

LiverpoolLaw

February 2020

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

Liverpool Law Society



Newly Qualified entrants
welcomed to the Legal Profession

Justice First Fellowships

Meet Steven Zdolny

Vice President of Liverpool Law Society

WLD and Liverpool Law Society

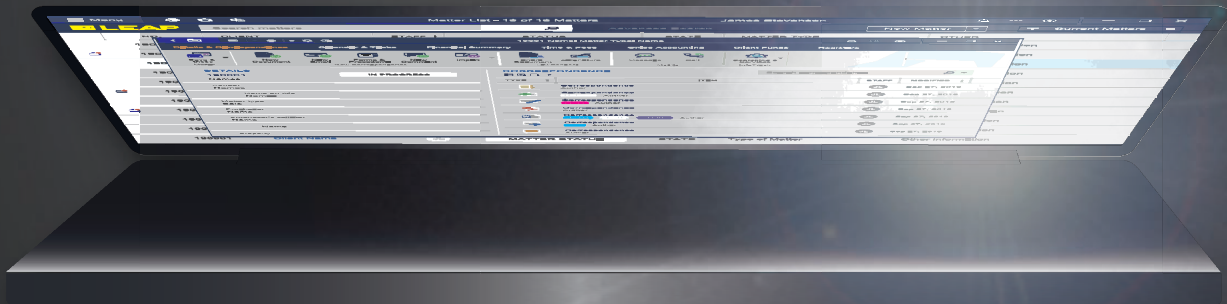
Wellness Event

www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk



Innovation is at the heart
of everything we do

Coming soon



New features and enhanced functionality, delivering
a more powerful user experience.

leap.co.uk/2x

February 2020

4



4. The latest from the Editor, Jennifer Powell

5. News from Julie O'Hare, President of Liverpool Law Society

6. Helix Highlights

7. January 2020 meeting with Councillors

8. News from the Sub-Committees

12. Meet Steven Zdolynny, Vice President of Liverpool Law Society

13. Justice First Fellowships

14. Newly Qualified entrants welcomed to the legal profession

20. End of the Landlord Licensing Scheme? – Outlook for Landlords and Tenants

22. The Employment Judges Forum 2019

24. Merseyside Women Lawyers Division and Liverpool Law Society Wellbeing Event

30. Morecrofts strengthens private client team with David Tournafond appointment

34. Council Member's Report
Nina Ferris reports on the latest from Chancery Lane

42. Charity & CSR

Cover photo: Newly Qualified entrants welcomed to the legal profession

5



12



20



34



DEADLINES 2020

25th March

23rd April

28th May

25th June

27th July

21st August

24th September

27th October

24th November

Like us on Facebook
[www.facebook.com/
LiverpoolLawSociety](https://www.facebook.com/LiverpoolLawSociety)



Follow us on Twitter
[@LpoolLawSociety](https://twitter.com/LpoolLawSociety)



Join us on Linked In
[https://www.linkedin.com/
company/liverpool-law-
society](https://www.linkedin.com/company/liverpool-law-society)



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. Photographs must not be subject to copyright.

The views and opinions expressed in Liverpool Law are those of the individual contributed and not those of the Liverpool Law Society.

Published by

Baskerville Publications
Limited

Apt 327 Holden Mill
Blackburn Road
Bolton
BL1 7PN
Email:
j.baskerville@jbaskerville.co.uk

Welcome to the February 2020 edition of Liverpool Law



Jennifer Powell
editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

It already feels like this year is running away with us, not helped by the fact that the Easter eggs are already in the shops!

This month we have plenty of updates from our sub committees, keeping us up to speed on what is happening in your area of interest and expertise. Our committees are always looking out for new members so if you see something you are interested in please get involved. It's a great way to be in the know and have an impact on your area of law, helping the committees respond to important consultations and lobby for change.

We also have two articles from the law centres we have collaborated with and details on the qualification of the first Justice Fellow at Merseyside Law Centre (congratulations Siobhan!). Following on from this you will see there is an appeal from Past President Chris Topping on funding this vital scheme and a warning of this lifeline of advice being cut off to many in future. If you or your firm feel like you are able to assist then please do get in touch.

As always if there is any feedback on the magazine and what you would like to see more/less of please let me know. This is your magazine and we want you to enjoy it as much as possible.

Many thanks

Jennifer Powell
Editor
Weightmans

DIARY DATES

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

Monday-Friday 10-14 February
Great Legal Bake

Wednesday 12 February
Pathways to the Legal Profession

Monday-Friday 24 – 28 February
Justice Week

Wednesday 26 February
Housing Disrepair Conference

Thursday 27 February
Family Law Judges Forum

Wednesday 11 March
Costs Conference

Friday 20 March
Directors' Meeting with MPs

Editorial Committee Dates

All meetings start at 1pm

Tue 18/02/2020 at 13:00

Tue 17/03/2020 at 13:00

Wed 15/04/2020 at 13:00

Tue 19/05/2020 at 13:00

Tue 16/06/2020 at 13:00

Tue 21/07/2020 at 13:00

Tue 11/08/2020 at 13:00

From the President

The latest from the President, Julie O'Hare

So, what a start to the year we have had!

It seems odd that this time last year our then President, Chris Topping, was sitting down to write his first column on the eve of the Parliament vote on Brexit and today, as I sit down to write my own first column, the UK leaves the EU!

As we now enter a transition period for all things Brexit we are also entering into a period of transition locally!

I am delighted to see that following the passing of a Special Resolution the Society's Articles of Association have been amended to reflect our profession and local legal community. We have extended our Full Membership to cover barristers, trainee solicitors, CILEx, Registered foreign or European lawyer who is regulated by an Approved Regulator, any person holding a Judicial appointment or teaching law, Patent attorneys, Licensed conveyancers, Notaries public, Trade mark attorneys, Pupil barristers and any person who is in a senior position at an organisation providing legal services which is subject to supervision by an Approved Regulator (according to the Legal Services Act 2007).

Cost Lawyers ought to be eligible for Full Membership if you are a practising Solicitor or fall under one of the categories outlined above; Paralegals and Legal Apprentices continue to be eligible for Affiliated Membership. Full details of our membership can be found on our website.

This month has also seen another period of transition to celebrate as we gathered together our Newly Qualified Solicitors, Fellows of CILEx and Barristers to be formally welcomed into our local legal community. We held an event to mark the occasion at the Double Tree by Hilton Library room on 30 January 2020. Those in attendance received Liverpool Law Society certificates from the High Sheriff of Merseyside, David Steer, QC DL who gave an inspirational address leaving us all in no doubt that through hard work and determination great things can be achieved! Congratulations to all of you going through the transition into your professional roles, I wish you all very fulfilling and successful careers!

Congratulations also to those who received awards on the night: John McCormack of Peel Ports, winner of the Atkinson prize, and Steven Butchart of MSB, winner of the Enoch Harvey prize, both receiving recognition for their achievements in professional examinations of the LPC. The Muir Matthew prize was awarded to Mark Owen of Hill Dickinson who was judged, as a young solicitor in Liverpool, to have made the largest contribution on an all-round basis. Whilst the awards retain their original titles Liverpool Law Society now funds those each year and will strive to continue to do so. I believe it is vital to the success of our local community, and profession on the whole, that we continue to encourage, support and recognise those just starting out in a career in law whatever their chosen discipline may be!

Sadly not all transitional periods can be celebrated and we continue to see changes being implemented which restrict access to justice.

Whilst we have already seen a steady decline in areas such as crime, family and housing due to cuts in Legal Aid we are now at the cusp of a new era for many of our members as the Whiplash Reforms



Julie O'Hare

come back on policy agenda post Brexit. With so much uncertainty as to how the new portal "Official Injury Claim" will operate the future does not look bright for implementation set to take place in April this year. I would encourage you all, no matter what your area of practise, to take the time to consider the implications of the reforms and to feed your views and comments back to our Civil Litigation Committee Chair and Access to Justice Committee Chair via our website so that we accurately represent your voice on the issue.

To finish on a positive note, I am pleased to announce that we will be looking to start up a Diversity and Inclusion committee very soon! Seems odd to me that we do not already have such a committee in place! Sadly, it seems even more odd that in such a modern world we still see barriers to equality based on peoples' differences rather than just celebrating and embracing each others' qualities. However, I am hopeful that by bringing together a group of enthusiastic individuals we can truly represent our members and bring inequality to the forefront by recognising the need for diversity and inclusion within the profession. My aim is to have a fully encompassing group that strives to promote social mobility and employment equality for all (including, but not limited to, issues based on gender, ethnic minorities, those with disabilities and LGBT+ lawyers). If you are interested in joining our committee please do get in touch so that we can let you know when we are due to meet.

As always, your thoughts and views would be most welcomed so please do get in touch!

Julie O'Hare
President

Sponsored by





Helix Highlights

LCR Growth Platform Professional & Business Services report review – meeting held at Liverpool & Sefton Chambers of Commerce on 8 January.

Julie O'Hare, Jeremy Myers and I attended the above meeting arranged by the Liverpool City Region Growth Platform. There were about 20 people in attendance from a range of organisations and companies in the PBS sector in the Liverpool City Region. The group are keen to engage with SMEs, in particular, and are seeking to celebrate and showcase the successes in the updated report, with the aim of building business confidence in the region.

They are keen to receive case studies so if your organisation, or one of your clients, has completed a deal or a project or been on a journey that could demonstrate success, please get in touch with the LCR Growth Platform. They are very keen to hear from you. Please contact claire.delahunty@growthplatform.org with case studies or queries.

Sefton Economic Forum

On 24 January I attended Invest Sefton's event. There were over 50 people at the event, coming from a wide range of Sefton businesses. We heard an update from the Deputy Agent for the Bank of England Brian Sloan, the Head of NW UK Regions, Northern Powerhouse, Department for International Trade Paul Stowers and the director of the LFC Foundation Matt Parish.

Paul from the DIT explained his role was to help with exporting, attract inward investment and complete trade negotiations and agreements. The Department has 4,500 staff worldwide, based in over 100 countries at British Embassies and the UK. The DIT website has country guides as a starting point, with key contacts listed. They provide one-to-one business support and can help with funding overseas trade trips.

Brian spoke about the slow down in trade around the general election and then the subsequent increase in activity seen since then. Merseyside figures outperformed national figures, so businesses should take confidence from that.

Matt spoke about the work of the Foundation, explaining that they had a turnover of £3.4 million last year and it is looking likely it will increase to £4 million this year. He spoke about the range of activities they are involved in, mostly in the local area rather than nationally or internationally, which is perhaps contrary to what some people may think. He encouraged businesses to get in touch with the Foundation via the website if they had any ideas for activities involving organisations near them.

There were a number of questions from the audience

to all three speakers and time networking after the formal part concluded. For anyone seeking business advice in Sefton, contact Sefton Growth Hub 0151 934 3452 or investsefton@sefton.gov.uk.

Pathways to the Legal Profession 2020

This event aimed at year 12 students (16-17 year olds) will take place on Wednesday, 12th February 2020. President Julie O'Hare will chair the event. I am happy to report we are at capacity for the free event, expecting 160 students and teachers from 21 schools across Merseyside. The programme includes:

- **The University route and the benefits of studying for a degree**
by a Lecturer in Law from the School of Law & Social Justice at the University of Liverpool
- **The LPC and conversion course for non-law graduates**
by Laura Samaroo, Solicitor, Senior Lecturer in Law and Programme Leader LLM in Legal Practice Lecturer at Liverpool John Moores University
- **The Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) and the Training for Tomorrow agenda**
By Carol Draycott, Associate Professor at The University of Law
- **Becoming a barrister** – Hope Lappin, 7 Harrington Street Chambers
- **The Legal Executive Route** - By Philip Nam, Treasurer of the Liverpool Branch of The Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx)
- **Recruiting both graduates and apprentices for a law firm**

The thanks of the Society go to 7 Harrington Street Chambers, Liverpool John Moores University, University of Law and University of Liverpool for making financial contributions towards the cost of putting this event on, and to all the speakers from these organisations plus the Liverpool branch of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives and DWF who are giving up their time to be at this event.

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

**Until next month,
Sarah**

Sarah Poblete
CEO
sarah@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk
0151 236 6998 Ext 30



Sarah Poblete

January 2020 meeting with Councillors

LLS Directors once again convened for the twice-yearly meeting with representatives of the City region's local administrations, on Thursday 23 January. Cllrs Clare Carragher (Sefton), Jane Corbett (Liverpool) and John Stockton (Halton) attended. Gary Wormald, Solicitor in the City Council, and Roy MacGregor, a retired Police Officer, for the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, added to the mix.

There were topics which we covered as supplements to the July 2019 meeting, giving the representatives the opportunity to re-engage with those issues. James Mannouch, Chair of the Access to Justice Committee, had some encouraging news. James considered that the Government's review of the LASPO Act 2013 could include consideration of early advice provision. James encouraged Councillors to help with the project of mapping providers of advice in the different Authorities' areas, such as Citizens' Advice and Law Centres.

The delays in the delivery of Grants of Probate and of Letters of Administration has continued in the last six months, reported Naomi Pinder as Chair of the Non-Contentious Business Committee. Naomi explained how a well-organised service had - since digitisation - seen

delays where the processing time was still two or three times as long as previously. The effect could be that Properties of those who had died could not be sold quickly and Council Tax could become payable, amongst various adverse consequences.

As usual, I reported on legislation of interest to Councillors in their work. The Parliamentary Prorogations, followed by a Dissolution, mean that much proposed legislation had fallen including a leaseholds reform and enfranchisement Private Member's Bill. I reported that the Offensive Weapons Act 2019, concerning knives and acid attacks, might be useful for Councillors in handling Constituency issues. The Wild Animals in Circuses Act 2019, preventing abuse of animals, could be relevant in Local Authorities' supervision of visiting circuses.

There are two Government Bills at present published which might affect the work of Councillors. I highlighted these at the meeting, being the Telecommunications Infrastructure (Leasehold Property) Bill - allowing phone companies into multi-occupancy buildings - and the Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill. The latter will facilitate "No-fault" divorce and could be relevant for Councillors contacted by constituents in child-care issues

relating to Local Authority responsibilities.

LLS Director Sarah Mansfield was unable to attend, so arranged for her colleague Charlotte Flanders at GWL to join us in order to provide a briefing on Landlord licensing by Local Authorities. Charlotte posed questions to the Councillors, highlighting the different levels of licensing applied by the various Merseyside Councils. Gary Wormald provided the City Council's inspection and prosecution statistics, and Cllr Carragher explained that Sefton uses the scheme to supervise houses in multiple occupation, as being for vulnerable people. Solicitors are encouraged to advise Clients on how licensing can affect the rights of Landlords and Tenants in Housing Act 1988 Section 21 Possession actions.

I have long considered that our links with fellow colleagues in the wider administration of justice are crucial. Roy MacGregor explained that he has regular contact with Police



Jeremy Myers

at operational level and holds statistics on successful pursuit of suspects to Trial. LLS will facilitate further contact with Roy through the Criminal Practice Committee.

In closing, I would make my usual request for Members to contact the LLS Office ahead of the next meeting on 02 July 2020. Any hot topics or matters of interest for our work with the Councillors would always be considered for inclusion on the Agenda.

Jeremy Myers
Parliamentary Liaison Officer

Regulatory Committee pleased with SRA decision on proposed changes to PII arrangements

Liverpool Law Society's Regulatory Committee, made up of members of this Society, responded to the SRA's consultation that closed in June 2018. The decision was announced in December 2019. The SRA have decided against changing the current rules requiring solicitors to have a minimum level of professional indemnity insurance (PII) cover. The SRA proposed a range of changes, including reducing the minimum level of cover for firms.

Mickaela Fox, Chair of the LLS Regulatory Committee, comments on the announcement "This is very pleasing news. The changes to the MTCs for PII proposed by the SRA would have resulted in adverse consequences for firms and consumers of legal services and had a negative impact on the reputation of the profession. It was also clear that there was no proper basis for the suggestion by the SRA that the changes would deliver material benefits and reduce the costs of indemnity insurance."

In light of the consultation, feedback indicated a concern from the public and the profession, which has informed the SRA's decision to not introduce any of the proposed changes. See the link below for the full news release:

<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/pii-and-compensation-fund-position/>

Enewsletter Sign Up

Subscribe to our email mailing lists to keep up to date with the latest news, legal training programme and other events from Liverpool Law Society.

Sign up here



News from the Sub Committees

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

Access to Justice

- The meeting held on Monday 20th January 2020 was exceptionally well attended, with a wide range of different legal sector organisations being represented from across the Private, Charity, Academic and Statutory Sectors.
- The meeting received a presentation from Martin Thompson, Head of Policy, Office of the Chief Executive on the Liverpool City Plan. The plan is looking at how the City and its partners will deal, at the strategic level, with the many difficulties and challenges faced.
- An update was given by James Organ from Liverpool University on the Access to Justice Project. The University of Liverpool School of Law and Social Justice (SLSJ) in partnership Citizens Advice Liverpool with has recently been awarded funding from Liverpool City Council for a project to increase access to justice for the residents of Liverpool and address the challenges facing the advice sector in Liverpool due to a substantial reduction in funding for social welfare law and a continuing rise in demand resulting from the impact of austerity and welfare reform measures. The project, working alongside partners will research, develop and implement a digital platform incorporating a cross-agency referral system, events booking and training site for agencies, along with processes and systems. The successful candidate will be responsible for establishing a forum for advice agencies in Liverpool by creating new and develop existing relationships with a variety of voluntary sector advice agencies and stakeholders based on the mapping information supplied by SLSJ. A research post, which is also part of the project, has been established and filled. The post was created with financial support from Liverpool City Councils "Citywide Strategy for Fairness & Tackling Poverty Group." The next meeting of this group will be held on 5th March 2020.
- The sub-committee looked at the National Justice Week which will be held from 24th -28th February 2020, events include the NWLST Legal Bake. Merseyside Law Centre will also be hosting a celebration event in relation to the success of their Justice First Fellows. The first of whom, Siobhan Taylor-Ward has recently qualified.



Access to Justice Committee

- The Young Legal Aid Lawyers have an event in Liverpool on February 12th 2020 at 18.30. The event will focus on Mental Health within the profession and what help and support is available to support wellbeing. Legal Aid Lawyers represent the most vulnerable and traumatised people in society. This can leave them at risk of vicarious trauma as they deal with the traumatic experiences of their clients and also through the day to day stress of heavy caseloads and navigating extremely reduced services. This event will highlight support and resources available for those working in this area and allow discussion about best practice. Further details can be found on the Facebook page @YoungLegalAidLawyersLiverpool

Alan Kelly

Member of the Access to Justice Sub Committee

Education & Charities

Education & Charities Sub-Committee meeting held at Liverpool Law Society on Thursday, 9th January 2020

1. Charitable Requests

The Committee made five grants totalling £1300 to trainee solicitors with a training contract in our area.

2. Award of Prizes

Prizes were awarded reflecting results on LPC for trainees with a training contract in our area. These are one from LJMU prize and one from the University of Law. The Muir Matthews prize was given to Mark Owen of Hill Dickinson.

3. SBA representative

There was a review of the work of the SBA in our area.

The Chair expressed his thanks to Richard McCullagh for all of his hard work over the years as he was retiring as a representative of SBA.

4. Trainee Solicitor Conciliation Officer

We suggested a new person to take up the roll of Conciliation officer.

5. Events

a. Newly Qualified Solicitors celebration –Thursday 30 January 2020 at Double Tree

Academic winners are to be presented with prizes at this event as well as new qualified solicitors, CILEX and barristers.

b. Pathways to the Legal Profession - Wednesday, 12 February 2020 at the Marriott Hotel. This is aimed at sixth formers. A draft plan was tabled. 141 students from 16 schools have registered to attend.

6. Conkerton Memorial Lecture

a. Lecture 2020 – speaker, date, venue

Sir Mark Hedley has been confirmed as speaker at the Town Hall on 18th March 2020.

7. Training Seat Exchange update

No seats are advertised currently. MJLD are including a training contract board on their new website. LLS have agreed to put a

reciprocal link through when it is up and running.

8. AOB

LLS has been approached by a consortium made up of Liverpool City Region LEP, Chamber of Commerce, Professional Liverpool, & Careers Hub and Enterprise Advisor Network asking about what activity businesses undertake with schools to allow students to gain insight into the workplace. The Society responded with details of our Pathways event and ad hoc approaches from schools to attend career fairs.

David Tournafond

Chair

Education & Charities Sub Committee

Non contentious

Another year over and the world of probate has been dominated by the consequences of the changes to the probate service. The service prior to the change was excellent and had improved vastly in the last ten years. It is now facing significant problems of delay and lack of support for practitioners. Changes were brought in under the umbrella of the Brexit debate which eclipsed other important matters which deserved debate in Parliament. The probate registries are due to be closed and the service is transferring to a contact centre in Birmingham. It is difficult for me to express how deeply troubled I am about the dismantling of an excellent service.

On a more positive note, this committee is growing in numbers and all areas on non-contentious work are represented. I think that the only area would be an in-house lawyer.

I thank all members for their attendance and contribution, without which the committee would not function.

There now follows a precis of the minutes to give the reader a flavour of our work:

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Minutes from October's meeting were considered and there was no further information about the e groups Jo Downey had suggested at the last meeting nor any update on a suggested half day conference on company and commercial law. There were no further matters arising and the minutes were approved.

3. Training

Jo sent apologies and Naomi reported on Jo's behalf.

The draft Private Client Con was discussed.

- i. Given the situation with Leigh Sagar at this year's con, it was felt that he should be offered an earlier slot.
- ii. A summary of the GDPR would be useful.
- iii. A session on LPAs would be useful to include precedent conditions, business LPAs, discretionary fund management, the rules on gifting. The session should be limited to financial LPAs.
- iv. A session on charitable legacies would be useful, to include the 10% rule and the division of residue between exempt and non-exempt beneficiaries.
- v. A session on acting a charitable trustee to cover the compliance issues and liabilities.

The list of conferences and seminars and the HDR con flyer were considered.

The individual and corporate value season passes are available and provide excellent value.

4. Hot Topics

Private Client

No-one in attendance is using the online system to apply for Probate. No-one in attendance is using the Birmingham call centre.

The delays are still unacceptable, and the new system is significantly worse than the old system. The delay in the DPR flagging up issues needing resolution prior to a grant being issued are unacceptable. The DPRs are on public notice of closure. The staff do their best, it is the system producing the poor results.

There is delay at HMRC in issuing IHT ref nos.

There is uncertainty at HMRC re the trust registration.

Civil partnerships between a man and a woman are now permitted.

Charity

Thank you to Graeme for reporting to the committee. There is no new relevant legislation. There is a potential investigation by the CC into the connection between political parties and charities. There may be a potential issue re tax evasion re small incorporated charities and companies.

GDPR

Thank you to Emma for reporting to the committee. Much depends on how Brexit pans out. If the UK leaves the EEA, there may be changes to GDPR. It is expected that the rules will remain the same after Brexit. It is taking time to become fully compliant; firms must be able to show that they are working towards this. Commercial clients may want to have their privacy notices updating. Facial recognition is a growing area.

Commercial

Thank you to Michael for reporting to the committee. There is a new European directive updating consumer protection eg to deliver transparency in on-line transactions. This will be rolled out over the next two years. It will probably be adopted notwithstanding Brexit. The first renewal of the modern slavery statement is due under the Modern slavery act. Non-renewal may constitute an offence, having said this the main issue is reputational.

Property

Thank you to Nadya for reporting to the committee, at short notice. EPCs started in 2007 and check that they have not expired as they last only for 10 years. Large deposits (exceeding 10%) on new builds are not advised by the SRA. Question re enfranchisement notices on whether underdeveloped areas can be considered as flats, only if they can actually be lived in.

Commercial/Property

The case of Neoclaus v Rees [2019] EWHC 2452 Ch, crosses over commercial and property and relates to the creation of a binding contract for the sale of land based on an exchange of e mails held to satisfy the legal requirement for the sale of land to be in writing. It was held that there was an intention to create legal relations. It may (or may not) be addressed by using separate e mails cf. a thread of e mails and by using "subject to contract".

5. AOB

Paddy raised the LEP conference about retention of talent and it was suggested that this is a question for the General Committee.

Thanks to all in attendance and the next meeting is 27th February.

I wish all readers a very happy New Year, the last decade brought about great changes and let us wait and see what the next ten years brings.



Naomi Pinder,
Chairwoman
Non Contentious Business Sub
Committee



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.

Liverpool Against the Cuts

Vauxhall Law Centre gave a presentation on Universal Credit, at the Event hosted by Liverpool Against the Cuts in the Friends Meeting House in Liverpool. The Liverpool Against the Cuts is a broad-based coalition and was established in July 2011 to draw in the maximum possible forces to campaign against all cuts across Liverpool. They campaign against all cuts in jobs and services and all attacks on welfare benefits and pensions. Against all cuts in health and education.

Nancy Hatendoer, our Welfare Rights Caseworker gave a presentation on the introduction and roll out Universal Credit on people in Liverpool and used case studies to illustrate the detrimental effect it is having on people's lives.



Nancy Hatendoer at the Liverpool Against the Cuts Conference

Merseyside Congolese Association

Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre is working in Partnership with Merseyside Congolese Association to support the Congolese and other French speaking African Communities. They work mainly with refugees, asylum seekers and migrants from countries who don't have English as their first language. French speakers and those from Central Africa (DR Congo, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Cameroon, Rwanda, Burundi) are some of the areas they support. Their services cover diverse areas including: Immigration, Housing, Education, Healthcare and more. They provide Information, Advice and Guidance and offer training, interpretation and translation from and in French, Lingala, Kikongo, Tshiluba and Swahili and Portuguese.

They are desperate for office premises in or near to Liverpool City Centre, the temporary office they are using in Bootle is difficult to access for many of the service users. If you are aware of any low-cost offices near to the City Centre, please let us know. Thank

you. You can contact them via

AlanKelly@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk or on 0151 360 1122

Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre has been working across the community to support victims of crime in the Kirkdale Neighbourhood. A presentation was given on the support available vulnerable people in the local community by Alan Kelly from Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre. Many other community groups were represented including various groups for the Liverpool Homeless Hub, Rotunda, Vauxhall Neighbourhood Council, Kirkdale Neighbourhood Community, Lee Jones ABC and Inside Connections

The event supported by Merseyside Police was looking at bringing community groups together for a networking and development event.



Volunteers

Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre is looking for volunteers we welcome people with legal, administration and accountancy skills and are particularly desperate for people with IT skills to support us, we are in the process of redeveloping our website and are stuck. Please drop us a line at: Recruitment@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk or call Alan Kelly on 0151 360 1122

Even if you are unable to help could you please circulate to staff who may not see Liverpool Law. Thank you.



News from Merseyside Law Centre

Fighting for equality through social justice to combat poverty & homelessness



Justice First Fellowships

We are delighted to say that our first Justice First Fellow, Siobhan Taylor-Ward, has officially completed her fellowship last week. Our second JFF, Tom Lavin, is now halfway through his two year traineeship. We are grateful to have been able to provide this opportunity as a result of the support offered by LEF. It is allowing us to provide additional advice and representation in Social Welfare law for our community and we hope will ensure that this service is available in Liverpool into the future. We have been working with Liverpool Law Society to build a consortium of firms who are supporting the fellowship scheme in the city.

We are very grateful to both Brabners and Weightmans who have already committed to supporting the scheme. Chris Topping and Siobhan have been having meetings with several other interested law firms in the city. We believe that access to justice is extremely important and that legal advice and representation in social welfare cases is increasingly important, particularly in cities such as ours which have been particularly hard hit by social welfare reform and local government funding cuts. We are encouraged by the recent support given to the scheme and the consortium by 9 local MPS and the current discussions with firms with a Liverpool presence in the last two months.

We would encourage any firms who are interested in finding out more about this scheme or would like to help to fund a JFF via the consortium to get in touch, we are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Social Media

Follow us on social media

Twitter: @MerseyLawCentre

Facebook: Merseyside Law Centre

Meet the Vice President

In this edition of Liverpool Law we talk to Steven Zdolny, the recently elected Vice President of Liverpool Law Society and Director of Legal Services at EY Riverview Law

Steven Zdolny, Vice President of Liverpool Law Society, was born and raised in Bradford, West Yorkshire. He was encouraged by his parents to study law and went off to Leicester Polytechnic where he enjoyed his studies and realised that he wanted to become a solicitor.

Steven took up a training contract with Somerset firm Porter, Bartlett and Mayo, which had a number of offices in the South West. Steven says the firm was very much a general practice, which gave him a good grounding in many aspects of the law, but in particular private client work.

In 1996 Steven moved to the North West, when he joined the Environment Agency in Warrington as a solicitor. Later he was promoted to principal solicitor and then became Regional Solicitor/Head of the Legal Team.

Remaining in the North West, Steven joined the North West Development Agency as Director of Legal and Estates. The NWDA was the regional development agency for the North West and responsible for the economic development and regeneration of the region and provided a link between regional businesses and Government. Steven was a member of the Executive Management Committee and Programme Board, which made the decisions on where investments would be made, and this included funding from Europe and also financial support through a venture capital loan, which is still running.

However, change in Government policy forced the NWDA to close in 2012 and Steven was involved in transferring the work to other public authorities. He adds, "I was the last person to leave the NWDA, I even had to hand the keys back to the landlord."

Steven joined Riverview Law in 2012 and is the Director of Legal Services, General Counsel, COLP and Training Principal. In 2018 Riverview Law joined Ernst & Young to become EY Riverview Law. He is a director on the board of Riverview Law Limited, responsible for the quality of legal services delivered to international clients, compliance with regulatory requirements and all in house legal matters.

Steven is looking forward to his new role and supporting the President, Julie O'Hare. He says "I am looking forward to working with Julie and the General Committee to develop the President's plans and ambitions for Liverpool Law Society and its members. I also hope to be able to meet lawyers from practices across the region which will



Steven Zdolny

help me to develop an understanding of what they need, what their concerns are and what Liverpool Law Society can do to assist them."

Steven is a former winner of The Lawyer, In House Public Sector Team of the Year Award and runner-up & highly commended in The Law Society Excellence Awards, Solicitor of the Year In-house. He is also a former Director of Kim Technologies Limited (an international software company).

Steven is married and has one daughter who has recently gone off to University. Steven says that life is quite different now and has more time to spend with family and friends, going for long walks with the dog and going to the theatre. Steven also acts as Chair of Governors of two schools in north east Manchester and is passionate about helping those from disadvantaged backgrounds fulfil their potential.

Justice First Fellowships – The Liverpool Consortium or not..?

If you have been paying attention to Liverpool Law over the last eighteen months you will have read a number of articles about the Legal Education Foundation's ("LEF") Justice First Fellowship scheme.

In case you have missed it... the scheme is a response to LEF's concern over the lack of training contracts in social welfare law and the question this begs of 'where is the next generation of specialists going to come from?'

The Liverpool City Region is in desperate need of expert legal advice in the areas of debt, welfare benefits and housing law. The catastrophic destruction of Legal Aid under successive governments there has created a desert in these areas of the law. None of these subjects will be taught to those who undertake the SQE in the future and there is a real concern that the most vulnerable in society will not have access to the advice they require.

We have just celebrated the admission to the solicitor's role of Siobhan Taylor-Ward who is the first Justice Fellow at the Merseyside Law Centre. The next Fellow, Tom Lavin, is due to qualify this time next year. We must make sure that he will not be the last.

At Liverpool Law Society we have established a Liverpool

Consortium of law firms with the intention of raising a total of £50,000 over a two year period to help persuade LEF to fund future Justice First Fellowships in the region. So far only Weightmans and Brabners have agreed to pledge money to support this project and we are therefore a long way short of our target.

We want to show the LEF that the legal profession in Liverpool cares about those who are struggling to access justice and that we recognise the importance of the work undertaken in the city's law centres and by those firms still able to undertake legally aided work.

We are looking for contributions from as many firms as possible – maybe you can adopt LEF as your charity for two years or organise a fund raiser?

If you can help and would like to know more then Siobhan and I are more than happy to come and talk to you. Please contact Sarah Poblete in the office.

Chris Topping



Introduction to civil litigation

with Mike Winston

on Friday 7th February, 10am - 12.45pm

An up-to-date, working knowledge of the Civil Procedure Rules is essential for anybody conducting civil litigation.

This introductory half-day course will look at:

- Pre-action conduct
- Issuing and defending proceedings
- Allocation to track
- Disclosure
- Witness evidence
- The court's case management powers
- Relief from sanctions post Mitchell and Denton
- Part 36 and offers to settle

Core Competencies: A2, A4 & B7

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



Dealing with default judgements

with Mike Winston on Friday 7th February, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

From a Defendant lawyer's perspective, default judgments are at best an irritation. Dealt with badly, they can lead to serious financial and procedural consequences for your clients.

Knowing how to avoid default judgments and when necessary how to deal with them in a timely and effective manner is essential for civil litigators.

This half-day course will give a comprehensive overview of this tricky area of the CPR.

The course will cover:

- The CPR requirements of rule 12
- Registration of judgments
- The effect on lay clients
- Enforcement – what is it and how to deal with it
- Regular and irregular judgments
- Setting aside and varying default judgments – CPR 13.2 or 13.3?
- Drafting the application – essential content
- Drafting the witness statement in support
- Mitchell and Denton considerations

Core Competencies: A2, A4, B4, B5 & B7

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

Legal Action Group Campaign

LAG (Legal Action Group) have launched a campaign to fund a copy of the children's book about Lady Hale 'Equal to Everything: Judge Brenda' and send them to primary schools across England and Wales as part of their commitment to Legal Education.



What's the book about?

The book is based on the life of Lady Hale, the then President of the Supreme Court. It follows a young girl called Ama who starts a new school, and whilst on a class trip learns about the work of the court, how the law and justice system works and some interesting cases that illustrate how important law is to help others and how difficult it can be to make just and fair decisions.

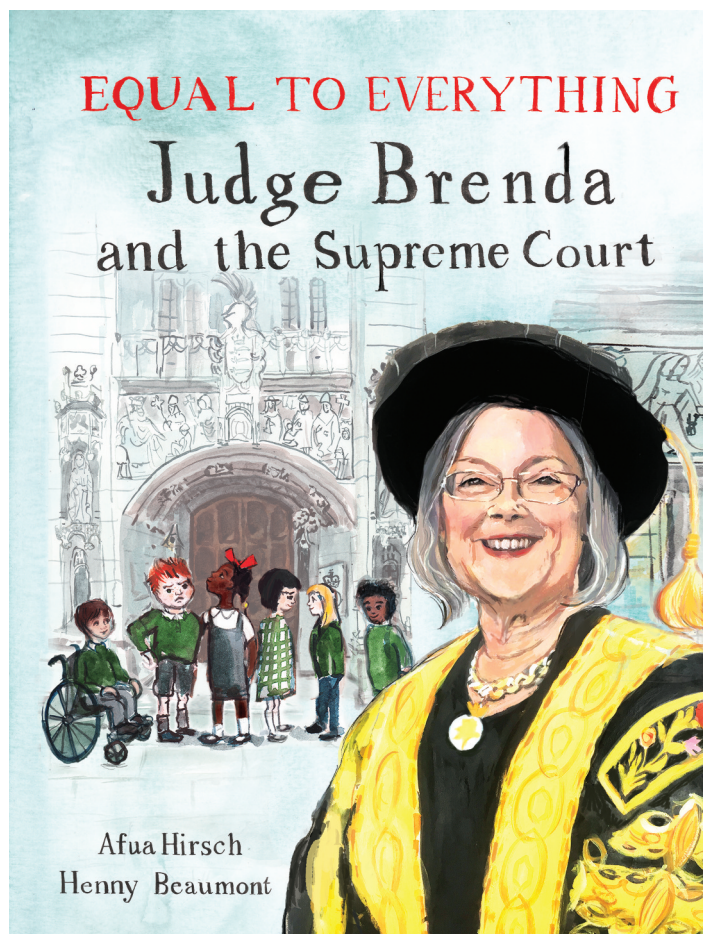
The campaign

The goal is to provide every primary school with a copy throughout the UK by 2022. This is a fantastic initiative from LAG, to educate children on the matters of justice and equality.

LAG are also offering a discounted price to firms and supporters. The standard price of the book is £12.99 or a discounted rate of £10 per copy if a firm or supporter purchase 40 or more copies.

Who to contact

If you share the goals of LAG, and are interested in purchasing books for this campaign please contact Joanne Walters at Legal Action Group on joannewalters@mac.com



Conversion to Family Law Certificate with Safda Mahmood

on Wednesday 12th February, 10am - 4pm (lunch included)

The course will be particularly relevant for people who are new to the area, or moving to family law from other disciplines, whether contentious or non – contentious.

It will provide you with the essentials of being able to represent a client from the point of instruction, through to outcome.

The areas to be covered are:

- Essential Skills and Managing Client Expectations
- Marital Breakdown – Divorce, Dissolution and (Judicial) Separation
- Funding Family Law Cases, and Drafting Essential Documents
- Financial Orders and other forms of Financial Remedy
- Assisting Unmarried Parties and Remedies available
- Orders for Personal Protection (Non Molestation and Occupation Orders)
- Children Proceedings – Disputes between individuals
- Local Authority Applications, Care Orders and Processes

Core Competencies: B & C

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

Wellbeing and self-care for lawyers: for general practitioners

with Claiming Space

on Thursday 13th February, 9.30am - 12.45pm

This is essential training for all lawyers.

Attendees will gain knowledge, understanding and practical guidance on:

- **Stress, burnout and compassion fatigue:** definitions and how to spot the signs and symptoms
- **Self-care:** how to develop coping strategies to manage a busy caseload
- **Action planning:** how to develop self-care strategies for you, your team and your organisation

The session will be framed by an optional short mindfulness / chair yoga session. Attendees will leave with practical techniques to help ground themselves and to manage their busy practice.

Core Competencies: A3, A4, C2, C3 & D1

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

Newly Qualified entrants welcomed into the legal profession



Newly Qualified entrants welcomed into the legal profession
Liverpool city region newly qualified solicitors, fellows of CILEx and barristers were welcomed into the legal profession at Liverpool Law Society's celebration event on 30th January 2020. Julie O'Hare, President of Liverpool Law Society welcomed all to the event and spoke about her own career path and her too receiving a certificate of congratulations from Liverpool Law Society a few years ago at this event. She congratulated all and wished them well in their future careers.

We heard from the chairs of the Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division and the Merseyside Women Lawyers Division too. Andrew Ball, MJLD Chair, gave a very interesting speech about 'impostor syndrome', something that seemed to resonate with many around the room and indeed the other speakers. Kirstie Bork, MWLD Chair, said she too wondered when someone would find out about her and ask her what she was doing working as a solicitor. Kirstie spoke about the WLD, the events they put on and reminded all that the events are open to both men and women and invited anyone interested to find out more via their social media channels.

It was then on to the highlight of the evening. The High Sheriff of Merseyside, David Steer QC DL, was invited to say a few words. The High Sheriff, dressed in all his splendour, including a ceremonial sword, told us about his background and how he managed to start work at a Liverpool Chambers all those years ago when he had not perhaps the background and family connections that others had and which was so common at the time at the Bar. In addition, despite his somewhat average performance in examinations, he was successful in obtaining a pupillage, working all the way up to be head of Chambers, QC and now, after retirement, the High Sheriff of Merseyside. He too, referred to Andrew's mention of 'impostor syndrome' and how many could feel that way. His advice from his many years of experience in the legal profession to those in the room embarking on the next stage of their legal careers was 'preparation and persistence'. The High Sheriff gave out the certificates of congratulations to all those who qualified during 2019, who work at a range of small, medium and large law firms, in house legal teams and barristers' chambers across the region.

Many congratulations from Liverpool Law Society to all those who qualified during 2019 and we wish you well in the next stage of your legal career.



Many of the Society's directors were present at the evening and enjoyed going around the room chatting to the new entrants and their guests.

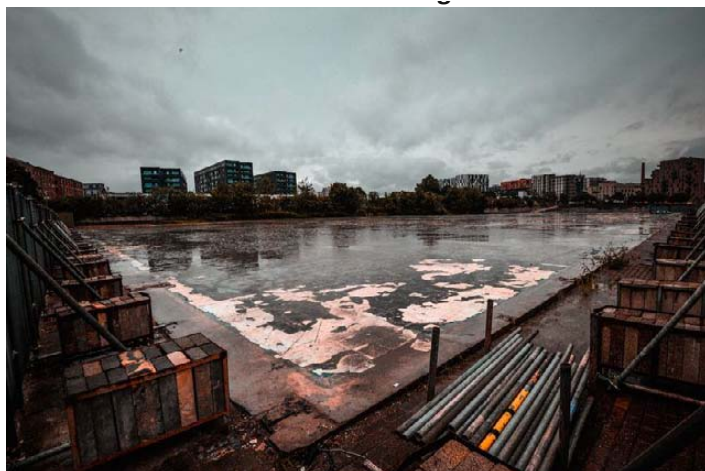
Liverpool Law Society's Education & Charities Committee – through its charitable funds – was also making awards for academic achievement and to a young/trainee solicitor for all round contribution at the event held in the Library at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel. John McCormack who works at Peel Ports was the winner of the Atkinson prize and Steven Butchart from MSB was the winner of the Enoch Harvey prize for their performance in LPC exams from the University of Law and Liverpool John Moores University respectively. Mark Owen from Hill Dickinson was the winner of the Muir Matthews prize as the young or trainee solicitors who has made the greatest all round contribution in the area. The prize-winners were presented with a copy of the 'Century of Liverpool Lawyers' book and a cheque.

The special thanks of the Society go to the kind sponsors Chadwick Nott. Representatives Georgie Rylance and Managing Director Andrew Waters, who many of the attendees spoke to, were on hand to answer any queries and talk about the recruitment agencies services.

A professional photographer was on hand to capture the special occasion and an online photo album is available to view [here](#).



Council faces Backlash over Choosing a Car Park over a Climate Emergency



A huge row over the future of a derelict retail park in Manchester underlines the complexity and controversy of brownfield site uses through the planning system. The decision by the City Council to use the land as a temporary car park near to a school and high density housing area has enraged local residents. Flying in the face of its own self declared climate emergency in the city, the Council is seeking to monetise the land it has acquired. **Chris Taylor, Commercial Director at Future Climate Info** outlines the story.

The former struggling Ancoats retail park, just a couple of miles from Manchester City Centre, was demolished in March 2019. It now resembles a large patch of concrete: surrounded by graffiti and rubbish but also massive new apartment developments as the city continues its rapid transformation as the Powerhouse of the North.

The 10.5 acre site on Great Ancoats Street was bought by Manchester City Council in 2017 for £37 Million, described at the time as the largest ever land purchase in the history of Manchester city centre.

In a partnership with Nuveen Real Estate, one of the biggest private equity real estate firms in the world, the acquisition was regarded as 'cheap' for the city centre fringe where land values are currently marketing as high as £7m per acre or even higher.

Council needed to unlock cash from the site

Council bosses see the site as a 'vital' gateway to the burgeoning neighbourhoods of Ancoats and New Islington. The original idea was to offer it up for a residential scheme, in common with the rest of the area and fulfilling local need. But the updated **Eastlands Regeneration Framework** published last summer revealed that the Council now wants to develop it into new office space aimed at the technology, media and telecoms sector.

However, no partner developer has yet been found and in the interim, the Council is looking to generate much needed cash flow by converting the site to a 440-space car park for a minimum period of two years (they had originally wanted five).

Its planning application submitted in July 2019 stated that "the idea is regarded as a sensible way to recoup some of the costs of acquiring the site, while replacing some of the city centre car parking lost through development in recent years."

Decision contradicts Council's "Climate Emergency" Declaration

The decision has sparked massive protests from the local New Islington Free School and residents in the surrounding neighbourhoods. Around 10,000 people signed an online petition calling for the car plans to be scrapped in favour of a community green space instead.



At a public hearing, it was revealed that the leader of the council Sir Richard Leese sent an email to Labour colleagues in which he said the site was currently costing the council around £2m a year in maintenance and servicing debt. The temporary use as a car park had always been a condition of the original purchase.

Residents' groups argued that the car park did not fit with the council's declaration of a 'climate emergency' and pledge to make all key decisions with climate change in mind.

The school claimed the demolition of the retail park took place 'prior to the updating of the Development Framework for the site' and that they 'were therefore not able to be consulted as part of this process where their interest and concerns could have been expressed.'

The school says the proposed car park would; increase traffic flow presenting 'significant dangers' to parents and pupils, increase pollution levels and impact pupils with respiratory problems. It would send a negative message to pupils 'who are being taught about the importance of tackling climate change' as well as postpone plans to improve connections to the school through Cotton Fields Park.

Decision Maintains Air Pollution risks for Local Children

Ancoats parent Julia Kovaliova told the planning committee that her 10-year-old was diagnosed with asthma at six-years-old and she worried that her younger three-year-old will also develop the condition because of poor air quality in the area.

Manchester has a major air pollution problem. It has the highest rate of emergency admissions for asthma in the country, is the second-worst council area in England for particulate matter and has the most congested roads outside of London. Salford University in conjunction with Salford City Council estimate that **approximately 1,200 die each year** in Greater Manchester due to air pollution.

An air quality assessment report, published as part of the planning application, found the area has suffered levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) above the legal limit of 40 micrograms per cubic metre since at least 2014.

Great Ancoats Street at the junction with Jersey Street reached 50.9 in 2017, while Newton Street achieved 55.9 and Angel Street 52.2 in recent years.

In 2017 and 2018, when only two units were occupied, the shopping centre generated 269 fewer journeys than the proposed car park will.

The report concluded that the proposals would not cause an increase in emissions or traffic flow compared with its previous use as a retail park. It would also “off-set trips to other car parks to the north of the city centre.” The committee has now approved screening for the car park to try and mitigate air pollution risks, especially near to the school.

From its air-quality assessment, it could be argued that the Council is saying because air pollution is already as bad as it is (illegally high) – we may as well generate a few thousand more vehicle movements a day on the site of the old retail park. Critics have called it a “disappointingly cynical perspective, given the recent declaration of a climate emergency.”

Legal Challenge Planned



Trees not Cars, one of the main campaign groups said: “10,000 people signed our petition, nearly 500 objections were made, all three ward councillors objected, and the governors of New Islington Free School objected.

“The Environmental Scrutiny Committee recommended the Great Ancoats Street scheme be sent back to consultation, but the Executive rejected the recommendation.

“We are fortunate to have available to us publicly-spirited lawyers acting pro bono who we intend to instruct to challenge what we believe is an unlawful decision.”

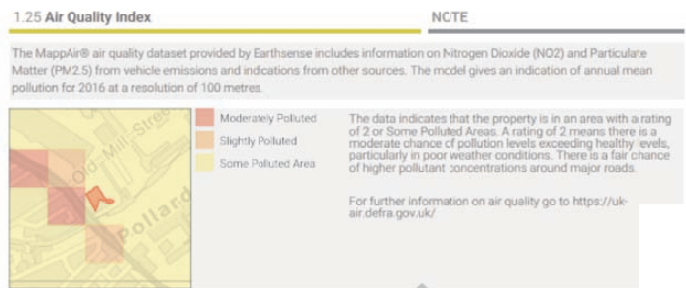
There has been an over-riding sense from residents and campaigners that they have not been listened to about other greener uses nor that they were involved in the long-term plans for the site.

The Council has responded by saying: “If we are to minimise the loss of green belt over the next twenty years we need high density development on brown field sites like this.

“That development aims to be zero carbon by 2028 and should of course contain high quality green space.”

Short term Cash or long-term health?

The Council is between a rock and a hard place. It needs to service the debt from its investment in the absence of a developer. Open, flat, brownfield land close to the city centre is attractive for car parking but it faces legal challenge over due process – and other legal risks could lie in wait.



Extract from FCI's environmental and planning data reports showing significant air pollution levels in the area.

The fresh inquest into the death of Ella Kissi-Debra may conclude that air pollution could be identified as the key factor that led to her early tragic death. It may have major implications for Councils, developers and businesses making planning decisions that could have significant environmental impacts on the local population.

They need to pay heed to whether their proposed commercial activities will exacerbate existing air pollution levels and create further nuisance or claims.

Future Climate Info is the only environmental reports provider to include air quality data from Earthsense in our residential and commercial reports. Our Premium Plus Planning Report combines environmental and planning data in a single report helping you to discuss with your client whether proposed schemes could have significant impacts on residents for noise, traffic or air quality.

For more information, contact us on 01732 755180 or email info@futureclimateinfo.com

Open Space or In Your Face?

FUTURE CLIMATE INFO

The NEW FCI Planning reports with Intelligent FCICapture Technology

You've advised a client who's completed on their family home with a view of open fields – only to be faced with the prospect of a new estate development application that was just outside of traditional searches. It's going to be painful, for you and them.

FCI has innovated again to deliver the key planning information your client needs, and with FCICapture Technology also identifies the schemes outside the search area that could have a direct impact.

- Clear applications and constraints maps
- Dynamic buffers for larger developments
- Current and historical records for the last 10 years (subject to availability)
- Lawful planning and development certificates
- Telecoms developments
- Planning restrictions

Premium Plus Planning

- Environmental
- Flooding
- Ground Stability
- Energy+Infrastructure
- Planning

Your complete environmental and planning search.

One Report, Many uses.

FCI Planning

- Planning

Comprehensive planning data to make an informed decision on possible planning and development constraints.



www.futureclimateinfo.com | +44 (0)1732 755 180 | info@futureclimateinfo.com

Brexit and the legal sector

Below is an outline of the Law Society's guidance on Brexit and how they can assist law firms. To access the full advice visit <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/brexit-and-the-legal-sector/>

Our priorities

Our key priorities for legal services and the justice system as part of any Brexit agreement are:

- continued mutual access for lawyers to practise and base themselves in the UK and EU member states, with rights of audience in EU courts
- civil and family judicial co-operation, including mutual recognition and enforcement of judgments and respect for choice of jurisdiction clauses across the EU
- collaboration in policing, security and criminal justice
- legal certainty throughout the withdrawal process, including securing transitional arrangements
- government collaboration with the legal services sector to continue to promote Eng-land and Wales as the jurisdiction of choice, English law as the prime governing law of contract and London as the preferred seat of arbitration

We are engaging with the UK government, MPs, the European Commission and other stakeholders to highlight our concerns and support our members and the legal sector. We represent our members as part of groups including the Brexit Law Committee and the Professional Business Services Council's (PBSC) Mutual Market Access Group.

As your professional body we take a neutral position on whether to leave or remain in the EU. However, we have consistently advocated against leaving without a deal, as this will cause serious disruption for individuals and businesses, and decrease opportunities for the profession.

At the same time, we continue to support you in preparing for no deal. We have produced a leaflet showing steps firms can take to prepare, and a series of no deal guidance:

- Civil and commercial co-operation – updated August 2019
- Consumer law – updated August 2019
- Criminal justice and security co-operation – updated Aug 2019
- Data protection – updated August 2019
- Family law
- Family law: practical recommendations
- Immigration implications for law firms – New
- Intellectual property
- Providing legal services in the EU – updated August 2019
- VAT – updated September 2019

Our international team can provide information on the national regulations that apply in each jurisdiction in the EU/EFTA. Email EuropeCIS@LawSociety.org.uk to request information about a specific country.

The Housing Disrepair Conference 2020

Wednesday, 26th February, 9.30am - 3pm (lunch inc)

Venue: The Marriott Hotel, Queens Square, Liverpool

Chaired by Sarah Mansfield & with sessions:

Disrepair: Protocol, Pleadings and Allocation
Gary Lewis, Cobden Chambers

Tips for Tenants
Nina Patel and
Jonathan Davidson,
Broudie Jackson Canter

Defending S.11 claims: Tips for landlords
Josephine Morton, Brabners

A Surveyor's Eye View
Chris Halliwell, Pinnacle Building
and Surveying Consultants Ltd

Homes Fitness for Human Habitation Act 2018: 12 months on
Louise Murphy, Knox Ellis

General Disrepair Defences/ counterclaims
Rebecca Ackerley and
Jac Armstrong, Atlantic Chambers

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



Liverpool Law Society



Liverpool Law Society



@LpoolLawSociety

Family Judges Forum 2020

on Thursday 27th February, 5.30pm - 7pm

Liverpool Law Society is hosting a forum where solicitors, barristers and associates can put their questions to:

**HHJ Margaret de Haas QC,
HHJ Andrew Greensmith & DJ Philip O'Neill**

This is a unique opportunity to interact informally with the judiciary.

Questions should be submitted in advance, in writing / via email, to the society. These will then be **anonymised** and forwarded to the judiciary so they may fully consider the questions and prepare responses.

If there is time on the evening, Judges may also answer some ad-hoc questions too.

The closing date for the receipt of questions is 10.02.20.

The Judges' Forum will last for approximately 1.5 hours.

Refreshments will be available on arrival from 5pm and the Forum will start at 5.30pm

For more information, please [click here](#)



DOCUTECH

OFFICE SOLUTIONS



Document Technology Has Evolved. Have You?

Since the inception of the cloud, the traditional office has been tipped upside-down. This ultimately makes processes easier, faster and more agile. However, this comes with a different set of challenges and issues that need to be addressed. At Docutech Office Solutions we make it our business to know your business before we can offer the right combination of hardware, software, security and compliance to meet your company's specific needs.

The legal sector is renowned for its large paper archives, which must be kept safe, secure and intelligently organised. Legal firms will especially benefit from smart document storage and management as it improves their document handling and allows for remote access and tracking.

Digital storage on premise or in the cloud is an intelligent way to keep legal archives organised, easily accessible and secure. Additionally, you can add access controls and audit trails helping to comply with regulations and legal admissibility. This includes clear electronic audit trail of who has viewed and amended documents, making document management far more accurate and accountable.

This way of storage is far more efficient and has fast searching capabilities – there is no need to spend hours searching through filing cabinets to retrieve documents, giving staff more time to focus on important tasks.

Visit our new website to discover our extensive range of products and services:

Legacy Scanning ■ Docufire – Document Storage & Retrieval ■ Managed Print Services
Managed IT Support ■ Cloud Solutions ■ Secure Hosted Mailrooms

**Go to docutechsolutions.co.uk
or call us on 0844 259 6155**

End of the Landlord Licensing Scheme? – Outlook for Landlords and Tenants

The Housing Act 2004 introduced mandatory and selective private landlord licensing under part 3, giving local authorities the power to tackle vital issues in the private housing sector. In 2015 the licensing guidelines expanded to include property conditions, and Liverpool City Council brought in a five year selective licensing scheme stating that Liverpool was a “low demand” housing area which needed to raise the standards of residential properties.

It was hoped that this scheme would weed out so called rogue landlords, and provide safe and suitable housing for private tenants.

The current licensing scheme runs until 31st March 2020 covering any privately let residential properties falling under the Liverpool City Council's jurisdiction, and they were extremely hopeful of extending the scheme for a further five years.

The Council provided a helpful update to Private Landlords at the Liverpool Private Rented Sector Forum on 22nd October 2019 and stated that approval was required by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government. MSB Solicitors attended the Forum and were invited to deliver a training update to the Private Landlords attending.

The housing secretary, Robert Jenrick, rejected the application due to insufficient evidence that the scheme was still necessary in Liverpool. This means the private landlords for the 55,000 rented homes in Liverpool will no longer require a licence from April



James Hall

2020, as things stand, much to the dissatisfaction of Mayor Joe Anderson and Liverpool City Council.

Following the large media coverage of this recent update, I have looked at the potential impact to the sector following the Council's loss of funding for the licensing scheme. In addition, I looked at the Council's ability to bring action against landlords under existing legislation, and whether there are already measures in place which safeguard tenants, whilst ensuring landlords keep their properties in a good state of repair.

Safeguarding Tenants

Landlords are bound to comply with numerous statutory repair and safety obligations. Under **S11 of Landlord and Tenant Act 1985** it is an implied covenant that the Landlord will keep the structure in good repair, keep the installations of water, gas, electricity and heating in repair and proper working order. Furthermore, the **Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act 2018** came into force on 20th March 2019, with the purpose of “ensuring all rented accommodation is fit for human habitation and to strengthen tenants’ means of redress against the minority of landlords who do not fulfil their legal obligations to keep properties safe”.

Landlords are also bound to comply with **Section 79(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990** and ensure premises are not in a state which may be prejudicial to health or a nuisance. It is also the local authorities’ duty under this Act to inspect nuisances and take steps to respond to complaints, investigate any serve abatement notices ordering the landlord to bring the property up to a suitable condition. Additionally, the **Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS)** introduced under the **Housing Act 2004** helps local authorities to identify and protect against risks and hazards to health and safety by assessing 29 categories of hazards in residential properties. When a hazard is identified under Category 1 or Category 2, the local authority has the ability to issue an improvement notice, a prohibition order, emergency remedial action and further measures to protect the occupier and enforce action against the landlord.

The above establishes that this is a market which is already extremely well regulated and does in no way leave tenants vulnerable to the minority of poor landlords. This should reassure tenants in residential properties that they will not be exposed to poor standards or unsafe premises following March 31st.

Wellbeing and self-care for Lawyers: For those who work with traumatic material/ traumatised clients

with Claiming Space on Thursday 13th February, 1.30pm - 4.45pm

This is essential training for practitioners working with traumatised clients and / or traumatic material.

Attendees will gain knowledge, understanding and practical guidance on:

- **Vicarious trauma, stress, burnout and compassion fatigue:** definitions and how to spot the signs and symptoms.
- **Self-care:** how to develop coping strategies and techniques to manage a traumatic caseload.
- **Action planning:** how to develop self-care strategies for you, your team and your organisation.

The session will be framed by an optional short mindfulness / chair yoga session. Attendees will leave with practical techniques to help ground themselves and / or their clients.

Competencies: A3, A4, C2, C3 & D1

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

The extensive legislation already in place however raises a question regarding why the Landlord Licensing Scheme was introduced in the first place?

Considerations for Landlords

Unlike many local authorities in England and Wales, Liverpool City Council operate a city wide licensing scheme, which requires any individual who rents out a property to hold a license for every property they own. Other local authorities such as Manchester, Bristol, Sheffield and Newcastle adopt a focused approach requiring only landlord's in certain areas to hold a licence. This scheme operates by identifying areas of a city which needs improvements and has low housing demand, and focuses the Council's resources into bringing those properties up to a suitable standard. If Liverpool City Council is to succeed with an appeal of the government's decision, a more specific approach may gain the support of the city's landlords whilst creating a more concentrated attitude.

A licence is compulsory, and costs Liverpool's landlords £412 for their first property and a further £360 for every property thereafter, although this was expected to increase under the new scheme. To provide a cost contrast, the licensing fee for Properties in Cardiff is £144 for an online application. When discussing licensing with Liverpool's landlords, the same question continues to arise: what is included in the licence fee, and are landlords actually funding the Council's operation and enforcement of a city wide scheme?

In the case of *Gaskin, R (On the Application Of) v Richmond Upon Thames London Borough Council & Anor* [2018] EWHC

1996 a landlord in London refused to pay the Council's application fee as he claimed the charge contravened European Directive 2006/123/EC. The crux of this case was whether the private letting of accommodation was a "service" under the EU directive, and it was held that it did in fact satisfy the definition of service, and therefore the local authority was only permitted to charge the cost of processing the application, and not the broader costs of operating and enforcing of the scheme. Any licensing fees which were greater than the cost of processing the application were therefore found to be unlawful. A reduction in the cost of such licenses may also help to incentivise landlords and get them on board with improving areas in need of improvement and revival.

This article hopes to provide evidence that despite the discontinuation of the licensing scheme in Liverpool, tenants will be safe in their homes and supported by local authorities if issues arise. It also aims to provide a point of view from the landlords, who may see licensing fees as an additional cost involved with renting out a property. Ultimately, the end of landlord licensing should not be a concern for those in rental properties as strict regulation is still in place, and the 31st March might be a weight off the shoulders for Liverpool's landlords.

We will continue to monitor the ongoing progress of Liverpool City Council's application, and to comment on the implications for both landlords and tenants, however it seems more likely than not that a further scheme will be introduced at some stage.

This article is written by James Hall, Trainee Solicitor, MSB Solicitors 0151 281 9040 jameshall@msbsolicitors.co.uk



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.

Contact us

For further details visit
www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Enquiries:

venuehire@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Tel: 0151 236 6998 Ext 33

Liverpool Law Society, Second Floor, Helix,
Edmund Street, Liverpool, L3 9NY



We can offer you...

Professional working environment

Refreshments

Lunch ordering service

Audio Visual Equipment



"This is the third time we have hired the conference room at Helix House and we have **always been impressed**. It's a great venue for an "away day"; **you have all the facilities you need** away from your office but still in the centre of the city." **Alistair Fletcher, Partner at Brabners**

Capacity and daily rates

Training Room

The training room has a maximum capacity of 60. This room is perfect for training conferences. We are able to set the room up in boardroom, classroom or theatre style.

Members £150+VAT | Non-Members £175+VAT

Meeting Room

The meeting room has a maximum capacity of 20. This room is perfect for smaller intimate meetings and seminar sessions.

Members £100+VAT | Non-Members £125+VAT

Both Rooms

The maximum capacity for hiring both rooms is 60. Previous clients have hired both rooms to make a larger space for conferences and large-scale training events.

Members £250+VAT | Non-Members £275+VAT

*Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. Additional charges apply for evening events



The Employment Judges Forum 2019

Liverpool Law Society hosted the 8th Employment Judges Forum at the end of last year of which I had the pleasure of chairing. We were joined by regional Employment Judge Jonathan Parkin, Employment Judge Kendrick Horne and the two new salaried Employment Judges to the Liverpool Employment Tribunal; Nicky Benson and Jane Aspinall.

As in previous years the Judges gave open and detailed responses to varied questions which were put to them covering matters from top tips for successful advocacy in the Employment Tribunal to consideration of the implications of appeal decisions over the last year.

During the evening, the Judges answered questions on the case of **Dewhurst Vs Revisecatch & City Sprint, Jhuti Vs Royal Mail, Gilham Vs Ministry of Justice, Brazel Vs Harpur Trust** to name but a few.

A number of cases were pointed out as 'ones to watch' in the next 12 months. These include the ongoing Uber case in which we are still waiting for the Supreme Court to deliver the Final Judgement. Uber drivers have been successful at every stage of the legal process in arguing that they are workers and not self employed. It is expected that the Supreme Court will agree that they are workers and this will be the last word on the matter. The Supreme Court is due to hear the appeal in Uber BV and others in July 2020.

Another case highlighted to look out for was that of **VM Morrison Supermarkets PLC** and whether the Supreme Court will find the employer is vicariously liable for the data protection breaches of an employee even where the employer itself is not at fault for the way in which it processed and protected personal data.

There is also the case of **Royal Mencap Society Vs Tomlinson-Blake; Shannon Vs Rampersad and another t/a Clifton House Residential Home**. The case has dominated many of the headlines in the Social Care sector over the past 2 years because of its financial impact for employers who have "sleep in" workers in care homes and this year will see the Supreme Court settle the

argument over the pay of these workers. The Supreme Court is due to hear the case in February 2020.

Those attending the Forum benefitted from many insights from the Employment Judges. Once again the Judges pointed out that the key to successful advocacy in the Tribunal lies in preparation, preparation, preparation! In terms of what is the worst thing you could do? Be careful not to over use the terms Sir/ Madam and certainly make sure you stifle those yawns during the hearing!!

All in all the evening was a success and yet again an excellent opportunity to hear from and meet the Employment Judges of Liverpool. I would like to note my sincere thanks to all of those Employment Judges who gave up their valuable time to attend and the thought they put into the answers which they gave.

Thanks also to those who attended and put forward such interesting questions.

Lindsey Knowles
Kirwans

Monthly Competition

Do you want to be in with a chance of winning a bottle of wine from R&H Fine Wines?

This month the question is:

Who will give the Conkerton Memorial Lecture?

Please send your answer to
editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk no later than 25th February 2020.



One of our previous winners, David Walmsley from Carpenters collecting his wine!



Congratulations to Rebecca Dixon from Pilkington Shaw solicitors for correctly answering the question in the January 2020 edition of 'Liverpool Law'.

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.

A new era for CQS: Are you ready?

Tracy Thompson, Lead Conveyancing Quality Scheme (CQS) Assessor and CQS Consultant, takes time out to share her knowledge and experience to identify her top ten tips for CQS accredited firms in the era of the new CQS assessment regime.

1. Say as you do. Do as you say. Your documented policies and procedures should accurately reflect what happens in practice. Always make sure the two elements align.
2. Ensure there is evidence available. If there's no evidence, it didn't happen! The most important aspect of demonstrating compliance with any quality standard is to provide evidence. To say 'I would have done...' is not good enough.
3. Don't wait until your firm is selected for assessment to act. Review your documented policies and procedures now. Once selected for assessment, timescales are limited for you to provide key policies to demonstrate your firms compliance with the Core Practice Management Standard (CPMS).
4. Selection for assessment does not necessarily run alongside the firms CQS initial application or annual renewal application process. Selection can fall at any time during the annual accreditation cycle.
5. Ensure the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) and relevant persons in the residential conveyancing department are aware of the content of the Core Practice Management Standard, know how they comply with it in practice and are able to discuss it.
6. If you need external help to ensure your policies and procedures meet the requirements of the CPMS, consult a compliance expert who deals with CQS. Be very careful if you are considering 'borrowing' policies from other firms. You are unlikely to be following the same operational procedures, and you could easily be caught out if the policy is not compliant with the CPMS.
7. Similarly, with template policies and procedures, ensure you fully review and tailor them to ensure they reflect the operational processes followed in your practice. Seeing references such as (insert practice name) throughout a documented policy is a clear indicator the document has not been given the consideration it should have been.
8. Understand the terminology. A 'must' is compulsory for all CQS accredited firms. A 'should' is optional, however it should be documented as to the reason for not opting to adopt the relevant part of the CPMS, and the SRO should be prepared to justify their decision to the assessor.
9. CQS is not prescriptive. How you meet the requirements of the CPMS is a matter for the firm to decide whilst taking a risk based approach. The firm should ensure the core objective of each required policy/procedure is met, the firms stance meets any legislative and/or regulatory requirements, and is logical, sensible and proportionate to the size and nature of the practice.
10. Firms will be selected reactively and proactively. Any CQS



Tracy Thompson

accredited firm could be selected for assessment regardless of size, profile or location. Don't assume your firm won't be selected for assessment because you are of a particular size or have other quality accreditations.

Liverpool Law Society are holding a course 'Conveyancing Quality Scheme: Demonstrating compliance & surviving the assessment' on 3rd March 2020. For more information or to make a booking click [here](#).

Merseyside Women Lawyers Division and Liverpool Law Society Wellbeing Event

This month I had the pleasure of attending the MWLD and LLS Wellbeing event. I was really looking forward to it and a colleague asked to join too. I like to think I don't get stressed by work, but as a colleague pointed out maybe that's my coping mechanism- I was sure to find out. Talking to family and friends has always helped my stress levels- but trying to explain chargeable hours and recovery rates to them is like speaking a foreign language! I was looking forward to talking to people who understand the legal world and learn ways of dealing with the pressures that come with it- and I wasn't disappointed.

The event was broken into 3 parts. A talk from Lawcare, a yoga session and a mindfulness session.

The Lawcare presentation was given by Ann Charlton. Ann told us all about Lawcare and how they are there to help practically anyone in the legal profession. There is no cost as their services are all paid from practicing certificates. Lawcare can help people with support due to pressures at home/work or health. Ann told us about a mentor scheme they have, where you can be paired with someone in your area who has been through similar issues and to provide some reassurance that you aren't alone. She had some shocking statistics that really made the room sit up and listen.

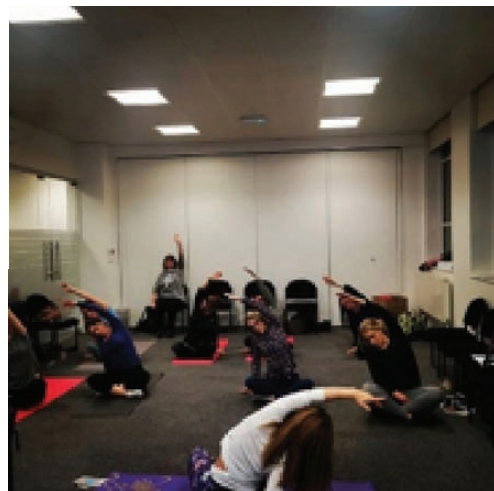
I always notice that quote on social media of how people are expected to 'work like they don't have children and raise their children like they don't work'. This always resonates with me because it is HARD. Much harder than I ever anticipated- trying to get my full chargeable hours on 2 hours sleep and coming down with that bug your child has just started to get over! Even before my tiny terror there are just daily life struggles that can sometimes, understandably, become overwhelming. Dealing with a poorly relative, or even worse grieving for a loved one. Sometimes you can just find yourself struggling and not really know the cause. You're trying to be everything to everyone and sometimes you just need to talk to someone and get some help on how best to deal with the cards you have been dealt.

I'm lucky enough to have heard from Ann before at a General Committee meeting, before then I have to confess I had seen the pages in this very magazine with their details, but I didn't really know what they did. Even still I was surprised that no one else in the room (except Kirsty the organiser!) had even heard of Lawcare. If, like me, you aren't sure what they do please visit their website- it is very worthwhile. Even if you feel you don't require the services, it is a good site to help spot signs in colleagues who may need some support and best ways to help them.

Next up was Angela Hesketh of Jackson Lees for the yoga session. Before starting Angela told us all about her amazing successes and also opened up about the struggles she had overcome- this is what I signed up for! Hearing from someone who just 'gets it' and can empathise with the struggles of working in a law firm. Angela told us of how this had led her to yoga, which she has now gone on to teach alongside working at Jackson Lees- superwoman in the flesh!

Now when I read the invitation I naively presumed it would be some yoga activities you could do at your desk ... how wrong was I! The yoga mats came out and Angela had us doing all kinds of yoga moves- skinny jeans was a bad idea from me! I didn't think I would be able to relax in the same room in which I chair our editorial meetings and speak at the General Committee meetings, but Angela knows her stuff and I was relaxed in no time at all. I would definitely recommend yoga if anyone hasn't tried it before. You can do as little or as much as you feel able, some of the attendees were taking part sat on chairs. It isn't about being super flexible or competing with the others in the room, it was just taking time to focus on your own breathing and what your body is doing.

This session led seamlessly onto the mindfulness training from Gill Washington. Gill had attended the two previous sessions and was great in relaying her activities back to what had been said before and taking it even further. Gill continued with the



breathing techniques (I really underestimated how good it feels to just breathe properly!) but also taught the group to just focus on the 'now'. It is ingrained in us as legal professionals to think 10 steps ahead, to try and forecast the worst case scenario and work backwards on the best ways to avoid that. Gill taught us to just take some time to concentrate on how you are feeling at that exact moment in time, to appreciate that exact moment in time.

Thank you to MWLD for organising and collaborating with LLS, it was a truly enjoyable event.

Jennifer Powell
Associate
Weightmans

LawCare 2019 figures: More lawyers seeking help and calls about bullying continue to rise

The number of legal professionals contacting the charity LawCare for emotional support continues to rise year on year, with 677 people seeking help in 2019.

The charity, which runs a helpline, webchat, email and peer support service for the legal profession received over 900 contacts in 2019 and saw an 8% rise in the number of people seeking help compared to 2018.

The most common problems cited were stress (26%) and depression (12%). The number of lawyers contacting the charity about bullying continues to increase, from 47 callers in 2018 to 80 last year – now accounting for 12% of all contacts. 66% of those who contacted LawCare about this issue said they were being bullied by a manager or superior.

The majority of callers to the helpline were women (67%). 53% of all callers were trainees/pupils, or had been qualified less than five years, and a further 5% were law students.

Elizabeth Rimmer, CEO of LawCare, said: 'We spent 304 hours providing support on the phone last year, answering a call every 2 ½ hours. Last year also saw the launch of our new webchat service enabling us to provide support to more people. The biggest trend we've noticed is the number of people contacting us about bullying and harassment which is now one of the top three issues people contact us about, possibly because of a lot more attention on this issue in the media over the past couple of years. We will be undertaking more detailed research later this year to discover exactly how the culture of law is impacting on wellbeing and mental health, and we hope to use this to drive change in legal workplaces.'

For support call the helpline on 0800 279 6888 in the UK and 1800 991 801 in Ireland, or for more information visit www.lawcare.org.uk or www.lawcare.ie

LawCare
Supporting the Legal Community

Free, independent, and confidential helpline

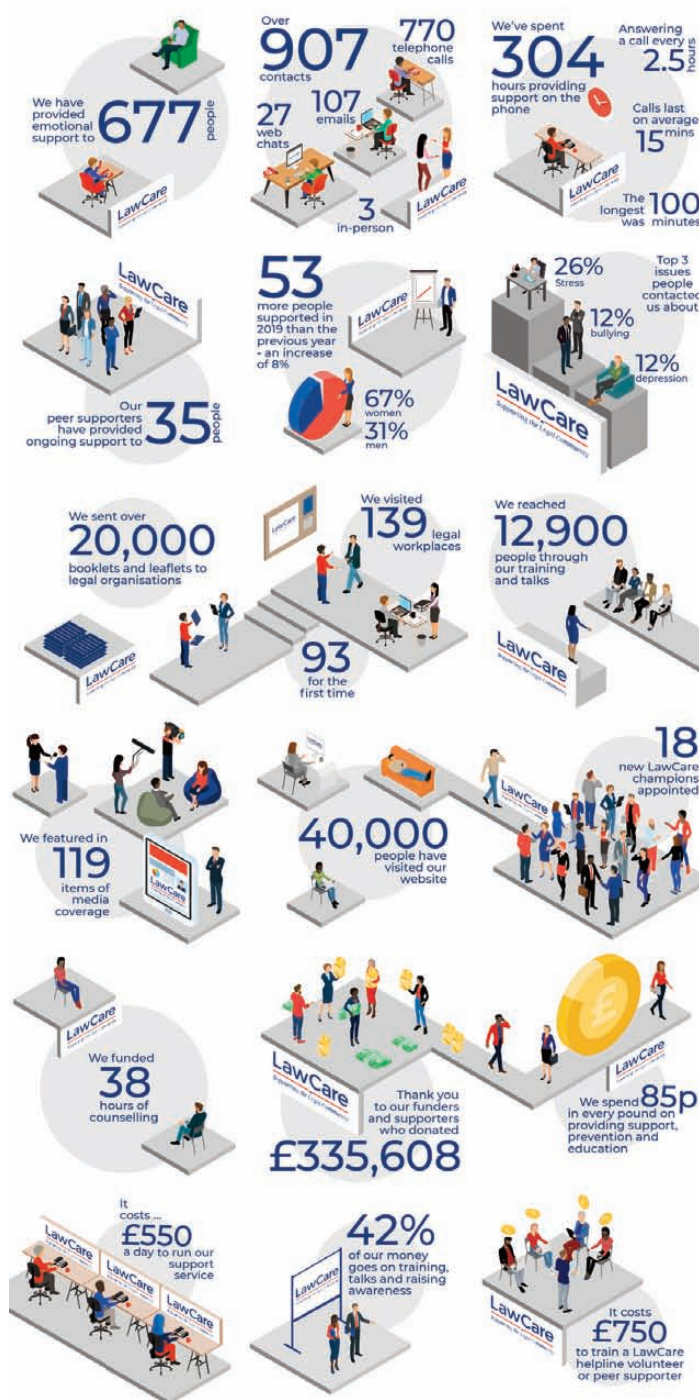
We understand life in the law, so if you need someone to talk to, call us

0800 279 6888

9am – 7:30pm WEEKDAYS

10am – 4pm WEEKENDS AND BANK HOLIDAYS

LawCare Impact Report 2019



First female managing partner appointed at Kirwans law firm

A solicitor has been named as the first female managing partner of the firm where she completed her training contract just 12 years ago.

Claire Currie has taken over the running of Kirwans law firm after David Kirwan stood down following 37 years in the role in order to focus on his client work and other professional duties.

The legal expert joined Kirwans in 2006 after an earlier career in the science industry, and qualified as a solicitor in 2008.

She went on to become partner, head up the Private Client and Family departments, and start networking group Mums in Business before being appointed Managing Partner.

Claire, a single mum-of-two, who is based at the firm's Moreton office, said: "I am delighted to follow in the footsteps of David Kirwan in leading such a long-established and well-loved firm and look forward to taking the firm from strength to strength in the coming years.

"In an industry where it has historically been difficult for women to rise through the ranks, hopefully my appointment will inspire even more girls to believe that it is possible to make your mark as not only a woman, but also a mum, in law.

"I look forward to building on all that has been achieved by Mr Kirwan over the years and to seeing Kirwans continue to evolve as it supports the Merseyside community with all of its legal needs."

Claire's appointment is a further boost to the legal sector, which has been battling to improve the disparity between the number of male and female equity partners.

Figures show that in 2017-2018, more than two-thirds of entrants to law school were women, yet data from the Solicitors Regulation Authority revealed that in the same year just 33 per cent of partners in law firms were female – a figure that dropped to just 29 per cent in the largest law firms with more than 50 partners.

David Kirwan said: "Claire's talent and passion have stood out since she joined the firm 14 years ago, and her incredible knowledge and understanding of both the law and business means she is perfectly positioned to take over the reins as Managing Partner.

"I have every confidence that, under her tenure, the firm will thrive, and look forward to seeing both Claire and Kirwans excel as she goes forward in her new role."

Claire will now spend more time concentrating on the development and growth of the business as the profession continues to undergo dramatic change.



Claire Currie

How to respond to enquiries, additional searches and the 2019 protocol

with Richard Snape
on Friday 28th February, 9.30am - 12.45pm

Additional enquiries and the need for an effective response thereto is becoming of ever-increasing importance.

In addition, the 2019 Protocol has increased the burden on solicitors in relation to explanation of fraud, SDLT and leaseholds.

Topics covered include:

- Misrepresentation and enquiries
- Disclaimers and their effectiveness
- Additional enquiries in relation to septic tanks, planning and building regulations
- The Protocol and enquiries
- The Protocol and the leaseholds
- The fraud enquiries and how to respond
- Additional searches
- Other standard and additional enquiries

Core Competencies: B

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

Sponsored by



Computer says 'yes'

With our innovative smart forms, you can monitor your clients' progress in real-time.

You know the routine, you post off the inception forms and lo and behold the client sits on them. Well, now you have the power to speed up the process. Our online smart forms mean clients can complete forms from anywhere, on any device. You can even monitor their progress and 'politely' nudge them along. The entire process is fast, easy, secure and completely paperless – no printing or postage necessary. And to discover just how smooth the experience can be for you and your client, just sit tight – we'll come to you.

After all, the experience is everything.

Get forms completed anywhere, anytime. Visit www.infotrack.co.uk/computer or call us on **0207 186 8090** to get started today.



Law firm kick starts expansion with new year growth spurt

Family-run law firm CEL Solicitors has kicked off its ambitious 2020 growth plans by expanding one of its core service lines.

The business, which already specialises in housing welfare and data breach, has brought in new recruit Mark Montaldo to head up its rapidly expanding Japanese Knotweed claims offering.

Japanese Knotweed is a fast-growing weed that spreads quickly, with its bamboo-like stems shooting up to over 7ft. Left untreated, it can cause a property to lose value, making it difficult for homeowners to sell or re-mortgage.

Mark, who also leads the data breach team, is one of nine new appointments at CEL in recent months, with fresh recruits including two solicitors, three first response handlers, a paralegal, an accounts manager and a business development manager.

The new additions have boosted the firm's workforce to 30, which has grown from just eight team members in 2017.

Jessica Hampson, director at CEL Solicitors, said: "We have grown the business significantly over the last 12 months, seeing a huge increase in the number of people coming forward with claims and, as such, we've needed to expand our team.

"Notably, our Japanese Knotweed claims service line has seen a steep upward curve in claims, so bringing Mark on board to head up this department has allowed us to meet demand and offer clients a level of expertise we previously didn't have at our disposal."

With more than 12 years' experience in litigation and dispute resolution, Mark specialises in Japanese Knotweed claims, having won a total of £1 million for clients during his career.

Mark said: "I'm thrilled to be part of the CEL team and am looking forward to working with the team to develop both the Japanese Knotweed and Data Breach departments further. The whole team's passion for what they do is undeniable and is something that is reflected in the excellent work they do for clients, tailoring their approach to each case and ensuring no stone is left unturned when tackling even the most complex of claims.

"I'm confident that this is just the beginning of an exciting new phase for CEL and I'm pleased to be playing an instrumental role in the journey."

Among the business' other recent appointments are: Colin Dalton, Jasmine Dalton, Megan Carden, Deepa Chand, Thomas Lowrey, Thomas Blanchfield, Rachael Payne and Jamie Mitchell.

The raft of new starters follows an impressive period of growth for CEL, in which the firm recorded a five-fold 2018/2019 year-on-year increase in turnover, paving the way for a major office move.

In November, the team relocated from Atlantic Pavilion on the Albert Dock to take the entire 12th floor of Twenty Chapel Street, signalling the start of a new chapter and further growth.

Jessica added: "As we continue to grow, we remain incredibly



CEL New Starters

passionate about maintaining our family-like ethos, ensuring that each and every member of the team feels valued and respected.

"We have an exciting plan in place to truly take CEL to a new level this year and our recent success is a real testament to the dedication and sheer talent of our ever-growing team – we're now looking forward to cementing the success of our offering and, most importantly, getting the best possible results for our clients."

Commercial Property Update

with Richard Snape on Friday 28th February, 1.30 - 4.30pm

Commercial Property has undergone major changes within the last 2 years. In particular, the last year has seen some very important case law and regulatory changes.

The course aims to look at these changes.

Topics covered include:

- Recent case law on the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954
- Frustration and Leases
- Leasehold minimum energy performance standard as of 2018
- The Electronic Communications Code: Recent case law
- New CPSE Enquiries
- Recent case law on business rates and empty properties
- Recent case law on forfeitures and keep open clauses
- Service Charge liability and recent cases
- Recent case law on assets of community value
- Recent developments in overage

Core Competencies: B

Sponsored by



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

CONKERTON MEMORIAL LECTURE

Judicial Discretion:
is it compatible with
Justice?

AN EXPLORATION INTO THE
TENSIONS BETWEEN CERTAINTY
(JUSTICE) AND THE RIGHT
INDIVIDUAL RESULT (DISCRETION) AS
WELL AS THE CONFLICTS OF VALUES
IN THE ACTUAL EXERCISE OF
DISCRETION

Free Entrance
Wednesday 18th March
5.30pm - 7.15pm
Liverpool Town Hall

Guest Speaker

Sir Mark Hedley graduated from the University of Liverpool in 1968 and was called to the bar in 1969. He practised the law before becoming a Circuit Judge in 1992. In 2002 he was appointed High Court Judge and assigned to the Family Division, becoming also a judge of the Court of Protection in 2007.

BOOK HERE >>

This event is open to all those in the legal profession and students of law (undergraduates & upwards).

Morecrofts strengthens private client team with David Tournafond appointment

Highly-experienced private client lawyer David Tournafond has joined Morecrofts Solicitors as a consultant.

David has more than 30 years' experience in advising on a range of matters including tax planning, wills, trusts and probate, as well as residential and commercial property. He specialises in estate planning and asset protection.

In 2015, he received a Special Recognition Award for Outstanding Service for his work as Committee Chair at Liverpool Law Society, where he leads three charitable funds and organises the high-profile Conkerton Memorial Lectures and public speaking competitions.

Morecrofts Solicitors was named Private Client Team of the Year at the prestigious national Law Society Excellence Awards in 2019 and this appointment represents another significant milestone for the team.

Speaking of his appointment, David said: "Morecrofts is renowned for the attention to detail and level of care it provides through its private client work and it is now duly recognised as a national leader in this field.

"The firm's sensitive, professional attitude distinctly reflects my own approach to these matters and Morecrofts feels like a perfect fit."

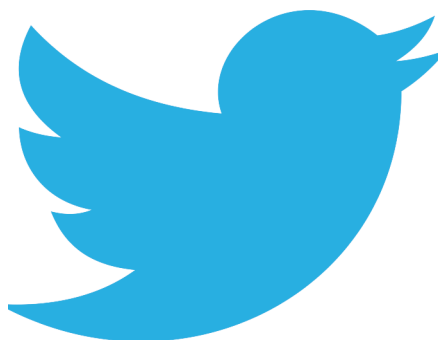
Carol Mason, a partner at Morecrofts Solicitors, said: "Our private client team continues to go from strength to strength and the appointment of a specialist of David's calibre is another huge step in that upward trajectory.

"He offers great levels of insight and experience to our already excellent team and we have no doubt his expertise will further enhance our service to clients and cement our reputation as one of the best private client teams in the country."



David Tournafond and Carol Mason

Follow Liverpool Law Society on Twitter for the latest news



The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor with Vicky Ling

on Wednesday 4th March, 9.30am - 4.45pm (includes lunch)

This course covers everything supervisors need to know.

It will qualify a new supervisor who hasn't supervised before under Standard Contract Specification requirements for both the Civil/Family Standard Contract 2018 and Crime Standard Contract 2017.

It is also a useful refresher for experienced supervisors.

You will learn about:

- Latest developments in legal aid
- Relevant SQM and Lexcel provisions
- SRA Competence Statement requirements for supervision
- How supervisors qualify and maintain status
- What supervisors need to look for in file reviews
- The main types of legal aid audit, including Contract Manager visits and peer review
- An introduction to the inter-personal skills supervisors need; listening and feedback
- Different approaches to supervision
- Finding the time to supervise

Core Competencies: A3, C1 & C3

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

MSB launches new department in response to industry demand

MSB Solicitors has appointed an expert with more than two decades of experience, to head up its new Private Prosecutions department.

MSB is the first law firm in the country to have access to a ground breaking ethical funding model that is designed specifically to help open up access to justice for businesses, shareholders and associated professionals who have become the victims of fraud.

The new service has been designed in response to the criticisms made against the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), police and Action Fraud for their failure to prosecute in these circumstances.

Despite an increase in the number of crimes which damage corporate brand identity, Government is reluctant to pursue such criminal acts. Fraud, offences in relation to brand protection, and cybercrime, have increased significantly, with reports suggesting that fraud now costs the UK economy as much as £190 billion a year. This has resulted in numerous private prosecutions being brought by businesses and individuals unable to access justice where the police and other criminal enforcement agencies have taken no action.

Regulatory specialist Jeremy Asher, who will lead the Private Prosecutions team, brings to MSB 21 years of experience in dealing with serious and high-profile cases, having formerly developed and led a top 100 national law firm's fraud and business crime department, which was top-ranked by Legal500.

Jeremy's expertise in bringing prosecutions has been honed by working on behalf of a number of local authorities and a central government department. In the past four years, his team successfully brought more than 500 prosecutions, including several that made the headlines nationally.

Jeremy Asher, head of Private Prosecutions at MSB, said: "I'm exceptionally proud to be joining the MSB team to set up this new offer for the firm's business clients. MSB is an enlightened and inspirational firm, with an admirable commitment to its clients' needs and the needs of Liverpool City Region, taking action where needed.



Jeremy Asher

"Among the many benefits of bringing a private prosecution are control, speed and the ability for clients to choose their team. The criminal law also gives victims access to hard-hitting measures, such as imprisonment and confiscation proceedings. We know that for many businesses, funding can be a challenge when it comes to private prosecutions, which is why we are proud to be able to make available this unique insurance backed product, allowing us, in the right circumstances for commercial victims of fraud, to provide clients with the service they need."

Emma Carey, managing partner at MSB, added: "At MSB, we are incredibly passionate about ensuring that we can build on and develop our offer as a city region. As a firm, we never stand still and recognise that the law must change in order to meet the needs of an ever-changing society. That's why we have taken action to create this new offer and change our services, in response to the increasing demand that we are seeing.

"It is often assumed that private prosecutions are limited to London firms, but we feel strongly that we have a responsibility to do all we can to provide the services that are needed not just here in the Liverpool City Region, but across the country. By bringing experts like Jeremy into the team, we can help increase our national reach and provide our clients with a service that would not otherwise be available outside of the Capital."

ATLANTIC CHAMBERS

With over 60 members Atlantic Chambers is able to offer a wide range of expertise within our specialist practice groups.

**Civil Litigation including Clinical Negligence,
Family, Chancery & Commercial, Crime,
Employment, Proceeds of Crime & Public Law**

**4-6 Cook Street, Liverpool L2 9QU
T 0151 236 4421 F 0151 236 1559
DX: 14176 Liverpool 1.
E-mail: info@atlanticchambers.co.uk**

MSP have released their 2020 dates for the Annual Workplaces Business Games!

Want to burn off those stubborn Christmas calories? You're not alone!

The good news is that MSP have released their 2020 dates for the Annual Workplaces Business games. If you'd like to boost team morale whilst engaging in some competitive fun, find the dates below. They also have an early bird discount for their main event in April if you book before 31st January!

The first event takes place on 13th February 2020 6.15pm to 8.30pm at St Helens Town Hall, Victoria Street, St Helens, WA10 1HP. *Please note, this particular event is only open to organisations who have staff working in the borough of St Helens. This event is £29 team entry

The second event (open to all organisations in the Liverpool City Region) takes place on Wednesday 22nd April 2020, 6.00pm to 9.00pm at FireFit, 115 Upper Warwick Street, Toxteth, Liverpool, L8 8HD. This event is £149 team entry OR £119 early bird price if booked before 31/01/20.

The evening consists of teams (5 to 8 people per team) taking part in a variety of exciting beginner-level sports and activities, scoring points for their team in a bid to become the most active organisation in the Liverpool City Region! Businesses of all shapes and sizes attend the event, and no previous experience of sport or level of fitness is required for individuals to take part.



The Business Games is organised by MSP, who promote physical activity and sport in the workplace as part of their 'Active Workplaces' programme. There are clear business benefits to having a more active workforce, with research showing that active staff take 27% less sick days than colleagues who are inactive. Investing in workplace physical activity also enhances an organisation's Corporate Social Responsibility, reduces staff turnover and improves staff morale, teamworking and communication.

It's perfect for:

- developing teamwork and communication skills
- boosting staff morale
- networking with other organisations
- raising awareness of fun ways to be physically active

For further information about the event or to book your place please visit www.merseysidesport.com/businessgames.

You can also contact the Active Workplaces team on 0151 728 1811 or email activeworkplaces@merseysidesport.com.

Drafting ET1s and ET3s: key issues & top tips

with Emma Tegerdine

on Tuesday 17th March, 10am - 12pm

This beginner/intermediate level course is a practical course aimed at legal assistants, litigation executives and newly qualified solicitors whose practice includes employment law.

What this course will cover:

ET1s

- Time limits
- Early conciliation
- Identifying the claims
- Identifying the respondents
- Completing the claim form (ET1)
- Presenting the claim
- Grounds for rejecting a claim

ET3s

- Time limits
- Completing the response form (ET3)
- Jurisdictional issues
- Strike out applications
- Counter-claims
- Presenting the

Core Competencies: A2, A4, B3, B4, B6 & B7

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

Conveyancing Quality Scheme: Demonstrating compliance & surviving the assessment

with Tracy Thompson

on Tuesday 3rd March, 1.30 - 4.30pm

This seminar is specifically designed for firms who are both CQS accredited and those firms who are currently working towards attaining accreditation.

The session will look in detail at;

- Changes to the CQS scheme
- Key requirements of the Core Practice Management Standard (CPMS)
- Implementing the required policies and procedures of CQS within your practice
- Key areas of The Law Society Conveyancing Protocol (6th Edition)
- Demonstrating compliance with the standard
- Common assessment issues
- The assessment process
- Assessment outcomes
- CQS overlap with other Quality Standards

Core Competencies: A, B & C

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

Jackson Lees Group bolsters Management Team with launch of new career framework

As 2019 came to a close, award-winning law firm Jackson Lees Group launched a brand new career framework, appointing three Associate Directors and 13 Associates across the business.

This framework is a huge step forward for the business in its ongoing commitment to the development of its people and future leaders. The structure applies consistently throughout the business, across both legal and operational teams, and recognises the skills, attitude and leadership capability of the future leaders, all of whom continue to embody the group's core value of Making a Positive Difference.

Alex Jones, Jo Lee and Nicola Brook have stepped into their new roles as Associate Directors in their respective departments Clinical Negligence, Court of Protection, and Inquests & Inquiries.

These three female Solicitors underwent a selection process and were promoted based on their commitment to Making A Positive Difference to their clients and colleagues, together with their attitude, motivation and leadership potential.

As part of the selection process, the applicants built a business plan around their personal 'why' – their motivation within their work – and developed their approach to commerciality



Joanna Kingston-Davies - Chief Operating Officer of Jackson Lees Group, Jo Lee - Associate Director in Court of Protection, Nicola Brooks - Associate Director in Inquests & Inquiries, Alex Jones - Associate Director in Medical Negligence, Esther Leach - Managing Director & Brian Cullen - Chief Executive Officer.

and culture. They were then asked to present to the CEO Brian Cullen, COO Joanna Kingston-Davies, and Managing Director Esther Leach.

In addition to the three Associate Directors appointments, 13 Associates have also been appointed under the new framework. The Associates were recruited based on a similar set of criteria, all focused around their potential for leadership, their attitude, their commitment to continually growing the business, and their engagement with the Group's culture.

The process was driven by Head of Culture and Engagement, and all applicants were supported with targeted training and one-to-ones, meaning all had the chance to be mentored

through the journey.

In line with their further commitment to the development of their people, Jackson Lees Group are rolling out this opportunity annually.

Brian Cullen, CEO of Jackson Lees Group, said: "We are fully committed to the development of all of our people, both now and in the future. Our new cohort of Associate Directors and Associates have all demonstrated real potential to step up, through both their cultural alignment and commercial delivery.

"We are particularly proud to see individuals appointed from such a variety of departments and roles across the business, whether legal or operational, in keeping with our desire to recognise leadership aptitude at any and every level and not simply on

technical ability or experience alone. We are excited to be a part of the next chapter in their careers."

Joanna Kingston-Davies, COO of Jackson Lees Group, said: "We will now be working closely with our new Associate Directors and Associates, who are all on our future leaders development programme, on their wider involvement within the business.

"Some of the ideas that have come from them as part of the appointment process are fantastic and we are keen to empower them to implement some of the concepts they have so articulately presented. We are already looking forward to receiving some outstanding applications next year!"

Council Member's Report



Council Member Nina Ferris

Nina.ferris@hildickinson.com

It does seem late in the day to be wishing everyone a happy new year, but as this is my first Council Member's column of 2020 I feel that I should. Many thanks to Sarah for doing the hard job of summarising what was a very busy December Council Meeting in last month's Liverpool Law. The next meeting will take place in February and the agenda is likely to include further discussion as to training, equality and diversity and how Council continues to be effective and representative of all its members. Of course any ideas that our members have as to how Council could be more representative are gratefully received.

Just because there has been no council meeting, does not mean there is nothing to update. TLS Has been very busy promoting the profession and lobbying on its behalf and I set out some of the highlights below.

Judicial Review

The Government announced plans to accelerate proposed judicial review (JR) reform after the prime minister claimed JR was being used to "conduct politics by another means". This was widely covered by the press and the President was quoted: "Any proposals to change this system must be developed through consultation and subject to full scrutiny to ensure that ordinary people do not lose out because of a rush to reform." JR remains a fundamental right to challenge circumstances where the state has overstepped the mark, a crucial check and balance on the power of the executive. It is hoped the review will not lead to the same attacks on the judiciary and the rule of law and separation of powers that we saw not so long ago.

Criminal Justice

TLS welcomed plans to hold a commission into the criminal justice system but urged the government that any commission should not delay long overdue investment. The President has commented that justice cannot be delivered on the cheap and that any review must be backed up with a significant cash injection across the board, to police and prosecutors and also to the courts and defence profession: an endangered species TLS recognises as at risk of becoming extinct.

SRA Plans to lower PII Levels

TLS worked with the insurance industry and client groups to present a compelling case against the proposed reforms, which the SRA has now announced have been dropped, ensuring both solicitors and the public will continue to be protected by copper bottomed insurance – vital given the gravity of the issues the profession deals with.

Value of Legal Services

TLS commissioned a report by KPMG to show the value of our sector to UK PLC. It is aimed at showing the need for trade negotiators to put legal and other professional services at the heart of any EU Trade talks. The report found that the legal services sector contributed £59.93 billion of GVA to the UK economy with growth being stronger than the economy as a whole. The sector also supported around 552,000 full time employees either directly in the sector or in the supply chain.

What will not be a surprise is that legal professionals contribute many hours pro bono to the voluntary sector. In 2017, 43,800 solicitors worked 1,446,000 hours for free, worth an estimated £439 million.

Legal aid for community care

TLS research has found that more than 37 million people in England and Wales live in a local authority area without a single community care legal aid service, including more than 7.5 million people aged 65 and over. Even more worrying is that the lawyers that were providing that care and have now disappeared were providing advice in court of protection matters, where clients could be deprived of their liberty because they cannot make decisions for themselves.

As with other legal aid matters, the state pays extremely low rates for often very complex and sophisticated work. It is simply not economically viable for most lawyers to continue to undertake work at rates which have not increased since 1994. Research such as this is used to persuade the government to make changes using empirical evidence of the impact on the community.

Legal needs survey

Most of our members will recall that the changes to regulation that have taken place over the last few years have been predicated on opening up access to the legal market to address unmet legal need. TLS survey into legal need, the largest ever of its kind in England and Wales, found that six in ten adults experienced a legal problem in the last four years, but of those, only 31% had sought legal help. It found that many people did not understand that their issue was legal in nature, instead describing it as “economic”, and that those that did seek legal help often did not “shop around”.

Worryingly it found that 85% of people with a household income below the legal aid means test did not think they would be eligible for legal aid. It highlighted the need to build better public understanding of legal issues and clear ways to get legal advice. The findings showed that when people did get professional advice they were more likely to resolve problems effectively and view the justice system as fair, even if they lost their case. This must surely point the government to a future justice system that prioritises public legal knowledge so that people understand their rights. It must also however lead to investment in the system and particularly funding for that advice so that it is available when people do need to access it.

Day of the endangered lawyer

Finally, TLS works with various organisations to assist lawyers across the world who risk harassment, persecution, imprisonment or even death just for doing their jobs and

upholding the rule of law. This year the focus was on Pakistan, where lawyers have been subjected to violent attacks, for example where they have represented those accused of blasphemy or campaigned to reform the blasphemy laws. Lawyers from around the world have petitioned the Pakistani government to ensure that lawyers are free to carry out their duties in safety as required by the UN basic principles on the role of lawyers and restore the freedom of all human rights lawyers who are detained for their activities in the defence of human rights.

I cannot imagine what it would be like to practise under fear of harassment, reprisals, disbarment, imprisonment or worse and we should spare a thought and lend our support to those that do.

As always, Sarah and I are on Council to represent all solicitors in the Merseyside area and if there is anything that you consider TLS should be doing to better represent you, we are happy to talk to you and welcome any views or comments that we can take back to Chancery Lane.

Nina Ferris
Nina.ferris@hilldickinson.com

Personal Insolvency: A Practical Guide

with Chris Beanland

on Friday 6th March, 1.30 - 4.30pm

Around 100,000 people a year enter a formal personal insolvency procedure. **Lawyers of all disciplines should therefore be aware of the mechanics of personal insolvency law.**

This course aims to give lawyers from **any background** practical guidance on personal insolvency.

The course will cover:

- Debtors' petitions (and the new out of court adjudication process)
- Statutory demands
- Creditors' petitions
- Applications to annul bankruptcy orders
- Assets which vest in the trustee
- The matrimonial home
- Preferences and undervalues
- Bankruptcy Restriction Orders
- Debt Relief Orders
- Individual voluntary arrangements



Core Competencies: A2, A3, A4, A5, B3, B4, B6, B7 & D3

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

Costs Conference 2020

on Wednesday 11th March, 9.30am—3.30pm (lunch included)

Chaired by Regional Costs Judge Jenkinson and covering;

Protecting against claims for solicitor
and client assessments

Dr Mark Friston

Default, Sanctions and Conduct in the Costs Process
Gordon Exall

Common Traps and Securing Relief
Professor Dominic Regan

Settlement under Part 36 or otherwise
Professor Dominic Regan

LIP Portal and Extension to Fixed Recoverable Costs
David Pilling

Accredited by APIL Training.
Level: Litigator & Snr Litigator/CPD Hours: 5

To see more information, [click here](#)

Why is transparency more important than ever in the Legal Services Sector?

By Amanda Hamilton, NALP

With the implementation of The Legal Services Act 2007, competition has been increased under the umbrella of 'access to justice for all, at a reasonable cost'. Furthermore, legal aid has been withdrawn for all but the most urgent legal matters.

But what's the cost to the consumer? The average person has no idea what the changes are, why they have been implemented and who to turn to with their legal problem. Many have decided to take on the burden of litigation themselves with devastating consequences for the court system. Litigants in person (LIPs) are causing the courts huge difficulties because they do not know what to do. Consequently, the courts are stopping cases to give LIPs assistance.

The unfortunate reality is that throughout the changes that have been made, implemented by the sector itself, no-one has considered how this has affected the end user of their services, nor have they given a valid explanation to them for the changes. There's been no transparency.

Apart from the statutorily regulated legal professionals; such as solicitors, barristers, chartered legal executives and licensed conveyancers; there are now numerous services offered by other individuals and organisations that aren't statutorily regulated. Claims and comments made on their websites can be misleading at best, and possibly fraudulent at the other extreme. To mislead the general public is a dangerous path to go down. Not only can it be costly (and potentially terminal for your practice) it can also affect the reputation of legal services sector generally, which is what must be prevented in order to preserve the Rule of Law. Remember, even comments made in very broad terms can cause assumptions to be made – so care must be taken.

It's perhaps left to the individual end user to do their own research, but unless providers of legal services, or those referring to themselves as 'regulators' (including those claiming to be 'Voluntary Regulators') are totally transparent, how can a distinction be made between them?

In my opinion, there should be no doubt about what is being stated and how it can be interpreted. It doesn't matter whether the intention is to mislead or not.

For example, NALP makes it abundantly clear to all its members offering legal services, that they cannot 'hold-out'. In other words, if claims are made on their website about being 'lawyers', even if this is technically true, it's likely that a consumer reading such comments will assume that they're solicitors or barristers. NALP's preferred practice is to ensure clarity and transparency and to state categorically that 'we are Paralegals'.

Even by omission, for example not stating anything at all about the status of the individual(s) offering legal services, for example, by saying 'we offer legal services in the following areas...' can be interpreted that the persons offering those services are solicitors. The intention may not be to mislead, but if it wouldn't be unreasonable for a consumer to be misled by those statements – then they need to change.

Transparency must include the status of the individual or organisation offering the service, fees that will be charged for each service offered, any potential conflicts of interest and any complaints procedure.

Failing to declare an interest in another organisation is also an area where lack of transparency can mislead the consumer. For example, if an organisation said; 'we are a standard setting body... as recognised by the unregulated legal services regulator' or 'we are the only body recognised by the voluntary regulator as having robust professional standards' – and not state clearly that the voluntary regulator and the body are owned by the same individuals, that would most certainly be a failure of



Amanda Hamilton

transparency and could easily mislead a consumer who would not know or understand that the two bodies were related.

We, as an industry, need to ensure that all statements made on websites have clarity and cannot be interpreted by making assumptions. The difficulty is how to monitor and police such statements.

If policing such websites is not going to happen, then the burden lies with those organisations of integrity to be as transparent as possible and hope that the most important individuals within the sector, the consumers, recognise this effort and make the right decisions.

I feel strongly that we need to help protect the consumer – partly because, after all, that's what the law is all about and why many of us chose this career. But, also, because it will protect us, the legal services industry.

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



Julie Johnson

Like so many of us, stopping off for a morning coffee on my way into work is a personal treat, especially in the dark mornings. It brought added joy when I saw the cup my drink arrived in - brightly coloured and adorned with what looked like a Liver Bird.

The specially printed coffee cups are part of Art in Motion, a new project Liverpool BID Company launched with Liverpool Biennial at the end of January. It's about artworks infiltrating daily life across Liverpool's Business Improvement Districts. Artists create works which are then distributed through daily life. The first artist, whose artwork was on my coffee cup, is Gordon Cheung.

The cups are available at independent coffee shops including Baby E Coffee & Deli, Bloom & Bean, Bold Street Coffee, Cafe Lucaya, Espresso Café (at Bluecoat), Esquires Coffee, Hemingway's Café, The Red Berry Club, Rococo Coffee House, Rope & Twines and Thoughtfully Cafe. The same artwork can also be seen on two Arriva buses in the Commercial District, the 26 and 27, with internal graphics on the buses and on tickets.

The artwork itself is inspired by Liverpool's historic Coat of Arms and this is just the beginning, more artists will be coming in 2020.

At Liverpool BID Company as well as working with Liverpool Biennial we work frequently with the city's artists and arts organisations. We work with dot-art on the Liverpool Plinth each year (the callout has just gone out for a sculptor based in the North, with a new work to be unveiled this summer at Liverpool Parish Church). We also support Open Culture, the producers responsible for LightNight, which takes over the city with an annual culture crawl each spring. Plans are underway for the next LightNight on Friday 15 May.

2020 is a Biennial year, and the Commercial District will once again host an international artist in a public place. Opposite Liverpool's law courts you can see Hummingbird Clock, a permanent piece of public sculpture by 2019 Turner Prize winner Lawrence Abu Hamdan which was installed as part of Liverpool Biennial 2016. As we put together our calendar of events for the coming year we see

weekends dedicated to Liverpool's culture, celebrating the rich tapestry that makes up our city.

Art doesn't merely bring joy. It is a vital part of life in Liverpool. We know how many millions of visitors it attracts each year and how much money the city region's visitor economy contributes. Art and culture are integral to animating our public spaces, making them more colourful, safer, attractive and engaging. The help to guide us through daily life and that has a positive impact on all of us.

There are many different ways we can support our arts and cultural communities. At Liverpool BID Company we see value in bringing art into daily life and intertwining it with our daily routines, from something as simple as buying a cup of coffee or walking into work. Our partnerships with arts organisations like Liverpool Biennial are just another example of how art and business can work together, adding another year of creativity and ingenuity to life in Liverpool.

For updates on all the latest BID news you can visit www.liverpoolbidcompany.com and on social media

Twitter - @LpoolBIDcompany

Facebook - LiverpoolBIDCompany

Instagram - LiverpoolBIDCompany

LinkedIn - Liverpool BID Company

Commercial Leases Update

with Ian Quayle

on Thursday 12th March, 1.30 - 4.30pm

This course will examine a number of case studies & will explore all the issues from a practical perspective

It will consider the following issues:

- Land Registration and commercial leases – registering, noting & protecting leases, exemption information & the noting of easements
- When should an agreement for lease be used & what is the inter-relationship between an agreement for lease & the lease itself
- Dealing with repairing covenants, schedules of condition, & dilapidations
- Service charge & commercial leases
- Break clauses: drafting issues & how should the break be exercised
- Surrenders
- Dealing with the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 & lease renewal
- Recent case law on the above topics & any other relevant recent case law will be explored

Core Competencies: B

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

Regulation Update

The latest regulation news from Danielle Best of Weightmans LLP

In last month's first update of 2020 Andrea Cohen did some crystal ball gazing to see what 2020 has in store for us. The world of risk and compliance is now back in full flow and some of Andrea's predictions have already started to come true! Here's a summary of what's been happening in the past month:

Fifth money laundering directive
AML has been a hot topic for a long time and ensuring that firms are compliant with regulations continues to be one of the SRA's top priorities. It is vital that firms keep up to date with ever-evolving requirements including those introduced on 10 January 2020 by the EU's fifth money laundering directive (5MLD).

At the date of writing, full guidance from the Legal Sector Affinity Group has not been produced, but it issued interim guidance on 10 January regarding key changes which include the requirement for firms to inform Companies House of any discrepancies they find in records of beneficial ownership (other than those subject to legal professional privilege); collecting proof of registration for trusts, companies etc., and more situations where enhanced due diligence must be carried out. <https://www.sra.org.uk/globalassets/documents/solicitors/firm-based-authorisation/interim-legal-sector-affinity-group-guidance.pdf?version=48dd5d>.

The SRA pointed out that while there was very little time between the regulations being passed and coming into force, firms were required to be compliant from 10 January but it will take this into account in its enforcement work.

Law Society Guidance

The Law Society has also published a series of separate advice and practice notes covering various money laundering issues

including:

- written AML risk assessments – requirements for law firms
- the warnings signs of money laundering
- the different levels of customer due diligence
- tipping off a client – advice on how to interact with your client after submitting a suspicious activity report (SAR)
- sanctions lists – the requirement for firms when conducting AML risk assessments to consider how likely it is that clients may be on the lists. Importantly, this guidance states that firms cannot limit their risk assessments to the work regulated under the AML regulations and provides examples of unregulated work the sanctions regime may affect including payment of personal injuries settlements and property settlements following a divorce. A risk-based approach should be applied to checks of clients against sanctions lists and the guidance sets out factors that may increase the risk of a person being on the sanctions list, and so increase the reason for checking the list.

In addition, just before Christmas, updated guidance was issued setting out how to report suspicious activity to the National Crime Agency, which is a must read for MLROs, their deputies and anyone involved or interested in risk and compliance at law firms. The guidance covers key but often grey areas, including identifying money laundering, when to make a SAR, forming suspicions, failure to disclose, how to submit and what to include in a SAR as well as available defences.

All firms should ensure that their AML policies are updated to ensure compliance with 5MLD and recent guidance. Please get in touch with the Compli team if we can help you with this.

The Law Society has also been

busy in 2020 publishing advice and practice notes on other topics including handling complaints effectively, entity-based regulation, run-off cover (see further below) and mortgage fraud.

Insurance

In December 2019 the SRA confirmed that, following its consultation in March 2018, it will not be making changes to the current minimum level of professional indemnity insurance (PII) cover. Whilst it has abandoned the proposed changes to PII cover, the SRA appears determined to implement changes to insurance arrangements for law firms and will move forward with projects on the orderly closure of firms to include a review of run-off cover and the successor practice rules as well as plans to work with insurers on the scope of cybercrime cover and revisions to the Participating Insurers Agreement.

For those looking to close their firms before any changes take place, as is mentioned above, the Law Society released guidance early in the New Year on run-off cover, which will be updated at the end of March 2020 to reflect new PII guidance.

SRA consultation on payments from the Compensation Fund

The SRA has launched a consultation entitled "Protecting users of legal services – prioritising payments from the SRA Compensation Fund" on proposals aimed at making the fund more sustainable in the face of growing risks and ever-increasing demands for compensation. The proposals include reducing the single claim limit to £500,000 (barring exceptional circumstances), capping the total amount payable for a group of related claims and revised eligibility criteria. The consultation will close on 21 April



Danielle Best

2020.

Compliance with regulations and legislation

The raft of regulations and legislation that firms must comply with is onerous and can be daunting. We have recently carried out risk and compliance health checks, including our ethics barometer, and discovered that, for example, firm AML risk assessments often fall short of SRA requirements, EU regulations are overlooked and, while firms have added the digital badge to their website, those firms that do not cover work within the pricing requirements are overlooking that they need to include the complaints procedure on the website. As the SRA is conducting a sweep of websites to check firms are complying with the rules, is your firm compliant? The responses to our fee earner questionnaires, and the ethics barometer developed from those replies, indicate that not all fee earners take the same approach to matters, including ethical issues, which may lead to difficulties. If we can assist then please get in touch.

Disciplinary decisions

Solicitor who employed fraudster struck off

A solicitor who was duped into employing a fraudster who had stolen the identity of a genuine solicitor has been struck off after the bogus solicitor committed a £1.2m conveyancing fraud.

The SDT considered that the solicitor had been a victim to

some extent but that his failures had allowed the frauds to be committed.

The solicitor employed the fraudster believing that she had a caseload to bring to the firm. The fraudster provided a copy practising certificate, driver's licence and utility bill as proof of identity and address. The solicitor checked the Law Society website which indicated that the name of the solicitor being used by the fraudster specialised in crime.

The solicitor allowed the fraudster to handle conveyancing matters despite her apparent specialism in crime. Since he did not have any conveyancing experience he planned to monitor the quality of the bogus solicitor's work "by virtue of the correspondence received from the other side's solicitors".

In two conveyancing transactions, £1.15m purchase monies received was not transferred to the sellers or charge holders, and was instead sent to third parties, partly in reliance on forged copies of the land register.

In relation to two other property transactions in respect of which there were no files, the solicitor authorised the transfer of sums received into client account which were only stopped because the firm's accounts were blocked by its bank.

The SDT found that the solicitor should have recognised various irregularities, such as one payment not relating to a listed charge and another not being included on the redemption statement. The SDT determined that this was manifestly incompetent.

The solicitor authorised payments on the basis of information provided by the bogus solicitor in the absence of any supporting documentation. The SDT did not find that he knew that the transactions were dubious or improper and therefore he had not acted dishonestly, although he had been reckless. He also lacked integrity in that he had allowed the £1.15m shortfall on client account to accrue and had not reinstated it.

The SDT concluded that even though he had not been dishonest the level of recklessness and lack of integrity meant that the only appropriate and proportionate sanction was to strike him off.

He was also ordered to pay costs of £27,700, reduced to £15,000 to reflect his ability to pay.

Fine for acting in direct conflict of interest

A solicitor who represented both the developer and buyers in a regeneration scheme for 790 flats has been fined for misconduct after he paid out almost £6m before a first legal charge was registered on behalf of the buyers, as had been agreed.

The solicitor had continued to act for both clients even after he knew that the charge had not been registered. It was in the buyers' interests to have it registered and in the developer's interests to retain the existing charge. The SDT determined that at that point the solicitor was acting for both sides in an "actual conflict of interest and that to continue acting in these circumstances was both unreasonable and reckless."

Various dishonesty allegations were dismissed by the SDT, it being accepted that the solicitor was not aware of the omission to register the charge when he made the payments. The SDT found that the solicitor had also acted where there was a significant risk of conflict in another matter.

The solicitor was fined £10,000 on the basis that his misconduct was in the "more serious" category and ordered to pay agreed costs of £40,000, which was only 50% of the SRA's original costs bill of £80,000.

Danielle Best
Principal Associate
Compli Team
Weightmans

Financial Orders: Law & Practice

with Safda Mahmood

on Friday 13th March, 10am - 12.45pm

This course will consider the various factors surrounding financial orders and the developments in the case law and statutory provisions.

It will be of benefit to those delegates who seek to be aware of the current themes and developments surrounding this area of law.

The topics covered will include amongst others, the following:

- Charman and subsequent Cases
- Short Marriages and High Wealth Cases
- Periodical Payments
- Inheritance and Gifts
- Cohabitation Cases
- Conduct Arguments
- Nuptial Agreements
- Maintenance Pending Suit
- Disclosure
- Bankruptcy and Financial Orders
- Amendments to Family Procedure Rules 2010
- Key aspects surrounding Procedure



Core Competencies: B

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

Cohabitation: Law & Practice

with Safda Mahmood

on Friday 13th March, 1.30-4.15pm

The course will be of benefit to those delegates who seek to become more confident with how to run/defend a case through the courts involving trusts of land & Schedule 1 Children Act Matters.

Includes the following content:

- Joint Tenancies and Tenancies in Common
- Resulting and Constructive Trusts
- Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 – Applications
- Estoppel
- Drafting and Procedure
- Civil Procedure Rules
- Practice following Stack v. Dowden, Kernott v. Jones and Barnes v. Phillips
- Schedule 1 Children Act Applications
- Case law Update
- Compliance with Court Directions and Procedure

Core Competencies: B

To see more information, [click here](#)

Do we know the price of everything and the value of nothing?

Oscar Wilde's quip, spoken by Lord Darlington in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, that a cynic was "a man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing" is often quoted. In my less optimistic moods (which I hope are few and far between!) I wonder if some of us may be in danger of slipping into a somewhat cynical view when it comes to what we buy and consume and its impact on the natural environment. One which perhaps puts short term economic gain above understanding the longer-term value of our natural habitats and species? A view, perhaps, which considers the destruction of tracts of ancient forest or woodland in the interests of commerce to be an acceptable price to pay without fully appreciating and factoring in the longer term value of the "ecosystem services" associated with tracts of land, mountains, streams, rivers, oceans and the air we breathe? These are often irreplaceable and sometimes hidden services which, collectively, add value to human's quality of life, health and wellbeing and the long-term health and sustainability of this tiny planet of ours. As a consumer, do I care more about the price of goods I buy than the cost to the planet of getting them to me at that price?

I was prompted to write this article by an unexpected exchange I had recently with a complete stranger living in Australia. She, like me and 5500 other part-time artists, has kicked off 2020 by taking part in a "Sketchbook Challenge"¹ – producing a daily sketch in response to a subject prompt provided by the organiser and sharing this on a Facebook group. One particular prompt was "Supermarkets" and, short of time and inspired by a walk in some local woods, I decided to sketch a line of tree trunks which reminded me of the ubiquitous bar code used by all stores to price up goods. (Perhaps, I thought, 'bark code' might be more accurate in this context!)



Sketch by Jim Haywood

My quick drawing obviously struck a chord with a fellow sketcher from down under who responded with a stark picture of a similar line of trees with the sad difference that hers were standing charred and lifeless as a result of the recent bushfires. She added:

"Your 'bark code' is a great thought. The tree image brings to mind our post bushfire scenes in Australia. What price are we paying?... In their distress, Australians have been hugely moved by the care and concern from other countries. And many of us hope it translates into far deeper global action".

At the time of writing the bush fires have claimed 28 lives and burned an estimated 100,000 km² (15.6 million acres) of bush, forest and parks across Australia – equivalent of 40% of the entire UK. According to the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) an estimated 1.25 billion animals have been affected, including 30% of the entire koala population in mid-north coast of New South Wales.

Whilst not new (and, arguably, in proportion, bush fires are a natural and necessary part of the way ecosystems regenerate), the scale, ferocity and duration of the current fires is exceptional. As WWF highlight "these catastrophic megafires are worsening the extinction crisis we are already



Image of woodland devastated by bushfires in Australia

facing". Climate change is recognised as a significant factor in all this and yet, collectively, we still seem to be prepared to pay the price for carbon-fuelled goods and services that contribute to global warming without fully realising the damage being done and the value to long term quality of life on our planet that is being stripped out by them.

Sadly, the list is long of other aspects of the natural environment whose value – from our day to day buying choices – we appear not to fully appreciate:

- One million species (about one eighth of the total) are at risk of extinction due to the change of use of land and sea, pollution, climate change and over exploitation of resources
- Eight million tonnes of plastic are thrown into our oceans each year – much of which breaks down into toxic microplastic. On average, we each ingest 5 grams of plastic each week (about one credit card's worth)
- 17% of the Amazonian rainforest – the lungs of our planet – have been destroyed over the past 50 years
- Despite the national commitments made via the 2016 Paris Agreement, carbon emission curbs are not currently enough to prevent global temperatures rising above the 2 degC target level

In his recent speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, HRH The Prince of Wales highlighted the importance of making the sustainable options the "trusted and attainable options for consumers". He highlighted that, with consumers controlling an estimated 60 per cent of global GDP, "people around the world have the power to drive the transformation to sustainable markets. Yet, we cannot expect consumers to make sustainable choices if these choices are not clearly laid before them. As consumers increasingly demand sustainable products, they deserve to be told more about product lifecycles, supply chains and production methods. For a transition to take place, being socially and environmentally conscious cannot only be for those who can afford it. If all the true costs are taken into account, being socially and environmentally responsible should be the least expensive option because it leaves the smallest footprint behind. We must communicate better with consumers about the sustainability of the goods, services and investments we offer."

Being better informed about the long term sustainability impact of the goods and services we buy is a key step in helping us to make sustainable buying decisions. Not only can we know the up front price but we can decide if that price is right considering the value of the resources required to produce or provide these goods and services. Through these decisions we can play our part in this critical decade to protect those resources. Perhaps the time has come for us to "bark code" all our forests, mountains, streams, rivers and oceans?

Jim Haywood

Director – Achill Management (Hosts of the Legal Sustainability Alliance)
Producer of Planet Pod podcasts (www.theplanetpod.com)

For more information on Achill and our work with the Legal Sustainability Alliance visit our website www.achillmanagement.com

1. <http://www.magenta-sky.com/online-courses/30-day-sketchbook-challenge/>

Achieve your 2020 vision with dedicated legal accounts software

By Julian Bryan, Managing Director, Quill

2020 is not only a new year; it's the start of a new decade. Hence, it's an apt time to be mapping out your professional objectives for the years ahead.

So, did you use the seasonal break to crystalise your 2020 vision? Is IT an essential component in your strategic plan? Your firm's success may very well depend upon it because embracing the power of technology reaps myriad benefits. Ultimately, IT is the best future proofing your company can invest in.

If we've established 2020 as the year in which your digital evolution takes place, you needn't search high and low for multiple solutions. Your quest begins and ends with Quill. Here we'll show why you should choose our dedicated legal accounts software (and more!) to achieve your 2020 goals...

Imagine software that verifies your clients' identity in real time as part of the inception process.

With the introduction of the 5th EU Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Directive, there are more onerous responsibilities relating to money laundering. To comply with this and other legislation, online identification checking is recommended as an alternative to old paper-based verification. The former – online checking – is reliable, secure and quick. The latter – manual checking – is open to fraudulent activity and time intensive.

Interactive, our practice management software solution, already does this. With AML and credit screens as part of the client inception workflow, you can quickly undertake appropriate due diligence to help ensure your clients' identities are legitimate and they have the funds to pay for your services without having to re-type pertinent details into another system.

Imagine software that validates bank accounts and sort codes of payees for every transaction.

As anyone in the legal sector knows, making sure you get the right money to the right client, opposition, counsel or supplier is fraught with risk. The 'F' word – 'fraud'; that is – continues to dominate news headlines.

Bearing in mind too that the revised SRA Accounts Rules, which came into effect on 25th November 2019, still make protection of monies the major regulatory priority, keeping in and transferring finances to the right place is absolutely vital.

Interactive already does this. Tight integration from the e-chit created by your fee earner through to your online banking software means every account number and sort code are verified for accuracy in real time using a banking industry modulus check. This financial data is always encrypted within the database and made available to leading internet banking applications without the need to rekey the data; all part-and-parcel of our MoneyChain feature.

Imagine software that notifies you money's been received into your client account through on-screen alerts.

Plus, having the ability to transmit payment files, either singly or in batches, to your internet banking system. Strengthened monetary security and streamlined financial management via these two features assists even further in meeting your SRA protection-of-monies obligations and improving your cashing team's efficiency respectively.

Interactive already does this. Optional functionality within MoneyChain affords even greater transparency, closer safeguarding and simplified transactions.

Imagine software that's compatible with Making Tax Digital (MTD) for VAT.

Introduced by HMRC in 2019, MTD for VAT is a scheme devised to eliminate paper processes by moving to digital VAT record keeping and returns. Compatibility means you're able to log and exchange data

electronically with HMRC. MTD is a new accounting requirement over-and-above existing regulatory demands.

Interactive already does this. Having been through HMRC's recognition process, Interactive's legal accounting features allow you to submit your VAT returns directly in accordance with MTD.

Imagine software that permits time recording from your phone.

With your practice management system on your smartphone, you can fully realise your remote working ambitions and boost earning potential by recording fee earner time on the go. You have all the same reassurances about cybersecurity as login credentials match those used for your desktop application.

Interactive already does this. Besides stopwatches on our smartphone app, our iOS and Android apps give anywhere, anytime access to view client and matter information, add new clients and matters, authorise e-chits and view recent documents. It's flexibility and collaboration at its best.

Imagine software that presents your key performance indicators populated with up-to-date data.

Monitoring actual against forecasted performance is a major challenge, be it on an individual, fee earner, department or practice-wide level. Yet it's a must for business growth.

Interactive already does this. A personalised dashboard displays summary listings, quick stats and charts with drill-down to in-depth detail. This intuitive, real-time tracking is bolstered by an extensive range of pre-defined reports and bespoke reporting options to really get to grips with progress and optimise development opportunities.

Imagine software that's supported by an all-encompassing portfolio of outsourcing services.

Imagine outsourced cashing that enables you to offload your entire bookkeeping function to a specialist team of cashiers thereby leaving you free to focus on business-critical priorities. Imagine third-party managed accounts assistance for SRA-compliant client monies management which gives you extended choice and reduced regulatory risk in relation to your financial affairs. Imagine outsourced payroll that handles your salaries, payslips, pension and paperwork according to the latest payroll-related guidelines. Imagine outsourced typing that empowers dictation from a smartphone app and receipt of expertly typed-up documents by speedy return direct to your document management system.

Yup, you guessed it, Quill already does this.

In this milestone year, ditch the old and welcome in the new. If there's one resolution you make, select Quill as your technology partner. Our software, with raft of bolt-on extras, is exactly what you need to accomplish digital (and back office) transformation in 2020 and beyond.



Julian Bryan joined Quill as Managing Director in 2012 and was also the Chair of the Legal Software Suppliers Association from 2016 to 2019. Quill has been a leading provider of legal accounting and case management software, and the UK's largest supplier of outsourced legal cashing services to the legal profession for over 40 years.



Charity and CSR Matters

This month you will see that MSB are leading the way with their foodbank drive and long standing Christmas jumper day (since 1988!). If you can help the foodbank drive in any way please do get in touch with them.

We also have an event from the Girl's Network to promote. This is unusual as it isn't a member firm activity but the President and I have both been in contact with this organisation and wanted to help if possible. If you feel like you could help for one hour a month please attend the event or get in touch with the charity.

Finally the Vauxhall Law Centre is looking for volunteers. We have appealed a few times for this now and I'm surprised there hasn't been any up take. If you can help please get in touch with Alan Kelly.

Many thanks

Jennifer Powell
Associate
Weightmans



Jennifer Powell

MSB brings top businesses together for Food Bank Drive 2020

In the aftermath of Christmas overspending, many of us are left counting down the days to January payday. MSB know that for families in poverty, January is an impossible month. MSB's client demographic is diverse, including some of the most vulnerable people in the City, dependant on food banks to feed their children.

Armed with this knowledge, Managing Partner, Emma Carey launched the "MSB Food Bank Drive 2020." Staff at MSB were tasked with donating more generously than ever before and they certainly didn't disappoint. Many a Christmas tin of quality street, roses and Jacobs crackers gradually became a heap of every household essential – non-perishable foods; toiletries, sanitary products, baby items and pet food.

The drive didn't stop there. Emma says, 'The idea of solidarity over charity is strong here at MSB and I knew that many other business leaders in the City share our values and would want to get involved. This is about social justice.'

Through social media, MSB asked the local business community to pledge donations to the drive. BWM Chartered Accountants, O'Connors Law, Chavasse Chambers and Agent Marketing donated bags in abundance. Investec joined the effort with an industrial trolley's worth of donations, wheeled by staff across St Pauls Square.

Emma adds, 'The results were staggering and our office kitchen began to look like a Warehouse. I am so grateful to those who donated and I encourage more businesses to join the effort.' With five bases across the City Region, MSB aimed to multiply impact and distribute donations to several foodbanks. The Big Help Project in Knowsley, St Andrews in Clubmoor, MICAH and the Trussell Trust all received much needed donations. MSB Foodbank Drive 2020 will occur every other month, with MSB foodbank champion Marie Carden coordinating donations. If you would like to join the next drive, please contact mariecarden@msbsolicitors.co.uk



Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre is looking for volunteers

Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre is looking for volunteers we welcome people with legal, administration and accountancy skills and are particularly desperate for people with IT skills to support us, we are in the process of redeveloping our website and are stuck.

Please drop us a line at:
Recruitment@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk or call Alan Kelly on 0151 360 1122

Even if you are unable to help could you please circulate staff who may not see Liverpool Law. Thank you.

Battle of the Christmas Jumpers : Part 2

MSB have been donning Christmas jumpers every December since the firm's formation in 1988 – the heyday of Wham! style knitwear. As garish 80s fashion has (probably for the better) been left in decades past, we remain a nation of Christmas jumper lovers – in all of their kitsch glory. In 2012, Save the Children gave the garment its very own official day. Offices around the country totally immerse themselves each year in Christmas Jumper Day and MSB is no exception.

Since 2012, Christmas Jumper Day at MSB has grown year on year in dramatics and flamboyance with staff taking their wool wearing extremely seriously. Things reached a competitive head in 2018 when the firm challenged fellow law firm JMW to a yuletide battle. MSB snatched the winning title all in aid of Save the Children.

A tradition was born and Christmas Jumper day 2019 saw further unhealthy competition unfold as the contest became fuzzier, shinier and itchier all-round with both firms determined to walk away champions.

Broudie Jackson Canter then wanted a festive-slice of the action and a tri-firm competition was born, increasing the funds raised – and the pressure! Little could stand up to JMW though, who walked away as the 2019 winners for their recreation of scenes from Love Actually. Wendy Eves, Associate Solicitor at MSB and founder of the Christmas Jumper Day battle expressed her disappointment at losing the reigning winner status, 'JMW have absolutely fleeced us.'

Collectively, the firms raised in excess of £350 just by wearing a jumper for a few hours. Allan Eves, Save the Children's Partnerships & Community Manager for North England and Midlands said, 'Thank you so much to MSB Solicitors and JMW Solicitors for once again supporting our festive fundraising campaign. With the addition of Broudie Jackson Canter this year, their support will go even further.'



'All money raised could help give a child living in a refugee camp clothes to keep them warm through winter, help us buy nutritious food for their entire family, or set up a safe space to give children the chance to be children again. It could also help us bring essentials like healthcare, education, protection and food to the millions of children around the world who are missing out on the most basic support.'

The Girls' Network

The Girls' Network aims to inspire and empower girls aged 14-19 from the least advantaged communities by connecting them to a mentor and a network of professional, female role models. They believe that no girl's future should be limited by her background, gender or parental income. They reach girls via relationships with schools in London, Sussex, Portsmouth, the West Midlands, Greater Manchester, the North East and Merseyside, and support over 1000 girls each year.

Volunteer mentors are trained by The Girls' Network and meet their mentees at least once a month for a year. Mentoring is a journey, helping mentees get from where they are to where they want to be. At the end of the mentoring journey, mentees become ambassadors of The Girls' Network: a free lifelong membership enabling them to continue accessing support and opportunities, and offering them a platform to have their voice heard.

The Girls' Network hopes ambassadors will return as mentors once they've entered the world of work, helping them create a self-sustaining social movement with the goal of achieving unlimited futures for all young women.

To see for yourself the work of our mentees and mentors you are welcome to join us at our 2020 Celebration event!

Meet our mentees, mentors and supporters from across the region and enjoy our panel talk including influential women from across the region. Book your place [here](#). Any questions, please contact amy.metcalfe@thegirlsnetwork.org.uk.

jmw actually



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



facebook.com/LawCare



@LawCareLtd



Charity Spotlight

Introducing Team Oasis

Team Oasis is a beautiful little Charity based right at the heart of the Toxteth Community of Liverpool. Our Charity was established in 2003 with the aim of offering inclusive opportunities for children and young people of all abilities and circumstances to engage together in a variety of activities and projects. We believe that promoting activities that engage children/youngsters in exciting, adventurous activities with others that might have a particular disability bears much universal fruit. Friendships blossom, mutual respect abounds and of course we like to think that we have a major impact on diverting young people away from the prevalent negative influences that can make it so difficult for young people these days. From early numbers attending of just eight children, Team Oasis now has approximately three hundred children attending each week.

Ultimately our vision would be to create an environment where all children, young people of all abilities and their families can live, share, play, learn and socialise in a totally inclusive environment of collective learnedness, awareness, understanding and respect for all. What an achievement this is especially as it blossoms into future generations.

We are dedicated to delivering activities that engage all children and young people of all abilities in each and every activity that we deliver this has resulted in an absolutely beautiful environment that sees non-disabled children and young people playing and learning alongside children and young people that might have a physical disability and others that will have various special needs. Whilst 100% of children and young people attending Team Oasis would be designated as living in poverty, disadvantaged and living with deprivation, approximately 50% of these would be considered as physically disabled, designated as living with special needs and/or living with mental health challenges.

Team Oasis has a proud record of engaging with children and young people at a very young age and encouraging them and supporting them to seek positive futures. So many of these young people have surpassed all of their own expectations and, indeed, the expectations of their families. So many have achieved through School, progressed onto further education, college and University. We now have ex-Team Oasis kids in almost every profession throughout commerce, emergency services, finance, law, dance, drama, teaching and we can say without fear of contradiction that once a young person joins Team Oasis then they never look back and would never ever be expected to consider the negative pathways that might well have entrapped them without our intervention. Another fab bonus is that the Team Oasis way of not tolerating swearing or bullying and respecting oneself and others is very often carried home by the children and does change the attitude of their families for the better.



Team Oasis was founded in Toxteth and continues to deliver its services in this community. Toxteth is listed as having the highest rate of child poverty in the UK. Quite simply, there is no other ward in the whole of the UK that has worse statistics for crime, poverty and all associated issues than the area in which our Charity works. Therefore, our work serves groups experiencing social and economic disadvantage. We also support children, young people and adults with disability. Collectively our work certainly benefits communities of severe and multiple disadvantages. Our core objective over the years has included educating the masses regarding disability, thereby building awareness, understanding and removing barriers to children of all abilities growing together.

Team Oasis has always been recognised as being one of the UK's foremost totally inclusive children's charities. We actively promote and champion inclusion designing our promotion and marketing in a way that parents understand that we totally believe in the benefits of inclusion. It has been our forever ambition to achieve a culture across our community where inclusion is the norm. To a very great extent we certainly do this amazingly well and as we introduce even more inclusive activities into our centre and across our city that are massively visible to the populous then we believe that our vision/ethos becomes the norm for all.

To get involved with Team Oasis contact:

Paul Nilson
Founder/Manager
TEAM OASIS
E:theteamoasis@hotmail.com
D: 07985534784
O: 0151 728 8777



News from the MJLD

“Education, Education, Education.”

It's not just a 90s political slogan but the theme for February with the MJLD! With Christmas well and truly over, everyone back to work and exams either taking place or on horizon, 2020 may have been a bit of a slog so far. However, the MJLD's calendar for February promises to shake off any lingering January blues.

On 4 February we have our Routes into Law event. Kindly hosted at Jackson Lees, the event follows our previous Alternative Pathways talks to let attendees question a variety of lawyers who are progressing in their careers in different ways.

In addition to our own education events, we are partnering with our local university colleagues also this month. On 10 February, a number of committee and general members will be attending the University of Law's Liverpool's campus to speak at their “Solicitor Series” events. Meanwhile, on 13 February we will be partnering with the University of Liverpool Advocacy Society for a relaxed networking event at the Florist. This will be topped off when we help judge the final of their speed-mooting competition on 20 February.

Our education programmes are also opening this month, with applications still being taken for the MJLD District Judge Shadowing Scheme at Birkenhead County Court. If you or anyone from your firm will benefit from this scheme, please contact Lucy Parr at Weightmans at (lucy.parr@weightmans.com). We also have some more exciting news about our other education programmes which we hope to announce this month too.

And what to after such a hectic month of events? Well, to round off the month, we're having another of our amazing social events on 27 February. Keep an eye out on our social media channels and in your emails for further information...we can promise you now that it won't be a hat-making session!

All of our events are great opportunities for junior lawyers to not only meet new people on a similar journey but also to develop their CVs. If you or your firm think you have something to offer the future of the profession, please email andrew.ball@weightmans.com to express your interest. We are always willing to assist junior lawyers at firms across Merseyside and give them opportunities to not only network but also build up experience.

Last, but by no means least, special congratulations to our Vice-Chair Mark Owen for winning the Muir Matthews Prize from the Liverpool Law Society for his contribution as a solicitor to the MJLD!

Twitter – @MerseysideJLD

Instagram – @Merseyside_jld

Facebook and LinkedIn – Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division

Molly Brislen (MJLD Publicity Representative)



Liverpool  Law Society

**Reasonable adjustments at work:
Key issues & recent developments**
with Emma Tegerdine

on Tuesday 17th March, 1pm - 3pm

This course is aimed at employment law specialists at all levels, as well as litigators and other practitioners whose practice includes employment law.

What this course will cover:

- Who is protected
- When the duty to make reasonable adjustments arises
- When employers will be deemed to have constructive knowledge of a disability
- Factors which are taken into account when assessing reasonableness
- Adjustments to sickness absence management policies
- Adjustments to accommodate mental health issues
- Claims for failing to make reasonable adjustments

Core Competencies: A2, A4, B3, B4, B6 & B7

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

News from the WLD



Wellness Event, 23rd January 2020, Liverpool Law Society

On 23rd January 2020 MWLD collaborated with the Liverpool Law Society to host an event focusing on wellness.

The event focused how to help deal with stress and look after our mental health. We discussed the services available through LawCare, learnt some useful yoga techniques and practiced mindfulness.

We would like to thank Ann Charlton from LawCare, Gill Washington of Gill Washington Coaching and Angela Hesketh of Jackson Lees for generously volunteering their time and effort in providing seminars throughout the evening.

We would also like to give a big thanks to our hosts at Liverpool Law Society for helping to make this evening possible.

If anyone would like to learn more about LawCare or would like free, confidential support, please visit their website <https://www.lawcare.org.uk/>

Sponsorship

MWLD organises a wide range of events throughout the year including socials, networking and educational events such as financial seminars and career progression seminars. The committee is open to suggestions from members, partnerships and sponsors for new events which we may not have hosted previously.

MWLD relies on sponsors which have included law firms, chambers, recruiters, financial advisers and costs draftsmen to fund our events. We are therefore always interested in hearing from local and national businesses who may wish to sponsor our events.

Our events are well attended by a wide range of persons including solicitors, barristers, judges, costs draftsmen, recruiters and financial advisers. Our sponsors benefit from

free tickets to attend the event they are sponsoring, presenting and distributing their promotional materials at the event as well as being included on all of the material when we are advertising the event.

If you would like to be involved in sponsoring an event please contact our sponsorship coordinator Amelia Hayden (amelia.hayden@brabners.com).

What's Coming Up?

Our next event is our Pizza Evening which is being held at Rudy's, Castle Street on 27th February 2020. We will be releasing further details about the event in due course via our mailing list, website and social media so keep an eye out for how to get your tickets!

Twitter
Facebook
Website
Email

@MerseysideWLD
Womens Lawyers Division – Merseyside
www.wldmerseyside.co.uk
wldevent@gmail.com



Merseyside Landmarks

In this edition we visit Royal Albert Dock

Albert Dock was granted Royal status in April 2018 by Her Majesty The Queen recognising the importance of the Dock both for its historical and architectural significance and its place within Liverpool's past and future.

Albert Dock was designed by Jesse Hartley, who was the first full time professional dock engineer and Philip Hardwick a well known English architect, who designed railway stations and warehouses. Hardwick is best known for designing London's Euston Arch. Albert Dock was designed without the use of wood, built entirely from brick, stone and cast iron and at the time was the only non-combustible warehouse system in the world and was opened in 1846 by Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria and after whom the dock was named.

Liverpool was a huge shipping port and Albert Dock was used to store brandy, cotton, tea, silk, tobacco, ivory and sugar and as trade increased it was the first dock to install hydraulic cranes and hoist systems.

During the WWII, Albert Dock served as a base for the British Fleet and was requisitioned by the Admiralty. During the May Blitz of 1941 Albert Dock was seriously damaged, as were many other areas of the city. The Luftwaffe bombed Liverpool for seven nights which resulted in 6500 homes being completely demolished, 190,000 damaged and leaving 70,000 people homeless. The bombardment damaged railways and roads along with water mains, gas and electricity services.

After WWII the decline in docking led to the closure of Albert Dock in 1972. Redevelopment of the site began in 1981 with the establishment of Merseyside Development Corporation. This was one of two Development Corporations set up by Margaret Thatcher's government to regenerate dockland areas in Liverpool and London.



Royal Albert Dock

The redevelopment of Albert Dock saw completion of the Edward Pavilion in 1984 in time for the Cutty Sark Tall Ship Race which attracted one million visitors to Liverpool and over 160,000 visitors to the Albert Dock. Later that year work on the former dock office was completed and was leased to Granada Television who installed a floating weather map in the water of the dock and their morning show "This Morning", hosted by Richard and Judy, was broadcast from Albert Dock. In 1988 the Prince of Wales, the great great great grandson officially re-opened Albert Dock and Tate Liverpool. He returned in 2019 to mark Albert Dock's new 'Royal' status.

Royal Albert Dock is now one of Liverpool's most important tourist attractions and a part of the city's UNESCO world heritage Maritime Mercantile City and attracts over 4 million visitors a year. In 2020 Royal Albert Dock will be celebrating its 175th anniversary.

Royal Albert Dock is now a destination for both visitors and local alike with a whole host of shops, restaurants, exhibitions, including the 'Beatles Story' the "Magical Mystery Tour" along with museums; The Tate Liverpool, Merseyside Maritime Museum and the International Slavery Museum.

To discover more about events at Royal Albert Dock visit <https://albertdock.com>



The Prince of Wales in 2019

S Code	Date	Time	February 2020	Speaker
S4382	12th	10-4	Conversion to Family Law Certificate	Safda Mahmood
S4397	13th	9.30-12.45	Wellbeing and self-care for lawyers - for general practitioners	Claiming Space
S4398	13th	1.30-4.45	Wellbeing and self-care for lawyers - for those who work with traumatic materials / traumatised clients	Claiming Space
S4287	26th	9.30-3	2020 Housing Disrepair Conference	various
S4340	26th	5.30-7	Family Judges Forum	HHJ de Haas & others
S4303	28th	9.30-12.45	How to respond to enquiries, additional searches and the 2019 protocol	Richard Snape
S4304	28th	1.30-4.30	Commercial Property Update	Richard Snape

S Code	Date	Time	March 2020	Speaker
S4393	3rd	1.30-4.30	Conveyancing Quality Scheme: Demonstrating compliance & surviving the assessment	Tracy Thompson
S4334	4th	9.30-4.45	The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor	Vicky Ling
S4319	6th	9.30-12.45	Corporate Update	Chris Beanland
S4320	6th	1.30-4.30	Personal Insolvency: A Practical Guide	Chris Beanland
S4412	10th	3-4.30	Case Management: tips & traps in Public Law Children cases	HHJ de Haas
S4288	11th	9.30-3.30	2020 Costs Conference *Accredited by APIL Training*	<i>various</i>
S4402	12th	1.30-4.30	Commercial Leases	Ian Quayle
S4399	13th	10-12.45	Financial Orders: Law & Practice	Safda Mahmood
S4400	13th	1.30-4.15	Cohabitation: Law & Practice	Safda Mahmood
S4367	17th	10-12	Drafting ET1s and ET3s - key issues and top tips	Emma Tegerdine

For full details & to book, visit: www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk



 INTERACTIVE

 PINPOINT

 TYPE

 PAYROLL

 PRECISION

 BOOKKEEPING

Pick 'n' mix Quill's software & services

legal accounts software | practice & document management software
smartphone apps | form packs | court bundling | outsourced cashiering
outsourced typing | outsourced payroll | plus much much more!

 0161 236 2910

 info@quill.co.uk

 www.quill.co.uk/picknmix