

LiverpoolLaw

January 2021

Liverpool  Law Society

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



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This month's front cover was taken by Lianne Mangan. Her work can be seen at:
Instagram @limanganphotography
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DEADLINES 2021

27th January

24th February

24th March

21st April

26th May

24th June

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

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

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Published by

Baskerville Publications
Apt 327 Holden Mill
Blackburn Road
Bolton
BL1 7PN
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Welcome to the January 2021 edition of Liverpool Law

Jennifer Powell
editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

I hope you all had a lovely 'little' Christmas and new year.

I wonder what this year will hold for us all?! Things feel more optimistic than some of the previous months, when I have tried my hardest to find something even remotely cheerful to talk about during all this mess. There's a vaccine on the way and (at the time of writing at least) Liverpool remain in Tier 2.

2020 felt like it dragged in some respects, but it also felt like I blinked and the year was over. This month we have a special feature looking back on 2020 and it is amazing to see how well we all adapted and how much we actually achieved. It shows how quickly things changed but how we all rallied together in this strange new world we find ourselves in.

I can't help but feel proud of how we carried on as best possible to continue our vital legal services, training, events and this very magazine with your contributions, so I want to say thank you. Thank you for sending in all of your articles and cheery photographs we have featured throughout the year. These have given a glimpse into our homes, families and hobbies and I hope helped us to continue feeling connected.

Virtual is no longer a frightening word, we came

kicking and screaming into the 21st century and these platforms have allowed us to keep in touch and support each other during some dark times. We even carried on with our charitable events, such as quizzes and legal walks. The virtual transition has brought about so many positives that I hope we will take into 2021, even when we can hopefully start meeting up again face to face, for example to reduce unnecessary travel to far afield meetings- helping air pollution and saving time and money.

The year ended with the MJLD awards and congratulations to all those short listed and the winners. My particular congratulations go to my colleague Jake Parr who won CILEX trainee of the year, very well deserved (even though we won't hear the last of it!). Well done to the organisers, it wasn't the glam ball we are used to but you pulled off a great event.

So let us carry on in 2021 as we have done, being an amazing legal community that will not be easily deterred from providing our services, standing our ground and implementing radical changes, even in the middle of a global pandemic.

Jennifer Powell
Editor
editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

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:

12/01/2021 12:30	General Committee
13/01/2021 13:00	Access to Justice in Liverpool Project meeting
14/01/2021 13:00	Future Planning Sub-Committee
19/01/2021 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
22/01/2021 13:00	Directors' meeting with LCR local authority councillors
26/01/2021 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
27/01/2021 13:00	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee
28/01/2021 13:00	Civil Litigation Sub-Committee
28/01/2021 16:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee
02/02/2021 13:00	Employment Law Sub-Committee
04/02/2021 13:00	Access to Justice Sub-Committee

Editorial Committee Dates

All meetings start at 1pm

Tue 19/01/2021
Tue 16/02/2021
Tue 16/03/2021
Tue 06/04/2021
Tue 18/05/2021
Tue 15/06/2021
Tue 20/07/2021
Tue 17/08/2021
Tue 15/09/2021
Tue 19/10/2021
Tue 16/11/2021

From the President

The latest from the President, Julie O'Hare

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope you have all had a wonderful, and very restful, Christmas break with your loved ones.

I never thought for one moment that this time last year we would be facing one of the most difficult years ahead and I am very much hoping that with bringing in 2021 we can start to put it all behind us.

However, there have been some important lessons from 2020. We have become much more united as a profession and a community, we have overcome challenges and we have embraced technology as never before.

So, what can we expect from 2021? Well, we shall continue to build on the progress of 2020. We have an established EDI committee who is working alongside the Law Society to bring our members a series of roundtables. We plan on holding a number of leaders in law events (remotely for the time being) to keep abreast of our members concerns and to support where possible. Oh, and of course, we shall be looking forward to planning our training, networking, and social events in person again! Least of all, we shall be looking forward to hosting our Annual Dinner to make up for lost time last year!

I must say that I was honoured and privileged to have been President during 2020. As difficult a year as it was I was met with endless support and guidance from my fellow officers and directors as well as the staff. I was extremely flattered to have been proposed for a second term by our revered Past Presidents and so grateful to be able to experience another year in this role.

As always, if there is anything that we can do to support you please do get in touch.

Wishing you all a very healthy, happy and prosperous 2021!

Julie O'Hare
President



Julie O'Hare

LCR Digital Strategy & Action Plan (Draft)

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, in collaboration with the LEP, has drafted the City Region's first ever Digital Strategy and Action Plan covering all aspects of digital and intended to showcase our assets, highlight our opportunities, gaps and priorities, and drive activities and investment.

The intention is to ensure that this has been widely consulted and is collectively owned for the benefit of the whole City Region.

With that in mind, the Combined Authority has initiated a month long City Region wide consultation with stakeholders across all sectors and geographies.

The suite of draft documents and survey can be found via the following link www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/digitalstrategy.

The closing date for responding is 13 January 2021, and the intention is to present the final draft Strategy and Action Plan to the LCR Combined Authority on 26 February for approval. We shall also be presenting the working draft to the LEP Board at our next meeting on Thursday 21 January 2021 to provide a final opportunity for comment.

We would very much welcome your input through the survey.

Claire Delahunty
Sector Manager
Growth Platform

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Directors of Liverpool Law Society for 2021

The Society's main committee is made up of up to 27 directors, all practising lawyers or lecturers in law. We have a representative group of people from a range of small, medium and large firms and educational establishments around the table and we look forward to a busy 12 months under the helm of the president, Julie O'Hare. For the time being our meetings and training courses will continue to be held online, via Zoom, until such time as conditions allow us to meet face-to-face on a regular basis.

Outside of the monthly meetings of the 'General Committee', the directors also meet twice a year with local MPs where there is exchange of information. News about bills going through parliament and constituent issues are also raised and discussed and parliamentary questions are put down on behalf of LLS members. Separately, the directors also meet with the nominated councillors from the Liverpool City Region local authorities. This again is a useful way of ensuring our members' concerns and issues, including those of their clients, can be raised at one of these meetings. The councillors also come to the Society with matters their constituents are facing and we work together on joint initiatives where there is a common aim.

The Society also has good communication channels with The Law Society, the SRA and the LeO, where members' issues can be raised and matters affecting the legal profession discussed. On a regional level, Liverpool Law Society is a member of the Joint V, a grouping of autonomous local law societies that meet and discuss common issues affecting membership organisations for legal professionals, sharing best practice. The members of the Joint V are Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester Law Societies. United the Joint V have a strong voice nationally, representing over 10,000 legal professionals.

The current directors of Liverpool Law Society who form the General Committee for 2021 are:

Officers

President

Miss Julie O'Hare, Carpenters Group

Vice President

Mr Steven Zdolyny, Kim Technologies and ME Group

Honorary Treasurer & Deputy Vice President

Ms Joanne Francis, BLM

Joint Honorary Secretary

Ms Gaynor Williams, Bennett Williams Solicitors

Joint Honorary Secretary

Mr Jeremy Myers, Husband Forwood Morgan

Immediate Past President

Mr Chris Topping, Broudie Jackson Canter

Sub-Committee Chairs

Access to Justice Sub-Committee

Mr James Mannouch, Solicitor – educational establishment

Charities & Education Sub-Committee

Mr David Tournafond, Morecrofts

Criminal Practice Sub-Committee

Ms Eileen Chisnall, ABR Solicitors

Civil Litigation Sub-Committee

Mr Alum Ullah, Bond Turner

Editorial Sub-Committee

Ms Jennifer Powell, Weightmans

Employment Law Sub-Committee

Ms Lindsey Knowles, Brabners

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee

Ms Nina Sahu, Hill Dickinson

Family Business Sub-Committee

Ms Emma Palmer, MSB

In-House Lawyers' Sub-Committee

Mr Martyn Rodmell, Princes Ltd

Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee

Mr Michael Sandys, GWL Solicitors

Regulatory Sub-Committee

Ms Mickaela Fox, Weightmans

Other post holders

Parliamentary Liaison Officer

Mr Paddy Dwyer, DLA Piper UK

Public Relations Officer

Ms Millie Hayden, Brabners

Other Members of the Committee

Professor Warren Barr, University of Liverpool

Mr Jonathan Berkson, Bermans

Mr Carl Graham, DWF

Ms Nicola Harris, MSB

Ms Nadya Makarova, Brabners

Ms Sarah Mansfield, GWL Legal

Mr John Owens, MSB

Interested in getting involved with Liverpool Law Society but unsure where to start?

The specialist committees are a place where members of the Society can come together to discuss current issues in your area of practice, exchange information and best practice, respond to government consultation papers and contribute towards the Society's legal training programme. If you would like to find out more about the work of the specialist committees and/or request to join one or more of them, please click [here](#).

Committee Profiles

Joanne Francis

Honorary Treasurer & Deputy Vice President

Joanne Francis embarked on a CILEX course in 1992 and after 60 applications to law firms, joined Lace Mawer (Now BLM) in 1993 as a Court Clerk. After completing the CILEX course, Joanne completed an LLB at LJMU and then the LPC whilst working. Joanne qualified as a solicitor in 2000 and became a partner in 2002.

She is now the Head of the Liverpool office, responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, a role she describes as very varied; from maintaining clients accounts, managing two teams and contributing to the overall development of the business.

Joanne has extensive experience in handling casualty and motor claims, including fatal accidents and catastrophic injury matters, but now concentrates mainly on employers' and public liability.

Joanne became a Director of Liverpool Law Society five years ago and says that BLM has always been very supportive of the Society. She has been the Treasurer for the last 2 years; and now takes on the role of DVP of the Society.

Joanne is married and has two children, Amelia aged 8 and Joseph is 12. The family have a motorhome and like to get away whenever possible. They travelled to Scotland in 2020, but have toured Europe in previous years. Joanne also enjoys tennis and walking and also helps out at the local Sea Scout Group, having previously been a Cubs Leader. She likes to help out with their events and take the children camping when she can.



Joanne Francis

Michael Sandys

Chair of the Non-Contentious Sub Committee

Michael Sandys has taken over as the Chair of the Non Contentious Sub Committee from Naomi Pinder.

Michael began his legal career as a Barrister, completing his pupillage at 2 Old Bank Chambers in Manchester (a common law set) and at GPT Limited on Edge Lane (where he gained in house experience of IP and Commercial Contracts). After his pupillage he studied for a Masters in International Law at the University of Liverpool in 1995. He then joined Halliwell's in 1997, then Cobbetts in Manchester, and it was then that he was encouraged to transfer and qualified as a solicitor in 2002. He joined Kirwans in 2006 to launch their commercial department and office in Liverpool and also spent over 4 years at Jackson & Canter from 2011.

Michael joined GWL as a partner in 2015 and specialises in company and commercial work with particular expertise in intellectual property work. He acts for companies in equity finance deals, contracts, licensing and commercialisation of IP and IP protection.

Michael has been a member of Liverpool Law Society for a number of years, and became a member of the Non Contentious Sub-Committee two years ago.

Michael was born, raised and still lives in Southport. He has two daughters and one son, one is at University, one is due to go to University and his youngest is about to take his GCSEs.

Michael enjoys current affairs, travel, history, fell walking, films and music and plays the guitar.



Michael Sandys

Increasing Access to Justice in Liverpool

The University of Liverpool and Citizens Advice Liverpool are pleased to share with you all, some of our amazing achievements to date for the Liverpool City Council funded project, the Access to Justice Project.

The project has been funded to mitigate some of the worst impacts of legal cuts and austerity reforms in Liverpool. By bringing legal agencies together, as well as organisations delivering support complementary to legal advice such as information giving and advocacy, we hope that a more “joined up” and coordinated approach to funding, service delivery and strategy work around advice provision, will improve and ultimately increase access to advice for Liverpool residents.

In order to understand the diverse and complex eco-system of the advice sector, we are mapping advice provision in the city, led by the University of Liverpool. This has enabled the visual representation of the complex free legal advice network in Liverpool. The maps and figures will be an **interactive tool embedded within the Liverpool access to advice network website**. Maps and figures show the relative numbers of organisations that provide advice in each area of law. The areas of **social welfare law mapped** according to the physical location of each organisation are housing, welfare benefits, family, employment, public law, asylum, immigration, discrimination, and community care. The organisations we have been able to map include single and multi-site organisations. We have identified 89 organisations (with 102 physical sites) that offer free legal advice or information in the city. Alongside the mapping and research conducted by the University, Citizens Advice Liverpool have been establishing a referrals network and advice forum.

The Referrals Network

What happens when a client is signposted to another service? How do we know what level and quality of support the client has received? How many times has the client come back to you, unhappy and having not been supported?

These are all questions that have underpinned the creation of our Multi-Partner Referrals Network. This is made up of statutory services, not-for-profit legal advice agencies, and private law firms with legal aid contracts. We use an independent and inter-organisation digital referral system to support our clients. The e-referral system provides a single referral pathway to access some of the city’s key advice providers and is designed specifically for the transferring of client’s data from one provider to another. By moving towards this model of referring clients and through the features that the e-referral system includes, we hope that it will make the referral journey more efficient and transparent, for both the client and the adviser. We already have 35 organisations and services as part of the network and hope this will continue to grow.

The Advice Forum - A Community of Practice

A way to coordinate services to form positive and strategic partnerships, the access to advice forum is a platform for advice providers to learn from one another, share resources, updates and



You can find out more information about this project by visiting our website
www.liverpoolaccesstoadvicenetwork.org.uk

information. It is a space for advice providers to think collectively on how we can “amplify the voices of those whose rights have been denied” and to also influence and change legislation and services.

The forum is made up of 35 organisations, who deliver a range of advice on issues of Housing, Debt, Welfare Benefits, Disability, Immigration, Employment & Education. January 6th 2021 is the date of our 3rd meeting, and we will set some fantastic objectives over the next year. This will focus on how we can;

- Increase knowledge and understanding of advice provision in the city and increase awareness of the demand on different types of advice
- Co-produce a legal advice strategy
- Work together to develop a training programme to upskill advisors

It is vital that the project continues to be funded, as we know that there is a proven impact of having a multi-partner referrals network and providing a space for positive and strategic collaboration. Ultimately, we want to maximise resources, impact & innovation. Having worked in various voluntary organisations for a number of years, I recognise that we are stronger together.

If you would like to get in touch with me regarding the project, please feel free to email me: iqra.mazhir@caliverpool.org.uk

By Iqra Mazhir
Partnership Coordinator for Citizens Advice Liverpool

Looking backwards and forwards

It's fair to say that anyone predicting the political turbulence of the past five and a half years would have been considered overexcited, yet my period in this role has been set against a very dramatic backcloth of three General Elections and the Referendum.

Since Spring 2015 when I took up the role, the key has been the support I have received from the LLS Officers over those years, and the LLS Staff with Sarah Poblete and Ann Murphy organising our many events, and our publisher Julia Baskerville has helped me to get our news out to LLS members.

Charlie Jones opened the way for me to take part in a session on Lobbying at the national Law Society's Conference for local Presidents and Secretaries in 2017, one of the highlights of this job. Additional highlights have been meeting three present or past Lord Chancellors, which in 2016 included a private interview with Lord Falconer when he came to speak in Liverpool.

Even if there are few substantial gains to record, I am delighted that LLS has managed to keep on getting the message across to local and national politicians about the issues which we believe are so vital our clients. In particular, I have been helped by LLS committee Chairpeople to draft suggestions for Parliamentary Questions for our local MP's to submit and with members to frame correspondence with Ministers.

Updating LLS members about new Statutes and relevant political news helps solicitors to provide a fuller service for their clients and reminds us all that we should keep our eyes on the wider horizon, as with LLS speaking out for Hong Kong this year.

In putting aside our own personal political views, I have been struck by how LLS members have worked together on communicating with Councillors and MP's in their roles as community representatives. This is, I believe, the essence of effective political communication at the local or regional level.

Paddy Dwyer has been spending the last few months working closely with Sarah Poblete and with me as we have arranged our meeting with MP's and Councillors and discussing the nature of the role, so he is fully acclimatised.

Equally, Paddy will bring new ideas and perspective to the role, so that LLS will remain at the cutting edge of political dialogue for its members.

Jeremy Myers
Parliamentary Liaison Officer 2015-20



Jeremy Myers



Paddy Dwyer

It is with great excitement that I take on the role of Parliamentary Liaison Officer for LLS. With a change to the constitutional landscape, the likes of which we have not seen since 1973, I expect this role to continue to be as exciting and engaging as I have observed it to be over the last few months. Having shadowed Jeremy and witnessed his passion, commitment and knowledge there are certainly great expectations both from LLS members and within the LLS committee.

I would like to personally thank Jeremy for his sterling work over the last five years and for the help which he has given to me to ensure that, during my tenure, there will at least have been one smooth transition.

Defending the rule of law should be of paramount importance to any law society and the work undertaken by Jeremy and which I hope to continue is integral in promoting the Liverpool City Region as a centre of legal excellence. In addition, maintaining close communication with politicians (both local and national) will continue to keep leaders informed of legislative progress and our members informed of political direction.

As we approach in 2021 the international and local political landscape offers yet more talking points taking into account a United Kingdom without EU membership, local elections in May, a new US president, the 20th anniversary of the tragic events of 9/11, and a German election without Chancellor Angela Merkel.

I hope to continue to bring updates to you, our membership, with the same level of erudition and zeal as shown by Jeremy. I also encourage you to raise those issues you feel strongly about for LLS to attempt to raise them on your behalf.

With your continued input and engagement we can deliver as much transparency as possible on the impact of politics on the law and how that may impact the Liverpool City Region, whilst hoping and striving to be agents of change.

Happy New Year!

Paddy Dwyer
Parliamentary Liaison Officer 2020-

Reform of the Law Society Council

Dear Colleague

I have been a member on CMC since 2013. Our chair is Fraser Whitehead who has been chair of CMC since 2017 and a Council Member for Holborn, London since 1997. Fraser was formerly a partner in Slater & Gordon until he retired in 2019. He is currently a freelance solicitor.

I am in-house solicitor having worked for several multinationals for the bulk of my career. I was board member of the Commerce & Industry Group ("C&I") until 2017. C&I supports, promotes, enhances, and furthers the profile and interests of all lawyers working in commerce & industry. I am currently a member of the TLS In – House Division

CMC's role is charged under the Law Society's constitution with monitoring the representational base of Council and recommending reforms. Council was last reformed 20 years ago. Since then, the profession has gone through substantial change.

The Law Society ("TLS") is conducting a ballot of all its members in relation to two resolutions passed at TLS AGM on the 14th October 2020 but in respect of which after the passing of the resolutions at the AGM the requisite number of attendees at the AGM called for a ballot of all members.

The first resolution relates to several changes to the composition of TLS Council put forward by CMC and approved by Council. The second resolution relates to a limitation on the length of time a member of Council can serve on Council.

The Law Society will be emailing members of the Law Society with details of the ballot on the 15 December and which will



Graham Jones

close on 7 January 2021.

I attach an email from Fraser Whitehead who proposed the representation changes in the first resolution.

Not only would I urge all Liverpool Law Society members to vote in this important ballot but would ask them to support the first resolution for the reasons set in Fraser's email which I fully support.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Graham Jones

Li Mangan Photography

Based in Crosby near Liverpool, I operate as Li Mangan photography. I specialise in city scapes and shots of areas of natural beauty. I hope that my work reflects the beauty and the spirit of Liverpool and the surrounding areas.

My interest in photography began in my early 20s and is growing year on year. With Liverpool's such diverse culture, landscape and architecture it's never hard to find inspiration.



Examples of my work can be found on Facebook(www.facebook.com/limanganphotography) and instagram (@limanganphotography) or visit www.colourpopz.com/limanganphotography

My photographs are available for purchase in many different mediums at reasonable rates.

I am also available for special commissions with rates to be negotiated based on your wants and needs and the time required to complete the work.

Dear Colleague

Profession wide ballots on the reform of Council - Voting 15 December 2020 to 7 January 2021

Please support the byelaw changes approved both by Council and the Law Society AGM.

You will shortly or may have already received, an email which will explain what the two ballots are about and how to cast your vote.

As a fellow solicitor and colleague, I ask you to vote in the ballots and to vote in favour of the reforms which change the representational structure to Council, our professions governing body.

I also ask that you circulate this email to all your solicitor contacts who you believe might support the reforms and ask them to do likewise.

The reforms to the representational structure have three objectives –

- To ensure that Council is representative of today's profession
- To provide for an open and transparent process for the election all members of Council
- To encourage better engagement between solicitors, the Law Society and solicitor organisations

The proposals are the result of three year's work by a committee charged under the Law Society's constitution with monitoring the representational base of Council and recommending reforms.

Council was last reformed 20 years ago. Since then, the profession has gone through substantial change.

The committee undertook an extensive programme of research and consulted widely within the profession not just with council members but also with the Law Societies Divisions, Sections and Committees, with solicitors' organisations including local law societies and regional groupings and many others. The committee concluded that as currently constituted Council did not represent the profession and advised urgent reform.

Previous proposals to reform Council have been rejected by it. These proposed reforms were modified and improved during the consultation process and are supported by a substantial majority having been approved by Council in September and then again in October, at the best attended AGM.

However, a minority object to the reforms and they have called the ballot. It is for them to articulate their reasons for wishing to preserve the status quo but one thing is clear; if these reforms are not approved, it will be years before another attempt can be made, resulting in a Council which will be increasingly unrepresentative of the profession.

The reforms will give more seats to the newer and emerging face of the profession whilst retaining the key element of the geographical footprint on which representation is currently largely based. If approved we will have more seats for solicitors practice areas and more seats for women, ethnic minorities, new entrants to the profession including junior lawyers and for in-

house lawyers. The reforms also recognise the need for the large numbers of solicitors practicing business and corporate law to be better represented on Council. Family solicitors and small firm partitioners will also have seats for the first time.

The reforms are not perfect, but they are a significant improvement on the existing position, and a better base from which we can fine tune the composition of Council on a regular basis, rather than setting proposals in stone for the next 20 years whilst our dynamic profession continues to evolve.


This is a reputational matter for the profession. With so many of our voices currently unheard on Council it lacks credibility as the voice of the profession.

Please support the representational structure reforms and please circulate this email to as many other solicitors as you can.

There is a second ballot on limiting Council members terms of office to 12 years in line with established good governance principles. Others will speak to that, but I also support that proposal.

Thank you and please vote to make Council more representative and stronger

Fraser Whitehead
Member of Council and a proposer of the representation reforms



Liverpool LawSociety

A Leasehold Dwellings Update

Thursday 14th January 2021, 9.30am-12.45pm
With Richard Snape

Can't make the date/time? No problem, booking onto this event means you will receive a link to access a recording of the event for you to watch at your leisure!

Leasehold conveyancing continues to cause problems and is a very rapidly developing area. The course aims to look at some of the problems and their solutions.

Topics covered include:

- The latest on ground rents
- Problems with leasehold extensions
- Recent case law on service charges
- Latest on the removal of cladding and the EWS1 certificate
- Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation
- The validity of S.21 notices after the Court of Appeal case *Trecarrell v Rouncefield* (2020)

[**CLICK HERE TO BOOK**](#)

Obituary: Gordon Jeffrey

Gordon attended Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby from 1945 to 1953. He excelled academically, he also played rugby and was in the Combined Cadet Force. After school he went to Liverpool University where he read law, while at the same time doing his "articles" and qualifying as a solicitor at Maxwell Entwistle and Byrne Solicitors in Liverpool.

After graduating, Gordon went to officer training school in Oswestry to begin his National Service. He saw action during the insurgency in Malaya where he served with the 17th Gurkha Division of the Royal Artillery.

Gordon continued his law career in Liverpool. Firstly, at Laces and Co before overseeing the many partnership changes as Laces became Lace Mawer Solicitors and finally Berryman's Lace Mawer where he eventually became Senior Partner. Gordon was a partner throughout that time, living through a period of significant expansion and retiring from the firm in 1999.

Gordon was an excellent lawyer, specialising in commercial law and litigation, with an incisive mind. He was highly intelligent and many people all over the world sought his counsel.

Gordon was also a keen sportsman. In his younger days he played badminton in the army and rugby at Waterloo rugby club.

But it was golf that was his first sporting love, his golfing career began as a junior at both Southport and Ainsdale golf club and Royal Birkdale. He became a full member of Royal Birkdale in 1953 and was made captain of the club in 1968 at the age of just 33.

His golfing career at Royal Birkdale is well documented on the various honour boards in the clubhouse. He enjoyed much success throughout his long-playing career, playing in the club's scratch teams and representing Lancashire. He also played in the Amateur Championship and the Scottish Amateur.

In 1974, Gordon joined The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. He served as Chair of the R&A Championship Committee in 1982, 1983 and 1984 overseeing the three Open Championships. He oversaw the presentation of the Claret Jug to 3 Open Champions, Tom Watson - Royal Troon 1982, Tom Watson - Royal Birkdale in 1983 and Seve Ballesteros - St Andrews in 1984. He was also chair of the General Committee from 1988-91 and finally was elected Captain of the R&A in 1994.

In his year as Captain he travelled widely around the world speaking at many events and helping to develop the game of golf. When he drove in as Captain at St Andrew's, one of his playing partners was a new member by the name of George Bush!

Gordon also enjoyed his golf memberships at Pine Valley in New Jersey and Augusta, Jersey. He was one of the few overseas members at Augusta National in Georgia where he



spent over 25 years on the rules committee refereeing the Masters Tournament.

Gordon was born in Scotland but moved to Southport early in his childhood where he lived all his life. He married Jill in 1963. They went on to have four children: Andrew, Robert, Sarah Jane (deceased) and Jonathan. He has 4 grandchildren.

Gordon had a wonderful legal and golfing career and will be sadly missed by his family and friends all over the world.

Newsletter 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



Barclays Eagle Lab LawTech Event - 8th December

On behalf of Liverpool Law Society, I had the pleasure of welcoming delegates to this Barclays Eagle Lab LawTech Event on 8 December 2020.

As with so many events in 2020, this event was virtual and although this was a tech event, my own technology ironically let me down! However, that did not prevent an excellent line up of speakers from articulating current LawTech developments and potential LawTech opportunities for our members. I would like to take this opportunity to convey my sincere appreciation to Barclays for staging this event in Liverpool and to all of those who attended and supported this event.

Chris Grant, LawTech Director at Barclays Ventures gave a brief introduction to the Barclays LawTech proposition and LawTech expansion plans. Chris then chaired the Panel discussion on LawTech in Liverpool, the current challenges, lessons learnt, changes required and the future plans for LawTech adoption in Liverpool.

The expert Panel comprised Professor Katie Atkinson, Chair and Dean of the School of Electrical Engineering, Electronics, and Computer Science at the University of Liverpool, Ruth Ling, Head of Innovation and Change at Taylor Wessing, Dr Catriona Wolfenden, Partner and Innovation Manager at Weightmans and Logan Oliver, Head of Business Development at Office & Dragons.

Liverpool Law Society prides itself in being at the forefront of debate and also runs an extensive legal training programme with approximately 100 seminars and conferences organised every year in various specialist areas of law. LawTech is increasingly important to our members and so the Society was delighted to support this event.

Last year, The Law Society published its LawTech Adoption Research report, which shows a rise in the number of LawTech companies in recent years. It is worth reflecting on the key findings from this report:

1. Increased pressure for firms based in the UK to use or enhance the use of LawTech

Some of the main reasons for this pressure are the need for greater efficiency; increasing workloads and complexity of work; the changing demographic mix of lawyers, with younger, 'tech savvy' staff becoming more prevalent; and, most importantly, greater client pressure on costs and speed.

There is a rising awareness in the legal services market that LawTech is important, that the legal market is going to change, and that law firms which adopt technology will have a competitive advantage over those that do not.

2. Significant barriers to adoption still remain

The research found that adoption difficulties facing users of LawTech are particularly acute for law firms. SRA research has also found that investment in technology is lower in the legal sector than in other professional services sectors, such as accountancy.

Some of the barriers to adoption are fundamental to the industry and include the partnership model and billable hours model, risks around compliance, and varying levels of awareness and confidence.

3. LawTech is still relatively new and less 'disruptive' than other types of technology

In the UK, current forms of LawTech are still more focused on efficiencies and automation than on delivering 'new types of law'. This field is still less mature than other fields of digital disruption such as fintech where there is more funding and regulatory alignment.

4. Different segments of the legal market are at different stages of maturity and focused on adopting different technologies:

The business-to-business market is the most mature, particularly within large law firms and large corporates, having achieved common adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning driven applications. They are using LawTech to improve and enhance – not replace – the work of human lawyers.

Some of the most important growth areas of LawTech include legal analytics, legal project management, governance and compliance and contract management.

One example is Kim Technologies Kim platform, which combines neural networks with machine learning, deep learning and other cutting-edge technologies to create a unique platform that puts the power of process automation into the hands of lawyers. This Kim platform is being used by large in house teams in global companies to automate legal work, drive greater efficiency, consistency and compliance across global legal operations.

The business-to-consumer legal market seems to be lagging behind. There is most traction in those law firms that are delivering large-scale commoditised services, where automation is principally all about driving efficiencies, with a greater focus on the consumer experience.

An example of this is ME Group, based in the north-west, which uses its Quantafi e-Discovery Platform to enable access to justice by consumers by automating the dispute process quickly and efficiently by validating claims on behalf of law firms. This involves firstly structuring large amounts of unstructured data and then performing an automated analysis of the data to determine whether the dispute is likely to meet the criteria (in terms of merits and quantum) for funding and insurance.

5. UK LawTech remains a thriving sector for emerging technologies.

Recent years have seen a rise in the number of LawTech companies, and we expect to see an acceleration in the rate of LawTech adoption among legal practitioners as firms take advantage of LawTech to complete work at lower cost, more quickly and accurately. This is particularly the case with AI applications that can automate routine process work.

6. New skills are required

LawTech adoption will have significant implications for the future of the law and legal profession with new skills, new delivery models and a new competitive environment all coming into the sector.

So this event was particularly welcome, as it was an opportunity for local legal practitioners to learn more about current developments and how to benefit from future LawTech opportunities. If any of our members have suggestions for future LawTech events, please get in touch with the Society!

Steven Zdolyny
 Vice President of Liverpool Law Society
 General Counsel of Kim Technologies and ME Group



**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.

Meet the funder



The second in a series of articles to meet our funders. The Steve Morgan Foundation has been funding the Law Centre since April 2017 when we were in a very precarious situation financially. This funding was a £55,000 grant over 3 years and supported advice provision and the sustainability of the Centre. Thanks to this grant the Centre is now in a much stronger position, the grant ceased in April 2020. We were delighted to receive additional funding from the Foundation to enable the purchase of IT equipment to enable our advice provision to continue remotely during periods of lockdown in March 2020.



**Steve Morgan, Chair of the
Steve Morgan Foundation**

We were delighted to receive a further call from the Foundation in November 2020 to invite us to apply for further funding and have now received approval for a grant which will enable us to take on another solicitor and funds the post until April 2023. The grant of £120,000 also provides the Law Centre with new IT equipment and furniture which will be great for us to continue our quest for a more efficient paperless office. Incredibly, over a month the Steve Morgan Foundation Distributed £19 million which included matched funding from DCMS. A massive thanks goes out to all trustees and staff at the Steve Morgan Foundation who have been a pleasure to work with, despite being so incredibly busy during this time.

New Solicitors Post



**Siobhan Taylor-Ward with our
senior solicitor Ngaryan Li.**

Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre is delighted to announce the appointment of Siobhan Taylor-Ward to the new position of Housing and Social Welfare Solicitor. Siobhan was awarded an award this year as Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year in the legal newcomer category. Siobhan, who has supported the Centre previously as a volunteer and board member will be taking up her post in early 2021.

Siobhan who has worked previously at the GM Law Centre and Merseyside Law Centre will be a valuable addition to the current team who are delighted to have her on board. Welcome Siobhan.

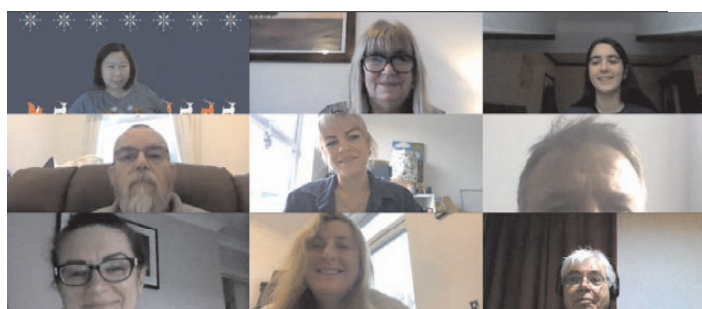
Ngaryan Li - Law Centres Network

Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre are pleased to announce that our senior solicitor Ngaryan Li, has been appointed to the Law Centres Network Executive Committee as a staff representative, well done Ngaryan

AGM Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre Board

December 2020 saw the AGM of the Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre Board. The Board congratulated the staff and volunteers of the Law Centre on their remarkable achievements over the course of the year, including bringing in through advice work an additional £2.3 million to people living in disadvantaged communities in Liverpool.

The Board, who too are all volunteers would like to wish all readers of Liverpool Law Magazine a much better New Year in 2021



Some of the attendees' at the Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre Board AGM December 2020

Volunteers

Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre is looking for volunteers we welcome people with legal, administration and accountancy skills and are particularly desperate for people with IT and finance skills. Please contact Alan Kelly us at :-

Mobile - 07754 575739

Or by Email @ - AlanKelly@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk

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



News from Merseyside Law Centre

Fighting for equality through social justice to combat poverty & homelessness



Last month we began administering the Housing Possession Court Duty scheme in Birkenhead. Our role is to provide advice 'on the day' to people who are at risk of eviction but haven't had advice prior to the hearing. We were instructed by two tenants who had possession hearings and were able to prevent both of their evictions. In the first case we were able to prevent a single parent with a three month old child being evicted by gaining permission to make a counter claim for disrepair to offset some rent arrears she had. In the second case we were able to prevent a man who had lost work due to COVID 19 being evicted by arranging a payment plan and assisting with his benefits claim.

We continue to battle with the Home Office regarding the eviction of people with No Recourse to Public funds. With our friends at Greater Manchester Law Centre and Asylum Support Appeals Project we have consistently appealed each discontinuation and refusal of section 4 support on Covid grounds alongside starting the pre action protocol and lobbying our local council and politicians to keep up the pressure on the Home Office. We are extremely concerned about the impact these evictions, once restarted officially, will have both on the management of this public health crisis and on our local homelessness services as well as upon the vulnerable individuals themselves. We have been really inspired to see the way that the community and organisations working with asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants have pulled together during this pandemic and how we have been supported in many ways by the City Council, we hope this will continue into the future.

We remain busy giving advice over the phone and by e-mail while our staff work from home, providing advice and assistance on housing, welfare benefits and asylum support.

Our current contact details are below so please do pass these onto anyone you think may benefit from or require our services.

E-mail: enquiries@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk

Twitter: @MerseyLawCentre

Facebook: Merseyside Law Centre

Website: www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk

Tel: 0151-709-0504

Controversial New Build Proposals on Landfill Site

Planning proposals for a new build development on a former landfill site have reappeared raising local residents' fears that the building work could release historic toxic material and landfill gases affecting homes that surround the site.

Penny Andrews, Operations and Compliance Director at Future Climate Info explains the challenge of delivering affordable homes on available brownfield land, while balancing and mitigating landfill risks.



Penny Andrews

Developer Countryside Properties is seeking to deliver 82 much needed affordable family homes in the Woodsetton area of Dudley on a vacant 6.5 acre brownfield site. They are currently seeking pre-application advice from the local council.

A rich seam of mining history

The site was formerly open cast coal workings before it became a tip between the 1950s and 1980s, during which it was gradually in-filled. Mining gave the "Black Country" its name, with large and extensive works across the area that fuelled its industrialisation.

In the Dudley area alone, there are 12 coal seams, 11 ironstone seams, 4 limestone pure seams and 14 fireclay seams, stacked on top of the other – in less than 150m of strata. This massive concentration made it one of the earliest coal and ironstone mining areas in the country, with the earliest records held at **Dudley Archives** showing that ironstone was being mined underground in the Woodsetton area in Roman times. Coal was being extracted from informal shallow mines in the Halesowen area by 1271. Because it was so close to the surface, mines sprang up everywhere and were never recorded, adding to the risk for any future development above them.

Three unsuccessful applications

Two previous bids to build homes on the site in 2005 and 2011 had been refused and the more recent 2017 application made by another developer Real Homes One Ltd resulted in more than 500 objections.

In the 2017 application, the **ground investigation report by Johnson, Poole and Bloomer (JPB)** identified that the site was on a substantial thickness of made ground. This included landfill waste which was underlain by shallow mine workings and some areas of open cast coal extraction, which now housed the bulk of the landfill. There were no productive aquifers below the landfill, although the Swan Brook runs in close proximity, elevating the risk for potential groundwater transmission of leachate.



Former Landfill Site, Cedar Avenue, Dudley.
Image courtesy of Google Earth

JPB had identified a significantly high concentration of methane and carbon dioxide to the centre of the landfill, with less to the edges which were fringed by properties on all four sides.

On the balance of risks and residents views, Dudley Council rejected the outline planning application in October 2017.

Refusal overturned

However, a successful appeal was made to the Government's Planning Inspectorate in March 2019. In their report, the Planning Inspectorate said: *"There is no doubt that there is strong local feeling about this proposal. However, the extent of opposition is not, in itself, justification for refusing planning permission."*

Inspector Ian Radcliffe said the contamination on the site could be *"effectively dealt with without harming the health, safety or amenity of local residents and future occupants of the proposed development."*

A second planning application is needed before any work can begin to address "reserved matters", which means things like the layout and appearance of the proposed development. At the moment, Countryside Properties are seeking pre-application advice and consulting with residents. They have written to nearby residents outlining its proposals for a mixture of houses.



Countryside Properties site plan proposal in planning submission

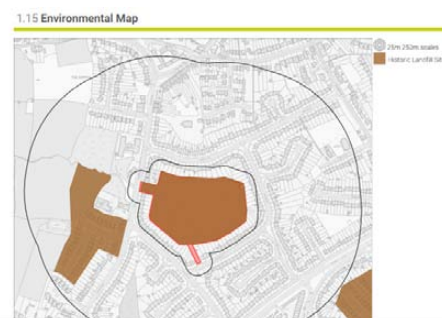
The planned development will consist of a circular estate road with 2, 3 and 4 semi-detached, three to four-bedroom detached homes and apartments, with a terrace in the middle.

Complex Site needs Careful Approach

Given its proximity to the surface and the long history of shallow mining in and around the area of Cedar drive, the Coal Authority have advised the Council that it is in a development high risk area and intrusive site investigations will be needed before any building takes place.

We have reported about the dangers of landfill gas seeping through cracks and fissures and especially through old mine shafts, such as the explosion at Loscoe. A similar set of circumstances could occur here, coupled with the fact that extensive shallow mine workings could pose significant ground engineering issues that if not fully investigated and mitigated against could create similar pathways for landfill gas to escape.

The 6.5-acre site was finally sold to Countryside Properties by Real Homes



One in August 2020 for an undisclosed sum. It is a planning and management challenge that Countryside will have to fully weigh up as it looks to the viability of the site.

The dilemma is that the scheme would provide much needed housing in the heart of the Black Country, in-line with the Government's brownfield first agenda, and would help ease the pressure on greenfield and greenbelt land currently being considered as part of the local plan review.

Clarity on redevelopment and homebuying risks

Our FCI Commercial report clearly picks up the presence of the former landfill on the site. It provides clear guidance to developers to consult with the relevant authorities, such as the Local Authority Environmental Health and Planning Departments, as well as the Environment Agency. This should also include a review of relevant planning records, details of any intrusive investigations or remedial work undertaken as well as confirmation of the Local Authority's contaminated land strategy.

It also identifies significant potential for surface water flooding issues which would need to be taken into account for the storm drainage design.

For existing homeowners and homebuyers looking at the existing properties that surround the site, the main issues would be the potential for impacts which may be caused by landfill gas and leachate.

For the safety of all residents (including future occupiers of the planned new affordable homes) it will be important that the developer investigates and remediates or mitigates all of the risks associated with the landfill and shallow mining at this location.

FCI reported recently on Bradford Residents whose homes now have a zero valuation as a result of these exact failings.

Picking these issues up through clear, effective environmental data early in the transaction are what Future Climate Info's **commercial** and **residential** environmental reports are about. They will provide clear, forensic insight on the site history and its proximity to potentially contaminated land.

For commercial developments, follow-on solutions for complex cases, **fixed fee further reviews, insurance** and remediation solutions can also be tailored based on the site's unique situation.

Penny Andrews is Operations and Compliance Director at Future Climate Info. She is also able to advise residential and commercial property lawyers on the potential issues and liabilities, as well as insurance options to safeguard transactions from any threat of legacy land contamination.

For more information, visit www.futureclimateinfo.com, call 01732 755 180 email info@futureclimateinfo.com

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

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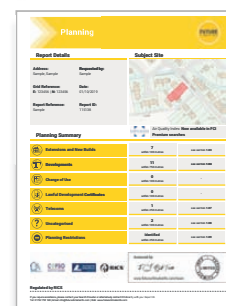
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STAY IN CONTROL OF YOUR TRAINING



We recognise that a full day of training is a huge time commitment, that's why we're delighted to announce that we are now offering pre-purchased recorded conferences!

YOU CAN NOW BOOK ON TO ANY OF OUR SPECIALIST CONFERENCES IN 2021 WITH FULL CONFIDENCE THAT IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT, YOU'LL BE SENT THE LINK TO WATCH WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.

Are you ready for the new Immigration System?

By the time this article goes to print, the new points-based immigration system will be live, replacing the old four-tier system that we have come to know and love(!).

With everything that happened in 2020, employers could be forgiven for placing the new immigration system at the back of their minds. However, with the new rules now in place, and more businesses (hopefully!) turning their attention to recruitment once again, employers will need to understand the changes and the impact they will have on their ability to recruit non-UK citizens, and any impact on those they already employ from outside of the UK.

The 'old' Immigration Rules were renowned for being overly long and complicated. Therefore, the aim of the new system is to simplify and speed up the entire process, with a clear focus on using technology to do so.

Sponsorship Licences

Sponsorship requirements will still apply to the main visa routes (Skilled Worker route, Health and Care route and students) and, therefore, businesses who already employ non-UK citizens, or wish to do so in the future, will need to apply for or renew their Sponsorship Licences in order to do so.

The 'new' licences will require employers to pay an Immigration Skills Charge of £1,000 per skilled worker sponsored (for the first 12 months) and then £500 per skilled worker, per 6-month period, thereafter.

It should be noted that those with existing Tier 2 licences (General or Intra-Company Transfer) will automatically be granted a new Skilled Worker or Intra-Company Transfer licence, with expiry dates consistent with their current Sponsorship Licences.

Those without licences will need to apply and, likewise, those whose licences are due to expire will need to apply to renew.

Recruitment changes

Both EU and non-EU nationals wanting to come and live and work in the UK from 1 January 2021 will need to demonstrate their right to be in the UK, as well as the relevant entitlements they hold.

For EU citizens, that process should be more straightforward through access to a new online service, which they can use as evidence of their real-time immigration status and rights, rather than a physical hard-copy document. Furthermore, EU citizens will not usually need to provide their biometric information as part of a visa application, instead just being required to upload a photograph using the new self-enrolment application system via a smartphone. Non-EU citizens will still need to attend one of the global Visa Application Centres in order to register their biometrics.

Arguably the biggest change in the recruitment process is the removal of the Resident Labour Market Test (RLMT), a cumbersome and complex requirement of the 'old' system, which should hopefully shorten the recruitment process by at least 4 weeks. The new requirements simply state that employers must

be seeking to fill a genuine vacancy that meets the minimum skill and salary thresholds.

The minimum salary is reduced to £26,500 (or the minimum threshold for the role) but points can be 'traded' so that if a job offers less than the minimum salary, a non-UK citizen can still obtain a visa if the role is on the shortage occupation list, for example.

Non-UK citizens will still need to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the English language;
- Pass a criminality check; and
- Have a job offer from a licensed sponsor at the minimum skill level and with the required minimum salary.

It should be noted that these are the general changes to the rules and that specific exceptions and other changes to the rules / these aspects of the system are outside the scope of this article.

Impact on non-UK nationals already in employment

Non-EU citizens will still have to provide hard copy evidence of their immigration status and relevant rights.

EU citizens who entered the UK before the end of the transition period, on 31 December 2020, will be able to apply for a visa under the EU Settlement Scheme up until 30 June 2021. Applications are completed online via a smartphone. Actions for employers

In short, employers need to act now to ensure compliance under the new rules: -

1. Those with Sponsorship Licences already in place will need to ensure that their licence has been automatically 'switched over' to the correct new-world licence, and that they have enough Certificates of Sponsorship (COS) to allocate to both their EU and non-EU employees, and applying for/ allocating additional COS' if need be. Employers should also update Right to Work documentation for EU citizens, to ensure that they have the correct entitlements to enable them to remain working in the UK.
2. Employers without Sponsorship Licences will need to ensure that all of their employees are either UK citizens or have the appropriate rights to work within the UK (without requiring sponsorship), so as not to fall foul of the new rules.
3. Businesses intending to employ non-UK citizens going forwards will need to apply for the relevant licence under the new scheme.

If you need any more information on the new immigration points-based system, or need to check that your business is not falling foul of the new rules, then please contact Rebecca.Cairney@Weightmans.com.

Rebecca Cairney
Associate Solicitor
Weightmans LLP

Guide to the Preparation and Service of Bundles, Skeleton Arguments and Authorities in the Business and Property Courts in Liverpool

This guide has been prepared to assist court users by summarising the requirements for the service of bundles, skeleton arguments and authorities for non-urgent cases in the Business and Property Courts in Liverpool other than insolvency petitions and applications during the COVID-19 pandemic. The current situation presents significant challenges to practitioners and to the judges, and the aim is to promote cooperation to ensure that the work of the BPCs continues as smoothly as possible. These provisions apply unless the court otherwise orders in a particular case.

In summary, the main points are:

- Electronic bundles are required in all cases. Hard copy bundles must not be lodged unless the court specifically directs that hard copy bundles are to be used.
- Bundles or links to bundles should be lodged no later than three clear business days before the hearing. They should only contain the essential documents or parts of documents and should comply with the guidance below.
- Replacement bundles should not be lodged without the consent of the judge.
- Skeleton arguments (with copies of authorities) should be filed no later than two clear business days before the hearing.
- Skeleton arguments should avoid excessive citation of

authorities. Where well-established principles of law are relied on, reference to a textbook will suffice.

- If the case is on CE-file, bundles, skeleton arguments and authorities should be filed by uploading attachments or links to CE file. Please note that documents on CE file cannot be accessed by a judge until they have been processed, which may take some time.
- If a case is not on CE file, bundles, skeleton arguments and authorities should be filed by sending attachments and/or links to liverpoolbpc@justice.gov.uk. The subject field of the email must identify the relevant case by including at the start the case number and the parties' names in short form and e.g. "G60LV230 Anfield v Goodison."
- If an email address has been given for the judge who is going to hear the case, attachments or links should be sent directly to the judge as well as to the court.

This guide sets out the latest time for lodging documents. Where possible, the parties should lodge documents earlier, to allow time for getting them to the judge and to ensure that the judge has time to read and digest the material before the hearing. This is particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the additional demands of remote working and the limited capacity for court staff to chase up missing documents. The late filing of bundles, skeleton arguments and/or authorities may lead to the court being unable to deal with the hearing in a fair manner and being forced to adjourn the hearing. In that event the court may have to consider whether to disallow costs or make an adverse costs order.

A separate guide applies to bundles in Insolvency petitions and applications. It can be found here: <https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/North-BPC-Bundle-Guidance.pdf>.

For details about the guide in full, please see <https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/news/bundle-guidance-in-the-business-and-property-courts-in-liverpool/>

TRAINING SEAT EXCHANGE

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

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

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

Liverpool Law Society

Building regulations & planning permission for conveyancers

Thursday 14th January, 1.30pm-4.45pm
With Richard Snape

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

Content breakdown:

- Building regulations enforcement periods
- The Lenders Handbook
- Specific current areas of interest in relation to building regulations
- Gas safe regulations changes
- Planning enforcement periods
- Changes to permitted development
- Community infrastructure levy; the latest
- Pre-commencement planning conditions & much more

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

What Charles Dickens taught me about insurance claims

Charles Dickens said and wrote many great things, some better remembered than others. One comment I read recently whilst doing some research made me smile:

“The one great principle of the English law is to make business for itself.”

Rather than a criticism levelled at lawyers, I believe Dickens pokes gentle fun at the way English laws work in practice. Despite the fact he died in 1870, one could argue the principle at the heart of his statement remains; we will always need the legal system to argue and interpret law in an ever changing world. I recently joined the legal sector from BIBA, the trade body for insurance brokers in the UK. Whilst in my previous role, I was involved in many discussions about policy wordings, clauses and case law – we even had a technical committee dedicated to it; the Accident and Liability Committee. This was my favourite committee to attend as we heard stories of how a loss had occurred before debating the merits of the claim and relevant case law that had gone before to try and understand a judgement. From new interpretations as to the use of a vehicle, to whether or not a nation state orchestrating a cyber-attack amounts to an act of war, there is always a view and counter view with resulting case law shifting our understanding of where coverage attaches and where there might be gaps.

And so we look to what the next decade to understand where the next areas of debate might be.

Pandemic is an obvious area where business interruption claims have been hotly disputed during the global outbreak of Covid-19. Insurers have been keen to point out that cover cannot be provided for systemic risks such as pandemic as war given the model that “the premiums of the many pay for the claims of the few” doesn’t really work when everyone needs to make a claim. Affected claimants point out that some policy wordings lend an interpretation that there is cover. The result, predictably, has been that it’s ended up in the courts for them to offer their view. Driverless cars are another area where irrevocable change is set to happen. There will no-doubt be future legal cases which define how insurance operates in this space, but thankfully we are already one step ahead. I was involved in the passage of the Autonomous and Electric Vehicle Act. Within it, there is a clause which ensures insurers will be liable for claims – including first-party claims, where the vehicle is in autonomous mode. If the vehicle is at fault, the insurer could then choose to subrogate against the manufacturer safe in the knowledge the claimant has already been looked after.

Additionally, the Law Commission has also been on the front foot with regards to changes needed to legislation and their work brings up some very interesting questions; should autonomous vehicles be allowed to speed? Should they be allowed to mount the footway? I imagine the debates we are having now are similar to conversations that happened when cars first joined our roads, a time where vehicles had to be preceded by a person walking in-front with a red flag.

So back from the future and to Dickens; what can he teach us



Andrew Thornley

about insurance? My takeaway is that policy wordings and law are never always complete as the world around us changes. That does not necessarily mean that dispute and debate has to end up in the courts however, with tools like alternative dispute resolution available to us now. It’s important that in order for us to meet our customers’ Great Expectations, we’ll need to use these tools more than ever.

Andy Thornley
 Head of Public Affairs
 Carpenters Group

Maxwell Hodge congratulate newly qualified solicitor, Olivia Kilgallon

Maxwell Hodge are delighted and proud to announce that one of their Trainee Solicitors, Olivia Kilgallon, recently became a fully qualified Solicitor.

Olivia joined Maxwell Hodge on 12th June 2017 as a Paralegal, commencing her Training Contract on 14th April 2019, and subsequently being admitted as a Solicitor on 15th October 2020.

Olivia is a dedicated and diligent member of the Medical Negligence Team and is based at Huyton branch. Olivia has worked extremely hard to gain her qualification.

Kristina Stoddern, one of the Directors at Maxwell Hodge said "We are extremely pleased to congratulate Olivia on qualifying as a Solicitor, and continuing with us as a vital member of our Medical Negligence Team. This is a great achievement for Olivia, one she has worked very hard toward gaining. Unfortunately, due to the current situation, we are not able to celebrate with Olivia in the way

we would like to, but do plan to have a celebration once we can do so safely. We wish Olivia a long and prosperous career ahead."

Olivia added "I am extremely pleased and excited to have qualified as a Solicitor and to continue working with Maxwell Hodge as a member of the Medical Negligence Team. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with and progressing within such a hardworking Team for the past 3 years, dealing with all aspects of medical negligence, from prescription errors to delays in diagnoses and dental negligence. I am looking forward to seeing what the future has in store at Maxwell Hodge and to celebrate with my colleagues as soon as we can do so!"



Olivia Kilgallon

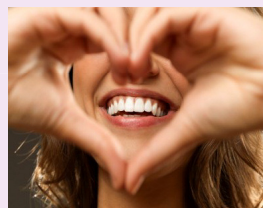
Complaints to Compliments

Wednesday 3rd February, 1.30pm-4.30pm with Vicky Ling

Many practices report that they are receiving more complaints since the COVID pandemic. This course will give complaints partners/officers/COLPs confidence in running practical and compliant complaints procedures. It includes real life case studies and round table discussions:

Vicky Ling will cover:

- Working within the Legal Ombudsman's good practice guidelines
- Meeting the SRA's standards and regulations 2019
- Compliant wording for client care letters
- Sharing the load – who to involve in complaints handling
- How to prevent complaints by getting things right from the start
- Fostering a positive culture to prevent complaints escalating
- Learning from complaints



Competencies: **C2**
[Click here to book](#)

Confidentiality & restrictive covenants in employment contracts: The latest developments

Wednesday 27th January, 10am-12pm

This course reviews the law on confidentiality and restrictive covenants and outlines the steps employers should take to minimise the risk of confidential information & client contacts being misused by former employees.

Emma Tegerdine will cover:

- **Enforceability of post-termination restraints**
- **The impact of promotion on post-termination restraints**
- **Confidentiality clauses**
- **Garden leave clauses**
- **The duty of good faith**
- **A review of the latest case law**
- **Drafting tips**

Competencies: A2,4, 5 & B3, 4, 6, 7

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

MSB provides free legal advice to GM workers hit hardest by the pandemic

MSB Solicitors has partnered with The Growth Company and Citizens Advice Manchester – of which MSB's Managing Partner Emma Carey is a Board member – to ensure workers who have been hit hardest by the pandemic can access free legal advice.

During this period of uncertainty, many people are worried about their employment, from their employment rights, redundancy, pay cuts, to terms or disputes. Employment Legal Advice is a new service to help individuals to access free employment-related legal support. The service is designed to help individuals access the right advice at the right time as quickly as possible.

The service is completely free, with legal experts from eleven firms giving something back and donating their time on a pro bono basis.

Enquiries to the service will be passed on to a dedicated triage advisor who will review the case and decide on the correct pathway for the user, including whether to refer them to an expert from the network of legal partners.

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, said: "One thing that the pandemic has taught us is that Greater Manchester is stronger when we all pull together. It's absolutely vital that workers across our city region are aware of their employment rights in these uncertain times, so I fully endorse this free service and would encourage people to use it."

Chris Hayes, Head of Employment Law, said: "At MSB, we are proud of our ongoing commitment to give back to our communities when we can, irrespective of their means or circumstance."

"The Covid-19 pandemic has brought with it a number of complex issues for both employers and employees to navigate. Sadly, many of these have had a detrimental impact on both parties. Now, more than ever, we must pull together and do what we can to support those who need it most."

"We have already been offering free advice and support in our own region of Merseyside and look forward to helping the people of Greater Manchester as well, as part of this great initiative."

The Growth Company is an award-winning social enterprise with a mission to enable growth, create jobs and improve lives. In April the Growth Company partnered with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to launch Employ GM to help individuals and employers who have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The service supports individuals who have lost their jobs, while also promoting vacancies for local employers.

Mark Hughes MBE, Chief Executive of the Growth Company, said: "At a time of increased redundancy and unstable employment, having a service like Employment Legal Advice available for the people of Greater Manchester is more important than ever."



Chris Hayes

"By working closely with Citizens Advice Manchester and legal firms like MSB, we are able to offer free legal advice to those in need. This sits alongside EmployGM which is a gateway service to help individuals with support, training and advice on securing new employment."

Andy Brown, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice Manchester, added: "We've had a huge increase of enquiries during Covid-19 from people who need to know where they stand on employment law, whether that's with issues relating to furlough, redundancy or cuts to their salary. Understandably, these queries lead to additional stress and worry about keeping up with crucial bills, feeding families and the security of homes, so we are delighted to be working with the Growth Company and legal partners to deliver this vital service and help to put the minds of Manchester residents at rest."

Find out more about the service, [here](#).

A look back at 2020 at LLS...

2020 has certainly been the most difficult, strange and eye-opening year to date! We've gone from room to Zoom, undergoing huge changes to the way we operate. And yet, we are still here, moving forward as a Society with a 'business as usual' approach. Although 2020 was far from easy, we are amazed by your support, kindness and tenacity that has kept this Society going throughout the pandemic. It has been inspirational to see how businesses collaborate to support one another throughout such a difficult time. Understandably, some of you might prefer to move on and pretend 2020 never existed, but we'd like to have a look back with our members at last year – the good, the bad and our hopes for the coming year.

President of 2020



We'll start where it all began, with our 193rd President Julie O'Hare, who had no idea what 2020 had in store! Julie has been instrumental in making the year a progressive one. She was determined for change and development, even with the odds stacked against her. Thus, our first ever Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee was born in February 2020. The committee was created to support already-existing events and initiatives, as well as a platform for members to collaborate with other firms and

share new ideas. The EDI committee members took part in Stress Awareness Month to promote ways of coping with stress when working from home and Inclusion Week to connect and inspire each other to make inclusion an everyday reality.

Julie has led other major changes to support inclusion, including the carried motion to amend our Articles of Association and open our membership to a wider group of the legal profession. We are showing ourselves to be a part of the movement for change and development; affording us the potential to represent an inclusive organisation who reflects all with a genuine and vested interest in our legal community. Since implementing the broadened scope of membership we have seen an increase in full membership, which we hope will continue to rise. Julie has been re-elected as President for 2020-2021 and we are delighted to have her on board once again.

Events

Newly Qualified Pupil Barrister and CILEx Celebration

LLS and Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division members came together at the Double Tree Hotel on 30th January to celebrate the hard work and achievements of all those who qualified in Liverpool during 2019. Newly Qualified Lawyers, Pupil Barristers, Fellows of CILEx and their guests were welcomed by President of the Liverpool Law Society Julie O'Hare who spoke about her own career path and her too receiving a certificate of



congratulations from Liverpool Law Society a few years ago at this event.

The event was a great success in welcoming and showing support to up-and-coming Solicitors, Barristers and Fellows of CILEx marking their achievement in the Law that they shared with their peers, friends and families who have supported them during the long route to qualification. The thanks of the Society were given to The High Sheriff of Merseyside, David Steer QC DL, for handing out the certificates and awards to the academic prize winners. Special thanks of the Society also went out to the kind sponsors Chadwick Nott, who were on hand to answer any queries and talk about their services as a recruitment agency. The full photo album is available to view [here](#).

Pathways to the Legal Profession

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

A panel of speakers from key institutions across the city outlined the various entry routes into the Law – from the traditional university route to the modern apprenticeship route, and other



options in between. Christina Millan from The Legal Step Up Programme explained during the afternoon that the law is open to everyone from all different backgrounds, and support networks are in place to help offer everyone equal opportunities. This message came over very clearly by all account from the feedback given by the students.

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

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

NWLST The Great Legal Quiz

On Wednesday 10th June we were able to host the Great Legal Quiz via Zoom to help raise much needed funds for the Community Justice Fund. Hosted by the Access to Justice Foundation, the Community Justice Fund is a joint initiative to help specialist social welfare legal advice organisations cope with the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and lay the foundations for long-term renewal. Steve Cornforth was our Jeremy Paxman for the night, putting all the teams through their paces! A big thank you to everyone who donated, took part or supported the Great Legal Quiz, a fantastic £1346 was raised, absolutely smashing the £1000 target.



Online training

Perhaps the most noticeable change this year has been the shift from office-based operation to remote working, which resulted in a transition to online learning and we're incredibly thankful you stuck with us! With your support, we were able to hold over 80+ seminars, a dozen specialist conferences and some tailored in-house training events too. Every booking has made a huge difference. Whilst we do miss training in person, there are benefits to remote learning such as the removal of geographical barriers and time constraints. We are delighted to have upheld the quality of our training programme whilst adapting to online learning.

In order to accommodate your often busy schedules, on October 1st we introduced the option to pre-purchase recorded seminars; which can be used as helpful refreshers, or copies for you to watch if you can't make the live event. We aim to provide the same high-quality training programme without the added costs providing total convenience to our very busy delegates. This meant saving time and money otherwise spent traveling and maximizing the amount of people who can join us, or simply benefit from our training at a time that suits them.



We recognise that a full day of training is a huge time commitment, that's why we're delighted to announce that we are offering pre-purchased recorded conferences! You can now book on to any of our specialist conferences in 2021 with full confidence that if you can't make it, you'll be sent the link to watch the conference when the time is right.

With thanks to our Officers and Directors

Last year had many barriers, including our Officers and Directors being unable to get together in person and discuss matters of interest and concern. We are grateful for technology that has allowed us to keep a flow of communication and continue to monitor important proposals within the Legal industry. Here's a few things we were able to do in 2020, with thanks to the determination and hard work of our Officers and Directors: Whilst the Society does not hold any political allegiance, we were able to closely monitor the proposals of Government both at home and abroad. Thanks to our Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Jeremy Myers, and his successor, Paddy Dwyer, for highlighting policy issues which seek to contravene the fundamental principles of the rule of law and access to justice.

We set out our concerns in writing to the CEO of Hong Kong and the Ambassador of China in London regarding the adoption of new national security legislation, we also wrote to the Lord Chancellor to set out our concerns with Part 5 of the United Kingdom Internal Market Bill.

With thanks to our Press Officer, Stewart McCulloch, and his successor, Millie Hayden, we were quoted in the Gazette in response to our alarm at the "activist lawyers" and "lefty lawyers" comments made by the Home Secretary and Prime Minister last year.

To wrap up we would like to thank the Committee for being versatile throughout a tough year, for adapting to a completely new way of working and sticking with us. We would like to thank the Chairs, Directors, Officers and staff for their hard work and tenacity and lastly, we would like to express our wholehearted gratitude to our members who have continued to support us in every way they can. Your engagement means the world to us and has made such a difference.

We hope 2021 is the start of a much better year, and we are looking forward to seeing what's in store for the local Legal community here in our city region.

Survey launched to improve business performance by increasing diversity

A survey has been launched to understand the barriers to increasing diversity across Liverpool City Region business landscape.

The survey also intends to identify some of the key challenges and barriers for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic business owners when accessing business support and finance as they look to start, stabilise and grow.

Launched by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Local Enterprise Partnership, this survey forms part of the Metro Mayor's Race Equality Programme for the Liverpool City Region, working alongside Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic community leaders in the region.

The aim will be to improve business performance through increased diversity as well as tackle the long-standing structural inequalities faced by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic businesses with firm plans for action.

Steve Rotheram, Metro Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, said: "Whether it was the global outpouring of anger following the death of George Floyd, or the disproportionate impact the COVID pandemic has had on different communities across our City Region – the events of this year have brought into sharp focus the deep-seated and structural inequalities which still exist in our society.

"As part of our wider work to try and tackle these inequalities, we're launching this survey to understand the specific needs of, and challenges faced by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic led businesses. We know that more diverse businesses tend to be more successful businesses. I want these frank conversations with local Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic business leaders to help us create the most vibrant, diverse and prosperous local economy possible."

Welcoming this survey, Asif Hamid MBE, Chair of the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) said: "As Chair of the LEP and a business owner myself I welcome this survey. We know from available evidence that the lack of full Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic

Complete our survey
to help improve business performance by increasing diversity



representation in the labour market costs the UK economy £24 billion a year- and we also know that diversity is a catalyst for growth within companies. However, what we don't know is the full extent to which our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic-led businesses access or receive business support that is available in our city region- and what barriers there may be preventing them from accessing this support.

"This assessment of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic business landscape aims to understand and ensure we are getting to the heart of the challenges and barriers faced. We can then work together to develop meaningful actions and plans to remove barriers for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic led businesses at all points in the business lifecycle."

Lisa Mairah, Director of Digital and Entrepreneurship at Blackburne House said: "This a fantastic opportunity to discover what conditions and interventions are needed to enable Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic led businesses to thrive. This survey is a vital starting point to ensure that future actions and initiatives are relevant, inclusive and accessible for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic led businesses across all sectors including the region's growing social enterprise and community business sectors."

The survey can be accessed **here**.

The survey closes on 6th January 2021.

Are you a business looking to address diversity in your workforce?

To help us to get a better picture on how we can help please take part in this survey

Corporate Member Training Offer

Helping your staff to remain competent

Save up to 30% on training costs

*****offer includes conferences as well as seminars*****

Purchase 10 course credits in advance for only £800 + vat*.

Purchase 25 course credits for only £1,800 + vat*.

Then simply book ANY of your staff, including all support staff, on a wide range of LLS events, assigning credits as required - easy!

Any training event up to 3 hours in duration is 1 credit, anything over 3 hours up to one day is 2 credits, including our full day conferences.

For an application form, please contact: training@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Terms:

- The credits may be used by the Liverpool Law Society corporate member firm for any of their staff
- The Credit bundle is non-refundable
- Offer excludes the Children Panel Qualification 3 day course & limited events when specified
- Any supporting materials will only be issued to those who have booked on courses which they have unavoidably been unable to attend
- The Society retains the right to cancel or alter the date of courses
- Subject to our usual [terms & conditions](#)
- Those who book events but do not attend and don't provide notice of cancellation will have the appropriate credit allocation applied.

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

***NEW* End of life care planning** **With Caroline Bielanska**

Wednesday 10th February, 10am - 12.15pm

Lawyers drafting health and welfare lasting powers of attorney will benefit from this training session, which will consider advance care planning through Lasting Powers, Advance Decisions to Refuse Treatment and the interaction of various decision makers.

This course will include:

- Types of advance care planning
- Capacity to consent or refuse consent to medical treatment
- Application of the validity and applicability of advance decisions
- Drafting advance decisions to refuse treatment
- Advising and drafting health and welfare lasting powers
- Status of a Do Not Attempt CPR 'orders'
- Refusal of patient to eat or drink
- Euthanasia and Assisted suicide

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

Directors' Duties

Friday 12th February 2021, 12.30pm-1.30pm

This hour long course provides practitioners with a reminder of the basics in relation to directors' duties.

The course will concentrate on how the duties apply in 'real life' and will provide practical examples as well as relevant recent case law.

Chris Beanland will cover:

- My job title is 'director'. Does this mean the law classes me as a director?
- The duties in the Companies Act 2006
- Can a breach of duty be excused or ratified by either the board or shareholders?
- Can we include a provision in the articles that excuses breaches of duty?
- How are breaches of duty enforced?
- Has a court got the power to relieve a director for breach of duty?

Core Competencies: B

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

For the 2021 Housing Disrepair Conference

Wednesday 24th February
9.30am-3pm (inc breaks)

District Judge Sarah O'Brien will be chairing this must-attend training event for solicitors, barristers & other practitioners involved with Housing Disrepair

Providing a round-up key developments in law & practice and an opportunity to hear directly from some first class speakers.

Speakers confirmed so far...

David Walter, Restoration Design Partnership

Gary Lewis, Cobden Chambers

Louise Murphy, MSB

Matthew Wilson, Weightmans

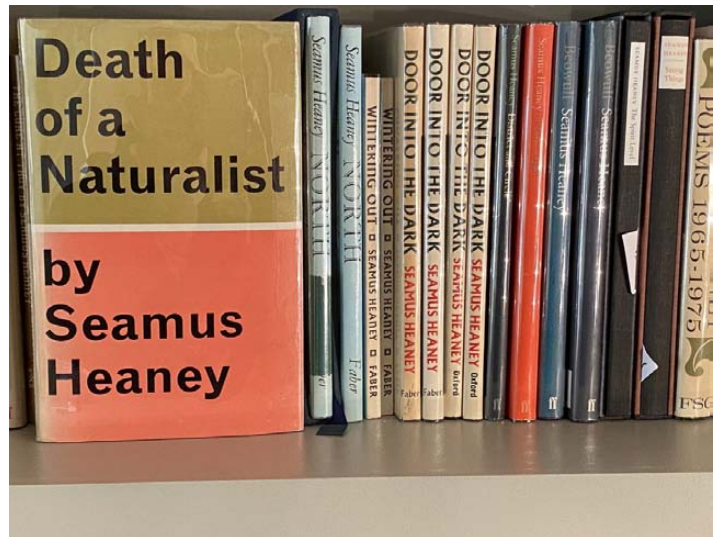
Philip Nam, White Collar Legal and Admin

[Click here to book your place](#)

Working from home and virtual meetings have given us a glimpse into colleagues homes and their books. This month members sent in 'Shelfies' with their favourite books...



Rachael Payne
Solicitor
CEL Solicitors



Sean Sexton
Consultant, MSB Solicitors



Sarah Poblete
CEO
Liverpool Law Society

Steve Cornforth
Steve Cornforth Consultancy



Julia Baskerville
Publisher
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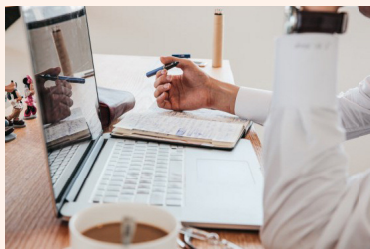
On Friday 22nd January, 1pm - 2pm

Can't make the date/time or need to revisit the training?

No problem, booking onto this event means you will receive a link to access a recording of the event to watch at your leisure!

Nicky Carter will cover:

- Limitation Issues
- Portal Concerns
- a) Interims
- b) Approval
- c) Quantum Advice
- d) Documents
- Contributory Negligence
- Approval of Settlements



[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

The A to Z of statutory wills

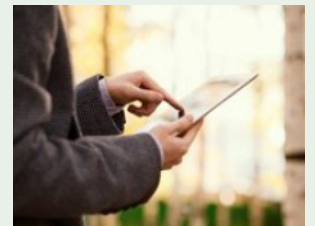
On Thursday 21st January, 9.30am - 12.45pm

With Caroline Bielanska

This course takes delegates on the journey to getting an order for a statutory will and is aimed at private client and Court of Protection lawyers and support staff wanting to improve their skills in making an application for a statutory will for a person who lacks mental capacity.

Caroline will cover:

- Initial considerations
- Obtaining evidence of testamentary incapacity
- The court's approach to best interests
- Drafting witness statements
- Dispensing with notice to notify
- Working with the Official Solicitor



[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

Insolvency Update with Chris Beanland

Friday 15th January, 12.30pm - 1.30pm via zoom

In this hour long course we will review important developments in insolvency law over the last few months. As ever, emphasis will be placed on matters which have an impact on day to day practice.

Chris Beanland will cover:

- Dangers of proceeding with misfeasance claim against non-active director: Re IT Protect Ltd (in liquidation) [2020] EWHC 2473
- Challenging appointment of administrator as being for an improper purpose: Re Hat & Mitre plc (in administration) [2020] EWHC 2649
- Interaction between Insolvency Rules 2016 and CPR: Wolf Rock (Cornwall) Ltd v Langhelle [2020] EWHC 2500
- The rule in Exp James and its application to officeholders: Lehman Brothers Australia Ltd (in liquidation) v Macnamara [2020]

& much more...

Core Competencies: B

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

Introduction to Wills and Probate & connection with Family Law

with Safda Mahmood

on Tuesday 26th January, 10am - 4pm (breaks included)

The course will equip you with the essentials in terms of principles of wills and probate, and particularly as to how it links into other areas of law, particularly family law.

It will be of benefit to those delegates who seek to get an understanding of this area of law.

The areas to be covered are:

- Requirements for a valid will
- Capacity and formalities
- Witnesses and types of gift
- Making changes to wills
- Revising and revoking wills
- Clauses to assist children
- Family provision claims
- Divorce, dissolution and wills
- Intestacy and contentious probate
- Introduction to probate and administration
- Grants and carrying out probate



Core Competencies: B & C

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

Pro Bono Costs Orders: Unlocking funds for justice

As many of you may know, the Access to Justice Foundation is the charity designated to receive the money from Pro Bono Costs Orders. Before 2008, legal costs could not be awarded in cases where the winning party was represented for free. Section 194 of the Legal Services Act 2007 changed this.

Since our foundation in 2008, we have embarked upon several additional fundraising initiatives in order to increase the amount of grants that we can award to organisations that help people access their legal rights. These include events such as the regional legal walks, our 'Go the Extra Mile for Justice' virtual campaign, encouraging the donation of dormant client accounts, corporate partnerships, individual donations as well as fundraising bakes and quizzes. Yet one of the most important means of raising funds to assist those who are otherwise unable to get access to justice remains Pro Bono Costs Orders.

Pro bono costs are like ordinary legal costs, but where a party was represented for free in relation to proceedings. The financial value of the free legal help provided is based on what a paying client would recover, and these costs go to the Access to Justice Foundation who reinvest them back into the free legal advice sector by distributing these funds to organisations across the UK that provide legal assistance to those in need.

Without access to justice, the justice system and its associated legal processes can seem like a foreign language that large swathes of society are unable to understand without assistance from those who can interpret it.

Not for profit advice agencies do an excellent job of helping vulnerable people navigate their way through the complex legal process, offering expert advice to help individuals understand and exercise their legal rights, with the aim of resolving their legal issues at the earliest opportunity and often preventing an escalation or worsening of their situation.

But it is a worryingly critical time for a sector that has faced cuts, closures and now Covid-19. With current pressing issues, such as evictions and redundancies looming, front-line advice agencies are preparing for a dramatic increase in requests for assistance from clients who have been impacted by the pandemic and have nowhere else to turn. This increase in demand coincides with a decrease in capacity, with advice agencies facing the same impacts that are rife across a number of industries, with staff needing to be placed on furlough and volunteers unable to work due to shielding. The Community Justice Fund has been a fantastic source of funding to cover emergency, unplanned costs and help sustain the sector to prevent it reaching breaking point. But the situation continues to be desperate, and more needs to be done.

Pro bono costs provide vital funding for free legal help.

Firstly, the money from costs orders goes directly back into the advice sector, supporting vulnerable people and disadvantaged communities who need help to resolve their legal issues. Secondly, the existence of Pro Bono Costs Orders helps to even the playing field for Lawyers representing clients pro bono, as the risk of an adverse costs order may help to persuade the other side of the benefits of a settlement, which had previously not been an option.

If you are representing a client pro bono and you win, we urge you to seek a costs order. If you know others taking on pro bono work, please let them know too. By implementing this simple process, you are helping to greatly increase the number of people across the country able to get help and assistance for their legal needs, whilst flying the flag for access to justice.

For more information and full guidance on Pro Bono Costs Orders, visit:

<https://atjf.org.uk/pro-bono-costs-orders>



SRA areas of focus: AML Risk Assessments and Transparency Rules

On Thursday 28th January, 10am—11.15am

With Tracy Thompson

The SRA is currently actively reviewing firms compliance with the legislative requirements of the Money Laundering Regulations (2017) and SRA Transparency Rules and have openly stated that they expect to see evidence of full compliance when conducting their review and will take enforcement action against those firms who cannot demonstrate compliance.

This short webinar aims to provide practical guidance to assist firms in understanding how to comply with obligations and will cover;

- SRA Transparency requirements – key requirements and considerations.
- Money Laundering Regulations (2017) Regulation 18 Firmwide Risk Assessment – key requirements and considerations.
- SRA AML practice visits – what to expect.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

The New Legal Sustainability Alliance for Sustainability

A new way for your law firm to take action to halt the damaging effects of climate change

December 2020 saw the twin global phenomena of Coronavirus and Climate Change come together in an extraordinary way as the UK, France and the United Nations jointly hosted a virtual climate summit to mark the 5th Anniversary of the Paris Climate Agreement. Unable to meet in person at the planned Conference of Parties (COP) 26 summit which was to be hosted in Glasgow this November, instead 70 heads of state from the Pope to the Prime Minister met online to make bold and ambitious claims and commitments about what they have done and would do to prevent the catastrophe of global heating. The UK government announced a new target to cut carbon emissions by 69% by 2030, as well as promising to reduce subsidies for fossil fuel projects overseas, while China's President Xi Jinping announced a planned reduction in emissions per unit of GDP by 65% against 2005 levels. Promising words from world leaders help us to focus on the real threat that lies not far away in a distant future but right here today on our doorsteps wherever we are in the world.

These promises come just days after the publication of a report in the journal Nature that showed that, for the first time in history, man-made mass exceeds the overall living biomass on the planet. That means that all human activity including the production of concrete, metal, plastic, bricks and asphalt has brought the world to a cross over point where the results of human production outweigh the balance of living things on our planet. The study estimates that the amount of plastic alone is greater in mass than all land and marine creatures combined.

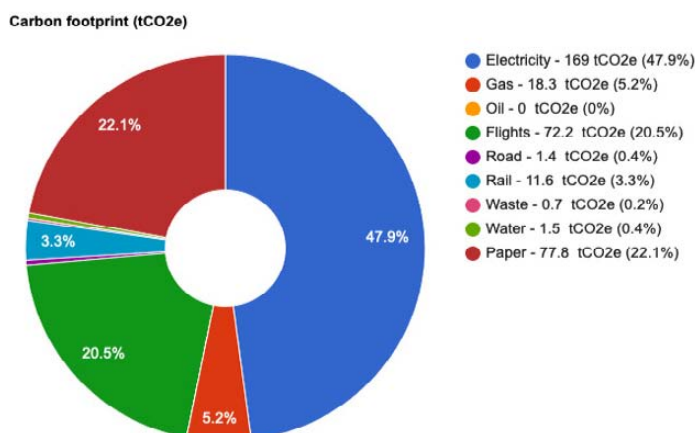
There is no doubt that we need to speed up and intensify our efforts to halt the damage we are doing to the planet NOW.

The Legal Sustainability Alliance (LSA) has been around for over 13 years and in that time its focus had shifted away from the just the large Magic Circle firms to the wider profession, and from just looking at direct carbon emissions to the whole area of sustainability. However, members felt more heft was needed to ensure the legal sector plays its part in this global challenge and that more could be done to ensure that every firm in the country had the opportunity to use the LSA to support their own climate ambitions. January 2021 marks the launch of an all new LSA with new services and support for the profession!

A New Look LSA

The LSA has had a total overhaul and now offers an enhanced service designed to support all firms, whatever their size and wherever they are, to become carbon neutral. We have brought together the expertise and experience of practitioners and experts who can provide advice, guidance and practical support. Most important of all - membership of the LSA now means that any law firm member can measure their carbon footprint instantly and as many times a year as you want for free using our bespoke Carbon Calculator tool.

Free to Use Carbon Calculator for your firm



The Carbon Calculator tool provides you with a graphic representation of your carbon footprint as well as data to help you set reduction targets - monthly, quarterly or annually. So, whatever the size of your office, you can

now determine where to focus your efforts to reduce your emissions - whether from travel, energy, waste or even paper. Designed to be easy to use, the tool takes you through step by step all the stages of measuring and recording your emissions data, using all the management information you already have such as fuel bills, waste collection notes, travel expense, taxi receipts etc.

This service is just part of the benefits of the new membership which also offers a chance to benefit from advice and support from LSA partners Carbon Intelligence, a consultancy working to help firms set Science Based Targets, and Good Energy, a UK 100% renewable energy company who support the Legal Renewables Initiative. Signing up to the Initiative doesn't just demonstrate your commitment to transitioning to renewable energy it offers every member of your staff a £100 fuel credit if they switch their home supply to Good Energy. As staff continue to work from home and domestic heating bills increase during the winter this represents a tangible benefit for all employees that only comes with membership of the LSA.

These member benefits along with a regular series of webinars and discussions, the new Green Supplier Directory, case studies, toolkits and other online materials mean the LSA is designed to make the transition to Net Zero as simple as possible for the legal sector.

To accompany these new services, we have redesigned the website and the logo. Members now receive a logo in their joining pack so you can share with clients and other stakeholders your public commitment to acting on climate change.

Membership structure and fees

The LSA had traditionally been a free service so one major change is that firms now have to pay a small annual levy to use the enhanced service and tools. The fees are set at a sliding scale and increase depending on the size of the firm. We believe they represent real value for money. Fees are charged annually based on any one quarter so if you join in February you will be charged for a year but if you join in April on a pro rata basis for the three remaining quarters of the year.

Size+	Annual membership fee
Fewer than 50 staff (including fee earners)	£500
Between 50 and 250 staff (including fee earners)	£1000
Between 251 and 500 staff (including fee earners)	£1500
500 + staff (including fee earners)	£2000
Non-UK based firms (i.e. no UK presence)	£1500
In House Counsel	£500
Academic membership (i.e. individuals and academic departments)	£150

+Size relates to the total of ALL locations, not just UK office

A New Year's Resolution

"Membership of the LSA provides us with an opportunity to share experiences with like minded organisations who are on a similar journey to ours and who understand the particular challenges of the legal sector. It's a source of encouragement as well as useful guidance and pointers.

The new Carbon Calculator is a very welcome addition to the wide range of support resources available from the LSA". New LSA member

Why not follow this firm's example and demonstrate your commitment to climate change by joining today - simply visit the LSA here and submit your form and we will do the rest. The time to act is now

Amanda Carpenter is CEO Achill Management sustainability consultancy, which manages and hosts the LSA

www.legalsustainabilityalliance.com



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Liverpool BID Company

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

As the new year begins, many of us will have wondered whether any resolution for 2021 is sensible. If the last twelve months has taught us anything, it is that planning, with any certainty, for the future, is a problematic game.

Yet resolutions are more about making promises. At Liverpool BID Company, we are reflecting on our mission statement, to ensure businesses can work together, so that we create a thriving and vibrant destination, whether you live, work or visit here. Our resolutions are, instead, a reaffirmation of that, of our goal to be a business community champion in Liverpool. 2020 taught many of us how important it is for us to work together, and, as we work to rebuild our economy, we know that we cannot do it in silos.

There are three pillars we work to, that guide our work and inform our decision making.

The first is resilience. 2020 illustrated the value of strength together. It helps us to future proof Liverpool, if we pool our ability and strength. A business community that is as strong as the sum of its parts is much more effective for a local economy than one single business. We support business through insights, helping them to understand the marketplace they are in and grow, we work to attract business to Liverpool and support those here.

Community is a vital ingredient in strengthening the city. Liverpool knows we have more power in a group than individually, but it can be difficult for business, whatever their sector, to know how to benefit from that shared experience and community. We work to create links between businesses, making it easier for them to work together and make a greater whole. This is as important across sectors as it is for localities. We work to bring businesses together in hospitality, retail and many areas as much as we do to bring them together in Bold Street, Castle Street or within the Commercial District.

Our third pillar focuses on placemaking. It is important that Liverpool is an attractive place to do business, that it is clean and safe, that it is easy to travel around and that it shows its best self. It helps to attract new business if the city centre is cared for, that it is invested in. Business, whether they are in retail, leisure, professional services or hospitality wants to work in an environment that is welcoming and vibrant.

If these three pillars were important before, they are central now to Liverpool's recovery. The health cost of Covid-19 has been substantial, but there is also an economic cost. First and foremost we have to keep people safe, and businesses across Liverpool have shown overwhelming commitment and passion to that civic responsibility.

As we recover, as vaccinations are underway and as, as we hope, our city opens up further and we regain a semblance of normal life, working together will be vital. We will have to be resilient,



both in our determination but also to help businesses be as strong as they can. We will continue to lobby on local, regional and national levels for the support business needs. We will help to create an environment where business can thrive, whatever the climate.

It will be important for us to share insight and experience. We will need a shared vision to work towards as Liverpool gets its groove back. We are continuing to work on the city's strategies for Williamson Square and for the Commercial District making connective and transport much simpler, greener and in turn to business needs.

Placemaking is central to improving the city, making our public spaces welcoming, important for both internal and external visitors. We all want to live and work somewhere that is the very best it can be. Working with our arts organisations and continuing our public art strategy helps us at Liverpool BID Company to make our public spaces animated. As visitors begin to return to Liverpool, as we expect them to begin to in 2021, we have to make sure they see the full benefit of the city.

The last twelve months have been challenging, and the next twelve are not without their challenges. Yet we know that if we keep our vision clear, we know what we are working towards, and that is making Liverpool a place for people to thrive.

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Monthly Costs Update



Welcome to our new monthly update in which we discuss recent trends and developments in Costs Law and Practice. If you feel that there are costs related issues of interest, please feel free to contact us!

Welcome to our last update of a challenging year! Let's all hope that this time next year we will be talking about the way we were! In our previous update we mentioned the case of *Belsner v Cam Legal Services Ltd*. We understand that the solicitors have applied for permission to appeal. A decision is awaited as we speak. There are commentators who question why there should be an appeal in a case that was about £385. As we all know the wider implications of the decision can run into many thousands.

So what else has been happening?

The recent case of *JMH v CHF and SAP* [2020] EWCOP 63 revisits the issue of recovery of costs where a solicitor acts for themselves through their own firm. The question goes back as far as *London Scottish Benefit Society v Chorley* [1884] 13 QBD 872 in which solicitors acted for themselves. The Court of Appeal held that they were entitled to recover their costs because, if they had not represented themselves, they would have got another solicitor to act. The trade off was that the amount of the costs was reduced because they could not recover work involved in a personal attendance upon themselves! In other words you could not claim 2 hours for taking initial instructions from yourself.

This has become known as the Chorley principle. It has been approved and developed over the years. In *Halborg v EMW Law* [2017] EWCA Civ 793, the firm had issued proceedings to recover unpaid costs. Mr Halborg argued that they were not entitled to the costs of those proceedings as they were acting for themselves and should be treated as litigants in person. The Master of the Rolls, Terence Etherington confirmed the entitlement – *"a solicitor who acts for himself as a party to litigation can recover not only his out of pocket expenses but also his profit costs, but he cannot recover for anything which his acting in person has made unnecessary"*

In these cases, the solicitor had instructed the firm but had then carried out the work themselves. The point was that there was the use of skills and time which could have been used for other clients. The firm had therefore incurred a loss.

The *JMH v CFH and SAP* situation was different. This was case about an Enduring Power of Attorney. SAP was a solicitor employed by KSN Solicitors. The Applicant wished to revoke an existing EPA and appoint SAP under a Lasting Power of Attorney. SAP acted for herself. It was not disputed that she had never in fact instructed the firm to act for her, even though she carried out work in their time, with their knowledge and approval. She was in fact a litigant in person. Her Honour Judge Evans-Gordon said –

"The fact that SAP asserts that she was a litigant in person, had not instructed KSN and was never under any obligation to pay them anything, together with KSN's position that they were not acting for SAP is, in my view, fatal to the claim to assessment under the Chorley principle which applies only where the solicitor litigant has instructed, expressly or impliedly, a firm, including their own firm, to act for them. She simply believed, as did they, that her profit costs would be recoverable in the usual way. SAP did not carry out the work to relieve her solicitors from some of the work nor has she suffered any loss as she got paid throughout. It is only KSN who will suffer loss and they are neither the principal nor instructed solicitors."

The argument that she was doing work that could have been carried out for other clients was rejected – "SAP was not carrying out any work for the applicant but for herself qua litigant in person" This may seem a harsh decision but equally, it is not difficult to avoid the problem.

Firms can carry out work on their own matters but the 'Chorley' principle will only entitle them to recovery of their costs if they actually retained to act.

Another recent case of interest is *Choken v Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust* [2020] EWHC 3269 (QB) in which judgment was given by Steward J on 2nd December 2020. This concerned the level of recoverable success fee in a high value clinical negligence case. The CFA pre-dated LASPO so the Defendants were responsible for the success fee. The success fee was staged –

50% pre issue
80% up to 45 days pre trial
100% thereafter

The case settled 70 days before trial for £2.8m lump sum and £48k pa rising to £85k pa. The Claimant's bill of costs was £1,065,217.70. The success fee was claimed at 80%. The Master reduced this on assessment to 50%. The claimant appealed.

There was an admission of breach prior to issue of proceedings. The Defendants argued that 50% was reasonable because the risk factors were set in place at the start and could only reduce as it progressed. This was evidenced by the admission. Steward J upheld the Master's assessment –

"The Master found that, having regard to all the relevant risks, a 50% success fee was reasonable. She also found that an increased success fee at the stage of service of proceedings was not reasonable. She judged that a 50% success fee was reasonable up to and including the point at which the case settled. This she was perfectly entitled to do."

He approved the Master's observation - "Based on the fact that the success fee is meant to reflect the risk of a win or not winning and not getting your costs, in my view 50% is where this one belongs throughout..."

In other words the issue of proceedings does not per se increase the risk. The Master did observe that she might have allowed 100% at trial because, by then, there would probably have been a Part 36 offer which did impact on the risk.

So a unique year comes to an end. We wish you all a Happy New Year and a much better New Year!

If you require help in relation to any costs issues contact Robert Cook at robert@cook-legal.co.uk or Mike Yassin at mike@cook-legal.co.uk

Regulation Update

The latest regulation news from Michelle Garlick of Weightmans LLP

I hope you all had a lovely, safe Christmas and may I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy new year. Let's hope that 2021 is a better year than 2020 (surely it can't be worse?!) By the time you read this, we will of course have left the EU (will it be with or without a deal?!) It is indeed a new era for the country and only time will tell what the full impact of it will be. Covid-19 has already had a huge impact on our lives but hopefully the roll-out of the vaccine will help us to start getting back to something looking a bit more like normal in the next few months, even if some of the changes forced on us are here to stay. As the SRA has recently said "Times of change bring risks and challenges for all businesses and consumers, not least because of the high levels of uncertainty. As with all other businesses, law firms need to be ready to adapt quickly."

So, as we start the new year, rather than just give you an update of regulatory developments from the past month (although I will mention certain important ones), I thought I would do a bit of horizon-scanning and share with you my views on what to watch out for in 2021 in the regulatory and compliance arena.

SRA Risk Outlook

For those of you who attended the SRA's (virtual) annual Colp and Cofa conference in the last week of November, you will have heard the SRA discuss a number of topics including AML compliance, cybercrime, innovation and technology, accounts rules and dubious investment schemes to name just a few. If you missed any of

the talks, they can be found on the SRA's website and at this link here <https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/new-s/events/on-demand-events/compliance-conference-2020/>.

It's perhaps no surprise that a number of these topics are included in the SRA's latest 2020/2021 Risk Outlook, published just a couple of days before the annual conference. You can find the risk outlook here <https://www.sra.org.uk/risk/outlook/risk-outlook-2020-21/>

The key focus areas for the SRA (and therefore for you also) for 2021 include:

- AML
- Client Money
- Diversity
- Information and cyber security
- Integrity and Ethics
- Meeting legal needs
- Standards of service

Summarising each of these (which is no replacement for reading the Outlook in full):

AML

The SRA has identified some new AML risks arising from the economic and Covid-19 uncertainties, in particular the surge in instructions during the SDLT holiday period, the change from face to face to on-line identification/verification procedures and warns firms to be on high alert for vendor fraud which is increasing. It also identifies a heightened risk if firms have made money laundering compliance roles redundant and warns those firms who are exploring new areas of work, which might make them more vulnerable to

exploitation or those who might consider taking on work they would not otherwise accept in order to maintain their business.

The SRA will be continuing their review of firms' compliance with the MLR 2017 in 2021 to check that firms have the right controls in place to mitigate the risk of money laundering including the need to independently audit these controls and procedures. Audit is an area that many firms seem to have neglected or misunderstood the need for independence so if you need support in complying with this requirement, the Compli team can help so do get in touch.

One of my takeaways from the conference was the SRA's confirmation in the AML practical tips' webinar that firms can charge clients for CDD electronic searches (provided they are clear and transparent). I have always been of the view that there was nothing wrong with charging for such important risk mitigation steps and it is pleasing that the SRA now appears to have done a U-turn on this.

Client Money

Again, the SRA has highlighted the economic uncertainties have increased financial problems for the public and firms which in turn heightens the risk to client money. It reminds firms that dishonesty and misuse of client money will be dealt with with the utmost severity (only last month a solicitor who caused a £885k client account shortfall by using client money to pay his own office fees was struck off). It also provides links to its



Michelle Garlick

warning notices and guidance on issues such as use of client account as a banking facility, TPMAs and taking money from client account for fees

Diversity in the profession

2021 will see the SRA's next diversity collection data exercise and the Risk Outlook stresses the importance of having a diverse profession. It anticipates that Covid-19 and the recession "will continue to affect many people's opportunities to enter and progress in the profession" and "Pay gaps, and the stay gap, might widen if firms do not take appropriate action".

The SRA will be monitoring individuals subject to its enforcement processes by ethnicity, gender, age and disability and will also be commissioning research to understand why there is an overrepresentation of BAME people in the concerns reported to many regulators of the professions in different sectors.

It also directs firms to its EDI resources including its toolkit on sexual harassment in the workplace which lists resources to support firms in eliminating bullying and harassment. Given the recent overturning of the high profile SDT decision against Ryan Beckwith where the High Court found that the tribunal had been wrong to find that Beckwith had failed to act with integrity in circumstances

where there had been no finding that he had taken unfair advantage, we can only hope that the SRA will carefully review its enforcement approach in relation to conduct outside of a solicitor's professional life where no criminality is involved.

Information and cyber-security

According to the risk outlook, nearly £2.5m of money held by firms had been stolen by cybercriminals in the first half of 2020, which was over three times the amount reported in the first half of 2019. The increased reliance on technology due to lockdown has in turn led to a huge increase in phishing scams with ransomware also becoming more serious and with more people likely to be working from home more regularly in the future, firms are being advised to ensure their security is up to date, staff are trained and they know what to do in the event of an attack.

Integrity and ethics

In addition to reminding solicitors of the importance of acting with integrity at all times (and warns of the heightened risk of solicitors failing to act with integrity if placed under financial pressure due to the recession and Covid), it's main focus in this section is on dubious investment schemes which it says are on the increase. Remember that if a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is!

Meeting legal needs

Compliance with the SRA's transparency rules is emphasised in this section of the Risk outlook. There are still firms whose websites are non-compliant and the SRA will be taking appropriate action in 2021 where necessary.

Standards of service

Firms will need to ensure that any new procedures

introduced as a result of Covid, for example how signatures are witnessed or how new clients are identified and verified, are implemented correctly to ensure that the high professional standards expected are met.

Diversification of services without having suitably experienced solicitors dealing with the new practice area, reduced staff numbers due to furlough/redundancies, supervision difficulties as a result of working from home and staff being under stress are all risks which firms need to be alert to in 2021. The risk outlook also includes a spotlight on the personal injury sector and managing volume claims which all firms involved in these types of claims should review carefully.

Other issues to keep an eye on in 2021 will, I think, include:

- The introduction of the SQE in the Autumn
- Financial stability issues and the importance of effecting an orderly closure if necessary
- PII renewals – we will remain in a hard market at least for the April 2021 renewal so firms due to renew then should already be looking to address this as early as possible and be in a position to present your firm to insurers in the best possible way.
- Compliance resource – the SRA has seen during the pandemic that some compliance officers have increased the time they spend on fee earning rather than compliance tasks and has stressed that this must not lead to issues and firms must maintain compliance and keep their systems and controls in check. If you are one of these firms, now is the time to consider outsourcing so do get in touch if you need more support in this area.

Until next month.....

Michelle Garlick
Weightmans

NEW Misconduct dismissals – tricky issues & latest developments

Wednesday 27th January, 1pm-3pm

Misconduct issues in the workplace are common, and it is important for employers to take swift and appropriate action if it is alleged that an employee has behaved inappropriately.

This course will cover some of the practical issues which frequently arise during the disciplinary process.

Emma Tegerdine will cover:

- When to suspend (and when not to)
- The importance of carrying out a reasonable investigation
- Dealing with anonymous witnesses
- Significance of previous formal and informal warnings
- Managing overlapping grievances and disciplinarys
- Alternatives to dismissal
- A review of the latest case law

Competencies: A2,4,5 & B3, 4, 6, 7

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

Residential Conveyancing for Support Staff

19th & 20th January with Ian Quayle

This is an intensive two day training course aimed at secretaries, paralegals and lawyers returning to or joining the residential conveyancing team.

The course is also useful for members of staff completing CILEX Level 3 or 6 conveyancing modules.

Delegates will learn:

- The conveyancing process from receipt of instructions to file closure
- Preparing the contract bundle including drafting the contract
- Dealing with searches and enquiries
- Client inspection, surveys and acting for lenders
- Exchanging contracts

& much more

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

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division Annual Awards

On 10 December 2020, Merseyside Junior Lawyer Division held our annual awards evening virtually. Usually, in a non COVID-19 world we would have put on our ball gowns, suits and announced the winners at our yearly ball. However, we as a committee believe that it is so important to still acknowledge those junior lawyers who work so hard, especially in time like these.

Therefore, we pulled together to arrange an event that would allow for those junior lawyers to be acknowledged and rewarded for all of their hard work.

We were so grateful for the response to our flyers sent around the different law firms across Merseyside and uploaded to our social media. We had so many fantastic nominations and it was so refreshing to see lawyers taking the time to write lengthy nominations.

We opened the virtual evening with a welcome talk from last year's chair, Andrew Ball and then a talk from our current chair Chelsea Kearns. We had an agenda for the night which I took everyone through to make sure the evening ran as smooth as possible, which included guest speakers from the charity Paul's Place as well as Carol Draycott from the University of Law. Each award was announced by a member of our committee who hold a similar role to the category they announced.

The first award was announced by our Sponsorship Representative, David Tarttelin (MSB Solicitors). He announced our Pupil/NQ Barrister of the year with the nominations as follows, Lyana Chan (UNIT Chambers), Laura Halsall (St Johns Chambers), Sean Batterton (St Johns Chambers), Kristine Lidgerwood (UNIT Chambers) and Amjad Kadhimi (UNIT Chambers). The winner was Amjad Kadhimi, part of his nomination was read out by David:-

'This pupil is a brilliant asset to Unit Chambers. He has started pupillage in the most unprecedented of times, hitting the ground running. He is often involved in complex cases with vulnerable clients and his client care is world class. We regularly receive feedback from clients informing us how comfortable and relaxed they feel when he is involved in their case. He has a real thirst for knowledge and a desire to learn and better himself every day.'

The second award was announced by one of our Charity Representatives, Kelsey Ryan (Yodel). Kelsey announced our Paralegal of the year award with the nominations as follows, Deepa Chand (CEL Solicitors), Maisie Gordon (MSB Solicitors), Emily Driver (Jackson Lees Group), Amanda Sime (Canter Levin and Berg) and Sarah Warburton (Jackson Lees Group). The winner was Maisie Gordon with Kelsey reading out part of her nomination:-



'The winner is a superstar paralegal. She works on very complex matters which often have international elements to them and does so with grace and ease. She is hard working, committed and goes above and beyond with clients. I have found her to be one of the most dedicated, caring, intelligent and naturally gifted paralegals I have encountered in my 6 years within the Liverpool legal profession. She has an extremely bright future ahead of her.'

Following these announcements we had a talk from Carol Draycott from the University of Law. We would like to say thanks to The University of Law for not only assisting us with the event but for sponsoring it too. Carol spoke about the awards and assisting with picking the winners. She also spoke about the University of Law and how they are supporting students throughout COVID-19.

The third award was Trainee Solicitor of the year and this was announced by one of our Social Representatives Adrian Davies (Riverview Law). The nominations were as follows, Jemma Castell (CEL Solicitors), Matt Kayoka-Ilunga (Irwin Mitchell), Michaela Davies (Greenhalgh Kerr), Joshua Murphy (CEL Solicitors) and Jason Chan (CEL Solicitors). The winner was Michaela Davies, Adrian read out part of her nomination:-

'The winner is put simply an inspiration to all women who aspire to be lawyers. She is a mum to two young girls and somehow finds the time to juggle her busy life as a dedicated trainee solicitor and Mother. She is a compassionate and respectful lawyer. A lot of the work undertaken by her is against litigants in person and whilst her objective is to achieve the best results for her client Michaela understands the need to express empathy and also understand her opponents view point.'

Michaela said following the awards 'I would like to thank the

Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division for recognising my achievements and on behalf of all parents working in the legal sector in recognition of their efforts too. A work life balance is important and I admire all those who are working in law whilst also raising children.'

I announced the fourth award and as one of the Social Representatives on the committee played a big role in organising the evening. It was great to see such a brilliant turn out on the night. I announced CILEX of the year award, the nominations were as follows, Gemma Stenson (Bell Lamb and Jonson), Jenny Sharkey (Princes Ltd), Jake Parr (Weightmans), Lauren Steele (Weightmans) and Rachel Taylor (Jackson Lees Group). The winner was Jake Parr and I read out part of his nomination:-

'This person has been with the firm for 3 years and, during this period, he has developed his skills to be an integral part of the team, dealing with a more complex motor portfolio of work. As a result of his aptitude to work and client relationships, he has been called upon to provide client training and has received great feedback. He is often called upon to 'buddy' new handlers to show them the Weightmans way and bring them on in their careers. He is a joy to manage and scored a 5 in his recent appraisal (the highest possible) which is testament to his hard work and the fact that he goes over and above consistently.'

Following this two speakers, Agnes and Joe, from our nominated charity Paul's Place attended the evening and gave an incredibly moving and informative speech about the background to the charity and the amazing work they do. Paul's Place are a charity who offer free counselling sessions to family and friends of people bereaved by suicide. Their service is the only one of its kind in Liverpool and unfortunately, they are under increasing demand alongside decreasing funding.

We have raised an incredible £786 since September for Paul's Place from a Pumpkin carving competition, cake sale and a raffle. We hope to continue to exceed our targets and raise as much money as possible for this very worthy cause. We would like to thank everyone who has donated so far.

Steven Butchart (MSB Solicitors) our Treasurer announced Newly Qualified Solicitor of the year. The nominations were as follows, Hannah Dowd (MSB Solicitors), Claire Christopholous (Hill Dickinson), Lauren Bolton (James Murray Solicitors), Zoe Glacken (Brabners) and Danielle Carter (DLA Piper). The winner was Zoe Glacken and Steven read out part of Zoe's nomination:-

'This NW joined Brabners as a trainee solicitor in 2017 and qualified into our Housing & Regeneration department in 2019. Prior to pursuing her legal career Zoe worked in local government and for a registered housing provider. Since qualifying she has developed strong relationships with clients. She already receives works direct from clients who choose to instruct her based on her previous good work. She is a keen advocate and regularly attends court. She has been complimented on her case preparation and advocacy by the judiciary and was invited directly by the court to join a select court users group during the lockdown period and participated in remote video conferences hosted by HHJ Wood QC. She is a member of the Liverpool Law Society Litigation Committee and of the Social Housing Law Association Committee,



Samantha Rymer

demonstrating her enthusiasm for the legal and social housing sector.'

Nel Tregaskis (Weightmans) one of our charity representatives then announced the raffle winners in support of our charity Pauls Place. We would like to take the opportunity to thank illuminate & Rejuvenate, Chamber 36, L1 nails, Otterspool Adventure Centre, Health Kick Kitchen, the Boozy Pantry Cocktail and Dre for their amazing prizes.

Our awards evening was closed by our Chair Chelsea Kearns thanking everyone for attending. We were overwhelmed by the response we had and would like to say a huge thank you for all of you that nominated, donated and attended our awards evenings. It was brilliant to see so many junior lawyers supporting one and other. We look forward to seeing you at the awards next year.

Samantha Rymer
Social Representative

Legal Community Champion

Each month in Liverpool Law we are celebrating those people who are helping others in the community through charity work and volunteering. This month we celebrate Steve Cornforth, a former solicitor, legal blogger and past President of Liverpool Law Society.

Steve Cornforth of Steve Cornforth Consultancy was nominated as this month's Legal Community Champion by Alison Lobb of Morecrofts. Alison said "I would like to nominate Steve Cornforth, for his sterling efforts to raise funds for legal support services (even to the extent of wearing that Liverpool shirt), and his relentless use of social media and blogs to raise awareness of, and support for, access to justice issues."

Steve started his legal career at Vauxhall Law Centre before launching his own practice Ashby Cornforth & Co based in Walton. The firm was entirely legal aid and the main bulk of the work was in housing. The firm merged with EAD in 1981 and Steve set up his consultancy in 2017.

Steve was President of Liverpool Law Society in 2012 and during his term of office he became a Trustee of the North West Legal Support Trust (NWLST) and also launched the annual Liverpool Legal Walk which has raised thousands of pounds for the NWLST over the past eight years.

Steve has also been Chair of the Crosby Foodbank and was Shortlisted for the Outstanding Contribution to Access to Justice Award by Law Works in 2018. Since 2011, Steve has written regular legal blogs, focusing mainly on access to justice, but also on management and practice issues.

In 2019 Steve, a lifelong Everton Fan, said he would do the Liverpool Legal Walk in a Liverpool kit if enough people sponsored him and they did!

Steve has recently completed the Access to Justice Foundation's 'Go the Extra Mile for Justice' raising an impressive £1600 and over the past few weeks has almost completed the Virtual Hadrian's Walk Challenge, covering 90 miles. At the time of writing Steve had just eight miles to go.

Steve and Liverpool Law Society arrange the Great Legal Quiz, the virtual event held in June this year raised over £2000.

Steve also donates through Amazon Smile, when making a purchase a donation goes to a chosen charity and Steve's donations go to Vauxhall Law Centre.

You can still make a donation for Steve's Virtual Hadrians Walk Challenge [here](#).

If you would like to nominate a Legal Community Champion then please email editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk



Steve Cornforth's 'Walk of Shame'

Charity Spotlight

St Andrew's Community Network

St. Andrew's Community Network has been supporting people in Clubmoor, Liverpool and its surrounding areas for nearly 15 years. The organisation is led by people from the local community and seeks to respond to local needs and opportunities.

The organisation was borne from St. Andrew's Church, and whilst it is an independently constituted organisation, it retains strong links with the church. The organisation is driven by its Christian principles to support the most vulnerable, to serve the local community and to bring life in all its fullness; supporting people of all faiths, and none.

The services provided by the organisation are constantly evolving depending on what we hear from our local community. Over the past three years the organisation has delivered support in three main areas: Debt and Money Advice; Volunteering and Community Wellbeing; and as coordinators of the North Liverpool Foodbank partnership. These services have primarily been volunteer led, with over 250 volunteers working across the Network.

In recent years we have taken a role supporting other churches and community groups to provide social action in their own community. We do this by partnership agreement, helping community organisations to establish a foodbank, pantry or money advice service within their setting.

St. Andrew's Community Network is working for a future that sees poverty eradicated in our community. We want to see people set free from the life affecting issues such as debt, food insecurity and mental health crisis.

We want to see people in our community live a fulfilling life – not just to be able to make ends meet and get by - but to find purpose and direction. We want people to find 'community' in which they can belong, connect with others and make a positive contribution.



We know that many individuals and families across North Liverpool have been subject to food poverty. In partnership with the Trussel Trust, we warehouse and coordinate the North Liverpool Foodbank and have distribution centres in each area across the north of the city. Our foodbank model aims to provide 3-days' worth of emergency food in crisis situations.

As part of our dedication to minimise food insecurity for residents across the city, we have now come together with Your Local Pantry to create a network of community food stores operating on a membership basis. Residents can become members of a pantry in their area for just £3.50 per week and redeem up to £20 worth of shopping, which includes fresh and frozen produce! Members can also enjoy some light refreshments and a chat with other residents and volunteers during their visit.

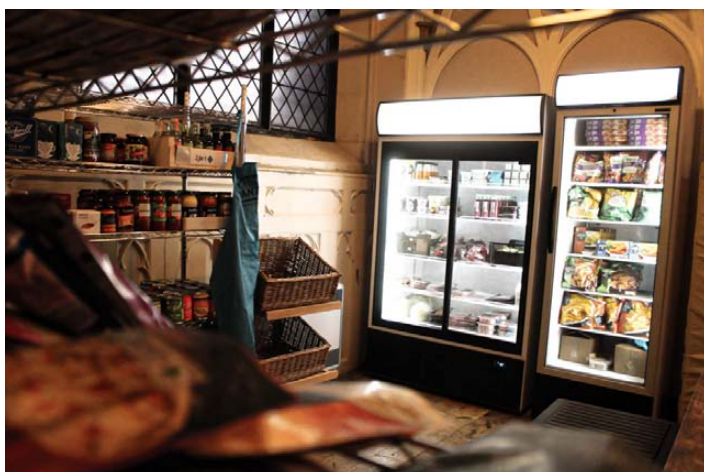
There are now seven Pantries operating in the city, and we aim to open more to be able to support as many residents across North Liverpool to create a sustainable and long-term solution to food poverty. We currently have pantries operating in St. George's Church Everton; Christ Church Pantry; St Andrew's Church Clubmoor; KFCA Pantry; St Mary's Millennium Centre Pantry; Holy Trinity Pantry and Y Kids Pantry.

St Andrew's Community Network also provides debt and benefits advice, are Debt Relief Intermediaries and deliver basic money education and budgeting courses authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

For more information please visit
www.standrewsclubmoor.com/
www.northliverpool.foodbank.org.uk
www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk

To make a donation visit
www.standrewsclubmoor.com/donate

Photographs by Jade Chan




December Social Media Highlights

Each month we will be bringing you a selection of the latest social media posts by Liverpool Law Society and its members

Chris Topping (Activist Law...) @ChrisPTopping

Replying to @JoDow6170
@LpoolLawSociety and @Julesoh13

Lovely to see @LpoolLawSociety staff at Christmas lunch even though not quite like previous years




Tweet your reply

LiverpoolLawSociety @LpoolLawSociety · 4d

We are delighted to have Jo on board.

@BLM_Law @BLM... · 4d

Congratulations to Liverpool Head of Office and Partner Jo Francis who has been appointed as Deputy Vice President of @LpoolLawSociety. blmlaw.com/news/blm-liver...




Tweet your reply

Merseyside JLD @MerseysideJLD

Our 2020 Annual Awards Evening Winners

We had the most amazing turn out to our awards and after an unprecedented amount of nominations we'd like to say a massive congratulations to our winners of our shining star awards



Tweet your reply

Kerry Underwood @kerry_underwood

Love in with @LpoolLawSociety and @JoDow6170. Great Zoom conference today. Will always love Liverpool - you always welcomed me when my views were less popular than they are now. Always feel at home in your great city - even remotely. Thank you!!


20:05 · 09/12/2020 · Twitter Web App

1 Quote Tweet 10 Likes

Tweet your reply

Jo Downey @JoDow6170

Ready for @LpoolLawSociety virtual lunch/quiz 🎄 @Julesoh13 @ChrisPTopping




Tweet your reply

Claire Delahunty · 2nd

Highly experienced programme manager with strong partnership working and problem solving skills 1w · 📧

*** 8 December at 11.30am ***

Don't miss our Introduction to #lawtech event with ...see more

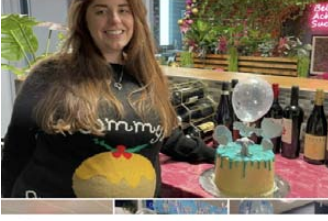


An Introduction to LawTech In Liverpool
eventbrite.com · 1 min read

1 comment

CEL Solicitors 1,180 followers 3d · 📧

Today was Rachael's last day in the office before her little bundle of joy arrives. Good luck from everyone at CEL, we can't wait to see you both soon! 💙👶




Leave your thoughts here... @ Post

Ben Higham · 1st

Experienced multi-channel marketing and communications expert 2d · 📧

The first (and hopefully the last) **Carpenters Group** Virtual Christmas Party went off without a ...see more



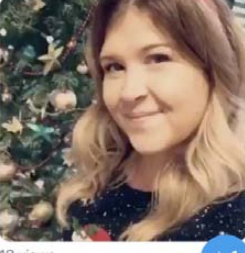
Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicit... 1,125 Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Bell Lamb & Joynson So... · 3d

It's #ChristmasJumperDay and of course, we're celebrating in style at Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors!

Which is your favourite? 🎄




13 views

Broudie Jackson Canter 4,184 Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Broudie Jackson Canter Retweeted Jackson Lees · 02/12/2020

As we near the end of this crazy year, our Managing Director @EstherLeach reflects on what #2020 has taught us all at Jackson Lees Group and discusses why we as a business are feeling excited for the future! Esther's update is over on our blog 📖👉



Learning from the past, building foundations for our future
jacksonlees.co.uk

Liverpool BID Co. 7,255 Tweets


Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Liverpool BID Co. @Lpool... · 1d

It's Day 13 of our #AdventCalendarLpool 🎄 If you're unable to visit Liverpool at the moment or are looking for a Christmas present to use at a later date, check out the gift vouchers list from @VisitLiverpool

See some highlights below 📖


liverpoolbidcompany.com/day-13-liverpo...



morecrofts

24 likes

morecrofts Today's #MorecroftsPeople zoom session



Training events open to legal professionals nationwide

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Can't make the date/time or need to revisit the training? No problem! Booking onto any of our training seminars means you will receive a link to access a recording of the event to watch at your leisure!

DATE	TITLE	SPEAKER
14-Jan	A Leasehold Dwellings Update	Richard Snape
14-Jan	Building regulations & planning permission for Conveyancers	Richard Snape
15-Jan	Insolvency Update	Chris Beanland
19&20-Jan	Residential Conveyancing for Support Staff (2 day course)	Ian Quayle
21-Jan	The A to Z of statutory wills	Caroline Bielanska
22-Jan	Running PI Claims for minors from start to finish	Nicky Carter
26-Jan	Introduction to Wills and Probate & connection with Family Law	Safda Mahmood
27-Jan	Confidentiality & restrictive covenants in employment contracts: the latest developments	Emma Tegerdine
27-Jan	Misconduct dismissals - tricky issues & latest developments	Emma Tegerdine
28-Jan	SRA areas of focus: AML Risk Assessments & Transparency Rules	Tracy Thompson
29-Jan	Domestic Abuse Law: Developments & Consideration of the New Domestic Abuse Bill 2021	Safda Mahmood
03-Feb	Complaints to Compliments	Vicky Ling
10-Feb	End of life care planning	Caroline Bielanska
12-Feb	Directors' Duties	Chris Beanland
23-Feb	Conversion to Family Law & Practice Certificate	Safda Mahmood
24-Feb	2021 Housing Disrepair Conference	Various

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

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