley and Jordan for all they did to make the event such a success.

It was entirely coincidental that the Awards took place in Mental Health Awareness Week but it provided an interesting juxtaposition. We were delighted that in Mental Health Awareness Week the General Committee heard from Ann Charlton of Law Care. She emphasised that there has never been a better time to talk about mental health issues than now. It is a subject which is high on the agenda for legal businesses and rightly so. Every person working in law in the country is covered by Law Care so everyone can access their services for free. There is more about their work here <https://www.lawcare.org.uk/>

At the Awards we made a Lifetime Achievement Award to Charlie Jones and in his acceptance speech he focused our attention on Mental Health Awareness. Throwing down two challenges he first asked whether we as a society are prepared to lead other local law societies in ensuring that mental health awareness does not slide off the agenda? It is a challenge that I know many firms are already taking on and is one which the Society will accept. We will ensure that there is training and opportunities to learn together how to look after each other.

The second challenge from Charlie was in relation to climate change. At the recent hustings for the election of the new deputy vice-president of the national Law Society it became apparent that no one in leadership at Chancery Lane is thinking through policy on climate change. As lawyers we are very late to the debate and are only beginning now to consider the impact of the way in which we do business on the environment.

How much plastic and paper do we throw away rather than recycle? Would we do the same at home or would we be using our blue recycling bin? The advent of technology and paperless systems gives us an opportunity to re-evaluate the way in which we operate. It is a challenge which we will be giving some thought to over the next months and if you have ideas or strategy for the greening of the legal profession do get in touch.

Mentioning the national Law Society brings me to an controversial article written by Crispin Passmore and published here <https://www.legalfutures.co.uk/blog/whats-the-point-of-the-law-society>

In the article Liverpool Law Society gets a glowing testimonial which is all well and good. We are clear about what we stand for, what our

values and vision are. We provide education and training; we campaign and to respond to government consultations. There is no room for us to be complacent in a situation where there is a debate about the relevance of the national body.

However what do we say to the national Law Society? What do we want from them?

As part of the Joint V group of Law Societies we have a voice on the national stage and some influence to shape the future. As Charlie Jones retires from the national council his place will be taken by Nina Ferris and so we need to hear your views so that we can represent your interests.

The Law Society does of course provide leadership in a number of areas which is absolutely crucial both to the profession and to society as a whole.

On 20th May the Law Society published its report "Male Champions for Change: The Case For Gender Equality in the Profession". This report has been produced following the roundtable events that were held at the end of last year. The challenge posed by the lack of equality in the profession is one which remains high on the agenda and Simon Davis, the current Law Society Vice President, has said that he is "determined to continue implementing the programme on Women in Leadership in the Law during my presidency once I take over from Christina in July 2019".

The Liverpool Law Society will be completely in support of this programme. I have been asked to facilitate discussion around this report, and the Male Champions for Change Toolkit, in the next few months. If anyone is interested in working alongside me to roll out this important programme more widely then please do get in touch.

In their campaigning role the Law Society are putting on a series of Criminal Justice Roadshows. Many of you will have read the book by The Secret Barrister – Stories of The Law and How It Is Broken. Taking up many of the themes of this bestselling book the Law Society are now campaigning vigorously to persuade the government to take action to reform the criminal justice system.

On 24th June we will be hosting one of the Roadshows. This is a campaign which every lawyer should be behind. The criminal justice system should be seen as being as important as the NHS – free advice in the Police Station for anyone who is arrested is a fundamental right. At the present rate of attrition there will be no duty solicitors available to give that advice within the next 5 - 10 years.

Please book on to the Roadshow and find out how you can assist this vital campaign. <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/news/stories/criminal-justice-roadshows-2019/>

**Chris Topping
President**

Sponsored by



Helix Highlights

Legal Awards 2019

300 members and guests attended the Society's black tie Legal Awards on 17 May at the Rum Warehouse. There is a full write up later in this edition of 'Liverpool Law' with links through to photos hosted online. Thank you to all the member firms who have taken part, the members of the independent judging panel HHJ Wood QC, Professor Barr, Ms Martin-Wright and Ms Hunt; the sponsors of the evening BWM Chartered Accountants, FCI, Index PI, Midshire, PIB Insurance Brokers & QPI Legal, the University of Law and our media partner the Liverpool City Region Business Post. Congratulations to all the winners and to those shortlisted.

Collaboration

The Society works with a number of professional membership and economic organisations across the region, looking to collaborate on initiatives, aims and goals that we share. This month, I'd like to highlight Liverpool & Sefton Chambers of Commerce with whom the Society has enjoyed a close relationship over many years. The Chambers offers Liverpool Law Society corporate members a free associate membership which brings with it a number of benefits. Over 40 firms have taken up this offer in the past. If you would like to know more about this offering, please click [here](#).

Liverpool Law Society itself is a member of the Chambers and staff have benefited from attending their training events around a range of subject matters from HR and accounts to social media and marketing. Our two organisations also assist one another by promoting events and services which are relevant and/or of interest to each other's contacts. In the past this has included such items as international trade projects & welcoming of delegations from abroad, attendance at the Quarterly Economic Survey breakfast meetings, promotion of the Chambers' business start-up support programme, work with schools including mock interviews and sporting activities.

The Justice First Fellowship Scheme, Merseyside Law Centre and a regional consortium of law firm supporters

The Justice First Fellowship' scheme, established by the Legal Education Foundation, funds a number of training contracts across the country including two at Merseyside Law Centre (MLC). The JFF scheme is of huge importance to the provision of expert legal advice in areas of the law where there is a massive need and a reducing supply because of restrictions on Legal Aid.

The JFF scheme is a very exciting opportunity both for local aspiring lawyers wishing to practice in social welfare law, debt and housing and, most importantly, for people in Liverpool who are in

need of high quality legal advice in those areas. You can hear direct from one of the JFF on page 19 in this edition about what the scheme has meant.

In order to fully fund the JFF scheme in Merseyside, and to make it sustainable, we need to raise an additional £25,000 (£12,500 per year for the two years of the training contract). Liverpool Law Society has committed to support this 'Regional Consortium' initiative and we have asked before in this magazine, at the Annual Dinner last year and through direct approaches over the past few months, and we ask again now, for firms to support the JFF scheme. We are delighted that so far two firms have come on board, Brabners and Weightmans. We hope more will follow suit. If you would like to find out more about the JFF scheme and the consortium, please contact me.

Liverpool Law Society, keen to offer our own support to the two Merseyside Fellows, has awarded both the Fellows free training passes for the legal training courses run by the Society which we hope they will find useful and beneficial.

New membership year begins

Liverpool Law Society's new membership year began on 1st June. Member firms will have been contacted a couple of months ago asking for the details we keep on your firm and staff to be updated so that we may issue the new membership invoice at the correct rate. We thank you for your continued support. There are over 2000 individuals who are members of Liverpool Law Society, based at over 230 law firms, chambers, in-house departments and other entities located mainly in the Liverpool City Region but members also come from further afield such as North Wales, Cheshire, Lancashire, the Isle of Man and Shropshire.

The directors and committees strive to represent all our members through the work that is done by the Society, be it responding to government consultation papers, having discussions with Liverpool City Region councillors and MPs on a range of issues that affect you, and liaising with bodies such as other local Law Societies, the Law Society, the SRA and the Legal Ombudsman. You can read about the work of the Society's Committees in this magazine on the committee pages.

I am always keen to hear from members, readers and delegates so do please get in touch with any queries or comments you may have.

Until next month,

Sarah Poblete
CEO

sarah@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk
0151 236 6998 Ext 30



Sarah Poblete
CEO

Joint Forum on Access to Justice

The Joint Forum on Access to Advice met at Liverpool Law Society's offices on the morning of Friday 3rd May.

This particular Forum focussed on Citizens Advice; the innovative services it offers through its local centres, and its evolving relationship with national government.

Speaker slots were afforded to the Chief Executives of four, local Citizens Advice services. Hitesh Patel (Chief Executive at Halton Citizens Advice) described the need for changes to the traditional advice model so as to respond to the everyday changes in people's lives. For example, clients need better financial advice than they did in the past. Clients also benefit from a key worker being allocated to them, and this approach has been shown to provide particular benefits when helping people to get back into work.

Heather Brent (Chief Executive at Liverpool Citizens Advice) spoke about their Access Strategy. This aims to provide one route to advice within the City (rather than multiple telephone numbers or multiple email addresses, for example). Heather described a number of bespoke advice services run by Liverpool Citizens Advice, each one tailored to a particular need, for example the Pension Wise Service and the Immigration Service. Citizens Advice have recognised a need to provide advice out in the community, and Liverpool have responded by operating their 'Advice on Prescription' service, whereby advice is provided in GP surgeries and in hospitals.

Carol Johnson-Eyre (Chief Executive at Wirral Citizens Advice) informed the Forum about a new "Ask us Wirral" website that has come into operation. The website acts a portal to triage services. Like Liverpool, Wirral are also providing advice in the community, with advice-points being set up in 43 GP surgeries and at 7 of the borough's 15 foodbanks. Wirral has also launched its "Gambling Support Service", whereby a specialist Advisor visits organisations (public and private sector) to deliver training on how to identify and deal with gambling related harm.

Jane Groves (Chief Executive at Sefton Citizens Advice) described the scale of Sefton's operation. Last year, Sefton Citizens Advice helped 8,100 people deal with 32,000 problems! Sefton continues to develop its access to advice services, for example: a General Advice service; a Money Advice Service; a Telephone Advice service, a Housing Advice service, a Mental Health outreach service, as well as its Living Well Sefton service. Soon, they expect to be providing advice via email and web-chat too, which will allow for even greater expansion.

Following these local providers, Claire Blades (Legal Services Development Manager for national Citizens Advice) addressed the forum from the national perspective. Claire explained that a key element of the national service was to facilitate local services through systems development, for example through better training, and the provision of advisory content. In addition, national Citizens Advice provide second-tier support to local advisors within specialist areas, e.g. welfare benefits, debt, housing, employment and consumer matters.

Citizens Advice has now been operating for 80 years. During this time, the service has witnessed big changes, but central aims remain the same – to provide advice to anyone who needs it; to innovate to help meet this need; and, to obtain funding to deliver their advice. The service has recently engaged in a 3 year strategic framework, the aim of which is to make it easier for clients to contact the service and to make the respective local services better integrated. Finally, campaigning is at the heart of Citizens Advice, and this work will always continue.

The forum then heard from Martin Jungnitz (Assistant Director at Liverpool City Council). Martin talked at length about the City Council's efforts to moderate the impact of welfare reform on its residents. As part of this work, the council is monitoring the impact

of welfare cuts, particularly in terms of how these cuts combine over time.

Martin also talked about an access to justice mapping project the Mayor's office is undertaking in conjunction with the University of Liverpool. The aims of the project are four-fold: to map existing advice providers within the City; to develop networks between these providers; to provide training where skills gaps exist; and, to research the impact of Universal Credit, particularly on disabled people.

Jeremy Myers (Parliamentary Liaison Officer for Liverpool Law Society) kindly updated the Forum on recent legislative changes likely to impact advice providers, including the Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act 2018, a statute which places greater responsibility on landlords by ensuring that all rented accommodation is fit for human habitation and by providing tenants with an improved means of redress.

Following these informative talks, there followed a general update from local advice providers. Alan Kelly provided welcome news that the Vauxhall Law Centre was continuing to expand, having taken on a new caseworker and a new solicitor. Clare Johnson from Law Works advertised the forthcoming Liverpool Legal Walk on 11th June.

The Forum will next meet on Friday 15th November (8.30 – 9.30a.m.) – all are welcome.

James Mannouch
Chair
Access to Justice Committee



Building Regulations & Planning for conveyancers

with Richard Snape

on Wednesday 19th June, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Building regulations continues to be a major area in relation to conveyancing and planning permission has changed significantly in the recent years. The course aims to look at the changes.

Covering:

- Building regulations enforcement periods
- The CML Lenders Handbook
- Specific current areas of interest in relation to building regulations
- Gas safe regulations changes
- Planning enforcement periods
- Changes to permitted development
- Community infrastructure levy; the latest
- General Permitted Development Order 2015
- Housing and Planning Act 2016
- Pre-commencement planning conditions

Competencies: B

For more information or to book, [click here](#)

News from the Sub-Committees

Non Contentious Business Sub Committee

The Non-Contentious Business Committee is rejuvenated and I am so pleased to see many new members and the enthusiasm is infectious – in a good way!

This is an abbreviated set of minutes from 2nd May which I hope you find of interest:

Conferences and courses

- Commercial property conference, 25 delegates, a success, similar numbers as previous occasions, bi-annual, Bill Chandler was one of the speakers, thank you
- Private client conference with STEP, 80 bookings so far, room for more. Jo needs feedback for next year's event and speakers asap
- Residential property conference, draft timetable is fluid and comments invited asap
- General seminars as tabled, also one on handling complaints due in November
- Season ticket available at £380 + vat if purchased before the end of June thereafter £395 + vat, unlimited courses are covered
- Corporate season ticket available for 10 courses
- Ed Turner stated that the season ticket is great value
- The Chair feedback that Helen Clarke's updates are invaluable for anyone doing elder client law
- Jo encouraged everyone to share likes on social media to raise the profile of the courses

Hot Topics

Private Client

- Delays at Liverpool DPR owing to introduction of a new

computer system, some grants have been received, there is a delay of about 6 weeks

- Application to settle a document has been delayed
- Mixed views re delay in issuing caveats
- GDPR, Emma Collins reported, thank you
- As BREXIT hasn't happened there is little to report. Emma confirmed that the GDPR is part of domestic law but there will need to be updates after BREXIT has happened
- Property, Bill Chandler reported thank you, there have been a number of changes including
- SDRT now 14 days to submit and form simplified, working well
- New version of the Law Society completion by post, following the Mishcon case and which clearly places the responsibility upon the seller's solicitor. In practice, it is essential to check that the named owner is the actual owner. There is a plan to include a condition in the contract for sale that the Code will be used and if not, that the seller's solicitor will provide an equivalent undertaking re integrity of the ownership.
- Changes in residential tenancy law- shortholds, tenants' fees, fitness for habitation.


There was a good discussion about these changes and the impact of cuts in public sector funding and the actions of some solicitors seeking inappropriate and unhelpful claims. The danger concerning potentially forged documents and phone call ID was discussed.

Next meeting on 20th June at 1pm, thank you to all.

Naomi Pinder

Chair

Email: committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk with any queries or comments



Ground rent, service charge & estate rent charge issues in conveyancing

with Richard Snape

on Wednesday 19th June, 9.30am - 12.45pm

Ground rent issues are still causing many problems in conveyancing and estate rent charge issues are threatening to become extreme importance in the mere future. The course looks at some of the issues and some of the problems and their solutions.

Topics covered include:

- Ground rent issues and escalating ground rents
- The problem of creating an assured tenancy
- Service charge liability issues, in particular in the light of Grenfell Tower
- Estate rent charges and reasonableness
- Reporting to the lender and estate rent charges
- Remedies of non-payment of estate rent charges

Core Competencies: B

For more information or to book, [click here](#)



2019 Private Child Law Conference

on Tuesday 18th June 2019, 1pm - 4.15pm

Venue: Liverpool Law Society, 2nd Floor, Helix, Liverpool, L3 9NY

Chairperson ~ District Judge Helen Brandon

Recent Changes & Case Law Update
Ginnette Fitzharris, St John's Buildings Chambers

High Conflict Cause
Alan Sanders, Service Manager, CAFCASS



Relocation, relocation, relocation - from Cornwall to California, Brighton to Brisbane
Kate Burnell, St John's Buildings Chambers

Public law elements that can arise in private law proceedings
Rachael Banks, St John's Buildings Chambers

For further information or to book, [click here](#)

This conference is FREE to 2019/20 Training Season Ticket Holders

OR only 2 Corporate Credits

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 **Twitter:** @LpoolLawSociety

2019 Compliance Conference Liverpool Law Society

On Wednesday 22nd May 2019 I attended the sold-out Compliance Conference held at Liverpool Law Society.

The day started with an introduction from the conference chair and compliance lawyer Michaela Fox, of Weightmans LLP.

Michaela then started the conference with the first session, 'Reporting Concerns', and covered the hot topics of whistleblowing, non-disclosure agreements and stress in the workplace all current issues dominating both the legal and mainstream press.

Chris Handford from the SRA followed with the session on the 'SRA New Standards and Regulations'. This session probably created the most questions from the audience in particular, the new flexible practice of solicitors being able to work as freelancers. Chris addressed concerns that traditional firms may have in relation to accepting undertakings from freelance solicitors and also provided an update on the new code and new accounts rules coming into effect from 25th November 2019.

After refreshments we had an update on 'GDPR and Data Protection for Law Firms' from Megan Duncan and Richard Syers of the ICO who gave us a practical review of GDPR one year on.

This was followed by 'Raising Risk Awareness' from the sponsors Marsh JLT Speciality. John Kunzler provided a fact filled session which included up to date SRA data in relation to claims made and the areas most at risk and also some tips on risk analysis and avoiding the pitfalls.

Lunch was served around 1pm and it was lovely to meet up and chat with some of my former colleagues and compliance officers from other firms.

The afternoon session started with Shazia Zamir from Teal Consulting Limited who started the afternoon with 'Handling Complaints Effectively' and she took us through a number of case studies which she included in her very comprehensive slides.

Pearl Moses from the Law Society offered probably the most entertaining session of the conference and despite the content 'The SRA Handbook and Price Transparency' she did manage to get the delegates laughing.

The conference ended with the very practical and thorough Jo Morris and her 'Anti Money Laundering Update' who talked us through the 2018 SRA Review on the 59 Law firms visited by the SRA in their review on Money Laundering.

The compliance conference gave a complete overview of the changes coming and what we as firms need to do to get ready for those changes. I am a training season ticket holder and have been for a number of years and find that it's great value for money.

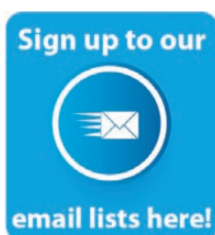
Thanks again to sponsors Marsh JLT Speciality and also Midshire.

Vanessa Lester,
Practice Manager,
Quinn Barrow LLP

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Sign up here



Conference Sponsors Marsh JLT Speciality



Conference Sponsors Midshire

Monthly Competition

You could win a bottle of wine or prosecco

Please "Like and Share" the link to the June edition of Liverpool Law by following Liverpool Law Society on Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn.

A member who likes and shares will be selected at random and rewarded with their choice of a bottle of prosecco, red or white wine, very kindly supplied by R&H Fine Wines of 12 Queen Ave (just off Castle Street) Liverpool.



2019 Private Client Conference in conjunction with STEP Liverpool

Last month we held our annual Private Client Conference in conjunction with STEP Liverpool, which was very kindly chaired by Susan Sherry of Hill Dickinson. With over 80 attendees it was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the Princes Dock.

The day began with Chris Whitehouse, who provided a capital tax update. Followed by Mark Feeny who then discussed the 10-year periodic charges. Delegates then enjoyed pastries & fruit smoothies before hearing again from Chris Whitehouse about post death arrangements.

Delegates and speakers then had the opportunity to network, whilst enjoying a two-course lunch in the restaurant.

The afternoon opened with the wonderful Professor Lesley King who covered capacity issues. Next up was a very interesting session on business property relief for IHT by Michael Sherry.

Pause for another refreshment break & sugar top up! When delegates enjoyed delicious chocolate cookies along with their hot drinks.



The final two sessions of the day were from Mike Hunter of sponsors Rathbones, who discussed pension death benefits then we had a really topical session from Leigh Sagar about will drafting for digital assets. We could have listened to Leigh a lot longer than his allocated time and look forward to welcoming him back to Liverpool Law Society soon to present some further training for us.

The day drew to a close just after 4pm and I would like to thank all those who took part and those who attended. These events can only continue if supported by you.

Thanks go to sponsors; Currency Index, KIN Probate & Rathbones – there were some lucky winners of their brilliant prizes on the day!

Jo Downey
Director of Education & Training,
Liverpool Law Society.



Digital Assets

Today was the annual Private Client conference and I feel inspired to report upon the last session which was brilliant and well worth staying for.

The final session was delivered by Leigh Sagar a barrister from New Square Chambers in London. This session covered the whole length and breadth of electronic things, I use the word “things” deliberately as many of these things are not property and therefore do not comprise assets which can be included in a Will. Cloud accounts, text and graphics, social media aren’t assets. Facebook, Linked In, Twitter etc are contracts and have their own individual rules about what happens upon death. Remember that it isn’t even English law which is applicable.

Compare these things with property such as intellectual property, digital currency and gaming tokens, even store reward points which have a value and are assets which can be included in a Will. Electronic tools such as laptops are normal personality and are chattels in the same way as any other assets.

Leigh only had a very limited time but he explained about the need to take instructions and the possibility of appointing digital managers and digital executors. He even provided very good precedents.

I was chatting with him as he walked to the station and he was so interesting. We may think that we’re not digital people (well, I do and many clients share my view) but actually modern life almost necessitates a degree of digital ownership, for instance photos on a phone. I talk to clients about passwords and the possibility of losing photos on death, I honestly think that there will be a huge gap in social history due to the absence of physical photographs.

This is a growing area of law and which is really rather fascinating and how wonderful it is still to be fascinated after more than 30 years!

Naomi Pinder

Commercial Property Conference

On the 30th April we held our bi-annual Commercial Property Conference, which was very kindly chaired by Angela Hesketh, Head of Property at Jackson Lees.

It was a busy day, with 9 speakers providing 8 sessions, which included; 'RPI Rent Reviews' by Bill Chandler of Hill Dickinson, 'Property Taxes Update' by Peter Graham, RSM Accountants, 'Application of MEES' with Sue Highmore of Landmark, Jac Armstrong of Atlantic Chambers covered 'Break Clauses' & Jenni Christy of Grant Thornton provided a 'VAT Update' and that was just the morning... Delegates and speakers then enjoyed a buffet lunch and were able to visit the stands of both our sponsors: Landmark & PSG, so plenty of mingling!

The afternoon opened with Usha Sharma of Brabners & Jennifer Woods of Grant Thornton co-delivering an 'IFRS 16 Leases' session. A regular speaker at our property conferences – Jamie Winch of HM Land Registry provided an update and then it was time for the final session of the day from Philip Byrne of St Johns Buildings Chambers, who covered 'Overage'.

Thanks to all those who attended the event and of course the willingness and co-operation of all the excellent speakers and generous sponsors.

Quote from an attendee "Excellent conference with a good range of topics and informative speakers"

Jo Downey
Director of Education & Training,
Liverpool Law Society.



L-R: Sue Highmore, Jamie Winch, Angela Hesketh, Usha Sharma, Bill Chandler, Jac Armstrong & Peter Graham.

UK maritime sector's biggest names come to Liverpool for the Maritime Exchange

Liverpool will welcome some of the biggest names in the UK's powerhouse £37bn maritime sector in June when a major national conference comes to the city.

A stellar line-up of high-profile speakers, including keynote speaker Sir Michael Bibby, the former managing director of Liverpool maritime giant Bibby Group, will descend on Liverpool Town Hall on Thursday, June 13, for the Maritime Exchange.

Organised by and in association with industry body Mersey Maritime, the event has been developed in response to the Government's Maritime 2050 report that sets out the long-term strategy for the UK maritime sector.

It will address the key themes raised in the Government's Maritime 2050 report including trade, technology and innovation and people and skills. Each theme will be examined by an industry-leading speaker and panel and the aim is to provide insight and practical applications to businesses throughout the conference.

Helen Kelly, managing editor and head of communications at Nautilus and former editor-in-chief at Lloyds List, will chair the conference and the full line-up of speakers is as follows:

Sir Michael Bibby - president, UK Chamber of Shipping
Laura Marquis - head of strategy and partnerships, Department for Transport
Lesley Batchelor OBE - director general, Institute of Export
Sarah Kenny - chief executive of BMT and vice chair of Maritime UK
Debbie Cavaldoro - head of strategy, Nautilus
Tim Morris - chief executive of UK Major Ports Group
Asbjorn Kops - head of products (UK and Ireland), Maersk
Sarah Thompson - regional security advisor, Chevron Global Security
Alex Lawson - director of hedging, Western Union Business Solutions
Cdre Rich Harris - Commanding Officer of HMS Raleigh
Chris Rowland - managing director, MDS Transmodal
Terry Weston - chief executive, The Engineering College
Raal Harris - managing director, KVH Videotel
Clive Hickman - chief executive, The Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC)
Tom Davenport - operations manager, Bibby HydroMap
Alan Tinline - head of environment, ABP
Cpt Andrew Stacey - exercise director, Royal Navy

Chris Shirling-Rooke, chief executive of Mersey Maritime, said: "As we get closer to our departure from the EU and embark on a new trading relationship with the rest of the world, the future of the maritime sector has never been more important.

"This is why the Government's Maritime 2050 report is of such huge importance and it is vital that we, as a sector, come together to help shape our industry over the coming decades as we navigate revolutionary changes in global trade and the transformational impact of rapid technological innovation.

"It is fitting the Maritime Exchange should be held here in the Liverpool city region where our sector is worth almost £4bn and where we have built a cluster that is recognised as the most successful and dynamic in Europe."

The conference is free to attend for businesses operating in and supporting the maritime industry, to find out more and register your interest in attending visit, click [here](https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk).



**Vauxhall Community
Law & Information
Centre**

News from Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre

Our regular column from the team at Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre who support the local community and promote access to justice.

Exciting Times Ahead

Vauxhall Law Centre has been operating with minimal resources in recent years, having only a part-time solicitor -David Taylor, part time debt adviser – Bill Armstrong and part-time development officer, Alan Kelly. We are in the process of recruiting new staff and developing our activities.

Our new solicitor is Ngaryan Higham, Ngaryan has been the solicitor at the Greater Manchester Law Centre and has helped to quickly establish the Law Centre as a Beacon for good practice. We are all delighted with the prospect of working with Ngaryan who will be taking up her post in Mid-June and working alongside David Taylor. We are pleased to be able to report that our new full time Welfare Rights Caseworker, Nancy Hatenboer started work at the Law Centre on 1st May 2019. Nancy, who has been working at St Helens Citizen Advice has many years' experience as a Welfare Rights caseworker and will enable us to further develop our service provision.

Bigger Team this Year, Liverpool Legal Walk.

Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre are proud to take part in the Liverpool Legal Walk 2019 to raise money for the North West Legal Support (NWLST) which funds local advice services. We have in recent years been beneficiaries of financial support from the NWLST.

We look forward to meeting many of you on the walk. Our new staff Ngaryan Higham and Nancy Hatenboer will be joining our Team. We are also delighted to have Tom McLoughlin, a student volunteer at the Law Centre, who is also President of Liverpool Universities Bar Society.

If you and/or your company are unable to participate in the Legal Walk, which takes place from 6pm on Tuesday 11 June 2019 we would be delighted if you could consider supporting the Law Centre Team. Donations can be made by following the link below, thank you.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/VauxhallCommunityLawInformationCentre>

Could you support us by becoming a member of our Board?

If you would like further information or would like to visit us at Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre, please get in touch with us, via Alan Kelly and we can arrange.

The email address is alan.kelly@lawcentre.vnc.org.uk and the telephone number is 07733223440.



Student Volunteer Tom McLoughlin

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre is looking to develop its services in future. We currently concentrate on providing welfare benefits and debt advice and will be looking in the future to consider developing our provision to include a variety of new areas of work such as human rights, housing, immigration, mental health issues etc. We are also currently developing our links and opportunities for partnership work with other third sector providers and other sectors.

The Law Centre is changing rapidly and is looking to recruit additional trustees to sit on our board to support the development of the organisation in future. Please consider supporting us or passing on to someone who you believe may consider supporting us & joining our Management Committee.

The board which meets bi-monthly and the meetings last for less than an hour normally. We would appreciate it greatly if you would consider applying to us to be a member of our board and are happy to talk with anyone who could possibly offer support for our work.



Leadership and the Law

Continuing our series of articles talking to the leaders of Liverpool law firms. In this edition, Alison Lobb, Managing Partner at Morecrofts gives an insight into her role...

Briefly describe your role as Managing Partner

My role comprises responsibility for the overall strategy of the firm, and delivery, working in conjunction with our board and the wider partnership. As well as that I am responsible for compliance, being the COLP & Client Care partner, and I spend a great deal of my time keeping up to date with compliance news and disseminating this amongst our team.

Alongside this, I have overall responsibility for training and development at all levels, and I oversee marketing and business development of the firm.

What do you like the most about your role?

I enjoy the fact that every day is different. I love meeting new people, hearing about what they do, and thinking about how we can work with them.

I am not a natural risk taker, but I do enjoy embracing new ideas and planning innovative ways of doing things. Every morning I wake up looking forward to what might happen that day, and what new developments it might bring. As a bit of a geek about these things, I have to confess that I also enjoy understanding the theory of management and motivation, and seeing that work in practice.

What are the biggest challenges?

Compliance, risk and the requirements of our regulators are taking up more and more of our time. I feel these demands hold law firms back from being able to compete as businesses in the wider market place. I have no problem with the principles of honesty and integrity, however the ever increasing row of hoops to be jumped through is hindering us from being able to work on our businesses and enable them to grow. I am constantly struggling for time to learn about and embrace new ideas, and thinking time – which is essential. When speaking to other business owners outside of the legal world they are always astounded at the amount of time we have to put in and the constraints on the ways we work, just to continue to function as a law firm.

As a solicitor used to time recording and being accountable for everything I do I also find the variety and spontaneity of the role quite scary on occasion! But five years in and I'm getting a bit more used to it.

For the profession as a whole I think the issue of stress and mental health concerns is a huge problem and a challenge which is not going to go away. I see how hard people have to work, and in particular the extra that we all do that we do not get paid for – both in terms of legal work and management – and this seems to constantly increase. I have huge admiration for our young people coming through and aspiring to be Solicitors or Legal Executives but I do worry that there will be a generation who will decide the job is simply not worth it in the future, and that would be devastating for the legal profession, and indeed for society as a whole.

What aspects of your firm are you most proud of?

I am very proud of our brand and reputation, and the way we have progressed and grown over the years.

Sometimes it's important to sit back and look at what you've



achieved, which you can easily miss when enmeshed in the day to day. I am always extremely proud of our people who are the heart and soul of our business.

Without them we wouldn't be what we are, and one of the best moments I have is when I sit down once a month and read through the client questionnaires and testimonials we have received and realise what a fantastic job our people do. I am particularly proud of the knowledge and expertise we have in our firm, the training we provide to our up and coming successors, and the fact that this extends beyond training in the law and encourages them to expand their skills and to grow.

I am proud of the fact that we were one of the first firms locally to bring in non-lawyer partners within our leadership team, and I proud of the fact that we do things a bit differently, through holding events like the Merseyside Independent Business Awards every year, extending our reach far beyond the legal community and doing our bit for the SMEs of the city region.

I am proud of the way our people pull together to challenge themselves and raise incredible sums of money, or give large amounts of their time to outside agencies and charities, for no personal gain. I am proud of the fact that we are a female-led and dominated business and that we attract good people who want to work in a pleasant environment where they feel that they can grow and flourish.

Where do you see the firm in 10 years from now?

In the current legal climate it is difficult to look ahead 10 years – who knows what will have changed by then – be it in our profession or in society as a whole. There's a suggestion that we might have left the European Union but I won't believe that until it happens! However I hope and anticipate that Morecrofts will still have its fantastic reputation for client service and expertise both within the city region generally and also at the heart of many of our local communities. I'd like to see many of our young people, now starting out as paralegals and trainees, becoming experts in the forefront of providing legal services, even though those services might be delivered in a very different way.

Round up of Joint V meetings 2019

It has been a busy 12 months so far for all of the Joint V members consisting of Law Societies of Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester and, of course, Liverpool.

As part of our local reports Birmingham confirmed that they had raised over £24,000 for their local charities, held the Inaugural Judge Joseph A Greenway Lecture in conjunction with Birmingham City University, had their AGM and saw their Choir perform at the Royal Albert Hall. Many other events have been laid on for their members too including a mindfulness course with lunchtime sessions being available. Birmingham are currently in the process of working with Birmingham City University on research as to why women leave the profession!

Bristol gave a very active report with this year which focussed on Legal Tech heavily on their agenda and a Law Tech centre to be introduced. A Cyber Attack event as well as various Legal Tech meetings have been held. Bristol Law Society are also developing the "Bristol Brand" working on various initiatives, one of their current programmes (alongside the High Sheriff) is feeding local children with over 30 firms having contributed so far. Plans are underway to host a showcasing event with Local Authorities for "Industrial Strategies" seeing support from the Mayor, local MPs and some of Bristol's big corporate firms so far.

Leeds have held their conference in conjunction with Leeds City Council seeing a mixture of delegates attending with innovation as their key topic.

Manchester have confirmed that a committee has been formed with the firms representing those affected by the Manchester Arena bombing which took place 2 years ago. Meetings continue to be had with the police and coroner with some legal aid being in place. Manchester have also held their annual Legal Awards and continue to participate in Manchester Professional's Dinner Club.

All of our fellow Joint V societies

have held wellness and mental health awareness events in the lead up to Mental Health Awareness week and were proud to feedback that the events were very well received!

Our President gave an overview of our own activities over the past months which included the meeting with local Councillors, Pathways to the Legal Profession event, our continued work on Access to Justice as well as our many conferences and seminars.

With this being the centenary for Women in Law we were proud to report how well our own Women in Law events had gone to date and we shall continue to have this high on our agenda going forward.

The Law Society updates

We were joined by Paul Tennant, CEO of The Law Society, who was able to give us an overview as to the Skills Academy which will be rolled out across England and Wales this summer. Event details can be found on The Law Society's website.

"No Deal" Brexit Guidance

In January of this year Jenny Pickrell, Head of EU Exit and Rebecca Goshawk, Public Affairs Manager, kindly updated us (well in as much as one can be updated) on the ongoing Brexit saga and what issues members face.

With the future of Brexit still uncertain those who are currently working in England and Wales under the current EU framework need to ensure that they are prepared for what could happen. The Law Society are aware that the SRA has written to all individuals and Senior Managing Partners who could be affected.

However, there is some guidance available on the Law Society's website [here](#)

The Government have also drafted some guidance notes on how to prepare if we face a **No Deal Brexit**.

At our May meeting Rebecca confirmed that we still need to see a "No Deal" as a potential

and so all members who will be affected need to keep up with preparations. The Law Society continues to work hard on the issues arising from Brexit and will work alongside other groups, where possible, such as The Law Society of Ireland so that members can access information on Professional Indemnity Insurance, limitations on practising and requalification.

Campaigns

The Law Society are currently working on a number of campaigns in 3 key areas:

1. Criminal Justice
2. Legal Aid Deserts
3. Global Recognition of English Law

Criminal Justice Roadshows

It is not surprising that Criminal Justice is very much at the forefront of their campaigning strategy as reports have been published to show that the current state of the Criminal Justice system is increasingly of concern. There is a considerable shortage of duty solicitors across the country and in 5 years time there will be an alarming number of areas without any duty solicitors at all. This has a massive impact on access to advice and representation.

The average age of the current duty solicitor is 47 and in the Isle of Wight the youngest duty solicitor is 55!

Other issues affecting the system is the cost of advice, floating lists, limitations on expert evidence, the Innocent Tax, Court closures, and Disclosure.

One of the interim measures proposed by The Law Society is an increase in fees. The Law Society have produced a Parliamentary Briefing which can be found [here](#).

A number of Criminal Justice Roadshows will be delivered around the country with our very own in Liverpool taking place on 24 June at the Liverpool Law Society's offices. Bookings can be made with The Law Society direct. Even if you are unable to make this event please do write to your local MPs to lobby for change!



Julie O'Hare

Legal Deserts

With 37% of England and Wales not having any provision for housing legal aid services and even large cities having capacity issues there is a growing need for action. Liverpool currently have 9 providers although this is still not enough. Other large cities have fewer still.

The Law Society are urging all of our members to help with their campaign by providing case studies to highlight the issues and asking your local MPs to raise awareness. More information can be found [here](#).

Global Legal Centre

The Law Society continue to promote England and Wales as the leading global centre for legal services and have supported the Courts and Tribunals Judiciary with their guidance after Brexit. A copy of the brochure can be found [here](#).

The next meeting of the Joint V will take place in Liverpool in October although we shall be representing our members at a meeting with the CEO and Directors of The Law Society in July.

Should any of our members have issues that they would like raising at a national level, or should there be any training/events that you would like to see take place in Liverpool, please do contact us.

Julie O'Hare
Vice President

When two worlds collide and the CPS turns up in the family courts

Divorcing couples are being warned that Crown prosecutors looking to confiscate “proceeds of crime” are actively targeting cases in the family courts.

Gillian Kelly, a solicitor at Liverpool law firm MSB, say this means that otherwise straightforward financial remedy cases can become more complicated as the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) looks to prevent one party being awarded cash and assets.

Gillian said: “The CPS has recently put substantial investment into educating and encouraging their confiscation enforcement staff to intervene in family court proceedings where a couple decide to divorce and one party (usually the husband) is the subject of ongoing or potential confiscation proceedings in the Crown Court.

“MSB has seen an increase in cases in the past year where there are financial remedy proceedings in the family court at the same time as confiscation proceedings in the Crown Court. It is essential that parties facing concurrent proceedings have the benefit of expert advice.”

Corporate veil

And it is not just the innocent spouse whose partner is subject to a Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) order who are at risk, but also the co-directors or business partners of individuals subject to such an order. In a warning to company owners, Gillian added: “Company assets can also be at risk. The Crown Court can, and will, pierce the corporate veil where a defendant has used a company to commit or hide criminal offences. This opens up the risk of company assets being confiscated, which could be devastating for innocent business partners.”

A POCA order encompasses money or assets obtained by criminals as a result of their criminal activity. But thousands of people who do not regard themselves as ‘criminals’ can become the subject of confiscation proceedings under The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. Take one example. A company director was ordered to pay a confiscation order of £200,000 in March 2019 following a prosecution by the Environment Agency in 2016 when he was fined for running an illegal waste operation. It is highly unlikely that either he or his wife would have thought he was at risk of a confiscation order at the time he committed the offence.

POCA specialist

Gillian has been a solicitor with MSB for nine years, specialising in the defence of complex fraud cases and defending in POCA proceedings. She added: “Until recently, third parties had no right to be heard in confiscation proceedings, other than as a defence witness. Changes in the law now enable the court to make a conclusive determination of a defendant’s interest where a third party may also hold an interest in the property.

“The court must give a reasonable opportunity to make representations to anyone whom the court thinks is or may be a person holding an interest in the property.”

MSB regularly represents individuals who want to intervene as a third party in confiscation proceedings to protect their own and their company’s assets.

Financial provision

All marriages are subject to the provisions of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (MCA), including those of criminals and drug dealers. The question often is, should the MCA take priority to make provision for the innocent spouse or does POCA enable the state to intervene and allow a confiscation order to take precedence?



Gillian Kelly

Gillian explained: “An appropriate balance must be struck between confiscating the proceeds of crime and making proper financial provision for a spouse. Often, the knowledge and complicity of the innocent spouse will be a determining factor.

“It is clear that as a matter of public justice and public policy that where matrimonial assets are the fruits of criminal activity and both parties were complicit, they should be confiscated.

“But that does not mean the family court cannot make an order to the benefit of a spouse or partner, even where there has been complicity. It is vital that the correct advice is sought at an early stage to protect assets.”

The Crown Court retains jurisdiction to deal with all matters of restraint and confiscation. Therefore, there will be separate sets of proceedings in the Crown Court and Family Courts running alongside each other. The CPS, or other prosecuting authority, will usually seek to intervene at an early stage.

“The CPS is continually developing its confiscation teams, focusing not just on new cases, but reviewing old cases. It seems inevitable that they will be intervening in more and more financial remedy cases in the coming years,” added Gillian.

Success for Liverpool Law Clinic at the Law Works and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards

Liverpool Law Clinic won best new Pro Bono Activity at the Law Works and Attorney General Student Pro Bono Awards on 1st May for the Anti-Trafficking Project and were shortlisted for Best Contribution by a Team of Students

The Anti-Trafficking Legal Project was established in October 2018 after the Law Clinic were approached by the British Red Cross in Liverpool. This project aims to provide advice and assistance to the victims of trafficking before they enter the National Referral Mechanism. The aim is to help clients move to a situation where they can make informed choices about the processes they are involved in and give clearer information about what has happened to them.

The project is run by Jo Bezzano, an in-house solicitor at the Law Clinic. There are 16 student caseworkers who attend interviews with the clients to take notes and read back and amend statements of evidence, as well as providing research, drafting letters and assisting with other casework as needed. Four student interpreters also attend most weekly casework sessions. The project has advised 31 clients and has had some notable successes in what are often very complex cases.

The project has continued to work with the British Red Cross as well as other agencies who appreciate an "exceptional team bringing about remarkable change by advising victims of trafficking in very challenging conditions"

The Family Court Project is a specialist advice service offered to litigants in person at Liverpool Family Court in child arrangement cases. Students work on the court corridor taking initial instructions, support solicitors giving advice and writing letters of advice after the hearing. The current team of 18 students have supported nearly 100 clients since the start of this academic year.

Students from both projects attended the awards ceremony at the House of Commons on 1st May.



Training Seat Exchange

Liverpool Law Society has a Trainee Seat Exchange service. The purpose is to assist member firms and member in-house legal departments interchange trainees. The aim is to provide more training contracts on Merseyside and beyond by facilitating an exchange between firms and in-house departments who may otherwise find it difficult to offer their trainees the requisite number of seats in both contentious and non-contentious work.

The Training Seat Exchange, which is open only to members of Liverpool Law Society, is a free, online service. Details of what seat a member firm can offer and what seat they are seeking appears. The exchange must be discussed and agreed between each member firm on an individual basis.

If you would like to appear on the list, please complete our online form at www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/training-seat-exchange-form and the Society will be in touch with you.

OU law students collaborate with prison learners to host radio show tackling legal issues

Open University law students from around the UK have collaborated with prison learners to record a series of radio programmes for broadcast on prison radio, as part of a pioneering project by the University's Open Justice Centre.

This is the second time this project has been implemented with NOVUS – an organisation which strives to educate offenders – at HMP Altcourse, a Category B men's private prison in Merseyside. It is now expected to roll out to other prisons.

From February to the end of March 2019, the six Law students on the W360 Justice in Action module were granted regular access to the prison, where they met with prisoners to explore the legal issues affecting them.

Together the final-year students and prisoners identified topics for the Law students to research – ranging from human rights and release on licence to family, employment and housing law. The law students later returned to HMP Altcourse to record the radio shows with the prisoners, tackling the selected legal topics. The programme – called 'Castaway' – is being broadcast to prisoners on Radio Altcourse.

The project is a clear demonstration of how The Open University – which is celebrating its 50th birthday this year – has reimagined its ongoing mission to be open to all and promote educational opportunity and social justice. It is the brainchild of the OU's Open Justice Centre, which provides free legal advice and guidance to people and groups who may struggle to access appropriate legal support through other means.

Hugh McFaul, Lecturer in Law and Chair of W360 Justice in Action, said: "This is an excellent example of how The Open University is open to people, places, methods and ideas. Through this project, we have been able to bring together two different groups people and give them experience of collaborating and working together, with great educational benefits to both groups. Both groups of people – the students and prisoners – are working on becoming positive contributors to local communities and wider society."

He added: "The OU is 50 years old and has been working in prisons since the very beginning. This Open Justice project is a reimagining of the OU's core ideals."

Sarah Couling was one of the students who has just completed the HMP Altcourse project. She said: "My perception of prison life has drastically changed. A custodial sentence with rehabilitation at the forefront is a wonderful thing. Our purpose of entering the prison was to collect legal questions from the prisoners and present our answers on their radio station. I entered that prison thinking that I would be the one helping them, rather than them helping me. I was wrong. I gained so much from the experience and I am so truly grateful to have met these fine young men."

She added: "I fully support this type of prison programme and encourage anyone with the opportunity to engage with prisoners to jump in. Programmes like this are breaking down social barriers and creating positive social change. They help to change people's attitudes towards different people, shatter incorrect preconceived ideas about prisons, and benefit both students and prisoners alike."

The innovative prison radio projects – which give prisoners access to legal advice while giving the students valuable real-life experience – are being run in collaboration with NOVUS, an organisation that aims to raise offenders' aspirations.

NOVUS' Information, Advice and Guidance Worker Pete Tinsley and part-time NOVUS Tutor and Prison Custody Officer Dave McAlley

from Novus said: "We call this project 'Legal Eagles'. Last year's pilot was so successful that we decided to continue. It can be hard for prisoners to find answers to specific legal questions – we have law books in the library but it can be daunting for many of the prisoners. The Legal Eagles are able to clear up their queries. It's a positive experience for the students as well – coming into the prison challenged their perceptions of what prisoners are like."

This radio prison project – which first ran in 2018, with a group of five students – is just one many student-led prison projects based around legal research and guidance. To date, the Open Justice Centre has run projects with over 70 students, serving prisoners in nine prisons across England and Wales.

Other projects run through a partnership with the St Giles Trust – a charity which helps severely disadvantaged people to find support, and runs award-winning prison and ex-offender projects. The inmates involved in these collaborations are all Peer Advisors: prisoners trained by the St Giles Trust to guide and advise fellow inmates, and assist education, resettlement and prison staff, for the benefit of the whole prison.

Maria McNicholl from the St Giles Trust, said: "The Open Justice students have given our Peer Advisors in the prisons a real opportunity to develop, learn and become more professional. But, more than anything, they have provided a forum where students and prisoners can meet as equals, learn from each other and discuss a whole range of relevant issues. The sessions I have observed have been the liveliest and most stimulating I have ever witnessed inside a prison!"



Sentencing Update in the Adult Magistrates' Court with Colin Beaumont on Tuesday 2nd July, 10am - 12.45pm

This course will update you on the things you need to know concerning sentencing developments in the Adult Court. It will cover important recent case-law as well as the legislation in this area and important documents published by the Sentencing Council.

The following items will be covered during the course:

- Section 35A and 35B of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 (as amended)
- Guidelines from the Sentencing Council concerning guilty pleas/special reasons/Newton hearings
- Domestic abuse guidelines
- The powers available to the Adult Court upon the sentencing of children and young people
- Remands into custody and Qualifying Curfews – how to deal with these in terms of a reduction in sentence
- Detention in a YOI and Imprisonment – the 2 sentences are distinctly different
- The Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 – its applicability to Adults
- Recall – Fixed Term Recall – Standard Recall
- Committals for sentence
- Sentencing on breaches
- Deferred sentences
- The sentencing of Dangerous Offenders

Competencies: A1 (a) (b) (c) (d), A2 (a) (d), A4 (a), B2 (a) (c) (d), B5 (a) (b) (c) (d) and C1 (d) (e)

For more details or to book [click here](#)

Look After Yourself

Top 10 Tips for Good Mental Health and Wellbeing



Keep Active

Find a physical activity you enjoy and make it part of your life, you will feel better and boost your self-esteem



Take a Break

Use your lunchbreak to get away from your desk. Step outside for just a few minutes, it can re-energise you



Sleep is Important

Sleeping well can improve concentration and refresh you



Eat Well

A balanced diet rich in nutrients is good for both your mental and physical health



Drink in Moderation

Stay within the recommended alcohol limits: heavy drinking affects brain function and can cause disease



Keep in Touch

Maintain good relationships with friends, family and your wider community: strong connections can help you to feel happier



Share How You Feel

Talk about your feelings, it can help you cope with problems and feel listened to



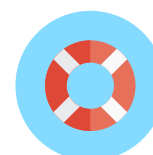
Give Back

It has been proven that giving – time or money – can make you feel valued and give you a sense of purpose



Be Mindful

Mindfulness – positive emotions and paying attention to the present – can help you enjoy life more



Ask for Help

Asking for help is a sign of strength, and can lead to the right support for you, whatever you're going through

HELPLINE SUPPORT **0800 279 6888**

365 days a year

9am – 7.30pm weekdays, 10am – 4pm weekends and Bank Holidays

You can find useful information and resources on our website,
as well as download our factsheets www.lawcare.org.uk

Justice First Fellowship

Siobhan Taylor-Ward is nearing the end of her Training Contract as part of the Justice First Fellowship which is funded through the Legal Education Foundation. Here, Siobhan writes about her training and the importance of JFF to trainee solicitors, law centres and access to justice...

I am now nearing the end of my Training Contract as part of the Justice First Fellowship (JFF) funded by the Legal Education Foundation (LEF). During the JFF I have had the good fortune to work in two amazing and newly formed Law Centres. I spent ten months at Greater Manchester Law Centre (GMLC) where I completed my Welfare Benefits seat and have been completing a Housing seat in Merseyside Law Centre since November last year.

I have always wanted to work in a Law Centre and throughout my legal training, which began just as The Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO) was passing through Parliament, it looked less and less likely that this was going to be a real possibility for a solicitor just starting out. Through my role on the Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL) national committee I became aware of LEF and their JFF and decided to pursue an application for one of the roles.

LEF's scheme provides grants to Law Centres to enable them to provide a training contract, often with contributions from large firms in the local areas. The JFF provides the usual training contract but also additional support through the network of JFFs past and present and twice yearly conferences hosted in London where training is provided on subjects as varied as handling stress as a trainee and drafting successful funding bids.

The JFF scheme has been fantastic for the Law Centres and aspiring solicitors alike. It is very clear that we are facing a crisis in civil legal aid, most specifically Social Welfare law. Housing legal aid deserts have spread across the country leaving swathes of people unable to properly enforce their rights. We are losing expertise in these areas as a result of lack of funding and investment which is regularly evidenced by the difficulty Law Centres have had in recruiting Newly Qualified, up to 5 year PQE, solicitors. The JFF has gone some way towards ensuring that there will be lawyers who are qualified and experienced in not only the areas of law most often practiced by Law Centres but also in the necessary areas of fundraising and development of services.

Myself and Tom Lavin, my fellow JFF who started at MLC in January 2019, are both involved in developing projects to help more people in our local community and to attract funding for the Law Centre for additional areas of work. I have recently helped to write a successful funding bid to Liverpool City Council for a project working to help vulnerable migrants in our area.

Tom has brought expertise in homelessness from his previous work at Shelter and we have been able to use this to develop our work for and with homeless clients and those at risk of homelessness. We have had many successes and been able to ensure that Liverpool City Council accepted their duty to assist our clients and find them alternative housing or help to prevent their homelessness. Our supervisor Mary Heery has found it a great help to have additional lawyers working with her and Janet Coe on Housing Law. We have been able to bring a number of Equality Act defence cases against local social landlords who have issued numerous possession proceedings in breach of their duties under the Act and their own policies on vulnerable tenants.

The JFF project has assisted myself and Tom in allowing us to qualify into an area of law which was previously at risk of disappearing



Siobhan Taylor-Ward

completely. It has also enabled our host MLC to extend and increase the level of work they were already doing and as a result MLC is able to help more clients.

LEF have been an excellent support for GMLC and MLC, the scheme even appears to be influencing policy making in Westminster. Richard Burdon, shadow Justice Minister, announced last year that Labour intended to fund and support a new generation of social welfare lawyers. Labour seem to understand the difficulties facing the profession and, despite a lack of concrete actions announced following the Post implementation review of LASPO, the Conservative led review team also accept that third sector organisations providing social welfare advice since LASPO are struggling to find funding and unable to fill the gaps left by the closure of other legal aid providers.

They also accept there has been a dramatic decrease in providers of Social Welfare and state that financial savings have outstripped those predicted when LASPO commenced. They will undertake further research before announcing if and when there will be major policy change in this area. I am personally forever grateful to them for having faith in Social Welfare law and the Law Centre movement and for giving me this opportunity to work in an area I am so passionate about.

Siobhan Taylor-Ward
Merseyside Law Centre



Walk with us **THE LIVERPOOL**

Tuesday 11th June 2019
from 6pm

From: **The Queen Elizabeth II Law
Courts, Derby Square, Liverpool
L2 1XA 6pm**

End Venue: **Bar Revolution
Cavern Quarter, 2
Temple Ct, Liverpool L2**



A 5km after work sponsored walk to raise funds for free legal advice charities in Liverpool and around the North West. Please join us in celebrating their work and helping the vulnerable people they support.



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Legal Excellence Recognised at Liverpool Awards

300 legal professionals, sponsors and guests attended a glittering black-tie dinner and awards ceremony at the Rum Warehouse in Liverpool on 17th May 2019. The evening was compered by BBC North West Tonight's presenter Roger Johnson.

The President of the Society, Chris Topping, congratulated all those who had taken part, saying "It is always great to celebrate the excellent work of the members of Liverpool Law Society and to hear of the impact which lawyers in our region make locally, nationally and across the world. The Awards Evening once again showcased the talent and gave us an opportunity to recognise those doing amazing work in firms both large and small."

And the winners are:

Large Law Firm Award - Weightmans
Medium Law Firm Award - MSB
Small Law Firm Award - Bennett Williams Solicitors
Work in the Community Award - Morecrofts Solicitors
Rising Star Award - Tina Millan, O'Connors Legal Services
Niche Law Firm Award - Peter Edwards Law
Commercial/Corporate Law Award - Hill Dickinson
Property Law Award - Hill Dickinson
Private Client Award - Brabners
Dispute Resolution & Litigation Award - DWF
(Commercial Litigation team, Liverpool)
Criminal Law Award - Bell, Lamb & Joynson Solicitors
Family Law Award - Morecrofts Solicitors
Employment Law Award - Brabners

In addition, there was also a special Lifetime Achievement Award that was presented to the recently-retired partner from Weightmans, Charlie Jones. Charlie had been a director of Liverpool Law Society for many years and president in 2008-9. He was also a Council Member for Merseyside & District on The Law Society's council for nearly 10 years, representing his constituents at national level.

There was a collection for the President's two nominated charities, 'Love, Jasmine' and the 'North West Legal Support Trust'. Both do incredible work and the amount raised on the evening was a magnificent: £912.50 for 'Love, Jasmine' and £342.50 for the NWLST. Thank you very much to all who donated, your support is very much appreciated.

The congratulations of the Society go to the winners and our thanks go to the sponsors of the evening BWM Chartered Accountants, Future Climate Information, Index PI, Midshire, PIB Insurance Brokers, University of Law and our media partner the Liverpool City Region Business Post.

Small Law Firm Award Bennett Williams Solicitors



Private Client Award Brabners



Large Law Firm Award Weightmans



Steve Peacock, Partner and Head of the Liverpool office at Weightmans said:

"These awards are a real testament to the hard work of our staff and their commitment to delivering excellent client service. We are rolling out new, exciting ways of working, encouraging our staff to be entrepreneurial whilst at the same time ensuring that we are always giving back to our local community and we are delighted that we have been recognised for this at the Liverpool Law Society Awards."

Property Law Award Hill Dickinson



Employment Law Award Brabners



Work in the Community Award Morecrofts Solicitors



Dispute Resolution & Litigation Award DWF (Commercial Litigation team, Liverpool)



Managing partner Alison Lobb, who collected the Work in the Community award on behalf of the Morecrofts team, said:
"Morecrofts would be nothing without the communities we serve from our six offices across the Liverpool city region."

"Our people genuinely care about other people and we are proud and delighted that the judging panel recognised this when making their decisions."

Medium Law Firm Award MSB



Andrew Whalley, Head of Commercial Litigation at DWF Liverpool:

"It's an honour to win for a second time the Dispute Resolution and Litigation Award, which recognises DWF's commercial litigation team in Liverpool for the high-quality work we undertake for our regional, national and international clients. Our Liverpool team is an integral part of DWF's stand-out North West litigation practice and we're proud to maintain our strong regional presence, supporting heavyweights in the North West and beyond with their business-critical issues."

Niche Law Firm Award Peter Edwards Law



"To be shortlisted for any award is amazing but to be shortlisted and win a Liverpool Law Society Award is extra special as it is recognition from our own professional community. From completing the application to winning the award, it has been a team effort and each and every member of our team is filled with pride."

Emma Carey, Managing Partner of MSB, winners of the Medium Law Firm Award.

Rising Star Award
Tina Millan, O'Connors Legal Services



Tina Millan, a solicitor with O'Connors Legal Services and winner of the Rising Star Award said:

"I am really proud to have received the Liverpool Law Society's Rising Star Award for 2019 particularly against the backdrop of the many talented young professionals we have in this city. Its fantastic that my work with the Black Lawyers Matter Project in Manchester has been recognised and I really hope that the award will now give me the opportunity to move forward in the next 12 months with my own Legal Step Up Programme that I would like to implement in the Merseyside area. It is my hope to widen participation into the legal sector at grassroots level in schools and youth organisation and put forward what exciting opportunities and careers in law are out there for individuals of all backgrounds."

Criminal Law Award
Bell, Lamb & Joynson Solicitors



Managing Partner of BLJ Solicitors Mike Leeman said:

"As one of the oldest firms in the region it's great to be recognised for our contribution to the legal field as we near our 200th birthday. It was a real privilege to share the stage with some of our best neighbouring law firms made up of talented individuals who are making waves in the sector. We would like to extend our congratulations to every firm shortlisted on the evening and want to thank the judging panel at Liverpool Law Society's Legal Awards."

"This award signifies a real time of change for the firm with a number of noteworthy appointments made this year to coincide with the launch of our new branding which signifies our progressive attitude and modern take on law. We're excited to see our criminal department continue to grow despite industry-wide challenges, all thanks to our dedicated team of solicitors who are continually breaking new ground and pushing the business forward. Winning this award is fantastic and we're looking forward to seeing what's next for BLJ Solicitors."

Commercial/Corporate Law Award
Hill Dickinson



Family Law Award
Morecrofts Solicitors



On winning the Family Law Award, Andrew Perrigo, family law partner at Morecrofts Solicitors, said:

"Family Law is at the very heart of the legal services we deliver at Morecrofts and this accolade is just reward for the passionate work of our team."

"Every single member of the team is dedicated to their vocation and they do everything within their power to support clients at what can be a very difficult time."

Lifetime Achievement Award
Charlie Jones







Hill Dickinson announces 11 senior promotions for 2019

Leading commercial law firm Hill Dickinson has announced 11 senior promotions with 10 promoted to legal director and one promoted to senior manager.

The promotions are firm-wide, covering a number of sectors including commercial litigation, corporate commercial, property and construction, regulatory, health, marine and HR and development. Six of the promotions are in the Liverpool office, two in London, two in Manchester and one in the Leeds office.

Those promoted to legal director in the Liverpool office include regulatory lawyer Stephen Barnfield, construction and engineering lawyer Phil Gazzola, property lawyers Jane Janvier and Tim Unwin, and health lawyer Rachel Doherty.

In London, corporate commercial lawyer Mark Wheeler and cargo and logistics lawyer Tom Turner have been promoted. In the Manchester office, promotions include property lawyer Helen Evans and commercial and professional support lawyer Moya Clifford. In the Leeds office, health lawyer Ruth Griffiths made legal director.

Emma McAvinchey-Roberts in the talent development team, based in Liverpool, has been promoted to senior manager. This news follows the five partner promotions announced in April this year that included Thomas Frei, Alex Teji, Claire Messer, David Hill and Susan Sherry.



Stephen Barnfield



Moya Clifford



Rachel Doherty



Helen Evans



Phil Gazzola



Ruth Griffiths



Jane Janvier



Emma McAvinchey-Roberts



Tom Turner



Tim Unwin



Mark Wheeler

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Asset Finance Lawyer Celebrates 40-year Milestone at North West Law Firm

Ian Munford, consultant at niche law firm Bermans, celebrates completing 40 years at the company, after starting his career with the North West firm in 1979 and since becoming one of the country's most well-known lawyers in the asset finance industry.

His first major client was Anglo Leasing in 1979, initially focussing on litigation, and since then he has since developed a wide client base of funders, discounters and brokers, providing advice and assistance on most areas of asset finance including documentation, asset and debt recovery, risk advice, dispute resolution and regulatory work.

Ian, who leads the firm's asset finance department, continues to enjoy his role and his client relationships, and hopes to carry on working and assisting with the development of the Bermans asset finance team for some time.

Alex Chapman, head of Bermans ABL team, says: "Ian has created and shaped the Bermans asset finance profile and brand within its ABL team throughout his lengthy and successful career and can be rightly proud of his invaluable contribution to its reputation and achievements. The Bermans offering to its commercial finance clients would be greatly diminished without his presence throughout that time. We congratulate him on reaching this significant milestone."

Bermans is an established market leader in asset finance and their clients include national and international lessors of all sizes, discounters and other receivables financiers, brokers and intermediaries. The firm regularly hosts specialist asset finance events and produces well received asset based lending publications.



Ian Munford



Sentencing Update in the Youth Court

with Colin Beaumont on Tuesday 2nd July, 1.30 - 4.30pm

This course will update you on the things you need to know concerning sentencing developments in the Youth Court. It will cover important recent case-law as well as the legislation in this area and the important document published by the Sentencing Council.

The 1st June 2017.

The following items will be covered during the course:

- The various options available to the Youth Court when considering sentencing on a Grave crime
- The appropriate starting point for the sentence where the offender has crossed an important age threshold
- the role this concept plays in sentencing
- Remands into local authority accommodation
- remands into youth detention accommodation
- qualifying curfews
- what is the Court to make of all of these upon sentencing?
- Quantum of custody
- how should the Court determine the amount of custody for a child or young person when considering the adult guideline in relation to the offence?
- The powers available to the Adult Court upon the sentencing of children and young people
- The appropriate sentence when dealing with an 18-year-old in the Youth Court
- Referral Orders
- Detention and training orders
- breaches of the requirements and offences committed during the period of supervision
- The sentencing of children and young people as Dangerous Offenders

Competencies: A1 (a) (b) (c) (d), A2 (a) (d), A4 (a), B2 (a) (c) (d), B5 (a) (b) (c) (d) and C1 (d) (e)

For more details or to book [click here](#)

****NEW****



Conference for In House Lawyers

on Friday 5th July, 9.30am - 2.30pm (lunch included)

Aimed at General Counsel or in-house lawyers (lawyers in commerce or industry, financial services sector, the not-for-profit sector, a trade union or local government)

Chaired by Lesley Martin-Wright & with sessions:

Drafting contracts: lessons from recent case law
Chris Beanland, The University of Law

Compliance Issues
Shazia Zamir, Teal Compliance Ltd

Employment Law: what's new?
Lindsey Knowles, Kirwans

Stakeholder relationships: Dealing with Conflict
PCA Law

Brexit: where are we now?
Alexandra Cardenas, The Law Society

Lunch & networking

For more information or to book, [click here](#)

Law firm MSB appoints Emma Palmer as head of its family department

Liverpool law firm MSB has appointed Emma Palmer to head its nationally renowned family law department.

A partner at the firm since 2017, Emma brings considerable experience on all aspects of family law and offers particular expertise in the rapidly expanding area of international family law.

A Resolution-accredited lawyer whose specialisms include child abduction, domestic abuse, forced marriage and honour based abuse, Emma is regularly praised by clients for her "direct yet sensitive" approach to work.

She has a global client base with clients instructing her on international matters in the High Court and is described in the Legal 500 directory as having "state of the art knowledge of abduction, jurisdiction and relocation cases".

Emma's expertise extends to training other family lawyers, CAFCASS and charitable organisations on topics including child abduction, international divorce, forced marriage and honour based abuse.

A member of the Law Society's Children Panel, she has a Masters Degree in Professional Legal Practice with her dissertation in human rights within family proceedings.

She follows in the footsteps of MSB's managing partner, Emma Carey, who was previously head of the family department and was responsible for building one of the most well-respected family teams in the North West.

"I'm immensely proud to have been appointed to head of family at MSB," said Emma Palmer.

"Emma Carey has established an award-winning department and I am privileged to lead a team of

highly motivated experts capable of serving our clients to an exceptional standard in what is a fast-changing area of the law. I am excited for the future of MSB and relish the opportunity to lead the department on to even greater success"

Emma Carey added: "Emma joined us in 2007 and I feel fortunate and privileged to have watched her blossom. She is a fantastic lawyer who successfully combines dynamism with a genuine empathy for her clients - qualities that we value very highly at MSB.

"Our family law department has grown significantly in recent years and was boosted last year with the acquisition of family law specialist, Cheesman's. The team is now 45-strong.

"I have no doubt Emma's appointment will contribute to our continuing success"



Emma Palmer

St John's Buildings cements status as leading UK supersets with 22 judicial appointments in 18 months

St John's Buildings barristers' chambers has seen 22 judicial appointments in the last 18 months, cementing the chambers' status as one of the most prominent supersets in the UK.

The 22 appointments represent almost ten per cent of its overall cohort of 235 barristers, one of the largest sets in the UK. In total, there were two appointed as Circuit Judges, three appointed as District Judges, six appointed as fee-paid Judges of the First Tier Tribunal, nine appointed as Deputy District Judges, and two appointed as Recorders, whilst Diarmuid Bunting was appointed Junior Counsel to the Crown.

Based in Manchester, Chester, Liverpool and Sheffield, the chambers saw nine judicial appointments to the Northern Circuit, six to the North Eastern Circuit, and one to the Midlands Circuit. This included a District Judge based at Blackburn County and Family Court; a Circuit Judge in Newcastle

Combined Court; a Circuit and District Judge at Sheffield Crown Court and Combined Court respectively; and a District Judge based at Stoke-on-Trent Combined Court.

During the last 18 months, the chambers also saw a Silk appointment, with Lorraine Cavanagh appointed Queen's Counsel (QC), and Sir Anthony Hayden - previously Head of St John's Buildings Chambers - appointed Vice President of the Court of Protection.

With specialists in investigating sudden or unexplained deaths, the chambers also saw three of its barristers achieve Coronial appointments, including a Senior Coroner appointed to Lincolnshire, an Assistant Coroner to Oldbury Coroner's Court and an Assistant Coroner to North Wales.

The chambers has particularly strong expertise in the field of Health and Safety and Environmental Law, and saw five

members of its regulatory team appointed as specialist regulatory advocates, selected to prosecute on issues for bodies including the Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive and Care Quality Commission.

Chris Ronan, Chief Executive at St John's Buildings, said: "The last year and a half has been truly remarkable for our team. It's a privilege to see so many of our members achieve specialist appointments, cementing our status as one of the most prominent super-sets in the UK, working on some of the country's most significant cases.

"As a chambers, we champion ourselves on attracting the very best talent, and providing expert counsel across a wide range of expertise, combined with excellent service standards. All those appointed have shown exceptional dedication in the field and are deserving of their accolades."



Chris Ronan

BLJ Solicitors welcomes new look as it approaches 200th year in business

As part of ongoing company expansion, BLJ Solicitors has invested in a full-scale brand overhaul to bring the company firmly into the modern age as it approaches its 200th anniversary.

First established in 1821, the North West based legal firm has welcomed a new brand identity, including the introduction of a new logo, to better reflect its modern ethos and forward-thinking approach to its services.

With locations in Liverpool, Warrington and Runcorn, BLJ Solicitors prides itself on embracing innovations within the sector, such as its recent utilisation of technology to offer clients a fluid digital service alongside its adoption of a paper-free initiative.

Managing Partner at BLJ Solicitors Mike Leeman said: "As we approach a significant business milestone, we are delighted to reveal this new look which we feel really reflects BLJ Solicitors' forward-thinking attitude in an industry that can sometimes harbour traditional and often old-fashioned working practices and views.

"BLJ Solicitors has been in business for two centuries and our team has over 225 years combined legal experience. With such a legacy to protect and our strong foundations to build on, we consider it our duty to keep the firm at the cutting edge and keep driving innovation within the sector – we're certainly not ones to rest on our laurels."

BLJ Solicitors' day-to-day working practices also reflect the firm's modern attitude when it comes to assisting clients with various legal matters, from conveyancing to family law and criminal law to name a few.

As recognition for its innovations in the sector, BLJ Solicitors was recently recognised in the 'Criminal Law' category as part of Liverpool Law Society's Legal Awards. The team was amongst the winners



Mike Leeman

announced at a glittering ceremony in the Rum Warehouse on Friday, May 17.

Mike added: "It was a real privilege to share the stage at the Liverpool Law Society's Legal Awards with some of our best neighbouring law firms made up of talented individuals who are making waves in the sector.

"This has come at a time of real progression within the firm with a number of new staff appointments to coincide with our new look and identity. Our updated brand image is a way for us to embrace our latest chapter in business, marking the start of an exciting few months to come."

Liverpool Law Firm Rebrand Completes Acquisition Journey EAD Solicitors takes on Simpson Millar 'Open Lawyer' identity

North West law firm EAD Solicitors has undergone a full branding transformation bringing it into line with its new owners, leading national law firm Simpson Millar.

Acquired in September of last year the deal saw more than 70 Liverpool-based colleagues including 11 Partners join the wider Simpson Millar team; spanning 11 offices in key UK Cities including Manchester, Bristol, London and Leeds.

Earlier this year the firm announced that it was to appoint more than 90 new colleagues by year-end – including a number of roles in the North west - marking the next phase of an 'exciting new era' for Simpson Millar which last year revealed that it had embarked on a £50m growth strategy; resulting in 'significant' investment in its technology, its marketing and its people.

Following a review of the legal market – which considered what clients are looking for when seeking legal help and advice – Simpson Millar recently underwent a rebrand of its own in order to position the firm as 'The Open Lawyers'.

The firm's growing team – which consists of more than 500 members of staff - boasts extensive experience in personal injury, medical negligence, holiday accident and illness claims and industrial disease, as well as in conveyancing, employment law, family law, education and public law.

It also provides legal advice and guidance relating to wills and estate planning.



Simpson Millar CEO Greg Cox; Partner and Head of the Liverpool office, Cathy Fielding; National Head of Personal Injury and Medical Negligence, Ian Cohen.

Following the acquisition of EAD in September Simpson Millar went on to announce the acquisition of JWK in December which employs over 50 staff across its three offices in Lancaster, Morecambe and Southport; further bolstering the firm's presence in the North West.

Brown Turner Ross bolsters family law team with new appointment

Liverpool City Region solicitors Brown Turner Ross are growing their family law team with the appointment of new solicitor Abigail Davidson. Abigail will be working across both the firm's offices in Liverpool and Southport.

Abigail studied law at Liverpool John Moores University and BPP Law School and has since gained vast experience in public and private law. Abigail specialises in all family matters including children's law, domestic abuse, divorce, financial matters, legal aid, injunctions and undertakes both private and publicly funded work.

She joins Brown Turner Ross following two years with Levins Solicitors where she qualified as a solicitor in the family law department. Prior to that role Abigail obtained experience as a paralegal with Heaney Watson and helped at her local Citizens Advice Bureau.

Speaking about the appointment, Kendra McKinney, director at Brown Turner Ross said: "Abigail is a welcome addition to the family law department at Brown Turner Ross and her appointment enables us to continue to expand in an area where the firm is in high demand. She's a solicitor of great promise and she comes with a reputation of being an outstanding family lawyer."

Abigail Davidson added: "I'm pleased to be joining Brown Turner Ross at this exciting time for the firm. Accepting the role at Brown Turner Ross was an easy decision thanks to the firm's reputation for excellence in the North West and I'm looking forward to working alongside some of the most respected expert family lawyers in the UK."

The appointment of Abigail sees the firm continuing its growth drive in 2019, having already appointed two new directors, Thomas Rimmington and Matt Skeels, in its private client department and added a new practice manager, Tracy Jones, who joined from international solicitors Trowers & Hamlin Solicitors.



Abigail Davidson and Kendra McKinney

Quinn Barrow and Quinn Melville on the move

Member Firms Quinn Barrow and Quinn Melville have recently moved offices with the help of commercial property consultants Worthington Owen.

Partner Paul Barrow, of Quinn Barrow states: 'The move to the iconic Horton House, Exchange Flags firmly places Quinn Barrow in the heart of the business district and allows us to continue to offer a bespoke and personal service to both our commercial and private clients.'

Nick Melville, Managing Partner of sister practice Quinn Melville confirms: 'Our move to Grahame House Derby Square next to the Queen Elizabeth II Law Courts cements our continuing commitment to offer clients a quality service as criminal defence lawyers, despite the ongoing challenges relating to legal aid funding and access to justice.'

Andrew Owen from Worthington Owen added 'We are delighted that we have been able to provide both firms with an innovative and custom made approach to their individual commercial property needs.'



Nick Melville (Partner) Andrew Owen of Worthington Owen, and Paul Barrow (Partner) Quinn Barrow

Hill Dickinson announces partner promotions for 2019

We are delighted to announce the promotion of five legal directors to partner with effect from 1 May 2019.

The promotions are split across the firm's three core business groups, with three promotions in marine, trade and energy, one in health and one in business services.

The newly promoted partners are superyachts lawyers Thomas Frei and Alex Teji in marine based in the London (West End) office, commodities and cargo lawyer Claire Messer in marine based in the London (City) office, health lawyer David Hill, who is also based in London (City), and private client lawyer Susan Sherry of the Liverpool office.

Thomas Frei specialises in superyacht transactional work and advises clients in a range of services including construction projects, refit contracts, sale and purchase agreements and finance of new-build and pre-owned yachts.

Alex Teji advises a diverse international client base of UHNWs on all aspects of superyacht acquisition and ownership, with particular prominence in the Mediterranean, Middle Eastern and South East Asian markets. Alex's promotion follows his appointment from senior associate to legal director in May 2018.

Claire Messer joined the firm in 2001, initially focusing on subrogated cargo recoveries and

transportation matters, before broadening her expertise in the field of charter party and commodity trade disputes.

David Hill specialises in the practice of public law, primary care, information governance and regulatory proceedings. David has been providing advice to clients in the health and social care sector in England since 2007.

Susan Sherry advises UHNW private clients on all aspects of inheritance and capital gains tax issues and succession planning. This includes the drafting of wills, powers of attorney and trusts. She advises settlors, beneficiaries and trustees on trust formation, trustees' duties and trust dissolution. Susan also deals with complex Court of Protection cases.

Speaking of the appointments, Hill Dickinson CEO Peter Jackson said: 'The announcement of partner promotions is always keenly awaited within Hill Dickinson, acknowledging the hard work and commitment of those who have reached this exciting next level in their careers. I am especially pleased to acknowledge that four of our five new partners completed their training contracts with the firm. Their success highlights the very positive opportunities we provide for home-grown talent to progress into partnership as part of our commitment to the growth of the firm.'

'I wish them every success as they continue their career with us.'



Peter Jackson



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MSB and PMC Family Law join forces to become one of North West's most formidable family law firms

Two of the North West's most established family law practices are to combine forces as Liverpool law firm MSB announces that PMC Family Law will join its team on June 7.

Just months after acquiring specialist family law practice Cheesmans, MSB will merge with PMC, founded in 2016 by Pauline McNamara, one of the region's best known names in family law.

This latest deal is part of MSB managing partner Emma Carey's wider strategy to reinforce MSB's status as one of the leading practices for family law in the North of England. Emma was formerly head of family at MSB and has transformed the department into a 50-strong powerhouse.



Both MSB and PMC Family Law are recognised for their expertise and excellence in family law both in The Legal 500, the UK's leading guide to the legal profession, and in Chambers and Partners, a global directory of leading law

firms and lawyers.

News of the merger follows the recent appointment of former PMC lawyer John Owens and will see PMC's eight staff, including Pauline McNamara, join MSB,

which now operates four offices in Liverpool and Widnes. Pauline will head up the firm's growing private client department.

Pauline specialises in all aspects of family law including divorce, financial relief, cohabitation disputes, pre and post-marital settlements and issues relating to children. PMC Family Law has evolved into a niche family law practice specialising in high net worth divorce settlements. Including valuation of businesses and the most complex pension and tax issues. The firm is regularly instructed within multi-million pound and more complex cases both in the UK and abroad as a result of their combined experience and expertise.

principles. There is a synergy between the practices whereby we will benefit from each other's expertise.

MSB managing partner, Emma Carey said: "I have known and admired Pauline McNamara for a number of years and she and her team have a fantastic reputation in family law. I'm genuinely excited for them to be joining our brilliant and highly-motivated MSB family team. The considerable experience they bring opens up huge opportunities for MSB as a firm.

"These latest developments reinforce our position as one of the leading family practices in the North, with a growing national reputation."

Head of family law at MSB, Emma Palmer, welcomed the acquisition. She said: "I am thrilled to welcome Pauline and the PMC Family Law team to MSB. I honestly believe there are few firms in the UK that can rival our in-depth knowledge and experience of family law.

"This latest acquisition can only further enhance that reputation and I'm excited to be leading a team at the forefront of this evolving area of the law."

Referred to as "brilliant" in the 2015 Legal 500, she is described as heading an excellent team, which was described within the 2019 Legal 500 as having an 'unrivalled reputation as a specialist boutique family law firm in Liverpool'. The 2019 edition described Pauline as a 'strong and experienced negotiator' who is 'supported by a close group of fee earners who are a force to be reckoned with'.

Pauline said: I have been impressed by Emma's career and am particularly excited about her vision for the future of the firm, her commitment to the community and her employees, which is aligned with our core



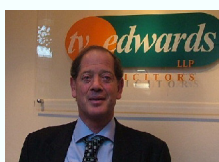
Sexual Offences

with Anthony Edwards

on Wednesday 10th July, 1.30pm - 4.45pm

A review of the current law and concepts with reference also to historic crimes. The main subjects considered are:

- The concepts
- General Offences
- Offences by children and young people
- Offences against children
- Offences against the vulnerable
- Offences in breach of trust
- Familial Offences
- Offences against public "decency"
- Indecent photographs etc.
- Trafficking
- Sentencing
- Historic sexual offences
- Jurisdiction



Competencies: B - Technical Legal Knowledge

For more information or to book, [click here](#)

Time for a stroll

My feet are so pleased it's June and they can have a tiny rest. May was National Walking Month, which meant more steps more pounding the streets and pavements than usual and even more long walks at the weekend with the dogs, as well as some long distance walking in Northern France (more of that later). It seems I am not alone. Walking, according to Sport England, is the most popular form of exercise in the UK and is on the rise while cycling and swimming have both declined in recent years. The NHS and health charities are trying to encourage more of us to get out and use our own two feet rather than leap in a taxi or into our cars. We need to all walk more as a nation and not least because our sedentary lifestyles are killing us. The NHS estimate that sitting or lying for long periods could be the cause 70,000 deaths a year and costs the health service in excess of £700million.

This is nothing new, studies and reports over the last couple of decades have been urging us to take more exercise and the 10,000 steps a day campaign has passed its half century. The links between walking and creativity go much further back, it is no coincidence the Lakeland poets, Wordsworth Coleridge and Southey took long rambles across the hills and valleys of Cumbria to unlock and inspire their work.

It would seem that both the inspiring landscape and the physical act of walking were key to unlocking the poets' imagination. The link between movement and brain function has been more recently put to scientific test with a study by researchers at Stanford University which found that a person's creative output increased by as much as 60 percent when walking. Although the results were less dramatic when it came to more focused thinking of the kind needed for single correct answers. In the study, both indoor walking on a treadmill and outdoor walking were tested and "Walking outside produced the most novel and highest quality analogies" when measured on the Guildford's alternate uses test of creative divergent thinking. Marily Opezzo and Daniel L. Schwartz from Stanford University, who conducted the study, concluded that "walking opens up the free flow of ideas, and it is a simple and robust solution to the goals of increasing creativity and increasing physical activity."

We all know that sometimes a mental block can be shifted by just going out of the office for a walk to clear your mind; a practice that many have expanded with the American habit of the 'walking meeting'. However, I am not sure that pounding round the office discussing business is quite what the inventors of National Walking Month had in mind, nor is the spirit that inspires the Ramblers Association. This quintessential British charity, who appear to be the essence of respectability, actually have their origins in mass civil disobedience - they are Manchester's very own XR activists of their day. Over 80 years ago (24 April 1932 to be precise) a group of ramblers left Manchester and Sheffield for an organised trespass onto Kinder Scout, a moorland plateau in the Peak District. Following violent clashes with local gamekeepers several ramblers were arrested and imprisoned, but these early rebels inspired other larger mass trespasses which swayed public opinion and led to a wider access movement which saw not only the established of National Parks, National Trails and long distance footpaths but eventually the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.



Today's Ramblers Association are now guardians of those rights of way and the formal statutory body who must be consulted in cases of removal or redirection of established footpaths and walking routes. As the law supports walking rights and access rights for ramblers, there is even more incentive of law firms and legal practices to recognise and value the wellbeing benefits of walking. Not least because it improves performance, but it also demonstrably increases our mental and physical health. The somewhat controversial practice of 'social prescribing' has included GPs prescribing patients to join walking groups in an attempt by the NHS to tackle both the rising obesity and increasing levels of poor mental health among the UK population. Not only was May National Walking Month, it also contained Mental Health Awareness Week and many law firms were actively campaigning for greater support and awareness. So my call to the legal sector would be look at your own staff wellbeing and do more to make walking part of everyday routines - whether that is allowing greater time to move between client meetings so staff can walk rather than take an air polluting taxi, or encourage staff to take proper lunch breaks to allow for a walk outside, and encourage non-drive to work days.

And now back to those paths in Northern France - no this is not my most recent holiday but the culmination of a four-year project I have been actively involved in called The Western Front Way. In 1915 a young soldier wrote home of his dream to see "one long avenue between the lines from the Vosges to the Sea" after the war was over for people to walk in peace. Alexander Gillespie died at the battle of Loos shortly after, but over 100 years later his idea inspired our small charity to set about creating a new long-distance walking path stretching nearly 1000 kms from the French Alps to Nieuwpoort on the Belgian coast. This summer sees the end of the project with the first 250kms opened, fully marked by the Autumn, and the rest of the route identified. Walkers will be able to use local ordnance survey maps to plot their walk from Plaque to Plaque, with villages, towns and significant sites all marked with the Western Front Way logo, which bears the four flowers of peace, Poppy, Cornflower, Forget me Not and Daisy, of the four nations United Kingdom, France, Germany and Belgium.

This new walking route for peace allows everyone, whatever their motivation for walking, health, friendship, commemoration or creativity, to walk through some of the most beautiful and peaceful countryside that was once scarred by war. So don't leave it till National Walking Month 2020, lace up your shoes and get out for a stroll - its cheap easy and above all, sustainable.

For more details of the Ramblers listen to the Planet Pod episode either via the website www.theplanetpod or download on Google, Spotify or iTunes. The Western Front Way long distance route can be found at www.thewesternfrontway.com or on social media using #whyiwalk #WFWRoute.

Amanda Carpenter is CEO Achill Management and presenter of Planet Pod



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Faster and Smarter

Tony Wilson joins Complete Mediation

Tony Wilson, well known Liverpool solicitor and former Senior Partner of Hill Dickinson, has joined Liverpool based Complete Mediation as a trained mediator. This follows a career of 43 years as a solicitor. Tony qualified as a mediator in 2018 and has now completed his training, including observations. He has already been invited to join the CEDR Conciliation Panel.

Tony spent most of his practising life with Hill Dickinson (and its predecessors), being Senior Partner for a period of ten years in which the firm saw substantial growth. In the last year of his practice he joined Keoghs on the transfer of their insurance practice of Hill Dickinson.

Claire Labio, accredited CEDR mediator, who also acts as Practice Director of Complete Mediation, said: "We are delighted that Tony has decided to join us. He has vast experience of disputes across a wide range of litigation including personal injury, clinical negligence, professional negligence, and regulatory issues. He has a great reputation as a solicitor and I believe will be a successful mediator with a strong following."

Tony said: "I am delighted to join Complete Mediation. I have known Charles professionally for many years and have a high regard for him as a barrister. I have always believed in the importance of mediation to resolve disputes and that our combined experience of being involved as parties in mediation will assist us in bringing a new approach to this sector"

Charles Feeny, now an established mediator on the CEDR NHS panel, as well as with Complete Mediation, was pleased to welcome Tony to the practice.

"Ironically, I met Tony by chance on the train when I was travelling to conduct a mediation. Tony was weighing up his options in anticipation of his retirement from Keoghs, and I suggested to him



that he might train as a mediator. I am pleased that he did so, and he has really flown through his training. He clearly has the potential, with his experience and personality, to be a popular and effective mediator."

Claire Labio sees the arrival of Tony Wilson as part of the continuing development of Complete Mediation, which was launched in 2016 as a sister company to Complete Counsel which provides specialist support for individual barristers:

"We were realistic when we started Complete Mediation that it was going to be a difficult market to crack, with some very well established providers dominating the field. However, there is no doubt that mediation is on the increase, in particular in clinical negligence claims. The market does need new players in it and we are ambitious in terms of filling the gap. We know that law firms in Liverpool do use mediation, but it appears that they are using the established providers who are almost exclusively London based.

There is no doubt that the legal scene in Liverpool is on the up, in particular as seen by the arrival of SPG Law who will conduct major group litigation through the Courts in Liverpool. As part of this process, we hope that we will be able to establish a successful locally based mediation practice which will make Liverpool a first as a regional centre. There is no such practice in major centres such as Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds."



Tony Wilson

Divorce & Financial Orders Certificate

with Safda Mahmood

on Friday 12th July, 10am - 4pm (lunch included)

The course will be of benefit to those delegates who seek to put the theory of family law into practice. It will be of assistance to those who are new to this area of law, and those who want a refresher.

The areas to be covered are:

Domicile, Habitual Residence and Nationality
How Can a Marriage be ended? Breakdown of Marriage
Void and Voidable Marriages
Law of Divorce Various Facts
Bars and Judicial Separation
Divorce Procedure and On line Divorce
Children and Families Act 2014 Changes to Divorce Procedure
Public Funding in Family Cases
Drafting the Divorce Documents
Financial Orders
Type of Order and Procedure
Financial Order Procedure Family Procedure Rules
Criteria for Financial Orders
Consent Orders

Competencies: B & C

For more information or to book, [click here](#)

Liverpool BID Company

Our regular update from Julie Johnson, partner at Morecrofts Solicitors and chair of Liverpool BID Company's Commercial District BID operating board

This month I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all the winners and nominees in Liverpool BID Company's annual Mystery Shop Awards, with a host of retailers, hotels, leisure and hospitality businesses recognised for their exceptional customer service.

Created ten years ago, the Mystery Shop Awards are a cornerstone of the BID's work with businesses to reward high standards in customer service and support our levy payers who are not performing to the standard they want to be by helping them to up-skill their employees. For the continued growth of the city region's visitor economy, it is essential that we are all working to the highest of standards and providing visitors from far and near the very best Liverpool experience.

200 BID levy paying businesses across the BID areas were mystery shopped this year, so as you can expect, quality and competition were high. Boodles on Lord Street scooped the prestigious Best National Retailer Award, while Lalligrass in the Bluecoat scooped the Best Independent Retailer Award. White Wolf Yoga (Service Provider) on Cook Street, Signature Living (Accommodation Provider) on Stanley Street and The Restaurant Bar & Grill (Leisure & Hospitality Venue) on Brunswick Street also won top prizes on the night.

Overall quality was, as always, exemplary, with this year 16 businesses scoring 100% and a further 66 scoring 90% or more for their services. Prizes were also awarded to those who had improved the most over the last 12 months, with Drome (Bold Street), The Sweets & Gifts Company (Bold Street), L1 Styles (Richmond Street), Travelodge (Exchange Street East) and Key Lime Coffee (St Johns) all recognised in this area.

Of course we witnessed the very best our levy paying businesses can offer during the recent Food & Drink Week and Celebrating Castle Street event, while businesses on Bold Street will again have their chance to fully show off their best side during next month's Celebrating Bold Street extravaganza on Sunday, July 7. This huge street party has in the past included a farmers' market, art and crafts stalls, street entertainment and the chance to sample foods by long-established restaurants such as Mowgli, Maray and LEAF. The event will be the culmination of Independents' Week (July 1-7), a week-long campaign to engage local independent businesses, employees and visitors in celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit of Liverpool's growing independent business community.

To find out more about the work Liverpool BID Company does, please visit www.liverpoolbidcompany.com

You can also join the BID on social media: Twitter - @LpoolBIDCompany / Facebook - LiverpoolBIDCompany / Instagram - LiverpoolBIDCompany / LinkedIn - Liverpool BID Company



Julie Johnson, partner at Morecrofts Solicitors and chair of Liverpool BID Company's Commercial District BID operating board

Regulation Update



Danielle Best
Weightmans LLP

The latest regulation news from Danielle Best of Weightmans LLP

Time flies when you're having fun (or just very busy!) and the past few months seem to have flown by. We are now close to the halfway point of what has so far been a very busy 2019 in the regulatory world. The SRA are expanding their enforcement team to oversee compliance with the new Standards and Regulations which will come into force in less than six months and, amongst other things, there will be no let up in the SRA's quest to ensure that firms take their AML duties seriously. It's therefore safe to say that we'll be kept very busy for the second half of the year and beyond.

Here's a round-up of what's been happening since our last update:

AML – SRA Warning Notice

In response to concerns about non-compliance with the Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer) Regulations 2017 (the Regulations), the SRA have issued a warning notice and have set up a new AML team with increased resources.

This comes after a thematic review in 2018 revealed a widespread failure by firms to update their AML policies as required by the Regulations. The review found that 24 out of 59 firms had inadequate risk assessments including, for example, failures to take into account the minimum risks the Regulations require firms to consider such as business with clients from high risk jurisdictions. Four firms had failed to undertake a risk assessment.

Though no evidence of actual money laundering was found, the warning notice reminds firms that a "failure to have a money laundering risk assessment in place for your firm is a significant breach of the money laundering

regulations and potentially serious misconduct".

There are 160 live investigations into law firms and their compliance with the Regulations, and the SRA will be writing to a further 400 firms requiring evidence of compliance. It therefore continues to be crucial for firms to take their responsibilities seriously and ensure that they are fully compliant with the Regulations, failing which they are likely to find themselves on the wrong side of the SRA.

Solicitors unable to correct their own mistakes?

The recent SDT decision in relation to Howell Jones LLP has raised serious concerns that solicitors may be prevented from acting in their clients' best interests by correcting their own mistakes at their own expense. Instead, it appears that if an error has been made solicitors will be required to send their client to a new solicitor.

The case arose from a divorce settlement which was concluded on the basis of poor legal advice. The firm and their professional indemnity insurer agreed that they should admit to their client that he had received poor advice, explain that he was entitled to seek independent legal advice and propose that they continue to act for him on the basis that they would seek to overturn the settlement at their own expense. This was agreed by the client but his wife challenged it on the basis that the firm's continued involvement amounted to a conflict of interest.

The SDT judgment stated: "The firm's misconduct was clearly moderately serious in that any situation in which a firm acted where there was an own client conflict was not a minor matter. The tribunal noted that the firm had not lacked integrity and had indeed taken a number of steps to try to resolve the matter to

client A's satisfaction. However it had not ceased acting when it should have done and this was fairly described as an error of judgment".

Gregory Treverton-Jones QC in an article for the Law Society Gazette has set out the difficulties it would have created for the client if the firm had stopped acting for him: "The overall result for the client would have been disastrous: he would have had to pay the new firm's fees together with the adverse costs incurred by Mrs A, and would have discovered that he had no claim for negligence against Howell Jones after all". His view is that this case has put in doubt a longstanding practice which is in the best interests of both the public and the reputation of the profession, and that the own interest conflict was cured when the firm remedied the situation at their own expense, while giving the client the option of taking independent legal advice if he wished to do so.

Solicitors and insurers who find themselves in the same position would appear to have no choice but to send their client to another solicitor in order to avoid falling foul of the SDT. We hope that the issue created by this judgment will be considered by the SRA and some sensible guidance will follow so that responsible solicitors can do the right thing by their clients and help them avoid the potentially ruinous consequences of having to instruct new lawyers and pursue a negligence claim.

Social media users beware!

Ed Nally, President of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal, has warned that practitioners who "vent their spleen" on social media risk impacting their professional lives, highlighting that professional conduct should always be borne in mind. He referred to SDT cases where text messages or Facebook posts were deployed in evidence and said he

hoped it was widely known that “you cannot leave the issue of your professional conduct safely behind the office door when you close it in the evening... if you go onto Facebook or Twitter or the media venting your spleen freely in a rather unattractive and unpleasant or downright illegal way in terms of some of the content, then just be careful because you cannot do those sort of things with impunity”.

Our advice is to assume that nothing you share on social media is private and that posts will be visible forever. A good rule of thumb is that if you would not be happy to stand up in a room and repeat a statement, don't make it in the first place!

British lawyers more likely to be bullied, global survey finds

The largest ever global study of bullying and sexual harassment in the legal profession has found that British lawyers are more likely to be bullied in the workplace than anywhere else in the world. The International Bar Association (IBA) report “Us Too? Bullying and Sexual Harassment in the Legal Profession” was based on responses from 6,980 lawyers around the world. There's a long list of tactics used by bullies, the most common form being ridicule or demeaning language, followed by overbearing supervision, undermining of work output or constant unproductive criticism, exclusion or victimisation, being deliberately given too much or too little work, or work inadequate to the position, and misuse of power or position.

Most victims (82%) described the response of their employers as “insufficient or negligible” and in 84% of cases there offences were not punished.

The IBA concluded that workplaces with policies in place experienced “considerably less” bullying and that “There is also a link between workplaces running training and less bullying and sexual harassment occurring in those workplaces...those who have been trained are more likely to use internal workplace channels to report incidents”.

The IBA called on employers to revise and implement policies and standards, introduce regular training and improve existing reporting channels. We would second this and recommend that all firms strive for an open, respectful and inclusive culture where bullying and harassment are not tolerated.

More bad news for claimant personal injury firms

Following on from the decision in Herbert v HH Law which we reported on in last month's update, the High Court decision in Ferri v Gill is a further blow for claimant personal injury firms. In this case a claim that had settled for £42,000 was restricted to the fixed costs applicable to low-value road traffic accidents because it had begun in the portal and settled before being allocated to the multi-track.

Disciplinary decisions

SDT strikes off “too kind” solicitor

The SDT have ruled that a specialist wills solicitor consciously and deliberately created an invalid document and that any kindness on his part was not sufficient to make dishonest conduct exceptional.

It was admitted that a power of attorney had been backdated to 2003 in 2010 because legislative changes between those years would have invalidated an enduring power of attorney executed after September 2007. The solicitor was apparently trying to avoid the registration fee for a new power of attorney for his elderly client who had “wined” when told of the cost. He admitted that he had gone too far in trying to help her and was “too kind” and “too helpful”.

The solicitor described his conduct as a one-off isolated incident and a “singular departure from habitual adherence to strict standards of integrity and ethical propriety”. He was nevertheless struck off and ordered to pay £7,942 in costs.

Solicitor paid over £1.5m in salaries from client account

A solicitor who was the sole partner and COLP at a firm has admitted to allowing improper payments totalling £1.56m to be made from

client account to cover staff salaries as well as payments for conveyancing software fees totalling £26,000 and bank charge payments totalling £61,000.

In mitigation she argued that payments were made inadvertently and without her knowledge. The payment of salaries through client account arose following the installation of new salary software in 2012 which it transpired had been incorrectly set up and separate errors of which she was unaware had led to the other payments being taken from client account. The solicitor contended that at all times there were sufficient monies to meet salaries and office overheads and the firm had not had an overdraft facility for 15 years.

The SRA entered into a Regulatory Settlement Agreement with the solicitor in which she agreed to remove herself from the roll of solicitors and not be employed “in connection with the provision of legal services” by a solicitor or law firm for three years. She was fined the maximum fine that can be imposed by the SRA, £2,000, and agreed to pay costs of £2,200.

Lawyers fined for LASPO breaches

Two solicitors from a Manchester personal injury firm have been fined £10,000 each for continuing to break the referral fee ban for four years post-LASPO.

The defendants contended that the payments were reasonable, within the regulations and that many other firms pay comparable fees. They also argued that SRA guidance on the matter was “unhelpful” in that it did not give examples of how firms working within a referral arrangement would have to adapt to comply. The SDT considered the pair's evidence to be “evasive and contradictory”. In addition to their fines the defendants were jointly ordered to pay £11,800 in costs.

Danielle Best
Principal Associate
Weightmans LLP



****NEW** From SRA Handbook to the new Standards and Regulations**

with Jo Morris

on Wednesday 3rd July, 10am - 4pm (lunch included)

This course is a must for compliance officers, compliance team members, fee earners and managers and will cover the following:

The Principles from ten to seven what stays, what goes and what has been moved elsewhere
Not one but two! The new Codes of Conduct one for the solicitors, registered European lawyers and foreign lawyers and one for the firm
The SRA Accounts Rules after twenty one years the accounts rules have been given a major update and are less restrictive
An overview of the rest of the new standards and regulations
Getting ready what are we doing to prepare for this new way of working including:
Reviewing of your policies, procedures and documentation
Reviewing and implementing changes in regards to the accounts rules
Training of your staff on all areas of the new regime
Making the transition from old to new

Competencies: A & D

For more information or to book, [click here](#)

Council Member's Report

Update from Sarah Lapsley

Following his recent retirement, Charlie Jones has passed the reins over to me as the Co-Council Member for Merseyside to prepare a monthly report. I have sat on Council for four years and I am a litigation and employment law Solicitor practising in Southport.

Many congratulations to Charlie for recently being awarded the Liverpool Law Society Lifetime Achievement Award for many years of dedicated and committed service to the Profession as a Solicitor, as a Council Member of The Law Society (TLS) for ten years and as a former Director, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Vice President and President (2008) of Liverpool Law Society. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Charlie a long and happy retirement.

Congratulations also to Nina Ferris on her recent election to replace Charlie on Council and I look forward to working with her on your behalf, going forward.

There are many significant issues that currently impact the Profession and I have had to be selective. I apologise if I have omitted to cover anything that is relevant to you as a practicing Solicitor. If there is something that you wish to raise with me that I might take back to Council, please contact me by email — sarahlouiselapsley@gmail.com

Membership

Council recently met for an engaging and dynamic two day strategy event to really drill-down and focus on membership issues with a view to specifically focusing on members perceptions of TLS, identifying policy for debate at future Council meetings and considering use of technology to improve continuous engagement with members.

Having heard from some excellent speakers, Council went on to consider the different facets of TLS membership including the accreditation process, events, member support, member benefits, learning and development and targeted communications.

This was all done with an eye on what the profession will look like in the future taking into account what are considered to be the key drivers for change including the political climate, modern technology, socio-cultural factors and the economy.

It remains a key priority of TLS to ensure that the membership is understood in terms of its segmentation in the market. Counsel meets again this month to consider the outcomes of the strategy weekend.

Access to Justice

On 25th April 2019 TLS re-launched its Advice Deserts Campaign focussing this time, on housing law practitioners, illustrating in a very effective way the extent of the problem using an interactive map that received good coverage on both radio and television. More details may be found on TLS website.

Criminal Law

Please add your digital signature to TLS petition calling for increased investment by the Government "in a crumbling criminal justice system". Information may be found on the campaign's web page. TLS needs your feedback and opinions and I would encourage you to engage where at all possible to ensure that



policy reflects the views of it's practising Members.

SDT

Controversially and despite robust representations from TLS, the SDT has applied to the LSB to change the standard of proof to adopt the civil standard when it hears cases brought by the SRA. Arguably, this may increase referrals to the SDT. The proposed date for change is 25th November 2019 in line with the amended SRA Handbook.

Expansion of Fixed Recoverable Costs

As part of the Government's continuing focus on fixed costs, the MOJ are currently consulting on the expansion of fast track prescribed costs based on a pre-determined grid (excluding clinical negligence and the Business and Property Court) to multitrack cases worth between £25,000 and £100,000. The Law Society is in the process of responding and if you have views on this issue please contact Kate Fox or Harriet Beaumont at Chancery Lane.

Freelance Solicitors

Many of you will already be aware of the LSB's decision to approve the recent SRA rule changes which allow freelance Solicitors. This will come into effect on 25th November 2019.

These changes were made despite strong opposition from the TLS. The implications are significant and I will prepare a more detailed piece on this particular issue, for the July magazine. It will invariably create different bands of protection for the Consumer



and has the potential to damage the reputation of the Profession. Speaking to the SRA recently, I was advised that the SRA have agreed to submit a report to the LSB at regular intervals to report back on the impact of the changes. I have asked TLS to prepare a diagram to illustrate clearly to Members the practical implications and the differences between the business models offering legal services in relation to regulation and compliance, PII, supervision and experience — for reserved and non- reserved activities within regulated and non- regulated businesses.

Probate Fees and Changes to Procedure

Fees are likely to rise once again despite strong opposition from TLS, and the public. The increase is seen as a stealth tax and the current fees of £155/£215 are set to increase up to a maximum of £6,000, noting that estates worth less than £50,000 will be exempt. Modernisation of procedures has already created controversy and if you wish to express your views and experiences, please contact Mary Mugerwa at TLS.

Women in the Law

Following the round tables and the President's Report issued on 8th March 2019, I am looking forward to attending the two-day international symposium on 20th and 21st June in London and will report back on the highlights of the conference.

Mason Review — the Regulatory Horizon

David Greene, soon to be VP and Chair of PRAC at TLS, has prepared a paper that I am able to share with you which sets out the regulatory issues on the back of the Clementi review and the CMA report in 2016. This really is unmissable reading and I am happy to provide you with a copy if you would like to email me: sarahlouiselapsley@gmail.com.

SQE

If approved, the new SQE is likely to take effect from September

2021 and will replace current GDL and LPC (more information regarding this is to be found on the SRA website). Described by Alan East, Chair of Education and Training at TLS, as a seismic game changer, this is another subject of great significance to the Profession. Alan has organised an SQE round table in Coventry on 19th June 2019 to court the views of the profession but if you cannot make it in person then it is possible to attend on-line. Alan may be contacted on 07480 241050 or email alan.east@coventry.ac.uk.

SDT Ruling — Howell — Jones

This is a very significant case. In summary, covering conflict of interest and Solicitors being prevented from resolving their own mistakes, even by agreement with the Client and their Professional Indemnity Insurers. The Law Gazette covered this issue in its edition of 6th May 2019.

Brexit

The prospect of a UK leaving the EU without an agreement still hovers in the background. TLS has published detailed guidance for members on its website including the implications of a no-deal and what the extension to Article 50 means for Solicitors.

The Brexit team at TLS led by David Greene continues to work tirelessly on behalf of the Membership. David sits as TLS nominee on the Lord Chancellor's Brexit Law Committee and is Chair of TLS Brexit taskforce.

Sarah Lapsley

Co-Council Member for Merseyside
sarahlouiselapsley@gmail.com



Newbuild Issues for conveyancers

with Richard Snape
on Tuesday 16th July, 9.30am - 12.45pm

The newbuild market is becoming a major area of conveyancing and is undergoing various fundamental changes. The course aims to look at current issues and update the busy conveyancer. In particular, ground rents which are causing major problems and Help to Buy is a complex area which is being met frequently and is in the process of change. In addition, developers will start to build starter homes for first time buyers in 2018. Merseyside is designated as one of the first starter home areas.

Topics include:

- Ground rent issues, CML guidance on ground rents and government consultation on ground rents
- Planning permission issues
- Problems in relation to easements and transfer of part
- Current issues in relation to NHBC
- Community Infrastructure Levy and its effect on the purchaser
- Issues in relation to planning conditions
- Extended completion dates
- The validity of professional consultant certificates after Hunt v Optima

Competencies: B

For more information or to book, [click here](#)



Conveyancing Issues in the family home

with Richard Snape
on Tuesday 16th July, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Conveyancing with the family home involves many difficulties. This course aims to highlight the difficulties and their solutions. The course is useful for both conveyancers and family practitioners.

Topics covered include:

- Obtaining instructions from all clients
- The various declarations of trust available
- Ascertaining money contributions and money laundering implications
- Gifts from parents to children
- Potential undue influence and conflicts of interest between the parties
- Overriding interests and consent forms
- Problems in relation to severance
- Stamp Duty Land Tax and family breakdown
- Transfer of Equity

Competencies: B

For more information or to book, [click here](#)



2019 Residential Property Conference on Wednesday 11th September 2019

Chaired by Angela Hesketh

**Update on Government consultations within
residential conveyancing**

Angela Hesketh, Jackson Lees

Escalating ground rents

Ian Quayle, IQ Legal Training

Newbuild and recent newbuild issues

Ian Quayle

Sometimes People Aren't Who They Say They Are

Robert Kelly, Stewart Title

Residential landlord and tenant update

Bill Chandler, Hill Dickinson

Land Registry Update

Jamie Winch, Land Registry

Outcome focused regulation

Sheila Kumar, CEO, CLC

Residential Property Case Law Update

Brynmor Adams, Exchange Chambers

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The Training Season Ticket enables members to obtain an **UNLIMITED** amount of training with us for only £380* per person plus vat. The events they attend must take place between 1st June and 31st May and firms must name the individual taking up the offer as it is non-transferable. The delegate can then attend an unlimited amount of training events during this period, including most of our specialist conferences.

****PRIORITY RELEASE****

The cost of the 2019/20 Training Season Ticket will be £395 pp+VAT. **However if purchased before end of June 2019 you would be eligible for the 2018/19 price of £380pp+VAT**

Offer excludes: Children Panel Qualification 3 Day Course and other occasional events when specified.

Please complete the form on the link below to purchase the Training Season Ticket

<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/training-season-ticket/>

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Liverpool Law Society
Meeting Room



Both Rooms



Venue Hire

Liverpool Law Society's premises are **fully equipped** with modern technology. **Complimentary WiFi** access is included. The Society is situated in the heart of Liverpool's commercial business district, and is well-connected to the train and road network. The Society is a two minute walk from Moorfields train station (Old Hall Street exit) and there are several NCP car parks nearby.

At Liverpool Law Society we can offer:

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*Room capacity and daily hire rates:	Classroom Style	Boardroom Style	Theatre Style
Training Room Members £150+VAT Non-Members £175+VAT	32	20	60
Meeting Room Members £100+VAT Non-Members £125+VAT	12	12	20
Both Rooms Members £250+VAT Non-Members £275+VAT	44	32	60

*Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm. Additional charges apply for evening events.

Enquiries: roomhire@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk Tel: 0151 236 6998 Ext 33
Liverpool Law Society, Second Floor, Helix, Edmund Street, Liverpool, L3 9NY

Solving the back office puzzle

By Julian Bryan, Managing Director, Quill

True professional 'cradle to grave' solutions are difficult to find. It's rare that suppliers to the legal sector offer everything needed in a modern-day law firm's back office – that's software to manage accounts, matters and documents, and outsourced services to take over core administration functions. At Quill, however, that's exactly what we do – provide a single platform that combines the applications and outsourced support required to operate a high-performing legal business.

You only have to look at our website's home page to meet the entire series of software and services available from Quill. Users can pick and choose from: Interactive – case management, legal accounts and document management software with in-built risk management functionality; Pinpoint – outsourced legal cashiers service using Interactive; Payroll – outsourced payroll and pension management service; Type – outsourced typing service delivered in association with Document Direct; Precision – outsourced legal cashiers service on any software; and Bookkeeping – outsourced bookkeeping service for all sectors.

But before diving into more detail about our software and services, we'd like you to join us on a mini history tour of Quill in order to show you how this full service provision has come about. You see, we actually first started out in business way back in 1978 – over 40 years ago. Right from these early days, our systems were being designed to help practices avoid unnecessary repetitive paperwork tasks for which the law is renowned.

In the intervening 40-plus years, the legal industry remains our absolute focus, our technology has developed to the current complete cloud-based practice management system it is today, and our offerings have been extended to also include outsourced cashiers, payroll and typing services. 1978 to 2019 has been a truly remarkable journey.

To quote some statistics from the present day: our Interactive software has earned over 7,000 current users; our Pinpoint division posts over 2 million transactions every year; our Payroll team processes over 100,000 payslips annually and last year transferred over £54 million in salaries as an accredited BACS bureau; every other department just keeps growing.

Going back to why Quill's so unique, our lengthy heritage, privately owned status and one-stop-shop portfolio really set us apart from our competitors. Few of our contemporaries can boast a comparable expansive background. Fewer still can make claims about independent ownership. And even fewer can proffer a total back office product range.

Moving on to our clients, many of our users have been with us from the very beginning. Their continued loyalty speaks volumes about the close relationships we've formed together over a period of four decades and the quality of our various solutions which they use on a day-to-day basis.

Browse through our multiplying number of case studies online and you'll see how our clients wax lyrical about our personable, long-serving employees who are ambassadors for Quill; ethical stance evidenced by multiple accreditations and charitable giving; technologically advanced software that's won awards; and catalogue of outsourced services which allow them to concentrate on their business-critical responsibilities without distraction.

Clients repeatedly tell us that, simply by choosing Quill as their principal business partner, they're able to become "digital by default", "compliant to the letter of the CLC Accounts Code", "free to do what I do", "a successful, profit-making firm", "focused on matter management and business development", "revolutionised", "100% assured of regulatory compliance", "more economical and productive [with] use of resources – both human and material", "able to work flexibly when out of the office", "committed to the cloud concept" (note: their words, not ours!) and much more besides.

Nick Timmings, Partner at Petersfields LLP, perfectly sums up what clients think about Quill: "By relying on Quill for all our main software and service needs, we have one monthly payment, one point of contact and one primary store of our electronic files. It's so convenient and so much easier to run our business in this totally integrated way".

Allan Hunt, Senior Partner at MPP Solicitors, expresses similar sentiments: "[With] Quill we have trusted relationships. [We use] Payroll as a bolt on to Quill's Pinpoint service and Interactive software which we already subscribe to. With Quill firmly behind us, our back office operates smoothly and integrates seamlessly."

By utilising our extensive time-saving, efficiency-enhancing, cost-reducing, security-boosting, compliance-assured products, an ever-growing list of benefits are achieved. Through heavy investment in R&D, we ensure this is the case. Our ongoing software and service development is a future-proofing promise that, whatever changes and challenges are faced by the legal profession, Quill's got every client's back.

We know that not all firms are the same. Each has differing demands which are best overcome with a differing mixture of software and services. It's our role to ascertain what this is, thereby providing the proper tools to take control of processes and optimise performance, both now and into the future. We find nothing more satisfying than empowering law firms to do just that.

To discover more about Quill, please visit www.quill.co.uk, email info@quill.co.uk or call 0161 236 2910.



Julian Bryan joined Quill as Managing Director in 2012 and is also the Chair of the Legal Software Suppliers Association. Quill has been a leading provider of legal accounting and case management software, and the UK's largest supplier of outsourced legal cashiers services, to the legal profession for over 40 years.



Charity Spotlight



Michael Causer was a trainee hairdresser from Whiston, Merseyside - a young man of just 18 with his whole life ahead of him. Sadly, his life was taken when he was brutally attacked at a house party in late July 2008. Michael lost his battle on August 2nd following brain surgery. All of this happened just because he was gay.

The Michael Causer Foundation was set up by his parents, Marie and Mike, and Merseyside's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community. Their aim, to provide education, motivation and accommodation for young (16-25) LGBTQ people like their son. Today, the Foundation supports young LGBT people in Merseyside, and challenges injustice and prejudice. We are working alongside housing, police, education, charity and other partners to achieve our aims in Michael's memory. This is his legacy.

"We loved Michael for being the person that he was, but we know other young gay people don't always have that."

The seeds of his Foundation were sown by the compassion of his loved-ones and by the LGBT community who took the Causer family to their hearts.

"We didn't just want a plaque on a wall," says Marie. "That's why the Foundation is so important to us - so that we can help and support them in Michael's memory."

The Causer family and the Foundation are pleased to be recognised and supported by Liverpool City Region Pride which continues to run on the weekend closest to Michael's death. (LCR Pride is 27, 28 July 2019).

There is a vigil for Michael held on August 2nd in Temple Square gardens. We are grateful for the support of Merseyside Police and our civil leaders who attend the vigil - we welcome you to come along and support against hate crime AND in Michael's memory.

Daisy Planting - the daisy is an important symbol for the foundation and was Michael's favourite flower. It lives on importantly within the family: only weeks before his death, Michael helped deliver his niece when his sister went in to labour prematurely. She is called Daisy. This is why we started running a daisy planting campaign throughout the region (and beyond).

We are running other events including a charity ball later in the year (sponsors are always welcome!). Please get in touch via info@michaelcauserfoundation.org.uk if you want to plant daisies, get some of our merchandise or help in other ways.

The heart-warming reason you may see hundreds of daisies in Liverpool city centre

Daisy seeds all over the city - and there's a touching reason

Millions of daisy seeds are being sown in Merseyside and beyond to pay tribute to gay teenager Michael Causer a decade after his murder. Michael, who was openly gay, was brutally attacked as he slept at a house party in 2008 - and died a few days later following brain surgery.

Following his death, a charity was set up by the 18-year-old's family which supports Liverpool's LGBT community with things like education, motivation and accommodation and to honour their "little sweetheart".

We started the planting in the city centre's Liverpool Parish Church - also known as St Nicks - organisers from the charity joined members of the church to plant daisy seeds ahead of the 10th anniversary of Michael's death. Daisies were Michael's favourite flower.



Michael Causer

Eventually, the group hopes that daisy seeds are planted all over Merseyside and beyond in tribute to Michael. Rector of Liverpool Reverend Crispin Pailing said: "I am so pleased that our church is able to support Michael's parents and the Michael Causer Foundation in being part of his ongoing legacy."

"The planting of these daisy seeds is in part a symbol of our support of everyone in society no matter their faith, gender, sexuality, race or background. Today we remember Michael and will again when these seeds blossom into beautiful daisies reminding us of our human rights of dignity, acceptance and inclusivity."



Michael's mum and dad Mike and Marie attended the planting of several daisies ahead of the 10-year anniversary (Image: James O'Hanlon)

Michael Causer Foundation chair Steve Macfarlane said: "We are planting seeds of Michael's favourite flower in his memory. Sown with love, compassion and heartfelt inclusivity."

"Thank you to Marie and Mike Causer, fellow trustees and the LGBT and straight communities for their long-standing and continued support for Michael's legacy."

How can you get involved?

If you want to plant daisy seeds in Michael's name, please contact us at info@michaelcauserfoundation.org.uk or via Twitter @MichaelCauserFn



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Flooding: “Plan for the Worst” says Environment Agency



Image shows a collapsed property in Hemsby, Norfolk after storm surge in 2018 – Courtesy of Sky News

In a stark warning, the Environment Agency (EA) has announced that entire communities might need to be relocated from coasts and rivers. They state that urgent action is needed now for the UK to prepare for an average global temperature rise of 4°C.

Chris Taylor, Commercial Director at Future Climate Info, explains how much of our property and infrastructure is at risk.

In setting out the agency’s long term strategy for tackling flooding and coastal change, tough decisions would need to be made about what to save and what to sacrifice.

Supporting the previous report by the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), they are now planning for impacts based on projections far ahead of the target of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels set in the legally binding Paris Agreement of 2015.

And this huge rise may happen over the next 80 years - within the lifetimes of today’s children.

Better data to make long term decisions

The Chair of the EA, Emma Howard Boyd said “We can’t win a war against water by building away climate change with infinitely high flood defences. We need to develop consistent standards for flood and coastal resilience in England that help communities better understand their risk and give them more control about how to adapt and respond.”

Here at Future Climate info, we agree that richer, better data delivered in a clear way will enable homebuyers and businesses to make informed long term decisions on where best to locate.

It is not enough to just react after the next flood but to build “climate resilient” communities, homes and businesses. Building bigger and bigger walls as defences was not the solution, says the EA.

Greater use of natural flood management, retreat from vulnerable coasts and estuaries and designing properties that can be both resilient and recovered easily when flooded, was the right answer.

A government spokesman said the public would be protected from the impacts of climate change, but the CCC says current shoreline management plans are unfunded and hopelessly optimistic.

It is clear that we cannot keep playing King Canute with coastal sea rise any longer.

Future Coastal flooding by numbers

- **520,000 properties (including 370,000 homes)** in England are in areas with a 0.5% or greater annual risk from coastal

flooding.

- By the 2080s, that figure could rise to **1.5 million properties** (including 1.2 million homes).
- **100,000 cliff-top properties** could be at risk from coastal landsliding
- Approximately **7,500km of road, 520km of railway line, 205,000 hectares of good farm land, and 3,400ha of potentially toxic historic landfill sites** are currently at 0.1% or greater risk of coastal flooding in any given year.
- A sea level rise of 0.5m will make a further **20% of England’s coastal defences vulnerable** to failure, greater if the deterioration of salt marshes, shingle beaches and sand dunes continues.
- **114 miles of coastline** are now considered pointless to defend against
- More than **1,000 miles of coast** are at risk of erosion.
- The number of properties built on floodplains is **likely to double** over the next 50 years due to population pressure.

The EA says an average outlay of £1bn a year will be needed to build traditional flood and coastal defences and allow for natural flood management.



Crumbling cliffs creep closer to Skipsea residents on the East Yorkshire coast. Still from You Tube video by Jon Robson after 2017 storm -

Lord Deben, chair of the Committee on Climate Change has called for the British government to immediately set a legally binding target to cut greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050. He said the UK urgently needed to stay ahead of worsening impacts by adapting.

The EA’s strategy on retreat, resilience and restoring natural flood management are important pieces of the climate change response, but it’s about the pace of investment and the commitment for us all to change our lifestyles, if we are to preserve our vulnerable communities.

Recognising the Threat

Could your client’s property be one of the half a million at risk from coastal flooding? Or the 100,000 that could be affected by coastal erosion?

Imagine your client having bought a property to realise that within the typical average ownership time, they may be forced to move out if sea levels, severe weather events and river flooding slowly removes their community from the map?

Future Climate Info combines the best in class data and expertise to forensically analyse how flooding has and could shape your client’s future asset.

For more information on our flood risk assessments in our environmental reports, contact us on 01732 755 180 or email info@futureclimateinfo.com

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Report Details

Address:
5, Some Street, Some Town,
Some County, TEST

Grid Reference:
E: 428818 | N: 423719

Report Reference:
CombinedTest3

Requested by:
slim jim (test)

Date:
05/09/2018

Report ID:
1000105535

Subject Site

Air Quality Index: Some Polluted Areas (See 1.25)

Professional Opinion

1. TERRAFIRMA OFFICIAL CON29M **FURTHER ACTION**

► Identified coal mining activity:
1.01 Past underground coal mining
1.04 Shafts and adits (mine entries)

2. ENVIRONMENTAL **PASS**

► No further recommendations

3. FLOOD **PASS**

► No further recommendations

4. GROUND STABILITY **PASS**

► No further recommendations

5. ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE **PASS**

► Consideration(s):
5.20 Power Stations
5.23 Solar Farms

This page should always be read in conjunction with the full report. The Professional Opinion indicates the potential risks and any other potential issues associated with the property. The results should be disclosed to client and/or lender and/or insurer as appropriate.

A 'Pass' is given if no potential property specific risk has been identified.

A 'Pass with Considerations' is given where there are potential hazards in the locality to bear in mind, or if there are features nearby which some clients might consider could affect them.

A 'Further Action' is given if there is a potential property specific risk and a further action is advised.

In the event of a request to review the Professional Opinion based on additional information, or if there are any technical queries, the professional advisor who ordered the report should contact us at info@futureclimateinfo.com, or call us on 01732 755 180.

Assessed by:

FCI Risk Team

www.futureclimateinfo.com/team

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TerraFirma CON29M Includes nearby subsidence claims, previously only available at additional cost from The Coal Authority.	Professional Indemnity Cover £10 million Professional Indemnity Insurance. Can be relied upon by the professional parties involved in the property transaction, including the first purchasers and their advisers, and the first purchaser's lender.	Loss of Value Insurance Covers any change in Coal Authority data (Up to £50,000 for the lifetime of the property ownership).	Cheshire Brine Indemnity Policy £50,000 inclusive Cheshire Brine Indemnity Cover: for the lifetime of ownership when the property is within the Cheshire Brine Compensation District.	

For more information on FCI's suite of products, visit:

www.futureclimateinfo.com, call +44 (0)1732 755 180 or email info@futureclimateinfo.com



⁽¹⁾ RRP for residential properties less than 15 hectares.

⁽²⁾ These data modules can be purchased as stand-alone products. Commercial reports are also available.

Regulated by RICS



News from the MJLD



The MJLD held their Annual Charity Ball on 25 May at the stunning venue, 30 James Street. It was amazing to see so many young legal professionals from across Merseyside, all in aid of the MJLD's nominated charity of the year, Chasing the Stigma. Guests enjoyed a delicious three course meal, a talented live band (Northern Lights), amazing raffle prizes and a fun photo booth. Also on the night, the MJLD Stars of 2019 Awards winners were announced. Congratulations to Jordan Coulton, Zoe Moore-Martin and Nicole Kerr for winning their awards and their achievements this year!



Thank you to Julie O'Hare, Vice Chair of the Liverpool Law Society for attending and giving a toast and also to Jake Mills, founder of Chasing the Stigma, for his inspiring speech about his own personal struggles with mental health. The event raised over £1000 for Chasing the Stigma, so a massive thank you to everyone's generous donations.



A big thank you to our very generous sponsors BCL Legal and the University of Law, without whom the event would not have been possible!

News from the WLD

As many of you will know, the Merseyside Women Lawyers Division (the 'MWLD'), have welcomed the celebrations of one hundred years of women in law in 2019, being actively involved in the national conversation around women in the law and leadership, and ensuring that our members and the larger Merseyside legal community have had access to a range of informative, fun, and diverse events.

Our successful and eventful year started back in 2018 with the Welcome Event hosted at Harringtons; with a full guest list. We welcomed our members and introduced the new committee with seemingly bottomless pizza and prosecco.

Following our less than healthy welcoming feast, we arranged with Robin of Yin Yan Yoga for a yoga class focusing on Thai Chi, yoga, and meditation, all with the aim of reducing stress and increasing relaxation in our day to day lives.

We then decided to address our finances, and had a very informative presentation and Q&A session with Wesleyan Financial Services hosted in Brabners. Wesleyan kindly provided us with some refreshments whilst providing female specific savings, pensions, mortgage, and insurance advice.

We later joined our colleagues at Future Boss Club in welcoming the Agent for Scotland in the Bank of England to speak to both of our members about her career in a male dominated sector.

We also joined the Liverpool Legal Walk this year alongside the Liverpool Law Society, MJLD, University of Law, and multiple firms and chambers across the region. MWLD is proud to be part of the Legal Walk and the promotion of access to justice, and we hope to see this support continue in the future.

Following on from the roundtables hosted by Christina Blacklaws and attended by Chair, Amelia (Millie) Hayden in the summer, MWLD teamed up with the Law Society and arranged the Liverpool roundtables. The roundtables provided an opportunity for our female colleagues to discuss unconscious bias, equal pay, flexible working, and role models in a safe and private environment. The comments from these roundtables were fed back to the national Law Society and formed part of the Women in Law Report released on International Women's Day 2019.

Just ahead of Christmas we hosted our annual Beauty Night at Harvey Nichols. Our members and guests were welcomed with canapes and drinks, and treated to samples and treatments by ESPA, Electric Hair, MAC, amongst many more brands within the Beauty Bazaar. As usual, our guests left fully pampered with their goodie bags ready for Christmas which was then swiftly followed by a sumptuous Christmas meal at Mowgli before the holidays.

Our biggest event of the MWLD year was the Centenary Event in January. To begin the celebrations of the centenary of women being able to practice law, we held a party in the middle of L1 at The Lodge, The Club House. MWLD was gratefully sponsored by law firms, chambers, and product providers from our sector, all of whom understood the importance of marking this event. The packed out room heard from Millie Hayden (MWLD Chair), Nina Ferris (then President of Liverpool Law Society), Chris Topping (current President of Liverpool Law Society), HHJ Christine Bishpham, and Nik White (Managing Partner at Brabners). Carrying on the celebrations late into the night, the guests were well fed, watered and entertained by a scrolling presentation on the success of women in our region

over the past 100 years, whilst listening (and dancing) to the brilliant live music.

The engagement with the national conversation started by Christina Blacklaws on Women In Leadership in the Law was continued with the panel hosted shortly after International Womens Day. Led by Elke Kendall of the MWLD and hosted at the Liverpool Law Society, guests heard from Chris Topping, Nina Ferris, HHJ Campbell and Nik White on their thoughts following the report. The room was at full capacity and guests were treated to a very open and frank discussion by panel members who commented on the aspects of role modelling, flexibility, equality of pay, and unconscious bias, which are the 4 core areas addressed in the report.

Our final event of the year was the Charity Quiz held in City Wine Bar in April. The interactive mobile quiz from Sphinx was sponsored by Searchflow and was well attended. Guests heard from our Charity of the Year, Help for Heroes, and the very poignant story of Michelle Turner, who contracted a tropical disease whilst in service resulting in multiple health conditions including heart problems. When she collapsed, she was at home alone with her daughter who rang 999 and saved her mum. After this, Michelle pushed herself and became the Vice-Captain of the England Invictus Team; we were very grateful to Michelle and her daughter for sharing their story. On the night a large portion of our charity total was raised through raffle ticket sales, with some fantastic prizes on offer, including overnight stays and afternoon teas. A brilliant way to end a busy and enjoyable year.

As this year draws to a close, I can only extend my thanks to the committee who have given us one of our best years yet. The strengths and commitment of each of the committee members has contributed to the MWLD's success and proves that working together and contributing our individual skills produces greater results. Thank you again to the committee and all those who have attended our events. I look forward to seeing you all next year under the leadership of our new chair Kirstie Bork, whose bravery in volunteering to skydive for Help for Heroes has already started what I know will be a strong year for her and the MWLD.

Amelia Hayden
(Chair 2018/2019)

What's Coming Up?

A welcome event will be held on 6th June 2019, keep an eye out on our website and social media for further details. To reserve your place, email wldevent@gmail.com.

The committee will introduce new and existing members. All are welcome and it is a good opportunity to network and find out what the WLD is about (and have a few drinks!) The welcome event will give an opportunity to renew or join membership to the WLD however membership can be sought using the contact details below. We hope to see you there!

Keep an eye out on our website, social media and future issues of Liverpool Law for further details about our upcoming events. The WLD are continuing to update their website with various content including a "5 minutes with...". In April 2019 we had 5 minutes with Rebecca Keegan, Marketing Manager at Morecrofts Solicitors.

Twitter @MerseysideWLD
Facebook Womens Lawyers Division – Merseyside
Website www.wldmerseyside.co.uk
Email wldevent@gmail.com



Merseyside Landmarks

In this edition we travel out of Liverpool to the Wirral, where we take a look at this history of New Brighton Lighthouse and Fort Perch Rock which was built to protect the Port of Liverpool...

New Brighton Lighthouse, also known as Perch Rock Lighthouse or Black Rock Lighthouse, took three years to build and was completed in 1830. Known at the time as Perch Rock it was named after the wooden 'perch' that held the navigation light before construction of the lighthouse. The 'perch' was first erected in 1683 as a beacon to warn ships of the rocky coast.

Standing at over 90 feet, New Brighton Lighthouse was constructed of granite. It has three stories and included living quarters for the lighthouse keepers. The design is based on John Smeaton's Eddystone Tower in Cornwall. The lighthouse is situated at the mouth of the River Mersey, offshore from Fort Perch Rock, a coastal defence battery constructed in 1826 to protect Liverpool's port amid fears of an invasion by the French.

New Brighton Lighthouse was first lit 1830 and displayed two white flashes followed by a red flash every minute and was in operation until October 1973 when it was decommissioned.

The whole tower was restored and painted in 2001 with millenium project funding; this included the placement of a decorative LED light inside the tower, which flashed morse code messages including the names of all who lost their lives at sea in the area including the people of lost their lives aboard the Titanic and The Ocean Monarch.



The Ocean Monarch, part of the White Diamond Line, had left Liverpool on the morning of 24 August 1848 carrying 398 passengers to Boston in the United States. As the ship entered the sea close to Llandudno a flag of distress was raised and flames were seen coming from the rear. The Captain attempted to turn the ship around, but by this time the passengers had started to throw themselves overboard. A number of vessels came to the rescue, but 177 lives were lost and the ship went down.

The tragedy was the subject of three paintings by the artist Samuel Walters.

It was reported in the Liverpool Mercury at the time that the fire came from a wooden ventilator, but this was refuted by the Captain Murdoch who believed that the smoking of pipes amongst the passengers in steerage had been the cause of the fire.

Fort Perch Rock is a coastal defence battery which was completed in 1829 and cost just under £27,000 to construct. Built on an area known as Black Rock, the fort was inaccessible at high tide. The Fort was built amid concerns by Liverpool merchants that a French invasion on the Port of Liverpool was imminent and became fondly known as "Little Gibraltar of the Mersey."

The Fort provided living space and barracks for 100 soldiers and was armed with 18 guns, 16 of which were '32-pounders'. The guns weren't fired until WWI when soldiers fired at a passing Norwegian ship. Fortunately for the Norwegian crew, the shell missed and landed in the garden of a house in Hightown. The irate home owner collected the shell in a bucket and returned it to the Battery Commander.

Decommissioned by the War Office in 1956, Fort Perch Rock has since been utilised as a musical and cultural venue and hosted various concerts and festivals as well as a housing museum with maritime, aeronautical and military displays.

Julia Baskerville



S Code	Date	Time	June 2019	Speaker
S4187	6th, 7th & 14th	9.30-4.30	3 DAY CHILDREN LAW ACCREDITED COURSE (excluded from members training offers)	Safda Mahmood Training
S4151	12th	9.30-4.15	2019 Personal Injury Conference Accredited by APIL training	Various
S4300	18th	1-4.15	Private Child Law Conference	Various
S4171	19th	9.30-12.45	Ground rent, service charge and estate rent charge issues in conveyancing	Richard Snape
S4172	19th	1.30-4.30	Building Regulations and Planning for conveyancers	Richard Snape

S Code	Date	Time	July 2019	Speaker
S4250	2nd	10-12.45	Sentencing Update in the Adult Magistrates Court	Colin Beaumont
S4251	3rd	1.30-4.30	Sentencing Update in the Youth Court	Colin Beaumont
S4219	3rd	10-4	From SRA Handbook to the new Standards and Regulations	Jo Morris
S4282	5th	9.30-2.30	*NEW* Conference for In House Lawyers Inc networking lunch	Various
N/A	8th	9.30-12.30	Advocacy and the Vulnerable training (excluded from members training offers)	The Law Society
S4239	10th	1.30-4.30	Sexual Offences Update	Anthony Edwards
S4190	12th	10-4	Divorce & Financial Orders Certificated Course	Safda Mahmood
S4173	16th	9.30-12.45	Newbuild Issues for conveyancers	Richard Snape
S4174	16th	1.30-4.45	Conveyancing Issues in the family home	Richard Snape

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