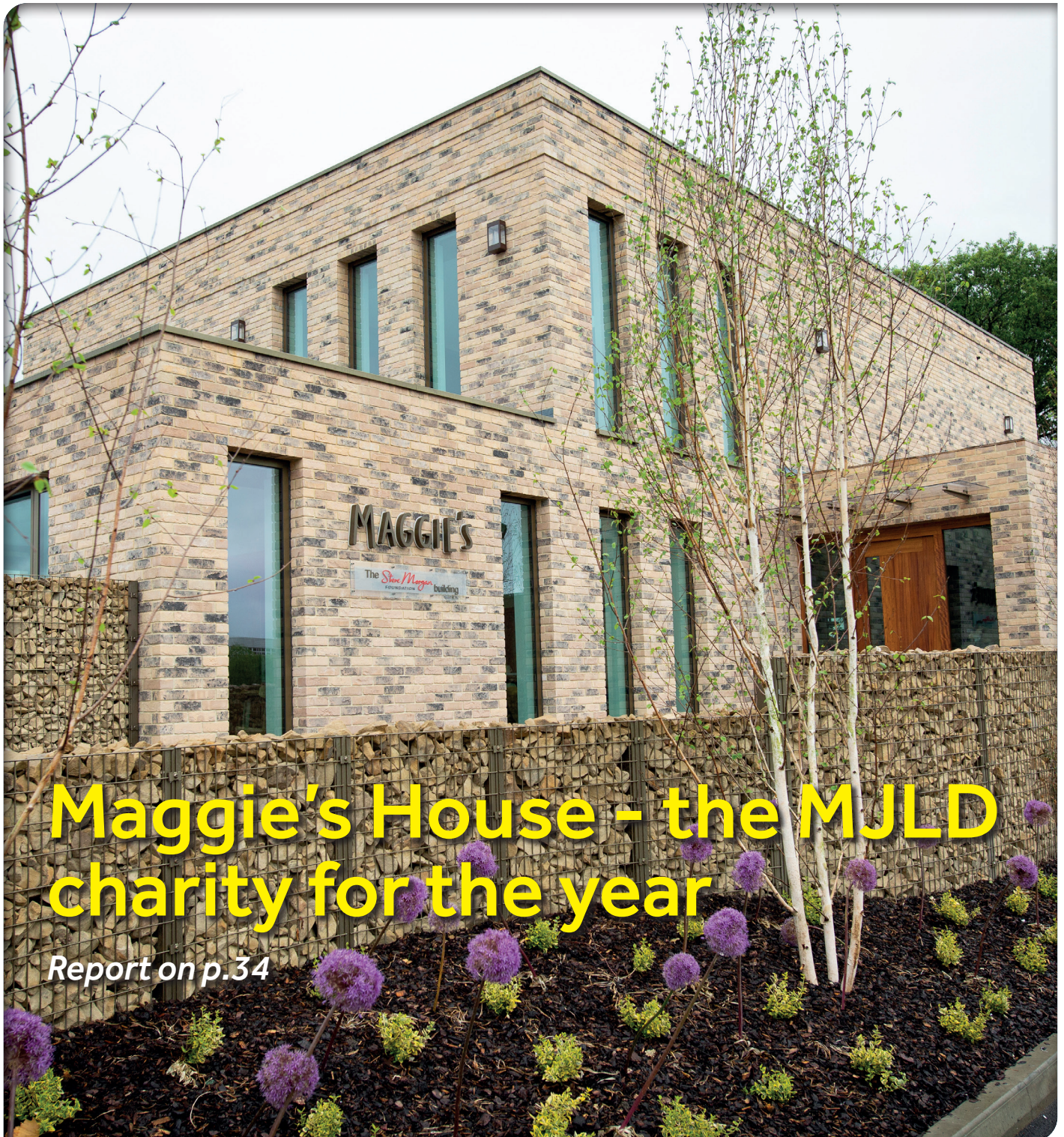


March 2023

Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

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



Maggie's House - the MJLD charity for the year

Report on p.34

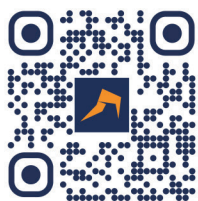


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March 2023

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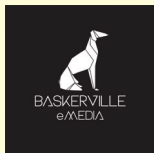
Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

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.

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

Welcome to the March edition of Liverpool Law



You will see this month we have an array of events featured for International Women's Day, including an invitation from The Law Society to host your own at your offices on 16 March. I encourage you all to attend as many events as possible, men too. I missed the last one but understand the only male in the room was our President, I'm sure we can do better than that.

I've mentioned previously how I never considered my gender to be a barrier in my career - but oh how my views have changed on this since having children! It is amazing how women continue to shoulder the majority of the responsibility for childcare, despite men wanting increased involvement, it seems to be ingrained in society that it falls to the Mums.

Of course both parents will want to be there for their children when poorly or spend time off with during the school holidays (the number of which I am still getting accustomed to with a 5 year old), but it should not in any way have a negative impact on a person's career. It is rather short sighted to write off a woman's career because she has a child(ren), this is just a short amount of time whilst they are young in a hopefully long and flourishing career. I implore all reading this and the President's points on the same topic to do all you can in your firms to change this.

A great example of what women and Mother's can achieve can be found in our interview with our new Vice President Gaynor Williams. Gaynor sets out her fascinating route into the law and how she managed this with three young children in tow and opened up her own firm. I look forward to seeing what she has lined up to achieve during her Presidency.

Climbing down from my soapbox I will leave you to enjoy the magazine at your leisure. As always should you have anything you wish to see included please do not hesitate to contact us. You will see we have now left our premises at Helix but our new contact details can be found in the magazine or you can contact me on editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Until next month.

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

From the President

The latest from the President, Jeremy Myers

Office life seems to be literally lighter in that we are usually leaving when it is not so dark outside. This heralds warmer days and is a positive note on which to start. Two visits to Birmingham followed in rapid succession since I last wrote. These were in the context of Liverpool Law Society (LLS) being a member of the Joint V group of leading provincial Societies.

On 25 January, I attended the meeting of the Joint V officer representatives. I was the sole Liverpool person there in present, joined by Liverpool colleagues via Zoom, with other Societies also splitting their attendance by way of the hybrid facility. Our Bill Chandler and John-Paul Dennis helped to brief me on Land Registry delays, a topic on which Liverpool was tasked to provide an update. The national President, Lubna Shuja, engaged with us by Zoom and covered a range of points.

Taking a theme from my last column, we referred to the proposed new Admission ceremonies which could take place in the provinces. The fellow Joint V Societies agree with us in Liverpool that these should complement rather than replace our own branded events. One sad reflection from the meeting was the concern raised about female practitioners still finding that childcare and medical matters have impacting negatively on theory career prospects. In 2022, this is very disappointing and should be a cause of concern. Please can all practitioners in senior roles take this to heart.

Our links with Birmingham led to an invitation for me to join the judging panel for four of the twelve awards to be announced at Birmingham's Dinner on 09 March. It was a full day's work in interviewing and engaging with candidates for Trainee, Apprentice, Pro Bono and In House Lawyer of the Year awards, in the company of Professor Lisa Webley, Chair in Legal Education and Research at the University of Birmingham and Anjum Khan, the Director of Asian Business Chamber of Commerce. I shall be attending the Dinner and am looking forward to seeing the awards being announced and hearing from the winners.

This leads me to update you on preparations for LLS's own Annual Dinner and Legal Awards. A working party in LLS Officers has spent several sessions in choosing a set of awards to suit current practice. We hope that the set selected will prove to be attractive to LLS's member individuals and teams, and that a competitive range of nominations will be received for consideration by our judging panel. Please compete.

I am keen to learn more about the work of the LLS committees which I do not usually attend. Accordingly, in the last month I have attended the Non Contentious Committee's Zoom meeting and the Editorial Committee's in-person meeting. My plan is to listen and learn at other Committees during the course of the year. There is so much valuable and detailed work undertaken, and each Committee is keen to recruit new and diverse talent.

A theme running through my priorities for the year is of course engagement. I am keen to talk with practice leaders in LLS member firms and this month – after an e-mail out to Committee members – met Lauren Cannon of In-House Solutions. A meeting with David Lewis of Weightmans is to be fixed shortly, both meetings set after I asked our Committee members to see if their managing partners



would like to meet to supplement our Leaders in Law dinner. Please would any managing partners reading this column – and who would like chat about LLS – contact me.

Charity engagement has continued. I had a meeting with Steve Stuart of Professional and Business Services Advisory Board and Angela White of Sefton Council for Voluntary Service. Steve was introduced to us by the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, and he and I will see about how members might be encouraged to provide pro bono or reduced charge work for charities. This week, I attended the Rainbow Trust's launch in Liverpool. It supports children with life limiting conditions and asked for LLS to attend the event. This might also be a link for LLS to develop and which I shall explore.

Also this week, on 21 February, I attended Liverpool School of Law and Social Justice's annual Property Lecture held in conjunction with Atlantic Chambers. Mr Justice Fancourt delivered a closely argued piece on the subject of Forfeiture. There were members of the LLS Committee present and it was a good chance to maintain our links with the Bar and the academic community, as well as updating our knowledge. Such lectures can form part of our professional development record.

As ever, there is so much on which to write and so I hope that this provides a useful summary. I am always keen to hear from members about topics from this column or otherwise.

Jeremy Myers
President

president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

LLS Meetings & events – Mar/Apr 2023

Committees of practice areas, EDI, Editorial and Access to Justice are open to all members of Liverpool Law Society. To enquire about your membership status and/or being co-opted, please email committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Start Time	Meeting/Event
14/03/2023 12:30	General Committee
16/03/2023 12:00	TLS 100 Years of Women hybrid event
17/03/2023 13:00	LLS Directors Meeting with MPs
21/03/2023 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
22/03/2023 13:00	Future Planning Sub-Committee
23/03/2023 13:00	Civil Litigation Sub-Committee
23/03/2023 16:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee
23/03/2023 17:00	Joint social with Liverpool Chamber at Royal Institution
28/03/2023 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
29/03/2023 13:00	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Sub-Committee
04/04/2023 13:00	Employment Law Sub-Committee
06/04/2023 13:00	Access to Justice Sub-Committee
11/04/2023 12:30	General Committee

Consultation Papers

Papers referred to committees:

The following sub-committees of Liverpool Law Society are considering responding to these consultation papers. If any member would like to send in a comment, please do so to committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk


Committee	Consultation Paper title	Closing Date
Criminal Practice	Strengthening the law enforcement response to serious and organised crime	21/03/2023
Regulatory	Value for Money: A framework on metrics, standards, and disclosures	27/03/2023
Non-Contentious Business	Alternative cost recovery for remediation works: consultation on proposals to make regulations and statutory guidance	31/03/2023
Employment Law	Draft Code of Practice on dismissal and re-engagement	18/04/2023
Civil Litigation	Personal Injury Discount Rate: Exploring the option of a dual/multiple rate	11/04/2023



JOINT WALK

with members of
Liverpool and Cheshire & North Wales Law Societies

on Saturday, 29th April 2023



Get out into the fresh air and enjoy a walk in
the countryside!

Put on your boots for a guided walk in the
Chirk area on the Shropshire/Wrexham
border, including walking through Chirk
Castle's grounds.

Time: 10.30am for an 11 am start

Meeting Place: In Chirk on the Shropshire/ Wrexham border.

Bring: A packed lunch and drinks, walking boots and waterproofs in case of rain.

All Welcome

Register your attendance at contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk
and further details will be emailed to you



L-R Tayla Rees, Kaleem Choudhry, Joanna Kumwenda, Alicia Cooke, Ron Davison (MD), Shauna Bland

Gamlins Law invests in the future

A leading North Wales law firm is investing in its future with the recruitment of eight young lawyers.

Gamlins Law has announced five new trainee solicitors and three paralegals.

Seven of the new recruits are from North Wales and one from Cheshire. The five trainee solicitors are **Alicia Cooke, Laurel Martin, Kaleem Choudhry, Joanna Kumwenda** and **Tayla Rees**, while the three paralegals are **Shauna Bland, Chelsea Rushton** and **Larissa Solan**.

Gamlins Law is the largest law firm in North Wales, employing over 80 people, with a head office in Rhyl and further offices in Mold, Ruthin, Denbigh, Abergelge and Holywell.

Ron Davison, Managing Director of Gamlins Law, said: "We look to lead the way not only in the provision of high-

quality legal services, but also in the calibre of people that work for the business.

"Investing in the lawyers of tomorrow is an essential part of ensuring we have the best talent across all our legal services. All the new recruits demonstrated a passion for the law and to help clients faced with challenges or opportunities.

"The recruitment of five trainee solicitors and three paralegals sets us apart from most law firms of a similar size and is a key plank of our building for the future strategy."

Tayla Rees, a trainee solicitor from Prestatyn, said: "Being there to offer help and guidance during significant and challenging life events is hugely rewarding. No two days are the same and the law is continually evolving."

Chelsea Rushton, a paralegal from Anglesey, said: "I chose a career in the

law because it would challenge me, allow me to deal with people every day and to make a difference to their lives."

Joanna Kumwenda, from St Asaph, has worked as a paralegal with Gamlins Law for the last year and is now about to start her contract as a trainee solicitor.

Joanna said: "I knew from a young age that I wanted to pursue a career in the law, helping people achieve the best outcomes. After working in the personal injury team, I am now looking forward to learning and experiencing different aspects of the law."

Gamlins Law offers a comprehensive range of legal services including commercial, commercial and residential property, employment law, family and matrimonial, children, personal injury and clinical negligence, criminal, regulatory, litigation, inheritance tax, wills and probate.

Hill Dickinson appoints new COO

Leading commercial law firm Hill Dickinson has announced the appointment of Tas Quayum as chief operating officer.

Tas joins the firm as an experienced COO with a background in financial and professional services having previously worked at leading global investment banks, JP Morgan and Barclays Capital.

He formerly worked as COO for the professional services division of Smith and Williamson (now Evelyn Partners) and prior to that as COO of KPMG's financial services, risk consulting and government and infrastructure businesses. He was most recently COO of Forresters, an international IP law firm.

Welcoming him to the firm, chief executive officer **Peter Jackson** said: "We are delighted to announce the appointment of Tas Quayum as chief operating officer at Hill Dickinson. He joins us at a time when the firm has experienced five years of successive growth during which time we have also added two new UK offices and

more than 50 additional partners and legal directors to our global headcount.

"As a law firm that is constantly looking ahead to ensure our operating model remains fit for purpose in an increasingly competitive world, we appointed our first ever COO in 2016. It marked a transformative step for our business and now more than ever, as we continue to grow, it is a role that remains crucial to our ongoing success."

Peter Jackson continued: "Finding the right candidate to combine the roles of high-level strategist with the ability to manage the day-to-day execution of our operations across all our offices and key business groups, both in the UK and internationally, was no mean feat. The board and I look forward to introducing Tas to our office heads and practice teams across the firm and setting in motion a number of exciting initiatives already planned for 2023."

Tas Quayum said: "The opportunity to take up the position of COO at Hill

Dickinson at this point in my career is something I was delighted to accept. I had seen from afar in recent years the success with which the firm has achieved sustained organic growth while maintaining a people-first culture that is the envy of many other law firms. I am proud to be part of a team that aims to shape and deliver continued commercial growth for Hill Dickinson and our clients in the coming months and years."

Tas has operated at executive committee level for a number of years and was a member of the operations committee of both KPMG and Smith and Williamson. His strong project experience includes having led multiple front office projects, including the integration of the Barclays and Lehman Fixed Income Syndicate businesses.

He succeeds Hill Dickinson's previous COO, Iain Johnston, who has chosen to step down from the role after seven years, while remaining very much involved in the firm as a director on the executive board.

Housing Disrepair Conference 2023

Last month we held our annual Housing Disrepair Conference which was kindly & very well chaired by District Judge Baldwin.

The online event began with Louise Murphy of MSB, providing an update on Disrepair & Access, followed by Chris Larkin of 4-5 Gray's Inn Square, discussing Disrepair in long leasehold situations.

There was a brief comfort break before Sarah Mansfield, Cullimore Dutton talked about Costs in Disrepair. Next up was Tarun Bhakta on behalf of Shelter, covering Social Housing Regulation bill and Awaab's Law, concluding the mornings sessions on a poignant note.

The afternoon began with both Amy Cowap & Matthew Bown of Brabners discussing Damp and Mould in Properties, which lead into our final session of the day & the one that generated the most questions!, from surveyor Mike Franks of Frank Associates covering Mould Within Residential Buildings.

District Judge Baldwin then brought the event to a close, thanking all the wonderful speakers involved and delegates who supported. Those who did pre-book this event can access a full recording till approx. end of April.

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

P.S. Pencil in Wednesday 7th February for the 2024 event!

Communications Update:

Liverpool Law Society has a new correspondence address. It is:

LIVERPOOL LAW SOCIETY
PO BOX 2135
LIVERPOOL
L3 9TS

Please note, there will be a delay for processing items sent to the PO Box, so we do encourage you to contact us via email for a speedier response.

As we make permanent our virtual way of operating, wherever possible, we would prefer communication to be via email - to staff members where already known or in contact, or to generic email addresses such as:

For general enquiries

contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

For legal training courses enquiries

training@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

For membership queries

subscriptions@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

For accounts or invoice enquiries

accounts@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

For enquiries about our online recruitment noticeboard

recruitment@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

For enquiries about our social and business networking events

socialevents@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

For enquiries regarding all of our various committees

committees@liverpoolawsociety.org.uk

You can also get in touch with us via the online enquiry form on the contact page on our website:

www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/contact/

Our telephone number remains the same: **0151 236 6998**

The Society no longer has a document exchange box, so please remove our DX address 14100 Liverpool 1 from your records.

Our registered address is now:

c/o BWM, Tempest Suite 5.1, 12 Tithebarn Street, Liverpool, England, L2 2DT.

Carpenters Group sign up to commitment with the Science Based Targets Initiative



The world is transitioning to a zero-carbon economy. More than 4,000 businesses and financial institutions are working with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) to reduce their emissions in line with climate science.

Carpenters Group are proud to announce that we have registered and signed up to a commitment to both near term emissions reduction targets and long

term Net Zero with SBTi.

Carpenters Group CEO, **Donna Richards**, had this to say:

"Science Based Targets is a key initiative in the journey to Net Zero. This is a significant milestone in our Carpenters Group net-zero journey. It's exciting to see the actions underway to help our business reduce emissions and tackling climate change".

Interview: **Gaynor Williams, our new VP**

Gaynor Williams, partner at Bennet Williams, has been elected as Vice President of Liverpool Law Society for 2023.



Gaynor Williams

Gaynor was born in Merseyside however she moved with her parents to South Africa at the age of four, returning to the Wirral aged eleven. During her time in South Africa, Gaynor developed a passion for swimming. She has remained living on the Wirral ever since returning from South Africa, and some of her relatives still live in South Africa whom she visits from time to time.

Gaynor's Law Career came via the long and hard route, she had always been interested in a career in Law, but she did not start studying law until after she was married at 22, when she was working as a travel agent with Thomas Cook in Liverpool. So, whilst holding down a full-time job and having had her first child, she decided to begin her journey toward

becoming a Solicitor. She began by studying GCSE Law at night school which she passed with flying colours, this was followed by passing 'A level Law'. Gaynor then studied part-time as a mature student and mother of three very young children before passing her Legal Executive exams.

Her first job in Law was with a firm specialising in debt recovery. After eight years in this role, she took a career break to spend time with her children, and to help her youngest child settle into school. She resumed her career in 2007, joining Bermans, where in addition to debt recovery cases she also expanded into Litigation. After three years, Gaynor became head of debt recovery and commercial litigation at a firm specialising in property litigation. Whilst there, Gaynor decided, along with her work colleague Richard Bennet, to open their own Law firm, Bennet Williams who specialise in debt recovery, commercial dispute resolution and insolvency Law. Due to the lack of funding available for start-up businesses at that time, the launch of the firm was assisted with a loan from Gaynor's husband. The firm has now been running for eleven years and has won a number of awards including Small Law Firm of the Year 2019 in the Liverpool Law Society Excellence awards, and finalist in the main Law Societies Award for Small Law Firm of the year.

Gaynor has been involved with LLS for a number of years becoming a Director in 2017. In her new role as Vice President, Gaynor is keen to get more involved and support the President, Jeremy Myers, with his very busy diary, help with events and meetings, advise students and work with the local universities including Liverpool John Moores University, University of Liverpool, University of Law and Liverpool Hope University.

Gaynor is also engaged in a process with Vauxhall Law Centre and Web/Men Too Charity, which will hopefully result in opening an advice centre in Birkenhead, as there is a very high volume of demand for guidance on debt, social welfare and housing. Gaynor intends to help the charities push for funding to get this project off the ground, which won't be easy.

Outside of work, Gaynor is a keen runner which she finds a release from daily stresses. Each year she enters the Great North Run.

Her children; two daughters, Lauren and Leah, and one son, Glyn, are now grown up but are still a big part of her life.

We wish Gaynor every success in her new role.

Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions: Court of Appeal decision clarifies sentencing options for committals



Clare Jones

Lovett v Wigan Borough Council [2022] EWCA Civ 1631

The Court of Appeal has provided clarity on the sentencing options for committals following the breach of anti-social behaviour injunctions (ASBIs) under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 (ASBCPA 2014).

Case summary

The Court of Appeal dealt with three conjoined appeals. Two appellants (H and S) had appealed against sentences imposed for breach of ASBIs made under ASBCPA 2014, whilst the third

appellant (L) appealed against a finding that he was in breach of an ASBI. In each case, the ASBIs had been made by the civil courts and the breaches were dealt with under the contempt of court jurisdiction.

H had admitted one breach of the ASBI and the judge adjourned the sentencing hearing, indicating that she was considering a 28-day custodial sentence suspended for six months. At the restored hearing, nine months later, the judge imposed the indicated sentence, with reference to the Sentencing Council Guidelines (“the Guidelines”). The Court of Appeal allowed H’s appeal, as although the judge was right to adjourn, the initial sentence indicated was too severe for a single breach which had caused minimal harm and the judge had not been clear about the potential outcomes at the restored hearing, in relation to H’s conduct in the intervening period. The suspended sentence was quashed and there was no order on the committal application.

S had been sentenced to 12 weeks’ imprisonment suspended for a year for nine breaches of the ASBI, the judge had applied the Guidelines. S’s appeal was also allowed, as the judge’s starting point of a 12 week custodial sentence was an error, and related to the breach of a Criminal Behaviour Order. The original sentence was quashed and replaced with a sentence of one month’s imprisonment suspended for a year.

L had been committed to prison for 30 weeks in respect of 21 breaches. L’s appeal was dismissed.

Commentary

The Civil Justice Council’s 2020 report, Anti-Social Behaviour and the Civil Courts (“the CJC Report”), looked in detail at the issue of anti-social behaviour in the civil courts, including

how injunctions can be properly used. The Court of Appeal in this case looked at what sentences should be imposed for the breach of ASBIs, and whether county courts should still be using the Guidelines. The court confirmed that the purpose of the committal process is threefold, i.e. ensuring future compliance with an order, punishment and rehabilitation. However, in practice, the focus is generally on future compliance.

It was confirmed that, as set out in the CJC Report, there are five options a court has in respect of breach of an ASBI – an immediate custodial order, a suspended order, adjourning for consideration, a fine no order.

County court judges have previously struggled with the application of the Guidelines, which were principally designed for use in relation to ASBOs and which use a five year sentencing range, whereas the maximum penalty that the civil courts can impose for contempt is two years. The Court of Appeal held that the Guidelines are no longer the most appropriate measure for ASBI breaches and considered the guidance that the CJC Report set out.

The court set out the following guidelines to allow judges to approach the task in a systematic manner:

- The objectives of sentencing are to ensure future compliance, punishment and rehabilitation in that order.
- The options to suspend a sentence or adjourn for consideration offer the opportunity to amend the ASBI, impose conditions, or add positive requirements.
- Custody has to be reserved for the most serious of breaches, or for less serious cases where other methods of securing compliance had failed. A custodial sentence is not to be

imposed if there is a sufficient alternative option that is appropriate and any custodial term has to be the shortest necessary to achieve the court's purpose.

- It is good practice to consider a penalty for each proven breach and any terms of imprisonment imposed can be made to run concurrently or consecutively.
- Although a suspended sentence is often used as the first means of ensuring compliance, an alternative would be to adjourn consideration of sentence, and to indicate what sentence would have been imposed had the matter not been adjourned and to clearly state the consequences of good or bad conduct during the adjournment by way of a recital in the order. An absence of breaches in the interim will generally result in a lesser sentence than initially indicated, and any future breach will be treated as substantially more serious.
- Distinct consideration should be given to harm and culpability, and the three-level scheme proposed by the CJC report was a valuable tool.
- Separately identifying harm and culpability allows the court to determine a starting point and range within which the sentence can be adjusted to take account of aggravating and mitigating factors such as history of disobedience, the particular vulnerability of any victim, genuine remorse, ill-health, lack of maturity, or an early admission and suitable apology. Any adjustment from the starting point has to be identified and explained, and cogent reasons have to be given for a sentence outside the indicative range.

Practical considerations for ASB practitioners

In practice, it is expected that county courts are likely to utilise the option of adjourning consideration often following the ruling in *Lovett v Wigan Borough Council*. This is likely to take up a lot of court time and practitioners will need to ensure that if an adjourned hearing is to be listed, the directions made at the initial committal hearing set a date for the adjourned hearing

if possible, to avoid the adjournment period running on for longer than agreed. As referred to above, the judge at the initial hearing should also make clear what the consequences of good/bad conduct will be in the time between the initial and adjourned hearings. At the adjourned hearing, evidence will be required to set out what the defendant's behaviour has been like in the intervening period and consideration should be given to whether an application is required to vary/extend the original injunction.

Practitioners should consider what it is that you actually want to achieve. If your main objective is to obtain possession for a breach of an ASBI, you may want to consider seeking no order on the committal, so that you can then proceed to commence possession proceedings for the breach of the ASBI. If a court was to adjourn for consideration at this point, your overall aim of possession is likely to be

delayed. If you want to seek a committal to prison, obviously your approach will be different.

It is also important to remember that most committal trials will likely be one day and at best a court will only be able to deal with 10 incidences/breaches. Consideration should be given to which incidents you rely upon and the evidence you have to prove the breaches.

Sian Evans, Partner and Sector Lead for Housing at Weightmans LLP, was part of the working party that contributed to the CJC Report and the report can be found on the following link - <https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ASBI-final-accessible.pdf>

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Hill Dickinson leads North West M&A legal advisory in 2022



Ian Riggs

Ranking comes as national Corporate and Banking team advise on approximately £4 billion worth of deals across the year

Leading law firm Hill Dickinson has been ranked as the top legal adviser for M&A transactions in the North West for 2022, according to a new report by Experian Market IQ. The announcement marks a notable increase in activity for the team, rising to the top spot from its previous ranking of 4th in 2021.

The Liverpool headquartered firm advised, in aggregate, on 45 transactions in the North West across 2022. The ranking for the North West team follows a record year for the Corporate and Banking team nationally, which debuted in the top 20 of Experian's national rankings, rising to 19 from the previous year's ranking of 23. Nationally, the team advised on 73 transactions in 2022 with a total value of approximately £4 billion.

The record growth comes as the team has continued to expand its team nationally, with the headcount of its Corporate and Banking team reaching over 100 for the first time.

In the North West, specific highlights for the team included acting for Xeinadin and management on the investment by Exponent Private Equity, acting for Steve Parry MBE and Becky Adlington MBE on the sale of 60% of Total Swimming Limited to JD Sports and acting for Northedge on its investment in ramarketing.

Ian Riggs, national head of the Hill

Dickinson Corporate team said: "Our ranking for 2022 is hugely encouraging, having risen from fourth last year.

It reflects not only the volume of our advisory work, but the quality too, which is testament to both our North West and national teams. During the past 12 months, our Corporate and Banking team has grown to a national headcount of over 100 people, was ranked third in the Q1 2023 AIM client adviser rankings and has advised on deals with an aggregate value of approximately £4 billion.

"All this comes at a time when many across the region – indeed the UK – have been readying themselves to withstand a challenging financial and economic outlook. It's promising to see the North West achieve a ten-year record in deal volume despite this backdrop and rewarding to know Hill Dickinson has played a key part in enabling this activity. As we move into 2023, we are eager to maintain this momentum and continue to deliver quality advice to some of the most exciting, ambitious businesses across the region, nationally and overseas."

SAVE THE DATE

9 NOV 2023

Liverpool Law Society

ADLA

Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

Intellectual Property Enterprise Court (IPEC) Update: What does it mean for companies investing in the UK?

The Intellectual Property Enterprise Court sits within the Chancery Division of the High Court and specifically hears cases relating to a range of intellectual property (IP) disputes. The IPEC was created as a cost-efficient way for intellectual property cases to be heard quickly - most cases in the IPEC are completed in under a year. One way in which this is achieved is a cap on the total damages and recoverable costs, which means that the involved parties enter the proceedings with a certainty on the maximum costs they may face.

Recent changes to IPEC rules have affected this cap, and raised concerns among businesses and industry stakeholders. Here, the expert IP lawyers at JMW Solicitors explain the changes and predict how they might affect businesses investing in the UK from overseas.

What has changed?

Recoverable Costs Increased

In recent months the IPEC has changed in two main regards. The first occurred on the 1st October 2022, and related to the caps that mark the maximum recoverable costs on IPEC cases. The total cap on recoverable costs is now £60,000 for a final determination on liability (up from £50,000), and £30,000 for a determination on quantum (up from £25,000). Quantum can be defined as the amount of damages that are awarded to a successful party in a claim. The cap on total damages, however, remains unchanged at £500,000.

The Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill 2022

After the caps increased in October, the IPEC changed further at the end of 2022. This was part of a wider change to UK law as a result of Brexit.

For businesses looking to invest in the UK, this change may be of much more interest. The Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill 2022 was introduced to remove the special status of retained EU

law in the UK statute book. The Bill enables the government, via parliament, to amend, repeal and replace any EU laws that were retained in UK law following Brexit.

In addition, the Reform Bill also includes a sunset date, at which point all remaining EU laws will either be repealed, or assimilated into UK domestic law (although the sunset may be extended until 2026 for specific pieces of retained EU law). However, as of January 2023, the Bill is still being considered in the House of Lords, meaning it has not come into effect and is unlikely to do so until at least the middle months of 2023.

Once passed, the Bill would mean that many retained EU laws will be revoked automatically on 31 December 2023, unless the work to properly enshrine these regulations into UK law was completed in time. EU law has been key to how the UK legal system has dealt with cases relating to IP; for businesses this includes harmonisation around trade mark, design and copyright law.

It will be important for businesses to monitor this situation closely as it develops, but there are no significant changes to IPEC regulations planned for the near future. In fact, all of the primary domestic IP legislation is preserved by the Bill and falls outside the sunset provisions. This means, for example, that the 1994 Trade Marks Act and the 1949 Registered Designs Act will remain in place for the foreseeable future - there is no risk that IP protections would become suddenly invalid on 31 December 2023 if the Bill passes. However, a cohort of important pieces of legislation, such as those relating to trade marks, designs, copyright and even database rights, are at risk of automatic revocation.

Details of exactly which pieces of retained EU law the UK will keep are not comprehensively outlined on the government's dashboard, meaning that it cannot be relied upon to provide a complete

picture at this stage. As a result, it is not currently clear exactly how many, and which, pieces of trade mark, design and copyright legislation will be impacted by the Bill.

What is going to happen?

The Bill in essence means no change to the existing post-Brexit position. It could, however, serve to accelerate deviation from current EU law. The legal divergence of UK law due to Brexit has been anticipated for some time and the Bill sets a deadline to hasten that process. However, it means that all UK courts, including the IPEC, will no longer need to interpret UK legislation consistently with EU law - although the IPEC will need permission to deviate from current legislation from the high court. This will mean that UK law may start to depart from EU case law.

The extent to which UK IP judges will choose to diverge from the EU on their legislative interpretation, and the effects that this will have on case law, remain to be seen. In this case, it is likely that judges will prefer continuity and consistency between the UK and the EU, which could help to mitigate the risks of Brexit and create greater legal certainty for EU businesses working in the UK.

What does this mean for overseas businesses?

Despite the case for continuity when it comes to the IPEC, it would be wrong to assume that everything will remain entirely the same. To mitigate any potential divergence from EU law in how IP cases are managed in the UK, you should speak with a lawyer who has expertise in this area before making any investment decisions. They will be able to provide you with the tools you need to protect your business' intellectual property and reduce any risks associated with expanding into a new market.

Sam Brunt
JMW Solicitors

Interview: Lorna Mitchell, our new Director

Lorna Mitchell, Lecturer in Law, Academic Enhancement Lead and Deputy Director of Education at the University of Liverpool has been elected as Director of LLS for 2023.



Lorna Mitchell

Lorna is from the Wirral and a former pupil at St John Plessington High School in Bebington. During her time there, Lorna was always very focused on the academic side of studies, but also loved performing in school plays.

She was always drawn to a vocational career and, when still very young, thought she would like to become a teacher, as she was keen to do a job where she could make a difference to people's lives.

Lorna was attracted to a career in law because of the many different opportunities it offered. As she didn't know anyone who worked as a lawyer, she showed great initiative and wrote directly to the Law Society to ask what was required to qualify. She received a ten- page brochure from them which became her focus through her 'A' levels.

Lorna gained a place at the University of Sheffield, where she took and passed her Law Degree before taking her first job after University with London-based law firm Lawrence Graham, now Gowling WLG. Whilst Lorna was doing her seat as a trainee, she was initially drawn to becoming a litigator, but during her final seat in Corporate, everything changed. She really

enjoyed commercial and corporate law and worked on some exciting transactions which involved complex negotiations. She became highly proficient at project management of large corporate and commercial deals, which involved keeping many spinning plates in the air.

At Lawrence Graham, her work largely focused on AIM (the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange), dealing with young growing companies. Here, she gained great experience and made lots of contacts, but Lorna was keen to broaden the range of her career and get involved with the international market rather than the domestic market that Lawrence Graham concentrated on, at the time, so Lorna moved to Allen & Overy, where she gained international experience working on mergers and acquisitions projects and equity capital markets transactions.

Lorna had a fantastic time at Allen & Overy, however, having worked incredibly hard since leaving University and establishing herself as an accomplished corporate lawyer, Lorna decided to take a year out and travel. She visited the South East Asia, Africa, the Galapagos Islands and Australia. Lorna took advantage of a working visa in Australia and spent six months working in the corporate department of a law firm in Brisbane. Although enjoyable, Lorna missed England and felt, having been away for a number of years, that it was the right time to return to the Wirral.

Joining DWF, her work now involved dealing with manager-owned businesses, which was something different from her previous responsibilities, but again she really enjoyed it. She spent a lot of time mentoring and delivering training whilst at DWF and this reignited an interest in teaching. Lorna really enjoyed passing on her knowledge of corporate/commercial law and watching the careers of the junior lawyers that she worked with flourish.

This led to a natural progression into education and Lorna initially joined BPP Law School in 2011, becoming a senior lecturer and programme leader, whilst there she gained a distinction in her PGCPE in 2016 and fellowship of the HEA. She moved to the University of Liverpool in 2019 and is currently teaching first year students Contract Law. Lorna also works in the education team looking in particular at enhancement, improving the student experience and creating an innovative curriculum that will provide students with the skills needed in the modern legal environment. Having worked in practice for over 10 years, Lorna draws on that experience and her existing skills to create a resources and events that really help students to plot their own legal career paths, as part of the employability team.

In her role as Director, Lorna hopes to influence the profession that students enter. Aiming to provide the best support and training that will improve the development of junior lawyers. She is keen to raise awareness of Liverpool Law Society, particularly to students and those working in smaller firms. Letting them know that there is support available from a large legal network of legal professionals who can really help and have a positive impact upon their legal careers. Lorna also hopes that her position as Director will strengthen the links between the students of Liverpool University and the legal profession in Liverpool.

Outside of work, Lorna and her husband like to travel and three years ago bought a vintage camper van, in which they travelled up and down the country. They have two working Cocker Spaniels that they are training and enjoy walking. She also enjoys pottery and has fun creating functional dinnerware and decorative sculpture.

We wish Lorna every success in her year as director.

YouGov poll: Legal firms are failing to support employees with mental health and wellbeing

Many legal firms are failing to support the mental health and wellbeing of their employees, a survey of companies and staff has revealed.

Despite a strong demand for help with the cost-of-living crisis and stress and anxiety, employers saw supporting staff morale as low on their list of priorities, according to the YouGov poll.

Where support was offered, in the form of wellbeing advice and counselling, take-up was low, suggesting it did not always meet the needs of staff, the findings reveal.

The online poll of 3000 British employers and employees – commissioned by welltech company Frog Systems and conducted last December – showed that 59% of legal firm staff required support for stress and anxiety, while 44% said they needed help to get through the cost-of-living crisis.

In addition, 51% said they would benefit from support from their employer to help cope with grief and loss.

However, only 37% of the legal firms surveyed said they regarded improving staff morale or encouraging healthier lifestyles as their responsibility, according to the poll. They listed attracting and retaining talent and improving productivity as their main priorities.

The survey also highlighted that, while outlay on support for staff mental health and wellness was higher than in other sectors, only 23% of employers in the legal and professional services sectors more generally spent nothing at all, and 35% spent £100 or less, per-employee-per-year.

When asked who they would go to for help, only 2% of legal staff said they felt confident about going to their boss or a work colleague if they had a problem in their personal life or with their finances. More people said they would search the Internet before going to their line manager with an issue.

Those working with law firms and their staff to address employee wellbeing said the findings demonstrated an urgent need to address a growing problem.



Elizabeth Rimmer, CEO of LawCare – a mental wellbeing charity for the legal profession – said: “Despite the range of wellbeing supports on offer in law firms, it is telling that in this poll only 2% of legal professionals would feel confident in talking about their wellbeing with colleagues.

“EAP programmes, educational seminars, mindfulness, and gym sessions don’t create a working environment that is psychologically safe, where people feel valued and able to talk with colleagues about concerns. It is time to widen the approach to wellbeing from a focus on individuals to looking at how organisations foster a culture that supports the mental wellbeing of their people, and this responsibility lies in the boardroom.”

Henrietta Jowitt, an advisor to the Mind Forward Alliance and a former CBI deputy director general, said: “Most leaders are focussed on attracting and retaining talent and improving productivity, and yet a third of them spend nothing on employee wellbeing. They need to make this connection.

“Wellbeing is an output – it is the result of a whole range of inputs that support your people. It is not a package, off the shelf. If you don’t understand your colleagues’ needs and look after their wellbeing, so that they feel they are safe, belong and are supported in a way that works for them, they will neither stay nor produce their best work.”

Psychologist **Peter Abrahamsen**, who works with stressed lawyers, said: “My typical lawyer client is at crisis point from excessive and sustained pressure at work directly affecting their mental and physical health. They are disillusioned by their profession and struggle with the effects on their home life which is often falling apart.”

Compared with staff in some other sectors, those working in the legal sector and professional services appeared to receive similar benefits focused on traditional offerings such as Employee Assistance Programmes, life insurance, private medical care and perks and discounts, however only around one in four used them if at all.

Phil Worms, CEO of Frog Systems, said the report showed a gulf in trust in the workplace around wellbeing support for employees.

“Whilst many employers seem to understand the emotional and physical challenges being faced by their employees, they don’t appear to be able to provide the right wellbeing tools and information to support them.

“Solutions which are reactive, standalone, ‘tick box,’ not trusted, or do not provide sufficient insight will not enable the deployment of early intervention and support strategies.

“By listening to, and understanding what employees need, companies can start to build stronger, more empathetic, and productive work environments. Access to wellbeing support should not be a lottery or a privilege.”

Introducing Denovo BI

Who are Denovo BI?

That's actually quite a common question we get in this part of the world and is one of the main reasons we want to introduce our brand to a new audience. In short Denovo Business Intelligence are a legal software company who are all about making lawyers lives easier.

Our founder, George Blair, set out to achieve that goal nearly 40 years ago. The journey began in the early 80's providing law firms and other businesses with legal accounting machines, printers and personal computers. The business expanded to software solutions exclusively built for law firms in the early noughties, and then moved to full cloud-based software solutions from around 2011. Step forward into 2023 and we continue to help lawyers innovate and push the boundaries of efficiency within their businesses. Nowadays we believe we have the most customisable legal case management and accounts software platform in the market, which we developed right here, in the UK. Our market leading legal software is the considered to be the operating system for hundreds of law firms across the country. Our efforts listening, working, and innovating with law firms, particularly over the past 5 years, mean we have integrated our technology into the DNA of practices in ways that even surprise the law firms we partner with.

When we launched our latest case management platform, CaseLoad, back in 2019, we set out with one purpose in mind – remove the repetitive, admin tasks associated with legal work. The objective is and has always been to give lawyers more time to spend with their clients, automate their processes to help manage their businesses, have a more productive working day and to get some of their personal time back.

Why have we never heard of you?

We've spent the majority of our time working with firms in Scotland. We're based in Glasgow and in the past, we have grown strictly on a referral basis so our

reach into England has been very limited. Since the launch of CaseLoad, though, we have grown very quickly and word has started to spread over the border. Firms from all across the UK are now using CaseLoad, so we felt we must be doing something right. Along the journey we decided - what if we actually did some marketing in England - many more firms would be able to enjoy the benefits of our software, just like firms up north.

What's different about Denovo?

Our software is very much solicitor led, meaning we collaborate with solicitors to design and develop software innovative solutions and services for law firms.

We have built a software platform that is dynamic, fully customisable and ever evolving. We're really proud to say the time spent listening to our law firm partners and their support teams seems to be paying off as we are now the software of choice for thousands of solicitors.

I'm sure there are plenty of other legal software companies that talk to firms but the feedback we get is that we truly listen. And not only that, we act on what we are told. That seems to be the biggest point of difference.

I would also say that we have been working with a lot of frustrated lawyers over the past few years. The ones that approach us are always looking for the same thing – they want to make the change to a more customisable, reliable, and more supportive platform. Many also like that our HQ is here in the UK. The most interesting thing is that users of other platforms have been approaching us and joining the Denovo community. None are going in the opposite direction, that's really testament to our team and how much time they spend ensuring our law firm partners get the most out of our software.

Moreover, the feedback that we're getting is not all about the software, our continual innovation, and our kaizen approach. What is most prevalent when

firms are telling us why they eventually moved to Denovo from other providers is that we treat the lawyers as the innovators – they tell us what they want and what they need. We then work in partnership with them to get the software platform that works for them and their firm.

You say you've primarily worked with Scottish firms; do you think that will stop English firms using your software?

No. It's really just that we haven't announced ourselves to the English market. We have had English law firms partnering with us and using our case management and accounts software very successfully for about 20 years. It has been our English clients who are the ones encouraging us to properly come into the market.

What's your ambition for working with lawyers in England?

The tech world is evolving. It's only a matter of time before everyone adapts and uses new tools. Legal tech is no different. As client needs change law firms need a partner who is flexible. We know that the legal market is adopting tech at pace. We genuinely believe that we are well placed to ensure that we help law firms in this region keep up with this pace, innovate, and provide an infrastructure that is built for the future. With CaseLoad, we'll ensure your legal practice is never left behind.

How would people get in touch?

Our website is denovobi.com. There is a lot of info on there about our software, ourselves, and some of the law firms we partner with. If anyone reading this has a spare 5 minutes, I would encourage them to jump onto the site and have a look around. They might just find the platform they've been searching for! And if anyone would like to reach out to me directly for a chat, my email is grant@denovobi.com.

<https://youtu.be/aoo4jYdTD9I>

Hi. We are...

denovo

What do we do?

It's simple...we make lawyers lives easier with the most customisable legal case management software, built right here in the UK.

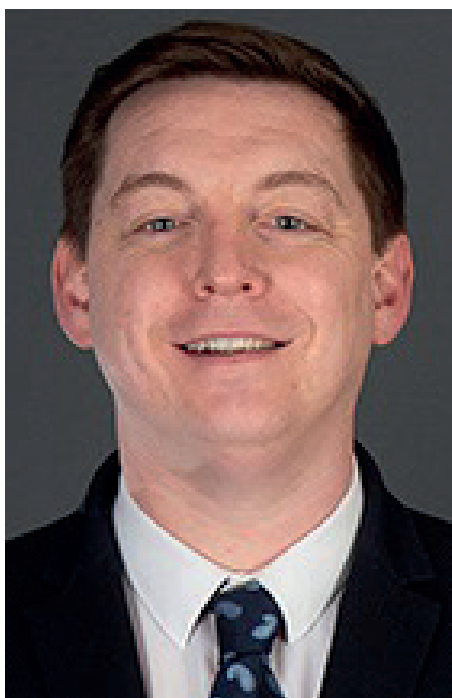
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Councillors PLO Report Feb 23



Paddy Dwyer

On 19 January, LLS held a virtual meeting with local authority representatives. President Jeremy Myers chaired on behalf of LLS and there was a representation from Cllr. Jane Corbett, Cllr. Richard Kemp CBE, Mark Reaney (Solicitor and Director of Legal and Democratic Services) Halton Council, Cllr. Carol Gahan (Cabinet member for legal and finance) Cheshire west and Chester Council, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Jeanie Bell and Jan Bakewell St Helens Council. In addition to the president, LLS attendees included Gaynor Williams (Joint Hon Secretary), Alum Ullah, John-Paul Dennis and myself.

I gave a legislative update beginning with the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill where it is suggested 2400 laws need to be replaced. A discussion followed about the Retained EU bill where the debate centred around the impact of the uncertainty. Ultimately, those who will suffer most are the clients impacted by it as they request (or risk proceeding without) legal advice to understand the

ambiguity which may be created. We then moved onto the Bill of Rights, the aim of which is to repeal the Human Rights Act and replace it with the content of this bill. Government claims it “reinforces our tradition of liberty whilst curtailing the abuses of human rights, restoring some common sense to our justice system, and ensuring that our human rights framework meets the needs of the society it serves”. However, Council of Europe have commented that “the proposed legal reforms might weaken human rights protections”. From a rule of law perspective, the Bill is troubling in undermining the ECtHR (by giving domestic courts licence to depart from its case law) and domestic courts through the removal of section 3 interpretive power. Further, the scrutiny of parliament is diminished with the proportionality test being watered down so that the “greatest possible weight [is given] to the principle that, in a Parliamentary democracy, decisions about how such a balance should be struck are properly made by Parliament”. It is not clear what is happening with this bill, there has been no update since 9 September 2022. Since our meetings with Councillors it has become apparent that this Bill may no longer be progressing.

We also discussed the Public Order Bill which introduces yet further restrictions on the right to protest and contains provisions which the Lords rejected to be included in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act and the National Security Bill, the most contentious content of which relates to broad interpretations of whistleblowing laws which could lead to life imprisonment for whistleblowing to foreign regulators or foreign media; expanding the application of the Official Secrets Act beyond those things that relate to security, intelligence, defence or international relations and giving Ministers the power to declare what

information can be deemed “legal to share”.

Finally, we considered the recently presented Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill which sees workers lose protection from dismissal where strikes lead to reduction in service levels across different industries.

Issues were then raised by councillors and other representatives where Cllr Corbett asked about the Renters Reform Bill and the intent to reflect certain sections of the Equality Act and whether the Government is being challenged about this not being enforced. This was taken away for LLS to form a view.

Cllr Kemp raised his recent jury experience which led on to a discussion about the criminal justice system, efficiencies which could be achieved and the wastage which exists in the system. It was observed that in some instances cases were poorly prepared which in turn may be due to lack of resource (and funding) with the general observation that issues are systemic. Cllr. Kemp intends to write to the Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecutions to report on the same.

Finally, President Jeremy Myers reminded councillors that when dealing with constituents who have legal concerns, it is often useful to check if home contents insurance or car insurance policies have legal advice as an additional benefit. This may allow some to access at least some free legal advice.

Our next meeting with Councillors is scheduled for Thursday, 13th July 2023 from 1pm to 2pm.

LLS Members are invited to contact the office with any suggestions for agenda items ahead of that event.

Paddy Dwyer
Parliamentary Liaison Officer

EDI Committee



Laura Keane

To mark LGBT+ History Month, the EDI Committee were joined by Vinay Jobanputra who works with the organisation QSA Space (www.theqsaspace.org), which celebrates and creates a safe space for LGBTQIA+ South Asians and their allies. Vinay explained individuals with South Asian heritage who identify as LGBTQIA+ may often feel like a “minority within a minority” and struggle to bring their whole self to spaces that may not encourage and embrace difference or self-expression due to cultural or religious norms. Vinay noted that many QSA Space members may hide their queerness when in a South Asian environment, but also find that they mask aspects of their South Asian heritage when in LGBTQIA+ spaces, which means they are always compromising one part of their identity.

Committee members enjoyed hearing about some of the amazing initiatives QSA Space have organised including their recent ‘Queer South Asian Prom Night’ that gave QSA Space members the chance to experience a prom night they never had in a space where gender non conformity and queerness is celebrated rather than restricted, as in traditional prom settings. The QSA Space also regularly hold a number of educational showcases, social events and art displays that aim to raise awareness around LGBTQIA+ rights.

Vinay shared the importance of the legal industry marking LGBTQIA+ History Month and celebrated the EDI Committee’s welcoming and open nature in inviting speakers to talk from different beliefs and

backgrounds as it encourages a positive step in the right direction for how the legal industry should be proactive in adopting EDI initiatives.

In 2022, Vinay worked closely with Liverpool firm, In-House Legal Solutions to help organise a Q&A Panel that allowed LGBTQIA+ students interested in a career in law to speak with the firm’s Solicitors, Trainees and Paralegals. This was such a success that In-House Legal Solutions then invited back some members for an exclusive open day at their office in Liverpool where students could benefit from understanding what a day in the life of a Solicitor looks like, and gained tips on application drafting and interview skills.

From being part of these events at In-House Legal Solutions, Vinay shared his thoughts on what law firms and companies can do to create an inclusive and safe working environment for current employees who may identify as LGBTQIA+ including

encouraging employees to use their pronouns on email signatures, as well as creating gender neutral bathroom facilities in office spaces, or implementing equality, diversity and inclusion policies. Vinay explained that adding your pronouns on emails may not seem like a big or radical change, but shows to current and future employees, clients and stakeholders that the firm or individual are making active efforts to be inclusive employer and recognise change.

Vinay has recently graduated from Kings College London with a degree in Mathematics and is also founder of Bollyqueer, a Bollywood dance space which celebrates the LGBTQIA+ community. To find out more about QSA Space, or the work that Vinay is involved with, please contact hello@theqsaspace.org.

Laura Keane,
Trainee Solicitor at In House Legal Solutions and EDI Committee member.

#ChamberSocial

DATE: Thursday 23rd March
TIME: 5pm - 7pm
VENUE: Royal Institution




Liverpool Chamber.

Connect with colleagues, or network with new faces in a fun, relaxed atmosphere and enjoy the newly opened Royal Institution bar. Liverpool Law Society members can join completely free, and your ticket includes:

- Welcome drink upon arrival
- Chance to see the new Royal Institution bar

Book your place [here](http://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)

International Women's Day 2023

The Law Society Women Solicitors Network and international law firm Goodwin present

International Women's Day 2023 - Embracing Equity: Collective Action Towards Change

The Law Society Women Solicitors Network (WSN) Committee invite you and your colleagues to our panel event to celebrate International Women's Day 2023 kindly hosted by Goodwin.

This will be run as a hybrid event, with the option to join in-person (in London) or virtually.

Equity isn't just a nice-to-have, it's a must-have. But what is equity and what does it mean for women in the legal profession? Join our panellists for International Women's Day 2023 as we explore what it means for women solicitors, what barriers are blocking true equity in the profession, and what we can collectively do to create lasting change and a workplace where everyone feels valued, respected, and safe.

HYBRID EVENT DETAILS:

Date:	Thursday 16th March 2023 at 12-2pm
Venue:	Goodwin, 100 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DY or online
Dress Code:	Smart Casual

PROGRAMME:

12:00	Welcome and introductory remarks from Goodwin
12:10	Goodwin, 100 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DY or online
12:50	Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Barrell, Chair of the Law Society Women Solicitors Network • Committee and Senior Legal Counsel at Norgine • Lubna Shuja, President of the Law Society of England and Wales • Sharon Blackman OBE, Managing Director and General Counsel at Citi • Trevor Sterling, Senior Partner at Moore Barlow
13:10	Webinar ends In person networking with food until 14:00

REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for virtual attendance*.

**This event is hosted by Goodwin Procter LLP. By clicking the link above, you will be taken to a Goodwin Procter registration page, who will request your details for the purposes of hosting and managing this event.*

Further details (including the link for virtual attendees) will be sent closer to the time.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Celebrating Women Judges

Wednesday 8th March 2023, 6:00 – 7:30pm

Events Space, School of Law and Social Justice Building

To mark International Women's day (8th March) and International Day of Women Judges (10th March), the School of Law and Social Justice is hosting an event to celebrate women judges who do such important work in our first tier courts and tribunals.



The event will involve a panel of 4 women judges working in different areas of law. Following short introductory presentations from the panellists, members of the audience will be invited to ask questions around issues such as career pathways to the judiciary, equality and diversity in the judiciary, and access to justice.

On our panel: Karen Doyle, Kate Meredith-Jones, Lorraine Mensah and Deborah Tyfield.

Wendy Beetlestone – former graduate of the University of Liverpool, recently appointed as Chancellor of the University of Liverpool and US district judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania – will give a short welcome via film.

The event will conclude with a networking drinks reception.

Register Here – <https://celebrating-women-judges-23.eventbrite.co.uk>

Liverpool wraps up for recycling pilot



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



Julie Johnson

With Liverpool's Net Zero ambitions, it is critical that all businesses within the city feel confident in their ability to do what they can to be greener. At Liverpool BID Company we work to support businesses through projects, workshops and helping them to navigate through any new guidance and legislation.

Liverpool is one of five places to take part in a pilot scheme designed to help businesses recycle.

From 2023, new regulations will require all businesses, healthcare establishments and academic institutions to separate glass bottles and jars, metal food and drink cans, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, paper and cardboard for recycling. Food businesses, like cafes, restaurants, pubs or other premises preparing or selling food will also have to separate food waste for recycling.

The pilot scheme, led by Liverpool BID Company and WRAP, the business recycling support scheme, is designed to guide businesses through the process, using a new online hub and one to one support, to ensure they are adhering to the new rules.

The new website, Business of Recycling hub (BoR hub) guides businesses through the process. Liverpool BID will support the project through a five step programme that helps businesses to understand the new rules and their duty of care, to carry out a waste audit and an action plan to meet the new regulations, to calculate the savings and cost for their action plan and implement it across their business. The pilot schemes will allow businesses to evaluate what has worked and what can be improved when the scheme is rolled out nationwide.

The pilot scheme will run until 23 April 2023.

Liverpool has pledged to be Net Zero by 2030. It is planned that climate action will have stimulated the local green economy and placed Liverpool at the forefront of new industries which will form the backbone of our future economy.

The city will have also stopped all contributions to climate change and have demonstrated leadership to other cities in the UK and globally. The city will also be more resilient to the climate changes we are already experiencing.


The work of each business in the city will contribute to that. Recycling may seem like a small palace to start but it can help transform a business's carbon footprint, while also making savings.

Liverpool BID Company have worked with local Liverpool business, Arete Zero Carbon, to develop a Net Zero Strategy with a plan to achieve this by 2030.

Further guidance is also available from the 2030 hub. www.the2030hub.com

This is part of wider work by BID including a series of Green Business Seminars, which invite experts on sustainability to advise business on opportunities and best ways of working in the run up to Eurovision. More details can be found on the pilot scheme along with the green business events at www.liverpoolbidcompany.com.

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Liverpool Law Society welcomes LJMU students with new Partnership Scheme

We are delighted to announce that Liverpool John Moore's University (LJMU) are the first university to take up a Liverpool Law Society scheme offered to local universities, which gives their students unique access to specialist legal training, networking opportunities & a bespoke careers event. Their students now have access to a catalogue of online training events, access to face-to-face training events and will be able to attend a career's event with speakers from Liverpool Law Society. The students will enjoy opportunities to

network with established, local legal professionals, gain a greater legal industry awareness and increase their employability.

"The School of Law is delighted and honoured to collaborate with the Liverpool Law Society and to be able to offer to our L6, LPC and LLM Qualifying Law students the amazing opportunity to attend the training events of the Liverpool Law Society free of charge. We are grateful to the Liverpool Law Society for the dedicated career/networking event for our students which will take place

in our city centre campus on 6th March 12noon-2pm." says **Professor Carlo Panara**, Director of the School of Law at Liverpool John Moores University.

Liverpool Law Society's President, **Jeremy Myers**, commented: *"This initiative further cements the excellent collaboration between LJMU School of Law and Liverpool Law Society, for the benefit of both students and local legal employers. This is a marvellous opportunity, an option which we as students did not have the chance to take up"*.

Staying ahead in law 2023: conference for law firm leaders

Late January the Liverpool Law Society held the Staying Ahead In Law Conference. This was the first time I had a pleasure to chair the event. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces in person and to hear from the amazing speakers.

Firstly, we heard from **Joanna Kingston-Davies** COO/Co-owner of The MAPD group with an inspirational talk on Growing Talent & Leadership.

Fran Costello of the Aha Moment talked to us about surviving high pressure situations and provided some helpful advice.

Kelsey Greenaway of Dale Carnegie talked to us about Commercial Success in a Competitive Legal Sector and facilitated a great group discussion.

Michelle Howard of Michelle Howard Consulting Limited guided us through Building a Brand for Resilience.

Kerry Greenwood of Miller Insurance

provided a helpful update in relation to Solicitor Professional Indemnity Insurance.

Nina Sahu of Hill Dickinson LLP talked to us about Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and the great work she is doing for the Law Society.

Dr Catriona Wolfenden of Weightmans LLP provided an interesting insight into 'law tech & O shaped lawyers – what does the future look like?'

Finally, we heard from **David Malone** of O'Connors LLP who guided us through the considerations of Succession Planning.

It was a great day, encouraging thoughtful discussion, sharing of ideas and catching up with colleagues.

I would like to thank all the organisers and speakers. We are also grateful to Taylor Wessing for hosting and our sponsors Miller Insurance for supporting the event.

What our delegates said:

"These courses are always invaluable and the speakers that Liverpool Law Society attracts are outstanding. I know others in the room made the same comments that they had found the day inspirational and highly beneficial. The problem is you go home with an even longer to do list!" - **Alison Lobb**, Morecrofts LLP

"Very practical and insightful day with lots of great advice to take away in a variety of relevant areas. Excellent venue and despite the amount of information crammed into the day it maintained a great momentum and was interesting and interactive throughout. Inspiring and knowledgeable speakers, thank you" - **Anon**

"The intimate nature of the sessions really appealed to me and I took lots of learnings away with me" - **Anon**

Haley Farrell
Deputy Managing Director
& Head of Family Law,
Broudie Jackson Canter



**Vauxhall Community
Law & Information
Centre**

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

The latest news from Vauxhall Law Centre



Maghull Hub Launch

As mentioned in our January column, Vauxhall Law and Information Centre (the Law Centre) has been working with Maghull Town Council to develop an outreach hub in Maghull Town Square. We are pleased to report that the Maghull hub has launched. We now provide advice sessions to residents living in Maghull every Thursday and Friday on benefits issues at Maghull Advice Centre.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new caseworker Emma Dolan who will be based in Maghull Advice Centre.

This new outreach service is an addition

to the ongoing welfare benefit and debt advice outreach that the Law Centre provides every Monday at Homebaked Bakery in Anfield, in our partnership work with Spirit of Shankly, Liverpool Supporters Union.

Terminal Illness Project

A huge thank you is also due to the T.U.U.T. Charitable Trust for supporting the Law Centre project providing advice to people with terminal illness. The funding granted to us by the T.U.U.T has allowed us to welcome David Kenny to the Law Centre at the start of this year. David is our new caseworker, supporting our advice work and outreach sessions working with



the Woodlands Hospice and the NHS. He is already proving a highly valued member of the team.

The Martin Lewis Money Show

Last month we also tuned in with pride as our Housing Solicitor Siobhan Taylor-Ward appeared on the ITV Martin Lewis Money Show. The questions raised on the program highlight the many concerns of renters during the cost of living crisis and the fear of being served a no fault section 21 eviction.

New government figures reveal that section 21 no-fault evictions by bailiffs have increased by 143% in a year (from 792 households between October and December 2021 and 1,924 between October and December 2022). The Law Centre continues to support clients facing section 21 evictions and to campaign for better renters' rights.

Condemning Far Right Protests in Kirkby

The Law Centre issued a statement in response to the far right protests in Kirkby, Knowsley last month. We condemn all forms of abuse and violence and racism and are actively working with the community to find and provide solutions that help build an inclusive and equitable society.

The Law Centre provides a free legal advice service across the Liverpool City Region. Our housing service provides pro-bono advice to people facing issues



with unsuitable, insecure or lack of housing and specialises in providing advice to asylum seekers, refugees, people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) and other vulnerable migrants in relation to their housing and income.

Metro Mayor visits VLC

Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham visited the Law Centre to hear of the progress made in recent years and hopefully to see if the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority can support our benefits, housing and debt advice work in future. Thanks Steve for visiting our centre! #SayNoToPoverty #AccessToJustice

We are looking for pro-bono partners!

If you think you or your firm can support our work please do not hesitate to contact us. We are looking for volunteers with skills in a wide range of areas. We are also looking to develop our Board of Trustees. If you're a legal firm and want to donate so we can continue to provide advice or take up pro bono cases please reach out. For any enquiries please email us at development@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk. We'd be delighted to have a chat and look at ways in which you can support access to justice in Liverpool.



After the recent horrific and hurtful events in Knowsley by the far right, we want to send our deepest support to our many clients and those seeking sanctuary in Merseyside. We condemn the narrative and scapegoating used to blame and intimidate people that has led to this dreadful event.

The purposeful, systemic failings of the asylum system in the UK by this government are unforgiveable. VLC will continue to challenge these injustices and be united in its vocal support for refugees, asylum seekers and people seeking sanctuary.

#RefugeesWelcome#TogetherWithRefugees

New Maghull advice centre to provide community support and free legal advice

Maghull, Merseyside - On February 24, 2023, the newly created Maghull Advice Centre opened its doors to the public for the first time. It will provide free advice on a range of issues and is a partnership between Maghull Town Council, partner organisations, and volunteers, with local law firm Bell Lamb & Joynson providing legal expertise.

The first legal clinic will take place on March 1, and Bell Lamb & Joynson solicitors, Jessica Flaherty and Holly Thomas, will be in attendance to provide free legal advice on a range of matters, including Wills, Probate, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Family Law, and property-related issues. The clinic is an incredible resource for everyone in Maghull, especially in these challenging times.

The Maghull Advice Centre was inspired by Council Leader Patrick McKinley and was brought to fruition at breakneck speed by council offices, fellow councillors, partner organisations, and volunteers in response to the cost-of-living crisis.

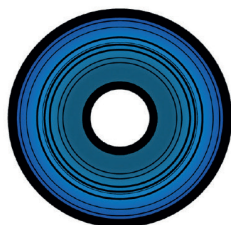
The Maghull Advice Centre is situated in the town centre behind Costa Coffee at 21 Leighton Avenue, Maghull, L31 0AH. The centre is an amazing resource for the community and will provide accessible assistance for a wide range of needs. The clinic will cater to various legal issues, and the staff will do their very best to support or refer local residents who are in need.

"We are thrilled to be part of this initiative and to be able to provide free legal advice

to those who need it," said Mike Leeman, Managing Partner at Bell Lamb & Joynson. "The legal clinic is an incredible resource for everyone in Maghull, and we are proud to be part of this initiative to support the local community. We will open our fourth office at 7 Central Square in Maghull in the coming weeks, so being in the community and being an active part of the community is very important to us."

It is envisaged that Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors will be available at the free legal clinic the first Wednesday of every month.

For more information on the Maghull Advice Centre, please visit the Maghull Town Council website or contact Bell Lamb & Joynson.



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- People fleeing debt for another reason.

Alternatively, people may need to be traced because money is owed to them. These can be:

- Freeholders whose leaseholders wish to purchase the freehold;
- Missing beneficiaries of estates, both testate and intestate;
- Heirs to unclaimed assets;
- People who have had their homes repossessed or compulsorily purchased.

Or, people may need to be traced because they simply need to sign paperwork. This is most commonly found in the conveyancing sector.

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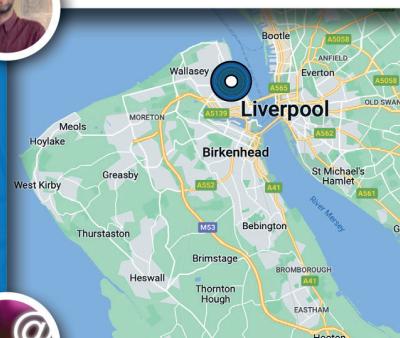
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- Evidence of (historic) immigration and naturalisation.

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- Tracing biological parents of adoptees and foundlings.



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Forensic accountants in matrimonial cases

I receive many requests for help in family cases, often several times a week, typically from the wife who considers that her husband is not making full and correct disclosure of his financial affairs. What am I able to do to help them? This is a personal note setting out my understanding of the position, and I provide it here so as to avoid the need to give the same explanation repeatedly to those many unfortunate ladies.

Typically, a lady does a Google search where my name comes well up on page one. She looks at my website, views the videos, reads the war stories, and concludes that I am a helpful character with a wealth of experience (I am, I am!) who can help them to find the husband's hidden assets or the lies in his disclosure.

In the old days, that was certainly the case, and I have had some stunning successes, as may be seen in my case studies - <https://chrismakin.co.uk/case-study/matrimonial/>. But these days it's different. Except in the multi-million pound cases seen in the national press, or where a party is so blatantly dishonest that the court recognises the need for an investigation – and this is very rare – the court will only approve the appointment of a forensic accountant to act as a Single Joint Expert (SJE), who acts for both spouses, but with an overriding duty to the court.

This works well where the main function of that expert is to value the business which one party will be taking out of the marriage on a clean break (see Case 3 in my matrimonial case studies – “Divorce the spouses, but don't divorce the companies”) – I have done hundreds of such valuations – or where an expert is required to opine on the ability of one self-employed spouse to pay maintenance to the other. But where there is serious doubt

about a spouse's disclosure, but not egregious enough for the court to recognise the need for an investigation by a forensic accountant, two main difficulties arise.

The first is that if the wife or her lawyer thinks that I would be a suitable SJE and puts my name to the other side, I would be typecast as the wife's man, and the husband would want his own man. Result: deadlock, which can be resolved only by one side or the other giving in, or by both sides putting their expert's CV before the court for the judge to decide who shall be the SJE. And that leads to delay and expense.

The point is that an expert can produce a report and give evidence at a hearing only with the court's permission.

There is an alternative: the forensic accountant can act as expert adviser. He is not on the court record, but works in the background, providing assistance to the lady's lawyers. He cannot appear at court (except in the background, perhaps passing notes to the barrister), and there is no prospect of the husband being ordered to pay any part of that accountant's fees. And the investigating accountant can use only the evidence produced, which may be limited.

So to conclude, if a business valuation is required for a clean break, I can act as SJE as I have done many, many times before. And within limitations, I can act as expert adviser. But for me to act on the record as expert for one party, the other spouse's shortcomings in disclosure would have to be egregious (outstandingly bad or shocking) and if that situation is suspected, I would recommend that the party concerned should first speak to their lawyers, not to me, about whether the court might

appoint a party expert acting just for that side.

I remind readers that I offer an initial review of any case without obligation (see “How long's a piece of string” on my fees page at <https://chrismakin.co.uk/fees-and-gdpr/>), but that review should be done only when the lawyer considers there is a chance of the court agreeing to have a party expert.

Of course, if a straightforward business valuation is needed, I'm your man!

Biog: Chris Makin has practised as a forensic accountant and expert witness for 30 years, latterly as Head of Litigation Support at a national firm. He has given expert evidence about 100 times. He also performs

expert determinations.

Chris is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants where he has served on the Forensic Committee, and as an ethical counsellor; he is a fellow of the Chartered Management Institute, a fellow of the Academy of Experts where he serves on the Investigations Committee, and a mediator accredited by the Chartered Arbitrators.

He practises as a mediator, from his home in West Yorkshire and his rooms at 3 Gray's Inn Square, London WC1R 5AH, telephone 020 7430 0333. He has mediated 100+ cases so far, on a huge range of subjects, with a settlement rate to date of 80%. For more see his website with videos: www.chrismakin.co.uk chris@chrismakin.co.uk

Chris Makin

Chartered Accountant
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- Drug Trafficking etc. Asset Tracing & Confiscation
- Section 994 Disputes
- Director Disqualification
- Expert Determinations



N Christopher Makin FCA FCMI FAE QDR MCIArb

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Young adults and consent to a DNA test



Dr Neil Sullivan

Across the world, the ability of children or indeed young adults to make decisions about issues concerning themselves is full of dilemma. Under UK law, the line between childhood and adult hood is 18 years of age¹; the age of majority. This means for example, that an individual can of their own volition, vote, enter contracts (credit cards, take out loans) buy tobacco or get a tattoo. The law then allows for capacities at each age from 10 through 17, though in this article with regard to DNA testing, we will single out age 16, as now armed with a National Insurance number, minors may join the Army, get married, drink alcohol in a restaurant, get a full time job and have sexual intercourse. This is perhaps appropriate for most in today's UK society.

When it comes to medical treatment, then the law is very clear that the age of consent to a procedure is 18 and after this age, individuals have as many rights as adults. Under some circumstances, 16 year old individuals can make medical decisions without consent of their parents and at younger ages than that, the degree of independent consent is reliant on their competence to understand the procedure – age alone is not a sufficient criterion. Specifically, the test of these criteria is the Gillick test² which relates to a child under 16 receiving contraceptive advice without her mother's consent. Over time this has been used by the medical fraternity to gain consent from under 16s, provided they can demonstrate understanding of the nature and implications of the proposed treatment.

A subset of this principle is the Fraser guidelines which specifically relate to welfare advice for under 16's.

When considering a DNA test to determine a biological relationship (such as a paternity test), then it is important to remember that a human identity or paternity test is not a medical matter; it is quite different to other types of genetic test which are used for example, for disease diagnosis. The relevant legislation is the Human Tissue Act 1984 and Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006³, which as an aside to its intention to clamp down on the unauthorised use of human tissue as revealed in the Bristol Royal Infirmary enquiry⁴, has captured the need for consent for the analysis of samples for a DNA test and which are intended for human identity testing. The Department of Health has produced helpful guidance⁵ and a good practice guide for companies like our own.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice operates an accreditation system for bodies "that may carry out parentage tests directed by the civil courts in England and Wales under section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969". This list is reconsidered every year and requires DNA testing companies to hold the key accreditation for calibration and testing laboratories, ISO/IEC 17025. We are pleased to say that we have been on "the list" for more than 14 years.

With regard to consent, then the first principle derives from the established laws of consent and the second from the Human Tissue Act 2004, where consent is required for possession of material from a human body that contains human cells (a buccal sample) with the intention of analysing the DNA. We must be satisfied that whoever is providing the consent for a DNA test is authorised to do so. We for example, take steps to ascertain the basis for parental responsibility and as the DNA testing organisation providing the

test, are satisfied that those consenting to the taking of a sample from the child, are authorised to do so. It is also important that the consent is given on the understanding that the nature and possible consequences of the test are understood.

Parental Responsibility refers to "all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property"⁶. In real terms, this means having input into substantial matters affecting a child's well-being, such as education, religion medical treatments and appointing a guardian as well as having input with regards to holidays and extended stays outside the family home. Importantly, this also relates to legal proceedings involving the child and the registering/changing of a child's name on a birth certificate. *De facto*, this applies to the non-medical matter of human identity testing using DNA technology, commonly known as for example, a paternity, sibling or indeed a grand-parentage test.

So who has Parental Responsibility for a child? Well firstly, the mother always (and automatically) has Parental Responsibility. Intuitively, we might think this named individual would necessarily be the biological mother (the individual who gave birth to the child) and this is generally the case. Exceptions occur in the case of surrogacy where the surrogate mother will have Parental Responsibility until it is relinquished with a Parental Order. Interestingly, if a surrogate mother is married, their partner will also have Parental Responsibility for the child.

There are various additional ways that a father can gain Parental Responsibility over a child, these are: a) entering marriage or civil partnership with the mother, b) obtaining a Parental Responsibility order from a court, c) using a Child Arrangement Order, being named as a resident parent, d) having a Residence Order in place (prior



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*By virtue of having ISO 17025 accredited UK-based laboratories, we have also been accredited by the Ministry of Justice as a body that may carry out parentage tests directed by the civil courts of England and Wales under section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act, 1969.

to 22nd April 2014) and e) entering a Parental Responsibility Agreement with the mother. If there has been a marriage/civil partnership and then a divorce/dissolution, then the Parental Responsibility rights are retained.

Automatic Parental Responsibility is not conferred on unmarried biological fathers, unmarried partners (male or female), grandparents, other biological relatives or a step-father/step-mother. Unmarried/non civil partnership fathers who (re-) register their names on a birth certificate after 1st December 2003 can gain Parental Responsibility.

We always ask for the mother's consent to a DNA test if the child is under 16 and encourage her to participate in the test by giving a DNA sample. Our most common question is: "Why do you need that? I know I am the mum." Well, we are each made up of half of the mothers

DNA and half of the fathers – though until we test it, we don't know which half! By determining which portion comes from the mum, we can then be sure which DNA relates to the father and this greatly improves the statistics of an inclusion, i.e. that the man is in fact the biological father of the child.

If you have a case requiring a DNA test to establish parentage or would just like some advice on how to establish a human relationship using DNA, then please contact us, we would be please to help.

About the author:

Dr Neil Sullivan, BSc, MBA (DIC), LL.M, PhD is General Manager of Complement Genomics Ltd (trading as Dadcheck*gold).

Complement Genomics Ltd (trading as Dadcheck*) is accredited by the

Ministry of Justice as a body that may carry out parentage tests directed by the civil courts in England and Wales under section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969.

Please see: <http://www.dadcheckgold.com>.

Tel: **0191 543 6334**

e-mail: sales@dadcheckgold.com

Citations

¹ Family Law Reform Act 1969

² Gillick vs West Norfolk and Wisbech AHA and DHSS [1985] 3 WLR (HL)

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/30/contents>; <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2006/4/contents>

⁴ http://www.bristol-inquiry.org.uk/interim_report/toc.htm

⁵ https://www.Wales.nhs.uk/documents/DH_082624.pdf

⁶ The Children Act 1989, s3(1)

MJLD



L-R: Eve Burns, David Tarttelin, Jemma Castell, Krysztie Zakrewska, Laura Keane



The University of Law in conjunction with the Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division hosted a fantastic panel and networking event at the School of Law and Social Justice building in February. The event was open to all University of Law students as well as Liverpool University students and its focus was on different pathways into the profession.

The panel of **David Tarttelin** (Chair and Associate at MSB Solicitors), **Jemma Castell** (Vice Chair and Solicitor at J B Leitch), **Eve Burns** (Careers and Education Representatives, paralegal and future trainee solicitor at Weightmans and **Laura Keane** (Careers and Education Representative and trainee solicitor at InHouse Legal Service) as well as **Krysztie Zakrewska** (Representative Sponsorship and Trainee Solicitor at Crawford & Co Legal Services) provided an extremely interesting and insightful evening as they discussed their different routes into the profession and the skills that employers

are looking for as well as different areas of law and different types of firms that students might like to work for.

Some of the top tips provided by the panel were;

- Keeping track of achievements and prioritise the skills you'd like to showcase to interviewers.
- Accepting that perseverance, resilience, adapting and learning from rejections and setbacks are invaluable skills and can help to hone in on

potential weaknesses to be developed.

- The importance of business acumen and maintaining a broad business outlook which can be done by expanding commercial awareness, including knowledge of what factors are affecting specific industries and how these factors impact a firms business model and their clients businesses.
- Experience working within a law firm can be useful in learning office-etiquette and developing skills such as handling clients and using case management systems.

The future audience of solicitors gained a lot of insight during the evening and were given some great tips about applying for Training Contracts, commercial awareness and resilience as well as thoughts on the new SQE!

The MJLD will be working with the University of Law to host an assessment centre for students in the coming months.

Nicola Walker

Campus Manager for Liverpool and Chester Campuses
University of Law



MJLD also held their first Charity event of the year on 23 February 2023!



The Charity Fundraiser Bingo Event raising funds for our nominated Charity, Maggie's, the event was kindly sponsored by MSB Solicitors and MJLD members attended Nova Scotia on Mann Island for a night of bingo calling, raffles, fish and chips and fantastic prizes. With a variation of raffle prizes including a stay at Castle Street Apartments, a signed Everton shirt, wine tasting for two at City Wine Bar, bongos bingo tickets, Personal Trainer Sessions and retail and restaurant vouchers kindly donated by local companies and business!



The event began an introduction from our Charity Representatives and a speech from Sarah and Grace, the representatives from Maggie's Centres. Hearing from Maggie's charity representative, Sarah was truly inspiring. Maggie's provide courses

and workshops designed to help patients live well with cancer, financial advice and helping with family stresses.

Being able to learn that the charity's namesake, Maggie, founded the charity from her own experience with Cancer, after noticing a gap in the support from diagnosis to treatment emphasis how personal this charity is and reminded the MJLD and members of why it was so important to raise as much money as possible.

Cancer has affected all of us in one way shape or form, which is why the MJLD are honoured to partner with Maggie's, everyone's home of cancer care, as their charity for 2022-23.

Lucy Baines and Lauren Cave hosted the evening and Chair, David Tartellin, was the nominated bingo caller for the night!

We are truly grateful to MSB for sponsoring the event and for to each of our members for helping us to raise as



much money as possible for an important cause and we look forward to raising even more money throughout the year.

LLS and MJLD are looking forward to the return of the annual LLS v MJLD Quiz night in April. More details to follow! If there are any enquiries regarding the MJLD, membership, sponsorship or otherwise please contact MJLD Chair, David Tartellin at DavidTartellin@msbsolicitors.co.uk.



Emily Oliver,
MJLD Secretary
Paralegal at Bell, Lamb
and Joynson Solicitors



Charity Spotlight: Maggie's Merseyside



Coastal Walk, 2019



"Cancer hits you like a punch in the stomach. Few people hear anything much the doctor says after the word 'cancer'. Fear, compounded by ignorance and false knowledge, is a paralysing attack in its own right. Information is what most cancer patients cry for, and support in a pleasant space that says: 'Welcome! And don't worry ... we are here to reassure you.'"

Maggie Keswick Jencks (founder)

Maggie's Merseyside is a cancer caring centre based on the grounds of Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, one of the largest cancer hospitals in the UK. Unlike the cold, clinical corridors and stark spaces in a hospital, Maggie's is a peaceful haven - warm, vibrant and full of life. There is no reception desk, signs on doors, or any clocks. Anyone can drop in with no appointment or referral required. Much needed respite is just moments away from the ward. Everyone needs something different to help them cope, we work closely with everyone to identify support that empowers them to negotiate a way through their own cancer journey making life feel more manageable. We provide this free of charge to people of any age, with any type of cancer, at any stage of their illness. Bewildering changes not only affect the person with cancer, but also their family and friends, we offer all of our services to them as well. Maggie's

team of professionals are on hand to give immediate support to help people develop coping mechanisms. The team provide practical, emotional, and social support with an evidenced based programme, shown to improve physical and emotional well-being. The support is provided through one to one engagement and through courses and support groups. Maggie's brings together like minded people, providing opportunities to share experiences but also offers a safe space to relax in a non-clinical environment. A big kitchen table lies at the heart of our Centre. Around it, the supportive relationships and friendships form between visitors who all openly and honestly share their experiences, their fears, and their aspirations for the future – a network of people who truly understand each other. The aim of Maggie's is to be everyone's home of cancer care.

"I visit Maggie's Wirral each time I take my precious Pippa for treatment and scans. For me personally Maggie's is the most extraordinary, tranquil oasis. It's brought to life by the extraordinary staff and the wonderful volunteers of everything I need, every time I step through the door. Maggie's has been the softest of places for me to land at the hardest of times."

Rufus (Maggie's Merseyside Centre Visitor)

It has been an incredibly busy time in our centre, with centre visitor numbers continuing to grow and people needing more in-depth psychological and emotional support, due to the impact of delayed or misdiagnosis following the pandemic. People with cancer and their families are being hit particularly hard with the cost-of-living crisis. We are supporting visitors who are going back to work too early, worrying about food and heating, and even missing hospital appointments because they cannot afford travel costs.

Maggie's relies solely on the generosity of our community and the events that we host. Our fundraising ensures that



we are able to keep our doors open for people living with and beyond cancer. There are many ways in which people can help support us, from attending one of our events, taking part in a run or challenge or by simply holding a cake sale. We are continually looking to create corporate partnerships with local businesses. In which we extend our cancer support to offer employers free training for dealing with cancer in the workplace. We understand that businesses can employ many local

individuals, and as it is predicted 1 in 2 people will be affected by cancer in our lifetime, we acknowledge there is a demand to offer companies cancer support.

To find out more about Maggie's Wirral or to see how we support you or a loved one please do just come into the centre for a warm cuppa and slice of cake. Alternatively, you can contact us 0151 334 4301 or email maggies.liverpool@maggiescentres.org



Monthly Costs Update



Welcome to our March costs update.

The biggest news, in case you haven't heard, is that the proposed introduction of fixed recoverable costs in housing cases has been delayed for two years. The planned extension for other areas of work will still go ahead in October 2023 as planned. Whether that will actually happen remains to be seen. The plans for FRC in housing cases has been controversial with many firms and voluntary agencies, including law centres arguing that it would have a severe impact on access to justice in an area where specialist legal help can be hard to find.

The delay of two years means that there will be a general election before they arrive. If the polls are anything to go by, we will probably see a change of government. So it could well be that the plans are now dead.

While we are on the subject of access to justice, we need to talk about QOCS and the significant changes that are now just a few weeks away. On 6th April 2023 the new rule 44.14 will come into force in relation to claims issued after that date. Before we look at the changes, let's remind ourselves of the history of QOCS – Qualified One Way Costs Shifting to give it its formal, catchy title.

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the 10th anniversary of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, known affectionately as LASPO. This enacted many of the reforms recommended by Lord Justice Jackson in his Review of Civil Litigation Costs. The act had a devastating effect on the availability of legal aid. It also removed the right of successful claimants in CFA cases, to recover success fees and After Event Insurance premiums from the losing party. Books could be written about the costs wars that had taken place in the preceding years! The recovery of ATE insurance costs had

been at the heart of many disputes. In his report, Jackson noted that many defendants had said that it would be cheaper for them to pay their own legal costs than to pay the very high premiums. And so we ended up with QOCS, meaning that subject to certain exceptions (hence the 'qualified') an unsuccessful claimant in a personal injury claim would not have to pay the other side's costs. Orders could be made, but could not be enforced except in certain cases such as dishonesty. So CPR 44.14 arrived. It is fair to say that there have been 10 years' worth of teething problems!

One battleground has concerned the wording of CPR 44.14(1) –

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

This excluded accepted Part 36 offers and settlements confirmed by a Tomlin Order – *Cartwright v Venduct Engineering Ltd* [2018] EWCA Civ 1654. So any adverse costs order along the way could not be enforced, as these were not orders for damages made in favour of the claimant.

This all came to a head in the more recent Supreme Court Case of *Ho v Adekun* [2021] UKSC 43. This involved a familiar scenario where the claim was successful in part. There were recovery of damages but also some adverse costs. The defendant sought to recover their costs against the damages and the costs awarded to the claimant. The Supreme Court rejected this argument and held that the defendants could only enforce their costs against the damages and interest. In effect there could be no enforcement of costs against costs.

These were clearly correct interpretations of rule. These are the rules which are going to be changed in April and which will significantly swing the balance in favour of defendants. The new 44.14 will enable enforcement of costs as follows –

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

And

For the purposes of this Section, orders for costs includes orders for costs deemed to have been made (either against the claimant or in favour of the claimant) as set out in rule 44.9.

So the ground has shifted in both of the above scenarios. The Defendant can enforce costs where there is an agreed settlement – not just where there is an order. Most significantly the Defendant can enforce costs against any costs awarded in the claimant's favour. In effect the Defendant can put damages and costs into the pot from which they can enforce their costs. Any orders for costs be enforced after the matter is concluded and costs have been finalised. The upshot is that solicitors who act for claimants in personal injury cases will, in cases where there are costs orders either way, see a significant reduction in their costs.

Firms acting for both sides need to be considering these changes. The rules are not retrospective and only apply to claims issued after 6th April 2023. It is expected that there will be a flurry of claims issued before that date.

Robert Cook
Cook Legal Ltd

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Celebrating 21 years of the Liverpool Business Fair

Liverpool BA is looking forward to welcoming local companies and organisations to come and take part in the 21st anniversary of the Liverpool Business Fair, which returns to Liverpool Football Club from 10.30am-3pm on Tuesday 28th March 2023.

Liverpool BA Director **Kathy Haines** commented "It's amazing to think that it is nearly 21 years since we first held the Liverpool Business Fair in March 2002 at Liverpool Town Hall. After having the event there for a number of years we moved to Liverpool Football Club in 2012 and it has been great to have the Business Fair at two such brilliant venues. Over the years we have had hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of visitors taking part and they have all played their part in making it one of the most popular events in the region.

And even though there have been some massive changes, the main purpose is still the same - providing a friendly and popular way of making some great business connections."

As ever, the event is free to visit and will feature a Business Exhibition showcasing companies from a wide variety of Business Sectors, as well as a range of business support elements such as: Workshops & Demonstrations; Business Clinics; Ask the Expert; Business Advice & Information; Business Start Up Advice; Networking Sessions and lots more.

The free business workshops are always very popular and they will be covering a range of key business issues from sales and marketing to finance and management.

And for those companies wanting a higher profile, there are a wide range of exhibition and sponsorship packages available.

For more information about Liverpool Business Fair 2023 or to book online visit <https://liverpoolbizfair.co.uk/> or contact Liverpool BA on 0151 709 8932 if you have any queries.

Liverpool Business Fair is supported by Business Connect, Wild Thang, and Elite Business.

Regulation Update

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

Welcome to this month's review of what's been happening in the world of risk and compliance, and what we can expect in the next few months.

Competence Requirements

The SRA have recently published their progress report and action plan in response to the Legal Services Board's statement of policy in respect of ongoing

competence. The SRA has said it will develop the ways it identifies solicitors who are not competent and take enforcement action where necessary. The SRA's plan includes the following:

- thematic reviews to target areas where competence is an identified risk and identify other competence-related risks;
- continuing to review training records;
- taking remedial and enforcement action where necessary, e.g. to require training or enhanced supervision;
- Following up on competence reporting; and
- piloting a risk-based approach to identifying firms where there are indications they are below the standards for competence.

We are likely to see this as an area of focus across the next year for the SRA in ensuring that any risks associated with competence are addressed appropriately. We are aware that firms have been asked to produce training records to review if they comply with the competence statement e.g., do they include an evaluation of the learning and development.

Update on the Solicitors Indemnity Fund (SIF)

Following the consultation last year, the SRA Board has agreed the final rules which will bring SIF under the control of the SRA. The rules will now be submitted for approval to the Legal Services Board with a view to them taking effect from October 2023. The SRA have said it does not expect to ask solicitors for additional funds at the present time but may need to consult in the future on options for the long-term financial arrangements.

SRA approach to fines and publishing decisions

The SRA has confirmed the details of how it will levy financial penalties on firms and solicitors which will take effect on 30 May 2023, subject to LSB approval.

A fixed-penalty regime will be introduced for lower-level misconduct and fines for firms and individuals will be linked to bandings based on percentages of domestic turnover/ gross income.

The reforms will also see an introduction of a pilot to use

of personal impact statements in cases involving sexual misconduct, discrimination or harassment.

The SRA has also published its consultation response to the publication of regulatory decisions, confirming longer periods for publishing decisions;

- All decisions that result in a sanction or control resulting from a regulatory breach will go on the SRA's website for a minimum of three years including rebukes and reprimands, fines for breaches by firms at the "less serious end" will be published for five years, compared with 10 for serious matters, and for Individuals, the periods will be three and five years respectively, with fixed-penalty fines being public for three years.
- Suspensions will be online for 10 years from the end of the suspension, strike-offs will be published indefinitely (as now) and where a restriction on practice is lifted, that decision will be published alongside the original one for as long as it remains live.

Guidance will be published by Summer 2023, with roll-out completed by Summer/early Autumn.

Not only will these changes affect firms/individuals financially, but there is also the reputational risk to consider. If you are unsure whether you are compliant or have any concerns, now may be the time for you to have a risk and compliance healthcheck, so do please get in touch if you need assistance.

Conduct in disputes thematic review

Following publication of the warning notice in November on Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs), the SRA has reported on its thematic review of conduct in disputes, which involved 25 firms and was carried out prior to the issue of the warning notice. The executive summary said, 'Solicitors are not simply 'hired guns'. That means they should not bring cases which are not properly arguable, bring excessive or oppressive proceedings, or act in a way which could mislead or take advantage of others during proceedings. Managing potential conflicts is also an essential element of maintaining legal professional ethics.'

The review found a good level of compliance, but encourages firms to create policies on litigation conduct, on the basis they are an important tool to ensure a clear record of key issues and concerns and staff understand the obligations and specific risks. The review also found there was a poor understanding of the obligation to report possible misconduct, with 11 Heads of Department not being aware of the guidance on reporting and notification obligations, and not all heads of department and fee earners were aware of the guidance on conduct in disputes and balancing duties in litigation. The SRA are now looking into

situations where there was potential abusive litigation which had not been reported.

The SRA will now be carrying out a further thematic review to check compliance with the warning notice, assess competence and whether training has been put in place on SLAPPS and conduct in disputes.

SDT Decisions:

Struck off for dishonesty

The SDT recently struck off a solicitor for dishonesty and acting without integrity for failing to transfer £132,000 for a client's divorce and ignoring requests for payment, ignoring all but one of numerous emails from the client. Following SRA intervention in 2021, it was found that over half of the client's funds were unaccounted for. The solicitor ignored correspondence from the SRA and did not engage with the SDT process. Despite the client continuously chasing for an update on the funds, there was little engagement from the solicitor. The solicitor was struck off and ordered to pay costs of almost £28,000.

Struck off for misappropriation and failure to safeguard client money

The SDT struck off an experienced solicitor following investigations which discovered hundreds of unrepresented disbursement cheques and cheques for business liabilities, totalling over £230,000, in a filing cabinet. His argument that the accounts manager was responsible was found by the SDT to be 'disingenuous and lacking in credibility in circumstances where he was the sole equity partner, he was the COLP and COFA, the filing cabinet where the unrepresented cheques were stored was in his office...' and his conduct was 'self-serving, financially motivated and intended to keep the firm operating which was to his benefit as sole equity partner'. The allegations came to light following a whistleblower raising concerns around the firm's financial situation. The solicitor was struck off and ordered to pay costs of £33,000.

Struck off for acting without authorisation

A self-employed consultant acting for a law firm was struck off for acting without knowledge or authorisation of the firm. He claimed he was working under the 'banner' of the firm, but this was not accepted by the SDT. He said he had no intention to deceive anyone and no clients had been misled, but files were not opened with the firm, there were no engagement letters between the firm and clients and he asked clients to pay him directly. He was struck off, the SDT finding him in breach of the Principles and dishonest in relation to one of the allegations.

Fined for allowing vulnerable client to sell home

A conveyancing solicitor, despite being alerted by a local authority that her client may have lacked mental capacity, assisted a sale without undertaking adequate enquiries as to capacity and facilitated a transaction which bore the hallmarks of illegitimate attempts to circumvent third party interests. She admitted the allegations, including manifest incompetence and the SDT accepted the Agreed Outcome, with a fine of £15,000,

restrictions imposed on practice and costs of £23,650.

Struck off for fraud

A solicitor who pleaded guilty to fraud by false representation, using her friend's identity to obtain prescriptions, resulting in a 12-month community order agreed to being struck off and was ordered to pay costs of just over £1,000.

Fine for drink driving and disregarding shotgun licence conditions

A solicitor who pleaded guilty to driving a motor vehicle when his level of alcohol was above the legal limit and of failing to comply with the condition of a shotgun certificate agreed to a fine of £2,000 and costs of £300.

How Compli can help...

The Compli Solicitor Regulatory and Professional Discipline Team can provide expertise and advice in with risk and compliance, AML, disciplinary assistance etc. If we can help in any way, please get in touch at compli@weightmans.com.

Andrea Cohen

Compli

Weightmans LLP



Liverpool Business and Property Courts Forum

The dangers of feudal escheat, being the two pipe problem of the Baglan Operations Ltd liquidation and post disclaimer responsibility

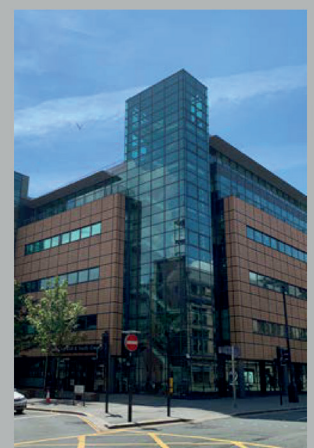
Date: Thursday 16th March

Time: 17:00 - 18:00 Welcome and talk

Location: Exchange Chambers, One Derby Square, Liverpool, L2 9XX

Liverpool Business and Property Courts would like to invite you to join them for a talk at Exchange Chambers with a panel of speakers from the Insolvency Service and Official Receiver: Justin Dionne, Samantha Hall, Jag Saroe and John Tribe (School of Law and Social Justice, University of Liverpool).

To book, please register through [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).



Forthcoming Courses

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
09 & 22/03/2023	Introduction to Residential Conveyancing—2 Day Training	Richard Snape
14/03/2023	Criminal Law Update	Matthew Hickling
15/03/2023	Restrictive and Positive Covenants in Freehold Land	Richard Snape
21/03/2023	Pricing, performance, and profitability	Peter Scott
31/03/2023	Personal Insolvency: A Practical Guide	Chris Beanland
19/04/2023	SRA Accounts Rules	Linda Lambert
26/04/2023	2023 Commercial Property Conference	Various
03/05/2023	Private Children Law: 2023 Update	Safda Mahmood
03/05/2023	Public Children Law: 2023 Update	Safda Mahmood
04/05/2023	Conveyancing Law Update	Richard Snape
10/05/2023	Financial Crime & AML for Law Firms	Matthew Hickling
15 & 16/05/2023	Probate and Estate Administration - Intro & Refresher 2 DAY	Rebecca Roscoe
17/05/2023	2023 Public Child Law Conference	Various

Training events open to legal professionals nationwide

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

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

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

****NEW** Introduction to Residential Conveyancing**

2 Day Training course with Richard Snape

LIVE: 9th & 22nd March, both 10am – 4pm online

This online course is aimed at support staff, newly qualified staff & those new to residential conveyancing or wanting to change their specialisation.

It is designed with the following aims:

- To explain key land law principles sitting behind the residential conveyancing process examining residential leasehold and freehold conveyancing
- To introduce the Conveyancing Protocol and the various steps within the residential conveyancing procedure
- To introduce residential conveyancing forms and documentation and basic drafting issues including TA forms, Contracts, Transfers, and Land Registry forms
- To explain Land Registry procedure
- To identify issues surrounding client care & professional conduct
- To examine what can go wrong and how negligence claims arise

Can't make the date/time or need to revisit the training?

No problem, booking onto this event means you will receive a link to access a recording of the event at your leisure! The link will be sent within approx 72hrs of live broadcast & be available for approx. 3 months, to view as many times as you wish.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

Criminal Law Update with Matthew Hickling

LIVE Tuesday 14th March, 10am - 1pm

Suitable for general criminal practitioners, including police station reps & higher rights criminal courts advocates.

This ONLINE session will include relevant changes to legislation, rules, and guidance together with summaries and analyses of all recent judgments that are important to core criminal practice.

Including:

- All that is relevant to keep general criminal practitioners up to date
- Recent legislative commencements and imminently pending legislation
- Important judgments analysed, summarised and explained
- The latest in sentencing, legal aid and criminal procedure
- Advising at the police station – safeguarding best interests

Competencies: A & B

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

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

Restrictive and Positive Covenants in Freehold Land

with Richard Snape

Wednesday 15th March, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Venue: Online/recorded session

Both restrictive and positive covenants are frequently met: over 70% of all freehold titles being subject to the former. This online course aims to look at the enforceability of such covenants. In addition, estate rent charges continue to be a major issue.

Topics covered include:

- Enforceability of restrictive covenants
- The consequences of the Supreme Court decision in *Alexander Devine v Housing Solutions*
- Interpretation of restrictive covenants
- When to advise and when to insure
- The implications of the Court of Appeal decision in *Bath Rugby v Greenwood 2021*
- Enforceability of positive covenants
- Flying freeholds
- Estate rentcharges in freehold land

Competencies: B

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

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

Pricing, performance & profitability with Peter Scott

Live Tuesday 21st March, 12pm - 2pm

Venue: Online/recorded session

Pricing decisions made without adequate knowledge and where there is no performance management of the work to be carried out can lead to financial disaster. 'Competitive pricing' should involve pricing and managing work to deliberately gain a competitive advantage over rivals by providing clients with the services they want at prices clients regard as 'value for money'.

The topics to be covered will include:

Value pricing

- Understanding how clients view 'value for money'
- Positioning a law firm to provide value that clients care about
- Competitively pricing and managing different types of added value work
- Scoping and budgeting work – to manage risk and profitability

Developing scoping methodologies

understanding the importance of full-time recording for effective scoping budgeting work to achieve your profit margin
use of templates **& more....**

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

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



Personal Insolvency: A Practical Guide

with Chris Beanland on Friday 31st March, 2pm - 4pm

Venue: Online/recorded session

Aimed at: Fee earners in any legal discipline whose practice may encounter personal insolvency.

Around 100,000 people a year enter a formal personal insolvency procedure. Lawyers of all disciplines should therefore be aware of the mechanics of personal insolvency law. This course aims to give lawyers from any background practical guidance on personal insolvency.

Covering:

- Debtor petitions
- Statutory demands
- Creditors' petitions
- Applications to annul bankruptcy orders & more...

Competencies: B Level: intermediate

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

The link will be sent within approx 72hrs of live broadcast & be available for approx. 3 months, to view as many times as you wish.

**** [CLICK HERE TO SEE FULL DETAILS](#) ****



SRA Accounts Rules with Linda Lambert

Wednesday 19th April, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Venue: Online/recorded session

The SRA's Accounts rules have been in their simplified form now for 3+ years, but despite the simpler format it is the interpretation of these rules in an ever-changing legal environment that is of paramount importance.

Compliance is a balancing act, with legal personnel being required to comply with the SRA Accounts Rules, SRA principles in the Codes of Conduct, and also manage client's expectations. Added to this there is a need to comply with AML, VAT rules and accounting principles – all adding to the whirlpool of decision making when handling and recording client (and business) transactions.

In this **online** course we will look at how the SRA expect solicitors' practices to behave when handling clients' monies. There will be opportunity to use case studies to illustrate the application of the rules; and areas that will be looked at in particular will be how to run a Client Account, acting as a banker and, client bank reconciliations, plus lots more! We will also see how the SRA's approach to 'Outcome focused regulation' has been applied when considering how the SRA's Accounts Rules have been followed. **& more...**

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

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



Private Children Law: 2023 Update

with Safda Mahmood

Wednesday 3rd May, 10am - 12.30pm

Venue: Online/recorded session

This online course will equip you with a rounded up update on key issues surrounding private children law, with a particular focus on changes, including into 2023.

Set at a level to benefit those who are practicing in this field, and want to get an update on issues in this field.

The areas to be covered are:

- Parental Responsibility
- Section 8 orders – Update
- Specific Issue Applications
- Contact (Child Arrangements) and Enforcement – Update
- Child Arrangements Orders
- Domestic Abuse and Child Arrangements
- Leave to Remove Applications
- Special Guardianship Orders
- Key Case law Update

Competencies: B Level: Intermediate

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

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



Public Children Law: 2023 Update

with Safda Mahmood

Wednesday 3rd May, 1.30pm - 4pm

This **online course will equip you with a rounded up update on key issues surrounding public children law, with a particular focus on changes, including into 2023.**

It is set at a level to benefit those who are practicing in this field, and want to get an update on issues in this field. **It will be of benefit to those acting for parents, children, extended family, and local authorities.**

The areas to be covered are:

- Removal under Interim Care
- Contact and Children
- Assessments and Timescales
- Public law Outline, Best Practice and Timetables
- DOLS Applications and Secure Accommodation
- Placement Applications and Adoption
- Special Guardianship and Practice

& more...

Competencies: B Level: Intermediate

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

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

2023 Commercial Property Conference

Wednesday 26th April | 9.30am - 3.30pm | Taylor Wessing, Albert Dock

The Eurovision legacy – showcasing innovation,
celebrating culture, building inclusive and sustainable
economies

Stephen Cowperthwaite, Avison Young

Register of overseas entities

Bill Chandler, Hill Dickinson LLP

The 1954 Act

Saleem Fazal & Emma Archer, Taylor Wessing

VAT Issues

Jonathan Main & Karen Hain, MHA Moore & Smalley

HM Land Registry and Local Land Charges update

Leanne Wright & Pam White, HM Land Registry

Service Charges: Important Issues for Landlords and
Tenants

Peta Dollar, Freelance Trainer

Environmental, climate change and biodiversity net gain
and how that relates to property transactions

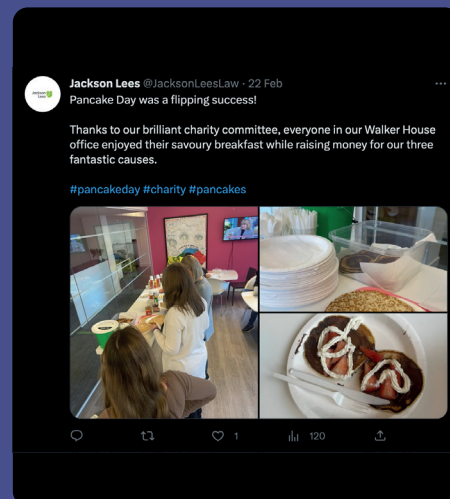
Sally Redman, Landmark

[Book Here](#)

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Please do not hesitate to contact us on 0151 648 5488 to discuss how best we can assist you.

