

December 2022

Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

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



195th anniversary Annual Dinner and Legal Awards

Report and photos on page 18



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December 2022

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Fri, 16th December
 Wed, 25th January
 Fri 24th February
 Tue, 28th March
 Wed, 26th April
 Thu, 25th May
 Tue, 27th June
 Wed, 26th July
 Fri, 25th August
 Mon, 25th September
 Tue, 24th October
 Mon, 27th November



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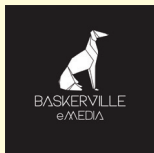
Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

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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Editorial Committee Dates 2023

Meetings start at 01.00 pm on a Tuesday, except where noted.

17/01/2023
15/02/2023*
21/03/2023
18/04/2023
16/05/2023
20/06/2023
18/07/2023
15/08/2023
19/09/2023
17/10/2023
21/11/2023

*Wednesday

Welcome to the December edition of Liverpool Law



It was lovely to see so many of you at the Annual Dinner and congratulations to all those who won awards and those shortlisted. It was a fantastic evening and so nice to have a sense of normality again. We have an array of pictures in this magazine and also a link for you to review the full album at your leisure.

We also have an article from our Toastmaster from the Dinner detailing his experience during the Falkland War, absolutely fascinating, please give that a read if you can. Reading things like this really does put some of our trivial issues into focus, it certainly did for me anyway. I am currently in the midst of dealing with school/nursery bugs and early pick ups and found myself moaning until that article put a quick stop to that!

We have a list of our calendar of meetings and events for the first quarter of 2023 featured this month so you can get organised for next year. We have an event at Helix on 7 December to mark 100 years of women in the law, if you would like to attend please register. I hope to meet many more of you there and have an opportunity to catch up.

As always we have an earlier deadline for our January edition of 16 December so please send anything across by then so we have time to sort the magazine before the festive break. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and here's hoping 2023 is better than recent years!

Many thanks
Jennifer Powell, Editor
Weightmans
editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk



Employment Law Committee seeks new members

The Committee is composed of both Claimant and Respondent practitioners from firms of different sizes and also in-house lawyers – all applications are welcome. We seek to influence bodies including the Government, Employment Lawyers Association, the Employment Tribunals and ACAS to take into account the interests of our members when deciding on the policies and procedures which affect our practice on a daily basis. We are often joined by speakers giving informal talks on recent cases and updates; the Committee provides an excellent opportunity for keeping up to date and professional networking. For more information and joining instructions, please see:

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

From the President

The latest from the President, Steven Zdolny

I can't quite believe we're already in December, and we'll soon be looking forward to our Christmas celebrations!

As we're almost at the end of the year, I thought I'd take the opportunity to replicate the speech I gave at our recent AGM, as this provides an overview of the year to date:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022: PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Ladies and gentlemen.

"In the Liverpool Law Society archives, lie the AGM addresses of previous Presidents. They are a monument to my predecessors' industry, ingenuity and learning. Noble thoughts, ruthless analysis, resounding polemics, disturbed once a year as the President in office picks them over to find a theme or a quotation fit for his or her purpose. This year, they have lain in peace, for I have known that I could not match or imitate them." So began the President's speech to the AGM 50 years ago!

Liverpool Law Society was founded on 25 August 1827, and from those humble beginnings, we have developed a vibrant Society with over 2500 members.

It has been my great honour to serve as your President, in the Society's 195th year. It has been a great privilege to continue the excellent work of so many distinguished predecessors, including our Immediate Past President, Julie O'Hare, who served a historic 2-year term.

Our AGM gives us the opportunity to reflect on all the important work undertaken by the Society for our members, but also for the positive contribution our profession makes to our local community. Liverpool Law Society is here for you, our members, and we are stronger together.

Firstly, let me report on what I and the Society has been up to over the last year.

I have attended General Committee, Future Planning, Finance & Policy, Regulatory Committee, Joint V and Law Society meetings, as well many officer discussions. We have held regular meetings with local councillors and MPs, and have developed even stronger relationships with all our local universities.

I have attended more formal dinners than I can remember, and whilst all have been a pleasure, my waistline has



certainly expanded to satisfy far too many sticky toffee puddings! I have been to Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, and attended many other professional dinners. I can report that our Society's jewel is the envy of all, although I do always worry when waiters ask me whether the jewels are real and how much is it worth!

Here are some of the key events of the year:

- The Society welcomed a record of 26 schools and 214 Year 12 students and teachers at our Pathways to the Legal Profession event in 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.
- One of the highlights in June was to host the celebration of those who are newly qualified in the local legal profession over the last two years. We were honoured to have His Honour Judge Parker, who is the Designated Family Judge for Merseyside and Cheshire, to inspire our young professionals and hand out certificates of congratulation. Prizes were also awarded for achievement in professional examinations based on the results of the Legal Practice Course at the Liverpool John Moores University and at the University of Law. Congratulations again to all the newly qualified legal professionals and prize winners for their wonderful achievements.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022: PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

- The Quiz, expertly organised by the MJLD team, 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!
- Sarah Poblete and I joined the Law Society's Local Law Societies Conference in July. This was held online, and covered a wide array of topics, as well as being an opportunity to network with other local law societies across the country.
- Gaynor Williams, attended the Relaunch of Merseyside Law Centre's Face to Face free legal advice services, in July, and Jeremy attended the LJMU Liverpool Advice Centre opening in November. It is with great admiration that we see our local law centres flourishing and being able to offer an invaluable service to the most vulnerable members of society, especially at a time with such heightened demand.
- Julie O'Hare, along with a number of other directors, hosted the Law Society's then Vice President Lubna Shuja in July, and we have had the pleasure of meeting her at a number of subsequent events, including at the Labour Party conference in September.
- I had the honour, along with Jeremy Myers, of being invited by the Lord-Lieutenant to the Merseyside Civic Service of Remembrance for Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II at a packed Liverpool Cathedral in September. Although a solemn occasion, it was a wonderful service and an opportunity to pay our respects, and reflect on Her Late Majesty's incredible duty and devotion to our country and the Commonwealth.
- It was wonderful to have lunch with our Past Presidents on two occasions during the year, and to share updates on the work of the Society and plans for the future. The Past Presidents are always very supportive and offer sound advice, which is much appreciated.
- In September, we had a great turnout from the local legal community for the Liverpool Legal Walk. Organised by the Access to Justice Foundation, and supported by our Society, this was not just a lovely opportunity for some fresh air after work on a 5K walk, but also more importantly, a way to raise funds for the advice sector. We raised over £7,600, which is great.
- I very much enjoyed hosting our Leaders in Law Dinner in October at the Malmaison, along with Emma Palmer and Gaynor Williams. We had an excellent attendance, and the event was kindly sponsored by Liverpool John Moores University.
- It was my honour to welcome the distinguished Sir Mark Hedley as our Guest speaker at the Conkerton Memorial Lecture in October at Liverpool Town Hall. He delivered a very personal and thought provoking lecture on: 'Judicial Discretion: is it compatible with justice?'
- At the invitation of the High Sheriff of Merseyside, Jeremy Myers and I had the honour of representing the Society at the Service to mark the Beginning of the Legal Year in October at Liverpool Cathedral. I had the privilege of joining the procession, along with the distinguished members of the judiciary, academia and other local dignitaries.
- Finally, our flagship event of the year was our Annual Dinner

and Legal Awards held earlier this month, attended by about 400 members and guests. It was the perfect opportunity to showcase the achievements of our members, and to recognise the strength and excellence of our wider local legal community. Congratulations to all our shortlisted nominees and winners!

Alongside these events we have continued with our CPD Programme of Seminars and conferences. This has been a very difficult year for training, as seen by the accounts. The provision of CPD training has been a major source of income historically. But there has certainly been a decline in the demand, particularly during the pandemic. This decline in training income is the biggest challenge facing the Society. As such we have set up a new Training Forum, chaired by our Jo Downey. Thank you for all those that attended and for the great ideas put forward, to make sure our training offer is tailored to our members' needs.

This is a rather poignant AGM, as it shall be our last AGM at our Helix office. Following a member consultation, the Society's General Committee unanimously decided to serve notice to terminate our lease of our Helix premises, and the date to vacate the premises is 20 March 2023. This decision, although sad, aims to ensure the Society has a sustainable and successful future for the benefit of our members. If it is financially viable, the Society can consider taking out new premises in the future.

The Society works as a team, and I'd therefore like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of the following:

- Thank you to all the wonderful staff at the Society: Sarah, Liz, Jo, Ann and Kimberley for all their tremendous support throughout the year. Thank you for all you have done to keep the show on the road and to make sure that we have got to this point without any disasters on my part! I could not have done this job without each of you.
- Thank you to the officers who have served the Society throughout the last year: Julie O'Hare our Immediate Past President, Jo Francis our former Vice President, Jeremy Myers our current Vice President, Gaynor Williams our Joint Hon Secretary, and James Mannouch our Treasurer. Thank you also to David Tournafond, who not only is our longest serving director, at an incredible 27 years, but who also stepped in at very short notice to provide temporary cover as acting chair of our Finance & Policy Committee. Thank you for all your excellent collaboration and support; you've been a pleasure to work with.
- Thank you to our General Committee – all 27 directors and Chairs of all our specialist committees, who have selflessly given their time and expertise to drive the Society forward. You will have already seen from our Committee Report what sterling work our Committee Chairs do. Each

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022: PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

and every one of the chairs are dedicated to making their committee relevant to the needs of members. Our whole membership owe them gratitude for their hard work, dedication and service.

- I'd also like to thank all those that have agreed to become officers, chairs and have nominated to stand for election to our General Committee for the next year. The Society could not continue to function as it does without you and the continual willingness of people to put themselves forward to get involved.
- Finally, a special thank you to you, our members, for

continuing to loyally support the Society, and ensuring it remains vibrant and successful for generations to come.

Thank you!

Wishing you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Steven Zdolyny

President

president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Introducing the new Director of Liverpool Law Society, Paul Kilty



Paul Kilty and family

We are delighted to announce that Paul Kilty has been elected as a Director of Liverpool Law Society effective from October 2022.

Paul is a Criminal Defence Solicitor with DDP Law in Bootle, who is originally from South Liverpool and a former pupil of Gateacre Comprehensive School. Whilst still at school, Paul was offered some work experience at DPP Law, who were friends of the family. He found himself attracted to the variety of work a legal career could offer, specifically Criminal Law. He still finds daily motivation in dealing with people from all walks of life and achieving successful outcomes for his clients, especially if they happen to be the underdog.

After leaving school, Paul took his LLB at Huddersfield University and then went on to do his LPC at Chester College of Law. He gained experience in various legal disciplines including Contract, Civil and Family Law which he found interesting, but was keener on attending court to face the challenges of criminal cases and decided that he would be best suited to specialise in Criminal Law. Paul is currently an associate Director at DPP. He has done Higher Rights of Audience so can advocate in Crown Court and has done appearances at the Appeal Court in London.

Paul has been on the criminal committee of LLS for 4 years and finds their meetings invaluable, especially having discussions with other parties regarding the criminal justice system (where it doesn't involve a particular case and they can work together to improve it to resolve issues that impact on each other's practices). His main aim as a Director is to revitalise and try to bolster attendances for meetings. He is looking to increase their public profile along with training courses, encouraging members to attend and raise any pressing issues. He also hopes to increase membership of the Committee. Part of his role will also be to respond to consultations.

Paul lives on the Wirral and is married with two sons aged 8 and 5. Outside of work, he and his wife enjoy a lot of activities with the boys. When time permits, he travels to the Lake District to do the Wainwright walks. He is part of a Rambling group which consists of Lawyers and ex Lawyers, who are all very enthusiastic about being outdoors and clearing the head before going back to the daily grind. Paul is a big fan of Liverpool FC and has been a season ticket holder for 20 years. Whenever possible, he will also attend the biggest events such as the FA Cup and Champions League Finals. We wish Paul every success in his new role.

LLS Meetings & events – December 2022

These meetings and events will be held virtually unless notified otherwise (F2F):

Start Time	Meeting/Event
13/12/2022 12:30	General Committee (In person)
15/12/2022 13:00	Civil Litigation Sub-Committee
19/12/2022 18:00	Merseyside Christian Fellowship Carol Service @ St Nick's Church

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
Criminal Practice	Reviewing the Totality guideline	11/01/23
Regulatory	Consumer protection for post six-year negligence – closes 3rd January 2023	03/01/23

Consultation Papers Submitted:

A response to the Assuring high standards in the police station consultation paper by The Sentencing Council was submitted by the Society's Criminal Practice Sub-Committee before the deadline of 18th November 2022.

MSB support employees ambitions

The power of ESG on employee experience / living my purpose at MSB, one ESG project at a time



Katie Kennedy

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) has evolved rapidly over the years and is now at the top of nearly every business' agenda. It's a must-have asset to add value to a business and gives

a competitive advantage over other companies working in the field.

At MSB Solicitors, ESG is so much more than HR's ambition to tick boxes and the company's nice-to-have accessory to attract new staff. ESG is, and always has been, the firm's top priority, which is what naturally draws both aspiring and established legal professionals to progress their careers here.

Joining MSB as a Paralegal in October 2021, it was refreshing to be part of an organisation which puts all its people – no matter their position – and their ideas at the forefront. From day one, I was quickly encouraged to inject my own passions into the firm and its commitments.

Within the first year of working with

MSB, I joined the ESG Committee. The group was established to provide a platform to champion diversity and ensure the firm offers equal opportunities for everyone. It is here myself, along with all MSB staff, are given the space to create change based on our own experiences and beliefs.

Making MSB dementia-friendly

My first mission was to lead the way in making MSB 100% dementia friendly. As part of my training contract interview, I was given the opportunity to present my mission and the way we would effectively implement it into MSB's culture. Six months later, I am proud to say this was successfully accomplished as of October 26th.

Around eight years ago, my family was

hit with the devastating news that my granddad had dementia. It was a first experience for us all, so to ensure we could support both my granddad and each other appropriately, we trained as Dementia Friends. Dementia Friends works with people to help transform the way we think and act about dementia – anyone can train to become one and in turn you're rewarded with the ability to support people suffering with or affected by dementia.

There are around 540,000 carers of people with dementia in England, with around 900,000 people estimated to be living with dementia. It's estimated that one in three people will care for a person with dementia in their lifetime, half of those are employed, and it's thought that around 66,000 people have already cut their working hours to care for a family member, and 50,000 have left work altogether.

The benefits of becoming a dementia friendly workplace not only impacts the wellbeing of our employees at MSB, but our overall organisation and our clients. With our status as a 100% dementia friendly business, we have the tools and knowledge to support and understand everyone affected by the condition. It has also been incorporated into our HR structure, with all new starters being tasked with completing the training to ensure all staff are aware of the impact dementia can have on those affected.

Supporting domestic abuse victims through 'safe days'

My second focus was inspired by a recent initiative launched back in my hometown in Ireland. Earlier this year, the Northern Ireland Assembly passed legislation that entitles victims of domestic abuse (DA) to 10 days paid leave each year. The leave is intended to be used for issues relating to the abuse, including obtaining legal advice, finding alternative accommodation, taking advantage of healthcare, obtaining welfare support and protecting family

members – though it's not exclusively restricted to this, either.

Having a particular interest and focus on DA, I was inspired to implement an initiative that would offer victims the same potentially life-saving support, so I presented the idea to MSB.

Bringing the suggestion to the ESG Committee, I was met with enthusiasm from everyone, including Managing Partner, Emma Carey, who jumped at the chance to support the initiative and asked how we could roll it out as soon as possible.

Since the initial conversation in April, MSB have followed in the footsteps of the Bill and taken steps to implement its 'Safe Days' policy. The policy has been so carefully considered and rolled out across the firm for all staff members, with every minute detail thought out to ensure our staff have all the tools needed to support them, not only in the workplace, but in their personal lives too.

Safe leave affords MSB employees the opportunity to deal with issues relating to DA, providing them with the option to utilise paid leave when they need time away from work as a consequence of abuse, this covers attending GP appointments, Women's Aid meetings and/or fleeing the family home. Safe Leave will be a 'day one' right meaning not minimum period of service is required to make use of the policy.

It has introduced yet another safety measure to protect the

staff at MSB and manage DA in the workplace, which proves that ESG is not just something MSB does to tick boxes, but instead is in place to offer genuine impact to its people's lives.

MSB has created an environment where all staff, no matter their experience, job title or ranking in the legal ladder, feel confident to bring ideas to the table and make suggestions for how the firm can incorporate ESG into its initiatives.

As employees, we all feel empowered at work, and have confidence in knowing that our opinions, ideas and passions are valued. There is no denying that by creating this type of culture, it has resulted in a stronger job performance, job satisfaction and commitment to the business company wide.

At MSB, employees' differences and ambitions are nurtured; the firm adds value to employees, while simultaneously allowing us to add value to MSB; and in turn, it stands for something meaningful.

Katie Kennedy,
Trainee Solicitor

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Bell Lamb & Joynson appoint a new head of Private Client



Jessica Flaherty

Liverpool-based Bell Lamb & Joynson, which specialises in Private Client work, Criminal Law, Family Law, and Conveyancing, has expanded its team with the appointment of a new Head of Private Client, Jessica Flaherty, who joined the firm on the 31st of October.

Jessica trained at Levins Solicitors in Liverpool and qualified in 2015. During her tenure with Levins, Jessica progressed to head of department for both Residential Conveyancing and Private Client in 2018. Over the years Jessica has amassed a wealth of experience in all aspects of conveyancing and private client law. In 2021 Jessica also qualified as a Trust and Estate Practitioner after completing the STEP Diploma in Trust and Estates. She is also a Full Member of Solicitors for the Elderly. Jessica loves working with clients and partners in the local community spreading the word on the importance of making a Will and having Lasting Powers of Attorney.

"I am so excited to have joined such an award-winning and respected firm like Bell

Lamb & Joynson. The firm has such a long and well-respected history serving clients across the North West, and thanks to their forward-thinking approach to using technology, they have grown their client base across the UK. I am really looking forward to working with Mike Leeman, the partners, and the wider team, and I am excited to help them drive the private client practice forward and to achieving the best results for every client," Jessica said.

Mike Leeman, Managing Partner added: *"Bell Lamb & Joynson have really grown over the past two years, and we look forward to continuing to grow and expand our private client remit with Jessica at its head. We will continue to offer the very best legal advice and service to our private clients and are so pleased to have Jessica on board to help us do this."*

Cullimore Dutton appoints new IFA



David Gaweda

Chester legal and financial services firm Cullimore Dutton has appointed a new independent financial advisor to support its growth.

David Gaweda has joined the company's in-house financial services team, which is headed up by Dominic Richmond.

David, who lives in Ellesmere, Shropshire, has a wealth of experience and is the fourth IFA in Cullimore

Dutton's growing team which offers support, guidance and expert financial advice.



Dominic Richmond and David Gaweda

Dominic said: *"We're delighted to welcome David to our growing team of independent financial advisors. The combination of our legal and financial services enables us to provide a more comprehensive offering to our clients."*

David said: *"It's great to join the Cullimore Dutton team at such an exciting time with the recent new office move and the continuing expansion of the services the firm is able to offer clients."*

"I hope to add to the team's broad wealth of expertise and to help broaden our client base across Cheshire and into Shropshire."

Cullimore Dutton recently moved to a prestigious new office in Newgate Street, Chester.

Real estate solicitor Amanda Hurst joins Excello Law in Liverpool



Amanda Hurst

Amanda Hurst has joined national firm Excello Law based in Liverpool. Qualifying in 2002, she has a wide range of commercial property experience as

well as specialisms in healthcare and education. Her focus lies with commercial landlord and tenant matters, as well as property acquisitions and disposals. She moved to Excello from Hill Dickinson, where she headed up the national healthcare property commercial team.

Amanda was recently listed in the Legal 500 2023 directory for both commercial property and public sector (health) in Liverpool as a 'Next-Generation Partner'. On joining Excello, Amanda commented: "I am really excited to join other like-minded, experienced consultants and continue to provide an excellent service to clients whilst working flexibly."

Julie Mogan, regional director at Excello,

said: "We are delighted to welcome Amanda to our real estate team in the north west. She is highly valued by her clients and joins at an exciting time in the firm's history in Liverpool, with a growing team across the region and the launch of our new office facilities in Derby Square. It's great to have her on board."

Jo Losty, director at Excello, said: "Amanda joins a successful national real estate team and her expertise is a valuable addition to the services we provide. We're always pleased to hear from lawyers looking to enjoy greater freedom to build their practice with all the infrastructure and regulatory support from an established consultant model firm like Excello."

100 Years of Women in Law

December 2022 marks 100 years since the first woman was admitted as a solicitor in England and Wales. Liverpool Law Society's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee is delighted to be hosting an event at the Society's premises on Wednesday, 7th December to celebrate the occasion and to bring you live streaming of speeches from the Law Society in Chancery Lane, London, to mark the occasion.

All members of Liverpool Law Society,

guests and others in the legal sector are invited to attend this free event. This will be a chance to mix and mingle whilst celebrating a milestone event for women in the law.

6pm Registration & refreshments

6.20pm Welcome by Julie O'Hare, Solicitor, Immediate Past President of Liverpool Law Society and founder of the Society's EDI Committee.

6.30pm – 7pm Live stream from Chancery Lane of Lubna Shuja, President of the Law Society, Dana Denis-Smith, CEO & Founder of First 100 Years

7pm Networking

Please RSVP to committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk to book your place. You will receive an email that confirms your booking.

EDI Committee



Trio of board appointments at North West law firm strengthens Court of Protection offering



Danielle Carter, Chris Stone and Heather Horsewood

A North West law firm has boosted its capacity to further support clients with its latest Trust Corporation expansion.

Jackson Lees, which has offices across Liverpool, Manchester and Wirral, has appointed three new directors to the Jackson Lees Trust Corporation, a body set up to ensure continuity, availability and professionalism for those accessing the firm's private client services, including Court of Protection services.

Danielle Carter, Chris Stone and Heather Horsewood have joined the board of directors, taking its total to nine members.

Launched in 2019 the Trust Corporation can act as executor, attorney, trustee or property and financial affairs deputy.

The Jackson Lees Trust Corporation means that the Court of Protection team are able to support clients with an increasingly streamlined and more flexible service moving away from the previous reliance on the practice of Head of Department and former panel deputy Jane MacGregor holding deputyship appointments in her personal name.

The Trust Corporation gives clients better continuity and increased efficiency from the team and brings a combined knowledge of 45 years of deputyship work experience between Jane MacGregor, Joanne McNally and the newly appointed Danielle Carter.

Joanne McNally is a Director of the Trust Corporation and Deputy Head of the Court of Protection department at Jackson Lees. Joanne said: "Client outcomes and improving their experience is always at the top of our agenda, so setting up the Trust Corporation was a massive step for the business as a whole. It maintains continuity of service for clients as a result of more people being available to make decisions and sign documents without reliance on one individual which can cause delays should that individual be unavailable for short periods through holiday or sickness or indeed wish to retire."

"I am extremely proud of the department that I manage. Our legal teams are dedicated and passionate about looking after the affairs of individuals who cannot make important decisions for themselves, ensuring their best interests are at the heart of everything we do. It has been

really exciting seeing the benefits that the Trust Corporation has brought for our clients. It has been equally exciting to appoint new members to the board meaning that there are more specialised decision makers working on behalf of our clients and being entrusted with making and supporting such decisions."

Joining Jane and Joanne on the board is Danielle Carter who is a Court of Protection Solicitor, and Wills, Trusts and Probate solicitors Heather Horsewood and Chris Stone. Other existing members are solicitors Esther Leach, Sally Johnson, Andrew Holroyd and Haley Farrell.

Esther Leach, Managing Director at the Jackson Lees Group, said: "We are really excited to have Danielle, Chris and Heather join the Jackson Lees Trust Corporation Board of Directors. As experts in their fields and with years of experience assisting clients, they each bring something incredibly valuable to their new roles. There has been an increased demand for the Court of Protection department's services in recent years, so it's essential that we are equipped with the appropriate resource to offer an efficient, robust service to our clients.

"Having an entire body that can take responsibility for the affairs of those who do not have the mental capacity to make these decisions themselves means that the overall offering is massively improved.

"Looking forward, we're confident that we can continue to expand the Trust Corporation further, bringing in more experts from the fields of Court of Protection and Wills, Trusts and Probate."

Jackson Lees is an award-winning solicitors which provides a full-service legal solution to private and commercial clients. With over 300 committed employees spanning over four offices, the Jackson Lees Group has a wide range of expertise to support legal needs.

Excello Law acquires My Business Counsel growing its national consultant lawyer base in London and the Midlands

Excello Law, a leader in the consultancy law firm space, has taken a pioneering leap in its growth strategy with the acquisition of the established fee share firm My Business Counsel (MBC), also one of the early adopters of the model. This unique acquisition marks the first step in the consolidation of the fee share model. The acquisition is believed to be the largest of its kind within the dispersed consultancy model, and the ninth law firm acquisition completed by the Excello team increasing Excello's team to 200 lawyers.

Established in 2011 by the founders Sandip and Rasneet Sohal, with lawyers based in London and the Midlands, MBC has grown to a turnover of £2.5 million and 40 consultant lawyers with its core focus on corporate and commercial work. **George Bisnought**, founder and CEO of Excello Law, commented: "This is an exciting development in our growth strategy. We continue to grow both organically and by acquisition and we are currently exploring other similar opportunities in the market."

"We're delighted to welcome all the team, including MBC's central business support. We were impressed with MBC who share our values and belief in the future of the fee share model. I am proud that Excello Law continues to set itself apart in the new model space with its commitment to a growth strategy centred on recruiting the best lawyers rather than one focused purely on numbers of lawyers."

Rasneet commented: "We are delighted to join Excello, whose reputation and business model aligns with that of MBC. Excello is an ambitious firm, which we chose for its strong values. We look forward to moving forward as one entity. Through Excello's scale, our lawyers will benefit from a wider array of resources allowing them to focus on the service to their clients, which will in turn contribute to the growth of the Excello Group."

Sandip commented: "I am proud of MBC's growth to date and having built a strong business over a number of years, it is the right time to join Excello, whose growth journey we have followed in this

legal space. I am delighted to have found in George and the team at Excello a like-minded and innovative business that continues to pioneer smarter working within the profession with a focus on integrity and transparency. Excello's scale, ambitious growth plans and ability to invest will enable us to unlock significant growth potential, and we look forward to achieving this as part of a larger group."

MBC consultant lawyers will benefit from the free to use national office network at Excello Law, which now covers 10 locations in London, the Midlands, the north west and north east, as well as a buoyant rate of internal referrals and a range of support services including complimentary secretarial and admin resource and the Excello Wellbeing programme.

MBC joins the Excello Law group which includes Excello Libertas, the first law firm platform to offer consultancy teams the opportunity to operate through their own brand supported by a full suite of back-office services.

STEP qualification for Chester solicitor



Alexandra Chambers

A solicitor from Chester law firm Cullimore Dutton has been awarded an accolade that promotes high standards and professional excellence.

Alexandra Chambers, who joined the firm's Wills, Trusts & Estates team in May last year, has qualified as a STEP practitioner.

STEP qualifications are widely recognised as the benchmark for the private client and wealth planning industry and are taken by lawyers, accountants, trustees, bankers and other to demonstrate their professional knowledge and expertise.

STEP members are specialists in inheritance and succession planning and can draft wills and trusts, administer estates, act as trustees and advise families on how best to structure their finances to ensure compliance and preserve their assets for future generations.

Alexandra said: "The STEP diploma is highly regarded by both the profession and clients alike. My STEP qualification has

enhanced my technical knowledge of Trusts and Estates and allows me to give my clients the best possible service.

"I was thrilled to be invited to the STEP annual dinner by the STEP committee as a high achiever guest for the marks achieved on my diploma. All my hard work had paid off and I had a wonderful evening celebrating.

"I'm now looking forward to using my expertise to help provide the best possible advice to my clients."

Alexandra is one of four fully qualified STEP practitioners at Cullimore Dutton, which has offices in Newgate Street, Chester.

Hill Dickinson announces 14 new partners in first accelerated partner promotions round



Elan Iorwerth, Helen Penfold and Kate Steele

Law firm Hill Dickinson has announced a raft of new partners as part of the firm's Accelerated Partner Promotion Scheme.

Fourteen legal directors across four of the firm's 10 UK and international offices have been elevated to partner status with effect from 1 November 2022. They join the ranks of the firm's existing partners, boosting overall partner numbers to over 150.

Hill Dickinson introduced its Accelerated Partner Promotions Scheme in the summer of 2022 in a deliberate and bold shift away from the more

traditional view that partnership can normally only be attained after at least 15 years of post-qualification experience.

Instead, the scheme identifies lawyers currently working as legal directors but whose career trajectory and understanding of their chosen area of law is considered exceptional.

Welcoming the new cohort to the partnership, Hill Dickinson chief executive **Peter Jackson** said: *"I am delighted that we have been able to invite 14 of our legal directors to join the partnership. As in any sphere of work, there are people who rise to the top very quickly and, in a legal world that is hungry to attract and retain top talent, it is vital that we recognise and reward our potential future leading partners. Our Accelerated Partner Promotion Scheme is designed to achieve that."*

The scheme is another example of Hill Dickinson's decision to embrace better, more inclusive and diverse ways of working, opening up access

via apprenticeships for new entrants at the start of their careers and rewarding talent higher up the chain with the possibility of fast-tracked career progression including a more open and increased full equity model. Lawyers invited to become partners via the scheme will be supported with an ongoing programme of practical support and mentorship.

Explaining why the firm has introduced a fast-track option, Peter Jackson added: *"Working practices have changed and it is imperative that we review and innovate to keep pace with that. Introducing an Accelerated Partner Promotion Scheme is part of our firmwide strategy to invest in our people and has given us the tools to bring selected individuals through the ranks more quickly and ensure fresh thinking. My congratulations to this first cohort of accelerated partners. I hope they will be the first of many."*

The new partners are listed in the table below:

Elan Iorwerth	Corporate	Liverpool
James Down	Corporate	Manchester
Sean Lightfoot	Corporate	Manchester
Jack Delaney	Corporate Commercial	London
Sam Hudson	Corporate Commercial	London
Francois De Lange	Corporate Commercial	London
Helen Penfold	Corporate	Liverpool
Kate Steele	Commercial Litigation	Liverpool
Helen Evans	Real Estate	Manchester
Rosie Goncare	Shipping	London
Alexander Freeman	Shipping	Piraeus
John McNeilly	Commodities	London
Tom Turner	Cargo & Logistics	London
Richard Allingham	Cargo & Logistics	Manchester

MSB recognised in the Times Best Law Firms 2023



MSB has been named once again in the prestigious The Times Best Law Firms 2023.

Now in its fifth year, The Times and independent market-research company, Statista, conducted surveys among thousands of lawyers and used their responses to identify the leading 200 law firms in England & Wales, and the top 40 in Scotland.

The news of MSB's inclusion comes following a successful year for the firm, which has seen it increase its North West footprint, opening its first Manchester office as part of its commitment to increase services to communities across the region.

The firm has also had a positive year in terms of recruitment and employee retention, having recruited 160 new staff members in just 18 months and promoted 21 members of its team. Further, demonstrating its commitment to providing opportunities for the next generation of talent within the legal profession, this year MSB has taken on a total of nine new trainees to qualify with the firm.

The news of the firm's growth in numbers and office locations coincides with record growth in revenue, with an increase of approximately £1.2 million each year for the last three years, and a further £2

million anticipated in the next 12 months.

In recognition of its commitment to delivering excellence and substantial growth, this year MSB has been shortlisted for a number of awards, including this year's LexisNexis Family Law Awards 2022 for 'Family Law Firm of the Year'.

Last month, MSB was listed in four categories in the latest Legal 500, with its Crime and Family departments being ranked as Tier 1. As part of the 2023 list, various members of the firm also received distinctive recognition, with the Managing Partner, Emma Carey, named a

'Leading Individual', Katie Camozzi being highlighted as a 'Rising Star', Dr Emma Palmer listed as a 'Next Generation Partner' and Emma Palmer and Pauline McNamara recognised as 'Practice Heads'.

The full-service law firm was also recognised in the Chambers and Partners 2022 guide, with Pauline McNamara, Caroline Hamilton-Barrett and Dr Emma Palmer all named as 'Recognised Practitioners'. MSB's Family and Crime departments also received further acknowledgement after being ranked in Band 1 of the official guide released in October.

Emma Carey, Managing Partner at MSB Solicitors, said:

"We are delighted to be named once again among the top 200 firms in England and Wales by The Times. Our teams are truly exceptional in their fields, and it's great to receive recognition in this year's list."

"Being named in this prestigious list, particularly by our peers in the legal profession, is testament to our team's hard work and dedication, going above and beyond to deliver excellence to our clients each and every day. I'd like to congratulate our amazing team and thank them for all their hard work."

View the full Best Law Firms 2023 list, here: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/best-law-firms-9kh6q236r>

Liverpool Chamber announces Alison Lobb as new chair



Liverpool Chamber of Commerce has nominated Morecrofts' Managing Partner Alison Lobb as its next Chair of the Board.

The Chamber formalised the appointment at its Annual General Meeting on November 1. Alison will provide leadership of the Board in its oversight of the Chamber and the attainment of objectives within its ambitious strategic plan.

Alison has undertaken the role of chair of the Chamber's Business Policy Committee for the past three years and joined the Board as a non-Executive Director in 2021. She is the Managing partner at Morecrofts Solicitors and is a highly-experienced lawyer and former president of Liverpool Law Society as well as a founder of the Merseyside Independent Business Awards.

She succeeds Neil Ashbridge, who has completed his six-year fixed-term tenure. Speaking of her appointment, **Alison Lobb** said: *"Liverpool Chamber is the authentic voice of business in the Liverpool City Region and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead this organisation and its membership into a new era of development. I look forward to working with the board of directors and the excellent operational team to drive further improvements on behalf of our members and the wider business community, maximising our operational resources and demonstrating best practice and value to our stakeholders at a time of much economic uncertainty."*

Paul Cherpeau, chief executive of Liverpool Chamber, said: *"Alison's appointment comes at an exciting time for the Chamber and I'm sure our members will be looking ahead with great optimism*

about the future of our organisation.

"On behalf of our members and the wider Chamber team, we say goodbye and thank you to Neil Ashbridge, who has led us through a period of unprecedented change and modernisation. He leaves us in a strong position and primed for future success."



Launch of LJMU's new Legal Advice Centre building

On Monday 7th November 2022 Liverpool John Moores University celebrated the opening of its new public advice hub in the city centre. LJMU has been offering pro bono legal advice since 2014, not long after the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 came into force, but the new venture represents a huge expansion of capacity, with five full-time solicitors and two administrative staff with other experts 'on call' from the university's School of Law.



The £2.6 million centre, on Hardman Street, aims to help meet rocketing demand from people who are priced out of privately paying for a solicitor but cannot qualify for Legal Aid either. The Legal Advice Centre (LAC) and Business Clinic are free and run by the Faculty of Business & Law. The LAC offers help with family, civil, employment, wills and housing law as well as community economic development clinics covering commercial, IP and music law advice for creatives, entrepreneurs and small businesses. The LAC is also the home of the Practice Area in our Centre for the Study of the Law in Theory and Practice (<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/research/centres-and-institutes/centre-for-the-study-of-law-in-theory-and-practice>).

300 Second and third year students on the LLB Law programme run the LAC under the supervision of solicitor staff, supported by more than 50 volunteer solicitors from around the city. The LAC delivered advice and representation

worth £600,000 to the local community in the academic year 2021-22, so with the new premises and increased capacity on the one hand and the increasing crisis in cost of living on the other, we expect to surpass this level in 2022-23. Since reopening in September 2022, we have had around 300 enquiries and seen around 100 clients so far.



The LAC also has a walk-in 'shop-window' on Hardman Street, allowing members of the public to drop by to access information or be triaged for an appointment. Hybrid working and online court hearings are now a staple of everyday legal life and are here to stay. However, we feel that maintaining an in-person presence and accessibility for this particular service is important to ensure inclusion and accessibility, within a secure and confidential environment.



The event on 7th November, at the opening of national Pro Bono Week, was an opportunity to explain the work of the LAC, showcase the purpose-built premises, and also celebrate the incredible support we have had since 2014 from the local legal community and third sector. We were delighted that so many colleagues from across the city joined us.



The rest of national Pro Bono Week was also eventful. We were featured the day afterwards on Radio 4's Law in Action programme, having hosted Joshua Rozenberg a few weeks earlier to give him a tour of the Hardman Street and speak to our students. On that Friday, it was announced that we have been shortlisted for the national LawWorks award for Best Contribution by a Pro Bono Clinic, with the final awards being made on Tuesday 6th December.



We agree wholeheartedly with the Law Society's statement that no pro bono activity is a substitute for a properly funded legal system. However, while the Justice Gap continues to grow, LJMU will offer free help to assist access to justice and to educate the next generation of lawyers.





195th anniversary Annual Dinner and Legal Awards

Photographs by Ray Farley



Steven Zdolyny with Lord Burrows

On Thursday 10th November 2022, 400 members of the legal profession from the Liverpool City Region gathered together for Liverpool Law Society's glittering black-tie Annual Dinner and Legal Awards held at the Rum Warehouse in Liverpool. The event brought together the region's legal sector to celebrate the successes of the profession, along with the President's civic guests, presidents of other professional bodies including other local law societies and others.

During the evening, the Legal Awards ceremony was held, which showcased the strength and excellence of legal work undertaken by firms and individuals in the area. The President of the Society, **Steven Zdolyny**, said

“Congratulations to all our award winners and shortlisted nominees. We are extremely proud to come together as a local legal community to celebrate the successes of some of the best talent the legal profession has to offer.”

And the winners of Liverpool Law Society's 2022 Legal Awards are:

Law Firm Award (100+ employees) –
Morecrofts Solicitors

Law Firm Award (1-99 employees)-
Astraea Linskills

Outstanding Team Award (Litigation) –
Provenio Litigation

Outstanding Team Award (Non-
Contentious) – In-House Legal Solutions

Outstanding Lawyer Award – Paul Lunt
from Brabners

Highly Commended in the Outstanding
Lawyer Award was **Rachel Stalker** from
the Legal Advice Centre at Liverpool John
Moore's University

Rising Star Award – Bella Tait from Unit
Chambers

Earlier on, members heard from guest
speaker the Right Hon Lord Burrows,
Justice of the Supreme Court, who was
educated in Knowsley, and who gave a
fascinating speech about his career in the
law. The speech was full of funny anecdotes,
and it was good to hear that he hadn't lost
his homegrown accent. Lord Burrows has
not only had an exceptional legal career, but
showed that his Merseyside roots are still
very close to his heart, with his choice of
charity at the Dinner.

There was a collection for the Liverpool
Heart and Chest Hospital charity, a charity
that provides additional family facilities
and supports research for all those affected
by heart and lung disease. The hospital
does incredible work treating 115,000
people every year. The amount raised at
the Society's Dinner was a fantastic £3,100.
Thank you to all who donated.

The thanks of the Society go to all those
who attended the event:

*174 Family Law
Astraea Linskills
Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors
Bennett Williams Solicitors
Brabners
Burd Ward Solicitors
Carpenters
CEL Solicitors
Dains Forensic
Driscoll Kingston Solicitors*

*Exchange Chambers
Frenkel Topping
Hill Dickinson
Hodge Jones & Allen
Hogans Solicitors
In-House Legal Solutions
Irwin Mitchell
JMW Solicitors
Liverpool John Moore's University
Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division
Morecrofts Solicitors
MSB Solicitors
Peter Edwards Law
President's Guests
Provenio Litigation
Steve Cornforth Consultancy
Stowe Family Law
Taylor Wessing
The University of Law
Unit Chambers
University of Liverpool
Weightmans*

And to the sponsors of the evening
*Advanced, Frenkel Topping Group, Index
PI, Konsileo, Landmark Information and
the University of Law.*



John-Paul Dennis

John-Paul Dennis, CEO of Astraea
Linskills said "Winning the Law Firm
Award (1-99 employees) is a fantastic
accolade for Astraea Linskills and
testament to the hard work our dedicated
team have put in through some of the
most challenging of times. We are a
growing practice and this recognition is
something we are very grateful to receive.
Liverpool has a rich offering of successful
legal practices and we are delighted that
we have been recognised by Liverpool
Law Society as we continue to strive for
excellence across all of our departments".



Alison Lobb

Alison Lobb, Managing Partner of
Morecrofts Solicitors said "It's a fabulous
honour for everyone at Morecrofts to
be recognised with the Large Law firm
award. This is the first time the firm
has been in this category, due to our
continued growth, and we were up
against extremely strong competition
from much larger firms. We have an
incredibly hard working and committed
team and it's fabulous for them to be
recognised for their achievements.
Winning this award has given a real boost
to all our partners and staff."



Lauren Cannon

Lauren Cannon, Director and Co-
Founder of In-House Legal Solutions
said "In-House Legal Solutions was
delighted to win the Outstanding Team
Award (Non-Contentious) at the ADLA
event and we thank the judges for this
recognition! There are some fantastic
commercial firms in the region so
to receive this award is a remarkable
accolade and we are very proud of
our team. This is also a moment of
recognition within the legal community

for firms that are innovative and disruptive, as we work towards our mission to build the best outsourced in-house legal service in the market, whilst at the same time supporting junior lawyers in their careers and working hard to improve diversity and social mobility in our profession."



Nicola Walker

at The University of Law

"A fabulous night at the Liverpool Law society Annual Dinner and Legal awards and we were very honoured to sponsor the rising star award which showcases the incredible talent we have in Liverpool-well done Bell Tait." said **Nicola Walker**, Campus Manager – Liverpool & Chester,



John Roberts

society on 2023."

John Roberts, Director of Index PI said *"Once again for the 4th successive event, Index are delighted to be part of such a prestigious evening in the Liverpool Law Society calendar. A fantastic evening was had by all our guests and we look forward to continuing our support for the*

An album of the photographs from the event can be found here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAeHt3>



Morecrofts



Members and Guests



Carpenters



The Winners!



In-House Legal



Provenio



VIPs



Rachel Stalker receiving her award



Bella Tait being presented with her award



Irwin Mitchell



Circuit Judges and Lord Burrows



Astraea Linskills



Paul Lunt receives the Outstanding Lawyer of the Year Award

MJLD Routes into Law Panel Event

On Thursday 24th November, Faye Morris (our committee's Treasurer) and Laura Keane (one of our committee's Careers and Education representatives) hosted a Routes into Law Panel Event, celebrating the various alternative routes into the profession.

The evening began with an introduction from our hosts and our panel, consisting of five members. Our speakers included Emily Oliver (paralegal placement at Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors and MJLD secretary), Erin Watkinson (Trainee Solicitor at Jackson Lees Group and MJLD National Representative), Samantha Rymer (Chartered Legal Executive at Jackson Lees Group) and Isabella Denn-White (Barrister at 7 Harrington Street Chambers).

Each panellist gave their thoughts on questions such as why they chose a career in law, what their area of specialism was, what an average day in the life looks like for them, and if they hadn't chosen a career in law, what they would be doing now! Samantha provided a great overview of what it means to be a Chartered Legal Executive and how very little difference there is between completing

the CILEX route in comparison to following the 'traditional' Solicitor path. Emily encouraged prospective law undergraduates to undertake a placement year if offered, as hers has been invaluable so far in providing her insight into the profession and has also given her the chance to be part of the MJLD committee.

It was extremely interesting to gain a deeper insight into why the panel chose their own 'route' into law as opposed to another and the opportunities they have been provided with as a result. When comparing the life of a solicitor to a barrister, Erin much prefers working on a case from the outset and enjoys the large amount of client contact, whereas Izzy expressed her passion for public speaking and 'thinking on her feet'; thereafter deciding that she wished to pursue a career at the bar.

Finally, the panellists offered their support and advice to prospective applicants to close the session. The key 'take-aways' from the session were to apply yourself practically and make full use of all of the opportunities given to you. The panellists highlighted that perseverance is key when deciding to pursue a career in

law, despite the challenges one may face in their legal journey.

The panel also offered advice on applying to their own firms and chambers including key dates and tips for applying for a pupillage, the Weightmans legal apprenticeship scheme, and the Jackson Lees training contract.

MJLD will be holding similar careers and education events throughout the year, so it is encouraged that all students sign up as members on the MJLD website to be notified of any future events!

If anyone would like any further information about what was discussed in the sessions, please feel free to contact Faye or Laura, as well as Eve who is also an MJLD Careers and Education representative.

Faye.morris@weightmans.com
(Committee Treasurer)

Laura.keane@inhouselegalsolutions.com
(Committee Careers and Education representative)

Eve.burns@weightmans.com
(Committee Careers and Education representative)



Faye Morris



Laura Keane



Eve Burns

Celebration for new entrants to the legal profession

Tuesday 24th January 2023 at 5.30pm for 6pm
30 James Street 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 2022 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 Cadwallader
Judge of the Business and Property Courts in Liverpool

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 Information Here](#)



The Eternal Internal Danger



The tragic case of Awaab Ishak has brought into sharp focus the importance of tackling damp, condensation and mould in the home. Young Awaab was two years old when he died from breathing mould in a flat of which Rochdale Boroughwide Housing was the landlord.

Rochdale is yet another social housing association operating a housing stock that was once under the jurisdiction of local government. Social housing associations are not all bad but some are. This is not a polemic against social housing groups. Most of them do a reasonable job on a tight budget but there is plenty of work to be done.

Incredibly, fitness for human habitation only became a legal imperative available in private law with the Homes (Fitness for Habitation) Act 2018 which came into force in March 2020 for most lettings in England. It does not apply to Wales which still lags behind, with its own comparative laws to commence 1 December 22 by way of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016. Ironically South Wales bears some of the most deprived communities in the UK.

The most vulnerable in society

stand to benefit from these statutory improvements which are long overdue in a developed Western country. The right to live in a home fit for a human would seem like a contender for the most basic of human rights and yet it has taken the England and Wales jurisdiction until deep into the 21st-century to recognise this.

The legislation is linked to the government's Housing Health and Safety Rating System HHSRS and its 29 hazards, the first of which is damp and mould growth. It then ranges through excess cold and heat, asbestos, noise, fire, food safety and many others before landing on structural collapse as a fitting testament to the worst things that can happen to a home.

Of course it is important to apply these rules with common sense. All houses have condensation and all accommodation has potential hazards lurking within. The most common cause of condensation is breathing, followed by sweating, washing and cooking. These activities are fairly unavoidable. Landlords have a habit of blaming tenants for condensation but to live is to expel atmospheric moisture and it has been that way for a very long time. Human beings are 70% water

and so this is an ancient problem in a modern world. The United Kingdom is a weatherbeaten wet, cold island which will always have humidity in the air and cold surfaces to catch those tiny droplets and convert them back to wet puddles which are such a delight to fungus and spores. No part of the Earth is exempt from this phenomenon but the British Isles are a dreamland for it to unleash its power.

That said, there are things which tenants can do to abate the problem and this needs a campaign of education which Government has to lead. The self-help solutions or partial solutions are as simple as opening windows, heating the property, drying clothes in an appropriate way (ie not on the radiator). Tumble dryers should be used if possible in the winter and outdoor drying if weather permits. Wiping the mould away with appropriate cleaning materials is also a crucial form of mitigation. All of this is obvious to the initiated but the initiated are usually well educated and living in decent homes, rented or otherwise.

However, with utility bills rising as they are, heating and tumble dryers are not always an option. The government

does not need me to lecture on the importance of tackling the menace of rising inflation which has so many ramifications.

The landlord also has a key part to play with the installation and maintenance of window vents, air bricks, and extractor fans. They can also install thermal plasterboard to insulate the external walls thereby reducing the risk of condensation. Double glazing should by now be in every home but is not. When I was a boy living in an old Victorian house, I could see my breath on a February morning. Today this should be the stuff of legend rather than an ongoing narrative.

Prior to the new legislation, all of the above was considered improvement for which the landlord was not obliged. Only if something were clearly in disrepair would the landlord become duty-bound to act. Now if the property has to be improved to bring it out of unfitness then so be it. It remains essential however for the tenant to notify the landlord of the problem. This has always been the case with few exceptions.

Overcrowding is also a factor in condensation and mould growth. This is not so easy to fix but it is one of the hazards mentioned in the List. Lack of space of course has other connotations from stress to domestic violence but three people in a bedroom will needless to say create more hot air than two. This is an acute problem in London which is already one

of the most overcrowded cities on Earth. The more popular a place becomes, the more brain gain it enjoys. It also gains more rats and vermin but if necessity is the mother of invention, the added brain power should find technological solutions to dovetail with legalistic remedies.

Food safety is Number 16 on the list. This also overlaps with our subject as mould can infect food. The educational element here is to encourage people to store perishable

items in hermetically sealed jars and the like. It goes without saying that food surfaces have to be hygienic.

Damp and mould will also bring infestation in the form of slugs, cockroaches and silverfish which can truly diminish the quality of life. Landlords will now have to take positive steps to render the property seriously unattractive to such wildlife rather than defer the problem to pest control, which has been the default position for years.

The Law has not yet caught up with it self in that the common law is still wrestling with the meaning of fitness for habitation. This is partly due to the absence of such cases passing through the court system during the Great Pause known as Covid. Caselaw is still thin on the ground but the legislation is wide enough to give creative legal minds scope to be bold and inventive.

So far there has been a reluctance to take on cases which rely solely on sections 9AB And C of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985, as amended by The Homes (Fitness For Human Habitation) Act 2018. Claimant solicitors are creatures of habit and like to know that their faithful friend section 11 of the 1985 Act (basic structural disrepair) is there to fall back on.

If young Awaab is not to die in vain, resourceful lawyers need to think of ways to push the agenda on behalf of people like him everywhere. The threshold for what is considered unfit is likely to be lower in light of his passing. Nobody wants to see another death. Infant death is extreme and rare but breathing difficulties exacerbated by living conditions are not. Patients with asthma, COPD and emphysema are all known to suffer more in mouldy environments. Their lungs are all the more sensitive to the fungal spores which float about homes like that of this little boy in Rochdale.

In the 21st-century, excuses like inflation and Brexit do not cut the

mustard. Newbuild homes have to be constructed in a way which best allows the building to breathe and at the same time retain heat. The government has promoted insulation and new boilers with occasional grants but more has to be done. Cavity wall insulation is also useful but only if installed correctly. Too often it is mis-installed by amateurs who leave the insulation exposed to the elements which aggravates the condensation inside.

Section 11 was enacted when Thatcher was still in power and the Premier League was yet to be invented. Yet despite its age and undoubted success in improving rented homes, it continues to breed claim after claim as if its ink were newly dried. It is not an old piece of historic legislation which lies dormant on the books but a very relevant piece of law which is still crucial to every disrepair practice. The Homes Act and its sister in Wales should continue on a similar trajectory to yield claims not just for the sake of lawyers but to improve our environment for generations to come.

I don't claim to be altruistic but this is one area of law where I feel my contribution is more than just a money making exercise. This is not the new RTA as a few bandwagoners think it might be. It is not new at all.

It is a meaningful area of law which lends it self to a decent income for lawyers and better lives for their clients. As ever the legislation is just a springboard for the common law to develop and it will be interesting to see where the land lies in the coming years. Nothing shines light on the issue quite like the tragedy of Awaab Ishak. He may yet be memorialised with his own eponymous law which calls for landlords to act urgently in response to a professional medical warning in respect of damp and mould, especially in the case of a child. May his memory be a blessing.

Michael Krebs is a barrister specialising in housing disrepair at 1 Old Hall Street, Liverpool

Remembering the Falklands 40 years on



Chris on the pier in Port Stanley at the end of the war

On the 28th May we started out on our epic Yomp across the East Falklands carrying on average over 120lb say 60 kilos and covering over 100 miles. The average age of my troop was 19, I was 21 at the time and I had one marine who was only 17 years and 7 months old and the naval fleet was carrying over 100 personnel under the age of 18.

45 Commando were given the task of taking one of the main features on the approaches to Port Stanley called Two Sisters on the night of the 11/12 June 1982. The climb to the summit of our objective was over 600ft, at night, carrying over 40 kilos and in driving rain, snow and at times blizzard conditions we fought against an enemy who were dug in and well prepared.

We were shelled, mortared, shot at and were constantly under machinegun fire. My marines were outstanding, due to the huge boulders and slabs of rock which we had to clear to get to the top of the feature, they fought their own battles with the enemy, working in pairs or as a section as they pushed on up the hill. On one occasion 8 men hit the dirt as a shell landed right in the middle of them in the only bit of peat on the rocky outcrop.

One had his shoulder dislocated and the rest were temporarily deaf, with minor cuts and two had perforated eardrums, but to a man they got up and cracked on. They were brilliant. By

dawn we had taken our objective with only one man slightly injured. The rest of the Commando were not so lucky and 45 Commando lost 4 men that night and a further 17 wounded.

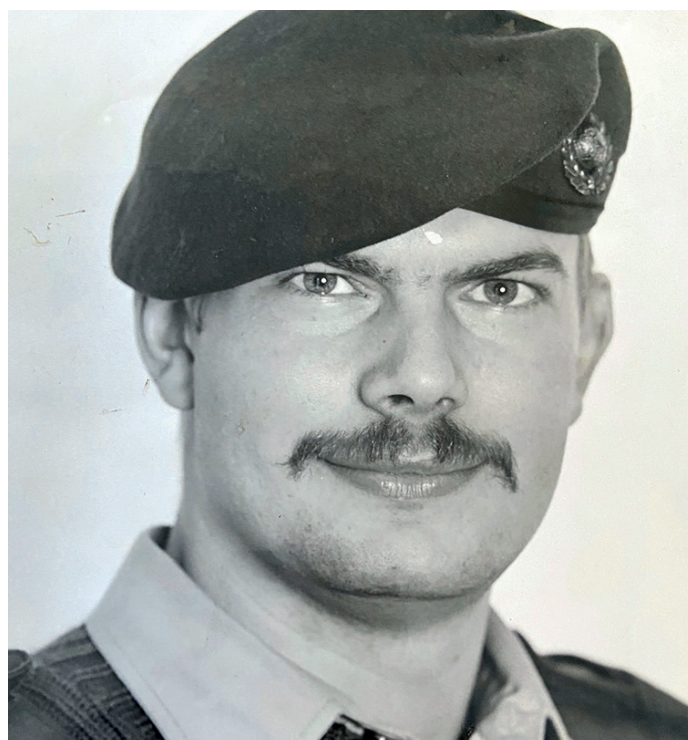
Throughout the task force we mourned our dead, 45 Commando were supported that night by HMS Glamorgan and as they left their gun line they were hit by an exocet missile which killed 14 sailors and injured 14 more.

During my 7 years in the Royal Marines my experiences in the Falkland's changed my outlook on life forever. I take every day as it comes, I cherish those around me, my family and my friends. But most important of all, it is the bond I have with those I went to war with; it is bond that is closer than a blood brother; we have all shared an experience I wouldn't want anyone else to suffer, but it has made us into a close band of brothers.

Like all wars past and present it is the young service men and women who not only give their lives for us to enjoy the freedom we now enjoy, but who endured the hardship and terrors that warfare inflicts.

Lasting only 74 days, not a day goes by when I don't remember the 255 servicemen and 3 Falkland Islanders who died retaking the Falklands. "At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."

Chris Caroe



A photo for when Chris was awarded a Mention in Dispatches

The Future of Law Starts Here



Jo Dalton

Last month, MSB Solicitors was delighted to open its applications for the second round of apprentice solicitors to train at firm in the new year, as part of its work towards providing alternative routes into the legal industry.

In recent years, there has been a significant rise in the popularity of legal apprenticeships. Now with options including the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE), CILEX Professional Qualification (CPQ) and new apprenticeship standards, there are various alternative pathways for people wanting to pursue a career in law, without going down the traditional university route.

Legal sector apprenticeships allow learners to combine part-time academic study with paid training – allowing trainees to earn while they learn. Although this is not a new training model in education, apprenticeships have only risen to popularity in the legal sector over the last decade. Legal apprenticeship programmes are designed to develop practical knowledge and support the development of wraparound professional skills for people doing legal work. Programmes include recognised qualifications, which enable apprentices to achieve the same career goals but without the associated high costs and debt that can come with other study programmes.

Currently, the most common legal apprenticeships lead to three careers – paralegal, legal executive, and solicitor, with the Solicitor Apprenticeship being the newest on the scene. These apprenticeships were developed by employers, education providers and key stakeholders to design programmes which reflect the reality of working within legal services.

MSB's Solicitor Apprenticeship is a five-to-six-year programme which sees apprentices complete the SQE and gain a qualifying law degree (LLB). The apprenticeship is designed for those who have not previously studied law above the Level Three equivalent (A-level), so no university degrees are necessary. It offers a unique entry into the field by spreading academic study the course duration and placing greater weight on the workplace and legal practice.

In 2018, the first solicitor apprentice joined MSB with a contagious level of enthusiasm. Poppy Hind first contacted MSB as an aspiring solicitor at just 13-years-old; today, aged 23, she is five years into her apprenticeship and just a few months away from qualifying as a solicitor.

Poppy Hind said: "It is by no means an 'easier' way to

qualify, but it is a more sustainable and affordable way for me. I also have the benefit of pairing first-hand experience with academic study which I think can be lost on an LLB."


As a firm, MSB is passionate about developing the future talent of the legal sector and recognises the importance of creating alternative routes into the industry that extend beyond the roles of paralegal and legal executive.

The Solicitor Apprenticeship offers the opportunity to train people within the business earlier and to develop their understanding of the firm and its clients, so they're ready to hit the ground running from day one as a qualified solicitor.

The next intake of solicitor apprentices will start their training at the firm in January 2023. To find out more about the apprenticeship, visit: <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/solicitor-v1-0>

Jo Dalton

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The Team at Complete Counsel expand their offering into the Expert Witness field

Claire Labio, founder of Facilitate Expert Solutions and joint head of Complete Counsel Barristers explains more

'Having left a large set of Chambers 7 years ago to provide a more personal practice management service for civil law Barristers, I was then approached by an Expert Witness who asked if I could provide the same service to him. Facilitate Expert Solutions was created with this in mind. Over the past few years we have mainly focussed on assisting our Expert Witnesses with the administrative part of their practice. However more and more experts started to ask us to expand into practice development and marketing for them. This made complete business sense to me as we already have many loyal Solicitor clients within Complete Counsel. Those lawyers know the level of service we provide to them and trust us with their instruction.

Lawyers are always looking for more expert witnesses as once an expert becomes too 'popular' their report production times extend and it becomes difficult to fix appointments with them. During the 'soft launch' period, I received emails from clients saying they were delighted they could now look to book experts through us which reassured me I was moving the business in the right direction.

There are fixed terms available for lawyers looking to instruct our experts, with fast turnaround times and fixed fees available in some cases.

It was important to me to build a support team our experts can rely on. Both Emma Wall and Helen Southworth do an outstanding job in nurturing the relationship between Facilitate, our Experts and Solicitor clients. Having worked with them both for a number of years I know I can rely on them to ensure consistency in service and bring a collaborative approach to all that we do. The testimonials we receive from our Expert Witnesses show me that they no longer worry about building and maintaining their practice and can instead concentrate on the work in hand.

We recently attended the annual Bond Solon Expert Witness event in London which is always a successful event for us. We will shortly be joined by 4 more experts which boosts the panel offering to 11.

Solicitors wishing to instruct our experts or expert witnesses looking to join the panel should view the website or contact support@facilitateexpertsolutions.co.uk.



Claire Labio
Director



Festive lights are more than Christmas cheer

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



Julie Johnson

As we head into the final months of the year, it may come as no surprise that at Liverpool BID Company we spend a great deal of time talking about Christmas lights.

Planning the lights for the city centre begins in the summer and it represents many different partners coming together to finalise logistics, design, installation arrangements and switch ons.

This year there was an added issue as BID was forced to clarify a story in the Liverpool Echo that the city would no longer have Christmas lights because of the expense. For the past 5 years, the Liverpool BID Company has contributed over £745,000 to the city centre's Christmas decorations and activities during the festive period.

Since 2017, the Liverpool BID Company has been the main contributor, funded by BID Levy Payers and contributing over two-thirds of Liverpool's overall Christmas lights, Christmas decorations, trees, and installations, having installed over 695 features in the last 5 years! The Culture & Commerce is an extended geographical area, so



Liverpool BID also contributes to Christmas decorations and lights on the Waterfront and in St. George's Quarter, particularly on the buildings on William Brown Street.

The BID also organises a number of festive events such as the city centre Advent Calendar Countdown, Elfie Selfie, and Christmas workshops along with multiple campaigns to encourage visitors to the city centre.

The Liverpool BID Company will continue to deck the streets of Liverpool not only next year, but for years to come.

The Christmas lights and animation are not merely part of giving festive cheer. It helps to attract visitors to the city centre, vital for the local economy. This is the first festive period where businesses have been able to hold Christmas parties since 2019, and for

many firms in the city centre it is a critical quarter. Decorations and festive animation helps the city to play its part.

The investment will continue. In 2023, Liverpool BID will seek a new term for the Retail & Leisure BID in 2023, providing crucial changes to the current offer to support both Liverpool's growth and the viability of the sector. Liverpool BID will increase the rateable value from which an organisation will begin paying a levy to £45k, meaning small and independent businesses within the BID area will no longer need to pay an annual levy, whilst still benefiting from its services.

The BID area will be extended, meaning a great level of investment will be available in the city centre. At the heart of BID's is the mission to create an environment for business to thrive. Christmas decorations are a festive part of that story.

News from Merseyside Law Centre

Fighting for equality through social justice to combat poverty & homelessness



Since our last newsletter we have celebrated some new beginnings, added to our team and continued to provide an ever more vital service to our community.

Back in September we spent a fantastic afternoon engaging with third sector and legal organisations across Liverpool at our Exceptional Case Funding Clinic information event held at the LJMU Redmond Building. Our trainee solicitor and Justice First Fellow Samantha Maher and LJMU's Dr Michelle Waite led a very informative sessions about the vitally important work that ourselves and LJM Legal Advice Centre were about to embark upon with the clinic.

Exceptional Case Funding (ECF) is the type of legal aid that must be made available where there is a possibility that an individual's human rights may be breached as they are unable to access legal advice or representation for several reasons. For many common legal problems, including most welfare benefits and family law cases, ECF is the only way in which an individual can access publicly funded legal support. The application process for this type of legal aid is lengthy and complex and as a result very few applications, outside of immigration law, are being made.

Therefore, LJMU Legal Advice Centre in conjunction with Merseyside Law Centre are now helping with making these applications in appropriate cases. We know from experience that there is a real societal need for this service, and we hope to create positive change for our clients with this new venture.

You can contact our ECF Clinic about potential referrals by email at lac@ljmu.ac.uk



We welcomed a new member to our team in October, **David Coe**. He joined Merseyside Law Centre to take up an exciting new role as an Apprentice Fundraiser.

The apprenticeship is with the Corndel group who have been running the scheme for a few years. Dave's own work experience has been in the IT industry. He is now picking up the skills of fundraising, along with acquiring knowledge of the legal profession and knowledge of the huge social, political and economic challenges that face a law centre and the community they serve.

"Hopefully my IT database background can help me make sense of the mass of data relating to the stats of social deprivation in our area and put a human face on that data, to show to potential funders the issues MLC must address and the great legal work they do in that social welfare sphere. Merseyside Law Centre is a fantastic place to work for and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to put something back into the community."

We are so happy to welcome Dave to our team and look forward to seeing how his skills develop and contribute to our team in the future.

Asylum Support Case Study.

The dreadful state of the asylum support system in our country is ever present in the news and we see first-hand how damaging it is to individuals seeking asylum. The case study below displays the vulnerability of asylum seekers when they first arrive in this country and how easy it is for them to be lost in the system without help. Due to the diligent work of our asylum support officer, we ensured that this family were not made homeless and that they were put on the right track to lawfully apply for asylum.

J was referred to us one late afternoon by a local charity after he had contacted them requesting urgent assistance. J and his family were homeless in the City Centre after arriving on a tourism visa that weekend. Due to their fears of being returned to their country of origin they did not claim asylum at the airport and instead used their own limited funds to pay for a hotel. By Monday they had run out of funds entirely. J had phoned the asylum unit already but was told that they needed an appointment for a screening interview in Croydon to register their claim. They were told they would be contacted to arrange this, with no time frame indicated. We promptly carried out an assessment, identifying the two children aged 9 and 17 as a serious safeguarding concern.

Due to the late stage in the day, there was little point in us attempting to make an application for Section 98 Support. As there were two children involved, we contacted the Social Services department at the Local Authority, explaining the situation and requesting that the family were provided with Section 17 support for that night. Social services referred the family to Housing Options.

After 4pm, no one had contacted the family. Speaking with the client on the phone we were able to convince them to go to the Police Station as a safe space to wait. The clients were exhausted and incredibly stressed by this point. We were concerned about where the children would sleep that night. We emailed housing options and social services out of hours expressing these concerns, but no response was received. We called the clients at 8pm. They had gone to the Police station and were safe. The police had contacted the Home Office

and organised for the family to move to a hotel in Blackpool. This was under Section 98 support which the Home Office, thanks to police pressure, had agreed to provide. The next morning, we received a voice mail from Housing Options saying that unfortunately the family were the “problem” of “immigration”, and they would not be assessing. This was despite us asserting to social services that the family had no recourse to public funds and needed Section 17 support. Throughout the week we were in constant contact with the family. We ensured that they made an application for Section 95 support as soon as possible due to the considerable Home Office processing delays. The family have now had their screening interview and are waiting to be dispersed in Section 95 accommodation. We will continue to assist them until assured they are in adequate and safe accommodation. Once Section 95 is in place we will then help them to find an Immigration Solicitor to

represent in their Asylum Claim as they begin the lengthy and convoluted process of claiming Asylum.

With the current cost-of-living crisis likely to get much worse, our services will be needed now more than ever. If you could consider donating to Merseyside Law Centre, it could make a massive difference to many people’s lives in Merseyside. Our donation details are up on our website www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/donate

As always, our current contact details are below so please do pass these onto anyone you think may benefit from or require our services.

E-mail: enquiries@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk

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7 Harrington Street Chambers congratulate **Ian Unsworth KC** and **Andrew Loveridge** on their recent appointments to the Circuit Bench.

We are pleased to congratulate **Andrew Ford** on his appointment to King’s Counsel

7 Harrington Street Chambers are delighted to welcome as full tenants:
Peter Glenser KC and **Tim Cray KC**

We are also excited to announce the arrival of **Kate Huyton** from Oriel Chambers

We are also pleased to congratulate the following on tenancy, following successful completion of pupillages;
Daniel Bramhall, Holly Menary, Renn Moucarray and Isabella Denn-White

Continuing our policy of expansion 7 Harrington Street Chambers invite applications from practitioners to join our exceptionally busy Family, Criminal and Civil teams. All applications will be treated as confidential and should be sent to:

John Kilgallon, Practice Director via email john@7hs.co.uk

Liverpool Chamber.

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Liverpool law society's 195th AGM held 24th November 2022



The Liverpool Law Society's 195th AGM took place on Thursday 24th November 2022 at the Society's premises in Liverpool city centre with the President, Steven Zdolyny, opening formal proceedings by welcoming all to the meeting.

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

- Mr Jonathan Berkson
- Ms Amelia Hayden who is the Public Relations Officer for the Society
- Mrs Lindsey Knowles who is Employment Law Committee Chair
- Mrs Sarah Mansfield who is Civil Litigation Committee Deputy chair, and
- Mrs Gaynor Williams who is Joint Honorary Secretary

There were also a further three nominations from the wider membership, and we are delighted to welcome as

directors of Liverpool Law Society:

Ms Lauren Cannon, Ms Nadya Makarova and Ms Lorna Mitchell.

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

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

The Hon. Treasurer spoke about the Society's accounts ending 31 May 2022. **James Mannouch** explained the Society continued to face financial and operational challenges during the tail of the Covid-19 pandemic. James said "As we continue to emerge from the pandemic it is hoped that income will rise...a key focus was placed on costs containment to mitigate the relative loss of income from our traditionally successful and enviable training programme. ...the Society will increase its training offer during 22-23 by

targeting 65 events for the period."

Finally, the President **Steven Zdolyny** gave his address to the members where he reflected on the past 12 months. Steven said "It has been my great honour to serve as your President, in the Society's 195th year. It has been a great privilege to continue the excellent work of so many distinguished predecessors, including our Immediate Past President, Julie O'Hare, who served a historic 2-year term." He continued "This is a rather poignant AGM, as it shall be our last AGM at our Helix office. Following a member consultation, the Society's General Committee unanimously decided to serve notice to terminate our lease of our Helix premises, and the date to vacate the premises is 20 March 2023. This decision, although sad, aims to ensure the Society has a sustainable and successful future for the benefit of our members. If it is financially viable, the Society can consider taking out new premises in the future."

A full copy of the President's speech can be found in the President's column of 'Liverpool Law' on page 5.

Regulation Update

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

As winter starts to set in, Christmas parties are planned without the Covid restrictions (so last year, we hope) and the end of the year draws to a close (where have the last 12 months gone?), here is an update on developments in the past month.

SRA COLP/COFA Conference

(November 2022)

The annual COLP/COFA conference was held in November at an in-person event in Birmingham and virtually over a few days the following week. The usual topics including AML, cyber, accounts rules, common compliance questions and an interview with Paul Philip (Chief Executive) and Anna Bradley (Chair) of the SRA were covered and if you missed it, the recordings can be found on the SRA's You Tube channel.

SRA Business Plan 2022/23

The SRA have recently published its Business Plan which outlines the proposed work streams under three main objectives to achieve by the end of October 2023, namely setting and maintaining high standards for the profession and itself, technology and innovation and anticipating and responding to change. From a risk and compliance point of view, and areas to be aware of, this

includes:

- Implementing changes to Standards and Regulations
- Enforcing compliance
- Carrying out a programme of work on continuing competence
- Introducing the new fining framework
- Issuing the publications policy for regulatory decisions
- Consulting on changes to the transparency rules
- Strengthening the approach to preventing money laundering and financial crime, including proactive supervision, investigation and enforcement activities
- Carrying out a thematic review of compliance with the financial sanctions and licensing regime
- Carrying out 2 AML-focused thematic reviews to understand how firms are dealing with specific issues in practice
- Building the supervision programme to increase the numbers of law firm inspections and desk-based reviews
- Promoting rules and guidance to encourage fair treatment and high ethical standards including professional health and wellbeing, sexual misconduct, and other EDI expectations.
- Publishing analysis of the PII market and insurance premiums data
- looking at the future development of regulation

The SRA will be investing in:

- Its investigation and supervision function and activity
- Increased focus on compliance with transparency requirements and engagement from firms in relation to firm diversity data.
- Its Legal and Enforcement team's activity
- Improvements within its AML work to achieve more proactive supervision

which will mean more investigations, potentially leading to disciplinary investigations and enforcements, AML inspections, thematic reviews of

websites, financial sanctions etc. Only last week the SRA fined a firm £1000 plus £600 costs for failing to have a compliant firm wide risk assessment until August 2020, therefore failing to 'have sufficient regard for the SRA's warning notice (first issued on 7 May 2019)' and incorrectly making a declaration to the SRA in March 2020 that its risk assessment was compliant, having fined another firm £2000 for a similar breach the previous month. In addition to the fines, there is, of course, the reputational risk, as the decisions are published on the SRA website and may be reported in legal/local publications.

If you are unsure whether you are compliant in these or any other aspects of regulation, now may be the time for you to have a risk and compliance healthcheck so do please get in touch if you need assistance.

New SRA Guidance: Effective supervision

The SRA have recently (23 November) published new guidance to ensure that firms provide effective supervision to individuals within the business to ensure the efficiency of legal services and meet the current statutory and regulatory requirements on supervision. At the time of writing, the guidance does not appear on the SRA website under 'All topics', but can be found at <https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/effective-supervision-guidance>

The guidance note recognises the need for supervision by appropriately qualified and experienced members of the team. Law firms are being asked to take a risk-based approach when allocating supervision arrangements, taking into consideration factors such as the number of supervisors, how often they will communicate and their capacity to do so effectively. In conducting the supervision, the SRA have said that the supervisor should

have knowledge of the relevant area of law and supervising the delivery of legal services and should be in a position to provide advice on specific matters where necessary. This also extends to the supervision of trainee solicitors and solicitor apprentices. The SRA guidance notes the importance of ensuring that supervisors integrate training into their wider supervision arrangements. Good practice suggestions include peer reviews of work by senior staff, a quality control reviewer designated for all high risk or complex matters and including supervision as a topic in performance reviews.

Firms are advised to take steps to ensure that supervision is effective and that supervisors are accountable. Supervisor checks should involve an assessment of the quality of the substantive legal work, whether the firm's policies have been followed, any ethical and regulatory considerations and general management. If you require assistance with policy drafting in respect of supervision, or a general review of your policies, please get in touch with our Solicitor Regulatory and Professional Discipline Team. compli@weightmans.com.

Complying with the UK Sanctions Regime

On 28 November the SRA published guidance for firms to understand the obligations of the UK Sanctions regime and its expectations of how it is complied with. All firms, not just those within scope of the Money Laundering regulations, are subject to the sanctions regime and the SRA confirms in the guidance that it may take enforcement action where there is a breach of the Standards and Regulations as a result of failing to comply with the regime. The guidance provides a list of what should be in place in an effective sanctions compliance regime, sanctions risk assessment, risk factors and red flags. <https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/financial-sanctions-regime/> At a recent regulatory conference it was confirmed that compliance with financial sanctions would be a priority for the SRA.

Licensing requirements for legal fees in Russia and Belarus

The Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) has issued a general licensing requirement for those working with clients from Russia and Belarus subject to the financial sanctions regime, to enable the payment of legal fees to ensure that all individuals and entities are able to access legal advice in scope of the licence. There are caps on the fees and reporting requirements and the general licence is due to expire on 27 April 2023.

Changes to the Legal Ombudsman Rules - 2023

The Legal Ombudsman rules have recently been subject to a consultation, ahead of changes scheduled to take effect on 1 April 2023. The new scheme rules include cutting the time limit for complaining to LeO from six years to one year, giving discretion to dismiss or discontinue a complaint if they consider it would not be a proportionate use of the ombudsman's time to investigate. According to the SRA, these changes propose to 'drive efficiency, help reduce wait times, and ensure the right outcome can be reached at the earliest opportunity.' Guidance will be issued nearer the time, but amendments will need to be made to engagement letters, client care packs, complaints processes and complaint final offer letters.

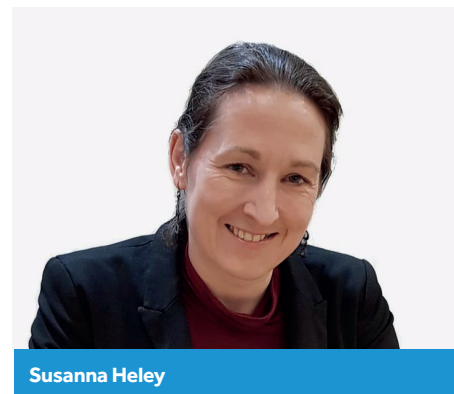
Update on the SRA fining regime

The SRA recently ended a consultation on the increased SRA fining powers, from £2,000 to £25,000 for 'traditional' law firms and the solicitors who work in them, including a new programme to introduce fixed fines for lower-level misconduct, and explicit rules to clarify that fines are imposed by functionally independent adjudicators. The Law Society's response to the consultation draws particular attention to the way in which fines will be calculated and the potential issues that this may cause. We await the results with interest but anticipate that there will be little movement to the proposals. The SRA has, in the last few days, reported that it has used its new fining powers, imposing a fine of £15,000 for misconduct on a solicitor

who, when acting for clients who were the subject of court of protection deputyship orders, 'failed to attend to or properly manage their financial affairs or protect their money or assets'.

Disciplinary News

Fake news: solicitor suspended for misuse of social media



Article by **Susanna Heley**, partner in Weightmans' Solicitor Regulatory and Professional Discipline Team (as previously published by The Law Society)

Over the course of a year, the solicitor posted false or misleading information on the firm's Facebook page in posts which suggested that they, their firm or their partner had represented clients in court when they had not done so.

Examples of posts included:

"Great result at Cambridge Magistrates Court! So pleased and proud to be able to represent our client, who eventually managed to prove her innocence!!!"

"Double win today! Watford Family Court – successfully fought and suspended a prohibited steps order preventing a mother to leave the jurisdiction with the children. Milton Keynes County Court – successfully defended a set-aside application. The other party banned from making any further applications. Well done ...!"

"Colchester County Court, 2nd January 2018. Successful eviction hearing on behalf of a landlord ..."

The solicitor said the posts were "pure marketing" and accepted they were

incorrect. They confirmed that neither they nor their partner had attended any of the courts named on those dates and admitted that the social media activity was “showing off”. The solicitor apologised to the SDT but stressed that they did not deliberately or knowingly breach any regulatory rules.

The SDT finding:

The solicitor made the social media posts knowing they were inaccurate and in doing so, the SRA asserted that there were breaches of either or both of:

Principle 2: “*You must ... act with integrity*”

Principle 6: “*You must ... behave in a way that maintains the trust the public places in you and in the provision of legal services*”

Other breaches of the SRA Standards and Regulations – including operating without SRA authorisation, keeping a client account and failing to nominate a money laundering reporting officer (MLRO) – were also upheld.

Notably, dishonesty was expressly not alleged in this case. Had dishonesty been alleged and admitted, it could have led to a striking off.

The SDT considered the Guidance Note on Sanctions (9th Edition – December 2021). In doing so, the tribunal assessed the culpability and harm identified together with the aggravating and mitigating factors that existed. The tribunal noted that the solicitor’s failure to comply with the regulatory obligations was the result of a lack of awareness of the requirements, rather than a deliberate and conscious decision to avoid regulatory oversight. As a result of the non-compliance, the solicitor had placed client monies at risk and created misleading social media posts about the activities of the firm.

The SDT rejected the application for an agreed outcome on the basis of a fine but accepted a varied application. The tribunal ordered that the solicitor be

suspended from the roll for six months and subjected to a two-year restriction order preventing them from managing any firm. The solicitor also paid £15,000 in SRA costs.

Your ethical obligations:

The case demonstrates the serious consequences of a breach of SRA Principles and highlights the overarching high-level standards of ethical behaviour expected of solicitors.

Social media offers lots of benefits such as promotional, networking and marketing opportunities, but it’s important that solicitors understand the risks involved and to act accordingly. In using social media, solicitors should consider the potential blurring of the boundaries between personal and professional use, and the importance of recognising that the same ethical obligations of professional conduct apply in an online environment.

The SDT has unlimited powers to fine, suspend or strike off a solicitor where they are found to have behaved unethically. The SRA’s internal fining powers have also increased from £2,000 to £25,000. We’ve urged the SRA to introduce further transparency and accountability safeguards to prevent excessive and unjustified fines.

Solicitor suspended for disregarding client care

A solicitor was struck off by the SDT for a complete disregard to the risks of fraud in conveyancing transactions and the obligations upon accepting instructions from a vulnerable client. Despite serious doubts over the client’s capacity, the solicitor enabled the transaction to go ahead and failed to make the necessary enquiries into whether any undue influence had been exerted and failed to identify signs of exploitation. The solicitor acted for both the buyer and the seller in the transaction. The buyer was convicted of fraud and money laundering earlier this year. The solicitor had previously been fined in 2018, again relating to conveyancing matters. The SDT found no mitigating factors and suspended the

solicitor for 12 months and ordered him to pay costs of £12,000.

Solicitor struck off for withdrawing money from client account

The SDT found that a solicitor was withdrawing funds from the client account, preparing invoices in relation to probate estates and transferring the money without consent. The solicitor admitted breaches of the accounts rules but denied that he was dishonest. The SDT found that he had acted dishonestly and struck him off the roll. However, despite the SRA making submissions for costs, the SDT made no order for costs on the basis that the solicitor was not in a position to pay costs now or ‘in the foreseeable future.’

Fined for criminal offences

A non-practicing solicitor, who ceased to practice in 2015/16 but remained on the roll, was involved in a road traffic accident and found to be in possession of drugs. The solicitor pleaded guilty to six offences in the Magistrates Court and was fined and barred from driving for sixteen months. She agreed to a £10,000 fine and the SDT also ordered her to pay costs of £2,500.

Struck off for overcharging

A solicitor with 57 years PQE admitted overcharging 4 clients almost £475,000 and agreed to be struck off. The SRA intervened in 2021, which the solicitor said was a ‘welcome relief’ as he had struggled to run a legal practice and keep up with changes in regulation while running his caseload. He was also ordered to pay costs of £36,000.

How Compli can help...

The Compli team is able to provide expertise and advice in the areas of risk and compliance and disciplinary assistance. If we can help in any way, please do get in touch.

Andrea Cohen
Compli
Weightmans LLP

THE LAWYERS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Carol Service

on Monday, 19th December, 2022 at 6pm

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

With Speaker: Revd. Canon Katy Canty, Dean of
Sector Ministries, Diocese of Liverpool

With readings from;

His Honour Judge Graham Wood KC

Victoria Roberts, Barrister

Steven Zdolyny, President of Liverpool Law Society

Joanne Brindle, Legal Executive

With Music from Formby Brass Band

Please do join us after the Service for refreshments at
the back of the church

ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

**There will be a retiring collection shared equally between the
Prison Fellowship and Transforming Choice**

Improving access to justice for victims of domestic abuse



November 25th marks International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women – a date recognised across the nation. However, what isn't recognised by many is the legal aid available to those women and girls who are currently living with violence.

Violence against women and girls is a pervasive issue in society, with many suffering without support or guidance. The latest statistics from across the UK show that in the year ending March 2020, an estimated 1.6 million women aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse (DA) in the last year, and, according to CSEW data for the year ending March 2018, only 18% of women who had experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months reported the abuse to the police.

Looking closer to home, last year, DA-related crimes in Merseyside rose once again, despite prosecutions falling. There were 34,421 DA-related incidents reported to Merseyside Police from April 2020 to and including March 2021 – equating to around 94 per day on average. In Greater Manchester, there was an increase of 44% in DA crimes reported between August 2020 and August 2021 – with a total of 58,940. At MSB, we're passionate about and committed to providing support to

victims of DA across the North West and raising awareness of the help on offer – this extends from inside our offices, to wider society.

This commitment is reflected in our initiatives, policies, public events and legal aid offering which allows us to support those in DA situations who may not be in a position to pay for legal support.

For example, earlier this year, we launched the 'exit button' feature on our website. This button was implemented to enable users browsing the site to immediately leave the page and return to the computers home screen. This was created with DA victims in mind, giving them an avenue to escape if they felt their abuser was watching their screen while they're potentially seeking support.

It's equally important to us that we provide the same level of care to our staff as we do our clients. Earlier in the year, following in the inspiring footsteps of Northern Ireland, we implemented a 'Safe Days' policy across the firm. In March this year, Northern Ireland rolled out the Domestic Abuse (Save Leave) Bill, which entitles all victims of DA to 10 days of paid leave each year.

We acknowledge the difficulty that can come with seeking help and making arrangements when trapped in a situation involving DA; this Safe Days policy gives staff 10 days of leave which is intended to be used for issues relating to DA, including obtaining legal advice, finding alternative accommodation, taking advantage of healthcare, obtaining welfare support and protecting family members – though it's not exclusively restricted to this.

Northern Ireland has led the way in improving access to justice with this bill and we're urging businesses across the UK to get behind the initiative by implementing safe days in their own workplaces.

If you are interested in implementing safe days or any other safeguarding policies for your own staff, please contact our Head of Employment, Steven Davies, on stevendavies@msbsolicitors.co.uk.

If you need advice or support on any of the issues mentioned here, you can be sure that our Family Team will have the expertise needed to reach the right resolution for you. We are here to help. Contact us today.

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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.

The main news of the month came as a bit of a surprise!

In September 2021 the MOJ responded to the 2017 Jackson report on fixed recoverable costs (FRC). They announced that it was the government's intention to roll out FRC across most areas of litigation in the fast track. Lord Wolfson, then a Justice Minister said in the forward to the response –

“These cases, while no doubt important to the parties themselves, are for relatively low damages and there is currently no certainty as to the costs that may be recovered or paid.”

The government confirmed its intention to adopt the proposal in the Jackson report and to implement the changes in October 2022. That date was eventually put back to April 2023. There was initial scepticism among costs lawyers that this would be achieved. Previous ‘reforms’ had not been delivered on time. April 2023 then became a more likely date when the draft rules were delivered to the CPRC at the start of October 2022. Following this, we were told that we were likely to see the rules before the end of 2022.

It came as a surprise then when Lord Bellamy, on 18th November 2022 that implementation would in fact be delayed until October 2023!

“Extending FRCs requires an extremely complex set of reforms... So I'd like to offer my sincere thanks to the CPRC, and its costs sub-committee, chaired by Mr Justice Trower, for its tireless work here. I know it hasn't been an easy task. I know that these reforms have particular implications for housing cases, and I am grateful for the constructive input of housing providers which we continue to consider... Progress has been made, and we hope the rules will be approved in the near future. But we're also very conscious of how important it is to get this right.”

[Fixed costs extension delayed to October 2023 | News | Law Gazette](#)

It has been unfortunate that firms have been faced with such uncertainty. Some firms, particularly those that act for tenants in Housing Conditions Cases have had to consider the viability of continuing to do the work. Whilst they have a few months delay, the uncertainty is hardly helpful at a time a real challenge.

This announcement was followed a few days later by an announcement from the Civil Justice Council that the

costs consultation was to be reopened. This is limited to the implications of the recent Court of Appeal judgment in *Belsner v Cam Legal Services* which we have discussed at length in this column! It is a Survey Monkey consultation and is open until 15th December 2022. Responses can be completed via this link –

[Consultation on costs \(re-opened\) Survey \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](#)

Could this mean a fundamental re-think on civil costs? By October 2023 we will be a year closer to a General Election that could well see a change of government and possibly a rethink of government priorities.

All of this means a period of uncertainty for litigation lawyers who have had to adapt to endless changes over the last few years.

Speaking of uncertainty, the government has also been talking about legal aid rates. Lord Bellamy's review of legal aid had recommended an immediate increase of 15%. This was said to be the minimum needed to ensure the future viability of the criminal legal aid sector.

In November 2022 the Justice Secretary, Dominic Raab, refused to increase rates to this level. He announced that this was not appropriate at a time of inflation. This led to a robust response from Law Society President, Lubna Shuja who accused the government of throwing down a gauntlet to the profession. She continued –

“Until the government chooses to address the crisis in the criminal justice system, victims will continue to be let down, court delays will increase and talk of being tough on crime will be nothing but empty words.”

This is likely to be a running story in 2023.

And so we come to the end of a busy 2022. The year ahead promises to be no less frantic!

Finally we wish you all a great Christmas and happy new year...

If you require help in relation to any costs issues contact Robert Cook at robert@cook-legal.co.uk



Learn to Love Your Money

Something has gone wrong over the last 12 years with how we treat our money. Considering how much of our lives most of us spend trying to accumulate it, that doesn't make a whole lot of sense. It's a mystery that, when we consider our homes, cars, clothes, and holidays, we frequently aim for the best we can afford and aspire for better. But when it comes to our money, the cheapest investment solution we can find "will do just fine, thank you!"

To be fair, most private clients that seek professional advice have been coerced into believing that the headline fee is what our investment decisions should be based upon over the recent past; and there are some good reasons why.

Post the Global Financial Crisis consumer sentiment was understandably at an all time low. In addition, the regulator toughened its grip on the sector to protect consumers from repeats of the past. At the same time, central banks implemented monetary policy measures that had previously only existed in theoretical textbooks, flooding markets with QE and stimulus to shore up the system.

There were two significant by-products; businesses looked to reduce costs and reduce risks, delivering ever cheaper generic investment solutions which were then rolled out across their client base. Markets in turn provided the ideal backdrop for this change in approach with all asset classes moving higher as QE supported and inflated prices.

As a result, over the last 12 years, private clients have been able to invest

in low-cost index tracking portfolios, independently or with advice, and looked utterly heroic as their investments moved steadily higher with historically low volatility. The perfect investment journey.

But memories are short, and the winds of change are now blowing strong as we find ourselves at a very transitional point economically speaking. Central bank policy has changed fundamentally from 12 months ago, inflation is high and climbing, interest rates are responding, energy prices are rising, and conflict and geopolitical tensions abound.

And, of course, on top of all that we are nursing the excessive debt we have accumulated since the Global Financial Crisis, both at a government and consumer level. The era of "cheap money" is facing a hard stop.

So, the immediate and midterm future, looks to be very different, almost unrecognisable, from the recent past. And that low-cost investment solution that has served us so well, is now dangerously exposed to downside risk, and could make for a very uncomfortable experience over the years ahead. Therefore, a successful investment strategy going forward cannot be one that tracks an index down and compounds that by not harvesting opportunities at those lows when markets inevitably overreact.

In this new world, a successful investment strategy needs to be dynamic. It needs to be actively managed in a way that protects client's capital in the downturns and takes advantage of mispricing in those brief moments of opportunity.

It needs to embrace the opportunity volatility provides, to bolster returns in a "low return" environment. Moreover, it needs to find some islands of safety. Those specialist sectors that can buck the prevailing trend, such as biotech or robotics.


However, that approach is more research intensive, more responsive, and more "hands on". As a result, it come at a higher fee than those that investors have come to consider the norm. It requires investors to reevaluate what "value" really means when it comes to outsourcing the management of their money. It needs "performance net of fees" to be prioritised over "headline fees".

At Shard Capital our private client investment management service is not designed around scale, low cost and passive investment. Instead, our approach is focused on genuinely bespoke investment solutions tailored for each and every individual. We take all necessary steps to ensure our clients pay a fee that is competitive with our peers, but we never shy away from including a higher cost security in your portfolio if it has demonstrated consistent outperformance and we think its appropriate to do so. And we keep our focus on the task at hand, managing your money by human experience, not by machine. In short, we are committed to delivering our clients absolute returns at every stage of the market cycle, as relative outperformance will not pay the school fees; and we scour the investment universe to find very best ideas to help us achieve your goals, wherever those opportunities may be.

So, if you have probate, divorce or negligence clients that will rely on that wealth over the years ahead, we would love to rise to the challenge and be part of that journey; and help them love their money at the same time.

Wishing all member of Liverpool Law Society and their families a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous 2023.

<https://www.shardcapital.com/law/>



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Forthcoming Courses

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
11/01/2023	Introduction to Wills & Probate, and Connection with Family Law	Safda Mahmood
18/01/2023	Commercial Leases Update	Richard Snape
19/01/2023	Costs, costs, and more costs!	Andrew McLoughlin
20/01/2023	Company Law: The Essentials	Chris Beanland
23/01/2023	Topical SDLT points	Hannah MacKinlay
25/01/2023	Staying ahead in law 2023: conference for law firm leaders	Various
01/02/2023	Domestic Abuse Conference	Various
02/02/2023	The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor - PART 1	Vicky Ling
03/02/2023	The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor - PART 2	Vicky Ling
07/02/2023	Conveyancing Update 2023	Lorraine Richardson
08/02/2023	Housing Disrepair Conference	Various
28/02/2023	Financial Orders: Law & Practice	Safda Mahmood
28/02/2023	Cohabitation: Law Practice (online)	Safda Mahmood
03/03/2023	Service of the Claim Form (online)	Nicky Carter
08/03/2023	Costs Conference	Various
09/03/2023	Introduction to Residential Conveyancing Intensive Training - DAY 1	Richard Snape
15/03/2023	Restrictive and Positive Covenants in Freehold Land	Richard Snape
21/03/2023	Pricing, performance, and profitability	Peter Scott
22/03/2023	Introduction to Residential Conveyancing Intensive Training - DAY 2	Richard Snape
31/03/2023	Personal Insolvency: A Practical Guide	Chris Beanland

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

On behalf of all at Liverpool Law Society, we would like to thank you for your support during 2022 & wish you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Introduction to Wills & Probate, and Connection with Family Law

with Safda Mahmood
Wednesday 11th January, 10am - 4pm

Online/recorded session

This online course will equip you with the essentials in terms of principles of wills and probate, and as to how it links into other areas of law, particularly family law.

It will be of benefit to those delegates who seek to get an understanding of this area of law.

The areas to be covered are:

- Requirements for a valid will
- Capacity and formalities
- Witnesses and types of gift
- Making changes to wills
- Revising and revoking wills
- Clauses to assist children
- Family provision claims
- Divorce, dissolution and wills
- Intestacy and contentious probate & more



Competencies: B & C Level: Introduction

[Click here to book](#)

Liverpool Law Society

Commercial Leases Update

with Richard Snape
Wednesday 18th January, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Online/recorded session

Commercial leases are undergoing major changes, especially in the post pandemic era. In particular, the Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Act 2022 which came into force on 24 March 2022.

Topics covered include:

- The latest on the Coronavirus Act 2020
- The Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Act 2022
- Rent arrears and debt claims including the effects of the Coronavirus Act
- Lease renewals and the effect of Coronavirus
- Latest on energy performance of buildings
- Changes to Planning Use Classes

...& more

Competencies: B

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



Costs, Costs & more Costs!

With Andrew McLoughlin
Thursday 19th January, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Online/recorded session

Suitable for anyone who deals with costs in litigation from paralegals to partners

Who would have thought up there would be so much litigation about £295.50 – Welcome to the Costs world of 2023. This online course will cover key aspects concerning budgeting, recoverability, and client retainers.

- Costs budgeting Developments-the last 12 months
- Belsner v Cam Legal Services- the consequences
- Fixed Recoverable Costs-extensions
- Indemnity costs-how and why
- Maximising costs recovery
- Client retainers

Competencies: B

[BOOK HERE](#)

Company Law: The Essentials

with Chris Beanland
Friday 20th January, 2pm - 4pm

Online/recorded session

Aimed at:

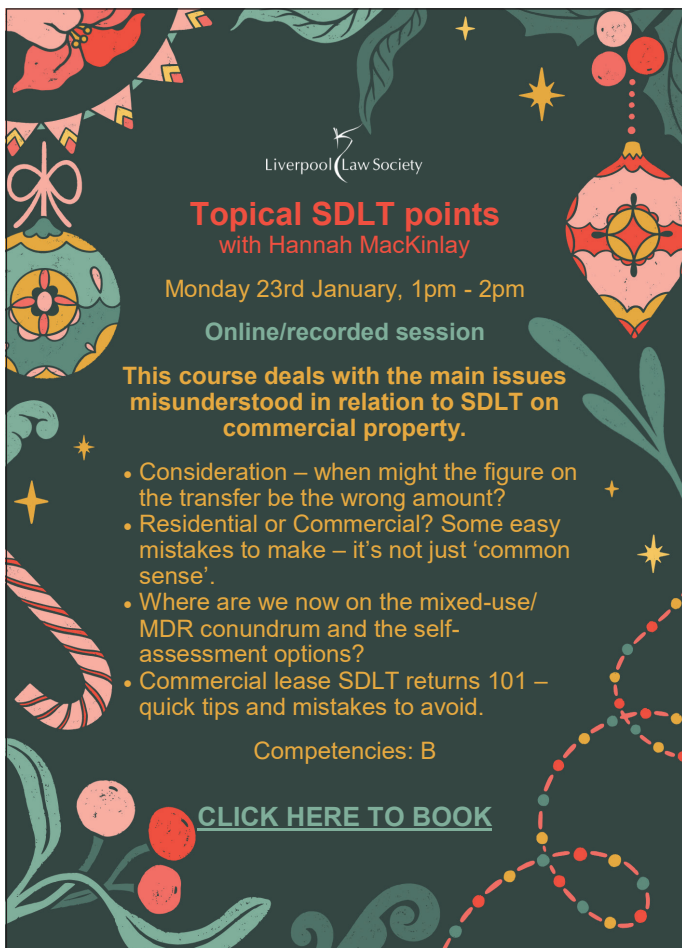
Any practitioner at any level who wants a reminder of or introduction to the principles of company law

This course will provide practitioners with a refresher on company law principles. It will cover:

- Forming a company
- Separate legal personality
- Types of director
- Directors' duties and restrictions on directors
- Shareholder rights
- Unfair prejudice
- Derivative claims

Competencies: B

[BOOK HERE](#)



Liverpool Law Society

Topical SDLT points
with Hannah MacKinlay

Monday 23rd January, 1pm - 2pm

Online/recorded session

This course deals with the main issues misunderstood in relation to SDLT on commercial property.

- Consideration – when might the figure on the transfer be the wrong amount?
- Residential or Commercial? Some easy mistakes to make – it's not just 'common sense'.
- Where are we now on the mixed-use/MDR conundrum and the self-assessment options?
- Commercial lease SDLT returns 101 – quick tips and mistakes to avoid.

Competencies: B

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



Liverpool Law Society

**Staying ahead in law 2023:
conference for law firm leaders**

Wednesday 25th January, 9.30am – 3pm
Taylor Wessing, Albert Dock

With confirmed sessions;

Growing Talent & Leadership
Joanna Kingston-Davies, The MPD Group

Surviving high pressure situations
Fran Costello, Aha Moment

Building a Brand for Resilience
Michelle Howard, Michelle Howard Consulting Ltd

**Mindsets for Commercial Success in a
Competitive Legal Sector**
Kelsey Greenaway, Dale Carnegie

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
Nina Sahu, Hill Dickinson's LLP

**Legal tech, law tech & O shaped lawyers –
what does the future look like?**
Dr Catriona Wolfenden, Weightmans LLP

Succession Planning
David Malone, O'Connors LLP

Sponsored by:  **Miller**

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



Save the date...

Wednesday 1st February

for the

Domestic Abuse Conference 2023



The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor with Vicky Ling

2 day course: 2nd and 3rd February, both at 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Online/recorded sessions

This 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.

Day one – 2/2/23

- 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

Day two – 3/2/23

- Characteristics of good supervision
- What supervisors need to look for in file reviews
- An introduction to the inter-personal skills supervisors need; listening and feedback
- Different approaches to supervision
- Finding the time to supervise

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



Conveyancing Update

with Lorraine Richardson

Tuesday 7th February, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Online/recorded session

Conveyancing is in a constant state of flux and busy practitioners can find it hard to stay up to date. This online course will cover some of the key hot topics and will cover:

- Undertakings
- Cladding – where are we?
- New build – Help to Build, Consumer Code and the new Ombudsman
- HMLR changes and pitfalls
- AML key reminders
- Conduct update
- Recent cases

As this is an update, other topics may be included.

Competencies: B **[BOOK HERE](#)**



2023 Housing Disrepair Conference

Wednesday 8th February 2023
9.30am - 2.45pm

Online/recorded session

Chaired by District Judge Baldwin

With confirmed sessions so far;

Disrepair & Access
Louise Murphy, MSB

Disrepair in long leasehold situations
Chris Larkin, 4-5 Gray's Inn Square Chambers

Costs in Disrepair
Sarah Mansfield, Cullimore Dutton

& more...

[BOOK HERE](#)



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Charity Spotlight: School-Home Support



School-Home Support works to ensure children are in school and ready to learn, whatever it takes. Our practitioners work with families in schools and communities to tackle barriers to education such as poverty, domestic violence and mental ill health, to ensure children are able to access the education they deserve. We have School-Home Support practitioners working in school settings and communities around the UK, including Blackpool, Bradford, Manchester, London, Kent, Eastbourne and as of 2022, Liverpool. Our practitioners work with children who are persistently absent from school to target the root causes of absence, build resilience within families, and decrease the impact of poverty on education. In 2021/22, we reached over 18,000 people and achieved an average attendance increase of +7.8% (for those who improved their attendance), which is equivalent to an additional 15 extra days in school.

We expanded our services into Liverpool in January 2022, after identifying the city as an area in need of our support, and securing

DfE funding. Autumn 2021 figures from the DfE showed persistence absence rates in Liverpool had increased from 16.7% in Autumn 2020 to 24.4% in Autumn 2021. These children are missing weeks, months and even years of their education, severely affecting their future life chances. Since January 2022, our practitioners have been responding to these issues in Liverpool, working to unpick challenges at home, and get children into school. We have supported 128 individuals and achieved an average improvement in attendance of just over 4%. This is an incredible impact to have in such a short space of time, and provides a vital platform for continuing to improve attendance. Our work in Liverpool remains a priority as the need for our services has never been greater and there are many more families who need our support.

Whilst this situation seems challenging enough, we are also faced with the current cost of living crisis. For the families we support, they simply cannot afford these rising costs. We know the demand on our practitioner service will continue to increase as families have nowhere else to turn.

We are incredibly grateful to our supporters who enable us to continue to provide support throughout these challenging times. A significant amount of our income comes from voluntary sources, including corporate partnerships. We work with corporate partners to develop mutually beneficial relationships and offer engaging employee volunteering opportunities; including Christmas gift campaigns, aspiration days in corporate offices and reading in schools.

To hear more about our work, and how you can support us, contact us at changemaker@shs.org.uk.



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15th December 2022

‘Austin & Helen Carty collection of Irish & British Art’

- to include works by Peter Scott, Charles Knight, George Thompson, Robert Dunleavy, Sheila Turner, Mary Swanzy, Percy French, Arthur Dooley, Brian Burgess and many more
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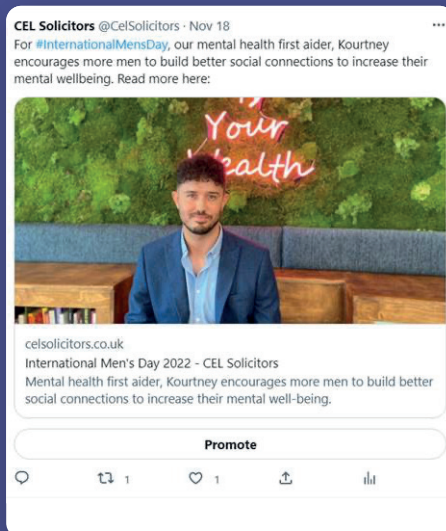
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VIEWINGS
Tuesday 13th
December
Wednesday 14th
December
10am to 4pm



Social Media Highlights

This month we focus first on CEL Solicitors' online promotion of National Men's Day, Black History Month and interactions with the national press.



For International Men's Day and Men's Mental Health Month/ Movember, Kourtney, our Mental Health first-aid here at CEL Solicitors produced a blog encouraging more men to build better social connections to increase their mental wellbeing. Read blog here: <https://celsolicitors.co.uk/international-mens-day-2022/>

Our owner, Jessica took part in a Twitter Space with The Mirror discussing the tragic passing of 2-year-old Awaab Ishak, and the current state of social housing. The Twitter Space had over 100 listeners.

Staff members, Megan and Gavin visited Liverpool John Moores University Law Fair to chat to students and aspiring legal professionals about careers in law.

For Black History Month, members of staff, Seun, Rebecca and Natalie delivered a talk on the underrepresentation of Black people in the legal sector, and what can be done as a business to change this. Read blog here: <https://celsolicitors.co.uk/black-history-month-at-cel-solicitors/>

Members of CEL recently attended the Liverpool Legal Awards, where CEL Solicitor, **David Whelan** was shortlisted for an award.



If you have an interesting tweet to share, why not send it to us: editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk



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to The
National Brain
Appeal



Fund
pioneering
research and
treatment



Make a real
difference
to people's
lives

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We want to improve the outcome and quality of life for the one in six people affected by a neurological condition.

We do this by funding pioneering research, providing access to the best technology for expert diagnosis and treatment, and training tomorrow's clinicians.

Gifts in Wills are one of our most vital sources of income and are crucial in continuing this work at The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery and the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology.

Planning ahead now can help so many people in the future. Find out more at:

nationalbrainappeal.org/legacy

**The National
Brain Appeal**
Funding advances
in neurology and
neurosurgery

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BRAIN INJURY
STROKE EPILEPSY
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SPINAL
MULTIPLE
SCLEROSIS

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