

May 2022

Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

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

The return of MJLD Quiz Night

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reclaim their title!**

Examine the photographic evidence on page 20



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May 2022

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DEADLINES

25th May
7th June
27th July
25th August
26th September
27th October
28th November



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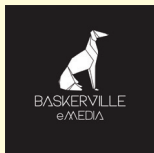
Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

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

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Tel: 0151 203 0440
simon@baskerville-e.media



Editorial Committee Dates 2022

Meetings start at 11.00 am

17/05/2022

21/06/2022

Welcome to the May 2022 edition of Liverpool Law

Welcome to the May edition of Liverpool Law



I hope you're all well. The Liverpool Law Society team certainly are having won the quiz with MJLD!! It looked like a great night, well done to all participants and organisers.

This month I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight our magazine and how proud I am of it and all those on our editorial committee. I was recently invited by The Law Society to help test their 'Connect' social platform for members to discuss topics and engage in conversation on forums and boards. I posted a question of how many societies have magazines and sought feedback from those that do. It received a good response and it was interesting to see that other societies tend to produce a quarterly magazine and have less member engagement than we do in terms of contributions and content, albeit some of them are smaller than LLS.

Others on the forum were impressed with the extent of the content in our magazine and how organised we are to produce monthly. This fills me with so much pride I had to share it with you. I already knew we had a great team. We have overcome some challenges recently to not miss a single edition during COVID, my going on maternity and the retirement of Julia Baskerville and handing over to our new publishers almost seamlessly.

Our new publishers are in the early stages of building their social media platforms and following our member firms to see the content you are putting out there and would like to share. This has been reflected in our analytics but I am confident it will improve in time. In the meantime if you could please like/follow/connect with our publishers on the following handles it would assist:

@Baskervilleeme1

LinkedIn: Baskerville e-media Digital Publications

As always we welcome your feedback and assistance on your magazine, please do get in touch to help us continue to thrive.

Many thanks

Jennifer Powell, Editor

Weightmans

editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

From the President

The latest from the President, Steven Zdolny

Premises Consultation Decision

Following our recent member consultation on premises, the Society's General Committee unanimously decided to serve notice to terminate our lease of our Helix premises. This followed the unanimous recommendation of the Finance & Policy Committee, that has been considering this issue over many months.

The main driver for this recommendation is financial. In short, the Society is projected to have a deficit this year. The Society has to operate in a financially sustainable manner, but regrettably has been running at a loss and depleting its reserves over the last 2 years. The Society has already reduced its outgoings to a bare minimum and the largest cost remaining, save for salaries (which overall have also been reduced over the last 2 years), is the premises. The Society has been seeking to maximise its income opportunities, but these are unlikely to be sufficient to cover the deficit in our monthly outgoings.

The Society had 74 responses to our recent member consultation and in summary, the majority (73%) supported exiting our premises and 89% responded that this would have little or no effect on their use of the Society's services if we lose our premises.

All the Society's staff have been consulted and their preference is to continue to work from home. The CEO is satisfied performance and productivity can be maintained by staff continuing to work from home and attending in person meetings and training events as and when required.

Discussions have been held with various local leaders in law, and the Society has received a number of positive assurances that office space could be used by the Society for meetings and events, free of charge, subject to availability.

The Society's consultation with the Joint V revealed that all were having similar deliberations about premises, with Leeds and Birmingham already having made similar decisions.

The Racquet Club have kindly offered the Society a cabinet for displaying its memorabilia at no cost. The Society is also exploring having its registered office with its accountants and having a PO box for routine mail, which is not much.



Events Round-Up

It's been another busy month of meetings, including Finance & Policy and General Committee. We have also held various meetings with leaders in law about premises and training and with local universities about our new offer to their students.

The 2 highlights this month have been our Quiz and Pathways event. The Quiz, expertly organised by Chelsea Kearns and her MJLD team and kindly sponsored by the College of Legal Practice, had a record turnout of about 150 members. I'm delighted that Liverpool Law Society won the Quiz! A team of lawyers from Bond Turner led by Alum Ullah won by 1 point! Mark Owen did a fantastic job as the Quiz host and all attending seemed to have a great time.

The Society welcomed a record of 26 schools and 214 Year 12 students and teachers at our Pathways to the Legal Profession event on 27 April. This event was held online and it was a real pleasure to act as host and hopefully inspire the next generation of local lawyers. I'd like to say 'thank you' to Weightmans law firm for sponsoring the event, all our expert speakers and for all those involved in putting this event together.

As always, we are looking to you to help build our programme of training and events, so please do let us have your ideas, comments, and suggestions so that we can ensure we cater to your needs.

Until next time, stay safe and happy reading!

Steven Zdolny
President

president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

LLS Meetings & events – May & June 2022

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

Start Time	Meeting/Event
10/05/2022 12:30	General Committee
12/05/2022 13:00	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee
16/05/2022 13:00	Regulatory Sub-Committee
17/05/2022 11:00	Editorial Sub-Committee (in person)
19/05/2022 13:00	Future Planning Sub-Committee
25/05/2022 09:00	June Liverpool Law Deadline
25/05/2022 13:00	EDI Sub-Committee
26/05/2022 13:00	Civil Litigation Sub-Committee (in person)
26/05/2022 16:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee
31/05/2022 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
08/06/2022 13:00	Access to Justice in Liverpool Project meeting
08/06/2022 13:00	Family Business Sub-Committee
09/06/2022 13:00	Access to Justice Sub-Committee
14/06/2022 12:30	General Committee (in person)
14/06/2022 14:15	Delegation from the Bar Association of Ludhiana, India

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
Access to Justice	Consultation on local connection requirements for social housing for victims of domestic abuse	10/05/2022
Access to Justice	Consultation on the impacts of joint tenancies on victims of domestic abuse	10/05/2022
Regulatory	Restoring the annual keeping of the roll exercise	20/05/2022
Regulatory	Rule changes on health and wellbeing at work	27/05/2022
Access to Justice	Legal Aid Means Test Review	07/06/2022
Criminal Practice	Response to Independent Review of Criminal Legal Aid	07/06/2022
Criminal Practice	Perverting the course of justice and witness intimidation	22/06/2022
Non-Contentious Business	Changes to the MCA Code of Practice and implementation of the LPS	07/07/2022

SIF/Post Six Year Run Off Cover update

Liverpool Law Society (LLS) welcomes the SRA's decision to extend SIF for a further 12 months, to enable detailed consideration of consultation responses from the Law Society, LLS, and other local societies. This demonstrates the power of our profession working together for the benefit of consumers.

Read SRA's press release here <https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/solicitors-indemnity-fund-extended/>

March meeting with our MPs and Lords



The Directors of Liverpool Law Society meet periodically with our MPs and Lords. On 18th March we met with Justin Madders MP and Margaret Greenwood MP to discuss some key current and forthcoming issues.

Article by Rachel Stalker

Access to Justice

Gaynor Williams presented on the pressures on housing provision in our region. Around 15,000 households in Liverpool alone are waiting for a home. At the same time, access to advice on housing issues is limited - court desks are under pressure and the "Our Liverpool" project closing has impacted on migrants/refugees who need advice.

LLS recently responded to consultations on housing Legal Aid and the Human Rights Act. In the meantime discussions are underway to establish an advice centre in the Wirral, and the need for immigration advice is growing, not least due to the current crisis in Ukraine.

Housing

Sarah Mansfield noted the increased difficulty for tenants to get legal advice, and increased numbers of litigants in person. The new Department of Levelling Up is examining housing and considering what support packages to introduce. Changes to the housing benefit system are afoot, and local authorities can bid for a fund of £20m over three years. Many households will struggle once the heating cap is lifted in April and fuel prices rise, combined with the removal of the £20 benefit. In the meantime, fire safety and building safety remediation remains a concern. Michael Gove has proposed transferring these obligations to developers but leaseholders may be out of pocket since not all fire safety will be covered by the proposed government fund.

Current Bills

Jeremy Myers reported three bills of note: the Health and Care Bill, Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill and Building Safety Bill. The committee noted the possibility that the Health and Care Bill may allow for greater private sector inroads into the NHS, whilst impacting on health workers' employment rights and pension scheme.

From a rule of law point of view, other bills dealing with judicial review, police, crime and sentencing, and nationality and borders are all under consideration at the present time. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill may curb protest rights: the introduction of offences of intentionally or recklessly causing public nuisance could significantly lower the bar in terms of when protests are unlawful.

Meanwhile, the Nationality and Borders Bill proposes to criminalise refugees arriving in the UK through methods other than official means and removes the requirement to inform people who have dual nationality where their citizenship has been removed. The concern is that this will disproportionately impact non-white citizens and make appeals against the decision logistically impossible. Further, an increased burden of proof on asylum seekers means that there could be a disproportionate impact on LGBTQ+ communities, where such refugees may need to prove their sexuality/gender, leading to a culture of disbelief and a generally hostile

environment. A UN Special Rapporteur has commented that "the bill would seriously undermine the protection of the human rights of trafficked persons, including children; increase risks of exploitation faced by all migrants and asylum seekers; and lead to serious human rights violations"

Family Law

Emma Palmer from MSB reported on the major family law headline – the long-awaited introduction of no-fault divorce. Divorcing parents can now work together and this may reduce costs, and the number of children disputes – the current funding to help with mediation is also welcome in this regard. However, family practitioners are divided on the new ground for divorce and what its impact will be.

Elsewhere, solicitors and barristers alike are under increasing pressure to do more work outside court, particularly in care proceedings. Social workers are underfunded and children are at risk as a result. The crisis in criminal legal aid work has had plenty of publicity recently, and in many ways family lawyers are in a similarly critical situation. Despite the difficulties, however, everyone in this area of practice is there because they are passionate about wanting to help families.

The Directors will next meet with our MPs and peers on 14th October 2022.

Rachel Stalker,
Liverpool JMU
Faculty of Business and Law

Meet New LLS Director John-Paul Dennis



John-Paul Dennis has recently been appointed Director of Liverpool Law Society.

John-Paul, who recently joined Astraea Linskills as CEO and Head of Private Client, has been a member of the Non-

Contentious committee for the last year and a half.

He attended many of the CPD training and events, but was invited to join by previous Chair Michael Sandys, who had worked with him at Kirwans solicitors.

After Michael moved out of the area, John-Paul is now to become Chair of the non-contentious committee.

Early Life

John-Paul went to school in Crewe and was keen on both Rugby and Football. As a youngster, John-Paul played at Crewe Alexandra, but was never officially on their books. Some of his peers, however, did go on to play football at Premier League level and another one was former Sale Sharks England Rugby international Mark Cueto.

John Paul comes from a family who worked in construction and was advised by a careers advisor to go to university. He did a week of work experience at a local Law firm in Crewe where he relished his visits to Court and felt that this might be the career for him. He went on to study Law at the University of Wolverhampton.

Whilst at University, John-Paul remained working part-time as a Paralegal with the local Crewe firm but moved to Merseyside after University as he was keen to study and complete the Legal Practice Course.

Career

John-Paul's first position was at Lees and Partners, now Jackson Lees, as a Clerk and while there he did his part-time LPC at Liverpool John Moores, finishing work early two days a week to attend night classes.

He was given a training contract by Lees and commenced seats in Property, Commercial and Medical Negligence, which he liked well enough, but the Court Protection and Private Client departments were of greater interest to him. Private Client Law involved the full spectrum of society, ranging from wealthy owners of mansions to clients living in small housing association flats, and the variety of work and client base led to his decision to qualify in this specialism.

At the time, there were very few young people working in this sector (they seemed to prefer Crime or Litigation), which meant there were good opportunities here for John-Paul and no two cases were ever the same.

After over three years at Lees as clerk and trainee, John-Paul moved to Kirwans Solicitors in Moreton, where he spent a further three years. Kirwans were predominantly a Crime, Family and Legal Aid practice at the time and John-Paul was brought in to grow their Private Client worktype.

There was also a lot of Personal Injury work at Kirwans and John-Paul was involved in setting up Personal Injury Trusts for clients receiving damages and Court of Protection work for clients who had suffered severe injuries.

The Private Client department John-Paul had been brought in to develop mushroomed to a team of 22 staff and he was subsequently made head of that department and moved to head office in Prenton.

Kirwans went on to open an office in Southport, having already worked with a small practice in the town.

Whilst equity at Kirwans John-Paul was approached to be the Head of the Private Client Team at Weightmans' Liverpool office and after a bit of soul-searching,

decided to pursue new experiences there. This gave him a great deal of exposure to Liverpool Law Society, which led him to participate in the wider profession. It was whilst at Weightmans that he became involved in the non-contentious committee. John-Paul has since moved to Astrea Linskills at the start of this year.

Although he thoroughly enjoyed his time at Weightmans, his decision was based on wishing to have more autonomy and control over his working week. He is again involved with growing a Private Client department as well as looking at the strategic vision and growth of Astraea Linskills.

Directing LLS

John-Paul's aims for 2022 as Director is to get more younger people both in his current firm, as well as firms throughout the region, in touch with Liverpool Law Society and to raise awareness of the services and opportunities available.

Although the Society has great links with the Law Faculties at the local Universities, he wants to reach out further and perhaps prevent Law graduates drifting away from the profession if they are unaware of the support that's available.

Social mobility (due to a number of factors with successive governments), is not as easy these days as it might have been previously and John-Paul wants to work with the other Directors to bridge gaps and

help young graduates and professionals navigate a path to a successful career in Law.

John-Paul and Jo Downey are organising the forthcoming Private Client Conference which will be held on 11th October. He will be opening and closing the event and the speakers will include Professor Lesley King, Solicitor of the senior Courts of England and Wales and formerly Head of Private Client Practice at the College of Law.

The conference will focus on keeping abreast of an ever-changing practice area. As this is an extremely wide and diverse field, the course should prove vital to any Private Client solicitor.

Leisure

Outside of work, John-Paul is chair of Trustees for Nugent. A local Charity set up over 140 years ago who offer a wide range of support for vulnerable children, young people and adults. Last year they helped over 8,000 beneficiaries.

John-Paul has a son aged 5 who he takes to Taekwondo every Saturday. He Plays Football twice a week, Golf occasionally and is a keen fan of Liverpool FC, hoping to get a ticket to the FA cup and/or UEFA cup finals.

We wish John Paul every success in his new role.

SAVE THE DATE

10 NOV 2022



Business connections in the post-pandemic world



Andrew Ruffler

The last two years have thrown up many challenges for organisations like Professional Liverpool (PL), but none more so than how to reach our membership when member businesses and their teams are operating more flexibly and fluidly than ever before.

Having been founded in 2001, PL is now more than 20 years old, and the majority of that period has seen the organisation developing and delivering activities that seek to bring the Liverpool City Region professional community physically together. Providing opportunities for our members to connect, to learn, to grow, and to “belong” has been the foundation to our longevity and success. Feedback over the years has indicated that many in the professional community see PL as being an organisation that is not only forward looking, but collaborative, and perhaps above all else personable.

The pandemic years of 2020 and 2021 therefore posed questions about how we continue to do this in a meaningful way, and whilst the likes of Zoom and Teams provided us and our community an enforced stop-gap solution, the demand for in-person events since August 2021 – particularly those weighted towards social engagement – is strong and clearly demonstrates that we are social animals at our core. Our Summer Social, the AGM & Members Lunch at Liverpool Town Hall, March’s ‘Cannes Do’, and the take-up of passes to join us at Chester Races in May is all evidence of a return (for both PL as an organisation and the professional community that we represent) to providing quality opportunities for connection and collaboration.

Where online platforms look like they still have a role to play, certainly in the short term, is in the delivery of more formal, professional development type activity, or

those events which are weighted towards the provision of information rather than peer-to-peer engagement. With individuals being more precious about their time, and ring-fencing days to either work from home or travel into the place of work, flexibility within the working day is less apparent. Individual working patterns are still evolving, but it is feasible to see a future which has a mix of in person, online, and hybrid events appealing to different audiences.

PL therefore needs to continue to be flexible and fluid in its own approach, and collaborating with members, partner and stakeholders to create a hub of high quality professional activity for its members; through events, networking, knowledge transfer, and communications.

Andrew Ruffler
Chief Executive
Professional Liverpool



Celebration for new entrants to the legal profession

Wednesday 15th June 2022 at 5.30pm for 6.00pm

Hard Days Night Hotel

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

What's included?

✓ Arrival drink ✓ canapes ✓ professional photography ✓ training voucher

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

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

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

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

[More Info](#)

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Jackson Lees bolsters family law team with new lawyer

North West law firm Jackson Lees has strengthened its team with an experienced lawyer to enhance the offering of its family law department.

Anna Francis joins the firm from Merseyside-based Berkson Family Law and has more than 15 years' experience in family law, choosing to specialise in matrimonial law in recent years.

In her new role at Jackson Lees' Hoylake office, Anna will play a key role in supporting clients and helping the wider team.

Since entering the legal sector as an office junior, Anna studied at the Law Academy in Liverpool and worked her way up to Chartered Legal Executive, qualifying in 2015.

The Chartered Legal Executive (CLE) path focuses on studying towards a degree level qualification whilst working in industry and provides an alternative route into the legal sector. Anna champions the CLE route for being more accessible.

Anna said: "I'm extremely proud to join Jackson Lees and I look forward to applying my vast experience in family law with clients, whilst learning from like-minded professionals around me.

"The culture at Jackson Lees is fantastic – everyone wants to make a positive difference and believes they have the ability to. There is also constant support and training available to us as well as a focus on work-life balance, which really appealed to me when looking at potential opportunities.

"I am passionate about family law and find it extremely rewarding especially when resolving issues for clients which can often be sensitive and emotional times. My goal now is to continue to progress whilst supporting junior lawyers and office members."



Anna Francis

Anna is also a member of Resolution, a group for lawyers who strive for a non-confrontational approach to family law issues to provide better outcomes for separating families and their children. Anna receives training and support from the group in addition to applying Resolution's Code of Conduct which promotes dealing with cases in an amicable way and avoiding unnecessary conflict between parties amongst other things.

Her appointment coincides with the biggest shake-up to divorce law in more than 50 years, as No-fault Divorce legislation is brought in, meaning separating couples no longer need to apportion blame to one another as a reason for the breakdown of their marriage when applying for a divorce.

Anna added: "The No-fault Divorce will set parties up in the best possible

position to deal with things amicably from the outset. It's certainly something we've waited a long time for as lawyers. It will help the courts who are already overwhelmed by cases, and both parties will benefit from spending less time dealing with claims of misbehaviour, instead focusing time on finances and any arrangements for children."

Esther Leach, Managing Director at the Jackson Lees Group, said: "We are excited to welcome Anna to the team and are confident she will be a real asset to our group of dedicated professionals.

"Anna stood out to us for her personable and friendly approach which we know will be key when helping to resolve matrimonial issues for our clients. Her abundance of experience and membership of Resolution will also provide support to our junior team members who are looking to progress through their career."

Expanding North West Law Firm opens new office in Manchester

North West-based law firm MSB Solicitors has launched a new office in Manchester, a reflection of the firm's continued growth across the region and its commitment to increase its offer in the city this year.

The full-service specialist firm has become one of the newest tenants at 3 Hardman Square, Manchester's financial and professional services business district.

MSB is already a well-established in the Merseyside region, with its head office in Liverpool city centre's No 4 St Paul's Square. Its Manchester office will be its fifth location, after 34 years of increasing success serving communities across Merseyside and Cheshire.

Over the last three years the firm's revenue has seen significant growth, increasing by approximately £1.2 million each year, with a further £2 million anticipated in the next 12 months. Having already developed strong links with clients in the property and litigation sectors in Manchester, MSB recognised it was time to set up a base to enable the firm to build on its existing relationships, as well as develop new ones in the neighbouring city.

Following its record growth, MSB has proudly welcomed over 74 new members of staff in the last 18 months and now with the latest expansion as well as further plans for a new Liverpool office, the firm will be looking to recruit solicitors, paralegals, and trainees in the areas of social housing and regeneration and family law.

The Manchester office will initially house a permanent base of solicitors, admin and support staff from the firm's family and social housing and regeneration team, with plans to include the commercial property and commercial litigation teams within the next six months.

Emma Carey, Managing Partner at MSB, said:

"As a firm, we're keen to increase our presence across the North West, expanding our services beyond Liverpool and over to our neighbours in Manchester."

"We're proud to deliver excellence in legal services to all of the communities we serve – whether they be ultra-net worth clients or vulnerable clients eligible for legal aid."

"We are still very much a regional firm, and can best serve the clients of our community as we know our region better than national or international firms, meaning we can provide a truly bespoke, personalised service."

"This move to Manchester is a recognition of our success over the past year, and we're looking forward to building our client base in the city as we expand our offer."

To find out more about MSB Solicitors, visit <https://www.msbsolicitors.co.uk>.

Harriet Holbrook

Senior Communications Consultant

THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOUNDATION

Join us for 2022

THE LIVERPOOL LEGAL WALK

Walk with us this year to support access to justice!

TUESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2022, 6:00pm

Sponsored by:

The University of Law

The Law Society

Liverpool Law Society

Supported by

HELPING PEOPLE ACCESS JUSTICE

Morecrofts Solicitors expands in Prescot

Morecrofts Solicitors has doubled the size of its office space in Prescot town centre.



Alison Lobb and David Parr of Morecrofts (C,R) pictured with Lesley Martin-Wright of Knowsley Chamber of Commerce (L) at the opening of the Prescot office in November 2018.

The firm has completed a deal for an additional 650 sq ft of office space on the first floor of its existing premises on Warrington Road.

Morecrofts first opened its Prescot office in November 2018, becoming the firm's sixth office in the Liverpool City Region in addition to Crosby, Woolton, Allerton, Wirral and Liverpool city centre.

This latest expansion follows a growth in client work across a range of departments, notably private client, matrimonial and conveyancing. The firm aims to recruit up to six new members of staff at the expanded site following the completion of a £20,000 refurbishment.

David Parr, finance partner at Morecrofts Solicitors, said: "These are really exciting times for Prescot, with the impending opening of the Shakespeare North Playhouse and a variety of new independent businesses coming to the fore in the town.

"Our team is embedded in the local community and we enjoy the relationships we have been able to develop with fellow local businesses and clients alike. We have also had tremendous support from a range of organisations including Knowsley Chamber, so it was a natural move for us to expand our presence here and continue to invest in Prescot."



Caroline Grundy

Morecrofts sees promotions and recruitment boost

Morecrofts is celebrating team growth and promotions. The property team's Caroline Grundy has been promoted to Senior Associate Solicitor. Caroline first qualified in 2002 and is one of the firm's most popular team members.

Managing partner **Alison Lobb** said: "Caroline is so valued in our team both by her colleagues and by clients. Her work ethic and high standards are everything Morecrofts is about. I am delighted to have announced her promotion."

The news follows a raft of new employees at the business with eight new recruits across the firm's six branches since January. Josh Bourke, Hannah Beardmore and Aaron Ocquaye, all formerly paralegals have also started their solicitor training contracts with the firm.

"We have lots more news to come this year in terms of team news, with some exciting additions to the team." Added Alison

ADILA

Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

The Legal Awards are back for 2022!

We are excited to announce the Legal Awards will take place at the Society's Annual Dinner on Thursday, 10th November 2022.

CATEGORIES

RIISING STAR AWARD

OUTSTANDING TEAM AWARD - LITIGATION

OUTSTANDING TEAM AWARD - NON-CONTENTIOUS

OUTSTANDING LAWYER AWARD

LAW FIRM AWARD (1-99 EMPLOYEES)

LAW FIRM AWARD (100+ EMPLOYEES)

With six categories to choose from, we are confident there is something for everyone. Awards open to members only. Nominations will open in early July and close in early September.

For information on and to book tickets for the Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards, [click here](#).

S P O N S O R E D B Y



**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. #accesstojustice



Vauxhall Law Centre has received funding to create a new welfare rights advice service for cancer patients and their families.

We are pleased to announce that starting in June, Vauxhall Law Centre will offer welfare rights advice for those suffering with cancer, and for their families. Thanks to the generosity of the 64 Trust, we now have the capacity to focus our support and identify the individuals that need it most. We will look to provide advice on the rules through which terminally ill people receive their benefits payments, as it may be the case that some are entitled to enhanced rates of Personal Independence Payments, or increases in other areas. Additionally, we will seek to support family members with caring responsibilities, as they may be entitled to extra support.

Achieving the correct benefit entitlements is a complex and arduous process for all, but when compounded with terminal illness, the process can become gruelling. When asked about the funding, John Nelson, Director of the 64 Trust said: "We believe a dedicated project... will have a major impact and make an amazing difference to many people who are reaching the end of their lives. Maximising people's incomes can make a huge difference to people's quality of life, but at a sad time like this it will make a major difference."

Congratulations Joy!

We are proud to announce that former volunteer Joy Elson has been awarded a scholarship to the Bar Course! During her time at the centre, Joy was instrumental in the development of various projects, including our bereavement service. From everyone at the Centre, we wish you the best of luck on the next step of your journey, and extend our warmest congratulations.



Joy Elson

We have established a new family law clinic in partnership with MSB Solicitors.

Last week, we launched our new family law clinic in association with MSB Solicitors. This service is designed to provide advice on every element of family law, for those who need it the most. Based in Liverpool, MSB Solicitors seek to protect and elevate families from the most disadvantaged areas of the city. For a free 30-minute consultation with Katie, please book an appointment on 0151 360 7777, or email advice@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk.

We are looking for pro-bono partners!

If you are a legal professional, or represent a legal outfit based in Merseyside, we would love to hear from you! Vauxhall Law Centre is constantly developing, seeking out new connections and partnerships with our legal friends across Liverpool and the wider region. If you desire to help those who most need it and possess the capacity for pro-bono casework, please email Elly and Alan through development@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk.



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VAUXHALL COMMUNITY LAW & INFORMATION CENTRE

Family Law Clinic

Dealing with all family matters

Vauxhall Law Centre has teamed up with the family law department at MSB solicitors to provide advice on all family law issues. MSB is a Liverpool based firm with many years of experience in the legal sector. The aim of the clinic is to ensure greater access to justice for Law Centre clients.

The family law clinic can help with:

Divorce**Mediation****Children****Honour
based abuse****Domestic
abuse****Call or email to book in for an appointment****TEL: 0151 360 7777****E: ADVICE@VAUXHALLLAWCENTRE.ORG.UK**Visit www.vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk

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.

Costs budgets continue to raise concerns for solicitors firms

This has been highlighted in the recent case of *ST v ZY* [2022] EWHC B6 (Costs). This was a claim arising out of an RTA in 2015 in which the child claimant lost his father. The primary claim was resolved but issues arose in relation to the Claimant's solicitors' costs. There was a shortfall claim for unrecovered costs, and there was an issue over the success fee and ATE premium. Costs judge Gordon-Saker noted that the costs claimed exceeded the approved budget by about £31k. The solicitors had advised the client that there might be unrecoverable costs but not that the budget had been exceeded –

“Telling the client that some costs might not be recovered from the other side is not sufficient. ST should have been told that the budget was being exceeded by a wide margin and that, as a result, those costs might not (and, indeed, almost certainly would not) be recovered from the other side.”

Those costs in excess of the budget were not reasonably incurred – CPR 46.9 (3). The senior costs judge observed that the solicitors appeared to have ignored the budget and continued to incur costs with no reasonable chance of recovery. He ordered a detailed assessment of the costs as between the solicitors and the client.

The fact that the costs exceeded the budget made them unusual for the purpose of the rule –

Mr Waszak submitted that “unusual amount” should be read in the context of “unusual nature”. I can see no reason for that construction. It seems to me that the purpose of the rule is to apply the presumption that the costs were unreasonably incurred if they were unusual, and the client was not told that they might not be recovered from the other party by reason of being unusual. Costs can be unusual either because of their nature (not of a type usually incurred) or because of their amount. Paying a brief fee of £50,000 when the usual fee would be £5,000 would be unusual and one can easily see that the solicitor should be at risk if the client is not informed that the fee might not be recovered because of that. The amount can be unusual without the nature being “unusual.”

This case clarifies what solicitors need to tell their clients about the nature of the costs. It is not enough to say the costs might not be recovered and therefore deducted from damages. The solicitors failed to explain the reason why the costs were unusual because they were incurred in excess of the budget.

There continues to be a steady growth in the number of firms

who are running Housing Conditions Cases. We advise on numerous costs issues arising out of these cases. One issue that often comes up is the decision in *Birmingham City Council v Lee* [2008] EWCA Civ 891. This concerns the entitlement to costs in cases allocated to the Small Claims Track. The arrival of the pre action protocols presented solicitors with a real problem. In the days before the protocol, proceedings would be issued quickly. This meant that landlords could not normally rush and do repairs if they received a letter of claim. This is an important issue because a claim will be allocated to the small claims track unless there is work still required at a cost of over £1k (or if less than that there is a damages claim exceeding £1k). The critical point is that there must still be a live claim for specific performance. If the work is done quickly this can cause the specific performance claim to fall away, leaving the solicitors with no realistic costs.

This is what happened in *Birmingham v Lee*. The protocol requires steps to be taken before proceeding can be issued – with sanctions for breach. This creates a gap within which work can be done and any claim for costs defeated. The Court of Appeal in *Birmingham v Lee* acknowledged that tenants were at risk of being prejudiced by complying with the protocol. The Court of Appeal decided that, for costs purposes, the claim is in effect commenced when the letter of claim is sent. If the matter would be allocated to the fast track at that stage then there will be costs up to the date the work is done –

“What is necessary in a case of this kind is that the claimant should, providing she is right about liability, recover the reasonable fast-track costs of advancing the claim by way of letter under the protocol, and thus getting the work done. In this case the work was completed by 26 September 2006. We would accordingly replace the order made by the judge with the following:

Pursuant to CPR 44.9(2), the claimant shall have her costs in the cause on the fast track basis up to 26 September 2006.” (Morgan LJ)

Firms often overlook that the order was for ‘costs in the cause’. She still had to win the case. If she did then she would get fast track costs up to that date. Thereafter it would be small claims costs. This is a very useful decision and can be a big factor in negotiations. Firms will still need to carefully consider whether the limited right to costs justifies the potentially unpaid work if liability is contested.

Finally, don't forget that the small claims limit for non RTA Personal Injury cases went up to £1500 on 6th April 2022 as mentioned in our last update.

Steve Cornforth

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

Liverpool is a city that prides itself on its togetherness, unity and solidarity. Through festivals, arts and cultural events, the

city works at highlighting and sharing the stories of different communities and groups, becoming more inclusive. At Liverpool BID Company, our work extends to supporting business in being more inclusive and diverse as well.

This summer will see the return of Liverpool Pride, after a two year break, and it will be an important moment for the city's LGBTQ+ community. A march and cultural event, Pride sees activity take place across the city centre and is a vital part of visibility and coming together for the community.

The first Liverpool Against Racism Festival was held in late April, its launch event organised by the Mayor of Liverpool sponsored by Liverpool BID, featured specially commissioned music and cultural events which will stimulate a conversation about, and action against,

racism. With a focus on community cohesion, it acted as a platform for people and organisations to creatively respond to hate crime.

Both events are important in raising the profile of Liverpool's different communities and emphasise the active work that the city does to tackle inequality.

In May, a new event is being held at Liverpool Parish Church. Liverpool Loves You is a community celebration and LGBTQ+ affirming service. Delivered in partnership by Liverpool Parish Church, LCR Pride Foundation, Homotopia, Michael Causer Foundation, Open Table Network, YPAS Liverpool, Liverpool BID Company and Liverpool City Council, the free Liverpool Loves You event will take place the weekend before the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOTB) on Tuesday 17th May, celebrating the Liverpool City Region as a safe, friendly and welcoming place for LGBTQ+ people of all faiths and none.

Mayor Joanne Anderson will raise the new Progress Pride flag at 2pm and deliver a short speech to open the event, alongside other faith and civic leaders, local LGBTQ+ organisations and

dignitaries from across the region.

For Liverpool BID Company, representing business and our Levy Payers by supporting events like these that champion inclusivity is vital. Liverpool has to be a city where every individual can thrive, and as leaders within the business community, by supporting and providing a platform for events that champion often marginalised communities it helps to raise awareness and visibility.

Supporting business with training and support in how to make their workplace more diverse and inclusive is also critical. Recently, Liverpool BID supported a training programme raising awareness of safe spaces, and helping retail and hospitality staff recognise if a customer had been a victim of hate crime.

It takes constant work and development to improve inclusivity. Liverpool's commitment to it is rooted in the recognition of profile raising and awareness raising. At Liverpool BID our work will continue to support businesses in bringing this ethos into their workplaces.

Julie Johnson,
Liverpool BID Company

Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division



MJLD and LLS Update Quiz

The annual Liverpool Law Society and Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division Quiz took place on Thursday 21 April 2022 at Revolucion De Cuba! It was the first Quiz to be held since the lockdown and was a roaring success.

Over 130 lawyers took part in the Quiz which was won by 'Conor's Chameleons' – Alum Ullah, Connor Callan, Adele Kavanagh, Steven Zdolyny and Yvonne McDonald.

It was the first time since 2017 that winning team was made up of Liverpool Law Society members, with the shield being handed over to Liverpool Law Society for safekeeping and to display until next year!

A special thank you to our resident Quiz Host, Mark Owen who once again brought the event to life and kept everyone on track (and honest!).

It was amazing to once again have so many lawyers and junior lawyers in a room together and the event provided

plenty of laughs and networking opportunities with over 12 different firms and organisations being represented by teams. MJLD Chair, Chelsea Kearns had the following to say: *"Thank you to everyone who turned up for the Annual LLS and MJLD Quiz, we are so happy that we were able to bring the event back after a 2 year long hiatus and grateful to all the teams who came and took part. Keep your eyes peeled for the MJLD's next event which is going to be the biggest of the year yet."*

The event was kindly sponsored by The College of Legal Practice who are also hosting an upcoming virtual seminar offering plenty of information about the new route into qualification via the SQE on 3 May 2022. For more information about the event please contact the MJLD social media channels or email press and publicity representative Jemma on j.castell@jbleitch.co.uk.

Jemma Castell
MJLD Press and Publicity Officer
JB Leitch Solicitors



Liverpool Lighthouse Choir release single 'Abide with me' to mark 33rd anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster



Above: Hillsborough survivor Gareth Hayes leads choir in second song of healing. Gareth went to Hillsborough 33 years having been in pen 3 on 15th April 1989. Gareth made it home, many in pen 3 didn't. He talks on surviving Hillsborough and singing for the memory of those lost.

- Abide with Me will be released on April 15th 2022, the 33rd Anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster
- Abide with Me: <https://vimeo.com/697974063>
- Abide with Me will be free to stream from all platforms including Spotify and: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ngCDiGlvPubFbj8LHSEoUodDhUvGvP2?usp=sharing> and 99p to download.
- All proceeds will go to Liverpool Lighthouse Charity which will support music in the local community with a focus on disadvantaged and vulnerable young people.
- Liverpool Lighthouse Community Choir held a free Songs

of Healing Concert on Saturday December 4th 2021 for Hillsborough families at Liverpool Lighthouse, over 300 people attended.

- The choir performed soothing songs and hymns that were sung at the Hillsborough Memorial Services over the last twenty years. The songs were chosen to remember loved ones and uplift as songs of healing.

The much-loved hymn had been sung by the choir's predecessor, Love and Joy Gospel Choir, at the Hillsborough Memorial service whilst the names of those who lost their lives at the Hillsborough tragedy on 15 April 1989 were read out. This was done every year for 20 years before the pandemic. Lighthouse Choir recorded this song as part of a collection of songs to pay tribute to those affected by the Hillsborough disaster including several of its members and to offer hope and healing to everyone in the nation who is

affected by loss or tragedy at this time. The popular hymn also sets the scene for many sporting events, including every FA Cup final since 1927.

Lighthouse Choir was formed during lockdown. Unable to meet in person, the Choir rehearsed on Zoom for almost two years under the guidance of award-winning Choir Director Anu Omideyi, now Liverpool Lighthouse's full-time Music Director. As restrictions relaxed, choir members were finally able to meet in person for the first time in small groups for recording last spring.

The two soloists on "Abide With Me" have personal connections to the disaster. **Gareth Hayes** survived the disaster having been in pen 3 on 15 April 1989. **Danya Rushton**, 16, whose mother lost her best friend Vicki Hicks alongside Vicki's sister Sarah Hicks at the disaster said: *"Abide With Me is a very meaningful song for many people. While my initial involvement with the choir was because of its connections with Hillsborough, I think the song is for anyone that has experienced loss and is looking for a sense of strength to get through it. I feel extremely honoured to open the song. I sang 'Abide With Me' along with the choir at the Songs of Healing Concert in December last year which was attended by some of the Hillsborough families and it felt like the song was an integral part of the remembrance."*

The effects of the past two years on people's well-being have been wide-ranging and unprecedented, and so it seemed completely natural for the Choir to extend the dedication of its music to include all those who have suffered or been affected by tragedy or any kind of loss over the past two years.

Proceeds will go towards the work of Liverpool Lighthouse charity to support youth and community engagement in music in the local area.

Anu Omideyi, Choir Director: *"Many of our choir members have been recently impacted by different kinds of loss or tragedy one way or another and some were directly affected by the Hillsborough disaster. So, we wanted to use this much-loved hymn as a song of healing for ourselves and as many people throughout the nation as we can."*

Over 300 people attended a free Christmas concert held at Liverpool Lighthouse on December 4th 2021. The Liverpool Lighthouse Community Choir performed soothing songs and hymns that were sung at the Hillsborough Memorial Services over the last twenty years. The songs were chosen to remember loved ones and uplift as songs of healing. The choir released a single Wind Beneath My Wings following the concert in December.

Rebecca Ross-Williams, Creative Director of Liverpool Lighthouse said: *"Our hearts desire is that in releasing the single Abide with Me it reaches every corner of the land to touch the hearts of many."*

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Regulation Update

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

Well, at the time of writing, it does seem that Spring has arrived! I hope you all enjoyed the Easter Bank holiday weekend.

Solicitors Indemnity Fund (SIF) – the ever-running saga!

Some good news to start with this month (for a change). The SRA has taken note of the strength of opposition to the consultation on the future of SIF, with its 'preferred option' being to end the post six-year run-off cover, and is applying to the LSB for a further 12-month extension of SIF (which will be the third one) until at least September 2023. The SRA wanted to leave the provision of cover post-closure to the open market, but insurers are not interested in picking this up. The SRA, announcing its decision, said it still had concerns about the cost-effectiveness of SIF and would be carrying out further work to consider what would be a suitable alternative. Will there be another consultation in 12 months' time? Watch this space.

SRA inspects firms representing Russians

In response to allegations in parliament that law firms are not checking the sanctions list, and questions being raised as to what the SRA are doing to investigate those firms possibly in breach of their regulatory duties, the SRA has started to carry out spot checks on firms and making visits to assess compliance with financial sanctions.

SRA AML visits

Proposed increase in practicing certificate fee

The Law Society is proposing an increase in the PC fee of £11, the first for a number of years, and have launched a consultation

within a survey that it is encouraging all members to complete before 27 May 2022 <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/membership/practising-fee-consultation/>. The fees are the main source of income for the Law Society and, as it says in the introduction to the survey 'The income from these fees determines what we can plan and undertake for you, the profession and wider society.'

Cybercrime threat continues

The SRA have reminded firms that the cybercrime threat has not gone away and simply buying the most up to date anti-virus software is not sufficient. Firms have an obligation to assess the risk based on the way they work and take all reasonable steps to protect the firm and clients, and keep reassessing the risks. Staff need to be trained in what to look for, what to do, and not to do, and firms need to have a plan in place to deal with successful attacks.

The National Crime Agency has produced flyers for both firms and clients to warn of the dangers of different types of cybercrime. One looks at business emails and the other looks at conveyancing fraud and warns of the risk clients run of being taken in by a cyber-attack.

Guidance and Practice Notes

The Law Society has recently issued a new practice note, 'Unbundling civil legal services' and the SRA has updated its guidance on 'Confidentiality of client information', as well as the Q&A on AML on 'How we select firms for AML visits'. If you have a visit coming up, have had one and have some work to do, or just need assistance with AML issues, including the independent AML audit, please get in touch.

The SRA has recently announced it will be running a free webinar on 22 June on AML firm-wide risk assessments, including tips, best practice and areas to avoid.

Disciplinary decisions

Junior solicitor allowed to practice again

A newly qualified solicitor who was struck off two years ago, having left a suitcase containing client documents on a train and not telling the firm immediately, can continue to practise, with conditions on her practising certificate, after the SRA agreed to drop the case. At the initial hearing she represented herself, but following huge attention and a fund raising campaign, she obtained legal representation for the appeal and expert medical evidence was provided relating to conditions relevant to her mental health. The SRA then obtained its own medical evidence and applied to the SDT to withdraw the allegations completely, with no order as to costs.

Fined for preventing complaint to regulatory bodies

A solicitor who made an offer to settle a complaint conditional upon the client not making a complaint to the Legal Ombudsman or the SRA has been fined by the SRA. Following the investigation, the solicitor admitted that his actions were in breach of the standards that solicitors are required to uphold. The SRA considered the fact that he was a senior solicitor, he admitted the breach and imposed sanctions of a public rebuke and £600 costs.

Struck off for drunk-driving

An experienced solicitor was struck off due to not revealing his convictions for drink-driving to his law firm, having previously served a custodial sentence for driving to work when he was disqualified as a result of a drink-driving conviction. He did not notify the SRA about his offences and lied to his firm that he could drive and insure his car. The SDT concluded he misled his firm as well as the SRA and said his conduct was lacking 'probity and integrity expected of a solicitor'.

CAN YOU HELP US FIGHT PAIN?

Sure, we all experience pain. Whether its stubbing your toe or getting a papercut, we all know what it feels like. But for 20% of the UK population, the pain is excruciating and a daily obstacle that is so hard to overcome; conditions include Back pain, Pelvic pain, Migraine, Fibromyalgia, Arthritis, Cancer pain, Nerve pain, Neuropathic pain, CRPS, Diabetic Neuropathy, Dental pain. These are known as chronic pain.

The Pain Relief Foundation based in Aintree, Liverpool is the only registered charity with the aims & objectives to fund research into chronic pain, seeking new treatments to fight the endless suffering it causes, using a multidisciplinary approach.

We promote and provide education and training for doctors and other health professionals on chronic pain and its treatment. We receive no official funding from the NHS or any Government body therefore we rely entirely on charitable contributions & fundraising.

Can you help? You can donate via www.painreliefoundation.org.uk or get in touch via email jo.stephens@painreliefoundation.org.uk

As a charity, not only do we need to help treat chronic pain sufferers, but we also need to make sure they realise that they are not alone and there are people they can talk to.



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.

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Forthcoming Courses

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
13/05/2022	Directors Duties & Shareholder Remedies	Chris Beanland
17/05/2022	Managing the Conveyancing Risks that PI insurers don't like (Online)*	Lorraine Richardson
18/05/2022	CQS for support staff (Online)*	Tracy Thompson
25/05/2022	The 2022 Compliance Conference	Various
10/06/2022	Civil Litigation Update	Andrew McLoughlin
13/06/2022	Contract & Commercial Update	Chris Beanland
15/06/2022	Time Recording Masterclass	Robert Mowbray
17/06/2022	Developments in Domestic Abuse Law and consideration of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021	Safda Mahmood
21/06/2022	Trust Register: getting to grips with difficult TRS issues ahead of the 1 Sept 2022 deadline (Online)*	John Bunker
05/07/2022	Commercial Property Update	Richard Snape
06/07/2022	CQS: demonstrating compliance & surviving the assessment	Tracy Thompson

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

NEW

Managing the Conveyancing Risks that PI insurers don't like !

with Lorraine Richardson

:ONLINE* Tuesday 17th May, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

This course will look at those areas & will help practitioners to consider how they might mitigate those risks.

Covering:

- Estate management charges
- Escalating ground rents
- New builds – acting on multiple plots
- Buyer funded builds
- Cyber threats

**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 INFO / TO BOOK](#)

The 2022 Compliance Conference

Wednesday 25th May 2022, 9.30am till 3pm

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

It is now more important than ever to stay on top of what good compliance looks like and to show precisely how you demonstrate your best practice to third parties.

This conference will be your one-stop shop for best practice legal regulatory compliance and will give you practical support to help you stay ahead.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 9.15 – 9.30 | Registration & refreshments |
| 9.30 – 9.35 | Welcome & introduction ~ Mickaela Fox, Partner, Weightmans LLP |
| 9.35 – 10.15 | Crypto Assets: Friend or Foe ~ Aidan Larkin, Asset Reality |
| 10.15 – 11.00 | Good compliant Handling & Learning From Complaints ~ Jason Chapman, LeO |
| 11.00 – 11.15 | refreshment break |
| 11.15 – 12.00 | Anti Money Laundering Update ~ Nicola Watkiss, Legal Risk |
| 12.00 – 12.30 | How to prepare your firm for a visit from the SRA in relation to your law firm's AML obligations ~ Kate Burt, Head of Risk & Compliance, Legl (sponsors) |
| 12.30 – 1.15 | lunch break |
| 1.15 – 2.00 | The future of the Solicitors Indemnity Fund (SIF) and post six year run-off cover (PSYROC) ~ Linda Lee of Radcliffes Le Brasseur on behalf of The Law Society |
| 2.00 – 2.45 | The dark side of technology ~ Andrew Allen, Aabyss |
| 2.45 – 3.00 | Summary & thanks |



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Civil Litigation Update

with Andrew McLoughlin

Friday 10th June, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

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

The course will include changes to the rules and guidance on the up-to-date case law. Comprehensive supporting notes support your time for reflection after the course to complete your professional development plan.

Topics covered include:

- Part 36 Update
- Procedure in practice – recent case law on procedure and changes to the CPR
- Relief from sanctions – same old story? – implied sanctions
- Case law review on practice for the last six months View Training Course
- Changes on the horizon – Impacts on your practice

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

Contract & Commercial Update with Chris Beanland

Monday 13th June, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

This **online** course provides busy practitioners with a practical update on contract and commercial developments over the last year. Aimed at both contentious and non-contentious lawyers it will give attendees practical pointers to use in their practice areas.

Covering but is not limited to:

- Johnny Rotten's attempt to invoke every conceivable kind of estoppel rejected and defeated by implied term
- Exploiting monopoly position is not economic duress
- No implied term that obligation to pay rent suspended when premises closed due to Covid
- 12% compounded default interest was penalty
- Rare example of onerous term not incorporated into contract because insufficient steps taken to bring it to party's attention
- Are there special rules for construction of settlement agreements?
- Does a clause requiring a party to 'take all reasonable action' to mitigate loss compel a party to commence litigation against a third party?
- No frustration of contract where contract allocates risk

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.

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


***NEW* Time Recording Masterclass**
 with Robert Mowbray
 ONLINE/RECORDED: Wednesday 15th June, 2pm - 5pm

This session uses case studies to demonstrate why full recording is so vitally important, how to achieve full recording and the necessity to produce robust narratives which will support the billing process.


Covering:

- Time recording case study – how do you currently record?
- Why making a profit matters and the relationship between the time recorded and profit
 - The beneficiaries of increased profit
 - Normal levels of profit and the impact of higher levels of time capture on profits
- Best practice for time recording
- It is about recording the “cost” of something and not its “value”
- The four key principles
- How to write client friendly narratives
- Linking time recorded into the billing process

& more ...

Competencies: D

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)


Online: Developments in Domestic Abuse Law and consideration of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021
 ONLINE with Safda Mahmood on Friday 17th June, 11am - 1pm

The Domestic Abuse Act has finally made Royal Assent and aspects of it are already in place. Are you aware of the implications in family cases, particularly in relation to matters relating to children? The Act changes various areas of law, principally family and children law.


The various areas to be covered are as follows:

- What Orders are already available, and how do they work?
- Non – Molestation or Occupation Orders
- How do the courts deal with the President’s Guidance in terms of Without – Notice Orders and Return Dates in light of Covid – 19?
- What do I need to know when acting for the applicant?
- How do I ensure the respondent gets a fair trial?

& 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 for more information](#)


Commercial Property Update with Richard Snape
 Tuesday 5th July, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

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


Commercial property is undergoing major changes, especially in the post pandemic era. In particular, the Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Act 2022 which came into force on 4 March 2022.

Topics covered include:

- The Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Act 2022
- Rent arrears and debt claims including the effects of the Coronavirus Bill
- Lease renewals and the effect of Coronavirus
- Latest on energy performance of buildings
- Latest on Town and Village Greens
- Changes to Planning Use Classes

Competencies: B

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****NEW** Trust Register: getting to grips with difficult TRS issues ahead of the 1 Sept 2022 deadline**

ONLINE with John Bunker on Tuesday 21st June, 1pm - 2.30pm

This online course is aimed at all practitioners who do any form of private client work, with property, wills, estates, tax and trust planning or compliance; and anyone with responsibility for complying with anti-money laundering regulations, as these 5 MLD provisions have a largely AML purpose.

Covering:-

- The limits of the exclusions from the need to register, including the new bare trusts exclusion
- Co-ownership of property: which situations need to go on TRS even though clients may not see as a trust?
- Will trusts: the new understanding of when you need to register just the will trust, or the property trust, or both
- How trusts arising from estates will work, during and after the two-year period
- Life policy trusts: when do they need to be registered and what about the old trusts?

& more...

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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.

This month, we begin with a story from Carpenters Group...

So this week the wonderful Gill is retiring after 28 years at Carpenters Group. She started as John's PA just the 2 of them! We will miss her enormously. It would take too long to explain why! She has touched so many people.

To mark this we had a girls' afternoon tea.

Queen Beryl 84 (a lifelong missionary) who joined us as a temp secretary at 62 & retired at 80.

Eileen 72 who retired last year after 20 years with us.

I will be 25 years at Carpenters in June so between the 4 of us that's 91 years service!

Beryl, Eileen & Gill are the type of women you feel proud to know & John & I are so grateful that they chose us & stayed so long.

To give you a little flavour of the mischief Beryl & Eileen brought to us, I've included a few photos! When I turned up at our Race for Life one year to find them dressed as nuns, it's a moment I'll never forget. A hilarious heart-rending one.

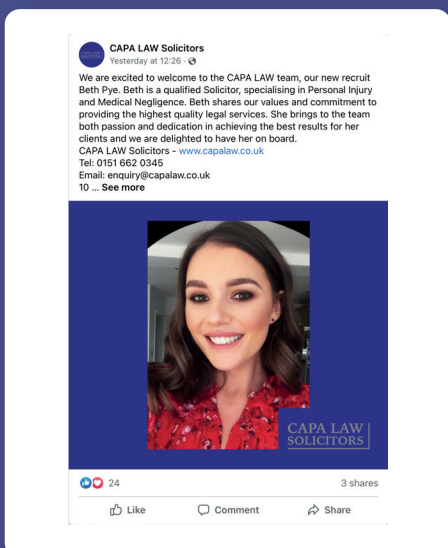
Thank you for the privilege of knowing you all & for being a part of our Carpenters' journey. Wishing you the happiest retirement. We will keep in touch.

#retirement #girlpower #privilege #thankyou

Donna Scully
Director/Owner at Carpenters Group



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



Loneliness in the workplace



Humans are hard-wired to connect - we are tribal and social animals. We are biologically programmed to need other humans, and a feeling of belonging and connection drives our happiness. Despite this many of us will know what it's like to be lonely, especially after living through two years of reduced social interaction.

Loneliness arises from either a lack of social relationships or a lack of close emotional bonds with those we have relationships with. It can occur because we work from home and don't interact with colleagues often or have the time to pursue social connection, we live alone and rarely see others, or it may be that we just don't have the quality of connection in our everyday lives, we don't have people we feel close to or share values with. Connection exists between people when they feel seen, heard and valued, when they can give and receive without judgement and when they derive sustenance and strength from that relationship.

Many lawyers have contacted LawCare feeling disconnected from work, their teams and their manager. Although increased use of technology has brought people virtually closer, it has reduced the opportunities for face-to-face communication and instilled a sense of psychological loneliness. No screen interaction can ever equal the connections made in real time and space.

Whilst it is normal to occasionally feel lonely, long-term loneliness is associated with an increased risk of certain mental health problems, including depression, anxiety and increased stress. People with strong social relationships are 50 percent less likely to die prematurely than those with weak social relationships.

As Professor Brene Brown says "A deep sense of love and belonging is an irresistible need of all people. We are biologically, cognitively, physically, and spiritually wired to love, to be loved, and to belong. When those needs are not met, we don't function as we were meant to.

We may think we want money, power, fame, beauty, eternal youth or a new car, but at the root of most of these desires is a need to belong, to be accepted, to connect with others and to be loved".

Loneliness in the workplace

Most of us spend more time working than doing anything else, particularly in the legal profession where long hours are endemic allowing little time for family and friends. If you are lonely at work and feel isolated from others either physically or emotionally it can adversely affect job performance, job satisfaction, creativity and work engagement. You are more likely to be off work regularly, to leave for another job, and it may also lead to problems at home. If someone is lonely at work it can also negatively affect their colleagues and the organisation as a whole. Loneliness cost UK businesses an estimated £2.5 billion each year pre-pandemic. Research conducted by Gallup the consulting firm found that employees with close and best friends in the workplace are more engaged in work,

which results in high-quality work and greater employee well-being.

Who is most at risk of loneliness?

Men are often lonelier than women. A report from Cigna insurance company in the US revealed that nearly two-thirds of men (63%) felt lonelier when compared to women as men were more likely to spend time socialising with colleagues but tended to hide their true selves at work which made them feel lonely. Men have been found to be more reluctant admitting being lonely than women due to the social stigma associated with it in some cultures.

Entry-level employees and senior executives were found to be the loneliest. Leaders such as Tim Cook the CEO at Apple reported feeling lonely despite being surrounded by thousands of employees.

What employers can do

- **Check in regularly.** Managers should check in regularly, little and often works best, and informal chats are

as important as work conversations. Ask how people are and how they are managing their workload. Make sure employees are looking after themselves. Ask them about their lives outside of work. In our Life in the Law research into legal workplaces wellbeing we discovered that of a wide range of workplace measures available, from private health insurance to mental health training, regular catch-ups or appraisals were reported to be the most helpful.

- **Pay attention to vulnerable groups.** Juniors will often need more support, and are less likely to have a comfortable home working set-up, with those in flat shares or living with their parents often having to work from their bedroom.
- **Build a culture of connection and community.** Look for meaningful ways to increase connection/interaction at work and meet employees' psychological needs of social exchange. Brainstorms, informal tea-breaks, weekly catch ups, team days, peer support/mentoring programmes can all be useful here.

- **Encourage people back to the workplace.** Incentivise and encourage people to spend at least some time in the workplace interacting with others, even if the majority of their work is carried out at home.
- **Ensure a work/life balance is possible.** Encourage everyone to work sensible hours – staff will take cues from how leaders behave. Take full lunch breaks; rest and recuperate after busy periods; avoid working at weekends; take annual leave entitlement. Make sure teams are well resourced in order to make this happen.

If you are feeling lonely, LawCare can help. We've been providing emotional support to legal professionals, support staff and concerned family members for 25 years. You can call our confidential helpline on 0800 279 6888, email us at support@lawcare.org.uk or access online chat and other resources at www.lawcare.org.uk. We offer free peer support to those working in the law via our network of around 90 peer supporters, all of whom work in or have worked in the law.

Mental Health Awareness Week May 9 -15



I am pleased to share with you our resources for this year's Mental Health Awareness Week. The theme is loneliness and we are focusing on promoting our peer support programme. LawCare has about 80 peer supporters all of whom work in, or have worked in the law. They use their own lived experience to offer support, encouragement and mentoring to others who need it, usually over 2-3 phone calls although it can be less or more than this.

The week offers a great opportunity to promote LawCare to your community so that anyone that needs it can access our free, confidential emotional support. Please do mention us in your newsletters, e-newsletters, magazines, websites, on social media and anywhere you promote your member benefits to help spread the word. We have some special Mental Health Awareness Week resources including articles and social media graphics available to download [here](#) and some general LawCare resources [here](#). We are also hosting a webinar on loneliness on May 10, find out more or sign up [here](#).

If you need anything else from us, including images in different sizes, please do let us know.

We are running a regular webinar each month, aimed at addressing some of the key findings of our [Life in the Law](#)

research. Our Life in the Law research found that legal professionals are at a high risk of burnout. This webinar, hosted by LawCare's Mary B Jackson and Trish McLellan is for anybody working in the legal profession interested in recognising the signs of burnout and strategies to prevent it. Sign up [here](#). Please feel free to share this in your networks.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks for your support.

Best wishes,
Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Rimmer

Chief Executive

LawCare

07951 277741

www.lawcare.org.uk

Talk to us

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a white rectangular card. The card features the 'LawCare' logo in blue text, with a red horizontal line underneath. The person holding the card is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. The background is blurred, showing more of the person's torso and the shirt.

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in the law**

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