

November 2023

# Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

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



## ***Liverpool Legal Walk 2023***

Article on page 38



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# November 2023

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## DEADLINES

Mon, 27th November



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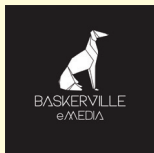
Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

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

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#### Editorial Committee Dates 2023

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

21/11/2023

## Welcome to the November edition of Liverpool Law



As I write this I am frantically preparing for time off during the school half term holidays and also planning ahead for... I'm going to say it... Christmas!! With this in mind I wanted to start with a reminder for your articles for our December and January editions of Liverpool Law. We have our final editorial meeting of 2023 on 21 November 2023 and within that meeting we discuss the content for both December and January's editions as we do not hold a meeting in December. There is also a much earlier date to submit your articles in December to account for the Christmas holidays (sorry I've said it twice now!) so if you could please keep this in mind and send everything over to us in good time for it to be included.

This month we can see there has been a lot of activity going on for Liverpool Law Society with the Legal Walk (very well done to all those who took part), the Opening of the Legal Year and the Leader in Law dinner to name but a few. We also have a lot of updates from a number of conferences held by Liverpool Law Society and an update from our Council Member and Parliamentary Liaison Officer- so plenty for you to view and enjoy.

There are more events coming up including our Annual Dinner and Awards on 9 November, AGM and a number of affiliated social events available to attend, the details of which are in the magazine. As always please send over your own comments and photographs at these events or tag us in your social media posts to include. We are still working on our new social media handles for the magazine itself in the background and more information will follow on these in the coming months, along with my plea to engage with these new handles.

Until next month.

Kind Regards,

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

## Welcome to new members

We'd like to give a warm welcome to our new members who were approved for membership at October's General Committee meeting. There were 10 individuals from the following organisations:

- Fletchers Solicitors
- Irwin Mitchell
- Jackson Lees
- JMW Solicitors
- University of Liverpool

Liverpool Law Society's membership now exceeds 2,560 individuals from 194 law firms, barristers' chambers, and other organisations with legal professionals in the Liverpool City Region and beyond.



# From the President

## The latest from the President, Jeremy Myers

Well, as I expected when I wrote last month, no shortage of events to report for this edition as the diary was looking very busy. At the same time, the regular work of Liverpool Law Society (LLS) has progressed apace.

Our Committee work is where I start this month. The fact of LLS being virtual means that most of our work is done online. October was one of the special months where our General Committee met in person, courtesy of Weightmans. Two key items of business were effectively covered when we were in person. I was able to take part in the LLS Training Forum chaired by our **Jo Downey**. It is open to all members to participate in the Forum which meets from time to time.

First, the Committee chose its nominated four of the non-retiring Directors as candidates for re-election at the AGM. Second, we heard from a Liverpool Barrister, **Jacqueline Deans**, about the challenges of building a career as a black Barrister. I first heard Jacqueline on the panel at the event I attended at Kuumba Imani Centre in March and was keen for Jacqueline to engage with LLS so that we could learn from her experiences.

Much of what I have learned during the year has been from our specialist committees. This month I learned of an important co-coordinating link when attending the Criminal Committee. **Roy McGregor**, a senior staff member with the Police and Crime Commissioner, attends this and other LLS meetings. Roy mentioned the quarterly Criminal Justice Board which brings together Police and Probation and other interested parties in that sphere. LLS will be represented in future and **Paul Kilty** – Chair of our Criminal Law committee – has a meeting fixed with the PCC for 06 November.

A worthwhile online event was the national discussion organised by The Law Society (TLS) to develop the commitment to the Women in Law Pledge. Please do talk with your colleagues about how your own practice or in-house department can support the pledge and actually work to enhance female career development as in some ways it is not yet fair. Sadly, only about one fifth of the participants were male.

Another “round-table” was the College of Legal Practice’s presentation to a group of LLS members, kindly hosted by Jackson Lees. There are of course competitors running the SQE course of which the College is one. Each time I listen to information about the SQE I gain more insights. I learned that Apprenticeships can begin at what seems to me to be the rather early age of sixteen.



The Liverpool Legal Walk proved a convivial event as always. The 5km walk around the city centre earned much needed funds for the Access to Justice Foundation as well as being an opportunity for practitioners of all ages to mingle with one another and with senior Judges. A well-earned drink was enjoyed at the Lady of Mann before the raffle was drawn.

Two fringe meetings as part of the Labour Conference in Liverpool led to invitations to LLS. Our CEO, **Sarah Poble** and I attended the joint Society of Labour Lawyers/Law Society/Bar Council meeting. I managed a short private word with the Shadow Lord Chancellor, **Shabana Mahmood**, to mention the idea of a return to something akin to the old pre-litigation Legal Aid Green Form advice scheme. I ascertained that this has been mentioned by others.

The following evening saw the Royal Institution of British Architects’ reception. Attending the RIBA event cemented LLS’s growing links with that profession, to be further enhanced when LLS and RIBA hold the joint reception on Thursday 30 November – a date for your diary.

The start of the legal year sees great pageantry and a

recognition of our shared service to society. I felt so honoured to represent LLS at Westminster Abbey on 02 October, preceded the previous evening by a Dinner at TLS's Chancery Lane HQ. The Abbey service was a milestone as our newly minted **Lady Chief Justice, Dame Sue Carr**, having being sworn in that morning, and read a Lesson as did the Lord Chancellor, **Alex Chalk KC MP**.

We then processed to Westminster Hall where we enjoyed conversation and refreshments and heard words of welcome the Lord Chancellor. All in all, I shall retain very special memories of that day spent participating in events in such awe-inspiring historic surroundings. Being present with fellow Joint V provincial city Law Society Presidents made it a very sociable and personally special twenty four hours, and additionally I had the opportunity to meet legal leaders from around the World at these events.

The Liverpool cathedral Service on 15 October was a similarly special occasion, open to all, and marvellous to represent LLS and to be supported in the congregation by Committee members and then to mingle with colleagues plus many of the local senior Judiciary – plus civic dignitaries – who equally are so supportive of LLS.

Our Annual Dinner and Legal Awards evening is now fast approaching and I am delighted to report is a sell-out. It will be marvellous to see many of you at that event and our next edition will contain a gallery of photos from that evening.

**Jeremy Myers**  
President

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



From left to right: Joint V Presidents: Nick Johnson (Manchester), Alice Kinder (Birmingham) and Shanika Varga (Leeds)



Judges' Service in Liverpool, with the High Sheriff of Merseyside, Dr. Ruth Hussey CB OBE DL



# Mowgli is the toast of this year's MIB Awards



**Indian street food business Mowgli won the headline award at this year's Merseyside Independent Business (MIB) Awards.**

The popular independent chain of restaurants was named Merseyside Independent Business of the Year, as well as Restaurant of the Year,

Founded by **Nisha Katona** in Liverpool in 2014, this year Mowgli has added two more restaurants in Edinburgh and Brighton, taking the total number to 17, including two in Liverpool city centre, with more planned in the coming year. It has also won awards for its employment standards and its charitable foundation has raised more than £1.6m to date.

The MIB Awards were created by Morecrofts Solicitors to showcase local independent businesses and leading entrepreneurs and highlight their social and economic impact in the city region.

Other winners on the night included Knowsley-based Dams Furniture, which won the Trades or Manufacturing Award, Merseymade in the Retailer of the Year category, and electronic signature

software business E-Sign, winner of the Digital and Technology Award.

The awards were presented in front of 500 guests at the Rum Warehouse and were once again headline sponsored by Liverpool BID Company. A full list of winners can be found below.

**Alison Lobb**, managing partner at Morecrofts Solicitors, said: *"There is clearly an enormous sense of pride and kinship within our independent business community and that is always demonstrated through the MIB Awards.*

*"Every year, we are taken aback by the high volume of entries and the incredible performance of some of our fellow local independent businesses. Entrepreneurs and business owners are rightly proud of their own achievements and those of their peers, and that is what makes these awards so very special.*

**Bill Addy**, chief executive of Liverpool BID Company, said: *"The variety of businesses winning awards this evening is a clear reflection of the diversity and strength of local independents. There is always a palpable energy and optimism when the*

*community comes together, despite the many external factors that continue to challenge businesses right now, and we are delighted to be part of this occasion."*

## MIB Awards Winners 2023

Trades or Manufacturing Business of the Year - **Dams Furniture**  
 Professional Services Business of the Year - **Bathgate Business Finance**  
 Culture & Tourism - **Future Yard**  
 Best Creative Business - **Make C.I.C**  
 Community Impact - **Southport Bijou Cinema**  
 Retailer of the Year - **MerseyMade**  
 Best Start Up - **Manifest**  
 Bar of the Year - **The Dead Crafty Beer Company**  
 Restaurant of the Year - **Mowgli Street Food**  
 Health & Wellbeing - **Evolving Mindset**  
 Employer of the Year - **Warwick North West**  
 Digital & Technology - **E-Sign**  
 Business Person of the Year - **Moirá O'Shaughnessy, Financial Planning Corporation**  
 Merseyside Independent Business of the Year - **Mowgli Street Food**

# LLS Meetings & events – Nov/Dec 2023

Start Time	Meeting/Event
14/11/2023 12:30	General Committee
16/11/2023 13:00	Future Planning Sub-Committee
21/11/2023 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
23/11/2023 13:00	Civil Litigation Sub-Committee
23/11/2023 16:00	Family Business Sub-Committee
23/11/2023 16:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee
23/11/2023 17:15	Committees Social Event
27/11/2023 09:00	Deadline December Liverpool Law
28/11/2023 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
29/11/2023 13:00	EDI Sub-Committee
29/11/2023 17:30	Chambers & LLS Social Pub Quiz
30/11/2023 13:00	Annual General Meeting
30/11/2023 18:00	RIBA & LLS joint social
07/12/2023 13:00	In-House Lawyers Sub-Committee
12/12/2023 12:30	General Committee
14/12/2023 13:00	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee

Liverpool Law Society has a number of committees covering specialist areas of law which meet regularly throughout the year allowing members of Liverpool Law Society to discuss common issues, respond to consultation papers and contribute ideas towards the Society's comprehensive legal training programme.

Our committees are: Access to Justice; Civil Litigation; Criminal Practice; Employment Law; Equality, Diversity & Inclusion; Editorial; Family Business; In-House Lawyers; Non-Contentious Business and Regulatory committees, which are open to all members of Liverpool Law Society. To enquire about your membership status and/or being co-opted onto one of the above committees, please email [committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](mailto:committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)

## Consultation Papers

Papers referred to committees:

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

Committee	Consultation Paper title	Closing date
Criminal Practice	<a href="#">Consultation on youth remand funding arrangements</a>	08/11/23
Employment Law	<a href="#">The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (General Levy) Regulations review 2023</a>	13/11/23
Regulatory	<a href="#">Consulting on proposals to ensure that people who use legal services have access to fair and effective complaint procedures</a>	17/11/23
Non-Contentious Business	<a href="#">Consultation on directions to the Regulator of Social Housing: tenant rights and complaints</a>	22/11/23
Regulatory	<a href="#">Arrangements for SRA regulation of CILEX members</a>	22/11/23
Non-Contentious Business	<a href="#">A smarter ring-fencing regime: Consultation on near-term reforms</a>	26/11/23
Criminal Practice	<a href="#">Miscellaneous amendments to sentencing guidelines: consultation 2023</a>	30/11/23
Non-Contentious Business	<a href="#">Making a Will: A Supplementary Consultation Paper</a>	08/12/23





Liverpool  Law Society

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# NETWORKING EVENT

in conjunction with the Royal Institute  
of British Architects (**RIBA**)

Date: Thursday 30th November  
Time: 6pm - 8.30pm  
Venue: RIBA North, Liverpool

Join us for a networking event held in association with the Royal Institute of British Architects. Catch up with colleagues or make new acquaintances whilst enjoying drinks and canapés.

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

# Merseyside Sisters Wins National Business Award – The Winners of the 2023 Enterprise Vision Awards.



**2023 Enterprise Vision Awards Winners**

On Friday 29 September, the Winter Gardens in Blackpool was the stunning venue for the UK's largest female focussed business awards; the Enterprise Vision Awards.

Female powerhouses, trailblazers and innovators showcased outstanding female entrepreneurship from all four corners of Great Britain. The atmosphere was electric and the feel good factor was off the scale with the camaraderie and support shown for all the finalists.

Now in its twelfth year, the EVAS are a beacon for women who are driving change to showcase their successes and achievements. From nominations to the ceremony, opportunities are signposted along the way to help both entrants and sponsors make valuable connections and open doors to opportunities to grow their business.

Sisters **Andrea and Charlotte Fogg** of Maria Fogg Family Law beat six other finalists to win the 2023 Enterprise Vision Awards Family Business Award. Since their mother's death 5 years ago, Maria Fogg Family Law has worked

with domestic violence agencies and women's refuges to provide 3,000+ vulnerable families with the legal services to obtain safety. By overcoming difficult challenges they have become an incredibly resilient family business that cares for the community. The judges said that they showcased strong values and entrepreneurship and demonstrated a turnover that has grown by 207% and a threefold staffing increase. By thinking outside the box they are following in their beloved mother's footsteps.

**Andrea Fogg** said *"The whole EVAS experience has been empowering, joyful, uplifting, inspiring, supportive and life changing, we are eternally grateful for being a part of it."*

**Heather Waters**, Regional Enterprise Manager, Manchester of NatWest said *"NatWest has been a proud partner of the Enterprise Vision Awards for a decade and once again it illustrated the optimism, energy and potential that female led businesses offer. Female entrepreneurship places a crucial role in the success of the UK economy and these awards help showcase the talent that is based here and*

*the opportunities that exist. Importantly, the awards also an opportunity to showcase that success – and let others here their story. Every nominee, finalist and winner should be proud of their achievements."*

**Coral Horn**, founder of the EVAS said *"We're here to champion women in business, from startups to global brands, charities to industrial giants, the EVAS brings together supporters of female entrepreneurship to empower and inspire. All generations came together to show their appreciation and there were children present who were inspired by their amazing mothers – maybe we'll see some of them on the EVAS stage in the future!"*

Maria Fogg Family Law have had a brilliant year so far winning 5 National Business Awards and are currently shortlisted at the Liverpool Law Society Awards in 3 categories Raising Star Award, Outstanding Family Team Award and Firm of the Year (1-99).



**Andrea & Charlotte Fogg**



# CELEBRATE THE FESTIVE SEASON WITH RATHBONES

Join us for drinks, canapés and networking with the professional community this year at Gaucho.

**When:** Thursday 30 November 5.30pm - 8.30pm

**Where:** Gaucho, Water Street, Liverpool

Please note places are limited so please confirm your attendance below.

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# Nick Emmerson becomes Law Society president



Nick Emerson

Nick Emmerson was inaugurated as the 179th president of the Law Society of England and Wales, as the organisation nears its 200th anniversary year. Nick will be supported throughout his year in office by Richard Atkinson, vice president, and Mark Evans, deputy vice president.

Nick is a partner at Lewis Mathys Emmerson LLP and specialises in international capital market transactions and cross-border mergers and acquisitions (M&A). He is fluent in Japanese and spent seven years of his career working in Japan. He has also worked in Hong Kong and Shanghai. As well as England and Wales, Nick has been admitted as a solicitor in Hong Kong and the Republic of Ireland, and as an attorney at law in the State of California.

Yorkshire born and bred, Nick has represented Leeds on the Law Society Council since 2015 and was president of Leeds Law Society. He aspires to promote access to justice in the region, where legal aid deserts are prominent.

Commenting on his appointment, Nick Emmerson, said: "I am honoured to serve as Law Society president. It is critical that we continue to focus on improving the justice system, upholding the rule of law and supporting members.

"I am eager to lead a profession that is both outward-facing and internationally minded. In an increasingly interconnected world, I have adopted a global approach to my work.

*I have coupled this approach with both regional experience and time in the City. This triangle of experience will allow me to bring a fresh perspective to the Law Society and strengthen the future of the profession.*

*"Solicitors play an essential role in our economy and society. During my presidency I look forward to promoting the legal services sector as an economic powerhouse and the profession benefiting local communities and wider society as well."*

## Our profession as an economic powerhouse.

As president, Nick will be a champion of our domestic legal services sector, and will promote England and Wales as a welcoming jurisdiction to international markets.

*"Solicitors help power the UK economy. Our legal services sector is central to the UK's place on the international stage as an ideal place to do business.*

*"There is an international demand for English and Welsh solicitors and the value they bring to clients and communities in other jurisdictions.*

*"I will work to promote our legal services to international markets and support our members who practise, or wish to practise, internationally.*

*"And with my own international experience, I will be able to speak to the unique challenges and opportunities that face those who practise overseas."*

## The value our profession brings locally.

Nick will focus on the importance of regionality in his term as president. He will work closely with local law societies to promote the positive role they can play for members and the community.

Nick added: "Solicitor firms provide local expertise and high-quality jobs and prospects

*for people in every town and city across England and Wales.*

*"These firms play a critical role in the local ecosystem of each region. They are well acquainted with the key issues and concerns that each region faces.*

*"As president, I am eager to hear their stories and ensure their voices are heard on the national stage.*

*"This is particularly important as legal aid deserts continue to rise in the North. We must adopt a regional focus in our work, so that justice is accessible in all parts of the country. By recognising the local value of our profession, we can support members and communities in regions across England and Wales."*

## The value our profession provides individuals within wider society.

During his presidency, Nick will prioritise the rule of law and access to justice. In doing so, he will strengthen the profession so that solicitors continue to help people navigate some of the most complex and challenging times in their lives.

Nick said: "Solicitors serve all corners of society. Whether someone is facing eviction, protecting a business or dealing with a family breakdown, the legal profession provides justice that allows individuals to regain control and resolve the issues that have the potential to negatively impact their lives.

*"It is for this reason that we must uphold the laws that bind our society together and ensure justice is done. The idea of access to justice cannot be taken for granted. It is precious and relies on investment in a justice system that is available for all.*

*"I will be raising awareness of legal aid deserts and the need for accessible advice that everyone is legally entitled to. I will also lead on our response to the civil legal aid review and continue our fight to restore fair funding to the criminal legal aid system."*



# Liverpool Law Society EDI Committee Meeting – October 2023

**This month was our first in-person Committee Meeting since pre-Lockdown.**

We started by discussing the brilliant webinar arranged by DWF for Menopause Awareness, and discussing what other firms considered should be done to deal with staff going through Menopause. Support groups were discussed, and President **Jeremy Myers** raised the important point of ensuring inclusivity and inclusion; and encouraging men to get involved in the discussion. Menopause causes changes in a person's behaviour which not only impacts them but also the people around them, so men need to become more knowledgeable and aware so as to ensure that they are supportive and empathetic, and take these symptoms into account in the workplace so as to better understand their colleagues going through this experience. We highlighted how Menopause is now a recognised disability in light of recent case-law, which underlines the importance of legal firms taking this issue into account when considering any changes in behaviour of their staff, and providing the appropriate support and understanding.

We then had the privilege of an amazingly heartfelt, interesting and informative talk from **Kerry Brooks** of O'Connors regarding her experience as an AuDHD person in the legal profession. With October being ADHD Awareness Month, this talk was particularly fitting, giving us all the opportunity to learn more about the condition and the way it impacts people.

Kerry explained that ADHD is a neurological condition which affects how the brain processes information; making an apt analogy of everyone being given the same amount of balls (representing neurons) to place into the holes on their golf course, but the golf course of an ADHD person has less holes than a neurotypical, meaning they cannot put all of the balls where they need to be, so they continue to bounce around.

There are 2 forms of ADHD; inattentive and hyperactive. A person with ADHD could have either or both. The main

characteristics leading to the diagnosis are a person with a combination of impulsivity, inattention and hyperactivity. Kerry explained that ADHD means you have an interest-based nervous system; which often leads to a period of hyperfocus followed by a severe burnout. She also explained about time-blindness, and people with ADHD just having no concept of time; they could be focused on something and feel only 30 seconds have passed but it was actually an hour. This can cause issues when being asked to estimate how long a task will take them to perform.

There is also the issue of emotional regulation, caused by an impairment in the limbic system. As such, people with ADHD may come across as irritable or impatient, but this is not because they are being intentionally rude, but rather because their brain has already worked out where the conversation is going, and so they have just jumped forward to the next part of the discussion. A lot of people with ADHD may also have Rejection Sensitivity.

However, the condition also comes with benefits; a person with ADHD will likely be very creative, imaginative, practical, empathetic and self-aware. Amazing people throughout history are thought to have had ADHD, including Einstein, Walt Disney, Stephen Hawking, and Galileo.

In respect of where ADHD comes from, it is certainly not a made up condition as some journalists may imply for clickbait. Kerry refers to it as an evolutionary mismatch, and that it was something previously not considered an issue but the rigidity of current society is what causes it to be considered a problem.

Kerry explained about the medication available; namely being stimulants, which actually work to slow down an ADHD brain. However, it should also be taken into consideration that a person's hormones affect their effectiveness; meaning that at certain parts of a person's menstrual cycle for example, the medication will be ineffective.

Despite what clickbait may claim, such medication itself is not addictive; however, like most medications, suddenly not having access to it can have potentially disastrous consequences. Given the current shortage of ADHD medication due to manufacturing issues, Kerry surmises that suicide rates (which are already higher in neurodiverse people) will go up.

In respect of what a workplace should do to support neurodiverse staff, the focus should be on ensuring that they have a safe environment where they will not be stigmatized for the reasonable adjustments they may require. Examples include using headphones in the office to enable them to focus, or a specific place/time where they will be ensured they will not be disturbed, or possibly more days working from home to allow them time to decompress and unmask (thus avoiding burnout).

Upon conclusion of this discussion, President **Jeremy Myers** summarised a recent meeting he attended in respect of the Women in Law Pledge, which can be found at <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/campaigns/women-in-leadership-in-law/tools/the-women-in-law-pledge>. This is a show of the commitment of the Law Society, Bar Council and CiLex to gender equality in the profession. We would encourage all firms to review the pledge, and even if they do not join, to consider bringing in concepts from the pledge into their policies and company ethos moving forward.

From this point, the Committee moved on to the under-representation of men when considering EDI issues, and the need for more male participants to provide a male perspective and to show allyship. This is highlighted within the Committee itself, which has less than 5 male members. As such, if any men in the legal profession are interested in joining the Committee, please contact Liverpool Law Society, as we would very much welcome your input and inclusion.

**Amy Rachel Planche**  
Solicitor at Carpenters Limited



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dealing with their estate, we can offer you trusted, sensible advice and the professional service you will need at this difficult time. Should you wish to proceed, we will collect your vehicle swiftly and FREE of charge.

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





# Brabners provide support for Liverpool based refugees



**Volunteers from leading independent law firm Brabners have led an educational trip to Chester Zoo for refugees from countries including Afghanistan, Albania, Syria and Iran.**

Working in partnership with Care4Calais, the group of legal professionals organised the event for the group of 25 women and children and provided transport, food and a full day of learning about the zoo's work supporting conservation efforts across the globe.

The volunteers also heard personal stories from attendees around how they have been displaced from their home countries, their former professional lives and their experiences of living in Liverpool.

**Usha Sharma**, Legal Director and Together Action Group lead on ethnic minority groups at Brabners, said: *"As a purpose-led firm rooted in communities across the North, we're very aware of the role that we can play in helping people across our society."*

*"Our volunteers are members of our colleague-led affinity groups which look to make the difference across areas we care about including minority group representation, LGBTQ+, gender diversity, social mobility, mental and physical health and the environment."*

*"We enjoyed getting to know people from other cultures and to hear their different life experiences and how they're being supported by Care4Calais."*

Operating across the UK, northern France and Belgium, Care4Calais is a volunteer-run charity delivering essential aid to refugees and asylum seekers through the provision of supplies, medical assistance and social support.

**Simon Petty**, Liverpool Regional Lead at Care4Calais, said: *"Assistance from local organisations is integral to our work, so it was great to be involved in an event which had an immediately positive impact for those who need it most."*

*"Reshaping the narrative around the role of refugees within our communities will require cross-society collaboration, and we hope to welcome more like-minded businesses that are focused on working for a better future."*

Chester Zoo is a not-for-profit conservation hub and the UK's most visited zoo. The charity zoo works to protect highly endangered species here and all around the world, raising awareness of environmental issues all in an effort to prevent extinction.





# Leaders in Law Dinner



On 4 October 2023 Liverpool Law Society hosted the second of the year's 'Leaders in Law Dinner' at The Municipal Hotel Liverpool-M Gallery in Dale Street, Liverpool. The Municipal Buildings date back to 1868, being the last building that the famous Liverpool architect John Weightman designed prior to his retirement. The hotel started out life as the home of Liverpool City Council and has been transformed



into a luxury hotel boasting an impressive Palm Court bar in the central atrium, where guests met for a drinks reception.

The event was well attended, with representatives from Document Direct Limited, Legal RSS, Husband Forwood Morgan, Bennett Williams Solicitors, Abensons Solicitors, Astraea Linskills, Bell Lamb & Joynson, Brabners, CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang, the Cohen Consultancy, Irwin Mitchell, O'Connors, Morecrofts, Frank Rogers Law, Excello Law, In-House Legal Solutions, Fletchers





Solicitors, Weightmans, W P Thompson Limited, Paul Crowley & Co, Phoenix Legal, Peter Edwards Law, Unit Chambers, Vauxhall Law Centre, University of Liverpool and the University of Law.

The evening was sponsored by Document Direct and Legal RSS. The President, **Jeremy Myers**, welcomed the attendees, and introduced **Martyn Best** from Document Direct and Legal RSS, joint sponsors for the evening. Martyn Best provided information to the attendees about Document Direct,

a digital transcription and secretarial service to the legal profession and Legal RSS, who produce summaries of recent court reports each month covering every discipline of law, together with a free smartphone app to view or download articles.

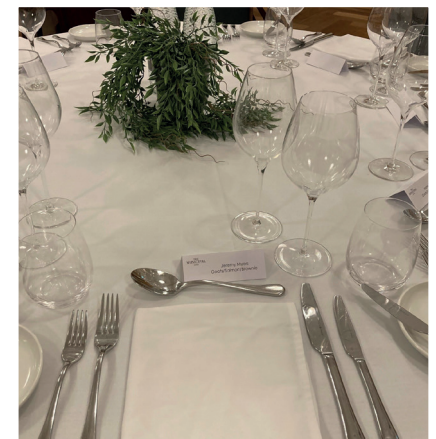
The Municipal Hotel was an ideal venue, and the three-course dinner was delicious. There was a jovial and informal atmosphere throughout the dinner and lots of interesting discussions took place, with comical anecdotes of the past (especially from

the criminal lawyers-you know who you are), and ideas for the future.

There were also very thoughtful discussions about future networking, training and events for the members. The helpful contributions will be fed back to the relevant committees.

Thank you to everyone who attended the dinner, and we are grateful to the Municipal Hotel for their excellent food and service. A special thank you to Martyn Best from Document Direct and Legal RSS for sponsoring the event, and of course thank you to our President Jeremy Myers.

**Gaynor Williams**  
Vice President



## Your local Law Society: AGM

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at 1.00pm on Thursday, 30th November 2023 at The Racquet Club, Liverpool city centre. It will finish by 1:45 pm.

The AGM is an important opportunity for us to conduct our formal business but also to reflect on the past year and look forward to the future.

We will be recapping the work of the Society over the last year and outlining what we have achieved and where the challenges lie in the future.

Please feel free to attend the AGM if you are not standing for election. It would be good to meet you and I am sure that you would find it worthwhile to have a chat with a few of the officers

and staff team plus some of our members attending.

We hope you can find the time to join us for this important annual meeting, and take the opportunity to chat and mingle, especially as we are hoping to be joined by a few of our former Past Presidents.

**General Committee**

# Private Law Conference 2023

It's always a pleasure to attend Liverpool Law Society Events at Taylor Wessing LLP, taking in the picturesque views of the Royal Albert Dock which hosted the Private Law Conference on 13th September 2023.

All in-person and remote participants were warmly welcomed by **His Honour Judge Parker**.

**Kate Burnell KC** of St Johns Buildings started the day by discussing parental alienation and the use of experts in private law, drawing our attention to case law and draft guidance from the Family Justice Council.

The power of the child's voice was considered by **Helen Pritchard** of 174 Law. Helen discussed how children want a voice, not a choice and the need to balance the voice of the child whilst not burdening them with deciding the outcome of the proceedings.

Once refreshed from a brief break, **James Evans** from Our Family Wizard gave a whistle-stop-tour of their app. If you haven't already, have a look into the app, it's incredible what features it offers!

**Natasha Khalique** of Unit Chambers offered her insight into dealing with vulnerable clients and what to do if a client lacks capacity, to include the duty upon the Court to consider how a party can participate in the proceedings.

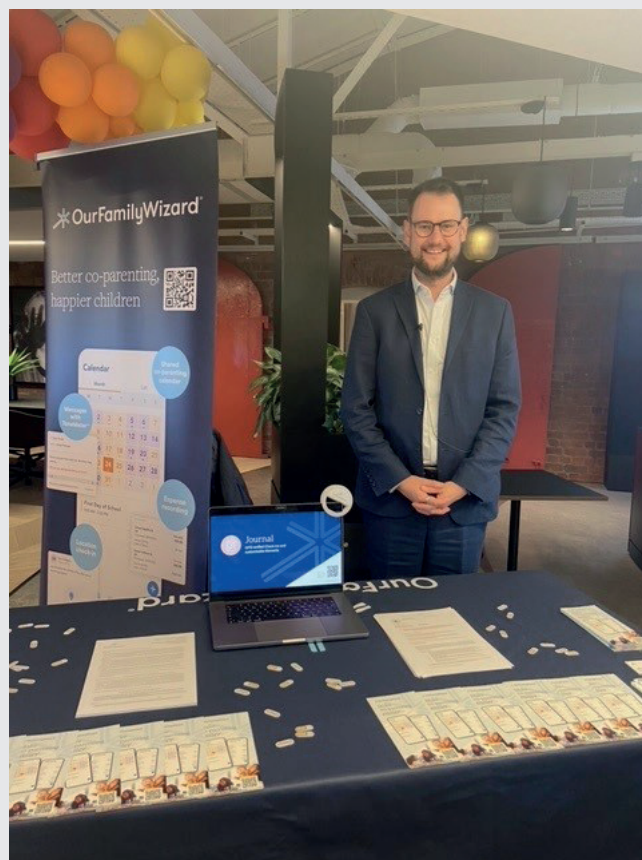
In-person attendees were treated to lunch and were spoilt for choice with the freebies on offer from Lextox and Our Family Wizard.

The use of section 91(14) orders was discussed by **Rachael Banks** of St Johns Buildings, who coincidentally referred to a matter that **His Honour Judge Parker** had himself granted such an order.

The day was completed by **Tom Hynes** of Oriel Chambers providing a practical guide to fact finding hearings.

Another thoroughly enjoyable and informative conference. Very much looking forward to the next one! Many thanks to **Jo Downey** for organising and to Lextox and Our Family Wizard for sponsoring.

**Abbie Talbot**, Solicitor  
Maria Fogg Family Law Ltd





# Residential Property Conference 2023



In September we held our annual Residential Property Conference which was very kindly chaired by Non-Contentious Business Committee member John Jones (head of Residential Property at Jackson Lees).

It was the first time we'd held this particular event hybrid, so we had delegates in the room (along with the

speakers) & some delegates joining us virtually too.

The day began with a session on Leasehold & Enfranchisement by **Katherine Whittle & Sarah Howe** of Brabners. This was followed an update from HM Land Registry, delivered by Leanne Wright & Pam White.

**Lisa Edwards** from one of our kind sponsors InfoTrack then let us know how to Improve and evidence CQS compliance with ease using digital solutions.

Everyone enjoyed a short refreshment break and chance to chat, before **Stephen Ward**, Director of Strategy & External Relations for The Council for Licensed Conveyancers discussed Transforming the home buying and selling process.

Next up was **Sally Redman** of Landmark – our second kind sponsors of the day, who covered Climate Change in Residential Property Transactions: Understanding future risk and how to advise for best practice due diligence.

Sponsors, speakers and delegates alike, then enjoyed a buffet lunch in the lovely surroundings of our hosts Taylor Wessing offices.

There were three afternoon sessions; a CQS Update with **Tracy Thompson, Rob Denman** of JB Leitch then discussed Residential Conveyancing from a Landlord's/Managing Agent's Perspective and finally A litigator's perspective on boundary disputes and rights of way with **Andrew Leahey** of Jackson Lees.

Our chairperson then brought the event to a close, thanking our sponsors; InfoTrack & Landmark, the wonderful speakers involved and each and every delegate who attended, both in-person & virtually.

Please keep Wednesday 18th September 2024 free in your diary, so you don't miss out next year!

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

# 2023 Family Finance Conference



This year's family finance conference was held on 27 September 2023 at Taylor Wessing, Albert Dock, with the opportunity to delegates to attend in person too if preferred.

District Judge Guirguis kindly accepted the invitation to Chair the conference and we heard from the following speakers:

- **Sam Hillas KC**, St Johns Buildings – who covered Transparency in the Financial Remedies Court
- **Margaret Parr** 7HS – discussing The Impact of Domestic Abuse in Financial Remedies

A short refreshment break was then taken before hearing from:

- **Eve Horren**, Unit Chambers – with an update on Intervenor
- **Chris Wagstaff KC**, 29 Bedford Row Chambers – covering Financial Remedy Applications and Capacity Issues
- **Katie Deans**, OurFamilyWizard - Improving Communication for Co-Parents

There was a buffet lunch with the chance to network for in-person delegates, with

the afternoon then including:

- **Michelle Burley**, St John's Buildings Barristers' Chambers – with a Financial Remedies Update
- **Tom Hynes**, Oriel Chambers – on Navigating section 37 MCA 1973: when and how do we use it?

Many thanks to OurFamilyWizard for the sponsorship; a huge thank you to the speakers and of course to those who supported with a booking.

We look forward to next year's conference (25th Sept 24), which will hopefully be just as successful (if not more so) than the last.

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

# Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division Autumn Link-Up Fiesta

September saw the start of the 2023/24 term for the newly elected MJLD committee!

On 11th October 2023, the MJLD welcomed its members to the first event of the year, an Autumn Link-Up Fiesta held at BoBo on Castle Street. The event was kindly sponsored by G2 Legal Recruitment and would not have been possible without their support!

The evening was a huge success with 75 of Merseyside's junior lawyers, paralegals, legal executives, trainees and newly qualified solicitors gathering for a tapas, drinks and a bit of networking, with the event proving to be an excellent opportunity for likeminded junior lawyers to catch up and meet the new MJLD committee. G2 Legal representatives, **Carl Ryan** and **George Beard** also came along to discuss all things recruitment and legal careers as well as to answer any questions. Attendees had the chance to win a bottle of champagne, through the G2 Legal raffle with **Katie Lindon** of Aramas Legal snapping up the prize!

Overall, it was a great event with a fantastic turn out and we would like to thank all of our members for coming along, as well as BoBo for hosting and our generous sponsors, G2 Legal for providing us with the means to host!

The MJLD encourages all junior lawyers to join our network, which will play host to a number of exciting social events throughout the next 12 months, including our highly anticipated summer ball.

If there are any enquiries regarding the MJLD, membership, sponsorship or otherwise, please contact MJLD Chair, Jemma Castell at [Jemma.Castell@pinsentmasons.com](mailto:Jemma.Castell@pinsentmasons.com).

**Lauren Cave**  
MJLD Social Representative  
Cleary & Co Solicitors







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<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/services/sponsorship/>

**ENQUIRE**



# First ever 'Big Help Ballroom' for Big Help Project – and what an amazing evening it was!



On Saturday 23rd September the day had finally arrived for Big Help Project's first ever 'Big Help Ballroom' taking place at the iconic Liverpool Town Hall.

15 amateur dancers had been paired up with their professional

dance partner, and over the course of the previous 8 weeks had been practising and perfecting their routines.

Maxwell Hodge Solicitors, who have 7 branches across Merseyside and the Wirral, were delighted to be one of the main sponsors of the Big Help Ballroom. Their very own **Jane Reid**, Marketing Manager at their Kirkby branch had stepped out of her comfort zone to take part. Jane and her partner, **Steve**, danced the Cha Cha and were thrilled to be awarded 4 10s and went on to win the Judges' vote winning the glitter ball trophy! Jane said "I have always loved dancing but I have never done anything on this level before. I enjoyed every second of the experience and cannot believe we won – although Steve is an excellent dance partner. I am thrilled I stepped out of my comfort zone and put myself forward for the Big Help Ballroom and helped to raise money for such a wonderful charity. I want to do it all over again!"

**Claire Banks**, one of the Directors at Maxwell Hodge, was one of the four judges on the event and said "It was a wonderful evening, raising funds for a fantastic charity. I thoroughly enjoyed being part of the judging panel and spending time with the other three judges. Well done to all involved in making the evening so special and raising much needed funds."

The Big Help Ballroom event raised a staggering £17,000 for the charity, which will support families and individuals in times of need.



# O'Connors and Redbag Consulting advise innovative Unit Chambers on ABS authorisation

Unit Chambers, which opened 3 years ago as the only barristers' chambers in the North West exclusively undertaking Family Law work, has now obtained an alternative business structure (ABS) licence from the Bar Standards Board [BSB].



**Lisa Edmunds**

Chief Executive **Lisa Edmunds** founded Unit Chambers with her partner **Roger Draper**, Executive Chairman of the chambers and former Chief Executive of Sport England and the Lawn Tennis Association. Unit Chambers was set up in the belief that the Bar was being held back by its adherence to tradition and Lisa Edmunds wanted to create a chambers with a modern and innovative business approach. Since its launch in June 2020 Unit Chambers has expanded from one person to a team of 30 people.

Lisa Edmunds and Roger Draper are both directors and owners of the holding company, Unit Law Limited,

that provides business support services to Unit Chambers and, to comply with Bar Standards Board rules, Lisa Edmunds owns 51% of the shares. The holding company, Unit Law, has become an ABS regulated by the BSB.

External investment, providing different career paths and employment opportunities as well as delivering services in different ways are all possibilities for Unit Law, Lisa Edmunds said. Another possibility is expanding into ADR. Lisa Edmunds said she had recently qualified as an arbitrator and two of the barristers at the chambers were mediators. ADR could be combined with therapeutic services to create a one-stop shop.

Unit Chambers has three KCs who are part-time Door Tenants, 15 Consultant Barristers and six Pupils, along with five full-time support staff. It was originally based in Liverpool, expanding to Manchester in 2021 and this year to Leeds.

Lisa Edmunds said the term 'consultant barristers' was used to emphasise their specialist knowledge to direct access clients – an important source of work for six of the barristers on the team.

After a benchmarking exercise showed that a lot of chambers had complex arrangements for what they charged barristers - with some requiring buy-ins - Unit introduced a simple model of a flat 10% of fees. There are no 'clerks' - there is a Practice Manager, a combined Fees Manager and Business Development Manager, a Marketing and Communications Manager and two Client-care Advisers.

Lisa Edmunds said: "The term 'clerks' gives the feel of a hierarchy and I'm not convinced young people understand the term."

Under the corporate structure, she and her co-director make all business decisions, removing the need for chambers committees made up of senior barristers who have often "been there for a long time".

Lisa Edmunds said she believed the firm's culture had attracted so many so quickly.

*"We removed the hierarchy and became more tribe-like. I want people to be happy working here and sharing our values. If at any point we're not making someone happy, we have an open discussion to try and find out why not."*

*"We're investing in the next generation. There are a lot of young people on the team who share our vision and don't want to work in a stuffy chambers. People can see the energy coming out of our chambers and are attracted to it."*

Lisa Edmunds said that, in many traditional chambers, senior barristers "felt entitled to behave in certain ways and call the shots", getting first refusal on certain types of work. "We're trying to modernise the industry."

In preparing and submitting the ABS application to the BSB, Unit Law were supported by **Joshua Bates** at O'Connors Legal Services who provided corporate and legal advice and by **Martin Griffiths** at Redbag Consulting who provided regulatory advice throughout the process.

*"We are immensely grateful to our advisors for their unwavering support and guidance during the ABS regulation journey," Roger Draper said. "Their expertise and experience helped us navigate the complexities of the process, allowing us to focus on our vision of reshaping the Bar and creating an innovative and inclusive environment."*

# Directors' Liaison meeting: Parliamentary and PCC Office

On Friday 13 October, LLS held its second virtual meeting of the year with local MPs. President Jeremy Myers chaired on behalf of LLS. Justin Madders MP (Ellesmere Port & Nest) attended along with Roy McGregor of the Police & Crime Commissioners office along with LLS representation from Joint Honourable Secretary Sarah Mansfield, Joint Honourable Secretary Alum Ullah, Lauren Cannon, John-Paul Dennis, Paddy Dwyer, Millie Hayden and Sarah Poblete.

Sarah Mansfield opened proceedings to discuss the Renters Reform Bill. While this Bill was published on 17 May 2023, it was still at the “second reading” stage and is now unlikely to receive Royal Assent until the spring of 2024 (and even this would not come into force until six months later). The purpose of the Bill was to deliver on the government’s commitment to “bring in a better deal for renters”, creating “safer, fairer, and higher quality homes” and to tackle some of the problems in rented housing together with issues around lack of homes, lack of security and quality. As part of the preparatory work surrounding this Bill, Government has released some information related to the proposed Private Rental Sector Ombudsman. This Scheme is proposed to operate as a non-profit body and may also be utilised as a combined letting agent, tenant and landlord redress scheme. Many of the details are still being work upon although a round table discussion between a member of the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee, and senior representatives from lettings agencies took place this Summer. Summarily, landlords who were supportive of an Ombudsman scheme were keen to point out that it must be impartial and would welcome timely resolution of disputes rather than lengthy court cases. Those who were against the creation of a Private Rented Sector Ombudsman were of the view that it would always side with

the tenant and it was just a money-making scheme for government. While those who were unsure of the benefits questioned whether an Ombudsman would really speed up resolving disputes. Respondents noted that government-run departments are slow and adding another layer of government intervention could worsen things.

Further one of the consequences of abolishing the ‘no fault’ 2 months’ notice (pursuant to section 21 Housing Act 1996) and assured shorthold tenancies was that many landlords are turning to short term lets such as Air B&B as the return is better and the management costs and compliance requirements much lower. There is a risk this change will have a “knock-on” effect, compounded by increased tax burdens to reduce the amount of private rental property, rather than make it more freely available.

Additional proposed content includes the introduction of more comprehensive possession grounds to counter the effect of removing “no-fault” grounds for eviction, a ground enabling a landlord to sell their property or move in close family and to make it easier to repossess properties where tenants are at fault for rent arrears and anti-social behaviour. The proposed right for a tenant to appeal excessively above market rents is questionable as to whether this is a serious problem for many tenants outside London.

Justin Madders MP commented his party think this may not come forward and be on the statute books before the General Election although things will become clearer after the King’s Speech

Lauren Cannon, Director of Liverpool Law Society, spoke next and raised the Chair of Commons Education Committee correspondences to the SEND Minister David Johnston (Parliamentary Under-Secretary

(Department for Education)) relating to the seeking of assurances that the Government has not targeted 20% cuts for Educational Health Care Plans for children with special educational needs for local authorities in the Government’s “Delivering Better Value” in SEND programme.

EHCPs are a statutory document that provide for additional support for children with special educational needs. The Government entered into a £19.5 million contract with Newton Europe engaged to deliver the SEND programme where a contractual provision has uncovered that Newton Europe was directed to target a 20% cut in EHCPs amongst other reduction targets. Assurance was given by David Johnston that this was not the intention and they were “absolutely not trying to” ration EHCPs. Practical concerns have been raised by those in the charitable sector related to SEN that if there are such reductions and Local Authorities are meant to be looking at other means to identify SEN earlier on before EHCP stage, there is no provision to do that. The amount of money schools are given in the “delegated budget” for helping children with SEND who don’t have EHCPs (and some who do) hasn’t been increased for 15 years and so is worth much less in today’s money.

Justin Madders MP mentioned he had raised this report in Parliament and commented on how difficult it was to get EHCPs delivered and further suggested that the appeal success rate shows how poor the current system is. The local authority perspective is they have unprecedented demand, people are presented with more and more complex needs and there isn’t sufficient resource in the system. There is an issue of demand management. While a solution would be to reduce EHCPs, the trend is in other direction and as such more appeals are anticipated.

John-Paul Dennis, Non-Contentious



Business Committee Chair, spoke next in relation to delays in relation to fees for court of protection work and any issues with the Senior Courts Costs Office. This was previously raised by LLS in 2023 and current figures suggest that approximately 6000 bills are awaiting processing. The continued and cumulative delays are now impacting practitioners who are not taking on cases, leaving an advice desert. Further, land registry delays are getting to a critical point. Estimates for completion dates currently sit at 12-18 months which causes problems for lenders and practitioners. Further still, delays at the Probate Registry currently sit at around 6-10 month delays. Combined, all level of delays are having an impact on both practitioners and clients. **Justin Madders** MP suggested that all of public sector is affected to a greater or lesser extent by staffing levels and appears to be a result of an under-funded public sector.

**Alum Ullah**, Civil Litigation Committee Chair, spoke next on Fixed Recoverable Costs, regarding which for clinical negligence cases, the concern is very much “access to justice”. Alum raised the issue that lawyers will have to be more choosy when picking cases in a fixed recoverable costs environment simply to remain profitable. The reforms do not take into account the vast amount of cases which are worked upon and are unsuccessful. More work is required at the Letter of Claim stage for considerably less in remuneration in serving witness statements and expert evidence on breach and causation; and expert evidence on condition and prognosis with offer to settle. The underpinning process should enable faster progress of cases but that won’t be enough to ameliorate the loss of income by the scheme. The scheme does not appear to take into account that there is a cost to law firms in taking on cases which are investigated but turn out not to have sufficient merit to proceed. Currently, the winning cases pay for the abandoned cases, but the scheme costs

won’t make up for that especially when considering that much greater volume of cases would be envisaged to make it work. The result of the above is that more victims of clinical negligence won’t be able to secure specialist legal representation. Some of those people may decide to bring the case as LIPs but many won’t feel able to. So the answer to negligent medical care causing injury is to reduce the amount of claims by denying access to justice to victims from bringing claims as that is what the result of these proposed reforms will be.

**Gaynor Williams** VP added in her work in debt recovery and dealing with contractual disputes, the fixed costs are also affecting SME’s, the businesses that we rely upon to employ a large number of people. The large companies will have funds to pay lawyers whereas the smaller businesses will not, resulting in no access to justice for smaller SME’s. Gaynor agreed with Alum that the fixed costs had been rushed in and it was not a good thing.

I then provided an update on Parliamentary Bills not already covered. We discussed the Victims and Prisoners Bill which was at the report stage of House of Commons. In relation to the same, the national Law Society have raised concerns that Secretary of State having powers to make decisions about liberty may lead to the politicisation of parole decisions. Further, a more complex release test for parole boards may have an impact on the (1) the ability of parole boards to do their jobs and (2) unequal treatment of prisoners where rules are interpreted differently. Perhaps more worryingly, the disapplication of section 3 of the Human Rights Act (relating to legislation being interpreted in line with ECHR) in respect of “prisoners as a group” raises concerns that there is a lack of equal treatment (and further

that human rights take a back seat).

In relation to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, which is at the consideration of amendments stage, the latest concerns relate to “nutrient neutrality”. The proposals are that quality of wastewater would have less of an impact on planning decisions. We also discussed the Data Protection and Digital Information (No. 2) Bill which is at the Report Stage of HoC. It is early days for this piece of legislation but Industry stakeholders have a concern that it doesn’t go far enough in some areas to encourage innovation while human rights groups have concerns regarding the lowering of the threshold at which subject access tests can be refused and the enabling of automated decisions on a persons data which has legal or significant effects (other than for special category data). The real worry is that this may have discriminatory effects on classes of people when used by, for example, automated tools in law enforcement.

Further, we discussed the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill which promises to deal with issues like auto renew subscription contracts and appears positive for consumers but which however, has not accounted for some consultation responses relating to secondary ticketing and greenwashing. Finally I talked about the Procurement Bill and Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill each of which are likely to soon achieve assent and each will require those subject to the same to be aware of their content (notably, local and central authorities in respect of the former and all limited companies in respect of the latter).

*Our next meeting with MPs is scheduled Friday, 15 March 2024 from 1.00pm to 2.00pm. LLS Members are invited to contact the office with any suggestions for agenda items ahead of that event.*

**Paddy Dwyer**  
Parliamentary Liaison Officer

# Navigating Career Transitions in Law

## Thought leadership article



**Support is available for solicitors to navigate the jobs market to help them find a better future.**

### Helping solicitors follow the right career path

A solicitor's career path can be a long one, with many twists and turns that can lead to more fulfilling work and greater success – but sometimes into a dead end. Solicitors working under stress and in situations that leave them overwhelmed and depressed can turn to us for support and understanding of what is needed to put them back on the right road.

Our wellbeing service is available to those in the profession who will benefit from personal career coaching, helping them to confidently navigate the jobs market and find a new direction.

Since 2014, 117 individuals have accessed expert career counselling and coaching services from our preferred supplier, Renovo.

During the pandemic, more solicitors sought support with their career plans, whether it was another career in law, like Family Mediation, or a move away from law altogether.

In particular, 2020 was a busy year, with 28 requests for support and expertise. Everyone spent more time at home during the Covid crisis and used the

space to reflect on their lives, including all-important careers. Many discovered that what was important to them was to live a fulfilled and happy existence.

For example, young solicitor **Faye** found herself at a low ebb, suffering from debilitating chronic fatigue syndrome and Long COVID, which meant she couldn't work.

She was supported by The Solicitors' Charity and after a period of recuperation was interested in preparing to get back into the workforce. She was registered on Renovo's three-month programme and found it improved her chances of enhancing her job options.

She said: *"My personal coach was great from the start; very accessible and we worked through various aspects that I needed to focus on. This made me identify my strengths and visualise what my ideal job might look like."*

Before any job interviews, she had 45-minute sessions with her coach to work on the competency-based questions she was likely to be asked. *"The experience was transformational; I secured a new post in a new area of law which was an amazing opportunity. I cannot thank The Solicitors' Charity enough for supporting me and offering me the means to land this great new position!"*

It's usual for those contacting The Solicitors' Charity to be supported by a range of services for a truly holistic approach, of which Renovo is a prime example. For instance, someone may come initially short term asking for help to get through a bad patch. Through building a relationship with our casework team, they may go on to benefit from a variety of support such as longer-term mental health support for stress, alongside tailored career counselling.

Renovo can support individuals with all aspects of career transition, whether that be finding and securing a new role, looking at consultancy or self-employment or considering a complete change in career direction.

People on the programmes get access to flexible, personalised virtual career coaching along with access to a wide range of digital resources, including career profiling assessments, CV building tools, interview simulators and a series of online workshops on a range of key career transition and job search topics.

Overall, there is very positive feedback from the solicitors that have been referred to the programmes offered by Renovo. Here are some of the comments from some of those benefiting from this specialist support:

- *"My coach was a guide, navigator, and advisor about the modern workplace. It had been 12 years since I last drafted a CV, and I had no idea how much they had changed."*
- *"Workfriend [the bespoke career transition and job search programme provided by Renovo] is an accurate label for this online facility. The various modules, subjects and video tutorials are modern, focused and easily understood. It is like having a complete toolbox at your disposal which you can use in your own time."*
- *"My confidence was at an all-time low when I was registered on the programme, but my coach really worked on resilience and restoring my confidence in myself and my capabilities."*

We're doing great things to make a real positive difference to legal professionals during their tough times. So, if you're struggling, please get in touch. [www.thesolicitorscharity.org](http://www.thesolicitorscharity.org)

**Nick Gallagher**  
The Solicitors' Charity CEO



# Investing in Christmas



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



**Julie Johnson**

As the festive season approaches, Liverpool city centre starts to look very different. The evenings may draw in but, what with River of Light and the Christmas decorations, the streets come alive. Liverpool BID Company is the largest investor in Christmas lights in the city centre, and with a larger BID area this year, the decorations will spread further and wider.

Over the next four years, Liverpool BID Company is investing £480k in lights across the city centre, from Lime Street and the Commercial District to the retail heart in Church Street and Lord Street, and up Bold Street. For the first time, as the BID area has expanded up to the Georgian Quarter, this year's lights will extend into Hope Street, Hardman Street and Leece Street. The funding from Liverpool BID Company comes from the levy paid by city centre businesses and helps to cover the shortfall in the public purse.

New Christmas lights will be in Old Hall Street and Tithebarn Street, up to Lord Street and Church Street, Hope Street, Hardman Street and Leece Street. With lamp post motifs and light decorated trees, the festive decorations will add sparkle and animation to the city centre. Ceiling curtains will light



up specific streets, including Basnett Street, Tarleton Street, Richmond Street and Williamson Street.

At the waterfront, the Royal Albert Dock will have their usual festive light trail and activities.

As well as decorations, Liverpool BID Company unveils a festive programme of animation and celebration. At Metquarter, a seasonal programme of ticketed workshops, including craft making and creativity, will see the team from Open Culture host activities from wreathmaking to fabric fairy light creation. Spots can be booked here ([link](#)) and start from 25 November.

The Elfie Selfie Station returns to St John's. Run by Paperwork Theatre, the elves will be on hand for selfies and for a chance to add themselves to the nice list (it is being checked twice). The Elfie Station is open 12-4pm every weekend from 25 November. There will also be pop up cultural activity in

the city centre including choirs, pop up panto, musical theatre and more.

We invest in the festive decorations each year to help ensure the city centre is a welcoming and celebratory place for Christmas. These lights are our most sustainable yet, created using recyclable materials. They will also be re-used, so when we have national days or moments when we want to light the city centre, the lights in the trees will remain and change colour to suit the occasion.

We work with our creative communities to ensure there is plenty to offer families in the run up to the festive season and to provide as much animation as possible. The run up to Christmas makes up half of the annual trading for retail and hospitality sectors, so it is a critical time of the year for the local economy. At Liverpool BID, we recognise the importance of investing to make the city feel full of the seasonal spirit as we countdown to Christmas.

# What the best High St Law Firms do:

## Part 2 – You’re throwing money away by not managing your leads

### Picture the scene...

Partner’s meeting:

Partner 1 - “We could do with more fees?”

Partner 2 - “Yes, totally, every penny counts”

Partner 1 - “The key is new business. How many enquiries do we get a month and how many do we convert?”

If the answer is “No ideal!” then read on...

### Handling Enquiries

You’ve done the hard work. Whether it’s from your website, your reputation, your location, clients who have used you before, enquiries are coming in. But what happens next? You basically have three options:

- **Option 1:** No plan – you don’t know the number of enquiries, the source, or if they ever become real business.
- **Option 2:** Manual – you try to create a process but it’s work in itself, and it relies on people to make it work.
- **Option 3:** Leads Management – you have one system that can manage enquiries with automated responses and reports.

Why bother? Let’s put some figures against this using 100 enquiries of the work you really want.

- **Option 1:** No one monitoring or knowing. Let’s say 5% of enquiries become a file. At £500 a file that’s £2.5K in fees.
- **Option 2:** You are trying to keep track and that brings some success. 10% success = £5k.
- **Option 3:** You know what’s going on, tracking enquires, following up leads. You improve conversion to 33%. That gets you £16,500 of new business.

What these figures show is that understanding and converting your existing opportunities could transform

your business. We all want to be Option 3, right? So, how do we do it...

Denovo [Leads Management Software](#) propels you into Option 3. Here is a real life example showing how a law firm moved from Option 1 to 3 with Denovo software. We asked **Ross Yuill**, Director at The Glasgow Law Practice, how they did it.

### How did GLP used to convert enquiries?

*“We were doing a poor job at this, meaning we were overlooking one of the most important aspects of running our business successfully. We were taking notes on paper, spreadsheets, post-it notes, you name it. Often the details would get logged in our case management system or the message would get passed on to a fee earner, but on the odd occasion it wouldn’t. Even when it did there was no structure to how we actually handled the enquiry. There was then the inevitable delay in responding to the client and on many occasions, we were simply throwing money away.”*

### When did you realise you had to change to start converting more leads?

*“I remember asking the other partners about our conversion rate in a meeting. In all honesty none of us had a clue. That was the moment. We were doing a lot right to get enquiries – good brand, good website, good reputation, bits of marketing here and there, but we needed a way to turn those enquiries into fees. We contemplated investing money in a receptionist but the spend wasn’t going to be sustainable long term. We needed a smarter, more cost effective solution and that’s what we found with Denovo’s Leads Management software.”*

### Was it easy to make the switch from a manual to online process?

*“Change is always tricky to implement. We were using Denovo’s CMS anyway, just not in the most effective way. We upgraded to their CaseLoad platform and started managing leads through the system. Their*

*support team trained our staff within a few days. They followed that up with simple video tutorials which we could refer to whenever we needed them. That made the whole process simpler. It was non-disruptive which, for a busy High St firm, is one the most important factors when changing anything.”*

### How are you now using Leads Management Software to handle enquiries?

*“Denovo gave us a simple tool to manage and follow up with potential new clients before a matter is even created. It allows our team to add a potential client, or lead, to CaseLoad the moment they call or email in, and to add notes and essential details while they’re on the phone. Creating a new lead is less time intensive than setting up a new pending matter and leaves the more advanced data entry for when the lead converts into a client. Less time is spent creating records for those who may or may not become clients, but all data is preserved and transferred to the matter once a lead does convert into a client. Leads are kept separate from our existing matters to make it easy to differentiate between active and potential clients. We no longer have to retain our leads in a separate system – it’s all in one place. Maintaining all potential and active clients within the same system makes it easy to stay organised, streamline and report all facets of our practice.”*

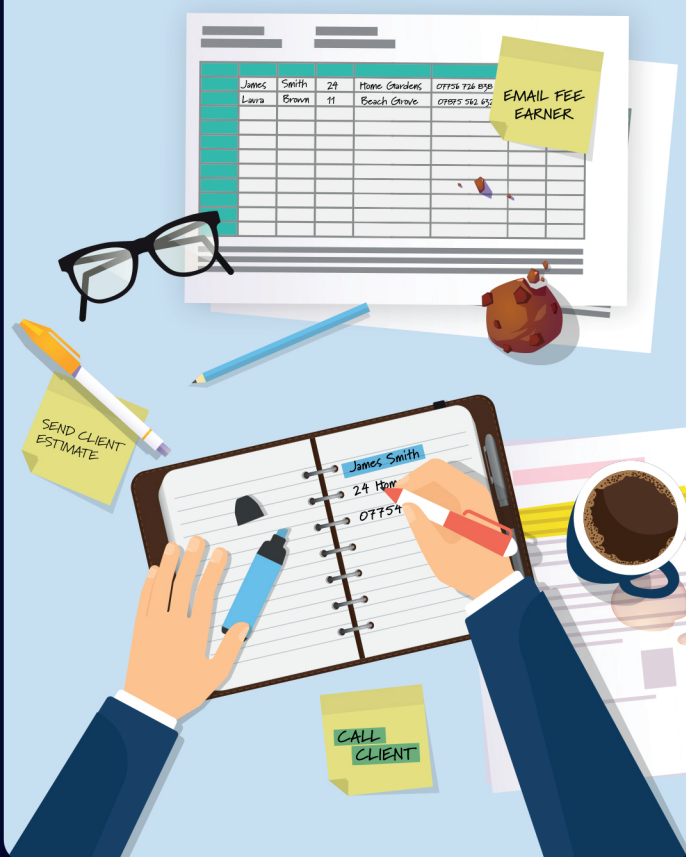
Now, when a lead comes in, we can interact with them through automated document production and email management, before converting them to a client which transfers all information over to the new client and matter.

### Next steps...

Watch our Leads Management video [here](#). Visit [denovobi.com](http://denovobi.com), email [info@denovbi.com](mailto:info@denovbi.com) or call us on **0141 331 5290** and see why some of the most successful law firms in the UK use Denovo to handle their enquiries.



# Are spreadsheets, note pads and post-it's costing you new clients?



# Automate, streamline and never lose another lead with CaseLoad.



Our Leads Management software is simple to use. It will make sure you handle new business leads efficiently and stop you losing money.

By putting a system in place that can streamline your enquiries and automate communication, you make it easy for everyone in your office or working remotely to stay up to date on a potential case.

This system literally helps firms generate cash.

**Time for a change? Let's chat!**



[info@denovobi.com](mailto:info@denovobi.com)

0141 331 5290

[denovobi.com](https://denovobi.com)

Powered by  
**denovo**



## Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre

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



### We're Hiring Trainee Solicitor



We are proud to be offering a 2 year training contract in partnership with the Legal Education Foundation via the Justice First Fellowship.

<https://www.vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk/justice-first-fellowship>

## Applications are live

Deadline Date: 8th December 2023



### Justice First Fellowship – Exciting Opportunity!



We have a new, exciting opportunity for aspiring solicitors! We are very proud to offer a training contract, here at Vauxhall Law Centre, in partnership with the Legal Education Foundation. This position provides invaluable hands-on experience over a period of two years, where the successful applicant will immerse themselves in areas of housing, welfare benefits and public law.

The Justice First Fellowship has funded 120 training contracts since 2014, with 98% of graduated fellows in paid employment and 91% working as lawyers,

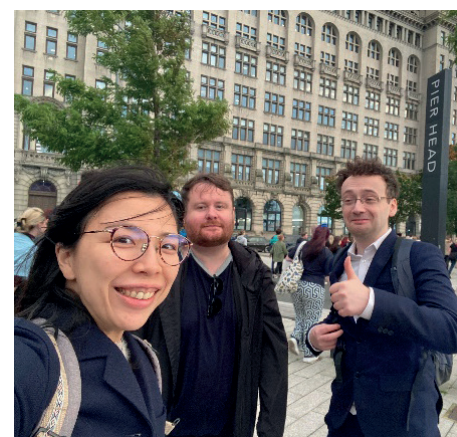
with a common goal of achieving social good. Their main focus is to provide legal education tailored to helping people and supporting change within the legal community. They recognise that legal services and advice are not always accessible to everyone who requires it and believe that the way to combat this is to find dedicated and committed social welfare lawyers who share this passion. Following the recent changes to legal aid, vulnerable people are becoming less likely to have access to support for everyday legal issues they may be faced with such as; debt, housing and employment, to name a few. The Justice First Fellowship aims to face these everyday issues head-on and are keen to sponsor a like-minded individual who wants to use their legal knowledge for good.

If you can demonstrate a passion for the work that we do at Vauxhall Law Centre and have an undeniable interest in our specialty areas of law, then you may be a perfect fit for this opportunity. If this position is of interest to you, please use the link to find more information: <https://jff.thelegaleducationfoundation.org/host/vauxhall-law-centre-2023/>. If

you wish to apply, please click the link <https://jff.thelegaleducationfoundation.org/how-to-apply/eligibility/application-form/>. Good Luck!

### The Liverpool Legal Walk

The Liverpool Legal Walk is an annual event, designed to gather the legal community and supporters and walk to raise money for the advice sector and raise awareness of how essential this service is to people.



Vauxhall Law Centre uses the Legal Walk as an opportunity to stand in solidarity with our service users and to show our appreciation to organisations such as the Liverpool Law Society, The Law Society and the University of Law, who sponsor the walk and help us to achieve our goal of making legal advice accessible to everyone.

The 2023 walk took place on 10th October, where lawyers, trainees and supporters gathered to embark on a 3 mile stroll with the ambition of raising funds to keep essential advice centres, like our own, open to the public, for those that rely on our services. With an impressive 171 donations already





made, bringing our current total to £4,372, The Legal Walk is a renowned fundraiser which has already helped more individuals than you know.

The walk started at the QEII Law Courts and finished at the Lady of Mann pub, where the walkers could stop for a well deserved break (and a drink of course). The route was a 2.8 mile circuit across Albert Dock, then further towards Lime Street and finishing down Dale Street. Not only is the legal walk contributing to an amazing cause, but it is a perfect opportunity to mingle, have a laugh and a little bit of exercise and explore the sights of Liverpool, which is why Vauxhall Law Centre are regular attenders.

We had a brilliant time at the Liverpool Legal Walk and look forward to attending again next year! If you want to be a part of positive change and support this cause, you can donate online at: <https://atjf.enthuse.com/pf/elly-smith>

### Thank you to our fantastic work experience placements!

We hosted two fantastic work placements in October and we would like to say a huge thank you to **Cerys** and **Heather** for all their hard work while they were with us. Cerys and Heather helped to design some new flyers and material for our social media (see below for our stylish poster for our cost of living survey). They also helped out volunteering at the Fans supporting foodbanks mobile food pantry on Tiber



Square, once again a huge thank you for all your hard work and commitment supporting our communities!

### Cost of living survey

Vauxhall Law Centre is collecting evidence to submit to the governments inquiry which is seeking to understand how women have been affected by the cost of living crisis. We'd greatly

appreciate it if you could take the time to respond to our survey or share with any clients, family or friends who are keen to be involved. The evidence we collect is completely anonymous and will help provide tangible evidence to the government that much more support is needed to support women during this crisis. You can take part in the survey here: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage>.

# New Inquiry

IMPACT OF THE RISING COST OF LIVING ON WOMEN.



Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre

The Women and Equalities Committee has launched a new inquiry investigating the cost of living impact on women and the effectiveness of government response.

This is because women are more likely to...

- be in low paid work
- have fewer savings
- have caring responsibilities
- manage household budgets
- act as 'shock absorbers' of poverty





Online Survey!

SCAN ME



## Charity Spotlight: The Paul Lavelle Foundation

**After the devastating loss of our mate Paul Lavelle in a domestic abuse incident in 2017, friends and family of Paul came together to create The Paul Lavelle Foundation.**

The idea of the charity was originally created to help the community to get out and do the good things in life, running swimming, cycling and much more, hoping to bring smiles to families and their children whilst also hoping to support Paul's family and children at such an awful time.



We also had decided that we had to raise awareness of male domestic abuse.

As we looked at Paul's harrowing case, the history of what appeared to be happening, without our knowledge, despite a network of 50 plus mates, it made us question why was he silent, why didn't he tell us, call any of us?

The more we heard the evidence of his case the more we indulged in educating

ourselves in male domestic abuse, the stigmas involved and the lack of education, knowledge and support that was out there for abused males.

So this was our work day to day along with our day time jobs we also had to keep raising the funds needed to apply for charity status until finally being accepted as an official charity after twelve months.

What was meant to be raising awareness had now become a full on battle to change society's attitudes to male abuse ( 1 in 3 domestic abuse victims are male) and also a huge desire to support males in abuse or who have left an abusive relationship.

We soon acquired our first office opened by Paul's mum and Paul's hero Everton legend **Neville Southall**.

Then finally after nearly 2 years of hard work, 2020 saw the start of the delivery

of the organisation's activities. The first Healthy Relationship Education workshops in schools, the community sports and activity groups for physical and mental health and well-being and on the 15th July, the Foundation achieved its ultimate aim by opening the first dedicated frontline support service for male domestic abuse in the area.

We are growing from Strength to strength with Peer support groups opened and many more services starting or planned.

We feel in such a short space of time we have made a difference, when opening our first office we said if we saved one man it's been worth it and we believe we have... we have been told we have, from men and families we have supported, but we won't stop here, we regularly hear and see in front of us the barriers males still face, we still see the barriers male victims also put in front of themselves







too, many don't think they are victims, indeed, until the worst case scenario came knocking at our doors we ourselves did not recognise male victims of abuse, this we have to change and change has

to start from the very top, we are forever seeing media stories on a day to day basis rightly tackling the rise in domestic abuse but wrongly ignoring the word



'male' in most of these stories, a *third* of all victims are male, that figure is not acknowledged enough, that figure is not taken into account enough when it comes to support or debating domestic abuse cases, that has to change.

The experience of losing Paul was horrific, we have to do as much as possible to prevent such events happening, breaking the silence is the only way to do this, but each day proves this is a long battle ahead, the fact I call it a battle says so much in itself... it should not be a battle to support domestic abuse victims.

Kind regards

**Paul Gladwell**  
Co-Chairman  
Paul Lavelle Foundation  
07788284173





# The importance of gas safety in homes and the protection of vulnerable tenants



**Sian Evans**

**The latest Insight Report from the Housing Ombudsman published this September reflected on gas safety in our homes.**

Two cases highlight the importance of a landlord's duty to have accurate and updated records of tenant's vulnerabilities to ensure adequate treatment and accommodation for all tenants.

## **Solihull Council (202010123)**

First, the Housing Ombudsman made a finding of maladministration for Solihull Council. This was in response to their poor handling of gas safety testing which resulted in a vulnerable resident being without a gas safety certificate for a period of 11 months. The landlord was aware of the resident's vulnerabilities and subsequent difficulties surrounding access to the property. There had also been a previous gas leak caused by the tenant which the landlord had knowledge of.

Whilst the landlord's policy stated that vulnerable tenants will not have their gas supply capped off, it was stated that the safety of the tenant and others in the locality should have taken priority. The council argued that they went to considerable lengths to explore every available alternative to

legal action, but it was found that these actions were not taken quickly enough.

## **Cross Keys Homes (202106073)**

Second, the Housing Ombudsman made a finding of reasonable redress for Cross Keys Homes following its treatment of a vulnerable tenant. The tenant, who was elderly and in ill-health, refused access to the landlord when self-isolating during the Covid pandemic. The landlord did not check at any stage whether the resident was vulnerable or had any health conditions and capped the property's gas supply, leaving the resident without gas for 10 months. In doing so, they failed to act in accordance with their own gas safety policy which states that vulnerable residents must be supported by the landlord's specialist interventions team.

## **The outcome of these cases**

The Ombudsman's decisions highlight the importance of a landlord's responsibility to take pre-emptive action when a vulnerable tenant is renting a property, whilst also being sensitive to the tenant's vulnerabilities. Failing to adhere to safety regulations puts the lives of residents at risk and could have severe consequences. It was stated that all landlords must ensure that they follow their own procedures, and that accurate and updated records of residents' vulnerabilities must be kept at all times.

## **Landlord safety obligation**

The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998, supported by the Health and Safety Executive's Code of Practice, state that both public and private landlords have the responsibility to ensure that a gas safety check is carried out every 12 months, maintain a Landlord Gas Safety Record and maintain all gas pipework, appliances, chimneys and flues.

## **Legal steps**

In most cases, tenants will be willing to provide access to landlords to carry out the gas safety checks required by the 1998 Regulations. However, access to the property could be denied by tenants in case specific circumstances such as the cases explored above.

A landlord could apply to court for an access injunction to gain entry to the property to carry out the inspection and any maintenance work necessary, the cost of which could be recovered from the tenant. To avoid further access issues, options include a forced entry order, substituted service and/or an unlimited timeframe order.

*The Weightmans Property Litigation Team regularly deal with access issues relating to safety inspections and have adapted a streamlined process to assist landlords experiencing difficulties in complying with their obligations.*

*Sian is sector lead for housing and she is also a partner in the property litigation team. She specialises in all aspects of property litigation, both commercial and residential.*



**Isabelle Pay**

*This insight is co-authored by Paralegal, Isabelle Pay.*

**Sian Evans**  
Partner  
Weightmans



The background of the entire page is a dark blue field filled with stylized, colorful fireworks in shades of yellow, orange, red, and white. The fireworks are scattered across the page, with some larger bursts and many smaller sparks, creating a celebratory atmosphere.

# CELEBRATION FOR NEW ENTRANTS TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Wednesday 24th January 2024 at 5.30pm for 6pm  
Hard Days Night Hotel

Liverpool Law Society would like to invite Newly Qualified Solicitors, Barristers, Chartered Patent Attorneys and Fellows from CILEx from the Liverpool City Region and surrounding area who qualified during 2023 to celebrate the launch of their career in the legal profession.

What's included?

✓Arrival drink ✓Canapes ✓Professional photography ✓Training voucher

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

**His Honour Judge Cadwallader**  
**Judge of the Business and Property Courts in Liverpool**

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

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

[More Information Here](#)

# Council Member's Report

From your Council Member, Nina Ferris



Nina Ferris

October is the time of year where The Law Society holds its AGM and we say goodbye to our outgoing President Lubna Shuja and hello to the new President.

Lubna's reflection on her year in office as the 178th President of TLS is available in full here [President reflects on tenure on last full day | The Law Society](#)

Her work has included efforts to tackle "justice in jeopardy", such as influencing and campaigning on criminal and civil legal aid as well as obtaining government commitments to spending on improvements to the court estate and a pledge not to cap judicial sitting days to reduce backlogs. She has brought professional ethics to the fore and led successful lobbying to minimise the regulatory burden on solicitors with regard to the Economic Crime Bill.

She passes the baton to Nick Emmerson, council member for Leeds and former president of Leeds law society. He set out his Presidential year plan which covers three key themes:

- **Our profession as an economic powerhouse** - Solicitors help power the UK economy by underpinning

our international and domestic trade and being a core component of our international reputation as a great place to do business.

- **The value our profession brings locally** - Solicitor firms provide local expertise and high quality jobs and prospects for young people, in every town and city across England and Wales.
- **The value our profession provides individuals within wider society** - We uphold the laws that bind society together and ensure that justice is done, helping everyone in society navigate through some of the most complex and difficult times in their lives. We serve all corners of society and contribute each day to upholding the rule of law and providing on the ground access to justice.

His themes are broad to give scope to move with events as we come into a likely election year. He attended the party conferences in September and October and a clear message that came through was that parties see funding justice as a sticking plaster, with systemic change needed to tackle the issues throughout the system. The parties are taking on board TLS research in developing their manifestos and TLS continues to be a policy leader with our members leading the drive to improve the legal sector.

Before the AGM we did have a council meeting, at which the policy discussion centred around that very point with TLS having carried out substantial work in relation to the review of civil legal aid (ROCLA) and 21st century Justice.

## Review of Civil Legal Aid

As part of ROCLA, the MoJ is undertaking research in other common law jurisdictions to see how funding works there that can be adopted for this country. There is also research into those who are using legal aid, although this is proving a difficult group to reach

for this piece of research. TLS has produced an interim submission and produced its own economic analysis undertaking quite a bit of campaigning and media activity. That included a detailed evidence base on what has happened since LASPO, a review of the literature analysis of TLS own data and that published by the government. That resulted in TLS publishing heat maps showing gaps in legal aid provision which have been powerful, and a projection of what the landscape will look like if nothing else changes. TLS has already provided a very detailed submission to the MOJ, which is a powerful starting point to influence how the review proceeds.

There have been a number of calls on government to inject investment urgently into the system. The review will justify what support is needed, but the point is our firms can't survive the delay until any review is completed. TLS has called for an urgent increase, to show good faith and give firms a reason to hang on in the sector if the government show they take the sector seriously. TLS has made clear that the government saves more than it spends if people can get early advice.

TLS has also called for less bureaucracy and a more flexible approach to the system. They have also stressed that there needs to be investment in the future workforce as current law students simply do not see legal aid as a viable career option. TLS is working closely with the MOJ to enable them to accept its research as part of the evidence base to go into the overall review, so the excuse cannot be given that any findings cannot be robustly supported.

The work of TLS in this area is already having an impact as the MOJ have announced changes to the legal aid means test which means 6 million more people will be eligible. Our work on the deserts was one of the factors leading to ROCLA.



## 21st century justice green paper

There is significant overlap between the green paper and Rocla. That is because however much money is put into legal aid, there are always changes to the structure that can make it work better. We are not saying that further investment is not vital, but there are other things that can improve the situation which should happen alongside investment. The green paper looks particularly at those in the justice gap (including small and medium businesses) where users can't access legal aid but also can't afford a solicitor.

TLS spoke at a justice fringe event at the Labour conference at which attendees previewed the green paper before its publication. **The call to action now is for members to engage, send in your views**

**and contribute.** Across all three parties there is a recognition that the system needs improvement as well as funding. There is also consideration of how legal services can drive the economy to unlock access to justice more broadly.

[Fresh ideas for 21st century justice | The Law Society](#)

The link above takes you to the 21st century justice page, a link to the green paper and how you can get involved and share your views to **contribute to the consultation which closes on 5th January 2024**. The green paper is not fixed policy and is there to start the conversation so please do join it. In particular TLS is interested in contributions as to :

- What more can we do to build the

evidence base

- What role do we see technology playing.
- How else can we assist civil legal aid firms given the current economic challenges

Finally we considered the TLS annual report and accounts. If you ever wonder what TLS does for you I commend a read of the annual report which details what has happened in the 21/22 financial year and much of that work continues. The link to the annual report is here [Business review and annual report | The Law Society](#).

As always if you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me.

**Nina Ferris**

[Nina.ferris@hilldickinson.com](mailto:Nina.ferris@hilldickinson.com)

# Liverpool - based MSB Solicitors lands a trio of national industry recognitions for its services

- MSB Solicitors highly rated on Chamber and Partners, specially commended for Family and Crime Law
- Follows impressive ratings on Legal 500 and inclusion in The Times' list of Best UK Legal Firms 2023 earlier this month
- A total of 20 MSB lawyers highlighted for excellence across Legal 500 and Chamber and Partners

**MSB Solicitors, a leading full-service law firm based in Liverpool committed to providing exceptional legal services across the North West, is proud to announce an impressive collection of nationally recognised accreditations.**

Included in the accreditations are several impressive rankings from Chamber and Partners, which produces international rankings for the legal industry. Announced today, MSB legal experts ranking was stand-out, particularly within Family and Criminal Law departments.

Earlier this month the firm was also recognised as a 'Tier 1 firm' by the world's leading legal directory, The Legal 500.

MSB's Family Law team was ranked Tier 1 due to the level of expertise being 'almost unique in this area' and its Commercial Property Team also achieved a Tier 1 ranking. Many other members of the team were individually commended as leading individuals or rising stars.

In addition, to complete the trio of recognition for services, MSB has learnt it will be ranked in The Times list of Best Legal Firms 2023. The Times survey the legal profession in England & Wales and Scotland to assess which law firms and individual lawyers are those that lawyers rate in their specialist fields, making this another incredible achievement for the ambitious and fast-growing UK business.

Commenting on the recognition,

managing director at MSB Solicitors, **Emma Carey** says: *"We pride ourselves on our highly trained and experienced team of legal experts who deliver good work every day. I am so proud of my team and our ongoing growth – which is all down to the amazing service they provide to our clients."*

*"These professional accreditations mean the world to us - the team are just delighted to be recognised at a national level for the brilliant work delivered here in the North West - supporting local people and businesses in the community around us is a privilege."*

*"We will be rewarding our team with champagne this week and celebrating together."*

*"We are so excited about future opportunities that lie ahead for us all and look forward to further contributing to the growth of this vibrant region. It's a very proud time indeed for MSB!"*

# Legal Sector Walkers hit the streets of Liverpool!

Photographs by Ray Farley



DWF

On Tuesday 10th October, about 270 lawyers, judges and others spent the early evening walking around Liverpool City Centre and Waterfront. This was followed by a refreshing drink (first one free!) at the Lady of Mann Pub in Dale Street. It was a very pleasant opportunity to enjoy the city and meet up with friends and colleagues. But there was of course, a purpose behind it all. This was the 12th Liverpool Legal Walk. I was one of the small number who gathered by the Liverpool Building in 2012 for the first ever event! It has been a real pleasure to see it grow into a major event in the local legal calendar.

It is not of course entirely for pleasure. The purpose of the walk is to raise

funds for Access to Justice. All funds raised go to the Access to Justice Foundation who, in turn, make grants to agencies in our area which provide free legal help to those in need. These are agencies such as the three Liverpool Law Centres – Vauxhall Law Centre (50 years old in 2023!), Merseyside Law Centre and The Equality and Employment Law Centre. All of these centres rely on charitable funding in order to keep their doors open.

In Liverpool we are so fortunate that the walk is supported across the profession. This year we delighted to be joined by HHJs Wood and Hodge. After the walk, we welcomed Ian Byrne MP, fresh from the Labour Party Conference. And most, important of all were the walkers from

local law firms – big and small. It was also a pleasure to have the support of Oriel Chambers and Unit Chambers representing the local bar.

The walk has, to date, raised just under £5k. This will go up as the donations continue to come in. And it is not too late. The donation page is open until the end of the year. You can contribute via your own firms page if they registered or through Liverpool Law Society at [THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOUNDATION: 2023 Liverpool Legal Walk \(enthuse.com\)](https://www.enthuse.com)

**Steve Cornforth**  
Trustee North West Legal Support Trust

A full photo gallery of the 2023 Walk is available to view [here](#).





Gaynor & Arfon Williams, Julie O'Hare



Fletchers Solicitors



Jackson Lees group



University of Law



Vauxhall Law Centre



Sarah Poblete, President Jeremy Myers, HHJ Wood KC, Steve Cornforth, Alum Ullah



Medical Legal Appointments



MSB



# Regulation Update

## The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

As the nights draw in, 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

AML made the headlines (again) in October, with the SRA publishing its annual AML report on 13 October (<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/research-publications/aml-annual-report-2022-23/>), which outlines the enforcement action undertaken during the year, as well as a look at the continuing risks such as the expansion of the sanctions regime, changes in the high risk third countries list, and vendor fraud in conveyancing.

The SRA carried out 177 proactive inspections and 73 desk-based review and only 43 firms were compliant, 115 partially compliant with enforcement action being taken against 47 firms and individuals. It submitted 24 suspicious activity reports to the NCA, relating to assets of more than £75m.

The annual report was swiftly followed on 18 October with the release of the following:

- A thematic report on client and matter risk assessments: (<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/research-publications/client-matter-risk-assessments/>)
- An AML warning notice (<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/client-and-matter-risk-assessments/>) in the wake of findings of firm non-compliance in

relation to client/matter risk assessments – in 2022/23 the SRA found 51% of client/matter risk assessments ineffective

- A client and matter risk template (<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/money-laundering/guidance-support/client-matter-risk-template/>) to support firms in this regard, but with the warning that if you use the template, it should be adapted to suit your firm.

We strongly recommend reading the report and, if you have not done so recently (or at all), review your policies, controls, and procedures to check they are up to date, relevant to the work you undertake and reflect the guidance, including LSAG guidance, warning notices and publications; review your training, and carry out an independent AML audit.

### SRA COLP & COFA conference

As you would expect from the above, AML was high on the agenda at the SRA annual COLP & COFA conference in Birmingham on Wednesday 18 October. Paul Philip, chief executive, said that the SRA would be 'coming down harder' on firms who are not complying with AML regulations and would be consulting next year on fixed financial penalties for AML failings, including not carrying out client/matter risk assessments, with fines higher than those presently in place for minor compliance failures introduced last year. These fines will be in addition to the unlimited fines the SRA will be able to impose in relation to financial crime following the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill coming into force.

The SRA has commenced sanctions inspections at firms, so now is the time to put processes in place, if you haven't already done so. The foreword to the AML annual report confirms the SRA will increase its work in this area, including proactive sanctions inspections and desk-based reviews, and where it finds sanctions breaches it will take enforcement action.

Also of note was recognition that some

investigations are taking longer than they should and additional case workers have been employed. The SRA also want to be able to penalise partners who have allowed misconduct to happen, as well as the individuals who carried it out.

### Fixed recoverable costs and client costs information

Solicitors advising on civil litigation claims will be aware that the fixed recoverable costs (FRC) regime was extended at the start of October. The government has also confirmed that FRCs will be introduced for lower damages clinical negligence claims in April 2024 ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/118494/fixed-recoverable-costs-consultation-response.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118494/fixed-recoverable-costs-consultation-response.pdf)).

In response, the SRA has published an article (<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/sra-update-120-fixed-costs-regime/>) as a reminder of what should be included in costs information to clients, for example information about the circumstances in which clients might be responsible for any shortfall between costs incurred and costs recovered from the other side, and information about the circumstances in which a client might be responsible for the other side's costs.

Dissatisfaction about costs information can result in complaints from clients, so providing clear costs information can serve to reduce the likelihood of client dissatisfaction and ultimately of complaints being made.

### Warning notice issued to providers of immigration services

The SRA has issued a warning notice to all law firms, solicitors, and other staff providing immigration services to clients. It has seen examples of and reports in the press that solicitors may be advising clients or prospective clients to falsify or fabricate information which is then used to support applications for asylum or leave to remain. The SRA has also



identified risks around poorly drafted applications or advising clients to pursue totally without merit appeals of Home Office decisions.

### **Failure to have proper regard to the warning notice will likely result in disciplinary action, the SRA warns.**

CILEX Regulation Limited publishes response to CILEX consultation on regulatory transfer to SRA  
CILEX Regulation Limited (CRL) has published its response (<https://cilexregulation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/CILEX-Regulation-Limited-consultation-response-October-2023-FINAL.pdf>) to CILEX's proposal to redelegate the provision of its regulation to the SRA, which – among other things – criticises a lack of information on the part of CILEX in relation to the financial implications of the proposed switch and raises concerns in relation to whether “appropriate governance structures” would be created, and the possibility that CILEX may choose to disregard the views of its members in deciding whether to proceed. In CRL's June consultation, which received over 1,000 responses, two thirds of respondents confirmed that regulatory change was not a priority for them, and three quarters stated a preference to continue with a specialist regulator.

The response concluded by urging CILEX members to engage with both the CILEX and SRA consultations on the matter. As a reminder, the CILEX consultation is open until 5 November, and the SRA consultation closes on 22 November.

## **New practice notes and guidance**

### **Law Society practice notes**

The Law Society has published three new practice notes since our last update:

- Social media <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/business-management/social-media>
- Access and disclosure of an incapacitated person's Will <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/private-client/access-and-disclosure-of-an-incapacitated-persons-will>
- Lasting powers of attorney <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/private-client/lasting-powers-of-attorney>

### **SRA guidance**

In addition to the above, the SRA has published new guidance on the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (PoCA 2002) (<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/proceeds-crime-guidance/>). This guidance is pertinent to all SRA-regulated firms and those working within them, solicitors (including in-house solicitors), registered European lawyers and registered foreign lawyers. The guidance outlines the principal offences, and details how to make a suspicious activity report.

The SRA notes that firms which do not carry out work in the scope of the Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer) Regulations 2017 do not need to appoint an MLRO, but those firms are nevertheless expected to have ‘suitably robust systems and controls in place to detect and prevent money laundering’. It therefore strongly recommends that all firms appoint an MLRO (and a deputy MLRO) to oversee the firm's compliance and ensure that it does not commit any PoCA offences.

### **Disciplinary decisions:**

#### **Solicitor struck off for child sex offences**

A solicitor has been struck off and ordered to pay costs of £4,002 after he was convicted of three offences of making indecent photographs of children, and the offences of arranging the commission of a child sex offence and facilitating the commission of a child sex offence.

#### **Solicitor struck off for misappropriating estate monies**

A solicitor has been struck off for using cheques to pay £200,000 of estate monies from two separate matters into his own accounts and for overcharging a combined total of almost £200,000 across six matters. He admitted all the allegations and was ordered to pay costs of £1,000.

#### **Three-month suspension for conducting reserved legal activity when not permitted to do so**

A solicitor has received a three-month suspension and was ordered to pay costs of £16,000 for making an application for probate for reward when not permitted to do so. She also admitted to practicing

as a solicitor when not authorised, and to failing to pay client money promptly into an approved and authorised client account.

Two solicitors fined for failing in their duties under a lasting power of attorney  
The two solicitors were each fined £11,250 by the SRA for: failing to ensure the conditions of a home insurance policy were met; using the donor's funds to pay for the cost of repair work in the absence of insurance cover due to the non-compliance instead of advising their client about the potential negligence; and continuing to act for the donor for over two years despite their own interest conflict. They were also ordered to pay the cost of the SRA's investigation to the sum of £600.

#### **Solicitor fined for making “derogatory” remarks in emails**

A solicitor was fined £7,500 for making “inappropriate, derogatory, puerile and inflammatory remarks” in emails sent to another solicitor, and for contacting a school attended by children of a defendant in possession proceedings where he represented the landlord. He was ordered to pay costs of £600.

#### **Firm fined after building up £105k in residual client balances**

A law firm has been fined and ordered to pay costs of £600 by the SRA for having inadequate procedures to deal with residual client balances on inactive or closed matters and for using its client account as a banking facility for a decade by retaining rent deposits in relation to the firm's offices when it no longer carried out legal services connected to them. The firm had self-reported and had been able to return the client funds with interest. The mitigation reduced the indicated fine of £16,607.60, based on the firm's turnover, to £14,116.46.

### **How Compli can help...**

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

**Andrea Cohen**

Compli,  
Weightmans LLP

# Pub Quiz at Scruffy Murphys

Join us for a fun, after-work networking session and Pub Quiz in partnership with Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Liverpool Law Society.

Wed, 29 Nov 2023 17:30 – 20:00 GMT

Venue: Scruffy Murphys, 25 Harrington St Liverpool L2 9QA

We are heading to Scruffy Murphy's for a fun, after-work networking session and pub quiz with our amazing Quiz Master, Helen Kinsella from Quiz It Up.

## What can I expect?

Connect with colleagues, or network with new faces in a fun, relaxed atmosphere at Scruffy Murphy's and take part in our virtual quiz.

£1 per person to join in for Chamber Members

£5 per person to join in as a Non member (all proceeds going to our Charity of the year – Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine)

Teams of 2- 6 people  
Book your place [here](#)

## #ChamberSocial

**DATE:** Wednesday 29th November

**TIME:** 5:30pm - 8pm

**VENUE:** Scruffy Murphy's



**Liverpool  
Chamber.**



# Women in Law Pledge

**The Women in Law Pledge asks organisations to commit to seeing gender balance at all levels across the legal profession, tackling the gender pay gap and other inequalities that still affect women in law today.**

Since the Pledge was launched in 2019 in partnership with the Bar Council of England and Wales and Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx), there have been positive signs of progress. Workplaces have started analysing their pay gap data in greater detail and publishing further data on partner pay. Steps have also been taken to ensure the gender diversity of newly appointed partners through recruitment/promotion targets and creating action plans to address inequality.

However, we must continue to work collectively to enact positive change for gender equality in the profession.

Women make up 53% of the practising profession and women partners increased by 1.9% reaching 9,101 in 2022, continuing the steady growth over the past few years. Despite this, women continue to experience barriers when

attempting to reach senior levels.

Unfair allocation of work, unfavourable promotion structures, unacceptable work-life balance, and the lack of visible senior women role models are just some of the areas that need addressing if we want to see women in law thrive.

The Women in Law Pledge – what is it and why do we need it?

The Pledge, now in its fourth year, currently has 51 signatories committing to gender equality and inclusion through the setting of high-level targets for gender equality, either within organisations, or as champions for change.

The eight commitments ask the profession to support to the progression of women into senior roles by developing a clear action plan to achieve equality at these levels and to tackle workplace culture and bias that potentially results in differential outcomes for different groups of women at all levels.

These do not have to be policies or practices currently in place but should include those that signatories wish to implement.

Current signatories report that the Pledge has assisted with securing senior leadership support and acted as a catalyst for change for gender equality and increasing gender representation at the senior levels.

Signatories benefit from a wide support network in which they can collaborate and share best practice to progress their gender equality plans. We hold two virtual thematic roundtables per year which focus on key issues facing women in the profession and different aspects of the Pledge.

We will release our first annual Pledge report in 2024 which will highlight the progress made within the profession.

[The Women in Law Pledge](#) and [Women in Law Pledge guidance](#) are available to view on our website.

*If your firm is interested in signing up to the Pledge or would like a speaker from the Law Society/Women's Solicitors Network Committee to attend and support any of your events, please contact [diversityteam@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:diversityteam@lawsociety.org.uk) for more information.*



**Samantha McLeish** – Diversity and Inclusion Adviser at the Law Society of England and Wales;

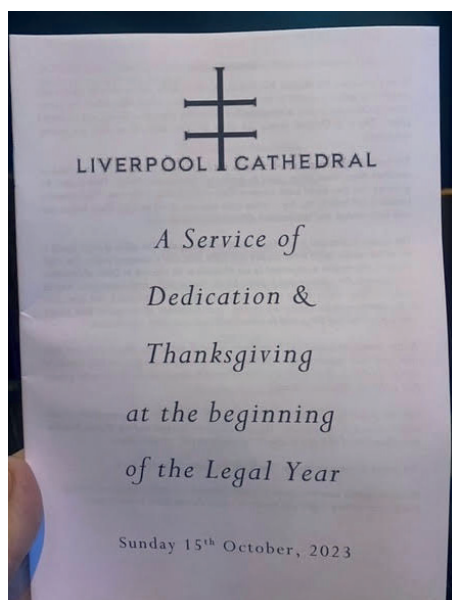


**Chantal Davies** - Professor of law, equality and diversity and director of Forum for Research into Equality and Diversity at University of Chester School of Law and Women Solicitors Network Committee member;



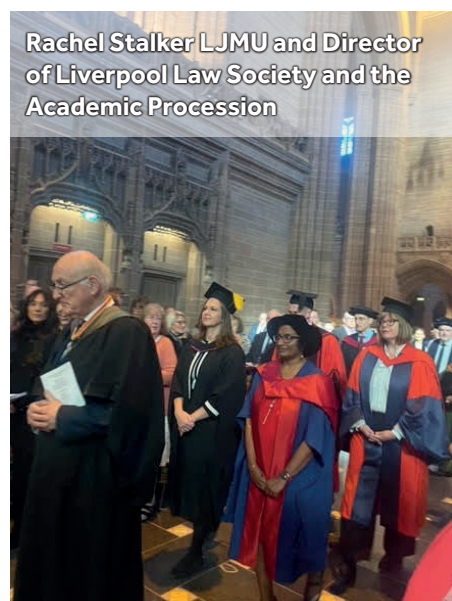
**Liz Turner** - Head of legal at Sophian Limited and Women Solicitors Network Committee member

# Anglican Cathedral Service to mark the beginning of the Legal year at Anglican Cathedral, Liverpool



On Sunday 15 October 2023 Liverpool Anglican Cathedral held a service of dedication and thanksgiving to mark the beginning of the Legal year. Jeremy Myers, President, was invited to take part in the Legal and Judicial procession. Gaynor Williams, Vice President and Alum Allah, Joint Honorary Secretary, were also present at the service.

The persons joining the procession



wore traditional robes, court dress, gowns and uniforms, and the Cathedral was filled with colour.

When the choir started singing the anthem 'Te Deum' the procession started with the civic procession, including Mayors from Halton, Knowsley, Sefton, Wirral and Liverpool. This was followed by the academic procession representing Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool John Moores University and University of Liverpool.

The legal and judicial procession included the President of Liverpool Law Society, Jeremy Myers, Justices of the Peace, and representatives from the Northern circuit. District Judges included District Judge Cuddy, Lloyd, McGarva, Boswell, Gray, Talukadar, Langley, Doyle, Deane, and Campbell.

Coroner Andre Rebello was followed by Circuit Judges including HHJ Swinnerton, Harris, Potter, Bond, Brandon, Pierpoint, Crangle, Woodall, Bispham, Howells and Aubrey KC. Senior Circuit Judges were HHJ Cadwallader, Hodge KC

and Menary KC. The High Court was represented by The Honourable Justice Goose KC and the Honourable Justice Yip KC together with Ashley Aukett, Clerk to Justice Yip. The Rt Hon Justice Edis KC represented the Court of Appeal.

The High Sheriff's procession included the Chief Fire Officer, Chief Constable of Merseyside, Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner, Under Sheriff, High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, High Sheriff of Lancashire, Magistrate to the High Sheriff, Preacher, Chaplain to the High Sheriff and Police Cadets to the High Sheriff of Merseyside. Ruth Hussey, High Sheriff of Merseyside was accompanied by Dr Hussey.

The Lord Lieutenant's procession was led by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Mr Mark Blundel, who was accompanied by Mrs Suzanne Blundell and Lord Lieutenant's cadet, Ethan Horne.

The procession concluded with the very Revd Dr Sue Jones, the Dean





**Prof Carlo Panara Director of Law at LJMU and the Academic Procession**



**Jeremy Myers, President, and the Legal and Judicial Procession**



**Jeremy Myers, President, and the Legal and Judicial Procession**



of Liverpool, and the Right Revd Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool.

The Dean of Liverpool welcomed the congregation and there was a short service including readings from HHJ Aubrey KC, Roger Phillips and HHJ Catherine Howells. The sermon from Professor Dame Carol Black was thought provoking and from the heart, talking about the lack of support available for drug addiction, and how addicts have become modern day lepers. She told spoke about addicts that she had met, their associated mental health issues, and suicide.

Reverend Canon Crispin Pailing said the prayers and the Archbishop of Liverpool gave a blessing before the service was concluded with the National Anthem.

After the service the congregation mulled inside to catch up with old friends, and new, and to take advantage of the refreshments that were provided.

It was a pleasure to attend the service on behalf of Liverpool Law Society, and to support the President. The Anglican Cathedral is Britain's biggest Cathedral with an impressive

101-metre-tall central tower and a mixture of modern and gothic architecture. It was the perfect setting for a service of this nature.

Thank you to Ruth Hussey, High Sheriff of Merseyside, for the kind invitation, and thank you to the organisers and everyone involved in the procession. Thank you to the Anglican Cathedral for hosting this memorable event, and finally, thank you to our President Jeremy Myers.

**Gaynor Williams**  
Vice President,  
Liverpool Law Society

**Jeremy Myers, President, leading the Legal and Judicial Procession**



**Inside the Anglican Cathedral**



**Jeremy Myers leading the Legal and Judicial Procession out of the Cathedral**



# The use of DNA testing in legal practice



Dr Neil Sullivan

**“Part of our DNA” has become a catchphrase throughout languages worldwide and it refers to a characteristic that is innately part of something. Obviously, this is often misused but the phrase does convey a key principle, that all living things contain a molecule which codes for the essence of life, in whatever species, plant, animal or microbe.**

This molecule, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and the technology that has developed around it, is now used in a host of applications - one of these, the determination of biological relationships, is the subject of today’s article.

Our objective today is to provide a primer for the use of DNA in legal situations, particularly family law. It is the case that technology, ethics, law and society sometimes struggle to keep up with each other. This is particularly so with DNA technology, where we grapple with issues such as consent, parental responsibility, multiple parent babies, paternity fraud, sperm donation, postmortem testing, surrogacy, immigration to the UK and pre-natal parentage testing.

The majority of DNA testing is to

determine the biological father of a child or paternity, where we are trying to prove that a tested male (the alleged father) is, or is not, the true biological father of a tested child.

There are also tests for other biological relationships such as for siblings, twins, grandparents and aunts/uncles. These tests are used for resolving family disputes, immigration status and of course many instances of sensitive child circumstances involving local authorities.

DNA is a chemical string of code which is unique to an individual. It is contained in nearly all the cells of your body (mature red blood cells are the exception) and is inherited half from the mother and half from the father. We examine this code in several ways to look at individuals and population characteristics, diseases (prediction and diagnosis), ancestry, to identify individuals in forensic cases and in our case, to decipher human relationships.

The DNA is extracted from a few cells taken from the buccal cavity, a painless and non-invasive procedure which uses a cotton swab rubbed around the cheek of the mouth. We can use nearly any tissue but for controlled sample collection for legal testing, we always recommend the buccal swab route.

In an identity test, the DNA is then examined for regions of similarity between the tested persons. In the case of a paternity test, the DNA test report will then confirm that the tested man is (usually with a certainty in excess of 99.999%) or is not the biological father of the tested child, which is given with 100% certainty. These results are termed either an inclusion (he is the biological father) or an exclusion (he is not the biological father).

There are two types of test in general use, with the common parlance of a “legal” or “accredited” test, or a “peace of mind/personal information” DNA test. This is an important distinction, because only a legal/accredited test may be used for a legal purpose, such as changing birth certificate.

In an accredited test, the appointed company will take control of the entire sampling and identity verification process, so that there is in effect a chain of custody of the sample from the subject to the laboratory.

In a “peace of mind” test, the individuals are allowed to take the samples themselves and then return them to the laboratories; of course, in such cases we then rely on the participants to take the sample from the correct individual. This is unsuitable for any legal purpose.

A common issue relates to consent and who has Parental Responsibility for the child. For DNA testing we must have “appropriate and qualifying” consent for each sample to be tested.

Consent is required from each adult party that is to be tested and if the test involves a child under 16, then we must also have consent from a person with Parental Responsibility for that child.

This is generally the mother, but may be the father under certain circumstances or indeed some other body (sometimes jointly shared with the parents), such as the local authority.

We are often asked about the participation of the mother in the process, which is in fact required for a legal/accredited test. With the mother’s DNA analysed in the test, in the case of an inclusion the percentage probability of paternity is generally much higher.



This is because the child's DNA is inherited half from mum and half from father...but we don't know which half! So by identifying the mum's DNA, we can then see that the remaining DNA must come from the father.

Sometimes, mum or alleged father(s) are not available for sampling and we then seek to obtain a DNA sample from other close family members so that we can attempt to establish a presumed parentage via DNA from siblings, grandparents or uncles and aunties.

While the figures for relatedness will not be as strong as for a direct paternity test, we can often gain useful probabilities which provide helpful supporting data when taken together with other evidence. Cousins are biologically too far removed to be helpful in this process.

These are all of course somewhat complex issues and if you require more detail please get in touch or go to our website for more information. Details can be found below.

About the author: **Neil Sullivan**, BSc, MBA (DIC), LL.M, PhD is General Manager, of Complement Genomics Ltd (trading as dadcheck®gold).

The latter is a company accredited by the Ministry of Justice as "A body that may carry out parentage tests as directed by the civil courts in England and Wales under section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969" and by virtue of directly running laboratory services which meet the stringent and internationally recognised ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

**PROFESSOR  
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MA, MB, BChir, PhD, FRCPath  
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- Adherence to court dates
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Please contact us on  
**0191 543 6334**  
or email us at [sales@dadcheckgold.com](mailto:sales@dadcheckgold.com)

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

# X-Press partners with LPG to offer local law firms Home Buyer Protection



**X-Press Legal services has formed a new partnership with LPG, enabling Merseyside conveyancers to mitigate the financial costs of failed property transactions for their clients.**

As reported by [Today's Conveyancer](#) the average cost of a fall-through during the second quarter of 2023 was £3,394, up from £3,355 in Q1. At the same time, the estimated number of transactions that fell-through in Q2 hit 69,940, a 10.2% increase on the previous quarter.

As a leading provider of property searches and reports to the conveyancing industry, X-Press Legal Services is now on a mission to protect conveyancers' reputations and consumers cash by raising awareness of a little-known insurance product - Home Buyer Protection.

The company has announced a strategic partnership with insurance provider LPG to ensure Home Buyer Protection is available to all legal firms that it partners with. Sharing the same values as X-Press Legal Services, LPG is dedicated to building meaningful client relationships. The partnership aims to empower

consumers ensuring enhanced protection and peace of mind during the transaction process.

*"This collaboration with LPG stems from our commitment to ensuring the legal firms we partner with can offer their clients an enhanced property buying experience," commented Lynne Lister, MD of X-Press Legal Services. "Home Buyer Protection ensures consumers are safeguarded while also promoting confidence and transparency throughout the process. We hope this additional asset will be welcomed by local law firms who recognise the financial damage that losing out on a purchase can cause their clients. Together, we can make buying a home less stressful for purchasers which is positive news for all parties."*

Property transactions entail an array of risks, both known and unforeseen during the 144-day average journey from deciding to buy and property instruction to purchase completion. Home Buyer Protection covers a spectrum of costs associated with the transaction process, including mortgage arrangement fees, professional fees (including legal costs) and disbursements.

*"Clients will be thanking rather than blaming their conveyancers when transactions fall through, if they have Home Buyers Protection," added Lynne. "This insurance covers mortgage arrangement fees, professional fees and disbursements, making the loss of a purchase less financially painful and hopefully giving consumers the confidence to retain their conveyancer and start the process again."*

Law firms interested in Home Buyer Protection can order it directly via X-Press Legal Services' Intelligent Conveyancing Online System [ICOS](#) or via their local [X-Press Legal Services Office](#).

X-Press Legal Services has earned its reputation as a trusted independent property search provider, offering valuable insights and meticulous searches to facilitate informed property decisions. Its North Cheshire, Merseyside and Manchester team specialise in providing property searches and reports to conveyancers. For further information visit <https://xpresslegal.co.uk/profile/?id=25> or call 01925 393333.





# All your conveyancing needs in one place

X-Press Legal Services provides professional property searches and reports to the conveyancing sector through our network of offices across England and Wales.

Our complete range of products and services are available through ICOS – our online ordering platform – which means we are a one-stop shop for all your conveyancing needs.

**Personal and professional** with unrivalled customer service.

**Established and experienced** – since 1998, we have been a trusted partner to hundreds of legal practices.

**Local experts** – our reports are compiled by people who have an in-depth knowledge of their local area.

Our Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation ensures a secure end-to-end service to our conveyancing clients.

**To find out more, please contact Adam Cooper**  
**T: 01925 393333 E: [adamc.7377@xpresslegal.co.uk](mailto:adamc.7377@xpresslegal.co.uk)**

CYBER SECURITY	COMPLIANCE PRODUCTS
Cyber Essentials Plus certified GDPR compliant Two factor authentication	AMLs Digital IDs Source of Funds Lawyer Checker Bank Account Verification Bankruptcy
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL SEARCHES	PRE & POST COMPLETION
Residential Commercial Agricultural Environmental Mining Water and Drainage Company Utilities	Indemnity Insurances Legal forms SDLT/LTT calculator Land Registry Gateway Report on Title



# Forthcoming Courses

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
10 & 17/11/2023	The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor	Vicky Ling
14/11/2023	Fixed Recoverable Cost Reforms Explained	Sean Linley & Seamus Kelly
15/11/2023		Various
20/11/2023	Personal Insolvency Update	Chris Beanland
21/11/2023	Civil Evidence & Witness Statements	Mike Winston
24/11/2023	Insolvency Update	Chris Beanland
28/11/2023	Costs in the Court of Protection	Helen Forster
06/12/2023	<b>The 2023 Personal Injury Conference - Accredited by APIL Training</b>	Various
12/12/2023	Leasehold Dwellings Update	Richard Snape
13/12/2023	Commercial Property: Introduction for paralegals	Hannah MacKinlay
2024		
16/01/2024	Making applications in the Court of Protection	Helen Forster
17/01/2024	Reporting to the Lender and Hot Mortgage Issues	Richard Snape
19/01/2024	Introduction to Wills and Probate, and Connection with Family Law	Safda Mahmood
24/01/2024	<b>Current and Future Legal Leaders: Managing your law firm business or legal team</b>	Various
31/01/2024	Highways issues and development	Hannah MacKinlay
07/02/2024	Housing Conference 2024	Various
09/02/2024	Essential Statutory Wills Update	Helen Forster
27&28/02/2024	Probate & Estate Administration - Introduction and Refresher	Rebecca Roscoe

**Training events open to legal professionals nationwide**

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

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

For full details, visit: [www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](http://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)





## The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor with Vicky Ling

Live online: 10th & 17th November, both 1.30pm - 4.30pm

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

This online course covers everything supervisors need to know and includes case study examples. Attending both parts will qualify a new supervisor who hasn't supervised before under Standard Contract Specification requirements for both the new Civil/Family Standard Contract 2024 and the Crime Standard Contract 2022. If you need to attend a course to qualify as a supervisor before the civil contract verification deadline of 15 March 2024, this course is for you. It is also a useful refresher for experienced supervisors.

*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](#)



## 2023 Conference for Legal Cashiers & Managers

Wednesday 15th November | 9.30am - 1.10pm

HYBRID - Attend in-person or online

A 'must attend' event for: Cashiers, COFAs, Practice Managers, Solicitors, Finance Directors & Accountants

**SRA Update – the latest Accounts Rules Compliance issues**  
Sean Hankin, SRA

**Dirty money – managing the risks of money laundering**  
Michelle Garlick, Weightmans

**A professional practices and VAT update**  
Sam Evans, MHA Moore & Smalley

**How to get your fees paid in a client focused way**  
Jenny Esau, Credit Management Group

**Avoiding Online Fraud**  
Haroon Akram, North West Regional Organised Crime Unit

**Fraud and Scams – current threats to corporate businesses**  
Emma Wilkinson, Barclays Bank

[More information here](#)

Sponsored by



## Civil Evidence & Witness Statements with Mike Winston

Tuesday 21st November, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

**Understanding how to use evidence to prove things in the civil courts is an essential skill for all litigators.**

**Being able to gather, collate and structure all types of evidence for use in a civil case in a CPR-compliant manner is often the difference between winning and losing when the matter proceeds to trial.**

*This highly-practical online course will cover in detail:*

- case and issue analysis
- understanding different types of evidence
- using/avoiding hearsay
- using objects or documents
- the civil evidence act checklist
- proofing witnesses
- questioning techniques
- listening techniques

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](#)



## Insolvency Update with Chris Beanland

Live online: Friday 24th November, 2pm - 4pm

It has been another busy year or so on the insolvency front. There is lots for practitioners to get to grips with from a landmark Supreme Court case on directors' duties and insolvency to problem cases involving whether one-director companies fulfil the quorum requirements of the Model Articles.


This **online** course covers key developments in corporate and personal insolvency over the last year or so.

**It concentrates on developments of most practical interest to lawyers generally and is not limited in scope to those who solely practice in this area.**



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](#)

  
**\*\*NEW\*\* Costs in the Court of Protection**  
 with Helen Forster

Live online: Tuesday 28th November, 1pm - 2.30pm\*


This online course is aimed at any firm offering this service and will provide up-to-date information on how the fee system works, current rules and regulations, and analysis of the case law surrounding costing.

It will cover the following:

- An overview of the current structure for billing
- SCCO guidelines
- Practical tips on drafting
- How to lay out your files in a cost-effective manner

**\*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](#)

  
**2023 Personal Injury Conference**  
 Wednesday 6th December, 9.30am - 3.40pm  
**Hybrid - Attend in person or online as preferred**

This event will round-up key developments in law & practice and provide an opportunity to hear directly from some excellent speakers.  
 For delegates attending in-person, lunch will be provided with the opportunity to network.

Chairperson ~ HHJ Howells

**Impact of Recoverable Fixed Costs on Personal Injury Litigation**  
 David Pilling, Civil Law Chambers

**OIC Portal Update**  
 Stu Hancock, Carpenters Group

**A Guide to Functional Neurological Disorder**  
 Pankaj Madan, Exchange Chambers


**Provisional damages and variable periodical payments**  
 Chris Barnes KC, Exchange Chambers

**Investing for Vulnerable Clients**  
 David Cole, Frenkel Topping


**Causation and Novus Actus-When Hospital Treatment Goes Wrong in PI Claims**  
 Yaqub Rahman, Oriel Chambers

**Collaborative working in serious injury cases and Fundamental Dishonesty**  
 Ann Allister, Carpenters Group & Sarah Mir, DWF

**Accredited by APIL Training Level: Litigator / Snr Litigator CPD: 5**

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**Leasehold Dwellings Update**  
 with Richard Snape

Live online: Tuesday 12th December, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Leasehold Dwellings Update in the Light of Recent Statutory Changes. Conveyancing of leasehold dwellings is becoming very complicated especially in the light of the Building Safety Act 2022. This online course aims to look at these changes.

Topics covered include:

- Recent changes in relation to building regulations
- Changes to the Fire Safety Order 2005
- The Fire Safety Act 2021
- The Building Safety Act and Higher-Risk buildings
- The Building Safety Act and Leaseholder Protections including recent changes
- Mortgage company requirements
- Recent issues in relation to ground rents including case law on Solicitor's negligence
- The Renters (Reform) Bill
- The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016
- Recent case law

**& 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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**\*NEW\***  
**Commercial Property: Introduction for paralegals**  
 with Hannah Mackinlay

Live online: Wednesday 13th December, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Dealing with commercial property can be one of the most interesting though challenging areas of work and good commercial property lawyers are always in demand. However, it is not just 'case management' like some residential work has become, and demands knowledge of law and commercial awareness. Many aspects are crucially different and this online course will help demystify the differences.

**We will look at:**

- The key differences with commercial property
- Different searches
- Different enquiries – the CPSE and how to deal with them
- Different contract – the SCPC & Auction conditions
- Different taxes – VAT & SDLT differences
- Commercial leases – key points & Security of tenure
- Property Development points

**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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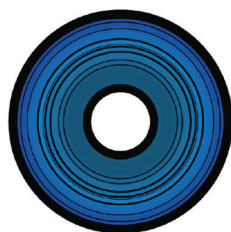


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- Tenants owing arrears on former rental properties;
- Directors of insolvent companies;
- Customers or clients with outstanding bills or invoices;
- People fleeing debt for another reason.

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

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

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Some of our services are chargeable to you or your clients, while others are paid for by the people we find.

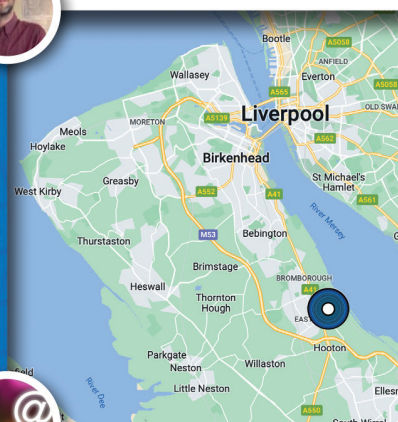
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- Missing shareholders, investors and policy holders;
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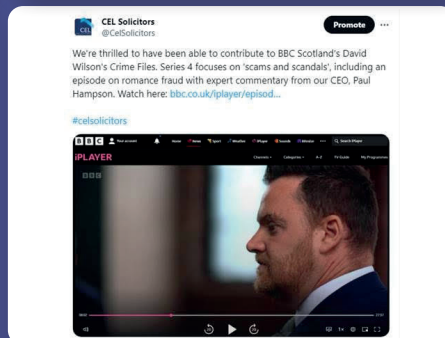
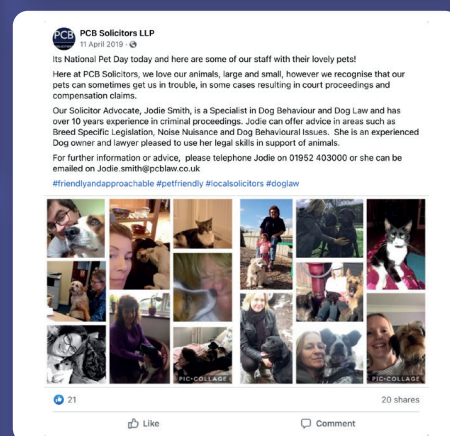
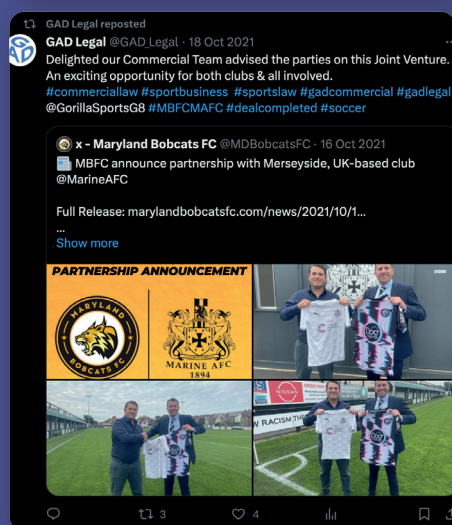


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Each month we will be bringing you a selection of the latest social media posts by Liverpool Law Society and its members.



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# LEGAL ROLES IN LIVERPOOL



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## Senior Private Client Solicitor

**Liverpool**

A leading law firm seeks a Senior Private Client Solicitor to join their team. With a min. of 8 years' PQE, you will hit the ground running with your strong private client experience. You will be STEP qualified and experienced in managing a team. Hybrid working available.

**Contact:** Justine - [j.forshaw@clayton-legal.co.uk](mailto:j.forshaw@clayton-legal.co.uk)

## Duty Solicitors

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I am working with several law firms in Liverpool who are seeking Duty Solicitors to join their team. You will have experience in criminal defence and motoring cases. Looking for applicants ranging from newly qualified to those with many years of experience.

**Contact:** Leanne - [l.byrne@clayton-legal.co.uk](mailto:l.byrne@clayton-legal.co.uk)

## Housing Disrepair Legal Executive

**Liverpool**

Liverpool City Centre based law firm, looking to expand their Housing Disrepair department, seeks a confident litigator who has excellent knowledge of Housing Disrepair. You will be required to progress files from cradle to grave. Bonus scheme on offer.

**Contact:** Chris - [c.orrell@clayton-legal.co.uk](mailto:c.orrell@clayton-legal.co.uk)

## EL/PL Litigation Fee Earner

**Wirral**

A dedicated Personal Injury law firm is seeking an experienced EL/PL Litigation Fee Earner join their team. You will handle an caseload of EL/PL or RTA files and you will have previous experience in Fee Earning - EL/PL or RTA. Full remote working available.

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