

November 2021

# Liverpool Law

The magazine for the legal sector in

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





# Shaping your law firm's digital future

With a dedication to customer-focused development and an unrivalled commitment to innovation LEAP provides forward-thinking practice management software perfectly attuned to the needs of law firms.

**Invest in the best.**

Strategic Partner



The Law Society

*Supporting Law Society members to become fully digital.*  
Discover more at **[leap.co.uk/the-law-society](https://leap.co.uk/the-law-society)**



# November 2021

4



4. The latest from the Editor, Jennifer Powell

5



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

8. Report on Joint Forum on Access to Justice

9. Meeting with MPs

10. Report of the latest Joint V Meeting

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

9



16. Why Virtual Work Experience Placements Really Work

18. North West lawyer backs PM's decision to appoint Covid inquiry Chair by Christmas but calls for greater urgency

21. My Route to Qualification

10



22. Nama Zarroug celebrates Black History Month

24. Pro Bono Week is 20

26. Lomax rises from filing clerk to equity partner at Morecrofts

30



30. Council Member Report by Nina Ferris

37. Liverpool lawyers retain the Tripartite Cup

The front cover photo features the Festival of Light, taken by Sarah Poblete

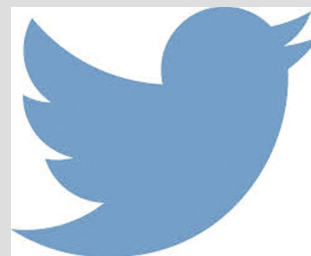
## DEADLINES

24th November  
9th December  
27th January  
24th February  
25th March  
26th April  
25th May  
27th June  
27th July  
25th August  
26th September  
27th October  
28th November

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

facebook

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



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

LinkedIn

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)

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

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

Published by

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



## Welcome to the November 2021 edition of Liverpool Law

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

I hope you're all well and, dare I say, beginning to get into the festive mood! How is it November already?! I have to admit I have caved to the media frenzy about threatened shortages and made a start on the Christmas shopping- something which never usually happens this early!

We have another full magazine for you on the amazing work and events in our legal community. This month there appears to be a particular focus on Legal Aid, given the recent reports which you can read up on in a dedicated article and also the Council Member's report.

There are opportunities available to assist in the legal aid sector, our legal centre pages detail volunteering and paid opportunities for interpreters needed. Given Pro Bono week is upon us this could be the perfect time for you to give something back and help where possible.

If you are searching for details of the organisations to refer someone to for support they are detailed in our Access to Justice report and again contact the local centres.

As always if there is anything you are already doing which you would like us to feature in the magazine please get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

Good luck to everyone shortlisted for the Awards, we will be publishing the results in next months edition along with photographs of the evening itself.

Until next month.

**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:

09/11/2021 12:30	General Committee
10/11/2021 12:00	Access to Justice in Liverpool Project meeting
16/11/2021 11:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
17/11/2021 13:00	EDI Sub-Committee
18/11/2021 13:00	Future Planning Sub-Committee
23/11/2021 13:00	Education & Charities Sub-Committee
25/11/2021 13:00	Annual General Meeting
25/11/2021 16:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee
30/11/2021 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
02/12/2021 13:00	Access to Justice Sub-Committee
07/12/2021 13:00	Employment Law Sub-Committee
08/12/2021 13:00	Family Business Sub-Committee
09/12/2021 13:00	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee
14/12/2021 12:30	General Committee

## Editorial Committee Dates

Meetings start at 11.00 am

16/11/2021

18/01/2022

15/02/2022

15/03/2022

19/04/2022 1

17/05/2022

14/06/2022



# From the President

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

Well what a month this will be!

We start with Pro Bono Week and again I feel it only right to thank those not for profit organisations who continue to strive for access to justice for all! Kudos to our many member firms who contribute to pro bono initiatives too - every little really does help. If you are looking to offer your time or funds to a pro bono initiative then please do have a look on our website for volunteering opportunities - we list a number of key organisations needing support. I would also encourage you to visit the Pro Bono Week website for some tips and ideas: <http://probonoweb.org.uk/>

A big thank you to all of you who joined us on the Legal Walk this year. The donations have been counted and we achieved a whopping £7800.

As we head into the winter months please do be mindful of those less fortunate particularly as the need for foodbanks continues to be on the rise.

Charities are also under an ever increasing pressure and many are needed now more than ever. If you have a charity that you would like to feature in one of our future editions please let us know.

This last month I have continued to attend a number of online meetings and events as well as being able to attend not one, but two, face to face events!!! The Bristol Law Society dinner was well worth the 4 trains to get there - congratulations to President Ben Holt and his team as they celebrated their 250th year! It was also lovely to see some of you at the Annual Legal Service to mark the Opening of the New Legal Year in Liverpool (thanks to the High Sheriff of Merseyside for inviting me to walk in the procession).

I'm pleased to report that we continue to strengthen our relationships with the other members of the Joint V and we are looking forward to some shared initiatives in the coming months on the back of our most recent JV meeting. These meetings really do allow us to see each other's strengths and weaknesses which leads to improved services for all of our members. This month we focussed once again on PII renewal and it will come as no surprise that we all face the same challenges. We will continue to monitor the situation and both renewal and the closure of SIF remain on our agenda.

You may be reading this edition after our Annual Dinner and Legal Awards and, if so, I hope you all had a thoroughly good night! If I've caught you before the event then let me say how I am really looking forward to seeing you there! Good luck to all of the award nominees.

We have our AGM later this month and a number of Directors are retiring by rotation. On behalf of the Society I have to thank



**Julie O'Hare**

them all for their time and dedication to the society for the years that they have been on the Board.

The deadline for nominations of Directors by election has now closed although if you are interested in joining the Board I am expecting a number of casual vacancies to become available so please do register your interest by email to [contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](mailto:contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)

Our training events continue to be online although we are now planning for face to face!

As always, we welcome any suggestions for training needs you and your colleagues may have in the coming months. We understand that you may not always be able to attend our events when they stream live so let me remind you that we now offer recorded sessions to purchase so that you can watch at your leisure. Please do take a look at the website for further information.

Next month will be my last President's column (where has this last year gone?) so I'll apologise in advance as it may be a little more lengthy than usual but, in the meantime, I wish you all a very safe November!

**Julie O'Hare**  
President

Sponsored By



# Report on Joint Forum on Access to Justice

The twice-yearly 'Joint Forum on Access to Justice' held its autumn meeting on Friday, 8th October. The Forum has a broader remit than LLS' Access to Justice Committee. It welcomes a wide range of speakers, and brings together people from local and national organisations. Its members include advice providers, practitioners, councillors, MPs and members of the judiciary.

The Forum first heard from Martha de la Roche, Network Director at the Network for Justice (Nfj). Martha kindly provided a background to Nfj (<https://atjf.org.uk/network-for-justice>). It started its life as a project hosted by the Access to Justice Foundation and consists of a community of individuals and organisations. It is also a useful sign-posting service to other groups and resources, one such example being the Justice and Innovation Group.

Ultimately, Nfj is aimed at those in need of support. It offers learning and training resources to members and operates a private online forum for groups to advertise and communicate, rather like LinkedIn. In this way, it supports existing networks and forums, allowing users to share documents, ask questions and have online chats. Anyone wishing to join can do so by accessing <https://nfj.org.uk/signup>

The next speaker to address the Forum was Danny Whittle, Business Improvement Manager at the Legal Aid Agency (LAA). The topic of Danny's presentation was "Forward Planning from the LAA". He discussed LAA process improvements that had flowed from the response to Covid and recommendations made within "The Future of Legal Aid" (3rd Report) (<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/531/the-future-of-legal-aid/>) and "Legal Support: The Way Ahead" ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/777036/legal-support-the-way-ahead.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777036/legal-support-the-way-ahead.pdf))

Danny explained that he and his team look at customer service, relying on user feedback, research & data to make improvements. The aim is to look for efficiencies; streamlining and simplifying wherever possible. Process Efficiency Groups are established between the LAA and legal aid providers. This was previously done for civil legal aid providers and will soon be replicated for criminal providers. Some of the improvements created by this work include: review of costs limits of civil legal aid certificates; review of decisions that have been declined despite positive opinion from legal counsel; and change and process improvement to the exceptional funding (ECF1) form.

Danny reported on the training and support functions offered by the LAA. These can be accessed by web (<https://legalaidlearning.justice.gov.uk/>) and on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/LAAHelpTeam>).

Danny took time to respond to pre-prepared questions raised by members of the Access to Justice Committee. One question asked what learnings have there been from COVID? Danny explained that the LAA are live to the issues experienced during the pandemic. He referred to a webpage on the Government website dealing with this (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-legal-aid-agency-contingency-response>). Examples of improvements

include new contracts for criminal and civil providers. The LAA is also looking to accept digital signatures as a long-term change.

The final speaker at the Forum was Richard Miller, Head of Justice at The Law Society (TLS). Richard provided an update on recent work and campaigns conducted by TLS. Access to justice is a fundamental theme at TLS. Richard has a team of 8 policy advisors, and they look at legal aid, pro bono, civil justice and court modernisation.

Richard covered a number of topics. These included the sustainability of legal aid providers. On 27 September the Law Society launched a campaign to combat legal aid deserts (<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/en/campaigns/legal-aid-deserts>). In large areas of England and Wales, people cannot access legal aid advice for housing or community care. TLS' legal aid deserts campaign raises awareness of the negative impact caused by reductions in legal aid funding.

Richard went on to discuss the issue of fixed recoverable costs in certain civil cases. TLS is concerned about the age of data being relied on by the Government. Some of it relates to 2016 or before, and TLS is challenging the rationale for such a reliance. The reason for this challenge is that if fixed costs are set too low it will act as a barrier to bringing cases, and this will have an adverse effect in areas such as housing.

Another topic that Richard addressed was 'remote hearings'. TLS is looking at the impact of such court and tribunal hearings. They have the potential to create efficiencies but can also affect justice outcomes. TLS is looking for consensus on where video hearings do and do not work well.

The Forum received its regular report by LLS's Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Paddy Dwyer. Paddy reported on LLS directors' meetings with Merseyside Councillors and MPs. These meetings had dealt with the availability of the Access to Advice Network; issues of court delays in family cases; and concerns raised over the digital divide.

As ever, the Forum concluded with an opportunity for attendees to network.

The Joint Forum will next meet Friday, 6 May 2022, 10.30 – 11.30am via Zoom. Anyone interested in attending should contact Ann Murphy at Liverpool Law Society ([annmurphy@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](mailto:annmurphy@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)). All are welcome.

**James Mannouch - Chair**

# LLS meetings and events format update and COVID-secure measures at Helix

## Committee meetings

Over the summer and into early autumn the Society surveyed its committee members regarding how they wish to meet in the future. Do they wish to continue with virtual committee meetings? Do they wish to return to face-to-face meetings (when restrictions allow), or would they like to have a bit of both?

The results are in and do show a slight variation depending on the committee.

For instance, Civil Litigation and Editorial have decided to continue with virtual meetings except for one face-to-face meeting a year.

The Future Planning Committee will have a mix of some virtual meetings and some face-to-face.

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee have decided to continue to meet virtually for the remainder of 2021 and will review again in the New Year.

The Access to Justice Committee has decided to remain virtual until May 2022 and then review.

Some committees are deciding meeting-by-meeting, Education & Charities and Family have both decided their next meetings will be virtual whilst Finance & Policy will be in person.

The Regulatory Committee meets on an ad hoc basis and will therefore be decided each time it meets, whether it will be virtually or in person.

Whilst other committees have yet to decide, the hosting of Society meetings will be something that will remain as flexible as possible as we learn to live with the coronavirus.

## COVID-secure measures

As we begin our slow reopening of the Society's premises in Helix, Edmund Street, we will be observing the following COVID-secure measures to keep everyone safe.

- We ask visitors to wear face masks upon entering the premises and whilst moving about unless you are sat down. It is optional to continue wearing a face mask or covering once seated.
- We are using 1 metre plus for our seating format to maintain some distance between you and other attendees.
- Please make your way to the meeting/training room on arrival to minimise time in reception. We would ask you not to congregate in reception at any time.
- Windows will be open to ensure ventilation, you may wish to have additional layers/ warm clothing with you on cold days.
- In the run-up to the event, if you are told to self-isolate by

NHS Test and Trace, or you develop COVID-19 symptoms, you should not attend the in-person event. Please let us know if you are unable to attend.

- Due to COVID restrictions we won't be offering our usual sandwich buffet lunch for committee meetings or full day training courses. If you wish to bring your own lunch, plates will be provided. Tea, coffee, and water will be available.
- Please try to avoid congregating in the ground floor foyer area, the staircase and the upstairs landing.
- If possible, please try to use the staircase rather than the lift.
- After the event ends, please leave the premises promptly.

## Private Client Conference 2021

Last month we held our annual Private Client Conference which was very kindly chaired by Louise Scholes, Partner at Brabners.

It was held online via zoom & some brave delegates even switched their cameras on!

Professor Lesley King began the day proving a Private Client Update. This was followed by Stephen Lawson's 'Why is he talking about Larke v Nugus letters again'.

Delegates then took a short comfort break before Simon Cleaver, on behalf of one of our sponsor; Investec, informed us about Using Business Relief to mitigate Inheritance Tax Liabilities.

Next up, barrister Ruth Hughes of 5 Stone Buildings, covered Statutory Wills.

We then took a 45min comfort break, so people could grab a sandwich, check emails etc.

The afternoon began with 'An introduction to Advising Clients on Philanthropy' with Steven Appleton of Brabners.

Final session of the day, an essential Tax & Trusts Update with the wonderful John Bunker of Irwin Mitchell.

Thanks to sponsors Investec and KIN Probate. Thanks also to the speakers involved and each and every delegate who booked.

Keep Wednesday 5th October 2022 free in your diary, so you don't miss out next year!

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



# Commercial Property Conference

On Thursday 7th October we held our biennial Commercial Property Conference online, via zoom\*.

Bill Chandler of Hill Dickinson LLP kindly chaired the event and also kicked off the day with a Commercial Leases session. Leanne Wright then provided an update on behalf of HM Land Registry, covering HMLR Digital Transformation including e-signatures, ID verification & more.

We had a brief comfort break, then Bill provided a half hour masterclass on SDLT. Mark Taylor on behalf of one of our sponsors; Landmark Information Group then

discussed 'Commercial Properties, a Focus on Flood Risk 2021: getting the analysis right'.

We enjoyed another comfort break – long enough to grab some lunch, before Ian Quayle provided the first of his 2 sessions: Commonhold & Mixed Used Developments, before diving into Jenni Christy's (Grant Thornton) 'Topical VAT issues' session.

Ian then provided his and the final session of the day, highlighting Tips & Traps of Commercial Reports on Title.

Bill then thanked speakers, delegates for supporting and both of our sponsors; Landmark Information

Group and INDEX PI. I'd echo this thanks, plus like to say a massive 'thanks' to Bill.

Hopefully we will see you in person for this event in 2022.

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

*\*Those who prebooked this event but were unable to attend on the day, can access the recording an unlimited numbers of times, for a period of up to 3 months post event.*



Photo by Jorge Percival on Unsplash

## 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



TRAINING PASSPORT



Liverpool Law Society

## LLS ANYWHERE

SAVE UP TO **45% ON OUR**  
**TRAINING EVENTS**

### HOW DO I SAVE UP TO 45% ON TRAINING?

Purchase training passport exclusive to LLS members

### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Attend any 6 training events for only £450+VAT. Discount on multiple purchases available. See website.

### HOW LONG IS IT VALID FOR?

12 months from date of purchase

### CONTINUING COMPETENCE

The cost effective solution for our members

### ATTEND LIVE OR VIEW THE RECORDING

ATTEND TRAINING EVENTS FROM ANYWHERE VIA ZOOM

### SIGN UP NOW

[CLICK HERE](#) TO APPLY ONLINE

# Meeting with MPs

On 15 October, LLS held its second zoom meeting of the year with local MPs. Joint Honourable Secretary Jeremy Myers chaired on behalf of LLS. Maria Eagle MP (Garston and Halewood) attended as did Valerie Beach representing the office of Dan Carden MP (Walton).

Chair of LLS's Access to Justice Committee, James Mannouch opened proceedings with a reminder that there is a continuing initiative that seeks to replicate the University of Liverpool and Liverpool City Council project to map the provision of legal advice across the Liverpool City Region as a whole with a request that the Combined Authority fund this. James went on to outline that the Joint Forum on Access to Justice welcomed a presentation from the Legal Aid Agency on the aims to improve operational processes. Members are encouraged to notify LLS in the event you have come across issues due to the mechanics of applying for legal aid so that this can be fed back to the LAA.

Nicky Harris, one of LLS' Family Business Committee members, provided an update on the excessive workload on both legal aided and private family practitioners. Whilst Covid has had an impact on this, cuts to legal aid following LASPO is a contributory factor. Children's guardians, social workers, the judiciary, university lecturers and students are all trying to meet the needs in the city and the region but the approach is not sustainable. A lack of funding makes it difficult to bring on trainees and attract others to this area of law.

I then provided an update on current bills in particular focussing on Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill and the Nationality and Borders Bill. Marie Eagle mentioned the Judicial Review bill is having its second reading in the House of Commons imminently and it will be worth observation to understand how the reshuffle and the new Lord Chancellor approaches this area.

Marie Eagle explained her caseload has doubled in the pandemic and has yet to reduce in any way back to pre-pandemic levels. There are fewer places where constituents can be referred for free legal advice when such help is required in areas of benefits, housing, asylum and refugees. It was mentioned that the University of Liverpool runs a Law Clinic for parents with children with disabilities which, whilst only active term-time, has worked well. Further, the LJMU law clinic is also resourced by students providing free legal advice. The Vauxhall and Merseyside Law Centres are incredibly helpful but they have resource issues while dealing with caseloads in housing, benefits and poverty. Rachel Stalker from LJMU Law Clinic, expanded to say 10 students want to volunteer at Dan Carden MPs surgery. They have several hundred appointments available for family, small claims and housing. Further information can be found at: <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/microsites/legal-advice-centre>

Our next meeting with MPs is scheduled for 18 March 2022. LLS Members are invited to contact the office with any suggestions for agenda items ahead of that event.

**Paddy Dwyer**  
Parliamentary Liaison Officer



**Paddy Dwyer**

## Consultation Papers

The following sub-committee of Liverpool Law Society is considering responding to these consultation papers.

If any member would like to send in a comment, please do so to [committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](mailto:committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)

Employment Law

**Making flexible working the default**

Closing Date: 1st December

Criminal Practice

**Miscellaneous amendments to sentencing guidelines – consultation**

Closing Date: 2nd December

# The Joint V Meeting

## 21 October 2021

Our President Julie O'Hare, our Joint Honorary Secretary Jeremy Myers, our CEO Sarah Poblete and I had the pleasure of attending the Joint V Meeting held virtually on 21 October 2021, hosted by Bristol Law Society. There was a packed agenda, and this is just a short summary of the highlights.

We began with a guest presentation from Nick Emmerson, who became Deputy Vice President of The Law Society from 14th October 2021, and is due to become President in 2023. We are very fortunate to have Nick in this role, as he is the Immediate Past President of Leeds Law Society and a passionate campaigner for the regions and especially the Joint V.

Nick is very keen to encourage more junior lawyers to participate in The Law Society and mentioned that there are 2 seats vacant on The Law Society Council for 6-11 year PQE solicitors. He's also keen to receive any ideas for priorities for his Presidential year, and these can be passed on via any of our Society's officers or CEO.

Next, we had an update on business and activity from each of the Joint V Societies. This included our President giving a summary of all of our recent activities, including our most successful ever Liverpool Legal Walk with over 150 walkers and over £7,000 raised for the North West Legal Support Trust, which funds local advice services. Bristol Law Society also proudly mentioned publishing their special 250th anniversary book, which we shall receive a copy of and can be viewed at our Helix office.

We then had a guest presentation by Colin Taylor and Matthew Baker, from Howden Insurance Brokers. This sought to address a question from LLS relating to the rising costs and shrinking PII market. Howdens explained this was mainly due to the value of claims exceeding premiums for a number of years and so insurers were withdrawing from this sector and instead focussing on more profitable markets.

Elizabeth Rimmer, Chief executive of LawCare then gave another guest presentation. She focussed on the recently published findings of its Life in the Law research study. This study into wellbeing, across the legal profession, captured data between October 2020 and January 2021 from more than 1,700 legal professionals in the UK, Republic of Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. A key finding was that 69% (!) of legal professionals surveyed had experienced mental ill-health in the 12-months prior



**Steven Zdolynny**

to completing the survey. Those aged 26-35 displayed the highest burnout scores and this age group also reported the lowest autonomy, lowest psychological safety and highest work intensity. Females, those from ethnic minority groups and those with disabilities also reported higher burnout. Another shocking statistic from the survey was that 22% of participants said they'd been subject to bullying, harassment or discrimination in the workplace.

The Joint V pledged to take the survey findings seriously and to act to address these troubling findings. More to follow on this shortly. In the meantime, if any of our members/readers need emotional support, please contact LawCare on 0800 279 6888 and further details are available on their website: [www.lawcare.org.uk](http://www.lawcare.org.uk). Please be kind and supportive to all those that you work with. Thank you.

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



# Shred paper-based conveyancing. completely.



## Digital conveyancing is more secure than paper-based processes.

Tear outdated paper-based conveyancing processes to shreds. Digital conveyancing means onboarding clients electronically with eCOS, integrating LMS for automation of priority searches and AP1 registration, digitally signing HMLR deeds, and accelerating and automating creation of your report on titles with Property Report. InfoTrack is the only platform that enables a completely digital conveyancing process, end-to-end. Give us a call or email us. But, please, don't write a letter.

InfoTrack: the home of digital conveyancing.



**Join the digital conveyancing movement  
with InfoTrack. Call us on 0207 186 8090  
or visit [www.infotrack.co.uk/nopaper](http://www.infotrack.co.uk/nopaper)**





**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.

Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre is starting a new service in the community providing an advice service in the heart of Anfield at the Homebaked Bakery, facing the famous Kop at Liverpool FC. This partnership work is being supported by the Spirit of Shankly supporters union and Homebaked Bakery.



Vauxhall Community  
Law & Information  
Centre



**HOMEBAKED  
BAKERY**

Homebaked Bakery, 199 Oakfield Road, L4 0UF

### WELFARE BENEFIT & DEBT ADVICE SESSIONS

A new independent advice service taking place in the heart of Anfield with solicitors from Vauxhall Law Centre.



#### ABOUT

#### VAUXHALL LAW CENTRE

Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre provides a free legal-advice service in Liverpool. We've been in our community since 1973, giving support on a range of social-welfare issues. We provide access to justice to our communities with regards to welfare benefits, debt and housing.

#### CLIENT

#### TESTIMONIAL

*Regarding the help and support we received - my brother would not have had the confidence to appeal his PIP decision, which he did and won. This centre is a lifeline for people who feel alone in all kinds of situations and there is no judgement, thanks for your support.*



#### Welfare Benefits

Our specialist welfare benefit advisors assist on all welfare benefit matters from benefit entitlement checks through to online appeals. We can assist with representation at Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal.



#### Debt

Our debt-advice service is here to help you to address your debts by offering long-term solutions. Debts we can help you with include utility bills, fuel bills and unsecured loans.

From 1st of November, 2021

**Every Monday 10am - 12.30pm**

Funded by Spirit of Shankly, Liverpool Supporters Union

Contact [advice@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk](mailto:advice@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk) for more information

#AccessToJustice

### New Receptionist and Administrative Support



We are pleased to be able to announce that we now have a new Receptionist and Administrative Support worker, Jade Skilling. Jade who started work with us recently is responsible for looking after our telephone messages and supporting the administrative needs of Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre.

Jade can be contacted on 0151 360 7777 or

email at [jadeskilling@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk](mailto:jadeskilling@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk)

and if you need to track down another member of staff, Jade will be happy to help you.

### Bereavement Service

The Law Centre have managed to obtain funding via LCVS for our bereavement advice service and will be employing a caseworker to give advice on Income, Benefits, Debt & Bereavement issues in early 2022.

Our bereavement service will give practical advice on Welfare Benefits, debt and housing to those who have suffered a loss. The intensive need for advice following bereavement and the disadvantaged communities that we seek to support, by having a dedicated worker to support the provision of this service will enable us to enhance and further develop the service. Watch this space for further details. Further details on the service can be found at <https://www.vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk/bereavement-support-and-advice> and a copy of the bereavement pack can be downloaded from this page.

### Asylum Support & Housing Advice Caseworker

As regular readers will be aware Siobhan Taylor has been working with us at the Law Centre for several months now as our Housing Solicitor. The demand for our Housing service has been overwhelming. As a result we are now in the process of recruiting a new Housing Advice Caseworker to provide Siobhan with support, we will provide further details on the post in the near future.

### Volunteers

Please consider using volunteering as a means to meeting some of your companies Corporate Social Responsibility commitments. At Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre 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. We get support from our volunteers in many different ways:-

- Our Board are volunteers, providing support and strategic direction for the organisation
- Volunteers assist with our advice provision and representation
- Volunteers help us with publicity, administration and fundraising, our legal walk was supported by many of our community supporters and helped us raise over £1,300

### New Volunteers sought

If you think you, or your company can 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 [development@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk](mailto:development@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.





# News from Merseyside Law Centre

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



We are currently looking for expressions of interest from interpreters for all languages. We are looking for qualified and experienced interpreters and require the below from any candidate.

- Have already or be willing to obtain an Enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service.)
- Have their own mobile phone and be able to access the internet/ e-mails.
- Be eligible to work as self-employed within the UK and have a UK bank account to receive payment.
- Be able to provide an accurate, confidential and impartial interpretation.
- Be available for pre booked interpreting appointments on the telephone or face to face at our central Liverpool premises.

If you are interested please get in touch by leaving a voicemail on 0151-709-0504 or email [enquiries@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk) to arrange a short meeting on Microsoft Teams.

Last month, our Justice First Fellow Samantha Mather delivered two sessions for the Roma community in Liverpool on protection against illegal evictions and homelessness. We had fantastic feedback on the session from Alexandra Bahor, a Roma Community Development worker at Granby Toxteth Development Trust, who said "It was inspirational and helpful to understand the law, to feel safer and protected." Hopefully we will be able to deliver more sessions like these in the future as delivering sessions in the community is such an effective way of reaching those who may be vulnerable and unsure of how to access advice.



Our sponsorship page for the North West Legal Support Trust's Liverpool Legal Walk 2021 is still open. The Merseyside Law Centre Marvels have managed to raise just over £250 but we would love to raise more to help fund local advice services who help the most vulnerable in society. The link is below.  
<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=MerseysideLawCentreMarvels21&isTeam=true>

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



## Brabners celebrate the life of their partner, colleague and dear friend David McGurnaghan

Brabners wish to celebrate the life of their partner, colleague and dear friend David McGurnaghan who sadly passed away in February 2021.

David, originally from Belfast and a graduate of Dundee University, studied at what was Chester College of Law before beginning his legal career in Liverpool.

In 2004, David joined the long-established Liverpool firm of Cuff Roberts as a trainee solicitor where he excelled in private client work. Upon qualification, David then specialised in wills, trusts and estate planning, obtaining his full STEP qualification in 2009. David worked at Halliwells and Hill Dickinson before joining Brabners in 2010. He was appointed Partner at Brabners in 2018. As a lawyer, David was meticulous, clear sighted and straight forward in his approach. He was patient, understanding and empathetic with clients and colleagues alike. One client commented that his compassion and professionalism gave them the courage and strength to deal with their affairs whilst suffering their own grief. David had an exceptional ability in sensitively guiding people through the most difficult decisions and supporting clients in their hour of need.

David was committed to his team and loyal to his colleagues, nurturing, inspiring and encouraging those around him to achieve their potential.

As a friend, David was a gentle and kind soul, known for his quick wit and relaxed demeanour. David could always be relied upon to lighten the mood and raise a smile.



David McGurnaghan

Many will remember a time when their sides ached from laughing in his presence.

Outside of work, David loved and cherished his wife and children. David met his wife Zoe whilst at university, they married in 2007 and went on to have their three children Gracie, Flynn and Annie. David was also the much-loved son of Michael and Aileen, and brother of Michael, Emma, Lucy and Niall.

David's passing is felt deeply by family, friends, colleagues and clients alike and he will be greatly missed.

## 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](#).

# Westminster Commission on Legal Aid

## MPs from across the house call for reforms to improve the sustainability and recovery of the legal aid sector

The Westminster Commission, an initiative of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Aid has published its report on the sustainability and recovery of the legal aid sector in the wake of the pandemic

Over the last year, the Commission has heard directly from current, former, and future legal aid lawyers, and from clients, through a series of oral hearings and written submissions. Over the course of the Inquiry we found that:

- There has been a continued and gradual decline in access to justice with increasing numbers of people across England and Wales unable to access legal advice when they need it.
- It seems likely that this need will increase as we emerge from the pandemic, rebuild our communities and 'level up'.
- This decline in access to justice has a number of causes including the areas of law taken out of the scope of legal aid, firms and organisations leaving legal aid and difficulties recruiting and retaining lawyers in civil and criminal legal aid.
- Overall, we found that the service being provided to the public is not sufficient and the legal aid profession as it stands is not sustainable.
- To improve the sustainability and sufficiency of the legal aid sector, we have made specific recommendations for government in relation to:

Legal aid fees

Recruitment and retention

Broadening the scope of legal aid and meeting legal need

Exceptional case funding

Means testing

The Commission is chaired by Labour MP Karen Buck, with support from Vice-chair Conservative MP James Daly.

Rohini Teather, Head of Parliamentary Affairs at Legal Aid Practitioners Group, who coordinated the Commission, says: 'The Westminster Commission has been the biggest ever Inquiry into the financial and emotional health of the grassroots legal aid profession. The first to try to view the profession as a whole. Through our six oral evidence sessions, written submissions, our independent research and the closely aligned #LegalAidCensus, we have gathered vital, qualitative and quantitative data. It has been genuinely humbling, and our focus has been on the "social work" function that legal aid lawyers provide, which often goes unrecognised. We focused on the lawyers themselves, particularly issues with recruitment and inclusion, and the impact of Covid-19 measures on access to justice.'

The number of organisations with legal aid contracts has fallen consistently over recent years from 2,129 civil providers in 2012 to 1,401 in September 2021. The picture is much the same in crime. In 2012 there were 1,652 providers with criminal legal aid contracts. There are now just 1,080 of these left, and we believe that the Westminster Commission is the first detailed exploration of the reasons why both lawyers and organisations are giving up publicly funded work.

Karen Buck MP (Chair of the Westminster Commission) says: 'We began this Inquiry fearing that life during the pandemic has intensified the underlying stresses on the legal aid system and those who work in it. The wealth of evidence we heard confirmed this to be the case. Levels of need have soared whilst access to legal aid and to legal aid providers, in both civil and criminal law has declined. Legal aid lawyers go above and beyond in serving the public, but the business model on which they rely is increasingly unsustainable. Our report provides an in depth analysis of the state of legal aid in 2021 and, we believe, a roadmap to rebuilding a service upon which justice itself rests.'

James Daly MP (Vice-Chair of the Westminster Commission) said, 'As a practising criminal defence solicitor for 16 years I know how important a vibrant legal aid sector is to ensuring access to justice for all. The profession is going through a period of unprecedented challenge and I hope this Inquiry can be part of an ongoing review to ensure criminal legal aid has a sustainable future and a realistic career option for young lawyers.'

Chair and Vice-chair Karen Buck and James Daly were supported by Commissioners: Baroness Helena Kennedy QC (Labour); Baroness Natalie Bennett (Green Party), Lord Willy Bach (Labour), Lord Colin Low (Cross-bencher), Laura Farris MP (Conservative), Yvonne Fovargue MP (Labour), Andy Slaughter MP (Labour), and Gareth Bacon MP (Conservative).

The work of the Commission will complement the Justice Committee's inquiry into the future of legal aid.

The Legal Aid Census data has been analysed by Dr Jacqueline Kingham, senior lecturer in law and social justice at Newcastle Law School, Drs Daniel Newman and Jess Mant, senior lecturers in law at Cardiff University and Dr Catrina Denvir, Associate Professor at Monash University.

The Westminster Commission has been supported by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Aid, which promotes parliamentary and public understanding of the importance of the role of publicly funded legal services. The APPG receives secretariat support from Legal Aid Practitioners Group and Young Legal Aid Lawyers.

For more information visit <https://www.apg-legalaid.org/>

# Why Virtual Work Experience Placements Really Work

Conditions since March 2020 inevitably reduced the opportunities for young people to engage with employers through traditional work experience. But whilst the pandemic created many challenges, it also acted as a catalyst for change. Virtual Work Experience is one innovation that, born out of necessity, now looks set to transform the way many leading employers will structure their early outreach activities going forwards.

## Why the shift in thinking?

In a world where all UK businesses face the combined long-term effects of Brexit, an ageing population, and the current pandemic, there is mounting pressure on employers to assure the ongoing quality and diversity of their early talent pool.

Increasingly, organisations are recognising the need for a more inclusive approach to strengthen their early talent pipeline. But achieving this in practice is no easy task. Particularly if employers wish to target young people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, who are typically the hardest to reach.

## Making work experience more accessible

Speakers for Schools is a leading youth social mobility charity, founded in 2010 by ITV's Political Editor Robert Peston, which aims to raise the career ambitions among young people from disadvantaged backgrounds across the UK, and provide the necessary inspiration, experience, and networking opportunities for them to succeed.

They work with a fast-growing network of over 3,000 state secondary schools and colleges throughout the UK, which means partnering with the charity to offer Virtual Work Experience representing an easy way for employers to extend their geographical reach and expand their search to include a more diverse range of 14-19-year-olds.

It also represents an easy first step for any young person to take. A step with no prohibitive costs – for schools or parents – and an incredibly simple application process. And because it is so



# SPEAKERS for schools

easy both to apply and attend, placements are always very well-attended with very low drop-out rates.

## More reach means more impact

Any and every industry and sector can benefit from offering Virtual Work Experience, especially those – like the legal sector – that usually struggle to attract young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Speakers for Schools' network of employers has grown from 70 to currently over 700 – as hundreds of companies, including organisations like the Liverpool Law Society, Bentley Motors, TalkTalk, The Adecco Group, and AutoTrader, have come to appreciate the many benefits virtual placements offer.

Early adopters like Morgan Sindall Construction have credited Virtual Work Experience as increasing the number of placements they could offer in a week and widening their reach, not only to more schools, but also to increase engagement with females and ethnic minority communities – both key demographics that Morgan Sindall Construction is keen to attract.

Other employers like the British Army credit Virtual Work Experience as providing a more effective way to engage with young people with a real interest in a particular specialism – such as cyber security – than an in-person event at a single school.

With over 56,000 free virtual placements available across the UK throughout the last year, Speakers for Schools increased the success rate for those applying and partnered with more 'high-





need' schools, including those located in more geographically remote areas.

This meant tens of thousands more young people aged 14-19 were able to benefit in a way that would not have been possible previously. Omaina, a 17-year-old student from Birmingham, who took part in one of our placements focused on the green economy last April said: *"Many young students have been prevented from doing in-person work experience due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but virtual work experience is equally as good."*

## A win-win for employers and students

Virtual Work Experience offers great flexibility for all parties. It runs all year long with options for short sessions which last a few hours, Insight Days which last a whole day, or placements that last between 3-5 days.

All virtual placements with Speakers for Schools meet Gatsby Benchmarks 5 and 6 and are hosted using a fully secure online platform that meets the highest safeguarding standards and offers great functionality, allowing employers to offer activities like virtual site tours as well as breakout rooms for more focussed group activities.

The charity has received a huge amount of positive feedback from the young people who completed placements with them over the last 18 months, including comments like these:

*"I liked hearing from people that directly work in the law industry – an opportunity to hear real opinions and personal experiences."*

*"I loved when we started the court case as it really gave me an insight into what happens when dealing with criminal cases."*

## An invitation to you to be part of something positive

The pandemic has widened gaps between the most and least privileged young people in terms of academic attainment and threatens to have a devastating long-term impact on social mobility.

All the employers who hosted placements over the course of the pandemic have indicated that Virtual Work Experience will form a core part of their outreach activities going forwards, with most anticipating they will adopt a hybrid approach, which is heavily weighted towards Virtual Work Experience.

With your organisation's support, Speakers for Schools can offer more virtual opportunities to improve the social mobility of young people and help you strengthen your early talent pipeline.

**To find out more about hosting Virtual Work Experience with Speakers for Schools, please contact our team in the northwest for an informal chat:**

shaheen.gul@speakersforschools.org  
grace.sheldon@speakersforschools.org

**Or visit our website for more information:**  
<https://www.speakersforschools.org/experience-2/vwex/>

## Public Child Law Conference

Wednesday 24th November 2021, 9.30am - 3.40pm

Welcome & introduction ~ HHJ M Sharpe

### Seniors Top Ten

Mark Senior, St Johns Buildings Chambers

### Applying for Residential Assessments: Remit, Research and Review of Authorities

Margaret Parr, Harrington St Chambers

### Restricting liberty and children - secure accommodation and the inherent jurisdiction

Kate Burnell QC, St Johns Buildings Chambers

### Alcohol Monitoring - making effective and appropriate use of the latest technology in childcare cases

Ashley Hodgkinson, Alpha Biolabs

### Public Family Law Digital System Update ~ HHJ Sharpe

Adoption Update ~ Jess Purchase, Unit Chambers

### Assessing parents with learning difficulties: the Parent Assess framework for assessment

Adam Bishop-Cornet & Debbie Pedder, Advanced Childcare Assessments

Sponsored by:

**AlphaBiolabs™**

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

## Corporate Update with Chris Beanland

Friday 26th November, 1.30pm - 4.30pm (online)

**This course will look at developments in the corporate field in the last year or so.**

### It will cover but is not limited to:

- Hurstwood Properties (A) Ltd v Rossendale BC [2021] UKSC 16 on piercing the corporate veil
- Tattersalls Ltd v McMahon [2021] EWHC 1029 on joint and several liability of directors
- Chalcot Training Ltd v Ralph [2021] EWCA Civ 795 on issuing shares at a discount and tax avoidance
- Primus International Holding Co v Triumph Controls Ltd [2020] EWCA Civ 1228, Hopkinson v Towergate Financial Ltd [2020] EWHC 984 and Dodika v United Luck Group Holdings Ltd [2021] EWCA Civ 638 on warranty claims
- Unwin v Bond [2020] EWHC 1768 on the content of an express duty of good faith in a shareholders' agreement
- Permavent Ltd v Makin [2021] EWHC 467 on penalties in the context of a SPA for the entire issued share capital of a company
- Russell v Cartwright [2020] EWHC 41 on implied obligations of good faith and joint ventures

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

## “A step towards justice”: North West lawyer backs PM’s decision to appoint Covid inquiry Chair by Christmas but calls for greater urgency

A North West lawyer representing a group of 5,000 relatives who lost loved ones to Covid-19 has welcomed Boris Johnson’s commitment to appoint a Chair to lead a Public Inquiry into the Government’s handling of the pandemic before Christmas, following a meeting with the PM in September.

Elkan Abrahamson, the solicitor at law firm Broudie Jackson Canter who is instructed to represent the ‘Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice’ group in the UK Inquiry, met with Boris Johnson and five families (Jo Goodman, Fran Hall, Lobby Akinnola, Charlie Williams, and Hannah Brady) to explain why a Statutory Public Inquiry is needed sooner rather than later.

Such an Inquiry has long been promised by the Prime Minister, but no date has been set, despite continuous pressure from the campaign group. Now, following discussions at Downing Street, the Prime Minister has promised progress before the end of the year.

At the meeting with the group, Mr Johnson committed to appointing the Chair of the inquiry by Christmas.

The Prime Minister also confirmed that he would be the minister with responsibility for the inquiry and committed to consulting further with the ‘Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice’ group.

Mr Abrahamson, who has previously represented bereaved families in the Hillsborough Inquests and the Manchester Arena Inquiry, said: “The Prime Minister finally met the Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice, after a year of promising to sit down and hear what they had to say.

“While the commitments the Prime Minister has made today are a clear step towards the justice that so many bereaved families need, we remain frustrated by the slow progress made so far.

“Appointing an inquiry Chair will be a significant step towards delivering the answers to key questions about the Government’s handling of the crisis and making sure the mistakes that have been made are never repeated. However, we see no reason why preparations for the Inquiry cannot begin immediately and we will continue to press Boris Johnson and his Government to increase the pace of the Inquiry process.

“The bereaved families have faced an immense amount of upset, stress and trauma over the last 18 months. They deserve to be placed front and centre of the inquiry process



**Elkan Abrahamson**

and so the Prime Minister’s commitment to consult further with the group is a welcome development which we intend to hold him to account on.”

This latest development comes after Scotland’s First Minister announced last month that she will initiate a Statutory Public Inquiry into her Government’s handling of the Covid-19 pandemic before the end of the year.

Whilst the Scottish Inquiry will cover those matters devolved to Scotland, other matters reserved to Westminster will have to be dealt with by a Four-Nation Inquiry. The First Minister for Wales, the Rt. Hon. Mark Drakeford MS, has now agreed to meet the families.

# *2021 Personal Injury Conference*

**WEDNESDAY 1ST DECEMBER  
9.30AM TILL 4PM VIA ZOOM**

**Welcome & introduction ~ HHJ Wood**

**RTA Reforms and the Official Injury Claim portal ~  
Matthew Maxwell-Scott, The Association of  
Consumer Support Organisations**

**Life Expectancy in Personal Injury Claims ~  
Richard Norton, St Johns Buildings**

**Credit Hire Update ~ Craig Budsworth, AX**

**Fundamental Dishonesty Update ~  
Colm Nugent, Gatehouse Law Chambers**

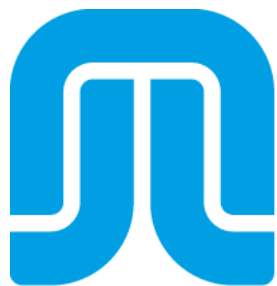
**Cost Budgeting Update ~  
Dominic Woodhouse, PI Costings**

**Official Injury Claim – the new Portal, Protocol, Rules  
and Practice Direction ~  
David Pilling, Liverpool Civil Law**

**[Click Here To Book](#)**



## 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.

### 23rd November: Student Experiences of the first SQE Assessment

In the last of our three SQE Insights Webinars offered to members by The College of Legal Practice, you will be the first to hear about the College's students' experiences of taking the SQE1 Assessment in November.

The College will share their learnings from their first course through to the assessments, and how they can help future students prepare fully for SQE1.



#### FREE EVENT:

### Experiences of the first SQE1 Assessment with Dr Giles Proctor

on Tuesday 23rd November, 12.30pm - 1.30pm

In the last of our three SQE Insights Webinars offered to members by The College of Legal Practice, you will be the first to hear about the College's students' experiences of taking the SQE1 Assessment in November. The College will share their learnings from their first course through to the assessments, and how they can help future students prepare fully for SQE1.

#### Topics covered in the webinar:

- The format and style of the SQE1 Assessments
- Feedback from students from the SQE1 Assessment in November
- Learning for the College and firms to improve preparation training for future students.

Sponsored by:



[Click here to book](#)

#### Topics covered in the webinar:

- The format and style of the SQE1 Assessments
- Feedback from students from the SQE1 Assessment in November
- Learning for the College and firms to improve preparation training for future students.

There will be an opportunity to ask any questions you have about either the SQE or the training programmes.

#### 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.

The College's Chair, Richard Clark shares his views on the future legal landscape: **Law firms 2.0 and the future of the legal landscape (collegalpractice.com)**

What is Qualifying Work Experience (QWE)? Read The College of Legal Practice's three part guide to the QWE: **Student Focus: Qualifying Work Experience (QWE) | Part 1 (collegalpractice.com)**

#### 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.

# My Route to Qualification

**In this edition of Liverpool Law, Matthew Chorley discusses his route to qualifying as a solicitor through Weightmans' Apprenticeship Academy...**

My journey into law has been a little abstract. I grew up enjoying and excelling at more practical based subjects such as science and sport, whilst trying to do all I could to avoid the more text heavy subjects such as English, history and law. I went to LJMU to study sport and exercise science and graduated with a 2.1. I wanted to continue at university to do an MSc in physiotherapy, but frustratingly I was unable to get on the course due to there being 14 spots and 500+ applicants. My backup plan was to complete a PGCE in further education to teach physical education and psychology. Due to a combination of a lack of enjoyment and a difficult teaching placement, I was told by my lecturers that I would need to go back the next year to finish the qualification. At this stage, I was very much in the frame of mind that I did not want to continue, and I would much rather stop the course at that stage to get a job to start earning money, something which is practically impossible on a PGCE.

So that is exactly what I did. I bounced around a few different administration jobs and a job at a bank, before eventually taking a 3-month temporary admin assistant job at Weightmans in Liverpool, working within a real estate team assisting in completing plot sales. There is a funny story about getting this role, I turned up to the interview suited and booted at the right day and time, only to realise I was actually an entire week early. Luckily the manager was free to interview me there and then and we had a laugh and joke about it and I was somehow still offered the job. I would say I knew I wanted to stick around within a fortnight of me starting. There was a great atmosphere at Weightmans and from speaking to others, I could see there was a big opportunity to learn and progress up if I put the work in.

I eventually got a permanent admin job working as part of an occupational disease team, which specialised in defending NIHL and asbestos claims. I was then offered the chance to study towards a level 3 CILEX apprenticeship to qualify as a paralegal. In August 2019, I obtained my first paralegal job as part of the Weightmans motor team, where I quickly progressed to managing a full case load defending litigated credit hire claims.

Whilst I was satisfied with the route I was on to become a Chartered Legal Executive, a new opportunity arose at Weightmans via their new "Weightmans Apprenticeship Academy" to become a solicitor apprentice in which I would qualify as a fully fledged solicitor, whilst also studying towards a Solicitor Level 7 Apprenticeship LLB (Hons) in Law and Legal Practice at BPP University before sitting the SQE at the final year. The opportunity to study towards a degree and qualify as a solicitor at no cost to myself, whilst also earning a salary in the meantime sounded too good to be true. I managed to get a place on the course after a competitive recruitment process, which consisted of online psychometric tests, a written application and an assessment day which involved a presentation and a formal interview.

That brings us to September 2021 where I have now started the course. Whilst I have only recently started, I am finding the route I have chosen to be a fantastic choice for my development. As



**Matthew Chorley**

part of my training, I rotate through seats at my firm in a similar vein to trainee solicitors. I attend BPP every Wednesday meaning I only work 4 days a week, which is great for my study time. As a solicitor apprentice, my firm also pushes me to get involved in some of the wider aspects of working in a law firm, such as CSR activity and networking events, whilst also receiving training in business skills. It seems that this route will not only get me the certificate at the end, but it will also be fantastic for my personal development, as well as teaching me the many skills required to be a lawyer.

This route is open to school leavers having completed A Levels, meaning 18-year-olds can qualify as a solicitor at the ripe age of 24. Whilst I am entering the process at a later stage in life and will not qualify until I am 33, I will qualify with 8 years' experience as a fee earner putting me at a competitive advantage to other newly qualified solicitors. I had no idea that you could do apprenticeships in law when leaving sixth form, I would generally associate apprenticeships with trades or engineering. Schools and colleges love pushing you towards the university route, the question in my sixth form from teachers was what university you are going to, rather than asking if you want to go to university at all. Whilst I am not diminishing the university route that many do take as that route has its advantages too, I would encourage students to look at their options and consider an apprenticeship. You will be free from student debt and qualify with a wealth of practical experience, giving you an edge over some of your competitors. Just don't turn up to your interview a week early!



## Nama Zarroug celebrates Black History Month

**Leading Crime Lawyer and founder of Astraea Linskills, Nama Zarroug is celebrating Black History Month by reflecting and sharing her views and experiences of being a black lawyer in the modern world.**

Nama began her career at 20 in Manchester, in 2016, whilst on maternity leave with her daughter Layla, who is now 5, Nama set up leading Legal 500 law firm Astraea Linskills. The Criminal and Commercial litigation specialists then acquired legendary Liverpool law firm Linskills in October 2020, doubling the size of the business and marked the start of a rapid expansion programme for the progressive law firm who have offices in Liverpool and London. The married mother of two, has an international portfolio of clients and has a reputation as one of the leading, most respected crime lawyers in the country with a defence success record to match the accolades. Nama shares her experiences in recognition of Black History Month.

### **What does Black History Month mean to you?**

It is a time to celebrate the often marginalised success of black people and the many, many, contributions of black people. It is also a time for reflection and to remember the sacrifices, struggles and suffering of our ancestors without whom we would not have the hard won liberties we enjoy today. I also like to use it as a time to remember non-black people who have been such incredible allies because they were anti-racist and who have made huge sacrifices of their own in the name of unity.

### **What are the challenges facing black people in the legal field?**

The big one is nepotism, or not having grown up in certain circles which get you the necessary contacts to either a job or access to key individuals with the power to launch your career. Also, forever being mistaken for the defendant at Court, even at Courts that virtually never have a black defendant!

### **What challenges have you faced in the industry?**

Being asked to step away from a case because the client wanted a white lawyer! This often shocks people when I tell them, but this still happens in 2021. Also, being made to work alongside someone who openly and overtly held racist views and the failure of senior managers to properly challenge these attitudes.

### **What changes would you like to see made?**

I would like to see a real effort amongst small and medium sized law firms to recruit on merit from communities which are grossly under-represented in the legal profession. Currently large firms appear to be genuinely engaging on this issue, but efforts amongst smaller firms is still not good enough in my view!



Nama Zarroug

### **Who do you most admire ?**

Baroness Scotland, the first black woman QC, whom I was lucky enough to meet as a student many years ago. She was friendly but fierce, a genuinely fearless woman, totally not intimidated by anyone or anything. She spoke from the heart with clarity, dignity and precision – attributes I have endeavoured to replicate throughout my career. Not only did she have a distinguished career as a lawyer and politician, but she genuinely worked hard to ensure that people like me could have a smoother ride on our own journey in the legal profession. I will be forever grateful for her tenacity and commitment.

### **What is your greatest professional achievement?**

Astraea Linskills! Starting my law firm in Liverpool is something I never believed I would be brave enough to do. I still pinch myself some days. I cannot believe what my colleagues and I have managed to achieve in just 5 years. I am beyond proud of where we are today and beyond excited for what lies ahead.



## Carpenters celebrate Black History Month with book donations

At Carpenters Group we recognise the importance of Black History Month.

We got some copies of the 'Where are you from?' books by the inimitable author Sally Penni for our colleagues to read and share. It's intended for children, but for adults it's well worth a read too!

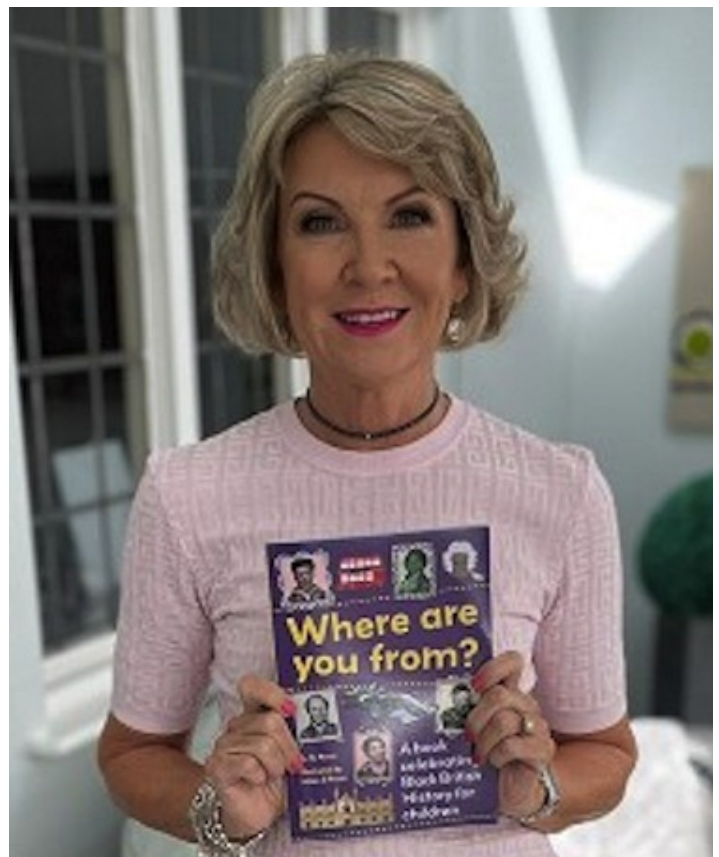
Sally Penni will also be giving a talk to the Carpenters Group team about Black History Month.

Donna Scully has not only sent copies of this wonderful book to her friends with children but has supplied copies to some Merseyside schools for their libraries. We sent copies to the St James centre too.

Sally's book is a wonderful way to both mark and celebrate Black History Month.



Sally Penni



Donna Scully

# Pro Bono Week is 20

**Pro Bono Week runs from 1st - 5th November so in this edition we look at some of the cases Merseyside firms have been involved in on a pro bono basis...**

## **Astraea Linskills act for local artist John Charles in trademark dispute with Hugo Boss**

Local Artist John Charles reached an amicable solution with leading fashion brand Hugo Boss and is delighted that he can continue using the phrase 'Be Boss, Be Kind'.

When the Huyton based artist began his online art club for children during the 1st lockdown at the start of the year, little did he know that their success would leave him litigating with one of the world's largest fashion houses Hugo Boss.

John, who used his skills to assist families with their home-schooling, signed off each art session with the phrase 'Be Boss, Be Kind' which became so popular with the audience and he decided to Trademark the well-known local phrase with a view to producing merchandise.

After submitting his application, John, father to daughter Emmy aged 10, received a letter from solicitors Simmons & Simmons, who act for the Hugo Boss group of companies, stating that they would be filing a 'Notice of Threatened Opposition' against the application on behalf of their client, Hugo Boss. Receiving a legal letter from a global giant did not deter John, who co-opted the assistance of James Roochove, from Astraea Linskills to challenge the litigation.

John, who is best known in Liverpool for painting some of the city's most iconic buildings and figures in his unique style said "I am absolutely delighted with the level of support we have received from Scousers and many further afield and local media. This is a business we feel passionately about and my wife Jen and I are looking to grow it to support our daughter Emmy in the future. We cannot thank Nama Zarroug-Murray and James Roochove from Astraea Linskills enough for supporting us and helping us achieve this resolution. Jen, Emmy and I are delighted that we can get back to doing what we do best, being a family, sharing our art, creating workshops and building our 'Be Boss, Be Kind' brand"

James Roochove, Director at Astraea Linskills said "We were delighted to support John Charles with this litigation. He does amazing work and as soon as we heard what he was facing we knew we had to try and help. It is very intimidating receiving letters from lawyers at the best of times, let alone when it's from lawyers for massive global companies, and facing the prospect of court battles and crippling costs can be terrifying. Whilst the details of the agreement are confidential we are delighted that



**James Roochove**

this matter is now concluded. We wanted to help bring a little bit of balance to this one-sided fight and happily there is now an agreement that means John Charles can get on and do what he always planned".



# Elkan Abrahamson acts for the Covid-19 Bereaved

Elkan Abrahamson, director and head of major inquests and inquiries at Broudie Jackson Canter, has been acting on behalf of the Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice Group in preparation for the upcoming Covid Inquiry, completely Pro Bono.

The North West lawyer, who is representing a group of 5,000 relatives who lost loved ones to Covid-19, met with Boris Johnson in September when he committed to appoint a Chair to lead a Public Inquiry into the Government's handling of the pandemic before Christmas.

Elkan said: "Broudie Jackson Canter is dedicated to delivering justice to those who deserve it and, more importantly, to those who cannot ordinarily access it. It is imperative, particularly in such a case as the Covid Inquiry, that all who are impacted can have their say and be represented on behalf of those they have lost. The handling of the pandemic before, during, and after the breakout was no accident, and nothing should get in the way of making sure those who lost loved ones to Covid-19 have the opportunity to seek justice.

"Much work has gone into preparing for the Inquiry, including relentless campaigning for our Government to launch this Inquiry as soon as possible and carefully drafting the proposed Terms of Reference. There is still much work to do, however. We are now focusing on consulting with the Government and representative groups to make sure the Terms of Reference cover the necessary scope and ask the necessary questions. We also need to ensure that the members of the Covid Bereaved Families for Justice Group feel supported as they approach the Inquiry. "The members of the group are relying on the Government to outline a costing scheme. When the group met with Boris Johnson in September, he promised that a Chair of the Inquiry would be appointed by Christmas. The hope is that a costs scheme will be drawn up in the New Year. Until then, Broudie



**Elkan Abrahamson**

Jackson Canter will continue to act Pro Bono on behalf of the Group to ensure that the same mistakes are not repeated in the future. This Inquiry is about examining the decisions that were made so that important lessons can be learnt, and lives can be saved."

**PRO  
BONO  
WEEK**  
probonoweb.org.uk

**1st - 5th  
November**  

---

**2021**



## Lomax rises from filing clerk to equity partner at Morecrofts

Jo-anne Lomax has become an equity partner at Morecrofts Solicitors in Liverpool.

Jo-anne, who specialises in family law, originally joined the firm as a legal clerk in 1994 and now leads its office in Allerton Road.

An accredited Children Panel and Resolution Specialist, she has worked across all areas of family law and now specialises in the area of children law, which includes public and private law children cases, special guardianship matters and adoption.

Having studied part-time at Liverpool John Moores University to achieve the ILEX qualification in 1998, she later qualified as a solicitor in 2005. After leaving the firm for a period, she returned in 2011 and was appointed a non-equity partner in 2016.

Morecrofts is headquartered in Liverpool city centre and has six offices around the Liverpool City Region. It received the Family Law award at the 2019 Liverpool Law Society Awards.

Speaking of her appointment to equity partner, Jo-anne said: "If someone had said to me 27 years ago that one day I would sit around the table as an owner of this firm, I'd never have believed them.

"Morecrofts has been a part of Liverpool's professional landscape for 208 years and it is an absolute honour to be able to make a contribution to the rich tapestry of such an established and highly-respected firm."



Jo-Anne Lomax

Alison Lobb, managing partner at Morecrofts, said: "I am delighted to welcome Jo-anne to the equity partnership. Her contribution to the ownership of the business will be invaluable.

"She's a much-loved member of our family and we were delighted when Jo-anne decided to "come home" some years ago, after a spell working elsewhere. We are lucky she has chosen to be part of the leadership and ownership of the firm for years to come."

### **\*\*NEW\*\* A Guide to Harassment Offences with Olwen Davies**

Tuesday 15th February, 1.30pm - 4.30pm (online)

**This online course looks in-depth at what harassment actually is, busts a few myths and looks at a wealth of case law, leaving you fully prepared to prosecute or defend a s2/s4 harassment trial.**

Topics include:

- Identifying the offences under s2/2A/4/4A Prevention of Harassment Act 1997
- Who is the complainant?
- Mens Rea
- Definitions – "harassment", "course of conduct", "cause fear", "immediate violence" and other concepts
- Is the charge in time under s127 MCA?
- The need to particularise an allegation -and what if that isn't done?
- Why context matters
- Restraining orders on acquittal- common pitfalls
- Restraining orders on conviction and how they go wrong

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

### **Contract and Commercial Update 2022 with Chris Beanland**

Friday 4th February, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

at Liverpool Law Society, Helix, 2nd Floor, Edmund Street, Liverpool, L2 9NY

The course will cover but is not limited to:

- Johnny Rotten's attempt to invoke every conceivable kind of estoppel rejected and defeated by implied term: Jones v Lydon [2021] EWHC 2321
- Exploiting monopoly position is not economic duress: Pakistan International Airlines Corp v Times Travel (UK) Ltd [2021] UKSC 40
- No implied term that obligation to pay rent suspended when premises closed due to Covid: London (Trocadero) (2015) Ltd v Picturehouse Cinemas Ltd [2021] EWHC 2591
- 12% compounded default interest was penalty: Ahjuha Investments Ltd v Victorygame Ltd [2021] EWHC 2382

& more...

**Competencies: B**

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

## Hill Dickinson advises Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust on Bury, Rochdale and Oldham hospital acquisitions and establishment of new Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

Hill Dickinson has advised Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust (SRFT) on its acquisition of three additional hospital sites from Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (PAHT).

The transaction, which completed on 1 October 2021, will see SRFT acquire PAHT's hospital sites in Bury, Rochdale and Oldham. The newly expanded SRFT will also rebrand from 1 October and be known as the Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust.

It follows the separation in April 2021 of North Manchester General Hospital from PAHT and its subsequent transfer to Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust.

Together, the two transactions constitute a major milestone in NHS healthcare provision for the North West region and tie in with integration and collaboration plans to develop a single hospital service across the city of Manchester in which the sustainability of essential patient services across the region is key. An interdisciplinary legal team from across Hill Dickinson's Health Group collaborated to provide SRFT with advice and guidance across a wide range of practice area specialisms.

Esther Venning, Rob McGough and Amanda Hurst, partners in the Health Commercial Regulatory and Real Estate team, together with Michael Wright, partner in the firm's Health Employment team and Jonathan Heap, partner in the Clinical Negligence team, led the firm's advice to SRFT, together with senior associate Jenna Wong and associates James Molloy and Laura Tasker.

Commenting on the transaction, Rob McGough said: "We are absolutely delighted to have achieved a successful outcome for our client on this very long and complex process.

"The delivery of the transaction in the current climate is testament to our longstanding relationship with the senior team at Salford, the trusted partnership we have built together and our ability to provide a joined-up service across multiple distinct but inter-related areas of the law."

Hill Dickinson has advised SRFT since the trust was first established and was instructed on the latest acquisition as far back as 2016. Steps leading up to the acquisition of the three hospital sites by SRFT began with the establishment of group governance arrangements whereby SRFT and PAHT were brought together under a single group governance structure in April 2017, ultimately paving the way for the planned acquisitions.

Following a tender process in 2018, the firm was appointed to provide legal support throughout the acquisition.

The scope of support included provision of embedded on-site legal support, the running of legal advice clinics and specialist support in the areas of corporate, commercial and public law; governance; employment; property and estates; and clinical negligence (in terms of due diligence).



**Rob McGough**

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

with Tracy Thompson

Tuesday 30th November, 1.30pm - 4.30pm (online)

**This seminar is specifically designed 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](#)**



# 2021 Conference for Legal Cashiers & Managers

10TH NOVEMBER 2021 | 9.30AM - 12.30PM | ONLINE

**Welcome & introduction**  
Jo Dalton, MSB

**Findings from the one-year evaluation of the Standards and Regulations**  
Natalie Darby, SRA

**Anti Money Laundering Update**  
Nicola Watkiss, Legal Risk

**Open banking - it's uses in risk mitigation for legal practices**  
Tony Walker, Armalytix

**Compliance & Taxation - Adapting change**  
Robert Blech & Karen Hain, MHA



**[Click Here To Book](#)**



## Hill Dickinson advises on over £2 billion of completed deals in first half of 2021 as market bounceback continues to gather pace

Hill Dickinson's international Corporate and Banking team is pleased to announce a strong performance for the first half of 2021 having advised on 78 completed deals with an aggregate value of more than £2 billion.

The performance represents a very significant increase on the equivalent period in 2020. Although the number of deals was broadly the same as in 2020 (78 completed deals in H1 2021 vs 80 in H1 2020) the aggregate value of the deals has almost doubled, from £1.1 billion in 2020 to £2 billion in 2021.

Notable highlights include:

- Advising on a large number of M&A transactions, including several significant deals such as advising ADES International Holding on its US\$516 million recommended cash takeover, EMMAC Life Sciences on its US\$345 million sale, Minds + Machines on the conditional sale of the majority of its assets for up to US\$120 million and Ultimate Products on its £34 million takeover of Salter.
- Advising on a number of IPOs and secondary fundraisings and continuing to have one of the leading AIM practices in the UK. The firm has maintained its top-5 ranking (ranked #5) for the number of retained AIM clients it advises (34) in the latest AIM Advisers Rankings Guide (July 2021).
- Continuing to advise the firm's institutional investor and management team clients on a number of high-profile mid-market PE investment deals and buy-and-build programmes and exits.
- Winning Mid-sized Law Firm of the Year at the delayed 2020 Insider NW Dealmakers Awards.



**Ian Riggs**

- Continued expansion to meet client demand, including the launch of a corporate offering in the firm's Leeds office. Recent hires have boosted the Corporate and Banking team to over 75 specialist lawyers across the firm's UK and international offices.

Ian Riggs, Hill Dickinson's national head of corporate, said: "I am delighted once again to be able to report an excellent performance by our national Corporate team in the first half of 2021. The period saw very significant levels of activity, which was a continuation of the strong recovery in deal volumes that we saw in the second half of 2020. The UK markets have remained resilient and we have been exceptionally busy during the most recent lockdown advising on transactions spanning a range of sectors and markets."

**LawCare**  
Supporting the Legal Community

**0800 279 6888**  
[www.lawcare.org.uk](http://www.lawcare.org.uk)

**1800 991 801**  
[www.lawcare.ie](http://www.lawcare.ie)

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

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



LawCare  
PO Box 147  
Benfleet SS7 3WX

Admin: +44 1268 771 333  
[admin@lawcare.org.uk](mailto:admin@lawcare.org.uk)  
[admin@lawcare.ie](mailto:admin@lawcare.ie)

LawCare Ltd. Registered Office: 50 Broadway, London SW1H 0BL  
Company registration no. 3313975  
Registered as a charity in England and Wales no. 1061685,  
and in Scotland no. SC039335.



**How are you,  
really?**



Supporting the Legal Community

## How are you, really?

Life in the law can be challenging and sometimes things can get on top of you.

### Can we help?

LawCare is the charity that promotes and supports good mental health and wellbeing across the legal community in the UK and Ireland.

We've been supporting lawyers for 20 years. No-one knows lawyers like we do.

Our confidential helpline is a safe place to talk without judgement. We're here to help 365 days a year through our helpline, answered by trained staff and volunteers who have first-hand experience of working in the law.

Whether you're a barrister feeling burnt out, a young trainee experiencing sexual harassment, a student struggling with the workload, an experienced lawyer worrying about a mistake you've made, or a partner feeling pushed out - we're here to listen.

As well as our helpline, we offer one-to-one peer support, information, resources and factsheets at [www.lawcare.org.uk](http://www.lawcare.org.uk) or [www.lawcare.ie](http://www.lawcare.ie).

We are here to help all branches of the legal profession: solicitors, barristers, barrister's clerks, judges, legal executives, paralegals, trade mark attorneys, patent agents, costs lawyers, and their staff and families.

Our support spans the legal life from student to training to practice and retirement.



**CALL 0800 279 6888**  
from the UK

**or 1800 991 801**  
from Ireland

365 days a year  
Weekdays

9am - 7.30pm

Weekends and Bank Holidays  
10am - 4pm

**We're waiting for your call**

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

[www.lawcare.ie](http://www.lawcare.ie)

# Council Member's Report

## Council Member Nina Ferris



Nina ferris

After many, many months of virtual council meetings, I was delighted to attend Chancery Lane earlier this month and finally see many council members face to face in our first hybrid meeting. It was very strange seeing half of our colleagues, with the other half on screen, but it felt like there was a renewed enthusiasm to the debate with it being in person. It was a sad meeting for some as the new 12 year rule meant that a number of experienced council members, including some past presidents, were giving up their seats, but we look forward to welcoming new faces and new ideas to make newly created representative seats at the next meeting in December.

It was of course also a proud and happy meeting as it was followed by the AGM and historic inauguration of Stephanie Boyce as the first person of colour to be appointed as President of the Law Society, although she did admit that it was strange to only be officially inaugurated after 7 months in the job. Her speech recognised her appointment as an important first and she pledged to work to leave the profession a more diverse and inclusive one than the one she entered. The inauguration also saw the appointment of the other office holders, Lubna Shuja as Vice President and Nick Emmerson as Deputy Vice President. They look forward to working with each other and there will no doubt be opportunity to meet all of them during their terms of office.

### Black history month

TLS has been encouraging black people to be proud of their heritage and have open honest discussions about challenges faced. There have been a number of podcasts over the month as well as the release of the Race for inclusion report, the key findings of which can be found in full on the TLS website, but include: work is happening but change is coming too slowly; career progression is slower and there is a significant ethnicity pay gap; and representation at partner level remains poor. More information and resource is available [here](#).

### SIF

Council has issued a **statement** on the closure of SIF, expressing our ongoing commitment to facilitating an extension.

## Climate Change

COP 26 will have taken place and TLS were hosting sessions on what it means to be a climate conscious lawyer. Council has delegated a working group to provide resources to support members to have climate conscious practices.

## Publicly funded legal advice vanishes

TLS analysis has revealed catastrophic legal aid deserts across the country. Fewer and fewer solicitors can afford to go into legal aid work, leading to an ageing profession and a pending drain of expertise unless government steps in to make the work sustainable. The President said: "Anyone trying to resolve a serious housing, family, welfare, care or immigration problem is likely to need face-to-face professional advice urgently – if the nearest legal aid solicitor is in the next county this can be an insurmountable barrier." The statistics are staggering: 52m people (88%) do not have access to a local education legal aid provider; 47m (79%) do not have access to a local welfare legal aid provider; 38m (63%) do not have access to a local immigration and asylum legal aid provider; and 23.5m (39%) do not have access to a local legal aid provider for housing advice. TLS is asking the government to commit more in its spending review to addressing this disparity.

At the time of writing the budget review was imminent, with hopefully some good news for the justice budget to address the above and spiralling court backlogs.

## AML changes

Responding to the Treasury's call for evidence, TLS said the approach must be risk based and proportionate rather than the current AML regime which places disproportionate compliance obligations on the legal profession, most notably on small firms, necessitating activity which does little to prevent money laundering, the cost of which is ultimately passed on to consumers. The consultation response can be found in full here.

And finally, after five years we say goodbye to Law Society Chief Executive Paul Tennant. Paul has led the renewal of TLS Infrastructure to allow the Society to respond rapidly to the changing needs of members. The Chair of the Board said "We are in the process to appoint his successor, who will build on Paul's legacy, helping to implement our ambitious plans to promote the profession both here and abroad, and defend the rule of law and access to justice."

As ever if you have any matters that you would like raised at national level or would like to know what the Law Society is doing for you on any issues, please get in touch.

**Nina Ferris**  
Council Member



**Nick Emmerson, Deputy Vice President,  
Lubna Shuja, Vice President and  
I. Stephanie Boyce, President of the Law  
Society**



# Liverpool BID Company

**Our regular update from Julie Johnson, partner at Morecrofts Solicitors and chair of Liverpool BID Company's Culture & Commerce BID Board.**

## New Culture & Commerce BID Board for Liverpool BID

As we head into Autumn, a new look for Liverpool BID Company's new Culture & Commerce BID Operating Board will steer the city centre into its next chapter.

The new Board has been unveiled, with a mixture of independent and major businesses operating in the city, alongside public sector organisations from arts, culture, tourism, hospitality, commercial and professional services. As former Chair of the Commercial District BID Board, I am delighted to be Chair of the new Culture & Commerce BID Board.

The BID is a private, not for profit organisation representing the interests of over 1,000 businesses in Liverpool, BIDs are constituted by law and are designed to provide an independent voice to improve the areas in which they work.

Liverpool has two BIDs, the Retail & Leisure BID and the newly established Culture & Commerce BID, which covers the former Commercial District BID, St George's Quarter and the Waterfront. Both BIDs are overseen by an operating board, signing off business plans, budgets and major projects delivered by the BID Team, as well as an Executive Board looking after the governance, finance and strategy of the company.

The expanded Culture & Commerce BID, voted for by businesses in Spring 2021, has a new operating board, made of businesses who submitted their own representatives. Coming from a variety of sectors, including Liverpool's Lunya restaurant, Fazenda, arts organisations including NML and Tate Liverpool, professional services firms like Griffiths & Armour and Moore & Smalley, the board represents businesses looking to help shape the next chapter in Liverpool's development.

The new board includes; Mark Blankstone, Blankstone Opticians, Chris Capes, Peel, Graham Dagnall, DWF, Sue Darwell, Bruntwood, Matthew Donnelly, Griffiths & Armour, Faye Dyer, ACC Liverpool, Stephanie Harrison, Regenda Group, Ross Hazelhurst, Grosvenor Casino, Julia Carolina Coutinho Huf, Fazenda, Laura Irving, Tate Liverpool, Julie Johnson, Morecrofts LLP, Sean Keyes, Sutcliffe, Peter Kinsella, Lunya, Phil Malthouse, Brock Carmichael Architects, Ian McCarthy, Lavvu Ltd, Gabrielle Monks, Home Office, Alan Robson, Project Four Safety Solutions, Laura Pye, National Museums Liverpool, Andy Webster, MHA Moore & Smalley.

The new expanded BID Area comes with a five year business plan £7m investment for Liverpool city centre. The commitments made during the ballot included upgrading public spaces and civic squares, creating a Subvention Fund for business events, improving city centre connectivity, improving the gateway access to the city centre, leading on Christmas



**Julie Johnson**

animation and expanding the BID Police Team and BID Street Rangers.

BIDs represent the donation of two valuable resources to a city; time and investment. Accountability and good governance are vital to ensure the strategy and the use of these resources is for the greater good. Liverpool BID is committed to making the city a better place to live, work and thrive. That means improving connectivity and the public realm, investing in culture and tourism, making the city safer and more secure and providing a vital voice for business and industry across a wide variety of sectors. Working together is more important than ever as we emerge from the pandemic and make the city more attractive to both its businesses, residents and those wanting to invest into it.

The animation in the public realm has already begun with the launch of the second commission of Art in Motion, our partnership with Liverpool Biennial. Liverpool artist Emma Dolan's work, 'Remember how boss it was' is available to see and enjoy in the Commercial District. The project centres around Scouse-ness and the phonetic history of the Scouse accent and dialect.

With that artwork and River of Light, the city is gently easing itself into the late Autumn months and the run up to Christmas.

**Twitter - @LpoolBIDcompany**  
**Facebook - LiverpoolBIDCompany**  
**Instagram - LiverpoolBIDCompany**  
**LinkedIn - Liverpool BID Company**

# Monthly Costs Update



**Welcome to our 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**

On 6th October 2021 the Supreme Court handed down judgment in the important case of **Ho v Adekun** [2021] UKSC 43. This concerns interpretation of the rules surrounding Qualified One Way Costs Shifting (QOCS) and what funds can be taken into account in relation to enforcement of the defendant's costs.

The original claim was about a Road Traffic accident. Mrs A was injured in a collision with a car driven by Mrs H back in 2012. Insurers for Mrs H made a Part 36 offer of £30k which was accepted. A battle began over costs. Mrs A argued that she was entitled to costs on the standard basis. Those costs totalled about £42k. The insurers argued that she was only entitled to fixed recoverable costs at £16,700. That particular dispute ended up in the Court of Appeal who found in favour of the Defendant, Mrs H. So the claimant's costs were limited to £16,700. The costs of the appeal were £48,600. The issue was whether the defendants could recoup some of those costs as a set off against the £16,700.

This takes us to CPR 44.14 that says –

Subject to rules 44.15 and 44.16, orders for costs made against a claimant may be enforced without the permission of the court but only to the extent that the aggregate amount in money terms of such orders does not exceed the aggregate amount in money terms of any orders for damages and interest made in favour of the claimant.

The settlement of £30k was protected by QOCS as it was not part of any order for damages and interest. It was a settlement. But could the defendants enforce part of their appeal costs against the £16,700? There were two Court of Appeal decisions on the point. In the case of **Howe v Motor Insurers' Bureau** [2020] Costs LR 297, the court decided that enforcement of costs against costs was not affected by QOCS and allowed a set off in similar circumstances. In this case the Court of Appeal took a different view and thought that a set off was not appropriate. However, they considered themselves bound by *Howe*. Which is why we ended up in the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court noted that in many cases there won't be any issue. If the Defendants' costs are less than the damages and interest, then they can be offset against that money pursuant to CPR 44.14. But what happens when the costs exceed the damages and interest? Can the shortfall be deducted from the claimant's costs? The issue was whether the attempted set off against costs amounted to enforcement, which would invoke CPR 44.14, or was simply covered by the general rules on set off under CPR 44.12. The Justices found that it was indeed enforcement. This meant that the cap on deductions prevailed. 44.14 clearly limits such deductions to orders for damages and interest. That is where the line is drawn and there can be no enforcement of the defendants' costs against a separate order for costs in favour of the claimant. So the Defendants had to pay the £30k damages that were protected as they were not covered by an 'order', the £16,700 costs of the original claim and their own costs of the appeal.

The position is that under QOCS there is no set off of costs against costs.

Interestingly, the Supreme Court expressed unease that they were called upon to adjudicate on this point. Lord Briggs and Lady Rose, giving the lead judgment, observed that this was really a matter for the rules committee.

This is not the first time that these rules come under scrutiny and it is surely time for a root and branch review.

In other news there has been a development on certification of bills. In **Barking, Havering & Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust v ABC** [2021] EWHC 2607 (QB), Mrs Justice Steyn ruled that it is necessary to state in the bill, the details of who is signing it and of the fee earners referred to. This was all about CPR 47 PD 5.21 certification of certain matters including that the bill of costs is accurate. In the ABC case the bill was signed by someone described simply as a Partner.

A further argument was raised about the information provided in relation to the status of fee earners. CPR 5.11 (2) says that the bill should set out –

*“a statement of the status of the legal representatives' employee in respect of whom costs are claimed and (if those costs are calculated on the basis of hourly rates) the hourly rates claimed for each such person.”*

In ABC the fee earners were grouped into categories but were not individually identified. This was described by the judge as intolerably opaque –

*“Without a breakdown of work undertaken by individual fee earners, it is impossible to know whether, for example, two different fee earners within the same status category each spent one hour working on a letter, on consecutive days, or whether only one fee earner spent two hours across two days working on it. This kind of information is capable of revealing that work has been duplicated, in whole or in part. It is also impossible to detect, for example, if a claim has been made that an individual fee earner undertook, say, 10 hours work on disclosure on a day when a claim has also been made for the same fee earner's attendance at a one day hearing, giving rise to questions about the accuracy of the claim. Such anomalies are hidden if work is claimed by reference to categories of fee earner. In addition, the provision of the names of fee earners enables the paying party to check the expertise and experience of individual fee earners, when considering whether the rate claimed is reasonable.”*

She found that it was necessary to name each individual fee earner and to include their hourly rate and status.

The court held that the bill was not properly certified and it was struck out.

It is not a difficult task to identify the person certifying the bill and the provide details of the relevant fee earners. But it can be costly to cut corners and then provide details.

**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



**Andrea Cohen**

Autumn has well and truly arrived, with dark mornings and the nights drawing in, but the world is opening up (and will hopefully stay that way!) and Christmas is round the corner. In pre-pandemic times, we would have completed practising certificate renewal 'season', but if you/your firm have not yet renewed your practising certificates, this year you have (at the time of writing) until 13:00 on Thursday 11 November to do so.

### **SRA AML report**

In its first professional supervisor report, the SRA has reported that in the last 12 months there were 85 visits to firms, with a further 168 desk-based reviews. The most common reason for non-compliance with AML regulations was not having a proper risk assessment, followed by poor client due diligence, checks on source of funds, inadequate training or supervision and poor policies. The report says the SRA continues 'to see firms struggling with independent audit and screening requirements' with firms not carrying out an independent audit (a requirement of the AML regulations), and steps were needed to be taken by the SRA AML team to bring firms into compliance. In addition, 60% of policies, controls and procedures

reviewed were either not compliant or only partially compliant. 273 reports of potential AML breaches were made to the SRA, with 29 enforcement actions, resulting in total fines of £160,000, and the SRA made 39 suspicious activity reports to the NCA 'reporting on £180m of potentially criminal funds'. The SRA confirms that in the coming year it will increase the number of visits to firms and desk-based reviews and continue to bring enforcement action against firms not meeting their obligations.

If you need any assistance, please get in touch.

### **Practice notes and guidance**

The Law Society has recently issued a new Conflict of interests practice note, replacing the December 2019 note, and a File closure management practice note, replacing the January 2020 version. The SRA has updated its guidance on 'Preparing to become a sole practitioner or SRA regulated freelance solicitor', 'Meeting our standards for good qualifying work experience' and 'Solicitors and COLPs confirming qualifying work experience'.

### **Fight to save SIF**

At its AGM, the Law Society

resolved to oppose the SRA's plan to close SIF next year, (postponed from September this year), saying it remains committed to working with the SRA to extend SIF so that insurance protection remains in place after the mandatory 6 year run-off period. 'Retaining SIF would meet regulatory objectives, to maintain access to justice and the rule of law; to protect the interests of consumers and encourage an independent strong diverse and effective legal profession.'

### **SQE update**

Last month, we reported on the introduction, in September, of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) and the SRA has recently confirmed that almost 1,200 people have signed up to take the first assessment in November. SQE1 will test practical legal knowledge, with around 10 hours of assessments taken over 2 days, and SQE2 will assess practical legal skills and knowledge, with the first assessments in April 2022. The SRA expects candidate numbers to rise considerably as a "range of law firms" have already committed to taking on SQE trainees, with many starting next year. Julie Brannan, SRA director of education and training, said that with 'more choice, flexibility and affordable options, more talented

people, from all backgrounds, should have a fairer shot at qualifying as a solicitor.'

### **SRA unbundled service pilot**

The SRA are looking for firms to take part in a pilot study on unbundled services in family law, based on individual needs and budget, working with the Law Society and Legal Services Consumer Panel, looking at both the benefits and drawbacks to clients and firms, while ensuring firms are still compliant with SRA principle 7, the requirement to act in the best interests of the client. The SRA says it is keen to remove any regulatory barriers preventing firms from offering unbundled services and wants to create a safe environment to allow firms to work together, share ideas and advice. There are concerns however, as expressed by a Law Society spokesperson 'particularly around the risk of being found negligent for things the solicitor believed fell outside the retainer'. The hope is that the SRA pilot study will provide 'robust evidence of the issues that unbundled services raise'.

### **SDT support for lawyers?**

Following claims that young solicitors face an inequality of arms during proceedings



in the disciplinary tribunal, the Law Society is exploring ways to support lawyers appearing in the SDT, 'within the limits of what we are able to do under the regulatory regime'.

The president of Westminster & Holborn Law Society, speaking at the Junior Lawyer's Division conference, said it had launched a campaign for the Law Society to pay for representation at the SDT. 'Practical help which will make a huge difference to the careers of junior solicitors. It's high time for this one small step.' He also commented on the pressurised culture in some firms, with young solicitors facing the SDT for 'small mistakes and losing their careers', an issue raised last year by the Junior Lawyers Division in relation to the SRA's approach to handling junior lawyers who report mental health issues or a toxic working environment.

## Economic crime levy

Law firms have been warned that they may have to make structural changes to reduce the impact of the government's economic crime levy to help fund action to tackle money laundering. The levy will be a fixed fee based on the firm's turnover, with no account taken of how much of the turnover relates to

regulated activity. The figures have not been finalised yet, but the indications are that businesses with a turnover of over £10.2m which carry on a regulated business at any point during the levy year will be subject to the levy.

The Law Society and City of

London Law Society commented: "This is a potential concern for law firms that operate through multiple entities. Such firms will have to put processes and checks in place to monitor and control where regulated activities take place and may even need to make structural changes to their businesses."

## Disciplinary Decisions

### Doctoring time recording – part 2

A second paralegal has been banned from the profession for doctoring her time recording to suggest in relation to the number of calls she was making, 3 weeks after another former paralegal from the same firm was also banned. The firm reviewed all fee earners time recording and data showed no phone calls on 43 of the 281 time-entries she had recorded on the automated billing process. The paralegal was dismissed from the firm and reported to the SRA, who issued a section 43 order and £300 costs.

### Dishonesty over struck out claims

The SDT ruled that solicitor acted dishonestly after falsely letting clients believe their claims were ongoing when they had actually been struck out due to her mistakes. Her misconduct was discovered during an internal investigation and she was reported to the SRA. The tribunal heard that the solicitor had "panicked" and emailed the clients, saying there were administrative difficulties that were being dealt with. She was struck off and ordered to pay £36,000 in costs.

## High Court appeal rejected

The High Court has rejected an appeal from a solicitor who was struck off after being recorded by an undercover TV reporter giving advice on sham marriages to get round immigration rules. The solicitor was struck off in 2019 for the sham marriages advice and misconduct relating to property transactions but appealed, and the SRA agreed to an order squashing the SDT's decision because it had not provided the solicitor with a transcript of the tape used for the TV programme. A new tribunal heard the matter in September 2020, when he was again struck off and ordered to pay £26,500 costs. He then appealed again on various grounds, including: the SDT should have dealt with the allegations in separate proceedings; the reporter's conduct was entrapment; the SDT had not viewed the recordings, and the SDT did not take sufficient note of his personal references. All the grounds were rejected and the Judge concluded that the tribunal's order was "neither wrong on the facts nor unjust because of any serious procedural or other irregularity".

## Suspicious investment schemes

Two solicitors who put their own financial interests ahead of their clients, who lost money in dubious investment schemes, have been struck off. The SDT found that the solicitors failed to provide adequate advice to their clients, ignoring multiple red flags, and were more concerned with maintaining the volume of work and fees,

which totalled almost £3m and was the firm's main source of income. The SDT concluded: "Their conduct was deliberate, calculated and repeated over a number of years and over 6,000 transactions... Their conduct was a complete departure from the standards of integrity, probity and trustworthiness expected of solicitors." They were also ordered to pay £98,000 costs.

## Failure to complete ID checks

A solicitor has been rebuked for helping a fraudster commit theft. The solicitor accepted a client who walked in without an appointment, explained he had borrowed some money and wanted to renovate and sell a property to repay it. The solicitor checked the client's passport but did not see any evidence of where he lived or that he owned the property he intended to sell. The solicitor admitted to failing to conduct adequate client ID checks and failing to verify ownership of the property in question. The SRA noted this was an isolated incident with a low risk of being repeated. The solicitor was rebuked and ordered to pay £300 costs.

## Andrea Cohen Weightmans LLP

# News from Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division

It's been a busy month for the MJLD! Our new committee are now fully in the swing of things and are looking forward to all of the exciting events and opportunities we have planned for the next year!

We hosted our new committee's first event at Ma Boyles on 30 September, which was a huge success. Over 50 of our members turned out for canapés, free drinks and the opportunity to socialise with other junior lawyers. We are delighted that we are once again able to host in person events safely for our members and allow them to network within our community. Networking is an important part of working within the legal sector for Junior Lawyers and it is great to be back to it. We are working hard on our next event so keep your eye out for announcements on our social media channels.

We are also on the hunt for a new charity to sponsor for our 2021/2022 year. If you are a Liverpool based charity the please send an email with 200 words about your charity and how you would benefit from being our nominated charity to [Victoria.evans@celsolicitors.co.uk](mailto:Victoria.evans@celsolicitors.co.uk) and [smulla@jacksonlees.co.uk](mailto:smulla@jacksonlees.co.uk). Applications are currently open and close on 15 November 2021. Last year we raised a total of £1,225.00 for our 2021 charity Paul's Place thanks to the generosity of our members!

Finally, we are delighted to announce that our Judicial Shadowing Scheme is about to start up again after an extended hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our selected student members will be attending the Liverpool Family Court for a day where they will have the opportunity to shadow one of the Family Court Judges to gain an insight into life in the Courtroom. Over the past year we have tried hard to focus on expanding the opportunities we have available to our student members, and to offer pathways to work experience which will help those without connections in Law break into the legal sector. We would like to congratulate all those who have been selected and as a committee we wish to say a massive thank you to the Family Court for helping us facilitate this opportunity.

**Jemma Castell, MJLD Press & Publicity Representative**



**Jemma Castell**





# Liverpool lawyers retain the Triparite Cup



**Winning team photo from left to right: Jonathan Berkson (International Captain), Phil James, Julie O'Hare (Liverpool Law Society President) with trophy, Brian Lawlor and Chris Hayes.**

West Lancashire Golf Club was the perfect setting for a near perfect performance on the golf course. With a golfing format that did not allow for anyone to hide and a gale blowing that kept the birds from flight (and the Liver Birds shaking), the Liverpool team won the day against stiff competition from teams from the solicitor societies of Dublin and Belfast.

The Trophy was founded in 2018, the year Belfast won having hosted the event. It was then won by Liverpool in Dublin in 2019, 2020 was cancelled and we, in Liverpool, played host this year. The teams for the event are selected in Dublin and Liverpool by Captain's selection but the team from Belfast won the right to compete by way of a knock-out match they had in Belvoir Golf club, Belfast earlier in the year.

Your Liverpool team (see photo) included 3 from the Liverpool's Dublin winning team and a late substitute of Chris Hayes, who stepped in for Val Duggins at the last minute. A big thank you from the society for all the members of the golf society who entered the competition for Liverpool's first Tripartite formula match and

fortunately for the Liverpool Int Captain the selected team won the home event too, winning bottles of spirits the sponsors of the event kindly donated.

The Belfast team's captain, Marie-Anne McVeigh put added pressure on next year's contest by saying: "... Clearly your golf was better than mine on the day but let's see where that cup finishes up next year. Make sure you remember to pack it for Belfast 2022! Looking forward to welcoming both Liverpool and Dublin to Belfast in 2022 for what will hopefully be another great event."

Selection to represent the Society takes place at the 2 golf days the society hosts coupled with international form. 2 teams of 4 are eligible for next year's battle.

The last golf day of the society for this year was held in early October where the Paul Stanton memorial trophy (kindly donated by Paul's widow) was won by Jim Rymer (photo below) and the Charles Eccleston Pairs trophy was won by team Berkson and McDonnell.

The Society's AGM is to take place in March/ April in its club house at the Racquets Club, Chapel Street, Liverpool.



**Jim Rymer wins the Paul Stanton Memorial Trophy**



## Astraea Linskills hosts wellness lunch at The Watering Can

Astraea Linskills rounded off a busy week by hosting a wellness lunch at The Watering Can on with Actress turned Sunday Times best-selling author Davinia Taylor.

Davinia enjoyed an afternoon in Liverpool to celebrate the success of her top selling book 'It's Not a Diet'. Over 80 people attended a book launch event at The Watering Can, Greenbank Park, where Davinia chronicled her journey from being overweight, depressed and unmotivated to the picture of health and happiness she is today. Davinia opened up about her journey from her wild days in London as part of the Primrose Hill set, to the content wife and mother of four.

A sumptuous lunch was followed by a wellness talk from Davinia who also answered guests questions, before DJ Dave Seed rounded the afternoon off with a fantastic set of dancefloor filling classics.

Davinia's friends Cassie Lomas (celebrity make-up artist), Coleen Rooney, Lorraine McCulloch (celebrity stylist) were also there to support the event, with Coleen posting on her Instagram page "Loved seeing these beautiful ladies to celebrate Davinia Taylor's new book".

While fashion brand Lavish Alice owners Lee Bloor and Matt Newton were delighted Davinia chose one of their outfits for the occasion.

Founding Director of Astraea Linskills, Nama Zarroug said "We are delighted to have been part of such an inspirational event. As an organisation the wellness of our team and associates is very important to us. Our colleagues at 'Love Wavertree' are absolutely thrilled that over £1,000 was raised to support their ongoing Food Club and it was fantastic to host the event at The Watering Can and support the local community in the process. We are already looking ahead to our next event".



**Nama Zarroug**

Event organiser Carolyn Hughes said "It was one of the most fun and informative events I have had the privilege of being involved with. Davinia is an inspirational, knowledgeable speaker with a wicked sense of humour and an honesty that is truly humbling. She is hugely well respected in the world of wellness and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with her and the team at Astraea Linskills".

Davinia said "I have loved every second of today, meeting up with mates and had a great time. A fantastic lunch with wonderful people, It is great to be back up north!"



**Davinia Taylor**



**The Watering Can**

## 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



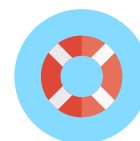
#### Give Back

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)



# Mental Health Matters Imposter Syndrome

Have you ever walked into a room and felt you don't belong there? Have you ever been in a situation and waited for someone to come and ask you how on earth you managed to wangle your way in? Have you ever questioned the validity of your success, right place right time, they were doing me a favour, I am sure you can fill in the gap with your own internal narrative. Imposter Syndrome, that dreaded label that people keep talking about but not really dissecting.

So what is Imposter Syndrome? Well it's defined as "the persistent inability to believe that one's success is deserved or has been legitimately achieved as a result of one's own efforts or skills".

The term was first used by psychologists Suzanne Imes and Pauline Rose Clance over 40 years ago, but it is not technically an illness. Simply it means that you do not feel good enough or deserving enough, sound familiar?

I am sure it does due to the fact that this issue has a high prevalence within the legal sector due to the need to achieve, perfectionism, at times unobtainable drive and the competitive environment. Now whilst it may be very much 'the norm' what is important is to acknowledge it, in doing so we disempower that small voice in our heads that weather away at our self esteem making us doubt the legitimacy of our seat at the table. Believing our negative hype we start to doubt our capabilities and begin to fear the challenge of progression. We become disenfranchised with our surroundings and begin to take a slow and steady dip towards burnout. Imposter Syndrome consumes an immense amount of energy and leaves us feeling anxious. So calling it out is a step down the path to nurturing our own wellbeing but also importantly towards the change in culture of our organisations and the legal profession.

Once we start to openly discuss these feelings around self-worth we can start to use such conversations as initial points to build on self esteem, value and security. Believing that we haven't just fallen into our own success but are deserving of our positions.



**Ishbel Straker**

*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.*

0151 706 7912

[www.istrakerconsultants.co.uk](http://www.istrakerconsultants.co.uk)



# Charity Spotlight

## Whitefield Primary School

Whitefield Primary School is a community primary school of 300 pupils in L6 in North Liverpool. We are based in an increasingly diverse community which is ranked as an area of high deprivation, in the bottom 1% of the most deprived Wards in the country, and our school community faces the challenges that context brings daily.

Our school vision is summed up in the statement

*"We value each child for who they are and prepare them for who they can be."*

As a school community we work hard together to make that real for our children. That means that we have high aspirations and expectations for our children, and we believe that our students deserve a curriculum that gives them improved life chances by enabling social equity and mobility.

The school seeks to provide a wide range of experiences that children might otherwise not access, trips to the beach, to theatres, forests, farms, and the amazing museums and art galleries of Liverpool. We want them to experience campfires, den building, to find out what it's like inside the Merseytunnel and to be able to attend matches in the big football grounds they live next to. We access the wonderful parks and natural environment on our doorstep, and partner with the award-winning Chester Zoo education team.

The school approach is based on being Attachment and Trauma Sensitive; being aware of the challenges our children may have faced in their lives that impact on how they behave and engage in school and helping children to learn to name and regulate their emotions. We really focus on getting children to attend every day, sometimes that means working closely with families to make sure they have what they need at home so they can manage to get their children to school. With that in place children make excellent progress and the school results have consistently been in



the top few schools in Liverpool.

We were thrilled to be awarded the Silver Award in the Teaching Awards 2020 as Primary School of the Year (Making a difference) and just last month the nasen (National association for special needs) award for Primary School Provision (2021).

During COVID-19 we have focussed on bringing as many of those opportunities as possible to the children in school and have been grateful for the support of our charity community partners to help fund that. For example, Carpenters group supported us during the summer to provide an Ice Cream Van and party for the children to celebrate the end of a difficult year, and we were delighted to have their owner Donna Scully come to meet the children. Donna commented, "I've admired this school from afar following them on Twitter & loving everything about them. I was not prepared for the visit though. It blew me away. I met a rainbow of the most beautiful, happy, inquisitive, welcoming children I've ever met plus the most down to earth, inspiring teachers too. It just made me wish I'd gone to a school like this. The possibilities are endless with that start in life."

We are always keen to work with local corporate partners –we benefit from their expertise and advice, the children are inspired through attendance our annual career fair in the Spring term and through their financial support we can make those wider trips and experiences affordable to our families, and have been able to buy diverse books for our children.

You can find more about Whitefield on our website <https://whitefieldprimaryschool.co.uk/> and if you would like to support us in any way, especially as we plan our Christmas events, then email [mbeale@whitefieldprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:mbeale@whitefieldprimaryschool.co.uk) or call us on 0151-2635976





# October 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

Jo Downey · 1st  
Director of Education & Training at Liverpool Law Society  
2d · 📍

FREE EVENT: Experiences of the first SQE1 Assessment - [The College of Legal Practice](#) will share ...see more

Liverpool Law Society

FREE EVENT: Experiences of the first SQE1 Assessment | Liverpool...  
liverpoollawsociety.org.uk · 1 min read

9 1 comment

Jeremy Asher  
@JeremyAsher14

Looking forward to giving my presentation today to students @CaldiesSchool on how to avoid being a victim of #scams #fraud & #moneylaundering and about #Cifas markers for @MSBSolicitors #meanssomethingbetter

Tweet your reply

Carpenters Group + Follow  
3,223 followers  
17h · 📍

#WorldMenopauseDay2021 highlights the important topic of health and wellness for ...see more

WORLD  
October 18 + Menopause Day

54 9 comments

Like Comment Share Send

Popular course on LinkedIn Learning

Alan Kelly  
1,883 Tweets

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

Vauxhall Law Centre · 20h ...

We're supporting this week's week of action to scrap the #AntiRefugeeBill & stand #TogetherWithRefugees. 🧡

Please show your support by following @RefugeeTogether & taking part in local events below:

[togetherwithrefugees.org.uk/local-events/](https://togetherwithrefugees.org.uk/local-events/)

Steve Cornforth #justice...  
@SteveCornforth2

Carey Street getting ready for the off #legalwalk #London #LondonLegalWalk2021

Tweet your reply

Annette Parker · 1st  
PR and Communications Manager at Hill Dickinson LLP  
2w · Edited · 📍

They're back! Last night we celebrated the finish of the 2021 #ApprenticeShipCup challenge and welcomed the crews of historic tall ships MAYBE and BLUE CLIPPER back to #Liverpool. Four members of Hill Dickinson LLP accompanied the voyage this year as crew and as mentors to the young people on board.

The awards ceremony and dinner at the #MaritimeMuseum was a warm and joyful and inspiring event and I felt privileged to have been invited to

Leave your thoughts here... @ Post

Sarah Poblete · 1st  
CEO at Liverpool Law Society  
1d · 📍

Liverpool Law Society  
2,743 followers  
1d · 📍

Halton & Warrington Business Fair  
Thursday 11th November, 10.30am-3pm ...see more

Halton and Warrington Business Fair 2021  
eventbrite.co.uk · 2 min read

Nik White · 1st  
Managing Partner at Brabners LLP  
5d · Edited · 📍

Double bubble!! 🥂🥂

Unfortunately I couldn't ...see more

SOLICITOR FIRM OF THE YEAR  
BRABNERS LLP  
WINNER

PROPERTY LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR  
WINNER  
Brabners

2021

Liverpool Law Society  
2,743 followers  
17h · 📍

We are delighted to be supporting the Owen McVeigh Foundation at the Annual Dinner ...see more

Owen McVeigh... · 1 page

Owen McVeigh Foundation

7 1 comment



**\*\* 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 events 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	Event	Speaker
10-Nov	Conference for Legal Cashiers & Managers	various
23-Nov	3 SQE: Student experiences of the first SQE1 Assessment	Dr Giles Proctor
24-Nov	Public Child Law Conference	various
26-Nov	Corporate Update	Chris Beanland
30-Nov	CQS: demonstrating compliance & surviving the assessment	Tracy Thompson
01-Dec	Personal Injury Conference	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)