

# LiverpoolLaw

December 2021

Liverpool Law Society

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

## Liverpool Law Society Annual Dinner & Legal Awards 2021



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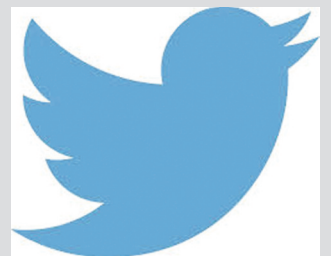
## DEADLINES

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

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

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

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## Welcome to the December 2021 edition of Liverpool Law

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

We have a lengthy magazine for you this month to enjoy at your leisure over the festive period. In particular there are some lovely photographs from the Annual Dinner, it looks like it was a great night.

I'm so pleased that our publisher Julia Baskerville was given a special award for her 27 years with this magazine. This edition is Julia's last before her retirement. I am selfishly sad to see her go as she has helped me so much with this magazine and also provided many words of wisdom when I became a Mother for the first time.

Julia has provided an amazing article this month recounting her 27 years and some of the highlights. I hope we can continue to do her proud with the magazine and our new publishers in the future. Thank you so much to Julia on behalf of Liverpool Law Society, the editorial committee and our readers, I hope you fit in as much travel as possible and enjoy a well earned rest.

This month is also the last submission from our President Julie O'Hare. Julie used to also work at Weightmans in her early career and we were both introduced to Liverpool Law Society by our lovely colleague Charlie Jones. I have been very proud to see Julie become President, for not one but two years, and watch her navigate such extraordinary circumstances. With her wonderful smile she has made it look like water off a ducks back. Congratulations Julie!

Finally I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and new year. If you get an opportunity please send in any submissions you may have!

**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:

13/12/2021 13:00 Access to Justice Sub-Committee  
14/12/2021 12:30 General Committee  
15/12/2021 13:00 EDI Sub-Committee  
16/12/2021 13:00 Civil Litigation Sub-Committee  
06/01/2022 13:00 In-House Lawyers Sub-Committee  
11/01/2022 12:30 General Committee  
13/01/2022 13:00 Future Planning Sub-Committee  
18/01/2022 11:00 Editorial Sub-Committee  
18/01/2022 13:00 A2J in Liverpool Project Meeting  
19/01/2022 13:00 EDI Sub-Committee  
20/01/2022 13:00 Directors and LCR Councillors' Meeting

## Editorial Committee Dates

Meetings start at 11.00 am

18/01/2022  
15/02/2022  
15/03/2022  
19/04/2022  
17/05/2022  
14/06/2022



# From the President

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

Well, here we are – my final column as President and I have to say what an extraordinary two years it's been!

For those at our annual dinner, you will have heard me say how I think I have been the first President in the Society's history to ever use the words challenging and unprecedented on a monthly, if not weekly, basis! But what other words would possibly sum up all of the experiences we have faced in 2020 and 2021!

We have seen some really tough times in these last 2 years, times that we thought would have been behind us after the first wave of Covid. This Society and its members have shown a great strength and steely determination when faced with an ever increasing workload and having to deal under immense pressure. However, I believe we have continued to work together in bringing this legal community even closer. It makes me incredibly proud to have witnessed our Society weathering the storm when many others simply could not.

I really must thank the staff of the Society and express my heartfelt gratitude to them all. Sarah, Liz, Jo, Ann and Kimberly have all worked tirelessly to ensure that the Society continues, not only to survive, but thrive! Our training programme and accounts may have taken a hit during the pandemic but their dedication and spirit has not! So thank you, for your hard work and continued enthusiasm. When posed with the question what have we achieved as a Society in the last 2 years? I would like to think that we have listened. We have effected great change to benefit our members and, no thanks to an un-paralleled period of time, we have adapted and risen to challenges that have come our way. We will continue to listen and adapt too! Echoing my invite at the dinner, if you think there is something we could be doing differently then tell us. Better yet, join us! Come along to our subcommittee meetings and have your say. Join us on the Board and help us effect change. This Society is your Society!

Last year I brought you news that we had started our journey of change; taking on board your views. We amended our Articles of Association and opened our membership up to a wider group of the legal profession, recognising that our membership has to reflect all of those with a genuine and vested interest in our legal community. We have seen new members again this year and I truly hope that this is just the start of that journey; that each year we will see more and more members joining us and ensuring that the future of this society is as diverse as the wider community.

We shifted from an office based operation to online. Maintaining our regular meetings and bringing you all a full training calendar from the comfort of our homes to yours. We saw more engagement from non-members and introduced the option to access training at your convenience with recorded seminars. Going forward, we will continue to bring you a hybrid model of training allowing for more flexibility in your own training and development and cutting down on not only the costs of travel but also having regard to our environmental responsibilities.

We have continued to engage with other local law societies, none



**Julie O'Hare**

more so than our Joint V colleagues, and we are looking forward to bringing you joint initiatives over the next few years (and hopefully beyond).

We have maintained good relationships with large local organisations such as LEP, Professional Liverpool, Liverpool BID, and local Chambers of Commerce. As we come out of the virtual world we have found ourselves living in I look forward to these relationships developing further and together, we hope to encourage new business into the region to provide commercial and recruitment opportunities.

In addition we continued to represent our membership at meetings with the Law Society and SRA as well as holding our regular meetings with MPs and local Councilors. The chairs of our sub-committees also continued to respond to Government Consultations on your behalf.

We have continued to engage with local schools by holding our Annual Pathways to the Profession event, and in a first for the society, we hosted this event remotely! It is so important that we reach out to young people and provide them with support and encouragement to join our profession and promoting social mobility. In a similar vein we have invited organisations such as Speakers for Schools to present to our members and I hope that in time we will see more mentoring initiatives underway.

I am pleased to report that our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion committee goes from strength to strength. Keeping us on track with our desire to promote growth, development and progression. We have held a number of online events and collaborated with other local Law Societies, and the national Law Society, to support our

**continued overleaf**

members by encouraging change and raising the profiles of allies. We have seen a greater engagement with the local Courts and Judiciary and, again, I am hoping that we can continue to develop these relationships as we start to embrace our new normal. We forged links with the Legal Aid Agency and expanded our Joint Forum on Access to Justice. We have also proudly followed some of your pro bono initiatives and resolve to encourage more engagement with non-profit organisations. It is with great admiration that we see our local law centres flourishing and being able to offer an invaluable service to the most vulnerable members of society. They have seen a significant rise in cases and, given the predicaments this pandemic has left some in, this is only likely to increase. Yet they have pressed on in order to be able to recruit and adapt.

Pro Bono week may well be over but the social responsibility to support those less fortunate is year round. I encourage you to reflect on what you and your firms currently do and what you can offer as we enter the new year; it really can be a rewarding experience. During a great time of need we have continued to support charities and this year's Legal Walk was our biggest yet, not just in the numbers of walkers but also the funds raised (£7800). I hope we can increase on this next year (and future years to come) and get us rivaling the numbers that our neighbours, Manchester!

As a Society we have supported members in financial need by way of the Pritt Fund and our commitments to the SBA. We will continue to do so as some of our own find themselves in times of hardship owing to the consequences of this dreadful virus.

It has been sad to hear of some of our local firms being unable to make it through and, again, I am proud of our members that have opened their doors to those who find themselves in need of work. The Conkerton Memorial has been on hold for some time now but will be back! We may not have been able to celebrate those qualifying into the profession at our Newly Qualified event this year. However, I am pleased to see that this also will be very much in the

calendar for next year. Hopefully we will see a more diverse representation of the profession again with a mix of Solicitors, Barristers and Fellows of Cilex. My praise goes to those who have qualified during lockdown (no mean feat at all) and I hope they join us to celebrate in their successes!

I was delighted that we were able to go ahead with the 194th Annual Dinner! This year, in another first for the Society, combined with our Legal Awards. It was a long time coming but, for those of you that attended, I really hope that you had a wonderful time! It was great to see so many of you there! Congratulations again to all of the winners!

Whilst it may have been a tough few years I think there have certainly been some important lessons to take away. We have become much more united as a profession and a community, we have overcome challenges and we have embraced technology as never before.

Before I finish, may I take this opportunity to recognise the dedication of my fellow Officers and Directors and thank them for helping me navigate my way through the last few years, selflessly giving of their time and expertise to drive the Society forward and thank you to my firm, Carpenters, for their support and encouragement.

Finally, a massive thank you to all of our members for your contributions and support to the society.

I have been truly honoured and privileged to be your President of 2020 and 2021 and whilst I may be handing over my Presidency (and, sadly, the Jewel) I look forward to what the future of the Society holds!

**Julie O'Hare**  
President

# News from the Sub Committees

## EDI Sub Committee

ED&I sub-committee recently met with Michelle Charters, CEO from the Kuumba Imani Millennium Centre and her colleague Joe Ramsden, Community Development Worker.

Michelle and Joe were kind enough to give a presentation to committee members on the work they are doing at the Kuumba Imani Millennium Centre, with a particular focus on their L8 law mentoring programme in partnership with Exchange Chambers.

The project is supporting 20 people aged 14-35 from Toxteth to explore and access a career in law with guidance from established legal professionals in Liverpool. Each mentee has unique interests and skills which the programme aims to develop through one-to-one mentoring and workshops. The mentees meet regularly with their mentors at Exchange Chambers, and their programme of support is structured by a calendar of events offering specialised skills events and public forum discussions.

Michelle is keen to work as partners with law firms and chambers to develop diversity and try to tackle discrimination within the sector. Something that is paramount to the work done by the sub-committee and many firms within the region. It is the view of the sub-committee that this is a fantastic venture, changing

lives of many in the L8 area. This programme reinforces the community work that can be done to break down barriers for those who see a career in law as unattainable.

The group is always looking for work experience opportunities, and support from legal professionals, particularly solicitors and paralegals. Lived experience has demonstrated access to the opportunities needed to practise law is severely limited for those from Toxteth.

If you can offer support to a young lawyer from L8/Toxteth, or would like to find out more about the calendar of events, please contact [josephramsden@kuumbaimani.org.uk](mailto:josephramsden@kuumbaimani.org.uk)

If you would like some advice on setting up your own mentoring scheme, then please contact Stella Hayden, barrister at Exchange Chambers, who has been leading on their involvement with this initiative: [hayden@exchangechambers.co.uk](mailto:hayden@exchangechambers.co.uk)

**Rachel Kelly-Brandreth**  
Committee Member

Find out more by visiting  
<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/about/committees/specialist/quality-diversity-inclusion-committee>

# Liverpool Law Society's 194th AGM

## 25th November 2021

The Liverpool Law Society's 194th AGM took place on Thursday 25 November 2021 via Zoom with the President, Julie O'Hare, opening formal proceedings by welcoming all to the meeting.

As with previous years, the election of vacancies for General Committee took place during the meeting and this year the five existing committee members were voted on to continue for a full term of office (three years) were:

- Joanne Francis who is currently Deputy Vice President
- James Mannouch who is chair of the Access to Justice Committee
- Emma Palmer who is chair of the Family Business Committee
- Jennifer Powell who is Editor of 'Liverpool Law' magazine, and
- David Tournafond who is chair of the Education & Charities Committee

## Public Children Law Conference 2021

Last month we held our annual Public Children Law Conference which was very kindly chaired by HHJ Malcolm Sharpe. It was held online via zoom & some brave delegates even switched their cameras on!

Jess Purchase of Unit Chambers began the day providing an Adoption Update. This was followed by Margaret Parr of Harrington St Chambers who discussed 'Applying for Residential Assessments'.

We then went straight into Adam Bishop-Cornett & Debbie Pedder of Advanced Childcare Assessments covered 'Assessing parents with learning difficulties'. Next up, was Ashley Hodgkinson from sponsors Alpha Biolabs, who talked about alcohol monitoring - making effective use of the latest technology in childcare cases.

Before the morning came to a close, HHJ Sharpe provided a very helpful update on the digital system in Public Family Law and took lots of questions from our delegates!

We then took a 60 min comfort break, so people could grab a sandwich, check emails etc.

The afternoon began with the wonderful Mark Senior, discussing his 'Top 10', followed by our final session, regarding 'restricting liberty and children' from Kate Burnell QC, both from St Johns Buildings Chambers.

Thanks to sponsors Alpha Biolabs.

Thanks also to the speakers involved and each and every delegate who booked.

Keep Wednesday 23rd November 2022 free in your diary, so you don't miss out next year!

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

As most of you will know, Liverpool Law Society is a company limited by guarantee and those elected become Directors with the associated duties owed by virtue of that position.

The committee consists of between 14 and 27 directors and they must retire by rotation every three years with up to five being nominated for re-election.

The Hon. Treasurer spoke about the Society's accounts ending 31 May 2021 which were affected by the pandemic. Jo Francis gave an update on the Society's position, outlining membership is holding steady whilst training income remains a challenge. However, on a positive note, representation and engagement with members is strong.

Finally, the President Julie O'Hare gave her address to the members where she reflected on the past couple of years. Julie said "Whilst it may have been a tough few years I think there have certainly been some important lessons to take away. We have become much more united as a profession and a community, we have overcome challenges and we have embraced technology as never before."



**THE LAWYERS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

*Carol Service*

with Stephen Shaw QC  
of the Northern Ireland Bar preaching

at 6pm

on Wednesday, 15th December, 2021

**Liverpool Parish Church**  
Our lady and St Nicholas,  
Old Churchyard, Chapel Street, Liverpool, L2 8TZ

Followed by light refreshments & a mince pie

With music from  
Formby Brass Band



# Conference for Legal Cashiers & Managers

On Wednesday 10th November we held our annual Conference for Legal Cashiers & Managers, online, via zoom\*.

Unfortunately our chairperson had to withdraw at short notice, so delegates were stuck with me for the welcome & introduction! We began the morning hearing from Natalie Darby of The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) who provided an update on the findings from the one-year evaluation of the Standards and Regulations. Next was an essential Anti Money Laundering Update from Nicola Watkiss of Legal Risk.

We then enjoyed a short comfort break before Tony Walker of Armalytix gave a really interesting presentation on 'Open banking - it's uses in risk mitigation for legal practices'. The final session, was a dual presentation from Karen Hain & Robert Blech of MHA, who covered the important topic of Compliance & Taxation - Adapting to change.

Thank you to all those speakers who kindly took part and to those who supported by booking on.

I think we will all be pleased to know that this event is back in the calendar for 2022 as an 'in person' event, so pop

Wednesday 16th November into your diary .

**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.*

## Consultation Papers

The following sub-committee of Liverpool Law Society is considering responding to this consultation paper.

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

Criminal Practice  
 Terrorism offences: Consultation  
 Closing date: 11th January

## Enewsletter Sign Up

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# Celebration for new entrants to the legal profession

**Wednesday 26th January 2022 at 5.30pm for 6.00pm**

**Hard Days Night Hotel**

Liverpool Law Society's directors would like to invite Newly Qualified Solicitors, Barristers and Fellows from CILEx from the Liverpool City Region and surrounding area who qualified during 2020 & 2021 to celebrate the launch of their career in the legal profession.

What's included?

✓ Arrival drink    ✓ canapes    ✓ professional photography    ✓ training voucher

All those qualifying will be presented with a certificate of congratulations from

**His Honour Judge Parker QC,  
Designated Family Judge for Merseyside & Cheshire**

Members of the Merseyside JLD are also invited to come along to network with senior members of Liverpool Law Society.

This event is free to attend but you must book your place.

[More Info](#)



Vauxhall Community  
Law & Information  
Centre

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

### A good year for Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre

Despite all of the difficulties of the past year, the pandemic in particular placing all sorts of barriers in the way of service delivery the Law Centre has had a good year. The year started with the Steve Morgan Foundation and Ian Byrne MP funding the provision of a New Housing Solicitor for the Law Centre. Siobhan Taylor was appointed to the post and our Housing Advice service has gone from strength to strength. To support Siobhan with the Housing casework an Asylum Support and Housing Caseworker has been appointed, Alice Coles will commence work with us in December 2021. As previously reported, we employed a new Administrator/ Receptionist Jade Skilling in October too. In January 2022 we will be appointing Alex Feery in to the position of Justice First Fellow on a training contract, thanks to the Legal Education Foundation for their fantastic support with this. We are also in the fortunate position to be advertising two new posts (see below) further details of these new positions can be seen on our website or Social Media accounts including application forms and detailed job descriptions



*Ngaryan Li, Law Centre Director, welcoming our latest volunteer Ruth Knox on Board*

### Volunteers


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

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. Please consider using volunteering as a means of meeting some of your company's Corporate Social Responsibility commitments.

We look forward to 2022 and wish all of our supporters and readers a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year



We're hiring.  
**Join Our Team.**

**Bereavement Support Caseworker** & **Debt Advice Caseworker**

**Deadline Midnight 12 December.**  
Apply via our website.

Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre

## Saturday Debt Advice Service.

We offer free, friendly impartial advice to help you ease your financial worries. If you are struggling we're here to help. We can assist to help resolve your debts, our aim is to put you in a better position to tackle outstanding money owed.



Saturday mornings • 9am - 1pm.  
Call 07394991765





# News from Merseyside Law Centre

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



## Meet the Team



Our super Administrative Assistant, Jack, has been hard at work all month. Jack supports our team with admin and IT tasks and ensures that all of our filing and databases are kept up to date and completely organised. Jack was our longest serving volunteer before his role was funded by the Liverpool City Council ILM scheme and we love having him as an official part of the team.

We are always looking for volunteers who can bring new skills to MLC whether you come

from an admin or comms background or if you are able to assist in appeals and legal aid cases. So if you are thinking that you would like to bring your experience and expertise to a social justice setting then please do get in touch.

## Support Your Local Law Centre

Our Justice First Fellowship is sponsored this year by the fantastic Liverpool law firm, Bermans. Their generous donation is helping us fund the training of our latest Justice First Fellow, Samantha Maher, so she can go on to be a part of the next generation of social welfare lawyers and and go on to a career in which she uses the law to bring about positive change in people's lives.

We are looking for other local law firms to work with us and sponsor their local law centre, to help us continue to bring social justice to the people of Merseyside. Funding for services like ours has been cut dramatically over the last decade and we need our

fellow law colleagues in the city to help us fight for equality and bring well-being to the most vulnerable in our society. If you or your firm would like to discuss further, we would love to hear from you.



We are still 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.

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

# Legal Excellence Recognised at Liverpool Awards Dinner

Over 300 legal professionals, sponsors and guests attended Liverpool Law Society's glittering black-tie dinner and awards ceremony at the Rum Warehouse in Liverpool on 4th November 2021. It was the first time in two years that the Annual Dinner was held, a welcome return to seeing members, colleagues and guests face-to-face.

Following a sparkling drinks reception, the President of the Society, Julie O'Hare, gave her speech, welcoming all to the Society's Annual Dinner. Julie spoke about the challenging time everyone has experienced over the last two years but also what she and Society managed to do, moving all meetings and training events online, and continuing to represent and help members during the pandemic.

With just a couple of mentions during dinner about the charity and the selfie-mirror, members and guests were able to catch up on each other's news and in some cases meet their colleagues in person for the very first time!

Following the loyal toast, given by the Deputy Lieutenant, Mr Zia Chaudhry MBE DL, the guest speaker was introduced, Hon Col Dr Andy Grant LLD. Andy gave an extraordinary presentation about the challenges he has faced throughout his life and how he was able to overcome them, sharing his personal experience with everyone, from losing his mother as a child to being injured in Afghanistan and becoming an amputee. He held the room throughout his speech and was given a standing ovation at the end. It really was a very special moment.

There followed our Vice President Steven Zdolny who thanked everyone for attending, in particular the sponsors and guests. He was able to share with the audience two key themes for his year of office, namely "recovery – the last 20 months has been extremely challenging for the Society and for many of our members and opportunity the officers and staff of the Society will work tirelessly to extend whatever support we can to our members, so we can maximise future opportunities for our local professional community" said Steven.

During the evening, the Awards Ceremony was held and President Julie O'Hare congratulated all those who had taken part, saying "We are extremely fortunate to have some of the best talent the legal profession has to offer and as a Society we strive to encourage and promote the Liverpool City Region as a centre of legal excellence. It seems only right that we celebrate our members' hard work and successes by giving them the recognition that they so rightly deserve at an event such as this!"

And the winners of the 2021 Liverpool Law Society Legal Awards are:

- Law Firm Award (100+ employees) - MSB
- Law Firm Award (1-99 employees)- Bell, Lamb & Joynson
- Rising Star Award – Eleanor Slater from Morecrofts Solicitors
- Outstanding Lawyer Award – Brian Noon from In-House Legal Solutions

There were also a few surprise awards during the ceremony. The President and Officers of the Society bestowed a Special Recognition Award on Alison Lobb, Managing Partner, Morecrofts Solicitors. As Julie said "This person has spent her entire working life determined to improve access to the law, championed female lawyers and continues to pave the way for future generations. She has been an exemplary figure of the local professional community and a driving force behind initiatives to



*L to R I. Stephanie Boyce, President of the Law Society, HHJ Andrew Menary QC, Zia Chaudhry MBE DL, Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside, Julie O'Hare, Nigel Lanceley FCA DL, High Sheriff of Merseyside, HHJ Neil Cadwallader, Specialist Civil Circuit Judge and Glenys Hunt, Past President of LLS*

support and strengthen the regional economy through networking, collaboration and fellowship."

A highlight of the evening was the announcement of the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award. This was presented to solicitor Peter Edwards. Peter said after receiving the Award "Having spent 50 years trying to give a voice to those with mental illness, learning disability, those who lack capacity together with their families and carers, it is heartening for me to see that I have such a young and talented team who will carry this forward. We represent those who often have to fight for the rights that should be theirs. Our clients are often powerless and part of my and my team's role has been to redress that balance. An important part of my work has also been to help thousands of professionals, service users and families better understand the legal framework in which the state seeks to control the lives of others."

Also acknowledged at the Dinner, was the long-serving publisher of the Society's monthly magazine 'Liverpool Law', Julia Baskerville, who is retiring at the end of 2021 after 27 years in the role. Julia was a guest of the Society's at the Dinner and she was presented with an Outstanding Service Award. Julia said "I was shocked and surprised, but also completely delighted to receive this award from Liverpool Law Society. I have worked closely with the staff and officers of the Society for many years and they have developed Liverpool Law Society into an organisation that not only represents its members on a local level, but also nationally and are champions of access to justice. I am proud to have been able to publish Liverpool Law on their behalf."

Here below are a few quotes from the winners about what their award means to them:

Managing Partner at Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors Mike Leeman said: "It was a real honour to be shortlisted in such a strong category this year but to go on and win the Law Firm Award on the night was an incredible achievement and one that our entire team are so proud of. We were commended for our dedication to client care, excellence in our field and innovation in what we do and that's down to the collective drive of our workforce and our commitment to providing the best service possible no matter the circumstances."

Emma Carey, Managing Partner, MSB "At MSB, we are passionate about delivering excellence in everything we do, for our clients





*Peter Edwards  
winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award*

and our communities, so winning the Law Firm Award means so much. We have truly pulled together over the past year to maintain the high level of service we provide, and it's through this incredible team work that we have been able to achieve so much. Each and every member of our team consistently goes above and beyond to provide the very best service, and this award is recognition of that hard work and determination."

Eleanor Slater said: "It was such an honour to be selected by Morecrofts to be entered, and then to be shortlisted was such a surprise in itself. To actually win the award was amazing. It meant a lot to be recognised in such a tough category and to know that the small part I play in the family system is making a difference to people's lives."

Alison Lobb said: "I am immensely proud to have received this award, and very grateful to Liverpool Law Society. It is wonderful to be appreciated for my determination to serve the legal community in the business world and my aspiration to support and motivate the next generation of legal talent as much as possible. Nobody does these things for reward, in my case it is because I am passionate about both issues, but to be recognised for it means I must be doing something right!"

In other news, there was an envelope donation and silent auction for the nominated charity of the evening, the Owen McVeigh Foundation. The Foundation is a wonderful charity that supports children with cancer in Merseyside and their families, It does incredible work and a magnificent £2,595 (or £3,106,25 after gift aid) raised on the evening. Thank you very much to all who donated, your support is very much appreciated.

The thanks of the Society go to the sponsors of the evening DR&P, Index PI, Landmark Information and the University of Law. Their support is much appreciated by Liverpool Law Society. Feedback from sponsors has been very positive. Vicky Thompson-Lewis, Director (Midlands & Southern Regions) at DR&P said "Thank you for allowing us to sponsor an award, we absolutely loved the whole event. What a wonderful evening it was...We would appreciate any opportunity to continue supporting the Liverpool Law Society given we are right in the heart of that community with our business."

A final thank you to Six, by Nico; the Everyman Cinema; Portland Spa; Carpenters and the Titanic Hotel for donating raffle prizes.

**Photographs of the evening are available to view here**



*Julie O'Hare with her family*



*Back Row: Ben Holt, President of Bristol Law Society, Catherine Woodward, President of Leeds Law Society, Matt Taylor, President of Manchester Law Society, Vanessa Doyle, President, Chartered Institute of Securities & Investment and Jonathon Kinnear, Vice President, Liverpool Architectural Society*

*Front Row; Stephanie Perraton, President of Birmingham Law Society, Steven Zdolyn, Vice President of Liverpool Law Society and Mark Power, Vice Chancellor & Chief Executive (interim) Liverpool John Moores University*



*Guest Speaker Andy Grant*





*The Champagne Reception*



*Andy Grant, Julie O'Hare and Carlo Panara*



*Jeremy Myers & Rachel Stalker*



*Team Liverpool Law Society*



*Mark Kearlsey, Joanne Francis & Rob Young*



*Brabners*



*Morecrofts Solicitors*



*Colin Beaver, Helen Broughton & Eddie Goldsmith*



*Bell Lamb & Joynson*



*Master of Ceremonies, Chris Caroe*



***Rising Star***  
***Eleanor Slater, Morecrofts Solicitors***



***Law Firm (1-99 employees)***  
***Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors***



***Outstanding Lawyer***  
***Brian Noon, In-House Legal Solutions***



***Law Firm (100+ employees)***  
***MSB Solicitors***



***Outstanding Achievement***  
***Alison Lobb***



***Outstanding Service***  
***Julia Baskerville***



## Julia Baskerville, the Publisher of Liverpool Law is retiring after this edition and takes a look back at the past 27 years...

This is going to be a long old yarn, so please bear with me, I have over 27 years, 327 editions of Liverpool Law, hundreds of thousands of words, 27 Liverpool Law Society Presidents and ten Editors to squeeze onto an A4 size sheet of paper. During that time I got married, had my daughter Olivia (between the deadlines of the April and May 1995 editions) and moved house four times.

I first visited Liverpool Law Society in 1994 to meet with the then President, Andrew Holroyd and the Officers to discuss publishing Liverpool Law. Despite some protests at the meeting that the 'Bulletin', as it was then known, shouldn't be outsourced and would lose its 'chintzy' local feel, the Officers decided to give it a go.

The monthly editorial meetings took place at the offices of Liverpool Law Society which was then located on Cook Street. Incredible to look back on now, but smoking was allowed inside, and the room was always filled with thick cigar smoke as we had long deliberations about the next edition and legal gossip.

During the past 27 years I have interviewed every President of Liverpool Law Society, and a number of past Presidents, including Sir Paddy Bryson (President 1970-71) who was in his 90s at the time and had some wonderful tales to tell. I have also interviewed many of the national Law Society Council Members for Merseyside, national Law Society Presidents, members of the Judiciary and several politicians. Most recently Jeremy Myers and I interviewed Lord Falconer when he was the speaker at the Liverpool Law Society Dinner.

On one occasion, many years ago, I spent a day in the cells and Magistrates Court on Dale Street with James Benson for one of a series of articles 'A day in the life'. Many readers will recall James was a well-known and highly respected criminal lawyer and we spent the day seeing clients in the cells, then James would be on his feet in court, before popping outside for a quick coffee and cigarette and catching up with other solicitors who were doing the same. It seemed to me that everything there was to know about the criminal world in Liverpool was discussed on those steps.

There are so many stories I have covered and there isn't the space to discuss them all, but in one series "My Other Life" we talked to members about their life outside the law. Who knew that past President, John Ballam was an Apiarist in his spare time and had his own hive or that Norman Jones, President 2010-2011, was an avid runner, raising thousands of pounds for charity.

Liverpool Law began life as a two-colour, printed A4 magazine, gradually growing from 16 pages to 40 pages or more. In 2018 Liverpool Law became an online publication, which was emailed directly to members and distributed through social media. There were a number of arguments against, and in favour of moving to a digital publication, but in hindsight it was the right decision. Little did we know in 2018, that 2 years later the whole country would be in lockdown and the majority of staff would be working from home, but because Liverpool Law was online members could still receive their copy, delivered straight to their inbox.

There was no exception. No one was holding meetings or events and during the first lockdown period there was little in the way of recruitment. The Editorial Committee felt that was important that we tried to maintain a sense of community through the magazine and came up with ideas that reflected our new 'lockdown' lifestyles. We had the 'Lockdown Diaries', 'Tips for working from home', 'Good cakes and bad bakes' and readers' gardens to name just a few.

What has always been consistent in Liverpool Law and within the local legal community is the huge amount of Charity and CSR events undertaken by firms and individuals in the city. Firms are always finding innovative ways to support charities, through volunteering, donations, coffee mornings, cake sales, mountain climbing and abseiling. We have seen events supporting local foodbanks and the Right to Food campaign, and of course the Liverpool Legal Walk which raises funds for legal charities. When Emlyn Williams was President (2014-2015) he suggested we introduce a 'Charity Spotlight' in Liverpool Law. Every month since then we have highlighted the work of a local charity.

Through Liverpool Law we have tried to highlight the issues surrounding access to justice with regular updates from a number of organisations such as the Joint Forum on Access to Justice and the Justice First Foundation. We also work with the incredible people at Vauxhall and Merseyside Law Centres who provide a monthly column on their work and the problems that their clients face on a day-to-day basis. I hope that in some small way Liverpool Law has made a difference.

I have worked with ten Editors, starting with Eddie Goldsmith in 1994, James Benson, Alison Beech, Anne Heseltine, Adrian Mullen, Rachel Lloyd, Alison Lobb (twice!) Sylvia Shepherd, Peter Holland and now with Jennifer Powell. Thank to each of them who have spent a considerable amount of their own time working on the magazine, and I must mention that Jennifer recently had a baby boy, Ronnie and still managed to write her editorial the day after giving birth. That's dedication. Thank you also to the numerous members of the Editorial Committee who have made an invaluable contribution to the success of Liverpool Law.

I must also mention the team at Liverpool Law Society; Jo Downey, Liz Weeks, Ann Murphy, Kimberly Docherty who are a fantastic team and of course, Sarah Poblete, who is always available to offer some practical advice or information and a word of encouragement.

Finally, thank you to everyone that has contributed to Liverpool Law over the past 27 years, including every President, all of whom have written a column every single month, with some just needing a little more 'encouragement' than others. I apologise if I gave you nightmares.

It hasn't always been easy, but it's always been interesting.

**Julia Baskerville**

Lockdown brought challenges for everyone and Liverpool Law



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# Annual Reports of the Sub Committees

These reports are summaries of the full reports presented at the AGM which are available here.

## ACCESS TO JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE

Conditions remain challenging for many Committee members. Covid increased the need for certain legal advice whilst simultaneously inhibiting delivery. Members of the Committee created a Refund the Rents campaign to explore legal options available to those students prevented from utilising accommodation due to Covid restrictions.

The Committee refocused its aims part-way through the year. The previous work of the Committee contributed toward the creation of the Access to Advice Network. This body grew out of the University of Liverpool/Liverpool City Council program to map advice within the City of Liverpool and improve referral, training and service provision. During 2021, the Access to Advice Network received extended funding, aiding its permanence within the City. The Committee recognised that some of its own operations now duplicated work formed at the Access to Advice Network, and that further duplication existed in relation to LLS' Joint Forum on Access to Advice.

In response, the Committee agreed to refocus its efforts to a more policy-driven and lobbying agenda. The Joint Forum on Access to Advice became the Joint Forum on Access to Justice. This Forum complements the Committee. It has broader remit and brings together people from a local perspective across the Liverpool City Region and a national perspective - with attendees and guest speakers from organisations that cover the whole of England and Wales.

**James Mannouch – Chair**

## CIVIL LITIGATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Another year has passed and we are all ever hopeful that the effects of this awful pandemic will settle to the level of the “pre-Covid” days.

The personal injury reforms have now been enacted, which now sees the rise in the small claims limit track for personal injury claims arising out of road traffic accidents, as well as the introduction of the new online portal. A new tariff-based system in respect of the valuation of soft-tissue whiplash injuries has been introduced, whilst there still remains uncertainty over “hybrid” injury claims. The reforms do not affect vulnerable Claimants. I am grateful to CLC members for their contributions and articles concerning this very important area of reform. The changing landscape in respect of personal injury litigation has seen a trend for many practitioners to look further afield, other areas of law are being explored to meet with business needs. Retraining into other areas of law and diversifying are very much on the agenda. The rise of Housing litigation (particularly disrepair) and also areas of litigation (data protection breach, financial mis-selling, etc) are consequences of the reforms in the personal injury sector. Some businesses have been able to ride the storm with their business models and the areas of work which they undertake.

**Alum Ullah – Chair**

## CRIMINAL PRACTICE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Criminal Practice Committee meets bi-monthly to discuss all matters which affect criminal practitioners locally and nationally. We have continued our meetings via zoom which has proved very popular for most criminal practitioners as the meetings can be attended from anywhere.

As in all areas of law, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on how we work within the criminal justice sector and the extensive challenges criminal defence practitioners face has been subject to our discussions. Our meetings have provided a forum for members to share their views on the unprecedented number of changes in practice and procedure and updates in criminal law. We are able to present the views of the wider criminal practitioner community, whether it is to voice concern or disagreement to changes but also to discuss and promote positive change.

Increased use of technology has played a major part in allowing certain Magistrates and Crown Court hearings to be conducted remotely via video link for example, Plea and Case Management Hearings, Pre-Trial review hearings and administrative hearings. In addition, HMCTS has introduced The Common Platform in the magistrates' court which is a new digital case management system intended to provide a single point of access to relevant case information to all parties.

Access to different kinds of information is securely controlled to make sure that each participant only sees the material that is appropriate to them. This has not been without problems and the technology is not running as smoothly as anticipated by the defence community, the Magistrates' Court Legal Advisers or the CPS lawyers at court.

The benefit of the Criminal Practice Sub-Committee is that we have representatives from all court users who are able to provide feedback to the relevant departments. When these difficulties arise we combine our knowledge and experience to suggest possible solutions.

I would encourage anyone who is interested in the future of criminal practice to join our committee.

**Eileen Chisnall - Chair**

## EDITORIAL SUB-COMMITTEE

The Editorial Committee meets throughout the year on a monthly basis to review each edition of Liverpool Law, to plan the following and subsequent editions, and to look for new ideas to improve the content of the magazine.

Despite the COVID 19 pandemic the Editorial Committee has continued to meet without fail. The magazine has been published in a bid to keep up the moral of our readers in these testing times. The response has been really positive and we have seen an increase in activity and involvement from some member firms.

We constantly seek new ideas to make the magazine relevant and attractive to our readers. Of course, legal issues feature highly and one major benefit of membership is the ability for firms to publish their news and professional achievements, whether personally or for their clients.

We continue to promote the work of the society and its members by publishing reports on the activity of our various special interest sub-committees and have also continued the monthly opportunity for a local charity to highlight their work.

The committee is constantly looking for new ways to enhance the magazine and in particular to increase the scope of those attending and contributing. I would encourage anyone who has any interest in the magazine to attend meetings or otherwise provide feedback.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who assist with Liverpool Law, in particular those who attend meetings and regularly contribute, the staff at the Society and of course our Publisher, Julia Baskerville who is due to retire at the end of year. I wish Julia all the best for her well earned retirement.

**Jennifer Powell – Editor**

## EDUCATION & CHARITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee administered the charitable funds of which Liverpool Society is Trustee and assists the Society in the administration of the prizes in its name. The Committee has been able to make grants where the circumstances indicate that there is substantial need, through the auspices of the SBA. We made available additional resources in the light of COVID 19 to the SBA. This year we also assisted an applicant directly through a financial grant and help with training. We also promote the work of Law Care which provides useful practical support to members of the profession.

If members of the Society are aware of Solicitors or their dependants who are in real need of assistance then they should notify the President or SBA who may be able to arrange for assistance to the individual.

We maintain our links with the three Universities and the University of Law in Chester and Liverpool. Sadly the University of Law campus in Chester (Christleton) closed in 2021. We provide grants to students in particular hardship who have a training contract in our area.

We received favourable feedback for the seventh Pathways to the Legal Profession held on line. This event introduced the students to various routes to a legal career including SQE. Much of the earlier programs was retained with the added factor of the introduction of SQE.

We continue to promote the concept of exchange of Training Seat Places by Member Firms to ensure that as many firms as possible are able to comply with their Regulatory obligations and offer Training Contracts. This will be reviewed with the introduction of SQE.

**David Tournafond – Chair**

## EMPLOYMENT LAW SUB-COMMITTEE

Over the last 12 months we have continued with online meetings giving members the opportunity to stay connected and engaged

with LLS which has continued to be important as we all found ourselves working away from our colleagues for longer than we may have expected. I would like to thank the Committee members who have joined and engaged in our on-line committee meetings and the consultations we have answered. I am pleased to report that we have welcomed two new members this year and we hope to continue building the membership of the sub committee during the next year.

Our meetings have provided a forum for members to discuss their experiences and also the fast-changing employment law issues which continued to go hand in hand with the COVID-19 crisis. The annual Employment Law Conference went ahead online in October 2020 and was another success with a full and varied program of first-rate speakers. This was followed by an Employment Law Update half day event in June 2021. Whilst the program once again did not disappoint, the numbers signing up to attend unfortunately did, with us only just getting enough to justify going ahead. The Employment Law Sub Committee has not been alone in the difficulty of attracting bookings for virtual events in competition with the numerous free online events. This is something we hope to address in the coming year as we look to hopefully hold in-person events once again.

I very much look forward to continuing to represent the interests of all Employment law practitioners in the region in the year to come.

**Lindsey Knowles – Chair**

## EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee was set up in February 2020 and meets on a monthly basis to discuss ways of raising awareness of EDI issues with the local legal community. Due to the pandemic, all our meetings and events have been held online. Over the last year we held our inaugural event, 'How to be an Ally in the Legal Workplace' and had speakers covering topics such as why D&I is important, gender, race and LGBTQ+. This was swiftly followed up by another online event held by the Lawyers with Disability Division which involved a round table discussion on research carried out by Cardiff University on issues faced by disabled lawyers. Both events highlighted the difficulties faced by certain groups and looked at ways we can all support our colleagues.

I am grateful to those members of the committee who regularly attend the meetings, contributing ideas and giving up their time to discuss EDI issues. New recruits are welcome and we are always interested in hearing what our local members are up to and what issues are of importance to them.

**Nina Sahu – Chair**

## FAMILY BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Family Sub-Committee meets four times per year to discuss matters impacting upon family practitioners locally and nationally. We have met by Zoom over the past 12 months due to the COVID pandemic. We are fortunate that the committee is consistently well attended with representatives from many of the regions law firms.

**Continued overleaf**





Within the committee meetings we discuss changes to family law or to processes together with challenges we are facing. Unfortunately, the family justice system has faced many challenges in the last 12 months such as difficulties with court waiting lists and backlogs (which were already an issue being exacerbated by the delays caused by covid-19), grasping new technology such as the online divorce portal and the public law portal and well-being issues across the profession and communities we serve.

Additionally, committee representatives attend many family related court committees on a regular basis. This ensures that we are fully involved in changes to the court processes and are aware in the early stages of any culture shifts and adaptations to processes. It ensures that we present the views of the Law Society members in voicing any disagreement to changes and importantly, in requesting and collaborating in respect of positive change.

Finally, I would very much like to express my thanks to the members of the committee who attend so consistently and with such useful input. I am genuinely proud to work alongside so many members of the Family Justice System who are so passionate about the work that we do and who strive for the best for the community that we serve.

**Emma Palmer – Chair**

## FINANCE & POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE

The Finance & Policy Committee is responsible for managing the Society's finances and determining key policy issues.

Like all organisations, the Society has continued to face severe financial and operational challenges this year due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. The F&PC has worked closely with all the staff and officers to manage these to the best of its ability. A key focus has been costs containment to mitigate the severe loss of income from our traditionally successful and enviable training programme. Despite the commendable efforts of Jo Downey in adapting our programme and moving to an on line programme, we have suffered a significant reduction in our training income. Our overall turnover fell by 38% compared to the previous year and we made an operating loss of £44,927. We have held monthly meetings to manage staffing levels and review costs; and also our investments. We have maximised use of the job retention scheme to boost our income and help keep the Society trading.

The Society has worked hard to maintain the 'business as usual' approach of regular meetings and to support members through the ongoing pandemic. This has meant that subscriptions have continued to be maintained and paid last year and this financial year, a real positive.

**Jo Francis – Honorary Treasurer & Deputy Vice President**

## FUTURE PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

The Future Planning Committee oversees upcoming events for the current year as well as looking ahead and planning events into the next year.

Firstly, it is only right to show our appreciation by giving thanks to all the wonderful staff at Liverpool Law Society for all of their wealth of knowledge, immense hard work and continued dedication, particularly in such a difficult year. Thanks is also

due to the Officers, General Committee, Chairs and Members of Sub-committees who have generously devoted their time again this year to the smooth running of the Society and for their continued energy, enthusiasm and support to the work of this Committee.

Sadly, this year like the last year, has been significantly disrupted due to Covid-19. Two major events were postponed: a) the Liverpool city region celebration event for newly qualified solicitors, fellows of CILEx and barristers, which was due in January and will now take place in early 2022 for both the 2020 and 2021 cohort; and b) the Legal Awards which was planned for the spring of 2021.

The aim of LLS is to provide the very best representation, training and benefits to our members which is why we are always keen to hear from our members on what issues/topics they find relevant and what events they would like to see in the calendar! If you have any suggestions please do contact myself, any of the Officers or the LLS staff so that we can ensure your ideas make it onto the Future Planning agenda. Thank you!

**Steven Zdolyny – Vice President**

## IN-HOUSE LAWYERS SUB-COMMITTEE

This Committee focuses on the in house community drawing its members from the different areas of in house practice including local universities' in house teams and from across commerce and industry.

With valuable assistance from Ann Murphy at Liverpool Law Society, we have continued to meet online throughout the pandemic to discuss good practice and support each other during this challenging period. Regular updates from Adam Jones of Princes, on current legal issues for in house solicitors have been particularly useful and we have continued to expand our membership.

Martyn Rodmell, who has done so much to establish and advance the Committee, retired in May 2021. I have been delighted to take over as Chair, though Martyn continues to be a valued member of the committee.

We are always looking for new members so please point anyone who may be interested to us. I would also like to thank my fellow Committee members for their support and continued contributions, and Martyn for his stewardship and development of the committee during the past few years.

**Rachel Stalker – Chair**

## NON-CONTENTIOUS BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE

The last twelve months have involved a lot of change with some uncertainty prevailing due to the evolving pandemic. Naomi Pinder sadly stepped down as Chair but remains part of the group contributing on a wide variety of issues relating to private client work and probate. Michael Sandys has taken over the role and chaired several meetings, all on-line, since Naomi stood down. Michael's background contrasts with Naomi's in that his experience and specialisms are company, commercial and intellectual property with a focus on SME clients.

The NCBC meetings have had a mixed attendance but those virtual meetings have managed to keep the group together and to allow an exchange of some ideas between the members. There

have been no speakers in the last 12 months but this is something we hope to rectify looking forward to 2022.

John-Paul Dennis has agreed to taking up the mantle of Vice-Chair of NCBC, therefore providing strong support to the group and has also volunteered during the year to providing an Article on aspect of his own work, along with Emma Collins. Although the training programme has been dramatically affected, training continues to have importance and there has been a greater attraction for shorter training sessions of one hour or so, in part due to the necessity in having training conducted via virtual platforms.

The NCBC continues to discuss and deliberate various issues affecting legal practice from considering problems in the area of probate, issues arising from the Stamp Duty holiday to landlord and tenancy issues and commercial property; as well as keeping up to speed with GDPR requirements and business law generally.

**Michael Sandys – Chair**

### PARLIAMENTARY LIAISON OFFICER

I took up this position in November 2020 inheriting a role from Jeremy Myers who had served LLS so soundly in the role for five years prior. Jeremy's sterling groundwork and mentoring was particularly important (and hugely appreciated) given that my stewardship has commenced amidst the continuing impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic together with the effects of Brexit starting to appear. The legislative agenda has largely dealt with the implementation of certain Covid policies and instruments to deal with the decoupling from the European Union.

However, government reforms particularly in respect of civil liberties, housing and immigration have proved to be some of the most controversial over the last twelve months.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Court Bill continues to attract criticism in relation to the perceived criminalisation of the right to protest together with statutory obligations on public agencies to disclose information on serious violence – a provision which healthcare workers in particular feel may inhibit their ability to provide care to the most vulnerable given it will conflict with their ability to support victims whilst maintaining confidentiality. The Nationality and Borders Bill has received wide spread attention in that, among other provisions, it seeks to criminalize those who attempt to gain access to the UK other than in accordance with due process. In order to avoid criminalisation, a refugee would need to travel to the UK directly from their home country through an official route and then claim asylum. Whereas a refugee who does not follow this process will instantly have their asylum claim prejudiced and face a criminal sanction. Even if such latter refugee was ultimately granted asylum status, they would not be eligible for benefits, would only be granted a short stay and would have no right to seek to bring over family members.

The Fire Safety Act was passed this year without including protections for tenants which could have avoided costs associated with the removal of cladding being passed down to them. Whilst some funding has been made available in respect of such costs fears remain that not all buildings will be eligible leaving costs with landlords which could ultimately be flowed down to tenants. On 19 March, LLS held its first zoom meeting of the year with local MPs. At such meeting we had a strong representation from a number of wards and Chair of LLS's Access to Justice Committee, James Mannouch, reported on the sterling work of

advice providers during the pandemic despite lack of funding and growing issues relating to housing and immigration. The continuing attendance of Authority Officers at the Councillors' meetings proves to continue to be beneficial and this forum maintains an important link with Solicitors employed in Local Authority legal departments, and in time should enhance LLS's In-House Committee.

I would also like to encourage members to raise any issues in respect of which they may have a concern, lack clarity or wish to make their voices heard. LLS has a strong voice not just in the region but nationally and we do wish to influence policy makers in order to develop the legal industry and protect the rule of law.

**Paddy Dwyer – Parliamentary Liaison Officer**

### MERSEYSIDE JUNIOR LAWYERS' DIVISION

The Merseyside Junior Lawyers' Division ("the MJLD") is an independent association affiliated to the National JLD. Its purpose is to provide an educational and professional support network for young lawyers in the Merseyside region and is equipped to represent the views and opinions of its members on a national level.

The structure of MJLD has been revamped again this year to accommodate for what we hope to be a far more social and integrated year with a huge reduction in the need for virtual engagement given the lifting of COVID-19 guidelines which were in effect last year.

Membership of the MJLD remains free of charge and is open to all of the following who live, work or study in the Liverpool City Region and metropolitan county of Merseyside:

Final year law students; GDL (or equivalent) students; LPC (or equivalent) students; BPTC (or equivalent) students; Legal Apprentices; Paralegals; Trainee Solicitors; Pupil Barristers; Chartered Legal Executives up to 4 years post-qualification; Solicitors up to 4 years post-qualification; Barristers up to 3 years post-tenancy.

The Committee works hard to obtain sponsorship so that our events remain free of charge and provide fantastic opportunities for members to become involved in the wider Merseyside legal community.

This year's Committee intend to host bi-monthly social events with our next one being our Charity Christmas Social, details of which will be released in coming weeks. Our Education Representatives are focussing on the need to get the marshalling schemes at the courts back up and running as a priority before hosting a second Mock Training Contract Assessment day after the success of last year's event. We anticipate that the MJLD's flagship event of the year, the MJLD Annual Charity Ball, to take place in June or July.

Both the MJLD and its members are very grateful to the Liverpool Law Society for their ongoing support, and we hope that we can work together across this coming year to recreate the union provided by the annual MJLD vs LLS quiz which we hope will take place around Easter time.

For general information please review our website at [www.merseysideJLD.com](http://www.merseysideJLD.com) or connect with us on LinkedIn.

**Chelsea Kearns, Chair**

## The Law Society publishes Climate Change Resolution

Last month all eyes were on COP26 in Glasgow, there's never been a better time for the legal profession to take the lead in the race to net zero. The Law Society have published a climate change resolution outlining the role solicitors can play in addressing the climate crisis.

### A joint commitment

We're committed to taking action and we want you to stand with us.

We've published a climate change resolution to support solicitors and the companies or firms they work for, to develop a climate-conscious approach to legal practice.

### Taking action

Many companies have already developed climate action and net zero strategies – nearly a third of the UK's largest businesses have now pledged to eliminate their contribution to carbon emissions by 2050.

Increasingly, companies are requiring those they do business with to adopt similar measures.

This means they're looking to law firms and solicitors to reflect their own values and stance on climate change and sustainability.

### This is an opportunity for firms to:

- *Adopt practical measures and policies to reduce the climate impact of their business*
- *Highlight what they're doing to tackle climate change.*

We encourage you to use our resolution to commit to taking action, and to evaluate how this will affect your daily practice.

### What's in the resolution?

The resolution consists of:

- *our commitment to taking action by adopting science-based targets for our own business operations, and providing the profession with guidance on how to take climate change into consideration when providing legal services (sections 1-2)*
- *a call to action for law firms and solicitors (sections 3-5)*

### Our resolution urges solicitors and law firms to:

- *future-proof the profession by approaching matters in a way that has regard to the realities of climate change; it urges you to think about how you should be identifying climate change risks, liabilities and potential greener courses of action adapting to new industry norms – sections 3-4*



Li -An Lim on Unsplash

- *work at reducing the greenhouse gases associated with running your business, but also the policies and indirect emissions associated with climate change and your work future compliance and new industry norms – section 4*
- *realise the full potential of the law, solicitors and law firms as a progressive force in tackling the climate crisis best practice and advocacy – section 5*

### Why we need to act

The climate crisis is the greatest perceivable threat facing modern humanity.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has confirmed in its Sixth Assessment Report that the deadly impacts of human-induced climate change are already occurring.

It outlines that climate change will have devastating global consequences if rapid and far-reaching changes are not made to limit warming to 1.5°C.

The IPCC has advised that in order to maintain a 1.5°C



temperature limit, “global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) would need to fall by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030; reaching net zero around 2050”.

The International Energy Agency has also advised that new coal, oil and gas investments should end by 2021 in order to meet such targets.

Solicitors, through advocacy or daily practice can be part of the change needed to tackle the climate crisis and provide a safe environment for future generations.

## How you can get involved

- *Support our resolution on social media using the hashtag #LawSocClimateResolution*
- *Share the resolution with your colleagues*
- *Adopt practices and policies in your firm in line with the resolution*
- *Be aware of how climate change will affect your area of practice*
- *Educate yourself so that you can provide legal services in a way that accounts for the climate crisis, in line with your professional duties*

“The eyes of the world were on the COP26 summit, and it is vital that its outcomes protect human rights and access to justice, as well as strengthening global climate justice,” said Law Society president I. Stephanie Boyce.

“Solicitors and law firms need to prepare for how the consequences of the climate crisis will affect them and contribute to the global drive to transition to net zero. This includes identifying climate change related risks and greener courses of action, as well as reducing the greenhouse gases associated with running any business.

“Like the COVID-19 pandemic and other transformational societal changes, the effects of the climate crisis will affect all of us, including the legal profession and their clients.

“Nearly a third of the UK’s largest businesses and many law firms have now pledged to eliminate their contribution to carbon emissions by 2050. Clients are also looking to law firms and lawyers to reflect their values and stance on climate change and sustainability.

“Solicitors can play a crucial role in the transition towards net zero and climate change will affect their daily practice. This is something we all need to educate ourselves on now, incorporate into legal practice and dedicate resources to. We hope our climate change resource hub will be a valuable support for our members.”

## For more information visit

<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/climate-change/creating-a-climate-conscious-approach-to-legal-practice>



**Post Pandemic Commercial Leases**  
with Richard Snape  
Thursday 27th January, 1.30pm - 4.30pm  
Venue: Liverpool Law Society, 2nd Floor Helix, Edmund Street,  
Liverpool, L3 9NY

**The commercial leasehold market is undergoing major changes post lockdown. In particular, the Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Bill will come into force on 25 March 2022.**

*Topics covered include:*

- The latest on the Coronavirus Act 2020
- Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Bill 2021-2022
- Actions against tenants for rent arrears
- Commercial lease renewals post lockdown and recent case law
- Interim rents
- Business rates and empty properties: the latest
- Break clauses
- Other methods of termination of leases by the tenant
- Turnover rents

**Competencies: B**

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



**Contract & Commercial Update 2022**  
with Chris Beanland  
Friday 4th February, 9.30am - 12.30pm  
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

**Competencies: B** & more...

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

# MSB appoints Head of Employment Law

Liverpool-based MSB Solicitors has appointed Steven Davies as Head of Employment Law, bolstering its Employment department in response to the team's success and increased client demand.

Steven brings with him vast experience, having specialised in employment law since qualifying as a solicitor in 2009, including in his previous role at Aaron & Partners LLP in Chester. He has also been recommended in the Legal 500 directory of leading employment lawyers.

In his new role, Steven will head up the Employment team, which was founded in January 2018 and has since grown its presence within Merseyside and the surrounding region, following steady and organic growth, with multiple client wins both locally and throughout the UK.

Steven acts for employers and employees and advises on the full range of employment law matters. He also conducts his own advocacy at the Employment Tribunal, and regularly conducts presentations and training sessions for his clients.

On his appointment, Steven said: "I am delighted to have been afforded the opportunity to lead such a brilliant team at one of the leading, most respected, and best-known firms within the region.

"I look forward to the challenge of contributing to the development of the department, and continuing to provide our clients with the very best service possible."

Emma Carey, Managing Partner at MSB, said: "At MSB we are committed to delivering excellence in everything we do. Over the past year in particular, this has seen our client demand grow and it's fantastic to be able to welcome Steven to lead our brilliant team, helping us continue to deliver the very best service to our clients.

"We are proud to boast some of the region's most well-known names as clients. Our commercial offering has gone from



**Steven Davies**

strength-to-strength, with leading businesses across Merseyside and the North West calling upon us for guidance and support.

"Our ability to offer specialist advice to both companies and individuals has placed us in an elite group of firms, who can offer both services to the highest standard. I look forward to seeing our team and our service offer continue to grow under Steven's leadership."

## 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](#).

**Liverpool Law Society offers  
its congratulations to  
Edward Abenson, founder  
of Abensons Solicitors,  
on his 50th year on the  
Solicitors' Roll.**

# November promotions round sees 29 lawyers achieve next level career advancement at Hill Dickinson

Hill Dickinson has promoted a record number of associate lawyers to senior associate positions in its latest promotions round.

The move reflects a period of intense work and commitment throughout the pandemic and the success of the firm's people-first strategy, combining lateral recruitment at the most senior levels with clear and achievable promotion paths for everyone from within.

A total of 28 lawyers across all three of the firm's core business groups become senior associates with effect from 1 November 2021 – more than in any other year since the current system of announcing promotions each November began.

In addition, Sean Lightfoot, of the firm's Manchester Corporate team, has been promoted to legal director.

The promotions are spread across each of the firm's three core business groups and in eight of its nine UK and international offices. Congratulating them on their achievement, Hill Dickinson chief executive Peter Jackson



**Top L-R: Elizabeth Finnie (Corporate); Ajith Prasad (Health Litigation); Krystyn Hall (Real Estate)**

**Middle L-R: Lizzie Jones (Corporate); Kerry Barlow (Health Litigation); Victoria Haughey (Health Costs)**

**Bottom L-R: Mark Cranshaw (Employment Commercial); Rachel Kelly-Brandreth (Health Advisory); Martin Rothwell (Health Costs)**

said: "I am delighted to see so many of our people successfully advancing their legal careers with Hill Dickinson. It feels particularly rewarding to make this number of promotions to senior associate in a single round, reflecting our ongoing commitment to growing our people. This is a very proud moment not only for them but for us as a firm."

He added: "Of this year's senior associate promotions, 17 are women – over 60%. Our challenge now is to maintain the ratio of women progressing upward through the ranks so that, in time, we also achieve greater balance at our most senior levels. As a law firm, we are putting huge effort into achieving that vision and our flexible and agile working policies play a big part in that."

Summary of promotions split by business group.

**Business Services Group - 13** promotions to senior associate, 1 promotion to legal director

**Liverpool**  
Mark Cranshaw  
*Employment Commercial*  
Elizabeth Finnie  
*Corporate*  
Krystyn Hall  
*Real Estate*  
Lizzie Jones  
*Corporate*

**Health Group - 10** promotions to senior associate

**Liverpool**  
Kerry Barlow  
*Health Litigation*  
Victoria Haughey  
*Health Costs*  
Rachel Kelly-Brandreth  
*Health Advisory*  
Ajith Prasad  
*Health Litigation*  
Martin Rothwell  
*Health Costs*



**Peter Jackson**



## Abensons Solicitors expands Private Client department

Abensons Solicitors has appointed a new Head of Private Client to help take the department forward, strengthening and promoting the profile of firm.

Lauren Ashcroft joins the firm having previously worked at a Legal 500 firm and most recently as Head of Legal Operations at Anthony Philip James Solicitors, one of the UK's leading financial mis-selling firms.

The expansion of the Private Client department is part of a recruitment drive by Abensons which has also seen the appointment of Commercial Solicitor, Paula Hanlon. The expansion also

comes after Abensons recently took over another property on Allerton Road.

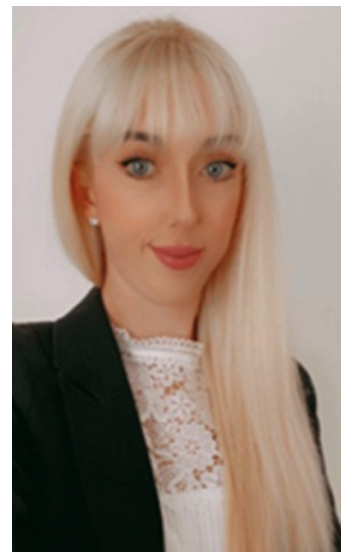
Abensons was established in Liverpool in 1974. The firm was founded by Mr Edward Abenson who continues to lead the Practice today as Managing Director.

Mr Abenson commented: "this is another exciting appointment as we continue to build our Private Client team. Our main priority is and always has been to supply exceptional services and to ensure our clients are achieving exactly what they want and need".

Lauren has significant

experience in assisting both individuals and families with both lifetime and post-death planning. She takes particular interest in using her legal skills to raise money for charity having previously enrolled in the Will Aid scheme and offering advice to women who have established their own businesses through the Women's Organisation.

Lauren comments on her new appointment: "I am delighted to have joined the team at Abensons. The reputation that the firm has built over the past four decades has been immense and I look forward to exploring new opportunities and growing a successful team".



**Lauren Ashcroft**

## Further promotions at MSB in record year

Throughout the year the firm has seen a series of promotions to Associate and Senior Associate. Alongside the previous 17 promotions to this level, MSB are delighted to announce a further two promotions to conclude a brilliant year. The Head of the Wills and Probate Department, Rob Lee, has been promoted to Associate. Andrew Fairman has been promoted to Senior Associate as Head of Compliance within the Social Housing Department.

Following the news of his promotion, Andrew said "There is such a great wealth of talent and opportunity at MSB, I'm delighted to have been recognised for this promotion. We have a great team who provide great support all around. I'm looking forward to pushing us further in my new role."

Here is what Rob had to say, "Since joining MSB in February 2021 as the Head of the Wills & Probate department, I have been able to work with my colleagues Caroline, Rafael and Steven to build on the existing great reputation of the department and to begin to expand. I am so grateful to MSB for the promotion to an Associate Solicitor and look forward to what the future of the department brings."

Alongside the firm's internal Trainee Recruitment and Partnership Progression programmes, MSB are to introduce an Associate and Senior Associate progression programme in 2022 with exciting opportunities to come for the firm's current and future staff.

Emma Carey, Managing Partner at MSB, said "we have truly talented and driven lawyers at MSB whose passion to get the best results for their clients and their teams brings me great pride. I am delighted that as a firm we are able to recognise and promote such talent. Reflecting upon a difficult 18 months for the legal sector, I am very proud that we have the lawyers that we do rising through the ranks and growing with the firm, and I'm incredibly excited for the year to come and what they will achieve. Well done Rob and Andrew!"



**Andrew Fairman**



**Rob Lee**

# Weightmans strengthens Corporate team with three new hires

Weightmans has strengthened its offering for corporate clients with the appointment of three lawyers to its Corporate team, including a new partner – with plans to recruit more after a busy six months.

The firm has welcomed Louise Neave as a Partner in the Liverpool office. An expert in consumer finance and financial services regulation, Louise has experience in advising some of the UK's best known high street and challenger banks, retailers, motor manufacturers and brokers. She joins from DLA Piper LLP, where she led the firm's consumer finance practice as a Legal Director.

Christopher Galley has been appointed as a Corporate Solicitor in the Manchester office. He joins from Latham & Watkins, having also previously worked for the Global Law Office in Shanghai as Foreign Legal Counsel. He brings with him global experience in M&A, capital markets and corporate restructurings.

Emily Beere joins Weightmans from Capsticks Solicitors. She will be based in the London office, also as a Corporate Solicitor, focusing on mid-market M&A, corporate structuring and group reorganisation and demergers. She has experience advising clients on joint ventures and shareholder

arrangements, as well as assisting with private equity and venture capital investment transactions.

Sarah Walton, Partner at Weightmans said: "It has been an incredibly busy time for the team over the past six months, with M&A activity surging. These appointments represent a significant investment in our Corporate team across the country – we are committed to supporting our corporate clients throughout this exciting and challenging time for businesses, as they work to find new opportunities for growth as they build back post-pandemic.

"Our three new recruits bring commercial acumen and an excellent ability to understand the needs of a client and their business, and they have already become highly valuable members of our growing practice. They bring with them almost 50 years of combined experience across a variety of specialisms and sectors to strengthen the firm's Corporate offering.

"Looking ahead, we are excited to continue our recruitment drive across the national Corporate team, investing in the best talent and giving all of our staff the development opportunities they need to thrive."

Liverpool Law Society

## **\*\*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 & 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\*\*](#)

Liverpool Law Society

## **The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor with Vicky Ling**

Thursday 17th March, 9.30am - 4.30pm

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

**If you need to attend a course to qualify as a supervisor for a new Crime contract starting on 1 October, this course is for you. It is also a useful refresher for experienced supervisors. You will learn about:**

- Latest developments in legal aid
- Relevant SQM and Lexcel provisions
- SRA Competence Statement requirements for supervision
- How supervisors qualify and maintain status
- The main types of legal aid audit, including Contract Manager visits and peer review
- The LAA's timetable for resuming audit and contract management activity
- Characteristics of good supervision
- What supervisors need to look for in file reviews

**& more ...**

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



## Looking Back on Black History Month 2021: MSB Raises over £3000 for Mary Seacole Statue

Each October, MSB's Equality & Diversity Committee works hard to mark Black History Month with firm wide celebrations. This year, the firm dedicated their efforts to a special cause at home. Claire Dove, Chair of St George's Hall Charitable Trust has been leading a mission to commission the first black, female statue for installation in the heart of one of the City's most famous buildings, St George's Hall. The goal is for a sculpture of historical nurse Mary Seacole to take her rightful place on a plinth in the 19th Century Halls Amongst Her White, Male Contemporaries.

MSB were determined to contribute to the efforts and inject some much-needed cash in the dedicated funds that will see the statue realised. Staff at the firm were all enthused and throughout the month of October, demonstrated creativity and kindness to come together and maximise the amount of funds raised.

No excuses required for the firm to indulge in food for a good cause! The go-to charity bake sales were set up, with all staff getting involved and competitively out-baking each other. 'Cook for your Colleagues' saw staff exhibit their own talents and feed the 200+ staff members at Friday lunchtimes across MSB's four offices. The firm were even fortunate enough to have local Restaurant Carlisi generously serve the masses with authentic Sicilian food for a small donation.

In the spirit of solidarity, the firm successfully collaborated with several other businesses to drive the fundraising forward. The classic prize raffle was ramped up and open to the community to purchase tickets with impressive donations from Rainhill Hall, Crew42, Pins, Blankstones, Neighbourhood, Carlisi, Ayutha, Tiger Rock, Ropes & Twines, Lucky Number 13 and Paolo and Donato, Everton FC and Alma De Cuba.

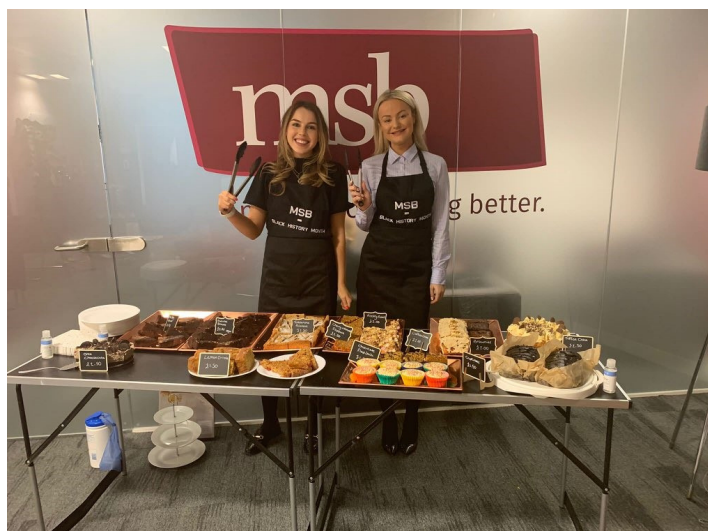
Perhaps most pivotally, providing reflection and to truly mark the significance of Black History month, MSB teamed up with Longstanding Partners in CSR initiatives, fellow law firm DWF. Together the firms arranged a historical walking tour of



the City hosted by the International Slavery Museum for a small fee to their staff. The tour gave a poignant perspective on the reality of our City's prosperity founded on the brutality and atrocity of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

Managing Partner, Emma Carey, "It is with so much pride and gratitude to staff and businesses for collaborating with us that we have achieved such a fantastic result. Our support for the campaign will continue until Mary Seacole stands in St George's Hall. "

Beyond fundraising, Melissa Bosoboe, representative of the firm's Diversity & Inclusion Board delivered an incredible 31-day project. For every day of the month of October, Melissa presented prominent present and historical figures in the Liverpool black community to the firm. From John Richard Archer, Herbie Higgins MBE to Gloria Hyatt, Glynn George Pratt and Liz Drysdal, the spotlight was shone on the incredible achievements of successful black individuals hailing from or living in our City. MSB are currently working on collating the project to share it for all to enjoy. Watch this space!



# Live a life of purpose

## Who are Army Legal Services (ALS)?

ALS is a branch of the Adjutant General's Corps comprised of professionally qualified solicitors, barristers and Scottish advocates, and its mission is to provide specialist legal support to the Army.

The provision of timely and accurate legal advice to the Army is crucial given the potential legal repercussions that may arise from the Army's actions. The legal space in which ALS Officers advise is broad. ALS' responsibilities range from giving legal advice on international, civil, criminal, and military law and advising on operational law, the law of armed conflict and rules of engagement to prosecuting in the Court Martial.

## What makes the job different?

The ALS is an Officer-only branch of the Army, and as an ALS officer, you'll be given responsibility from the outset. Being a lawyer in the Army is no ordinary job. You could find yourself advising the Chain of Command on the finer points of operational law in the middle of a war zone in one assignment whilst your next assignment could see you responsible for prosecuting at Court Martial. Whatever your role, you'll be working to the same high standards as any civilian lawyer but will be offered opportunities and challenges that few regular practices could match.

## The Role

ALS has three main functional areas. Legal Officers rotate between the three in no particular order, with each post being on average 2 years.

## Prosecutions

The Service Prosecuting Authority (SPA) is similar in function to the Crown Prosecution Service and is responsible for deciding which cases go to trial and preparing and presenting them before the Service Courts. ALS Officers prosecute in the Court Martial, which is the Crown Court equivalent in a civilian context, regardless of whether they are solicitors or barristers.

## Advisory

ALS Officers working within an Advisory Branch advise the Chain of Command on a range of issues including Army policy and operational, criminal and Service law. Duties range from providing guidance, to training Commanders and soldiers in all aspects of Service discipline.

## Operational Law

Wherever in the world the Army goes, an ALS Officer will likely go with them. They could be advising Commanders on operational law before decisions are made, training troops on the ground on the law of armed conflict or even overseeing captured persons and advising on human rights.



## Lifestyle

One of the things all Army jobs have in common is that they're part of a lifestyle that can be as rewarding as you want it to be. This includes travel and opportunity to play almost any sport and take part in adventurous training ranging from paragliding to diving.

## Routes into Sandhurst – Home of the Army Officer

- Applicants must be qualified as a solicitor or barrister i.e. undertaken a qualifying degree or law conversion diploma (GDL), then the LPC (traditional solicitor route) or undertaken a degree in any subject and completed both stages of the SQE (alternative solicitor route) or BPTC (barrister route) and finally, a 2-year training contract or equivalent qualifying work experience with a law firm or 1-year pupillage with a set of chambers.
- ALS has three intakes every year in January, May and September. Candidates can still apply if they are a trainee solicitor or pupil barrister but will need to be fully qualified at the point of commission.
- All legal backgrounds are welcome. ALS will provide bespoke legal training to all new Officers.
- The upper age limit is generally 32, but this can be waived in exceptional circumstances e.g. previous military experience or transferable legal experience in areas such as criminal, employment or international humanitarian law

**To find out more we welcome your questions or to arrange an informal call please email [Armyjobs-legal@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Armyjobs-legal@mod.gov.uk)**



## As the festive season approaches we asked our readers what makes the 'perfect' Christmas Day?



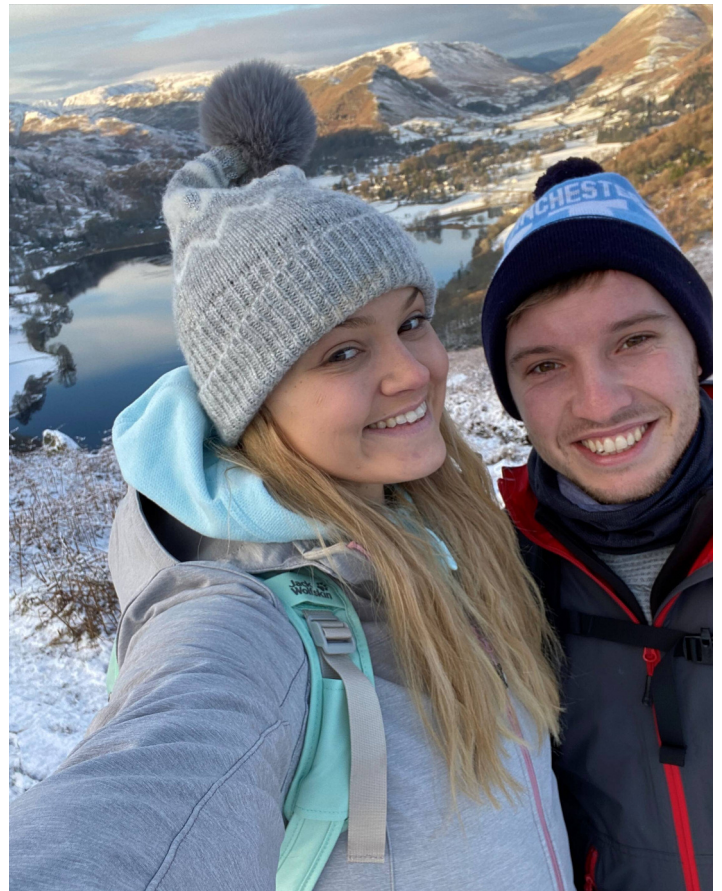
**Emma Carey,**  
**Managing Partner MSB**

My perfect Christmas day would be to get in a time machine and wake up on Christmas morning in 1979. I would be 9 again. Paul and Linda McCartney would be on the radio having just released 'Wonderful Christmas Time'. The most popular toy was the Rubiks Cube.. but my dream was always a huge dolls house.



**Sophie Brown**  
**Communications & Engagement Officer**  
**Merseyide Law Centre**

The perfect Christmas day for me would just be doing karaoke around the piano whilst downing a nice glass of Baileys, watching all the kids sing and run around.



**Victoria Evans**  
**Paralegal**  
**CEL Solicitors**

My perfect Christmas day would involve being surrounded by my family. Myself and my partner have just purchased our first property together therefore I would love for us to wake up together in our new home and cook a lovely breakfast such as salmon and scrambled egg on croissants, drinking bucks fizz listening to Christmas songs! I would then love to go to my parent's house and eat Christmas dinner with my parents, my brother and my two sisters and pull Christmas crackers. I would then love to finish the evening singing karaoke songs with a belly full of mince pies, Christmas pudding and Baileys.



**Kelsey Ryan**  
**Trainee Solicitor**  
**Weightmans**

My perfect Christmas days is presents, roast potatoes, champagne and family karaoke





**Tom Hurley**  
Trainee Solicitor  
CEL Solicitors

My perfect Christmas day would involve spending the entire day with my family. It's also my Dad's birthday on Christmas so it's always a double celebration. The day would usually start with heading to my Mum and Dad's who would make breakfast and crack open the Buck's Fizz.

We'd have Christmas music playing whilst exchanging gifts before heading off to my Nan's where we would spend the day with the rest of the family. My Nan will have made a Christmas punch which is always lethal but always tastes amazing. My Aunties and Uncles would usually squabble about how to cook Christmas dinner with each person trying to take charge. A lot of the family would usually fall asleep after overindulging but the rest of us would play board games. It's the one day of the year when everybody gets together to spend time with each other which is why it's such a special day. It's always a hectic day but I wouldn't change a thing.



**Donna Richards**  
CEO, Carpenters Group

For me Christmas Eve is the most magical day of the year and is the start of the celebrations! I am a Mum of 3 and a Nan of 2. The oven doesn't stop from Christmas Eve morning with baking, gingerbread igloo making and the contagious excitement of little ones, plus Christmas tunes in the background. Christmas Day starts with Midnight Mass and Carols.

I am always the first up on Christmas morning getting the meat in the oven (there is a theme here, I spend a lot of time cooking!!), sorting the dogs out and then the house stirs. Presents around the tree, chocolate at breakfast time and then a long lunch with all of the family, crackers, silly games, more presents, excited grandchildren and dogs, plus always my Dad snoring on the sofa!

Family is definitely what makes this the perfect day.



**Chloe Roche**  
Fraud Team Leader  
CEL Solicitors

My perfect Christmas Day would be to spend the day somewhere warm, sunny and tropical. I would love the thought of waking up, going straight to the beach and spending the day drinking cocktails and relaxing by the sea! Although I love a traditional Christmas Day here in England, the weather just is not sufficient. I always get very jealous of Australians who celebrate the occasion on the beach with a BBQ.



**Megan Knights**  
Trainee Solicitor  
CEL Solicitors

My perfect Christmas Day would be spent with all my family for a big celebration. My Dad would wake the household up at 6am with Christmas songs playing, too excited to allow anyone to stay asleep for another minute. Gifts are exchanged ahead of more family turning up at 11am. My Mum would be panicking over the timings of the food whilst my Dad is on hand to keep everyone's drinks topped up. After overindulging with the Christmas dinner, my Nan would rally the troops up for our traditional game of Scrabble whilst the little ones (and my Dad!) have a nap after all the excitement. Later on, one of the Christmas films on the TV would be put on whilst my Dad appears, cheese board and wine in hand. The most important part of Christmas for me is spending time with my family, overindulging on my Nan's mince pies and winning at Scrabble!



**Amanda Sime**  
Trainee Solicitor  
Canter Levin Berg

A sleep in, chocolate breakfast, church, family, presents, roast dinner & all of the food!



# Liverpool BID Company

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

As Liverpool counts down to Christmas, the city centre looks more festive. This year, for the first time, a Christmas Tree is lit up on Old Hall Street, bringing much needed cheer to the season.

It adds to the city centre's Christmas Tree collection, jointly installed and co-funded by Liverpool BID Company and Liverpool City Council, with the traditional 15 metre real Christmas tree on Church Street and the 16 metres high sparkling LED Christmas tree in Williamson Square.

As part of the countdown to Christmas, Paperwork Theatre will stage 12 pop up events in the city centre taking place across different evenings in December. Delivered in partnership with Open Culture, Liverpool BID Company and with support from M&S and Culture Liverpool, the street events will bring 60 artists into the city centre with music, dance, theatre, flash mobs and festive joy.

The Christmas season always provides a moment of reflection, as the twinkling lights fill the streets. 2021 has been another unusual year, started in lockdown, finished again with uncertainty but perhaps light on the horizon. Much of this year has been focused on economic recovery, on supporting the business and industry of the city to rebuild after the deep shock of 2020.

Liverpool BID's team has been evaluating the economic data from Q3. More than £536.3m was spent in Liverpool city centre in the last quarter, £87m more than was spent in the previous three months. As sectors like hospitality and leisure reopened, £113m was spent in restaurants, £87m on clothing and high street retail, £19m on accommodation and £5m on leisure and entertainment. Liverpool BID Company, in partnership with Movement Strategies, reveals how the city centre's economy has fared over the past quarter as it emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic.

In July, August and September, more was spent in restaurants, clothing, accommodation, on the high street and in leisure and entertainment sectors than had been in the previous quarter.

Increased footfall is also reflected in more people coming back to the city centre, both to work as well as for leisure. With around 1.3m visitors each week, the city



**Julie Johnson**

centre is approaching 2019 levels again.

The city is also starting to look different. Work has also been completed on managing connectivity, transforming the Strand and making it easier to travel in and out of the Commercial District and city centre. Sustainability remains a significant issue (air pollution costs Liverpool City Region's economy £480m a year) and how we can improve green access and connectivity into 2022 and beyond remains an important part of plans moving forward.

2021 has been a moment to reflect on what our city centres are for. As the year draws to a close and it becomes a stage for our Christmas festivities, how we can continue to attract business and workers, how we can develop our hybrid future (however short or long term that may be) and how we can continue to support our mixed use economy remains at the top of our to do list for the next twelve months.

**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**

Robinson v Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust & Dr Chris Mercier is an important development for all practitioners who instruct experts and even more important for experts themselves!

The case is reported by barrister Gordon Exall who includes a link to the judgment –

<https://www.civillitigationbrief.com/2021/11/02/expert-had-a-flagrant-disregard-for-his-duty-to-the-court-ordered-to-pay-50500-wasted-costs/>

On the face of it, this was a straightforward dental negligence case.

Dr Mercier gave evidence for the claimant by remote link. He is a General Dental Practitioner. The allegations of negligence were made against Mr Bajwa, an oral and maxillo-facial surgeon. This became the heart of the problem. Dr Mercier held himself out as an expert witness. During his evidence he admitted that he had not carried out an extraction under General Anaesthetic for over 20 years. He also conceded that the Defendant's expert, Keith Webster, a Maxillo-Facial surgeon was 'better placed' to give expert evidence in the case.

The claim was withdrawn following Dr Mercier's evidence.

The whole of the Claimant's case was built around this evidence which is why it was not viable to continue. Not only was he the inappropriate expert, but the defendant also highlighted 15 failings in his evidence including that he had failed to consider the evidence properly until the trial itself.

The Defendant applied for a third party costs order against the expert under s51 Senior Courts Act 1981. It was necessary for the defendant to prove that there was a causal link between the conduct of the third party. The court found that the claim against the trust could not have been pursued without the evidence from Dr Mercier. The Particulars of Claim were largely based on his report. Recorder Hudson found –

*"I am entirely satisfied that but for Dr. Mercier's report this claim would not have been brought. All costs claimed within the Defendant's cost budget are therefore caused by Dr. Mercier's flagrant disregard for his duty to the court."*

Dr Mercier was ordered to pay £50,543.85. The lesson is clear. When instructing experts, make sure that his expertise and experience match those of the person who is facing criticism.

In other news the Civil Justice Council has published a report for consultation on the most effective way to deal with costs where a claim is settled within one of the pre-action protocols. This would involve a simple process independent of Part 8 and would be paper based. This is part of a wider review of pre-action protocols including extending the availability of portals to all pre action protocols.

The consultation is open until 24th December and can be reviewed here – <https://www.judiciary.uk/announcements/civil-justice-council-launches-consultation-on-pre-action-protocols/>

Finally, we were delighted to be sponsors of the 2021 Liverpool Legal Walk. As costs advisers we are acutely aware that access to justice can be prohibitive to many. This has become more apparent as the availability of legal aid has been increasingly restricted. We were so pleased to hear that the Liverpool Walk raised over £11,000.00. It was great to meet so many local practitioners on the day.

**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 Michelle Garlick of Weightmans LLP

As my trip to Manchester town centre last weekend reminded me, the build up to Christmas is well and truly underway. As we approach one of the busiest times of the year both inside and outside of work, it is important to reflect on some of the recent important developments over the last month and begin to anticipate what 2022 will bring.

### 2021-2022 Business Plan

The SRA have published their 2021-2022 Business Plan which sets out key areas of work for the upcoming year. It identifies several key areas of work outside of the SRA's already established core work. Unsurprisingly, this includes delivering the new SQE and the first assessment sittings of SQE1 and SQE2. There will doubtless be further updates regarding this as the SQE cements itself as the mainstream route to qualification. The Business Plan also covers the adoption of technology, an increased focus on AML and delivering a range of horizon scanning and research initiatives.

As a result of stakeholder feedback, the Business Plan also includes an explanation of the SRA's approach to assuring advocacy standards, capturing information on the pilot service re unbundling and the continuation of the work to tackle cybercrime. Typically, given the recent conclusion of COP26, further detail was also included confirming the SRA's commitment to considering environmental and climate issues.

Paul Phillip, the SRA Chief Executive, commented saying that he recognised the world has "significantly changed in

the last 18 months", and that in response to this as law firms we must be agile and responsive in making sure our professional high standards are maintained.

### Kick off time for the SQE

The first ever Solicitors Qualifying Exam was sat this month by over 1,000 students. The first stage of the assessment, referred to as SQE1 took place on the 8th of November. The assessment is split into two exams, each over five hours long consisting of multiple-choice questions. The SQE went live in September and will see the LPC gradually phased out. I am sure you will join me in wishing those that sat the exam the best of luck.

### AML Regulators under fire

The oversight body to the UK's AML regulators, The Office for Professional Body Anti-Money Laundering Supervision (OPBAS), has reported there are some significant weaknesses amongst the regulators.

It was not all bad news, with the report finding that the legal sector has more effective supervision than the accountancy sector. This was based on findings that just over 60% of legal Professional Body Supervisors (PBS) were using their powers to support the risk-based approach adopted by their members, vs 40% in the case of the accountancy sector.

That said, these figures still leave a lot to be desired, with PBSs coming under a variety of critique. OPBAS may seek to bring in guidance or assessments in the future as they seek to bring these percentiles up. It is worth noting that OPBAS have indicated their support for the

SRA to have the power to fine firms or solicitors over £2,000, without the need to refer them to a disciplinary tribunal. A question remains as to whether this will be something we see introduced in 2022.

I recently chaired a meeting of COLPs/COFAs and MLROs with Colette Best from the SRA's AML team in which she talked about the SRA's visits to firms, their findings and what good and bad practices look like. It is clear that the SRA's AML focus is continuing and will not diminish in 2022 so all firms in the regulated sector must continue to ensure that they remain up to date with the firmwide, client and matter risk assessments and independent audits in particular. If you need any assistance, please get in touch.

### Protecting clients from Cybercrime

The SRA plans to introduce a new clause into the minimum terms and conditions of law firms' professional indemnity insurance policies. The purpose of it is to clarify what cover will be provided for cyber losses as a result of cybercrime.

The term, drawn up in conjunction with both the legal profession and insurers alike, has been submitted to the Legal Services Board for final approval. Subject to agreement it will be in place from early 2022.

In effect, the clause will ensure that cybercrime is covered under the insurance policies, specify the types of losses covered and provide greater security for clients. It is important to highlight that this new term will not protect first party losses, meaning that law



Michelle Garlick

firms themselves are not covered under the new term. As such, the onus is on firms to protect themselves when taking out additional cover.

### The SRA's warning

It is not the job of the SRA to help retired solicitors sleep easy warned Chris Hanford, director of the SRA. The comment was made in relation to SIF, which is due to close in September 2022. SIF currently provides indemnity cover for law firms beyond the mandated six years they are obliged to obtain.

Hanford states the decision regarding SIF has to be made in the interests of the regulatory objectives set out in the Legal Services Act, which are centred around protecting and promoting the interests of the consumer, the public and access to justice. Providing security for law firms and lawyers does not seem to factor into this decision.

Current options for SIF going forwards are thought to include; finding a cheaper way of insuring risk through SIF, insuring the profession on a master policy, or in the event firms are left to find a policy on the open market, the questions remain as to whether or not this will be mandated. The SRA have appointed independent actuaries and insurance experts to comment on the different options. Their opinions will be published alongside a consultation in the coming weeks.

## Disciplinary Matters

### Reminder: The client account is not your piggy bank

The SDT has struck off a solicitor whose use of the client account caused them to liken it to a piggy bank. The references used in withdrawals, such as Range Rover and Salary made it clear that there were no underlying legal reasons for the withdrawals.

In addition to this, the tribunal heard that the solicitor received money from her mother which was transferred into the client account, took a screenshot to show the SRA and then almost immediately returned the money. This was seen to be an attempt to deceive the SRA.

The scale of the misuse is exhibited in her final twelve months at the firm. In this time she transferred nearly £50,000 from the client account to accounts connected with her.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the outcome of the tribunal was the solicitor being struck off. She was also ordered to pay costs of £16,500. Her deliberate misconduct, dishonesty and misuse of the client account meant this was an easy decision for the SDT.

Also on the same subject, the decision of the high profile SDT case involving Mishcon de Reya was published at the end of October. The individual solicitor (who was junior at the time) and against whom it was alleged that she used the firm's client account to pay third parties involved in football transfers and thus acted in breach of the accounts rules not to use the client account as a banking facility, was cleared of misconduct. The tribunal found that it could not be said that she had caused or allowed the payments to be made. It was the matter partner and authorising partners of the firm who were each responsible for ensuring that any payments were made in compliance with the solicitors accounts rules. The firm had already admitted breaches in four of the five scenarios with the Tribunal

also finding a breach proved in relation to the unadmitted allegation.

### Solicitor punished for WhatsApp messages

The SRA has issued a written rebuke to a solicitor who posted inappropriate messages to a WhatsApp group. The incident took place in May 2019 when the WhatsApp group in question contained approximately 100 members.

The messages were held to be offensive and derogatory about certain groups of individuals. The SRA found he breached principle 6 of the SRA Principles 2011, the requirement to behave in a way that maintains the trust of the public. The contents of the messages have not been made public, but the matter appears to have taken place outside of work. Once again, this stresses the importance of adhering to the SRA's principles in our personal lives as well as in the course of our profession.

In addition to the written rebuke the solicitor was ordered to pay costs of £600.

### SRA wins High Court injunction

The SRA sought an order from the High Court to prevent a solicitor from representing clients after her practicing certificate had been suspended.

The solicitor in question had been automatically suspended in August following suspicions of dishonesty. Following this, she announced the firm had been taken over by a charity and that client work would continue.

The SRA sought an injunction as they maintained that the solicitor was continuing to represent former clients of the firm through the charity as though there had been no suspension. The solicitor opposed the injunction on the grounds she was entitled to provide services under S13 of the Legal Services Act 2007 because a non-profit company is entitled to carry on reserved legal activities, therefore, the

same must be true of its directors and employees. Ultimately, the High Court held in favour of the SRA. The judge rejected the solicitor's argument and confirmed that under S13 any person carrying on legal activities must be either authorised or exempt.

### "Deplorable" solicitor struck off

The SDT struck off a solicitor working as a consultant at a law firm, describing the "extent and repeated nature" of his failures which led to two personal injury cases being struck out, as "deplorable" with the harm he caused to his clients as "extreme". Notwithstanding that liability had been admitted on the cases in question, the solicitor had failed to comply with numerous court orders requiring service of updated medical evidence, disclosure of evidence and loss of earnings. Not only that, following an audit of his cases by the firm, it uncovered "serious issues

regarding his handling of claims". After his consultancy was terminated, he failed to return client files, despite having provided an undertaking to do so, and also for 10 months failed to comply with a court order to return the files, allow his electronic devices to be inspected and copies of documents to be taken.

The SDT found that his failures "extended far beyond mere negligence" and were manifestly incompetent. His attitude to clients, his law firm, the court, his regulator and the tribunal – with which he did not co-operate – "demonstrated a flagrant disregard for the proper administration of justice and regulation of legal services".

He was also ordered to pay £20,000 in costs.

**Michelle Garlick  
Weightmans LLP**

## Conveyancing Update with Richard Snape

Tuesday 15th March, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

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

**Conveyancing continues to undergo major changes. In particular, estate rent charges continue to cause problems. In addition, the External Wall System (EWS) certificates in relation to cladding are causing major problems.**

*Topics covered include:*

- The Help to Buy Scheme, First Homes and the new Model Shared Ownership Lease
- Estate rent charges
- The Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Bill 2021
- Competition and Markets Authority investigation of ground rents
- The Fire Safety Act 2021
- EWS1 Certificates and cladding
- Recent case law
- Solicitor's undertakings after the Supreme Court case of *Harcus Sinclair v Your Lawyers* (2021)
- Planning permission changes

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



# News from Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division

## MJLD: Turning Mirrors into Windows

In the first term of the academic year Education Representatives for MJLD Jess Jones and Erin Watkinson have joined forces with Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Representative Eve Burns to host the first careers event of their Routes into Law series.

The trio are passionate about social mobility and diversifying the legal sector, not only with talent but with stories too! Following the recent publication in the Law Gazette of CILEX lawyers being 'bullied and belittled', the need for education on the different career paths available to aspiring lawyers was highlighted to the committee, and the idea for a series of different careers events was born.

For those who missed it, the statistics reflected that:

*"In a poll of 2,041 members of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives, 81% of respondents believed that the rest of the profession looks down on them and nearly 9 in 10 respondents believed that the legal profession is 'ignorant about what a CILEX lawyer can do'".*

At MJLD, we've now reflected upon the committee, and although many of our members have taken the traditional LPC route to qualification, we're making a change. As the name suggests, MJLD is for current and future lawyers, with the number one objective of inspiring and supporting the ever-diversifying community of juniors in the legal sector. We ourselves are guilty of not having the best understanding of the other routes to qualification that are available and the quality of professionals these alternative pathways produce. So in response to this, we are running a series of events to highlight the different opportunities in law and help the next generation of lawyers in Merseyside find their feet.

The first event of the series, the **Apprenticeship Talk**, focusses on Legal Apprenticeships and will be held virtually on Thursday 2nd December at 5pm. We welcome all from the industry who want to join to learn more about the apprentice opportunities for themselves, their students or their staff. At the event we will hear from representatives at Weightmans LLP, the CPS and Damar Training. The event aims to equip you all with the knowledge of alternative routes to qualification from Legal Apprenticeships for high school and 6th form college leavers, and post graduate professionals interested in the less well-known Solicitor Apprenticeship route to qualification.

With the introduction of the Solicitors Qualifying Exam (SQE), which will replace the traditional Legal Practice Course (LPC) by 2026, MJLD's focus from an educational perspective is to equip up and coming talent in the



Jess Jones


profession with all the information they need to take on their career. In the New Year the committee will hold further events on CILEX qualification, and opportunities for those who want to join the bar, offering more variety of support for junior lawyers in the sector. All of us are fortunate enough to work amongst diversity in our firms and on the committee, but we have a long way to go and we're committed to leading the change we need to see in the Merseyside legal community.

We are thrilled to be working in collaboration with **The Girls Network** offering ourselves as mentors to their community and presenting at their legal careers event on Wednesday 1st December. The Girls Network aims to support girls in education, after noticing the multiple barriers girls have faced in their classrooms which stem from pressures to conform to ideals, lacking in their confidence and self-belief, and having a lack of professional female role models in their family and social circles. As Education and Equalities representatives, we were delighted to hear of the increasing numbers of girls on the mentor programme within the network that are aspiring to pursue a career in law. We're really excited to work with The Girls Network to breakdown barriers of gender, ethnicity, sexuality and socio-economic background and bring this talent along with us into the sector.

In other news on the education front, November saw the first round of the MJLD run Court Marshalling Scheme at the Family Court. The feedback so far has been really positive, and we're delighted to have such fantastic opportunities up and running again after Covid-19 put a short-term stop on all networking and face to face learning opportunities. We're looking forward to running the Crown Court and Civil Court Marshalling schemes throughout the remainder of the academic year. We are also in the process of electing representatives from the University of Liverpool, LJMU, University of Law Liverpool Campus, Liverpool Hope and Edgehill to sit on our Education sub-committee and work with us to bring the events and opportunities that students will really benefit from. It would be great to also have a member of the CILEX institute sit on the sub-committee to assist us in planning events that bring all legal professionals together.

As the saying goes, we want to turn mirrors, where we see our potential, into windows of opportunity for junior lawyers across Merseyside.

**Jess Jones**  
Careers and Education Representative

### Private Children Law Update

with Safda Mahmood

Friday 11th March, 10am - 12.45pm

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

**The course will equip you with a rounded up update on key issues surrounding private children law. It is set at a level to benefit those who are practicing in this field, and want to get an update on issues in this field.**


*The areas to be covered are:*

- Parental Responsibility
- Section 8 orders – Update
- Contact (Child Arrangements) and Enforcement – Update
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Child Arrangements Orders
- Presumption of Involvement
- Leave to Remove Applications

**& more...**

**Competencies: B**

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



### Public Children Law Update

with Safda Mahmood

Friday 11th March, 1.30pm - 4.15pm

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

**This course will equip you with a rounded up update on key issues surrounding public children law. It is set at a level to benefit those who are practicing in this field, and want to get an update on issues in this field. It will be of benefit to those acting for parents, children, extended family and local authorities.**

*The areas to be covered are:*

- Removal
- Contact and Children
- Assessments and Timescales
- Public law Outline and Timetable
- Leave Applications and Secure Accommodation
- Placement Applications and Adoption
- Special Guardianship
- Threshold Criteria

**& more...**

**Competencies: B**

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



# Mental Health Matters

## The Law of Attraction

One of the areas we maintain positive mental health is through healthy relationships. We can feel a sense of fulfilment, mutual bond, distraction from negative influences and a healthy connection in everyday activities as well as satisfying our human need for intimacy.

Sadly, there are certain industries that place a larger strain on relationships than others and, yes, you guessed it, the legal profession is one of them. Why might this be the case, well, the very nature of the role is pressured, timeline driven with a never-ending flow of occupational need.

In order to meet the deadlines, other areas of one's life must pay the penance. Coming home late from the office every night does not constitute to a happy, well-connected relationship. There is also the pressure of the role which leaves you depleted, giving out to the organisational need and a specific case means there is little room for much else that feels as though it requires any mental function. And then there are the clients themselves, as a lawyer you are service provider, counsellor, advocate, bad news bearer and celebration partner all rolled into one. This role is highly empathic and requires insurmountable energy, which, yet again, you guessed it, leaves you feeling depleted. So when you arrive home...late, following a very long day in the office, your ability to give into any relationship feels impossible. Those days become more frequent and very quickly become the norm. Partners initially back away to give you 'space' and that space becomes the norm. This, sadly is a recipe for a very flat relationship which equates to lower mental resilience. Now, as you know, I don't like to be all doom and gloom and there are solutions to this, whether the relationship is heading in this direction or already there.

Safeguarding your relationship at any point is imperative, prioritising the need for time together, engaging in communication and allowing your partner insight into your day is healthy. Focusing on quality time together, allowing yourself to increase your resilience through connection is also important, whilst slowly tipping the scales of normality back to time spent together as opposed to time spent apart.

When you see yourself drifting, pull it back actively, not simply hoping for the best but making conscious efforts to improve. And finally, talk to your partner, understand their perspective, allow them to help and be the support you need, you may think that distance is a protective factor but long term it can have terminal consequences on relationships and mental resilience.



**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.*

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# A festive tippie could cost you more than a hangover

Motoring specialist Matthew Reynolds, from Astraea Linskills warns drivers of the catastrophic consequences a festive tippie can cause. As winter approaches and Police Forces across the country implement their Christmas campaigns, stepping up patrols to detect those who drink and drive, Matthew has a stark warning for those who drive whilst over the legal limit.

Since the late 70's various drink drive initiatives have driven the casualty figures down. However, the statistics are still worryingly high. Figures released by the Department for Transport in 2020 estimate that 240 people were killed in accidents where at least one driver/rider was over the drink drive limit and that the number of drink driving casualties of all severities was nearly 9000 people. By some margin, the majority of both perpetrators and casualties are men and most of those casualties are between 25 and 59, with young adults between 16 and 24 over-represented in the figures.

Whilst Matthew's advice is "never drink and drive", he is also keen to highlight some situations where people may unwittingly create a danger on the road, risk their driving licence and even their livelihood."

'The morning after the night before' - DFT figures for 2020 show that 421 drivers/riders failed a breath test or refused to provide a specimen between in the morning (between 6am-12pm). These "morning after" drink drivers account for 12% of the total of drink drivers detected at any time of the day. A very heavy drinking session can take 24 hours for the alcohol to be eliminated to a level when it is legal to drive. Even a bottle of wine can take over 12 hours to dissipate to a level when driving is safe. In reality, the alcohol that we consume is eliminated from our bodies at varying rates dependant on various factors such as age, gender, weight and height and whether or not you have eaten or taken medication.

Pouring your own measures can make it difficult to calculate units and volume consumed due to the generous nature of the home style free pour! Social situations can be difficult to police in terms of alcoholic units consumed, as friends and colleagues top up glasses and any calculation becomes virtually impossible to monitor.

The pressure of the school run – getting the kids to school before work, is an area where sometimes common sense can go out of the window. it might be a short journey with time of the essence but often insufficient hours will have passed to allow last night's celebratory drinks to dissipate from your system.

It goes without saying that the Police will also be watching closely for people driving whilst under the influence of illegal drugs and prescribed drugs. While driving the day after a boozy night out can mean you are breaking the law, drugs could stay in your system at a level that puts you over the legal limit for several days.

Lack of available taxi's – During the Christmas period it is notoriously more difficult to get taxis. Post covid, with taxi driver numbers seriously depleted being unable to easily hail a cab, can



**Matthew Reynolds**

often be the deciding factor for people who "think they should be OK" to drive. Plan ahead, check out your public transport routes and times or arrange for a family member or friend to collect you. Or better still, if you plan to go out after work, don't take your car at all and avoid the temptation

My advice is that it is practically impossible for an individual to calculate when they will be under the limit and that it safest not to drive after drinking any amount. If you are planning to enjoy a tippie or two during the festive period, don't take a chance and risk the potential consequences. Leave your car and use a cab or public transport. Any minimal inconvenience is far preferable to you losing your licence, your job or injuring or killing yourself or innocent third parties. It is simply not worth it.



## The story of the 2021 Merseyside Adventure Sailing Trust (MAST) Apprentice Ship Cup

This year, law firm Hill Dickinson took part for the first time in a charity initiative known as the Apprentice Ship Cup, fielding four volunteers to work their passage as crew and mentors on a tough and exciting sailing challenge for young people.

Peter Thornton, John Caddies, Elizabeth Elliott and Antonio Malanga spent seven days at sea aboard the tall ship “BLUE CLIPPER” and succeeded in bringing home the prized challenge cup.

**Here, Peter Thornton, master mariner and marine lawyer, describes their adventure.**

### Charity background

MAST is a charity that enables young people from all over the UK to achieve growth and personal development through sail training on large classic sailing vessels known as ‘tall ships’. The charity achieves this by inviting businesses to help fund the voyages via sponsorship and/or paying for their own employees to participate alongside charity sponsored young people. The funding creates enough income to charter the tall ships and create a diverse enough crew for the charity’s aim of helping young people to make the right decisions in life. All who take part benefit from the self-awareness gained from sailing a tall ship as a team of people from many different walks of life.

This year’s Apprentice Ship Cup took place in September/October and spanned two weeks of sailing split into two voyages. The Hill Dickinson crew joined the second voyage from Falmouth to Liverpool on tall ship “BLUE CLIPPER”, along with five police cadets from the Isle of Man, four A&P Falmouth apprentices and four employees of the community benefit society, Bolton at Home. In addition to the eight professional crew, three additional mentors were on board: a mental health expert, a psychologist and the manager of the Bolton at Home group. Together they made up the 28 strong crew that would become friends and shipmates.

### The voyage

The week began on Saturday 25 September when the crew travelled south to join “BLUE CLIPPER” in Falmouth harbour. Following Covid tests and safety briefings, the vessel set sail at 22:30 with the aim of getting around Land’s End before a harsh, windy, wet cold front arrived. It was a gloriously clear night with a light breeze filling the sails, made even more magical by dolphins swimming alongside displaying bioluminescent trails. What a start to our adventure! Watches were commenced, all the embarked crew were mixed up and led by a professional crew member as watch leader, the skipper and mate overseeing the sail choices and navigation.

By first light, “BLUE CLIPPER” was well clear of Land’s End and conditions were a far cry from the calm of the evening before. The weather front had arrived with a grey stormy air, heavy rain and building winds. “BLUE CLIPPER” was starting to stretch her legs, powering northwards but rolling heavily in a south-west quartering sea. Sea sickness struck the majority of the embarked crew and soon they were questioning what on earth they had let themselves in for. Happily, by 03:00 the following morning we



**The Hill Dickinson crew**

had anchored off the port of Rosslare, south-east Ireland, and at sunrise in flat water, smiles and appetites were returning and the sun was shining. From that point on, our newbie sailors never looked back.

After a hearty breakfast cooked by our dedicated and much loved ship’s cook, “Nigel the great bearded legend”, we weighed anchor to take advantage of a fresh westerly wind that carried us further north up the east Irish coast towards Northern Ireland and Strangford Lough. This was strong sailing with full sail, save the topsails, and speeds of around 12 knots - good going for a heavy steel sailing ship! Strangford Lough by Tuesday afternoon was a wonderful place to drop anchor and enjoy some mast climbing, shoreside woodland walks and even a swim.

Wednesday morning at first light we were away again to get the tide out of the Lough and head to the Isle of Man before encountering yet another harsh weather front. The Isle of Man put on a very welcome reception with the police cadets giving a great presentation to the local marine industries on Thursday evening. Fortified by the odd beer or two ashore, our stop in the Isle of Man was a huge success, with many new connections made.

The final leg to Liverpool was once again dictated by the weather. We needed to get there before the wind shifted into the south, so it was up early for a swift departure into the windiest conditions yet – a north-west Gale 8 gusting severe Gale 9 that would be on our beam all the way to Liverpool. Reefed sails and the storm jib flying (affectionately named “Bianca” as you’d rather “be at anchor” when it’s that windy) “BLUE CLIPPER” was loving it – as were the crew! Considering that just five days earlier, most would gladly have paid for a helicopter evacuation, we now found ourselves rolling much more heavily with stronger winds but the newly formed crew had found their sea legs good and proper and were working the sails with gusto. With the roar of the wind and spray sweeping sideways we all experienced some exhilarating sailing; the transformation into sailors and shipmates was complete.

A night-time arrival into the historic maritime city of Liverpool and prize-giving event in the Maritime Museum the following day capped off the week perfectly. With many friendships formed and humbling stories heard of challenging lives led so far, we have created solid bonds between a group of people from vastly different backgrounds. The charity MAST and all those who contribute to these adventures should be proud for being part of such a worthy cause that changes peoples' lives for the better. The new strap line – "we care, because you matter" is a good one. Here's looking forward to next year!

#### Elizabeth Elliott, Associate, Hill Dickinson recounts her experience...

As a young(er) girl in Ireland I routinely sailed small boats on Lough Erne, however graduating from a topper to a tall ship, this was an entirely new challenge on a much larger scale. Having met my crew (John and Peter) at Reading railway station we journeyed to Falmouth, Cornwall where we were whisked across the harbour on a RIB to Blue Clipper. The vessel was purpose built as a sailing boat for the Hennessy family (those of cognac fame) and it was not difficult to imagine how it was once a prime example of luxury sailing, with its floor to ceiling wooden cabins, crew quarters, chart room and cosy saloon. After the initial tour, which included pointing out the nearest exits, being assigned a muster number, how to gracefully but effectively don an immersion suit and which life raft you should opt for should things go awry, the participants were assigned to a 'watch' for the remainder of their voyage.

As part of a watch you were responsible for whatever was required atop deck during your shift. This included updating the logbook on the hour, sharing duties at the helm, scouting for buoys (cardinal not human), assisting with rigging and sails, and anything else which required assistance including making many rounds of tea!

As someone who enjoys their sleep, it took one or two days to get used to being on watch. Watch times were split throughout the day from 7am until 11, 11am until 1, 1pm until 5, 5pm until 7, 7pm until 11, 11pm until 3am and 3am until 7am. Naps became all important and completely judgment free.

In advance of mealtimes, those starting their watch would plate up and those coming off watch would tidy up. Routinely I opted to play mother, and never can it be said that I cannot feed 28 people in an efficient manner, with an option for seconds. Although I had packed my sea legs, it would be remiss to say that it was all plain sailing from the off, as 80% of the remaining participants suffered mild to severe sea sickness. Not since I went to university have I had to hold that many other girls' hair, and routinely shout 'please try and throw up downwind' in so few days. Those who were ill soon felt better, and it was reassuring for our patients to be told that even some professional mariners still get ill for the first few days of any voyage!

Foul weather gear, rubber boots and a safety harness are not the sort of day to day apparel I would usually sport but when you are onboard Blue Clipper this is de rigueur.

All participants were encouraged to get involved in any and every opportunity presented to them; including climbing masts, shimmying along the boom to affix sail ties or go out on the bowsprit and hoist up or reef a sail. I was surprised in that the crew were more than happy for us to helm the vessel, where we learned to focus on a point on the horizon, rather than rely solely on a compass and make sure that we paid close attention to the



rudder! A high point for me was helming Blue Clipper as we approached the port of Douglas, Isle of Man.

Another highlight was anchor watch outside the port of Rosslare. On deck for 5am, it was a calm night and we passed our time identifying container ships, and whether or not they were carrying hazardous cargo, learning about rights of way (power gives way to sail) and how to determine safe depths. There was an abundance of stars and we passed the rest of our time identifying constellations over tea and biscuits.

I am not afraid to get stuck in particularly where a new or slightly scary challenge presents itself. Learning new skills usually means you learn something about your own self. Hailing from a country which needs a roof, once you are properly attired, wind and rain are the least of your worries, but pulling on the downhaul or easing a halyard when you have little to no grip on deck, whilst the vessel is pitching and rolling in a Force 8, with waves crashing over the bow, and the Captain is attempting a gybe, can test your mettle. This is hard work, nothing akin to my usual holidays. At one point, when attempting to rein in our storm jib, I had to wedge myself between the table and bench on mid deck in an attempt, to get some purchase on the line. The vessel rolled to port and the bench gave way and I was unceremoniously launched onto mid deck, sliding towards portside, aiming my feet at the side of the vessel fearing I would go overboard. Scary yes, exhilarating for sure, and not without injury, but ultimately the howls of laughter from my watch at the sight of the alarm on my face provided entertainment for days.

There were many incidents onboard which are all part and parcel of sailing a vessel such as Blue Clipper. It took me days to work up the courage to go on the bowsprit whilst we were actually sailing. As we sailed into the channel and onwards down the Mersey on the final leg of our voyage, I knew it was now or never and hoisted myself onto the net to help with the rigging.

Surprising myself with this new found confidence, I realised that this is the point of an experience such as this, to test yourself and provide you with the opportunity to push your own boundaries and see what you can achieve both individually and as part of a wider team.

I could write endlessly about my experience and I suppose in all honesty you had to be there, but perhaps maybe next year you will, and you can regale us with your stories of a week well spent traversing the Irish sea!



## Industry leaders join forces to support foodbanks this Christmas!

- Carpenters Group, S&G Response, Innovation Group, Morelli Group and Onyx PDA support The Trussell Trust.
- Every little 'bit extra' helps – the campaign to support foodbanks.
- Friday 17th December to be 'donation day' for industry foodbank contributions.

A group of five companies working in various divisions within the insurance industry are joining forces this Christmas to raise awareness and provide support for local foodbanks across the UK.

The group consists of industry leaders from across the sector, Donna Scully from leading providers of insurance and legal services Carpenters Group, Kate Goodwin from the global insurtech business Innovation Group, Ruth Moring-Beale from independent distributor company Morelli Group, Dan Chesney from the industry leading marketing agency Onyx PDA and Andy Whatmough from automotive solutions providers S&G Response.

Donna Scully said "In the run up to Christmas we know demand for food will escalate and people face the impossible decision of whether to heat or eat. A decision nobody should have to make. We hope, as a group, we can make a difference and if you want to get involved, please contact us. The more who help, the more we can help".

In the UK, more than 14 million people are living in poverty, this includes 4.5 million children. The group want to ensure that foodbanks are stocked full this Christmas ready to support local communities and families in need.

Kate Goodwin said "This is an initiative forged through friendships made via our wonderful industry, but one that recognises that we speak from a fortunate position in comparison to so many other people within our local communities. We would LOVE for others in the industry to join us to help support the thousands of people that will need the help of a



foodbank over the next weeks and months. A couple of bags of food, to a full blown collection of goods – every single donation will help someone, somewhere. In turn, we can support efforts by collecting and delivering goods, a service kindly offered by the Morelli Group".

Supporting The Trussell Trust, the name of their campaign is Every Little 'Bit Extra' Helps, and they are asking for businesses and individuals from across the insurance sector to come together in the build-up for their 'donations day' on Friday 17th December and deliver their contributions to their local foodbanks.

Dan Chesney, Managing Director of OnyxPDA said "We're so thrilled to be involved with this wonderful campaign. When life is so busy, particularly at Christmas it's really easy to get lost in it all and forget what matters most, helping those in our communities. That's why we want to not only raise awareness of the amazing work The Trussell Trust do, but also support the foodbanks that provide for so many within our communities not only during the winter, but all year-round."

Those getting involved can share photos of donations to one of the group members or on social media with the hashtag #ELBEH.

## Pro Bono Week 2021: MSB Relaunches Blackburne House Family Law Clinic

The pandemic has been detrimental to the third-sector and its service users. A huge amount of services suddenly became no longer viable, contingent on in-person delivery and access to drop in services or even non-existent with depleting funds. MSB were determined to maintain their commitment to CSR and their long-standing partnerships with local third-sector organisations throughout the pandemic. Central to that support is Pro-Bono delivery. The firm have a track record of delivering pro-bono clinics across the City Region.

For five years, MSB proudly operated their flag-ship pro-bono Family Law Clinic from women's education charity and social enterprise, Blackburne House. As we emerge from the restrictions of the pandemic, MSB's priority has been to relaunch the clinic, responsibly and safely.

Pro-Bono week fell this year on 1st – 5th November 2021 and MSB marked the occasion with a successful relaunch.

Nicola Harris, Partner and family Solicitor said, "I have really missed my time at Blackburne House. I'm so delighted that the clinic hasn't lost momentum. Even on our first day of re-opening, we welcomed lots of people. Access to legal advice has never been more important"



Importantly, the clinic is not just for women. Everyone is welcome and although the clinic can't assist with many of the areas of law that can be raised during drop ins, they are an excellent hub for signposting.

The clinic will be delivered weekly on Thursdays between 9am-12pm in Blackburne House Bistro. Nicola Harris will lead the clinic along with Solicitor Jayde Meredith and Trainee Solicitor Siobhan McCallum.

# Charity Spotlight



## About Us

The Owen McVeigh Foundation was founded in memory of our son, Owen who lost his life shortly after his leukaemia diagnosis. The Foundation has a simple aim - to help children who are ill with cancer and their families in the Merseyside area.

We're fortunate to have had our profile raised significantly over the last couple of years, we are sure if you're a regular match goer, you'll be familiar with the flag on the Kop which is waved with pride. You may also have spotted, or even taken part in "Where's Owen?" where people wear Owen's T Shirt on holiday around the world, or when travelling to the game and post pictures, which we share on our website, showing how far and wide Owen travels.

Our ambassadors are people who support and promote our charity in very special ways and work alongside both our committee and our large team of willing volunteers to both raise funds and provide experiences to sick children and their families. We're proud to have these people be ambassadors for our charity and grateful for the support and help they give us. These special individuals include Andy Grant, Paul Askew, Simon Rimmer, Peter MacDowall and Jamie Webster.

Our primary focus is lifetime events for poorly children, to make their childhood special and the day to day that little bit less arduous. We specialise in providing tailored events for children and have surprised kids with trips as varied from meeting the Liverpool FC team at Melwood, to working as an air traffic controller for the day at Liverpool Airport!

We also recognise the strength that community can bring to families, as the journey can be quite lonely, so we regularly take groups on larger outings, from a trip to Blackpool, Dr Doolittle in the park, to Chester Zoo, or to see a show at the theatre, the more the merrier!

## Peacock Lodge – Helping families take time out

As a charity, we had also been sending families to a lodge for much needed respite and family time as when a child is ill with cancer or leukaemia, time as a family away from a hospital ward becomes very precious. We'd also spent time away following the loss of Owen and as parents, found peace at one particular facility.

When we started sending families to this little haven of tranquillity, the feedback was so good, that we decided it was in the best interests of all the children the foundation helps, that the Charity had their own dedicated facility.

This gives us the flexibility and opportunity ourselves as a Foundation to send even more children suffering with cancer away in the coming years. Through a lot of hard work fundraising in 2018, we now own Peacock Lodge in South Lake District. A project quickly got underway to renovate and refurbish the lodge to boutique hotel standards and we were proudly able to accommodate 40 families in 2019, with feedback being excellent and with our costs kindly underwritten by the James Milner Foundation. Peacock Lodge is going from strength to strength and as we enter our fourth year of being able to offer these fully funded respite breaks to families, we are almost fully booked for the entire year.

## Fundraising for the Future

It's important to recognise that all the work we do is entirely funded by donations. We are a small charity, although we have seen terrific growth in the last five years. We have organised events throughout the year that we, as a charity, schedule and organise, such as a Snowdon Expedition, Abseil down Liverpool Cathedral, Rock n Roll marathon, Family Fun Day. However, we're equally fortunate to have special fundraisers who have taken the Foundation & Owen's legacy to their hearts, who carry out amazing feats, from dance shows, trekking Kilimanjaro, running marathons, auctioning items online, bag packing in supermarkets, or simply donating pocket money.

We have also been fortunate to be taken to the hearts of Liverpool FC, fans and club alike. LFC Foundation entirely underwrote the renovation costs of Peacock Lodge, using the proceeds of their annual Legends game and LFC Retail have worked with us to produce an Owen McVeigh product range, which is available in store and online to the global fanbase. All profits benefit the charity and it gives us an enormous sense of pride seeing Owen's image around the globe and the ground on matchday. We take great comfort that he will never be forgotten and his legacy lives on. Every penny raised is special to us. Donations like this ensure we as a Foundation can continue to focus on creating those special life memories for local children. This year, we are truly honoured to be working with you and hope you enjoyed your evening.

**For Owen,  
Mark & Jo McVeigh**

**To find out more, please visit**  
<https://www.owenmcveighfoundation.co.uk/>





# November 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** 1,991 Tweets


**Tweets** Tweets & replies Media

**Jo Downey** @JoDown... · 6d ...

Want to see the photos of last Thursdays #ADLA?

You can! Just visit: [lnkd.in/g4D2XXGy](https://lnkd.in/g4D2XXGy)

Here is the LLS staff pic - L-R: Ann, me!, Sarah, Liz & Kimberley 🥳



**MerseysideLawCentre** @MerseyLawCentre

[flickread.com/edition/html/6...](https://flickread.com/edition/html/6...)


Our column with all the latest MLC news in @LpoolLawSociety Liverpool Law 🌟🌍🏠 Check it out! #liverpoollaw

09:49 · 11/11/2021 · Twitter Web

Tweet your reply

**CEL Solicitors** 2,189 followers 14m · 🌐

In our latest blog, [Jasmine Stuart](#), associate solicitor and assistant COLP at CEL Solicitors, explores ...see more



**Social Mobility in the Legal Industry - CEL Solicitors**

[celsolicitors.co.uk](https://celsolicitors.co.uk) · 7 min read


**Andy Grant** 27.4K Tweets

**Tweets** Tweets & replies Media

**Andy Grant** @AndyG... · 6d ...

Few from my keynote speech at Liverpool's law society black tie dinner at the Titanic last week.


Great night with lovely people.



Andy Grant Retweeted

**Liverpool Law Society** 1,553 followers 1w · 🌐

Legal excellence recognised at Liverpool Awards Thank you to everyone ...see more



1


Leave your thoughts here... @ Post

**Vauxhall Law Centre** 1,553 Tweets

**Tweets** Tweets & replies Media

**Vauxhall Law Centre** · 3d ...

All the advice we give for our housing service is pro bono and reflects some of the work we do each week. If you wish to support our work, you can do so by setting up a direct debt on our website below 🙏



[vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk](https://vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk)


**Liverpool BID Co.** @LpoolBIDcompany

In light of yesterday's events at Liverpool Women's Hospital, we want to encourage both our levy payers and the wider business community to take part in free ACT Counter-Terrorism Awareness e-learning training. Find out more and sign

Tweet your reply

**Ajith Prasad** · 2nd Senior Associate at Hill Dickinson LLP 1w · 🌐

Had a great evening at the [Liverpool Law Society](#) Annual Dinner and Legal Awards. Thank you for the invitation [Nicholas O'Neill](#).




Leave your thoughts here... @ Post

**LiverpoolLawSociety** 5,109 Tweets

**Tweets** Tweets & replies Media

**Morecrofts...** · 05/11/2021 ...

We are delighted to have won TWO awards at @LpoolLawSociety #ADLA last night. Congratulations to our Ellie Slater, Rising Star 🌟 and Alison Lobb who received a special recognition award 🏆🏆




**morecrofts**

**GREEN TEAM**

Why not try giving up meat for a month? Take part in Cancer Research's #TheVegPledge this November and you'll be helping your health and reducing carbon emissions too!

POKROFTS' GREEN TEAM MEMBER ABECCA DOBBS' TOP TIP



#SUSTAINABLEBUSINESS #MORECROFTSGREENTeam

6 likes

morecrofts Our #MorecroftsGreenTeam is VERY


**Carpenters Group** 4,610 Tweets

**Tweets** Tweets & replies Media

**Carpenters Group** @... · 17h ...

Our Head of Defendant Insurance Services, Faye Fishlock, recently spoke to Modern Insurance Magazine as part of their specialist fraud forum.

[carpentersgroup.co.uk/news/has-the-p...](https://carpentersgroup.co.uk/news/has-the-p...)



carpenters group with

# InfoTrack's Property Report wins Legal Innovation Award

InfoTrack's newest product, Property Report, has been awarded Legal Innovation of the year at LegalEx 2021.

Voted as the most innovative legal product by legal professionals, Property Report is the only search data-driven solution in the market that uses dynamic data to automate and accelerate the creation of a report on title. Designed to tackle both the arduous administrative process and risk related with producing reports, InfoTrack's newest innovation delivers an exceptional experience for conveyancers and their clients.

Since launching in March 2021, more than 17,000 Property Reports have been built and sent to home movers, providing them with clear report containing must-know information about their purchase in consumer-friendly language. Minimising the time solicitors spend collating information related to a property and eliminating the risk associated with copying and pasting data, law firms can now save hours across their matters.

Feedback from firms using Property Report highlight the value this innovative solution is adding to their workflow. Adrian Noble, Managing Director at Key Legal says, "I have been completely sold on the benefits of Property Report, which can be amended as required and the report is updated in real time so that you can actually see how your amendments will appear within the report. The final version can have documents uploaded from our case management system and is personalised with our firm's logo and colours."

Suzy Newnham, Conveyancing Executive at Good Law Solicitors



adds, "I love Property Report. What used to take at least half a day now takes half an hour and that in itself is a godsend."

Scott Bozinis, CEO, comments, "Winning this award is testament to having a proven, innovative solution in the marketplace. We're determined to work in collaboration with law firms to design solutions that specifically target areas that can improve productivity and efficiency within their workflow. Property Report is the result of the collaborative efforts, enabling us to empower firms by supporting their compliance requirements and saving them time. We're incredibly proud of this achievement because it is addressing the shift to digital conveyancing to drive better outcomes for law firms and the home mover."



Liverpool Law Society

## 2022 Housing Disrepair Conference

**Wednesday 16th February 9.30am - 2.45pm**  
**Venue: Liverpool Law Society, 2nd Floor Helix, Edmund Street, Liverpool, L3 9NY**

**Welcome & introduction ~**  
**District Judge Mark Lampkin**

**Tenancy & Lease Repairing Clauses**  
 Philip Byrne, St Johns Buildings

**Tips for Tenants**  
 Jonathan Davidson, Broudie Jackson Canter

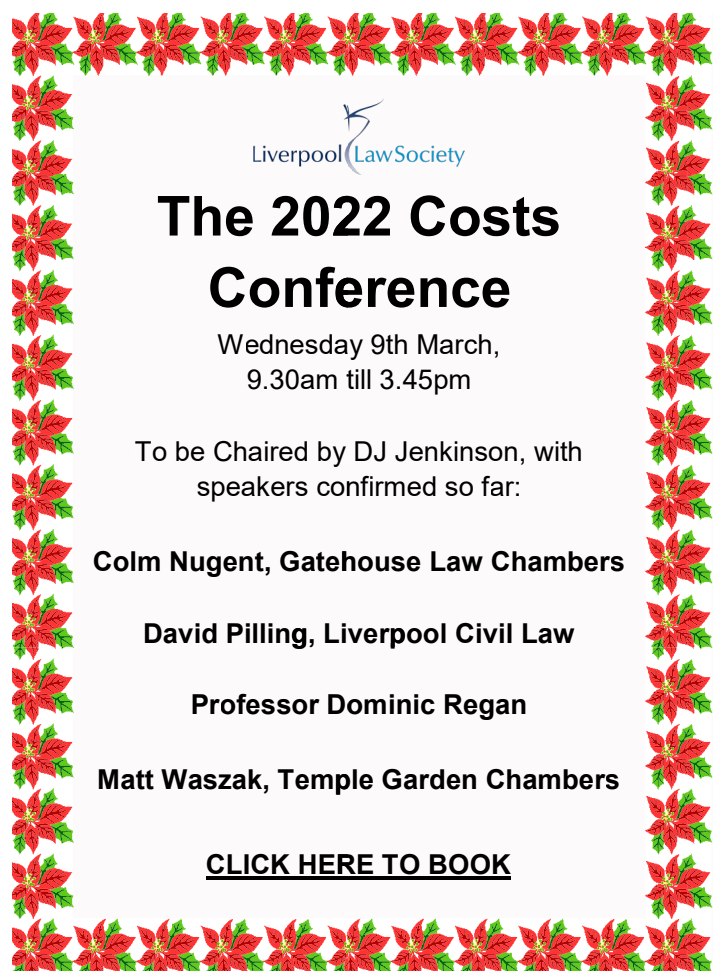
**Pre-action Protocol**  
 Mark Gannon & Josephine Morton, Brabners LLP

**Surveyors Eye View and Update**  
 David Walter, Restoration Design Partnership

**Handling Complaints about repairs**  
 John Hoarey, Housing Ombudsman

& more...

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



Liverpool Law Society

## The 2022 Costs Conference

**Wednesday 9th March,**  
**9.30am till 3.45pm**

To be Chaired by DJ Jenkinson, with speakers confirmed so far:

**Colm Nugent, Gatehouse Law Chambers**


**David Pilling, Liverpool Civil Law**

**Professor Dominic Regan**

**Matt Waszak, Temple Garden Chambers**

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





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