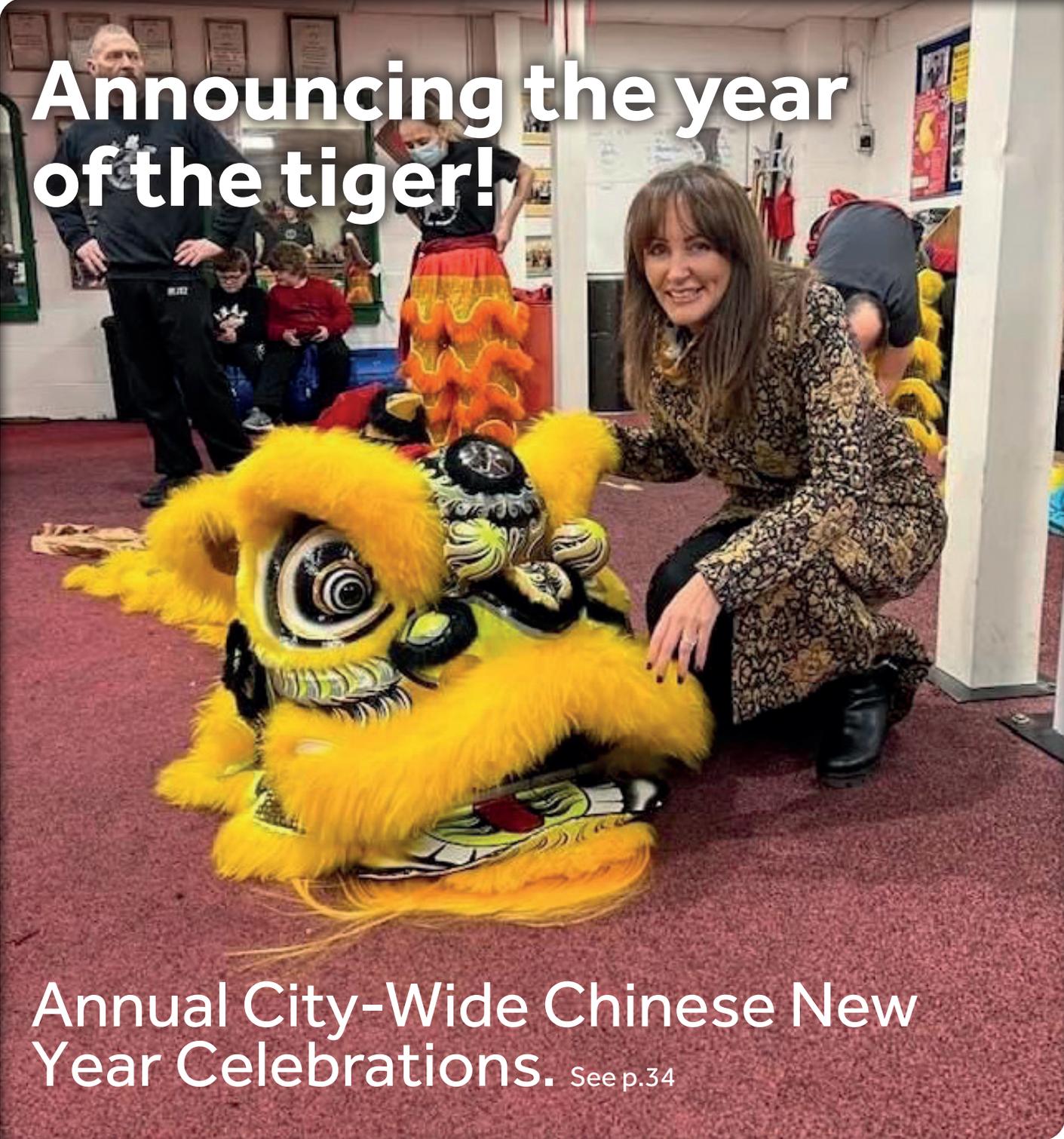


February 2022

Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE LEGAL SECTOR IN
MERSEYSIDE AND THE NORTH WEST



Announcing the year
of the tiger!

Annual City-Wide Chinese New
Year Celebrations. See p.34



Helping the lawyers who help people

Sophisticated legal aid software

Designed for legal aid practitioners in England and Wales our dedicated legal aid application helps to streamline the management of your legal aid matters and billing processes. This includes the generation of CWA monthly submission and integrated upload of Crown Court Claims.

leap.co.uk/legal-aid

Strategic Partner



The Law Society

February 2022

CONTENTS



4. The latest from the Editor, Jennifer Powell
5. From the President
7. Meet the New Vice President
8. LLS Meetings & Consultation Papers
9. Home Street Home
10. Focus on Haley Farrell
11. Law firm announces four new Partners
12. Morecrofts appointments and promotions
13. Astraea Linskills appoint Chief Executive and Head of Private Client
14. Brabners appointment
15. News from the Merseyside Law Centre
16. MJLD
17. Monthly Costs Update
18. In-House Lawyers Committee
20. PSYROC - Where are we now?
22. Liverpool BID Company
21. Hybrid Working
24. New office opens at the Digital Innovation Facility in Liverpool
25. Cumberland Lodge Moot
26. The Pain Relief Foundation
28. Access to justice news
30. Council Members' Report
31. Obituary: Colonel Sir Christopher Hewetson
32. Forthcoming Courses
36. Ask the expert!
38. Chinese New Year Celebrations
40. Social Media Highlights

DEADLINES

- 24th February
- 25th March
- 26th April
- 25th May
- 7th June
- 27th July
- 25th August
- 26th September
- 27th October
- 28th November



Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/LiverpoolLawSociety

Follow us on Twitter @LpoolLawSociety

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



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

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

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

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

Published by Baskerville eMedia
Unit 27a, Price St. Business Centre,
Price St., Birkenhead, Wirral,
Merseyside CH41 4JQ
Tel: 0151 203 0440
simon@baskerville-e.media



Editorial Committee Dates 2022

Meetings start at 11.00 am

- 15/02/2022
- 15/03/2022
- 19/04/2022
- 17/05/2022
- 14/06/2022

Welcome to the February 2022 edition of Liverpool Law



Welcome to the February 2022 edition of Liverpool Law

Happy Chinese New Year! Our front cover is lovely this month and I'm excited to visit the celebrations in our city. I hope you manage to get into town and enjoy a very special occasion.

We have another bumper edition for you this month, the second from our new publishers. If you have any feedback please do not hesitate to get in touch. As always we welcome your ideas and contributions.

We have an article from our Vice President and another of our Directors. I hope you're enjoying getting to know the Board as much as we are!

There are a few calls in the magazine for your help and responses to consultations, particularly the end of the SIF. Please do use the consultations and committees responding on behalf of LLS to have your voice heard.

This month our mental health article has given a unique opportunity to 'Ask the Expert'. After the past couple of years we have had with all its struggles and more economic uncertainty to come, I hope you will take this opportunity to seek any guidance you feel is needed for our expert to help you with.

Many thanks

Jennifer Powell
Editor
Weightmans
editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk



新年快乐
HAPPY
CHINESE
NEW YEAR
YEAR OF THE TIGER

From the President

Welcome from the President, Steven Zdolyny

Liverpool Law Society Needs Your Views

The Society is about to embark on a consultation with members to ensure a sustainable and successful future. The consultation is in response to the significant reduction in the Society's training income since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. The aim of the consultation is to ensure that the Society provides the services, support and representation that the membership wants, in a financially sustainable manner.

The issue centres around our future offering to members, specifically around the format of events, meetings and other activities the Society provides. Currently the Society has city centre premises that it rents. When the pandemic commenced, all activities moved online. Looking ahead to the future, we are considering whether or not to retain premises and so we seek members' views on this. Put simply, we need to either make further drastic savings by exercising the break clause on our leased premises or return to near pre-pandemic levels of training income.

The consultation is due to be launched in early February, so please look out for an email asking for your views. Every member's response will count, so please do take part. If you do not receive the email for any reason and wish to participate, please contact Ann Murphy (ann@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk) and she will send you a copy. The consultation will close on midnight Wednesday 16 February.

Important SRA Consultation about Post Six Year Run-off Cover and the Solicitors Indemnity Fund

I strongly encourage individuals and firms to respond to this SRA consultation paper that closes on 15th February 2022. This is an issue that not only affects the public and retired solicitors, but also those in practice in partnerships right now. The SRA consultation is available here: <https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/consultations/consultation-listing/solicitors-indemnity-fund/?s=0>

The Society's Regulatory Committee met recently and is preparing a response on behalf of the Society. There are three questions we would like to put to our members which would help us to complete the response:

1. We are interested in any examples that members may be able to provide of long-tail claims, that may arise more than six years after a firm has closed. Some examples would be helpful to illustrate the kinds of consumer losses that might go uncompensated in the absence of SIF. Please let us know below if you have examples.



2. Can you provide details of legal services which may no longer be provided by you if there is no post-six-year run-off cover?

3. Can you provide examples of the types of clients/consumers which are likely to be impacted as a result? Please send in your answers to the above three questions to committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Events Round-Up

Sadly, a number of in person events that we had planned in December and January have had to be postponed due to covid. For example our celebration for new entrants to the legal profession has now moved to 15 June and we hope you can make the new date.

On-line events have continued as normal and I have attended the General Committee meetings in December and January, and the Future Planning, Finance & Policy and Regulatory Committee meetings held in January. We have also held a number of Officer meetings to discuss the Society's financial position and this links to the survey mentioned earlier.

There was a very good turn-out of the Society’s directors to the meeting with local councillors on 20 January, and I am grateful to all those who attended and contributed at this meeting.

The Society’s Directors also attended a very informative training session on social engineering fraud run by the Merseyside Police Cyber Dependent Crime Unit. Something that was mentioned that may be of interest to members is the free Police CyberAlarm tool to help businesses understand and monitor malicious cyber activity. This service is made up of two parts: monitoring and vulnerability scanning. It acts as a “CCTV camera” monitoring the traffic seen by a member’s connection to the internet. It will detect and provide regular reports of suspected malicious activity, enabling your business to better to defend against the latest cyber

threats. The data collected by the system does not contain any traffic content (the police cannot see this – it is the metadata only) and is designed to protect personal data, trade secrets and intellectual property. More details of the Police Cyber Alarm tool is available: <https://cyberalarm.police.uk/>

The Society’s next main event is ‘How to manage your firm and workforce in a digital future’ on Thursday 17 February between 1-2pm. Please Join this virtual session, when Doug Hargrove, MD for Education and Legal at Advanced, will explore how to manage your firm and workforce in a digital future. The virtual roundtable event will cover how to achieve successful implementations, what you should consider relating to the impact of remote working including training of new staff, the impact on your people’s mental health

and the importance of creating a security-minded culture to deal with cyber attacks.

As always we are looking to you to help build our programme of training events (and, as we regain some sense of normality, social networking) so please do let us have your ideas, comments and suggestions so that we can ensure we cater to your needs. Please do take a few minutes to scroll through this edition to see what wonderful things our other members have been up to and continue to send us details of what you have planned over the next few months.

Until next time, stay safe and happy reading!

Steven Zdolyny
President

president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk



Request a sample report and ask your provider to add DevAssist to your conveyancing package.

www.devassist.co.uk
t: 01342 890010
e: orders@devassist.co.uk

Meet the new Vice President

Introducing Joanne Francis



Joanne Francis has been elected as Vice President of Liverpool Law Society for 2022, having served as Treasurer the previous 3 years and being a Director for six years. Joanne is very career driven and has always had a particular interest in the Law. After leaving school

she passed the tests to join the Police, but was later turned down due to her needing contact lenses, which weren't permitted at the time. This was a great disappointment, but she was still keen to pursue a career in Law.

She enrolled on a Legal Executive course and after writing to approximately sixty Law firms around the Liverpool area was offered an interview with Lace Mawer (now BLM). She is still there after 29 years, which she says is due to working with some great people and clients over the years.

Joanne was taken on initially as a Court Clerk. She was really thrown in at the deep end, going to court every day, dealing with applications often against counsel and appearing before judges on a regular basis. It was very much a sink or swim situation for her, but she really enjoyed the challenges of the rules and the legal debates, particularly when she won against a more experienced brief!

During this period, Joanne met many people from other firms and from Liverpool City Council. Collaborating with all the partners on their various cases greatly expanded her working knowledge, as well as learning advocacy skills in defending claims in the small claims court. At the same time, Jo was studying for her Legal Executive qualification (before then completing the LLB and then the LPC at LJMU). In 1997 she began managing her own cases.

Joanne next progressed to managing corporate client accounts and learning management skills, heading a large team of casualty lawyers. She subsequently became head of BLM's Liverpool office and is responsible for its day-to-day running.

Her main aim as VP is to support the President, Steven Zdolny. As chair of the Future Planning Committee she will be looking at new ways to ensure the Society remains sustainable and relevant to its members; and at ideas for the kind of events the Society will be hosting. Jo wants to focus on the challenges which affected members during lockdown, such as remote working and wants to host events that can bring people together again, including law students and other professions.

Joanne feels that the Society has always had an important role in the city, thanks to the hard work and commitment of her predecessors, the current officers and directors; and its loyal long-serving staff. It has adapted very well to the challenges of Covid, but Joanne wants to ensure it keeps adept to meet any new challenges it may face. LLS have a great team with vast experience and a good following from our strong legal community.. She believes that LLS need to continue to be sympathetic to the problems facing members and explore ways of helping them..

Although extremely busy at the moment, Joanne enjoys walking, spending time with family and, when time permits, getting away in her motor home. An avid supporter of Liverpool Football Club, she is also a member of the Heswall tennis club and will try to play more when her packed schedule and her two children's extra-curricular activities allow.

We wish Joanne all the best for 2022!

MANDERSTAM INTERNATIONAL GROUP



Founded in 1941

CONSULTING ENGINEERS IN PROCESS AND INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

Principals: Eur. Ing. P. D. Lumley, B.Sc., C. Eng., I. Mech. E.
Dr. J. A. Rakestraw, B.Sc., ARCS, PhD, DIC

EXPERT WITNESSES FOR:

- Mechanical and Process Engineering
- Manufacturing Industries
- Oil and Gas Industries
- Petrochemicals and Chemicals
- Fertilizers and Pesticides
- Metallurgical Industries
- Safety and Environmental






10 Greycoat Place
Westminster, London SW1P 1SB
Tel: 020 7730 9224 Fax: 020 7823 3056
 email: plumley@manderstam.com
www.manderstam.com

LLS Meetings & events – February 2022

These meetings and events will be held virtually unless notified otherwise:

Start Time	Meeting/Event
08/02/2022 12:30	General Committee
09/02/2022 13:00	Family Business Sub-Committee
10/02/2022 13:00	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee
15/02/2022 11:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
17/02/2022 13:00	How to manage your firm and workforce in a digital future - Virtual Roundtable
22/02/2022 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
23/02/2022 13:00	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee
24/02/2022 13:00	In-House Lawyers Sub-Committee
02/03/2022 09:30	Joint V Meeting (Leeds Hosting)
08/03/2022 12:30	General Committee

Consultation Papers

Papers referred to committees:

The following sub-committees of Liverpool Law Society are considering responding to these consultation papers.

If any member would like to send in a comment, please do so to committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Committee	Consultation Paper title	Closing date
Regulatory	Future Regulatory Framework (FRF) Review: Proposals for Reform	9th February
Regulatory	Financial penalties	11th February
Regulatory	Post six year run-off cover and the Solicitors Indemnity Fund	15th February
Non-Contentious Business	Business Rates Review: technical consultation	22nd February
Access to Justice & Non-Contentious Business	Consultation on the introduction of tenant satisfaction measures	3 rd March
Access to Justice & Civil Litigation	Human Rights Act Reform: A Modern Bill of Rights	8 th March

Joint response to consultation paper:

The Access to Justice and Civil Litigation Committees submitted a joint response for the Housing Legal Aid: The Way Forward consultation paper before the closing deadline of 20th January 2022.

Home Street Home – seeking to end homelessness in the Liverpool City Region



Ending homelessness in the Liverpool City Region for good

Front-line services organisations



Sarah Poblete

In the second article of the series focusing on homelessness in the city region, we will take a look at the front-line services organisations in the Liverpool City Region (LCR). There are 46 of them. In this article, we will focus on Phoenix Futures and find out about their Wirral Residential Service.

Phoenix Futures' Wirral Residential Service offers drug and alcohol-free residential rehabilitation to those with substance misuse problems. Residents stay in a large suburban house in the Wirral, close to Liverpool.

Their team of drug and alcohol workers provide personalised support through one-to-ones, group and alternative therapies. Residents spend their first few

weeks in welcome house stage while they settle into their new surroundings. They will then move through the phases for the rest of the programme, which lasts between 3 and 6 months. Residents are responsible for the day-to-day running of the house and support each other throughout the programme with more senior residents becoming 'buddies' for new residents. After completing treatment at the residential, residents are supported to move on to our supported housing services or their own accommodation.

For more than 50 years Phoenix Futures have been helping people struggling with substance use and mental health rebuild their lives. We recognise the expertise and support our corporate partners bring so that together we can deliver life-changing support.

We are passionate about recovery, believe in being the best, and are committed to building strong, mutually beneficial, and lasting relationships with partners.

Every partnership is different. We work with our corporate partners to ensure our projects are based on shared values and achieve meaningful and long-lasting impact; locally and nationwide.

Our partners can spend time in our services and witness our work supporting people with their wide range of needs

alongside their addiction such as poor mental health, homelessness, trauma, and domestic abuse.

We support people at all stages of recovery and our corporate partners enable us to enhance delivery to provide opportunities for meaningful and innovative activities that lead to long-lasting outcomes.

We report regularly to corporate partners and provide recovery narratives alongside performance data that evidence the impact our projects have on people's lives.

Find out more about the Wirral Residential Service <https://www.phoenix-futures.org.uk/phoenix-futures-for/people-and-families-who-use-our-services/find-a-service/wirral-residential-service/>

To see the full list of LCR front line services see <https://homestreethomelcr.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/List-of-Frontline-Services-in-LCR.pdf>.

Any organisation that wants to come together in a collaborative stance against homelessness can join the Liverpool City Region Homelessness Charter initiative <https://homestreethomelcr.co.uk/our-charter/>

Sarah Poblete
CEO and Homelessness Ambassador for Liverpool Law Society

Focus on Haley Farrell, the new Director of LLS



Haley Farrell

We are delighted to announce that Haley Farrell has been elected as a Director of Liverpool Law Society, effective December 2021. Haley is a senior family Lawyer and holds two roles in the Jackson Lees Group.

As Deputy Managing Director at Jackson Lees Group and head of Family Law for - Broudie Jackson Canter, Haley manages a busy Family team and provides support to the Managing Director.. Haley also specialises in Children Law matters, helping to make a positive difference to some of the most vulnerable in society.

Haley gained her LLB at the University of Sheffield, and her LPC in Leeds. Haley started her legal career initially as a Personal Injury Lawyer completing her training contract with local firm Gregory Abrams Davidson. Although Haley enjoyed her time in Personal Injury, she found herself looking for a new challenge, which led to her career move into Family Law. This decision was driven by her passion for providing access to justice and making a positive difference to the people she represents, helping parents and children, in difficult and often vulnerable situations. Her first position as a Family Lawyer was with Berkson Globe Solicitors, where she gained her Law Society Children Panel membership. Haley spent the next eight years gaining wide experience in her new area of law, before moving to Jackson Canter (as it was known then) in 2014.

Haley is a member of the Law Society Children’s Accreditation Scheme, which confirms that she has an extremely high level of knowledge, skills, and experience in this specialism. Haley is a member of the LLS Family Law Subcommittee headed up by Emma Palmer.

Throughout the pandemic the Committee has worked extremely hard , keeping firms up to date with developments and looking at what help local firms and their clients might need. Haley is really excited about her new role within LLS, and very keen to hit the ground running!

Haley has a real passion for the development of people, her main aim for this year is to get involved with helping and developing younger Lawyers in all sectors.. This is aimed at raising awareness of opportunities and helping overcome any professional obstacles they may be facing.

Outside of work, Haley enjoys spending time with her family and friends, she is also a school governor, which she finds very rewarding.

We wish Haley all the best in her new role.



FINGERPRINT ANALYSIS



Peter M Swann FAE FFS MCSFS
Independent Consultant to the Legal Profession
 Established 1987

A FORMER HOME OFFICE ADVISER WITH CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF FINGERPRINT WORK

An Accredited Expert and Fellow of the Academy of Experts, a Fellow of the Fingerprint Society, A Member of the International Association for Identification and Member of its European Division, a Member of the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences and listed in the UK Register of Expert Witnesses.

The Consultant now provides a full independent fingerprint service to the legal profession, industry and other agencies.

**Examination
Development**

**Assessment
Report**

**Briefing
Expert Witness**

Tel: Wakefield 01924 264900 (Office) 01924 276986 (Home)
Email: peterswann@btconnect.com
www.fingerprint-analysis.co.uk



Law firm announces four new Partners



MSB Partners

MSB has announced that it has added four new Partners to its team, taking the total number to 18 Partners across the business.

The promotions come in response to growth across the firm, with these individuals helping to drive the business forward.

New partners include **Pippa Tudor**, one-time trainee of MSB's Managing Partner, **Emma Carey**, and Senior Associate Solicitor in the firm's Family team, whose strong network in Cheshire and North Wales has allowed for the expansion of MSB's private family offer.

Jack Medlicott, Senior Associate Solicitor in Commercial Property has been made Partner after developing the firm's secured lending offer, as well as **Andrew Moore**, Head of Anti-Social Behaviour

and Leasehold and Solicitor, who will be playing a large role in MSB's growth across the North.

Also in the firm's Social Housing team, **Phillip Coburn**, Head of Market Rents and Solicitor has been promoted to the position after making great strides in developing MSB's recently introduced Private Landlord team.

Emma Carey, Managing Partner at MSB, said:

"Becoming a Partner of a firm is making a commitment to the future of that business, and it's fantastic to have these new Partners coming through who are able to bring energy and new ideas to the existing team. It's also really important for our junior lawyers and trainees to see the progression opportunities that exist within the profession, and to have

these Partners who will support the next generation on their journeys.

"All of these individuals have proven themselves to be huge assets to MSB during their time at the firm. They are more than just amazing lawyers, they are the driving force to help take our business forward.

"We have grown the firm organically over the years and we continue to do so, with plans to recruit more trainees, expanding across the North and establishing a career progression programme so that everyone, from Paralegal to Partner, has a clear pathway to achieving their true potential. We have an exciting future ahead of us."

Harriet Holbrook
Senior Communications Consultant

Morecrofts have welcomed five new members of staff across the board, along with a key promotion in its property team.

Rebecca Dobbs, who undertook her training contract with the firm has qualified and started in a new role as a solicitor in the property team.

She said: *“Undertaking my training at Morecrofts has been such a privilege, and I am delighted to have been offered this role.”*

“This firm is such a great place to work and I am excited to be taking the first step of my career as a solicitor here.”

Alongside this appointment, the firm has welcomed two new paralegals to its private client team, **Sharon Kaur** and **Emma McNamara**, as well as family team paralegal **Ailish Molloy**.

Emma Barnes has joined the property team as a legal support assistant while Lucie Jo Whelan joins the family team in an admin assistant role.



Rebecca Dobbs



Sharon Kaur



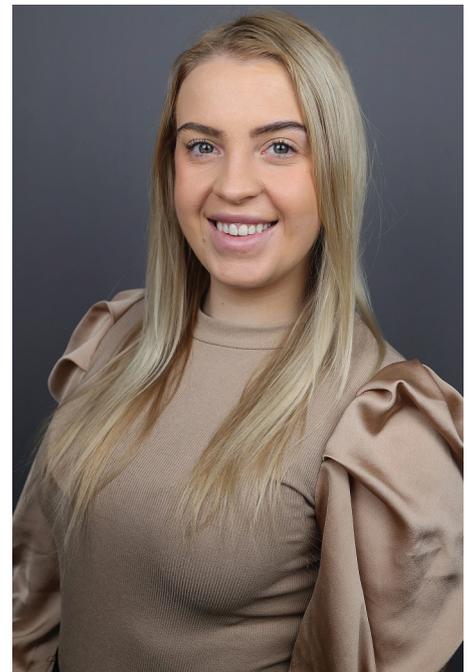
Alison Lobb

Managing partner **Alison Lobb** said: *“It’s been a busy month or so bolstering our teams across the board.”*

“At a time when employees are looking for new ways of working and great employers, we have been delighted with the feedback we continue to receive from existing and new members of our Morecrofts family.”



Emma McNamara



Ailish Molloy

Astraea Linskills appoint Chief Executive and Head of Private Client

Astraea Linskills, has appointed John Paul Dennis as Chief Executive and Head of Private Client. The legal practice, which also has offices in London, founded in 2016 by Nama Zarroug, acquired leading criminal law firm, Linskills, in February 2020.

John Paul, 42, brings with him a vast wealth of experience with over 17 years specialising in all areas of tax planning, trust, Wills and probate matters, providing guidance to business owners and high net worth individuals on succession planning, lifetime and post-death tax planning. Formerly head of the Liverpool Wills Trusts and Estates team at Weightmans LLP and previously a partner at Kirwans Liverpool.

On his appointment **John Paul** said “As Chief Executive I am looking forward to driving the strategic direction of the firm, working with the board to ensure organic and sustainable growth as well as

focussing on compliance and regulatory outcomes. As Head of Private Client, I will be looking to introduce a new service to the firm, it’s clients and contacts and to develop an efficient cutting edge Private Client and Wealth advisory service to protect clients, their families and successive generations. I am delighted to join such a dynamic team and excited at the challenges which lie ahead and I am looking forward to growing the business and expanding our portfolio”

Founding Director, **Nama Zarroug** said “We are delighted to welcome John Paul as Chief Executive and Head of Private Client at this exciting time for Astraea Linskills. As a Board of Directors we have grown the business substantially, acquired one of Liverpool’s leading criminal practices and more than doubled the number of employees in recent years. John Paul joins us as we plan to relocate our practice to bigger premises on Castle Street in the heart of the city centre and we could not



John Paul Dennis

be more thrilled to welcome him to our talented team.”

John Paul lives in Wavertree with his partner, has one son and is also Chair of Trustees at Nugent Care, one of the regions oldest and most diverse charities.



The team at Astraea Linskills

Brabners strengthens M&A offer with Corporate Partner appointment



John Spofforth and Nik White

Following one of its most active years to date, the corporate team at independent law firm Brabners is targeting further growth following the appointment of John Spofforth as partner.

John joins from Liverpool firm O'Connors, where he headed up its corporate practice. He brings with him 20 years of experience in leading domestic and cross-border corporate transactions across a range of sectors, as well as a specialism in advising high-growth and family-owned businesses both in the North West and nationally.

His appointment follows an outstanding 12 months for the firm's 40-strong corporate

team which saw it treble its deal count in 2021, advising on 139 transactions – representing a combined £1.3bn worth of deals.

Nik White, managing partner at Brabners, said: *“John is one of the North West’s best known corporate lawyers, and brings with him extensive experience in leading strategic sales and acquisitions that will make him a valuable addition to the team. Our corporate practice, which is among the largest in the region, has gone from strength to strength over the past 12 months, as we seek to expand our practice and support clients with both a national and international outlook. John’s appointment will help us to build on this*

momentum as the deals market continues to rebound from the pandemic.”

John Spofforth, partner at Brabners, said: *“The North West’s M&A market has undoubtedly enjoyed a healthy past 12 months, as businesses responding to the pandemic look to consolidate their operations or target growth through buy and build strategies or shareholders seek an exit.*

“This presents huge opportunities for business owners and investors across the region who will no doubt continue to look to Brabners to help them achieve their ambitions and I am delighted to be joining the firm at such an exciting time.”

News from Merseyside Law Centre

Fighting for equality through social justice to combat poverty & homelessness



Lead the way in helping to secure the future of access to justice for those most vulnerable in society.

In 2021, the Westminster Commission on Legal Aid found there is a real possibility that Legal Aid will soon become unsustainable and that the inadequate funding of this country's legal aid system is impacting greatly on the ability of those most vulnerable in society to access justice. This report confirmed what we already know to be true, that the future of social justice and social justice lawyers is uncertain. Law Centres all share the common belief that the justice system should be accessible to everyone, no matter their means, their background or their beliefs and we want to invite our legal colleagues across the city to find out more about what we do and how you can help.

Merseyside Law Centre has been assisting the people of the Liverpool City Region with their legal advice issues since 1988 when we were formally established as Merseyside Welfare Rights and in 2016, we became the Merseyside Law Centre. Our overall objective is to combat poverty and homelessness by providing free, confidential, quality advice and representation to assist clients to pursue their legal rights, within a framework of equality and opportunity.

We provide specialist legal advice and assistance relating to welfare benefits, housing and asylum support. Our advice is provided to those in need, regardless of age, gender, race, or disability. Our activities focus on promoting social inclusion and relieving the needs of individuals, who are, or who may become, socially excluded because of factors such as unemployment, race, financial hardship, ill health (physical or mental) and youth or old age. Our purpose is to improve access to justice, by helping them overcome some of the difficulties that they face, and thus ensuring their successful integration into society.

Merseyside Law Centre and previously Merseyside Welfare Rights have a proud history of training social welfare lawyers. Our most recent trainees are recruited under the Justice First Foundation scheme which we apply for every 2 years, and which is a highly competitive scheme. This is funded by the Legal Education Foundation and is partially supported also by a small number of law firms in Liverpool. We have been kindly sponsored by Bermans this year and Weightmans and Brabners previously. We want to continue this important relationship with law firms in the city, we believe that we all have passion for justice in common and that with the support of private firms, we can make such a difference to the general wellbeing of people in this city.

Our current Justice First fellow Samantha Maher is already making a remarkable difference to the lives of her clients. She recently brought a case to the Court of Appeal on behalf of her client, a vulnerable adult with serious disabilities, which could have seen a change in Social Security regulations if won. Unfortunately, the case was dismissed but it was due to Samantha, supported by her supervising solicitor Mary Heery that the case had its day in court and a focus was brought to the plight of disabled people trying to navigate the benefit's system. We witness the immeasurable difference these aspiring lawyers make to their client's lives during their time training here and how valuable this training scheme is to social welfare law in general. It is thanks to ongoing support from local law firms that we can continue to offer opportunities to continue to develop future social welfare lawyers and we want to reach out to firms across the Liverpool City Region to ask for further support in form of donations to our Justice First Fellowship or a general donation to the centre to help us continue to deliver our services.

We believe that with profit comes responsibility and that we are all capable of bringing about positive change alongside the day to day running of a business. We are looking to law firms in the city to work with us on delivering our wellness goals for the city, to collaborate on ideas for growth and further integration into the tapestry of the city and to find new ways of making our local law centres sustainable. Alongside a need for donations, we would like to work with our donors on ways in which we could improve our services and increase our profile in the city. A great deal of our time is spent chasing funding to keep the door open due to extensive public funding cuts, we need instead to be able to focus on our commitment to expand our services to ensure the most vulnerable in society are not left behind. Law centres have been described as the fifth emergency service as we are always available, none of us ever know whether that may be a lifeline for us one day. Public funding is no longer sufficient even though the need is greater than ever before so we must rely on our communities to come together to help alleviate the suffering of those experiencing difficulties. Living through a pandemic has made us all realise how important connection is and we hope that our fellow legal colleagues will rise to the challenge and help support us through the difficult times.

If you would like to support our work, please contact sophie.brown@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk for more information. Or if you are interested in joining or learning more about the Merseyside Consortium of law firms, please get in touch with sarah@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Your support will make a huge difference to the lives of so many people in the Liverpool City Region.

Sophie Brown



Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division

This month the MJLD have been busy sorting out our schedule for the year ahead!



Gemma Castell

Social Events

Our next social event is a joint venture with Liverpool Law Society. We are delighted that after nearly a 2 year hiatus, we are bringing back our Annual Quiz! Details will be up announced soon regarding the date and venue of the event and we'll be switching up the format this year to ensure our members get the most out of networking in person after such a long time away. Keep your eye on the MJLD website and social media for information on how to purchase your tickets in the coming weeks!

Our social secretaries are also busy working behind the scenes on the organisation of the MJLD Annual Ball. We cannot wait to show you what we have planned for what is always our biggest event of the year.

Charity

We will be hosting our first event in honour of our Charity, Refugee Women Connect shortly. All proceeds raised will go directly into the MJLD fundraising pot which will be presented to Refugee Women Connect at the end of the year.

We welcome all our members to take a look at the great work the Charity do in and around Merseyside - <https://www.refugeewomenconnect.org.uk/>.

Careers, Education, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

By celebrating International Women's Day 2022 this year with Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division, we are conducting a series of podcasts interviewing inspiring women in the Liverpool legal profession.

We would like to #BreaktheBias in accordance with the theme for International Women's Day and encourage diversity and inclusion within the legal sector. We would like to showcase the best of the Liverpool legal profession.

We are going to be discussing successes, challenges and learning more about what can be done to better promote gender equality in Merseyside.

Keep an eye on our social media channels around International Women's Day for more on this!

Following the success of the reintroduction of our marshalling schemes already this year, we are working closely with the Liverpool Magistrates Court to get a magistrates marshalling scheme up and running later this year.

Our education representative have also recently established their student sub-committee and we are delighted to have been joined by chosen representatives of the University of Liverpool, LJMU, Liverpool Hope and Edge Hill University. We are hopeful that the sub-committee will provide invaluable input on how we can best benefit our student members and assist them with their entry into the profession moving forward. We will also be introducing a student only sign up on the MJLD website which will give our

student members direct access to our mailing list for events and work experience opportunities.

Our routes into law campaign continues to go from strength to strength. We would welcome anyone who wishes to share their story of how they qualified into the profession to get in contact with amandasime@canter-law.co.uk and we would be thrilled to feature you!

National

Finally, our National Representative Matthew attended the first National JLD committee meeting of the year this month where many discussions were had about the first SQE exams! Keep an eye on the MJLD newsletter over future months while we discuss and dissect this new route.

The National JLD have several up and coming webinars including:

- **A guide to avoiding burnout** <https://events.lawsociety.org.uk/ClientApps/Silverbear.Web.EDMS/public/default.aspx?tabId=37&id=3011&orgId=1&guid=5b60b0f3-03d5-4956-a347-34b3e6c2593b>
- **How to sell yourself as a candidate** <https://events.lawsociety.org.uk/ClientApps/Silverbear.Web.EDMS/public/default.aspx?tabId=37&id=3012&orgId=1&guid=644e9a31-922b-4de3-95e0-b727b8d3ac4b>
- **Alternative routes to the profession** <https://events.lawsociety.org.uk/ClientApps/Silverbear.Web.EDMS/public/default.aspx?tabId=37&id=3010&orgId=1&guid=b93ce44a-f8b1-4ced-862d-222333b2169d>
- **Tackling tricky questions at NQ interviews** <https://events.lawsociety.org.uk/ClientApps/Silverbear.Web.EDMS/public/default.aspx?tabId=37&id=3013&orgId=1&guid=169152eb-549f-453e-8cc2-1f52b1140453>

Gemma Castell,
JB Leitch Solicitors

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.

Welcome to our first update of 2022. We wish all of you a Happy New Year and look forward to a time when we all head back to a semblance of normality!

This is time of year when we look back at the year gone by and look forward to what the year ahead might hold in store. From a costs point of view one of the major events of 2021 was the arrival of the much-discussed whiplash 'reforms' which as we all know had an impact far wider than whiplash cases. Since the end of May 2021, it has been virtually impossible to pursue a legal claim relating to most road traffic claims with help from a solicitor. Many victims have certainly been unable to recover the cost of such help from the wrongdoer. So how have firms responded to this change?

Some have continued to run RTA cases as small claims. They have managed the loss of costs recovery by working on a contingency fee arrangement via Damages Based Agreements. This can work in cases at the upper end of the whiplash tariff. But there is no real appeal in charging 30% of £240 at the lower end! The MOJ's portal which is designed for litigants in person has not really taken off. The Law Society's Gazette reports that only about 10% of claimants using the portal are doing so without a lawyer - <https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/news/whiplash-portal-bosses-want-to-know-why-lips-arent-using-it/5111173.article>

In our experience, some firms have exited the market altogether, voluntary or otherwise. This has seen a big move into other areas of legal work. One big area of growth has been into Tenant's Repairing rights work. Local Consultant, Steve Cornforth, who works with many firms reports a more than 50% growth in the numbers of those moving into these cases. The main appeal of this work is the attractive rules on recovery of legal costs. Provided the cost of repair work is over £1k, there can be significant awards. This trend is likely to continue in the year ahead. Firms have also diversified into Data Breach cases, Financial Claims including PCP motor finance cases and claims relating to Tenancy Deposits.

In the future, the Housing Conditions rules might change following the MOJ's announcement in September 2021 of their intention to extend fixed costs to all areas of civil litigation.

On the costs front an early event is going to be the Court of Appeal hearing of *Belsner v Cam Legal Services* which is listed for 2 days from 22nd February 2022. Readers will

recall that this was one of that run of cases that saw firms being ordered to reimburse success fees to former clients. In *Belsner* the High Court found that solicitors required the informed consent of the client if they wished to charge more than the modest amounts recoverable under the portal. Importantly, *Lavender J* relied on a fiduciary relationship with a person who was not yet a client. Most commentators criticised the judgment, so we should soon get clarity and hopefully some common sense. This is likely to have a wide-reaching impact on the profession. This is evidence by the costs incurred to date in a case where the amount in dispute is £385.50. The costs to date are said to be more than 200 times this amount.



Proportionality has recently been considered by the Court of Appeal in *The Public Institute for Social Security v Banque Pictet* [2022] EWCA Civ 29. This involved the costs of an interlocutory dispute on jurisdiction. Carr LJ observed that the parties had not considered proportionality in relation to the issue which ran for four full days. The costs of the application ran to millions. The appeal judges ordered a detailed assessment and anticipated that 'expenditure on this scale engaged the court's power to disallow or reduce disproportionate costs. This was backed by dramatically reduced awards of interim costs.

Finally, we are delighted to report that our principal Rob Cook qualified as a solicitor in 2021. Rob has worked as a costs lawyer for many years. This will greatly expand the services that we offer. We will of course continue, and indeed, expand our legal costs work.

Watch this space.

The in house lawyer's Committee

The day-to-day life of the in house lawyer is infinitely varied, not to mention the career pathways that lead one to an in house role. The Law Society's most recent statistics tell us that 19.2% of male solicitors on the roll and 26.4% of female solicitors now work in house. Local government and the CPS account for a good proportion of these roles, with educational institutions, business and commerce of all kinds following. In house solicitors are expected to reach around 35% of those on the roll during the next few years.

Whatever kind of organisation we work for, an in house lawyer is uniquely close to their "client" and will often advise on a broad range of legal issues whilst having a deep understanding of the wider business. Flexibility and creativity are essential! A strong ethical dimension is needed as well, in order to properly and

continuously navigate the line between employee and adviser. Working in a very small team of lawyers, or perhaps even as the sole lawyer at an organisation, is a great opportunity for self-direction. However, this combined with the niche nature of the work we do can also mean it is easy to feel isolated.

It was with these features and challenges of in house work in mind that our former Law Society Director, Martyn Rodmell, set up the In-House Solicitors' committee in 2018. Beginning as a means of networking with solicitors in a similar role, it is increasingly focusing on discussing topics of general interest and professional value to in house lawyers. Those of us who are members have so far really benefited from the chance to meet other in house lawyers, exchange views and experiences and take some much-needed time out from busy schedules to focus on key issues for us.

I was honoured to take over the chair of this committee from Martyn when he retired last year. One of my key aims is to expand our membership so that it reflects all the sectors in which in-house solicitors work. Legal practitioners of all levels of seniority are welcome – the more of us that meet, the greater the support and knowledge we can provide each other. Our meetings take place 4 times a year (currently online), with our next one taking place at **1pm on Thursday 24th February**, via Zoom. It is just one hour from your day in which to focus on your own development and professional network along with colleagues working in similar roles.

.....
Anyone interested in finding out more, or wishing to join our next meeting, is welcome to contact me r.stalker@ljsmu.ac.uk



News from the EDI committee

by **Nina Sahu, Hill Dickinson (chair of the EDI committee)**

The EDI committee recently met on Zoom and we were fortunate to welcome some new members from In House Legal Solutions! New members are always welcome and if you can't make the meetings, we are happy to receive ideas and thoughts via email instead. We are still hoping to hear from our members as to what you would like to see at our next EDI event. Answers on a postcard (email) please!

As it was the start of a new year, we took the

opportunity to plan guest speakers for our forthcoming meetings to coincide where possible with EDI events over the calendar year. February is LGBT History month and at our next meeting we look forward to hearing from Olivia Parrington about DLA Piper's Iris network. We hope that members take time in February to support LGBT History month and would encourage members to share news of events/talks through the Society.

Last but definitely not least, for budding

future lawyers, the Law Society runs a Diversity Access Scheme to support talented and tenacious aspiring solicitors from less advantaged backgrounds. Applications to the scheme for 2022 open on 23 February 2022. The scheme offers funding for the LPC or SQE as well as a professional mentor and a work placement. For eligibility criteria and further information on how to apply please visit <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/campaigns/diversity-access-scheme>
Good luck!

Announcement of merger negotiations between Weightmans LLP and RadcliffesLeBrasseur LLP

Having agreed headline terms Weightmans LLP and RadcliffesLeBrasseur LLP are pleased to announce they are now in formal contract negotiations with a view to completing a merger of the two firms at the end of March 2022.

The two firms share a number of synergies in respect of clients and sectors and above all a passionate commitment

to achieving the highest standards in delivering legal services to their clients. The merger will add to both firms' national practices with outstanding expertise and the resources to ensure that we continue to meet the ever-increasing needs and expectations of all clients, large and small, whether public bodies, public or private businesses, not for profit enterprises or individuals.

The merger will expand the existing support provided to the firms' clients, as well as enhancing the capabilities across our core services. The combined firm will create a leading UK practice in healthcare in particular and increase the market presence of both firms in London. The merged firm will have 225 Partners and a total headcount of over 1400 people and will be known as Weightmans LLP.

The InfoHub from Infolegal

Regulatory Compliance Made Easy

Helping firms deal with compliance as simply and cost-effectively as possible.

Regulatory management is a core requirement for solicitors and an effective approach is essential if compliance duties are to be addressed successfully.

The Infolegal InfoHub provides firms with a range of key compliance resources to help them identify, and understand, what is required of them and how to take the necessary actions.

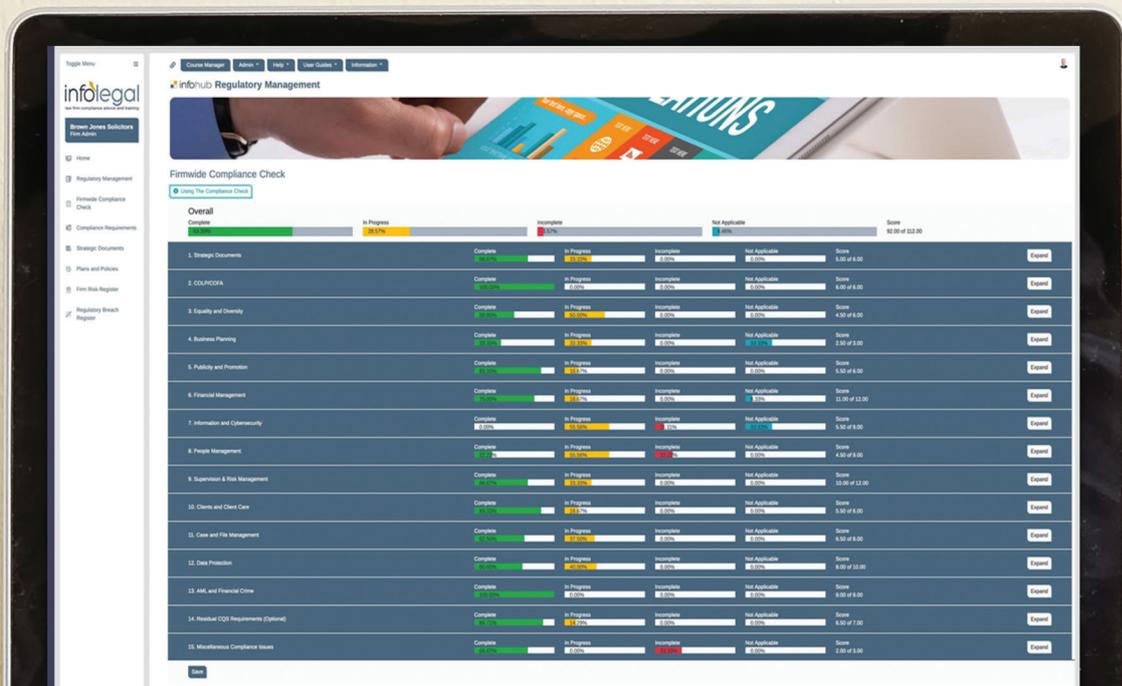
At the heart of this is the Firmwide Compliance Checker which uses a simple "traffic light" system to allow firms to assess the extent to which they are compliant with regulatory requirements and to highlight and then address those areas that require further attention.

For more information:

Call us on 0203 371 1064

Email us at enquiries@infolegal.co.uk

Visit us at www.infolegal.co.uk



Legal Update:

Post six-year run-off cover – where are we now?



The much-anticipated SRA consultation about the future of post six-year run-off cover (“PSYROC”) is now open and will run until 15 February 2022. Essentially, the SRA is seeking views on whether its regulatory arrangements should include PSYROC and what that means for the future of the Solicitors Indemnity Fund (“SIF”). This article considers the detail of the SRA’s preferred option for PSYROC, the analysis underpinning it and the questions that remain unasked.

What is the current position?

SIF, managed by SIF Ltd, currently provides cover to firms that cease without a successor firm, once their six-year mandatory cover, provided by their last insurer, has expired. So, why the need for change? To put the consultation into context, we need to look at SIF’s history.

Established in 1987, SIF operated as a mutual indemnity insurance fund until 1 September 2000, when the profession switched to open market insurers and SIF was placed into run-off. Since 1 September 2007, it has been used, in part, to provide PSYROC or supplementary run-off cover to firms closing without a successor and its cost is met out of the SIF surplus. Initially intended to apply to claims notified before 30 September 2017, it was then extended to cover claims notified before 30 September 2020. In June 2021, in response to lobbying by the Law Society, the profession and other interested parties, the SRA Board agreed a further one-year extension, subject to an affordability test.

It is now crunch time. The SIF surplus is finite and, based upon actuarial advice, SIF Ltd has indicated that a further extension is not prudent without additional funding.

Why do we need PSYROC?

In our article *“Post six-year run-off cover – what does the future hold?”*, we explained that, owing to extensions to primary limitation periods, claims are sometimes made more than six years after the cessation of the relevant firm. SRA figures show that, between 1987 and 2016, 9% of all claims for negligence were made between six and 15 years after the work was completed. These claims were worth £217 million in total. (Passmore C. Executive Director, Policy (2017) Reflecting on Solicitors Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII): market trends and analysis of historic claims data). Such “long-tail” claims typically (but not exclusively) occur in areas such as conveyancing, wills & trusts and probate.

If the SIF closes, as planned, in September 2022, without alternative arrangements being made for PSYROC, firms which have closed without a successor practice will be left uninsured for claims made after their mandatory six-year run off cover has expired.

What is proposed?

The consultation explores various options, including the discontinuance of PSYROC, continuing PSYROC through the SIF supported by new funding arrangements and arranging cover through another vehicle or through insurance on the open market. However, the SRA has nailed its colours to the mast. The consultation paper states that its preferred option is not to continue its involvement with PSYROC. Its rationale is superficially simple: the costs of PSYROC are disproportionate to the volume and value of claims.

In the wake of the consultation’s publication, the Law Society of England and Wales made clear its concerns in a press release entitled, “SIF consultation: Consumers could be left high and dry

by solicitors’ regulator”. President I. Stephanie Boyce opined that the SRA’s preferred option would “..make the marketplace less safe for consumers...” The press release went on to say that the Law Society would be responding to the consultation in full and that, “..the SRA could benefit from any further insights that members or former members might see fit to provide.” Practitioners are urged to respond to this call to arms from our representative body.

The SRA’s analysis

In understanding the SRA’s approach to the consultation, it is important to remember that, pursuant to the Legal Services Act 2007, it works for the wider benefit of consumers. It is not the profession’s representative body. The SRA is constrained by law from acting outside its remit to support or protect members of the profession. As such, whilst it recognises that its proposal would “..remove the ‘sleep easy’ factor..” for retired/retiring solicitors, the SRA describes that issue as “..a more appropriate matter for the representative body.”

The consultation paper is underpinned by analysis from Willis Towers Watson, actuaries and insurance experts familiar with SIF. They have analysed claims patterns and assessed impacts on consumers and on solicitors/firms of terminating PSYROC. They predict that, going forward, there are likely to be an average of 31 claims notified each year that will result in a payment (including a payment only of defence costs). Over a ten-year period from 2023, the average claim cost is forecast to be £34,600 – a not insignificant sum for both consumers and legal professionals. Having set out anticipated claim volumes, the consultation paper goes on to recognise that there will be “..a small number..” of consumers that will not receive redress if

there is no PSYROC in the future. The consultation paper also includes an estimate of requirements for ongoing PSYROC funding of £2.4 million per annum. The SRA makes it clear that this would require further funding from the profession, possibly by way of a levy or an insurance premium charge direct to firms/practitioners. The consultation paper reads as follows:

“WTW has forecast the cost of any annual levy should be in the region of £16 per solicitor or £240 per firm on a flat fee basis. This additional cost would likely be passed on to consumers by at least some regulated providers. Therefore, any obligation that would benefit a very small number of consumers may have a negative impact on a larger number of consumers.”

Pausing there, the consultation does not actually ask solicitors/firms if they plan to pass on any levy to consumers but respondents may wish to include that information in their responses. However, even if firms passed on the entire cost, it would likely work out at a few pence per client per year - arguably a better option than a client remaining uncompensated for a valid claim.

The consultation paper focuses upon the above figures and hammers home the SRA's points about proportionality and the spectre of increased legal services costs. However, scratch the surface of the consultation paper and it appears that other consumer-related issues have not been investigated to the same extent. By way of example, the SRA recognises the following issues in their consultation paper:

- the proposed termination of PSYROC through the SIF has affected the acquisition of firms because potential vendors are concerned about their liability for new claims if certain parts

of their businesses are placed in run-off;

- disorderly closure of firms can arise when solicitors carry on practising solely because of perceived barriers to them exiting when they want to.

Notwithstanding its recognition of the above, the SRA does not indicate the numbers of firms likely to be affected or include any detailed analysis as to the projected impact of these issues upon consumers. This ought to be bottomed out, given that an abandoned merger might well impact the availability of certain legal services in a particular geographical area. Likewise, disorderly closures are known to create consumer misery. Respondents to the survey may wish to fill in some of the blanks for the SRA, by highlighting whether PSYROC uncertainty has impeded their firm's merger or closure.

The consultation paper also says the following, about the effect of the SRA's proposal on the availability of lawyers to deal with long-tail claim areas:

“We do not consider that there will be significant market impacts on supply if we do not provide ongoing PSYROC. There is evidence that the main long-tail claim areas (conveyancing, wills, trusts and probate) are relatively competitive and without significant supply shortages.”

This is another area where the SRA's assumptions need stress testing. There might well not be a shortage of lawyers in long-tail claim areas now. However, it does not automatically follow that the position will remain the same if PSYROC is abolished. The risk of having to pay a substantial claim out of their own funds might well persuade some practitioners to change tack. Those dealing with long-tail claim areas now may wish to comment upon whether the abolition of PSYROC would affect the likelihood of their continuing to practise in that area.

The consultation does not specifically ask the questions highlighted above. However, the information could be provided in response to its question one: “Do you have any views on our analysis

in relation to continuing to provide PSYROC through the SIF on an ongoing basis?”

Get involved

At first glance, some practitioners might feel that they have nothing useful to add to the debate about PSYROC, particularly as the SRA's focus is consumer protection rather than protecting the profession. However, many can contribute meaningfully by responding with the type of details mentioned above.

The results of the current consultation will shape the PSYROC debate for the foreseeable future. The time to act is now. If we do nothing, PSYROC will become a thing of the past.



Deborah Sullivan



Ambre Cross

Deborah Sullivan,
Principal Associate, Weightmans
and **Ambre Cross**, Associate

This article was first published by Weightmans <https://www.weightmans.com/insights/post-six-year-run-off-cover>

This update does not attempt to provide a full analysis of those matters with which it deals and is provided for general information purposes only. This update is not intended to constitute legal advice and should not be treated as a substitute for legal advice. Weightmans accepts no responsibility for any loss, which may arise from reliance on the information in this update. The copyright in this update is owned by Weightmans © 2022

Liverpool BID Company

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



Julie Johnson

What will our working life look like as life becomes more “normal”? For employers and employees, full-time, part-time and self-employed, the world of work has transformed over the past two years. In 2022, do we need to focus on what we want it to look like in the future?

At Liverpool BID, much of our work involves providing businesses with an insight into current working trends, data and behaviour so they are better placed to understand the market they are operating in. Shaping the city in which business operates, making it an environment in which business can thrive is at the heart of our work. The working environment of the office has much in common with the working environment and culture of a city. In the Culture & Commerce BID, the aspect of commerce, of commercial life and endeavour, is a focal point of our strategy for the next twelve months.

From working from home, to hybrid working, to digital networking events and an online sharing of ideas, the last two years has provided a re-evaluation of what works in working life, and what may need to be adopted for the future.

The strategy of how we shape a city for the future is closely tied with how we want to shape the workplace of the future. In Liverpool we know that the city we want to live in is committed to fairness, equality, safety and community, a balance between work and leisure, wellness along with a commitment to sustainability. The city itself needs to be managed, and the people of the city want to feel that they are protected whilst also having a say in its future.

Each of these values and motivations are at the heart of how we want the workplace of the near future to look.

Part of the rebuilding programme post-pandemic is for us to explore what “build back better” really means. Future-proofing, and working to ensure the city is able to fulfil both the needs and expectations of people and business in 2022 is vital. The Culture & Commerce Board has approved funding for Destination Marketing, a Subvention Fund to attract business tourism events to the city and Mystery Shop Awards to celebrate excellence in customer service in the city centre. A renewed commitment and investment in being able to sell and celebrate the city will help to strengthen its economy.

How we work and how the city works are closely entwined as we rebuild post-pandemic. By committing to our values and seeking to explore how we can shape a city that works to its strengths and allows every business within it to do the same.

Hosted by **InfoTrack**

THE ONBOARDING SUMMIT FOR LAW FIRMS

[JOIN US](#)

Hybrid Working



Mike Leeman

Bell Lamb & Joynson's Managing Partner Mike Leeman discusses the importance of adapting to hybrid working.

We can all agree that the pandemic has taught us a thing or two over the past couple of years.

Events of this magnitude understandably lead to consideration and in business terms, this has meant that companies have had no choice but to review and change their processes and practices.

What was once considered 'the norm' for many, pre-2020, has become totally obsolete; with offices now quieter than ever, face-to-face meetings a thing of the past and seeing a client on your computer screen becoming a regular occurrence.

So how have companies adapted to this new world? And how have they given their employees what they want while making sure productivity, efficiency and practices are not negatively impacted?

Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors has built an impressive reputation for being pioneers of adapting modern working practices in the legal sector. This has resulted in the pandemic having limited impact on operations or the service they provide to clients.

Although the firm has recently celebrated its 200th birthday, their forward-thinking approach has seen them complete their busiest year yet and there is no sign of things slowing down.

Managing Partner **Mike Leeman** said: *"For us, it was all about the early adoption of technology. We were quite fortunate because pre-pandemic we already had several of the team working from home occasionally, to enable a better work-life balance. When March 2020 arrived, we were able to effectively get everyone working from home overnight because we were already very agile as a business."*

One of the firm's main priorities is the welfare of their 50 employees that work across its three offices. They are big believers in 'happy team, happy clients' and they want to build a working environment that is genuinely supportive and healthy for its team. Continually improving the culture and investing in their people is fundamental.

"Pre-pandemic, we were lucky to have been using Microsoft Teams for a number of years", added Mike, "so we were quite well versed in how it works, and we've found it enables our colleagues to talk to each other and collaborate in a better, more modern way. This support and guidance meant that the staff have felt

more confident that they can work just as effectively from home as they do when they're all together in the office."

Bell Lamb & Joynson recognises that technology has endless possibilities for allowing the business to reach its full potential. For example, they were conscious of how utilising tech could transform them into a more sustainable, environmentally friendly business, so as part of a firm-wide digital strategy, they pushed to become a completely paperless firm. Mike said:

"Ultimately, it's not about adopting technology for technology's sake. It's understanding that technology is an enabler; allowing people to work smarter, collaborate better and more importantly, providing clients with ways of working with us that fit their busy lives and meet their expectations in the digital age."

"Having this technology at hand means we have been able to listen to the teams' wants and needs to create a work pattern that fits with the new post-pandemic culture. Our colleagues like the fact they spend a couple of days at home working and a couple of days in the office with each other to socialise and work together."

"I think the hybrid way of working is definitely the future; it's what people want, and I think it's what businesses need to embrace."



New Hartree Centre office opens at the Digital Innovation Facility in Liverpool

Based at the University of Liverpool, the new satellite office will enhance collaboration opportunities with local businesses.

The Hartree Centre has taken up residence at the University of Liverpool's Digital Innovation Facility, creating the first Hartree Centre satellite office based outside of an existing Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) campus.

The new location will provide flexible hot-desking offices and co-working spaces for the Hartree Centre team, enhancing their ability to meet and collaborate with new audiences and existing partners – including the University of Liverpool, local businesses and public sector organisations.

Alison Kennedy, Director of the STFC Hartree Centre, said:

“Embracing hybrid working provides exciting opportunities for us all to work more flexibly. Our new Liverpool office will give us access to new spaces to work from and new faces to collaborate with. We’re looking forward to inviting Hartree Centre collaborators – existing and prospective – to work with us remotely or at any of our STFC sites: Daresbury, Oxfordshire or Edinburgh – and now Liverpool city centre! Many thanks to the University of Liverpool’s Institute of Digital Engineering and Autonomous Systems (IDEAS) for welcoming us into the Digital Innovation Facility.”

Dr Andrew Levers, Executive Director for the Institute for Digital Engineering and Autonomous Systems (IDEAS) at the University of Liverpool added:

“We are thrilled to welcome the STFC Hartree Centre to the Digital Innovation Facility, here at the heart of the University of Liverpool campus. We are excited to expand on our growing relationship in Liverpool that will enable us to

closely work together whilst effectively collaborating and supporting businesses within the new state-of-the-art facilities.”



Massimo Noro, STFC Business and Innovation, Clair Donaldson, STFC Hartree Centre and David Gibson, University of Liverpool Virtual Engineering Centre.

The Hartree Centre hopes to adopt further regional locations in the future to enhance its presence across the UK, embracing the current appetite for more dynamic ways of working and enabling more flexible hybrid collaborations.

The University of Liverpool's Digital Innovation Facility proved to be the ideal first location, thanks to the Hartree Centre's longstanding partnership with the University of Liverpool's Virtual Engineering Centre (VEC), which is also based across the Digital Innovation Facility and Hartree Centre.

The Hartree Centre building is based alongside STFC's Daresbury Laboratory in the Liverpool City Region, but also has staff based at STFC's UK Astronomy Technology Centre in Edinburgh and Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire.



Hartree Centre staff visit the new co-working space in the University of Liverpool's Digital Innovation Facility.



Join us at the Cumberland Lodge Moot Court – Regina vs. Billy Goat I

Join us at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park, for a fundraising moot court in memory of Sir John Laws. The moot court takes place at 6pm on Monday 28 February. Why not bring your colleagues and fellow members of Liverpool Law Society?

We bring together barristers, judges, law students, Friends of Cumberland Lodge, and members of the public, in person or online – all are welcome to attend. The event takes place in memory of Sir John, who had a distinguished legal and academic career, and served as a Visitor at Cumberland Lodge from 2003 until his death in 2020. All funds raised will support our charitable work with young people.

This event is set in our Court of Appeal, where one of the Billy Goats Gruff is appealing against his conviction for manslaughter following an unfortunate encounter with a troll...

We are delighted to be joined by our Court of Appeal:

- Her Honour Judge Anuja Dhir QC
- The Rt Hon Lady Justice Whipple
- The Rt Hon Sir David Bean

Our mooting barristers include:

- Kirsty Brimelow QC
- Simon Myerson QC

Two representatives from Big Voice London, the social mobility charity supporting students from non-fee-paying schools to explore the UK legal system.

In-person tickets are £100 and include a three-course dinner in one of our historic dining rooms. We are also offering the opportunity to stay overnight at our former royal residence in the heart of the Great Park. Tickets that include an overnight stay and breakfast are available at £225 for a single room, and £400 for two people (twin and double rooms available).

Online tickets are £10 per person if you would prefer to enjoy the moot from the comfort of your own home.

You can buy your tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/moot-court-regina-vs-billy-goat-i-tickets-212517424337>.

We do hope you can join us and we would be so grateful if you could share this widely amongst your legal networks, and others, too.

Charity Spotlight: The Pain Relief Foundation



Who are the Pain Relief Foundation?

The Pain Relief Foundation, established in 1979, is a Registered Charity with the aims & objectives of conducting research and education on chronic pain, and its work serves to benefit chronic pain sufferers both locally and nationally.

How are we funded?

The Pain Relief Foundation does not receive any funding from central or local government, the health service or other official body. Instead, the Foundation depends entirely on donations, gift aid, legacies, appeals and contributions from supportive members of the public such as you our readers, from generous companies and from several trusts, for which we are truly grateful. Additionally, we seek to secure grants from trusts and the commercial sector to fund specific research projects.

How many people suffer with chronic pain? Chronic pain affects more than two fifths of the UK population, meaning that around 28 million adults are living with pain that has lasted for three months or longer. 43% of the population experience chronic

pain, with up to 14.3% living with chronic pain that is either moderately or severely disabling. Pain is numerically the biggest human problem on the planet although we are all familiar with aches and pains 14.3% of the UK population alone have daily excruciating pain known as chronic pain that is often poorly treated and this can wreck lives.

What is chronic pain?

Pain is one of the most frequent causes for patients to seek medical care. Chronic or persistent pain is pain that carries on for longer than 12 weeks despite medication or treatment. Chronic pain may be “on” and “off” or continuous. It may affect people to the point that they can’t work, eat properly, take part in physical activity, or enjoy everyday life. Chronic pain is a major source of suffering. It interferes with daily functioning and often is accompanied by distress. When you hurt day after day, it can take a toll on your emotional and physical health.

What are considered as Chronic pain conditions?

Arthritis and other joint problems, Back pain, Headaches, chronic regional pain syndrome (crps), Fibromyalgia, Nerve damage, pelvic pain, Cancer, phantom limb pain, diabetic neuropathy, facial pain, neuropathic pain, post stroke pain, migraine.

Who do we support?

The Chronic pain community, the millions of people who suffer daily from chronic pain by investing our funds into research and education. We invest our funds into world leading researchers in the field of Chronic Pain, Dr Goebel (Reader in Pain



The Pain Relief Foundation Management & Administration Team: Jo Stephens - Fundraising, Brenda Hall - Administrative Assistant, Julie Williams - Charity Manager, Lorraine Roberts - Administrator.



PAIN RELIEF FOUNDATION

RELIEVING CHRONIC PAIN THROUGH RESEARCH

CHRONIC PAIN - THE SILENT EPIDEMIC

- › 1 in 10 people in the UK suffer from chronic pain – which does **not** go away.
- › Over half of sufferers endure chronic pain all day, every day of their lives.
- › Many sufferers say they can't remember what it is like **not** to be in pain.
- › Thousands of sufferers lose their jobs because the pain is so bad that they **cannot** work.
- › Pain stops sufferers enjoying walking, shopping, sleeping; even playing with their children.

Chronic Pain affects people of all walks of life, 43% of the population suffer from chronic pain. Research costs money, and there is always an urgent need to provide more funds for more research.

The Pain Relief Foundation DOES NOT receive funding from the NHS or any other Government body. Instead, our vital work depends entirely on donations and the generosity of people like you.

PLEASE MAKE A DONATION TODAY, Or leave a Legacy in your will.



For help and advice, contact us.
*Pain Relief Foundation, Clinical Sciences Centre,
 University Hospital Aintree, Liverpool L9 7AL*

Telephone: 0151 529 5820

E-mail: lorraine.roberts@painrelieffoundation.org.uk



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
 REGULATOR**

www.painrelieffoundation.org.uk
 Registered Charity No. 1156227

Medicine, University of Liverpool, Honorary Consultant in Pain Medicine, Walton Centre NHS) and Dr Marshall (Consultant Clinical Neurophysiologist, Salford Royal Foundation Trust, Honorary Lecturer, Liverpool John Moores University) to conduct life changing research. We provide health professionals who specialise in chronic pain with up to date and relevant educational courses.

How can our readers help you?

VOLUNTEER

As a small charity there is a limited level of direct fundraising activity organised and conducted by the Foundation's own staff, supported by a small group of volunteers, an area in which we would like to grow our support. A corporate partnership is always welcomed it is a great way to meet your company's corporate social responsibility needs as well as engaging and uniting your staff behind a worthwhile cause! If you would like to be involved in

supporting the foundation, please contact our fundraiser Jo Stephens at jo.stephens@painrelieffoundation.org.uk or telephone on 0151 529 5820. We need volunteers to help us to make the biggest possible impact. If you would like to give some of your time and support to help the charity, please contact us.

LEGACY

Leave A Gift in Your Will. Leaving a legacy is not only an incredibly generous gesture and a special way to support the Foundation, but it also means that you will have a lasting impact on The Pain Relief Foundation long into the future.

DONATE

Your donation will make a real difference to help find new treatments for chronic pain now and for future generations.

Freedom of the City was awarded to the charity in March 2010, in recognition to its pioneering & ground-breaking research

projects, highly reputable educational programmes & training facilities. The centre has a reputation for excellence in human chronic pain, supporting one of the largest pain relief clinics in Europe, profiling Liverpool at the forefront of patient treatment.

The Centre at University Hospital, Aintree





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.

Planning for Further Developments at Vauxhall Law Centre in 2022



Alex Feery and Alice Coles at the VNC/ Fans Supporting Foodbanks Food Pantry



Ngaryan Li, Law Centre Director, welcoming our latest volunteer, Ruth Knox.

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 commenced work with us in December 2021. As previously reported, we employed a new Administrator/ Receptionist Jade Skilling in October too. In January 2022 we appointed Alex Feery 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 process of filling two other new posts for a bereavement support caseworker and a full-time debt advice caseworker and will provide further details next month on the successful candidates for these positions.

Pro Bono Employment Advice

From 1st February 2021 we are beginning to offer an employment Law Advice Service provided by Paul Quinn of Hattons Solicitors, please see details opposite.

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



Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre

Employment Law Advice Sessions

We are now offering free legal advice on employment law through our Pro Bono employment law clinic. These sessions will offer advice on all aspects of employment. We will be offering advice on...

-  Employment law
-  Workers rights in the gig economy
-  Zero hour contracts



In partnership with

Huttons
SOLICITORS



Every Wednesday • 2pm - 5pm •

Contact us below to book an appointment



0151 360 7777



advice@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk

#AccessToJustice



Vauxhall Community
Law & Information
Centre

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 call Alan Kelly on 0151 360 7777 or alternatively, drop us a line at: 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 to meeting some of your companies Corporate Social Responsibility commitments.

JOIN US AT
THE
ONBOARDING
SUMMIT
FOR LAW FIRMS

Hosted by **InfoTrack**



Council Member's Report

from Councillor Nina Ferris



Nina Ferris

Chancery Lane is embracing the move back to hybrid working and we held our last (hopefully) fully virtual council meeting in January. The

hybrid model does however work well and allows all council members to take part in more debates, committee work and consultations than may have been the case previously when many meetings were based at Chancery Lane. I am however looking forward to seeing some council colleagues, especially new ones that were elected at the end of last year, in real life in the near future.

TLS has been working hard in the background on a number of matters which I deal with further below, however coming up is the most important meeting of the year, at which council members can really seek to improve what TLS does for its members. Our council strategic planning event will be held at the end of March and is a chance to shape the future of the Society for the benefit of its members. To that end, I do ask that our LLS members speak up now so that I can put forward what it is that members in our region really want to see from TLS over the next three years of our corporate plan.

I urge you to contact me with any ideas, improvements, challenges or areas that you think TLS is lacking so that we can propose those changes and continue to make TLS more engaging and as useful as possible to the membership as a whole.

Remote Witnessing of Wills

Private Client practitioners will have seen the news that the legislation on remote witnessing will be temporarily extended until 31 January 2024 to support vulnerable people if they need to self-isolate or in case of further restrictions.

A TLS survey found that the provisions were useful where needed but that solicitors have worked hard to ensure clients can be seen face to face as far as possible. There remains concern about the heightened risk of undue influence and said it was more difficult to assess their client's capacity when the process was conducted remotely. TLS long term view based on the survey

responses is that the most effective reform of the law would be to give judges powers to decide on whether wills are valid in individual cases so that witnessing defects do not prevent an estate being inherited as the deceased intended.

Also in the private client sphere, the probate fee has risen to a flat rate of £273. TLS has raised concerns, which the MOJ acknowledges, that any increase should be reflected in tangible improvements to the service.

Criminal Cases waiting times

TLS continues to lobby for better funding of the criminal justice system as the time taken for cases to be resolved has increased leaving victims witnesses and defendants facing long delays for access to justice. Official statistics released in January show 23% of Crown Court cases have been outstanding for a year or more. We are pushing for the 15% increase in criminal legal aid rates recommended in the Bellamy review to be implemented immediately to prevent practitioners leaving the market at even faster rates and increasing the criminal

legal aid deserts already created.

Day of the Endangered Lawyer

If you have not seen any coverage of the above, please take 5 minutes out of your day to read TLS information on the Lawyers at Risk programme Lawyers at Risk | The Law Society. I have reported previously about TLS' work in assisting Afghan lawyers since the Taliban took power, but there are many other countries throughout the world where lawyers are in danger simply for doing their jobs. I read a piece in the Gazette about the threats to lawyers in Colombia, being tortured and murdered for seeking to uphold human rights. The programme tries to assist lawyers in other countries where the rule of law has failed, such as Turkey, Pakistan and Egypt, where lawyers can be in mortal danger just for doing their jobs.

We forget how lucky we are that we can help our clients without those dangers.

As always, if you have any issues, comments or want to discuss how TLS can help you please contact me at nina.ferris@hilldickinson.com

TRAINING PASSPORT





LLS ANYWHERE

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

<p>HOW DO I SAVE UP TO 45% ON TRAINING?</p> <p>Purchase training passport exclusive to LLS members</p>	<p>HOW LONG IS IT VALID FOR?</p> <p>12 months from date of purchase</p>
<p>WHAT'S INCLUDED?</p> <p>Attend any 6 training events for only £450+VAT. Discount on multiple purchases available. See website.</p>	<p>CONTINUING COMPETENCE</p> <p>The cost effective solution for our members</p>

ATTEND LIVE OR VIEW THE RECORDING

ATTEND TRAINING EVENTS FROM ANYWHERE VIA ZOOM

SIGN UP NOW

[CLICK HERE](#) TO APPLY ONLINE

Obituary: Colonel Sir Christopher Hewetson TD, MA, DL



Christopher Raynor Hewetson, was born in Southport on 26th December 1929. He was educated at Terra Nova Preparatory School in Cheshire from where he won a major scholarship to Sedbergh School in Cumbria and from there an Open Major Scholarship in Classics to Peterhouse, Cambridge.

Graduating with a degree in classics and law in 1951, Sir Christopher was then called up for National Service and passed out as top cadet with the stick of honour from Mons Officer Cadet School in Aldershot before serving as a subaltern with 4th Regiment Royal Horse Artillery in Germany until his demobilisation in 1953. Sir Christopher then joined the TA with 359 Medium Artillery Regiment in Liverpool. The regiment was part of the business world of Liverpool and was well supported by old comrades who had served with it throughout the war and were now in senior positions in the City. Sir Christopher remained with the regiment throughout the following fifteen years ultimately to command it with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel at the age of 35 and was awarded the Territorial Decoration. He was one of the first without war service to command a regiment after National Service, The rank of full Colonel followed in 1994 when he ended an appointment as Honorary Colonel of a TA Signal Regiment in Liverpool.

Before then, however, Sir Christopher had commenced three years articles with a small firm in Liverpool and qualified as a solicitor in 1956 with honours in his Finals and the Timpron Martin Prize for top student in Liverpool. He stayed on with the firm until 1961 when it merged with Laces, a very old established firm in Liverpool dating back to its founder, Joshua Lace, in the 1790's. He remained there until he retired as senior partner in 1995.

Just after the merger with Laces, Sir Christopher married Alison Downie on 5th May 1962. She was the daughter of Professor Allan Downie, a very eminent bacteriologist who had worked on and was largely responsible for the elimination of smallpox and Alison had followed in his footsteps by gaining a bacteriology degree at Edinburgh University. She proved to be a very loyal and supportive wife for Christopher as he pursued his military and legal careers, whether she enjoyed them or not, as well as a devoted mother to their three children.

Sir Christopher enjoyed his work in practice in Liverpool but was not satisfied with this alone as he turned his attention to supporting the profession outside the practice. He was chairman of the Liverpool Law Students Association during his articles and Chairman of the Liverpool Young Solicitors Association and of their Northern Conference in Windermere after qualification. He was subsequently elected to the Committee of the Liverpool Law Society and from there he was elected to serve on the Council of the national Law Society in London to represent the solicitors of Merseyside.

Sir Christopher joined the Council in London in 1966 and was re-elected every five years without opposition to serve on it until 1987. During this period he was honoured to be elected President of the Liverpool Law Society in 1976. Further, on the national Council he served first as Chairman of the Professional Purposes Committee, responsible for the disciplining of the profession, then, as Chairman of the

Governors of the College of Law which was then the Society's teaching arm and ultimately as President of the Law Society in 1983. He was knighted for his services to the law in 1984. In 1986 Sir Christopher was commissioned as a Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside and in 1997 was installed for one year as High Sheriff of Merseyside.

Sir Christopher's social life included over 56 years membership of the Athenaeum in Liverpool of which he was President in its bicentennial year in 1997 but was primarily centred round the Royal Birkdale Golf Club which he joined in 1962. A keen but untalented golfer, as he put it, he was elected Captain in 1993 and became an Honorary Life Member of the Club in 2013.

Following his year as President of the Law Society which included much foreign travel to conferences abroad and in the knowledge of Alison's previous diagnosis of MS in 1982, they decided to get in as much foreign travel as they could while his wife's health allowed. This took in such places as Australia and New Zealand, Borneo, Malaysia, Fiji, Brazil, Patagonia and China and in later years cruising through the Baltic, the Mediterranean and to the Canaries.



Sir C R Hewetson, 1975-6

A regular churchgoer, he spent time in his retirement as Treasurer and then Gift Aid Secretary of his local Anglican church in Southport and devoted his administrative talents to seeking to maintain its financial stability.

Predeceased by 9 months by his wife, Alison, Sir Christopher is survived by his three children and five grandchildren.

Forthcoming Courses

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
09 th February	Domestic Abuse Update (online)	Various
16 th February	Housing Disrepair Conference 2022 (online)	Various
02 nd March	Clinical Negligence Update	Various
09 th March	Costs Conference 2022	Various
11-March	Private Child Law Update	Safda Mahmood
11 th March	Public Child Law Update	Safda Mahmood
15 th March	Conveyancing Update	Richard Snape
17 th March	The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor	Vicky Ling
30 th March	Employment Law Conference	Various
01 st April	AML for support staff	Matthew Hickling
07 th April	Fraud under the 2006 Fraud Act (online)	Olwen Davies
26 th April	Intellectual Property Update	Jane Lambert
27 th April	Tax Enquiries, Closure Notices & Discovery Assessments	Julian Hickey
29 th April	Criminal Law Update (online)	Matthew Hickling
05-May	Financial Orders: Law & Practice	Safda Mahmood
05 th May	Cohabitation: Law & Practice	Safda Mahmood
13 th May	Directors Duties & Shareholder Remedies (online)	Chris Beanland
17 th May	Managing the Conveyancing Risks that PI insurers don't like (online)	Lorraine Richardson

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

ONLINE events are recorded, so if you can't make the date/time, no problem!

Booking onto any of our online events means you will receive a link to access a recording of the event to watch at your leisure!

For full details, visit: www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk



DOMESTIC ABUSE CONFERENCE

Wednesday 9th February 2022, 1pm - 4pm
Online/Recorded session*

Chaired by Nicola Harris, MSB

The view from the Bench
HHJ Malcolm Sharpe

Domestic Abuse and its relevance to family clients
Adrienne Cox

Domestic Abuse: Legal Update
Jess Purchase, Unit Chambers

Domestic Abuse: Police Perspective
Denise Malcolm, Merseyside Police

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

[Book your place here](#)



2022 Housing Disrepair Conference

16th February 9.30am - 2.45pm (Online*)

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 for Housing Condition Claims
Mark Gannon & Josephine Morton, Brabners LLP

Surveyors Eye View and Update
David Walter, Restoration Design Partnership

Handling Complaints about Repairs
John Hoarey, Housing Ombudsman

Disrepair Witness Statements - Tips & Traps!
Louise Murphy, MSB

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

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)



Clinical Negligence Conference 2022

Wednesday 2nd March 2022, 1pm - 4pm

With sessions confirmed so far:

Secondary victim claims in clinical negligence cases

Richard Norton, St Johns Buildings

Clinical Negligence ATE post Covid
Mike Knight, ARAG

You Say Divisible; I say Indivisible – Let's Call the Whole Thing Off? Recent Causation Issues in Clinical Negligence Cases
Philip Turton, Ropewalk Chambers

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

Sponsored by



The New Law Divorce Law 2022

with Safda Mahmood

ONLINE: Tuesday 8th March, 2pm - 4pm*

Family practitioners will be aware that the concept of 'non-fault' divorce will come into force in April 2022. There will be significant changes to divorce law – the first major changes for over 49 years.

This session will be covering the following areas:

- Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 – The essentials
- How does this Act change divorce law and procedure as we know it?
- Removal of the Facts for Divorce
- New Terminology to be used
- New Timescales

& more

*Can't make the date/time or need to revisit the training? No problem, booking onto this event means you will receive a link to access a recording of the event at your leisure! The link will be sent within approx 72hrs of live broadcast & be available for approx. 3 months, to view as many times as you wish.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



The 2022 Costs Conference

Wednesday 9th March, 9.30am - 4pm

This is a 'face to face' event so places will be limited

Prompt booking recommended

To be Chaired by DJ Jenkinson, with sessions from:

Sue Fox, A&M Bacon

Anthony Neild, Jackson Lees Group

Colm Nugent, Gatehouse Law Chambers

David Pilling, Liverpool Civil Law

Professor Dominic Regan

Matt Waszak, Temple Garden Chambers

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)



Private Children Law Update

with Safda Mahmood

ONLINE: Friday 11th March, 10am - 12.45pm*

This online course will equip you with a rounded up update on key issues surrounding private children law.

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
- Funding Applications
- Special Guardianship Orders
- Key Case Law Update

Competencies: B

**Can't make the date/time or need to revisit the training? No problem, booking onto this event means you will receive a link to access a recording of the event at your leisure! The link will be sent within approx 72hrs of live broadcast & be available for approx. 3 months, to view as many times as you wish.*

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



Public Children Law Update

with Safda Mahmood

ONLINE: Friday 11th March, 1.30pm - 4.15pm

This online course will equip you with a rounded up update on key issues surrounding public children law.

It will be of benefit to those acting for parents, children, extended family & 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

**Can't make the date/time or need to revisit the training? No problem, booking onto this event means you will receive a link to access a recording of the event at your leisure! The link will be sent within approx 72hrs of live broadcast & be available for approx. 3 months, to view as many times as you wish.*

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



Conveyancing Update with Richard Snape

Tuesday 15th March, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Venue: Liverpool Law Society, 2nd Floor Helix, Edmund Street, Liverpool, L3 9NY— places will be limited

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](#)

Sponsored by





The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor with Vicky Ling

ONLINE: 17th & 18th March, both 1.30pm - 4.30pm*

This online course covers everything supervisors need to know and includes case study examples. Attending both parts will qualify a new supervisor who hasn't supervised before under Standard Contract Specification requirements for both the Civil/Family Standard Contract 2018 and the new Crime Standard Contract 2022. 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

& more ...

**Can't make the date/time or need to revisit the training? No problem, booking onto this event means you will receive a link to access a recording of the event at your leisure! The link will be sent within approx 72hrs of live broadcast & be available for approx. 3 months, to view as many times as you wish.*

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



****NEW** CQS for Support Staff**

with Tracy Thompson

ONLINE: Tuesday 22nd March, 10am - 12pm*

Recent changes to the CQS standard brought about a new onsite assessment regime which accredited firms will be subject to as part of demonstrating their compliance with the CQS Scheme Rules. A key requirement of the CQS Scheme is that practices must have a training policy which must include ensuring that relevant members of staff are aware of the Core Practice Management Standards and the ways in which the practice complies.

The session will look in detail at;

- The format of the onsite assessment
- Key requirements of the Core Practice Management Standard (CPMS)
- Ensuring the policies and procedures of CQS are being followed within your practice and how you can support fee earners in demonstrating compliance.
- Key areas of The Law Society Conveyancing Protocol (2019 Edition)

**Can't make the date/time or need to revisit the training? No problem, booking onto this event means you will receive a link to access a recording of the event at your leisure! The link will be sent within approx 72hrs of live broadcast & be available for approx. 3 months, to view as many times as you wish.*

[Click here for more information](#)



Employment Law Conference

Wednesday 30th March, 9.30am-3.30pm

To be chaired by Lindsey Knowles with sessions from:

David Flood, India Building Chambers

Regional Employment Judge David Franey

Sean Jones QC, 11 KBW Chambers

Thomas Kibling, Matrix Chambers

Tony Lowe, ACAS

Stephen Pinder, Stephen Pinder Law

This is a 'face to face' event so places will be limited

Prompt booking recommended

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

**THE GOOD
BUSINESS
FESTIVAL.
March 2022**

Meet Ishbel Straker, your new mental health expert!

It's the start of 2022 and I am very excited to have been invited back into Liverpool Law as a now regular feature, discussing all things mental health in relation to the legal profession. This is a wonderful opportunity to both highlight and educate issues relating to psychological wellbeing. Last year I was given the space to discuss some very broad topics and as I reflected on this over the festive period I felt that the next step would be to consider such issues in more detail and what better way to do this than to change the slant of this platform to [Ask The Expert](#). So here it is, talking all things mental health within the legal sector, a safe space for people to bring their questions and for the answers to benefit so many. Now in order for you to do this, I fully appreciate you may want to trust me a little more and understand who I am, so here you go!

I am Ishbel Straker and I currently hold the position as CEO and Clinical Director of I Straker Consultants Ltd which has been running for 2.5 years. In a previous life I was a clinical director for three separate healthcare trusts, the final one running the addiction provision for most of the prisons across the UK. I became frustrated with the ever changing political climate which altered the clinical focus and made a decision to step out into business alone and set up my own private practice. The focus for me was providing good quality care to individuals which worked well but I began to feel the frustrations around corporate care for staff and began to develop this strand which grew very rapidly also.

Nearly 3 years on and I have a very busy service with an ever-growing staffing structure. I am a recognised expert in the field of Addiction, Trauma and Mental Health Conditions, treating them therapeutically and medically, as well as Assessment, Diagnosis and Prescribing for ADHD. I partner with many organisations, listed on my website, providing an occupational infrastructure.

I write for BSA Today magazine, a monthly mental health column for the Liverpool Echo and this wonderful publication!

I am an experienced Expert Witness and a Clinical Lecturer for Edgehill University and have appeared as a regular fixture on Channel 5 Hoarders. And finally, you can catch me on Sunday nights at 7pm on 'Charitable Radio' on my show "All Minds Matter" where I discuss all things mental health.

So, now you know about me, I would like to invite you to email or DM me your questions for me to discuss in this column, exploring these issues together, we can step towards better mental well-being.



Ishbel Straker

Warm Regards,
Ishbel Straker, RMN, INP.
 CEO Clinical Director Istraker Consultants
 Clinical Lecturer, Edge Hill University

Ishbel Straker • Charitable Radio
 T:01517067912 - M:07876767006
 W:www.istrakerconsultants.co.uk
 A: Horton House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool, L2 3PF

PA: Esther Allen
Admin@istrakerconsultants.co.uk

If you have any questions for Ishbel, please contact her at Admin@istrakerconsultants.co.uk, heading the email 'Ask The Expert'.

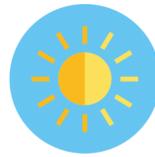
Look After Yourself

Top 10 Tips for Good Mental Health and Wellbeing



Keep Active

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



Take a Break

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



Sleep is Important

Sleeping well can improve concentration and refresh you



Eat Well

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



Drink in Moderation

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



Keep in Touch

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



Share How You Feel

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



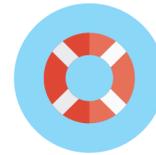
Give Back

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



Be Mindful

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



Ask for Help

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

HELPLINE SUPPORT 0800 279 6888

365 days a year

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

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

MSB teams up with Pine Court Housing Association in Annual City-Wide Chinese New Year Celebrations



specific focus on supporting the Chinese Community.

Steve Ornellas of Liverpool Hung Gar Kung Fu club has been patiently training the team each Sunday in January as they work towards performing their newly learnt Dragon Dancing skills for rest of the city in the Chinese New Year Parade.

Managing Partner Emma Carey and Pine Court's Senior Housing Officer Shaun Williams were thrilled to have been chosen to perform the Lion Awakening Ritual in preparation for the big day. The invitation was an honour for both as traditionally the ritual must be performed by someone with a good heart in the community. The practice involved painting the eyes, nose, and ears of the Lion so that it could see,

Our city is home to one of the oldest established Chinese communities in Europe. The ports connecting Liverpool to Shanghai were instrumental in the trade of silk and cotton wool, and ultimately built up the Chinese Community in the heart of the city.

Now a popular tourist attraction, the stunning Ceremonial Archway at the entrance to Chinatown is a 'beacon of good fortune' attracting all across the city to the festivities each year. It is here where you can join MSB in celebrating Chinese New Year 2022.

Join MSB in welcoming the Year of the Tiger

Celebrations were unfortunately forced to go virtual in 2021 as Covid restrictions were imposed. So, this year MSB are seizing the opportunity to celebrate in person once again and have teamed up with Pine Court Housing Association to create a Dragon Dancing team. Pine Court, as part of the Sovini Group, provide Social Housing to those in the Liverpool and Wirral area with a



breathe and hear, before painting the horn, spine and feet to bring the lion to life. Once alive, and christened as The MSB Lion, the waves of colour danced around the club performing for the spectators who watched in amazement.

The movement of The MSB Lion is mesmerising to watch and not to be missed as it parades through the streets and restaurants of China Town, dancing to the beat of the drum, scaring away negative energy and bringing in luck for the coming year.

“The Lion Awakening Ritual was one of the nicest experiences I have had the

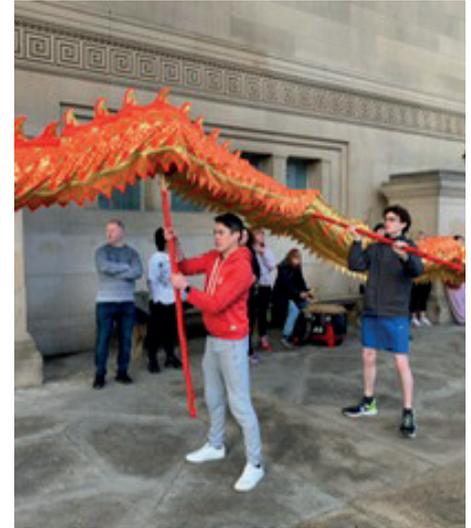
opportunity to be a part of since becoming Managing Partner. I’m extremely grateful to Steve and the rest of the community at the Kung Fu school for letting me be a part of their celebrations and letting me experience the ceremony with them. It was a day that will stick with me forever”.

- Emma Carey.

Team MSB are encouraging all in the sector to bring their children, families and friends along to celebrate, dance, and eat. There will be food, art workshops, a funfair and a fire show to conclude the day.

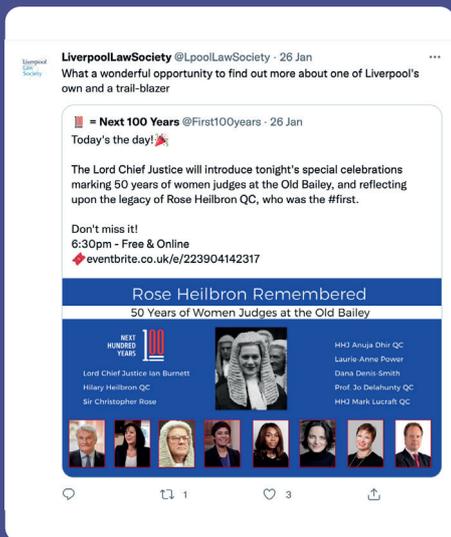
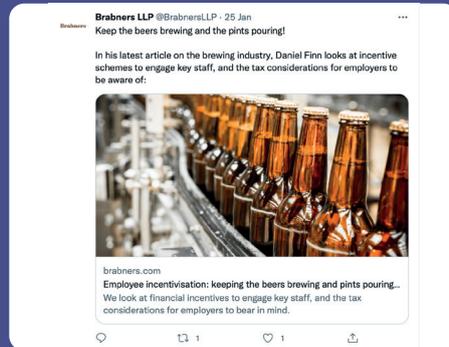
Happy New Year from MSB!

Sunday 6th February 2022



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



If you have an interesting tweet to share, why not send it to us: studio@baskerville-e.media

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE FOR MEMBERS

HOW TO MANAGE YOUR FIRM AND WORKFORCE IN A DIGITAL FUTURE

Thursday, 17 February 2022

1pm to 2pm on Zoom Free to attend

**THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF A
DIGITAL WORKPLACE STRATEGY CAPABLE
OF DRIVING TRUE CULTURAL CHANGE.**

Doug Hargrove, MD for Education and Legal at Advanced, leads an exciting session with Liverpool Law Society, exploring how to manage your firm and workforce in a digital future.



Covering three key topics:

- ✓ People,
- ✓ Practice
- ✓ Security



More info & to book



All your conveyancing needs in one place

X-Press Legal Services provides professional property searches and reports to the conveyancing sector through our network of offices across England and Wales. Our complete range of products and services are available through ICOS – our online ordering platform – which means we are a one-stop shop for all your conveyancing needs.

Personal and professional with unrivalled customer service.

Established and experienced – since 1998, we have been a trusted partner to hundreds of legal practices.

Local experts – our reports are compiled by people who have an in-depth knowledge of their local area.

Our Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation ensures a secure end-to-end service to our conveyancing clients.

To find out more, please contact Adam Cooper
T: 01925 393333 E: adamc.7377@xpresslegal.co.uk

<p>CYBER SECURITY</p>	<p>COMPLIANCE PRODUCTS</p>
<p>Cyber Essentials Plus certified GDPR compliant Two factor authentication</p>	<p>AMLs Digital IDs Source of Funds Lawyer Checker Bank Account Verification Bankruptcy</p>
<p>RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL SEARCHES</p>	<p>PRE & POST COMPLETION</p>
<p>Residential Commercial Agricultural Environmental Mining Water and Drainage Company Utilities</p>	<p>Indemnity Insurances Legal forms SDLT/LTT and Registry Gateway</p>

