

April 2023

# Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

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

## Liverpool Chamber of Commerce and Liverpool Law Society joint networking event

*Photographs on page 14*





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# April 2023

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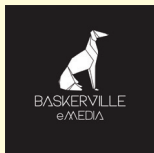
Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

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](mailto:editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)

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### Editorial Committee Dates 2023

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

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 April edition of Liverpool Law



**We have so much for you to enjoy this month and I think it may in fact be the largest edition during my years as Editor.**

It is a bittersweet month for Liverpool Law Society with the official move from Helix, but you will see from the amazing thank you letters that we have published that everything from the offices have found a new home. From law books, furniture and stationary - to swords! You will see what these donations mean to the charities from their letters and the photographs provided- I absolutely love the fact that our lectern which has been used for some very serious meetings is now being used by a bingo caller!

Whilst we may no longer have premises it is very much business as usual and you will see reports from our Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Costs conference and Pathways to the Legal Profession event which were all held online- some in significant numbers. The Society members have also been out and about meeting with students and enjoying the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce event, which looked like it was a good night.

As always we have your movers and shakers articles and news of developments within your firms. Please keep them coming as they are great to read and share amongst our members. Should you have any ideas of what you would like to see more of please get in touch, the benefit of the magazine being online now is we can go as big as we want!

Until next month.

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



# From the President

## The latest from the President, Jeremy Myers

Many events seem significant at the time, but later fade in importance. This month, there is really significant news: LLS has gone virtual after vacating our office at Helix. Of course, we shall continue to organise in-person meetings and training courses and social events from time to time.

This was the final step in a process which began with discussion, was confirmed in consultation with members, and has now been completed. Our LLS team, led by Sarah Poblete has masterminded the practical and administrative steps. We as a Committee are doing all we can to support Sarah plus Liz Weeks and Jo Downey and Ann Murphy and Kimberley Docherty as they transition to working from home permanently.

The Racquet Club has enabled us to place some of LLS's artefacts in display cabinets, so please have a look when next visiting. One very special item held by the LLS is an eighteenth century Polish sword, received on a fraternal visit to Lodz in 1991. We have returned it to its true home as it could not be accommodated away from Helix. Sarah and I had the pleasure of welcoming the Polish Vice Consul in Manchester, Patryk Gowin, when he collected the sword from Helix. Meanwhile, regular activities have carried on. I was a guest at the Dinner of Birmingham Law Society, where I was delighted to see the Awards being given to worthy winners from those whose applications I had helped to judge. On the social side, a number of LLS Directors and members mixed with Chamber of Commerce members at after-work drinks, and swapped cards and information in what I believe is an important networking process. It is featured elsewhere in this edition, as is the regular twice-yearly meeting with MP's from our area.



engaging with minority ethnic people who plan careers in law and we were able to hear from several role models. Earlier in the month, with Vice President Gaynor Williams, immediate past President Steven Zdolny and David Tarttlin – Chair of Merseyside Junior Lawyers' Division – I was part of a Careers Fair discussion hosted by Liverpool John Moores University's School of Law, engaging with students about career planning. Our Committee's Rachel Stalker was one of its organisers.

Readers may recall that ongoing contact with the leaders of our practices is a major theme of the year. Many of our managing partners have accepted invitations to our Leaders in Law Dinner which takes place on 19 April, to be reported in the May edition. Meanwhile, I had a wide-ranging chat with David Lewis of Weightmans, accompanied by our Editor, Jen Powell, of that practice.

Weightmans historically has produced Presidents of LLS and continues to nurture potential future leaders. This and Weightmans' growth beyond Liverpool made the conversation very helpful. David highlighted three elements which I took from the conversation and which I would like to set out for other members to consider, with my comments added below.

First training, which I appreciate is mainly in-house for the larger practices. Practitioners in those organisations can and should share their skills by providing talks as part of the LLS training schedule of advertised courses. *(Continues over page)*



Jeremy and Polish Vice Consul in Manchester, Patryk Gowin

I have been around the wider Liverpool community, as a guest at the Jewish Civic Service at Allerton Synagogue, and at the Kuumba Imani Centre. At the Centre, I listened to a discussion involving a panel of Judges and practitioners including our past President Chris Topping, and with EDI Chair Nina Sahu, I listened to the panel

Second, links with the other professions practices in the area could be facilitated by LLS. Our experience is that this is a challenging topic for participation, but the Chamber of Commerce / LLS joint networking event mentioned above is a possible starting point in addition to the links via reciprocal invitations to annual Dinners.

Third, sporting. We have the very long-established LLS Golf Society, led by one of our Committee members, Jonathan Berkson. Sporting fixtures are an ideal way of developing links in an informal and sociable setting. Please would all LLS golfers contact Jonathan!

Any members wanting to foster links via other sports should contact LLS. As ever, I would mention that members firms feel free to contact me for a chat.

In closing, I am looking forward to two key social events for April, each featured in this edition. It would be marvellous to have the chance to see and chat with many of you at the Quiz organised by Merseyside Junior Lawyers' Division (Thursday 27 April) and on the joint walk with Cheshire and North Wales Law Society (Saturday 29 April). It is LLS's turn to organise the walk this time, and once again it will be led by our past President Alastair Fletcher and his wife Ruth.

These in their different ways are very relaxed opportunities of enjoying each other's company and developing mutual links, particularly between newer and more established practitioners.

Meanwhile, I hope you all can take some time away from work during the Easter break

.....  
 .....  
**Jeremy Myers**  
 President

[president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](mailto:president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)

## SRA Standards and Regulations: Minor Amendments Consultation

On 6 March 2023, the Society's Regulatory Committee responded to the SRA Standards and Regulations: Minor Amendments Consultation.

The SRA are proposing a number of minor amendments to the Standards and Regulations. These follow engagement with stakeholders and a one-year evaluation of the Standards and Regulations. Since their implementation, the SRA have identified areas of the new rules which are causing practical difficulties for individual solicitors, firms or operationally for the SRA. The Society's Regulatory Committee met to consider the proposed amendments and considered all to be valid and not detrimental to our members. Where appropriate the Committee also provided feedback and suggestions.

**Steven Zdolyny**





# LLS Meetings & events – April/May 2023

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

Start Time	Meeting/Event
11/04/2023 12:30	General Committee
12/04/2023 13:00	Family Business Sub-Committee
18/04/2023 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
19/04/2023 18:30	Leaders in Law Dinner – by invitation only
20/04/2023 13:00	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee
25/04/2023 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
26/04/2023 13:00	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Sub-Committee
27/04/2023 13:00	Education & Charities Sub-Committee
27/04/2023 18:00	Merseyside JLD & LLS Quiz
29/04/2023 10:00	Joint Walk with Cheshire & North Wales Law Society
04/05/2023 13:00	In-House Lawyers Sub-Committee
07/05/2023 10:30	Civic Service for Coronation at Liverpool Cathedral
09/05/2023 12:30	General Committee

Committees of practice areas, EDI, Editorial, Family Business, In-House Lawyers and Non-Contentious Business are open to all members of Liverpool Law Society. To enquire about your membership status and/or being co-opted onto one of the above committees, please email [committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](mailto:committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)

## 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](mailto:committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)

Committee	Consultation Paper title	Closing date
Civil Litigation	<a href="#">Personal Injury Discount Rate: Exploring the option of a dual/multiple rate</a>	11/04/23
Non-Contentious Business	<a href="#">Regulation of Buy-Now Pay-Later: consultation on draft legislation</a>	11/04/23
Employment Law	<a href="#">Draft Code of Practice on dismissal and re-engagement</a>	18/04/23

# Bermans appoints first MD to spearhead growth



Jon Davage

**Liverpool and Manchester commercial law firm Bermans has appointed Jon Davage to become its first managing director.**

A corporate solicitor in the North West for over 20 years, Jon joined Bermans in January 2012 from Manchester commercial firm, LLM, and has been instrumental in driving the expansion of Bermans in Manchester into a full commercial and corporate offering. Prior to LLM, he worked for Turner Parkinson, now part of Knights plc.

The appointment follows the announcement last September that the MAPD Group had taken a majority stake in Bermans.

Wirral-based MAPD Group, whose name stands for Making A Positive

Difference is owned by **Brian Cullen** and **Joanna Kingston-Davies** – respectively CEO and COO. The purpose behind MAPD is to power the growth of like-minded law firms by creating an environment for its people, clients, and the communities within which it operates to have the best possible experience and to make a positive difference.

Bermans intends to invest in its growth over the coming years, with an emphasis on developing its people, enhancing the client experience, and strengthening operations.

Jon will maintain his role as head of corporate law and will remain involved in corporate transactions. However, he will take overall responsibility for driving the firm's growth, working

closely with partners, **Fergal O'Cleirigh** and **Phil Farrelly**, and **Brian Cullen** and **Joanna Kingston-Davies**, who form the Bermans board.

Speaking of his appointment, **Jon Davage** says: "I am delighted and extremely proud to lead the next stage of Bermans' evolution. I do so with the backing of a hugely engaged board and highly talented individuals across the business."

**Joanna Kingston-Davies**, COO of MAPD says: "The Bermans business is on an exciting journey, and MAPD is fully committed to being part of helping it, its people and clients succeed. We are looking forward to working with Jon, Fergal, Phil and colleagues across the firm to power its future growth in Manchester and Liverpool."



# Bond Turner celebrates international women's day with director appointment



**Sara Stanger**

Bond Turner has promoted a key member of its senior legal team to become the firm's fourth female Director ahead of International Women's Day (March 8).

Solicitor **Sara Stanger** joins the Board of Directors alongside **Samantha Moss**, **Dawn O'Brien**, and **Rachael Wong**. Sara heads Bond Turner's Clinical Negligence department in Liverpool, as well as playing an important role in delivering training initiatives. Sara will undertake directorial duties in addition to her existing role, extending her supervision into Professional Negligence, Large/Serious Loss and Complex Personal Injury across the entire firm.

As Training Principal, Sara has led initiatives to support professional development at all levels and played an integral part in the recent launch of 'The Anexo Academy'. The firmwide scheme aims to provide opportunities to external candidates and existing employees, supporting them to obtain a degree and achieve full legal qualification while at Bond Turner.

As part of The Anexo Academy, training is offered through a variety of routes, working with notable education providers, and includes apprenticeships, training contracts and SQE pathways to name a few. Funding is available through Bond Turner and staff will be supported by colleagues and a dedicated training team.

**Sara Stanger** said: "I am delighted to be given this fantastic opportunity to undertake a lead role within Bond Turner. As an experienced Solicitor, Training Principal and Head of Department, I am people-focused in my approach and will continue to nurture and support the next generation of lawyers, ensuring that our colleagues have the best environment to reach their potential and succeed here. The Anexo Academy is just one example of how we aim to support our people in their development, while ensuring that the firm retains and attracts candidates that share our values."

"I am looking forward to working alongside the firm's management team to support the business and its people. With International Women's Day taking place in March, it is inspiring to join a board of female Directors and it is a pleasure to be part of such a dedicated and knowledgeable team. We hope to set a positive example to aspiring lawyers as they continue to progress in the industry."

Director at Bond Turner, **Samantha Moss**, added: "Alongside her impressive Clinical Negligence background, Sara is our Training Principal and has done a superb job in establishing and running our training programme which gives fantastic opportunities for staff within Bond Turner. We wish Sara all the best in her new role and welcome her warmly as Director."

To find out more about The Anexo Academy visit [www.bondturner.com/anexo-academy](http://www.bondturner.com/anexo-academy) or contact [anexoacademy@bondturner.com](mailto:anexoacademy@bondturner.com)



Liverpool Law Society

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# Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors to Open Fourth Office in Maghull

Maghull, UK - Bell Lamb & Joynson, a leading North West law firm established in Liverpool in 1821, is excited to announce the opening of its fourth office in Maghull on 17 April 2023. The new office is located at 7 Central Square, Maghull, L31 0AE, and will offer a range of legal services to clients in the area.

The Maghull office will be staffed by a team of experienced lawyers and support staff who are dedicated to providing practical, innovative, and cost-effective solutions to clients' legal needs. The firm specialises in a variety of areas, including Conveyancing, Family Law, Wills and Probate, Powers of attorney, Criminal Defence, Motor and Road Traffic Law, Personal Injury, and more.

"We are thrilled to be opening our fourth

office in Maghull," said **Mike Leeman**, Managing Partner of Bell Lamb & Joynson. "This expansion is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team and our commitment to providing the highest standard of legal services."

"As a firm, we believe in being an active part of the local community, and our new office in Maghull will allow us to build even stronger relationships with clients in the area. We are excited to bring our expertise and experience to clients in the Maghull area, and we look forward to serving the needs of the community for many years to come."

"Personally, as a local resident, I have been wanting to bring our award-winning, client-centric, and modern approach to law to the local community for several years. I am thrilled that we are now making it a reality,

and being right in the heart of Maghull Square will result in us being more accessible than ever."

Bell Lamb & Joynson has a long history of serving clients throughout the North West and beyond, and the opening of the new office in Maghull is part of the firm's ongoing commitment to expanding its reach and providing exceptional legal services to clients across the region. The Maghull office will be open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday, and clients are welcome to drop in for a consultation or to schedule an appointment. The firm's other offices are located in Liverpool, Runcorn, and Warrington.

For more information about Bell Lamb & Joynson and its legal services, please visit the firm's website at [www.bljsolicitors.co.uk](http://www.bljsolicitors.co.uk).



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**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: Tuesday 18th April  
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.co.uk).*




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# Councillors Report March 2023



**Paddy Dwyer**

On Friday 17 March, LLS held its first virtual meeting of the year with local MPs. President Jeremy Myers chaired on behalf of LLS. Margaret Greenwood MP (Wirral West) and Justin Madders MP (Ellesmere Port & Nest) attended with LLS representation from Vice President, Gaynor Williams, Hon Treasurer Emma Palmer, Joint Hon Secretary Alum Ullah, Lauren Cannon, John-Paul Dennis, Millie Hayden, Paul Kilty, Sarah Poblete, Rachel Stalker and myself. We were also joined by former LLS President Chris Topping.

Chris Topping opened proceedings with an update relating to the Liverpool Access to Advice Network (LATAN). LATAN is part of ground-breaking project to look at referral fatigue, whereby a client approaches an organisation who are unable to provide advice but do refer the client to a third party. Following this (or many referrals on) the client then gives up. LATAN originated around 3 years ago when Liverpool City Council funded a research project for University of Liverpool law academics to conduct a study in this area. This research result in a desire to

create a practical strong network. This was subsequently created and is now funded in part by the Legal Education Foundation. Members of the network have access to ReferNet which aims to deal with referral fatigue. Over last 3 years the network has grown steadily and now has over 50 members. It assists with education and has regular dialogue with Liverpool City Council. The network is now looking at opportunities to expand its presence to the wider Liverpool City Region.

**Margaret Greenwood MP** agreed that there was an opportunity to expand this into Wirral and has offered to facilitate a meeting with the leader of Wirral Borough Council. Further, **Vice President, Gaynor Williams** noted that she was involved in setting up a Wirral Advice Centre (with Alan Kelly of Vauxhall Law Centre providing assistance) and would be keen to be involved in any expansion of LATAN into Wirral.

**James Mannouch** was unable to attend this particular session but as Chair of the Access to Justice Committee, James provided a written report which was as follows:

*"The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) funds the Housing Possession Court Duty Schemes (HPCDS) throughout England and Wales to provide on-the-day emergency advice and advocacy to anyone facing possession proceedings. The schemes should allow anyone in danger of eviction or having property repossessed to get free legal advice and representation on the day of their hearing, regardless of their financial circumstances. HPCDS was previously provided in Liverpool by 'Liverpool Community Advice' (LCA). However, LCA went into Liquidation on 22 December 2022 meaning this provision came to an end.*

*HPCDS is currently provided in Liverpool by Shelter, James Murray Solicitors and Merseyside Law Centre. This is a temporary rota and a permanent provider (or providers) shall need to be found. There is therefore a risk to disruption to this service within Liverpool and LLS' Access to Justice*

*Committee is undertaking a study into the viability of the scheme.*

*I am liaising with previous, current and potential providers to gauge their views on the viability of the rates on offer as well as procedural changes needed to make the scheme workable (for example, concerning how cases are listed). One of the key issues at stake is the Lord Chancellor's duty to ensure that legal aid is made available. This is contained within the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 - Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 ([legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk))*

*It could be suggested that if a large area like Liverpool (and many others across the country) does not have basic housing loss prevention advice, then the Lord Chancellor is failing in his duty. Once this study is complete, we intend to report to our MPs with a view to lobbying the relevant bodies (most likely, MOJ and LAA).*

James hopes to finalise the paper in April and if any readers have any insight into the above they are encouraged to get in touch with LLS.

Both **Margaret Greenwood MP** and **Justin Madders MP** raised concerns for constituents who face housing issues and may need to rely on advice. **President Jeremy Myers** directed both to the Government's "How to Rent" book at (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-rent>).

**Millie Hayden** then provided an update from the Non-contentious Business Committee. In particular, issues were flagged with the Land Registry. While there is an acknowledgement that all government departments are struggling with funding, issues for practitioners include delays in relation to registration of completions. The knock on effects being that lenders are concerned as to why charges are not registered. This is an issue not just for private conveyancing but in relation to development sites and social housing providers. The ongoing problems see practitioners bearing the brunt of



clients' frustrations with the process and leads to additional time and money to correct issues.

**Margaret Greenwood MP** offered to put down a Written Parliamentary Question and Millie will follow up with Margaret to discuss next steps.

Finally, I provided a legislative update in relation to bills going through Parliament. We firstly touched upon the Illegal Migration Bill. The newsworthy and controversial bill introduces measures aimed at stopping small boats which bring migrants to the country. The proposed legislation would enable the detention of illegal arrivals without bail or review within the first 28 days of detention and puts a duty on the Home Secretary to remove illegal entrants and radically narrow the number of challenges and appeals which could suspend removal. The National law society has raised concerns that the legislation may be unworkable, may limit due process and

not be consistent with international law in particular in the way in which it would disqualify illegal entrants from using modern slavery laws to prevent removal.

I also discussed: the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill which sees workers lose protection from dismissal where strikes lead to reduction in service levels across different industries; the National Security Bill where amendments have been suggested and welcomed which seek to lessen the impact on journalism but on which the profession has suggested do not go far enough; the Retained EU Bill which provides very little operational approach to what is a very difficult operational exercise of repealing thousands of pieces of EU legislation; and the Public Order Bill which introduces curbs on rights to protest.

**Justin Madders MP** commented on the difficulty in advising clients if the Retained EU Bill was to pass however a discussion followed that those who are likely to suffer most are clients who will almost be forced

to take a risk or seek advice on areas of law where they may not have needed advice for decades.

**Margaret Greenwood MP** also raised a question in relation the rights of children born in the United Kingdom to a mother who had entered the country illegally and what would be their status. I agreed to find a response to this.

We finished with **Millie Hayden** raising the issue around the rhetoric used by government in relation to 'lefty lawyers' and the concern with which this may impact on the health, safety and wellbeing of members of the profession.

*Our next meeting with MPs is scheduled Friday, 13 October 2023 from 1.00pm to 2.00pm. LLS Members are invited to contact the office with any suggestions for agenda items ahead of that event.*

**Paddy Dwyer**  
Parliamentary Liaison Officer



## FINGERPRINT ANALYSIS



**Peter M Swann FAE FFS MCSFS**

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## Liverpool Chamber of Commerce and Liverpool Law Society joint networking event



On 24th March 2023 Liverpool Law Society and Liverpool Chamber of Commerce held a joint networking event at Royal Institution bar in Colquitt Street, Liverpool.

The event was well attended by local

businesses from the Liverpool city region and members of Liverpool Law Society including **DWF, BarnsChapel, Bennett Williams Solicitors, Burd Ward, Husband Forwood Morgan, Oriel Chambers, In House Legal Solutions** and **Irwin Mitchell**.

There was a warm welcome from Liverpool Chamber of Commerce representatives upon arrival, and a free drink was available for all attendees. The Royal institution bar's décor is a homage to the rich cultural history of the building including John James Audubon's 'Birds of America' exhibition in the 1800's. There is a large mural of a pink flamingo in the main hallway, that was a backdrop for quite a few photographs in the evening.

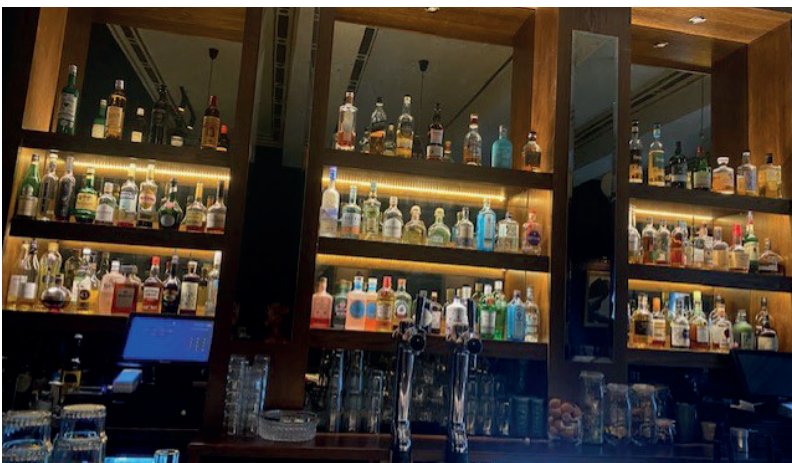
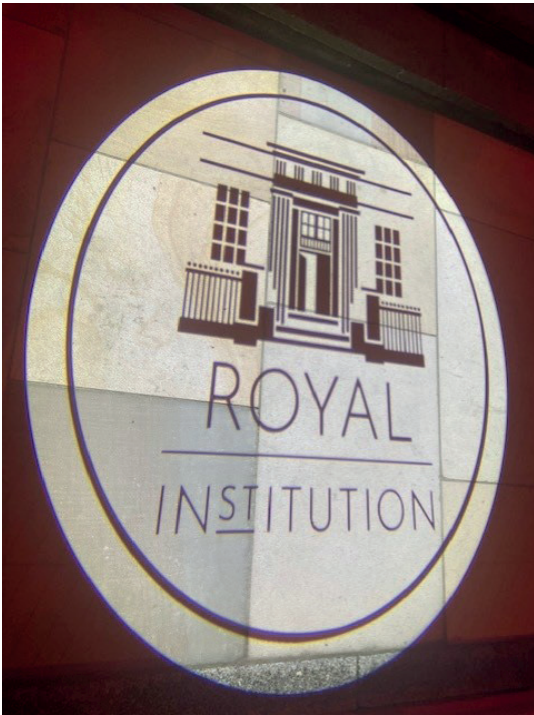
After the attendees had time to meet new and old contacts and network, **Jordan Rhoda**, membership and business growth Manager of Liverpool Chamber, welcomed everyone and

thanked the Royal Institution Bar for their hospitality. He also thanked everyone who had taken the time to come to the event and is looking forward to Liverpool Chamber organising more joint events in the future. The President, **Jeremy Myers**, also thanked Royal institution Bar and Liverpool Chamber for organising the joint event with Liverpool Law Society, he noted that it was a good opportunity for local businesses to meet local lawyers, and encouraged attendees to come to any future events.

Thank you to our President Jeremy Myers, Officers and Directors and everyone who attended the joint networking event. A special thank you to Liverpool Chamber of Commerce for helping to make the event such a success, and Royal Institution Bar for making their venue available.

**Gaynor Williams**  
Vice President







# The Law Society seeks comments/ examples on Court Backlogs

In December 2022 the Law Society put out a report on the backlogs being experienced in the courts and the overall state of the court system. This report, and the subsequent campaign to raise awareness, has been successful and has had national and trade journal coverage. Positive feedback has also been received from Parliamentarians.

Our research drew on a survey conducted with over 500 of our members. The survey showed that our members are wholly dissatisfied with the state of the courts (citing various

examples, but primarily concerning unsafe conditions.) Among the worrying statistics cited were:

- Two-thirds (64%) of respondents experienced delays in cases being heard, due to the poor state of the court
- Over 30% of respondents did not feel safe in the court
- 28% said the courts were “not at all fit” for purpose
- There were 63,121 backlogged cases as of October 2022
- 49 weeks was the average time to deal with a care case in the family court

The Law Society’s recommendations to the government include:

- Investing in buildings, staff and judges
- Properly funding legal aid
- Keeping cases out of the courtroom where possible
- Having access to reliable technology
- Having better data collection

*Members are encouraged to email [campaigns@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@lawsociety.org.uk) with relevant examples or comments on this topic, for Joe Ferreira’s attention. Please do keep [beth.quinn@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:beth.quinn@lawsociety.org.uk) copied.*

## Welcome to new members

The directors of the Society would like to give a warm welcome to our new members who were approved for membership at this month’s General Committee meeting. There were 13 individuals from the following law firms:

- Bond Turner
- Brabners
- DPP
- National Legal Service
- Prosperity Law
- RMNJ Solicitors

• Weightmans  
Liverpool Law Society’s membership now exceeds 2,450 individuals from 186 law firms, barristers’ chambers, and other organisations with legal professionals in the Liverpool City Region and beyond.

## Pssst, hey....have you heard about hybrid?

Look out for some specially selected training events which Liverpool Law Society will be offering the opportunity to attend either in person or online. So, whether you are an ‘escape the screen, have a coffee & chat’ kind of delegate OR a ‘save

the commute & hit pause when I want’ kind of delegate, the choice will be yours.

The great thing is that even if you choose to attend in-person, you will still have access to the recording, just in case you

want to revisit the training any time during the next 3 months.

Warning though, if you do wish to attend in-person, places will be very limited, so prompt booking is highly recommended.

## Access to Justice Committee

The Access to Justice Committee regularly meets to discuss the provision of legal advice and assistance to those who cannot readily afford it.

The February meeting was well attended, drawing representatives from local advice centres and law firms.

Topics under discussion included the ‘Our Liverpool’ initiative. Our Liverpool helps vulnerable migrants, people seeking asylum and those with refugee status.

A potential funding gap affecting the initiative has been identified by members of the Committee. Through its links with local Councillors, the Society will seek to provide clarification of this issue.

The other main topic for discussion was the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme (HPCDS) within Liverpool and surrounding area. The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) funds HPCDS throughout England and Wales to provide advice and advocacy to anyone

facing possession proceedings. Serious concerns have been raised about the scheme’s feasibility within the city. The Committee agreed to lobby on this issue and a consultation exercise will be undertaken.

The Committee meets every two months, and anyone interested in participating should email [james.mannouch@law.ac.uk](mailto:james.mannouch@law.ac.uk) for more information.

**James Mannouch** (Chair)

# 2023 Commercial Property Conference

Wednesday 26th April | 9.30am - 3.30pm | Hybrid

Chairperson

HHJ Cadwallader

Specialist Civil Circuit Judge of the Business and Property Courts in Liverpool

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

How climate change is likely to impact the UK and understanding these potential hazards for property transaction due diligence

Sally Redman, Landmark

[Book Here](#)

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# International Women's Day Event



**Sarah Sharples**

In recognition of International Women's Day 2023, Merseyside Junior Lawyers' Division hosted a Gender-Abuse Conference, specifically focusing on Eliminating Violence Against Women. The event was held at City Wine Bar and was well attended by junior lawyers from across the city.

As Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Representative for MJLD, I wanted to bring this important issue to the forefront. Violence against women and girls is a human rights violation, and the immediate and long-term physical and mental effects can be devastating. It is vital that women know where to turn for protection. It is therefore necessary to continue the conversation, increase awareness and ensure victims know that there is a lot of support available.

Three speakers were warmly welcomed to the event: **Emily Spurrell**, **Emma Marshall**, and **Natasha Khalique**. Each speaker was able to give a different perspective on how their role aims to protect people who have been the victims of violence, whether in the home or in the community.

**Emily Spurrell** is the Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside. Emily has recently announced her Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Delivery Plan, with the aim of making Merseyside a safer place for all women and girls. The plan aims to 'prevent violence, pursue offenders and ensure tackling VAWG is prioritised and treated with urgency.' Emily spoke about her initiative and the importance of its implementation for the protection of women and girls who live, work and visit Merseyside.

The next speaker at the event was **Emma Marshall**. Emma is an Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocate (IDSV) at the domestic abuse charity, The First Step. Emma spoke about her role in providing support and advising on appropriate safeguarding measures and options a person can consider to mitigate their risk. The First Step is the only service in the area that offers support to both high-risk and low to medium-risk victims.

Finally, **Natasha Khalique** is a barrister at Unit Chambers, specialising in Family Law. Natasha is

instructed on both public and private children law cases, as well as injunctive relief. Natasha gave an insight into her role of representing victims of abuse at court, and how she believes that the courts could better protect victims and encourage them to seek support. Merseyside Junior Lawyers would like to thank Emily, Emma and Natasha for giving up their time to highlight such an important issue. We hope members enjoyed the event and we look forward to seeing them again at April's event!



**Natasha Khalique**

**Sarah Sharples**

– Trainee Solicitor at MSB Solicitors.

## MJLD Court Marshalling Schemes

The marshalling schemes are continuing at Liverpool Crown Court, Birkenhead County Court and Liverpool Family Court. Successful student applicants shadow Judges presiding over various cases, gaining invaluable insight.

# Liverpool Chamber.

## AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

Did you know you can join the Liverpool Chamber as an Affiliate Member? Affiliate Membership offers a range of services and discount on a range of key events.

[WWW.LIVERPOOLCHAMBER.ORG.UK](http://WWW.LIVERPOOLCHAMBER.ORG.UK)



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### START YOUR JOURNEY

Request an application form from a member of Liverpool Law Society's team by emailing::

[contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](mailto:contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)

For details on upgrading and other opportunities, contact us at:

[membership@liverpoolchamber.org.uk](mailto:membership@liverpoolchamber.org.uk)

### CALL TO REACH US



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Liverpool  Law Society

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# Bell Lamb & Joynson solicitors are proud supporters of the inaugural national conveyancing week

Liverpool, UK - Bell Lamb & Joynson was thrilled to support the first-ever National Conveyancing Week, an initiative aimed at enhancing the experience of both home movers and professionals involved in the home moving process.

From March 20-24, 2023, property lawyers from all over the country participated in a range of events intended to educate and inform everyone involved in the home-moving process about the complex role of lawyers in assisting people in relocating.

The UK property market is a vital contributor to the economy, producing approximately £50 billion in economic activity every year, with home movers paying for direct home moving costs such as banks, mortgage brokers, estate agents, and property lawyers, as well

as an estimated £25,000 per home move on soft furnishings, technology, connectivity, and white goods. Since 2020, record numbers of people have been moving due to factors like remote work, resulting in significant lifestyle changes as people seek more space, move away from commuter belts into more rural areas, and seek additional rooms for home offices and studies.

This demand has resulted in record high house prices and removals firms, estate agents, banks, and property lawyers struggling to cope with the unprecedented demand for their services. National Conveyancing Week offered estate agents, mortgage brokers, and the home-moving public the opportunity to attend a series of in-person events, as well as online and on-demand sessions, to better understand the crucial role of property lawyers in the home moving process.

**Rob Hailstone**, the founder of National Conveyancing Week, emphasised the importance of the event in demystifying the many strands that make up the process for the general public as well as the numerous stakeholders involved.

**Mike Leeman**, Managing Partner at Bell Lamb & Joynson, stated, *"We are proud to support the National Conveyancing Week initiative and play our part in improving the experience of home movers and professionals involved in the home moving process. This is an important event that helps to demystify the complexities of the home moving process and raise awareness of the vital role that property lawyers play in ensuring a successful home move."*

National Conveyancing Week took place between 20th-24th March. For more information see <https://conveyancingweek.co.uk/>

## Costs Conference 2023

Last month we held our annual Costs Conference which was kindly chaired by District Judge Jenkinson.

The online event began with **David Pilling** of Liverpool Civil Law, who discussed 'Extension to fixed recoverable costs' followed by **Dr Mark Friston** of Hailsham Chambers who covered all things 'Children & Costs'.

There was a brief comfort break before **Robin Dunne** of Gatehouse Chambers talked about 'The solicitor and client relationship: what can go wrong (and what to do about it)'. Next up was **Andrew Hogan** of Kings Chambers, covering 'Qualified One Way Costs Shifting'.

After another comfort / lunch break, the

afternoon began with **Nick McDonnell** of Kain Knight discussing 'Belsner & beyond', which lead into our final session of the day with barrister (& Twitter celeb) **Gordon Exall**, another member of Kings Chambers, who talked about 'Part 36 Offers: Can you escape the normal consequences'.

District Judge Jenkinson 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 circa early June.

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

What our delegates said:  
*"The whole conference was excellent. I*

*found the quality of the speakers and the topics covered to be of very high quality. The remote delivery of the conference was seamless. In many ways it was better than most in person conferences as it was easier to both hear and view content, whilst being able to engage with questions etc. Great conference, would highly recommend."*

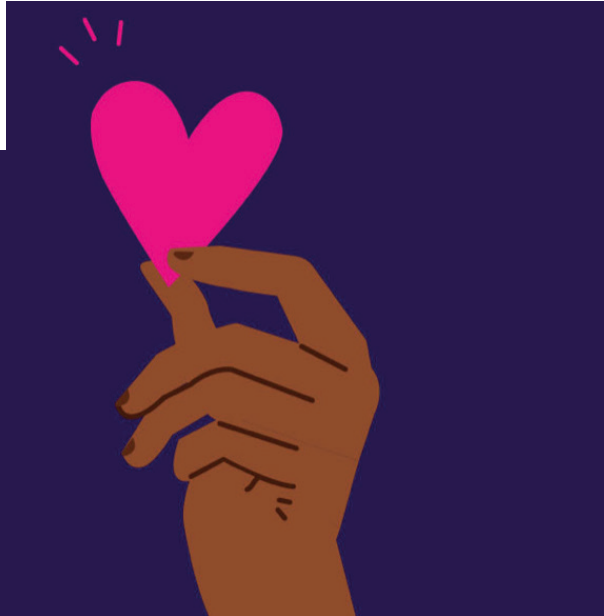
**Mr Tony Armstrong**,  
Fletchers Group

*"A very informative and valuable conference that covers everything relevant to law costs"* **Anon.**

*"I found this conference very helpful and directed towards relevant issues being experienced in costs, particularly the upcoming reforms and amendments to QOCS"* **Anon.**

# Charity urges solicitors to take part in research to better support needs of the profession

**THE SOLICITORS' CHARITY.**  
Supporting you, since 1858



- **New research questionnaire launched by The Solicitors' Charity**  
**Plea for solicitors to have their say in what the profession needs**
- **Interviews with charity CEO, Nick Gallagher available on request**

'Solicitors, help us to help you' – that's the plea from The Solicitors' Charity as it launches a research questionnaire, the latest stage in its strategy research project, to find out how it can deliver even more, positive impact to the legal profession.

**Solicitors across England and Wales are urged to take part to help the charity tailor their services to meet the changing needs of the profession.**

The confidential online questionnaire asks solicitors to share their insights and opinions to shape the way the charity works and the support it offers to legal professionals in times of need.

The Solicitors' Charity CEO **Nick Gallagher** explained: *"This is a really important piece of research for us as we want to continue making a real positive difference to the lives of solicitors in the future."*

*"We want to hear about their challenges and how they're responding to them. Whether it's finding the right balance between work and personal life, managing the demands of their practice, or simply making ends meet, we want to know what people think."*

*"Solicitors play a vital role in society, representing the interests of their clients and helping to provide access to justice."*

*We understand that being a solicitor also comes with its own demands and so we want to make sure that we're doing everything we can to support solicitors when times get tough for them.*

*"By participating in our research, solicitors will help the charity to identify areas where they need to provide more support and resources."*

Since 1858, The Solicitors' Charity has provided help to solicitors in need or crisis. The charity helps to ease solicitors' practical, emotional and financial difficulties brought about by challenges such as job loss, low income, debt, bereavement, and mental and physical health issues.

In addition to direct help, it also works with partners including LawCare, the mental wellbeing charity, The Solicitor's Assistance Scheme, for employment and regulatory advice, and Renovo, for career counselling, to provide confidential support for solicitors.

Complete the questionnaire: <https://www.thesolicitorscharitysurvey.org/survey/selfserve/53b/230210?list=4>



**Nick Gallagher, CEO of the Solicitors' Charity**



# FAMILY PRACTITIONERS SOUGHT FOR SOCIETY'S SPECIALIST COMMITTEE

The Family Business Sub-Committee has regular involvement and liaison with the local courts in attending a number of committees to ensure that practitioners are fully updated in changes in local procedures and practice. Further, the committee gives feedback to the court to ensure that the community is served as well as possible.

The committee meets 5 times a year for an hour over lunchtime, mostly online and we would welcome applications from members of Liverpool Law Society, both public and private family law practitioners, to join, meet, network and learn from peers regardless of seniority and experience. The Committee provides an excellent opportunity for keeping up to date and professional networking.

**We would very much welcome new members to join our Liverpool Law Society Family Business Sub-Committee.**

**Are you passionate about family law? If so, come and join us.” Says Haley Farrell, chair of the Family Business Sub-committee & Deputy Managing Director & Head of Family Law at Broudie Jackson Canter.**

**For further details or to apply to join the committee see link below:**

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



# Pathways to the Legal Profession

On 1st March 2023 Liverpool Law Society hosted the Pathways to the Legal Profession event online on zoom.

**David Tournaford**, Chair of Liverpool Law Society's Charities & Education Sub-Committee, welcomed the students and speakers

The event was very well attended with over 420 students participating from Archbishop Blanch CE VA High School, Birkenhead Sixth Form College, Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School, Carmel College, Childwall Sports & Science Academy, Christ The King Catholic High School and Sixth Form Centre, Cowley International College Sixth Form, Formby High School, Liverpool College, Liverpool Lifesciences, Merchant Taylors Boys School, Merchant Taylors Girls School, North Liverpool Academy, Notre Dame Catholic College, South Sefton Campus (Hugh Baird College), St Anselm's College, St Edwards College, St Hilda's Church of England High School, St John Plessington Catholic College, St Julie's Catholic High School, St Mary's College Crosby, The Blue Coat School, Weatherhead High School and West Kirby Grammar School.

There were eight knowledgeable and experienced speakers from the academic, training and legal profession who were able to give students invaluable information and guidance about studying and progressing in a career in law.

The event was split into two sessions, to allow for a short break for the students in between. The speakers in the first session included **Dr John Tribe**, Senior lecturer in Law at University of Liverpool who gave valuable advice about the university route, and the costs and benefits of studying for a degree. Dr Tribe also provided the students with a problem-solving scenario about a property boundary, and invited them to send him answers, with the promise of a prize for the best one. **Laura Samaroo**, Senior lecturer in Law at Liverpool John Moores University, discussed progressing into law with a non-law degree, **Nicola Walker**, Campus Manager at Liverpool and Chester, The University of Law, explained the Solicitor's Qualifying Exam (SQE) and the LPC, and **Paul Allonby**, Chartered Legal Executive based in Merseyside, discussed the legal executive route to qualification. After a short comfort break the speakers in the second session included **Helen Pilling**, Senior Tutor and Skills Coach at the University of Law, who spoke about legal apprenticeships, **Isabella Fenn-White**, a Barrister from 7 Harrington Street Chambers, who explained the route to qualifying as a Barrister and provided a snapshot of her daily life. **Denise Wright**, an early careers adviser at Weightmans, discussed the recruitment process at a law firm for graduates and apprentices, and **Matthew Chorley**, a Solicitor Apprentice at Weightmans, talked about being a Solicitor apprentice and his daily life in law.

After the speakers concluded their presentations there was a question-and-answer session, allowing the students to direct questions to the relevant speakers.

Thank you to all of the speakers, schoolteachers and students who attended the event, and a special thank you to David Tournaford for his help organising and chairing the event. Thank you to the sponsors of the event, Weightmans, and of course thank you to our President **Jeremy Myers**.



**Gaynor Williams**,  
Vice President, LLS

**By becoming a Friend of the Actors' Benevolent Fund you will be supporting those in the profession that have fallen on hard times**

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Registered charity number 206524



# New art fund to bring animation to city centre

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



Julie Johnson

Art and culture can bring animation and vibrancy to our city's streets. With our expanded BID Area, Culture & Commerce, we are home to many of Liverpool's major arts organisations. This year, Liverpool BID extends its support of the arts with a new Arts & Culture Fund.

We have a long commitment to arts and culture in Liverpool and this fund is the next logical step, especially when the public purse is under so much pressure. What we aim for is for this fund to generate activity, to celebrate our cultural heritage and current generation of artists, providing a gateway and access to the arts and to be part of the cultural landscape that makes Liverpool so vibrant.

Our Culture & Commerce BID Area is home to many of Liverpool's largest arts organisations, including National Museums Liverpool, Tate Liverpool, Open Eye Gallery and more. If our extended Retail and Leisure area is approved in its ballot, Liverpool Everyman Theatre and the Philharmonic Hall will join the Playhouse Theatre and Royal Court Theatre as Levy Payers.



As well as supporting arts organisations and cultural institutions through Liverpool BID, we know that art in the public realm is a vital ingredient in the life of a city. It brings colour and creativity to our streets, helping to attract people to businesses, and making our city a more vibrant and interesting place to live. Through our work with Liverpool Biennial, the Liverpool Plinth, dot-art and Open Culture we help people to access arts and culture in the civic squares and public spaces throughout the city centre.

The new Arts & Culture Fund is designed specifically for projects and events taking place in the city centre. The fund has two levels of grants; one for small grants of less than £5,000 which can cover 100% of the project, and a larger grant which can cover up to 50% of the total cost of the project.

Eligible projects need to align with Liverpool BID's objectives, including

driving footfall to the city centre, improving the city perspective, showing innovation and helping to showcase Liverpool as a thriving city, ensure the arts have a future in the city, meet both sustainable and ESG objectives, identify a commitment to equality and diversity.

Applicants can be Levy Payers, or non Levy Payers. This can include charities, CICs and CIOs committed to increasing public access to the arts. Organisations can include, but are not limited to, museums, galleries, historic houses, archives, libraries, agencies and festivals.

The first funding round submissions are being evaluated by our team, and people will be able to learn more about them later this year. The second round closes on 23 September at 5pm.

Visit our website to find out how to apply <https://www.liverpoolbidcompany.com/liverpool-bid-arts-culture-fund/>



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# ADILA

Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

Liverpool Law Society is delighted to  
announce the 2023  
**Annual Dinner and Legal Awards**  
on Thursday, 9 November 2023

GUEST SPEAKER IS  
**THE LORD-LIEUTENANT OF MERSEYSIDE**  
**MR MARK BLUNDELL**

Nominations for the Legal Awards open 3 July 2023,  
Nomination deadline midday 8 September 2023

Awards open to members only. Members and non-  
members can attend the Dinner.

[Dinner bookings being taken now - click here](#)

**S P O N S O R E D   B Y**

# ADILA

Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

**The Legal Awards are back for 2023!**

We are excited to announce the Legal Awards will take place at the Society's Annual Dinner on Thursday, 9th November 2023.

## CATEGORIES

- OUTSTANDING TEAM AWARD - NON-CONTENTIOUS
- OUTSTANDING TEAM AWARD - DISPUTE RESOLUTION & LITIGATION
- OUTSTANDING TEAM AWARD - FAMILY LAW
- EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AWARD
- RISING STAR AWARD
- OUTSTANDING LAWYER AWARD
- LAW FIRM AWARD (1-99 EMPLOYEES)
- LAW FIRM AWARD (100+ EMPLOYEES)

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

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



# Merseyside Law Centre



**The spring Equinox has arrived, and new beginnings are here. We have now officially moved out of our Bold Street office to the Kuumba Imani Millenium Centre where our Wednesday free legal advice drop-in session will now be held at the usual time of 10am-12pm. Our Dovecot drop-in sessions remain the same.**

On the 3rd March we held our annual Strategic Planning Day. All the MLC team plus our board members were in attendance and it was a truly elevating and productive day where our plans and objectives for the next year were laid out and intentions set. We also invited the other tenants of the Kuumba Imani for lunch during the interval as an opportunity to get to know our new neighbours and to lay the foundations of hopeful future collaborations.

Recently, we attended a meeting with Paula Barker's team to discuss concerns

they had for a group of their vulnerable constituents who are experiencing issues with their supported accommodation and are at risk of eviction. Unfortunately, this type of issue is becoming increasingly common as supported housing is exempt from caps such as Local Housing Allowance, which has seen some providers abuse the system - over charging and providing little or no support. It is also a very under regulated category of housing. Together we came up with a plan of action to ensure we know what each tenant wants going forward in terms of their accommodation and to ensure that they are aware of their rights so we will be more equipped to help if needs be in the future. Once we have heard from the tenants, we may be able to go forward in representing them to ensure they receive a positive outcome.

## Immigration Service Update from Jo Bezanno, Immigration Solicitor.

We have started to see outcomes on our immigration cases. Two of our clients got grants of leave last week. Both are survivors of domestic abuse (with young children) who were formally dependent on their abusive partner for

their immigration status. One of these clients has been temporarily housed and supported by the local authority. Now that she has leave to remain, she can access mainstream benefits and housing.

With [MSRN](#), we are arranging monthly drop in sessions to advise and assist people who need to renew their leave on this route. Very importantly, we will help those who can't afford the fees to apply for a fee waiver. We originally intended to do these sessions once a month (on the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday afternoon of the month) but are consulting with organisations in the sector about how to arrange these to meet demand. Please do get in touch; [Jo.bezzano@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk](mailto:Jo.bezzano@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk) or [casework@mrsnliverpool.org.uk](mailto:casework@mrsnliverpool.org.uk) if you have a view on this, would like more information or to refer someone to us.

We have had enquiries from asylum seekers who have received [asylum questionnaires](#). These are for people from Eritrea, Libya, Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria who claimed asylum before July 2022. The questionnaires are complicated and need to be completed in English within strict time limits. The sanction for failing to meet the deadline

is that the person's asylum claim will be treated as withdrawn. There are large numbers of people in the city who do not have lawyers to help them with the questionnaires. These are asylum claims and so fall within the scope of legal aid but the huge deficit of legal aid providers in Liverpool (and the northwest) means that large numbers of people are likely to struggle, or be unable, to get the legal help they need with the questionnaires. We do not yet have a legal aid contract and so are not funded to do these cases. But, because we know people can not see a legal aid lawyer within the timescale they need to, we have taken on a few cases.

The legal aid tender round has now opened. We are working on our bid and expect to be awarded a legal aid contract for immigration from 1st September 2023. At a time when more and more immigration providers are pulling out of legal aid work because it is not viable, we are 'swimming against the tide' to some extent. But we are confident that, if we have other funding, we will be able to sustain and expand our new immigration practice and provide high quality immigration advice and representation in Merseyside. We know it is desperately needed and hope to go some way towards meeting this need.

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

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

E-mail: [enquiries@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk)

Twitter: @MerseyLawCentre

Facebook: Merseyside Law Centre

## A thank you from Woodvale

**We are a small charity in Southport called Woodvale and Ainsdale Community Association. We are based in an area of pocket deprivation and we provide a wide variety of activities for the local community. These activities include two youth sessions per week for ages 11-19 including half term and school holiday activities, 3 chair based exercise classes per week, Tai Chi, craft sessions, a free monthly lunch club for older people, trips and excursions and we're part of Sefton's Warm Spaces too.**

We're very lucky to receive emails that keep us informed of things happening around Liverpool City Region and that is how we came across the wonderful opportunity to access resources from Liverpool Law Society.

We were in touch with Sarah who was super organised and very helpful and we went to view the resources on the same day that we heard about them. We were able to take lots of stationary (which has become very expensive so we are unbelievably grateful to not have to purchase printing paper for a while), Christmas decorations and lights which is wonderful for when we have our annual older people's Christmas lunch event, we replaced all of our old, cracked plastic water jugs with lovely glass ones, we brought back coffee, tea and hot water jugs, knives, forks and spoons (somehow they go missing - even here!) and we replaced our oddment of a tea set with 40 matching tea cups, saucers and side plates which we will get so much use out of at our free monthly lunch club and our Warm Space events.

We spoke with Sarah about office chairs and a 3 shelved black trolley and we were added to a reserve list for these. About a week later we had an email to say that we could collect the office chairs and the trolley too! We have been talking about replacing our office chairs for a while now but to replace 4 at once is quite



an expense for a small charity.

We just wanted to send this little note to tell you how grateful we are for these incredible resources. It has made a huge difference to us and we think it was a wonderful thing for your company to do. Thank you so much.



# Take the plunge & change your outdated case management software!

**When it comes to technology, resistance is futile. Whether you're a visionary 'early adopter' or a sceptical 'laggard' you and your business will change and adapt to new technologies; it's only a matter of when.**

Don't believe me?

Look at the phone in your pocket. Is it a Nokia 3310? Launched in September 2000 it was a real classic. Robust (regarded as the most 'unbreakable' mobile phone), massive battery life (typically around one month between charges) and it did everything you needed – at that time.

But I'm guessing the phone in your pocket is not a 3310.

Remember when you switched? It was quite scary. These new phones didn't even have instructions – you learned how to use it by playing around with it and using it.

When you ditched your feature phone for a 'smart' phone, were you one of the first 'early adopters' or one of the reluctant 'laggards'. You were probably somewhere between the two – but you switched. Resistance is futile.

## Lawyers changing

I have two lawyers in my immediate family, I think I can say this with a certain level of confidence and authority, that they like to think things through and make sure that every detail is in order before taking the plunge. They don't like surprises, and they certainly don't like change. So, when somebody proposes that they change their legal software, it's like asking them to jump into an arctic pool of icy water. Yeah, it took them a while to move from their Nokia or Blackberry to a smart phone – but they did, of course they did.

Ok, so you know where I'm going with this...your case management system.

## Is it more 3310 or more iPhone 14?

New technology allows us to do the things we need to do more efficiently and effectively with less room for error,

but more than that it allows us to do new things – you could still order a pizza or a taxi on a 3310 but watch your favourite tv show or take a photo and send it to family at no cost? – unthinkable.

## Missing opportunities

What is your case management software provider doing for you and your business right now? Some firms have been using theirs so long that they don't notice how much time they waste and the opportunities they are missing using outdated legal technology. All of this is hidden from them because right now, they're probably too busy to take a step back and look at how technology is changing law firms. So, when somebody like me or someone in the team finally does tell them what the new software can do, it can come as a bit of a shock. Fortunately, most of the time, once they actually take the plunge and try out the new software, they realise how much better it is and how much of their life can be made easier. They can now work faster, more efficiently and increase productivity, with a reduced error rate, and they don't need to worry about outdated software features, compatibility, or integration issues.

So, I guess the message here is that you will upgrade your practice management software, it's just a question of when.

If you are thinking of upgrading your legal case management software soon here's some things to consider:

1. The software should be cloud-based and have the ability to track, manage and automate all aspects of a case, from enquiries/leads, notes, and deadlines to document management and communications. It should have integrated accounts as standard and integrate with other key platforms you use every day. Additionally, it should have an intuitive, familiar user interface, that is fully customisable, allowing you to quickly access the information you need and work the way you want to. It should also have the ability to generate reports, charts and dashboards to help you better understand the case and

your overall business. And please, accept nothing less than best practice in a system – full customisation and automation throughout. It exists and don't let any provider tell you otherwise.

2. The cost of the software is obviously an important factor. Many law firms are reluctant to invest in new cloud-based software, but it's important to consider the long-term benefits of a better case management system. The cost should be weighed up against the potential savings in time and money that a new system can offer. And let's be realistic, if you want a better product sometimes you have to pay more than you do currently. Particularly if you have been using a low cost, outdated system for a number of years. Think of it not as a cost but as an investment. Look for the functionality you want and tell the provider what you can afford to pay.
3. Finally, the ease of implementation is essential. A good legal case management system should be straightforward and easy to use, allowing lawyers to get up to speed with using the software without any real issues. Furthermore, your provider should offer comprehensive in-person training and support. Investing in a new system will be an invaluable tool for any lawyer. With the right software, law firms can customise and streamline their processes, save time, and better manage their cases.

For me through, the best tip when it comes to changing your case management system is all about having the confidence to change your mindset and in many cases the mindset of your team. So, let's not continue to frustrate ourselves by complaining about it. If you have the opportunity to get a free trial of a new platform, try and create the time to be curious – press that button, play around with that document, input that data and just see what happens. You won't break it, I promise!

*If you need more advice, drop me a line. You can reach me by emailing [grant@denovobi.com](mailto:grant@denovobi.com), call me on 0141 331 5290 or visit [denovobi.com](http://denovobi.com).*

# There's always going to be a better way, you just might not know it yet...

The logo for denovo, with 'denovo' in black and 'vo' in a blue-to-purple gradient, is centered within a white rounded rectangle.

## Time for a change?

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# Women's History Month shines spotlight on female empowerment in the legal profession over the past century



In England and Wales today, more than 52% of lawyers are female. We've come a long way since Carrie Morrison was admitted to the roll of solicitors by the Law Society of England and Wales on 18 December 1922. Three more women followed in her ground-breaking footsteps in 1923.

Previously, women could not join the profession as they weren't classified as 'persons' under the Solicitors Act 1843. It wasn't until the Sex Discrimination (Removal) Act in 1919 that the profession was opened to women.

Celebrating Women's History Month, this March, has made us aware of the enormous strides forward we have made in the legal profession. Thankfully it is now an arena where female empowerment is embraced and encouraged.

Women solicitors are valued, and their achievements are recognised in a world that aims to be more diverse, inclusive and gender equal.

Women's History Month highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society globally.

But while acknowledging the huge impact that has been made by women solicitors over the decades, there's still no room for complacency.

The SRA's 2021 [diversity survey](#) found that there are significant differences, according to the size of the law firm and by type of work.

Sadly, many highly skilled, experienced and dedicated women solicitors are still leaving the profession before making it to partner. Various reasons, such as long hours and targets, make it impossible for them to achieve a harmonious work-life balance – and so they quit.

The Solicitors' Charity calls on the legal profession to introduce initiatives that will attract and encourage more women solicitors to stay for the long term, enabling them to make it to the top of their profession.

We are proud to have five esteemed women as trustees, who each contributes their individual skills to the proactive and positive interventions that ensure our solicitors in need receive the life-changing support they need.

Our current chair of trustees is **Ginny Cannon**, a retired in-house commercial solicitor, and a steward of the City of London Solicitors' Company.

Former chair **Christl Hughes** is a retired High Street practitioner. She currently chairs our Awards Committee and is Chair of Association of Women Solicitors, London. Christl is a former

President of Leicestershire Law Society, and East Midlands Representative on The Law Society Council Membership Committee.

**Kirsty McEwen**, chairs our People and Development Committee and has been the Charity's Honorary Treasurer. Kirsty is a partner at leading Black Country law firm Higgs & Sons.

**Tanya Dunbar** practised as a solicitor at Ashfords LLP until 2016 when she joined the Post Office as an in-house Commercial Lawyer. She now works for EY.

**Rebecca Litherland**, a barrister and tribunal judge, specialises in welfare benefits law and has significant experience of criminal and family law, as a practitioner and volunteer.

You can find out more about us at <https://thesolicitorscharity.org/about-us/our-trustees/>. Our charity helps to ease solicitors' practical, emotional and financial difficulties brought about by challenges such as job loss, low income, debt, bereavement, mental and physical health issues.

In every year but one, we have needed to provide help to more female than male solicitors.

Our most recent *Big Report* illustrated how this charity helped over 400 female and male solicitors and their dependents in 2021 – with awards totalling £1m helping with personal and economic hardship.

In addition, the funding we provided to LawCare helped them support the mental health and wellbeing of 342 solicitors; 17 solicitors in need of career counselling were referred to Renovo and 43 were given financial and debt advice.





## A thank you from Barnstondale



**Thank you for your donation.**

Your gift has added value to our facilities and has provided us with goods that will enhance children's stay with us at Barnstondale.

The Law Society kindly donated some office equipment to the Barnstondale Centre this month, a local children's charity on the Wirral. The inclusive outdoor education centre has been supporting young people from all backgrounds and abilities for over 60 years, providing a natural setting for personal development, through sport and adventure, study, and reflection.

As a charity, Barnstondale offers a range of outdoor activities for all, including disabled and disadvantaged children whom they support through their Bursary Scheme. Committed to offering activities that develop children's

confidence, self-esteem, and life skills, their facilities are suitable for all abilities and individual needs.



Following the COVID 19 Pandemic and the onset Cost of Living Crisis, the charity has found that requests for their Bursary Scheme has increased by 300%, a scheme that subsidises young people's fees to the facility by up to 50% to encourage access for all. Children who are eligible for free school meals, from low-income families or have special educational needs are funded on request. However, the charity is finding that children that now fall outside of these categories are also requesting assistance and they want to support as many as possible. In doing so the demand is stripping out their resources and so they're grateful for the support to upgrade a few of their facilities, for the children to enjoy.

In response to the ever-changing financial climate and the increased support for children to access Outdoor Education and all its benefits, Barnstondale are on a mission to ensure all children have access to outdoor education and we're proud to have supported them in providing a use for our old office furnishings.

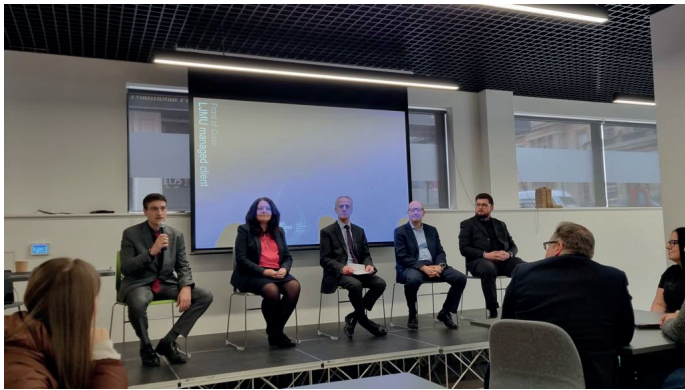


Our coffee table and chairs have created a thinking space for meetings held in their main office, our tables are being used as the teachers table in their canteen and we kindly donated some sofa's that have updated a communal space in one of the residential cabins, for the children to enjoy on their downtime.

It's great to know when items are donated and put to good use, it's even better when it's being used at a charity with a great cause! To learn more about their charity and the work they do visit their website at [www.barnstondale.org](http://www.barnstondale.org)



# Liverpool Law Society collaborates with LJMU



LJMU Law students are being offered career and networking opportunities from Liverpool Law Society (the society that represents all lawyers from Liverpool) due to a new collaboration between the two organisations. LJMU's School of Law students were invited to a career and networking event with Liverpool Law Society on 6 March.

The event specifically aimed at final year students is one of several training events to be held this year, as part of a partnership which will see Liverpool Law Society provide dedicated career events for final year Law students. This year, LJMU is the only law school in Liverpool offering students this training and networking opportunity with the Liverpool Law Society.

The event that took place at Hardman House saw the Director of the School of Law, Professor **Carlo Panara**, chair

a panel with **Jeremy Myers**, President of the Liverpool Law Society, **Gaynor Williams**, Vice-President of the Liverpool Law Society, **Steven Zdolyny**, former President of the Liverpool Law Society and **David Tarttelin**, Chair of Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division.

LJMU's Director of the School of Law, Professor Carlo Panara, said: *"The School of Law is delighted and honoured to collaborate with the Liverpool Law Society and to be the only law school in Liverpool, to offer our L6, LPC and LLM Qualifying Law students the amazing opportunity to attend the training events of the Liverpool Law Society free of charge."*

*"At LJMU we look are always looking for ways to work with sector leading individuals and organisations from across Merseyside, and beyond, and we are grateful to the Liverpool Law Society for these dedicated events and look forward to working with them throughout 2023."*

**Jeremy Myers**, President of Liverpool Law Society added *"I was very pleased to accept LJMU's invitation to take part in the panel session. It was marvellous to engage with a group of very motivated students and I hope we have helped them in their career planning."*



# LJMU latest to back Support Through Court mission



**We ensure people facing court alone can represent themselves with dignity, supporting them so they have the fairest possible hearing.**

**Liverpool John Moores University's School of Law has joined forces with Support Through Court, a social justice charity that provides free help to people facing court who cannot afford legal services or access legal aid.**

LLB Law students at the university will now help staff the service on site at Liverpool Civil and Family Court, enabling the charity to continue to offer its life-changing work in the city-region on a face-to-face basis.

LJMU's School of Law is one of only half a dozen nationally to back Support Through Court after the government ended its funding in June 2022 despite the fact that the charity provides support to thousands of people who face court alone each year.

LJMU already offers free pro bono legal advice and representation through its LLB Law curriculum and the School of Law has supported Support Through Court since 2015 on a voluntary basis. This new, expanded collaboration will enable Support Through Court to continue to grow its service at a time of unprecedented and increasing demand. In 2021, the service supported 2107 people who couldn't get representation.

**Emma Taylor**, Interim Chief Executive

Officer for Support Through Court, said: *'Cuts to our services and the rising cost of living mean that our support is needed more than ever before. Our partnership with LJMU is going from strength to strength, and I look forward to seeing how the new service will develop in Liverpool as we work with the university to provide practical and emotional support to more people going through court alone as litigants in person.'*

**Rachel Stalker**, Clinical Legal Education Programme Leader of the LJMU Legal Advice Centre said: *"We are proud to help the vital work of Support Through Court in our local court and help meet rocketing demand from people priced out of hiring lawyers when faced with a personal or professional crisis."*

LJMU opened its new £2.6 million centre Legal Advice Centre (LAC) and Business Clinic on Hardman Street in November when the head of the Faculty of Business & Law, **Dr Tim Nichol** said the university had *"a responsibility to help wider society"*.

The university estimates that with the cost-of-living crisis it is no longer just the poorest who cannot afford legal services, with 44% of working single people with no children and 76% working single parents with one child are now in what they call the 'justice gap'.

The new partnership with Support Through Court will offer students the opportunity to gain practical work experience, supporting people through the court system. They will do so through a telephone service, face-to-face appointments, and attending court hearings, all of which will help them develop essential skills necessary to work in the legal field.

Rachel Stalker added: *"Along with the training and supervision Support Through Court provide, students can provide good quality help and support for court users at what is a stressful and difficult time for them. Students can also ensure good links between Support Through Court and the advice services offered in the Legal Advice Centre and other third sector organisations working in the Liverpool City Region, helping support the access to justice ecosystem of which we are a part"*.

Support Through Court Liverpool is a busy office, with 11 volunteers and 29 students supporting litigants in person. As a volunteer-led organisation, there remains a pressing need for volunteers with empathy and listening skills to support people unable to access representation in Liverpool.

Volunteers can help us by going here: <https://www.supportthroughcourt.org/get-involved/volunteer/>



# Liverpool Law Society book donations to Local Council records offices

**Due to the Society giving up its premises, we were looking for good homes for some of the old law materials held in Helix. I circulated a list of the remaining stock from the old Law Library to the Records Offices of the Liverpool, Wirral, Sefton, St Helens and Knowsley Councils.**

As a result, Jan Grace, the Archivist at the records offices of Liverpool was delighted to receive the following items:

- Bootle Corporation Bye-Laws
- Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts 1869, 1878, May 1884, August 1884
- Cheshire & Lancs Council Councils (Runcorn-Widnes Bridge) Act 1947
- County of Merseyside Act 1980
- Liverpool Bye-Laws (Various to 1922)
- Liverpool Corporation Acts 1921 (4 copies)
- Liverpool Corporation Acts – Mersey Tunnel Acts
- Merchant Shipping Acts
- Mersey Docks & Harbour Board Bye-Laws & Regulations
- Mersey Docks & Harbour Board Acts (1857 – 1901)
- Mersey Docks & Harbour Board (Various)
- Mersey Tunnel Act 1925
- St Helens Corporation Acts
- The Birkenhead Local Acts and Orders (1877 – 1924)
- The Manchester Ship Canal Act 1885

Jan thanked Liverpool Law Society and wished us good luck with the move to online services.

Gillian Morgan, the Librarian for the Information Service Unit at Crosby Library in Sefton received the copy of the Building Byelaws for Borough of Crosby 1939 requested for their collection which she was grateful to receive.

Finally, Will Meredith, Archivist at the Wirral Archives and Records Management received copies of:

- Bebington Bye-Laws
- Birkenhead Bye-Laws
- Birkenhead Corporation Acts
- Hoylake And West Kirby Acts & Bye-Laws
- Wallasey Acts (1809-1958)
- Wallasey Bye-Laws

Will mentioned some of the acts were difficult to find copies of so he was delighted to receive them from Liverpool Law Society.

If you would like to see any of the books mentioned above, you can now find the Records offices at:

- Crosby Information Service Unit, Crosby Library, Crosby Road North, Waterloo, L22 0LQ

- Liverpool Record Office, Liverpool Central Library, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EW
- Wirral Archives and Records Management, Lower Ground Floor, Cheshire Lines Building, Canning Street, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 1ND

Having previously been Law Librarian to the Society for 19 years, I am so pleased to see these local acts & bye laws preserved for future generations.

**Ann Murphy**  
Committees Administrator

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# MSB Solicitors becomes Disability Confident Committed



Sarah Sharples

**MSB Solicitors are proud to have recently been awarded Level 1 recognition in the UK government scheme 'Disability Confident'. The campaign seeks to encourage employers to think differently about disability and to take action to improve how their business recruits, retains and develops disabled people.**

The main aims of the scheme are to:

1. Challenge attitudes and increase understanding of disability.
2. Draw from the widest possible pool of talent.
3. Secure high-quality staff who are skilled, loyal, and hard working.
4. Improve employee morale and commitment by demonstrating fair treatment.

There are three levels to support employers on their Disability Confident journey, with all employers joining the scheme at Level 1. Each level must be completed before moving onto the next. In addition, once a level is achieved, additional guidance is provided on how employers can progress to the next level.

**The three levels are:**

**Level 1: Disability Confident Committed**

**Level 2: Disability Confident Employer**

**Level 3: Disability Confident Leader**

The scheme is also important in identifying employers who are committed to inclusion and diversity in the workplace. At MSB Solicitors, we endeavour to make the industry reflect the diverse communities we serve. Our Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Committee is part of the culture of the firm, comprising representatives in the areas of BAME, LGBTQ+, Women and Social Mobility, as well as Disability. Promoting and delivering ESG is essential to our workplace and staff are encouraged to participate, with all new suggestions welcomed.

MSB now hopes to progress to Level 2 of the scheme. This specifically focuses around two themes: getting the right people for the business and keeping and developing people. Disability Confident

Employers are acknowledged as going the extra mile to make sure disabled people are given a fair chance. This includes, but is not limited to, providing mentoring for staff, providing advice on mental health issues and providing occupational health services if required.

At MSB, we would like to encourage other companies to consider signing up to the scheme. As the Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work reflects, *"Every business trying to stay ahead of their competitors should aim to take advantage of the huge amount of talent disabled people can bring."* The last census observed that 21% of working age adults have a disability. Therefore, if an employer can incorporate everyone, including those with a physical or mental disability, they can widen their search and access the broadest talent pool. Further, the scheme gives disabled people the opportunity to succeed at work and feel valued.

More information and how to sign up to the scheme can be found here: [Disability Confident: guidance for levels 1, 2 and 3 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/disability-confident-guidance-for-levels-1-2-and-3)

**Sarah Sharples**  
Trainee Solicitor  
MSB Solicitors



# disability confident



# Regulation Update

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

**With a number of regulatory developments since the new year, and more to come in the next few months, this is a busy time in the world of risk and compliance.**

In the middle of March, Michelle Garlick and I attended the Manchester Law Society Management Conference and both spoke at the Law Society Risk and Compliance Annual Conference in London. Key takeaways from the conferences were:

- The AML 'onslaught' is likely to increase, and the SRA are recruiting to increase the ability to carry out AML visits, investigations etc., with the backing of an increase in budget.
- There will be a new SRA sectoral AML risk assessment issued in the next few months.
- Sanctions, which relate to all firms and not just those within the scope of MLR, will continue to be relevant. The SRA will be doing a thematic review in June relating to controls in preventing sanctions breaches, collecting data from firms outside scope and asking questions when doing AML inspections.
- The government have recently imposed a ban on legal services to those in Russia and the SRA will be reviewing its guidance. Transactions will need to be monitored throughout and lawyers will need to remain alert.

- The Economic Crime Bill is going through Parliament, and when the Act is introduced, there will be an increase in regulatory oversight to prevent sanctions evasion, with the SRA having unlimited fining powers.
- Transparency remains high on the SRA agenda and more information will be required on law firm websites.
- Ethical questions/decisions around whether law firms can/should act for particular clients will become more important, taking reputational risk, stakeholders etc. into account
- Following amendments to the SRA Enforcement policy, the forthcoming changes to the Codes in relation to workplace culture, treating colleagues favourably etc. there will be an increased focus on the SRA's interest in lawyers' private lives.
- Cyber risk management is essential, with insurance being only one part of the equation.
- PII rates are unlikely to fall, due to economic uncertainty, Ukraine, banking issues etc., but may not increase at the same levels as previously. Conveyancing remains a concern, with 1.4m coming out of fixed rate mortgages this year, along with Wills, Trusts and Probate.
- Supervision will come under further scrutiny (see below). Firms should review their policies and processes to ensure they meet statutory and regulatory requirements and the SRA's expectations.

If we can help with any of these areas, please get in touch.

## Changes to Legal Ombudsman Scheme Rules

If you've not done so already, you need to update your complaints procedures, client care letters, terms of business, website etc. to reflect the changes to the Legal Ombudsman Scheme Rules from 1 April 2023, which, along with other changes, reduces the time for complaints

to be made to LeO to one year from the date of act/omission, from six years. LeO will have discretion to accept complaints which have been issued out of time where it is fair and reasonable to do so, and the discretion to dismiss or discontinue complaints where there have been undue delays in bringing a complaint, or where the complainant has not suffered significant loss.

The Law Society has published further guidance on complaints handling <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/client-care/handling-complaints>

## Guidance on the transfer of funds from China

The Legal Sector Affinity Group (LSAG) has produced guidance on Chinese underground banking and funds from China, for those receiving monies on behalf of clients from China, to mitigate the risks of funds entering the economy through the informal value transfer systems (IVTS) ('underground banking') and circumvention of Chinese currency controls. Where a transaction uses an IVTS, understanding and being satisfied with the source of the UK funds used in the inwards remittance is key.

The guidance can be found on the SRA website and the Law Society <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/Topics/Anti-money-laundering/Guides/Chinese-underground-banking-and-funds-from-China>

## Effective supervision

Following the SRA's thematic review of current practice, and the guidance issued 23 November 2022 <https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/effective-supervision-guidance/>, supervision was another 'hot topic' at both Law Society conferences. Effective supervision plays a part in supporting wellbeing, enabling staff to raise concerns etc. and supervision arrangements and findings/discussions should be evidenced. In

conjunction with the Law Society, Michelle Garlick has written an article on the issue

### Save the date? Solicitor was struck off for instructing trainee to alter documents

#### Providing false information:

A solicitor who instructed a trainee to amend the date on a mortgage deed in a conveyancing transaction was struck off. The solicitor's firm acted for a property purchaser and had 21 days from completion to register the mortgage with Companies House. The application was rejected because the filing fee was missing. The trainee re-submitted the paperwork with the fee attached four days later, but this time it was rejected as being out of time. The supervising solicitor told the trainee there was no need to apply to the court for an extension and that the date of the mortgage deed could be changed to a later date to bring the application back within the time limit.

The issue came to light when the trainee responded to a HM Land Registry query about the date on the mortgage deed and whether it was a true copy of the original.

The unnamed trainee, who gave evidence to the tribunal, asked if the action was acceptable and was told by the solicitor that it was "fine" and had been done before. The trainee did not get the impression that the action was "dodgy" and trusted that the solicitor's advice was sound. The solicitor, formerly a partner, told the SDT they believed they were allowed to act in this way because they had been shown during their training contract at the firm how to "Tipp-ex out" errors on documents.

This was refuted by the solicitor's former supervisor, who gave evidence denying that any such training or guidance on correcting errors post-execution was provided.

But the SDT found that even if the solicitor genuinely believed they had been taught to act in this way, it was

*"fundamentally implausible that any solicitor would believe such a course of action would be permissible"* – particularly with seven years' post-qualification experience.

#### The SDT finding:

Noting that the solicitor admitted advising the trainee to alter the date on the document, the SRA asserted that there were breaches of either or both of the SRA Principles 2011:

*Principle 2: "You must ... act with integrity"*

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

Apologising to the tribunal, the solicitor said they felt they didn't do anything wrong, and set out personal factors, including ill-health, that meant that they weren't *"thinking straight"* at the time.

The tribunal found the solicitor had acted dishonestly and without integrity, adding there was no evidence that their state of mind should displace what a solicitor would think was acceptable. Despite the character references provided on the solicitor's behalf, the tribunal also found the breach of Principle 6 proven noting: *"the trust the public placed in solicitors depended on them ensuring that important legal documents were not altered, which created a misleading impression as to when they had been created."*

The solicitor was struck off and ordered to pay £22,200 costs.

#### Your ethical obligations:

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

The proper supervision of work is a legal and professional requirement.

As a supervisor, solicitors are role-modelling not only good working practices but also high ethical standards. Effective supervision of those delivering legal services plays a vital role in delivering good outcomes for clients, staff and third parties, and in maintaining public confidence in legal services

#### SRA Accounts Rules

The SRA's consultation in relation to a number of amendments to the rules has now closed, and prior to the changes being introduced, the SRA has updated its warning notice on the improper use of client account as a banking facility and added further case studies.

The SRA has also issued information on operating client accounts and accountants' reports.

#### Disciplinary Decisions

##### Struck off for dishonest use of disbursements:

The SDT has struck off a solicitor whose firm used disbursement monies to keep the firm afloat amidst financial difficulties. In addition, the solicitor failed to inform the SRA that the firm was suffering financially, which was further evidence of poor conduct. Despite the solicitor's plea that this occurred during circumstances outside of his control, the SDT ruled that his actions were dishonest and, as such, public confidence would be undermined if he were to remain on the roll.

##### Solicitor struck off for misappropriation of funds

The SDT found that an immigration solicitor had misappropriated £31,500 of fees which had been paid by clients into his personal bank account. Whilst the individual was working as a trainee solicitor, he had personally received fees in a number of instances which were due to the firm. The SRA found that there was a failure to record a number of matters on the case system and fees had been made payable to the individual's bank account and via cash payments.



The solicitor admitted to acting dishonestly and was struck off the roll for acting without integrity. He was also ordered to pay costs of £6,350.

### Struck off for defrauding the Legal Aid Agency

The SDT ordered the former director of a firm to be struck off the roll and ordered to pay costs of almost £73,000 for facilitating false documents provided to the Legal Aid Agency. The SDT found the individual to have acted dishonestly and in breach of SRA principles. The firm was shut down in 2015 by the SRA following investigations.

### Fined for non-compliance with AML obligations

The SRA carried out investigations into a firm where it was discovered that the firm did not have a compliant AML firm wide risk assessment and AML policies, controls and procedures (PCPs) in place until May 2022. A failure to comply with relevant money laundering legislation meant that the firm failed to act in accordance with its legal and regulatory obligations and failed to conduct itself in a way which maintains trust and public confidence. The SRA fined the firm £1,500 for its failure to comply, taking into account mitigating factors

and discounting the penalty by 25% for early admission and measures taken to remedy the harm caused.

### How Compli can help...

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

**Andrea Cohen**  
Compli,  
Weightmans LLP

## The importance of effective supervision



Michelle Garlick

**In the first of a two part article, Michelle Garlick, Head of the Compli team at Weightmans, provides a case study on the importance of effective supervision. The second part to follow will review the SRA's guidance and provide top tips on implementing an effective supervision strategy.**

### A case study

Picture this scenario – you are a partner in a law firm. You supervise a trainee who has day to day conduct of residential conveyancing matters. You and the trainee speak a number of times each day to discuss and answer queries, with a file review being conducted by you prior to both exchange and

completion. Approvals of payments out would be authorised by you. So far so good as far as supervision is concerned, you might think?

Two instructions come in a month or so apart for sales of two properties by different sellers, both of them using the same estate agent. Trainee meets the sellers (and the estate agent who had accompanied them) in person and obtains their driving licence ID and a utility bill addressed to the client at the property.

In relation to property sale 1, the client is Chinese. The firm gives an undertaking to the buyers' solicitors that they have taken reasonable steps to establish their client's identity and connection to the property being sold. There is evidence that the seller is able to obtain gas and electricity certificates for the property and the firm is also in possession of a letter from the local council confirming that, whilst being entitled to first refusal, they did not wish to proceed with purchasing the property. This letter is undated, unsigned and bears no reference. It is forwarded to the buyers solicitors at their request.

In relation to property sale 2, the buyers' solicitors ask for a copy of a commercial lease relating to part of the premises and the trainee is able to obtain this from the client and

provide it to them. The initial asking price for this property was £63,000 but is reduced to £50,000 for a quick completion.

The day before completion of property sale 1, client meets trainee accompanied by a third party who is introduced as the client's son. Client asks the firm to transfer the sale proceeds to her son's bank account on completion and a declaration is drafted and signed to that effect. Son is a white male and a copy driving licence is obtained matching the name of the bank account with an address in a small town in Scotland (a different area to where the property being sold is located). It completes the following day and you authorise the funds to be transferred to the client's son's bank account.

Two days before completion of the sale of property 2 (and approx. 1 month after property sale 1 has completed), client 2 explains to trainee that he owes his ex-wife some money and asks the firm to transfer the sale proceeds on completion to a third party who he explains is his ex-wife's new partner. Copy driving licence for this payee is obtained showing an address (albeit different) in the same small Scottish town as in property sale 1. On completion, you again authorise payment to this payee.

You might be able to guess where this is going? Spot any red flags/breaches in either or both of these property purchases, perhaps?

These are the facts of an SDT Agreed Outcome against a solicitor partner which reinforces the importance of effective supervision and training. In the case of [SRA v Gurprasad Landa Singh](#) (a second partner was also sanctioned in the same proceedings for unrelated matters), Mr Singh agreed to accept a fine of £12,500 for breaches (under the SRA Handbook 2011) of Principles 6 and Outcomes 7.6 and 7.8 Code of Conduct and of 14.5 SRA Accounts Rules 2011 (banking facility).

The Agreed Outcome, whilst noting (para 71) that it was not known whether the two transactions were in fact property hijacks, found that in his capacity as supervisor, he failed to provide adequate training to be able to spot red flags in respect of the two transactions that bore the hallmarks of property hijacks and that he had failed to properly supervise a poorly trained trainee.

The trainee failed to spot the obvious hallmarks and to make enquiries about them. That indicated a lack of adequate training.

It made clear in finding a breach of P6 that the *“public expects solicitors charged with the day to day conduct of a case to be in a position to identify obvious hallmarks of fraud and either to make further enquiries into this or cease to act. It would be alarmed by a solicitor who put a trainee into a position where they were not adequately prepared to carry out this basic task.”*

In relation to the breach of O7.6, it added that *“If a trainee was unable to spot these obvious hallmarks of a property hijack he should not have been given the degree of autonomy that he was”*

And in relation to breach of O7.8 – *“if the system allowed these obvious hallmarks of a property hijack to escape the net, the supervision system was inadequate.”*

So what were the red flags which the SRA alleged were obvious hallmarks of property hijacks?

The judgment listed six (and you might want to use the case study for your own training purposes to see how many your own teams spot?!):

1. The letter from the council was an obvious forgery
2. The Chinese client claimed to have a white son.
3. Two sets of payments in apparently unconnected transactions were made to individuals with an address in the small town in Scotland
4. The request to transfer the sale proceeds to third parties instead of the vendors who could then transfer the funds as they wished
5. The significant reduction in purchase price on property sale 2
6. The pressure to complete both sales quickly

Whilst the respondent's and trainee's evidence was that they would speak several times each day with a file review pre-exchange and completion, it was held that these obvious hallmarks ought to have been picked up as part of that process and *“the fact that they were not demonstrates that that supervision was inadequate”*.

### Why supervision is so important

In November 2022, the SRA published a detailed guidance note on effective supervision. The guidance and the Singh case are timely reminders of our obligations around supervision. In January 2023, [the SRA made it very clear in its response to the LSB's statement of policy on ongoing competence](#) that it will start collecting firm data on first-tier complaints and professional indemnity insurance claims, will do spot checks, and conduct audits and file reviews and as part of that, will expect to see evidence of supervision, quality checks and training records. In the same way as it is difficult to defend PII claims if there is no evidence of what was said/done on the

file, so it is for defending any action brought by the SRA for supervision failures.

Supervision covers a whole range of issues including things like performance management, capacity and resource, training and knowledge sharing (very relevant in the aforementioned case study) and being alert to employees' mental health and well-being (which is a topic for another day!).

It is incredibly important for a number of reasons including:

- The SRA requires it
- PII insurers expect it
- It gives confidence in the quality of service to clients
- It supports competency, learning and development
- Is indicative of a supportive firm culture and therefore good for recruitment/attraction of talent
- It protects the firm's reputation

Lack of supervision is one of highest causes of claims and this was the case even before more people started working from home during and post-covid and which has brought additional considerations when supervising remotely or hybrid.

It's clear that proper supervision will reduce the risk of things being missed whether it be crucial advice within a report, a key date, the use of an old template/precedent ([see the findings in SRA v David Carter Hughes](#)) or as in the case study, the hallmarks of fraud. Insurers and the SRA will want to see a clear strategy and evidence of supervision taking place.

So what is expected of us from a regulatory perspective in relation to supervision...?

Find out in **Part 2**, coming soon!

**Michelle Garlick**  
Partner

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# 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 5-6 mile 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.

Children welcome but terrain is unsuitable for pushchairs

Dogs can come along too but might have to be on a lead when going past livestock/farm area

## All Welcome

Register your attendance at [contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](mailto:contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)  
and further details will be emailed to you



# Monthly Costs Update

## Welcome to our regular costs update.

The focus this month is on small claims. The original intention of the Small Claims Court was to create a simple, low cost forum for the resolution of consumer and similar disputes which did not require significant input from lawyers. While that remains the intention, the allocation of claims has become a tactic used to avoid or minimise costs.

One recent example of this is *Johnson v GE Money Secured Loans Ltd*\*

This was a dispute concerning loans. The Claimant succeeded and secured an award of just over £1700. At an contested hearing the claim had been allocated to the Fast Track. The case was managed on that basis. There were then disputes on costs. These included an attempt to have the matter re-allocated, retrospectively to the Small Claims Track. The effect of this would have been to defeat the Claimant's entitlement to standard costs, after the event. For obvious reasons this would be a major concern for claimant representatives who would have conducted the matter, and run up costs on the basis of fast track allocation. Re-allocation is anticipated in CPR 46.13 – (2) Where –  
(a) claim is allocated to a track; and  
(b) the court subsequently re-allocates that claim to a different track, then unless the court orders otherwise, any special rules about costs applying –  
(i) to the first track, will apply to the claim up to the date of re-allocation; and  
(ii) to the second track, will apply from the date of re-allocation.

The paying part was seeking retrospective re-allocation in view of (2)(b).

Thankfully, Recorder **David Allen KC** firmly rejected this argument –

*“However, given that the parties have conducted the litigation on the understanding that the fast track costs regime is applicable, then there will need to be some very good reason to make a*

*backdated reallocation. No such reason exists in the present case and I therefore decline to reallocate the case to the small claims track”*

This is a welcome decision. But the fact that there is even an attempt to defeat a successful party's claim for costs after the event, shows how far we have moved from the original concept of small claims.

One area where Small Claims (SCT) allocation is becoming increasing controversial is in the growing area of Housing conditions cases. Where a tenant is seeking an order requiring their landlord to do works then Rule 26.6 says, in effect, that the claim will be dealt with in the fast track if either the cost or repairs exceeds £1000 or the cost of any associated claim for compensation exceeds £1000. There is a growing tendency for landlords' representatives to argue for Small Claims allocation notwithstanding that the matter comes with 26.6. These arguments are not based on simplicity but to defeat the tenant's entitlement for costs. We advise firms to resist these applications –

1. CPR 26.6 talks about the 'normal track'. This means that there must be a particular reason to depart from this. In most cases no such reason exists.
2. One leading case on costs in Small Claims Housing Conditions cases is *Birmingham City Council v Lee*\*. In that cases **Hughes LJ** explained allocation –

*“The effect of that is: providing there is a claim for specific performance a tenant's claim in a disrepair case will be a fast track case if either the cost of repairs or the consequential damages claim exceeds £1000. If on the other hand there is no specific performance claim, the ordinary rule in CPR 26.6(3) applies and the claim will only be a fast track claim if its overall value exceeds £5000' (now £10k)”*

So there is a clear statement from a leading judge that the matter **will be a fast track** provided CPR 26.6 is satisfied.

3. CPR 26.8 sets out the matters that should be taken into account when considering allocation. These include – *the likely complexity of the facts, law or evidence*. In *Birmingham City Council v Lee* it was acknowledged by the court that that a tenant will normally require legal advice when considering the relevant pre action protocol. The whole point of the Small Claims track is that it is for cases where legal input is not required
4. Housing Conditions Cases rely on expert evidence, often contested. CPR 27.5 says – *No expert may give evidence, whether written or oral, at a hearing without the permission of the court*. So the assumption is that if expert evidence is required it is not a small claim.

There are strong reasons for opposing SCT allocation in these cases. The same principles can be applied in other types of claim.

In other news firms need to remember that the changes in the QOCS rules will be in affect from 6th April 2023 i.e. probably by the time you read this. We discussed this at length in our last updated and the impact on claimants needs to be carefully considered in all settlement negotiations going forwards.

**Robert Cook**

Please contact us if you require help with bill drafting, costs negotiations of advice on any issue arising from costs.

Legal Costs Services  
Cook Legal Costs Ltd  
[cook-legal.co.uk](http://cook-legal.co.uk)



# Probate Genealogy – A Private Client Practitioners' Secret Weapon



## What is Probate Genealogy?

**Probate Genealogy is a crucial part of the legal services world, helping Private Client professionals with their workload on a daily basis. Also known as probate research, the core service offerings are locating difficult to find beneficiaries named in wills or establishing and finding the relevant next of kin in intestacy and Court of Protection cases.**

Research in this sector can be complex, detailed and often international, as can regularly involve crossing national borders. Case managers simply follow the research, wherever in the world it leads them.

Probate Genealogy is a knowledge industry. It is work undertaken by dedicated and skilled people using both new and more traditional methods. The expertise lies in locating and correctly applying historical records and data to identify individuals, assets, and estates. Over time, a 'gut feel' for things develops as knowledge is acquired.

You might think that in this increasingly connected world that we live in, finding beneficiaries would be relatively straight forward, yet this is frequently not the case. On a general level, people forget to update their contact details when they move residence (which happens more often now) and can drop off electoral rolls and other government databases. More specifically, in some instances, people simply do not want to be found and make it difficult to be located.

## Intestacies

In cases of intestacy, the work of probate genealogists becomes particularly important as it can often be unclear as to whom is entitled to inherit assets where no valid will is in place to follow. In fact, this is a particularly prevalent issue with industry reports stating that up to two in three deaths in the UK in 2021 was intestate.

The research work carried out checking family trees and verifying entitled beneficiaries can save both probate and Court of Protection professionals a huge amount of time and effort. Probate research really dovetails with the work being undertaken by those in Private Client teams up and down the land; in fact, all over the world.

## Court of Protection

A probate genealogist is also able to assist Court of Protection solicitors making Statutory Will applications by verifying the family trees and identifying existing or prospective beneficiaries in a discreet and empathetic manner. A further and often overlooked service that can also be offered by genealogist firms is access to 'living person' financial asset searches.

At locally based Anglia Research, we have a wealth of experience in providing help and guidance on Court of Protection cases and are proud supporters of the Professional Deputies Forum.

## Unregulated Industry

The importance and relevance of probate genealogy firms is ever increasing, but it surprises many to learn that it is an unregulated industry, with no set entry requirements. Therefore, reputation and professionalism are key, and most firms (though not all) have suitably qualified staff undertaking the research work.

In fact, Anglia Research employ more accredited genealogists, legally qualified and independently regulated staff than any other UK probate research company. We were delighted to recently be awarded the Best Probate Research Organisation of the Year at the illustrious and independent National Paralegal Awards held in Birmingham.

The takeaway message here would be: By using a probate genealogist, a legal professional is effectively 'outsourcing' elements of their work – there must be confidence that the work carried out by a genealogist is accurate, to a high standard, and legally sound.

## Summary

Probate genealogy is about so much more than just finding missing beneficiaries or reconstructing family trees – other services include assistance with asset reunification, financial asset and bankruptcy searches, Missing beneficiary indemnity insurance, and even assisting with a law firm's Unclaimed Client Funds obligations.

So next time you are faced with a not-so-straight forward case, do not be afraid to instruct a reputable probate genealogy firm such as Southport-based Anglia Research to carry out the heavy lifting for you.



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Anglia Research Services Limited



# Is your law firm's claims management activity compliant?



Joshua Bates

**The outsourcing of marketing activity has become a common feature of many law firms that handle claims-related work - a tacit acceptance perhaps that attracting clients requires specialist skills which some lawyers simply do not have.**

Certain marketing activity - whether carried out in-house by a law firm's marketing team or outsourced to a third party - falls within the Financial Conduct Authority's ambit of 'regulated activity', meaning that some law firms will need to comply with the FCA's regulatory rules and guidance in relation to it.

So, here's a simple guide to help you to assess if your current arrangements are compliant.

## What marketing activity is regulated by the FCA?

Marketing activity is regulated by the FCA if the activity 'is or relates to claims management services' and it is 'specified activity' carried on 'by way of business in Great Britain'.

## What type of marketing activity 'is or relates to claims management services'?

Although the scope of marketing activities which comprise 'claims management services' is broad, for it to be captured by regulation it must be linked

to one or more of the following types of claim:

- A personal injury claim.
- A financial services or financial products claim.
- A housing disrepair claim.
- A specified benefits claim (e.g. industrial injuries, workers' compensation).
- A criminal injury claim.
- An employment claim.

## What marketing activity amounts to 'specified activity'?

There are six specified activities that apply to these types of claim, making a complex framework of required permissions, particularly for those wanting to carry out the full spectrum of regulated claims management activity in relation to all six types of claim. Fortunately, the FCA has produced a handy table of the six specified activities in its policy statement PS18/23 which are:

- Seeking out persons who may have a claim.
- Referring details of a claim or potential claim, or of a claimant or potential claimant.
- Identifying a claim or potential claim, or a claimant or potential claimant.
- Advising a claimant or potential claimant.
- Investigating a claim.
- Representing a claimant.

## What is meant by 'carried on by way of business in Great Britain'?

Whether an activity is 'carried on by way of business' is a question of judgment based on several factors (none of which, according to FCA guidance, is conclusive).

Law firms are likely to pay third-party marketers for their marketing activity so it is almost certain that such activity will be 'carried on by way of business'.

The territorial scope of claims management regulated activity is

narrower than that of ordinary regulated activity in that it excludes Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. A person will carry on an activity 'in Great Britain' if:

- they are a natural person usually resident in Great Britain or a corporate body constituted under the law of a part of Great Britain; or
- the activity is carried on in respect of a claimant who is a natural person usually resident in Great Britain or a corporate body constituted under the law of a part of Great Britain.

## Surely law firms don't have to be dual authorised?

As you will be aware, SRA authorised persons benefit from a statutory exclusion, meaning that they can carry on certain regulated activity without FCA authorisation. However, this exclusion only applies if the activity is carried on (a) in the ordinary course of legal practice and (b) through an SRA authorised firm, an FCA authorised firm, or another exempt business.

We still come across law firms involved in outsourcing marketing activity to third-party marketing companies who believe that this statutory exclusion extends to the third-party marketing company itself, as if it is an arm of the law firm. Such arrangements are unlikely to be compliant and could have significant financial and reputational consequences for the third-party marketing companies and for the outsourcing law firms.

To be sure claims management activities are compliant, advice should be taken from a regulatory lawyer and the advice followed. Doing this will provide a level of protection for a law firm in the event of a regulatory investigation and, done in the correct way, can attract the benefit of legal advice privilege.

For further information, please contact [Josh Bates](#) at or [contact us](#).

# Cost of Living Crisis: What Does It Mean For Liverpool Property Lawyers?



**In March, Dye & Durham commissioned an independent survey of 2,000 UK mortgage holders to understand the extent of the cost-of-living crisis and, specifically, how it is impacting short-term spending, long-term financial planning and day-to-day budgeting.**

The survey revealed a general feeling of unease and uncertainty. Nearly a third of respondents (30%) say they are worried they'll fail to make mortgage payments within the next year.

With recession worries and rising interest rates weighing heavily on the nation's mortgage holders, our research showed the impact not only on decisions about buying or selling homes but also on their financial wellbeing and mental health.

For conveyancing and property solicitors who rely on transaction volumes, it's critical to identify ways to shield against volatile property market conditions and to help ease the overall anxieties of homeowners. We believe the answer may lie with digitisation and unlocking technology.

First, let's take a closer look at what mortgage holders in the North of England told us:

- 59% of mortgage holders in the North of England, including the North East, Cumbria, North West, Yorkshire and Humber, say the cost-of-living crisis is affecting their mental health, compared with 56% nationally
- 65% are worried their offspring will be unable to get into the housing market compared with 66% nationally
- 29% are concerned that they will fail to make mortgage repayments within the next year
- More than a third (36%) expect it will take significantly longer to pay off their mortgage than originally anticipated
- More than one in three (37%) expect to

delay home renovation or improvement projects (35% nationally)

- Over one fifth (21%) expect they will need to delay retirement plans
- Almost half (47%) of people in Yorkshire & The Humber said they could comfortably afford to continue paying their mortgage for just two months or less, if there was a change of circumstances for the main income earner, compared to 42% in the North East & Cumbria, 36% in the North West and 22% in London
- 54% in the North said they have reduced the usage of their personal car to save money.

It's clear that economic uncertainty, including the effects of high interest rates, energy bills and increased costs overall, is weighing on the minds of the nation's property owners — and the fallout cannot be underestimated.

Our survey data shows us that people across the UK are concerned about both their short- and long-term financial futures and, as such, have reduced spending, raided savings and are delaying major purchases.

## What does this mean for the industry?

Many UK law firms continue to manage much of their operations via manual or resource-intensive processes, which lack the necessary ease of access, seamless case management abilities or increased security measures to be truly productive and profitable.

Strategic plans to digitise processes were put on hold by many firms amid the peak in property transactions following the COVID-19 pandemic as they concentrated on taking cases from the offer phase through to completion.

The survey findings point to the fact that the UK property market may face considerable challenges due to

consumers' reservations, but there are steps that can be taken now to help weather the storm.

Firms that take action now, while transaction volumes are lower, to examine their resources and adopt tools designed to digitise and modernise workflows — and increase productivity and profitability — will have a significant head start on their competitors once the market returns to normal.

By adopting digital practice management tools, legal professionals can spend more time on revenue-driving tasks and less on non-billable administration like case management, client intake and invoicing.

At the same time, increasing the security of your information, reducing overall risk and providing a more modernised customer experience for clients can only benefit all — both now and in the future, when the market bounces back to previous levels.



**Paul Clarke**  
UK Product Lead at Dye & Durham

If you're interested in finding out ways you can protect your bottom line against market volatility, contact the Dye & Durham team today: <http://bit.ly/3FotstY>

[www.dyedurham.co.uk](http://www.dyedurham.co.uk)

*About the survey: Using an online methodology, Danebury Research conducted a nationally representative survey of 2,000 UK based homeowners with a mortgage aged between 18 and 65. Fieldwork was conducted from 12th February to 16th February, 2023.*





23 March 2023

I would just like to offer my most heartfelt thanks and gratitude to The Liverpool Law Society who kindly offered Rotunda College a donation of furniture. We at Rotunda were devastated a number of years ago when our ceilings collapsed during particularly bad weather, destroying classrooms and furniture and staff having to be relocated to other parts of Rotunda buildings to carry on their incredible work supporting the community. It has taken many years to raise the money to be able to make the necessary repairs and extensive renovations to Rotunda and we have finally managed to be able to make use of our fabulous classrooms, offices and facilities again.

When the Liverpool Law Society offered us some furniture you could not imagine how delighted we were, we could instantly see where the furniture would come in useful and for so many areas of Rotunda.

One of the rooms that had become a storage room after the roof collapse was our Craft Room. This had previously had a life enabling a craft group to meet regularly and be all things creative, it also offered a place for children to play inside if the weather got too bad during Half Term events that we run. Now, with the use of tables and chairs donated the Liverpool Law Society the Craft Room is back in use, home to a group of ladies who meet weekly to play bingo, they are happy that they now have a room to themselves and are not distracted by others making noise (the Bingo Caller is very proud that he has a lectern to call the numbers from) and they couldn't be happier.

The donation enabled us to furnish some of our offices, allowing us to relocate staff around Rotunda and be closer to where they needed to be and more accessible to their staff which has made a huge difference. The donation even touched our Community Bistro and Wellbeing Garden, our Bistro has become better stocked with white crockery and all looks much more professional, everything matches and is ready to hand and the Wellbeing Garden benefited by allowing us to reorganise our storage container with the use of shelving units provided. This has become particularly useful as we have just started an initiative 'Plot to Pot', inviting people in from the community to have lessons in and around our gardens, the storage shelves have made things easier and more organised, having things easy to reach and accessible.

I truly cannot say how much we appreciate your generosity, your donation has made such a difference to us and enabled us to continue our journey back to normality. Heartfelt thanks to you all.

Yours faithfully

Maxine Ennis (CEO)

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# Testing for spice, monkey dust and other synthetic drugs – a waste of public funding?



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Synthetic drugs such as Spice and Monkey Dust are amongst the most difficult substances to

detect in the field of drug testing, due to their ever-evolving compounds. This is problematic for those working in child protection, since these substances can often go undetected in hair sampling. Despite extensive public funding, the testing itself can be less than comprehensive, and even, completely redundant. Here - we explore the solutions available to help minimise wasted public funding and better safeguard vulnerable children.

Spice is widely used across the UK and its compounds are designed to mimic the psychoactive effects of the active ingredient in cannabis, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which produces the desired 'high' for the user. Spice is a 'street' name for a drug containing one or more synthetic cannabinoids. Since the toxicity of these new compounds is not well understood and their use has resulted in numerous fatalities, Spice use can increase the risk profile of a child with parents using Spice. Synthetic cannabinoids are cheap and readily available. As well as a loss of consciousness for the user, they can cause tachycardia, hypertension, hallucinations, nausea and vomiting, seizures, memory changes, respiratory depression, acute anxiety, psychosis and death. The potency of these chemicals outstrips that of most recreational drugs. An active dose of street heroin can be from around 50-150mg and a typical line of cocaine might contain 50-100mg, but most variants of spice are active at just 1mg or less, an amount barely visible to the naked eye, making accurate dosing impossible. Spice can be up to 800 times more potent than cannabis and can lack the calming effect of CBD/CBN found in cannabis.

Synthetic cannabinoids are continually evolving, with new and emerging versions introduced regularly, with over 400 synthetic cannabinoids introduced in the past 15 years. Surprisingly, the majority of those introduced just 5 years ago are no longer in circulation, and this constantly changing landscape represents a significant challenge to Toxicology laboratories. Many laboratories are still screening for synthetic cannabinoids that have not been seen in the UK for 10 years or more.

In certain parts of the country, other synthetics including 'Monkey Dust' have caused public health concerns for many years. As with other synthetic drugs, it is constantly changing, and is unlikely to be detected in standard drug testing.



Monkey Dust is a psychoactive substance with effects similar to PCP - such as high body temperature, paranoia, agitation and hallucination; it can also make users impervious to pain. Frequently users have no recollection of their behaviour while under the influence of the drug. Monkey Dust is believed to cause extremely violent and zombie like behaviour.

So, how can synthetics testing be more reliable – and therefore help safeguard children? The Forensic Testing Service work with various partners including the Manchester Metropolitan University and Manchester Metropolitan Police on a Drug Testing and Knowledge Exchange project known as MANDRAKE.



MANDRAKE - is a licenced scientific resource, working in partnership with key stakeholders to facilitate rapid, robust and cost-effective chemical analysis for both harm- reduction and intelligence sharing. This project involves the testing and research on emergent and new drug trends closely monitoring substances that are actively used on the 'street'. This enables FTS to stay keep in touch with the most up to date intelligence.

FTS has a programme of continual development to address this challenge and are the only laboratory working in this sector that can offer reliable detection of these compounds as they change and re-appear on the street. They are the only laboratory that have the capability to detect many of the most abused synthetic compounds and their associated metabolites.

Using the Forensic Testing Service synthetics panel, you can be assured that relevant and current compounds will be detected, ensuring drug misuse is not missed and children are not exposed to unnecessary risk. Importantly, this eliminates wasted public funding currently spent on testing for outdated synthetics that just won't be detected.

*If you would like further information on synthetics testing, including Spice and Monkey Dust, please contact the FTS Customer Support Team on 01924 480272.*



# Forthcoming Courses

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
19/04/2023	SRA Accounts Rules	Linda Lambert
19/04/2023	<b>*NEW*</b> Building Safety Act and other Post-Grenfell Legislation	Richard Snape
19/04/2023	<b>The Commercial Property Conference 2023</b>	Various
19/04/2023	The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor	Vicky Ling
19/04/2023	Public Children Law: 2023 Update	Safda Mahmood
19/04/2023	Private Children Law: 2023 Update	Safda Mahmood
19/04/2023	Conveyancing Law Update	Richard Snape
19/04/2023	Financial Crime & AML for Law Firms	Matthew Hickling
19/04/2023	Probate and Estate Administration 2 DAY	Rebecca Roscoe
19/04/2023	<b>Public Child Law Conference 2023</b>	Various
19/04/2023	<b>The Domestic Abuse Conference 2023</b>	Various
19/04/2023	<b>*NEW*</b> An Intro to Cryptocurrency & Digital Assets: What it is and Why Law Firms Should Care	Josh Bates
19/04/2023	Intro to Residential Conveyancing 2 Day	Richard Snape
19/04/2023	Commercial Property 2023 Update	Hannah MacKinlay
19/04/2023	<b>Compliance Conference 2023</b>	Various
19/04/2023	Divorce and Financial Orders Certificate	Safda Mahmood
19/04/2023	Company Law: The Essentials	Chris Beanland
19/04/2023	<b>*NEW*</b> Keeping up with Witness Statements	Helen Swaffield
19/04/2023	<b>*NEW*</b> Applications against Litigants in Person	Helen Swaffield

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

ONLINE & HYBRID events are recorded, so if you can't make the date/time, no problem!  
 Booking onto any of our online / hybrid 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](http://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)



### SRA Accounts Rules

with Linda Lambert

Live: Wednesday 19th April, 1.30pm - 4.30pm\*

#### Online/recorded session

This online course is aimed at cashiers, head cashiers & COFA officers wanting to refresh their approach or to understand what is meant by applying compliance to the SRA Accounts Rules.

Whether you are new to the legal accounts profession or been involved for years, a sound knowledge of both SRA Accounts rules & other compliance issues will assist you in the decision making that will occur in all types of legal practice.

This course aims to equip you with that knowledge.

It 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.

*\*Can't make the date/time?*

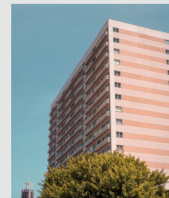
**No problem, booking onto this event means you will receive a link to access a recording of the event at your leisure!**

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



### \*NEW\* Building Safety Act and other Post-Grenfell Legislation

with Richard Snape on Monday 24th April, 2pm - 3.30pm



**This online session aims to look at this complex area which has changed the nature of flat conveyancing.**

Topics covered include:

- Building Safety Act 2022 service charge caps
- Mortgagee requirements
- Higher-Risk Buildings Regulations and registration for implementation on April 6th 2023
- Fire Safety Act 2021
- Latest on EWS1's

**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](#)



### The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor

with Vicky Ling

Thursday 27th April & Friday 28th April both at 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Venue: Online/recorded session

**Firms applying for new contracts or adding new categories of law will need to prove they have qualifying supervisors by 10 May**

Supervisors are the key to a successful contracting relationship with the Legal Aid Agency. You have to have at least one and they are your first line of defence against audit problems.

This online, two part course covers everything supervisors need to know and includes case study examples.

**Attending both parts will qualify a new supervisor who hasn't supervised before under Standard Contract Specification requirements for both the Civil/Family Standard Contract 2018 and the new Crime Standard Contract 2022.**

If you need to attend a course to qualify as a supervisor for a new civil contract starting on 1 September 2023, this course is for you.

It is also a useful refresher for experienced supervisors.

**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](#)



### Conveyancing Law Update

with Richard Snape on Thursday 4th May, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Venue: Online/Recorded session

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



Covering:

- First Homes and the new Model Shared Ownership Lease
- Estate rentcharges
- The Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Act 2022
- Competition and Markets Authority investigation of ground rents
- The Fire Safety Act 2021
- Building Safety Act 2022
- EWS1 Certificates including the latest 2022 Government guidance & more...

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

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



## Financial Crime & Anti Money Laundering for Law Firms

with Matthew Hickling

on Wednesday 10th May, 10am - 1pm

**Venue: Online/recorded session**

**Suitable for fee earners, managers, compliance officers & support staff, this ONLINE seminar brings you up to date with the currently identified risks to law firms.**

It includes the challenges of today's risk management, the changing landscape of international sanctions and the perception of lawyers as the professional enablers of financial crime.

Covering:

- Threats
- Risks
- Vulnerabilities
- Law and Regulation
- Sanctions
- KYC, KYCC, EID&V
- CDD, SARs and DAMLs
- Record keeping
- Client management
- Questions and discussion

**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!**

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

## **\*NEW\*** Probate and Estate Administration: Intro & Refresher

2 Day Course with Rebecca Roscoe

Live: 15th May & 16th May both 9.30am – till 4pm

**Venue: Online/recorded sessions**

**A great refresher for experienced practitioners and a must for NQ's and Paralegals.**

**The training will cover the practical aspects of estate administration for both testate and intestate estates, as well as the Inland Revenue and Probate Registry formalities.**

**It will also give a comprehensive look at the Estate Administration process from start to finish.**

**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 Public Child Law Conference

Wednesday 17th May | 9.30am - 4pm | Hybrid

Do you act for parents, children, extended family, and local authorities? If so, this conference is for you, providing an update on key issues surrounding public children law

**Chairperson - HHJ Parker**

Designated Family Judge for Cheshire and Merseyside

**Public law proceedings with an international element**

Teertha Gupta KC, Unit Chambers

**Crime for Family Practitioners**

Kirstin Beswick, Central Chambers

**Adoption Matters – Revocation/Contact**

Margaret Parr, 7HS

**Are Children at Risk from Substance Misuse? Are drug testing methods failing to provide fit for purpose evidence?**

Paul Hunter, Forensic Testing Service

**Pre Proceedings Work – Back to Basics**

Helenor Birt, University of Liverpool

**AAA Resolution Model Assessment: A Radically Different Approach**

Debbie Pedder, Advanced CCA

**The problem with DOLS is.....**

Ginnette Fitzharris, St Johns Buildings

**Seniors Top 10 2023**

Mark Senior, St Johns Buildings

[Book Here](#)

Sponsored by



## DOMESTIC ABUSE CONFERENCE 2023

Thursday 8th June

1pm - 4.10pm

Venue: Hybrid

**A view from the Bench of the Bench in terms of legal developments**  
**HHJ Malcolm Sharpe**

**Survivor Journey**  
**Caroline Grant, The First Step**

**Domestic Abuse: Police Response**  
**Victoria Kelly, Merseyside Police**

**Domestic Abuse: The Shadow Pandemic – Are the Family Courts keeping us safe?**  
**Lisa Edmunds, Unit Chambers**

[BOOK HERE](#)

# Charity Spotlight

## Clear eyes, full hearts, can't lose – an inspirational journey with terminal bowel cancer

In January 2019, aged just 37 years old Danny de Brabander was diagnosed with terminal Bowel Cancer. His journey over the past 4 years with the disease has been eventful to say the least, with him having 4 major surgeries (with many organs removed, including 75% of his liver, spleen, etc). Danny has battled life threatening SEPSIS following a bowel perforation, and his family were told to say goodbyes and that he wouldn't last the evening. Thankfully, Danny pulled through but had to learn to walk again, and dropped to nearly 8 stone in weight. He has also had major heart issues caused by chemotherapy; blood clots, and most recently a blocked bowel which led to having 50cm of his small bowel removed. Danny also has a permanent ileostomy stoma, which he has had since April 2019. Amazingly he is fast approaching 50 cycles of chemotherapy which he has at the Christie Hospital in Manchester.

Danny has been told his cancer is terminal, and has been written off on a number occasions being told he only has 'months left to live'. This said, remarkably his recent scans are showing 'No Cancer Visible' and his bloods in normal range.

Turning his negative into a positive, Danny together with friends Ben Douglas, Ben Lavell and Will Davenport started fundraising charity #TeamDDB which has now raised over £110,00 for other local charities and the local community. In addition to the amount of money raised, #TeamDDB have done over 50 random acts of kindness for local people who have faced life challenges. Danny says "We want to make them smile." They do this by paying for them have days out or treats.

The community spirit behind #TeamDDB is staggering. So many people are fundraising to help make a difference, and they have also had amazing support from celebrities like Sir Alex Ferguson, Liam Gallagher, Stephen Graham, Kym Marsh, Matt Lucas and many others sending messages of support and wearing #TeamDDB T-shirts or hoodies.

Danny's main focus and one that he is really passionate about is raising awareness for Bowel Cancer, so at least one person doesn't have to go through what he has. Early diagnosis means Bowel Cancer is successfully treated in over 90% of cases, whereas if you are Stage 4, you only have an

8% chance of living longer than 5 years. This awareness is also critical as Bowel Cancer is on the rise in younger people and in the last few months alone Danny has lost 3 close friends to the disease (all under the age of 40), who he met on his journey. Quite simply heart-breaking.

As well as awareness, Danny believes in a Positive mindset, which has been an integral part of his journey in dealing with a terminal diagnosis. Danny firmly believes there are things in life that we can't control, but we can control the way in which we respond to them. By doing this he has turned a negative situation into a positive one. He also follows the advice given to him by a friend Kelly Smith, that 96% of what you worry about doesn't actually happen. So live day by day and focus on what's in front of you.

*Danny's and #TeamDDB's journey has given so many others hope, and posts on LinkedIn/Social media have gone out to thousands of people. You can follow Danny's journey on social media (@debrabs20) and #TeamDDB's community work (@team.ddb)*

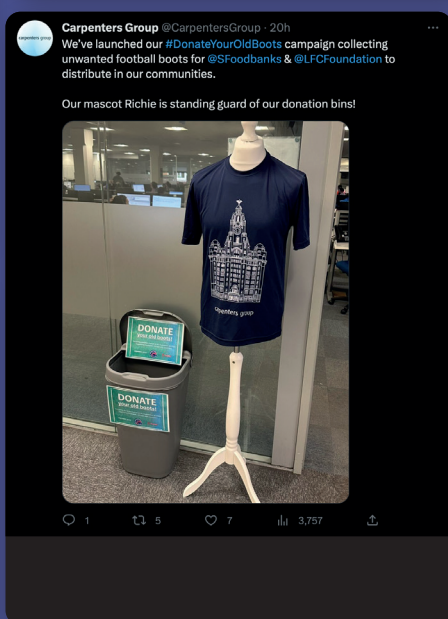
Danny has recently on the news, and this gives a good summary about his journey - <https://youtu.be/aacBfQ5nF0Y>





# Social Media Highlights

Each month we will be bringing you a selection of the latest social media posts by Liverpool Law Society and its members.



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



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