

# LiverpoolLaw

September 2021

Liverpool Law Society

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



[www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](http://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)





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# September 2021

4



4. The latest from the Editor, Jennifer Powell

5. The latest from the President, Julie O'Hare

6. Shape the future of your local Law Society

5



8. The latest from the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub Committee

9. Jeremy Myers reports on the latest meeting with local councillors

10. Steven Zdolny reports on the Presidents' and Secretaries Conference

8



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

18. University of Liverpool Professional Mentoring Scheme

20. Pro Bono Week turns 20

24



24. Insurance lawyer Alison Chu joins O'Connors

32. The latest from Julie Johnson, Chair of the Commercial District BID

36. The latest from Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division

23



39. Charity Spotlight:  
L6 Community Association

Front cover photo by Martin Dawson on Unsplash

ADHD Umbrella Project returns to Liverpool. The 200 multi-coloured umbrellas will be suspended above Church Alley to raise awareness and understanding of ADHD and other neurodiverse conditions.

## DEADLINES 2021

24th September

27th October

24th November

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

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

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Email:  
[j.baskerville@jbaskerville.co.uk](mailto:j.baskerville@jbaskerville.co.uk)



## Welcome to the September 2021 edition of Liverpool Law

**Jennifer Powell**  
[editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](mailto:editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)

I hope you're all well and I'm sure relieved that the schools are open again! Sit down and enjoy the peace and quiet whilst reading what we have for you this month.

We have a new column this month about the mental health of those in the legal profession, focussing this month on addiction and how it can thrive due to the working and social environments and the driving characteristics of those in this job. As always there is help and support available for those who can resonate with the article so please reach out.

I'm pleased to see the article about India buildings re-opening, having worked in that beautiful building for many years I'm glad it's getting a new lease of life for many to enjoy.

We know many of you have returned to the offices now, how are you finding it? Keep us posted with your experiences.

Until next month.

Jennifer

**Jennifer Powell**  
**Editor**  
[editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](mailto: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:

07/09/2021 13:00	Employment Law Sub-Committee
08/09/2021 13:00	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee
13/09/2021 13:00	Access to Justice Sub-Committee
14/09/2021 12:30	General Committee
15/09/2021 11:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
16/09/2021 13:00	Future Planning Sub-Committee
23/09/2021 13:00	Civil Litigation Sub-Committee
23/09/2021 16:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee
23/09/2021 18:30	Tripartite Golf Match & Dinner
28/09/2021 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
30/09/2021 14:00	Grow your early talent pipeline – Speakers for Schools
06/10/2021 13:00	Family Business Sub-Committee
07/10/2021 13:00	Access to Justice Sub-Committee
08/10/2021 10:30	Joint Forum on Access to Justice Group Meeting
12/10/2021 12:30	General Committee

## Editorial Committee Dates

Tue 22/09/2021

Tue 19/10/2021

Tue 16/11/2021



# From the President

## The latest from the President, Julie O'Hare

I hope you have all enjoyed a summer break (I know I need one) and the turn the weather has taken recently! August is usually a slower month for us at Liverpool Law Society although I have to say we have been involved in a lot of planning ahead of our Autumn programme of events.

The Legal Walk (now a staple in our diary) is due to take place this month and I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible 21 September (let's hope the rain stays off this year)! The funds raised really do matter as they help the most vulnerable members of our society to access legal advice and assistance on some terribly important issues that no-one should ever have to deal with! Your support would be very much appreciated so even if you are unable to join us in walking please do still donate!

It's not too late to get your nominations in for the Legal Awards either – although you'll have to be quick to make the deadline of 6 September! This year the awards will take place alongside our Annual Dinner. After the last few years we have all had I am sure, like me, you are ready to celebrate with your colleagues and friends and what better way to do it than to showcase what great talent we have in our legal community!

As always we are looking to you to help build our programme of training events (and, as we regain some sense of normality, social networking) so please do let us have your ideas, comments and suggestions so that we can ensure we cater to your needs.



**Julie O'Hare**

Please do take a few minutes to scroll through this edition to see what wonderful things our other members have been up to and continue to send us details of what you have planned over the next few months.

Until next time, stay safe and happy reading!

**Julie O'Hare**  
President

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The Law Society



#legalwalk

#liverpool

[www.nwlst.org.uk](http://www.nwlst.org.uk)

# THE LIVERPOOL LEGAL WALK



☒ Tuesday 21st September

6pm

THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOUNDATION

Charity no: 1126147



## Shape the future of your local Law Society

Become a director of Liverpool Law Society and have an opportunity to shape the future of one of the most active local Law Societies in England and Wales. You will make professional contacts and friends, be at the centre of the work and decision-making of Liverpool Law Society and work shoulder-to-shoulder with other legal professionals, regardless of status and seniority.

We would like to have a committee which is as representative as possible of the wide membership the Society encompasses. We have over 2200 members from all branches of the legal profession. All members of the Society are eligible for election to the General Committee, but only Full Members can vote in the election.

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at 1.00pm on Thursday, 25th November 2021.

By standing for election at this year's AGM in November, you would become a member of General Committee. The General Committee consists of up to 27 directors, who each serve a three-year term. Every year, nine members of the General Committee retire by rotation at the AGM: up to five of those due to retire may be nominated by the Committee for re-election, and the others are not eligible for re-election until the next AGM.

The nominee must be a member of the Society, be nominated by three members of the Society and serve a three-year term.

Members of the Society will receive an email in mid-October with details on how to nominate a member of the Society to become a director. The nomination form must be completed and returned to the Society by 1.00pm on Monday 25th October 2021. Elections will then take place at the AGM in November.

If you would like further information about the Society and the work of the General Committee and sub-committees please visit <http://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/about-the-society/committees> or email [committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](mailto:committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk) and we will get back to you.

## The Annual Legal Service

Members of Liverpool Law Society, their family and guests are invited to the annual Legal Service to mark the beginning of the new Legal Year.

**Date & time: Sunday, 17th October 2021 at 11.00am**  
**Venue: Liverpool Cathedral**

*This service is open to anyone in the legal profession and their guests.*

## Liverpool Legal Walk– 21 September 2021

Life is beginning to get back to normal as we all emerge from our cocoons. Chatting with fellow legal professionals is always a helpful way to let off steam and to learn about what is happening in our local community of lawyers.

An excellent opportunity for this networking and to support an important cause is the Liverpool Legal Walk – in aid of the Access to Justice Foundation – which is returning to our calendar following the Pandemic. Solicitors are usually joined by Judges and Barristers and team members from Practices large and small.

Why not put together your own team from your Practice so as to get out for a 5km walk around the City Centre after work, followed by a convivial drink at Liverpool city centre venue to be confirmed? Please do feel free to circulate this message around your department or your Practice, to put together a team of any number of individuals.

Family members and friends from other lines of work are very welcome to take part and to broaden the social side of the evening, in raising funds for a crucial way in which lawyers can help those who are disadvantaged to gain advice and maybe representation.

If you are from a small practice or your colleagues can't make it for that evening, then you would be very welcome to be part of the Liverpool Law Society team.

Once you click on to the following link to book, <http://www.nwlst.org.uk/liverpool-legal-walk.html>, you will receive details of the Virgin Money Giving fundraising page to enable you or your practice to make that vital donation.

Looking forward to seeing you on the evening of 21 September,

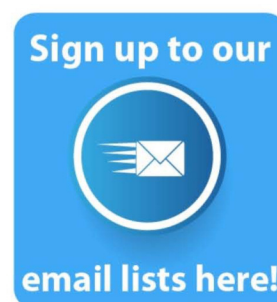
**Jeremy**

**Jeremy Myers**  
**Joint Hon Secretary**

## Enewsletter Sign Up

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

**Sign up here**





Liverpool Law Society

# ADILA

2021 Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

Join President Julie O'Hare at the region's premier event for the legal sector. Hear from guest speaker Andy Grant who went from being a royal marine to a record-breaking amputee.

The Legal Awards ceremony will take place during the evening, showcasing the excellent legal work of local, regional and national firms, members of Liverpool Law Society

## 4 NOVEMBER

6.45PM FOR 7.30PM

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# News from the Sub Committees

Find out more by visiting

<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/about/committees/specialist/business-committee/>

## Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

The Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee met virtually on 21st July 2021, back when the sun was shining (remember those days?!). It was our first meeting since May when we held our first event on 'How to be an Ally in the Legal Workplace' and since our second event, 'Legally Disabled – a Round Table' was held in June. We welcomed a new member to the committee, Sarah Sharples, who joined after attending the last event – new members are always welcome so if you have an interest in EDI issues, please get in touch! Meetings are held monthly and currently via Zoom over lunchtime.

The EDI committee is still working on producing a 'Best Practice' recruitment guide on EDI issues and if any members have any views on what should be included, we would love to hear from you.

We also discussed inviting guest speakers from different networks to come and speak to the committee about EDI issues to increase our understanding of topics, share ideas and provide information that we can disseminate to the wider membership.

The first speaker we have arranged is Michelle Charters, CEO

from the Kuumba Imaani Millennium Centre based in L8 to talk about how the profession can engage with the black community in Liverpool and increase diversity. She is due to attend our next meeting on 8th September 2021 and all are welcome to attend. Future speakers are still to be decided and again, if any members would like to come and speak to the committee or have any particular topics they can suggest, please get in touch!

**Nina Sahu**  
Chair



## Meeting with MPs

On Friday 15 October, LLS will hold its second meeting of the year with local MPs. In our last meeting President Julie O'Hare chaired on behalf of LLS and there was a strong representation from the region with Ian Byrne MP (West Derby), Derek Twigg MP (Halton) and Margaret Greenwood MP (Wirral West) with representatives Gabriel Apolloni attending on behalf of Dan Carden MP (Walton) and Mark Hoskisson attending on behalf of Mick Whitley MP (Birkenhead).

Topics range from access to justice, updates to legislation, housing matters and immigration. Our meetings provide an opportunity for MPs to hear about legal developments but also provide an opportunity for LLS to raise issues and concerns among the legal community. If you would like to suggest an agenda item please do not hesitate to email [contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](mailto:contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk) with suggested agenda items no later than 30 September 2021 and we can attempt to address your issues.

**Paddy Dwyer**  
Parliamentary Liaison Officer

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Liverpool Law Society

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# Meeting with local Councillors

The twice-yearly meeting between LLS's Directors and Councillors from our Local Authorities took place on 29 July. As Paddy Dwyer, Parliamentary Liaison Officer, was absent on professional work, I am writing to summarise the key points of the meeting. Paddy arranged to circulate a summary of legislative news.

A range of Authorities was represented from each side of the Mersey. Cllrs Jan Bakewell (St Helens) Richard Kemp (Liverpool) and Steve Williams (Wirral) were joined by Inspector Roy MacGregor from the Police and Crime Commissioner's office.

First to update the meeting was James Mannouch, Chair of LLS's Access to Justice Committee, who highlighted how work of the committee was being co-ordinated with LLS's Joint Forum on Access to Advice, to avoid overlap James encouraged Councillors to provide information to assist with LLS's lobbying. James explained how University fees were reduced with the involvement of Unite from January 2021 and half-pay thereafter, after referral to Counsel and a lack of funds for litigation.

Chris Topping, immediate past President, confirmed – especially for the non-Liverpool Councillors – that the City Council has an 'Access to Advice' network, funded by LCC and with research carried out by the University of Liverpool. The outcome is a network which seeks to link advice-giving agencies across the City. Chris referred to how LLS is the host of the steering group and how engaging other Merseyside Region's Authorities is to be welcomed.

An update from Emma Palmer, Chair of the Family Law Committee, emphasised how the entire system very under-funded, meaning delays in litigation and consequential burden not just on litigants and their children but on social workers, Cafcass and legal practitioners. Emma underlined her concern about burnout cases across the whole family justice system and a possible exodus of practitioners. Richard Kemp in response spoke about how the Prime Minister and Home Secretary had just spoken about changes in the justice system but unfortunately not about the issues highlighted by Emma, and he suggested that Councillors would want to help to highlight these concerns.

The changing time scales in Possession Notices was featured in a report from Sarah Mansfield of LLS's Civil Litigation committee, as well as Bailiffs starting to pursue evictions from 31 May. The consequence was that Sarah believed that this extra activity by Landlords – plus the high number of litigants in person given Legal Aid thresholds – means that evictions will rise in number and representation of those affected will be an issue.

An area of development which we need to study is the online process anticipated by the Master of the Rolls, Sir Geoffrey Vos, for resolution of most civil, family and tribunal cases. I highlighted this topic after reading about it in the "Gazette" which summarised a speech by Sir Geoffrey. The facility is expected to be online in 2023 I explained that no details are available about the online system as yet, and it is speculative as to how this new facility would

affect the roles of solicitors and barristers.

This led to a wider discussion about the digital divide in Society and how HMCTS portals could disadvantage Litigants in Person who lack the funds or technical ability to access justice via such media. It was noted that potential difficulty could range across many areas of civil and family litigation.

There will doubtless be a host of similar and new issues to cover when the LLS Directors meet the Councillors in January 2022, and – as ever – LLS members' suggestions for agenda topics would be very much welcomed.

**Jeremy Myers**  
Joint Honorary Secretary



**Jeremy Myers**



## CPR Update 2021 with Helen Swaffield

on Tuesday 19th October, 9.30am - 12.30pm

**The CPR Update is a chance to review key cases and their practical impact upon litigation strategy. It is also a session aimed at checking up on some of new developments and how they change old rules.**

### Covering:

- Part 36 offers – key errors to avoid
- Service
- Disclosure – changes to the Pilot Scheme
- Evidence- witness statements
- Applications – striker, relief and set aside
- Trial and Costs – issue based and proportionate orders
- Settlement Agreements
- ADR -refusal
- Experts
- Updates



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

## The Law Society Presidents' and Secretaries' Conference - 16 July 2021

Our President Julie O'Hare, our Joint Honorary Secretary Jeremy Myers, our CEO Sarah Poblete and myself had the pleasure of attending the Law Society Presidents' and Secretaries' Conference held virtually on 16 July 2021. There was a packed agenda, with lots on insights and this is just a short summary of the highlights.

We began with a warm welcome from I. Stephanie Boyce, President of the Law Society of England & Wales. She outlined how her work fits into her broader vision and priorities for her presidential term. Areas of focus include: a stronger justice system, helping overcome geographical and digital barriers, supporting public legal education initiatives, standing up for members and defending our profession, a more diverse and inclusive legal profession, reaching out to in house lawyers and a renewed focus on mental health and wellbeing. With her passion and determination, she should make a positive difference and we wish her every success in delivering such an ambitious agenda.

Next came a summary of the Society's influencing achievements and support for members. Some highlights included: Covid related work, access to justice initiatives and crucially convincing the SRA board to extend Solicitors Indemnity Fund and during the extension for the SRA to start work to develop a long-term solution to post six-year run-off cover.

The Society then outlined its business plan themes for the next 12 -18 months, which addresses the key requests from members: • need to give clear professional leadership on the big issues members care about • need to provide services and support that are relevant • must be visible and active champions for the profession. One specific initiative which should help our small firm members is that the Society intends to create a package of support to help small firms manage regulation and to succeed in tough business conditions.

There were lots of excellent ideas from local law societies on important topics, such as championing diversity and inclusion and attracting and engaging members. We also had breakout sessions on a) access to justice issues relating to court reform and legal aid; b) a session with the Legal Services Board on what are the risks and benefits from unregulated providers in legal services; c) Professional Indemnity Insurance and the Solicitors' Indemnity Fund; d) Building Engagement with the Law Society and each other; and e) Member Engagement Locally - topics and activities which members of local law societies find engaging and ideas and plans for their delivery.

We heard that a lot of work has been done by the national Law Society to better understand and articulate the value and benefits of membership to members. Some of the key insights identified by consultation groups were: • Having a sense of belonging to the profession, the national Law Society and other groups involved in the profession at all stages of their career • Wanting to feel that someone 'has their back' and is



behind them every step of the way • That someone is keeping an 'eye out' for them • Having a source of trusted, timely content.

All the above certainly resonated with me and provided food for thought as to how Liverpool Law Society can continue to evolve to deliver a great service and experience for our members going forward, in a sustainable way. I firmly believe that we have a great local legal community; that we are stronger together and by helping and supporting each other, we thrive and prosper together and make a positive difference for our clients and colleagues.

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



# Diversity and Inclusion conference

## September 2021

### 'Promoting a modern, diverse and inclusive profession'

By popular demand and following the successful event held in 2020, Leeds Law Society and the Law Society of England and Wales are again holding a free virtual diversity and inclusion conference around National Inclusion Week from 14 to 30 September 2021. With a theme of 'Promoting a modern, diverse and inclusive profession', the conference will consist of virtual events across six days, with pre-recorded sessions being released at the same time.

Caroline Prosser, a Legal Director at Hill Dickinson' Liverpool is one of the speakers at the opening event on 14th September.

Each will focus on a particular strand of diversity and inclusion:

Mental Wellbeing – Tuesday 14 September (17.00-19.00)  
 LGBTQ+ - Thursday 16 September (17.00-19.00)  
 Gender – Tuesday 21 September (17.00-19.00)  
 Social Mobility – Thursday 23 September (12.00-14.00)  
 Disability – Tuesday 28 September (12.00-14.00)  
 Race and Ethnicity – Thursday 30 September (17.00-19.00)  
 Religion and Belief – pre-recorded session  
 Age – pre-recorded session  
 Intersectionality – pre recorded session

The events will comprise talks and panel discussions with leading figures, together with hints and tips on diversity and inclusion best practice. Confirmed speakers include Lady Hale, Lord Shinkwin and Judge Victoria McCloud, together with representatives from #10000BlackInterns, LawCare and The Bridge Group. A representative from the Law Society of England and Wales and Leeds Law Society will speak at each event with a member from either Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Liverpool or Manchester Law Societies joining the panel discussion.

**CLICK TO BOOK**





### Running Care Cases with Safda Mahmood

**Children Law Practitioners will be aware that there is a need to be aware of the New Best Practice & Public Law Working Party Recommendations. This will have a significant impact on the way in which care cases are run from this year.**

**There are new forms, the procedure, and new timescales, and you wish to make sure that you are up to date & ready to avoid making fundamental mistakes, going forward.**

The topics covered will include :

- Steps to take Pre-Proceedings
- Working within the requirements of the Revised Public Law Outline
- Emergencies Orders and Care Orders
- What to do when contact is an issue
- Essential Steps to take when acting for parents, children, relatives and local authorities
- Type of assessments and timescales.
- Drafting and Effective Preparation
- Threshold Statements and their responses

**Competencies: B & C**

& more...

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### 2021 RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY CONFERENCE

**Wednesday 15th September | 9.30am -4pm | Online**

Chaired by Eddie Goldsmith and with sessions:

**Managing risk in a changing environment**  
Stephen Ward, CLC

**HM Land Registry Update**  
Leanne Wright, HM Land Registry

**Leasehold Pitfalls With Ground Rents**  
Lorraine Richardson, Adapt Law

**Making the property transaction easier for all**  
Alison Parsons, Landmark

**Anti Money Laundering and Source of Funds**  
Lorraine Richardson, Adapt Law

**After the [SDLT] holiday is over**  
Bill Chandler, Hill Dickinson

**The future path and challenges of Conveyancing/ conveyancers** - Eddie Goldsmith of You Convey & Stuart Young of The Property Log Book

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## SQE Insight Webinars by The College of Legal Practice



# The College of Legal Practice

The College of Legal Practice are running three free webinars exclusively for Liverpool Law Society Members, hosted by their CEO, Dr Giles Proctor. The webinars will help you explore some of the challenges and opportunities that the SQE brings to training our future solicitors.

### Summaries:

#### 14th September: Building a SQE Training Programme

Dr Giles Proctor will share his insight from firm discussions on how different organisations are approaching the SQE and developing training programmes that work for them.

#### 13th October: Learning designed to pass the SQE

In this webinar, you will hear how the College has approached designing learning that prepares students to pass the SQE1. They will share student experiences and feedback from their first SQE preparation course for the November SQE1 Assessment.

#### 23rd November: Student experiences of the first SQE1 Assessment

Dr Giles Proctor will share student experiences and feedback from the first SQE1 Assessment in November and how it can help future students pass first time.

### More detailed description on first webinar:

#### 14th September: Building a SQE Training Programme Webinar

Not sure whether to ask your trainees to take SQE1 and SQE2 upfront? Should you build in electives to a trainee programme, if so, when? Should it be integrated with QWE? When are other firms moving to the SQE?

Hosted by the Chief Executive Officer of The College of Legal Practice, Dr Giles Proctor, this is an opportunity to hear about the SQE, how to develop your own SQE training programme, and learn how firms are building bespoke programmes that work for them.

This webinar is the first of three SQE Insights Webinars offered to members by The College of Legal Practice.

### Topics covered in the webinar:

- The basics of the SQE
- Key considerations when developing your SQE training programmes
- The process you might go through to ensure that your programme design meets your organisation's needs
- Examples from discussions with firms, highlighting how they have set up their bespoke programmes

There will be an opportunity to ask any questions you have about either the SQE or how to build a customised SQE training programme.

### Key facts about the SQE:

*Student Focus: The SQE 101 (collegalpractice.com)*

### Book your free place here.

Background information on The College of Legal Practice  
The College of Legal Practice is an accredited postgraduate legal education provider offering highly flexible SQE preparation courses at a competitive price. You can find out more about their courses and how they work with the legal sector on their website.

### Background on Speaker - Dr Giles Proctor, CEO, The College of Legal Practice

Dr Giles Proctor qualified as a solicitor with Addleshaw Goddard in Manchester and practiced in corporate and commercial law before entering teaching and completing his PhD.

Giles has designed and delivered commercial diploma courses and corporate training for 'magic circle' law firms, whilst at Nottingham Law School and the University of Law. He managed the successful opening of a new law school for Kaplan, delivering postgraduate legal education, in partnership with Nottingham Law School, to over 16 City firms.

Giles helped found Roehampton Law School (the Law School), which opened in September 2015, the teaching at the Law School being guided by the philosophy of 'law in practice', teaching law to students in the context of legal practice, using tutors who are overwhelmingly ex-practitioners. He joined The College of Legal Practice as Chief Executive Officer in February 2020 and leads our business engagement, collaborating with firms and Universities to develop bespoke training programmes.





## Grow your early talent pipeline through virtual work experience event

Thursday, 30 September 2021, 2pm – 3pm via Zoom

Liverpool Law Society and Speakers for Schools invite you to attend this one-hour event free of charge.

Aimed at all those with a role in future talent in the legal sector, this is a virtual roundtable for LLS members to find out about 'Speakers for Schools' and how you can support young people to improve social mobility and support young people to access meaningful and interactive encounters with employers through their experience programme.

Chaired by our **President, Julie O'Hare**, you will hear from Speakers for Schools' Regional Engagement Manager, **Shaheen Gul**, Qualified Careers Professional, CDI registered with many years' experience working with employers and schools. **Shaheen** will provide you with an overview of the charity, their mission and how you can engage with their Experience programme and support young people to improve social mobility.

Visit our website [here](#) for more details or to book



**Vauxhall Community  
Law & Information  
Centre**

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

### Justice First Fellow – Trainee Solicitor post available at Vauxhall Law Centre



We are extremely proud to offer a training contract in partnership with The Legal Education Foundation to take on an aspiring solicitor to work with us at Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre.

Our Director and Senior Solicitor, Ngaryan Li, has previously delivered the contract for a Justice Fellow at Greater Manchester Law Centre. Our Social Welfare and Housing Solicitor, Siobhan Taylor is also a previous Justice First Fellow. We look forward to welcoming a talented aspiring lawyer to our team who will gain invaluable hands-on experience in Liverpool.

Candidates will need to demonstrate a strong interest in the work we do at Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre, focusing on welfare benefits, debt, housing and public law as well as the following qualities:

An evidenced interest in social justice, human rights, social welfare, asylum and immigration, civil liberties, family law, or public and administrative law.

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to be diplomatic, compassionate, and empathetic. Willingness to take opportunities to build the skills and networks for a long career in social welfare law.
- The desire to build a career using law as a tool for social justice.

Candidates must have passed (or expected to pass by 31st October 2021) the Legal Practice Course or equivalent and be able to show a strong commitment to social justice. Applicants can apply to only one host organisation during the same year.

Applications must be made via TLEF's website, by 14 September 2021.

<https://jff.thelegaleducationfoundation.org/how-to-apply/application-form/>

### Volunteers

Our Development Support Officer, Elly Smith & Director Ngaryan Li recently met with one of our new volunteers, Rosalie to get her set up for remote working. Volunteers are the backbone of our organisation, their dedication to supporting our work and commitment to promote access to justice during a global pandemic has been immense. Thank you.

### New Volunteers sought

If you think you could support our work at Vauxhall please don't hesitate to contact us. We are looking for volunteers with skills in a wide range of areas such as Financial Management, HR, Technology, Fundraising, Advice. If you have any skills and would like to get on board with us please drop us a line at [recruitment@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk)



We are also interested in developing our Board too. Drop us a line to this email address and we will call you for a chat.

### Visit to Law Centre from Edge Hill University Law School

Vauxhall Law Centre have worked previously with Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool University and Liverpool Hope University Law Schools. So, it was great to meet with Adam Pendlebury & Caroline Toop from Edge Hill University to discuss the potential for taking students from their Law School on at Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre as volunteers. It is the first time we have had discussions with Edge Hill University and although it is difficult with the Pandemic, we look forward to developing a relationship with the Law School in the coming months to promote the potential for Social Welfare Lawyers of the future.



*L to R. Alan Kelly, Ngaryan Li, Adam Pendlebury, Caroline Toop, Nancy Hatenboer.  
Photo: Elly Smith*

### New Telephone Number now live

**0151 360 777**

Please note our new telephone number for advice. We aim to answer all calls, however, when we are extremely busy a message can be left on this number and we will do our best to return calls within 24 hours. Our address for email advice queries remains unchanged at [advice@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk](mailto:advice@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk)

### Liverpool Legal Walk 2021 - ...

We will be taking part in this years Liverpool Legal Walk on the 21st of September. Our team will be raising money for the North West Legal Support Trust supporting fellow advice services. If you're looking for a team and want to get involved in the walk, we are a friendly bunch and would welcome any extra team members who are interested. Please email [Development@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk](mailto:Development@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk) to find out more. If you'd like to sponsor us on our walk then we will be accepting donations on our fundraising page here: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=VauxhallLawCentre&isTeam=true>

**Thank you**





# News from Merseyside Law Centre

**Fighting for equality through social justice to combat poverty & homelessness**



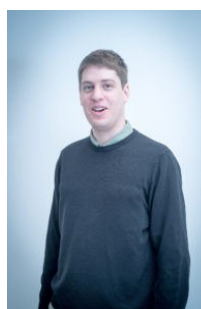
We are delighted to receive continued support from the Community Justice Fund. This vital initiative recognises and supports the key role specialist social welfare legal advice agencies play in providing essential support to people and communities during and after the Covid crisis.

Our appreciation and thanks go to The Access to Justice Foundation and all its partners/funders: Advice UK, Law Centres Network, Citizens Advice, the AB Charitable Trust, Access to Justice Foundation, Indigo Trust, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The Legal Education Foundation and Therium Access. A brilliant example of how our sector pulls together to support those most in need.

September sees us again take part in the Liverpool Legal Walk, raising funds for the North West Legal Support Trust and raising awareness for access to justice services in the UK.  
[www.nwlst.org.uk/liverpool-legal-walk.html](http://www.nwlst.org.uk/liverpool-legal-walk.html)  
 Let's hope it's a bit drier than last time we did this!



September also sees us close our Dovecot office. It feels like the end of an era, but we will still be around in Dovecot, we're moving to shiny new premises co-located with other community organisations! Details to follow next edition.



Finally, we have to say farewell to Tom Lavin. Tom came to us as a Justice First Fellow (JFF) and has now completed his training and been admitted as a Solicitor. He has taken up a full-time role with CAB and we have no doubt he will continue to do remarkable things. Good luck for the future, Tom!

**Solicitor Tom Lavin**

As always, 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](mailto:enquiries@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk)  
**Twitter:** @MerseyLawCentre  
**Facebook:** Merseyside Law Centre  
**Website:** [www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk](http://www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk)  
**Tel:** 0151-709-0504

## Battery Storage: Planning Law Changed to allow More Developments

Planning law in the UK has been changed to allow energy storage projects over 50MW to come on line without going through the national planning process. As Penny Andrews, Operations & Compliance Director at Future Climate Info explains, this could pave the way for a major expansion of battery storage facilities across our towns and cities, to support green energy use in new builds and to balance our energy demand.



In July last year, with little fanfare, ministers passed secondary legislation that will allow battery storage facilities to bypass the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) process in the UK. The change to the **Infrastructure Planning (Electricity Storage Facilities) Order 2020** passed into law on 4th November and then came into force on 2nd December 2020. This means that applications can now be progressed under the comparatively quicker Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) regime.

The previous system was cited as a barrier due to the time and cost of the process – which could add up to three years to a project's development timeline, according to the Energy Storage Network.

### Meeting Demand and Balancing the Grid

This change reflects the evolution of storage technologies in recent years. Because the majority of these projects are not deemed as national critical infrastructure, like a nuclear power station for example, but are localised deployments with limited planning and environmental impacts, they are more appropriately assessed at a local level.

This intervention by the government could enable the UK to **reach its target** of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This could be achieved with either a high proportion of large-scale, centralised renewable generation and storage, or with more of a priority on smaller community schemes such as locally owned wind turbines, solar panels or battery sites on estates.

**The change in the law could lead to over 100 large scale battery installations now being built – three times the current number in operation.**

As demand for electricity grows in the grid, with more people switching to electric vehicles and the decision to switch all new build developments from gas central heating to electric or air source heat pump systems, so does the need to balance demand across the Grid.

There are currently more than 13.5G of battery storage projects in the pipeline according to **Solar Media's UK Battery Storage Project Database Report**. Of this 1.3GW is ready to build, 5.7GW with planning permission and a further 6.5GW proposed.

The aim to combine local solar and wind installations with battery storage and create a more

local network of storage facilities – a more modern, but larger scale version of the electricity sub-station that you see today in every neighbourhood – and make residential and commercial property more resilient whether the sun is shining, the wind is blowing or not.

### Current Large Scale Schemes

At the end of 2018, Centrica announced the completion of its 49MW Roosecote battery storage project, 18 months after construction started. With a maximum capacity output of 49 MW, the equivalent of 123,000 batteries, Roosecote is one of the largest battery storage facilities in Europe. It stores energy and discharges it back onto the network in response to fluctuations in electricity supply and demand, given the unreliability of renewable energy generation, such as solar and wind.

The development is also notable as it is on the site of a former coal-fired power station built in 1953 and was converted to a gas-fired power station in the 1990s but eventually reached the end of its life. Not only is it a great example of reuse and repurpose of an existing brownfield site, but it marks the evolution of our energy locations in the UK and could act as a blueprint for all redevelopments on existing gas fired stations in the future.

The bar has been raised in Essex now, with the approval of a 320MW storage facility on the Thames Estuary at the London Gateway port. At ten times the size, construction is expected to get underway in 2022 with a completion in 2024.

### Keep it Local?

But a cheaper solution may be in the backyards of our homes and fuel stations. As we convert to electric vehicles and need to power our homes with greener energy, housing developments may have to incorporate solar panels or roof tiles and wall battery storage solutions as part of the development spec. If we are plugging our cars into this grid, then this can act as a more powerful redistribution of power into the network, as each car effectively acts as a power pack.

If these aren't included in development specs due to cost, it may be that there is a corner of the development that has its own battery storage unit, rather like the electricity sub-stations of old, from which the development can source most of its power. For existing neighbourhoods, if we are to build a nationwide infrastructure, then space will have to be made available to incorporate these if we are to wean ourselves off the gas main. The question is, where do these battery storage hubs go and could they have any human impacts?

### Living with Electricity

There has always been public concern about living close to a pylon or electricity sub-station due to the presence of electro-magnetic fields (EMFs). Most sub-stations are small and are shielded by a fence or brick wall in a typical urban area and this is usually enough to have little or no effect in local residents.

In the past, concern has been expressed about the elevated risk of childhood leukaemia. Research studies, highlighted by **2013 Government Guidance**, indicated that up to 10% of reported cases may have had some connection to EMFs, but the results were not conclusive. But that hasn't stopped public perception - **Oxford Brookes University in 2005** published a study that showed that the close presence of a substation **could reduce the number of**



**potential buyers by up to 63%**, depending on the type of property concerned and the size and visibility of the substation. The study reported that visible substations and cables reduce the value of a property, with the percentage reduction dependent on the type of property.

The Government sets guidelines for exposure to EMFs in the UK on advice from the Health Protection Agency (HPA). In March 2004 the UK decided to adopt the 1998 guidelines published by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and this policy was reaffirmed by a Written Ministerial Statement in October 2009. These guidelines also form the basis of a European Union Recommendation on public exposure and a Directive on occupational exposure.

In 2012, National Grid **published a document** that highlighted that the larger capacity pylons could operate at up to the guideline exposure limit of 100 microteslas if you were directly underneath them. Smaller pylons operate at 40 microteslas and substations at just 1-2 Microteslas, about the same as many household appliances. So, in practical terms it is the location of pylons that are the only major background factor.

Technology has moved on since research on EMFs was published and it is likely that future battery storage developments will have enhanced shielding protections if they are close to properties. Local Authorities and green energy companies may look to install these facilities in pockets of existing redundant brownfield land or on industrial estates that incorporate existing waste management or energy generating functions to minimise community impact – but that may have to be offset by higher costs to get them to homes and businesses.

It will be interesting to see how the acceleration of these new battery storage developments pans out, where they are proposed and the public acceptance of them and how they will look to power and balance our community energy needs into the future.

### Keeping up with Changes

With property purchase decisions now often made for 20-30 years hence, homebuyers must consider how the local area's energy needs and changes could affect their habitat.

Future Climate Info provides conveyancers and their clients with the latest insight on energy and infrastructure changes that may affect the vicinity of a property.

As new schemes come online through planning, our **Premium Environmental Report** captures and alerts these in a clear and concise way so you can make an informed decision on whether your client's investment could be harmed or improved.

**Call us on 01732 755 180 or email [info@futureclimateinfo.com](mailto:info@futureclimateinfo.com)**



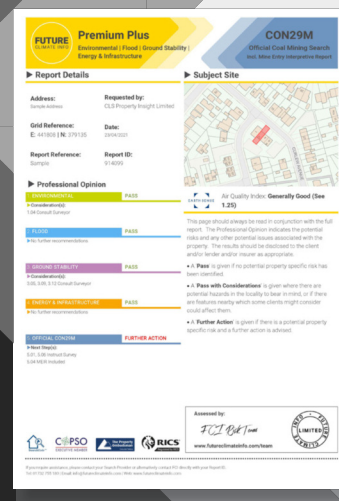
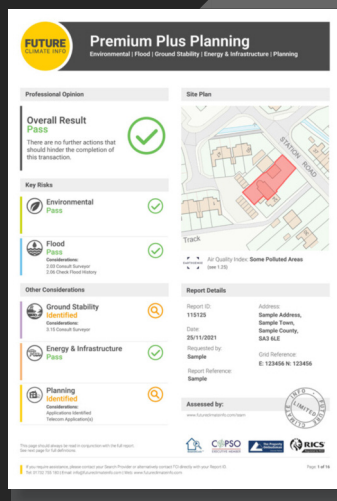
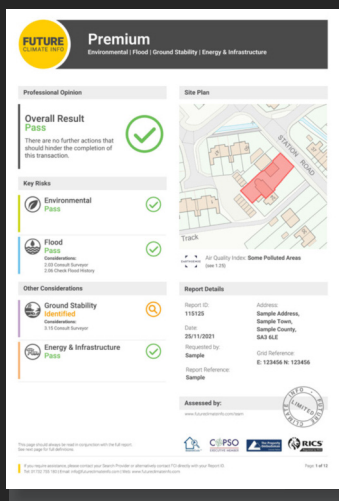


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- Energy+Infrastructure<sup>(\*)</sup>
- CON29M<sup>(\*)</sup>

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UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL

School of Law  
and Social Justice

# PROFESSIONAL MENTORING SCHEME 2021/2022

## ABOUT THE SCHEME

The Professional Mentoring Scheme has been running in the Liverpool Law School since 2007, and is part of the School's ongoing commitment to student employability. We aim to assist students to develop skills, knowledge and personal attributes that will help them be successful in their future careers.

Law graduates face an increasingly competitive job market. To secure a career in the law or other area of work, we recognise that, in addition to gaining a good degree our graduates need to acquire a range of practical, professional and interpersonal skills that they will not necessarily obtain simply from attending classes. Professional mentors come from a wide range of organisations and individuals both within and outside the legal profession in and around Liverpool, the rest of the UK and overseas.

Within the legal profession, mentors have been drawn from local, regional and international firms of solicitors, barristers chambers, lawyers employed in-house, in the public sector, and in the courts.

Outside of the law, professional mentors are drawn from the world of business and finance, as well as the third sector. Through email / phone / video calling, international as well as national and local mentors are able to participate in the scheme. In exchange, we are able to grant you access to the talent and knowledge of our student body - an invaluable asset to any future employer.

A testament of the success of the scheme is demonstrated by 100% of those who provided feedback on previous years' participation would recommend the scheme to fellow professionals.



## ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The Liverpool Law School, part of the School of Law and Social Justice at the University of Liverpool, has a proud tradition and over a century's experience of inspiring and challenging its students to reach their potential.

Eminent scholars have served on its staff and former students include Judges at all levels, including former Lord Chancellor (1919-1922) Lord Birkenhead F.E Smith, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead (1956), and Dame Rose Heilbron (1935), the first woman to sit as a judge at the Old Bailey, in 1972.

Teaching is provided by experts in their respective fields of law, and students benefit from dedicated staff who maintain a high degree of professionalism, whilst relating to students on a personal level. The School also enjoys an excellent reputation in research and believes that scholarship drives good teaching practice.

The School provides the foundations of a legal academic background through the combination of traditional teaching experience with modern methods of delivery and development of skills placing our graduates in an enviable position.



## EXPECTATIONS

Any time and effort put in by mentors is always very gratefully received, but we feel there is a minimum expectation of input from mentors and mentees to ensure both parties are getting the most out of the scheme. Therefore, we would anticipate mentors to be able to commit to the following:

- Mentors will facilitate a minimum of two meetings with their student mentees (remotely by telephone or video calling) each term, amounting to at least six hours of mentoring over the course of the academic year.
- Typically, the mentor may offer advice and answer questions about the legal profession including what their job entails, opportunities within their organisation and industry, drafting a CV, completing job applications, interview and presentation techniques, networking skills and advice on further study if appropriate.
- There may also be the opportunity for the student to observe life in the mentor's office if reasonably practicable. This may include sitting in on meetings, attending court, reading through client files and accompanying the mentor to meetings with other professionals.
- The mentor may be able to assist in helping to arrange formal or informal placement or mini-pupillage depending on the policy of the organisation - please contact the University if you are able to offer this.

### UPDATES FOR 2021/22

Due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, and the forever changing ways in which we work, our biggest priority is ensuring the activities that our staff and students are involved in are carried out in the safest way possible.

We have worked hard to adapt to the virtual environment and moved a lot of our work online. Mentors and mentees will still be encouraged to communicate virtually, but we also hope that you will be able to meet in person throughout the year too should the restrictions allow.

We understand that there will be some limitations, for example showing students your workplace or attending court sessions. We hope that as physical restrictions ease, opportunities like these will be able to take place again.

## TIMELINE FOR 2021/22

### Summer 2021

Industry professionals and students are invited to participate in the scheme for academic year 2021/2022

### September / October 2021

Applications close for students

### October - November 2021

Matching process - mentees matched to their mentor

### November - December 2021

Students to attend a briefing delivered by University and are introduced to their mentor via email.

Meetings in the Autumn term may cover:

- Introductions and outlines by the mentor about what their job involves.
- Introductions about the work and sector of the firm/organisation.
- Guidance on a CV for the student.
- Advice on applying for work experience.

### January - June 2022

Meetings in the Spring term may cover:

- Advice on dealing with clients.
- Advice on commercial awareness.
- Advice from the mentor's experience as a student - what they would like to have known.
- How the student can maximise their employability and further advice on applying for legal and graduate jobs.

## TESTIMONIALS

### MENTOR

"I have enjoyed having the chance to help my mentees get a feel for the legal profession. I hope I have been able to allay some of their fears as to how difficult it will be to pursue their careers and I have enjoyed getting to know them and giving something back."

### MENTEE

"I have gained some insight into the working lives of professional legal workers and I have gained real-life advice which is useful as it helps me understand what direction I want to veer my career and factors to consider. Also I may have secured work experience which will further help me to understand the legal profession."

## CONTACT US

If you would like further information or if you are interested in participating in the scheme as a Mentor please get in touch.

Mrs Sally Russell and Mrs Becky Green

Email - Employability.SLSJ@liverpool.ac.uk

Telephone - 0151 794 9866

Address - School of Law and Social Justice, Chatham Street, Liverpool L69 7ZR



# Pro Bono Week turns 20

The legal profession has always been deeply committed to helping those who are unable to afford legal help, society's most vulnerable citizens for whom financial circumstances are a barrier to accessing justice. This year, Pro Bono Week will be marking its 20th anniversary from 1st – 5th November, and brings with it a unique opportunity to celebrate and recognise this deep-rooted and longstanding commitment to provide free legal help to those in need.

This 20th anniversary celebration is a key moment in the sector, a moment both to look ahead to the next 20 years of pro bono whilst also shining a spotlight on some of the significant pro bono moments and cases from the past two decades and the inception of this annual celebration. Pro Bono Week's focus on the future will also coincide with the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, with climate change being a growing area of pro bono work.

Pro bono work has a vital role to play in ensuring that everyone has access to justice and a fair future, but it should also not be overlooked as valuable experience that enhances both the wellbeing and the professional development of lawyers. It even has a part to play in staff recruitment and retention. We're particularly excited that this year will feature a 'Junior Lawyers Day' on Wednesday 3rd November where we will be focusing on the benefits of and opportunities for pro bono work for legal professionals at the beginning of their careers.

Whether your firm or chambers has a well-established pro bono arm, or whether you are new to legal volunteering and do not know where to start, it couldn't be easier to get involved in this year's Pro Bono Week. 2020's Pro Bono Week saw over 50 events take place across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, involving over 2,000 attendees from all branches of the legal profession. This year, for Pro Bono Week's 20th anniversary, it is time to reach an even bigger audience as we recognise, celebrate, share and inspire the outstanding contribution of the legal profession to ensuring that everyone gets access to justice.

### Firms/chambers who already do pro bono:

- Submit a stand-out pro bono story to [tinyurl.com/pbwstories](https://tinyurl.com/pbwstories) for a chance to be featured through comms and events throughout the week
- Share your pro bono impact on your website, social media, or at an event (don't forget to use our 'I Do Pro Bono' selfie poster available on [probonowee.org.uk](https://probonowee.org.uk))
- Spotlight your pro bono programme/partners
- Launch a new pro bono initiative
- Join in with the Great Legal Bake by baking a cake and fundraising for your local advice clinic – have your cake and eat it too at a Pro Bono Fair or lunchtime drop-in where you recruit new pro bono volunteers!

### Firms/chambers new to pro bono:

- Launch a pro bono programme
- Publish the results of a survey of pro bono work your lawyers/members do
- Check out [probonowee.org.uk/volunteering](https://probonowee.org.uk/volunteering) for ways to get involved, contact your local advice centre/university clinic for ways you can help
- Firms can sign the Law Society's Pro Bono Charter to demonstrate their commitment to improving access to justice
- Chambers can nominate a Pro Bono Champion to liaise with Advocate, the national charity of the Bar

Whether you are publishing the results of a survey, joining the Pro Bono Connect scheme to bring firms and chambers together, or promoting the Pro Bono Week Volunteering page, we want to hear about it. You can find media resources as well as inspiration and tips for events on the [probonowee.org.uk](https://probonowee.org.uk) website. If you're planning an event, get it added to the national calendar online by emailing [mary@probonowee.org.uk](mailto:mary@probonowee.org.uk).

Finally, make sure you follow Pro Bono Week on Twitter and LinkedIn for all the latest updates on the 20th anniversary Pro Bono Week. Tell us what your plans are, and join us in using this special opportunity to celebrate the legal profession's everyday – yet extraordinary – commitment to pro bono.







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## Astraea Legal helping landlords and tenants plan post Pandemic recovery

### **Ban on tenant business evictions extended until 25 March 2022**

When Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Stephen Barclay, recently extended the moratorium on evicting commercial tenants for non-payment of rent until 25 March 2022, the legislation was hailed as a further lifeline to tenant businesses struggling due to the pandemic.

Since the beginning of lockdown restrictions the government have sought to protect tenant businesses adversely impacted by Coronavirus, particularly those hardest hit in sectors such as hospitality. With

the current Furlough scheme due to end in September, many businesses are struggling to plan and fund their recovery, while acknowledging and dealing with rent arrears and landlord disagreements.

Jonathan McMaster, Head of Commercial Property at Astraea Legal is advising landlord and tenant businesses who need legal advice and guidance due to the implications of the latest moratorium.

Jonathan, who specialises in landlord and tenant issues, development work, property finance and property investment said "By the time the moratorium comes

to an end, it will be two years since the beginning of the pandemic. What landlords and tenants considered reasonable at the start of the pandemic and two years down the line are two very different things. The key for all parties is to have initial and ongoing discussions in a timely manner in order to deal with issues such as the current rent level and any rent arrears."

Jonathan has given an insight into some of the most frequently asked questions and guidance on finding a mutually agreeable solution for landlords and tenants.



**Jonathan McMaster**

### **Complaints to Compliments**

Friday 17th September, 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 & compliant complaints procedures. It includes real life case studies & round table discussions:

Vicky 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](#)

### **Working with the SRA Accounts Rules with Linda Lambert**

Tuesday 21st September, 2pm - 4pm

**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 at your leisure!**

Internal controls, the COFA both the role & report, and a comprehensive Accounts Manual for procedures, are all a part of ensuring proper compliance. These are even more important since the 2019 Rules are now in place.

#### **Topics to be covered will include:**

- Holding of Client monies including Third Party Money Accounts
- Recording and Usage of Client Monies
- Billing and disbursements
- Interest on Client fund
- COFA role including Bank Reconciliations
- Accountant's Report



[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)




2021 Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

## Nominations close 12pm, Monday 6 September 2021

### CATEGORIES

RISING STAR AWARD

WORK IN THE COMMUNITY AWARD

OUTSTANDING LAWYER AWARD

LAW FIRM AWARD (1-99 EMPLOYEES)

LAW FIRM AWARD (100+ EMPLOYEES)

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

[Enter here](#)



## TRAINING SEAT EXCHANGE

Liverpool Law Society is delighted to offer the Trainee Seat Exchange free to members as a way of assisting member firms interchange trainees. The aim is to provide more training contracts on Merseyside and beyond by facilitating an exchange between firms who may otherwise find it difficult to offer their trainees the requisite breadth of work.

The Training Seat Exchange, which is open only to member firms of Liverpool Law Society, operates essentially as a noticeboard whereby the firms detail what seat they can offer and also what seat they are seeking. All those listed below are interested in seeking and/or offering a seat. It is up to each firm to ensure that the terms of the training code and contract are met during any exchange agreed. Liverpool Law Society does not take responsibility for any part of the exchange, or observance of the training code or contract by the firm. The exchange must be discussed and agreed between each member firm on an individual basis.

The Exchange is open only to Liverpool Law Society member firms and will be time-limited to 12 months at which point you will be able to renew for the following 12 months at no cost. If you would like to appear on the list, please complete our online form [here](#).

# MSB shortlisted in Law Society Excellence Awards

MSB Solicitors has been shortlisted for Medium Law Firm of the Year at the Law Society Awards 2021, reflecting the firm's continued commitment to providing a high level of service to its clients and communities.

Emma Carey, Managing Partner at MSB, said: "We are so proud to be shortlisted in this category, especially after such a challenging year. Being shortlisted in the Medium Law Firm of the Year category is an acknowledgement of each and every member of our team, who go above and beyond every day to provide our clients with the very best service."

"At MSB, we have many core values: a commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, recognition of our staff as our greatest assets by investing in their progression and wellbeing, and of course supporting our communities. Fundamentally though, we are lawyers, and our priority is delivering excellence in legal services, always. We are passionate about providing the very best service to all of our clients, from the most vulnerable to large corporations and high net worth individuals. So, to be recognised by the Law Society in this year's awards shows we're doing something right."



Emma Carey

## Insurance lawyer Alison Chu joins O'Connors

O'Connors Legal Services Limited has appointed insurance lawyer Alison Chu as a Solicitor.

A prestigious Middle Temple Scholarship candidate, Alison was called to the Bar in 2010 before cross-qualifying as a solicitor in 2013. Alison joins from the Manchester office of DWF where she handled and supervised occupational health related claims and contractual arrangements for major insurers.

O'Connors provides a unique blend of corporate, commercial, insurance and regulatory advice, helping clients manage the risks in strategic projects and transactions, wherever in the world they are doing business. A significant proportion of the firm's work is for major insurance buyers, insurance businesses, legal businesses and investment funds and the firm represents some of the UK's most innovative and successful organisations.

Alison's appointment increases O'Connors' capacity to handle the growth of its insurance-related project work for the firm's national and international clients, as well as bringing additional regulatory resource to support the team's wider financial services work.

Alison said: "I chose to join O'Connors because I want to work in a genuine team environment where I can use all my current knowledge and expertise whilst increasing the variety of the advisory and project work I get involved in. I feel confident that O'Connors will help me achieve all these things because of its rare blend of technical skills and its industry sector reputation."



Alison Chu

Commenting on Alison's appointment, director Paul O'Connor said: "Alison is another exciting appointment for us as we continue to build our team for the future. We are delighted to welcome her to the firm. Alison will be working closely with me, Kathryn Howard, Josh Bates, Mike Ainsworth and our other colleagues as we continue to deliver ground-breaking corporate, commercial, insurance and regulatory solutions to our business clients."

Alison arrives hot on the heels of corporate lawyer Craig Geraghty who recently joined the firm as an Associate.



# Astraea Legal becomes Astraea Linskills

Rapidly expanding law firm Astraea Legal has rebranded to Astraea Linskills with effect from September 1st. The boutique law firm, criminal and commercial litigation specialists, Astraea Legal acquired long-established Liverpool based law firm Linskills in October last year, the purchase marked the start of a rapid expansion programme for the progressive law firm which has seen them grow from 7 to 24 members of staff in just over 7 months. The increased level of business, which shows no sign of slowing down, has cultivated a portfolio of local, national and international clients and has seen case-loads across all departments more than double. Linskills was founded by Julian Linskill, who remains with the practice, in 1978 and has over 40 years experience of litigation in the North-West and beyond.

Founder of Astraea Linskills Nama Zarroug said "When we acquired Linskills last year, little could we have anticipated the extent of the rapid business growth we were about to navigate. To triple our team and more than double our local, regional, national and international case load across our offices in Liverpool and London has been quite an achievement with many new operational practices in place and teams who, due to COVID restrictions, were working remotely."

The new generation law firm has seen case loads across all departments increase in excess of 100% over the past ten months, whilst readapting the business operationally to cope with pandemic restrictions and lockdown guidelines, investing in technology and COVID safe operational practices to ensure business interruption was minimised and client confidence, representation and delivery services were maximised.

Nama continued "We are delighted to be able to incorporate Linskills into our company name and proud to include a brand with such great heritage in the city. Astraea Linskills has become an amazing team and together we will continue to grow"

Astraea Legal was founded in 2016 by Nama Zarroug who was quickly joined by fellow Director Matt Reynolds in 2017 and latterly welcomed James Roochove and Sara Perischine to the



**James Roochove, Nama Zarroug, Sara Perischine and Matt Reynolds**

Board, along with a hand-picked team of highly experienced professionals. Astraea Legal service clients locally, nationally, and internationally and their combined areas of expertise span services ranging from all aspects of regulatory investigations, criminal, civil and commercial litigation as well as commercial property law, family, electoral, welfare benefit and motoring and licencing law.

The future is a very busy and very bright one for Astraea Linskills!

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How are you,  
really?





**Drugs Offences, Evidence & Sentencing**  
with Clive Smith

on Thursday 14th October, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

**With the Sentencing Council having recently published new sentencing guidelines in relation to drugs, this presents the perfect opportunity to update your knowledge around drugs sentencing. Before getting to sentence however, the issue of evidence in drugs cases will be covered.**

What this course will cover:

- Drugs offences – what is the law around psychoactive substances?
- Admissibility of phone evidence – guidance from the Court of Appeal
- Possession – what constitutes possession and what "knowledge" is required?
- Joint possession – multiple defendants in a car: who is in "possession"?
- Aggravation of supply offences – drug dealing around schools
- New sentencing guidelines – "spice", synthetic opioids and the issue of "harm" under the new guidelines

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)

## Ten Good Habits when Dealing with Property Joint Ventures, Options & Overage

with Ian Quayle

Wednesday 22nd September, 9.30am - 12.45pm

**This webinar is at an intermediate level & is suitable for anyone dealing with commercial property transactions.**

It deals with issues encountered when dealing with;

- Joint Ventures – types of joint venture vehicles and drafting issues
- Option Agreements – tips and traps on dealing with options including drafting problems and solutions
- Overage – key clauses and an examination of how overage can be secured

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## Service Nightmares & How to Avoid Procedural Death - Update on Service Rules & Court / Trial Fee Traps

with Jeffrey Zindani

Thursday 23rd September, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

**Missed time limits by civil litigation solicitors are one of the largest sources of professional negligence claims reported to insurers. This timely seminar will guide you through key procedural rules to avoid what the courts have described as "procedural death".**

Covering:

- Back to the Future: Why is this Still Happening?
- Covid: Rules and Common Myths
- Limitation and Standstill Agreements- Are They More Trouble Than They Are Worth?
- Service Rules and Common Errors



& more

[\*\*Click here to book\*\*](#)

## Private Client Conference

Wed 20th October, 2021

*With sessions including:*

### Private Client Update

Professor Lesley King

### Why is he talking about Larke v Nigus letters again?

Stephen Lawson, FDR Law

### Using Business Relief to mitigate Inheritance Tax Liabilities

Simon Cleaver, Investec

### Statutory Wills

Ruth Jones, 5 Stone Buildings

### An Introduction to Advising Clients on Philanthropy

Stephen Appleton, Brabners LLP

### Tax and Trusts Update

John Bunker, Irwin Mitchell LLP

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## Personal Insolvency: A Practical Guide

with Chris Beanland

on Friday 22nd October, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

**Around 100,000 people a year enter a formal personal insolvency procedure. The fall out from Covid-19 is likely to significantly increase the figure. Lawyers of all disciplines should therefore be aware of the mechanics of personal insolvency law. This course aims to give lawyers from any background practical guidance on personal insolvency.**

Covering:

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



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- *Families living in terrible housing conditions.*
- *People who have been unfairly dismissed or who are discriminated against at work*
- *Elderly people who need support to stay living independently.*
- *People who suffer disability or illness and their carers.*
- *Women and children who have been trafficked to the UK to become domestic or sex slaves.*

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## GREAT Legal Services Trade Mission to the UAE: 22-26 November 2021

The GREAT campaign, Ministry of Justice and Department for International Trade are delighted to lead a legal services sector trade mission to the UAE & Expo 2020 Dubai in November 2021. We would like to invite members of the UK legal services sector to join our delegation to the UAE between 22-26 November 2021.

This is a unique opportunity for you to meet new clients, expand your networks and take part in panel sessions, business matching meetings and private roundtables hosted by the UK Government.

### Background

Over the last year the GREAT campaign to promote legal services has undertaken virtual trade missions and conferences to Africa, and more recently the Middle East, to support the UK legal sector overseas. Whilst virtual events have brought benefits and new learnings to our campaign, we are now looking ahead to our first in-person event since the pandemic began with our visit to the UAE & Expo 2020 Dubai.

### About the mission:

- This legal services sector mission will visit the UAE from 22nd to 26th November 2021.
- The mission delegation will be made up of UK legal professionals and will likely include a minister from the Ministry of Justice.
- This mission will provide delegates with valuable experience, industry contacts and potential export opportunities.

### Programme:

- One day of the programme will take place at the UK Pavilion (the official location for the UK's participation at Expo 2020 Dubai) with senior HMG representatives. The programme will include panel sessions, skills sharing workshops and an evening reception.
- The programme will also provide time for business meetings and further networking opportunities, as well as other panel events, breakout sessions and tailored business development opportunities.
- The in-market programme will be arranged and set up by the Ministry of Justice, Department for International Trade, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and sector bodies.
- You will receive a market briefing session by the British Ambassador or chargé d'affaires, along with the DIT in-country team.
- Please note that the above is subject to change. Additional details will be set out to the delegation in due course.

### Benefits of the mission:

- Prestigious networking receptions, company presentations and business matching meetings with businesses, local lawyers and other relevant legal professionals.
- A mission brochure will be produced to advertise your company or services both prior to, and during, the mission.
- You can take advantage of an optional negotiated accommodation package or make your own accommodation arrangements.



### Why the UAE?

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is one of the UK's most important trading partners and one of the fastest growing markets for UK exports. In 2018, exports to the UAE from the UK totalled more than £10.5 billion and we had a trade surplus of more than £4 billion (ONS, 2018).
- The UAE is the UK's 11th largest export market for legal services. There are over 40 UK law firms based in the region with an estimated 900 plus English & Welsh solicitors and 70+ Scottish solicitors practising in the UAE on a permanent basis.
- Dubai is a regional hub and commercial capital for the Middle East, North Africa and beyond with associated international dispute resolution facilities on in the DIFC applying the common law and offering practice rights to UK practitioners. Nearby Abu Dhabi has more recently established its Global Markets Court on similar lines.

### Requirements:

In order to take part in the delegation, your company/firm/chamber must meet the following qualifications:

- headquartered in the UK; have a strong interest in the UAE market or Middle Eastern markets, and the bandwidth to service Middle Eastern clients.

- be a qualified legal practitioner.

To note: Whilst we accept multiple applications from each company/ firm/chamber we will only be selecting one representative from each to join the delegation.

### Costs:

- You will need to book and pay for flights, hotels and in market subsistence and travel.
- There is no fee to be part of the delegation or take part in the mission. All costs related to the programme will be covered by the UK government.

### Apply here

**Closing Date Friday 10th September**

## Conversion To Family Law & Practice Certificate

with Safda Mahmood  
Friday 24th September, 10am - 4pm

Level: Introduction/Intermediate

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

### The areas to be covered are:

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

Competencies: B&C

**[Click here to book](#)**

## Litigating Commercial Contracts with Helen Swaffield

Thursday 30th September, 9.30am - 12.30pm

**This is aimed at contentious and non-contentious practitioners and in-house counsel.**

**Always practical with drafting & litigation points.**

### Covering:

- Formation and interpretation
- Deeds and execution
- Good faith and the exercise of contractual discretion
- Implied terms
- Warranties, third party rights and assignment
- Guarantee and indemnity
- Obligations and endeavours
- Breach of contract and remedies
- Limitation of liability
- Boilerplates



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

## 2021 FAMILY FINANCE CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2021 | 9.30AM TILL 3.10PM | ONLINE

Welcome & introduction ~ District Judge Baker

Let's Go Get a LSPO!: Maintenance Pending Suit & Legal Services  
Payment Orders – Approach for Applicant & Respondent  
**Juliet Allen, St Philips Chambers**

Non-disclosure issues in financial proceedings  
**Sheren Guirguis, Exchange Chambers**

Nuptial Agreements: Best practice, Case law Update and Other Observations  
**Ashley Murray, Ashley Murray Chambers**

Revisiting final orders and setting aside  
**Sam Hillas QC, St Johns Buildings**

Short Marriages - where are we now?  
**Archana Dawar, St Johns Buildings**

Matrimonial/Non matrimonial property: In? Out? Or shake it all about?  
**Charles Hale QC 4 Paper Buildings**

Family Finance Round-Up  
**Alexis Campbell QC, 29 Bedford Row Chambers**

**[Click here to book](#)**

## Criminal Law Update with Colin Beaumont

Friday 1st October, 2pm - 5pm

**This course will update you on the things you need to know in the area of criminal law generally. We all know that we should keep up-to-date with legislation, case-law, statutory instruments and material published by the Sentencing Council but it is just a question of finding the time!**

The following items will be covered during the course:

- The Sentencing Act 2020 (or Sentencing Code if you prefer) – in force and relevant for anyone convicted on or after 1st December 2020
- The Criminal Procedure Rules 2020 (as amended by the 2021 Rules) – in force and relevant from 5th October 2020 – amended Rules (February 2021) and (April 2021)
- The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 – received Royal Assent on the 29th April 2021 – those parts in force which are relevant for criminal practitioners
- The contents of the Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Act 2021 – see Section 50 of the Act for those parts which came into force when the Act received Royal Assent earlier this year

**& more**

Competencies: A2 (a) (d), A4 (a) (b) & B2 (a)

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



# How will the pandemic lessons shape the future of conveyancing?

**InfoTrack's Bronwyn Townsend and Osprey Approach's Amy Bruce consider the behavioural changes and alternative processes that have been adopted by the conveyancing industry since March 2020. They share their views on whether these changes should be embedded into everyday practices, and if so how.**

The past 18 months have presented unique challenges for conveyancing departments. The SDLT holiday coupled with national lockdowns due to the pandemic has meant conveyancers have seen unprecedented transaction volumes, while also adapting to the challenges of home working and the restrictions imposed during lockdowns.

The latest HMRC figures reveal UK residential transactions in March 2021 were up 102% compared to those in March 2020. The 2020 to 2021 financial year also saw the highest number of transactions completed during a fiscal year in the last decade, leaving many conveyancers working late into the night and at weekends to complete transactions before the SDLT holiday deadline on June 30th 2021.

Within this climate, some firms have to survive while others have prospered. We must reflect on the lessons learnt to prepare the property market for future success.

## What have we learnt?

Few would be surprised by findings that the impact of COVID has affected the way consumers perceive buying a property and their expectations of the processes involved. Firms are reviewing their existing processes to find better ways to serve customers in a digital world, while attracting and retaining talent as employees look for more flexible and hybrid working solutions.

Conveyancers have faced immense pressure during the last 18 months, but there are some silver linings that have emerged which will help shape and progress the property industry for the future. Changes that reduce the time, stress, and effort for consumers to buy and sell property. Changes that assist conveyancers; enabling them to provide a more efficient and client-centred service, without the legacy of arduous processes that impact profitability and job satisfaction.

### 1. Lean processes help with adaptability

Being adaptable has been non-negotiable for most businesses during 2020. With staff working from home, communicating solely via video conferencing facilities was challenging initially, but as we adjusted to the new routines it was firms who were able to adapt quickest which maintained business continuity. Open communication channels with staff and clients, utilising the right tech, and creating hybrid-working routines proved most effective.

The important lesson in adaptability is that those who have effective and efficient core operations in place can adjust more quickly to ensure business as usual. Digital conveyancing is the way forward, with more firms taking steps to remove laborious

processes that have become ingrained over the years. Leaner, more effective operations leveraging automation, cloud practice management, and digital client onboarding solutions are top priority in 2021.

Firms must review which processes aren't serving them well and remove resource-heavy processes that prevent them from running an adaptable business.

### 2. Imperfection aids progression

Few individuals had a home working solution during the first lockdown. However, the impact of the restrictions meant that there was little choice but to embrace alternative work solutions. Gradually, through trial and error, businesses adapted and found alternative ways to continue in the 'new normal' – whilst quickly realising the true benefits to the new ways of working.

The outcome learned here is that doing something imperfectly is better than not doing anything at all. Uncertainty can prevent you from taking the first steps towards your digital transformation journey to becoming a more agile business, and often getting started is the hardest part. However, small changes you make now will ultimately impact your firms' goals long term.

### 3. Change management is the key challenge for digital transformation

United by the same uncertain and unpredictable situation when the pandemic first hit, none of us could have foreseen the impact on our lives. So, when a national lockdown was announced we found ourselves all in it together – making navigating the challenges easier to handle. This is an important lesson to bear in mind when considering implementing new technology solutions to futureproof your firm. Taking everyone on the journey with you will help manage the changes across your firm and allow staff to fully understand, adapt, and navigate new processes and systems.

### 4. Working longer hours isn't the answer to managing an increased workload

Burnout for lawyers has increasingly become a concern throughout the sector as workloads during 2021 grew exponentially, adding to the pressures being faced by conveyancers. While the short-term solution was to work overtime to stay afloat, this isn't a successful long-term strategy to managing ever-increasing demands. Transaction volumes became so high that some firms were forced to turn away new work, simply because they'd reached capacity. The systems and processes they had in place weren't sufficient to enable them to



successfully scale-up, resulting in missed business opportunities.

In contrast, firms with an effective digital core already embedded in their business models saw increases in business and revenue and, despite reduced staff members, were able to continue to serve clients and take on new instructions. Firms must ensure the systems they have in place can serve them effectively, not only now, but also in the future, to enable continued growth and adaptability and to meet future challenges and goals.

### 5. Connection is the key to a future-proofed firm

The importance of connection was highlighted during the lockdowns, when isolation rules meant we could no longer physically connect with our loved ones. Business reflected the same, and finding alternative ways to engage with colleagues, staff, and clients became a core focus. For a future-proofed firm connection goes far beyond human interactions. Connected data, systems, processes, and technology are vital for a truly agile firm. Centralising and standardising data, document storage, case management, phone systems, and client portals ensures firms can operate effectively, remaining adaptable and flexible.

Conveyancers focussed on connecting and centralising data, practice and case management systems, and client onboarding tools enabled them to seamlessly collaborate with colleagues and clients no matter their location.

### It's important conveyancers dedicate time to reflect

Daily workload can warrant a distraction, particularly when experiencing an unprecedented event, but it's more important than ever to take a step back, pause, and take time to reflect. Consider the successes, failures and challenges your firm has had to face during the last 18 months and ask yourself: What are your goals for the future, and have they changed? Are your current systems and processes aiding your progression towards achieving your goals, or are they holding you back? Has the new landscape and environment affected your priorities, and if so, how?

### The future of conveyancing

Firms continuing with traditional, manual processes will inevitably be left behind, while their competition succeeds. It's why the emphasis on processes and systems that support your firm's progression is imperative, propelling you beyond merely surviving today.

Technology enables optimisation, allowing firms to be truly adaptable and navigate unforeseen challenges head on. Firms yet to make digital transformation a business priority must consider looking at the technology and software solutions available to them to ensure they can continue to operate to a high standard and remain competitive.

Upon reflection of the last 18 months, consider what technology solutions your firm could adopt, how you can use technology to streamline your business, attract and retain talent, win and build new relationships with clients and run an efficient, secure operation that offers quality, cost-effective services.

## Rights of Way and Highways – issues tips & traps for residential conveyancers

with Ian Quayle

on Wednesday 6th October, 9.30am - 12.45pm

The issue of ensuring appropriate access can be gained to a residential property is an important issue in all residential conveyancing transactions. This webinar is **suitable for all residential conveyancers of all levels & experience.**

Covering:

- Rights of Way – access and egress, the physical and legal extent of the way, repair and maintenance and reasonable use
- Parking issues – the right to park as an easement, parking problems in leasehold transactions
- Highways issues – Dealing with local search results, the benefits of adoption of the highway and problem areas including car parking, owning land adjoining the highway and the role of the highway authority
- Relevant recent case law will be explored, extensive notes provided and there will be an opportunity for delegate questions.

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## Commercial Property Conference

Thursday 7th October, 9.30am-3.15pm

Including;

**Commercial Leases in 2021** - Bill Chandler, Hill Dickinson

**HM Land Registry Update** - Leanne Wright, Land Registry

**SDLT Half-hour Masterclass** - Bill Chandler

**Commercial Properties, a Focus on Flood Risk 2021: getting the analysis right**

Mark Taylor, Landmark Information Group

**Commonhold and Mixed Use Developments**

Ian Quayle, IQ Training

**Topical VAT issues for commercial property**

Jenni Christy, Grant Thornton

**Tips & Traps on Commercial Reports on Title**

Ian Quayle

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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**

For those who have been visiting the Commercial District over the past four years, one constant has been the renovation work on India Buildings. One of the most visible and striking buildings in the city, the Grade II listed building has been covered with canopy, scaffolding and signage as a multi-million pound renovation takes place.

The building on Water Street is to become an office space for thousands of HMRC staff in Liverpool. The £125m deal set a new record at the time in the Commercial District. With 3500 HMRC staff preparing to move into the building it represents a sign of confidence in both the city and its role in the Government's strategy to shift power from the capital and into the wider country.

The £11m refurbishment of the building has seen a jewel in Liverpool's architectural crown restored. India Buildings was constructed between 1924 and 1932. One of its architects was Herbert J Rowse, the art-deco designer who is responsible for some of the most eye-catching buildings in Liverpool and along the River Mersey, including the striking ventilation towers and stunning Martin's Bank. Built by the shipping firm, Blue Funnel Line, it was part of the city's thriving mercantile and maritime industry.

Yet refurbishing an historic building, while protecting an important aspect of heritage, can be a lengthy process. The refurbishment included renewing 50% of office ceilings, replacing roof space and roof lights, re-lining the buildings cast iron drainage system, while also creating a modern, flexible office working space.

The regional hub for HMRC will bring office workers back into Liverpool's Commercial District at a time when many workplaces are looking to welcome staff back in the Autumn.

A month after restrictions were eased on 19 July, analysis was published by Liverpool BID revealing that Liverpool city centre's footfall had almost returned to 2019 levels. In the first week of restrictions lifted (19-25 July), the footfall in the city centre, compared with 2019, fell from -18% to -11% reaching 1,405,471. In 2019 (when fewer cameras tracked city centre footfall) the figure was 1,339,929. The week before restrictions were lifted (12-18 July), city centre footfall was 1,290,961.



**Julie Johnson**

Much of that footfall, however, is focused on the leisure and hospitality sectors. When the analysis looks at the time of day people are visiting the city centre, and compares that data with 2019, it is evident the pre-9am commute is at much lower levels, while it increases after 5pm.

Hybrid working is likely to be a feature of working life moving forward, but for the offices and workplaces within Liverpool's Commercial District, welcoming staff back after the summer will bring with it a sense of normality and routine. The refurbishment and reopening of India Buildings comes at a time when it will feel like this area of the city centre is coming back to life.

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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**

This is traditionally a quiet time as the profession heads off to the sun (or not!). But this year we have seen a major development with the publication of the Civil Justice Council's final report on updated Guideline Hourly rates. This follows discussions of a working group chaired by former Liverpool DCJ, Mr Justice Stewart.

The report, dated April 2021, was published on 31st July 2021. For those who want to study the full 115 pages it is available online here - <https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Civil-Justice-Council-final-report-on-guideline-hourly-rates.pdf>

Most busy readers will want to go straight to the new rates which are here–

	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D
<b>London 1</b> <sup>114</sup>	£512 (25.2%)	£348 (17.6%)	£270 (19.5%)	£186 (34.8%)
<b>London 2</b> <sup>115</sup>	£373 (17.8%)	£289 (19.5%)	£244 (25%)	£139 (10.4%)
<b>London 3</b> <sup>116</sup>	£282 (13.7%)	£232 (15.8%)	£185 (11.9%)	£129 (7%)
<b>National 1</b>	£261 (20.2%)	£218 (13.5%)	£178 (10.7%)	£126 (6.8%)
<b>National 2</b>	£255 (26.78%)	£218 (23.2%)	£177 (21.3%)	£126 (13.5%)

The 3 national rates will be reduced to 2.

You will see that the increase is modest especially as there has been no increase since 2010, an attempted review in 2014 was unsuccessful. In November HHJ Hodge commented on the rates\*. "Using the Bank of England Inflation Calculator, it seems to me that an increase in the (Band One) figures for Manchester and Liverpool broadly in the order of 35% would be justified as a starting point (appropriately rounded-up for ease of calculation)." He also observed – "Further, updated guidelines would be very welcome."

The report notes that many paying parties felt that the new rates were too high. One interesting argument put forward was that technology has "significantly reduced the costs of running a successful practice, that profitability has increased, and that specialisation has resulted in economies of scale and concentration of expertise that led to increased profitability." (para 3.71). This included saving resulting from increased working from home

The working group rejected this as not relevant to the review exercise.

A medical defence body submitted that rates should stay the same because they were already disproportionate in clinical negligence cases valued at less than £250k. This again was rejected by the group as being part of a wider discussion about fixed costs.

Not surprisingly many receiving parties feel that the increases are too low. This is not surprising when there has not been any review for such a long time and HHJ Hodge's comments on inflation.

There was a suggestion that there should be a return to the expense of time exercise in order to come to a more accurate figure. This was ejected as too complex.

The group made it clear that it had come to the best recommendation possible in the light of available evidence and made reference to Tolstoy's Anna Karenina –

"He who seeks perfection will never be content."

These suggested rates will now be considered by the Master of the Rolls, Sir Geoffrey Vos.

Barrister, Gordon Exall has recently written about the case of Raydens Ltd v Cole [2021] EWHC B14 (Costs) which was about special circumstances in Solicitors Act assessments. This was a family case where the client wished to challenge her solicitors bill but was out of time. It was necessary therefore to show that there were special circumstances.

The solicitors had significantly increased their hourly rates. The rates of two fee earners went up by 30% and 65 % respectively between 2014 and 2017. The client care letter referred to an annual review of the rates. Cost Judge Leonard noted – *"I do not believe that anyone in her position could reasonably have anticipated that before it was over, she would be paying the senior fee earner and his assistant hourly rates that had increased by over 30% and 65% respectively."*

The judge found that this did amount to special circumstances and the detailed assessment was allowed to proceed. This is a clear reminder, if needed, that client should be regularly and fully advised of any increases in chargeable rates.

\* **Cohen v Fine & Ors** [2020] EWHC 3278 (Ch)

\*\*<https://www.civillitigationbrief.com/2021/08/06/increases-in-hourly-rate-amounts-to-special-reasons-in-solicitors-act-assessment-of-costs/>

**If you require help in relation to any costs issues contact Robert Cook at [robert@cook-legal.co.uk](mailto:robert@cook-legal.co.uk)**



# Regulation Update

## The latest regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP

Whilst the warm weather in early summer feels like a distant memory (although we can still dream of an Indian summer) and drizzly rain feels both amiss and yet oddly familiar, the requirement for compliance remains ever pressing. With that in mind, here is your monthly update to keep you up to date whatever the weather.

### PII renewal and risk

We're fast approaching the end of the PII 'renewal season'. This has been/still is, for a number of firms, a very difficult and stressful renewal period which hit some firms hard, and unfortunately will mean the closure of some businesses. Marsh, the sponsors of the recently published 'Legal Business Risk Management and Professional Indemnity Survey 2021', confirms, as many firms have discovered/are discovering, that premiums have increased steeply, new insurers are not forthcoming to replace those who have left the market and more detailed information is being sought. The survey results indicate that data security, both IT and data privacy breach, remains a number one concern, while other concerns include procedural oversights, failure to diarise, supervision issues and potential reputational damage due to unethical or unsavoury clients. We have recently completed risk audits and provided assistance for renewal purposes and if you need any

help, please get in touch.

### Undertakings – worth the paper they're written on?

While the decision of the Supreme Court's decision in *Harcus Sinclair v Your Lawyers*, confirming the Court of Appeal's decision that the court's ability to enforce undertakings is limited to individual solicitors, as officers of the court, rather than the entities they work in (other than partnerships), it has led to some law firms asking for separate undertakings from individual solicitors. This raises issues for the individual as they would be personally liable, need to be certain about the wording of the undertaking and be in a position to control performance, and is not likely to be something most solicitors would agree to. The decision does not affect the ability to report the firm to the SRA. The Law Society is discussing the position with the SRA and said "We will be providing guidance to the profession in due course."

### Is your private life really private?

In its latest annual report, the president of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal has confirmed what is apparent from recent decisions, namely that what a solicitor does in his private life cannot be disregarded in relevant cases, such as sexual misconduct and offensive social media posts. He said there will 'no doubt be many

other areas where the delicate balance between personal and professional conduct arises' and warned the SRA must consider the regulatory reach of the SRA and 'must do that fearlessly in the public interest'. The report noted 55 solicitors were struck off in 2020, compared to 67 in 2019, with fewer hearings during lockdown, and there was £515,505 ordered in fines, down from just over £700,00 the previous year.

### Law Society and SRA guidance and reports

The Law Society have recently issued a number of practice notes, covering Legal professional privilege, supervision, ABSs, solicitors offering legal services from unregulated entities and freelance solicitors, and the SRA have updated its guidance on Transparency in price and service, as well as publishing its latest suite of annual reports which cover five key areas: Anti-money Laundering: Authorisation: Client Protection: Education and Training and Upholding Professional Standards.

### oneNDA

As mentioned in a previous update, a team has created a generic NDA for use on "run of the mill transactions" to save time and money negotiating NDAs which has now been published. However, it is worth bearing in mind that it can no longer be called oneNDA if edited.



Andrea Cohen

### Disciplinary Decisions

#### Lying never pays

A solicitor who told her indemnity insurer she had never been investigated by the SRA eight days after being notified by the SRA that she was being investigated, and told the SRA her firm had merged with another firm and was covered by that firm's PII (neither of which was true), and took on new clients during the cessation period and practiced without insurance has been struck off and ordered to pay costs of over £55,000. In addition, she failed to reply to four statutory notices for information issued by the SRA; complete a compulsory anti-money laundering questionnaire; respond to two Legal Ombudsman investigations, and comply with the ombudsman's decision.

#### 'Humanitarian ethos' can pay

A solicitor deemed "altruistic" has avoided been struck off despite two findings of dishonesty, namely lying to a client in relation to receipt of money, and telling people he was a notary public when he wasn't. The SDT said there had been no financial gain, he had been suffering from health issues and 'He had a

humanitarian ethos and had been trying to assist people as the personal references attested. The tribunal ordered an indefinite suspension and costs of £750.

## Theft/criminal convictions

Another trainee solicitor was banned from working for a law firm without the SRA's permission after forging signatures on four payment request forms, misappropriating £100,000 from third party insurances and £2,000 from the firm.

A legal cashier was also barred from working in the profession for fraudulently signing cheques misappropriating £22,431 from client accounts.

A criminal defence solicitor agreed to be struck off after claiming £3,248 in fake expense claims. He admitted his actions were reckless and a "severe and serious lapse in judgement".

A trainee solicitor at a firm specialising in criminal law has been barred from working for a law firm without the SRA's permission due to a criminal conviction for stalking prior to his employment, for which he was sentenced to 18 weeks' imprisonment (suspended for 12 months), 20 days' rehabilitation and a restraining order. The SRA deemed it undesirable for the trainee to be permitted to practice law as a result of this conviction.

## Ignoring arrangements

The SDT's decision to strike off a solicitor who turned a 'blind eye' to an early release pension scam because it was to his financial benefit has been upheld by the High Court. The court held that he would have discovered the scam had he questioned his clients properly and

diligently. The tribunal said he should have been 'extremely concerned' that all his clients' instructions had come to him through a third party and he had no direct contact with his clients. He processed the paperwork, received and distributed the money but had no copies of the documents. His argument that there was no proof the scheme was fraudulent was rejected and the court held the tribunal did not need to find it fraudulent to prove he was dishonest.

## Funding and non-payment of premiums

A former managing director and partner of a collapsed PI firm has been struck off for 'double funding' around 20 matters and withholding payment of over £1m of ATE premiums. He stated that this was an attempt to prop up a failing firm as opposed to trying to "fleece lenders". When the firm collapsed two lenders were jointly owed c.£2 million. He was found to have breached several SRA principles including failing to act with integrity.

## Own interest conflict

The SRA has fined a law firm and one of its partners, £11,000 and £5,000 respectively and £17,400 of costs, for failing to identify an own interest conflict. The firm failed to spot a restrictive covenant during a purchase but when the issue was raised failed to tell the client and continued to act for the client in the litigation. The firm accepted it didn't identify the potential conflict, take steps to advise the client to seek independent advice, and did not have appropriate systems in place to identify such conflicts.

**Andrea Cohen**  
**Compli, Weightmans**

## Conveyancing Quality Scheme: Demonstrating compliance & surviving the assessment

with Tracy Thompson  
on Monday 11th October, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

**Designed specifically for firms who are both CQS accredited & those firms who are currently working towards attaining accreditation.**

### The session will look in detail at:

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

**Competencies: A, B & C**

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

## Estate Rentcharges, Ground Rents and EWS1 Certificates with Richard Snape

on Thursday 14th October, 1.30pm - 4.45pm

**Estate rentcharges on freehold developments are causing major problems and mortgage companies are frequently requiring mortgagee protection clauses. In addition, escalating and high ground rents continue to cause problems and is an area where lender part 2s are frequently changing. The EWS1 Certificates in relation to cladding are also causing major problems. The course aims to look at some of the issues.**

### Topics covered include:

- The law in relation to estate rentcharges
- Spotting an estate rentcharge
- Reporting to the lender in relation to estate rentcharges
- Reporting on ground rents
- Higher ground rents and assured tenancies
- Problems in relation to leasehold houses
- Problems with the EWS1 Certificate

**Competencies: B**

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



# News from Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division

August has been an exciting month for MJLD. With the further lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to hold our first in-person event this year. Our event took place on 5th August 2021 at Tempest on the Tithebarn in Liverpool where we were able to host 50 of our members. The event included canapes and free drinks for those attending, and an opportunity to socialise and network with other junior lawyers, which has been so sorely missed other over the last couple of months. Thomas Hampson, our Vice Chair says "In the rush to get back to normality, there was no better feeling than a night of networking with other junior lawyers from across Merseyside. I thoroughly enjoyed finishing work for the day and meeting great new people with a beer in hand. Bring on the rest of 2021!". Whilst the last couple of months have certainly enabled MJLD to be creative in developing virtual events and activities, this event has underlined the benefits of being able to hold in-person events again.

We would like to thank all those who attended and bought raffle tickets at the event. All money raised from the raffle have been donated to our nominated charity, Paul's Place. In total we managed to raise an incredible £275.00 from the event! We have been honoured to support Paul's Place this year; a charity which provides invaluable support to friends and family of people bereaved by suicide. During the past year we have raised a total of £1,225.00 for the charity. The funds will be used to provide crucial, free support to those affected by problematic gambling. The funds will also be used towards the provision of free educational workshops to organisations working with young people aged 11-19 years of age, such as schools and youth organisations, with the aim of increasing their knowledge of suicide prevention. The MJLD Committee would like to wish Paul's Place all the best for the future.

In other news, we can confirm that our applications have now closed for election to the MJLD Committee of 2021/22. We have received a lot of interest from junior lawyers wishing to be elected to the committee and we look forward to announcing the results in due course. Whilst not all applicants will be elected to the role they have applied for, we would wish to encourage members to apply for the various sub-committees that we will be running over the next 12 months. Assisting with a sub-committee is a great opportunity for junior lawyers to network with other young lawyers and to help shape the future of the legal profession in Merseyside. Please feel free to contact us for further details of the sub-committees that we will be running next year.

Finally, the MJLD Committee would like to thank all of its members, sponsors and Liverpool Law Society who have supported us over the past 12 months, particularly given the challenges we have encountered with COVID-19 restrictions. We would like to congratulate the new committee members in due course and look forward to the exciting events that will be taking place over the next year.

**Steven Butchart**  
Treasurer, MJLD



**Steven Butchart**





# Liverpool Law Golf Society Golf Day

23 September 2021 at 12:30pm.



The Liverpool Law Golf Society ("LLGS") are hosting the Tripartite Cup competition between the Law Societies of Liverpool, Belfast and Dublin on 23 September 2021 at West Lancs. Golf Club (pictured above).

The format for this competition will be 2 teams of 4 from each of the Societies will compete for the converted trophy which currently resides in our Liverpool Law Golf Society Club House at the Gallery Room at The Racquets Club, Chapel Street, Liverpool.



*Pictured above: Brian Lawlor (sec), Jon Berkson (International Captain) and Phil James at Dublin Airport with the Trophy returning victorious to Liverpool. Val Duggins (who made up the 4th player) took a different flight.*

As with last year, the format will be the best 3 stableford scores out of the 4 to score on all holes, bar 9 & 18 where all 4 scores will count. The team of 4 with the highest Stableford score wins the trophy for their society.

The format is such fun that, this year the LLGS, for the first time, the Society will run a similar format competition for all interested Liverpool Law golfers to find the best lawyer golf team within Liverpool to be held at the same time and place as the Tripartite cup.

In addition, to run concurrently with the Tripartite Cup and the Team event at West Lancs. will be an individual stableford competition with many great prizes to be won. One score card would therefore score you in 2 competitions. A nightmare for the LLGS's Secretary to compute.

West Lanc Golf Club (<https://www.westlancashiregolf.co.uk/>) is regularly listed in the top 50 golf courses in GB and Ireland and is a tough links course.

We have kept the costs for the day (to include a 2 course evening meal) to £95 per person or £350, if you are to book a four ball. If you are booking individually, you will be teamed up on the day for the team event. All golfers who are eligible to join the Liverpool Law Society may join in the fun, so if you are reading this you are likely to be eligible to compete.

As we have the benefit of the City Centre club house and we are hosting a prize dinner at 7:30pm at West Lancs. (smart casual dress), we will be running a coach from the club house to and from the golf course. The cost of this will be advised.

If you are interested, please email your interest to the Society Secretary: **Brain Lawlor at: [brianlawlor628@gmail.com](mailto:brianlawlor628@gmail.com)**

When emailing please provide the following details:

**Player (s) name/s, email addresses and handicap/s**  
**Whether the coach service and club storage is required.**

If you wish to secure your place, as places are limited please make payment to:

Bank: Barclays Bank account sort code account

Sort code: 20-10-84

Account: 80561304

Name: B T Lawlor

Ref: your surname.

Complete and email to:

To Brian Lawler - [brianlawlor628@gmail.com](mailto:brianlawlor628@gmail.com)

Please include the following on the LLGS Golf day on 23 September 2021 -

NAME	HANDICAP	Golf club / self-certified	Firm/Organization/Individual

Preferred tee time	Comments
12:30-13:00	
13:00 - 13:30	
13:30 - 14:00	
14:00 -14:30	

Date paid..... Amount £.....

# Mental Health Matters

**This month we introduce a new series of articles on mental health by Ishbel Straker, Clinical Director at IStraker Consultants**

When I consider mental health in pressured environments one of the first sectors, I think about is the legal industry. Why? Well, because I have worked in Psychiatry for over 10 years and I have met many people affiliated with this world. High functioning, exceptionally driven individuals who have learnt a variety of coping strategies along the way to manage the pressure of the role that breeds poor mental health. So here I am, having been given a platform within the next few articles to talk about my experience of this sector, bring some awareness and encourage positive coping strategies.

Having the privilege of the opportunity to write a number of articles I wanted to divide some of the key areas of mental stress I have treated, that are rife within this industry and the first focus will be Addiction.

Now I am fully aware, some of you have already switched off, made a decision that this is not for you and has no relevance to your daily life. You have detached yourself from the stereotypical 'alcoholic' that has lost everything and is sat on a park bench, drinking an unknown spirit out of a paper bag. There is, however, that small part of your conscience that is saying, not all addicts conform to this behaviour and unfortunately, you are correct.

The World Health Organisation identifies that anyone who embarks on a certain behaviour or substance, for a significant period of time, gaining pleasure from this, despite the negative impact caused falls into the diagnostic criteria for this. This may be alcohol, illegal substances, legal substances, gambling, shopping, gaming, sex and shopping (the list is non exhaustive).

So let's break this down, John is a solicitor, who has a stressful job and works in family law. Every night he leaves work and goes home to his wife and children where his dinner is waiting for him with a large glass of Rioja. Instead of having the one glass, he finishes the bottle, despite the protests from his wife who states he will fall asleep on the sofa and never comes to bed. This bottle of wine, we know will potentially lead to more due to the nature of tolerance and the increased need for the same effect, but what we can immediately see is the harm

caused to the relationship, the sleep pattern and potentially the function at work the following day. John does not see it as a problem because he is not conforming to the man who has lost everything that we considered earlier but this is a slow burn. We can insert anything into the space where alcohol was placed and likewise with the name and harm caused. So why is this more relevant in the legal sector? I can fire off some statistics for you which I have no doubt you can google yourself, but what I want to do is draw from experience. There is a culture that is unique to law around socialising in order to gain status, socialising means alcohol, a lubricated networking event is par for the course. Boundaries around substances are frequently broken and normalised from the start of a career making it very difficult to break this expectation which is actually very isolating for those who make a decision to no longer partake. There is also this issue of euphoric gain, the sector is driven by the 'win'. Dopamine receptors are consistently being tapped into and when this is not happening it can leave people searching for these highs elsewhere. The other issue is the high levels of stress, burnout and poor work life balance, these addictive behaviours become poor coping strategies which snowball very quickly and with the culture around this sector normalising this it is a very difficult relationship to break.

So what's the solution? I want to say in my most optimistic voice, lets change the culture, but I am aware this may feel like swimming against a tide. So let's start off small, normalising boundaries would be a start. Stop praising those who work late and stretch themselves beyond repair but notice those who set an example of positive work life balance. Increase a culture of healthy lifestyles, looking at organisational wellbeing strategies that adapt to the needs of the staff and monitor the improvement of performance in a health way. Addiction awareness and support is out there organisationally and individually for people to start utilising, whether you feel at the end of the line or the beginning, prevention is always better than cure. Talking, not just with professionals but with peers, normalising openness when it comes to poor coping strategies. The pursuit of happiness, consider the world as your



**Ishbel Straker**

oyster, there are other things than work, what makes you happy? Find new things and embark on them for a natural spike in serotonin levels instead of them being induced. And finally, seek help, whether it's through an organisation such as ours or through your GP, note the signs, feel the imbalance, don't get defensive, get help and get better.

*Ishbel Straker is a Consultant Prescribing Nurse, she studied Psychiatric Nursing at University of Central Lancashire and gained her Masters in Prescribing at the University of West London. Over the past ten years she has held senior positions in several national organisations including Director of Nursing and Clinical Director. Her priority has always been quality care for her patients and this is what she strives for on an individual patient basis and nationally through her strategic work. She is an experienced Expert Witness and was an Honorary Clinical Lecturer for Middlesex University, supporting research and the training of clinicians. In 2019 she set up her private practice at 88 Rodney street in the city centre of Liverpool, which specialises in Anxiety, Depression and Addiction treatment in Liverpool, Merseyside and the surrounding areas. Ishbel and her team work with solicitors firms, investment banks, factories, the police and hospitality groups as well as private individual patients.*

## Look After Yourself

### Top 10 Tips for Good Mental Health and Wellbeing



#### Keep Active

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



#### Take a Break

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



#### Sleep is Important

Sleeping well can improve concentration and refresh you



#### Eat Well

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



#### Drink in Moderation

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



#### Keep in Touch

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



#### Share How You Feel

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



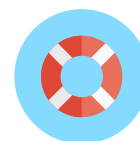
#### Give Back

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



#### Be Mindful

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



#### Ask for Help

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

## HELPLINE SUPPORT 0800 279 6888

365 days a year

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

You can find useful information and resources on our website,  
as well as download our factsheets [www.lawcare.org.uk](http://www.lawcare.org.uk)



[facebook.com/LawCare](https://facebook.com/LawCare)



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





# Morecrofts' 'daredevils' raise funds for Freshfields Animal Rescue

Three members of the Morecrofts team have raised more than £600 between them for the firm's recently chosen partner charity.

Laura Monti, Abbie Gilfoyle and Ella Jackson took part in the Penrhyn Quarry zip wire challenge in North Wales.

The trio raised the funds for Freshfields Animal Rescue, which was selected as the chosen charity by the Morecrofts workforce in a voting process.



## MSB Team take on Lake District 5 Peaks Challenge

A Team from MSB took part in the Lake District 5 Peaks Challenge Fri 13 Aug - Sat 14 Aug 2021 to raise funds for the Big Tiny Steps appeal at Liverpool Women's Hospital to help support the amazing work of the Neonatal Unit that provides specialist care to the 1,000 babies who are born each year, either prematurely or with a medical condition that require specialist treatment.

The Big Tiny Steps appeal is now focusing on the final phase of the new Neonatal unit, which is to provide the most comfortable living environment for families with babies on the Neonatal unit and enable them to stay close by throughout their time there.





# Charity Spotlight



We have been running for over 16 years and we are proud of our location in the heart of the community. We are an outward looking and flexible organisation that understands the community we serve and provides a range of activities and services delivered by our own staff and volunteers and in partnership with other organisations such as Can Cook, the CAN, Fareshare, and Croxteth Gems.



We serve some of the most deprived areas of the city. Whilst there has been a seemingly steady and significant reduction in the extent of deprivation across the city, areas like ours

have not benefited to the same degree and current welfare policy has seen more people face regular crises. At our Community Centre we provide advice services, lunch clubs, youth clubs, a foodbank, tea dances, uniforms and p.e kits to school children living in deprivation, mother and baby goods.

A core part of our work is in tackling the root causes of poverty and we achieve this through an extensive donations service to residents from across the area who are most in need. This includes a number of different donation services, these being: a foodbank, clothing and basic items, new school uniforms, a recently developed 'Baby Bank' specifically for new mums to access cots, prams and baby clothes for free as well as free meals for children in poverty as part of youth club sessions run throughout the week. Services are provided by community workers and volunteers who combine practical support with vital financial/money management strategies, signposting and advocacy to partner organisations and vocational/employment advice and training. All of which breaks the cycle of poverty experienced by local families in desperate need of help. We also provide a wide range of recreational and social activities



that engage and involve local people, helping to build stronger communities and reduce isolation. These run from both our centre in Everton and in partnership with other VCS organisation's

around the city and include lunch clubs, afternoon teas, cabaret nights and garden parties. We also engage local people in activities that promote active healthier lifestyles recognising that in areas of high deprivation the impact upon health and wellbeing can be substantial.


52400 instances of support with food and essential goods have been delivered since 23rd March. Families living in deprivation & hardship. Older residents who have been shielding and furloughed families who are struggling to feed themselves have all been supported throughout the Pandemic. Without the support of an army of volunteers this project could not have taken place. Local Councillors, Community Fund, Steve Morgan Foundation, Henry Smith Charity, Children in Need and Martin Lewis have been instrumental in supporting this project to ensure nobody faced hunger during these months.

**For further information contact**  
**Liverpool Six Community Association**  
**99 Queens Road**  
**Everton**  
**Liverpool L6 2NF**  
**Tel: 0151 260 1297**  
**www.liverpool6community.wixsite.com/website**  
**Email: L6centre@aol.com**



# August 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



3 likes  
morecrofts Seen as it's #NationalAllotmentWeek it seems only right that today's... more  
6 days ago

**LiverpoolLawSociety** @LpoolLawSociety


🏆 Work In The Community Award 🏆 nominations invited for our 2021 Legal Awards. Entering is easy, fill in the online form, maximum 800 words and with the option of annexing additional evidence, information or material to your entry and you are done! See 📄

**MerseysideLawCentre** @MerseyLawCentre

Another very grateful client, helped this time by our Our Liverpool Caseworker, David! 🙏  
"Thank you very much for everything, I will never forget it. Thank you so much all the best thank you so much".  
15:40 · 02/08/2021 · Twitter Web  
Tweet your reply


**Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors** 1,495 Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

**Bell Lamb &...** · 05/08/2021 ...  
Welcome to the team, Ben 🙌  
Ben McMahon joined our private client team this week as a paralegal. It's great to have you with us.  
#ByYourSidefor200Years  



**Bennett Williams Solicitors** 8,621 Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

**Liverpool Chamber** · 43m ...  
Liverpool Legal Walk is back this Autumn 🍂  
The annual fundraising #LegalWalk raises vital funds for free specialist advice charities, and the need for support is greater than ever.  
Sign up via @LpoolLawSociety liverpoollawsociety.org.uk /events/liverpo...  



**CEL Solicitors** 900 Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

**CEL** And the winner of the holiday is... Megan Knights 🎉 She couldn't be more deserving of a well earned break after just passing her LPC with distinction. Well done Megan 🙌  


**MSB Solicitors** 9,095 Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

Some more wonderful #TeamMSB news as we celebrate @nicolekerr87 getting married! Congratulations, Nicole! 💕  



**Vauxhall Law Centre** 1,273 Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

**Steve Cornf...** · 02/08/2021 ...  
Fitness for Human Habitation - a call for proper funding! thestevecornforthblog.blogspot.com/2021/08/fitness...  
@ChrisPTopping @VLCLiverpool @SiobhanTWard @welfarelawyer @AlisonLobb1 @Donna\_Scully @KarenPBuckMP @IanByrneMP @LegalActionGrp @LawCentres

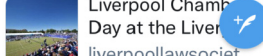
**Carlos L** 3,440 Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

Big welcome to Jhay Mason who joins from Slater and Gordon. Delighted to have you on the team and looking forward to working with you. @Hampson\_Hughes #success #lawyers #recruitment  



**LiverpoolLawSociety** 4,962 Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media


**LiverpoolLawSociety** · 4d ...  
The @LpoolChamber has partnered with the Liverpool International Tennis Tournament to bring members Liverpool Chamber Day on Thursday 19th August 2021. 20% off tickets for Chamber members (this includes Liverpool Law Society associate members) 📄  


**MSB Solicitors** 9,095 Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

So proud of our amazing team from @MSBSolicitors and @UnitChambers for absolutely smashing the 5 Peaks Challenge in the Lake District yesterday for @LiverpoolWomens. Thanks everyone for the donations so far and for anyone wanting to help us get to our 2.5k target, you can donate!  


**MORECROFTS Posts**

Liked by rebecca\_keegan\_ and 16 others  
morecrofts What a shot! 📸  






**\*\* Training events open to legal professionals nationwide \*\***


Attend from anywhere via Zoom software.

**Can't make the date/time or need to revisit the training? No problem!**

**Booking onto any of our training seminars & conferences means you will receive a link to access a recording of the event to watch at your leisure!**

Some of our forthcoming events are below – for full details, visit: [www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](http://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)

Date	Title	Speaker
15-Sep	<b>Residential Property Conference</b>	various
17-Sep	Complaints to Compliments	Vicky Ling
21-Sep	Working with the SRA Accounts Rules 2019	Linda Lambert
22-Sep	Ten Good Habits when Dealing with Property Joint Ventures, Options & Overage	Ian Quayle
23-Sep	Service Nightmares & How to Avoid Procedural Death -Update on Service Rules & Court /Trial Fee Traps	Jeff Zindani
24-Sep	Conversion to Family Law & Practice Certificate	Safda Mahmood
29-Sep	<b>Family Finance Conference</b>	various
30-Sep	Litigating Commercial Contracts	Helen Swaffield
01-Oct	Criminal Law Update	Colin Beaumont
06-Oct	Rights of Way and Highways – issues tips and traps for residential conveyancers	Ian Quayle
07-Oct	<b>Commercial Property Conference</b>	various



# How are you, really?

Life in the law can be tough.  
Call our confidential helpline.  
We're here to listen.

**0800 279 6888**

**LawCare**  
*Supporting the Legal Community*

[www.lawcare.org.uk](http://www.lawcare.org.uk)