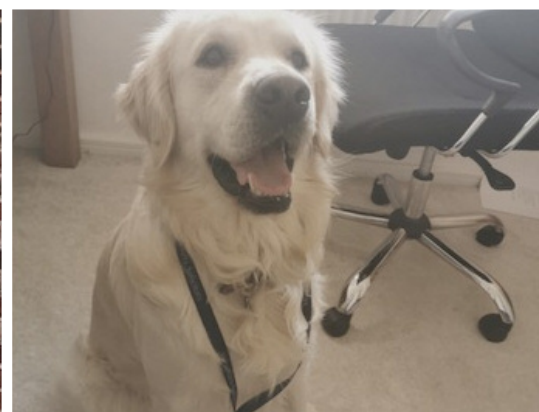
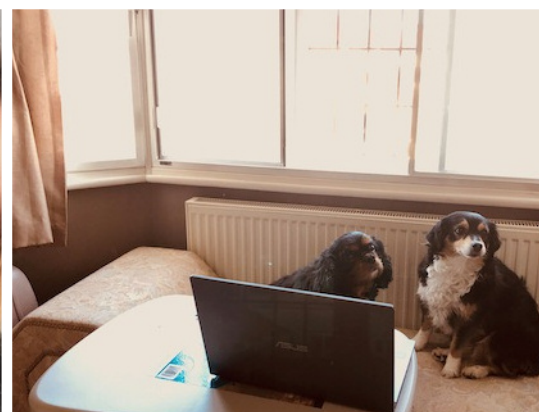
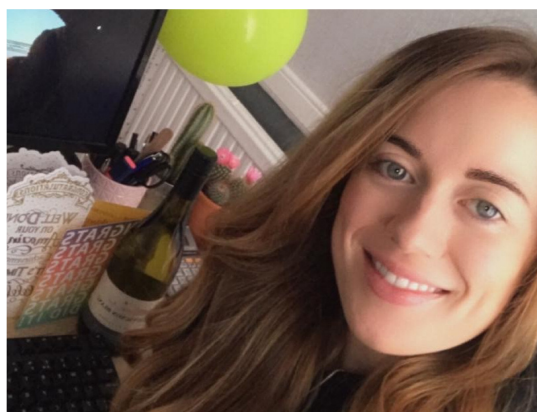
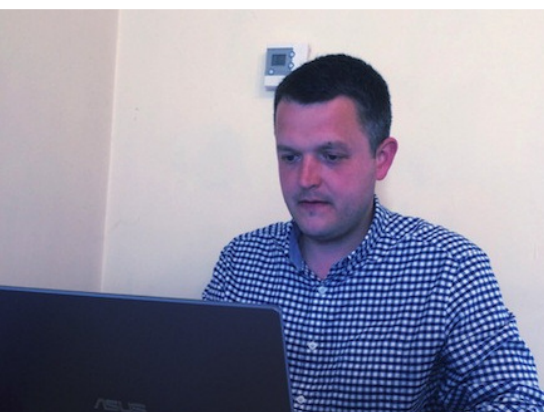


May 2020

Liverpool Law

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

Liverpool Law Society



www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk



LEAP is the best system for lawyers
and staff to work from home

Book an online demonstration:
leap.co.uk/work-remotely

May 2020

4



4. The latest from the Editor, Jennifer Powell

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

6. Liverpool Law Society's online journey since the COVID-19 outbreak

7. Lock down Learning

5



10. Access to Justice
The latest from Vauxhall Community and Law Centre and Merseyside Law Centre

12. The Family Justice System's response to remote hearings in children proceedings

7



15. RTA claims under the coronavirus pandemic

16. Mental Health Matters

20. SBA launches Covid 19 Solicitors Personal Hardship Fund

22. The Lockdown Diaries

27. Metro Mayor Kick-starts LCRCares fund to support Coronavirus "Community Heroes"

38. Regulation Update

43. Charity Spotlight
Emergency Appeal for free legal advice charities

12



27



Cover picture: Members of Liverpool and their pets working from home

DEADLINES 2020

28th May

25th June

27th July

21st August

24th September

27th October

24th November

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/LiverpoolLawSociety



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



Join us on Linked In
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/liverpool-law-society>

Linked in

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

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

Photographs should be provided in the highest resolution possible to ensure a good reproduction. Photographs must not be subject to copyright.

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

Published by

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

Welcome to the May 2020 edition of Liverpool Law



Jennifer Powell
editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

I'm so pleased to report that we are in the very fortunate position of continuing business as close to normal as possible. We are aware of some of the other Joint V closing their services during the crisis and I am incredibly proud that we are able to still bring you the monthly magazine as well as the other LLS services and training detailed.

It is an unusual magazine this month and on the whole seems to be a COVID 19 help manual! There may be some repetition amongst the many articles but it is clear that there is support available for all, whether that be financial for you personally or your business, for your mental health or just a nice read during lockdown. Thank you so much to our contributors, we wouldn't have anything to publish without your continued and valued input.

I am writing this article during a very strange period of furlough leave. It is going against the grain to simply stay indoors and not be out assisting in any way I can with food banks or deliveries. I like to help wherever possible but I am doing as I'm told and staying at home for the sake of my families health, especially my vulnerable Mother and young daughter.

The sense of community that has come to the forefront cannot go unnoticed. Not just the weekly

socially distant cheer for the NHS and key workers, but the connection of support with shopping and general moral. I've been in this house 10 years and I am ashamed to say I am only just getting to know some of the neighbours beyond those on my immediate left or right!

There are a variety of services available as detailed in this magazine but if anyone would like to have a chat over things with an understanding ear, please do not hesitate to get in touch, I would be more than happy to listen and we can help each other through this.

The lockdown diaries are my favourite this month, I love nosing in all your homes and seeing your beautiful pets, but more importantly I am enjoying seeing how well we are all responding to this. Please keep them coming and anything else you would like us to feature.

I say this on a regular basis but now more than ever this is your magazine so tell us what you would like to see more or less of and we will happily oblige.

Keep safe.
Jennifer

Jennifer Powell,
Editor

DIARY DATES

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

Due to the coronavirus the following forthcoming meetings and events will be online to maintain safe distancing:

- 06/05/20 Residential Conveyancing in Lockdown (60 minute special)
- 07/05/20 SRA Accounts Rules for Accounts Staff
- 12/05/20 General Committee
- 13/05/20 Buying & Selling Residential Property at Auctions
- 14/05/20 Education & Charities Sub-Committee
- 14/05/20 Criminal Practice Sub-Committee
- 19/05/20 Editorial Sub-Committee
- 19/05/20 Private Client Conference with STEP, Liverpool

- 20/05/20 Current New Build Issues for Conveyancers
- 20/05/20 Domestic Abuse Bill & Legal Developments: What Has and Is Changing?
- 20/05/20 Last Minute Conveyancing Problems and How to Solve them
- 21/05/20 Future Planning Sub-Committee
- 22/05/20 Varying Employment Contracts
- 26/05/20 How do I gain confidence in doing my own advocacy in family matters?
- 26/05/20 Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
- 28/05/20 Civil Litigation Sub-Committee

Editorial Committee Dates

All meetings start at 1pm

- 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

"Every adversity brings new experiences and new lessons." — Lailah Gifty Akita

Well here we are after another month of lockdown and I sincerely hope that this issue of Liverpool Law finds you and yours well!

During these strange and unprecedented times we are all seeing the need to adapt to a new way of working so that we can continue to offer our clients, business partners and colleagues the advice and support needed. Liverpool Law Society is no different and I am pleased to report that our staff have been working extremely hard to ensure that we continue with our committee meetings online. These meetings are an opportunity to deal with any pressing issues you, as members, are currently facing. Please contact us with any direct questions for our chairs. You can find information about our committees on the website. If you would like to join any of our committees please do get in touch.

I have been fortunate enough to attend more sub committees than usual because they are all taking place online. It has been incredible to hear of how people are coping and adopting new processes.

Further, we are determined to bring you the very best training we can offer by using technology. Feedback has been very positive and I am certain that when the lockdown ends we will be looking to offer a varied platform for training going forwards.

I appreciate that some of you may be experiencing particularly hard times at the moment, whether that's because you have been challenged by having to adopt new working practices or that, by reason of what you do, you have been unable to do so which now creates new struggles!

I also realise that some of our member firms will have taken the difficult decision to furlough some of you. Training is still permitted at this time so take a look at our upcoming online courses as the programme is regularly changing as we continue to add new seminars.

We are also having to reflect our membership at the moment by looking to keep our costs to a minimum while still striving to provide a quality service. We have been able to make some savings on expenditure and, sadly, this includes having to furlough staff. This measure is temporary and we hope will go towards securing a bright future for Liverpool Law Society once Covid-19 is overcome.

While I hope that none of you reading this will have fallen on very hard times please do remember that the local SBA is available as well as our own Pritt Fund. Please do take time to look at our website and forward the link to anyone who you may think is in need of it:
<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/news/help-for-solicitors/>



Julie O'Hare

I am conscious that Mental Health Awareness week takes place this month and now, more than ever, people are starting to look inward. I would encourage you all to take care of yourselves by taking advantage of mental and physical health development apps and programmes and trying to make the most of having some time at home. I would also encourage our members to keep in touch, not just with us, but with each other. If anyone has any suggestions as to how we can assist you during this time please do let us know.

Finally, it deeply saddened me to hear of the passing of HH Elizabeth Steel (Liz to all those who knew and loved her). As the first female President of this Society in 1989/1990, and having the Hillsborough disaster happen during her Presidency, it cannot have been an easy year to navigate! The amount of lovely emails received here is a testament to how much she was loved and respected and I do hope that we can pay her a proper tribute when we are next able to gather together.

Julie O'Hare
President

Sponsored by



Liverpool Law Society's online journey since the COVID-19 outbreak



Adapting to the virtual world that has emerged from this crisis has definitely been a challenging journey. Throughout the last few weeks the world has been forced to change its way of working. Although this was daunting at first, we have received really great feedback on courses and meetings that have moved online that we would love to share with you to spread some positivity!

Communication

Thanks to technology being what it is, we have been able to continue our committee meetings online which is a really positive step for us and our members as we can continue discussions and communicate with colleagues on important matters. "It is so incredibly important to be able to continue to have an open line of communication with your colleagues and peers at this unprecedented time. As a committee we strive to ensure our members views are heard so that we can look at putting in place measures to support and guide those in need. Today we heard from our Employment, Access to Justice and Family Law Chairs about how their online meetings have been progressing and updates in their practice areas." (said Julie O'Hare, President). If anyone has anything that they wish to be considered at our next General Committee meeting please do let us know by contacting president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk.

Keeping in touch with colleagues and sharing experiences of this current crisis is something we are thankful to be able to do. Lindsey Knowles, Chair of the Employment Sub-Committee explains why it is important for the committee to collaborate during these times

"The meeting took place via Zoom and worked well. We discussed matters from the current position with Employment Tribunal cases, how people were coping with work, the impact on the crisis for current final year law and LPC students and we were also able to continue the planning for the Employment Law conference taking place in October – hopefully face to face but virtually if necessary! It was a productive meeting and great to keep in touch with committee members particularly in these unusual times."

Ease of use

Working life as we know it may have changed but that doesn't mean our meetings have to stop. A common mistake for video conferencing tools is that they are difficult to use, or you need to be at 'IT wizard' to use them. There are so many video conferencing tools out there, and they are designed to be simple and reliable. James Mannouch gave some great feedback after chairing the Access to Justice committee meeting - "It's great being able to pull documents on screen for everyone to look at in real time. I also like the way in which people can dip in and out of a meeting if they have other calls on their time. The last time I used video conferencing was 2008 and it didn't work very well. These days, it's a simple and reliable tool."

See familiar faces

Self-isolation can be really tough, especially if you are alone. Catching up with colleagues via video conferencing is the next best thing to face-to-face meetings! Keeping in touch is certainly comforting during these unprecedented times, as is seeing a familiar face, Vice President Steven Zdolny explains "most participants had their camera on, which was great to see, especially whilst self-isolating."

Keep on top of projects

During these difficult times, it is even more important to continue to innovate and collaborate, especially when referring to Access to Justice in the city. Our Immediate Past President, Chris Topping had a few words to say after the Access To Justice in Liverpool Project Meeting.

"We met today to discuss the A2J in Liverpool Project. Whilst it is peculiar meeting by Zoom it is a great way of catching up and actually seeing each other when we are socially isolating. It is so important that we do not lose momentum on ongoing initiatives and it was really encouraging to hear that the research looking at the provision of advice in Liverpool City Region is moving forwards."

This is a time where we anticipate that there will be many people, sadly, needing advice on welfare benefits, debt and housing. The

research project is making some timely connections already to ensure that there can be robust referrals to allow that advice to be provided.

Clearly the ongoing lockdown is not ideal but we are proud to say that, as Liverpool Law Society, we are able to do our part to facilitate ongoing access to justice in the city."

Learning

We have also had some fantastic feedback from our live online courses! It has been really encouraging hearing this feedback, as the team at LLS has put a lot of work into moving courses online. We are really pleased that we are still able to provide a valuable training service to our members and delegates.

"Helen Clarke's Elderly Client Update was presented by way of a Zoom meeting. It was a different delivery due to the coronavirus rules on social distancing. I'm not sure how many attended but I saw (virtually) half a dozen or so people and I know that there were some cats also in attendance!"

Helen's course was excellent, the tech worked well and we were able to have a discussion arising from the course and in relation to the events triggered by the virus.

It's vital that we continue to support Liverpool Law Society, Jo spends a great deal of time and effort in organising courses and speakers and the programme of learning is outstanding. It would be a such a shame if it was all lost and courses were cancelled due to a lack of interest arising from the virus. Once these things are lost, it is often impossible to rebuild for the future."

Thank you, Naomi Pinder

Being adaptable

We cannot thank our staff, speakers, members and delegates enough for being so adaptable during this time. Some of the courses that were scheduled since the lockdown period were not designed to be held online, our 'trial advocacy' course was definitely one of them.

"I was unsure how advocacy training online would go but it went really well. The zoom software also worked really well and was easy to use so overall an excellent course"

Thank you, Elizabeth Chan

"Attended (virtually) a great course on Trial Advocacy in the Civil Courts today. Delivered by @fleetwood_mick and drawing on his own invaluable experience as a solicitor-advocate. Thank you @LpoolLawSociety for hosting and thank you @CelSolicitors for sending me on the course."

Thank you, Joshua Murphy

We are so pleased with all the feedback we have received, not only from committee members, staff and speakers but our delegates too. It is really important that we continue to adapt and revise the way we work so we can continue to support the local legal community (albeit from our homes).

If anyone has any feedback or suggestions for ways we can support you more, please do get in touch at contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk.

Lock down Learning!

Dear colleagues,
I hope you and your loved ones are all keeping safe and well.

I gather that most of us are currently working from home and for some, this is a completely new way of working. I have seen lots of great blogs with tips on how to make the transition as easy as possible.

As you may know, Liverpool Law Society has also closed the 'Helix' door but it we are still very active holding all our committee meetings and many of our training events online, using zoom software.

Many of our training events are planned well in advance and so when the decision was taken in March to cease face to face training, we had to act quickly to move all the events planned until end of July online. I am grateful to all our speakers for their willingness to adapt – some had experience of delivering training via this method before but those who hadn't had to undergo some short intensive training quite quickly! The events that had been prescheduled had been designed for face to face delivery and so there were some concerns about how these might translate from room to screen – seemingly, so far so good.

I am now working with speakers to bring you in the next few weeks some new events, which have been designed specifically for online delivery – the key being that that are considerably shorter in duration than those previously offered! So please keep you eye out for those.



Jo Downey

Those who have corporate training offer credits and training season tickets, can of course still use these for online events and I'm pleased to say there will be a 2020/21 Training Season Ticket – currently with an early bird purchase offer: <https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/training-season-ticket/>

With regards to 'in house' training, if you have multiple staff who require training on the same topic, I can arrange for a zoom session tailored specifically for that team – just get in touch.

As ever, I'm just an email away if you have any thoughts, suggestions or feedback regarding the Liverpool Law Society training programme: jo@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

**Stay well everyone.
Jo**

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



Get Safe Online
Free expert advice

News from the Sub Committees

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



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Liverpool Law Society and the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee wanted to spread some positivity at this difficult time for #StressAwarenessMonth and share ways of coping with stress particularly when working during isolation.

Representatives from the E,D&I committee had a few words they would like to say to the profession –

“All of us in the profession now find ourselves limited in our capability to do what we have trained for; communicate. I wanted to show people that may be struggling during isolation that they are not alone, and that we must take what positives we can from such a challenging time in our lives”

Anna Hayes, DLA Piper

“We are aware that morale is low as many begin to feel isolated. We wanted to take part in something fun and to draw attention away from these frightening times. We also wanted to make people aware that they are not alone and to send a unity message across to the legal profession.”

Ngaryan Li, Vauxhall Law Centre

Liverpool Law Society and the E, D&I Committee would like to everyone who took part in spreading some joy at this time.

Access to Justice

The committee met via Zoom on 2nd April 2020 – expertly managed by our Chair, James Mannouch.

Not surprisingly a key area of discussion was the coronavirus situation and how this was impacting the advice sector. The overall picture was that it is surprisingly quiet at the moment. There has not been the influx of enquiries that might have been expected. It was generally agreed that this was probably the calm before the storm. Many people are getting used to the idea of being at home, trying to get shopping online and contacting family.

The need for advice is likely to grow over coming weeks. Key areas of need are likely to be Welfare benefits with 1m claims for Universal Credit, Employment especially with furloughing and Family. Most agencies are expecting to have more work than they manage with existing resources.

We decided that, for the time being, the Joint Forum on Access to Justice on 1st May should go ahead as planned. The following speakers are booked to attend –

1. Access to Justice in Liverpool - joint Liverpool Council & University of Liverpool project update by Dr James Organ
2. Legal Aid Agency – positive initiatives by Danny Whittle, Business Improvement Manager, LAA
3. Litigants in Person Network – Martha de la Roche, Network Development Manager, Litigant in Person Network, the Access to Justice Foundation

Steve Cornforth advised that the Liverpool Legal Walk had been put back to 6th October 2020 but that this would be reviewed as things progress. There was a discussion about getting more engagement from the bar. Steve advised that the Manchester walk was well represented. It was agreed that we would use the time to try and bring one or more barristers on board. A suggestion was made that there might be young barristers/pupils via the LEF. The Chair will make enquiries.

The next meeting is scheduled for 11th June 2020 at 1.00pm by Zoom.

Steve Cornforth

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

Protecting places of worship consultation

10th May

Drug Offences Consultation

7th May

What next for the Sentencing Council?

9th September

Criminal Legal Aid Review: An accelerated package of measures amending the criminal legal aid fee schemes

31st December

Carer's leave

3rd August

Regulatory

Changes to the Principles for Qualified Lawyers

6th May

Reforming Regulation Initiative

11th June

Legislative Parliamentary Update

This week's resumption of the Parliamentary from Recess is a convenient point at which to assess the progress of legislation since the Session was opened in December 2019.

The Parliamentary website confirms that this Session will run until 2021, so this means that there should be scope for uninterrupted progress of Bills. This article refers to Government-introduced Bills, with one Hybrid Bill exception, which LLS members might find relevant.

The two major Statutes passed in this Session have been the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 and the Coronavirus Act 2020. Each of these Acts is very substantial so I shall not attempt to summarise. These Statutes are the measures to which Practitioners should refer on any questions about these topics. Other enacted legislation in this health crisis are the Contingencies Fund Act 2020 and NHS Funding Act 2020.

It is worth noting that the Government decided to legislate in the Coronavirus Act 2020 rather than under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, but that latter measure might yet be a source of delegated legislation. So far, I cannot trace that the Government has derogated from the European Convention on Human Rights by way of Section 14 of the Human Rights Act 1998, which might be expected given

the curtailment of civil liberties.

Closely tied to the EU Act is the Agriculture Bill which provides for payments to farmers and – significantly for Solicitors – also concerns agricultural tenancies. On a related topic, the Immigration and Soils Security Co-Ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill could be noted by immigration law solicitors as it is connected with free movement.

A range of Bills are relevant across a range of practice disciplines, non-contentious and litigation-related, and I have selected those of particular interest. The Pension Schemes Bill will be a wide-ranging Statute, the Fire Safety Bill will affect properties comprising two or more sets of domestic premises, and the Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill appears to govern drone activity. The Medicine and Medical Devices Bill concerns regulation of those items.

Two measures important for family law practitioners' attention, and which fell at the Autumn Dissolution, have returned. They are the Domestic Abuse Bill, and the Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill which ends the need to prove established facts ("no fault") to dissolve Marriages and Civil Partnerships.

In the criminal law field, two

Bills are of note. Details about sentencing legislation appear in the Sentencing (Pre-Consolidation Amendments) Bill and parole will be affected by the Prisoners (Disclosure of Information about Victims) Bill.

Conveyancers with clients affected by the planned construction of HS2 will need to refer to the High-Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Bill. I note from our contact with Merseyside MP's that submissions can be made directly to the House of Commons Clerk of a Hybrid Bill Committee.

The coming of the lockdown meant that we cancelled LLS's twice yearly meeting with the local MP's, fixed for 20 March. At the time of writing, we are planning an e-mail message to the MP's so as to maintain



Jeremy Myers

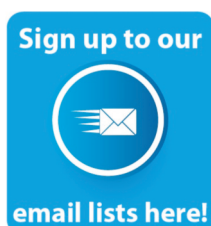
contact and perhaps pave the way for occasional requests for written Parliamentary questions to be submitted. Any LLS members should contact the office if they would like the Society to refer to the MP's.


Jeremy Myers
Parliamentary Liaison Officer

Enewsletter Sign Up

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

Sign up here




 Liverpool Law Society

[NOW ONLINE] Commercial Property: Option Agreements, Overage and other issues for developers

Wednesday 24th June 9.30am - 12.45pm

This is an intermediate course for commercial property lawyers undertaking development work it will explore:

- The role of the commercial property lawyer: the retainer, client objective and the duty to advise and explain
- Site acquisition and assembly: boundaries, plans and due diligence issues
- Using Option Agreements: drafting problems, compliance with Section 2 of the Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1989, using formulae for land values and recent case law and developments.
- Overage: drafting issues, the provision of security and lessons from recent case law.
- Advising on existing and the creation of new easements and covenants
- Land Registration Issues: using notices, dealing with restrictions, developments in adverse possession
- Dealing with defects in title: title indemnity insurance, and rectification of registered titles

CLICK HERE TO BOOK



**Vauxhall Community
Law & 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.

A massive thank you to our amazing volunteers

Volunteers at Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre are central to supporting the Law Centre to provide free advice to people across the Liverpool City Region. We would be unable to continue with our service provision at our current levels without this support. As well as being critical to our day to day service delivery volunteers have played roles in our development work, such as on our planned Zero Hours/Gig economy campaign and are also working with us in our quest to support Domestic Violence advice and support, they are supporting our work with minority communities such as Merseyside Congolese Assoc. We salute our volunteers for their tireless work in supporting our quest to provide more access to justice. We are really looking forward to opening our doors and seeing you all again very soon. Thank you

Another big thank you to the Steve Morgan foundation!

As reported last month the Steve Morgan Foundation had supported Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre through difficult times by awarding us a grant over 3 years in 2017.

They have come through again to support the Law Centre to purchase vital IT equipment to enable us to continue service provision remotely with a grant to purchase mobile phones, laptop computers, printers and software to support our service delivery from home.

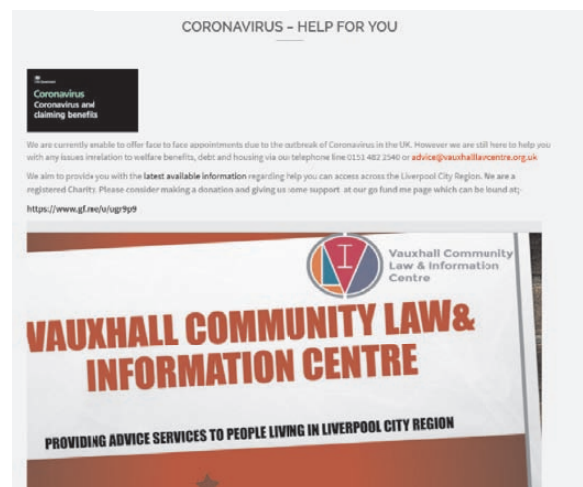
As well as supporting advice provision, we are now in a position where we can have regular team meetings online. This enables the team to get support from each other and is essential for communication in these strange times.



Website Up and Running

As we reported last month, we are in the process of redeveloping our website, it is back online now thanks to work done by James Rowan, the CEO of WEBREVOLVE (<https://www.webrevolve.co.uk/>)

We are looking to develop the site further and would welcome any assistance anyone could give with further development of the site. If you can offer any support please contact us at development@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk
Thank you



Coronavirus causes lockdown and mass reduction in services, Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre stays open

In order to protect the health and safety of our clients, staff and volunteers Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre was forced to close its doors in late March 2020.

However, we are still managing to provide a service via the telephone and email. We have supported clients who have had their appeals dealt with by telephone tribunal and continue providing support to our clients remotely.

Our recently updated telephone system has proved to be invaluable as all of the staff can be reached on their direct dial numbers at home. We have had a steady stream of clients calling for advice. We expect this to increase rapidly in the coming weeks with the unprecedented increases in the numbers of people claiming benefits. Our advice line is open 9 to 4.30 Monday to Friday on 0151 482 2540 and our email for advice is advice@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk



News from Merseyside Law Centre

Fighting for equality through social justice to combat poverty & homelessness



Along with the rest of the world, Covid-19 has dramatically changed the way we deliver our services and has made us all rethink the way in which we work, using our creativity and solid determination to navigate the new challenges we face and the challenges that lay ahead.

We suspended our face to face advice sessions on March 16th and have been continuing to give advice over the phone and by e-mail while our staff work from home. Our staff have continued to make us so proud, all determined to continue providing assistance and guidance to those most in need during these difficult times.

We have been receiving a wide variety of calls. Many are individuals who have been deemed high risk by the government and now unable to go into work are unsure of their rights in regards to their pay. Many are current clients who are concerned about their welfare tribunals being postponed, some are people who face the prospect of being made homeless and who are even more vulnerable due to the pandemic. Whatever the issue, we endeavour to help in any way possible and refer to other fantastic services in the city when we are unable to help.

We would like to say a massive thank you to The Steve

Morgan Foundation and the Metro Mayor's LCR Cares Fund for providing us with emergency funding to help us transition from face to face to remote services and enabled us to equip our staff with the equipment they need to work from home. Their quick response to this crisis has helped us immensely and no doubt so many other organisations across the region. There is an even more palpable feeling of community in Liverpool than normal during these times, looking at all of the wonderful initiatives that have been keeping the pulse of Liverpool going and seeing all the mutual support offered is a real spirit lifter when we are so surrounded by worrying news.

Please get in touch if you're able to help support your local Law Centre.

Our current contact details are below so please do pass these onto anyone you think may benefit from or require our services. Please get in touch if you're able to help support your local Law Centre.

Tel: 0151-709-0504

E-mail: enquiries@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk

Twitter: @MerseyLawCentre.

The Family Justice System's response to remote hearings in children proceedings

In the last four weeks, the Family Justice System has experienced significant change. Prior to March 2020 clients occasionally participated in hearings by telephone. In international cases, parties and witnesses occasionally gave evidence by video link. It was the exception and not the rule. Many professionals involved within the Family Justice System had never experienced a case where a person participated from a place other than in the court room.

Now, four weeks later, remote hearings are the new normal, home working is the rule, attendance at court is the exception. That has been possible only because of the dedication of all those that contribute to the working of the Family Justice System. For some, the adaption has been fairly straightforward, for others it has been anything but; yet every single person in every organisation has worked tirelessly to make it happen. However, that does not mean it is working as well as it needs to. This is, after all, is not a business that can 'make do'.

Mr Justice Mostyn conducted a complicated hearing over a number of days with multiple witnesses on an end of life case in the very early stages of remote working. Professionals involved, including Mr Justice Mostyn, said it worked well. It is important that it did, as it perhaps was not a case that could have been adjourned to allow for the pandemic to subside. There have been a number of complex hearings that have been conducted remotely since this time with praise for the remote working adaptations made by the Family Justice System.

Members of the judiciary are aware of the need to ensure that justice is done and seen to be done. Senior members of the judiciary have been regularly reviewing and reflecting on remote working and issuing new guidance, whilst giving the local judiciary the necessary flexibility to allow autonomy in the best interests of the case at hand. That guidance has been circulated and can be found on the Liverpool Law Society website.

The guidance has mainly centred on the type of technology to be used, the security of that technology and how certain hearings can be made effective using technology. This is commendable, ensuring that cases can go ahead is important. The question now being asked, and I believe rightly so, is whether hearings that can happen should proceed remotely. A rapid **consultation** was concluded on 28th April and the views that I have seen from professionals in respect of remote hearings have been overwhelmingly positive.

However, I urge caution in delighting that the remote practices are the future. I urge caution in believing that cases conducted remotely are successful for all involved. I also question whether the fact that we can conduct hearings remotely translates that we should conduct hearings remotely.

Over recent years I have been conducting research through the University of Wales, which has centred on the impact of the 26-week timetable in care proceedings. A finding of that research is applicable to the remote working practices we are currently using as a consequence of Covid-19. My research found that for some parents, the feel of the seriousness of the court room, the gravity of walking over the court threshold, was the light bulb moment



Emma Palmer

influencing required change to allow the child to be cared for by the parent.

That physical action, the grandeur of the court process, has kept families together that would otherwise have been permanently separated. In my view, that cannot be replicated by a remote hearing, especially a phone hearing.

Taking that further, the same applies to parental disputes that do not involve the removal of children. The dominance of the Judge in the Court room is purposefully palpable in its design. This dominance is then enforced by the procedures in place, for example standing as the Judge enters and exits the room. That is not replicated by a short wait whilst the Judge is connected to the phone call. There has been discussion in our LLS Sub Committee meetings on a number of occasions of how to ensure Court orders are enforced more robustly, especially in children cases, as some individuals flout orders with reasons that rarely warrant the breach. I worry that hearings conducted by phone or video link may be more likely to be breached as a consequence of the appearance of reduced formality and individuals taking Court Orders less seriously.

We are not currently conducting hearings remotely truly by choice, as I read recently, 'we are not working at home, we are

working in a crisis'. The alternative therefore has to be considered. An alternative that could include an anxious wait for a child uncertain of his or her future, a child not spending time with one or both of his or her parents, grandparents or siblings. The length of adjournment could cause insurmountable difficulties for some relationships to be rekindled or a child to become less likely to be adopted.

I am simplifying the consequences, but the damage caused by delay to a child's wellbeing could be catastrophic, permanently changing the future opportunities for a child. An unjust process, a lost opportunity to encourage change or to encourage compliance could similarly have that impact.

Remote hearings may be less than ideal, but we must look at each case carefully on an individualised basis and make our best assessments to negate the damage caused to our clients and the children involved. We should not make our assessment on the basis that we as lawyers can open an E Bundle and have figured out how to get the most flattering angle on Skype.

My research was clear, operating within the Family Justice System are people working extremely hard, absolutely dedicated to the people it serves. We must ensure that this focus does not waiver and remains firmly centred on the best interests of the families we serve.

Emma Palmer
MSB

Legal profession mourn loss of Diane Barney to Coronavirus

Members of Liverpool Law Society were saddened to hear of the death of Diane Barney, a member of the security team at QE11 Law Courts and later at Liverpool Civil and Family Court. Diane, 67, who retired last year, passed away on 11th April after battling Covid 19.

Diane was born and raised in Liverpool. She was the fourth of seven children and the family lived on Parliament Street. Her brother Ken Barney told Liverpool Law "Diane never married but she had a huge extended family, she was a loving and caring person to all her brothers, sisters, cousins, nephews, nieces and she adored children. But she was also very stubborn and despite being advised not to, she attended a funeral a few weeks before she died, where it is thought she contracted the virus."

Diane's niece Councillor Joanne Anderson added, "As a family we have been absolutely overwhelmed by the messages of sympathy and comments we have received from the legal profession and court users about Diane. She was a very kind and generous person, but was also quite formidable and didn't taking any nonsense. She had over fifteen nieces and nephews and many great nieces and nephews, but she never forgot a birthday, even when I was an adult she would pop round with gifts on



Diane Barney

birthdays and Christmas. She was a one-off and she will be greatly missed by the whole extended family."

Diane was one of the local courts' longest serving members of staff. Twitter was flooded with tributes to Diane. The Northern Circuit posted "Diane was more than a security guard. She was our friend. A truly lovely person. Anyone visiting the Courts in Liverpool will have been greeted by her. Like so many @HMCTSGovuk staff, she kept justice going. We mourn her loss to COVID19. May she rest in peace."

Zoe Gascoyne, of the CPS commented "Very sad news for those who have practised in Liverpool, Diane was a lovely lady and a friendly face for

everyone coming in and out of court."

HMCTS chief executive Susan Acland-Hood responded on Twitter: 'I was very sad indeed to hear the news of Diane's death – a much-loved part of the HMCTS Liverpool family, even after her retirement, and a real reminder that often those who work with us as contractors are central to what we do and how we do it.'

Liverpool Law Society offers its condolences to Diane's family at this very difficult time.

A memorial to celebrate Diane's life will be held at a later date.

Julia Baskerville

HH Elizabeth Steel DL

We are sorry to hear about the passing of HH Elizabeth Steel DL, President of Liverpool Law Society in 1989-1990.

She was then the pioneering first female President, a true inspiration.

Our sincerest condolences go to her family, friends and former colleagues.

An obituary will appear in the June edition of Liverpool Law.

Law firms must adapt to survive lockdown

Three weeks into my '5K to Couch' program and, according to my training schedule, I should be slumped in the lounge in my PJ's eating Maltesers and binge-watching BBC Box Sets by now. Darwin said it's not the fittest of a species that survives but those most able to adapt. Thankfully, I'm adapting to couch-potatoism quite well so far.

We've all had times when we've longed for the world to stand still for a moment while we catch up. As I sit here, in voluntary confinement, you could argue it just has. This has got me thinking about the dynamics now at play in the legal sector and how law firms must adapt in order to survive the lockdown and prepare themselves to thrive again as the economic storm clouds start to lift.

So, here are a few observations that I hope will provide some food for thought - and maybe a welcome diversion from home-teaching stir-crazy pupils.

CASH IS BETTER IN YOUR BANK ACCOUNT THAN ANYONE ELSE'S

The financial impact of this lockdown is putting the cash reserves of every law firm in the country under enormous strain. This will lead to much greater focus on what might be termed business housekeeping. Why, for example, should we work on credit for three months, render a bill and then wait three months to be paid? As a profession, we do, and arguably should, bend over backwards to support clients who, through no fault of their own, fall on hard times. And we do, and arguably should, provide pro bono support to socially responsible projects. None of this should stop. But this lockdown is telling us that we should be tightening our standard engagement procedures (asking for fees up front where appropriate), collecting our debtors more assiduously, revising our cash flow forecasts more regularly and scrutinising our revenue and capital expenditure like never before. Successful law firms trade rather than cut their way out of a downturn. Having cash in the bank gives a firm the breathing space it needs to be able to do this. It may be a truism that it is a lack of cash, not a lack of profit, that kills businesses, but it is a truism worth remembering.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION IS HERE TO STAY

This lockdown is teaching us just how important and valuable regular communication is with staff, clients, suppliers and business friends. Whilst video calls will never achieve the impact of a face-to-face meeting, it has been enlightening to discover how close they can get. Not only are they vastly cheaper than spending days travelling round the country, but they are so much easier to arrange and have a directness and intimacy all of their own. Things seem to get decided quicker too. This lockdown may be the nudge we need to make video communication a more normal part of our working life. On a wider front, we are seeing clear evidence that law firms who are geared up to operate on a fully digital and paperless basis are gaining a strong competitive advantage over those that aren't. Another important lesson for the future.

NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION

This lockdown presents an important opportunity to review what products we all wish to continue selling and to whom and at what



Nigel Wallis

price. Working with law firms across the UK, we know these discussions are taking place and this current hiatus is accelerating the decision making. We know of many firms looking to divest product lines, move into new markets and revise their market proposition for clients. More significantly, we are aware of firms that are reassessing their business structure, and indeed their regulator, to see if they can take advantage of the widening regulatory landscape. It is bringing into sharp focus the cost and constraints of regulation, the cost and availability of mandatory insurances and the fundamentals of reserved and non-reserved legal activity. It may be simplistic to say it, but necessity is proving to be the mother of invention and the innovators are testing just how far they can push the boundaries in the pursuit of the most productive operating model. Decisions of this magnitude are far from easy and the ramifications of bad judgment calls can be significant, so this is a time for cool heads and expert advice.

BEWARE OF INSTITUTIONS BEARING GIFTS

Much has already been written about the support the Government and the banks are pouring into the UK economy and The Law Society and SRA are providing much needed interpretation and guidance via their websites. All we would add is that, for law firms feeling pressured into seeking additional funding, you may find our Five Golden Rules of Business Funding at oconnors.law/five-golden-rules-of-business-funding a useful checklist.

IF CASH IS KING, LEADERSHIP IS THE PATIENT HEIR

Managing a law firm during a crisis is tough and leading a law firm during a crisis is even tougher. Buying time to think clearly and make the right judgment calls defines the outcome. The best law firm leaders have an ability to spot emerging challenges and opportunities before anyone else, to inspire confidence and bring out the best in others. We are seeing a growing willingness on the part of these leaders to share their knowledge and experience, confidentially, with leaders in other firms. This should give us all optimism for the future health of our profession.

Nigel Wallis
O'Connors

RTA claims under the coronavirus pandemic

The coronavirus is obviously affecting every walk of life, and the handling of RTA/PI claims is no exception. The virus is causing severe disruption to the claims process with delays and confusion amongst accident victims pursuing a claim. One of MASS' fundamental principles is to represent the interests of all road traffic accident victims. It is this principle that has led to some concerns about the claims handling protocols that have been developed in the sector. One was agreed earlier this month between Thompsons and the ABI, backed by FOIL and APIL. More recently the other has been developed by ACSO with the ABI on the video conferencing of non-MedCo medical examinations.

We are acutely aware of the need for prompt action to ensure that claims are not unnecessarily delayed and both protocols are laudable attempts at getting claims moving with cross-industry agreement. They will no doubt benefit many claimants – but not all. Not being universal, and, by definition, being voluntary and so self-regulated, it is for these reasons that we have not been able to endorse either protocol but to leave the decision to individual member companies.

We feel that it is primarily the responsibility of MoJ and CPRC to ensure that the legal process adapts quickly and effectively to the changed world brought about by the coronavirus. They should be making the necessary amendments to the rules and ensuring that all parties are bound by it. As with any voluntary scheme it is possible that individual companies, and no doubt claims handlers, will interpret the terms of the protocols differently. Given that no membership organisation, including the ABI, represents all participants in their sector, there will inevitably be gaps. Our view is that no claimant should be disadvantaged during this unprecedented situation, regardless of whether their insurer or legal firm has signed up to one protocol or another.

Although resistant to getting involved directly, we have continued to press the Ministry of Justice and CPRC to make the necessary changes to ensure that all claimants are protected. We are also keen to emphasise that such changes should only be temporary and should be rescinded when normal life resumes, whenever that may be. We would not wish, for instance, the conducting of medical examinations digitally to become a permanent feature of the claims process believing this is far inferior to a physical examination. On the issue of remote rehabilitation, for instance, we anticipate possible disputes over the fees that will be paid by insurers, which will certainly not be helpful to anyone. We shall continue to press that the claims process should be adapted accordingly to ensure that no accident victim is disadvantaged in any way during this very difficult time.

The other significant development in the last few weeks was obviously MoJ's sensible decision to delay the implementation of the Civil Liability Act and the associated whiplash reforms until April 2021. This was clearly the right decision given the bigger issues with which we are all contending. Businesses are struggling to adapt to the new normal with reduced income, remote working and a range of other challenges. None of us know when 'normal' life and business will resume and the last thing that claimants and the sector needed right now was the introduction of a massively controversial and highly disruptive new claims process. Even with the grim consequences of this crisis emerging every day around us, this delay must not be wasted, but must be used to resolve the very many outstanding issues with



Paul Nicholls

implementation of the reforms. When we think it is appropriate to do so, we shall continue engaging with MoJ, MIB, CPRC, the Justice Select Committee, the Opposition and a range of other stakeholders to highlight the many problems with the envisaged new claims process and seek to find workable solutions that will mitigate the impact upon claimants and the sector.

We cannot yet see the end of this crisis and many of the longer term consequences have yet to be played out, but for those of us involved in legal and public policy, there is still a great deal to do on behalf of our members and all claimants.

Paul Nicholls
Chair, Motor Accident Solicitors Society (MASS)

Mental Health Matters

The last month has been difficult for everyone. Life has changed dramatically with many people working from home, home schooling, isolation and a lack of social contact and limits on exercise. If your mental health is suffering there are many organisations that can help...



It's hard to believe that only 3 weeks ago I was invited to give a short presentation about Liverpool and Merseyside Samaritans to the General Directors of the Liverpool Law Society. The purpose of my presentation was to explain the role of The Liverpool and Merseyside Branch of Samaritans in the local community and to explore ways in which Samaritans could work with the local profession to our mutual benefit.

Although Samaritan's vision is that fewer people die by suicide the scope of the support we offer is much wider than our well known telephone listening service. Locally we answer more than 45,000 contacts a year which include phone calls, email, face to face callers and a soon to be introduced web chat service. In addition, our outreach activities include training and supporting prisoners at Liverpool prison, working with the emergency services, National and Merseyrail, Schools and the NHS. In fact, we reach out and support anyone who is going through a bad time and is finding life difficult to cope with.

My plan was to write a series of articles for your newsletter explaining in more detail the way in which we work in Liverpool with a view of reaching out to your profession as an organisation which could support you and your clients and in return perhaps recruit some of you to volunteer with us and support our fundraising.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 appeared on the scene which makes the launch of a new promotional and fund raising initiative inappropriate. I will write the more detailed articles shortly.

Samaritans have had to withdraw their face to face service, curtail recruitment and training but we are now coping with a greatly increased demand for our phone and email services whilst the number of our active volunteers is reduced by self isolation.

I am conscious that your profession and your families and clients will also be going through difficult and uncertain times. As a retired solicitor I am aware that litigation, divorce, unemployment, crime, death and even buying a house can cause huge stress which your clients may find difficult to cope with. In addition, members of the legal profession work under great pressure and in a place where it is sometimes hard to admit to the stress of the job or find a sympathetic ear. That ear could be a Samaritan.

Samaritans service is confidential, non-judgmental and we support people in making their own decisions. We find that giving people time, undivided attention and empathy meets an emotional need and allows callers to find a way to cope with the situation they find themselves in. No one should feel embarrassed or afraid to contact Samaritans. We are there for everyone.

We are open 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Our free phone number is 116 123 and our email address is jo@samaritans.org. We are here to support you and your clients whatever you are going through.

Tony Summers
Deputy Director and Trustee
Tony1@liverpool-samaritans.org

EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Liverpool Law Society

UNLIMITED TRAINING FOR ONE FIXED PRICE

LEADING SPECIALISTS

TRAINING SEASON TICKET

Attend an **UNLIMITED** number of Liverpool Law Society legal training events from 1st June 2020 until 31st May 2021 for Only £405 + VAT per person

PRIORITY RELEASE

Apply & pay for a Training Season Ticket before 30th June 2020 & get unlimited training for ONLY £395 + VAT

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

HIGH QUALITY COURSES

TRAINING RECORD ON DEMAND

*Offer excludes a small number of events when specified

To apply please click [here](#)

Find a full list of our training events at www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/training/

LawCare

Supporting the Legal Community

Website

We have created a new section on our website with useful resources including signposting to all the professional bodies and regulators coronavirus information pages. We will be adding new content to this regularly.
<https://www.lawcare.org.uk/covid-19>

Information resources

We are putting out new resources each week based on the issues we are seeing raised by those turning to us for support, we have new resources on working from home, managing anxiety and dealing with difficult clients, these are on our website and have been promoted on social media. We have blogs and new resources in the pipeline for the next six weeks. Here is a link to our current drop box of resources
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8w56vhcw68rdg2u/AAANy_t_7k73vv1RsY0nhi1Ca?dl=0 which is also being updated on a regular basis.

Webinars

We are regularly contributing to webinars and podcasts being organised by others, and where possible we will be adding these to our website. We ran two webinars this week on 'supporting employee wellbeing during the pandemic'; here is a link to a webinar we contributed to last week on managing mental health when working from home
<https://www.buzzsprout.com/979066/episodes/3212530>. We will be running a series of webinars/podcasts from May onwards.

Support contacts

We had our first contact for support about coronavirus on March 10, contacts about this have increased and now account for half of all our support contacts; key issues emerging so far are staff being expected to come into work despite government advice, anxiety about working from home and worries about the future. We are reviewing these weekly.

Elizabeth Rimmer
 Lawcare

Coping with anxiety and building resilience

All of us have experienced a seismic change in the way we work and live. Overnight our lives have been completely turned upside down. Human beings are creatures of habit, and disruption to our daily routines can cause anxiety - feelings of unease, worry and fear. These are triggered by our 'fight, flight or freeze' response - our normal biological reaction to feeling threatened. Anxiety incorporates both the emotional and the physical sensations you might experience when you are worried or nervous.

SYMPTOMS OF ANXIETY

- Panic, fear, and uneasiness
- Sleep problems
- Not being able to stay calm and still
- Cold, sweaty, numb or tingling hands or feet
- Shortness of breath
- Heart palpitations
- Dry mouth
- Nausea
- Tense muscles
- Dizziness
- Overeating

Whilst it is completely normal to be feeling anxious at this time for some it will be overwhelming. We will all need to learn to cope with the new normal or we may develop unhealthy thinking styles or develop or resort to coping mechanisms such as drinking too much. Learning to cope is also known as resilience. Resilient people are able to use their skill and strengths to help them to face difficulties head on and weather the storm.

Tips for coping with anxiety

- 1. Focus on the here and now** - what is actually happening in this moment. Try not to think of worst case scenarios or wonder too much about the future. Remember that this situation is temporary and constantly changing - and whilst this is a particularly unusual time, you, and the human race, have survived difficult situations before. This too will pass
- 2. Build a support network.** Video call friends, family and colleagues who encourage and strengthen you and talk to them about your feelings.
- 3. Limit your exposure to the news.** Don't be tempted to check news updates every few minutes.
- 4. Distract yourself** - read a book, do some exercise, sort out a cupboard, take a walk outside.
- 5. Breathe** - if you can feel yourself getting anxious try taking ten deep breaths, inhaling for 5 seconds and exhaling for 10 seconds. It really calms you down.
- 6. Be kind to yourself,** talk to yourself as you would a close friend and make sure you are getting enough sleep, exercise and nutritious food.
- 7. Take breaks.** Even if you are working at home it's still important to take time off work, make sure you take breaks during the working day and use your annual leave entitlement.
- 8. Try to focus on the positive, happy things.** The weather, more time with your children, a chance to get all those jobs done at home, connecting with people you've not had contact with in a while.
- 9. Treat yourself.** Whilst you can't get out and about you can still cook a nice meal at home, have a relaxing bath or rent a movie online.
- 10. Seek help.** If you're finding it hard to cope, just talking to someone, a friend, LawCare, another helpline can make you feel less worried and many GPs are still offering online appointments. If you are finding things difficult and need to talk, LawCare can help. We provide emotional support to all legal professionals, support staff and their families. You can call our confidential helpline on 0800 279 6888, email us at support@lawcare.org.uk or access webchat and other resources at www.lawcare.org.uk

Five ways to Wellbeing

**Dr Libby Artingstall & Dr Sile McDaid,
Co-Founders & Directors Team Mental Health**

When it comes to our physical health, a key public health strategy to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 has been to effectively wash our hands, not touch our face, and engage respiratory hygiene. Often the simplest of approaches are the most effective, and the same applies when it comes to promoting good mental health and wellbeing and preventing mental ill health.

The evidence suggests that the 'Five Ways to Mental Wellbeing' are positive strategies to incorporate into our daily lives.¹ At a time of heightened fear and stress, it's important to know that small things can make a big difference. The great thing about the 'Five Ways to Mental Wellbeing' is that they can be implemented as an individual, as a family unit or within our wider communities. For example, in healthcare workers based at the frontline of our hospitals.

Whatever we have to face going forward, these 5 simple strategies can make a difference. Never has there been more reason to implement them.

The 5 Ways to Mental Wellbeing include:

Connect

Social distancing and isolation can lead to loneliness, and we know that loneliness can increase the risk of mental health problems. Where possible, ensure you remain connected with family, friends, colleagues and other members of your support network. Staying in touch by phone, post or through technology enables us to share ideas, concerns or worries, and offer or receive support. If you feel your mental health is deteriorating and you need support from health care services, let someone know. If you are concerned about someone else, encourage them to seek support. More information can be found [here](#)

Be active

Physical activity is good for our mental health. Do this in a way that's safe & right for you. Even the smallest amount can make a difference. Green space is also good for our mental health, particularly for reducing stress. If you're able to be active outside, aim to stay more than 2 meters away from others. If this isn't possible, open a window to let in fresh air and natural light.

As part of protecting our physical and mental health, it is also important for us to eat a healthy balanced diet, stay hydrated and maintain self-care. Prioritise sleep for both good mental health and an effective immune system.

Take notice

At challenging times, our thoughts and feelings about the unknown and what may come may overwhelm us and evoke strong emotions. It's important for us to try and focus on being present and in the moment. Allowing time to recognise, understand and process our thoughts and feelings matters. Keeping perspective is also important and gathering information

from reliable sources helps us to do this. In the UK, the Government, Public Health England, the NHS, and the World Health Organisation are trusted sources.

Keep learning

Mental stimulation has been shown to protect our mental health. Establishing structure and routine alongside taking up new hobbies, rediscovering old interests, or setting ourselves small goals to achieve can have a positive impact. It's important to try to incorporate stimulating activities into our daily routine. These could include things like completing a crossword, reading a book, listening to podcasts, cooking, or working through your 'to do' list. There are also lots of fun brain training activities available online. These can be completed individually or as part of a group to engage a sense of community, or to get the competition going.

Give

The smallest acts of kindness really can make a difference. Giving to others makes other people and you feel good by creating positive feelings and a sense of self-worth and value.

Appreciation and gratitude are also important as they help us to focus on what we have, rather than what we don't have. Think about someone you know who's done something you appreciate and let them know. Pick up the phone, write a letter, send an email or message them. If you're not able to do this, just think about someone who's done something nice for you, and mentally thank them. At the end of each day, no matter how hard it may feel and no matter how small they may be, think about and write down three positive things about your day.

Kindness, appreciation and gratitude give us hope and help us to limit negative thoughts which can become all-consuming. Ultimately, they enable us to feel positive emotions and increase our ability to cope with adversity.

As part of any public health strategy to address COVID-19, it is essential for us to consider our mental health an integral part of this. There's much that can be done, and we all have a role to play.

Reference:

1. The New Economics Foundation (2008). Five ways to mental wellbeing. Government Office for Science. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/five-ways-to-mental-wellbeing>

Team Mental Health have a number of mental health blogs and resources on their website
<https://teammentalhealth.co.uk/coronavirus-resources/>

Stay connected when #WorkingFromHome

Working remotely definitely has its fair share of perks; cozy work attire, zero commuting and more recently working in the sun! Yet, it can make it hard to connect with colleagues in the same way you can whilst working in an office.

We are an events and training organisation, and are very used to a busy office filled with committee meetings, delegates on training courses, teas, coffees and biscuit galore.

It's safe to say working from home has been a big change for us at the LLS office, and we are adapting however we can to ensure the smooth running of our services, meetings and courses and provide continuity for our members.

Top tips on keeping connected when working from home

We've got some tips for you to try to help you stay connected whilst working from home.

1. Keep in touch on a human level

If you thought isolation would mean less meetings, you have been mistaken! We now need meetings more than ever before. Not only to stay on top of projects, but as an opportunity to check on those you work with, some who may have not had 'human contact' in a while! Which brings me on to my next tip.

2. Have your camera on

I know a lot of us will be in 'questionable' work clothing, but it is really reassuring seeing some familiar faces, and truly helps you feel connected to the world and your colleagues. Loneliness can be a problem for people who work remotely, so making it a priority to check-in with your team and say 'hi' can definitely lift spirits.

3. Keep your rituals or create new ones

You may have had team habits or rituals back in the office, for example your daily coffee break catch-ups. There's no reason why you can't keep your rituals, and it gives you and your colleagues a sense of normality. Consider setting up a weekly virtual coffee meeting, where you can simply chat about how your weekend was and plan for the week ahead as you normally would in the office.

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.

4. Share more stories

Whether it's a picture of your 'work from home' attire, your garden or your pets, sharing pictures with the team is a great way to bond and it makes you feel like you're all together. If you're not sharing pictures, share stories, it could be what you did over the weekend, or what your personal lockdown goals are – maybe it's learning how to cook, taking an online course or getting in shape.

5. Frequent check-ins

It's really important to check-in with the team regularly, sharing updates and changes in the business. When in the office it's really easy to communicate small pieces of information that may be of interest, so take extra care to share this information regularly. If you don't have any updates, simply emailing "good morning, how are things going today?" is a good way to start the ball rolling. Personal contact is even more important in these circumstances and should be practiced to keep people feeling 'in the loop'.

We hope these tips give you some ideas on how to feel connected to your colleagues when working remotely!

How are you and your colleagues staying connected when working from home? What has worked for you? Let us know!
Email in to editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Emily Hardy

Event Marketing Assistant at Liverpool Law Society



Online: Compliance Conference

Wednesday 3rd June | 9.30am - 3.30pm (with breaks)

Full materials included

Attend via Zoom software - no account needed just a laptop, pc, tablet or phone!

Chaired by Michaela Fox, with sessions:

When things go wrong ~ **Frank Maher, Partner, Legal Risk LLP**

Update on the SRA's Standards and Regulations
Benedict Fisher, Solicitors Regulation Authority

What does unreasonable service look like? How do you decide on remedies? **Mariette Hughes, Head Ombudsman LeO**

Prevention and Damage Limitation effects of clear retainer letters
Victoria Prescott, Marsh JLT Speciality

Ready for Renewal?
Deborah Sullivan, Principal Associate, Weightmans LLP

Understanding the importance of legal ethics
Iain Miller, Partner, Kingsley Napley

Operational compliance: Problems we see at the coalface and how you can avoid them! ~ **Brian Rogers, Access Group**

For more information and to book click [here](https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)



COVID-19 Personal Hardship Fund for Solicitors

The Solicitors' Charity (SBA) has announced it is now accepting applications to a £1,000,000 Personal Hardship Fund designed to support solicitors who find themselves in serious financial difficulty, following the outbreak of COVID-19.

The announcement of the new Fund follows the launch of the charity's online COVID-19 Support Hub last month. Together, these initiatives by the charity focus specifically on supporting all solicitors in times of need or crisis. They aim to alleviate and reduce some of the stress and worry that many in the legal profession are currently experiencing.

Once applications open, solicitors will be able to apply for Personal Hardship Fund support for reasons including:

Being placed on SSP due to self-isolation

If their employment status has been changed (and they are not supported by the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme)

If a person is self-employed, unable to practise and ineligible for Government help or can't manage during the delay in the help getting to them.

Nick Gallagher, CEO of The Solicitors' Charity said: "The Solicitor's Charity has been helping solicitors for 160 years and in 2019 we awarded over £986,000 to solicitors in need. The situation many currently find themselves in is unexpected, stressful and many will be feeling that there is no light at the end of the tunnel, so it's imperative the charity provides as much help as possible for those in need.

The creation of this extra fund, initially of £1,000,000, could

provide a financial cushion and peace of mind vital to so many at this time."

The Personal Hardship Fund requires applicants to be on or have been on, the Roll of Solicitors of England and Wales. It also focuses strongly on getting money to those most in need, and so requires applicants to have accessible savings within their household of less than £2,500. It is also expected that applicants will have taken advantage of available help such as mortgage payment holidays and will have started the process of applying for any applicable welfare benefits.

The Fund has been announced alongside the launch of the charity's online COVID-19 Support Hub which provides useful information, support and links to help individuals.

Nick said of the Support Hub launch: "There are so many different sources of information and support available at the moment both from the Government and third parties, we wanted to make it easy for solicitors to find the help most appropriate to their situation, in one place."

Full details on the fund and how to apply can be found on the charity's website.

www.sba.org.uk/covid-19

In addition, you can access the COVID-19 Support Hub. Here you can find up to date information and resources to support you during the outbreak.

YLAL COVID-19 Report

On 7 April 2020, Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL) published an important report on the impact of COVID-19 on its members' professional lives. The report analyses survey data collected from more than 300 YLAL members between 26 March- 03 April 2020.

Key findings include:

More than 45% of members are either 'extremely' or 'quite' worried about their job security.

25% of members are required to attend court in person.

25% of members are required to put themselves at risk of infection because of their job. This includes attending police station interviews and face-to-face meetings with clients.

67.5% stated that their volume of work had 'decreased', 'significantly decreased' or been 'decimated'.

80% of junior legal barristers reported that their workloads had 'significantly decreased' or been 'decimated' by the crisis. One barrister noted that COVID-19 was having a 'devastating' financial impact as their 'income had completely stopped overnight'.

The report also highlights examples of best practice that YLAL encourages employers and chambers to consider adopting.

Key recommendations include:

The Legal Aid Agency should take urgent action to ensure the financial viability of providers. This should include continuing to make regular payments to providers based on their usual legal aid income.

There should be a consistent approach to social distancing and hygiene in courts and police stations, including proper implementation of the LCCSA Interview Protocol.

The Council of the Inns of Court should take steps to ensure a coordinated approach between Inns of Court to ensure that the most junior legal aid barristers do not experience financial hardship.

The Bar Standards Board should remove its agreement for chambers to vary pupillage awards that have already been advertised.

The Solicitors Regulation Authority should confirm that training contract periods will not be extended if a trainee has sufficient experience to qualify.

We recognise that this is an extremely difficult situation. However, it is essential that all stakeholders adopt a transparent and collaborative approach to decision making that takes into account the specific concerns of junior legal aid lawyers.

The full report can be found [here](#).

Liverpool Law Society

[NOW ONLINE]

**Contract & Commercial Update
with Helen Swaffield**

Wednesday 17th June 10am - 2.45pm
(Including breaks)

This course is suitable for in-house, contentious and non-contentious practitioners. It is a new course comprising recent cases, drafting and litigation tips based upon Commercial Contracts with a brief review of Consumer Contracts.

Topics covered include:

- Exclusion clauses- direct or indirect loss?
- UCTA 1977- new reasonableness
- Entire agreement clauses- how the run misrepresentation against them
- Indemnities- a separate cause of action or an add-on to liability?
- Warranties- the SOGA industry standard test
- Breach- material or repudiatory?
- Termination and the counterclaim
- Drafting to exit the contract safely

& more...

CLICK HERE TO [BOOK](#)

Liverpool Law Society

**[NOW ONLINE] Current
Newbuild Issues for
Conveyancers**

Wednesday 20th May, 9.30am - 12.45pm
With Richard Snape

The newbuild market is becoming a major area of conveyancing and is undergoing various fundamental changes. The course aims to look at current issues and update the busy conveyancer. In particular, ground rents and estate rent charges which are causing major problems.

Topics include:

- Problems in relation to easements and transfer of part
- Current issues in relation to NHBC
- Extended completion dates
- The validity of professional consultant certificates after Hunt v Optima
- Estate Rentcharges issues and mortgage requirements

Competencies: A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, C1 & C2

CLICK HERE TO [BOOK](#)

The Lockdown Diaries

In this edition we talk to local practitioners about working from home and how life has changed during lockdown.



Chris Topping
Director
Broudie Jackson Canter

What has been the biggest challenge of working from home?

The biggest challenge of working from home has been to try and work digitally! I am a lover of my paper files and having developed ways of working over 30 years it has been a real challenge to try and become paperlight and digital. I am not there yet...

If you have children and/or pets, how have you coped with combining working and child/pet care?

I am very relieved that I haven't had to do any home schooling as my boys are all well into their 20's. My youngest son was sent home from university though without completing the year's study and that has been a challenge to him as he is in limbo waiting to know what he needs to do to finish this academic year before doing what should be his final year of his medicine degree.

How have you managed your mental health during lockdown?

Managing the mental health aspects of being in lockdown is an ongoing challenge. I have had to make a conscious effort to leave the desk and to go and walk around the house. I have tried to have a divide between the working environment and where we live and to try and make sure that there is a moment to switch off from the demands of non-stop emails...

What have you been reading, watching or listening to?

You would be amazed at the films I have caught up on! Toy Story 4 came out last year when I was busy being the President so it was fun to catch up on that. We regularly sit down to watch Richard Osman's House of Games on BBC2 which is a fairly gentle watch. I am trying to get the pile of unread books under control – I am currently reading Jenny Murray's book "A History of the World in 21 Women" and realising that there is an awful lot of the world I know nothing about and even less about the amazing women who have shaped it.

Have you found any positive aspects to lockdown?

The main benefits of lockdown seems to be the absence of noise and much less pollution. We are really fortunate to live in South Liverpool as it is very green and the river is very close. However in "normal

circumstances" there are regularly planes flying overhead to and from John Lennon Airport, the trains run at the end of our garden four times an hour and we are quite close to Aigburth Road which is never quiet. All of a sudden the noise is silenced and the air seems so much fresher.

And finally, if you could choose someone to be on lockdown with (apart from your family of course!) who would it be?

I am not sure anyone would want to share lockdown with me but if I could choose someone to be in lockdown with it would have to be someone who could teach me how to play the guitar better! I am a great fan of a musician called Martyn Joseph – an amazing guitarist, his songs are challenging and inspiring – see for yourself <https://www.martynjoseph.net/>

Keep safe, stay home and when all this is over come and join the Liverpool Law Society party!



Joanne Hughes
Partner
Hill Dickinson LLP

What has been the biggest challenge of working from home?

Very easy – staying away from the kitchen food cupboard!

If you have children and/or pets, how have you coped with combining working and child/pet care?

I have to confess that initially I found this really difficult but then I realised I was creating my own pressures and expecting everything to run 'as usual' and 'on time'. Very quickly I realised that we do not need to conform to normal school/work times. As long as both the school work and my work is done and we leave time for exercise and fun (some may say that these are one and the same?) it does not matter when, within the 24 hour clock, these are done. Also, I have learned to let parent guilt subside. Of course screen times for the children have increased and their schooling hours have reduced but we all have to get through this difficult period, the best that we can.

How have you managed your mental health during lockdown?

We are really lucky to live in the countryside and have a large garden so this is not really an issue.

What have you been reading, watching or listening to?

Reading: constantly the news updates on my phone which is not particularly uplifting but is addictive. Listening: To Kenny Rogers! I absolutely love country music and sadly he died early in this pandemic. Since hearing of his death, I have binge listened to his music. It takes me right back to being a young girl and listening to my dad blast the country music. Watching: Captain Tom complete his 100th lap (amazing man), Romeo and Juliet on the Globe's YouTube channel and Carpool Karaoke!

Have you found any positive aspects to lockdown?

Avoiding the M53 commute every day, spending more time with the family.

And finally, if you could choose someone to be on lockdown with (apart from your family of course!) who would it be?

It has to be someone who would make you laugh every day – for that reason, and to reflect my patriotism, I would pick Rhod Gilbert



Charlie and Lola

Gaynor Williams
Solicitor and Partner
Bennett Williams

What has been the biggest challenge of working from home?

I found it a big challenge adapting to working from home full time. I have worked from home previously, but I have always finished work off at the office. Not having everything 'to hand' such as a reliable printer/scanner that enables me to print off multiple documents, has been a bind. I have an old 'chez long' as my office chair, and I have utilised my husband's camping table as a desk! Prior to 'lockdown' I did not think I needed to replace the old printer in my home. I instantly regretted this in the first few days of lockdown, when I had multiple documents that needed checking, and I quickly had to adapt to reviewing everything electronically. This took much more time, but I am slowly getting better.

If you have children and/or pets, how have you coped with combining working and child/pet care?

I was under the illusion that having young adult 'children' (18, 25 and 27) would make things easier. I do not have to worry about schooling or entertaining them. That said, I believe I have the noisiest house in my street. There is constant loud music, exercise classes being streamed, and my son's 'new DJ tracks' being tested. I have coped by asking/begging for quiet/trying to lock out all sound in my bedroom, and waving emphatically if anyone comes into the room while I am on a call. I also have 2 dogs, Charlie and Lola, in contrast they have been very quiet and well behaved, and they sit with me while I work.

How have you managed your mental health during lockdown?

I now turn off the tv in the day, the first week of lockdown I had it

on silent in the background, but as the situation got worse I decided that the updates were making me anxious. I have made an effort to go for a run most mornings, before everyone is out, or I walk the dogs later in the evening. I am very lucky to live by the beach and I have really appreciated the hour of exercise, the views, and the sunshine. I find that exercising outside helps immensely, the days that I do not do any exercise are the days that seem more worrying.

What have you been reading, watching or listening to?

I usually love reading but I have found it hard to concentrate. I have been watching different series on Iplayer, I watched a series based in Wales called 'Hidden' and my sister in law (an actress in Wales) popped up in the second series, which was great to watch. I have also watched films and series on Netflix, including a new limited series called unorthodox. I thoroughly enjoyed it, the acting was excellent, and I found it very educational and informative.

Have you found any positive aspects to lockdown?

My son returned from Canada and my daughter returned from Australia when lockdown was announced, so for the first time in 2 ½ years we are all home together, and safe, which is a huge positive. I am also appreciating how important free time is, I make the most of the hour of exercise, the air smells cleaner, I listen to the birds, and the sunsets have been beautiful.

And finally, if you could choose someone to be on lockdown with (apart from your family of course!) who would it be?

It would have to be Sir Paul McCartney, he has so many interesting tales to tell, I love his music, and his sense of humour. My late mother's claim to fame was that she had a dance with him in the Cavern Club, but she was not happy because she had wanted to dance with John Lennon!



Carol Hopwood
Head of Serious & Catastrophic Injury
Carpenters Group

What has been the biggest challenge of working from home?

Not being able to see my clients or team. Our IT team have done a fantastic job setting up video conferencing facilities so we are able to function normally from home, but I do miss seeing people in person. I think "new normal" will be a combination of home and office working for many.

If you have children and/or pets, how have you coped with combining working and child/pet care?

My children are 22 and 17 so I do not have the same challenges as some of my colleagues with younger children. At Carpenters we have taken a very flexible approach to working hours for the teams so they are able to work hours that enable them to balance the

Continued overleaf



different demands on their time. As for the dog, if only she could speak. I don't think she is happy that her day time routine has been disrupted and it's only a matter of time before she makes an appearance on a conference call I am sure.

How have you managed your mental health during lockdown?

I have been keeping busy and focussed on the day job. I only look at the news once a day now to avoid it becoming all-consuming. Spring is my favourite season so seeing the garden coming to life and good weather has really helped lift the spirits. Staying in touch with friends and family has been very important. We had an online quiz last night and I haven't laughed so much in ages.

What have you been reading, watching or listening to?

I always have a book on the go. At the moment I am reading David Baldacci's End Game and have been catching up watching Belgravia.

Have you found any positive aspects to lockdown?

Yes. Due to lockdown we are spending much more time together. The youngest has discovered a new talent (darts!) and the eldest is producing amazing food for dinner every night (Thanks Mowgli for inspiring her). The dining table is now a ping-pong table and there is a "card school" after dinner every night. The youngest is the family hairdresser and I am the dog groomer. Another positive is that we have gone back to using local shops who are providing delivery services. We will definitely be keeping that going. I think it has made us all self-reflect on what is important and not to take anything for granted.



Steph McKenna
Defence Team Manager - Solicitor
Carpenters Group

What has been the biggest challenge of working from home?

The biggest challenge of working from home is trying to split my time evenly between work and childcare. I have a 4 year old boy who is full of energy! After a few weeks of adjusting I have found it is getting easier as we become more settled in our new routine.

If you have children and/or pets, how have you coped with combining working and child/pet care?

I have a 4 year old boy and a dog so our house is lively! It's a difficult balancing act trying to ensure you split your time between work and childcare. Like the majority, I have never experienced anything like the last couple of months. I am however appreciating this time I am

getting to stay at home with my little boy- it will (fingers crossed) never happen again.

How have you managed your mental health during lockdown?

There has definitely been times where I have felt overwhelmed. When I feel like it's getting a bit too much I tell someone whether it's my family or friends, they're always there to listen.

I've found that making sure I get out of the house for one hour each day helps my mental health. I either go on a run, take my son on a bike ride or walk the dog. Socialising with friends over FaceTime has also been a great help. I look forward to every Friday night for 'Quiz Fridays' - they're a great way to catch up and switch off!

What have you been reading, watching or listening to?

Like many others I have found myself trawling through Netflix of an evening. In the last few weeks I have watched Tiger King, Unorthodox and made my way through rewatching all the Harry Potter films. I've also enjoyed catching up on reading some evenings - I would usually do this on the train to and from work.

There has never been a time before where my husband and I have been able to spend so much time at home with our little boy. We both work full time so a typical day for us is one of us doing the nursery run about 7.30am and then the other picking him up about 5.30pm so usually we only get to spend a couple of hours with him each week night. Some days the days seem long but the years are fast so I'm making the most of being able to spend so much more time with my little boy before he goes to school in September.

Have you found any positive aspects to lockdown?

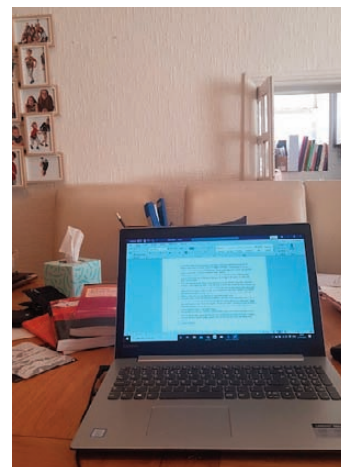
I've also felt a greater sense of community. Where I live so many people are doing everything they can to help others. We have a local entertainment company who made sure Peter Rabbit walked around the local area over the Easter weekend and gave a wave to all the children, this put a smile on so many faces - not just the young ones! It's also great to see so many people standing at their doors at 8pm every Thursday supporting key workers.

And finally, if you could choose someone to be on lockdown with (apart from your family of course!) who would it be?

This is a tough question...The list is endless but from a practical point of view I would choose a chef so that I didn't have to cook!



Steve Cornforth
Steve Cornforth Consultancy



What has been the biggest challenge of working from home?

I have been quite fortunate because I have been running my consultancy business for lawyers from home, for nearly 3 years. The biggest challenge is maintaining the discipline of getting started and having a structured day. I do try to set tasks that I need to do and then reward myself with a break or Facebook/Twitter update!

If you have children and/or pets, how have you coped with combining working and child/pet care?

We do not have children or pets at home. Before the lockdown we ran a dog boarding business from home and on occasions had up to three dogs in the house. It is now very quiet. A bit too quiet!

How have you managed your mental health during lockdown?

This is an important issue. There are the two of us at home and this is big help. Loneliness must be a real problem for some. I have also kept in touch with friends and work contacts by video links. I am now an expert on Zoom – I'm not the only one who wishes they had bought shares in that company a long time ago. It is so important to be able to speak to somebody. We should be doing this to look after our own mental health but also to look out for the others. It also helps to avoid daytime TV, especially Bargain Hunt!

What have you been reading, watching or listening to?

I am avid reader. I have recently read Tombland – the most recent Shardlake novel from CJ Sansom about a hunchbacked barrister in Tudor times who doubles up as a detective! I have also read Everton in the 70s by Tim Jepson – not an easy read! I do listen to music at home. I have been adding to my eclectic "Songs Steve Loves" playlist on Spotify which closely follows my record collection which I call AbbaToZappa.

Have you found any positive aspects to lockdown?

One positive to come out of all this is seeing people realise that remote working is not as scary as they thought. Many lawyers who have resisted this now have no choice. I suspect that we will see a lasting change. I doubt if we will ever go back to the way things were before.

And finally, if you could choose someone to be on lockdown with (apart from your family of course!) who would it be?

Tommy Cooper!



John Owens
Senior Associate
MSB Solicitors

What has been the biggest challenge of working from home?

My biggest challenge so far is that I miss the comradery of my team and being in an office environment; I will never take the printer/scanner for granted ever again! I admit I have enjoyed the peace and quiet but I have missed the ability to bounce ideas of each other and having another great lawyer sat right beside me as a soundboard for ideas on difficult cases is priceless.

If you have children and/or pets, how have you coped with combining working and child/pet care?

My partner and I have a miniature poodle called Leo. Its always been a dream of mine to have an office dog so I am loving getting the opportunity to spend more time with him. Having Leo is also beneficial as it helps me keep to a routine, he needs to be walked first

thing in the morning and I am conscious that it's not good for him to be inside all day so it will make me take a break at lunchtime to play with him in the garden.

How have you managed your mental health during lockdown?

I have to ensure that I eat healthy and take the opportunity to get out of the house to exercise once a day. I enjoy running along the waterfront straight after work, when I get back I pack all of my work stuff away and put it out of sight. I find this helps to unwind especially as my relaxation space and work space are now the same. It helps to try and create some separation. A routine is also key for me, even when not in lockdown, so I try my best to keep to the same routine everyday.

What have you been reading, watching or listening to?

I am a big reader anyway, but the lockdown has given me the opportunity to read a lot more. I am currently working my way through the Tales in the City series by Armistead Maupin, there are 7 books in the series and I am on number 4. I have also been listening to a great podcast called "How to fail with Elizabeth Day." The podcast features a different guest in each episode and they discuss 3 failures in their life and what they have learned from the experiences and how they have turned them into a positive. There are some amazing stories which is I have found inspiring.

Have you found any positive aspects to lockdown?

One positive aspect of the lockdown and working from home is that life has slowed down. I am grateful that my work life has kept me busy Monday to Friday but come the weekend I am enjoying that life is so much slower. I know it won't be forever so I am just enjoying being at home, having time to do those jobs that I have been putting off and getting the extra time to spend with my partner making plans for when all of this is over.

And finally, if you could choose someone to be on lockdown with (apart from your family of course!) who would it be?

I am fascinated by the Obamas so if I had to be in lockdown with someone else I would choose them. I recently read Michelle's book and it was fantastic.



Steven Zdolyny
Director of Legal Services
EY Riverview Law

What has been the biggest challenge of working from home?

Missing the face to face interaction with colleagues and occasional IT issues! However, I've actually learned new skills to stay connected with colleagues in a virtual world, with virtual coffee & cake breaks, virtual quizzes and even some virtual cocktail sessions! I've been so

Continued overleaf

impressed with how everyone seems to have quickly adapted to working from home and it's been terrific to see our colleagues come together and support each other.

If you have children and/or pets, how have you coped with combining working and child/pet care?

"Animals are such agreeable friends - they ask no questions; they pass no criticisms." - George Eliot. With extra hours in our days now, we have more reasons to treasure moments which we were missing in our everyday busy life - one such being spending quality time with our pets! I have a very old but very loving Cavalier King Charles' Spaniel that has taken to following me around the house and barging open my study door to keep me company whilst I'm on conference calls! She knows she'll get a treat to keep her quiet!

How have you managed your mental health during lockdown?

It's so important to appreciate what we do have - like family, friends and health and to be kind to oneself and others. Without a long daily commute, I've had the opportunity to go on a daily morning cycle ride and with the sun shining, flowers blooming & birds singing, it's a reminder how great it is to be alive! So I cherish every moment that I get out into my garden and smell the fresh air!

What have you been reading, watching or listening to?

I've taken the opportunity to re-read *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. It's still as amusing as I remember it from my childhood! I've reacquainted myself with some funny quotes:

"You know," said Arthur, "it's at times like this, when I'm trapped in a Vogon airlock with a man from Betelgeuse, and about to die of asphyxiation in deep space that I really wish I'd listened to what my mother told me when I was young."

"Why, what did she tell you?"

"I don't know, I didn't listen."

'It is a mistake to think you can solve any major problems just with potatoes.'

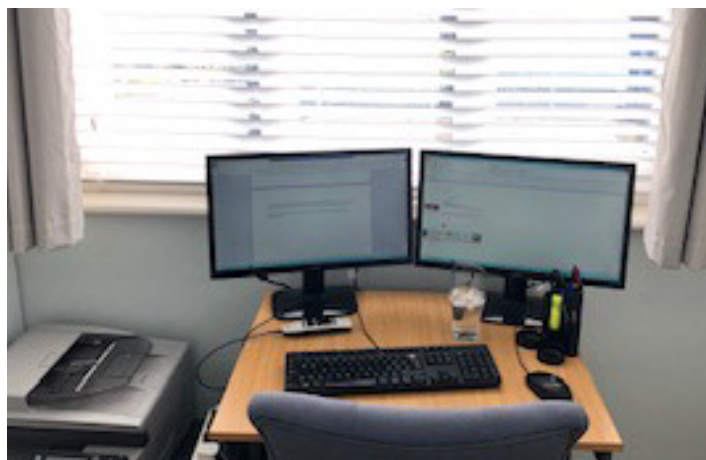
'So long and thanks for all the fish'

Have you found any positive aspects to lockdown?

Just being around home to spend more time with family and out in the garden. Simple pleasures!

And finally, if you could choose someone to be on lockdown with (apart from your family of course!) who would it be?

Probably J K Rowling as my daughter is a mad Harry Potter fan!



Nicola Harris
Partner
MSB Solicitors

What has been the biggest challenge of working from home?

I have had access to remote working from home for a number of years, (with a laptop) so I had a tried and tested positive experience

of it, but that was with offices open as backup for printing and scanning. Without doubt the biggest challenge before lockdown as we anticipated it coming, was to think of ways for all members of the team to do office based tasks like scanning. It became clear that to work as effectively as possible from home, office equipment would be needed so we transferred printer scanners and office PC's to home which has enabled us to work as effectively as in the office. We are also as paperless as we can be, so working from home has been relatively seamless as we still have full access to all of our files.

If you have children and/or pets, how have you coped with combining working and child/pet care?

My children are experts at their Nintendo switch games since lockdown! I've worked in shifts with my husband to ensure the children are still doing their reading and spellings, we do PE each morning 9-9.30, oxford owl and their free books e books have been amazing, but we aren't putting ourselves or our children under pressure, the most important thing I want my children to remember was the time mummy and daddy were home (working) with them every day, the sun was shining, we had lunchtime walks, and we were all happy and safe.

How have you managed your mental health during lockdown?

Daily exercise is a must. I have never walked this much and its lovely in this weather, even if it for only 30 minutes a day. Also keeping in touch with family and friends via facetime and zoom has been so important.

What have you been reading, watching or listening to?

I'm not a massive TV watcher but do love a Netflix binge. I'm really into *Homeland* at the minute. And I'm loving a pub quiz on a Saturday night with a glass of Sauvignon. Dans pub quiz on Youtube Saturday 8pm is really good fun.

Have you found any positive aspects to lockdown?

From a professional perspective it has made my colleagues and I really innovative, we have always considered ourselves very forward thinking and modern as a law firm at MSB, but the way in which everyone has seamlessly adapted to working from home, across the board, to continue meeting the high expectations of clients and to keep helping the most vulnerable members of our society at their most vulnerable time, is so positive, and something I feel really proud to be a part of. I miss the office and my colleagues but i'm not missing the gridlocked commute.

And finally, if you could choose someone to be on lockdown with (apart from your family of course!) who would it be?

Oh it would have to be a chef as I am not the best in the kitchen as those who know me will attest, so probably local chef Paul Askew. Having a live in chef is only something I can dream of.

If you would like to take part in next month's Lockdown Diaries please email editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Metro Mayor Kick-starts LCRCares fund to support Coronavirus “Community Heroes”

Steve Rotheram, Metro Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, has launched a new crowdfunding campaign to raise £1million to support community and voluntary organisations on the frontline of helping the city region's communities cope with the impact of Coronavirus.

Announced last week as one of a raft of measures to address the crisis, the LCR Cares COVID-19 Community Fund kicks off today with a quarter of a million pounds already in its coffers.

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority has today (Monday 30th) kickstarted the fund with an initial £200,000 donation with a further £50,000 contribution coming from the National Emergencies Trust.

The fund, set up in partnership with the Community Foundation for Merseyside, a registered charity, will award grants to support community organisations providing vital services like foodbanks, delivery of food and care packages to vulnerable people, telephone and online services offering friendship and support to help reduce isolation, emotional and mental health support and financial inclusion, support to access benefits and debt advice.

Speaking about the Fund, Mayor Rotheram said: “We are famous for our generosity, big hearts and community solidarity and more than ever before we have seen this in the response from thousands of individuals, community organisations, charities and social businesses.

“People are volunteering their help in so many ways. They are our community heroes and they urgently need our support.

“That’s why, working with the Leaders of our 6 councils, I have set up the LCRCares COVID-19 Community Support Fund, aiming to raise £1million, and kickstarted today with an initial £200,000 donation from the Combined Authority and £50,000 from the National Emergencies Trust.

“I know many people and businesses are already suffering hardship and need our help. But if everyone who can afford to can give a little, we can make a huge impact for our communities as we come together to tackle this unprecedented crisis.”

As well as setting up LCR Cares, the Combined Authority is working closely with key partners through the formal Local Resilience Forum on a wide range of measures to tackle the health and economic impacts of the coronavirus crisis.

Rae Brooke, Chief Executive of the Community Foundation for Merseyside, said: “We are extremely proud to be working with the Metro Mayor to provide this vital fund, which will ensure much needed funding is provided where there’s most need and where it will have greatest impact. Many who have the capacity to support financially will want to do that in this exceptional time of need. This is when the best of community spirit can be demonstrated, and everyone can make a real difference to the lives of others.

“With this initial funding already available, the fund is open for applications from today.”



Steve Rotheram

Details on how to donate are on the Combined Authority’s website.

Search “LCRCares” or visit www.lcrcares.co.uk

Community organisations can apply grant by visiting: www.cfmerseyside.org.uk

Note:

The Community Foundation for Merseyside is a registered charity and over the past 20 years has distributed in excess of £40m to grass root community groups and charities across the Liverpool City Region and has a strong track record, expert team and long held reputation for ensuring funding is provided to the most vulnerable.

The National Emergencies Trust was convened by the Charity Commission to see if there was a better way of responding to national emergencies. It collaborates with charities and other bodies to raise and distribute money and support victims at the time of a domestic disaster. It is a charity, not the state; it is additional to what the state does. It is independent of government and will not seek to replicate the work of central or local government.

Launch of 'Remote Courts Worldwide'

Global initiative to help public court services cope with coronavirus

As the coronavirus spreads, law courts around the world are closing. Most countries are rapidly setting up facilities for remote hearings (by audio and video). To help accelerate this global transformation in court service, Remote Courts Worldwide is launched today. This service has been designed to help the global community of justice workers (judges, lawyers, court officials, litigants, court technologists) to share their experiences of developing remote alternatives to traditional court hearings in physical buildings. It will capture best practice on a new website www.remotecourts.org

To ensure ongoing access to justice, governments and judiciaries are rapidly introducing various forms of 'remote court' - audio hearings (largely by telephone), video hearings (for example, by Skype and Zoom), and paper hearings (decisions delivered on the basis of paper submissions). At remarkable speed, new methods and techniques are being developed. However, there is a danger that the wheel is being reinvented and there is unnecessary duplication of effort across the world. In response, Remote Courts Worldwide offers a systematic way of remote-court innovators and people who work in the justice system to exchange news about working systems, plans, ideas, policies, protocols, techniques, and safeguards.

Remote Courts Worldwide is a collaborative project, involving the Society for Computers and Law, the UK LawTech Delivery Panel, and Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunals Service. It also builds on the community built at the First International Forum on Online Courts, held in London in December 2018, when 300 people from 26 countries came together to talk about using technology to transform the work of courts.

Remote Courts Worldwide is being led by Professor Richard Susskind, President of the Society for Computers and Law, and an expert in online courts. "It's time to come together, globally, to accelerate the introduction of remote hearings by judges. We have no choice. Physical courts are closing. There's little point in lamenting any lack of past investment nor in predicting that the technology will fail. Let's make it happen. We must seize the moment and come together to accelerate the development of new ways of delivering just outcomes for court users."

"In law, as in so many aspects of our lives, the Coronavirus is overthrowing our traditional ways of doing things. The legal sector remains a core pillar of society and we must innovate to ensure it delivers on its purpose, for all of us. This new global initiative will facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practice from around the world, providing new ways of delivering justice through these unprecedented times and beyond."

Jenifer Swallow, LawTech Director, Tech Nation, Lawtech Delivery Panel

"The current crisis is unprecedented and requires us rapidly to explore new and innovative ways to ensure the justice system continues to operate. Remote hearings are an important part of helping us meet the challenges we face, and we are working flat out to increase the use of audio and video technology in courts and tribunals across England and Wales. In doing so, we are drawing heavily on the know-how we have gained as a result of HMCTS's ongoing reform programme.



Professor Richard Susskind

I therefore warmly welcome this initiative and support ways in which we can enhance international knowledge and collaboration in this vital field. It builds on the successful International Online Courts Forum held in London in December 2018 and will help us both share our expertise as well as draw on the experiences of other justice systems across the world too."

Susan Acland-Hood, Chief Executive of HM Courts & Tribunals Service

"In response to the effect that the coronavirus crisis is having on court services worldwide, the Society for Computers and Law is pleased to support this important initiative. In these challenging times, it is vital to ensure that technology is used as a power for good; removing barriers and helping people gain access to justice safely and efficiently."

Mark O'Connor, Chair, Society for Computers and Law

www.remotecourts.org

New Real Estate Sector Lead to enhance Brabners' property offering

Brabners has moved to further strengthen its real estate offering with the appointment of Andrew Waugh as sector lead.

A highly experienced lawyer, developer and commercial director, Andrew will head up Brabners' more than 95-strong real estate practice, shaping its go-to-market strategy. His appointment also forms part of the firm's strategic focus on the Manchester market as it looks to grow its client offering in the city and wider North West region.

Andrew brings with him extensive client-side experience having influenced strategy via senior legal and commercial roles within FTSE PLCs and private organisations including Urban Splash.

The new role will also benefit from Andrew's experience as director of private real estate group 53N which he founded in 2008. Under Andrew's leadership, the property development and asset management business completed numerous acquisitions while supporting the delivery of complex public and private partnership schemes valued upwards of £150million.

Working with the firm's partnership, Andrew will support Brabners' specialist real estate teams as they accelerate growth across areas including development, construction, investment and property management, agriculture and residential.

Nik White, managing partner at Brabners, said: "Brabners has held a close relationship with Andrew for some years and we've naturally been keen to add his experience to the team.

"In addition to his legal credentials, his in-depth knowledge of client investment cycles – from purchase and development through to sale and exit – is invaluable and will be a major asset to both the team and our clients at this important time.

"We've seen a significant uptick in clients needing timely counsel across the firm since the outbreak of coronavirus and Andrew's arrival will no doubt have a positive impact on many of those conversations in the weeks and months ahead."

Andrew Waugh, real estate sector lead at Brabners, said: "We are ultimately in the midst of a period of great challenge across the property industry. As such, I consider it a privilege to lead a team that has real strength in depth and is influencing important decisions across our core markets in the North West.

"Having worked in-house and led development, it's clear that our clients are looking for advisers with a true understanding of how they operate and the ability to pragmatically manage their partners and suppliers to move projects forward.

"From past and current experience, that skill is well embedded within the team here and something that will be a core focus of our growth in the future."

Andrew's appointment follows a successful 12 months in which Brabners posted continued profit and revenue growth and was named in The Sunday Times' 100 Best Companies to Work For 2020.

The firm generated turnover of £33.6million in the year to the



Robert White, Andrew Waugh & Nik White

end of April 2019, up from £33.1million the previous year, and invested over £1.8million to boost growth as part of its three-year change programme.

Helping you work from home



Discrimination expert appointed Trustee of Discrimination Law Association

A discrimination expert at Broudie Jackson Canter has been appointed as a trustee of the Discrimination Law Association (DLA).

Yara Ali-Adib, who has experience in working on high-profile discrimination cases, has been appointed to the organisation's executive committee, joining a range of discrimination law practitioners, policy experts and academics.

The DLA is a not-for-profit organisation that works to improve the support and assistance available to people who are, or who may be, facing discrimination. The organisation, which was founded in 1995, helps to shape policy and influence positive change.

A civil liberties activist, Yara, whose background involves working for trade unions and non-governmental organisations, as well as teaching at Edinburgh Law School, is committed to ensuring the Equality Act is upheld through her work with Broudie Jackson Canter.

She said: "I'm incredibly passionate about raising the awareness of accessing justice among those who have experienced discrimination.

"As part of our work at Broudie Jackson Canter, we strive to break down financial barriers through our Legal Aid offering, making sure that we are playing an integral role in the fight for equality, so I'm extremely proud to become a trustee of the Discrimination Law Association.

"The charity is committed to promoting equality and I look forward to working with likeminded individuals on the board to help achieve this goal.

In keeping with Broudie Jackson Canter's commitment to making a positive difference to people's lives through the practise of law, Yara will be involved in writing equality case law updates, hosting events and organising the DLA's annual conference.

Participation by members such as Yara ensures the DLA can continue its work in promoting equality and working towards a fairer society.



Yara Ali-Adib

EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Liverpool Law Society

UNLIMITED TRAINING FOR ONE FIXED PRICE

LEADING SPECIALISTS

TRAINING SEASON TICKET
Attend an **UNLIMITED** number of Liverpool Law Society legal training events from 1st June 2020 until 31st May 2021 for Only £405 + VAT per person

PRIORITY RELEASE
Apply & pay for a Training Season Ticket before 30th June 2020 & get unlimited training for ONLY £395 + VAT

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

HIGH QUALITY COURSES

TRAINING RECORD ON DEMAND

*Offer excludes a small number of events when specified

To apply please click [here](#)

Find a full list of our training events at www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/training/

Morecrofts welcomes new private client solicitor and toasts success of young lawyers

Morecrofts Solicitors has added another solicitor to its award winning private client team following the qualification of Kate McEvoy.

McEvoy will be based primarily at the firm's office in Crosby, specialising in Court of Protection and Wills and Probate matters, after completing a two-year training contract at Morecrofts.

Paralegal Rebecca Lacey has also qualified as a legal executive and will continue to work in the family law team at the firm's Allerton Road office, while fellow paralegal Katie Nguyen has recently passed the latest module of her legal executive qualification.

Meanwhile, Eleanor Cockrell, an associate solicitor in the family care team, has successfully been recredited in Children Law by The Law Society, which provides a recognised quality standard for practitioners representing children in legal proceedings, and

allows professionals such as guardians to identify qualified practitioners when representation of a child is required.

Alison Lobb, managing partner at Morecrofts, said: "Morecrofts has a long tradition of providing pathways for women in the law and this commitment is reflected across all parts of the firm.

"Kate has been a member of the Morecrofts family for almost three years and we are so proud to have supported her development to date. We have no doubt she will continue to develop into an excellent solicitor and a valued member of our award-winning private client team.

"Rebecca and Katie can be incredibly proud of their achievements and Eleanor's re-accreditation means we have seven team members on the Children Law Panel, more than any other firm in the region and further recognition of our status as Merseyside's leading family law firm."

Morecrofts' private client team won the national Law Society Excellence Award, while the family team hold the Family Team of the Year Award from The Liverpool Law Society.



Kate McEvoy

[NOW ONLINE] 3 Day Children Panel Accreditation Course

Day 1: 2nd June, Day 2: 4th June Day 3: 12th June
All 9.30am - 4.30pm

Safda Mahmood is accredited to run this 3 day course, which is fully approved by the Law Society.

It is an intermediate specialist course for delegates who seek to represent a party in Public Law Children Act proceedings.

This course will be of benefit to those who seek to apply for membership of the Law Society's Children Law Accredited Scheme.

You will have 6 months to submit your application after attending the course.

The 3-day course is designed to enhance your legal knowledge, as well as to ensure that you are familiar with the requirements for membership. It will provide you with tips for good practice, as well undertaking case studies in groups, so as to apply your knowledge to various scenarios.

Competencies: B & C

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

Law firm launches new department to tackle PPI commission claims

Liverpool-headquartered CEL Solicitors has expanded its board of directors as it launches a new practice area to tackle the growing number of financial mis-selling claims from consumers.

Headed up by financial litigation expert Elaine Walker, the new department is dedicated to supporting and assisting those who have experienced 'financial mis-selling', most commonly experienced among those who have been given unsuitable advice relating to mortgages and pensions.

Financial mis-selling cases, or Plevin claims, are when a lender was paid what is deemed an unfair amount of commission for a PPI claim without the consumer's knowledge.

Elaine, who has more than 18 years' experience in the industry, joins the firm's 30-strong team at CEL, which also specialises in housing disrepair, data breach and Japanese Knotweed claims.

Her role will include growing the new practice area's team, developing processes and building contacts, primarily focusing on Plevin claims to begin with.

Related to the high level of commission earned by a lender or broker for recommending a particular product, Plevin claims arise when the consumer is not aware of this process and has this commission added to the cost of their PPI. This means that many PPI mis-selling cases which were originally rejected can now be reconsidered.

Elaine said: "I'm extremely honoured to be joining such a dynamic team here at CEL Solicitors. Helping raise awareness of Plevin to mitigate the impact of financial mis-selling is something I'm extremely passionate about. It is widely accepted that the PPI deadline had passed, and while this is true for the claims themselves, it is still possible to claim against the high levels of commission alone.

"In some cases, this can be up to 67% of the PPI claim, so it's an issue that is gathering momentum as more people begin to understand it."

Elaine added: "CEL already had three incredibly strong practice areas, so to be adding to the mix and heading up a new arm of the business is exciting and signals a new chapter for the team.

"I can't wait to hit the ground running and look forward to building a team of financial mis-selling experts."

To be eligible for a Plevin claim, claimants would not have had the risks associated with the financial product explained to them, or given full information upon purchasing.

Following Elaine's appointment, CEL is now looking to grow its wider team further, with the data breach department looking to increase in size.

Jessica Hampson, owner and director at CEL Solicitors, said: "We're absolutely thrilled to announce our new department, expanding our core practice areas and driving recruitment across the business.



Elaine Walker

"We remain incredibly passionate about maintaining our 'people before profits' ethos, and we're confident Elaine will align perfectly with what we stand for. We are always on the lookout for new talented people to join the team across all practice areas, and we look forward to being able to welcome more new faces and help an increasing number of clients receive the outcomes they deserve.





(Don't sign here)

With our innovative smart forms, you just need to click
– no handwritten signature necessary.

Handwritten signatures are so yester-century. That's why we've built electronic signature technology into all our smart forms. Which means no printing or postage necessary. Once the online form is completed, your client simply clicks the signature box and hits send, avoiding time-consuming mistakes. It's fast, easy, secure and entirely paperless. You can even monitor their progress and nudge them along. Request a demo and discover how to put the 'auto' in autograph for you and your clients.

After all, the experience is everything.

Visit www.infotrack.co.uk/dontsign or call us on **0207 186 8090** to book a free demonstration.



What Paralegals must never do when offering services to consumers direct

By Amanda Hamilton, CEO of National Association of Licenced Paralegals (NALP)

With the opening up of legal services to consumers, giving them the opportunity to attain access to justice at a reasonable cost, more paralegals are gaining Licences to Practise and opening their own firms. Although this is great for both consumers and the paralegal professions – there two things a Paralegal must never do.

Holding out

There are many areas where a paralegal can offer assistance directly to a client. Some of these are the same as solicitors but it's very important not to give the impression that you are anything other than a paralegal practitioner. Holding yourself out to be a solicitor by giving an inference and by not being explicit is illegal and can have serious consequences.

With the withdrawal of legal aid for most cases, many consumers are unable to pay fees charged by solicitors. This has resulted in a plethora of individuals setting themselves up as 'paralegals' offering legal services at a reasonable cost to consumers under the umbrella of being a 'lawyer'. While technically calling oneself a 'lawyer' may be correct if an individual has studied law, the impression this gives to the man on the street is that this individual is a solicitor.

The Paralegal Sector isn't statutorily regulated and therefore, in effect, anyone can call themselves a paralegal whether or not they are qualified, trained, educated or affiliated to a professional membership body.

The potential dangers to the general public are, therefore, considerable.

Understandably, someone endeavouring to start a paralegal business would want to promote it by giving the impression that they know what they are doing. However, inferring that they are anything other than a paralegal is wrong and illegal. It's referred to as 'holding out' i.e. giving the impression expressly or impliedly that you are a qualified and practising solicitor, barrister, chartered legal executive, licenced conveyancer or notary public. Only these individuals can carry out reserved legal activities...

Reserved Activities

There are six main reserved activities. These are activities paralegals cannot perform, although some of these reserved activities are being eroded and there are ways that a Licenced Paralegal can assist a client.

1) The exercise of a right of audience

This means the right to represent a client in court and to call and examine witnesses. While this remains a prime reserved activity, in practice this is being eroded at the discretion of the Judge in a specific case. Consumers who cannot afford solicitors or barristers fees are attending court and representing themselves as litigants in person (LIPs). Judges are having to delay hearings in order to ensure that the LIP is given appropriate advice. If a paralegal comes before the court and the judge is satisfied as to their competency, then that paralegal may be allowed to make presentations before the court.

2) The conduct of litigation

Again, this is a prime reserved activity. However, a paralegal is able to assist clients in completing and signing the necessary forms and documentation themselves, and to give advice on procedure and how to conduct their own case.



Amanda Hamilton

3) Reserved instrument activities

Such as conducting a conveyancing transaction on behalf of a buyer or seller of land or property. This can be carried out by solicitors or licenced conveyancers

4) Probate activities

This refers to such matters as applying for a Grant of Probate on behalf of an executor of a Will. Solicitors are able to apply and sign such applications, but paralegals cannot do so. However, a paralegal can guide client executors through the process.

5) Notarial activities

This involves independently witnessing and authenticating legal documents and transactions for production overseas, or to confirm the authenticity of copied or signed documents in order to confirm that they are fully compliant with the requirements of a relevant jurisdiction. Only a notary public can perform these activities.

6) Administration of oaths

The administering an oath is solely the monopoly of solicitors. An example is when an individual needs to swear an affidavit which can then be admitted as sworn testimony in court instead of a witness physically giving evidence under oath.

In such an open market, it's important consumers have the necessary knowledge to choose. A consumer approached by an individual referring to themselves as a 'paralegal' should have confidence to request evidence of that individual's credentials with regard to their competence, as well as professional body affiliations.

Conversely, individuals intending to set themselves up as paralegal practitioners should seek to become a member of a professional membership organisation such as NALP that will vet them and ensure they're given advice regarding the 'holding-out' principles and reserved activities.

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

Much of our world has shifted online. We're ordering shopping from our fabulous restaurants, cafes, coffee suppliers and delis, watching art created by our theatres and galleries, working and connecting via our screens like tech gurus. When the restrictions ease, and the lockdown gradually recedes, we will have to work to ensure our physical world is ready for the rebuild.

At Liverpool BID, one of the most important aspects of our work is about improving the environment businesses operate in. As that is, currently, online, that's where much of our focus is. As business shifts its operations online, that's where our support needs to be to help them make that environment work for them, as well as ensuring businesses who are front line workers, feel safe and secure.

Providing advice and guidance has been an important part of our day to day work. Through our website and eshots, we're pointing businesses in the right direction for the help they need. For example, we created a step by step guide for those employers applying for the government's Job Retention Scheme. There is only a short period of time that you have to be able to fill out the form online to make the application, and you need a list of relevant information to hand. That step by step guide helps people to be prepared before they log on, and saves them time.

We are working with Crowdfunder on the Pay it Forward campaign, to help businesses who need to secure funds from their customers and supporters to be used at a later date. We've made sure businesses will receive 100% of the money they secure, through the scheme. There's also free access to the platform Maybe* to help organisations use social media to improve their engagement with their audience.

Yet part of our work in improving the business environment is looking beyond the immediate short term. At some point the restrictions will ease and many will ask questions as to how they should prepare themselves and their business for moving away from the digital and back into the physical world.

At Liverpool BID, we have been talking to our partners and stakeholders in the city to make sure our city centre will be ready for doors to open once again. We are working to a five point plan; make areas secure, clean, attractive and free from litter and graffiti, focusing on partnerships and working together, keeping everyone updated on progress and organising campaigns and activity to promote our businesses and a little street level decoration.

It's about confidence. People need to feel confident. We will need to give business a great deal of support and to ensure the environment they operate in is helping them as much as they can. For those of us who work in the centre of the city, and for



Julie Johnson

those who do not really have a digital work alternative, they will need confidence to go back to their place of work every day, even if this is initially on a phased return basis.

Twitter - @LpoolBIDcompany

Facebook - LiverpoolBIDCompany

Instagram - LiverpoolBIDCompany

LinkedIn - Liverpool BID Company



The Law Society

The last four weeks have been very difficult and challenging for the profession, as well as worrying for us all personally.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE LEGAL SERVICES SECTOR

The Law Society has been working hard during the current crisis to represent the legal profession at the highest levels of the UK and Welsh governments, including to the Treasury, Ministry of Justice, Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Industrial Strategy and the judiciary to raise concerns about member safety, business continuity and the rule of law.

These priorities have been our guiding focus throughout our discussions:

- looking after our members' safety - from protecting our members in courts to pushing for documents to be signed remotely
- helping members keep their businesses going and stay compliant - from advice on Government support to ensuring regulators advise on the issues concerning our members
- protecting the rule of law – scrutinising the emergency legislation and monitoring the impact of remote working in the courts on justice.

MEMBER SAFETY

The safety of those working in the justice system is of paramount importance to us. While the wheels of justice must keep turning, it is our firm belief that if the correct safeguarding techniques are not in practise and safety cannot be guaranteed, our members are entitled to take measures to protect themselves – including declining to attend court appearances. We welcomed the decision that all court matters that can be dealt with remotely must be.

We have communicated members' concerns directly to the UK & Welsh Governments, the Courts and Tribunals Service, prisons and the police. We are pleased that they have responded to the need to amend policies and procedures to improve the safety of our members. We have produced a heatmap showing which courts are operational.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY

Our members are reliant on a range of organisations implementing workarounds to their business-as-usual processes, and many of our members are under financial strain as a result of the crisis. We have developed a toolkit to help members assess their eligibility for the government business support measures.

Some of the issues we are hearing from our members include concerns around their professional indemnity insurance (PII). Our members are in a situation whereby premiums are going up significantly, at the same time as business is drying up as a result of coronavirus. The UK Government's business continuity loans scheme should be available to help firms pay for PII renewals and we are assisting members who are having trouble accessing the loans.

We are also in discussions with the regulator about other adjustments, beyond PII, that could help members, such as an extension to the extended indemnity period during which firms can seek cover.

We are raising members' concerns daily with Government and we remain committed to securing equivalent support for those who are not employees, matching the Government's job retention scheme.

Other issues that we have raised are:

- Concerns on cashflow, liquidity and potential loss of income - particularly for law firms specialising in residential conveyancing and criminal law which are significantly affected.
- Availability of the Government's business support measures for our members – how they are working in practice, including the limitations of the self-employed income support scheme.
- Business rates – we have raised concerns on the exclusion of law firms from the COVID-19 business rates suspension scheme.
- Concerns on the mechanics of closing deals and the difficulties related to swearing oaths, affidavits and statutory declarations.
- Difficulties on the execution of wills.

THE RULE OF LAW

The rule of law is, and forever will be, of paramount importance. In times of crisis it is more crucial than ever that people continue to have access to justice and that organisations like ours seek to protect the rule of law. During the passage of the Coronavirus Act, we made representations to the Ministry of Justice on the emergency legislation to ensure that due process, fair trial and civil liberties are respected during these times of crisis.

We continue to have numerous concerns about the impact of using modern technology on the justice outcomes the system delivers. During the current crisis, many of these proposals are being accelerated. We believe that there are opportunities to embrace the law tech revolution, but we think changes must be implemented in consultation with the sector to protect the rule of law.

We have also been working with our domestic regulator, to ensure arrangements for legal education and training are able to continue without risking safety or the integrity of the processes.

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR

- Following our representations, the government amended the Coronavirus Act (then Bill) to allow hearings under the Extradition Act 2003 to temporarily take place via a live link, and we ensured the government understood the need for a sunset clause
- The government confirmed that key workers include those "essential to the running of the justice system", including solicitor advocates, duty solicitors and other similar categories.
- The Welsh Government has included small-to-medium law firms within the criteria for its recently announced £100 million grant scheme for businesses
- We influenced safety policies introduced in courts, police stations and prisons to protect our members.
- We influenced the Legal Aid Agency's COVID-19 policies and procedures
- The SRA has listened to our concerns and developed proposals to ensure the majority of students can still sit their exams
- The SRA has helped to clarify the situation for trainees
- The CPS has clarified the approach for prosecution of people with impaired decision-making capacity under the Coronavirus Regulations 2020.

Thank you for your support and please continue to send your questions, comments and ideas to us.

Law Society Relationship Management Team North Update

Dear colleagues

We hope that you, your families and teams are safe and well. The Relationship Management (RM) Team North Update takes a different format in these unprecedented times, as you will see from the revised contents summary below.

The RM Team are busy engaging with members by email, phone, Skype and surveys.

If you need any support or guidance from the Law Society, please do email one of the Relationship Management Team.

Law Society Advice and Guidance for Members Covid-19 Law Society General Resources and Support

The coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis is changing day by day. The Law Society is monitoring the situation and developing advice and support to help you through these unprecedented times.

This North Update draws your attention to particular guidance, but stay up to date by visiting the Law Society's regularly updated online resources for its latest advice here:

<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/advice/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-members/>
<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/coronavirus/>
 And, stay informed on what the Law Society is doing here:
<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/advice/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-priority-issues/>

Covid-19 Business Continuity Toolkit

The coronavirus outbreak is posing significant challenges for solicitors, firms and clients. With thanks to Simon McCrum's input, the Law Society has produced a toolkit that law firms and practitioners could and should consider when looking at how to strengthen their business in

these challenging times. It includes:

- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: Guidance for law firms top tips for firms to preserve their cashflow
- an online tool to determine your and your firm's eligibility for government support measures
- video-insight from managing partners and senior leaders on how to weather the storm

Trainees and Supervision

The Law Society has had a great many enquiries from those seeking to enter the profession, about arrangements for trainees, supervision requirements and furloughing.

The SRA has published their FAQs on education and training within their advice on the coronavirus:

<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/coronavirus-questions-answers/>

The Law Society has addressed the issues around the training contract in its advice here:

<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/advice/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-members/>
 Also, Alan East, chair of our Education and Training Committee, discusses supervising trainee solicitors in these exceptional times:
<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/news/blog/supervising-trainee-solicitors-during-coronavirus/>

Relationship Management Team, North:

Jo McLeod, Head of Relationship Management, North

M - 07980 725573 E: joanne.mcleod@lawsociety.org.uk

Claire Quinn, Relationship Manager, North

M: 07580 977090 E: claire.quinn@lawsociety.org.uk

Catherine Carter, Relationship Management Executive, North

Mobile - 07812 675150 E: catherine.carter@lawsociety.org.uk



NEW [NOW ONLINE] Interpreting Company Accounts

Friday 5th June, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

With Ian Johnson

Aimed at fee earners and partners – especially corporate lawyers, or those who work with year end accounts and business financial statements.

Covering:

- An overview of financial reporting – incorporated vs. unincorporated businesses
- Analysing and understanding company accounts
- Critical areas of error and judgement

Competencies: A5, B1 & D1

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



[NOW ONLINE] Last Minute Conveyancing Problems and How to Solve Them

Wednesday 20th May, 1.30pm - 4.45pm

With Richard Snape

This course aims to look at how best to predict and deal with nightmare situations which might or are likely to arise between exchange and completion. The course will also update in relation to the 2019 Protocol and the Code for Completion

Topics covered include:

- Death of the client
- Last minute removal of fixtures and leaving chattels in the premises
- Apportionment problems
- Reports to the NCA and avoiding tipping off the client
- Last minute conflicts of interest
- Expiry of searches
- The Standard Conditions of Sale

& more...

Competencies: B
[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

Regulation Update

The latest regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP

I hope you are all well, and the 'new normal' is not causing too much stress, particularly for those that are juggling working from home alongside your new role as teacher, home schooling children of different ages. At least, for now, the weather is holding up, so we can take advantage of the fresh air, and, if you're anything like me, discovering parts of your neighbourhood that you didn't know existed.

As you would expect, coronavirus has not stopped the world of compliance, and below is a brief summary of what has been in the news and of concern to practitioners.

SRA and Law Society advice and practice notes

As you would hope, the SRA and the Law Society are providing advice and updates on issues of concern and FAQs, so it is worth looking at their websites, but if you do have any queries that we can assist with, please get in touch.

The general approach from the SRA is that while acknowledging that law firms and solicitors face uncertainty and difficult business conditions, and it is looking at what it can do to help, coronavirus is not a reason to reduce standards in relation to compliance. In situations where there are compliance difficulties, the approach taken should be clearly documented, and, if possible, when 'normality' is resumed, the position be rectified e.g. in the case of a will, arrange to see the client to confirm

instructions, arrange a capacity assessment if needed, and re-sign the will. The SRA has confirmed that it will take a proportionate approach, which includes enforcement and if it receives complaints, it will take into account mitigating circumstances.

In addition to the ten coronavirus updates, over the last month, the Law Society has published a further 10 advice notes on subjects ranging from Client Funds to Business continuity toolkit; EU Legal Professional Privilege post Brexit guidance to Mental capacity international aspects, and Becoming a QC to Advocacy preparation and conduct.

Whiplash reforms delayed to April 2021

In what will not come as a surprise to anyone, the reforms to the whiplash claims process has been put back again, this time to April 2021. The government said it remains fully committed to the measures but that the coronavirus crisis made it impossible to meet the 1 August deadline. Law Society president Simon Davis said the decision 'provides welcome pause for thought and much-needed clarity for the personal injury sector'. He noted that important policy decisions remain to be made about how the portal will work in practice, and solicitors as well as the general public will need time to adapt.

AML

The Legal Sector Affinity

Group (LSAG) has issued an Advisory Note 'COVID-19 –and preventing Money Laundering/Terrorist Financing in Legal Practices', which warned firms that criminals may try to take advantage of the situation and to be alert to the risks in new or prospective customers, including being asked to work with unusual types of client or types of matter; clients resisting compliance with due diligence checks; becoming involved in work outside the practice's normal area of experience/expertise and transactions where the business rationale is not clear. The note also provides advice on identification and verification.

SRA data on firm diversity

You may recall completing a diversity questionnaire last summer. The SRA have analysed the information received from 96% of law firms, representing information from over 186,000 people working in over 9,500 firms. The SRA confirms that levels of diversity continue to slowly improve, although it varies depending on firm size and level of seniority and, on the basis that just 3% of solicitors who responded described themselves as disabled (the Government's figure for the wider UK workforce is 13%) says that this indicates that an 'apparent unwillingness of employees to declare they have a disability continues.' It goes on to say 'this potentially suggests a culture where disabled solicitors are not coming forward and therefore



Andrea Cohen

accessing adjustments which could be made within the workplace to benefit both themselves and the service they provide to clients.' In addition to the firm diversity study, the SRA carried out a survey of 3000 law firms about their policies and practices on disability inclusion and engaged with disability experts, disabled solicitors and law firms. It found some firms are beginning to do more to promote disability, but most had not adopted a holistic or rounded approach. There was also uneasiness about requesting adjustments and having discussions about them. The SRA found an 'emphasis on mental health and wellbeing and whilst we highly praise the work being done in this area, we encourage firms to put similar commitment into other areas of disability.'

The diversity data also showed that nearly half of all solicitors are now women (49%), up 1% since 2017, although just one in three (34%) partners are female; the proportion of Asian solicitors has increased from 9% to 15% over the past five years, although this falls to 5% among the larger firms and the overall proportion of black solicitors (3%) is broadly in line with the general population. The proportion of

solicitors attending fee paying schools goes down marginally each year, (21% of all solicitors, rising to 32% in the larger law firms), compared to 7% in the general population.

Consumer legal services research

The second UK Legal Services Consumer Research Report found that consumer awareness of legal services brands is growing, but only three brands have awareness levels higher than 50%. Overall, the survey, based on responses from 462 people who had used a law firm or solicitor in the past three years and a nationally representative sample of 1,060 adults, found low levels of awareness about legal regulation and complaints procedures, with only 24% knowing that legal advisers are regulated and only 15% were aware they can go to the legal ombudsman with a complaint. Most of those who responded welcomed initiatives such as publishing price information and allowing solicitors to practise outside regulated entities and 58% said that they would be either 'very likely' or 'likely' to use a freelance solicitor if they offered advice at a lower price than traditional firms.

Disciplinary decisions

Drink driving

A solicitor who claimed to have become an alcoholic due to the drinking culture of a former firm in private practice has been fined £2,000 and ordered to pay £2,000 costs by the SDT after two drink-driving convictions, the first in 2016 and the second in 2018, when he was almost two and half times over the legal limit.

The solicitor denied that his convictions had breached SRA principles 2 (acting with integrity) and 6 (maintaining public trust in the profession),

and said the public would be disappointed by his misconduct, but challenged the SRA's assertion they would be shocked. The SDT disagreed with him, saying "One offence might be recognised as a mistake but having had that experience the respondent offended again.....a second conviction was not what the public expected of solicitors".

The SRA agreed regulatory settlement agreements with two other solicitors convicted of drink-driving, meaning they will not be prosecuted at the tribunal. Each was described as an isolated incident. The first, a partner at a City firm accepted a £2,000 fine, a reduction from the SRA's initial figure of £3,500, "to reflect the prompt reporting, early admission and remedial action taken". In the other matter, the SRA rebuked a partner in another firm for his conviction, which included a 12-month driving ban and fine of £1,000, on the basis that a written rebuke was appropriate because a public sanction was required and it created "a credible deterrent".

Briefcase left on train

The former junior solicitor who was struck off for lying about leaving a briefcase which contained sensitive documents on a train is appealing the decision, supported by a firm, QC and counsel acting pro bono. The appeal is on the grounds that the SDT failed to investigate the impact of the incident on her mental health; failed to take into account factors including good character, the fact that no harm occurred, there was no gain to her financially or professionally and it was a one-off incident; erred in its findings of misconduct and dishonesty, and erred in law by deciding the case did not fall under 'exceptional circumstances'.

During the hearing it emerged

that her former employers, the SRA's appointed legal adviser, had not reported her conduct, although it had reported the loss of documents. The SRA's investigation of the case concerning regulatory conduct was instigated following a complaint made by someone named in the documents. The SRA said it has written to the firm reminding it of its obligations to promptly report possible misconduct.

Failure to run business effectively

A sole practitioner who let his firm "dissolve into a complete mess" and which was shut down by the SRA in February 2018 has been fined £7,500 by the SDT, following a regulatory settlement agreement with the SRA. He also agreed that conditions should be placed on his practising certificate for an indefinite period preventing him from being a sole practitioner, partner in a law firm, COLP or COFA and from holding client money or being a signatory on any client account. He had used a "manual accounting system" which did not comply with the rules and there was a cashbook but no running balance and breaches identified in the qualified accountant's reports had not been rectified. The solicitor admitted continuing to accept instructions from conveyancing clients after his

office bank account had been frozen, and was awaiting funds on a probate matter, and admitted failing to protect client money.

Experienced solicitor struck off after stealing from client friends

A partner and compliance officer, currently serving two years' imprisonment for theft for stealing more than £95,000 belonging to two clients following the sale of their company and money laundering, agreed to be struck off and pay £14,000 costs after stealing money from long-term clients to alleviate his financial difficulties. His breach of trust was said to be 'monumental', and he tried to mislead an SRA investigator by saying his clients had lent him money.

The tribunal said his conduct was 'deliberate, calculated and repeated', taking advantage of longstanding clients and he had also tried to hide the theft by persuading two clients to give false and misleading information to the regulator. The clients told the SRA the truth after he failed to return their money.

Andrea Cohen
Compli
Weightmans

ATLANTIC CHAMBERS

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

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

4-6 Cook Street, Liverpool L2 9QU

T 0151 236 4421 F 0151 236 1559

DX: 14176 Liverpool 1.

E-mail: info@atlanticchambers.co.uk

How you can help your clients when selling their property in Spain

FIVE TIPS that should be taken into account before exchanging contracts when selling in Spain.

Some clients come to us when they have already exchanged contracts for their property in the sun, thinking that because they are not buying, it is all simple, straightforward and that they simply have to ensure they get the money they have agreed, which will be all dealt by an estate agent who will find the perfect buyer and will ensure all goes well... so we find quite often clients who think they do not need to seek legal advice before selling in Spain or sometimes they come too late.

The truth is that although, there are much more checks to do and steps to follow when buying, at the time of selling property in Spain there are also important aspects to take into account to avoid surprises and more importantly, to avoid finding that part of the money will be withheld without the clients understanding why.

Let's list FIVE TIPS that should be taken into account before exchanging contracts when selling in Spain:

Estate agent's fee agreement.

It's likely that your clients will be using an estate agent who will get a commission over the price. Commissions normally are around 5% and the fees will be variable at 21%. It is important that the seller's Spanish lawyer carries out a quick check to the agent's fee agreement before signing it.

Private contract.

When signing a private contract (in Spanish "contrato de arras") the seller will be committing him or herself to sell the property to the buyer. 10% deposit should be paid to the seller (in Spanish "arras") which is non-refundable. Should the buyer decide not to go ahead with the purchase or fails to complete, the most likely consequence is that he/she will lose the amount paid, which will be kept by the seller. In Spain, it's quite common for the deposit to be transferred to the client's personal account or to the estate agent's bank account rather than going to their solicitor's. There are obvious reasons that make it more advisable for the seller to ask for the money to be sent to his/her lawyer's client account but if an independent Spanish lawyer has not been engaged before exchanging contracts, your clients might be receiving money without the necessary AML and source of funds' checks.

On the other hand, if it is your client i.e. the seller, who does not honor the contract, he/she will have to refund the 10% deposit plus its double, as compensation to the buyer. Therefore, it is important that before the seller signs the private contract, he/she is 100% sure that he/she will be able to honor the contract and makes sure that all the necessary documents that are required at completion are in place, to avoid the buyer alleging a breach of contract.

Make sure that your client has all the mandatory documents in place that should be provided to the buyer before



Claudia Font

completion.

Unfortunately, there is not only providing the seller's passport and title deed to the buyer. A few other documents shall be gathered before completion and some of them might take some time to be obtained. Therefore, committing to a completion date before ensuring they are all in place could lead to an unnecessary breach of contract.

The seller shall have a NIE number (Spanish Tax Number) in place. If your clients bought/inherited the property long time ago it might be the case that they do not have an NIE number and without it, they will not be able to complete.

The property shall have an Energy Efficiency certificate in place and a habitation licence. These two documents should be obtained by a local architect.

Finally, the seller shall provide to the buyer with the title, IBI receipt (local tax similar to the English Council Tax) and also, a certificate from the Community of Owners of being up to date of payments.

Ensure that your client is not selling under value or at least, make them aware of the implications of doing so.

A Spanish lawyer will check the Minimum Taxable Value of your client's property, which is not the same than the selling price. In case that the price that has been agreed is lower than the MTV, there is a risk for the Spanish Tax Authorities considering that the seller is undervaluing the property and after paying the capital gain tax (explained below) is likely that your clients will receive a complementary tax return requesting them to pay the excess up to the 3% of the MTV. This is something that should be discussed with a Spanish lawyer who will guide the clients on the best way to avoid unpleasant tax inspections later on.

Make sure that before the price is agreed, the client knows the costs and taxes that should be paid by the seller.

When selling in Spain is the buyer who pays the majority of costs, such as Notary and Land Registry fees, and the main taxes i.e. Stamp Duty which is around 10% but it is also for the seller to consider some costs and taxes. Again, engaging a Spanish lawyer before accepting an offer for your client's loved property in the sun will avoid disappointments before completion when they see that the price they have agreed does not go in full to their bank account.

There are two taxes that should be taken into account when selling in Spain:

Capital Gain Tax

When selling property in Spain being non-resident the buyer has a legal obligation to withhold 3% of the price at the time of completion and pay it to the tax authorities on the seller's behalf.

In case there is no capital gain the seller should be able to claim that amount back (subject to being up to date with non-resident annual tax).

If there is capital gain and with the 3% withheld the correspondent taxes, which are 19% of the gain, are not covered, the seller will need to pay the excess.

A Spanish lawyer will advise on how this amount can be reduced i.e. there are some amounts like the costs involved on the purchase of the property that is going to be sold that can be taken into account to reduce this tax.

Plusvalia

This is a local tax that applies every time that a property is transferred in Spain, whether this is by death or by a sale and it taxes the increase of value of the land where the property is located. It is not mandatory for the buyer to withhold the plusvalia, but since he/she will not be able to register the property in his/her name if that local tax is not paid, it is common practice when buying in Spain to make a retention from the price for the amount of the plusvalia and pay it to the local authority on behalf of the seller

In consequence, at the time of your clients agreeing a price to sell a property in Spain, they should note that the 3% of that price will be withheld by the buyer and also the amount of the plusvalia. Therefore, recommending them engaging an independent Spanish lawyer would be more than advisable to find out how much would be the plusvalia and also, to see if there is any excess to pay towards capital gain tax so they can save whatever is needed before exchanging contracts.

Claudia Font
Dual-qualified Solicitor & Spanish Lawyer
Partner
gunnercooke llp
Claudia.font@gunnercooke.com



HM Courts &
Tribunals Service

Keep up to date with reform



Check our blog:

insidehmcts.blog.gov.uk



Sign up to our mailing list:

bit.ly/hmctsemailalerts



Visit our web page:

gov.uk/guidance/the-hmcts-reform-programme



@HMCTS



Look After Yourself

Top 10 Tips for Good Mental Health and Wellbeing



Keep Active

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



Take a Break

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



Sleep is Important

Sleeping well can improve concentration and refresh you



Eat Well

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



Drink in Moderation

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



Keep in Touch

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



Share How You Feel

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



Give Back

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



Be Mindful

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



Ask for Help

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

HELPLINE SUPPORT 0800 279 6888

365 days a year

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

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



facebook.com/LawCare



[@LawCareLtd](https://twitter.com/LawCareLtd)



Charity Spotlight

EMERGENCY APPEAL for free legal advice charities



Legal help provided by front line legal advice charities has been substantially reduced by funding cuts in recent years. Now, just as the need for that help has been dramatically increased, especially in relation to employment, debt and benefits, the COVID-19 outbreak threatens to destroy an already fragile sector. Many specialist advice agencies will close over the next 6 months unless they receive immediate extra support.

The situation is dire. Many advice services rely on legal aid funding. With courts and tribunals closed, cases are not proceeding to a point where payment can be triggered. Half of front-line specialist legal advice centres are now at risk of permanent closure.

Three quarters are facing staff losses. Restrictions in travel mean that people are unable to visit advice services in the normal way. The advice services have adapted to this and moved their services to the telephone or online to make sure people still have access to justice while the COVID 19 crisis persists. That has created a substantial extra cost and further reduced the ability to earn legal aid income.

So the Access to Justice Foundation, the London Legal Support Trust and funding partners have come together to create an Emergency Advice Appeal, an emergency national appeal for legal advice.

We need your support and we will match the first £200,000 donated to the Emergency Advice Appeal.

That means that any donation you make will be doubled and will enable more advice services to continue to help the people most in need.

The Foundation and LLST are combining their experience with the funding community so that together we can ensure that funds are distributed fairly and effectively.

Please give generously, either a single gift or a regular donation to provide vital funding to keep advice services open, staffed, and

able to reach the people in their communities that urgently need legal advice.

TO DONATE PLEASE VISIT OUR APPEAL PAGE
<https://atjf.org.uk/donate/emergencyappeal>

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions about giving or how you could support further please contact emergency@atjf.org.uk.

Kind regards,

Ruth Daniel and Nezahat Cihan
 CEOs of the Access to Justice Foundation and the London Legal Support Trust

Update

The Emergency Advice Appeal has got off to an amazing start, raising over £357,524 in just two weeks. To those who have supported and gave to the campaign (you know who you are!!), I cannot thank you enough for getting us so close.

Its still not too late to get involved. Please do share the campaign with colleagues and your CSR Team. As you know, the more money we raise the more doors are kept open!

The Emergency Advice Appeal will help create the Community Justice Fund that launches next week. This national fund will ensure that essential services are able to remain open and protect those people who are reliant upon them during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Services which have been identified as at risk are specialist social welfare legal advice organisations such as Law Centres and specialist members of Advice UK and Citizens Advice across the UK. Many of these organisations need funding to cover the basics to keep the doors open and adapt to home working measures. These advice centres help those who cannot afford essential free legal advice gain access to justice on matters such as domestic abuse, housing, employment, family and welfare benefits.

Your support will make the advice sector stronger. Help us reach our target of £400,000. For every amount donated will be match funded, doubling your support!

News from the MJLD

A month has already passed in a situation which seems somewhat unchanged for most of us junior lawyers. Whilst some may continue to work from home, some junior lawyers may be taking a period of furlough during these unprecedented times. The MJLD would like to take this opportunity to recognise the difference in situations and the hard work that is being continued throughout Merseyside.

Whilst we promised to re-evaluate the position with regards to our social events, it is pretty clear, with lockdown now being extended until 7 May, and social distancing potentially being in place until 2021, that the position is ever-changing and so we will continue to evaluate our situation in line with government advice and practice.

As a committee, we are taking this time to increase our social media activity and engage with our fellow junior lawyers through new means. I am sure everybody is up to date with the technology required to partake in an online quiz by now, right!? So please keep an eye on our social media pages listed below for our upcoming virtual events and be ready to get involved.

Newsletter

Our most recent newsletter is something we urge not only our members, but any trainee solicitor to read. We have worked incredibly hard this month to ensure that it is filled with vital information with regards to the SRA's position on the coronavirus and acknowledged the grey areas that some of you might find yourselves in. The piece covers the effects of working from home, furlough and the professional skills course and can be found on our



LinkedIn page.

The newsletter also covers the effects on mental health that these unprecedented times may have. As well as putting together our top three 'working from home tips', we discuss how many of us take for granted the social aspects of working in an office. Although there is something extremely appealing about being able to base ourselves on the couch in our pyjamas, it is quite clear that many of us are appreciating the perks of having that face-face support and interaction from colleagues. Many of the committee have been sharing pictures of their home office space over the last few weeks and have agreed we would love to see your home office space too! To get involved, tag us in the picture on any of our social media platforms!

Charity

Our annual charity, Cash for Kids, are urgently appealing for donations in order to build a fund to support local families who are coping with the devastating effects of Coronavirus – not only the health crisis, but the impact on their daily lives. All funds raised will enable Cash for Kids to provide grants to families with children to help them with basic essentials. Any donations can be made easily online to:


<https://www.cashforkidsgive.co.uk/campaign/radio-city-general-fundraising/fundraisers/merseyside-junior-lawyers-division/>

Twitter – @MerseysideJLD

Instagram – @Merseyside_jld

Facebook and LinkedIn – Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division

Molly Brislen (MJLD Publicity Representative)



[NOW ONLINE] Acting as a Property & Financial Affairs Deputy: Getting It Right with Caroline Bielanska

Friday 26th June 1.30pm - 4.45pm


The breadth and depth of knowledge expected from a professional deputy is vast. It is easy to get unstuck and be criticised by the OPG. Balancing working within the perimeters of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, being involved in every day decision making, maximising state support and ensuring care packages work can take its toll on your profitability.

This course will cover the following:

- Understanding the duties and responsibilities of a deputy
- Complying with the OPG professional standards
- Guidance on making gifts and family care payments
- Statutory wills
- What deputies need to know about state support for care

CLICK HERE TO BOOK

Kindly Sponsored By



News from the WLD

2020-2021 Committee

MWLD will be holding their Annual General Meeting shortly. This was due to take place on 23rd April 2020 however due to the current climate it has been postponed until the Government restrictions are lifted. Further details will be shared as soon as possible however in the meantime, if you would be interested in joining the Committee in a specific role or as a general member please contact us at kirstie.bork@simpsonmillar.co.uk 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 Annual General Meeting. This was due to take place on April 2020 however due to the current climate the date has been



postponed. We will be releasing further details about the AGM once a date has been confirmed via our mailing list, website and social media so keep an eye out for how to get your tickets!

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



**[NOW ONLINE] SRA Solicitors
Accounts Rules for Fee Earners and
non-finance staff**

Friday 5th June, 10am - 12.30pm with Ian Johnson

Aimed at fee earners, partners, practice managers and finance staff who need a working awareness of the SRA Accounts Rules, but perhaps don't work with them day to day.

Covering:

- An overview of the new SRA Accounts Rules and key principles of the previous rules that still apply
- The key differences and similarities and what firms should be doing to adopt the new rules
- Critical areas of focus: including provision of banking facilities and dealing with residual balances
- Overview of recent SRA guidance

Competencies: B & C
[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

“No man is an Island”

No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

One of John Donne's best known, and most frequently quoted pieces, is this excerpt from his 'Meditation 17' part of a series of essays he wrote when he was seriously ill in the winter of 1623. A copy, written out in exquisite calligraphy, has been pinned above my desk since Christmas when it arrived, inside his card, from a dear artist friend who is staunchly pro-European, expressing his and our despair at our looming isolation from our near neighbours. Every morning when I now make my post breakfast commute from the kitchen table, or the garden if the weather is balmy enough, to my desk on the top floor it greets me with a reminder that we are one humanity – interconnected, interdependent and bound together in this global pandemic. Now, more than ever, do we feel that 'any man's death' diminishes us all, each and every one of us.

As with hundreds of thousands of others all of us at Achill Management have been adapting to our new circumstances with greater and lesser degrees of success. For us home working is not such a shock as it formed part of our normal working week, what we miss is the sense of connectivity to the wider working world encapsulated in some of the smallest details. The meetings with clients in their often huge corporate offices (I know one colleague is particularly pining for the jelly babies that a London law firm had piled high in bowls on reception), the catch ups in coffee bars, the breakfast seminars or the lunch and learns.

I miss the overcrowded train and the cavernous, vaulted wooden ceilings of the refurbished London Bridge which never failed to entrance me as I rode the escalator down from the platform towards the tube. We miss the chance encounters with friends and strangers, the familiarity of the evening paperman outside the station, the smell of pavements after a shower or the swirling mass of faces and voices from every continent and country that filled the London streets as we scurried from meeting to meeting. Humanity writ large and vibrant that we so often barely noticed as our everyday lives were crammed with work and travel and commitments. Sometimes I wish I could be standing on the 5.45 home grumbling about not getting a seat and so squashed that even reaching my glasses is too much effort so I couldn't read my free Standard anyway.

We have adapted, of course we have because we have had to. We are getting better at Zoom. We have mastered, not without teething problems, giving live webinars, and our filling our diaries with virtual not actual meetings. Work continues for many of us and we are immensely lucky. Thousands more cannot work and face a worrying and bleak prospect as "normal" shows very little sign of being returned any time soon and it's hard to see any prospect of recovery for some industries and some workplaces. Although it may be a long way off, there is already much talk about not returning to the old normal – but needing a "new normal" instead. A recent You Gov survey commissioned by the RSA Food, Farming and Countryside Commission together with food charity The Food Foundation, found that only 9% of respondents want a total return to "normal" after lockdown.

So while I may be pining slightly for the commute home, if I am truly honest it wasn't so great. Like the 85% of replies to this survey



who want to see some social and environmental changes I too am valuing the environmental changes we are all noticing. Clean air and lower pollution levels is the most obvious – 4.2 million worldwide deaths annually are linked directly to ambient air pollution, while those living in polluted areas are more likely to suffer adversely or die from Covid-19 infection under the current pandemic.

It's a complicated picture – lower air pollution caused by less traffic, 90% of flights grounded, public transport at a virtual standstill, is giving the planet a breathing space. No tourists on the tropical beaches means the sea turtles get a free rein to breed and lay eggs and little turtles get a better chance of making it to the sea. But no transport, no commerce, no tourism also means no work, no income and no security.

The conundrum we all face is how to we move out of the pandemic into a better world, a cleaner, safer less planet damaging world that still allows people to earn a living. Does it have to be a jobs Vs climate discussion? How can we avoid the massive leap in emissions that are likely to follow from re starting the economy that characterised the post 2008 recession? One way has to be using this lockdown to come up with a new green plan – not just a green deal but a whole transformational approach to working and living. To learn from the pause period we are in and make informed, evidence based decisions on what will and could work, on what our priorities are. This is not a decision just for rich developed nations, it is one that takes account of the Global South and its needs and peoples. It is one for all of us.

We have been given a once in a lifetime opportunity to take time and shift the direction of travel for the planet and humanity. We need to do this now and together because no man is an island and we won't get a second chance.

Amanda Carpenter

CEO Achill Management and presenter of Planet Pod
Catch the latest series of podcasts & webinars on Covid-19 and the environment on theplanetpod.com or via www.achillmanagement.com



Liverpool Law Society has decided all future events will be delivered online rather than face to face.

It's really easy to participate all you need is a laptop, pc, ipad or even your phone!
Joining instructions will be sent to delegates prior to the event taking place.

S Code	Date	Time	May & June 2020	Speaker
S4442	6th	1pm-2pm	*NEW* Residential Conveyancing in Lockdown	Ian Quayle
S4443	13th	1pm-2pm	*NEW* Residential Conveyancing and Auctions	Ian Quayle
S4309	20th	9.30-12.45	Current Newbuild Issues for Conveyancers	Richard Snape
S4310	20th	1.30-4.45	Last Minute Conveyancing Problems & How to Solve Them	Richard Snape
S4446	20th	10am-12pm	Domestic Abuse Bill & legal developments: What has & is changing?	Safda Mahmood
S4444	26th	10am-12pm	*NEW* How do I gain confidence in doing my own advocacy in family matters?	Safda Mahmood
S4413	26th	1.30pm—4.45pm	Acting as a Property & Financial Affairs Deputy: Getting It Right	Caroline Bielanska
S4359	2nd, 4th & 12th	9.30am-4.30pm	3 Day Children Panel Accreditation Course	Safda Mahmood
S4291	3rd	9.30am - 3.30pm	The Compliance Conference 2020	Various
S4432	5th	10am - 12.30pm	SRA Solicitors Accounts Rules for Fee Earners & non-financial staff	Ian Johnson
S4433	5th	1.30pm - 3.30pm	Interpreting Company Accounts	Ian Johnson
S4445	9th	10am-12pm	*NEW* I am doing my own advocacy in a care case – Help!	Safda Mahmood
S4409	17th	10am - 2.45pm	Contract & Commercial Update	Helen Swaffield
S4447	18th	10am-11.30pm	Private Children Law Developments: Snappy Update!	Safda Mahmood
S4448	18th	1.30pm-3pm	Public Children Law Developments: Snappy Update!	Safda Mahmood
S Code	Date	Time	July 2020	Speaker
S4434	3rd	1.30pm - 3.30pm	Profitability and working capital management	Ian Johnson
S4435	8th	1.30pm - 4.45pm	Commercial Lasting Powers of Attorney	Craig Ward

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



 INTERACTIVE

 PINPOINT

 TYPE

 PAYROLL

 PRECISION

 BOOKKEEPING

Pick 'n' mix Quill's software & services

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

 0161 236 2910

 info@quill.co.uk

 www.quill.co.uk/picknmix