

March 2020

LiverpoolLaw

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

Liverpool  Law Society

**Liverpool Law Society launch
Equality Diversity & Inclusion
Committee**

Justice First Fellowships

**Pathways to the Legal
Profession**

Report from the 2020 event

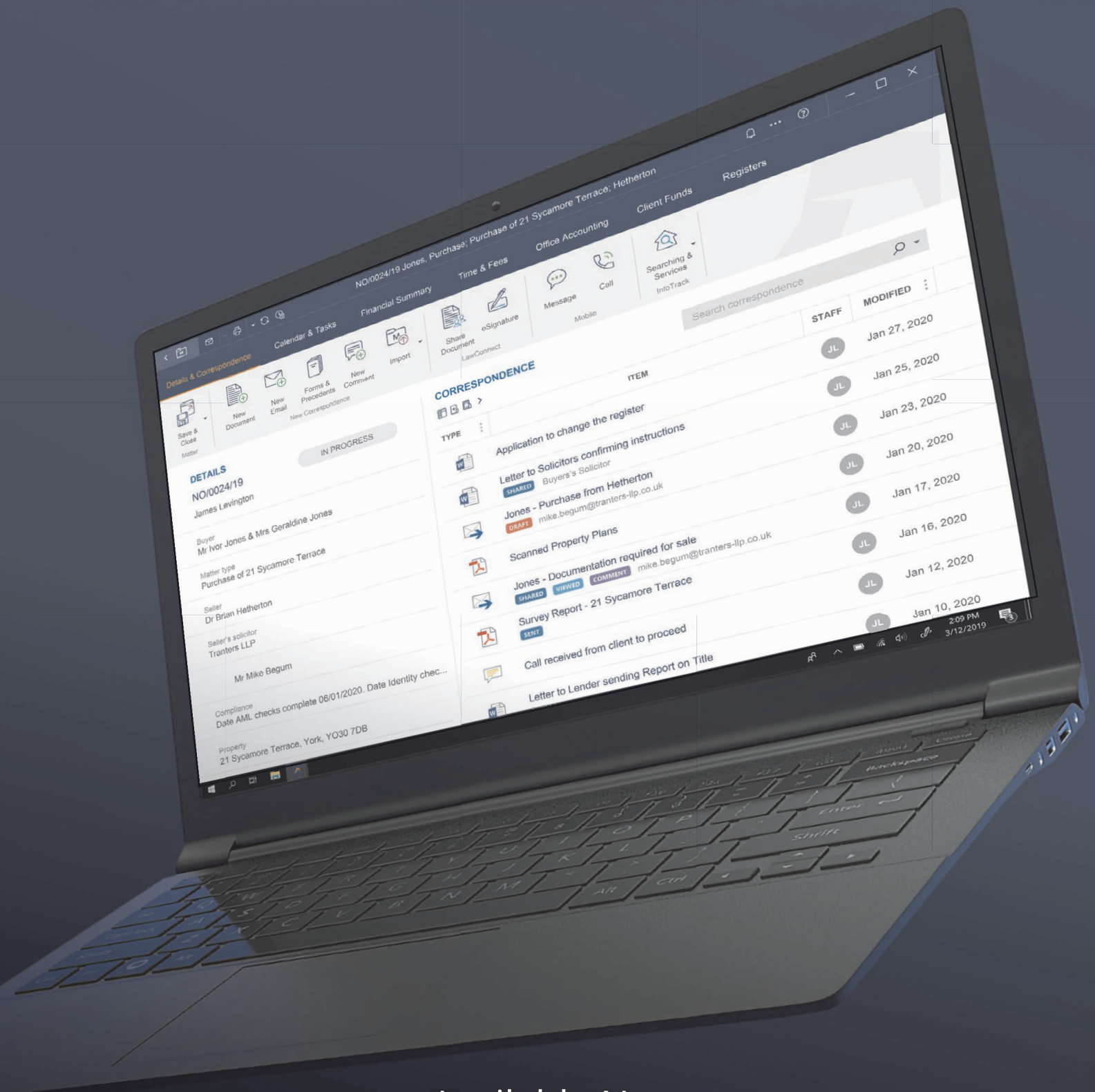
Sean Sexton of MSB retires



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DEADLINES 2020

25th March

23rd April

28th May

25th June

27th July

21st August

24th September

27th October

24th November

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

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

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Welcome to the March 2020 edition of Liverpool Law



Jennifer Powell
editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Welcome to the March edition of Liverpool Law. Things are really starting to pick up again and we have a busy edition for you.

In particular you will see some photographs from our Pathways event which was a great success. The event invites students in to hear about the various ways they can make a career in a law firm. I think it is so hard for young people now looking to get into the law as it is all changing and very much uncharted territory. Should they see this as a chance to be at the forefront of the changing times or a potentially costly gamble?

I'm talking at an event this week for RISE Liverpool with a similar theme, but I have no idea about the SQE etc so feel like I may learn something myself. For anyone else as confused as me we have an article from Legal Apprentices to explain to us what their role is and how they are finding it. The two apprentices this month are from Weightmans (as they very kindly complied with my last minute deadline!) but if any firms have an Apprentice who would like to get involved please get in touch so we can feature them in the magazine.

We have been running our 'Leadership and the Law' column for a while now and are seeking some eager volunteers. We have so many members of LLS and it would be nice if we could feature every law firm at some point. I understand this is burdensome for some smaller law firms so if you are wanting to get involved but need some help, just let us know.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks

Jennifer Powell
Editor
Weightmans

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 11th March 2020
Costs Conference

Wednesday 18th March 2020
Conkerton Memorial Lecture

Friday 20th March 2020
Directors' Meeting with MPs

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

Thursday 23rd April 2020
Liverpool Legal Quiz
(Merseyside JLD and LLS)

Friday 24th April 2020
Past Presidents' Lunch

Editorial Committee Dates

All meetings start at 1pm

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

It has been a busy month again but I am pleased to say that our first ever Equality, Diversity and Inclusion committee meeting has now taken place! Apologies that such short notice was given which prevented a number of you from being able to attend. There will be monthly meetings from now on which I do hope you will all make a note of.

Setting up this committee was something that we needed here at LLS and it is so very important that we encourage this profession to be diverse.

I think it is a shame that we live in a world where people still do not feel comfortable being themselves in the workplace. I am hoping that with EDI now being at the forefront of many potential employees and clients' minds we will soon see more progress being made by our profession to make things better.

Of course, we are lucky in Liverpool and the surrounding areas that many of our firms have taken the initiative to listen to their staff and clients. Over the course of this year I am looking forward to meeting with those firms and having them represented on the LLS EDI committee. I also hope that you will all contribute to this publication with updates as to what your committees have been up and your ideas going forward so as to provide inspiration, strength and support to those who are not yet seeing the changes needed.

Thanks has to go to Steven Appleton from Manchester Law Society talk to General Committee about Manchester's own committee (and sub-committees covering the range of protected categories) as well as how the firm he is at, Brabners, are driving EDI policies forward and putting plans into action! Steven informed us how diversity in business helps create more successful companies as well as having a happier workforce!

The next will take place on 25 March 2020 at 12.30 over in the LLS offices and you are all most welcome. Please register your interest at committees@liverpoolllawsociety.org.uk

In other news, I attended a Joint V meeting in Bristol earlier last month. The hot topic of the day being implementation of the SQE. We are expecting this to come into place 2021 yet there is still so much uncertainty as to how this will eventually replace the LPC and training contracts.

Whilst the idea behind the new route to qualification was to open up the profession, sadly I do not see this as being the case! There will be costs of studying towards the new exam as well as the costs of the exam itself. These costs have not yet been determined. I really feel for students now looking past their A Levels as they will essentially be entering uncharted territory. Watch this space!

On a similar theme, February has also seen a regular return day



Julie O'Hare

on our LLS calendar – the Pathways to the Profession event - a number of local schools came together to hear about different entries into the profession. We had some really positive feedback from those attending (students and teachers alike) and so thanks has to go to our Education and Charities Committee as well as the LLS office staff who made the day what it was. Of course, the day could not have gone ahead at all without our speakers and sponsors so a massive thank you once again!

I am fortunate in this role to meet with people that I would not ordinarily encounter in my day to day. This month I met with the Head of Fundraising at Papyrus. Some of you may recall that this charity has been featured in this magazine before but for those of you who are not aware Papyrus is a charity established to prevent suicide in young people. Their work is exceptional in providing training and support and they have a team of advisers available via their Hopeline UK 0800 068 4141. If you would like to receive training around suicide prevention then please do visit their site www.papyrus-uk.org If you do have a moment please do take a look at their short films to raise awareness:

<https://papyrus-uk.org/spotthesigns/>

Spot the Signs

<https://papyrus-uk.org/bedtime-stories/>

Bedtime Stories

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4eUN4QcVKTA>

13 Reasons Why

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asO-UNOY4Uw>

St George's Hall - Shoes

continued on page 7



Helix Highlights

Joint V meeting

On 6th February, the President and I travelled to Bristol to the quarterly meeting of the five local law societies (Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester).

This is where we get to hear about the events and activities that have happened at each other's law societies since we last met. We cover what worked well, what didn't and get ideas about what we might do in the future. It's a very useful exchange of information that also covers operational issues such as CRMs for professional membership organisations, websites, IT in more general terms amongst other items.

A common theme at this meeting was putting on events around mental health and well-being, a topic that has been mentioned frequently in the legal press over recent time.

We also had an update from the Law Society representative Rav Hothi who mentioned their recently-published report on the impact of legal services. The contribution is significant, legal services were worth nearly £60bn gross value added (GVA) to the UK economy in 2018. The Law Society's press release and access to the full report is available [here](#)

After lunch, we heard from three more guest speakers. First up was the Head Ombudsman from the Legal Ombudsman Mariette Hughes. She reported their new website will be going live on 1st April. They will be featuring case studies

to help and assist complaint handlers at law firms. Their website has guidance notes and in future they are hoping to provide a direct advice phone line. Mariette will be at Liverpool Law Society's **Compliance Conference** on 3 June so delegates will have the opportunity to hear from her then.

Chenab Mangat, Deputy Head of the Law Society's Regulatory Affairs Team was able to provide an update on the SQE which provoked much discussion and debate around the table.

The formal part of the meeting concluded with a presentation from Rick Sturge on the work of the Business in the Community organisation.

They have three main aims which are:

- Thriving communities
- Skills and inclusion
- Sustaining the planet

Liverpool & Sefton Chambers of Commerce

The President and I met with the Chambers of Commerce on 24 February. We discussed the current affiliate membership scheme offered by the Chambers of Commerce to our corporate members and happily the Chambers have agreed to continue with the scheme for our next membership year which commences 1st June. Look out for further information soon.

Our two organisations have enjoyed collaborating with events and initiatives for nearly a decade now, with our valued



Sarah Poblete

relationship going from strength to strength. 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

2020 Merseyside Business Games invitation

**6pm to 9pm Wednesday 22nd April 2020
Firefit, Toxteth, Liverpool
£149 team entry (max 8 colleagues per team)**

If you haven't seen the Business Games before, the event gets you and your colleagues (teams of 5-8 people) taking part in a variety of fun, inclusive and beginner level activities as part of a team, taking part against other organisations from across the region; it's suitable for all ages, abilities and for those people who don't consider themselves as 'sporty', 'competitive' or 'active'! It's a perfect opportunity to:

- develop teamwork and communication skills
- boost staff morale
- network with other organisations

A couple of weeks ago we hosted the Business Games for the first time in St Helens, and one team manager who attended commented,

"Just wanted to say a massive, massive thank you for putting on such an enjoyable event yesterday; everyone this morning was saying how brilliant it was! It's had such a positive impact on team morale and there is already interest in anticipation of the next event! Thanks again from me and the team."

Companies already signed up to take part include DWF Law, Interserve, Liverpool Local Enterprise Partnership, Liverpool ONE and Merseyrail.

To find out more and to book your team place please visit www.merseysidesport.com/businessgames.

President's Column continued

Suicide is one of the leading causes of death in young people and in a profession where there are increasing demands on time I think it is something that we all ought to be aware of. Thankfully business are now much more astute to the needs of staff wellbeing. After all, this profession relies on people and how we interact should not be taken lightly. We will be rolling out our Mental Health First Aider course again in October and I hope that you will consider joining us for that. I am hoping that we will be able to host some further wellbeing events throughout the year too.

Another date for your diary is 3 June 2020 as the Liverpool Volunteer Show will be returning. This is not an LLS event but I am keen to show support for our local volunteering sector. More information to come in due course!

One of our benefits of membership is an opportunity to obtain Affiliate Membership of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce at a discounted rate and members are able to promote their business by uploading stories and events onto the Chamber's website and benefit from their social media reach. I have met with Richard Smith of the Chamber recently and we are looking to build on the relationship we have so as to benefit the members of both organisations (including the possibility of speaking opportunities to the wider professional community).

Looking forward to what this next month has in store ...

Julie O'Hare
President

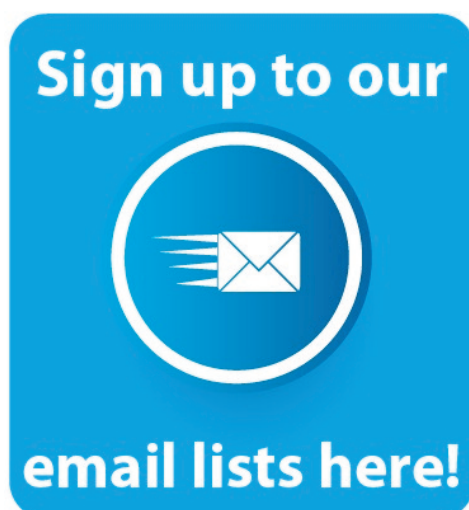
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Consultation Papers referred to committee:

The following sub-committees of Liverpool Law Society are considering responding to these consultation papers. If any member would like to send in a comment, please do so to committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Criminal Practice(STC)

Changes to the Magistrates' Court Sentencing Guidelines and associated explanatory materials consultation
closes 15th April

15th April 2020

Regulatory

(SRA) Protecting users of legal services - prioritising payments from the SRA Compensation Fund
closes 21st April 2020

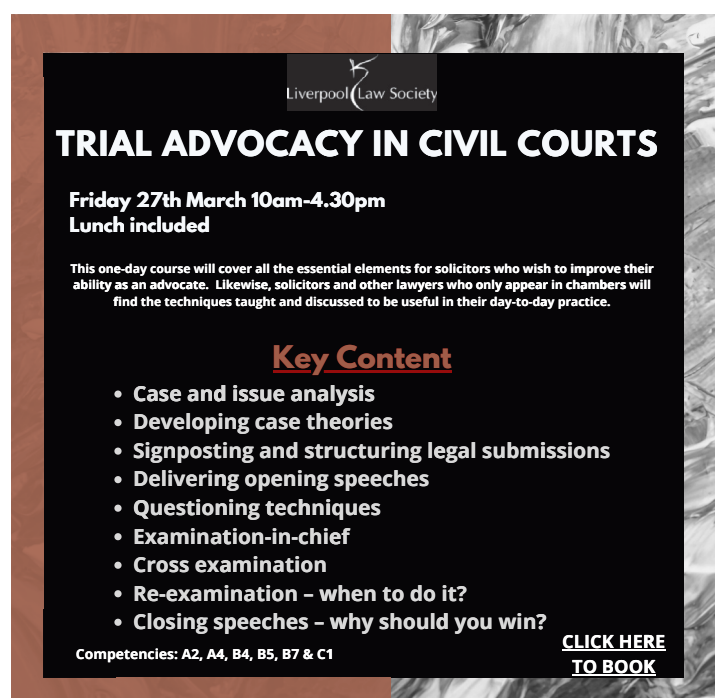
District Judge Alan Richardson

District Judge Alan Richardson passed away on Friday 21st February 2020.

He was a solicitor and the senior district judge at Birkenhead County Court before his retirement.

His funeral is on Friday 6 March at 9.45 am at All Saints Church, Thornton Hough, followed by wake at The Little Fox, Thornton Hough.

An obituary will follow in a later edition.



Liverpool Law Society

TRIAL ADVOCACY IN CIVIL COURTS

Friday 27th March 10am-4.30pm
Lunch included

This one-day course will cover all the essential elements for solicitors who wish to improve their ability as an advocate. Likewise, solicitors and other lawyers who only appear in chambers will find the techniques taught and discussed to be useful in their day-to-day practice.

Key Content

- Case and issue analysis
- Developing case theories
- Signposting and structuring legal submissions
- Delivering opening speeches
- Questioning techniques
- Examination-in-chief
- Cross examination
- Re-examination - when to do it?
- Closing speeches - why should you win?

Competencies: A2, A4, B4, B5, B7 & C1

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

News from the Sub Committees

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

Equality Diversity & Inclusion

Many thanks to those showing support to the set up of the new EDI committee and we hope to see more of you at our next meeting.

We will welcome new ideas and initiatives that our members would like to support in the coming months so please do send those in, better yet - get yourself on the committee!

To help in planning into 2021 we will look to theme our agenda to mirror national celebratory/awareness days. Thanks to Sam Thompson and Paul O'Connor of Brabners for collating the below calendar. If you are aware of any other days to note please do let us know!

IMPORTANT DATES – ED&I MARCH 2020 – FEBRUARY 2021

2–8 March 2020

Eating Disorders Awareness Week

This Eating Disorders Awareness Week help us put the stories of how people are affected in the spotlight, standing together to demand that anyone affected by an eating disorder is supported, no matter what their diagnosis, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, age or background. Together by raising funds and combating stigma we can change lives.

<https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/edaw>

UK - Physical and Mental Health

8 March 2020

International Women's Day

Theme #EachForEqual

Calling on everyone to press for a gender-balanced world

Global- Gender Diversity

16–22 March 2020

Nutrition and Hydration Week

Reinforce, Focus and Energise

To highlight, promote and celebrate improvements in the provision of nutrition and hydration locally, nationally and globally.

UK - Physical and Mental Health

11 March 2020

National No Smoking Day **UK- Physical and Mental Health**

21 March 2020

International Day for the elimination of racial discrimination

Global - BAME

30 March 2020

World Bipolar Day

Brings world awareness to bipolar disorders and eliminates social stigma

Global - Physical and Mental Health

31 March 2020

International Trans Day of Visibility

A day dedicated to celebrating trans people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by the trans community worldwide.

Global - LGBT

April (month long)

Stress Awareness Month

Increase awareness about both the causes and cures for modern stress.

Global - Physical and Mental Health

2 April 2020

World Autism Awareness Day

Global - Physical and Mental Health

3 April 2020

National Walk to Work Day

UK - Physical and Mental Health

7 April 2020

World Health Day

Theme to be announced. **Global - Physical and Mental Health**

11 April 2020

World Parkinson's Awareness Day

<https://www.epda.eu.com/get-involved/uniteforparkinsons/>

Global - Physical and Mental Health

18-24 May 2020

Mental Health Awareness Week

Raising awareness of mental health issues.

UK - Physical and Mental Health

17 May 2020

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia & Transphobia

Justice and Protection is this year's theme, looking at how we can keep the most vulnerable in our communities safe. **Global - LGBT**

24 May 2020

Pansexual Day of Visibility

Pan Visibility Day is a day to celebrate and recognise those who identify as pansexual **UK - LGBT**

June (month long)

LGBT Pride Month **Global- LGBT**

15-21 June 2019

Men's Health Week **Global - Physical and Mental Health**

20-26 June 2020

Refugee Week

A celebration of the contribution of refugees to the UK – encouraging better understanding between communities. **UK - BAME**

27 June 2020

Stonewall Riots 51st Anniversary

Anniversary of the birthplace of the LGBT equality movement.

Global-LGBT

10 September 2020

World Suicide Prevention Day **UK - Physical and Mental Health**

23 September 2020

Bi Visibility Day

Celebrating bi identities and highlighting biphobia **Global - LGBT**

28 September – 4 October 2020

National Inclusion Week

<https://www.inclusiveemployers.co.uk/resources/annual-campaigns/national-inclusion-week> **UK- ALL**

October (month long)

Black History Month

A month to celebrate those whose contributions to society have often been marginalised. **UK - BAME**

10-17 October 2020

Hate Crime Awareness Week

To raise awareness and promote local support for the victims of hate crime. **UK - LGBT/BAME**

11 October 2020

National Coming Out Day

To celebrate coming out as LGBT or an ally. **Global - LGBT**

Month long

November

Raise awareness for mens health **Global - Physical and Mental Health**

13-19 November 2020

Trans Awareness Week

Raising the visibility of trans people and addressing the issues these communities still face. *Global- LGBT*

14 November 2020

World Diabetes Day Global - Physical and Mental Health

19 November 2020

International Mens Day Global - Gender Diversity

20 November 2020

Trans Day of Remembrance

A day to memorialise those killed, and raise public awareness of hate crimes against trans people. *Global- LGBT*

21 November 2020

International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day

A day to remember and talk about lost loved ones and raise awareness. *Global - Physical and Mental Health*

23 November – 11 December 2020

Rainbow Laces Week 2019

A week where organisations, players and fans come together to show their support for LGBT people in sport. *UK - LGBT*

1 December 2020

World Aids Day

An opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV and AIDS. *Global- LGBT*

3 December 2020

International day of Disabled Persons

Aiming to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobile support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities *Global - Physical and Mental Health*

8 December 2020

Pansexual/Panromantic Pride Day

A day to celebrate pansexual/panromantic identities. *Global- LGBT*

4-11 February 2021

Children's Mental Health Week

Raise awareness of the importance of supporting children and young people's mental health.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

UK - Physical and Mental Health

7 February 2021

Time To Talk Day

A day to bring the nation together to get talking and break the silence around mental health. *UK - Physical and Mental Health*

<https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/>

20 February 2021

World Day of Social Justice

To focus on the plight of social injustice throughout the world and to press for improvements and solutions. *Global - Social Mobility*

<https://www.un.org/en/events/socialjusticeday/>

Non Contentious

20th February 2020

Probate continues to be dominated by the changes to obtaining the Grants of Representation and I was very pleased to welcome Rob and Detta from Liverpool DPR (LDPR). This important business took most of the meeting, as you can imagine, it could have easily taken all of the meeting and more! This is report of our meeting which I hope you find interesting.

Rob Rimmer and Detta joined us and (Naomi) NP expressed thanks for their attendance in these difficult times. NP expressed support and appreciation for the work of Rob and his team, understanding the problems resulting from the changes to the application system and the wider implications, particularly the DPRs facing closure. There was an excellent and information discussion which understandably took up most of the meeting, with other non-priority matters being postponed to the next meeting.

In particular, the following matters were covered:

- 1) The LPDPR have no discretion re the organisation of their work eg re what matters they are able to treat as urgent
- 2) Probate is being centralised
- 3) There is a move towards digitisation of function
- 4) At the moment the Probate Service is based at district level and at central level, the new matters being dealt with at a central level
- 5) Central staff will be able to provide updates and technical questions are referred to the district
- 6) The plan is to close all the district registries bar one
- 7) All new applications should be being sent to Oxford, they share out the applications between the existing registries
- 8) The words "Liverpool District Probate Registry" can still be written on the SOTs
- 9) It is not clear what will happen re settling documents
- 10) The backlog is being cleared at the rate of approx. 30 cases per week
- 11) Foreign domicile cases are referred to the Registrar
- 12) An official copy of the Will can be requested at the time of applying for Probate and there is no additional charge
- 13) There are now only two Registrars for the whole country, broadly one for the north- Kieran Murphy and one for the south
- 14) Mr Murphy visits LDPR weekly or fortnightly
- 15) In cases where an application is stopped for whatever reason, it will take a long time to be resolved
- 16) Cases can be marked urgent if there is a pencil date in the contract to sell the estate property, it is accepted that this has no legal meaning at all
- 17) Any requisitions received by e mail should be replied to by e mail to save time
- 18) In cases where it is straightforward, the process is very quick
- 19) LDPR are not involved at all in the online applications
- 20) IHT 421s are taking between 4 and 6 weeks to be processed by HMRC, they send the IHT 421 to the DPR by e mail, the DPR clock runs from the time they have the application and the 421
- 21) The original Will will always need to be sent for a forensic check, any issues will be referred to the DPR
- 22) The absence of an official copy attached to the probate, makes fraud easier
- 23) The date of the Will is not referred to on the Probate, this matter has been raised before; it would provide at least some safeguard to ensure that the terms of the will were followed

NP thanked Rob and Detta once again for their attendance and the hard work of the LDPR, the loss of their experience and knowledge does not bode well for the future service and it is difficult to see how this serves the public interest

After this discussion there was only very limited time remaining, given the current state of the Probate Service, NP considers the time was well spent

Training

Jo Downey reported to the committee

- i. The forthcoming housing disrepair con has over 80 bookings and is at the Marriott
- ii. Sarah Mansfield is chairing and her support is greatly appreciated
- iii. There is a draft PC Con, Jo would like some more support next year from this committee, the con is organised with STEP and their chairperson is now financial based rather than a legal person, as in the past
- iv. The final session of the PC Con was discussed and the relevance of a session on welfare benefits, it was agreed that a session on charity would be of greater relevance
- v. There is a residential con on 16th September and Jo is looking for input from the committee
- vi. The list of seminars was considered.

NP gave thanks to all in attendance and the next meeting is 23rd April, note the change of date because of the Easter holidays. The meeting will be in the small room where space is limited, and it is for this reason that any guests observing the committee with a view to joining will be invited to the June meeting.

Naomi Pinder
Chairwoman



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.

Supporting zero-hours contracts workers

The unpredictability and insecurity of zero-hours contracts can have an extremely detrimental effect on the living standards of workers affected by them. Despite this, the support available for zero-hours contract workers is extremely limited. The Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre is planning on launching a partnership to support workers across the Liverpool City Region who are employed on zero-hours contracts. The project will involve a consortium of organisations with a view to ensuring that affected workers receive decent terms and conditions and any other support necessary to support their rights. Such organisations will include the TUC, UNITE, PCS, Community Groups, Liverpool Law Society, and Vauxhall Neighbourhood Council. The GMB have also pledged their support behind the partnership; the regional secretary of the GMB, Paul McCarthy, recently visited the centre to affirm the trade union's support for the project (see photo below).

The Centre hopes that this partnership will secure the provision of a dedicated and co-ordinated advice service for people affected by zero-hours contracts in the long term and are seeking dedicated resources to provided support to workers who very often include very vulnerable people who have little support to enable them to enforce their rights.

The Centre is also hopeful of securing the support of other local organisations for the partnership; if you can assist us with this invaluable piece of work, please do not hesitate to contact the centre for more information, Alan Kelly can be contacted on alankelly@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk or on 0151 482 2540



Ben Fry, Volunteer, Alan Kelly Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre, Jodie Ingall, Volunteer & Paul McCarthy Regional Sec GMB after their meeting discussing zero hours contracts.

Student Advocacy Project with the University of Liverpool

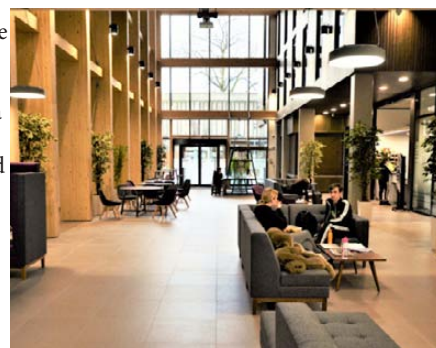
Nancy Hatendo, the Centre's Welfare Rights Caseworker, has recently launched a Student Advocacy Project in conjunction with the University of Liverpool. Nancy has designed a programme in which 25 law students at the university will be provided training on welfare benefits related issues. During such training students will be taught how to appeal welfare benefits decisions, and further how to represent claimants at tribunals. The project aims to spread awareness and understanding amongst younger generations of social welfare related issues, to which these issues are not taught as a part of their formal education.

Property Voices in the shadow of Grenfell

The Centre's Ngaryan Li and Alan Kelly recently attended an eye-opening lecture at the University of Liverpool titled 'Property Voices in the shadow of Grenfell'. The lecture was given by Professor Susan Bright and outlined the extent of the crisis in residential building regulation across the UK. Thousands of residential buildings still fail to meet fire safety requirements, meaning that thousands of people are currently living in potentially unsafe blocks. It is shocking that so many homes are still affected several years after the tragedy. The Centre hopes that the necessary reform will take place to compel freeholders to meet safety regulation standards in the future.



The lecture was given at the newly opened School of Law & Social Justice and was very well attended by a mixture of Students, Lecturers, practitioners and members of the community.





News from Merseyside Law Centre

Fighting for equality through social justice to combat poverty & homelessness



New Staff at MLC

We are delighted to welcome two new staff members to our team this month, Jack and Joseph. They will both be working with our admin team, enabling our busy office to function more smoothly and productively. Jack has been a part time volunteer for the past few years and we were delighted to be able to take him on as a full-time member of staff as he has proved himself to be a true asset to the centre.



JFF Celebration

Our housing team attended a dinner to celebrate the qualification of the latest round of Justice First Fellows which was hosted by the Legal Education Fund. Our newly qualified JFF Siobhan, the first JFF from the Liverpool area to become qualified as a solicitor, was presented her certificate by the magnificent Lady Hale. It was an inspiring and joyful event to attend.



Social Media

Follow us on social media
 Twitter: @MerseyLawCentre
 Facebook: Merseyside Law Centre

Justice First Fellowship Celebration

I was very honoured to be invited by the Legal Education Foundation (“LEF”) to the dinner to celebrate the qualification of the latest round of Justice First Fellows (“JFF”).

For those of you who do not know the Fellowship is a route to, hopefully, a long and rewarding career using law as a tool for social justice, with Fellows going on to become leaders in their field and important advocates for access to justice and the rule of law.

The JFF is made up of three parts:

1. A two year fully-funded training contract in a selected specialist social welfare law agency;
2. Alongside the compulsory training, Fellows are supported by their host organisation to devise and run their own project aimed at increasing access to justice in order to gain programme development experience and potentially to provide a future income stream for their host organisation.
3. Fellows are brought together throughout the two-year period to receive support, training and access to useful networks and to be part of a wider movement of lawyers committed to access to justice.

It was wonderful to be with Siobhan Taylor-Ward of Merseyside Law Centre who was the first JFF from the Liverpool area to become qualified as a solicitor. (The next Tom Lavin will qualify as a solicitor at the end of this year.)



As you will see from the photo it was an amazing experience for Siobhan to be handed her certificate by Baroness Hale.

Matthew Smerdon the Chief Executive of LEF spoke passionately about the commitment of the Foundation to supporting the advice sector to produce fairer systems and to promote smarter justice. In the last 6 years 80 Fellows

have been placed with 55 organisations. In his speech he reminded the Fellows that

“You have won ‘unwinnable’ cases. You have saved families from homelessness. You have shown yourselves to be at home everywhere from tribunals to the Supreme Court.”

The Justice First Fellows are at the sharp end of providing advice to those who are amongst the most vulnerable in our society and the commitment of the LEF to social welfare law is critical to the future.

Lady Hale gave the keynote speech and told the Fellows. “It is so refreshing to know there are all these bright people coming into social welfare law. It is an honour for me to be with you.”

Quite a tribute from her but of course as we were reminded much of her early career centred on social welfare issues. The JFF scheme has been supported by a range of partners including Unbound Philanthropy, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, BBC Children in Need, City Bridge Trust, AB Charitable Trust, Royal Bank of Scotland, and commercial law firms.

As you will know Liverpool Law Society has been endeavouring to raise £50,000 over two years to support the scheme. Two Liverpool firms, Weightmans and Brabners, have pledged to support the Fellowships into the future. We are very keen to make sure that the Fellows continue to be placed in Liverpool and if you can assist in our funding efforts please let us know.

Chris Topping

contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

COMMERCIAL LEASES UPDATE

Thursday 12th March, 2020 | 1.30pm - 4.30pm | With Ian Quayle

KEY DISCUSSIONS

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

BOOK HERE

Weightmans launch Northern Lights LGBTQ+ Network

As part of our ongoing D&I initiative, Weightmans Liverpool are delighted to announce the launch of our LGBTQ+ network; Northern Lights.

The network is open to all our colleagues, not just those who identify as LGBTQ+ but for anyone who would like to support the community as allies and be part of the varied programme of events we have in store. We also want to support the friends and families of LGBTQ+ people.

The formation of the network is part of Weightmans' ongoing, focused commitment to inclusion, equality and diversity. While the Diversity and Inclusion steering group, established in September 2018, and the 43 D&I champions in place across the firm, have been driving the delivery of various training workshops, policy reviews, firm-wide awareness raising and external profile raising, Northern Lights is intended to offer support to anyone who joins, for whatever reason, and also to organise events which are fun, informal, informative and interesting - and available to everyone and their families who would like to participate.

The Network has two chairs, Benjamin Davies, an Associate in our Litigation Team, and Ed Barry, a Case Developer for our Information Systems team. Ben has been a D&I Champion for over a year and has been instrumental in the Liverpool office marching with its first Liverpool Pride in 2019. Ed has been an active supporter of the firm's LGBTQ+ activities and initiatives including Pride 2019 and has lots of creative ideas for moving the



**Pippa Marler, Benjamin Davies
and Ed Barry**

network forward. Pippa Marler, the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Lead, and Peter Forshaw, the firm's LGBTQ+ Lead are offering overall network support, along with commitment over twenty network members so far..... watch this space!

MSB take home Diversity & Inclusion Award at Modern Law Awards

This year's Modern Law Awards 2020 were held at the Victoria Warehouse, Manchester. The glittering event brought together high profile firms across the country to celebrate real achievement in the legal sector, with entertainment, magic and impressions to boot.

The firm was shortlisted in two categories; Managing Partner of the Year and Diversity & Inclusion. MSB were delighted to bring home the latter. The award comes on the back of a series of initiatives, implemented by Managing Partner, Emma Carey. A prominent and popular step saw the firm introduce an Equalities Committee with subcommittees in BAME, Disability, Social Mobility, Women and LGBTQ+.



Thomas Stockton

The firm has developed a strong reputation for being one of the most inclusive firms in the country, particularly in the LGBTQ+ community, as the only law firm to hold the Navajo Kitemark.

MSB are further celebrating the shortlisting of young Solicitor, Thomas Stockton at the national LGBT+ Awards alongside big names including Sam Smith and Ariana Grande. Thomas is up for 'Future Leader', a tribute to his achievements as a champion



MSB wins Diversity & Inclusion Award

of diversity in the firm.

Emma Carey commented, " This a great way to start the year as we mean to go on, keeping diversity and inclusion at the helm of the firm and continue to enhance our work.

We are always delighted to attend the Modern Law Awards, as this is exactly the kind of firm we are. We practise modern law for a modern society."

The LGBT+ Awards 2020 will take place in London on May 29.

Liverpool Law Society holds Pathways to the Legal Profession on 12th February

In keeping with the Society's desire to be inclusive and encourage entry to the profession from all backgrounds, Year 12 students from all schools and colleges across Merseyside were invited to attend the annual event, held for the sixth time, on 12th February 2020. The President of Liverpool Law Society, Julie O'Hare, welcomed over 120 pupils and teachers from 19 schools to the Liverpool city centre Marriott Hotel.



A panel of speakers from key institutions across the city outlined the various entry routes into the Law – from the traditional university route to the modern apprenticeship route, and other options in between. Christina Millan from The Legal Step Up Programme explained during the afternoon that the law is open to everyone from all different backgrounds, and support networks are in place to help offer everyone equal opportunities.

The thanks of the Society go to the sponsors, exhibitors and speakers that supported the event: 7 Harrington Street Chambers, CILEx, DWF, Liverpool John Moores University, Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division, University of Law, the University of Liverpool, Liverpool Hope University and the Legal Step Up Programme. Directors of Liverpool Law Society were also present during the refreshment break and it was pleasing to see all stands very busy during the interval, with representatives speaking to the students and teachers, answering their questions.



Julie O'Hare addresses the students



Liverpool Law Society stand

The feedback received from the students who attended the event was invariably highly positive. A few of the comments received appear below:

"I found all presentations interesting and useful for clarifying some of my pre-existing ideas whilst also opening my eyes to new future possibilities"

Student from Upton Hall School FCJ

"I have learnt that you don't have to be from any certain background to become a lawyer and there is a variety of opportunities available for everyone"

Student from Notre Dame Catholic College

"I found that each speaker had a different thing to say which was helpful. Their own experiences which they shared were also helpful."

Isabelle Black, Student at Sacred Heart Catholic College

"Really helpful about what is important and how to enrich not only your university applications but also what helps to make you stand out post-education"

Sophie Stevens, Student at Sacred Heart Catholic College

"The students I've brought along are buzzing with interest and excited to learn more about the legal profession. Great for them to compare university vs apprenticeship routes"

Laura Smith, Teacher at Weatherhead High School

"Different peoples personal experiences was really beneficial to motivate and give a clearer path to where I want to go and how I can get there"

Student from Birkenhead Sixth Form College

"I have a better insight to law and I am considering different types of law, not just the straight law degree"

Courtney McMahon, Student from Bellerive FCJ Catholic College

"This is a great event – students are given unbiased information and are advised about all the different training and education routes"

Gayle Hall, Teacher from Notre Dame Catholic College

We are looking forward to next year's event already.

Education & Charities Committee



Students' Networking

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.

Liverpool Law Society

COHABITATION: LAW & PRACTICE

Friday 13th March | 1.30pm - 4.15pm | With Safda Mahmood

KEY DISCUSSIONS

- 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

COMPETENCIES: B **BOOK HERE**

Facing the Toxic Tide

The UK has more than 21,000 historic landfills scattered across the country. 2,946 of these, according to analysis by the British Geological Survey (BGS), are located on flood plains. Many date back to 1890 and with few records kept of what went in them until EU regulations were introduced in the late 1990s, there are likely to be far more.

But with sea level rise comes a persistent and greater flood risk as, twice a day, landfills at coastal locations could release a cocktail of chemicals into our watercourses and beaches.

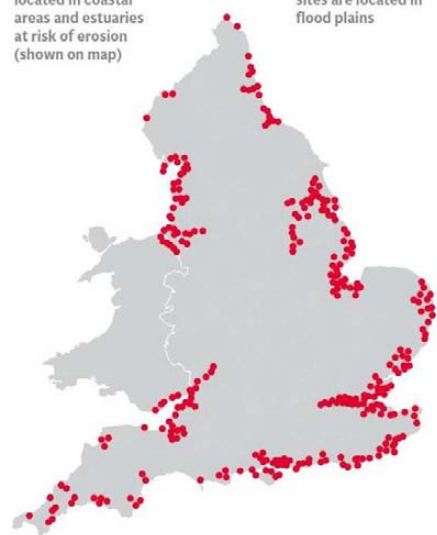
COASTAL AND ESTUARY LANDFILL DUMPS SITES AT RISK OF COASTAL EROSION IN ENGLAND AND WALES

1,264

landfill sites are located in coastal areas and estuaries at risk of erosion (shown on map)

2,946

additional landfill sites are located in flood plains



According to research carried out in August 2018 by Queen Mary University and the Environment Agency, there are more than 1,200 coastal landfill sites in England and one third of these are situated near ecological sites.

The research suggests 10 per cent of these historic landfills will start eroding in the next 40 years.

The vast majority of these were built with no coastal, riverbank or estuarine defences to protect their banks from eroding. Many could become compromised with spring tides and storm surges, creating real concerns about transmission to humans.

Lynemouth beach in Northumbria would be a fine strand of golden sand backed by imposing cliffs and the ideal place for families and dog walkers to take in the sea air. However, the beach also plays host to a historic landfill whose cliffs are eroding by waves causing industrial, colliery, household and fly-tipped waste to fall onto the beach and into the sea.

Northumberland County Council undertook land reclamation in the early 2000s, which involved cleaning up the beach and landscaping the cliff side, but now no longer has the funds to repair it again. The Government has said it can apply for a grant but it is ultimately the responsibility of the council.

The council understandably receive many complaints from many Lynemouth residents and the lack of funds means that there are ongoing and significant safety concerns, not least in the way the waste is being managed in relation to the local ecology.



Lynemouth Beach with former colliery landfill waste exposed along low cliffs.

Picture courtesy of ITV News

DEFRA has no plans to fund a coastal erosion scheme in Lynemouth, but said that the Council can apply for a grant in aid to help contribute to such a project.

And these risks are showing themselves ever more widely.

The nature of coastal erosion and transmission of waste is that this can spread widely up and down the coast and into river estuaries on the flood and ebb tides. The potential spread and impact as a transmission area is incalculable.

Queen Mary University is working with the Environment Agency to produce a "vulnerability index" of the most at risk, undefended landfill sites in relation to flooding. This new risk screening assessment method could support coastal managers in identifying which historic coastal landfill sites pose the greatest pollution risk at a national scale for minimal cost using existing datasets.

The highest risk sites would then be prioritised for further investigation, including remedial works as appropriate. Any risk screening assessment provides a snapshot of the current highest risk sites. There would be a need to update this risk as other factors come into play – i.e. maintenance works, flood extents, e.g. due to climate change related sea level rise or changes to defences.

An Offending Landfill near your Site?

The Environment Agency is responsible maintaining the integrity of landfill sites, in relation to EU standards for new sites since they (and the Agency) were created. These regulations require landfill waste to be protected from their surroundings and from severe weather.

However, how can land or home buyers be sure that their site isn't affected by an old, unprotected coastal landfill that could be broadcasting a contamination risk?

One of the very first considerations for clients' property or land purchase is to see whether the messy neighbour downstream is going to reveal its secret past and affect asset values dramatically.

Future Climate Info's environmental reports provide a comprehensive, yet concise and clear assessment of site history, potential for contamination and, as a result, follow-on options for more detailed testing or insurance provision.

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

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Environmental | Flood | Ground Stability | Energy & Infrastructure

Report Details

Address: Sample
Requested by: Sample
Grid Reference: E: 123456 | N: 123456
Date: 27/04/2018
Report Reference: Sample
Report ID: 1000085407

Subject Site

Professional Opinion

1. ENVIRONMENTAL PASS
No further recommendations

2. FLOOD PASS
No further recommendations

3. GROUND STABILITY PASS
No further recommendations

4. ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE PASS
Consideration(s):
4.20 Power Stations

Assessed by:
FCI Risk Ltd
www.futureclimateinfo.com/team

Regulated by RICS

If you require assistance, please contact your Search Provider or alternatively contact FCI directly with your Report ID: Tel: 01732 755 180 | Email: info@futureclimateinfo.com | Web: www.futureclimateinfo.com

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Meets the minimum requirements of the Law Society's guidance on flooding and Contaminated Land.

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Standard

From £45.00 + VAT⁽¹⁾

Contains all of the information from the Essential report and includes Ground Stability data.

- Environmental
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- Ground Stability⁽²⁾

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Contains all of the information from the Standard report and includes data on Energy & infrastructure such as wind farms, shale gas exploration, and HS2.

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- Ground Stability⁽²⁾
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For more information on FCI's suite of products, visit:

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(1) RRP for residential properties less than 0.25 hectares. (2) These data modules can be purchased as stand-alone products. Commercial reports are also available.

Regulated by RICS



LegalEd Con North: The future of legal training

The LegalEd Con North was held at 'The Lowry', Media City, Salford Keys. The choice of venue was no coincidence, as the North West is leading the way in legal tech and alternative routes to qualifying as a solicitor. The Conference was opened by Matt Taylor, President of Manchester Law Society, who noted that the needs of the legal profession are constantly evolving, as were the needs and expectations of clients.

The first full session of the day examined the new pathways into the legal profession and included presentations from Ceri Evans, Head of Apprenticeships at the University of Law and Stephen Threlfall, Director of Legal Training at Fletchers Solicitors. who said that his firm had embraced the opportunities presented by apprenticeships which had allowed them to build the firm from within.

This session included presentations from legal apprentices about their experiences; Georgie Yates (a level 3 apprentice at the BBC in Media City, now in the litigation team), Kurtis Windrow (from Liverpool, who is a legal technologist and solicitor apprentice at Eversheds Sutherland) and Megan Capper (a solicitor apprentice at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner). Common to their varied experiences was the apprenticeship route provided key opportunities, being embedded in forms, and that were attractive as they allowed apprentices to gain practical experience with any financial burden, while becoming the lawyers of the future.

The next session focused on technology in legal education and training. Presentations by the expert pane included Professors Clare McGourlay (Manchester Law School), Scott Slorach (York Law School) Stuart Cross (Dundee), Dr Mark Potkewitz (Director of Ulster Centre for Legal Innovation) and Stephanie Barrett (Head of eDiscovery at Herbert Smith Freehills). They stressed the changing nature of legal technology and that, to an extent, the prominence of horizon scanning around the disruptive effects of legal technology had been overstated. For future lawyers, core legal skills are much more important in the first few years. Technology augments legal skills, it does not replace them and will augment client advice, reducing costs and allowing better advice for clients. An awareness of technology, and adaptability as to its use in providing solutions to legal advice, were the most important skills and behaviours for future lawyer.

After the lunch break, the discussion moved onto the S.Q.E., which included presentations from Julie Brannan, Head of Education and Training at the Solicitors Regulation Authority, BARBRI, alongside an expert panel made up of practitioners and heads of University Law Schools (Nottingham Trent University, Manchester Metropolitan University and De Montford University). It is clear that the published timeline for the introduction of SQE I is intended to be followed, with SQE I due to be undertaken from September 2021 and the specification of the SQE II and the recognition of on-job experience would be addressed soon, following the end of the consultation period. Much was also said about the impact of the SQE I, with BARBRI suggesting that it was a much more demanding than the New York Bar exam, with candidates sitting each of the two 3 hour Multiple Choice Question test bank having 1.8 minutes to read, identify and pick the answer from the five stems presented on every legal or practice question in the test.

It was also suggested that the Solicitors Qualifying Exam (S.Q.E.) was a 'red herring' in terms of driving legal education or legal technology, as it was designed to regulate the point of entry to the profession. Clare Collings (from DWF) said that the SQE I should be viewed much like a driving test as the learning normally happens once one passes that test.

The Conference then divided into two, parallel sessions. The discussion on mental health and wellbeing in the law was chaired by Elizabeth Rimmer, CEO of LawCare and included presentations by Dr Libby Artingstall, Forensic Psychiatrist at Team Mental Health and Amanda Hedayati, Dean of the University of Law in Manchester. Topics included emotional competence at work, the costs of mental health in the work place, the need for resilience, and the impact of mental health on engagement and learning by students. An analysis of research from the Junior Lawyers Division in 2019, which found that 48% of junior lawyers reported experiencing mental ill-health in the workplace, and, with further work, has led to new guidance published by the Law Society on tackling mental health issues in the legal profession.

The parallel session focused on diversity and inclusion. This was chaired by Michelle Garlick (past President of Manchester Law Society), Adam Hattersley (executive member of the Junior Lawyers Division and an associate at Fieldfisher), Matthew Flannagan, (solicitor at Knights and Chair of the Manchester Young Solicitors Group); Shez Anjum (a trainee solicitor and Chair of the Manchester Trainee Solicitors Group) and Siobhan Taylor-Ward (Justice First Fellow and a solicitor at Merseyside Law Centre). It was clear from discussions that much work is underway to create opportunities for young people from lower social-economic backgrounds, both in terms of campaigning for change, mentoring and other initiatives.

The conference concluded with a presentation from Crispin Passmore, former Executive Director for policy at the SRSA and co-creator of the SQE. He noted that while there was still disquiet around the SQE, that: 'Regardless of SQE, the genie is out of the bottle and the nature of the changing legal market puts consumers at its powerful heart, impacting educators, students and employers. Long may that continue if we are to grow this market to the size it can be for the benefit of our society and the rule of law.'

This was clearly an engaging conference, but there could have been more time for discussion on key topics, which was curtailed due to the number of speakers in each panel and the number of panels across the day. A poll conducted at the end of the Conference suggested that the views of most attendees of the SQE had not changed after all they had heard at the Conference. What was not clear is whether that meant they had a positive or negative view of the SQE to begin with. Many legal educators remain skeptical about whether the SQE I (and II) will deliver all that it promised and will be an effective statement of entry into the profession. Time will tell.

Professor Warren Barr
Head of Department, Liverpool Law School,
University of Liverpool

Routes to Qualification

In this edition we talk legal apprentices **Brendan Riley** and **Alex Jones** at **Weightmans** about their route to qualifying as a solicitor

Brendan Riley
Paralegal
Weightmans LLP



I am on the fast-track graduate CILEx Apprenticeship programme. While studying as an apprentice on the fast-track programme, my day-to-day job is that of a paralegal. I run my own case load of files and have very hands on legal experience. I have direct contact with my supervising partner regularly for troubleshooting and advice and more generally, I have had involvement with a number of partners for technical issues when needed to help build my experience and expertise. At the same time I have involved in a number of projects which has involved client facing work and operations work so my experience has been one of real beneficial legal experience.

I am due to qualify soon, the process takes approximately 2 years from start to finish on the fast-track programme. This involves exams and coursework and then the completion of the case study and portfolio.

The graduate fast-track apprenticeship involves 3 Level 6 modules. Client Care Skills, which is a coursework based unit. For this I attended client care skills tutorial sessions at the Law Academy in Liverpool, which were attended during the week after work hours. The coursework was prepared at the tutorial sessions and finalised at home outside of working hours.

The remaining 2 modules are Level 6 Practice Units (one must relate to a subject studied in your law degree). I took one exam in the January and one in June within 12 months of starting the graduate fast-track course. Up to 5 days study leave is permitted per year at Weightmans to help and I took a couple of days for each exam for revision. There were also tutorial classes to attend for these modules which took place after work hours.

The portfolio consists of using evidence taken from your practical work to outline how in your work you have met certain criteria. The work has to be taken from work that you have completed in the 2 years prior to the date the portfolio is submitted for consideration. There are 8 separate competencies with 27 learning outcomes which need to be evidenced, with an explanation as to how the evidence satisfies the outcomes. To manage this I had meetings with a tutor and have had set a timetable to complete work to ensure progress is being maintained.

The case study requires 8 outcomes to be evidenced from one case alone to demonstrate that the outcomes have been applied throughout the life of a case. This is again completed in conjunction with a tutor. Mine has been something of a hybrid route. I obtained a qualifying law degree and a master's degree but found the fast-track apprentice route suited me better than the LPC, training contract route. I wanted to obtain the qualification while working and I found this was more readily accessible for funding by an employer. For me, I wanted to have experienced the legal professional world to make sure it was the right fit for me before committing to the career and therefore my route of working as a paralegal first made sense for me.

One of the biggest benefits to choosing the legal apprentice route is obviously the cost. The cost of the LPC is very high when compared with the CILEx route and it may be easier to get funding for an apprenticeship. Another advantage is that you qualify once you have

completed the course, so you are not reliant on an employer offering you a training contract. I also preferred the idea of obtaining the qualification while working, although that isn't necessarily exclusive to an apprenticeship.

A disadvantage is that you miss out on the experience of a training contract and therefore it may narrow your options in terms of the area of law you want to practice in. For me, this route has taken me longer to become qualified than it would have done via the traditional route but that's not always going to be the case.

Alex Jones
Paralegal
Weightmans LLP



I have worked for Weightmans for three years this March and I can say it has been such a joy in every way from the people I have worked with along the way, to the opportunities and growth there is for staff in the firm no matter what level or experience. My first role began as Admin in Real Estate where I then progressed onto becoming Paralegal in a new team, Regulatory, which is where I first heard of the apprenticeship route available from a colleague of mine, Jordan Coulton.

Jordan explained the journey he had been on with the apprenticeship and what it can do for a young person looking to kick start their legal career. I felt that this totally suited me and my learning in every aspect as I would not only be studying and learning the law in one way but also in a practical sense as well with my day to day job by being exposed to challenges in the real legal world which a lot of students can often miss out on when doing the "traditional route" to become a solicitor. That being said about the traditional route, it can be a much longer process in reaching your end goal to becoming a solicitor due to the fact the legal world is so cut throat and competitive at the moment, there really is no certainty when it comes to getting a training contract. Whereas for myself it was a much more simplistic and straightforward process to getting onto my apprenticeship due to the support I had from my colleagues at Weightmans and our excellent learning & development team.

In terms of the legal experience that an apprentice at Weightmans faces is huge - I myself have visited court, sat behind counsel and been exposed to what a real court hearing is like. When working in the office I have been faced with challenges such as drafting documents with supervision and support of senior colleagues, as well coming face to face with clients. So the apprenticeship scheme is packed with development, growth, and lots of unique opportunities.

Of course it's not all plain sailing, there are stumbling blocks and challenges involved which people can find difficult when it comes to balancing a full time job and studying a tough, in depth subject like law. But for me I look at this as practise for the future ahead when I will one day be a Legal Executive. The pro's most certainly outweigh the cons, as I can honestly say I struggle to think of any negatives to the apprenticeship scheme. You are working, earning, and learning.

I'm currently into my second year with three more remaining till I qualify and I'm very excited for what the future holds.

Hill Dickinson corporate team completes over £1.5bn of deals in 2019

Commercial law firm Hill Dickinson has reported another positive year for successful completion of corporate transactions, with completed deals in 2019 worth over £1.5 billion in aggregate transaction value.

The results continue Hill Dickinson's national growth strategy and reflect a period in which its corporate team delivered over 80 successfully completed deals nationally for its clients.

Significant transactions during the period include advising biopharma investment company Juvenescence on its successful \$100 million fundraise and \$43.2 million investment in AgeX Therapeutics Inc, and advising independent medicinal cannabis company EMMAC on its acquisition of Portuguese genetics and cultivation company Terra Verde LDA to create Europe's largest vertically integrated medical cannabis and wellness company. The firm also acted for Business Growth Fund on the MBO of loading systems manufacturer Joloda that won 'Deal of the Year' in the sub £10 million category at the 2019 North West Insider Dealmaker awards.

The firm's Liverpool corporate team also advised management in December 2019 on the MBO of King Construction, backed by an investment of £11.6 million from NVM Private Equity.

Craig Scott, Hill Dickinson's national head of corporate, said: 'The impressive variety of UK and cross border M&A, PE and public equity finance deals completed nationally across our corporate teams in 2019 reflects a huge team effort on behalf of our clients. We maintained a top five ranking nationally in the AIM Advisors ranking guide for the high number of AIM-listed clients we continued to advise during the period and advising our clients for the second consecutive year on deals with an aggregate delivered value of over £1.5 billion is an achievement of which our team is extremely proud.'

Looking ahead, he added: 'Although we anticipate some Brexit-related challenges ahead in 2020, our current team pipeline of ongoing deals for Q1 of 2020 remains very positive, with some large deals already completing or underway. I look forward to



Craig Scott

our corporate team delivering more successful completed deals in 2020 with the continued support of our clients.'

Hill Dickinson has continued to invest in and expand its corporate team presence in London and the North West with a number of recent hires, including the most recent arrival in January 2020 of new partner Shantanu Sinha, who has joined the London team from Mishcon de Reya.

Hill Dickinson has corporate teams based in Liverpool, Manchester and London.

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

Where was LegalEd Con North held?

Please send your answer to editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

no later than 25th March 2020.



Liverpool Law Society

ELDERLY CLIENT UPDATE

With Helen Clarke
Tuesday 31st March 10am - 1pm

Covering:

- Elderly client case law including assessment of testamentary capacity
- When and how to instruct an expert to assess capacity
- SRA Regulation reforms and the revised Code of Conduct - professional obligations and risks in the delivery of legal services to elderly
- Awareness of recent guidance, news and decisions from the OPG/ Court of Protection
- LPAs - drafting points - what needs to be added and why?
- How can you safeguard your client against self neglect? - the risks for financial attorneys and deputies
- A review of recent Ombudsman decisions relating to care funding
- An update on recent NHS / Social Care policy changes and future risks

[BOOK NOW](#)

Competencies: A2 (a)(d)&(e) and A4 (a)&(b)

Sean Sexton, The 'S' in MSB Retires

Sean Sexton retired as a partner with the firm he founded, MSB Solicitors, on 21st February 2020. He is keen to tell us that he has not retired from the law and will continue as a consultant to the firm for the foreseeable future

He was born in Liverpool in 1958, the eldest of three sons, to Irish parents, Josephine and the late Michael Joseph Sexton. His father was a profound influence upon him—a man who won a prized scholarship to St Flannan's College, Ennis, County Clare in the 1930s but was forced to leave school at the age of 13 on the death of his father to help his mother run the family farm and support his five younger siblings. Sean often recounts that he never won an argument with his father who would have been a powerful advocate given the chance.

His parents' respect for education was formative in his outlook and his lifetime love of books. Sean received a classically Jesuit education at St Francis Xavier's College, Liverpool. He read Law at Durham University where he met his future wife, Susanne, who also studied law there. They have one daughter, Eleanor.

After Durham, he and Susanne completed their Solicitors Final Examinations at the College of Law in Christleton and then returned to Liverpool. He served his articles with a major commercial firm, Cuff Roberts, and qualified as a Solicitor in 1984.

In 1988, at the age of 29, he set up in practice on his own account as "Sexton's" with one secretary and a 17 year old YTS trainee, Paul Gallagher, who has now succeeded Sean as Head of Crime at MSB.

He was subsequently joined in Partnership by David Moore in 1989 and Paul Bibby in 1990, the firm then becoming MSB Solicitors.

In 1992, Sean came to national prominence when he successfully argued in Bootle Magistrates Court that the standard wording of charges was void for duplicity in cases where Defendants had been charged with failing to provide a specimen for analysis, having been arrested on suspicion of a "drink-driving" offence.

The Judgment of the Divisional Court in D.P.P. -v- Corcoran, which agreed with Sean's novel submission, resulted in hundreds of Appeals against conviction being allowed out of time. It was estimated that 250,000 convictions in cases over a 25 year period were liable to be set aside. He still maintains that his argument, in law, was good; the financial implications for the State were, however, bad. The House of Lords overruled the Divisional Court Judgement in June 1994. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, a serving Cabinet minister, sat as one of the five law lords. Sean has taken a keen interest in the independence of the judiciary since.

Sean was instructed by the parents of James Bulger in February 1993, following James' abduction and murder, which attracted worldwide attention. He dealt with the media on their behalf until June 1994 and was instrumental in setting up the James Bulger Memorial Trust. Since June 1994, he has represented James' mother's interests in the various Appeals and other proceedings brought by James' killers.

This led to him being one of the handful of Solicitors who has addressed the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Sean (and Robin Makin on behalf of James' father, Ralph Bulger) were allowed, in September 1999, to make written submissions and address the Court orally, on the rights which victims, generally, should have in the sentencing process. This led to the introduction of victim impact statements in serious criminal cases and a new practice on the part of the CPS to consider the views of the families of victims before accepting guilty pleas to lesser charges.

Sean later represented Susan Woodward (the mother of Louise Woodward who was charged with the murder of an infant in her care in Boston, USA, in 1997)



Sean Sexton

when she was acquitted in July 2000 of allegations of fraud against the Louise Woodward and Family Trust. He went on to successfully defend clients in some of the most complex fraud cases in recent years including the largest pharmaceutical fraud ever prosecuted in the EU and most recently a conspiracy to cheat the Inland Revenue of £324 million. Sean's client in that case is a professional man who successfully recovered £750,000 in legal costs from the Crown Prosecution Service. Sean is now pursuing a landmark claim for damages on behalf of him and three of his co-defendants against the CPS and HMRC for malicious prosecution and malfeasance in public office

Sean qualified as a Solicitor-Advocate (Higher Courts Criminal Proceedings) in 2014 and is also a Supervisor on the Specialist Fraud Panel.

He has been recognised as a "Leading Individual" in the last four editions of the Legal 500 and MSB has been the highest ranked Crime and Serious Fraud firm in Merseyside for the last five years.

Sean will always be grateful to Paul Bibby and Emma Carey for their vision and drive in overseeing MSB's growth to a full service law firm, employing over 150 people across four offices. He says, however, that the real strength of the firm is the loyalty of its staff, many of whom have never worked anywhere other than MSB.

Eamonn Sexton

Jackson Lees Group appointed to advise on landmark Tobacco Warehouse development

Stanley Dock Properties Ltd, the company behind the transformation of Tobacco Warehouse at Liverpool's Stanley Dock, has appointed solicitors Jackson Lees Group as its advisers on the landmark development.

The Jackson Lees Group will advise the developer on the sale of hundreds of apartments at the iconic Grade II-Listed building, which is being carefully restored and converted into a £130 million residential development.

One of three architecturally and historically important buildings at Stanley Dock, the Tobacco Warehouse was the largest brick building in the world at the time of construction in 1901.

The first phase of almost 200 apartments will be completed in 2020, with some units ready for occupation in the first half of the year. Prices start at £215,000, with the average apartment size approximately 1,400 sq. ft, roughly double the size of a standard apartment on the market.

Angela Hesketh, Group Head of Property at Jackson Lees Group, said: "We're extremely pleased to have been appointed to advise on this landmark scheme, which will play an important role in revitalising the North Docks and is breathing new life into one of Liverpool's most iconic and much-loved buildings.

"Ensuring a strong flow of high-quality residential developments is key to ensuring Liverpool remains an attractive destination for inward investment and is able to enjoy sustainable, secure long-term growth. We're delighted to be a part of that process and look forward to working closely with Stanley Dock Properties Ltd on this project."

The warehouse's original architectural details have also been preserved, including exposed brick walls, cast-iron structural columns, concrete ceiling beams and a unique two-floor layout, reminiscent of New York 'loft living'.

Amenities include a 24-hour concierge, secure parking, an inner courtyard garden, residents' lounge and a stunning entrance lobby. The ground floor will feature up to 100,000 sq. ft of retail and commercial space for shops, restaurants and offices. Plans have also been revealed to create a pedestrian walkway encircling Stanley Dock, which will be open to residents and guests.


The luxurious apartments will benefit from dual aspect views overlooking Liverpool's UNESCO world heritage waterfront and a central courtyard.

Patrick Power from Stanley Dock Properties Ltd, said: "We're delighted to have Angela and the Jackson Lees Group team on board. Angela is highly experienced with a real depth of expertise and insight, which will prove invaluable as we bring this portfolio of outstanding properties to market.

"This landmark mixed-use development will create a thriving community in the heart of one of Merseyside's most historic locations and it's great to have the right team in place as we bring the revitalisation of the Tobacco Warehouse to fruition."




Angela Hesketh

Liverpool  Law Society

FINANCIAL ORDERS: LAW AND PRACTICE

Friday 13th March | 10am-12.45pm
With Safda Mahmood



KEY AREAS OF DISCUSSION:

- 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

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

Competencies: B

Carpenters celebrate annual Champions Awards



The Carpenters Group Team had a brilliant night in Oh Me Oh My on 20th February as we celebrated at our annual Champions Awards.

The nominees and winners were:

Charity Champion Awards: Debbie Wade, Farzana Akhtar and the winner was Matthew Williams.

Insurer Customer Champion Award: Denya Jackson, Nicola O'Keeffe and the winner was Alex Mills.

Legal Client Champion Award: Daniel Smith, Eileen Lewis and the winner was Deborah Wainwright.

Colleague's Colleague Award: Caroline Dobson, James McConville and the winner was Janine Wood.

Unsung Hero Award: Lynsey Roberts, Scott Eves and the winner was Joanne Stones.

Mo Hero Award: Becky Dilworth, David Walmsley and the winner was Shirley Forsyth.

We also present a special CEO award to Sharon Samson, Client Liaison Executive in our Commercial Team for the outstanding work she has done this year!

The Carpenters Group Champion Awards are all about celebrating the successes and hard work of our colleagues and inspiring others to live the Carpenters values. All colleagues had the ability to nominate in each of the six categories, providing the nominee fits the criteria. Voting was available exclusively via Mo, our employee recognition platform.



HOT TOPICS FOR CIVIL LITIGATORS: WITH JEFF ZINDANI


On Tuesday 24th March 1.30pm - 4.30pm

This timely seminar will guide you through a number of key cases & also an update on the civil justice reform agenda. He will use specific cases studies to assist delegates in understanding the relevant rules.

Key Discussions

- The Civil Justice Reform Agenda – Fixed Recoverable Costs, Digital Courts, Update on the Disclosure Reforms and Witness Statement Review
- Retainer Issues: New Rules on Damages Based Agreements
- Withdrawing from Admissions- Key Principles
- Expert Evidence-Case Law Round Up
- CPR 36: Making Sense of the Rules and Court of Appeal Guidance
- ADR – Case Law and the Civil Justice Council
- Court/Trial Fees and Service Issues: Elephant Traps
- Relief from Sanctions-Case Law Review
- Costs Update: Recent Cases on Proportionality and Costs Budgeting
- Interim Bills-Latest Guidance from the High Court

[Book Now](#)



Leasehold Dwellings Management, Service Charge and Ground Rent Issues

On Thursday 2nd April | 1.30pm-4.30pm | With Richard Snape

There are many major issues in relation to leaseholds. In particular, escalating ground rents are causing major problems and service charge liability will be greatly affected by the Grenfell Tower disaster.

Topics covered include:

- Escalating Ground Rents and other Ground Rent issues
- Mortgage Company Guidance on Ground Rents
- Proposed statutory changes to Ground Rents
- Service Charge Liability
- Administration Charges
- Building Regulations and Risk Assessments in the light of Grenfell
- Leasehold Extension and Enfranchisement issues
- Houses in Multiple Occupation

Competencies B

[Book Now](#)

Weightmans recognised as a Certified Top Employer UK 2020 for the thirteenth time

National law firm Weightmans has been officially recognised by the Top Employers Institute as a Top Employer 2020 in the UK.

Organisations certified as Top Employers dedicate themselves to providing the very best working environment for employees through their progressive 'people-first' HR practices.

The HR Best Practice Survey encompasses over 100 questions which cover 600 'People Development' practices across 10 topics: Talent Strategy, Workforce Planning, Talent Acquisition, On-boarding, Learning & Development, Performance Management, Leadership Development, Career & Succession Management, Compensation & Benefits and Culture.

The comprehensive independent research revealed that Weightmans provided 'exceptional employee conditions, nurtures and develops talent throughout all levels of the organisation and has demonstrated its leadership status in the HR environment, always striving to optimise its employment practices and to develop its employees.'

Helen Taylor, HR Director at Weightmans said: "Our people are at the heart of everything we do and we are delighted that our commitment to their engagement and providing them with an opportunity to develop their careers has been acknowledged for the thirteenth time. Our people are determined to achieve the best results for our clients and we aim to equip them with the best training, support and environments in which to do so."

Top Employers Institute CEO David Plink says, 'To become recognised as a Top Employer, an organisation will have to prove that the implementation of their people strategies enriches the world of work of their employees. The certified participants are a shining example of a dedication to people practices as they continuously commit to empowering their employees for a better world of work. Congratulations!'



Helen Taylor



Liverpool Law Society

Reasonable adjustments at work: key issues and recent developments

Tuesday 17th March | 1pm - 3pm
With Emma Tegerdine
Competencies: A2, A4, B3, B4, B6 & B7
Aimed at employment law specialists at all levels, as well as litigators & other practitioners whose practice includes employment law.

What is covered?

- 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

[Book Here](#)

Liverpool Law Society

PERSONAL INJURY UPDATE

Friday 20th March | 1.30pm - 4.30pm
With Jeff Zindani

It will consider case law guidance together with practical tips, insights and tactics used by insurers and defendants.

KEY DISCUSSIONS

- The PI Reform Agenda – from the Civil Liability Act 2018, small claims increase to the extension of fixed recoverable costs
- Overcharging clients – guidance from the Court of Appeal
- Claims Portal and fixed recoverable costs – case law update
- Fundamental dishonesty – where are we now?
- Qualified one-way costs shifting – key cases
- Limitation and service issues – case law round up
- Liability case law update – notable cases over the past 12 months
- Damages update – Ogden v Smith and the Court of Appeal
- The Benefits Trap-CRU deductions after Universal Credit

COMPETENCIES: A2

[BOOK HERE](#)

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Weightmans Liverpool HQ made fit for the future

National law firm Weightmans has made a seven figure investment in its people with a complete renovation of its Liverpool headquarters and move to new working practices.

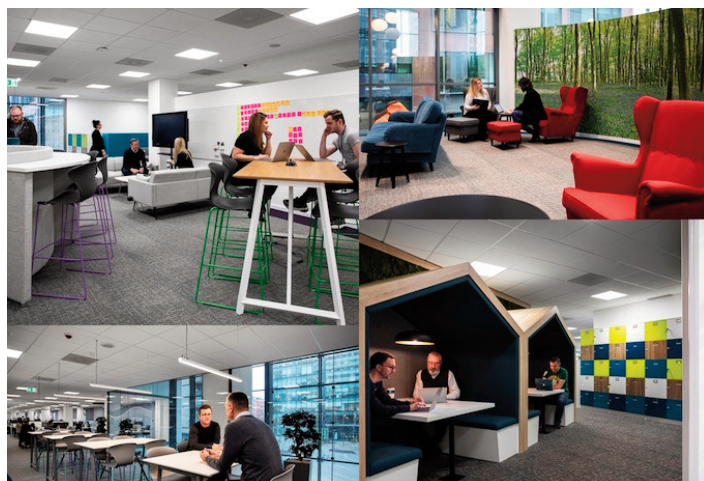
The office is home to almost half of all Weightmans employees. The redesign and fit-out, which is being delivered by Warrington-based Claremont, began in November 2019 and includes ergonomic furniture, a social hub and extended innovation space.

Following a thorough review and successful implementation in most of Weightmans' other offices, the firm has also taken the opportunity to move to an agile-working model - improving efficiency and working arrangements, allowing more flexible working for staff and reducing the amount of space required.

Weightmans has been based in The Plaza on Old Hall Street in Liverpool since it moved from India Buildings in 2012, with a ground floor reception and client suite as well as two floors above. The first floor will receive a complete refit, with state of the artwork stations and new equipment for every member of staff.

The renovation comes to an end as Weightmans is recognised as a UK Top Employer for the thirteenth year.

Weightmans' Managing Partner John Schorah said: "We have recognised the evolution of working life and our staff have embraced the benefits of flexible and agile working in other offices. Rolling this out in our headquarters is a natural next step - it enables us to function more efficiently, continue to grow our



teams and successfully limit our environmental impact as we work towards an entirely paperless approach.

"Our offices must promote wellness and social responsibility, seamlessly integrate teams, leverage the latest technology and provide a great base for face to face engagement with our clients and colleagues, with an ultimate focus on increasing efficiency and performance. I am confident that the steps we have taken over the last two years go a long way to achieving this."

Claremont's Patrick Ames led the project, he said: "As we delivered the interior design and fit-out when Weightmans first moved into The Plaza, we know the building and the business well and it was a privilege to be able to support them again."

"The finished office brings Weightmans' strong brand identity, engaging staff culture and commitment to be a good employer to life, while providing the variety and flexibility they need to thrive and reap the benefits of agile working fully."

Colin Forshaw, regional director at Bruntwood Works in Liverpool, said: "Weightmans is a colossus of the Liverpool commercial community and a longstanding cornerstone of The Plaza's success over the past decade."

"We are always pleased when a customer takes such a forward-thinking approach to their property needs and we are obviously delighted that Weightmans are a key part of The Plaza's story as the building enters a new and potentially game-changing chapter in its ongoing development, with plans to transform the ground floor areas to create a dynamic new space where businesses can collaborate, innovate and thrive."

Liverpool Law Society

PRIVATE CHILD LAW CONFERENCE

Wednesday 13th May | 12.50pm - 4.30pm
Liverpool Law Society, Helix Building, 2nd Floor
Liverpool L3 9NY

CHAired BY DISTRICT JUDGE O'NEILL

DISCUSSIONS AND TIMINGS:

- 12.30pm Registration and refreshments
- 12.50pm Welcome and introduction with **District Judge O'Neill**
- 1pm How we deal with LIPS and what the court expects from advocates dealing with them with **District Judge Baker**
- 1.40pm CAFCASS isn't always right - how to challenge s7 & s37 Reports in Private Law Proceedings with **Ginnette Fitzharris, St John's Chambers**
- 2.20pm Refreshments and networking
- 2.45pm Appealing Private Law Orders: 'To appeal or not to appeal' with **James Holmes, Garden Court Chambers**
- 3.30pm Latest developments in Private Child Law with **Margaret Parr, 7 Harrington Street Chambers**
- 4.15pm Summary and thanks

FREE for 2019/20 Training Season Ticket Holders or only 2 Corporate Members Training Credits

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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).

Books

The Client Magnet Formula for Lawyers by Michelle Peters, Solicitor (Non-Practising)

Michelle Peters practised as a solicitor at a large international law firm in London, but now she helps firms with their marketing strategy by attracting new clients.

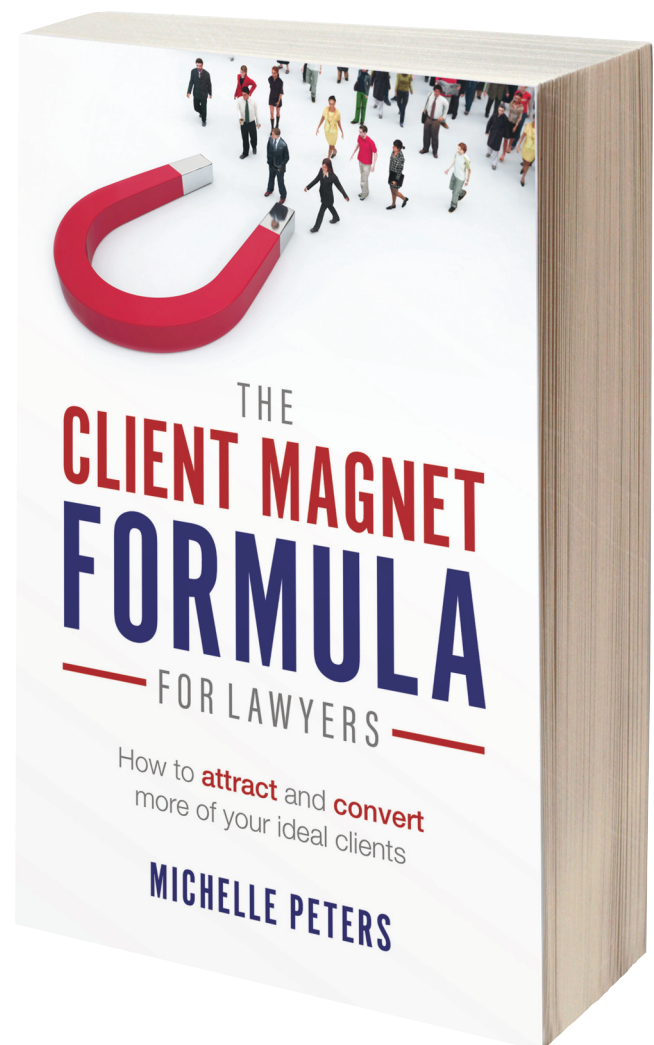
Michelle has devised a Client Magnet Formula, which consists of two parts; Client Attraction and Client Conversion systems. This enables firms to identify ideal clients and then attract more enquiries from them.

Readers will develop the skills to:

- ❑ Learn how to use a powerful Client Magnet to attract significantly more enquiries from your ideal clients
- ❑ Develop a Client Attraction System to consistently and predictably attract new enquiries, freeing you from time-consuming networking and the uncertainty of referrals
- ❑ Discover the secret to helping clients see the true value of your services, so you can increase your fees and still have them say 'yes'
- ❑ Create a Client Conversion System to dramatically increase your success at turning enquiries into clients.

The Client Magnet Formula is a manual for those wanting to attract new clients. It is very clearly explained and asks the reader to question their own views and understanding, before moving on to the practical application of the action steps.

This is a fascinating read, which takes the reader by the hand through the various stages of gaining new clients. I particularly liked the tip of imagining the client with "what's in it for me?" written on their forehead. Michelle's response to this is that you have to show them that answer to this is greater than what they have to pay.



The Client Magnet Formula by Michelle Peters is priced £14.99 and available from Amazon.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Client-Magnet-Formula-Lawyers-Attract-ebook/dp/B07YSX24TX>

Liverpool Law Society

DRAFTING ET1S AND ET3S KEY ISSUES AND TOP TIPS

Tuesday 17th March | 10am-12pm | With Emma Tegerdine

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

Covering:

<u>ET1S</u>	<u>ET3S</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time limits• Early conciliation• Identifying the claims• Identifying the respondents• Completing the claim form (ET1)• Presenting the claim• Grounds for rejecting a claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time limits• Completing the response form (ET3)• Jurisdictional issues• Strike out applications• Counter-claims• Presenting the response

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

[Click here to book](#)

Taylor Wessing makes long-term commitment to Liverpool with Royal Albert Dock move; creates over 100 jobs

International law firm Taylor Wessing has signed a ten year lease for office space in the Edward Pavilion building, situated in Liverpool's Royal Albert Dock, capping off a highly successful year-plus which will have created just over 100 new jobs by April 2020.

The firm's Liverpool office launched in November 2018 with a small risk team focused on business acceptance matters. The firm now has a team of 17 lawyers and paralegals, and over 60 business service professionals.

This growth includes the recruitment of five associates from top rated regional firms and international law firms. All were attracted by the firm's brand, culture and client-base.

The firm is continuing to hire lawyers and paralegals and across all its business service functions, and predicts a headcount of over 100 by the end of the financial year.

The stunning Edward Pavilion, a refurbished 19th century warehouse developed by Castleforge Partners, has been chosen to enable flexible working, high-speed connectivity with the firm's 28 UK and international offices, and to encourage a collaborative and innovative working culture for our Liverpool team.

Taylor Wessing partner and head of the firm's Liverpool office, Saleem Fazal, said: "It's been a highly successful year for the firm as a whole with fantastic achievements in terms of our strategy, the modernisation of our work practices, and our profitability. The stunning location of our new Liverpool home is the icing on the cake, and we are thrilled to be able to commit our future to this vibrant, enterprising city. Our team in Liverpool can't wait to move into the stunning Edward Pavilion refurbishment, and we believe the new office will be a huge asset for us in attracting the very best legal and professional services talent in the North West."

Mayor of Liverpool Joe Anderson said: "Taylor Wessing is at the forefront of modern legal services, using new technologies and modern practices to provide the best possible services to their clients. Their commitment to innovation precisely matches the ambitions of our city, and they make full use of our world-class knowledge assets. Their expansion into a permanent home on Liverpool's historic waterfront is testament to the availability of high-end legal talent in this city, and I look forward to continuing our partnership for many years to come."



Edward Pavillion

Broudie Jackson Canter offers tenants free housing advice

Broudie Jackson Canter, a North West-based law firm, has launched a drop-in service for tenants who are experiencing difficulties with private or social landlords.

As part of the new scheme, which is based at The Brink in Liverpool city centre, tenants will have the opportunity to receive free expert advice on matters relating to their tenancy agreement.

The sessions, which launched in January and will now take place every other Friday, will offer guidance and support to tenants on issues such as rent arrears, deposit issues, disrepairs (which can include damp and mould), anti-social behaviour, eviction notices and homelessness.

Andy Tyrer, housing specialist at Broudie Jackson Canter who led the first session, said: "Making sense of your rights as a tenant can be a minefield, especially if you receive eviction notices or if a landlord doesn't respond appropriately to a tenant's complaints about various problems in the property.

"We usually find that tenants have a number of other related issues, such as welfare benefits, care and support, issues with the police or other family related issues that ultimately may lead to be at risk of losing their home. It is important that tenants fully understand how to take action when required and know what their landlord is legally obliged to do, whether they are a private or social landlord."

"We're hoping that these new sessions will offer some support to tenants living across Merseyside. With the wide range of expertise within the business, we can make a positive difference directly to tenants or signpost them to the appropriate agencies, if needed and give them expert, unbiased advice."



Contribution of the UK legal services sector to the UK economy

Legal services in the UK are worth almost £60bn (GVA)* to the economy, a new independent and authoritative report commissioned by the Law Society reports.

- The Contribution of the UK Legal Services Sector to the UK Economy report, produced by KPMG for the Law Society, demonstrates the role professional legal services play and why they should be at the heart of any new talks relating to a deal with the EU following Brexit.
- It is crucial that the Government seeks to maintain access to the EU27 for our legal professionals, as well as recognition of their qualifications beyond the post-Brexit transition period at the end of 2020.
- The legal services sector is highly productive – with productivity up 17% from £84,000 per employee in 2013 to £100,500 in 2018 – almost double the average nationally.
- The value of voluntary work conducted by legal professionals, known as ‘pro bono’, saw 43,800 solicitors working an astonishing 1,446,000 unbilled hours, worth an estimated £439m.



552k
FULL TIME
employees

Legal services support around 552,000 full time employees

- 358,000 in the sector itself (225,000 in legal activities sector – 133,000 as legal professionals in other sectors)
- 150,000 indirectly
- 43,000 more from spend

Numbers do not add up to 552k due to rounding

The UK legal sector's GVA* was worth £59.93bn in 2018

£59.93bn



+1% productivity



£0.99bn-£1.2bn

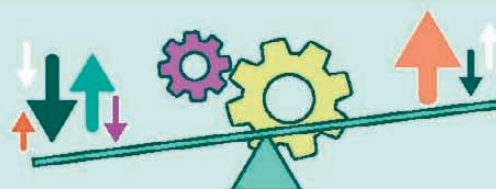


The report projects that a **1% productivity improvement in legal services in 2020 could boost UK GDP by between £0.99bn and £1.2bn by 2050**



In 2017, the UK exported approximately £5bn worth of legal services, and imported approximately £0.80bn – a positive net contribution of £4.29bn to UK balance of trade

Legal services had the highest balance of trade among professional services sectors in the UK



1.1%



The sector accounts for 1.1% of the total UK labour force

Levels of employment in legal services has fallen slightly in the years between 2013 and 2018 – by 0.7%



Over the same period productivity grew 17% – in legal services the average value of each employee's contribution is £100,500 compared to £54,330 which is the average nationally

*Gross Value Added (GVA) is a key measure of economic activity – it is the value of goods and services produced at an individual company, or by industry or at sector level. GVA estimates the value of goods and services offset by costs incurred in the production of those services.

To see the full Contribution of the UK Legal Services Sector to the UK Economy report visit www.lawsociety.org.uk/economic-contribution-legal-services-sector-report

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Council Member's Report



Council Member Nina Ferris

Nina.ferris@hildickinson.com

WHAT'S THE POINT OF THE LAW SOCIETY COUNCIL?

My perception of what Council would be like was based on a misconception of what TLS does and why. I half expected the Council Chamber to be a bit like the house of Lords on a bad day – semi-retired, semi-conscious, home-counties dwellers there for a day out on expenses. In fact, my preconceptions of Council were very wrong.

I have now attended two Council meetings at which the debate has been passionate, professional and well informed. Opinions are given – and listened to – from a reasonably diverse group of practitioners, in terms of age, gender and ethnicity. Some of those council members have been expressing their members views for a good number of years, some are new and give fresh insight in to matters over which the debate or ideas for solutions may have become stale. All of the council members that I have spoken to would say that it is a privilege to represent their members, and treat their position with appropriate respect.

Despite a drive to make Council more representative in terms of both the number of Council Members per regional constituency/protected characteristic/practice area, it will be almost impossible to achieve. That is because all of us understand that the vast majority of practitioners are busy earning a living, running firms, running cases, feel that they are too junior to ask to be able to give the time or just have a life that they can't fit that extra responsibility into. That is part of the reason Council Members consider they are privileged to be able to give the time to represent their members' interests.

But Council can only be as effective as the input/feedback that is given by members of the profession to their representatives as to how TLS should work for them. It is that member engagement that will drive change in TLS and make it more representative, more responsive and more proactive in working to protect its members and the rule of law. Sarah and I want to hear from you on your thoughts on TLS, what it should be doing for us in the regions, how you think it could engage better through social media or other channels, what the priorities should be for TLS over the next year.

We are attending the annual strategy and planning day at the end of March and want to make sure that we can put forward as

many views of our members as we can: that is the point of the Law Society Council, so do please get in touch.

Current Campaigns

I am writing this column in the middle of Justice Week – a joint initiative with the Bar Council and Cilex to promote the rule of law as a force for good to protect freedom, fight for rights, defend democracy and save the planet. It gives all of us an opportunity to help the public better understand the justice system and the rule of law. Bearing in mind the legal needs survey mentioned last month revealed that a majority of those surveyed did not identify their legal problem as such and so did not know where to start in getting the correct advice to resolve it, this message of education is vital.

There was an update on the Diversity Charter which is currently in its pilot phase. Some firms have signed up to the same and the impact is already being felt with Diversity and Inclusion being on the agenda for many practices and local law societies. There is still however a lot of work to do and research produced jointly with the University of Cardiff and the Lawyers with Disabilities Division was discussed. That research highlighted that disabled lawyers did not feel they had the same opportunities for progression or that they had to hide their non-visible disability for fear that they would be seen as a burden. The D&I team are happy to come out to visit any member firms/societies to assist with developing policies for disability and all protected characteristics.

The International Team are working to influence the government on the Brexit trade deal. This is becoming increasingly difficult but they are working to lobby the appropriate people within government and continue to be represented on the Government's Brexit Law Committee.

If you have not yet logged into My Law Society to access the resources for Justice Week and other campaigns and initiatives mentioned above, do give it a look. In the meantime, stay in touch!

Nina Ferris
Council Member



**The Law
Society**

**EXCELLENCE
AWARDS 2020**

ENTRIES ARE NOW OPEN

**ENTER BY
1 MAY 2020**

lawsociety.org.uk/excellence-awards

Regulation Update

The latest regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP

As we approach the end of the first quarter of 2020 (where have the last 2 months gone?), as anticipated at the start of the year, the world of risk and compliance shows no sign of slowing down, as more guidance is produced on an almost daily basis by the Law Society, the SRA launches a consultation on Compensation Fund changes and will be writing to all firms about AML, and all regulators produce information relating to the Brexit transition period, which, in so far as the ICO and data protection is concerned, means it will be business as usual.

Law Society guidance

Since last month's bulletin, the Law Society have issued 10 new and updated advice articles and practice notes, on matters ranging from Brexit transition period to the Criminal Finances Act 2017, and from closure of the Solicitors Indemnity Fund on 30 September 2020, which we referred to in an earlier bulletin, to VAT treatment of disbursements and expenses, which notes 'This guidance replaces our former practice note on VAT on disbursements. It offers less detailed guidance on specific areas of legal practice, due to the challenges resulting from these decisions. However, it provides some more detailed practical guidance on VAT and disbursements in a real estate context.'

We will continue, as we have over the time we have been writing this column, to point out new guidance as it is

produced, but would suggest that reliance is not placed on previous guidance that you may have copied/saved, even if that was relatively recent, and before taking what would be your 'usual steps', you check the Law Society and SRA websites for any updated advice or guidance.

Insurance for freelance solicitors

The SRA Standards and Regulations introduced the concept of freelance solicitors, but, to date, there has been little uptake. Freelance solicitors can undertake reserved legal services provided they have been practicing as a solicitor for at least three years and must practise in their own name.

Part of the reluctance may have been due to the requirement to have 'adequate and appropriate' indemnity insurance in place, with little guidance as to what this means, and the reluctance of insurers to offer cover. This may, however, change over the next few months, with the launch of indemnity cover for freelance solicitors, but only for areas such as crime and conveyancing, and not for solicitors wishing to carry out commercial work, as the limits will be between £500,000 and £2m.

Legal Ombudsman

The Law Society has responded to the proposal from the Office of Legal Complaints (OLC) for a 20% increase in LeO's budget, an extra £2.4m for 2020/21, stating that it wants to understand LeO's performance

and wants more transparent and comprehensive information, particularly as there is dissatisfaction with performance, and pointing out that any increase in the budget is likely to impact on practising certificate fees.

AML

At its recent meeting, the SRA board said that following the new AML regulations which came into force on 10 January which extended its AML supervision to include firms offering tax advice, it will be writing to the 7,000 firms it already supervises for AML to ask if they offer tax services, and will write to the remaining firms it regulates but does not supervise for AML purposes at present (approximately 3,200 firms), to inform them of the position. This may lead to an increase in the fees paid to the Office of Professional Body AML Supervision (OPBAS), which is based on the number of beneficial owners, officers and managers the SRA supervise under the MLR. The SRA chief executive, Paul Philip, said "If a large number of new firms come into our AML supervision, it is likely to have an impact on our resources." The SRA will also issue guidance on which areas of tax advice are high risk and what best practice looks like.

Disciplinary decisions

SRA ordered to pay costs after 'inadequate, wrong and shambolic' failed prosecution

The SDT made a £63,000 costs order against the SRA after finding no case to answer against a solicitor over the



Andrea Cohen

costs incurred in relation to a criminal case conducted by his firm. He was senior partner and compliance officer of the firm which was shut down in July 2017 over suspected dishonesty.

In relation to the SRA's subsequent prosecution, the tribunal found it had 'failed to undertake an independent investigation, failed to speak to potential key witnesses and failed to adduce expert evidence as to the proper amount of costs'. Following the judgment, the SRA said it was reviewing the judgment and considering its next steps.

Solicitor struck off for misleading clients

A solicitor who misled clients on three matters to hide her own inaction, telling them their matters were progressing, was struck off by the SDT following a regulatory agreement with the SRA and ordered to pay £2,600 costs. She admitted dishonesty, having informed two clients that their disputes were progressing through the court when no proceedings had been issued, and fabricated and backdated an email purportedly sent to the Insolvency Service, having failed to act on a client's instructions in relation to annulment of a bankruptcy

order. Her mitigation, not endorsed by the SRA, was that she had a significant caseload with limited resources, and she was expected to deal with matters beyond her experience, allegations refuted by the firm.

SRA fails to prove misconduct of solicitor by overcharging client

The SDT found allegations of overcharging unproven against a solicitor following a three-day hearing, concluding that his £45,000 fee for administering a £1.2m estate was not unreasonable in the circumstances. The £45,000 was set as a fixed fee after discussions with his team and the residuary beneficiary, based on the difficulty of the administration and potential family conflicts, but the engagement letter that was then sent out was defective as it referred to charging on a time basis, rather than a fixed fee. The fixed fee was billed but the cost of the firm's time was around £15,000. The solicitor accepted the firm had not been entitled to charge a fixed fee, but he had not prepared the engagement letter and did not realise it had been wrongly drafted. Once the firm became aware of the mistake the estate was refunded. The SDT criticised the SRA saying the case had been a 'shambles', but found it had been properly brought and did not make a costs order.

Solicitor struck off for backdating an application

A solicitor realised that legal aid applications were not signed by the clients before an inquest, asked them to sign them at the

inquest and then backdated the signatures to make it appear they were signed months earlier. He then realised he had backdated one signature to the day after the application was submitted and attempted to change the date, but made such a mess of the form that it was unusable. He put it in the shredding bag and was going to inform the LAA it had been lost. He admitted his conduct to the firm a week later. In mitigation, not agreed by the SRA, he said he was under huge pressure, and had shown 'candour, remorse and insight' by admitting his actions. In addition to being struck off, he was ordered to pay £2,322 in costs.

Solicitor struck off after almost 50-year career

A solicitor who was admitted in 1972 was struck off after using almost £84,000 in client funds to pay his firm's monthly outgoings, taking between £1000 and £10,000 over 18 months from client account. At the hearing, the solicitor asked for his regret and apology to be placed on record and the tribunal paid credit to him for attending to apologise. His misconduct was deemed dishonest, deliberate and calculated, but the tribunal accepted he was trying to maintain the firm or wind it down in an orderly manner. The SRA applied for £8,700 costs, which the tribunal accepted was proportionate, but due to his limited means, the solicitor was ordered to pay £500.

Andrea Cohen
Weightmans



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

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Why is qualifying as a Paralegal now the best career option for those wanting to enter the legal services profession?

By **Amanda Hamilton** is Chief Executive of the National Association of Licenced Paralegals (NALP)

Qualifying as a solicitor or barrister isn't only time consuming, it's also extremely costly. As a result, fewer and fewer students are able to take this route – even those passionate about a legal career. Not only do they have to pay £27k for the privilege of gaining a law degree, graduates then have to find another £15k to complete the professional examinations, whether it's the LPC for solicitors or BPTC for barristers.

Even then, their career may well come to a full stop. Why? Because the next stage is to gain a training contract or a pupillage – and these are in very short supply.

Statistics show that there are around 9,000 graduates competing for around 5,000 pupillages each year, and about 1,000 competing for about 500 training contracts. Year-on-year, these figures are compounded. It can be a thankless task applying each year in vain. There are just not enough training contracts and pupillages to go around.

Many graduates are therefore finding work as paralegals and some are choosing this as a viable permanent career pathway option.

Encouraging school leavers or law graduates to qualify as a paralegal from day one can save a lot of time, heartache and money! There are several reasons why.

Firstly, it's not as costly to gain qualifications. NALP (an Ofqual awarding organisation), through its training arm, NALP Training is the only paralegal organisation offering nationally recognised and regulated bespoke paralegal qualifications, for under £2k.

Secondly, Paralegals can now operate as independent professional practitioners in a similar way to solicitors. For example, they can apply for a Licence to Practise from NALP, and as long as they have been vetted as to their experience and/or qualifications, have Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) in place (NALP has a recommended bespoke broker), they can operate from a high street office and have other paralegal partners to develop their own Paralegal firm.

There are, however, some legal activities that are 'reserved' and remain the monopoly of solicitors. These must be avoided at all costs. Examples are: 'rights of audience' e.g. the ability to represent a client in all courts. Having said this, paralegals are able and permitted to represent clients in the 'Small Claims Court' and in most Tribunals. Furthermore, this restricted activity whilst still regarded, is being eroded in practice.

With the virtual eradication of legal aid for all but the most urgent cases, consumers needing to attend court (either to bring an action or defend themselves) are unable to pay solicitors' or barristers' fees. These can be quite onerous for even the simplest of matters: solicitors may charge upwards of £200 - £500 per hour for their services – a cost that most people cannot afford.

The lack of legal aid has meant that consumers have been attending court to represent themselves. They are referred to as



Amanda Hamilton

Litigants in Person or LIPs. This in turn has put huge strain on the court system. Many Judges are halting proceedings to give advice to LIPs themselves. This has resulted in massive delays in the timetabling of cases. Ten-minute cases are now taking as long as two hours, according to information given to NALP.

Paralegal Practitioners are now filling this gap left by the 'legal aid' void. Paralegals may only charge £30-£80 per hour for equivalent services offered by solicitors.

If you think that a Paralegal is not a Solicitor, then you will be correct in that assumption. Paralegals are not solicitors. However, they are trained, educated and qualified in law and through the self-regulatory membership body NALP, will have been vetted and checked in respect of their experience and competency.

Apart from the 'reserved activities', paralegals can practice in similar areas of law that a solicitor can, with the exception of Conveyancing and Immigration work. These areas are regulated by the Council for Licensed Conveyancers (CLC) and the Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) respectively.

Provided that a Paralegal Practitioner does not infer in any way that they're solicitors, they can offer advice and assistance to consumers, thereby offering access to justice at a reasonable cost which fulfils the statutory guidelines and objectives of The Legal Services Act 2007.

The future of the legal services sector lies in the capable hands of the Paralegal Profession.

Deadline to recover your lost Spanish property deposits

Over the last 15 years, thousands of Brits bought into the Spanish dream of owning a holiday home in the sun. Unfortunately, the financial crisis of 2008 hit Spain's property industry hard and many developers went bankrupt and disappeared overnight, leaving buildings un-started or unfinished and leaving buyers out-of-pocket and empty-handed.

The chances of claiming any money back from the developers was, at the time, virtually impossible, as buyers found themselves at the end of a very long line of creditors. The property developers should have secured the buyer's deposits in accounts which were protected by bank guarantees, but the reality was that hardly any of them actually did this. UK buyers essentially had to kiss their investments goodbye.

However, a landmark ruling issued by the Supreme Court in Madrid in December 2015 has set an exciting new precedent: any banks holding deposits for failed developers will now be obliged to repay those buyers.

Regarding the matter at hand, it is indeed true that the Supreme Court has established that any Bank intervening in a building development is liable when the developer opened an account with the bank to receive the deposits paid by the buyers for these properties

In accordance with the Building Development Act which repealed Act 57/1968 of 27th July, on the receipt of deposit payments for the construction and sale of property developments (in force until 1st January 2016), the developer was obliged by law to grant a bank guarantee or insurance policy to ensure the return of the deposits paid. However, few developers in Spain did this, and as a result, no guarantees or insurance covers were put in place to ensure the return of these monies.

The interpretation of the Supreme Court is that the obligation of the developer must also be the obligation of the bank where these deposits were paid in, and if they did not fulfil this obligation and the development was not completed or the property was not delivered to the buyer, then the Bank where these payments were made is liable. It is necessary, therefore, that in addition to the property not being delivered to the buyer, that the buyer paid the deposit into the relevant bank and that their deposit was not returned.

Ley 42/2015 sets out 7th of October 2020 as the deadline to make a claim in respect of any amount put down as a deposit before 7th of October 2015.

Everyone who have lost the amount put down as a deposit when purchasing off-plan property in Spain, even though if they won the case in Court but they could not execute the developer. Thousands of non-residents that bought second homes in Spain during the boom times are now entitled to these massive refunds.

Enrique Sanchez, Head of the firm and Honorary Consul of Spain in Liverpool, together with partner Pedro José Padilla encourage all potential claimants to come forward and contact his team so that each individual case can be assessed. So, if you have lost money in a property deal gone wrong in Spain, please come to our free seminar on 30th April 2020 at 10 A.M. in our office in Liverpool (Gladstone House, 2 Church Road, Liverpool L15 9EG).

Please, previous confirmation is required. Send your case to info@spanishlawyerliverpool.com to arrange a free appointment with our lawyers.

**Ana Escauriaza, Spanish Lawyer/Abogado
Spanish Hon. Consul for Liverpool**

Brexit! – What does that mean for Flight Delay Claims, etc?

Brexit Day was the 31st January 2020 – the day the UK exited the European Union. A historic day no doubt. What did Brexit mean though for people who are looking to claim for delayed or cancelled flights (EU Regulation 261/2004), ferries and cruises (EU Regulation 1177/2010)? What about those who use the European Small Claims Procedure (EU Regulation 861/2007)? What about all the other EU Laws, Regulations and Treaties that we follow?

The answer is contained in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 [“the Withdrawal Act”].

Before Brexit, the EU regulations had legal effect in the UK by virtue of s.2 European Communities Act 1972 [“the Communities Act”]. However, by virtue of s.1 of the Withdrawal Act¹, the Communities Act was repealed (subject to some exceptions) at 11.00pm GMT on 31st January 2020.

During the implementation period (known as the transition period) of the Withdrawal Act, the UK will still be treated as a member of the EU by virtue of s.1A(3)(f)(ii) of the Withdrawal Act.

By virtue of s.3 of the Withdrawal Act, any direct EU legislation (including the EU regulations) continue to have effect and

forms part of the domestic law provided it was operating before the end of the transition period. Further, by virtue of s.3(4), the EU legislation also becomes domestic law. However, at the time of this blog, this section of the Act is not actually in force yet.

By virtue of Paragraph 1, Schedule 5² of the Withdrawal Act, all the EU legislation that becomes domestic law, must be published by the end of the transition period.

So, at the time of this blog³, it appears to be the case, that despite us leaving the EU, we are still classed as a member of the EU. This means that all the EU Regulations still apply, and consumers will still be able to claim for delayed flights, ferries and cruises and will still be able to use the European Small Claims Procedure. In fact, nothing significant has changed. It is business as usual – until at least 31st December 2020.

**Philip Nam
Director, White Collar (Legal and Admin) Ltd**

1. In force 17 August 2019 by virtue of SI 2019/1198 (Commencement No 4)

2. In force 3 July 2019 by virtue of SI 2019/1077 (Commencement No 3)

3. Originally prepared at 31st January 2020 at 08:00am GMT and updated 29th February 2020 at 2:30pm GMT

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

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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

When many people talk about data, even more intriguing big data, it can be easy to think we're talking about something that has no real world impact. It's just numbers, it's not real life, right? This month Liverpool BID Company, along with Professional Liverpool, launched the Office Market Review. For 15 years this data driven report has provided an insight into the health and robustness of Liverpool's commercial office market, and the impact can be widespread.

The Office Market Review aggregates the data from the members of the Property Group of Professional Liverpool. It's objective and independent, collating the data from the office take up, the type of business taking offices, the size of the office they're taking, what kind of lease, etc etc.

This data can give you a huge amount of insight into the type of businesses in your city and city region. We know, for example, that in 2019 in Liverpool's Commercial District, 42% of office take up was from professional services. 24.5% was from businesses in the creative, IT and Media sector. Distribution and Shipping was at 6%, but crucially, double what it was the previous year.

Understanding what businesses and what sectors are operating in your area helps you understand the local marketplace. If professional services are growing, this impacts on the advice you offer to businesses, the specialist support, even how you market an area. The growth in distribution and shipping, analysis of what that might be influenced by can help ensure that growth continues.

In turn, this can impact investment. If you know an area is becoming very popular with digital companies, you examine why and this can help you target other digital companies. Before you know it there's a cluster and you're attracting bigger and bigger digital and media companies to the area. Liverpool's Commercial District has become increasingly attractive in the

past five years to creative and technology companies. In 2019, the biggest deal was Sony's take up of office space in the Echo buildings. This, in turn, will attract more creative and digital firms.

It isn't purely about servicing existing business. For the past five years, the Office Market Review has identified a shortage in Grade A office space in Liverpool's Commercial District. This has an impact on the type of business the city is able to attract. Lobbying and continued communication around the need from the commercial property sector, from business groups and organisations like Liverpool BID Company, led to the Commercial District Spatial Regeneration Framework (SRF). Along with Liverpool City Council and various other partners, this is an opportunity to look carefully at what the Commercial District needs to grow. Grade A office space, in the form of Pall Mall Developments is just one of those coming along the track.

Data helps us to identify both needs and trends. If we are able to track how a business community is behaving, through something like office take up, we are able to see if it is healthy and robust. We are able to identify gaps, places where we can help business grow and sectors that are buoyant. Data might seem like something that stays in the cloud, but it has a real day to day impact on our lives and our city.

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

Twitter - @LpoolBIDcompany
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LinkedIn - Liverpool BID Company



In conjunction with:



Private Client Conference

Wednesday 19th May 2020 | 9.30am - 3.45pm | Full materials, lunch & refreshments provided

To see full programme & to book click [here](#)

To be chaired by Graham Bevan with sessions from:

- Capital Tax Update ~ **Chris Whitehouse**
- Business and Agricultural Property ~ **Chris Whitehouse**
- Portfolio management in uncertain times ~ **James Hedley**
- Lasting Powers of Attorney for Property and Affairs
Ruth Hughes
- Taxation of Cryptocurrencies ~ **Leigh Sagar**
- Don't get caught out by the Regs: how to be safe and keep compliant ~ **Shazia Zamir**
- Charity structures: advising charity trustees ~ **Graeme Hughes**
- Summary & thanks: **Graham Bevan**

Why we shouldn't just rely on the Snowflakes!



“Snowflakes”, the Collins Dictionary word of the year in 2016, coined to describe young people coming of age in the 2010s, who are apparently over sensitive, hyper alert to slights or insults and generally considered to be lacking in resilience. The term now seems to encompass anyone under the age of 30, open to easy jibes for their phone addictions, their predilection to eat ‘Avo on Toast’ and then Instagram the experience, as well as to accusations that they live a virtual life on social media and not an actual one. All too often these young people have been the butt of jokes from us oldies, the baby boomer and 60’s generation who have a tendency to fall into their own stereotypes of ‘you don’t know how lucky you are’ type comments.

As a parent of two ‘snowflakes’ I think it’s time for a bit of a rethink from those of us the other side of 50. I would argue that many young people today are far worse off than we were at their age. We left higher education with no millstone of fee debt around our necks, free to walk into one job one day and out of it, to another, the next as the whim took us. Free to make our mistakes – fashion, romance, food – in relative obscurity without someone sticking it on Facebook or Twitter. Not that life was all roses, we did have to suffer the indignities of huge hair, flares and a misguided obsession for tartan which gave way to billowing New Romantics white shirts. The three day week and power cuts of the 70’s followed by economic boom that crashed into negative equity in the 1990s meant that we had our own harsh economic realities and challenges but for the most part reaching adult hood in the late 80s was a far less pressured than it is today .

Our hypersensitive ‘Snowflakes’ are anxious, evidenced by a spike in the number of young people suffering from mental ill health, according to data from Children & Adolescent Mental Health services (CAMHs). There has been a sharp rise, up 37%, in young people admitted to hospital with eating disorders this year and alarmingly 12 deaths in the last 7 years. Our current generation of young people are less likely to own their own homes, are often in graduate jobs in which the salary uplift does not reflect the fact the investment they have made in their education and is nowhere near sufficient to offset the size of their accumulated and rising student debt with its above inflation interest rate. Of course, many students will never earn enough to repay their loans, but it is naïve and unfair of those of us who neither paid tuition fees or were lucky enough to get a grant, to assume that having that

debt mountain doesn’t cause anxiety and stress. It does.

And it’s not just debt that causes worry: Eco-Anxiety is a reality for many and a growing sense of worry about the world and its’ future keeps them awake at night as well as propelling them onto the streets. So, it’s ironic that our anxiety ridden ‘Snowflakes’ are so often the ones who are left to solve an organisation’s environmental challenges. All too often it is the junior, younger members of law firms who are in the “green teams” or who are organising the office sustainability drive – from recycling to banning plastic, from trying to encourage car sharing, no flying or using more public transport through to looking at sustainable sourcing in the supply chain. We need to harness their energy and passion to help make change, but we do them a huge disservice if we leave it all up to them.

To be a sustainable organisation you need senior leadership, commitment of time money and resources from those with the power as well as enthusiasm and buy in from the staff. Don’t abandon your ‘Snowflakes’ to do all the work it’s time to join them as we are all in this together.

And while we are about it lets rewrite the narrative on ‘Snowflakes’, instead of writing off young adults as over sensitive delicate young plants we should respect and understand the anxieties they carry. Real snowflakes are miracles of nature, each one unique in its form and structure, needing careful handling but we miss so much if we fail to observe their innate beauty and specialness. It is time to stand by them and give them a hand to save the planet – we will all benefit and may yet live to show real snowflakes to our grandchildren if we do.

Amanda Carpenter is CEO Achill Management
www.achillmanagement.com



Charity Spotlight

Zoë's Place
Baby Hospice



Zoë's Place Baby Hospice from taking part in some of amazing events such as It's A Knockout, Canoe Challenge, Ladies Lunch and Sky Dives, to creating your own event from runs and treks to bake sales and raffles.

We also have our fantastic recycling initiatives such as clothing, ink and stamps! Last year, our clothing-recycling scheme brought in £45,000! It is an incredible way to help us without having to put your hand in your pocket, yet to provide the hospice with funds such as this.

Our future aim and wish is to re-open the 2 beds we have had to close and we hope with help from companies such as Weightmans, we can look at doing so. Our hospice is turning 25 this year and we hope that we can continue to provide the much needed care and support that our special little lives really do need; our hospice is a lifeline to many.

Please give us a call for any enquiries or aspects to support us on 0151 228 0353 or you can email admin@zoes-place.org.uk

Zoë's Place Baby Hospice Liverpool, is one of only three baby specific hospices in the UK who provide respite, palliative and end of life to babies and children age 0-5, who have life-limiting or life-threatening illnesses.

Our 6 bedded hospice is open 24 hours a day, where we provide specialist nursing 1 to 1 care to our special little lives.

We also work alongside nearby maternity units and families within our bereavement 'Snowdrop Suite' in times that can only be described as unimaginable.

It costs £1.6 million a year just to keep the doors to our hospice open. To break this down, this is £4,500 a day or £30 per hour, per child. We rely heavily on help from the community and businesses to help us with our fundraising as we only receive an NHS Grant of around £200,000.

Last year, we had to put out an urgent appeal as due to the unfortunate lack of funding, we had to close 2 of our 6 beds through the week. This meant that we had to reduce slightly the amount of care offered to currently 70 families that we care for, plus more on a waiting list. It shows just how much our hospice is needed not only in Liverpool but also in the surrounding areas.

Anyone can get involved in helping to raise money for



News from the MJLD

Summer Ball

To follow on from the exciting month which was February, the MJLD are excited to announce details of our upcoming 'Black Tie Summer Ball' for 2020. This year's ball will be taking place on Saturday 20 June at the incredible venue Oh Me Oh My on Water Street in Liverpool City Centre.

For those who don't know or haven't already attended, each year the MJLD committee organise and host an annual Charity Ball in support of our nominated charity, this year being Cash for Kids. Each year we also strive to outdo the last and 2020 is certainly no different. Already having the venue secured we are able to offer rooftop access to the venue overlooking the stunning Liverpool landmark that is the Liver Building.

Without giving away too many surprises, the evening promises to be a special event comprising of food, drink, entertainment, fundraising and guest speakers. More details will follow on all of our social media pages and as always, we anticipate this event will sell out, so be quick in securing your place!

MJLD Football

Before we get too excited over the plans for our Summer Ball though, our committee members are working hard to organise an MJLD football team to face other organisations or companies across the North West. This is open to all junior lawyers across Merseyside, boy or girl, who wish to combine both networking and exercise in one. (What's not to like!?) So, please get in touch via email should this be something you are interested in. Equally, if you are already in a team and wish to organise a fixture with the MJLD Football team, reach out to molly.brislen@weightmans.com.

Website

Last but not least, as promised, the MJLD new website is almost ready for launch. We hope that the website will go live by the end of March. Our very own Chelsea Kearns (Jackson Lees) has been working tirelessly to ensure that all our members will have access



to a user friendly site offering access to an Events calendar for all upcoming social and education events and details of all of our education programmes. So on behalf of all the committee, thank you Chelsea!

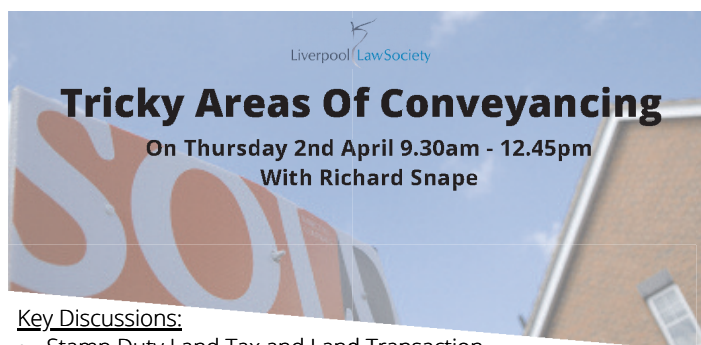
All events hosted by the MJLD are great opportunities for junior lawyers to meet new people on a similar journey and develop their CVs. If you or your firm think you have something to offer the future of the profession, please email andrew.ball@weightmans.com to express your interest. Please also remember to follow us on all social media to keep up to date with everything MJLD and our plans for upcoming events.

Twitter – @MerseysideJLD

Instagram – @Merseyside_jld

Facebook and LinkedIn – Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division

Molly Brislen (MJLD Publicity Representative)



Key Discussions:

- Stamp Duty Land Tax and Land Transaction
- Tax and the additional dwelling surcharge
- Easements, bridal paths and byways vehicle access problems
- Easements and problems with extending the dominant tenement
- Enforceability issues and restrictive covenants
- Enforceability of positive covenants and rentcharge issues
- Co-ownership issues and advising the client

COMPETENCIES: B

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Key Discussions:

- Important current legislation
- Knife Protection Orders
- The necessity of an arrest – Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis v MR – 2019 EWHC 888 (QB)
- The CPS guidance on firearms published in August 2019
- The various Guidelines published by the Sentencing Council in 2019 – Criminal Damage/Arson etc
- Important case-law concerning PET Forms and PTPH Forms
- Some really important 2019 Case-Law concerning the discount for an early guilty plea

& much more...

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Competencies: A2 (a) A2 (d) A4 (a) A4 (b) B1 (a) (b) B2 (a) B5 (d)

News from the WLD

Women's Day Event, 27th March 2020

This year International Women's Day is being celebrated on 8th March 2020 and MWLD will be hosting an event on 27th March 2020 to join in on the celebrations. We will be sharing details of the event shortly so keep your eye out on our social media and website for how to buy your tickets.

2020-2021 Committee

MWLD will be holding the Annual General Meeting this April, further details will be shared shortly however if you would be interested in joining the Committee in a specific role or as a general member please contact us at wldevent@gmail.com for more information.

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 Women's Day Event which will be hosted on 27th March 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
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Womens Lawyers Division – Merseyside
www.wldmerseyside.co.uk
wldevent@gmail.com



The Personal Injury Conference 2020

Wednesday 10th June 2020 | 9.30am - 4pm (Lunch included)

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

9.10 – 9.30	Registration & refreshments	11.45 – 12.45	Changes in the Costs Regime ~ Kerry Underwood, Underwoods
9.30–9.40	Welcome & introduction HHJ Gregory	12.45 – 1.30	Lunch & networking
9.40– 10.25	LIP Portal/Whiplash Reforms ~ Donna Scully, Carpenters	1.30 – 2	Calculating Schedules of Loss: Recent Updates and their Implications ~ Mark Holt, Frenkel Topping
10.25 – 11.00	Rethinking liability in RTA claims involving children and vulnerable adults ~ Matthew Stockwell, Exchange Chambers	2–2.45	QOWCs and Fundamental Dishonesty Update ~ David Pilling, Liverpool Civil Law
11.00 – 11.15	Refreshment break	2.45 – 3	Refreshment break
11.15 – 11.45	How to recognise a brain injury and how it may overlap with other injuries ~ Matthew Stockwell, Exchange Chambers	3 – 3.45	Credit hire: a way forward ~ Craig Budsworth, AX Automotive
		3.45 - 4	Summary & thanks ~ HHJ Gregory

Kindly sponsored by



Speakers

Craig Budsworth qualified as a Chartered Legal Executive in the UK in 2007 and has been involved in insurance and finance since leaving school at 16. He started his career with NatWest and moved to Direct Line in 1993 learning the insurance side of road accidents and insurance claims before moving to the claimant side by joining Glasiers Solicitors in 1998. He became one of the first Legal Executive partners in 2009 and moved to Garvins Solicitors in 2013. Craig has been a member of the MASS Management Committee since 2009. Contributing to developments in the law is at Craig's heart and he joined the Civil Justice Council in 2012. That same year Craig took over as Chairman of MASS. In recognition of his contributions, he was recognised as an individual who has given outstanding service to CILEX or the Legal Community and who represents CILEX's values and ethos by being awarded the CILEX President's Medal.

HHJ Gregory is a former member of 7 Harrington Street Chambers, Liverpool. He graduated from Manchester University in 1981 and was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn the following year. His practice was in general common law with particular emphasis on negligence and all aspects of personal injury litigation including, in particular, catastrophic brain and other injuries of maximum severity, Fatal Accident Act claims, clinical negligence, employers' liability and industrial disease. In a predominantly, but not exclusively, defendant-based practice his clients included major insurance companies, health authorities and trusts, the General Medical Council, self-insuring corporate defendants, numerous local and police authorities, and the Treasury Solicitor. He was a member of the Personal Injury Bar Association. He was appointed a Recorder of the Crown Court in 2002, junior Treasury Counsel (civil) in 2007, and to the circuit bench in February 2015.

David Pilling was educated at the Universities of Sheffield, California at Santa Barbara and Manchester Metropolitan, and was called to the bar in 1999. David's main areas of practice are Costs, Clinical Negligence and Personal Injury. Prior to practice at the Bar he was a director of a legal costs company advising and representing major insurer clients and local authorities. He is now regularly instructed by both receiving and paying parties at first instance and on appeal in relation to all matters involving civil costs including increasingly costs budgeting hearings. As well as costs issues arising from personal injury and commercial claims David was extensively involved in costs litigation arising from the North West Child Abuse Cases group action and also has experience of dealing with the costs of receivers and trustees in bankruptcy in both civil and criminal matters. His clinical negligence practice encompasses claims ranging from dental negligence through to maximum severity cerebral palsy claims whilst his personal injury practice includes industrial disease matters.

Donna Scully is a Director in Carpenters Group, having worked for various law firms in London before joining in 1997 and setting up its specialist Personal Injury department. She was Chair of MASS from 2010-12. During her term, she was closely involved in the formation of AskCUE PI and the implementation of the LASPO legislation. Donna has held a seat on the Insurance Times' Fraud Charter since its launch in 2010, is a member of the editorial board for Modern Insurance Magazine and she received the Outstanding Achievement award at the 2014 Personal Injury Awards. In 2016 and 2018, Insurance Business UK named her as one of the insurance industry's Women of Influence. In September 2018, Donna jointly won the Insurance Post Social Media Influencer Award.

Matthew Stockwell specialises in serious injury litigation and public law. His caseload at Exchange Chambers is made up almost exclusively of cases with a mixture of high value (or other importance), sensitivity and complexity. He is recognised for his technical expertise and advocacy skills, combined with a strong work ethic and empathy with clients. Matthew served on the executive committee of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) between 2007 and 2015, as Vice President in 2012 and President in 2013. He is co-author of the APIL Guide to Accidents at Work and has particular knowledge and experience of brain injury litigation.

Kerry Underwood is Senior Partner of Underwoods Solicitors and is the acknowledged expert on funding, costs, legal systems, client care, marketing and advertising of legal practices. His books on these subjects are considered the standard works. They cover Conditional Fee Agreements, Fixed Costs, Qualified One-Way Costs Shifting, the portals, and all aspects of funding in all civil cases and how to run personal injury cases profitably. Kerry has a particular interest in, if that is the right word, Part 36. Kerry has written hundreds of articles on legal topics and is a regular contributor to Practical Law, New Law Journal and the Law Society's Civil Justice Section Newsletter. He appears regularly on radio and television and is frequently consulted by senior politicians and senior members of the Judiciary. Underwoods Solicitors pioneered Conditional Fee Agreements, Contingency Fee Agreements, TV advertising by lawyers and offshoring work to South Africa.



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Merseyside Landmarks

In this edition we take a look at the history of Liverpool's Lime Street Station

Construction of Lime Street Station began in 1833. It was built to replace Crown Street Station which was considered to be too far away from the city centre by the operators Liverpool and Manchester Railway. Lime Street is the oldest grand terminus mainline station in the UK and has become one of the busiest stations in the country with nearly 20 million passengers a year passing through the gates.

The station was designed by John Cunningham - who also designed Crewe Railway Station and the Philharmonic Hall, John Foster Jr, designer of St Andrews in Rodney Street and Arthur Holme, who designed St Anne's Church in Aigburth.

The Grade II listed building was opened in August 1836, and the building included four large gateways. There was a steep hill from Lime Street to the station at Edge Hill, and until 1870 the locomotives were detached from the trains and passengers would go down the hill by gravity, which was controlled by brake men. On the return journey a steam engine would haul the train up the hill using ropes.

By 1849 Lime Street had to be expanded because of the rising numbers of passengers and the design this time was a collaboration between Joseph Locke, Richard Turner, William Fairbairn and John Kennedy and the work was completed in 1849. Further work in 1867 saw the construction of the northern arched train shed, which spanned 200 ft and was the first arch to be constructed mainly of iron.



Lime Street Station

When the railways were nationalised in 1948, Lime Street underwent various changes and upgrades, including new signalling systems and in 1962 the line to Crewe was electrified.

The station was also fronted by the North Western Hotel which was designed by Alfred Waterhouse in a renaissance revival style. In 1996, the hotel was converted into student accommodation, but has since been restored and later this year will open as the Radisson RED Liverpool Hotel.

Leading up to Liverpool's role as the European Capital of Culture during 2008, and the city's 800th anniversary in 2007, Lime Street was given a £35 million redevelopment grant and saw the construction of a public plaza. The work was overseen by English Partnerships and in 2010 was voted Station of the Year at the National Railway Awards.

On the main concourse, statues of Ken Dodd and Bessie Braddock were installed. Bessie Braddock was a Labour Party politician who served as an MP for the Liverpool Exchange constituency from 1945 to 1970. The work, named "A Chance Meeting" was designed by sculptor Tom Murphy. The statue was unveiled by Ken Dodd in 2009. In August 2014, the Earl of Wessex unveiled a memorial, also designed by Tom Murphy, to the 'Liverpool Pals'. Tom Murphy is a self-taught artist, who attended Liverpool John Moores University. His iconic statue of John Lennon at Liverpool John Lennon Airport was unveiled in 2002 by Yoko Ono and Cherie Blair.



Bessie Braddock and Ken Dodd A Chance Meeting by Tom Murphy

S Code	Date	Time	March 2020	Speaker
S4319	6th	1.30-4.30	Corporate Update	Chris Beanland
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
S4368	17th	1-3	Reasonable adjustments at work: key issues & recent developments	Emma Tegerdine
S4404	20th	1.30-4.30	Personal Injury Update	Jeff Zindani
S4406	24th	1.30-4.30	Hot Topics for Civil Litigators 2020	Jeff Zindani
S4381	27th	10-4.30	Trial advocacy in the civil courts	Mike Winston
S4375	31st	10-1	Elderly Client Update	Helen Clarke

S Code	Date	Time	April 2020	Speaker
S4329	1st	1.30-4.30	Spring Criminal Law Update	Colin Beaumont
S4305	2nd	9.30-12.45	Tricky Areas of Conveyancing	Richard Snape
S4306	2nd	1.30-4.30	Leasehold Dwellings Management, Service Charge and Ground Rent Issues	Richard Snape
S4414	21st	5.30-7	Criminal Law Judges Forum	HHJ Menary QC & others
S4307	23rd	9.30-12.45	Conveyancing Guide to Easements, Access and Services	Richard Snape
S4321	24th	1.30-4.30	Company Law: The Essentials	Chris Beanland

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