

May 2023

Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

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



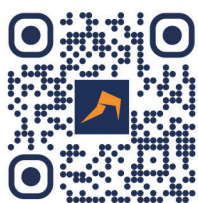


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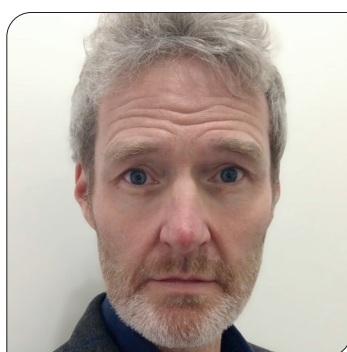


The Law Society



May 2023

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DEADLINES

- Thu, 25th May
- Tue, 27th June
- Wed, 26th July
- Fri, 25th August
- Mon, 25th September
- Tue, 24th October
- Mon, 27th November



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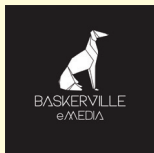
Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

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

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Editorial Committee Dates 2023

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

16/05/2023
20/06/2023
18/07/2023
15/08/2023
19/09/2023
17/10/2023
21/11/2023

Welcome to the May edition of Liverpool Law



I hope you're all well and starting to enjoy the warmer weather.

We have another big edition for you this month so I just wanted to say thank you to all of our members who are contributing to the magazine. It is so good to see what is going on in our local legal world and keeping up to date on events and changes. You will see we have a plea from the President this month to be more collaborative and I would like to think our sharing of news and information in this magazine that is a good step in the right direction. Your articles and case commentaries keep us all up to speed on how the law is developing and being applied. Your events and opportunities give the chance for us to help ourselves as well as the next generation

of lawyers and charities in our local area too. We have also had the Chester walk and the MJLD quiz in April but they were after the deadline for this edition, we will include next month, but thank you again to all that took part.

I have previously mentioned an initiative I was involved in with Everton in the Community and this month we have included the outcome of that, offering 9 students internship at Weightmans. I have loved being involved throughout this initiative and can honestly say I have high hopes for every student that took part, as well as those offered places. Such opportunities didn't exist when I was trying to get a foot in the door and it is great to see them happening. But what about when you are looking to progress within your firm or move on to your next chapter? What about the even bigger picture of the implications in our local area and beyond? If we take these opportunities to mentor and work together which is what I understand the President is seeking then I can only imagine what we can achieve together, sign me up.

Many thanks

Until next month.

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

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From the President

The latest from the President, Jeremy Myers

This time, there is chance to be a little more reflective as the past month – due to Easter – has had fewer events. The next few days are busy, as we look forward to the three key events: a reception at Liverpool University's School of Law and Justice Law Clinic, the quiz run by Merseyside Junior Lawyers' Division, and the countryside walk with Cheshire and North Wales Law Society, to be reported.

On the national scene, this month has seen the appointment of a new Lord Chancellor and Justice Secretary, Alex Chalk KC. Below, I am referring to Civil Legal Aid, which will be an important item in the in-tray of this new Cabinet Minister. The progress of the Bill on Human Rights will be another news story to monitor, and I am sure that the national Law Society will soon be engaging with Alex Chalk. We shall follow closely how his decisions affect the profession and how we can lobby.

The round of visits to our mutual professional events has continued. On 31 March, I had a very sociable evening as a guest of the Insurance Institute of Liverpool. It was particularly significant that the current President, Jack Steel, is the son of its Past President, Stuart Steel, who himself made a speech as a proud Dad. In our own profession, there are many with family links in legal practice, and the accrued wisdom – for the benefit of our clients and colleagues – is not to be underestimated.

The first reflection point concerns LLS's role in fostering future lawyers, whichever branch of the profession they might choose. Our annual Pathways into the Profession event took place online on 01 March. A total of 24 Schools – comprising 429 students – were online to see and hear a variety of speakers from the branches of the profession and from academia. It provides an insight for students to supplement routine in-school advice on career opportunities and how to reach the goal.

It was the brainchild of Emlyn Williams in his Presidential Year and in recent times has been organised devotedly by David Tournafond as Chair of our Education and Charities Committee. The online facility ensures far wider participation and avoids the cost of hiring a large venue in the city centre. One element now missing, sadly, is the chance for the students to mingle informally during the break, when several of us used to chat with them. I hope to write about Mentoring and work experience opportunities in a future column.

The second point in the ongoing work of LLS's committees. Many of you reading this column will have participated in one or more of the Committees. The accumulated knowledge and experience is with sharing and in our own field there is always so much on which we can update ourselves, so do please participate, and talk to each other! I have been taking the opportunity to observe various Committees which I do not usually – or infrequently – attend. One example springs to mind from the Access to Justice Committee. Ian Townley raised the matter of Civil Legal Aid contracts and how they impact the viability of practising in that sphere. I was able to put Ian in contact with Nina Ferris, our national Council Member, and also to note this matter as one to raise when meeting colleagues in the Joint V provincial Law Societies meeting which LLS will host on 14 June. We want to play our part in national lobbying and this looks like a prime matter.



The third point is preparation for the rolling period of the next twelve months and beyond. That is the role of the Future Planning committee, and accordingly it is chaired by each current Vice President. I am very pleased to be able to support our VP Gaynor Williams, with her planning, including some new initiatives.

Gaynor and I visited Liverpool Empire theatre this month to explore opportunities for LLS members to and hospitality for events at the venue. This was a direct result of a chat at the joint LLS / Chamber of Commerce drinks event in March. This leads to the second of the current initiatives, which is to arrange a series of quarterly receptions with the Chamber of Commerce to develop mutual networking opportunities with its varied range members, many of whom can be potential clients and providers of important services to our profession.

Third, LLS has been approached by St George's Hall in respect of potential support for its initiatives by Liverpool's solicitors. We have spoken with the Hall's team members about an initial Reception, and to see how its charity objectives might be capable of support by legal practices as we have explained that LLS would not be able to donate. More information should be available in the Autumn.

April and the onset of May for so many years earlier in life used to mean revision and a lengthy period of exams. At least, most of us no longer have that pressure, so make the most of the Spring.

Jeremy Myers
President

president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

LLS Meetings & events – May/June 2023

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

Start Time	Meeting/Event
09/05/2023 12:30	General Committee
16/05/2023 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
18/05/2023 13:00	Future Planning Sub-Committee
19/05/2023 16:30	The Law Society's Local Law Societies' townhall meeting (hybrid)
23/05/2023 13:00	Access to Justice in Liverpool Project Group Meeting
24/05/2023 13:00	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Sub-Committee
25/05/2023 13:00	Civil Litigation Sub-Committee
25/05/2023 16:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee
30/05/2023 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
02/06/2023 13:00	Access to Justice Sub-Committee
06/06/2023 13:00	Employment Law Sub-Committee
08/06/2023 10:00	Joint Forum on Access to Justice
13/06/2023 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

Consultation Papers

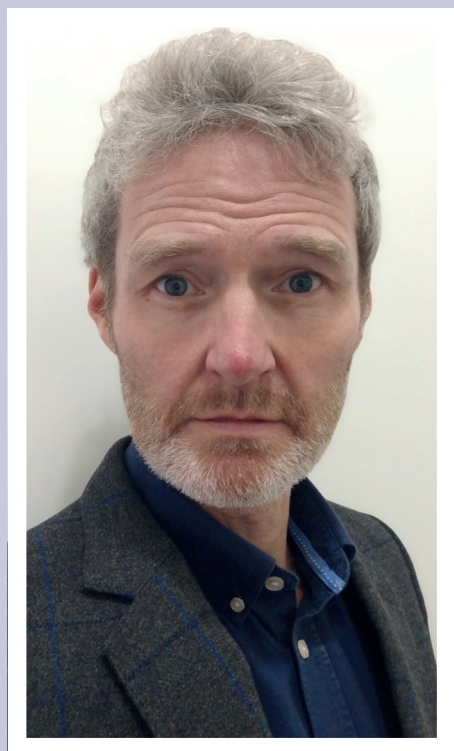
Papers referred to committees:

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

Committee	Consultation Paper title	Closing date
Criminal Practice	Community safety partnerships review and antisocial behaviour powers	22/05/23
Civil Litigation/Criminal Practice	Revising the 'Help with Fees' remission scheme	30/05/23
Family Business	Supporting earlier resolution of private family law arrangements	15/06/23
Criminal Practice	Draft codes of practice issued under POCA 2002 and the Terrorism Act 2000	20/06/23
Criminal Practice	Consultation on draft Code of Practice issued by the Attorney General under Section 377A of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002	20/06/23
Non-Contentious Business/Regulatory	Protecting consumers from excessive charges in financial service claims	21/06/23

Interview: James Mannouch, our new DVP

James Mannouch has been elected as Deputy Vice President of Liverpool Law Society for 2023.



James is from the Wirral and a former pupil of Calday Grange Grammar School, who have a great reputation for Rugby and James played for their first team.

After Calday, James won a place at Liverpool University, where he initially studied single honours politics, focusing on political systems which he was very interested in. James followed this up by taking a Master's in Public Administration, a course which majored on marketing and led to an initial career in television advertising, working for Millward Brown International. His work involved advertising and brand consultancy for such clients as Ford, HP Bulmer, Curry's / PC World and Del Monte. As a consultant, James felt he was somewhat at the back of the business and decided to move from advertising to retail, taking a new position with Great Universal Stores / Argos Retail Group. James enjoyed his time there and undertook their corporate development programme, working in different

areas of the business and looking to transform them from a vertical to more horizontal business. He was assigned to work across their divisions and worked in Merchandising, Warehousing, Distribution and Customer Services. James ended up as a Project Manager, building an ordering infrastructure which delivered one of the first e-commerce solutions in the UK on behalf of DeVere Hotels, who at the time owned the rights to golf's Ryder Cup. The Ryder Cup merchandise is bought globally, and James put together the customer service end of their online retail system. James's next position was running the customer services department for Bunzl Retail. Despite their name, Bunzl are business-to-business supplier and clients included the main high street retailers such as Tesco, Asda and John Lewis.

One day, whilst driving to a plastic bag factory in Nelson, he was contacted by a former colleague who had worked with him years before in advertising. This prompted James to take stock of his situation and decide that he wanted a career change. He took time out to drive around Europe in a sports car before choosing to study Law.

James took his pGDL and LPC at the University of Law in Chester. He began paralegal work with Dyne Solicitors Ltd in Tattenhall, Cheshire and was subsequently offered a training contract with them but was keen to receive a broad service training and was grateful to also be offered a training contract with Hill Dickinson LLP, which he accepted. James kept in touch with the business owner at Dyne and after completion of his training contract, went back to them. He benefited from his time at Hill Dickinson, experiencing the difference between a large commercial firm and a compact specialist firm and the way they function in different ways.

James's work at Dyne was in regulatory

law, often working on public enquiries. He liked the fact that this type of hearing follows an inquisitorial approach, where a judge will direct the procedure by asking probing questions. This means you are rewarded for your preparation for a case and can get to the bottom of things quickly.

James progressed to Commercial Director at Dyne Solicitors and was approached by a friend to ask if he might be interested in delivering a session on Law to sixth formers at Enterprise South Liverpool Academy, now called The Academy of St Nicholas. The session he delivered was so well received that the College principal invited him to hold regular teaching sessions! His lessons extended to lower school students as well as 6th formers. James really enjoyed the experience of teaching, particularly designing the sessions, which prompted a move into education.

James now oversees the work of the Legal Advice Centre at the University of Law's Chester and Liverpool Campuses. He has previously taught at Liverpool Johns Moore's University and BPP Law School. He coordinates the Pro Bono activities at Liverpool and Chester, acting as supervising solicitor in their legal clinic.

James is one of the longest serving of the current Directors of LLS, having been appointed in 2011. He was Treasurer last year, which gave him an insight into the requirements of an officer. James is chair of the Access to Justice Committee and chairs the Joint Forum on Access to Advice. He is also a Director of Equality and Employment Law, a national Law Centre based in Liverpool city centre.

Outside of work, James relaxes by socialising in his local pub and playing tennis.

We wish James every success for 2023 in his role as Deputy Vice President.

Brown Turner Ross expands Liverpool office



Samantha Bushell

Southport based law firm Brown Turner Ross has relocated its Liverpool city centre office to support the firms growing team and increase in locally based client instructions. The firm, who have been providing legal advice for 139 years from their established offices on Lord Street, Southport, have

moved the Liverpool branch from St. Paul's Square to stylish premises in The Cotton Exchange in the heart of Liverpool's business district.

The newly acquired larger premises will support the firm's growth in the family and civil teams with plans to expand across other departments in the coming months. This will increase the Brown Turner Ross workforce to 36.

Sam Bushell, Managing Director said *"Expanding our Liverpool based office allows us the flexibility to better service our current clients and gives us the potential for further growth. Whilst we are proud of our Southport heritage our client base in Liverpool and the surrounding areas continues to increase. This move will also allow our highly dedicated team of professional's flexibility to utilise the Liverpool city centre offices and our clients the convenience of a local office for meetings"*.

This office move will also see the introduction of a new case management system to further streamline the companies' operations.

The law firm, founded in Southport in 1884, has become one of the North Wests leading law firms who specialise in family, private client, corporate and commercial property, housing disrepair and dispute resolution work .

Carpenters Group launch Legal Academy



Carpenters Group are delighted to announce we have launched our first cohort of Legal Advisors as part of our Legal Academy.

We have a culture of promoting from within and are committed to providing training and development for all colleagues to help them realise their full potential! We have recently introduced our Development Hub led by our Diversity, Inclusion & Development lead which brings together a whole host of informative guides about growing your career within Carpenters Group.

Carpenters Group CEO, **Donna Richards**, said:

"We believe that investing in the future of our people is investing in the future of our business. Our commitment to providing the best levels of service to our clients means we need people who share our passion and dedication for excellent client care."

Carpenters Group Head of Fast Track RTA, **Jo Haslam**, said:

"There will be a permanent Team Manager and Deputy Team Manager to help support our colleagues in the Academy in addition to a full time trainer. The Team Manager will be responsible for signing off on the various identified competencies required of new file handlers before they move out of the Academy into our Portal Department. As a member of the Legal Academy, colleagues will be trained in how to manage a caseload of Fast Track Portal cases through all stages of the Portal, to include litigation where appropriate."

We are excited to follow the career journey that our Legal Advisors will be going on!

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ADILA

Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

Liverpool Law Society is delighted to
announce the 2023

Annual Dinner and Legal Awards

will take place on Thursday, 9 November 2023

GUEST SPEAKER IS

THE LORD-LIEUTENANT OF MERSEYSIDE

MR MARK BLUNDELL

The Liverpool Region's legal community are invited
to come together to celebrate being part of a
proud and vibrant legal profession.

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](#).

Real Estate Finance partner Debra Cooper joins Hill Dickinson



Debra Cooper

Commercial law firm Hill Dickinson has bolstered its national banking team with the lateral hire of banking and finance partner Debra Cooper.

Debra joins from Shoosmiths where she was a banking partner specialising in real estate finance in addition to being co-head of the Manchester office. She brings more than 16 years' experience to the team in the provision of advice to institutional lenders, debt funds, alternative lenders and borrowers on investment and development transactions and advises clients based across the UK, the Channel Islands and Gibraltar.

Debra also advises on acquisition finance transactions and general corporate lending.

Craig Scott, head of the firm's Business Services group, said: "We are delighted to welcome Debra to Hill Dickinson as we continue to build senior level capacity across our firm in response to client demand. Debra's experience and the client portfolio she has built up over her career to date in the banking and real estate finance sector adds valuable capacity to our growing national Banking team. In terms of our workplace culture and growth ambitions, I know she'll be a fantastic addition across all our offices."

Richard Capper, head of banking and finance, added: "We have worked regularly with Debra and her team for many years and know what a quality operator she is. We are really excited about her joining and supporting the work we are already doing with our bank

panel and other lender and borrower clients in all of our offices. With four dedicated banking partners and a growing team now operating on a national basis from our offices in the North West, Leeds and London, we are really well equipped to deal with the full range of banking and finance transactions going on both locally and further afield at the moment. We are just finishing what has been a really strong year for the team having been involved in many high-profile deals both locally and nationally and hope, with Debra onboard, that next year will be even stronger."

Debra Cooper said she was excited to be joining a firm that offered opportunities for her to grow her work with institutional lenders, debt funds, alternative lenders and borrowers all with the support of a leading national banking and real estate team.

She said: "Having worked on the other side of many transactions with Richard and his team over the past 10 years I am delighted to be joining such a well-established national team and working with them to build on the impressive current client and transaction base."

Debra was previously a partner at Squire Patton Boggs and spent 10 years at Pinsent Masons where she trained. She is also chair of the northern board of the Investment Property Forum, a trustee of the We Love Manchester charity and a board member of the Northern LandAid Committee.

Debra was most recently named as winner of the Professional Services Leader award in The Business Desk Northern Leadership Awards on 30 March 2023.

She is the latest of more than a dozen senior lateral partner hires to join Hill Dickinson's Business Services group in the last 15 months as the firm invests in its ambitious growth plans.

Four lawyers from MSB Solicitors make it onto “the Michelin guide” for high-net-worth advisors



Emma Palmer, Emma Carey, John Owens, Pippa Tudor and Pauline McNamara

Four lawyers from North West-based law firm, MSB’s Family team, have been included within the highly prestigious Spear’s 500 advisory guide, further strengthening the firm’s position in the region.

Emma Palmer, Pauline McNamara, John Owens, and Pippa Tudor, who work across the firm’s Liverpool and Manchester offices, join the Spear’s 500 list, which operates as a guide to the best private client advisors for ultra and high net worth individuals, including family lawyers, wealth managers and property advisors. Each lawyer has their own profile in the guide, outlining their experience and expertise, providing potential clients with choice of the highest quality advisors.

Palmer, McNamara, Owens, and Tudor each have experience in complex family matters, such as ultra/high net worth divorce, matters involving children, financial coercive control and cases involving multiple jurisdictions. Their inclusion in the Spear’s 500 is a nod to the quality of MSB’s roster of highly qualified

solicitors across the North West and sets the firm apart from their competitors.

Spears’ exclusivity can’t be understated. Of those that made the list in the North West, Owens is one of only eleven family lawyers in Manchester, whilst Palmer, McNamara, and Tudor are three of five in Liverpool.

Emma Carey, Managing Partner at MSB, said:

“For not just one, but four of our highly trained solicitors to be recognised in the Spear’s 500 fills me with immense pride. I know first-hand the hard work that each of our team members puts in to deliver such a high standard of work for our clients and communities, and that’s what matters most for us.”

Spears’ recognises the best of the best in any given expertise and each of our lawyer’s recognised deserves this accolade for the remarkable family-related services that they provide.”

John Owens, Partner at MSB’s

Manchester HQ, said:

“I’m incredibly honoured and grateful to be included in the Spear’s 500 list and pleased for my colleagues in the Family team. Positive client outcomes are a top priority for us and that’s why we operate as a knowledgeable and service driven team with depth and breadth of knowledge across all areas of family law.”

“As we continue to service all of the communities of Manchester, we hope that this recognition further demonstrates the capabilities of MSB as a leading law firm in the North West, committed to providing practical solutions for all who need our help.”

MSB were also recently found to be number one local choice on Review Solicitors, with the majority of its departments in the top 100 out of thousands nationally. Despite these accolades the firm shows no sign of complacency with plans to continue to strengthen its growing team across Manchester, Liverpool and Cheshire, serving the communities of the North West and beyond.

Prosperity Law appoints three new partners to mark continued success



Paul Edels, Chelsey Bayliss and John-Paul Dennis

Leading law firm, Prosperity Law, is celebrating a period of continued growth with the appointment of three new experienced partners within the Liverpool Office. These appointments mark further diversification for the firm as the three partners head up key departments, bringing with them significant expertise.

The first appointment is **Chelsey Bayliss** who joins as Head of Family Law. With over 12 years of experience in her field, Chelsey was responsible for creating and managing a high-performing Family Law team at her previous firm. She is also a member of Resolution, a member organisation that's committed to the constructive and non-confrontational resolution of family matters – adding to her expertise in the field of family law. More recently, Chelsey has been appointed as a member of the Liverpool Law Society – Family Business Sub-Committee, a collaborative opportunity to work and assist others working in the legal

industry, in the complex area of family law.

Chelsey said of her appointment: “I have now been part of the team at Prosperity Law for almost six months – and what a whirlwind it's been. In a short space of time, we've already become an exceptional team that protects and serves families and children across the country.”

The second appointment is **John-Paul Dennis**, Prosperity's new Head of Private Client Services. Qualifying as a solicitor in 2006, John-Paul quickly specialised in Private Client and has since held key leadership roles for some of Liverpool and the UK's leading firms. He is also a Director of the Liverpool Law Society and the current Chair of the Board of Trustees at longstanding, Liverpool-based charity Nugent. His appointment ratifies the company's new service offering within the field of Private Client law, including the management of personal and professional legal affairs for High Net Worth and Ultra High Net Worth individuals.

John-Paul commented: “Private Client is a field of law that's built around relationships. Prosperity Law is known for offering an exceptional service to clients and I look forward to continuing this high standard within our new department, based right here in Liverpool.”

The final appointment that marks Prosperity's period of exceptional growth is that of **Paul Edels**, Corporate Solicitor with a specialism in Healthcare, both in owner dispute matters and corporate transactions. Paul is well-versed in the buying and selling of Dental Practices, having acted for a number of dental groups in relation to a variety of matters. As Prosperity Law's new Head of Healthcare, Paul brings a wealth of experience, both legal and commercial, having held roles in the investment market prior to becoming a solicitor.

Paul remarked on joining Prosperity: “Prosperity Law has enjoyed substantial growth in the past few years, especially here in Liverpool. I'm thrilled to be joining the team and helping the firm diversify into yet another specialist field of law.”

These three appointments are just the latest in a series of promotions and recruitment drives over the course of the past three years, which have seen Prosperity Law diversify into more practice areas. The firm is now home to 47 staff, based in Manchester, Liverpool, and London, and operating across over 20 specialisms. Managing Partner of the Liverpool branch, **Jonathan Durkin**, is delighted to welcome this new experience to the team: “By investing in highly qualified partners such as Chelsey, John-Paul, and Paul, we not only secure the future of Prosperity Law by bringing in new talent, but we also expand our business. Our aim is to offer top-notch, all-encompassing legal services – and with our new specialist heads of department, we're doing just that.”

Lead5050 have recognised Carpenters Group for being one of the top organisations for Gender Equality!

Carpenters Group are extremely proud to announce that we have been recognised for being one of the top organisations for Gender Equality!

We scored 92.5 out of 100 in the Equity Index and ranked 38 out of over 10,000 companies that submit their Gender Pay Gap data to the UK government.

Here at Carpenters Group we are very proud of our amazing and diverse team.

Our ambition is to create a workplace which is truly inclusive, where difference is celebrated and respected and where everyone can be themselves regardless of gender identity, ethnicity, socio-economic background, sexuality, religion and belief, age, disability, caring responsibilities or health challenges. We would like to say a huge thank you to Lead5050 for this incredible recognition.



Welcome to new members

We'd like to give a warm welcome to our new members who were approved for membership at April's General Committee meeting. There were 68 individuals from the following law firms or organisations:

*174 Family Law
Astraea Linskills
Berkson Family Law
Binghams Solicitors
Broudie Jackson Canter*

*Burd Ward
Canter Levin & Berg
Carpenters
Catherine Higgins Law
Dickinson Parker Hill
Guy Williams Layton
Haworth & Gallagher
Jackson Lees Group
Leigh Day
Liverpool John Moores University
Mann Roberts Solicitors
Nyland & Beattie
Paul Crowley & Co*

*Provenio Litigation LLP
The Keith Jones Partnership
The University of Liverpool
Maria Fogg Family Law
Simpson Millar
WP Thompson Limited*

Liverpool Law Society's membership now exceeds 2,415 individuals from 181 law firms, barristers' chambers, and other organisations with legal professionals in the Liverpool City Region and beyond.

Media Update

The sword of Lodz presented to Liverpool Law Society on a visit to Poland during Lawrence Holden's year as President (1990-1991), was mentioned in a Law Society Gazette article written by John Hyde:
Finding homes for 200 years of history | News | Law Gazette

The sword was kept in a large glass box on top of the bookcase at the back of the training suite at our former premises in Helix. The sword and the presentation box were donated to the Polish Consul in Manchester.

Former North Wales detective joins Gamlins Law



Tim Wynne Evans

A former North Wales detective has been recruited by one of the region's leading law firms.

Tim Wynne Evans, who worked on cases including Wales's worst serial killer Peter Moore, has joined Gamlins Law as a case worker and investigator.

Tim will work with the firm's Crime Department, assisting them with the preparation of defence cases for clients. This includes several complex conspiracy cases, a specialist area for Gamlins Law.

Tim worked for North Wales Police for over 30 years, including more than 25 as a detective in the CID team, investigating some of the region's highest profile cases.

He also spent two years working as part of a United Nations team investigating allegations of genocide in East Timor, Indonesia.

After leaving the police, Tim went on to work for Denbighshire County Council including a spell as the authority's Principal Public Protection Officer.

Gamlins Law's Crime Department is the largest of its kind in North Wales and features in the prestigious Chambers UK Legal Guide 2023.

Gamlins Law Morfa Hall HQ



Each year, Chambers & Partners team carries out a rigorous and independent research process to identify the law firms globally which are "market leaders".

Dafydd Roberts, Gamlins Law Director and Head of Criminal Law, said: "I am delighted to have recruited Tim to support our team of solicitors on some of our more complex cases. One area of growth for us is conspiracy cases. We are currently dealing with several conspiracy to supply drugs matters.

"Tim has a fantastic track record as a police officer and, more recently, working with Denbighshire County Council. He will be a great addition to our team."

Tim said: *"I am looking forward to working with the Gamlins Law team. My background as a detective means I can provide a different perspective and a fresh pair of eyes when examining the evidence being presented."*

Gamlins Law, which employs 80 people, has its head office at Morfa Hall in Rhyl and further offices in Mold, Ruthin, Denbigh, Abergelle and Holywell.

In addition to its Criminal Department, Gamlins Law's legal services cover commercial, commercial and residential property, employment law, family and matrimonial, children, personal injury and clinical negligence, regulatory, litigation, inheritance tax, wills and probate.

Liverpool's Law Firm Maria Fogg Family Law Ltd has been shortlisted for the national Small Awards

A Local Family Law Firm has been chosen as a finalist for Britain's best family business



Andrea and Charlotte Fogg

Maria Fogg Family Law Ltd based in Huyton Village, Knowsley, has been shortlisted for the Legacy Award for best family business at this year's Small Awards.

Now in its seventh year, The Small Awards is a nationwide search for the smallest and greatest firms in the UK, across all sectors. It is organised annually by Small Business Britain, which champions, inspires and accelerates the nation's 5.5 million small firms.

Maria Fogg Family Law was founded in 2012 by Maria Fogg and her daughters. The business is a family law firm offering legal aid for vulnerable adults suffering family domestic abuse and child protection issues. It has been chosen as one of just eight finalists for the Legacy Award for the best family business. The award recognises the unique characteristics, challenges and strengths of family run businesses. The business demonstrates involvement and contribution from family members as

well as business success over a period of time.

With eleven different categories, the Small Awards celebrate the dynamism and resilience of the UK's small business sector, across everything from sustainability heroes, to digital stars, to long-standing family businesses.

"The Small Awards is all about celebrating the incredible small business owners who are at the heart of the economy and communities," said **Michelle Owens** CBE, Founder of Small Business Britain *"They are an opportunity to recognise and applaud the passion and tenacity of the nation's small firms, particularly during such turbulent times. Maria Fogg Family Law should be incredibly proud of being shortlisted for this award and we can't wait to celebrate with them in May."*

Charlotte Fogg commented *"we are pleased our family run business has been recognised for the Legacy Award. Andrea and I are passionate about continuing*

our mothers legacy to helping vulnerable people obtain protection from domestic abuse. At Maria Fogg Family Law we work closely with our local community domestic abuse agencies to empower people to obtain protection for themselves and their children."

Judged by a panel of industry experts, the winners of all categories, along with the overall winner of Small Business of the Year, will be announced at a glittering awards night in London on 18 May 2023.

This event follows the incredible return of the in-person Small Awards ceremony last year, which had been held online during the pandemic. The ceremony will this year be held at St Mary's church in London, with plans underway for a night of entertainment, inspiration and celebration for UK's greatest small businesses.



About The Small Awards

The Small Awards, launched in 2017, targets the whole small business sector focusing on businesses often overlooked by other awards.

The Small Awards is run by Small Business Britain, the UK's leading champion of small businesses, supporting all 6 million small businesses in the UK – no matter their location, their sector, or their ambition level.

Through a series of reports, events and campaigns, Small Business Britain champions, inspires and accelerates small businesses in the UK to foster growth and increased confidence.

Private client lawyer Katie Brassington joins Excello Law in Chester



Katie Brassington

Katie Brassington has joined national consultancy law firm Excello Law based in Chester. Qualifying in 2004, Katie has over 18 years' experience advising individuals, families, trustees and business owners across Cheshire and North Wales. She joined Excello from Knights where she headed up their private client team in Chester.

Katie is a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) and Solicitors for the Elderly (SFE) and specialises in wills, estate and succession planning, trusts, Lasting Powers of Attorney, estate administration, including complex claims for agricultural property relief and business property relief, and Court of Protection matters.

On joining Excello, Katie commented: "I work to build good relationships with

clients allowing us to work together to plan pragmatically based on their individual circumstances. Working in a more flexible and collaborative working environment within Excello Law, I look forward to building on those relationships with existing and new clients."

Joanne Losty, chief operating officer, said: "Katie is an experienced private client lawyer and joins a senior team in Chester offering the full range of commercial and private client legal services.

"With offices in Chester, Liverpool and Manchester, and further expansion planned in the region in Preston, we're continuing to enjoy great interest from lawyers looking to work in a more liberating environment and collaborative culture and would be pleased to hear from senior professionals across the north west."



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Vacancies on Society's Non-Contentious Business Committee

Are you interested in joining the Non-Contentious Business Committee? We are looking for new members to share experiences, discuss best practice, arrange events and respond to consultation papers where applicable. We want private client, property, company and commercial lawyers who are willing to add insight and input to the committee.

Much of the committee's business involves:

- private client (including wills and probate);
- company and commercial;
- property (including residential conveyancing and commercial property).

The committee is comprised of local lawyers working in these fields, representing all types and sizes of firms from High Street firms to mid-tier and large national firms.

We meet six times a year for an hour, mostly virtually, occasionally in-person in Liverpool city centre, and would welcome enquiries to join from new and existing members of the Society. To express an interest in joining please email committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Issues with certified LPAs/organisations

The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) would like to know the extent to which you might be experiencing problems with banks and financial institutions accepting instructions from attorneys on receipt of a photocopy or certified copy of a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA). For example, banks not authorising full access to accounts by LPA holders, or barring them from telephone or app banking services, or online banking.

Have you or your colleagues found this to be an issue? And if so, with which organisations are you having difficulties? This would be gratefully received alongside any further details you may wish to share.

The information will be passed on to the Law Society who have regular meetings with the Ministry of Justice and the OPG. If you email in with your experience, please indicate whether you would be happy for the name of your organisation to be shared with the MoJ. Please email committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

HF opens new office in Liverpool

HF, the UK's leading legal advisers to the insurance and commercial sectors, is expanding with a new office in Liverpool.

The Liverpool team will be moving into Twenty Chapel Street, a Grade A office building which is already home to Ernst & Young, Barclays and Liverpool Football Club, with outstanding on-site amenities and stunning views of the city. The office will provide modern, flexible space for HF's successful and growing insurance litigation teams including the market leading Large Loss team.

The announcement marks a return to the city for the firm, having closed its original office during the COVID-19 pandemic and reflects the strong potential for growth HF sees for the business in Liverpool and the surrounding areas.

Ronan McCann, CEO & Managing Partner at HF said "We are thrilled to be back in Liverpool, we love the city and see so much potential to grow our business there. The new office supports our focus on our people, giving an accessible and desirable work environment which support our

flexible, hybrid working model. We've worked with Colliers who have done an outstanding job in finding us office space that fits the needs to suit both us and our clients – not a small ask!"

Dominic Pozzoni, Director & Head of Colliers Manchester added, "We're delighted to have been able to assist HF in their expansion and identify suitable new offices in Liverpool. It's always exciting to work with forward thinking and growing organisations such as HF and the Colliers team have very much enjoyed working on this project."

Law Society Consulting on Practising Certificate Fee – open until 24th May 2023

The Law Society has launched this year's practising certificate (PC) fee consultation with members. As ever, we are keen to reach as many solicitors as possible, from as many backgrounds and specialisms as possible, to take part and share their views on our future plans.

You can help with the consultation :

1. take part in the survey and share your views on what The Law Society's priorities should be.

2. Promote the consultation with your friends, colleagues at work, networks and encourage them to take part.

The survey is available at www.lawsociety.org.uk/consultation and will run to the

24th May 2023. As in previous years, to thank everyone who completes the survey, their name will be entered into a draw for one of five £100 Amazon gift cards.

This is a consultation that impacts how your PC fee is used, so please give your views. This determines the plans set by the Law Society based on member views.



In-House Lawyers' Social

29th June 2023

Meet & greet event for In-House Counsel

Liverpool Law Society's In-House Lawyers Committee invites current and prospective committee members to an in-person social event on Thursday, 29th June from 5.30pm – 7pm at the Atheneum, Liverpool.

Join us for tea, coffee and refreshments in the Reading Room of the Athenaeum, Church Alley, Liverpool, L1 3DD, for a chance to discuss the work of the committee, our future agenda and how we can support you as a busy in-house practitioner.

Whether you are a longstanding member or just curious about joining, all in-house counsel are welcome. Please book your place by emailing committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

You can read more about the Society's In-House Lawyers Committee here:
<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/about/committees/specialist/in-house-committee/>

Council Member update May 2022



Council Member Nina Ferris

Since my last report I have attended TLS Strategic Planning Event looking at priorities for the next three year period. Part of that looked at how TLS should celebrate its 200 year anniversary in 2025. Pleasingly, one of the main themes was to promote and celebrate the profession and its past and ongoing contribution to wider society, important given the continued position of the government framing lawyers as alternatively blockers when referring to challenges to policy or enablers in the context of financial crime, but overall as the “bad guys” in any given context.

The President has been busy working on her themes as well as promoting the profession at home and abroad.

Legal Heroes Campaign

Part of that is the launch of the TLS Legal Heroes campaign. We want to recognise and celebrate solicitors who have made a lasting and tangible difference and brought distinction to the profession, those who have made the biggest difference to the lives of others, their local communities and society over the last two years. Solicitors across England and Wales can nominate their Legal Heroes. The closing date is midnight on 30 April 2023. Nominations will be judged by a panel and the Legal Heroes for 2023 will be announced in September at an exclusive celebratory event. Further

details and nomination forms can be found at: <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/campaigns/legal-heroes>. I would encourage members to put themselves or their colleagues forward.

India Visit

Lubna recently spent two weeks working in India to discuss the liberalisation of legal services in India with various stakeholders including Indian government officials, the Bar Council of India and a number of Indian lawyers. The trip was successful as the Bar Council of India announced last week, following our discussions, that India is to allow foreign law firms and foreign lawyers to practice there on a permanent basis. This is a huge development as India has been reluctant to open up its legal market for many years. This is an example of the direct influence and impact the Law Society has had for our members.

India opens up to English and Welsh solicitors and law firms | The Law Society Criminal legal aid – Proceedings Issued TLS have applied for permission from the High Court for a judicial review of the government’s decision not to increase criminal legal aid rates by the minimum 15% recommended by Lord Bellamy’s independent review. It is recognised that there is a need to protect livelihoods as well as fight for the justice system as the mass exodus of lawyers from the criminal defence arena will continue and it is of great concern. For those reasons among others TLS was compelled to issue proceedings. The Lord Chancellor has resisted the application citing a large amount of new evidence that had not been made available to TLS previously. TLS is seeking permission to make submissions in response to that [previously unseen] evidence. Criminal legal aid review | The Law Society

President’s Surgery

The President’s is holding regular Virtual Surgeries. There have been a diverse range of issues raised with me ranging

from guidance on legal privilege in various parts of the EU, professional indemnity insurance premiums, civil court backlog issues, diversity concerns, hybrid working, criminal legal aid rates and case management systems. These will continue and I will forward details of how to book slots when they are available.

Legal Ombudsman Update

At the latest council meeting we heard from LeO about how they are looking to improve the efficiency of the Ombudsman and turnaround time for complaints. We were also reminded of the changes to the scheme rules including the reduction in the time limit to one year from the omission or date of knowledge. This should be notified to clients from 1 April 2023 and useful resources including suggested wording for client care letters is here: [Changes to the Legal Ombudsman Scheme Rules | The Law Society](#)

Get Involved

As well as taking part as an elected member on council or practice committees, TLS is preparing to launch its own volunteering strategy on the basis that every solicitor can make a difference in actively promoting, protecting and supporting their profession, the rule of law and access to justice by getting involved in the Law Society.

Look out for further news on the launch and how you can get involved in the coming months.

And finally... TikTok

TLS launched our TikTok account on social media so please do follow us - @thelawsociety. You can see the first TikTok clips at: <https://www.tiktok.com/@thelawsociety/video/7210453287911443717>.

As always if you have any questions, or would like to discuss any issue you can contact me :

Nina.ferris@hilldickinson.com



Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division



Lucy Morphy-Morris

April has been a busy month for the MJLD:

MJLD Court Marshalling schemes

Our education department has successfully finished this year's Court Marshalling scheme at Liverpool and Birkenhead County Courts. We are proud to be able to offer this unique experience to students and have received some very positive feedback from this year's candidates, highlighting how beneficial this opportunity is.

We have received the following amazing feedback from our students this year:

Birkenhead Scheme

1. I just wanted to thank you for your involvement in organising the County Court marshalling scheme - this experience has been invaluable to me and I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the court!
2. I had been meaning to email and say thank you so much because I had a great time at the Court. I got to see such a wide variety of cases and I was lucky enough to sit with 3 different judges. Everyone was really friendly and I was able to get really involved in reading through the case files with the judges, talking about what I thought and answering any questions I had. Watching hearings in the Courts was so different to any other legal work experience I had and it gave me a great insight into the work of the judges and the different areas of law that I saw. As someone who had never been inside the Courts, this was a great opportunity to see how everything worked and everything that goes into a hearing. I think the scheme being over 3 mornings is great because it meant I

got to see a variety of judges and areas of law. Being over 3 weeks also made it really manageable alongside my studies. This is a great scheme and I want to thank you again for the opportunity to be part of it. I would highly recommend the scheme to anyone interested in a career in law.

3. I had a great experience at the Court - everyone there was so friendly and helpful, and more than happy to answer my questions and explain everything that I wasn't sure of. I definitely don't have any negative feedback at all, and I'm so grateful for the experience!

Family Court Scheme

4. I just wanted to say thank you so much for organising this opportunity! I had a really informative and enjoyable day!

We have also been preparing for a number of exciting events coming up:

- **25th of May** - MJLD's Mock assessment Centre with the University of Law Liverpool
- **18th of August** - MJLD Annual Ball

MJLD Education Mock Assessment Centre

On the 25th of May 2023 the MJLD, with the help of the University of Law, are hosting a Mock Assessment event at the University of Law's Liverpool Campus. Students will be asked to give presentations on certain topics in front of a panel of legal professionals and given tailored feedback. This is a great opportunity for young professionals to network with employees from some of the top law firms in the city.

This event is tailored towards students and prospective legal professionals by helping them prepare for the interviewing process, for when they are ready to take the next step on their legal careers.

Maggie's Cancer Centre - Dates for your diary:

This year our chosen charity is Maggie's Cancer Centre who provide free support to those suffering from cancer. They are hosting a number of events below and we would be grateful for as much support possible.

More information can be found on their website: <https://www.maggies.org/our-centres/maggies-wirral/>.

Tuesday 9th May – Eurovision Collection

Liverpool Eurovision Bucket Collection- Are you able to spare 2 hours to help us collect funds?

May 2023 – Kitchen Table Day

Host a cake sale or coffee morning from your home.

Register Here: <https://www.maggies.org/get-involved/find-event/kitchen-table-day/>

Thursday 18th May – Cancer in the Workplace workshop

Supporting your workplace 'Cancer in the Workplace' workshop

Register Here for an online webinar for Cancer in the Workplace:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/virtual-cancer-in-the-workplace-may-2023-tickets-547727637107>

Friday 9th June – Fashion Show

Would you like to attend our annual fashion show in the centre?

Sunday 11th June – Wirral Coastal Walk

Dust off those walking boots and join us for the well-loved Wirral Coastal Walk.

Register Here: <https://www.wirralcoastalwalk.org>

Friday 22nd September – Liverpool 10k

Liverpool 10k Culture Crawl Event sponsor opportunities, walk as a team or volunteer!

November 2023 – Strictly Maggie's

Do you love to dance? Perhaps you and your team could volunteer on the night. Event sponsor opportunities available.

Lucy Morphy-Morris

Morecrofts Solicitors
MJLD Press & Publicity Representative.

Weightmans and Everton in the Community sets students on path to success

The first cohort of interns from eight targeted schools across the Liverpool area will start work at national law firm Weightmans, thanks to its partnership with Everton in the Community.

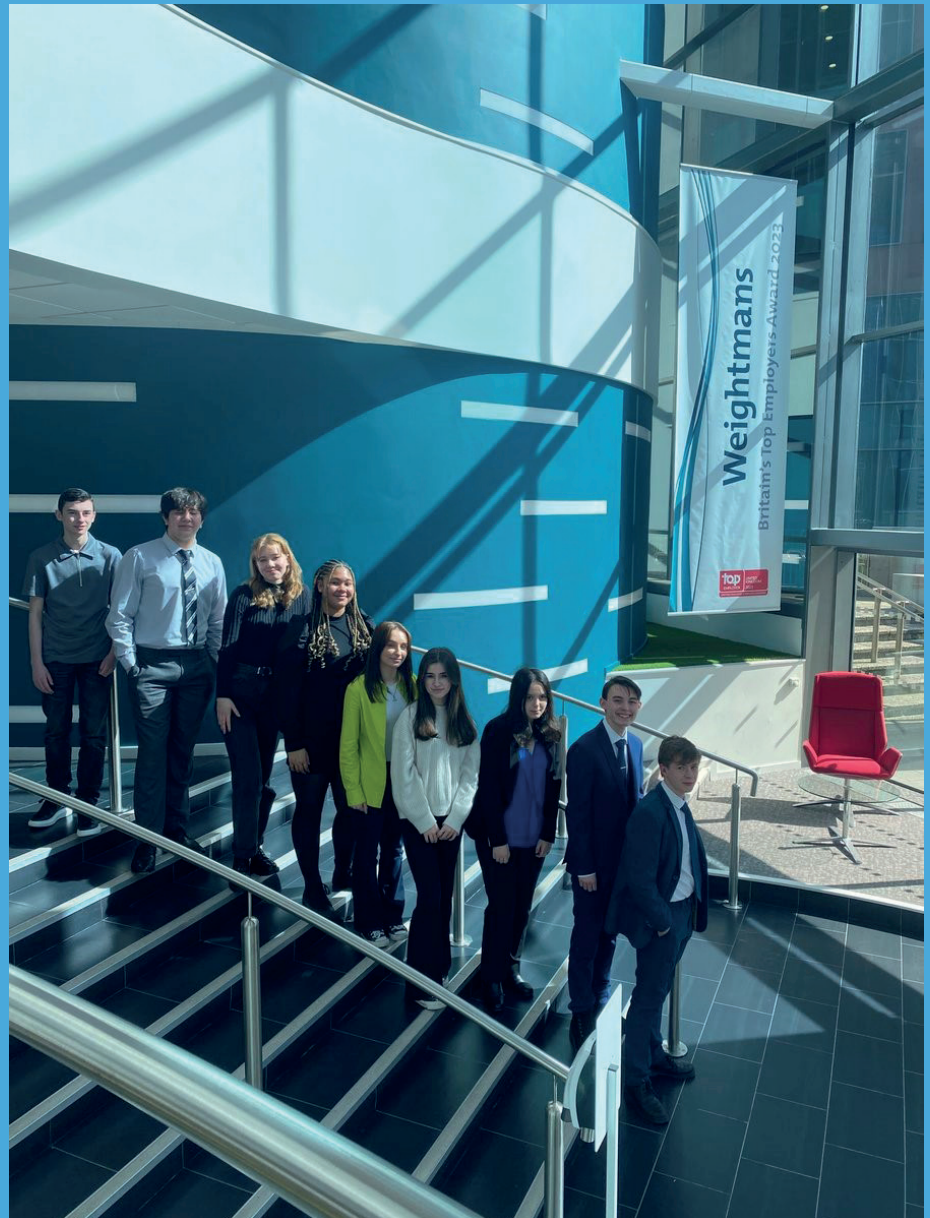
Nine students have been accepted onto the firm's Internship Into Law programme, which has been designed in partnership with Everton in the Community. The programme will start in summer and see the students work in the firm's Liverpool headquarters alongside lawyers, shadowing them on real cases and receive training about working in the world of law.

The four-stage application process involved group exercises, participating in a debate at Goodison Park, Dragon's Den-style pitches and submitting essays answering "What I would do if I was Prime Minister for a week". The process was designed to challenge and encourage applicants and offer opportunities for their development, with a total of 50 students taking part.

John Schorah, Managing Partner at Weightmans, said: "Giving back to the community is so important to us, especially as a large employer in the Liverpool area. Working with Everton in the Community has really helped us to bring this ambition to life.

"We were blown away by the talent and positive attitudes that we saw among all the applicants. We can't wait to welcome our interns and see them in action – and we're sure we'll learn just as much from them as they do from us."

Carly Wheeler, Programmes Manager at Everton in the Community, said: "Everton in the Community have recently celebrated 35 years of supporting the local community by providing help when people need it most. Our education department is passionate about inspiring young people and offering them opportunities to achieve their potential.



"It has been an honour to be able to partner with Weightmans on such a prestigious programme. The process was designed so that every student who attended the initial stages left feeling motivated and informed. The benefits the internship will have on the winning candidates will be invaluable. The feedback from parents, schools and students has been overwhelmingly positive.

"This programme has had a huge impact

on those involved and will continue to do so with the successful candidates."

Weightmans has partnered with Everton in the Community since March 2022. As well as supporting older students with their career ambitions, it has worked on projects with young children to bridge the education gap exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The firm has also committed to providing support through mentoring, volunteering and skills sharing.

Leaders in Law Dinner



On 19 April 2023 Liverpool Law Society hosted a 'Leaders in Law Dinner' at The Racquet Club, Hargreaves Building, 5 Chapel Street, Liverpool.

As has been the case in previous years, the dinner was well attended, with representatives from *University of Liverpool*, *Queen Mary University of London*, *Husband Forwood Morgan*, *Bennett Williams Solicitors*, *Bell Lamb & Joynson*, *Brabners LLP*, *Hill Dickinson*, *Maxwell Hodge*, *O'Connors Legal Services Ltd*, *Morecrofts LLP*, *Frank Rogers Law*, *Excello Law*, *In-House Legal Solutions*, *Fletchers Solicitors*, *Joanna Connolly Solicitors*, *Weightmans*, *Provenio Litigation LLP*, *Gregory Abrams Davidson*, *Peter Edwards Law*, *DWF LLP*, *Taylor Wessing LLP*, *Irwin Mitchell LLP* and *WP Thompson Ltd*.

The evening was sponsored by University of Liverpool and President, **Jeremy Myers**, welcomed the attendees, and thanked University of Liverpool for sponsoring the dinner. He introduced the new Dean of the School of Law & Social Justice at the University of Liverpool, Professor **Valsamis Mitsilegas**. Professor Mitsilegas spoke to the attendees about the Law School's ambition to reach out and explore collaboration opportunities with the Liverpool legal community, including the development of joint initiatives such as a law degree with a year in industry and/or practice and the

development of degree apprenticeships. He also reflected on the Law School's civic identity and their emphasis on skills, innovation and widening participation from students and the legal community.

Professor Mitsilegas then introduced Professor **Nigel Spencer**, Professor of Professional Practice at Queen Mary University of London Law School's "Professional Practice Hub" and an Associate Fellow at Saïd Business School, Oxford. Professor Spencer provided a background to over 15 years' experience, and he talked about the power of creating placement programmes for graduates and undergraduates, and how they enabled students to build skill sets for the workplace. This helped the students

to gain invaluable practical experience, at the same time as building on what they have learnt in the classroom. This is a benefit not only to students but to prospective employers and the law schools. Professor Spencer invited anyone to make contact with him or the University of Liverpool if they wanted to discuss this initiative further.

The Racquet club provided an excellent setting for a three-course dinner in the Grade 2 listed Hargreaves building, dating back to 1859, and housing various portraits, art and carvings. There was a relaxed and informal atmosphere throughout the dinner and lots of interesting discussions took place, with fond memories of the past, and positive ideas for the future.

There were also very helpful discussions and ideas provided for future events for the members, and ideas sought for training events. All of the helpful contributions will be taken into consideration by the relevant committees.

Thank you to everyone who attended the dinner. A special thank you to University of Liverpool for sponsoring the event, and of course thank you to our President **Jeremy Myers**.

Gaynor Williams
Vice President



Will you Dare to Dublin?



Caring for people with heart and lung disease

On Sunday 29th October you have the fantastic opportunity to run the 4th largest marathon in the World. Join 20,000 runners from 60 different countries running the Dublin City Centre course and at the same time make a huge difference to the lives of thousands of young people living with congenital heart disease.

Being born with a heart defect affects so many aspects of young people's lives. No participating in sports, no going

to dancing or music events and always watching your health. This can be one of the most isolating experiences that anyone can imagine.

Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital is the regional centre for the treatment and care of over 25,000 young people living with heart disease and Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital Charity is raising funds to build a dedicated Cardiac Catheter facility designed specially to meet their complex needs.

Young people who have been born with heart disease need continuous monitoring of their condition and often need interventions to help ensure that their hearts continue to work to the best of its ability. Thankfully, medicine is progressing all the time and there are new, better and less invasive ways of

treating these heart conditions now.

That is why we are asking you to support us and help to provide this amazing new facility which will use the latest, state of the art Echo Navigation equipment to provide live 3D images and information to the medical teams undertaking catheterisation procedures – making it safer and more accurate.

So, will you dare, dare to take the course, dare to do the training and dare to raise as much support as possible to help us make live better for thousands of young people living with complex heart problems?

For more information drop the Charity Team an email at enquiries@lhchcharity.org.uk or visit our website to sign up at <https://rb.gy/stdc5>



Dare to Dublin!

Join over 20,000 runners from 60 countries in the 4th largest marathon in the world and make a huge difference to the lives of young people living with heart disease.

Visit www.lhchcharity.org.uk or email enquiries@lhchcharity.org.uk to book your place or find out more today! You can also scan the QR code to book your place today!



SCAN ME

LHCH
 charity

Caring for people with heart and lung disease
 Charity Registration Number 1052813

Fighting for Charity



Philip Nam



In April 2022 I saw an Ultra White Collar Boxing Event advert on social media and had to have a read.

The idea was ordinary people with no experience of boxing would train for a fight, (and get in shape!) and raise money for Cancer Research UK at the same time! I decided to sign up because I wanted to try something different, and I wanted to challenge myself in new ways.

The training was based in Birkenhead, twice a week, with my first fight being on the 16th July 2022, 3 months after I signed up. There were 54 people fighting at the event and it was a fantastic experience, especially because I won the fight in the second round! And on top of that, I raised £928 for Cancer Research UK.

The experience was so enjoyable that I signed up again for a fight on the 17th December 2022, with 8 weeks training again in Birkenhead. The event was bigger – 84 people were fighting that evening. We drew the fight and I raised £2600 for Cancer Research UK. I was

proud to receive the 'top fundraiser' golden glove for that event too! Straight after the fight in December, I went for it and signed up for another 2 fights!

The first was with the IWA (International White Collar Boxing Association,) raising money for a local Liverpool-based charity called 'An Hour for Others.' This is a charity based on the idea of giving a skill/time free of charge/some materials to help vulnerable people and those in their hour of need, allowing everyone giving back in a small way that suits them.

The second was another Ultra White Collar Boxing fight, raising money for Cancer Research UK again.

The two fights were only a month apart.

The IWA training started on 9th January for the fight on 24th February. 6 weeks training, 3 times per week, and the UWCBC fight, which I have just fought on Saturday 25th March, was training twice per week. So, no day off for me!

My fight in February was against someone new to fighting. The IWA struggled to match me with someone who was of similar size, weight and ability. I had the previous experience, my opponent did not, but he was 3 stone heavier and 7/8 inches taller!

I may have lost the fight on points, but I went the distance with someone 3 stone heavier!

I have just (2 days before writing this) fought Oliver Galloway, who I drew with last time. The rematch ended with a loss for me, based on points.

This was incredibly hard work, but I am so proud of my fundraising achievements, as well as learning to box, and meeting lots of new people.

I would recommend this to anyone wanting to challenge themselves, raise money and learn a new skill!

Philip Nam
White Collar Legal
philip@whitecollarlegallandadmin.com



Liverpool Law Society

join us

SUMMER SOCIAL

networking lunch

ROYAL MERSEY YACHT CLUB

Thursday, 6th July, 2023
12.30pm - 2.00pm

- Drink on arrival
- Welcome by Commodore
- Buffet lunch
- Tours available

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Wirral's
hidden gem

The Solicitors' Charity Big Report highlights 50% rise in support last year

- 50% more new clients in 2022
- All primary clients received one-off awards to help with the cost-of-living crisis
- Funding for 284 solicitors to access emotional wellbeing or mental health support
- Interviews with charity CEO, Nick Gallagher available on request

The Solicitors' Charity has released its annual Big Report which highlights a significant increase in the number of solicitors who have been newly supported over the past year. The report also shows a rise in clients with multiple health conditions and mental health issues.

According to the report, almost £1 million was spent on supporting solicitors and their dependents in England and Wales during the past year. The charity awarded £962,229 – with an additional £25,316 in secured loans – to help people in the solicitors' profession who were in need or crisis.

Payments were a mix of one-off financial

awards covering a range of necessities, such as household equipment, medical aids and adaptations to housing; grants and payments to partner organisations to provide services; and living allowances.

To help address the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, in Spring 2022 The Solicitors' Charity made additional one-off payments to help all its primary clients with their domestic fuel bills. In the autumn, it increased its daily living allowance rates in line with changes to the Joseph Rowntree Minimum Income Standard, averaging a 20% increase.

The number of new clients experiencing multiple health conditions increased by 50% last year – and there were 60% more new cases where clients had mental health issues, compared to the year before.

The Solicitors' Charity CEO **Nick Gallagher** said: "I am delighted that this year's Big Report has shone a spotlight on the positive impact we have made in 2022 to an increased number of legal professionals needing support in times of hardship."

"Our charity helped 50% more new clients to access support and advice for their pressing needs. We are proud to have awarded a total of £962,229 to those solicitors facing financial and personal difficulties, particularly during the UK's cost-of-living economic downturn."

One of the clients helped by The Solicitors' Charity was London property conveyancer 'Dan' (not his real name) who contacted the charity when he hit his lowest point – with no job, in debt and a family fallout which had left him homeless.

Dan said: "The financial support and accommodation provided by The Solicitors' Charity really helped me get back on my feet. The best thing now is being debt-free, having a roof over my head and a warm room. If the charity hadn't been there for me, I don't know what would have happened. They've been massively helpful and a real lifesaver."

Download your copy of The Big Report here: thesolicitorscharity.org/big-report
Find out more about The Solicitors' Charity by visiting thesolicitorscharity.org

Big
Report.

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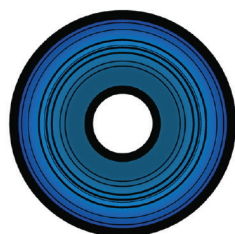


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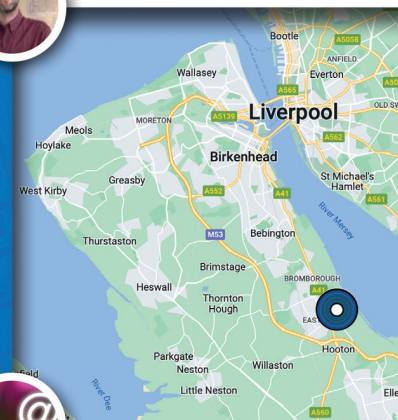
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University of Liverpool law academics awarded 2023 prize



Dr Sigafoos, Dr Organ and Dr Wickam

[Dr James Organ](#), Senior Lecturer, [Dr Jennifer Sigafoos](#), Reader in Law, School of Law and Social Justice, and Dr Sophie Wickham, Institute of Population Health, University of Liverpool were awarded the 1st Annual Impact Prize for establishing Liverpool's Access to Advice Network, at the [Socio-Legal Studies Association's \(SLSA\) Annual Conference 2023](#).

The Annual Impact Prize recognises and celebrates excellence in non-academic impact arising from socio-legal research.

The '[Liverpool Access to Advice Network](#): No Wrong Door, Free Legal Advice for All', established in conjunction with

lead delivery partner, [Citizens Advice Liverpool](#), involves organisations that deliver advice, information, and/or advocacy on Housing, Immigration, Debt, Welfare Benefits, Employment, Educations and Civil issues. The Access to Advice Network hosts regular forums on key issues and coordinates and delivers training and information sessions, with a central focus to improve access to advice and increase access to justice.

Jennifer Sigafoos said, 'We are really honoured that the SLSA has recognised our work and that of our lead delivery partner, Citizens Advice Liverpool, as well as project partial funders Liverpool City Council. The research team also want to emphasise that the exceptional and continuing work of all of the LATAN member organisations to come together to improve access to justice in Liverpool is what is really being celebrated here.'

The SLSA annual conference is the UK's leading forum for socio-legal researchers and interdisciplinary researchers with an interest in the law to share ideas and their latest findings. The 2023 conference took place 4-6 April, and was hosted by [Ulster University](#), Derry-Londonderry. The hybrid event welcomed 660 delegates to the Magee Campus and an unlimited number of virtual delegates to share in the experience.

Find out more

- [Visit the Liverpool Access to Advice Network](#)
- [View the Socio-Legal Studies Association \(SLSA\) website](#)
- [Visit the Citizens Advice Liverpool website](#)

Making an impact - Liverpool Access To Advice Network

The Liverpool Access to Advice Network ("LATAN") is making an impact on the national stage.

You will recall that LATAN was formed as the response to research funded by Liverpool City Council. The research was led by the University of Liverpool, School of Law & Social Justice & Department of Health, Policy and Systems and aimed to gather evidence of the impact of legal aid cuts and welfare reform in Liverpool and identify and map advice services in the city. You can read more about their work at <https://www.liverpoolaccesstoadvicenetwork.org.uk/>

The Liverpool Law Society has been an important part of the oversight of the research project and establishing governance for the LATAN. Our former President Chris Topping is the Chair of the Steering Group.

When we were asked to support Dr James Organ, Dr Jennifer Sigafoos and Dr Sophie Wickham, the leaders of the Research, as they submitted their paper "Establishing the Liverpool Access to Advice Network: No Wrong Door, Free Legal Advice for All" for the Socio-Legal Studies Association Impact Award we were happy to do so. We were even more delighted when they won.

LATAN shows just how important it is for local law societies to work in partnership with academia, local authorities and the not for profit sector to make a difference in their area.

The impact of LATAN will be felt in the city for many years to come as the network goes from strength to strength; as the impact of the research is nationally recognised we hope that others beyond our city will replicate the model ensuring effective access to justice to those in need.

Chris Topping

Past President Liverpool Law Society (2018-2019)

The text of Chris Topping's 'support letter' for the LATAN prize is reproduced opposite.

The Board of Trustees
Of the Socio-Legal Studies Association
c/o Birmingham Law School
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
BIRMINGHAM B15 2TT

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Re: DR JAMES ORGAN and DR JENNIFER SIGAFOOS
SOCIO- LEGAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION IMPACT PRIZE
LIVERPOOL ACCESS TO ADVICE NETWORK “No Wrong Door, Advice for All”**

I write this letter in support of the nomination of Dr Organ and Dr Sigafoos for the Socio Legal Studies Association impact prize.

The nominees led a research project on improving access to justice in Liverpool which was funded by Liverpool City Council and which commenced in 2019. As part of that research project a steering group was set up of which I was the Chair. At the time I was the President of the Liverpool Law Society and was asked to check the steering group as the project progressed.

Liverpool Law Society recognised that this was a particularly important project in order to ascertain the need for legal advice across the Liverpool City Council region and to understand exactly where there were gaps in the provision of legal advice. We were keen to see a “joined up” approach to this issue and to ensure that as many interested parties as possible were encouraged to participate.

As the research progressed it became increasingly obvious that what needed to be built was a collaboration of organisations who could more effectively work together. This would ensure that where referrals were being made these were not likely to result in “referral fatigue” of the individual who needed access to advice.

One outcome of the research was an agreement to set up the Liverpool Access to Advice Network (“LATAN”) This is a multi-partner referral gateway using Refernet and is a tool for developing and sharing best practice. This involved further local authority funding and the collaboration of others in the not for profit sector being willing to work together.

As a consequence of LATAN being setup there has been a huge improvement in referrals and much better collaboration between the access to advice agencies some of whom are very small.

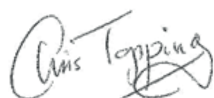
As part of the ongoing development of LATAN when it became apparent that the Liverpool City Council did not have an “access to advice strategy” there was an impetus from the various members of LATAN to work together to enable the local authority to consider their position. Dr Organ and Dr Sigafoos assisted LATAN to produce a paper which is now being submitted to the Liverpool City Council’s Executive Committee. They hope to persuade the Council that an access to advice strategy is required to ensure that those in need are able to access advice at the earliest possible opportunity.

We are delighted that the LATAN now has its own committee and there is a steering group setup to oversee the work of the Network and funding is in place for the next 3 years to employ a Network Co-Ordinator and to ensure that there are further research projects which will, hopefully result in the development of the network still further.

The research project which was started in 2019 has therefore had a huge and ongoing impact in the region. This will have a lasting benefit for those in greatest need and at risk of being excluded from Access to Justice.

I am delighted to support the nomination and hope that they will be successful.

Yours faithfully



Chris Topping

Past President Liverpool Law Society (2018-2019)

Email: ctopping@broudiejacksoncanter.co.uk

What to expect from a compelled interview



Sam Healey

If you are required to attend a ‘compelled’ interview by an investigating authority, proceed with considerable caution and ensure you have instructed an experienced legal team. During complex and far-reaching investigations, individuals can be compelled to attend for an interview to divulge information where they may otherwise be reluctant to answer questions voluntarily or the information is confidential.

Certain investigating agencies have enhanced powers when it comes to investigating and obtaining information from suspects or possible witnesses. Whilst these powers vary depending on the agency conducting the investigation, generally a notice is served in accordance with the legislation that governs their powers (otherwise known as a ‘statutory notice’). Similarly, a ‘disclosure notice’ may also be served in accordance with The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005.

It is important to remember that whilst it may feel you have little choice in complying with the notice (given the possible criminal offences that may follow should you fail to comply), there are certain safeguards and restrictions on what can be pursued by investigators. In addition, steps can be taken to mitigate the situation for you and certain practical steps can be taken which may allow the opportunity to consider in advance how an interview may take place and what may be raised.

How do compelled interviews differ from other forms of interviews?

A ‘compelled’ interview differs from a voluntary interview under caution or an interview under caution that follows an arrest. Whilst interviewees have a legal right to silence during an interview under caution, this is not the position with a compelled interview. Interviews under caution conducted on a voluntary basis or following an arrest, are conducted in accordance with the Police and Crime Evidence Act 1984 (and related PACE codes). The powers conferred upon an investigating agency is governed by legislation, examples are provided below:

Serious Fraud Office (‘SFO’) – in accordance with section 2 of the Criminal Justice Act 1987, they have the power to compel the attendance of a witness at interview, answer questions put to them during an interview and, to produce documents;

The Health and Safety Executive – under section 20(2)(j) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, inspectors have the power (when investigating a breach of health and safety legislation), to require any person, who the inspector has reasonable cause to believe is able to give any information relevant to the investigation or examination, or require answers to such questions as the inspector thinks fit, and to sign a declaration of truth to the answers;

Environment agency or local authority – section 108(4)(j) of the Environment Act 1995, confers powers on inspectors, when investigating breaches of environmental legislation, to require any person, who the inspector has reasonable cause to believe is able to give any information relevant to the investigation or examination, or require answers to such questions as the inspector thinks fit, and to sign a declaration of truth to the answers;

Financial Conduct Authority (‘FCA’) – under sections 171-173 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA

2002), an FCA investigator may require a person who is the subject of an investigation, or any person connected with the person under an investigation to provide documents, information, or attend an interview. With investigations into a particular breach (usually criminal offences), the FCA’s powers can also extend to any ‘unconnected’ person if the documents or information are “necessary or expedient” for the purposes of the investigation;

Competition and Markets Authority (‘CMA’) – in respect of alleged breaches of competition law, the CMA can utilise section 26(a) of the Competition Act 1998, to require any individual connected to a party to their investigation to answer questions on matters relevant to the investigation. Section 193(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002 also confers further powers on the CMA, as individuals under investigation for criminal cartel offences (or other person who the CMA reasonably believe holds relevant information) must answer questions on matters relevant to the investigation. However, if the criminal cartel investigation involves serious or complex fraud, the investigations may be investigated and prosecuted by the SFO instead of the CMA.

In addition to the above, investigating authorities such as the police or HMRC can utilise section 62 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 to provide a disclosure notice to individuals, including innocent individuals (who have not been accused of a criminal offence), compelling them to provide information relevant to an investigation, if there are reasonable grounds for believing that person has relevant information likely to be of substantial value.

The Companies Act 1985 also provides further powers under section 434 of this Act, and inspectors can compel officers and agents (both past and present) of a company under investigation to provide documents, attend an interview, and assist with an investigation.

A failure to comply and attend an interview, without a reasonable excuse, may be a criminal offence and the punishment

can vary subject to which authority is investigating. A criminal offence may also be committed if it is shown that false or misleading information has been provided or an individual has (or permitted) the falsification, concealment, destruction or otherwise disposes of documents known or suspected to be relevant to an investigation.

Whilst an interview with a witness can be conducted under compulsion, there are restrictions on the admissibility of the contents of the interview in criminal proceedings against the person interviewed. These are statutory safeguards restricting how information is used when obtained using compulsory interview powers. However, if there are subsequent trial proceedings which relate to the offence of providing false or misleading statements during the interview, or the individual is prosecuted for a different offence and makes an inconsistent statement, the contents of the information obtained under the compulsory interview can be used in evidence.

Which agencies have the authority to conduct compelled interviews?

There are numerous agencies and investigative organisations that can conduct compelled interviews as referred to above. The following authorities have the authority to conduct a compelled interview:

- Police or National Crime Agency officers;
- HMRC;
- Financial Conduct Authority;
- Health and Safety Executive;
- Environment agency or local authority;
- Serious Fraud Office;
- Competition and Markets Authority.

Most investigating agencies utilise their rights to conduct compelled interviews in different ways, so it is crucial for a suspect or witness to obtain legal advice, assistance and representation from an experienced and specialist lawyer.

How does legal representation help?

Being compelled to attend an interview does not automatically imply that you have done something wrong. However, it may place you in a very difficult position. For example, if the company that you work for is under investigation or has 'self-reported' issues to the authorities, it may be that either the company you work for has commenced its own internal investigation or the investigating authority wants to speak with potential witnesses. In this scenario, it may raise various issues not only relevant to criminal and regulatory issues, but also employment and civil. You will need a robust legal team who will have the knowledge and experience in all potential areas to ensure you receive the necessary advice to ensure your position is protected.

Your own lawyer can assist in preparing you for the interview, anticipate likely questions, and advise you on your legal rights during the process. It is important to remember that your lawyer has professional obligations to act in your best interests.

Where an interview is conducted by an investigating authority, whilst the authority may require the interview to be conducted under legal compulsion, there is always the option for it to be completed on a voluntary basis. However, careful consideration is required as to whether you should attend on a voluntary basis or under compulsion given the possible consequences of each.

As an account by a witness may later lead investigators to regard them as a suspect, a witness should not attend any interview without having received legal advice in advance.

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.....
Sam Healey,
 Partner in Business Crime & Regulation at
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EDI Committee Meeting March 2023

We had the pleasure of being joined by President Jeremy Myers at the March Committee Meeting!

Affrah Qassim attended from Savera UK; a charitable organisation based in Liverpool which was established in 2010. They are a leading charity tackling cultural-specific abuse; including forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). Did you know that 200 million girls/women have undergone FMG?!

Subsequent to a rebrand in 2017, the charity expanded to also deal with domestic abuse and harmful practice; which includes honour-based abuse (HBA). Examples of HBA include controlling/coercive behaviour, virginity testing, forced marriage and intent to kill. Savera has been working really well in respect of FMG Protection Orders; which Affrah said need to be used more.

In the year ending March 2022, there were 2,887 HBA -related offences recorded

by the police in England and Wales. However, legislation to make it an offence to carry out, offer or aid and abet virginity testing was only brought into force in 2022 (Health & Care Act), and legislation to ban forced marriage was only brought into force in 2014 (Anti-Social, Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act).

However to be referred to Savera, the abuse has to be beyond 'standard' (and isn't that a depressing thought?) domestic abuse, as there are already services available to assist; whereas Savera is more specific and specialised.

Affrah confirmed that Savera has highlighted more problems in different cultures. The traumatic experiences they endeavour to assist with do not just happen in Muslim/Hindu communities; they can happen in LGBTQIA+ communities too. These cases occur amongst many communities including white British.

The Committee also discussed their intention to support the Vauxhall Law Centre's 50th Anniversary celebrations; including attendance at the upcoming performance (9th June) of **Tayo Aluko's** play *'Just An Ordinary Barrister'* based on the true story of a Nigerian man and his struggles to become a UK Barrister, first head of Chambers and then a part-time Judge.

EDI Chair and the Law Society President thereafter outlined their attendance at Liverpool Law 8, when several Barristers gave talks to students explaining how they came into Law.

The Merseyside Junior Lawyers Divisions' Gender-Abuse Conference was also highlighted as a recent success. The event dealt with violence against women/girls following International Women's Day, which seemed to be really enjoyed based on the positive feedback received.

Update on Digital and Data Driven Innovation Adoption Accelerator Programme for Legal and Accountancy Professional Services

In December 2022, Liverpool Law Society submitted a letter of support for the Liverpool City Region (LCR) bid for grant funding for an exciting new innovation project targeted specifically at helping legal and professional services firms.

Our bid to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the UK's largest organisation funding research on economic and social issues, progressed all the way to the final stage, which was a great achievement. However, at the end of April 2023, we received feedback that regrettably we had been unsuccessful.

Although not the outcome we had hoped for, the bid has certainly raised the profile of the Society and our LCR partners involved in this collaborative bid with the ESRC.

The need for this initiative in the region is still there, and so the Society will await further plans from Edge Hill University, the University of Liverpool and LCR, on how we might take the initiative forward in other ways, to support growth and improved digital and data driven innovation adoption within our area.



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£5 million investment planned for Liverpool city centre to bounce back

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



Julie Johnson

While for many, the pandemic may feel as though it is in the rear view mirror, for others the impact of the past three years still feels very present. The economic effects are still felt throughout businesses, particularly those on our high streets and our retail heartlands.

It was with this in mind that, when Liverpool BID Company was drawing up plans for the renewal of our Retail & Leisure BID area in 2022 that, as a board, we explored the potential of expanding the BID Area to help the city centre weather the storm.

Cities are often home to multiple stories and narratives at any one time. A business looking forward to a summer of outdoor events and increased footfall may sit side by side with another that worries about Q3 and Q4 and the impact of reduced consumer confidence. The role of an organisation like BID, therefore, is to explore how investment can support those who need it, while improving the experiences and environment for all.

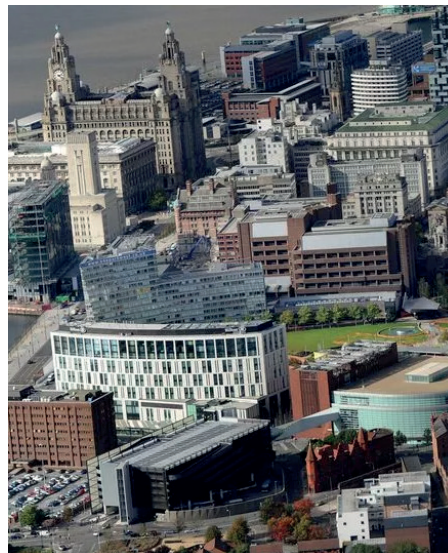
Two years ago, BID was successful in the expanded BID area of Culture &

Commerce, replacing the Commercial District BID while increasing its footprint. Now it reaches from the Waterfront to Lime Street and St George's Hall. This enables BID to have a greater level of support for the range of businesses that fill those areas.

With that success in mind, we turned the same strategy to the R&L BID. Stretching from Lord Street to Bold Street and the boundaries of Liverpool ONE, the new BID area extends up to Hope Street and the edge of the Georgian Quarter.

This new BID Area will ensure a £5m investment into Liverpool city centre over the next five years.

It is a fifth term for the city's Retail & Leisure BID Area, taking it into the summer of 2028.



We know the challenges that are facing both the public purse and many businesses within our city. There are over 1,000 businesses in the city centre of Liverpool BID Areas. Those with a rateable value over £45k pay a levy to support the city centre. The services they receive include dedicated street

cleaning, networked radios to provide better security and coverage, lobbying and connectivity to those in power, including at a local, regional and national level. The funds are also used for events and animation in BID Areas designed to tell the story of particular neighbourhoods, to attract visitors and to help businesses to thrive. Liverpool BID also provides data services to help businesses understand how the city centre is performing.

Almost two decades ago, Liverpool became one of the first UK cities to establish a BID, Business Improvement District, and since then Liverpool city centre has transformed. What BID offers is the opportunity for businesses to have a direct impact and say in that transformation. The levy from our businesses is an investment that goes towards making Liverpool a place to thrive, for those living, working and visiting the city. It is about working with our city partners to constantly improve and enhance the public realm, make the city more attractive, safer and easier to get around.

Without the BID, Liverpool city centre would look very different. We are the only organisation that develops and lobbies for a specific strategy designed purely for the city centre's mixed economy. We bring together expertise from retail, leisure hospitality and culture to help better connect the city centre and be a voice for business. We often say that half of our work happens in plain sight, be it street cleansing, animation and activity in the public realm, and the other takes place behind the scenes with lobbying, pushing for the interests of our businesses and taking their concerns directly to those in charge.

Julie Johnson



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Customisation in Legal Case Management Software: The Key to Law Firm Success

In today's competitive legal landscape, law firms face numerous challenges, including increasing caseloads, growing client expectations, and evolving regulatory requirements. To stay ahead, law firms need efficient and effective tools to manage their cases and streamline their operations. Legal case management software has become a critical tool for modern law firms, but not all software solutions are created equal. The ability to customise case management software to suit a law firm's specific needs is paramount to achieving success. In this blog, we will explore why customisation in legal case management software is essential for a law firm's success.

Tailored Workflows for Efficient Case Management

Every law firm has its unique way of handling cases and managing workflows. Off-the-shelf case management software may not always align with a law firm's specific processes, resulting in inefficient and cumbersome workflows. However, with customisable case management software, law firms have the flexibility to create and implement workflows that are tailored to their specific requirements.

Customisation allows law firms to streamline their case management processes and automate repetitive tasks, resulting in increased productivity and efficiency. For instance, a law firm specialising in personal injury cases may require specific intake forms, document templates, and task lists that are different from those needed by a firm focusing on conveyancing law. Customisation allows law firms to create unique task automation and workflows that match their specific practice areas, enabling them to work more effectively and deliver superior client service.

Enhanced Reporting and Analytics for Informed Decision-Making

Data-driven decision-making is crucial in today's legal industry. Law firms need to analyse various metrics and key performance indicators (KPIs) to gain insights into their operations and make informed decisions. However, generic case management software

may not always provide the necessary reporting and analytics capabilities that align with a law firm's specific requirements.

Customisable case management software enables law firms to generate custom reports and analytics that provide actionable insights. For example, a law firm may want to track the average time spent on different case types, the number of cases won or lost, or the revenue generated from each practice area. Customisable software allows law firms to create reports and dashboards that provide real-time visibility into critical data, empowering them to make informed decisions and drive their firm's success.

Scalability and Flexibility for Evolving Needs

Law firms are dynamic organisations that evolve over time. As a law firm grows, its needs and requirements may change, and its case management software should be able to adapt to these changes. Off-the-shelf software may not always provide the necessary scalability and flexibility to accommodate a law firm's changing needs, resulting in potential disruptions and inefficiencies.

Customisable case management software offers the scalability and flexibility that law firms need to accommodate their evolving requirements. Whether it's adding new practice areas, incorporating new document templates, or integrating with third-party tools, customisation allows law firms to tailor their case management software to suit their changing needs. This ensures that the software remains aligned with the firm's operations and enables smooth growth without disruptions.

Enhanced Security and Compliance

Law firms deal with sensitive and confidential client information on a daily basis, and ensuring the security and compliance of this data is of utmost importance. Generic case management software may not always provide the necessary security features or comply with the specific regulations and standards that law firms need to adhere to.

Customisable case management software, with built in legal accounts software, allows law firms to implement robust security measures and ensure compliance with industry regulations, such as Law Society, SRA or GDPR. Customisation enables law firms to implement security features, such as role-based access controls, data encryption, and audit trails, based on their specific requirements. This helps law firms safeguard their client data and protect their reputation while maintaining compliance with relevant regulations.

Increased User Adoption:

Customisable case management software can be tailored to match the preferences and workflows of the law firm's users. This makes the software more user-friendly and intuitive, increasing user adoption and reducing the learning curve for new users. When users find the software easy to use and aligned with their processes, they are more likely to embrace it fully, resulting in higher productivity and efficiency.

In summary, customisable legal case management software offers several advantages to law firms, including tailored workflows, enhanced reporting and analytics, scalability and flexibility, enhanced security and compliance, and increased user adoption. These benefits enable law firms to optimise their case management processes, make informed decisions, adapt to changing needs, ensure data security, and improve overall efficiency, leading to greater success in the competitive legal landscape.

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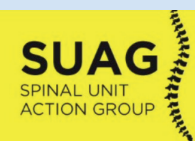
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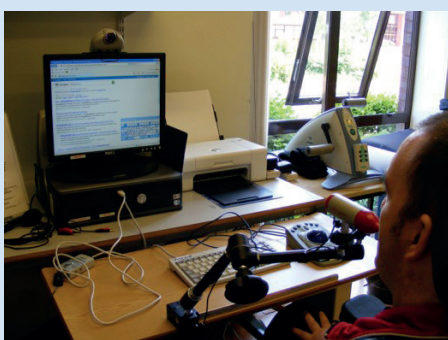
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Charity Spotlight: SUAG - the Spinal Unit Action Group



The Spinal Unit Action Group was formed in early 1973 by therapy staff and their friends at the North West Regional Spinal Injuries Centre based at the Promenade Hospital in Southport. Its aim was to try and provide some home comforts for the patients who were undergoing lengthy treatment and rehabilitation following a devastating, irrevocable and life changing spinal cord injury. As the Centre is a regional one, patients were often far from home as its catchment area covers the whole of the North West of England, parts of North Wales and the Isle of Man. At that time, transport links were not as good as they are today and it was difficult and expensive for families to visit on a regular basis.



The group started fundraising to assist families with travel and accommodation costs to enable them to visit more often, particularly in the days immediately after admission when family support was much needed. Members offered a befriending service and introduced a 'Patients' Night Out' whereby they funded trips out away from the Centre and accompanied patients to the cinema,



local restaurants and, more popularly, the pub !

After a while the Group realised that it was only the patients who were up and about that were benefiting so decided to hold a 'Patients' Night In' instead, providing a variety of home cooked meals together with a couple of drinks which they served on the ward to patients and their families, thus ensuring that everyone could participate. These social evenings were immensely popular, especially the summer barbecues, and made a welcome change from the hospital food.

It was soon noticed that a small number of patients had been there longer than anyone else and didn't seem to be going anywhere. They were not ill and had completed their treatment. The group discovered that one particular patient called Tony had been 'living' on the ward for more than 20 years after breaking his neck in the mid 1950s at the age of 21. In those days it was highly unusual that patients with such a high level of injury survived and he became something of a celebrity, his case study being shared

around the world. As he had no family to care for him, his only possible discharge placement was a long stay geriatric hospital which, for a young man, would have been unthinkable and the level of care provided unlikely to meet his needs.

The group resolved to provide a home with a small 'h' for Tony and those like him and fundraising began in earnest. For a group of about twenty members it was a daunting task but in 1979 they purchased a large Victorian detached property at 6 Weld Road in Birkdale, Southport. A local architect was employed to draw up plans for the conversion and the Group soon realised that they could not meet the astronomical costs by themselves and after applying to five different housing associations the fifth one, Grosvenor Housing, believed the project viable and agreed to help. Many battles with the local and registration authorities were fought but SUAG successfully argued that 6 Weld Road should be registered as a residential home rather than a nursing home as residents did not require nursing and would only be receiving the same level of care that they would

receive had they been living in their own homes.

In 1985, the 12 bedroom home opened, the culmination of a long held dream. After six years of sheer doggedness, an unswerving belief that nothing is impossible, with the assistance of the housing association and the generous support of the people of Southport and surrounding area the home finally opened its doors to its first residents, including Tony who was the inspiration for it all. He chose a room at the rear of the house where he could see the garden and surrounding trees from his window instead of the brick wall he had been used to for so long. Since then, there have been many residents, permanent, semi-permanent and short term who have enjoyed the safety, encouragement and independence that this unique home has been able to offer them and, in many cases, given them the confidence to return to their own community. The



home is at the heart of what the Spinal Unit Action Group does, is non-profit making and heavily subsidised by the charity.

In 2018 the Group received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of their activities.



This year, 2023, sees the charity's 50th anniversary of its formation. Despite still only having less than 20 members, the majority of them original ones, the group, as well as maintaining 6 Weld Road, still supports the patients, ex-patients and their families at the Spinal Injuries Centre by assisting with travel, accommodation and resettlement costs, funding research, purchasing specialist equipment, assisting with the cost of holidays and providing social activities on the ward. As a result of the 'cost of

living crisis' we are even more reliant on our supporters and remain committed to providing support to both our home and the Spinal Injuries Centre.

Visit our website at www.suag.co.uk for further information.

Julie Jones
Hon. Secretary,
Spinal Unit Action Group.

Charity Registration Number 1101507



50th Anniversary Celebrations

Readers with a keen eye will notice our new logo this month, as we begin organising the celebration week of the 50th anniversary of the Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre (Law Centre), set to take place from 2-9 June 2023. Liverpool Law Society have been involved with us since 1973 as one of the founding members, we would be delighted if you could join or support our celebration.



Our launch event will be a screening of a poignant and moving play "Just an Ordinary Lawyer" by Tayo Aluko. The play with songs tells the story of how Nigerian Tunji Sowande quietly breaks through multiple barriers to become Britain's first Black judge in 1978. The Guardian gave it four stars. Calling all (extra)ordinary lawyers: you will not

The latest news from Vauxhall Law Centre. Providing Access to Justice in the community since 1973.



want to miss it. Book your place via the flyer below or here: <https://bit.ly/justanordinarylawyer>

We also look forward to hosting Liverpool Law Society's Access to Justice committee on the 2nd June for a special in-person meeting! If you have any stories

or fond memories of the Law Centre from the past 50 years, we would love to hear from you as we look back at how far we have come!

Hello, Goodbye

March was a bittersweet month as we say farewell to our beloved debt



advisor William Armstrong and welcome our new volunteer coordinator Joe Bowly. We say goodbye to Bill who has been with us since [2002], contributing time and effort to grow the Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre from a lean team of two lawyers and volunteers to our current team. Bill will be sorely missed and we want to reiterate how much we appreciate him and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

The Law Centre also wishes to extend a very warm welcome to our full time volunteer coordinator Joe who joined us in March. Joe will be doing the very important work of coordinating our growing team of volunteers. Much of our success depends on the contribution of our volunteers from the community, and we are looking forward to working with Joe to help us become a better law centre.

If you are interested in joining our volunteer team, get in touch with Joe at joebowly@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk.

Giz a Job Project Launch

We are excited to announce that last month we launched Giz a Job, a new community heritage scheme. Our new initiative, led by project coordinator Greig Campbell, will support a group of volunteers to produce an intimate 'people's history' of the 1981 People's March for Jobs and the wider right to work movement. Next year, the project will be curating an exhibition at Liverpool Central Library & Archives. The display will then tour local libraries across the City.

We are able to deliver this ground-breaking community oral history project thanks to the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Feel free to follow the project on Twitter at @gizajob81 for the latest updates. If you are interested in participating or have any artefacts to loan us, please contact our project coordinator Greig Campbell at info@thepeoplesmarch.co.uk or 07585 669 833.

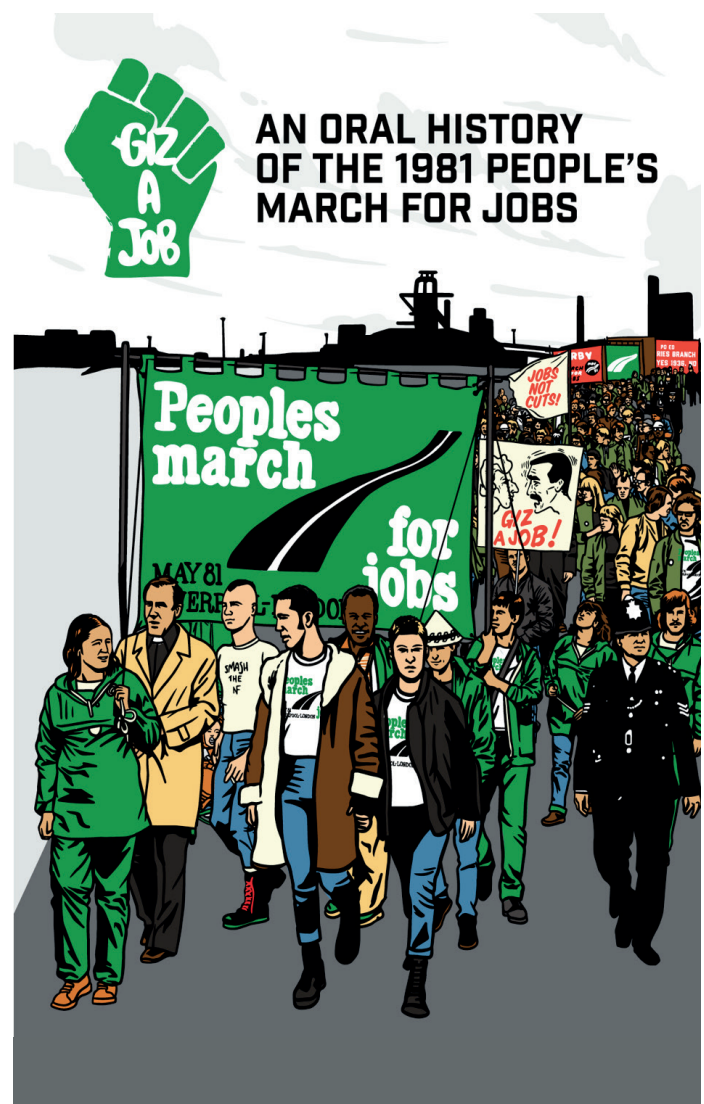
Outreach Advice Sessions

This month continues to be a busy month for us as our outreach advice sessions continue in our expanded scope. Our team works very hard and yet we are still floored by the growing demand for services in these challenging times.

Every Monday 10am - 12pm at Homebaked Bakery in Anfield, in our partnership work with Spirit of Shankly, Liverpool Supporters Union. We can help with a benefit check, fill out a form or dispute a decision by the DWP.

Also every Monday morning we have a drop in advice service at the Woodlands Hospice, providing advice to people with terminal illness thanks to the generous support of the T.U.U.T. Charitable Trust and the 64 Trust.

We provide drop in advice sessions to residents living in Maghull every Thursday and Friday on benefits issues at



Maghull Advice Centre, made possible with the support of the Maghull Town Council.

Every Friday 10am - 12pm, we also provide drop in benefits advice service at the VNC Food Pantry. Additionally we provide an advice service at Holy Cross Primary School, and a drop in advice service at The Ponnice Community Centre.

We are looking for pro-bono partners!

If you think you or your firm can support our work please do not hesitate to contact us. We are looking for volunteers with skills in a wide range of areas. We are also looking to develop our Board of Trustees we would appreciate any support your or your organisation could give to us, maybe as part of your Charity or Corporate Social Responsibility work?

If you're a legal firm and want to donate so we can continue to provide advice or take up pro bono cases please reach out. For any enquiries please email us at development@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk. We'd be delighted to have a chat and look at ways in which you can support access to justice in Liverpool.

Regulation Update

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

As we approach the summer months, we provide a short overview of what has been happening in the world of risk and compliance over the past month, and look ahead to what's in store.

AML - updated LSAG guidance
Close on the heels of the guidance on Chinese underground banking and funds from China that we referred to in last month's article, updated Legal Services Affinity Group (LSAG) AML guidance was published on 29 March, replacing the LSAG 2021 guidance <https://www.sra.org.uk/globalassets/documents/solicitors/firm-based-authorisation/lsag-aml-guidance.pdf?version=4964b3>.

The guidance has been updated following the Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2022, to include guidance on the requirement to carry out proliferation financing risk assessments and changes, from 1 April 2023, to the duty to report material discrepancies on company registers that come to light on an ongoing basis, identified during the course of the business relationship, e.g. as a result of refreshing CDD or undertaking ongoing CDD.

Firms are required to carry out proliferation financing risk assessments, either as a standalone document or as

part of the firm's wider AML practices. Guidance from the SRA notes that whilst the overall risk to the profession is low, certain service providers are at risk of greater exposure, in particular those firms which provide legal advice on commercial contracts, commodities, shipping and aviation.

The firm wide risk assessment will need to be updated to record that you have considered the LSAG Guidance 2023 and any changes you have made/record that no changes were made, together with any action you are taking as a result of the update e.g. notified the firm, training etc.

SRA Sanctions Questionnaire

The SRA will be sending out a sanctions questionnaire requiring information about compliance with the UK's current financial sanctions regime, which needs to be completed by all firms who did not need to provide a return to the 2022 AML information exercise. The questionnaire will be sent to the COLP or Authorised Signatory, with a link to provide the information, with replies to be submitted by 31 May. You can find the questions, together with details about why the SRA needs the information, on the SRA website <https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/financial-sanctions-questions/>

The SRA have advised that there are no exceptions to a firm in completing this information and the SRA may take action against those who do not comply within the timeframe.

SRA workplace rules changes in force

Following the approval by the Legal Services Board of the SRA application to make changes to the Codes of Conduct, the new rules on wellbeing at work came into effect on 4 April. There are new standards in section 1 (maintaining trust and acting fairly), in the Code of Conduct for Solicitors, RELs and RFLs):
1.5 You treat colleagues fairly and with respect. You do not bully or harass them

or discriminate unfairly against them. If you are a manager you challenge behaviour that does not meet this standard.'

and in the Code of Conduct for Firms:
1.6 You treat those who work for and with you fairly and with respect, and do not bully or harass them or discriminate unfairly against them. You require your employees to meet this standard.

At the time of writing, the SRA guidance on the changes has not yet been finalised. The SRA confirmed to the LSB that it includes an "encouraging good practice" section which includes a link to the ACAS guidance on understanding bullying, harassment and discrimination and it is considering whether it would be helpful to expand on the meaning of these terms in its updated guidance. The guidance is expected to be published shortly.

The LSB also approved the SRA's application to amend the regulations in relation to health and fitness to practice and there is now a new section in Rule 2 (2.6) to the Assessment of Character and Suitability Rules, and changes to Regulation 7.2 of the Authorisation of Individuals Regulations.

Consultation on fee charging in financial mis-selling claims

The SRA are consulting on the introduction of rules to restrict excessive fee charging in financial mis-selling claims. The FCA proposed to cap fees charged for non-PPI related products and services where the claims are within the remit of the statutory ombudsman or compensation scheme. In June 2021, the SRA indicated that they would be following the rules set out by the FCA. Responses to the consultation should be submitted by 21 June 2023.

Proposed SRA powers to tackle economic crime

At present, the SRA is limited in its powers to actively request information

from individuals or firms under Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer) Regulations 2017, due to thousands of firms not being covered by the Regulations. Whilst the SRA is currently able to request information and documentation from firms and individuals for the purposes of an investigation, the government is set to introduce a new power to enable the SRA to request information for the purposes of preventing economic crime.

Disciplinary decisions:

Struck off for misappropriation

A solicitor specialising in wills and probate has been struck off for the misappropriation of funds from a client account and the falsification of signatures during the course of employment at two separate firms. The SDT ruled that the solicitor's conduct had been dishonest and deliberate, however it was accepted that there had been no financial incentive and the motivation for misconduct was the concealment of tax penalties that accrued on the trusts of the estate. The solicitor was ordered to pay costs of £5,000.

Suspended for misleading a client

The SDT have suspended a senior solicitor from practice for 12 months for misleading an elderly tenant of a client. The solicitor sent three notices to quit on the elderly tenant, served alongside covering letters, which implied that the notices to quit enclosed with each covering letter were identical. This was not the case. Mistakenly, the tenant's son did not send all three notices to his father, one of the notices remained unseen and the tenant lost his right to challenge the notices. The solicitor admitted to the SDT that he caused two letters to be sent to the tenant which implied that the three notices were identical and that he had failed to maintain trust within the profession and had failed to act with integrity. In addition to the suspension, he was ordered to pay £9,000 in costs.

Solicitor not struck off, despite admission of dishonesty

The SDT approved an agreed outcome between the SRA and a solicitor who admitted dishonesty, accepting the misconduct was a 'moment of madness' and came within the small category of "exceptional circumstances" where strike off would not be proportionate. The solicitor, who had been suspended

by her firm for alleged breach of her contract of employment and was unable to access emails and documents or contact other employees while the disciplinary was ongoing, emailed the solicitors on the other side on the day of completion to say she was having IT issues and they should use her personal email to send the documents her client needed to sign. She had no financial interest and said she was protecting her client's interests. The SDT did not accept that no harm was caused by her misconduct. She was suspended for 6 months with conditions after suspension so she will be unable to manage or own a law firm, with future employment as a solicitor requiring SRA approval and ordered to pay £13800 costs.

How Compli can help...

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

Andrea Cohen
Compli,
Weightmans LLP

The importance of effective supervision - Pt. 2



Michelle Garlick

This article follows on from Part one, in which Michelle Garlick reviewed

a case study on the importance of effective supervision and training. In this follow up article, she discusses the SRA's guidance note on effective supervision and offers tips and takeaways for firms:

In November 2022, the SRA published a detailed guidance note on effective supervision. It was a timely reminder of our obligations because 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.

The key points of the guidance to note are that if you are a qualified solicitor supervising client work, you need to do so effectively and you remain accountable for the work done by those you are supervising. You also have to make sure that they are competent and that they keep their knowledge and skills and their understanding of legal, [ethical and regulatory obligations \(3.5 and 3.6\) up to date.](#)

The importance of effective supervision part 2, continued

There are similar provisions in the [Code for Firms](#) (4.4 and 2.1) to ensure that firms have effective systems and controls in place to comply with all legislative and regulatory requirements, including supervision. Remember also that regulated work must be supervised by at least one person who has practised as a lawyer for at least 3 years.

The latest SRA guidance sets out four key themes of the approach the SRA expects a firm and their managers to follow when considering supervision. It also gives guidance on particular situations and areas of legal work as well as good practice examples. Whilst there isn't anything new or ground-breaking in the guidance, it highlights lots of common-sense suggestions that are worth considering in your firms when applying a risk-based approach, based on the type and nature of the services you offer.

It is a must read for COLPs, supervisors and those responsible for training.

The four key themes

The four key themes that the SRA addresses are:

1. The need for supervision

The guidance stresses the accountability point already mentioned and the requirement to have at least one appropriately experienced person supervising the legal services.

2. Appropriate supervision arrangements

It encourages firms to adopt a risk-based approach and sets out a list of factors to think about including

- Risks for clients (loss of life/liberty/limited scope for redress?)
- Specific legal/regulatory requirements on who can supervise (e.g. reserved activities, immigration/claims management activities)

- Inherent risks – exercise of judgement v routine/administrative work?
- Client's circumstances/vulnerabilities
- Experience, competence and workload/level of support
- Capacity of supervisor
- Geographical location
- Nature of/ease of access to other support/tools/standardised processes

Ask yourself the who, what, where, when, how questions–

Who will supervise and be supervised (remember it's not just juniors who need supervising!); will you have different supervisors and line managers and what will be their roles?

What work will be supervised – will it be everything the supervisee does or will it be more limited? What will it entail?

Where - will it be face to face, remote, a mix? There is a section in the guidance on supervision in a hybrid and remote environment. Think about the importance of learning by osmosis, including the calls that junior fee earners could listen to if in the office that they won't hear if you as a supervisor are working from home and similarly, the calls that a supervisor might overhear a more junior lawyer conducting that might suggest a difficult client with a potential complaint that a supervisor's intervention might be able to nip in the bud.

When will the supervision take place? Will you have set times in the day/week/month and how regular will it be? Will you have team meetings to discuss problem cases/queries?

How – how many people will supervisor be responsible for and at what level. How does this fit with capacity? How detailed a file review might it be? Does it involve reviews

of the documents on the file as well as discussions and questioning of the supervisee? Is there a file note of the discussion?

The factors set out in the guidance and above will help you decide the appropriate approach.

3. Conducting supervision

The guidance expects supervisors to communicate directly with each person they're supervising often enough to make sure that the supervisor has clear oversight of the work being done, is readily available to support the person doing the work and can provide robust assurance that legal and regulatory requirements are being met. It also suggests that the supervisor should have some knowledge of each matter being progressed by the person being supervised and/or should monitor a meaningful sample of their work in addition to providing advice and guidance on specific matters (e.g. non-standard issues)

4. Ensuring supervision is effective

And probably most importantly, the SRA makes it clear that it's not enough to just have arrangements in place – they need to be effective.

Any firm can have a written policy (and it's important that you do have one on supervision) but it's what happens on the ground that is essential to ensuring compliance and minimising risk. Are your partners/supervisors doing what you say you do?

Many firms I've visited say they have a process of file reviews conducted by the partner in each department each month but there is either no evidence of this taking place or if there is such evidence, it will occasionally give an impression that it is just a tick-box exercise with very little thought or time devoted to it or alternatively they've

chosen the smallest files (because they are quicker to do) rather than the more complicated/bulky ones.

The SRA also expects the firm to take pro-active steps to ensure that it is working effectively. It doesn't give much guidance on what that might involve but depending on the size of your firm, I would suggest things like;

- having a system of internal audit (outsourcing to experts can be useful for this if you do not have the internal resource or you are unsure if it is being done well enough);
- getting feedback from employees through performance reviews and surveys;
- reviewing claims and complaints for any trends where supervision might be lacking;
- making sure that supervision is documented and you are evidencing learning from mistakes;
- training supervisors;
- sharing knowledge through round table team meetings or training sessions

The guidance has lots of good practice examples of what good supervision should look like and also covers specific areas of legal services which might be problematic including litigation, claims management activity, immigration and legal aid work so if you practice in these areas, take a careful look at it.

So finally – some further tips/ takeaways

- Read the guidance note!
- Critically assess and discuss within your firms how well you do supervision. What does good supervision and quality control look like in your firm? Is everyone working to that standard? Here are some questions to ask as a “starter for ten” when considering this:
- Choose your supervisors and line managers carefully and where they are different, share feedback – they don't all have to be partners so think about the strengths and weaknesses that people

have and give them roles which they will do well.

- Are they approachable, available and 100% attentive?
- Open door policy – what does this actually mean in your firm? Every firm I speak to says they have it but often when pressed or in our health check questionnaires sent to fee earners, the feedback is that it can be difficult to get access to their supervisor. How has this been adapted for remote working?
- Is there appropriate and supportive delegation? Are matter risk assessments carried out (not just for AML compliance!) to appropriately allocate the work based on capacity, skills, experience etc. Be alert to the instructions which at first look straightforward/process-driven/low margin work but can become more complex/time sensitive/a complaint risk etc.
- Are instructions clear as to what is expected, timescales and role responsibilities?
- Is there regular constructive feedback (both ways!) - good communication is essential and remember that it is a two way street, so supervisees also have responsibility to speak up, ask for clarification and chase supervisors if a deadline is looming. And if you are reading this as a trainee/paralegal/junior solicitor, remember that partners were in your position once and there is no such thing as a daft question!
- Is there careful checking of drafts/file reviews and approval requests?
- Record/evidence supervision – whether through time recording with a narrative or as a supervisory file note and by way of file reviews and internal auditing. Where you have internal auditors, be clear what are they checking for - they might be able to check for compliance with policies and procedures/Lexcel requirements etc but they may not be suitably qualified or experienced to check the quality of advice.
- What are the blockages preventing

certain supervisors or the firm generally from providing effective supervision?

- Who is responsible for 121s and peer file reviews and how do you make sure they are carried out?
- Is there any recognition/allowances given for those who have greater supervisory responsibilities?
- Do junior lawyers feel comfortable speaking up /admitting mistakes – how do you know?
- Is your training, both firmwide and within the practice areas, robust enough? Use the case study from Part 1 if you have a residential conveyancing team to test their understanding of ID fraud red flags. Use alternative disciplinary cases to raise awareness and understanding. Learn from the firm's mistakes/claims by providing training on how they arose/near misses (anonymously of course to avoid embarrassment) and the cost to the firm.

Every firm will approach supervision differently and no one way is better than another as long as there is clear evidence that it is taking place. We can expect further activity from the SRA in relation to this and competency requirements generally in the future so be prepared now!

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If you need help on this or any other compliance issue please visit our dedicated website www.compli.weightmans.com or contact the Compli team at compli@weightmans.com or Michelle Garlick, Partner directly michelle.garlick@weightmans.com.

Monthly Costs Update



Steve Cornforth

There is really just one item news that people are talking about. This is that we have now, finally seen the draft rules relating to the extension of fixed recoverable costs (FRC) that are due to come into effect from 1st October 2023.

In a note to the draft rules, the MOJ confirm the creation of a new Intermediate Track for some claims up to £100k. The Intermediate Track will see 4 bands with associated fees linked to complexity. Examples of cases to which this track might be appropriate are those which might last 3 days or less and those involving no more than 2 experts for each side. Judges will have a discretion to allocate to the multi-track if appropriate. The note also confirms that any proposed extension of FRC to Housing Cases has been delayed for 2 years.

The dates of implementation are not straightforward and are likely to lead to some confusion. In most cases the rules will apply to actions issued after 1st October 2023. But different rules will apply to personal injury claims. In these cases, the rules will apply to cases where the cause of action accrues after 1st October 2023. So if someone has an accident today, but proceedings are issued after 1st October 2023 then the new FRC rules will not apply.

This would be very tricky in disease cases where it is not always possible to pin down the date of accrual of the cause of action. In these cases, the rules will apply where a letter of claim has not been sent before 1st October 2023. So, we are likely to see a flurry of Letters of Claim before then! For obvious reasons we will also see lots of claim forms being issued... As previously reported, Clinical Negligence cases are excluded along with Mesothelioma and other asbestos cases. Other excluded cases include Human Rights Act matters and some Police Claims.

What about cases that are not just for damages? This was a major concern in Housing Conditions Cases. That particular concern is now one for another day. But the draft rules confirm that a notional value will be assigned where non-monetary relief is sought. This value will be linked to the relevant FRC band, so in a Band 2 case the notional value will be £10k. In cases involving damages and non-monetary relief the costs linked to the damages and the assigned value are added together. If and when the FRC rules are applied to Housing Cases, it is clear that a similar value will be applied in cases where there is a claim for Specific Performance.

There will always be cases where there is more than one claimant in connection with the same action. In most cases each will be entitled to the costs of their own claim. An exception is where two claimants are jointly entitled to the same relief under CPR 19. In such cases a single award is made. This will be very relevant – if it happens (!) – in Housing Cases involving joint tenants.

Where a defendant succeeds and also brings a successful counterclaim, 2 lots of FRC can be recovered. Separate rules will apply in personal injury claims brought under the RTA protocol.

The draft rules can found on this link – About us - Civil Procedure Rule Committee - [GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

We do not have the space in this update to set out the new tables themselves, but they can be found by following the link to the new Practice Direction 45.

These are described as 'draft rules'. They were approved at the Civil Procedure Rule Committee's (CPRC) meeting on 31 March 2023. We are told to expect the final version by the end of May 2023 -ahead of implementation. This is all 5 months away. We all know that those months will go over very quickly. Firms should be planning for the changes now. In particular, firms need to be reviewing those cases where a claim form should be issued, or a letter of claim sent.

Finally, we cannot sign off on an update without mentioning QOCS – what a source of litigation this has been! In *Pathan v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* [2022] EWHC 3244 (KB), the claimant brought an action against the police for false arrest. The Claim was later amended to bring in a claim for Personal Injuries. She lost her claim. An issue then arose over whether QOCS applied and, if so, from when? At first instance the judge found that QOCS applied but only from the date of the amendment. On appeal, *Bourne J* found that QOCS applied to the entirety of the proceedings. QOCS is ultimately about enforcement of costs. As at the date the order for costs was made, this was a claim that 'included a claim for damages for personal injuries'. Pursuant to 44.13(1) it was binary question. Did the claim include a claim for personal injuries or not? The answer was yes, so QOCS applied.

We are available to assist with planning ahead. To discuss any of this you can contact Rob Cook at robert@cook-legal.co.uk

Steve Cornforth



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Forthcoming Courses

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
15 & 16/05/2023	Probate and Estate Administration - Introduction & Refresher (2 Day)	Rebecca Roscoe
17/05/2023	Public Child Law Conference	Various
24/05/2023	Regulated Funeral Plan Activity – What Law Firms Can Do Under the New Regime	Josh Bates
08/06/2023	Domestic Abuse Conference	Various
14/06/2023	An Intro to Cryptocurrency & Digital Assets: What it is & Why Law Firms Should Care	Josh Bates
19 & 29/06/2023	Intro to Residential Conveyancing (2 Day)	Richard Snape
21/06/2023	Civil Litigation Update	Andrew McLoughlin
27/06/2023	Commercial Property 2023 Update	Hannah MacKinlay
28/06/2023	The 2023 Compliance Conference	Various
03/07/2023	Divorce & Financial Orders Certificate	Safda Mahmood
05/07/2023	Creating Electronic Bundles	Phil Nam
07/07/2023	Company Law: The Essentials	Chris Beanland
11/07/2023	Keeping up with Witness Statements	Helen Swaffield
11/07/2023	Applications against Litigants in Person	Helen Swaffield

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

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***NEW* Probate and Estate Administration: Introduction & Refresher**

2 Day Course with Rebecca Roscoe

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

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 FOR MORE INFO](#)



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
Amanda Walsh, Advanced CCA

The problem with DOLS is.....
Ginnette Fitzharris, St Johns Buildings

Seniors Top 10 2023
Mark Senior, St Johns Buildings

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The Regulation of Funeral Plan Contracts & Funeral Plan Activities

with Josh Bates on Wednesday 24th May, 10am - 11am

Online/recorded session*

This is an introductory seminar for law firm managers & compliance officers, particularly those working in private client firms, and for other intermediaries involved in the distribution of funeral plans.

What You Will Learn:

- The changes which have been made
- What regulated funeral plan activities are
- The definition of a funeral plan contract
- The available statutory exclusions and exemptions
- What has happened/is happening to existing funeral plan providers and funeral plans
- The authorisation and supervision by the FCA of funeral plan providers and funeral plan intermediaries

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

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



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](#)



An Intro to Cryptocurrency & Digital Assets: What it is & Why Law Firms Should Care

with Josh Bates on Wednesday 14th June, 10am - 11am

Venue: Online/recorded session*

This is an introductory seminar for lawyers at all levels of experience and in all areas of practice.

Covering:

- What blockchain technology, cryptoassets, smart contracts, and public key encryption are
- How transactions happen on blockchains
- The categories of cryptoasset
- The legal status of cryptoassets
- Duties of software developers
- How cryptoassets and cryptoasset activities are regulated and the proposed reforms
- How this impacts the legal services sector

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!

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Intro to Residential Conveyancing – 2 Day Training With Richard Snape

Day 1: 19th & Day 2: 29th June, both 10am – 4pm

Venue: Online/recorded session

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

It is designed with the following aims:

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

Can't make the date/time?

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](#)



Civil Litigation Update with Andrew McLoughlin

on Wednesday 21st June, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Venue: Online/recorded session*

Where to begin! A 3 hour course you cannot afford to miss. The landscape continues to change at some pace following a relative lull in substantive changes to procedure and practice

This course will cover the following topics:

- Fixed Recoverable Costs – the massive game changer, the implications and tactics going forward
- Part 36 – developments in the last 12 months
- Assessing credibility of witnesses – guideline case law and how to assess your opponents written witness evidence
- All the procedural changes in the last 12 months and their impact on your practice
- Cases on procedure – the last 12 months.

**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](#)



Commercial Property Update with Hannah Mackinlay

on Tuesday 27th June, 10am - 12pm

Venue: Online/Recorded session*

The last year has seen many important developments in property law, over many areas. This concise and focused 2 hour webinar will make sure you are up to date.

The key topics include:

- Commercial leases – MEES Mess? What is the impact on drafting for landlords and tenants post-April 2023? What to look out for on assignments of existing leases? Who pays for upgrades? Exemptions – possible solutions?
- Covid – where are we on the fallout from Covid on rent arrears and the potential impact on break clauses?
- Other commercial lease points on lease renewal, telecoms leases, ground rents, and keep open covenants?
- Land law – numerous important court decisions and other developments on everything from restrictive covenants, powers of attorney, adverse possession, lease extensions, and electronic signatures to knotweed

& more...

**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!*

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2023 COMPLIANCE CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY 28TH JUNE 2023 | 9.30AM - 3PM
HYBRID - THIS EVENT CAN BE ATTENDED IN-PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

It is now more important than ever to stay on top of what good compliance looks like and to show precisely how you demonstrate your best practice to third parties. This conference will be your one-stop shop for best practice legal regulatory compliance and will give you practical support to help you stay ahead.

Chairperson

Mickaela Fox, Partner, Weightmans LLP

Economic Crime Update - because it's not just money laundering anymore!

Amy Bell, The Law Society

Good complaint Handling & Learning From Complaints

Jason Chapman, LeO

Data Protection - GDPR 5 years on

Kate Burt, Hive Risk

How to get more positive outcomes when implementing effective risk management, and the positive impact this may have on your insurance
Paul Fletcher, PIB Insurance Brokers & David Green, The Strategic Partner

Challenging Behaviour in the Workplace: What, Who, How?

Susanna Heley, Weightmans

Regulated Claims Management Activity - What Law Firms Need to Know

Joshua Bates, O'Connors

SRA Update

Matthew Byng, SRA

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- Enthusiastic delivery
- Empathy with delegates
- Desire to pursue excellence

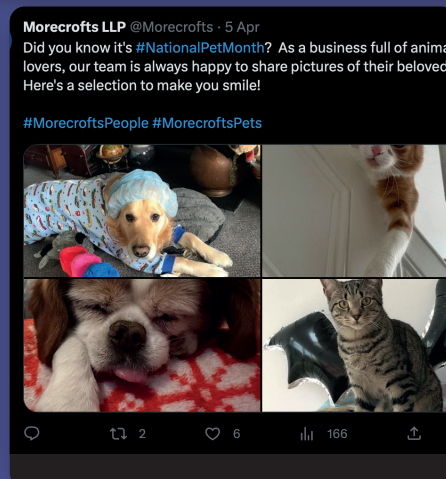
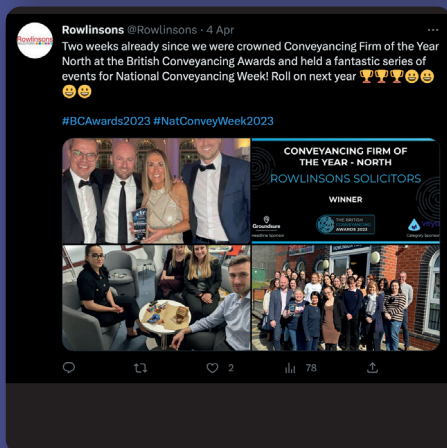
In the first instance please contact the Director of Education and Training

Jo Downey via e-mail:

jodowney@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

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



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