

Liverpool Law

Liverpool Law Society

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

International Women's Day: Maria Fogg Family Law partner with Severa UK and Taylor Wessing to hold pioneering events

pp. 26-27



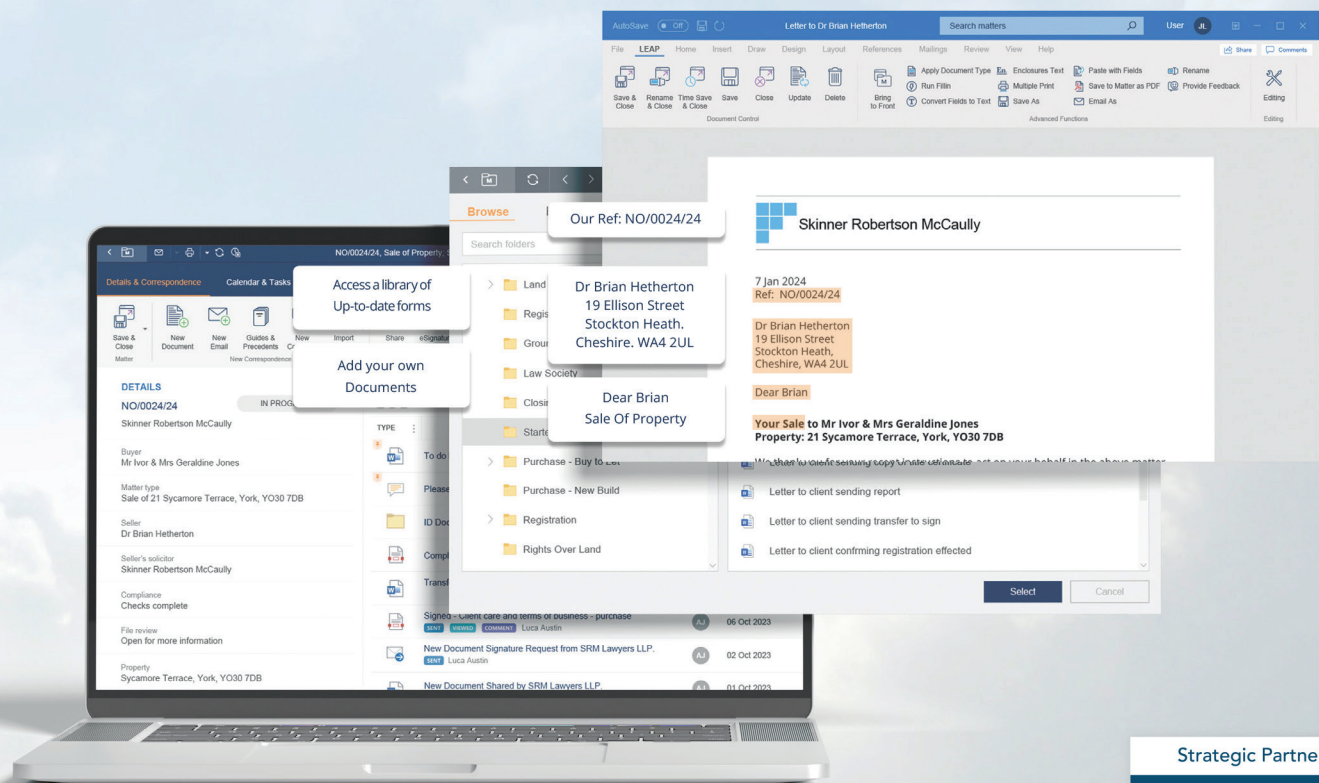


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April 2024

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Tues, 25.06.24

Tues, 23.07.24

Tues, 27.08.24

Tues, 22.10.24

Tues, 26.11.24



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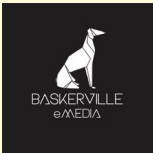
Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

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

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Editorial Committee Dates 2024

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

- 16.04.24
- 21.05.24
- 18.06.24
- 17.07.24
- 20.08.24
- 17.09.24
- 15.10.24
- 19.11.24

Welcome to the April edition of Liverpool Law



Welcome to the April 2024 edition of Liverpool Law.

I feel like this year is going by so quickly, I often still find myself typing 2023 instead of 2024 and already we are going into spring!

I hope everyone is keeping well as many navigate their firms financial year end and, more stressful for me personally, managing the school Easter holidays and the copious amounts of chocolate which make sugar rushed children even more of a handful! I know many of our children and students are going into exam periods, including those studying the SQE. There is also the anxious wait to find out which school younger children have got places for. Whatever stage you are at, I wish you the best of luck.

My diary has been filled with student events of late and I am reassured that the future is bright. I continue to be involved with the Everton in the Community cohort with ambitions of gaining a place on the Weightmans' internship and was filled with such pride hearing the news that one of the students from last year has been offered a place at Oxford University! I am also navigating the summer vacation scheme and training contract applications with my GROW mentee, it is so easy to forget how stressful that time can be. I was also invited to a dinner at Liverpool University and intrigued to find out about their very own Solicitors Society. The event was a great success and I have asked the host to write a piece for the magazine to give it the credit the event and host deserves.

The ethos of helping others in their ambitions is showcased in this months magazine and we read about the Pathways to the Profession event and also the success of the LJMU Mooting competition. We have also included details of the Diversity Access Scheme which closes shortly after this edition goes out, so please do share the details with any students you think this may assist.

It is so important to help the future generations where we can. Even a short encouraging conversation can go a long way in a students career.

Until next month.

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

Welcome to new members

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new members who were approved for membership at March's General Committee meeting.

There were 4 individuals from the following organisations:

- Bell Lamb & Joynson
- Bond Turner
- Clyde & Co
- Haworth & Gallagher

Liverpool Law Society's membership now exceeds 2,570 individuals from 198 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, Gaynor Williams

I love the lighter nights and the slightly warmer days, it signals to me that spring is just around the corner, as we march into April.

Since I last updated you, I was invited to be a Judge for Birmingham Law Society on 19 February 2024 and to attend their Legal Awards Dinner on 14 March 2024, this resulted in me visiting the beautiful city of Birmingham twice in less than a month. I enjoyed both my visits to Birmingham, and it was good to catch up with Manchester and Leeds Law Society's Presidents and Officers. Thank you to **Alice Kinder**, President of Birmingham Law Society, for the kind invitation.

I was also invited to the Institute of Taxation Dinner on 29 February 2024 and Insurance Institute of Liverpool's Annual Dinner the following evening, 1 March 2024. I enjoyed both evenings immensely and was made to feel very welcome by the respective Presidents and their guests.

We held the Pathways to the Legal Profession for year 12 students on 6 March 2024, this is always a popular event, and you can read more about it in this edition.

Together with **Rachel Stalker**, Lecturer at Liverpool John Moores University and Chair of the in-house lawyers committee, I attended Bluecoat School Careers Fair on 8 March 2024. It was a joy to speak to so many enthusiastic and ambitious youngsters, and the day was very well organised. The icing on the cake was visiting our member firms' stands, DWF, Hill Dickinson, In House Legal Solutions and Morecrofts, and getting a 'selfie' with them.

We met with the local MPs on 15 March 2024. **Siobhan Taylor-Ward**, Solicitor at Vauxhall Law Centre and a member of the Access to Justice Committee, gave a passionate and comprehensive update about the housing advice crisis in the Liverpool City Region. The Access to Justice Committee is hoping to facilitate a meeting with providers to discuss the issues, and we are keen for MP's to be involved too. **Lauren Cannon** also provided the MP's with an update on the recent and current bills, in particular the Rwanda Bill, which is getting a lot of attention in the media, and might end up back in the Supreme Court.

On the topic of the Supreme Court, I attended University of Liverpool on 19 March 2024 to listen to **Lord Burrow's** lecture about precedents and overruling in the Supreme Court. It was a fascinating and interesting topic and there were some good questions put to **Lord Burrows**. Thank you to **John Tribe** for inviting me.



I also attended a fourth dinner this month (whoever told me not to eat the bread to save my waistline, it isn't working) at Cheshire and North Wales Law Society's Dinner on 15 March 2024. It was enjoyable meeting students from the Law School at University of Chester, and catching up with **Mark Evans** who teaches at The University of Law and is DVP of the Law Society. Thank you to **Caroline Chappell**, president of Cheshire and North Wales Law Society, for a lovely evening.

One of my aims this year is to try and engage with our member firms on a personal level. This last month I have had the pleasure of meeting talented and inspiring Directors, Managers and Lawyers 'face to face' from Taylor Wessing, DWF, DLA and Jackson Lees. I plan to continue with my visits to law firms in the Liverpool City Region in the coming months. Any law firm that would like to hear more about what LLS do and how you can become more involved, please feel free to contact me.

Gaynor Williams
President

president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

LLS Meetings & events – April/May 2024

Start Time	Meeting/Event
09/04/2024 12:30	General Committee
10/04/2024 16:00	Family Business Sub-Committee
16/04/2024 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
18/04/2024 13:00	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee
18/04/2024 17:30	Joint Merseyside JLD & Liverpool Law Society Quiz 2024
19/04/2024 13:00	Past Presidents' Lunch
22/04/2024 13:00	Regulatory Sub-Committee
23/04/2024 13:00	Employment Law Sub-Committee
30/04/2024 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
01/05/2024 13:00	Education & Charities Sub-Committee
02/05/2024 17:30	QEII Law Courts 40th Anniversary Celebration
03/05/2024 13:00	Access to Justice Sub-Committee
09/05/2024 13:00	In-House Lawyers Sub-Committee
14/05/2024 12:30	General Committee
16/05/2024 13:30	Future Planning Sub-Committee
17/05/2024 10:00	Joint Forum on Access to Justice Group meeting

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 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

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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 for consideration by the relevant committee, please do so to committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Committee	Consultation Paper title	Closing date
Non-Contentious Business	Options for Defined Benefit schemes	19.04.24
Criminal Practice	Blackmail, kidnap and false imprisonment guidelines – consultation	24.04.24
Criminal Practice	Aggravated Vehicle Taking Offences	22.05.24
Regulatory	Improving the effectiveness of the Money Laundering Regulations - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	09.06.24
Regulatory	https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/consultations/discussion-papers/consumer-protection-review/	01.07.24

Legal service providers should provide SRA with their views on consumer protection in light of the serious consequences of Axiom Ince

The SRA have launched a review of its overall approach to protecting consumers in response to shifting risks in the sector. The Law Society have welcomed this review, which is timely in light of the serious consequences of the collapse of Axiom Ince. The review's main points of focus are consumer protection and the Compensation Fund.

The SRA's objective with this 'Consumer Protection Review' is to ensure:-

- consumers are appropriately protected when they use a regulated law firm.
- public confidence and trust in legal services is maintained.
- there is a competitive, dynamic legal market that supports access to justice through enabling consumer choice while keeping the costs of legal services down.

Any reforms will invariably impact legal service providers, and any regulatory changes could increase burdens and costs

to law firms.

I would urge Liverpool Law Society members to read the review [SRA | Protecting the public: our consumer protection review | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#) and to submit your responses by 1 July 2024.

Gaynor Williams
President
Liverpool Law Society



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- Office Insurance
- Management Liability
- Restrictive Covenants
- Group Healthcare
- Group Travel Insurance

Having experienced working for global companies and independent brokers. I bring the experience of working on complicated projects and offer that personal service as a specialist in this industry.

Solicitors Industry Experience

I have partnered with law firms as new startups and firms with over 100 years of experience. As well as the important Professional Indemnity renewal. I will work with the firms' departments to promote risk management solutions such as;

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- Provide insurance solutions for your commercial clients.
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Leaders in Law: Lisa Edmunds



1. Can you briefly explain your role as the Managing Partner and the key responsibilities that come with it?

As Head of Chambers at Unit, I undertake a multifaceted role. In my capacity as the leader of Unit Chambers, I oversee the overall management, strategic direction and governance of the business. I'm responsible for making critical business decisions, fostering collaboration among members and ensuring effective operations. I play a pivotal role in shaping the innovative approach of Unit Chambers, challenging traditional practices and steering Unit towards becoming a pioneering family law practice within the North West of England and beyond. In addition to my leadership role, I practice as one of the Senior Consultant Family Barristers in chambers. In this capacity, I leverage over two decades of experience and expertise in high-level and complex family law cases. I actively engage in providing legal services, strategic advice and specialised support to clients in family law matters. My dual role allows me to not only lead chambers but also directly contribute to its core legal practice.

2 What are the positive and negative aspects of being the Managing Partner?

Positive Aspects: As Head of Chambers, I have the opportunity to shape the direction and culture

of Unit Chambers. My decisions directly influence the success and innovative approach of chambers which I thoroughly enjoy. Additionally, as a Senior Consultant Barrister I am actively engaged in my legal practice on a daily basis, utilising my experience to provide strategic advice and support to clients in family law.

Contributing to the evolution of the future of the family law is an element of my role that is incredibly motivating for me. Negative Aspects: Being Head of Chambers comes with significant responsibilities, including critical business decisions and overall management. The weight of these responsibilities can often be quite challenging and stressful. Moreover, as a business grows there will inevitably be growing pains, so one of my key objectives as a leader is to ensure that I continue to cultivate a team spirit amongst our team of self-employed and employed individuals, which can be tricky at times. Furthermore, implementing innovative practices and challenging traditions, especially at the Bar, can sometimes face resistance. Navigating the changes that I am so passionate about sometimes means I encounter obstacles and which has meant that I've had to work on developing adept communication and leadership skills.

3. How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the operations of your firm?

Given that Unit was actually established in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic in July 2020, we were uniquely positioned to embrace a new way of working right from our inception. While many chambers were forced to adapt their operations due to the pandemic, we built our foundation in an environment shaped by the challenges and opportunities brought about by the global health crisis. This distinctive starting point allowed us to design our systems, processes and work culture with the inherent understanding of the demands and benefits of remote and flexible working.

4. What are your new agile working policies as a result of the pandemic and why?

Unlike established firms that needed to undergo significant changes to adapt to the 'new normal,' our structure was inherently agile and tailored to the circumstances of the pandemic from day one. The benefits of establishing Unit during this period were twofold. Firstly, we avoided the need for disruptive changes that many traditional chambers had to implement. Our paperless, flexible and technologically integrated approach was not a response to the pandemic but a strategic decision from day one. Secondly, our establishment coincided with a period where remote communication and virtual collaboration became integral to professional interactions. This enabled us to seamlessly integrate various video conferencing platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams into our workflow. These tools not only facilitated client meetings and consultations but also allowed us to connect as a team effectively and efficiently. By embracing the challenges posed by the pandemic during our establishment, Unit has positioned itself as a forward-thinking and adaptive chambers, ready to navigate the evolving landscape of the legal profession.

5. What do you perceive as your greatest challenges?

As the legal landscape evolves, our commitment to staying at the forefront of technological advancements stands as both a challenge and a strategic imperative. Technology has become an integral part of day-to-day legal practice, influencing everything from case management to client communication. At Unit Chambers, we recognise the need to continually adapt to emerging technologies, ensuring that our practices remain efficient, secure and aligned with industry best practices. Moreover, we acknowledge the importance of placing the focus on family law and prioritising the well-being of families and children amid legal proceedings. While technology enhances our operational efficiency, we are acutely

aware that the human element must never be overshadowed. Our challenge lies in striking the right balance between leveraging technology for streamlined legal services and maintaining the empathy, understanding and personal touch that family law demands. In the broader context of challenges within the UK family law system, issues such as access to justice, legal aid cuts, and court delays present ongoing concerns. Ensuring that individuals have equitable access to legal resources and representation remains a pivotal challenge. Additionally, advocating for systemic improvements to address delays and inefficiencies within the family law courts is crucial for advancing justice and protecting the rights of families and children. By addressing these challenges head-on, Unit Chambers aims not only to lead in technological innovation within the legal field but also to champion the cause of family law, prioritising the needs and rights of families and children in the UK legal system

6. What aspects of your firm are you most proud of?

Our journey has been marked by several achievements that reflect our unwavering commitment to excellence, growth and making a positive impact. One aspect that fills me with immense pride is our remarkable team growth. Over the past three years, we have transformed from a solo practitioner (me!) to a cohesive team of twenty four dedicated professionals. This expansion not only underscores our success but also signifies the increasing demand for our specialised family law services. Remaining the sole barristers chambers specialising in family law in the North West of England is another source of pride. This distinction positions us as pioneers in the region, serving as a testament to our unique expertise and unwavering focus on family law matters. It speaks to our dedication to filling a crucial niche in the legal landscape, ensuring that individuals and families in the North West have access to top-tier family law representation. Moreover, I take great pride in the profound impact our barristers make in the lives of our clients. Each day, our team adheres to our Client Promise, going above and beyond

to deliver exceptional legal services with empathy, dedication, and a client-centric approach. We don't just navigate legal complexities; we make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve, providing support and resolution during challenging times. Our commitment to changing perceptions surrounding family law is a core aspect of our identity. We actively work to demystify legal processes, foster understanding, and redefine the narrative around family law matters. By prioritising transparency, communication and compassionate representation, we aim to reshape the way individuals perceive and experience family law services. In essence, what I am most proud of is not just the growth of our team or our unique position in the legal landscape but the positive transformations we bring to the lives of our clients and the broader community. It's about embodying our values, pioneering change, and setting new standards of excellence in family law.

7. What are your immediate short-term goals for the firm?

Our immediate short-term goals at Unit Chambers revolve around the continuous development and support of our existing team. We are deeply invested in nurturing the growth of each of our team members, empowering them to excel in their individual legal practices within the realm of family law and their own unique career paths. By providing tailored support, training and mentorship, we aim to foster an environment where our barristers and employed team members can thrive and reach their full potential. One of our top priorities is ensuring that our team remain loyal to our foundation of positive behaviour and respectful conduct, treating everyone (barristers or members of our Support Team alike) with the respect they deserve. This is to align with our overarching goal to eliminate the sense of entitlement and hierarchy that exists within the majority of chambers.

Additionally, we are actively exploring opportunities to expand and enhance our service offerings. This includes a strategic focus on incorporating other forms of legal work into our practice. TOLATA (Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act),

modern families, early neutral evaluation and mediation are areas where we see potential opportunities with our existing expertise. By diversifying our practice areas, we aim to provide comprehensive and integrated solutions to our clients, ensuring that their evolving needs are met with excellence. Our commitment to staying at the forefront of legal innovation and adapting to the changing landscape of family law remains unwavering. Through these short-term goals, we strive not only to strengthen our internal capabilities but also to broaden the scope of our services, offering a holistic approach to legal support for individuals and families facing diverse challenges. In essence, our immediate focus is on the growth and development of our team members and the strategic expansion of our service offerings to better serve our clients and the community.

8. Where do you envision the firm in ten years?

In envisioning the future of Unit a decade from now, my aspirations are both ambitious and rooted in our commitment to excellence and innovation. Foremost, I see the continued evolution of Unit Law as a fully integrated legal services firm. Our strategic direction involves expanding our offerings beyond traditional family law, incorporating a comprehensive range of legal services to provide clients with a one-stop solution for their diverse needs. Our goal is to emerge as the go-to firm for all family law matters in the UK, leveraging our expertise and innovative approaches to set new standards in legal practice. As pioneers in reshaping the landscape of family law, we aim to lead not only through our commitment to respecting the tradition of the Bar but also by pushing boundaries in terms of what we do and how we do it. This includes embracing and driving technological advancements. From a technological perspective, we anticipate being at the forefront of innovation. Embracing cutting-edge technologies and digital solutions will be integral to our operations. I envision a future where technology enhances accessibility, efficiency, and the overall client

experience. Crucially, our vision extends beyond professional success to making a lasting impact on the legal profession and the communities we serve. We strive to be recognised not only for our legal expertise but also for our dedication to social responsibility, inclusivity, and the well-being of our team and clients. In summary, my vision for Unit a decade from now is of a dynamic, integrated legal services firm leading the way in family law, celebrated for its innovation and technological prowess.

9. What kind of legacy would you like to leave as the Managing Partner?

As the CEO of Unit Chambers, my vision for the legacy of our firm is deeply

intertwined with the principles that have driven our journey. I aspire to leave a legacy marked by innovation, inclusivity, and excellence in the practice of family law. A key aspect of this will be our commitment to social responsibility and inclusivity. I envision Unit as a trailblazer in fostering a diverse and supportive environment, not just within our team but also in the legal profession more generally. Our legacy should reflect a deep dedication to social impact, contributing positively to the communities we serve. In terms of professional achievements, I aim to leave behind a firm that is widely recognised as the go-to destination for family law matters in the UK. Our legacy should be built on a foundation of legal excellence, strategic thinking, and a

client-centric approach that consistently delivers outstanding results. Moreover, I want our legacy to extend beyond the confines of traditional legal practice. By nurturing the next generation of legal professionals and providing a platform for continuous learning, I hope to contribute to the broader development of the legal profession. Ultimately, the legacy I aim to leave as CEO is one where Unit Chambers stands as a beacon of innovation, inclusivity, and excellence in family law. A legacy that not only respects the tradition of the Bar but propels it into a future where legal practice is synonymous with forward-thinking, adaptability, and a genuine commitment to making a positive impact.

VAWG/Immigration Advice - Networking Event

Wed 8th May 2024 1.30pm to 3.30pm at University of Liverpool Event Space

Liverpool Law Society is facilitating an important symposium taking place on Wednesday 8th May. The symposium is also facilitated by University of Liverpool and University of Law and shall address the need for better advice to be provided to women and girls facing violence against them, particularly those from immigrant communities. It shall work towards strengthening the relationship between Liverpool City Council, elected representatives, immigration and family legal representatives and advice agencies. Aims include:

- Building better working relationships between partners.
- Discussing how we can establish more efficient referral links.
- Understanding how support agencies can be upskilled to better support lawyers.
- Share knowledge and good practice between partners.
- Exploring grant funding and commissioning opportunities.

James Mannouch (Chair - Access to Justice Committee) says *“This is a serious attempt to address an important issue. By law firms, advice agencies and local authorities working together, we can allocate resources in a more effective manner. Law firms are encouraged to attend to explore referral links and grant funding”*.

In 2023 Liverpool City Council published a three-year strategy to combat violence against women and girls (VAWG). The strategy is one of the Council’s key priorities in the Council Plan and is being driven by senior leadership in partnership with key organisations across the city.

Complimentary to this work the Council’s Our Liverpool Team exists to make Liverpool a welcoming city and Liverpool City Council a migrant-friendly organisation where people seeking sanctuary and vulnerable migrants are able to thrive from the day they arrive.

In partnership with Liverpool Law Society, The University of

Liverpool and The University of Law, Liverpool City Council will be hosting a collective conversation hosted by **Cllr Laura Robertson-Collins** (Cabinet Member for Communities, Neighbourhoods and Streetscene - lead for the VAWG strategy) to discuss how we can work towards strengthening the relationship between the Council, immigration legal representatives, advice agencies and researchers.

To register your attendance, please complete the online registration form here [VAWG/Immigration Advice- Networking Event- Wed 8th May 2024 at UoL Event Space \(office.com\)](#)



Maria Fogg Family Law Honoured as Highly Commended Boutique Law Firm of the Year 2024



Charlotte Fogg, Director of Maria Fogg Family Law, expressed her gratitude for the recognition, stating, “For our firm to be shortlisted for a national legal award amongst our peers is a great achievement alone, but to be further recognized as Highly Commended is a bonus. We are looking forward to driving Maria Fogg Family Law forward.”

The firm’s specialisation in Legal Aid domestic abuse and child protection underscores its commitment to serving vulnerable individuals and families in need of legal support and protection. Through their tireless advocacy and unwavering dedication, Maria Fogg Family Law has made a significant impact on the lives of countless clients, helping them navigate complex legal challenges with compassion and expertise.

This national recognition serves as a testament to the collective strength and expertise of Liverpool’s legal community. It highlights the city’s ability to foster growth, innovation, and success within the legal sector. Maria Fogg Family Law’s recognition as Highly Commended Boutique Law Firm of the Year further solidifies Liverpool’s position as a leading city for law.

[Modern Law Awards 2024 - Results](#)



Charlotte Fogg

Maria Fogg Family Law, a distinguished firm specialising in Family Law with a focus on Legal Aid domestic abuse and child protection, has been bestowed with the prestigious recognition of Highly Commended Boutique Law Firm of the Year (2024) in the category for firms with 11 or more employees at the National Modern Legal Awards.

The National Modern Legal Awards, known for acknowledging excellence and innovation within the legal profession, attracted entries from across the nation. Maria Fogg Family Law stood out among its peers, impressing judges with its exceptional performance and unwavering commitment to its clients and community.

The accolade is a testament to Maria Fogg Family Law’s dedication to establishing itself as a leader in its chosen market. Over the past year, the firm has demonstrated remarkable progress and development as a business, showcasing excellence in strategy, growth, financial performance, employee development, diversity, training, and client care.



Jackson Lees Group expand with acquisition of Farrington Law

Jackson Lees Group are pleased to announce that they are expanding with the acquisition of Farrington Law.

The law firm, based in Churchtown near Southport, was founded by **Caroline Farrington**. They currently offer private client work including commercial property law, civil litigation, family law, wills, trusts and probate and residential property.

Their areas of expertise compliment the services already offered by Jackson Lees Group. All members of staff, who have over 40 years of expertise between them, will also be joining the Group.

Esther Leach, Managing Director at Jackson Lees Group, said: *“We’ve been on the lookout for that perfect addition to Jackson Lees Group. It was really important that we found not just the right business, but also the right people, who match who we are and what we do – following the MAPD Group values of Making a Positive Difference.*

“Like the rest of Jackson Lees Group, the team at Farrington Law care about their clients as people, not just files. Providing accessible and approachable support for their clients is what makes them tick. I know we’ll benefit from their skills and expertise.”

The acquisition of the Southport office means that Jackson Lees Group will now have additional reach across Merseyside, with offices already in Liverpool city centre, Hoylake and Heswall.

Esther added: *“Expanding our geographic reach and growing our client base across the North West is a fantastic opportunity for us; we’ve got a really strong presence in Wirral and Liverpool, and growing further north towards Southport gives us a much bigger footprint.”*

Caroline Farrington, former owner of Farrington Law, said she and her team are “super excited” to have been invited to be a part of Jackson Lees Group. She explained why she made the decision to join forces, as she said: *“Having started the firm on my*

own and building up a great team, strong reputation and many lovely clients, I got to the point where I couldn’t grow further on my own.”

Explaining why she chose Jackson Lees Group, **Caroline** added: *“We feel very strongly about looking after our clients and want them to feel that they are our priority. We have built a really strong, close team and we work together well. A client for one of us is a client for all of us.*

“Meeting Esther, Haley Farrell (Deputy Managing Director) and the wider team at Jackson Lees Group, it was apparent that the firm share those views. That was crucial to me.

“I’m really excited about becoming part of the Jackson Lees Group family and the opportunities that will bring for us and our clients. We have become a part of a very special company and we can offer our clients a wide range of services and support which we simply couldn’t before.”

Employment and Commercial Partner Janne Fitzsimmons Joins Excello Law in the North West



Janne Fitzsimmons

Excello Law, a leading fee share law firm, has added to its team of lawyers in the North West. Janne Fitzsimmons brings extensive experience

in employment law and further strengthens Excello Law’s significant presence in the North West.

Janne began her legal career with a prestigious training contract at Olswang in London. With over 20 years of experience, she has worked both in private practice and in-house roles, including positions at prominent firms

such as DWF, Hill Dickinson and EY Riverview Law.

Julie Mogan, Regional Director for Excello Law in the North West, expressed her enthusiasm for Janne’s arrival, stating, *“We are delighted to welcome Janne to our team. Her wealth of experience and expertise will greatly benefit our clients. Janne’s arrival further solidifies Excello Law’s commitment to attracting top legal talent from across the UK and underscores our dedication to building upon an already strong presence in the North West.”*

Commenting on her decision to join Excello Law, **Janne Fitzsimmons** remarked, *“I recognised a decade ago that*

the legal profession was evolving towards alternative business models. Joining Excello Law as a fee share lawyer aligns perfectly with this vision. The firm’s commitment to excellence and integrity, coupled with its supportive infrastructure, makes it an ideal fit for me. I am particularly impressed by the autonomy and flexibility offered, allowing me to balance my career as a Partner while prioritising my role as a hands-on mother to my three daughters.”

Janne’s arrival underscores Excello Law’s commitment to attracting the very best legal talent and to providing exceptional legal services. The firm has offices across the UK including Manchester, Liverpool and Chester.

Astraea Linskills make double appointment to form Housing Disrepair Team



Sandra Craig



Albie Johnson

One of Liverpool's fastest growing law firms Astraea Linskill's has made a double appointment to manage a newly formed Housing Disrepair team.

The shortage in affordable housing and interest rate rises has seen massive growth in the rental market and this in turn has exacerbated the growing number of client enquiries regarding Housing Disrepair and associated landlord responsibilities.

Sandra Craig, who has worked with some of the region's top law firms has joined as Head of Housing Disrepair, she is supported by **Albie Johnson** as a Senior Litigator. The duo will work alongside Astraea Linskill's award-winning and dedicated Welfare Benefits team and together will provide a one-stop-shop for welfare benefit and housing repair related matters.

Sandra has over 30 years' experience within the legal profession and a wealth of experience in housing disrepair, with particular focus on claims against Social Housing landlords. During this time, Sandra has dealt with hundreds of claims representing both Claimants and Defendants with a strong history of success. In addition, to making sure that repairs are undertaken, Sandra has been very successful in recovering compensation for tenants in housing disrepair claims. She has the benefit of many years' experience in assessing whether any other possible causes of action can be brought, such as a claim for personal injury if the client has suffered injury or their health has deteriorated as a result of the disrepair in the property.

On joining Astraea Linskills **Sandra** said *"Representing clients in claims against Social Housing Landlords is not just about getting the repairs carried out or even recovering compensation – it's also about being a voice for our clients. Too often Social Housing tenants' concerns are simply ignored, and they are left to live in horrendous and uninhabitable conditions. Everyone has the right to live in a property that is free from disrepair and is fit for human habitation"*.

Albie Johnson has worked in the legal sector for over 18 years specialising in personal injury. Over the past three years Albie's main focus has been housing disrepair, predominantly representing tenants against Social Housing landlords. Of his new role **Albie** said *"I am so excited to be part of the Astraea Linskills story. Since moving into the area of housing disrepair I have found a real passion in helping social housing tenants."*

Sara Perishine, Director, said *"This double appointment shows our commitment to provide a full legal service to those who often find themselves in intolerable living conditions. We know that our Housing Disrepair Team will achieve great results for clients and change people's lives"*

Astraea Linskill's, with offices on Castle Street, was formed in 2016 and has become one of Liverpool's leading law firms offering a wide range of legal services www.a-l.law

T: 0330 128 1660

Unit Chambers Wins Chambers of the Year Award at Lexis Nexis Legal Awards 2024



Unit Chambers, a dynamic and forward-thinking barristers chambers in Liverpool, is proud to announce that it has been awarded the prestigious Chambers of the Year title at the Lexis Nexis Legal Awards 2024. This recognition acknowledges Unit Chambers' commitment to excellence, innovation and client care in the legal profession.

Established in 2020, Unit Chambers has quickly risen to prominence in the legal landscape, challenging the status quo while honouring the rich traditions of the Bar. With a focus on providing exceptional service to clients and barristers alike, Unit Chambers is redefining the role of barristers' chambers

in the modern legal environment.

"At Unit Chambers, we believe in doing things differently," said **Lisa Edmunds**, CEO and Senior Consultant Barrister at Unit Chambers. *"While we respect the traditions of the Bar, we are not afraid to challenge conventions and push boundaries to better serve our clients and barristers. Winning the Chambers of the Year award is a testament to our team's dedication and innovative spirit."*

Unit Chambers prides itself on prioritising client care and providing barristers with the support and resources they need to excel in their practice. By fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment, Unit Chambers empowers

its members to deliver outstanding legal services and achieve the best possible outcomes for their clients.

"We are honoured to receive this prestigious award and grateful for the support of our clients, solicitor partners and the legal community," added **Lisa Edmunds**. *"This achievement would not have been possible without their trust and collaboration."*

Unit Chambers is committed to continuing its mission of excellence, innovation, and client-focused service as it looks toward the future.

For more information about Unit Chambers, please visit www.unit.law.

Solicitors Society Dinner



Ellis-Jade McManus

My name is Ellis-Jade McManus and I'm a second-year law LLB student, aiming to qualify as a commercial solicitor post graduation. Navigating breaking into the commercial law field can be difficult, especially as a first-generation university student. For this reason, I have endeavoured to engage in activities ranging from work experience to extracurriculars to perfect my candidacy and enjoy the process of becoming a lawyer.

My journey into law has not been linear, but retrospectively I am grateful for it. I had to resit my A-levels in 2020-22 in order to gain the necessary grades to study law at university and at the time I felt like I had fallen behind my peers. I am now incredibly grateful for the resilience and determination it has given me.

Setbacks have fuelled my desire to succeed in commercial law, I truly do not believe I would be in such a positive position both academically and professionally if I had not taken the extra two years to create a strategy for my professional development.



I would like to draw on some recent achievements of mine which demonstrate my passion for law. I am in the extremely privileged position to have accepted places on four vacation schemes, one being a magic circle law firm. The application processes are intense, and the standard of candidacy is impressive which makes receiving four offers feel all the more special. Summer 2024 is going to be a busy one, but I couldn't think of better way to spend it than being inspired by likeminded students and gaining more knowledge about commercial law.

Additionally, in March 2024 I was named as best advocate at the final of the University of Liverpool mooted competition held in the Crown Court. As somebody with a strong regional accent, at times I have doubted my ability to sound professional or intelligent. I now feel confident in my ability to communicate, and I know my younger self would be proud, no longer thinking "*barristers can't sound like me*".

A final high of my journey into law that I would like to showcase is my

involvement with the University of Liverpool Solicitors society. The society is a student-led organisation that aims to offer support for both law and non-law students aspiring to become solicitors post graduation. We are best known for our events with sponsor law firms to enrich our members knowledge of the application process and commercial awareness.

In March 2024, the society hosted its first careers dinner at the Hope Street hotel, organised by the society president **Kenneth Archeampong**, myself and the other committee members. During this event we had presentations from Weightmans, CMS, Taylor Wessing and Trowers & Hamlins.



I nominated myself to host the event, in doing so speaking to a room of over 100 to introduce each firm and guide everyone through the evening. A notable high was interviewing our future trainee panel, asking each participant questions about their time navigating the infamous training contract recruitment process. It was especially rewarding to see our University of Liverpool third-year students shine, who should all be extremely proud of securing their training contract at such an early stage.

I look forward to my final year of university which is vastly approaching, setting new goals and meeting new and inspiring people that continue to make my journey into law a special one.

Ellis-Jade McManus
hsemcma3@liverpool.ac.uk

Vauxhall Law Centre responds to city council letter



Vauxhall Community
Law & Information
Centre

8th March 2024

Dear the Law Society Gazette,

We write in response to the letter published on 23 February from Liverpool councillors **Sarah Doyle** and **Liam Robinson**, which was written as a response to the Gazette feature of 9 February. The latter, *'Left in the Lurch in Liverpool'*, was a report on the homeless and housing crisis in Liverpool and its impact on those working in housing legal aid. The article featured extensive interviews with members of the team at Vauxhall Law Centre and specifically with the housing solicitors.

The councillors write that they wish to correct inaccurate information. We feel it is therefore important that we respond.

Vauxhall Law Centre is and always has been committed to relieving poverty and homelessness through providing access to expert legal advice and representation on behalf of clients who face injustice. Our housing team works collaboratively and has spent many hours engaging with, lobbying and reaching out to the relevant teams and individuals within the city council, specifically those working on housing related matters. We are regularly consulted by various colleagues within the council in the development of strategies or during reviews of teams and processes. Following a push from ourselves for a more collaborative approach, we have had numerous meetings with, for example, the director of housing and managers within the homeless team and private rented sector departments. In addition, we work regularly with our local MPs and councillors providing insight on matters such as housing, welfare benefits and legal

aid. We specifically have a longstanding working relationship with councillor **Doyle**, having regularly discussed potential reforms and ways to improve services as well as working together on multiple individual cases involving her constituents.

In response to the specific matters they chose to highlight, we can categorically confirm that on 9 February there was no way for homeless individuals in Liverpool to either present as homeless in person or access face-to-face assessments from the council's housing options team since the initial Covid 19 lockdown in March 2020. This was also confirmed by the council's own website from the date the original article was published. We do, however, note that at some point between 9 and 23 February, their policy appears to have changed. We note that the website now states that homeless individuals can present as homeless over the telephone or using an online form, and can then request that they attend a face-to-face assessment. We welcome this change by Liverpool City Council and look forward to hearing from our clients who have been able to access this service face to face. We will continue to campaign for the reintroduction of further accessible spaces across the city in which homeless individuals can present as homeless in person, as was the case before March 2020.

The councillors write to say that it is incorrect to say that emergency rough sleeper support can only be accessed over the phone or online. Our understanding and experience are that those people who do not manage to receive a response from housing options during office hours must then contact the outreach team which is accessible only via telephone and online

under the *'always help available'* scheme to provide their location and must then *'bed down'* in that location to wait for someone to attend and assess them. Only then may they gain access to support or accommodation. If that position has now changed or the street-based assertive outreach team's operational hours have expanded to 24/7, we welcome this. We ask that the website be updated to reflect the new system and that this is communicated to all relevant stakeholders to ensure we can properly inform and advise our clients.

We welcome the recruitment of 18 new staff and look forward to seeing the impact on the service provided and the serious delays in assessment and decisions.

We will continue to work with Liverpool City Council where appropriate to try to ensure our communities receive the services to which they are entitled. As a law centre, we will also continue to submit detailed complaints and take legal action where appropriate in order to meet the situation as we find it on the ground today, and to obtain the best outcomes for our individual clients

.....
Ngaryan Li,
CEO
and **Siobhan Taylor-Ward**,
Housing Solicitor

Carpenters Group sign up to support the Code of Conduct for the use of AI in Claims



carpenters group

Earlier this month a voluntary code of conduct for the development, implementation, and use of artificial intelligence (AI) in claims was launched - an insurance industry first.

Carpenters Group are proud to announce that we have signed up to support the Code of Conduct for the Use of AI in Claims.

Led by **Eddie Longworth**, Director of JEL Consulting, had this to say: “The Code of Conduct is particularly appropriate to those legal firms that are working with insurers. The deployment of AI in the claims space needs careful handling

and those signing up to the Code are demonstrating their commitment to maintaining the very highest standards of ethical and best practices. That is great news for all the stakeholders including, of course, the claimants themselves who want the reassurance that this Code of Conduct will bring” The intention has been to deliver a simple set of guidelines that will help all those involved in AI design and deployment to stop, think, and properly consider the basis on which AI is to be used.

Paul Challoner, Commercial Director, Carpenters Group says “The code aligns perfectly with Carpenters Group high standards and ethical approach to insurance and legal service provision and will sit at the centre of our design and planning when utilising AI in the management and settlement of claims. Watching the working group grow in numbers throughout the process was inspiring and over the few short months, **Eddie** brought likeminded people together from across various industries to discuss and agree how we should approach the use of AI in the claims world. As one of the few law firms involved from the start, we had to consider how the code will interconnect within both FCA and SRA governance and regulations.”

Why is bullying still such a big issue for the legal sector?

Bullying remains a very common concern within the legal sector, and in 2023 there was an alarming 95% increase in the number of people contacting LawCare for support because of bullying, harassment or discrimination at work.

People who got in touch often said that they thought that bullying would never happen to them, and that they didn't feel able to speak out about it once it had. One trainee solicitor who was being bullied felt that they had to 'stick it out' until the end of their training contract. Another legal professional said that caring responsibilities and financial pressures made them feel trapped in their role. Yet bullying is much more than just a problem for individuals, it also has a

detrimental effect on legal organisations and the sector as a whole.

Bullying in the legal sector is not a new problem; it has been around for decades. So, is bullying just a price we pay for working in such a competitive and demanding profession? We don't think so.

Why does bullying thrive in the legal workplace?

The hierarchical and fast paced nature of working in the law can create an environment where bullying behaviours can thrive, particularly when bullying behaviour is not challenged. LawCare's Life in the Law research showed that people working in the legal sector struggle with burnout, lack of autonomy at work, poor psychological

safety, and very high workloads. These can create a stressful work environment where bullying can flourish. This situation is exacerbated by managers who often lack the skills and time to manage conflicts when they arise. They avoid confrontation, so issues escalate, and bullying persists unchallenged.

The impact of bullying

Bullying takes many forms, from verbal abuse and micro-management to setting unrealistic deadlines and systematic exclusion. The effects of workplace bullying can be far-reaching; it impacts the person being bullied, the rest of the organisation and the legal sector as a whole.

Continues over page...



Bullying has a damaging impact on people's lives and performance at work. Many people experience physical symptoms, such as stress, anxiety, depression, panic attacks and even PTSD. They may also become isolated as they withdraw from social groups as a result of the bullying. One person who contacted LawCare for support said that bullying impacted their confidence, sleep and finances. Financial hardship is particularly common where people feel they have no choice but to leave the organisation and sometimes even leave their careers.

Organisations where people are being bullied pay a very high price. Bullying creates a toxic work environment that can decrease productivity, lowers morale, and increases absenteeism. They may have high turnover rates where people leave, leading to a loss of valuable staff and increased recruitment and training costs. Additionally, organisations which don't tackle bullying face a greater risk of regulatory scrutiny, as bullying can undermine the ethical standards and professionalism expected of them.

The legal sector as whole is also compromised by bullying, it can harm

professional relationships between colleagues, opposing lawyers and within the court system. This can lead to less collaboration and undermining of client trust, who may have their confidence eroded in the profession when they witness bullying behaviour between legal professionals. A reputation for bullying can spread beyond the legal community and reach clients, potential clients, and the general public.

How do we change this?

Addressing bullying in the workplace requires a collective effort from everyone within the legal sector to foster a culture of respect, inclusivity, and openness.

You can help protect colleagues who are being bullied and contribute to cultural change in your organisation and in the wider legal sector. Here are a few ways you can make a difference:

- Make sure you can recognise bullying behaviours - be aware that it can be more subtle than name calling or intimidation.
- If you know someone who is being bullied, reach out to them in private. Let them know that you acknowledge what they are experiencing, and that it is not acceptable. Encourage them to

document the incidents and signpost them to organisations, including LawCare and the National Bullying helpline, who can offer them support.

- Talk about bullying with your colleagues and leadership as this helps to break down stigma. Ask for training on workplace bullying, communication, and conflict resolution.

Furthermore, leadership within legal firms and organisations must take a proactive stance to prevent bullying happening in the first place; bullying costs money and damages reputation, and there is also now the increased risk of regulatory sanctions. They must do much more than just have policies and reporting mechanisms. Leaders must publicly address the issue of bullying, take a clear stand against it, and actively promote a culture of respect. This could include:

- Talking about bullying at work and having a culture of openness.
- Making sure that people who are known bullies are not tolerated or rewarded, even if they are bringing in a lot of work and are otherwise successful.
- Including behavioural aspects of management in the appraisal process.
- Having regular training sessions about the signs of bullying, its impacts, and the importance of maintaining a respectful workplace.

In conclusion, creating healthier, more inclusive workplaces where bullying is not tolerated is essential for the long-term sustainability and integrity of the legal sector. It is crucial that all members of the legal community, from paralegals to senior partners, are part of this collective effort.

If you would like to know more LawCare has lots of information and resources about bullying, including 10 practical steps for managers on workplace bullying

If you are being bullied, you can talk to LawCare about your situation and how you are feeling. It can be a good way to talk through your options. Call LawCare on: 0800 279 6888, email support@lawcare.org.uk or get in touch using the online chat on www.lawcare.org.uk.



Can't sleep?

Talk to us

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support@lawcare.org.uk

www.lawcare.org.uk

LawCare

Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division



We are thrilled to share the success of our recent charity fundraising event held on Thursday 7th March in support of Centre 56, our nominated charity for this year. It was an evening filled with both excitement and generosity. We extend our gratitude to Think Legal and Fletchers for their generous sponsorship, which helped make the event possible.

Centre 56 is a domestic abuse charity in Kirkdale with 50 years of dedicated service. The centre provides care and support for children, women and men who have experienced domestic abuse. They support families that are in crisis and those who are facing traumatic experiences.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the bingo and raffle, featuring an array of fantastic prizes generously donated by small businesses across Liverpool. From Liverpool stadium tours to beauty vouchers and gift cards,

there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Thanks to the overwhelming support and participation, we are thrilled to announce that we raised over £700 for Centre 56. This incredible contribution will directly benefit the wonderful work they do to support vulnerable children and families. The funds we have raised will aid the centre in organising enriching activities for the children and providing additional support to the parents.

Bethane Jones
Paralegal,
Weightmans



Spotlight on: DVP Sarah Mansfield



Sarah Mansfield, Legal Director in the Litigation Team at Cullimore Dutton Solicitors has been elected as Deputy Vice President of Liverpool Law Society for 2024.

Sarah is originally from Newcastle Under Lyme and has always had an artistic flair. In her young days, Sarah often designed her own outfits when they travelled to new wave and rock concerts up and down the country. In addition to qualifications in sewing, knitting, photography and embroidery, Sarah is also a qualified PADI diver. She is an original and founding trustee for Merseyside Water Rescue, a local charity whose aim is to preserve life in and around water based

in the Albert Dock and has been a board member of Mossacre St Vincent's Housing Association.

After leaving school, Sarah qualified as a Nurse and after doing her initial training at the Royal Free Hospital in London, moved to Hammersmith Hospital where she worked in the ITU department specialising in anaesthetics, where she completed a Post Graduate qualification in Anaesthetics and ITU.

Sarah's career path changed when she discovered the Hospital could provide funding for a degree, so after considering how this could enable her to further her nursing career (working in the operating theatre was something she considered at this time), she had a change of heart and decided to follow a completely different path, taking instead an LLB in Law at the University of Liverpool.

Her first position after finishing her degree was with Stephen Irving and Company, where she worked under the tutelage of future Labour MP Maria Eagle, working on housing cases. It was during this time that Sarah's interest in this sector developed, which led to her taking a Diploma in Housing and Environmental Law at De Montford University.

She then joined BLM and spent 16 years building up the Housing Team. She then left and joined Forbes in Preston for a couple of years, but Sarah was keen to return to Liverpool, not least due to her passion for music and football, so took a position with Guy Williams Layton in 2018 before taking up her current role at Cullimore Dutton.

Sarah has been involved with LLS for 10 years and is Joint Honorary Secretary alongside her DVP role. The aims of the Society this year is primarily to raise awareness of access to justice, working with other local Law societies to focus on the lack of Local Authority and Social Housing legal support for those most in need.

Outside of work, Sarah relaxes by continuing her dressmaking and photography, walking her dogs and travelling whenever she can. She has two daughters; Stella, who is currently working at Keoghs in the claims handling department after completing a degree in law and Amber, who is in the sixth form at Calday Grammar.

We wish Sarah every success in her role for the coming year.



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The Law Society's Diversity Access Scheme

From the high street to the high court, the legal profession should reflect the society it serves. That's why every year we help talented, aspiring solicitors from less advantaged backgrounds join the profession with our Diversity Access Scheme (DAS).

The DAS helps those with a lack of funding, industry contacts or opportunities qualify as solicitors by offering vital scholarships, mentoring and work experience.

This year, we celebrate 20 years of our DAS which has helped around 300 aspiring solicitors enter the profession.

The current DAS application cycle opened on Wednesday 28 February, and ends on Saturday, 13 April.

What does the Diversity Access Scheme offer awardees?

The DAS offers three key areas of support to awardees. **Financial support** through the provision of scholarships to help cover the costs of either the Legal Practice Course (LPC) or the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE). The scholarships are funded by generous sponsors from the legal sector, who share the Law Society's commitment to improving diversity and inclusion in the profession.

Support through **mentoring opportunities**. The DAS matches each awardee with a solicitor mentor who can provide advice, guidance, and encouragement throughout the journey to qualification. The mentors are qualified practising or non-practising solicitors who volunteer their time and expertise to support the next generation of solicitors.

Lastly, through **work experience placements**. The DAS arranges high-quality work placements for its awardees, giving them the opportunity to gain practical experience and exposure to different areas of law and practice in

areas of interest to them. The placements are offered by a range of employers, from large firms and in-house legal teams to public sector organisations and charities.

Who can apply?

Our awardees must be those with a strong interest in becoming a solicitor; and have completed, or are in the final year of, an undergraduate degree in law, a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL), or have completed, or are in the final year of, a non-law degree and intend to take the SQE. There are no age restrictions to the DAS, and no barriers for those undertaking a career change to apply.

The Scheme is intended to support those that face one or more barriers to entering the profession. This could include those that come from a low-income household, or have experienced financial hardship; those that are the first in their family to attend higher education; those who are disabled or have a long-term health condition; those with caring responsibilities; those that have experienced discrimination or disadvantage due to their ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or other protected characteristic; and those who have faced other significant challenges or obstacles which affected their education or career prospects.

A full list of the application criteria, including exceptional circumstances can be found on our website.

Who we are reaching

Our awardee data over a five-year period has shown that we are successfully reaching the right candidates:

- **86%** of DAS awardees grew up in low-income households
- **90%** attended non-selective state schools
- **86%** were part of the first generation of their family to go to higher education
- **31%** of awardees disclosed a disability
- **44%** of awardees are from Black or other minority ethnic backgrounds

Find out [how the DAS has helped others](#)

and [read our report](#) on applications from the 2023 DAS round of awards.

How can you support the Diversity Access Scheme?

DAS is only possible because of the generous support of our members. As DAS enters its twentieth year, we hope that the number of awards offered can be increased and more individuals can be supported to achieve their goal of joining the legal profession.

We want to give the opportunity for as many individuals as possible to be supported by the DAS, but we need your help to make this happen.

If your organisation would like to support the scheme, you can **make a contribution** towards fees associated with completing the LPC or SQE; **offer a work placement** at your organisation or **mentor a student** from the scheme within a particular area of law.

During 2021 we carried out a review of DAS to assess its impact and whether the scheme is working in terms of its criteria and processes. The [review](#) included evaluation interviews with [existing sponsors](#), all of whom said that they would recommend DAS to other firms, due to a combination of:

- Excellent candidates
- The reputation of the Law Society
- Little-to-no administrative burden on the sponsors
- A rigorous application process managed by experts

The combination of a strong eligibility criteria – that is inclusive and flexible – with a rigorous application process meant the sponsors were confident that DAS receives high-quality candidates that are deserving of financial and other career support.

Should you wish to find out more information about the DAS, applying to or supporting the scheme, please get in touch at diversityaccessscheme@lawsociety.org.uk

LJMU School of Law hosted the largest single day National Speed Mooting Competition in partnership with Speed Mooting



Q and A panel: Left to right: Colin Phillips, Ben Rose, Gerard Rogerson, Cressida O'Connor, Alexandra Cracknell, Anthony Richardson and Darren Cheng.

On Saturday 16 March LJMU School of Law hosted the [National Speed Mooting Competition 2024](#). The National Speed Mooting Competition aims to test the advocacy, communication, and analytical skills of trainee lawyers in mock courtroom scenarios presided over by practising judges and other law practitioners. The competition included approximately 120 law students from the UK and 50 legal professionals (including judges, barristers, and solicitors) who gave up their time to judge and provide feedback to all competitors throughout the day.

School of Law students from LJMU, alongside those attending from other universities, took part in the mooting events, presenting their verbal arguments and putting their knowledge to the test that they have learnt during their studies and through pro bono work at the university's [Legal Advice Centre](#) which supports members of the public from across the Liverpool City Region.

In addition to the mooting competition, students also gained experience through a Plea in Mitigation exercise which was conducted by a qualified barrister. Competitors were also provided with the opportunity to ask a panel of judges,

barristers, and solicitors questions on how they can successfully enter the legal profession. The panel provided real insight into not just the challenges of entering the legal profession, but also how to excel in law.

Professor **Carlo Panara**, Director of the School of Law at LJMU, said: "I'm incredibly proud to have seen so many LJMU students putting their skills into practice at this prestigious national mooting event. Mooting is a vital part of legal education with many law firms and chambers viewing it as an essential part of learning and something that can absolutely boost graduate employability,

so we were delighted to act as the host venue for the national competition.

"Well done to all of those who took part. It was fantastic to see huge amounts of enthusiasm, as well as a strong appetite for learning, from all the students who were involved with many travelling from across the country here to Liverpool to take part."

Criminal barrister and Speed Mooting founder, **John Dove**, said: "It was a privilege to hold our flagship competition at LJMU. This is a great facility, and the university has a fantastic mooting programme. Our goal is to create innovative competitions that are accessible to those of all abilities and ultimately help develop the skills of aspiring lawyers. It is a pleasure to work with a host whose values are aligned with ours. The day was a great success and once again we were blown away by the calibre of the competitors."

Beverley Caddick-Kala, Subject Leader in Law in the School of Law at LJMU, said: "The Speed Mooting Competition is a fantastic competition that enables participants to demonstrate their advocacy skills in front of a panel of judges and receive feedback on how to improve for future moots. It was a pleasure to work with John and to host their flagship competition."



John Dove presenting the winner of the National Speed Mooting Competition Romeo Ezekiel Ocfemia with his trophy.

Empowering Collaboration: Maria Fogg Family Law uniting Against Violence with Severa UK on International Women's Day



In the spirit of International Women's Day, Maria Fogg Family Law partnered up with Savera UK to help hold an event with the theme of Inspiring Inclusion. Savera UK is a National leading charity working to end 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) and other culturally specific abuse and harmful practices. 'Savera' means 'new beginning' in Hindi, which is symbolic of what they provide for survivors and those at risk of HBA and harmful practices, regardless of age, culture, sexuality, gender or ethnicity.

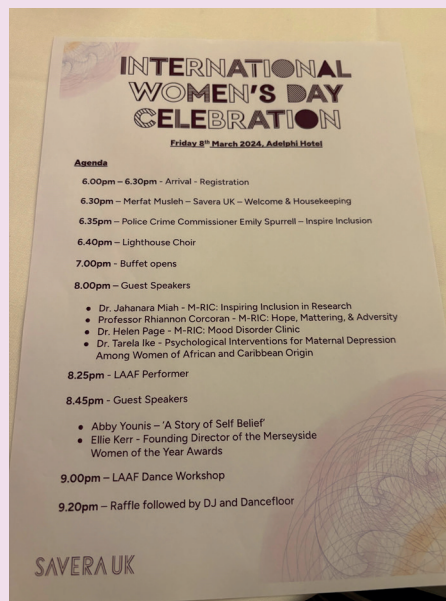
Savera UK, alongside esteemed partners orchestrated a powerful gathering dedicated to celebrating women and combating violence. The event, themed "Inspiring Inclusion," served as a beacon of unity, bringing together over 200 women from diverse backgrounds to address challenges, celebrate achievements, and foster solidarity.

The venue pulsed with energy as participants were treated to mesmerizing performances by the Lighthouse Choir and the Liverpool Arab Arts Festival. However, the heart of the gathering lay in the earnest discussions and exchanges that unfolded throughout the day.

The theme of "Inspiring Inclusion" echoed through every aspect of the event, emphasizing the importance of embracing diversity and supporting one another. From engaging speakers such as Police Crime Commissioner Emily

Spurrell sharing stories of resilience to hands-on activities like henna painting and massages, every moment was designed to uplift and empower.

Charlotte Fogg from Maria Fogg Family Law expressed, "I was deeply moved by the collective spirit of solidarity that filled the room. Communities of all cultures uniting together to uplift and honour each other." This sentiment encapsulates the essence of the event—a convergence of voices, experiences, and aspirations, all bound by a common goal: to end abuse and promote empowerment for all.



Central to the success of the event was the collaborative effort between Savera UK and its partners. Maria Fogg Family Law among others, lent their expertise and resources to create an inclusive space where women could find legal support, solace, and strength. Together, they exemplified the power of collaboration in tackling complex societal issues like domestic violence.

Savera UK's commitment to fostering unity and empowerment was evident in every aspect of the event. By bringing together a diverse array of individuals

and organizations, they created a platform for meaningful dialogue and action.

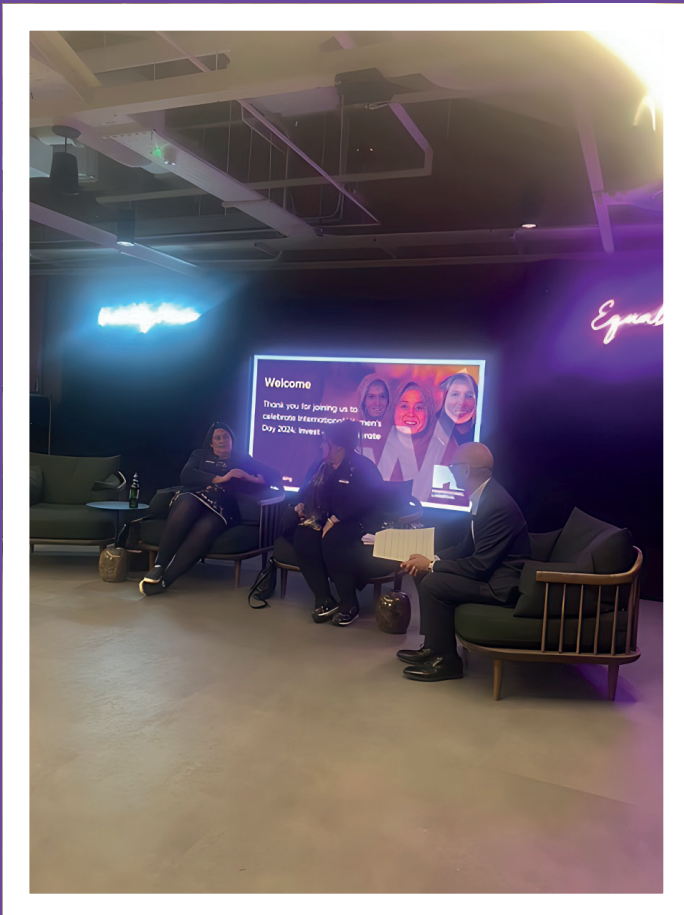
It is important to note that while the event was filled with joy and celebration, its underlying mission remains rooted in addressing the pervasive issue of domestic violence. As such, privacy and confidentiality were paramount, with no photographs taken during the event to respect the participants' anonymity.

In conclusion, the International Women's Day celebration was more than just a gathering—it was a testament to the power of collaboration, the strength of solidarity, and the resilience of the human spirit. As we reflect on the events of International Women's Day, let us be reminded of our collective responsibility to stand up against violence, champion inclusion, and create a world where every woman feels safe, valued, and empowered.



Charlotte Fogg
 Director of Maria Fogg Family Law
www.mariafoggfamilylaw.co.uk

Taylor Wessing celebrates International Women's Day with pioneering panel event in Liverpool



Taylor Wessing recently held its International Women's Day panel event, held in its Liverpool office and in collaboration with Professional Liverpool, reaffirming the firm's commitment to diversity and inclusion by spotlighting outstanding women who are making a profound impact in their respective fields in the city of Liverpool.

The event, chaired by **Saleem Fazal**, Partner and Head of Taylor Wessing's Liverpool office, featured pre-eminent panel speakers **Laura Pye**, Director at National Museums Liverpool; **Ellie Kerr**, Founding Director at Merseyside Women of the Year; and **Jubeda Khatun**, Executive Artistic Director at Blackfest and theatre producer.

Adopting the United Nations' IWD theme of "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress", attendees were treated to insightful discussions on paths to success, the critical role of allyship, and strategies for shattering the glass ceiling within professional environments. The panellists shared their inspiring journeys and emphasised the collective efforts required for advancing gender equality.

Taylor Wessing associate, **Charlie Marshall**, said of the event: "As we celebrate over a century of women in law, I'm thankful to be part of an industry where countless women have paved the way by breaking down barriers and challenging stereotypes. Taylor Wessing's commitment to empowering women was felt throughout the evening and it was inspiring to hear from the incredible panellists who exemplify success in their fields. There is still more for us to accomplish which is why open dialogue and events like this are vital."

Saleem Fazal commented: "We were delighted to facilitate such an influential gathering that honoured our panel's achievements while fostering debate for ongoing leadership development. It is essential that we maintain this momentum to nurture support and advancement within our community and professional services."

The firm expresses sincere appreciation to everyone involved in orchestrating this inspirational event.

Gregory Clark
Communications Manager
Taylor Wessing



Legal Costs Update



Matthew Williams

We are approaching the six month anniversary since the October 2023 fixed costs changes were implemented. I am sure many of you will agree, the last six months have involved numerous seminars and internal training to get up to speed with these rule amendments and the vast scope of the new fixed regime. Whilst much of the legal sector is still getting to grips with the October 2023 changes, there are further rule updates on the horizon just to keep us on our toes.

“The Civil Procedure (Amendment) Rules 2024 and 163rd Practice Direction Update” is soon to come into force on the 6th April 2024.

You have likely seen the relevant statutory instrument, CPR/PD amendments and various articles. There is a lot to read up on, but I will summarise the key areas of legal costs changes to hopefully provide some assistance for you.

Increased Levels of Fixed Costs

Good news, the level of fixed base costs will increase by 3.2% on all stages for Fast Track, Intermediate Track and NIHL claims. This is based on an inflationary increase in line with SPPI from the period January-October 2023. The new levels of costs will apply to



claims that settle on or after the 6th April 2024. For clarity, and a general reminder, the new Fast Track (Bands 1-4) and Intermediate Track costs only apply to personal injury claims with an accident date on or after 1st October 2023, or none personal injury claims with an issue date on or after 1st October 2023. Claims prior to this date follow the pre 1st October 2023 rules.

Level of Advocacy Fees

The Government have increased the level of these fees on both the Fast Track, Intermediate Track and NIHL claims. The updated costs tables can also be located in Practice Direction 45 on the Justice website after the 6th April 2024. The website is - www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/civil/rules

Recoverability of Advocates Fees for Late Settlements Prior to Trial

Advocacy fees for claims that settle prior to Trial will now be recoverable at 75% of the fixed allowance. On Fast Track claims the fee will be recoverable in full if a claim settles on the day of Trial or the day before Trial, and 75% recovered for claims settling two days before Trial. On Intermediate Track claims the fee will be recoverable in full if a claim settles the day of Trial or the day before Trial, and 75% recovered for claims settling from between two days and five days before Trial.

Contracting Out of Fixed Costs

CPR 45.1 (3) is to be amended to allow parties to contract out of the fixed costs regime if all parties expressly agree. This is a welcome change and allows parties more scope to escape fixed costs.

Fixed Costs Disputes

The Government are aiming to introduce a new fixed costs assessment process called “Fixed Costs Determination” (FCD). Currently, fixed costs disputes are dealt with either via Part 8 costs proceedings or by making a Part 23 application to request summary assessment. The Civil Procedure Rule Committee is working on this new process with an aim for an October 2024 roll out.

Inquest Costs

Costs associated with inquest proceedings will be recoverable and will not be captured by the fixed costs regime. A new CPR 45.1 (10) rule will be inserted to confirm this.

Restoration Proceedings

Costs associated with restoration proceedings will be recoverable and costs will be fixed. A new CPR 45.15A and PD 45 Table 15A will allow fixed costs of £1,280.00 + VAT + disbursements in the Fast Track, Intermediate Track and NIHL claims.

Further Review of the Fixed Costs Regime

In reference to the Government’s recent fixed recoverable costs consultation response, there is no proposal to review the fixed costs regime until October 2026. However, it is expected there will be many costs challenges as a result of the October 2023 and April 2024 rule amendments so there may well have to be some changes prior to October 2026. Time will only tell.

Matthew Williams

Costs Operations Manager,
Carpenters Group

Liverpool BID helps to preserve floating ecosystem



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



Julie Johnson

We know how vital green spaces are for our cities, but what about our water spaces? Liverpool, of course, has an extensive and famous waterfront which provides plenty of cultural, social and economic benefits, but how can it be part of our plans to improve the environment?

Four years ago, in lockdown, a pioneering floating ecosystem was unveiled at Wapping Dock. Installed in 2020 as a collaboration between the Canal & River Trust and Liverpool City Council on their EU funded Urban GreenUp programme, the floating island is 63m² saltwater

ecosystem. While the surface shows a variety of plants like reeds, grasses and flowering, underneath it features a shingle shelf for small fish and a submerged 'reef' made of empty oyster shells in cages. In just three years, numerous plant and marine species have flourished. Mussels have thrived to such an extent that extra buoyancy had to be added to prevent the structure from sinking!

Enhancing marine life and biodiversity helps to make our waterways cleaner and more vibrant. It also, for those walking the dock, gives us something to look at and engage with that tells us the story of our city below the waterline. Many of us who work in the city's corporate and commercial life know how critical the river has long been to the city's economy. The marine life that lives within it is just as important as the trade and goods that flow through the port, and the services that go along with it.

The floating ecosystem needed support to continue and Liverpool BID Company stepped in to help with funding to keep it in place until 2028. The sponsorship agreement is worth £15k over 3-5 years. The island itself

has been built to last for 15 years, Liverpool City Council will maintain ownership while the Canal & River Trust will oversee its upkeep.

This investment represents the ambition we have to being a city that is earnest in our approach to improving green infrastructure. We have laudable high targets as a city and a city region to enhance our green credentials and build a city that can thrive in the future. The determination of the private sector to support that process is always very keenly felt here at Liverpool BID Company and we are delighted to be able to add longevity to this critical and inspiring project.

A plant project will take place on the floating ecosystem, so you will be able to walk past and see the external growth on the surface of plants and flowers. Yet it is under the water that the real transformation continues to take place. It helps us to explore innovative ways to adapt to climate change and become more resilient. Ever looking forward, this is a way in which Liverpool can increase its biodiversity and become a more livable city for centuries to come.

Unprecedented negligence claim won against Roby House Care Home

An unprecedented negligence claim has been won against the Merseyside care home Roby House.

This groundbreaking case is the first of its kind, in which a claim against a residential care home has reached trial and been formally ruled on.

Previous claims of this nature have all been settled out of court, avoiding a formal trial process and formal judgment.

His Honour Judge Peter Gregory ruled in favour of a claim made by the estate of **Mrs Helena Nolan**. Mrs Nolan was a resident of Roby House Care Home in Merseyside for a period of just over one year before she sadly passed away on the 15th of November 2016. The claim asserted that the standard of care provided by Roby House was sub-standard and/or grossly sub-standard. The estate brought a damages claim against the care home for breach of contract and negligence, citing that the care provided to Mrs Nolan was ‘*woefully and shamefully inadequate*’.

The body of this claim was built upon nine specific incidents and several more generalised complaints. These complaints were broadly supported by a series of reports created by the Care Quality Commission who assessed the standards of care at Roby House through several inspections, all of which took place during the time that Mrs Nolan was a resident. These inspections allowed the court to identify a ‘*clear downward trajectory*’ in the general care provided by Roby House and its members of staff.


The Court also heard about specific incidents involving Mrs Nolan, which had been allowed to occur due to several poor safeguarding practices. In one of these incidents, it was detailed that during the early hours of the morning Mrs Nolan was able to gain access to part of the home that she shouldn’t have been able to, where she fell down the stairs and sustained multiple injuries. She was able to access this area again at a later date, although she was not injured. Another incident saw Mrs Nolan leave the care home unsupervised, where she was later found by a busy main road.

After hearing the evidence, the Court awarded the Claimant a total of £8,750, comprised of discounted fees of approximately 20% (£7,500) of the total fees paid to Roby House Care Home due to the expected standard of care compared to the level of service actually provided, and a further £1,250 in damages for distress and disappointment related to the specific incidents that happened whilst Mrs Nolan was in the care of Roby House.

Representing the Claimant, Jackson Lees’ litigation solicitor **Danielle Blaylock** said: “*Although we are pleased with this result, we would have obviously liked more compensation for the distress placed on Mrs Nolan and her family during her time at Roby House Care Home, sadly this was not possible as the personal injury claim could not be advanced due to the actions of Mrs Nolan’s former solicitors.*”

“*This case is the first of its kind and sets a real precedent for those who have suffered due to negligence in care homes, and their loved ones, to come forward and seek legal advice, as the court will take these matters seriously. It is hoped this case and others to follow will help drive up the standard of care in residential and nursing homes and hold those providers accountable.*”

Gemma Jones
 gjones@mapdgroup.com




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Pathways to the Legal Profession



On 6th March 2024 Liverpool Law Society hosted the 10th Pathways to the Legal Profession event. It was hosted online via zoom.

As President I welcomed the students and speakers.

The event was very well attended by 18 schools with over 245 students participating from All Saints Catholic High School, Archbishop Beck Catholic Sports College, Archbishop Blanch CE VA High School, Broughton Hall High School, Formby High School, Holly Lodge Girls' College, King David High School, Liverpool College, Liverpool Lifesciences, Merchant Taylors Boys School, Merchant Taylors Girls School, Sefton Sixth Form College (Hugh Baird College), St Anselms College, St Francis Xavier's College, St Mary's College Crosby, Turning Point Academy, Upton Hall School FCJ and West Derby School.

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

The event was split into two sessions, to allow for a short break for the students in between.

The first speaker in the first session was **Lydia Hayes**, Director of Recruitment and Admissions for Law and Professor of Labour Rights Law at The School of Law & Social Justice at the University of Liverpool. **Lydia** spoke about the University route, costs, and the benefits of studying for a degree.

Laura Samaroo, Solicitor, Senior Lecturer in Law and

Programme Leader LLM in Legal Practice at Liverpool John Moores University spoke about Going into Law having a non-law degree.

Nicola Walker, Campus Manager at Liverpool and Chester, The University of Law, discussed Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) and the comparisons with LPC.

Lydia Jones, Business Development Representative, CILEX (The Chartered Institute of Legal Executives) talked about the Legal Executive Route.

After a short break the second session commenced with **Helen Pilling**, Senior Tutor and Skills Coach at The University of Law, talking about Apprenticeships.

Isabella Denn-White, Barrister at 7 Harrington Street Chambers spoke about her experience becoming a Barrister and daily life in the Law.

Denise Wright, Early Careers Adviser at Weightmans, talked about the recruiting process for both graduates and apprentices at a law firm.

Charity Lockie, Solicitor Apprentice at Weightmans, was the final speaker of the day and spoke about the benefits of being a solicitor apprentice and life in the law at Weightmans.

After the speakers concluded their presentations there was a question-and-answer session managed by **David Tournafond**, Chair of Education & Charities Committee, allowing the students to direct questions to the relevant speakers.

Feedback was very positive, **Catherine Howard**, Teacher from St Mary's College rated the event as 'Excellent' and commented "I have attended this talk for the whole of the 10 years it has been available. Each different faculty highlights their own information without having an 'agenda' and does not decry the different routes that is not their own. It is informative and aimed rightly at L6 students, thank you".

Student **Elissa Alghrani** from Holly Lodge Girl's College also rated the event as 'Excellent' and commented "This was beneficial because I know the grades I need to achieve to succeed in law". Thank you to the sponsors of the event, Weightmans, and thank you to all the speakers, schoolteachers and students who attended the event. A special thank you to **David Tournafond** for helping to organise the event and dealing with the Q & A sessions, and to the team at Liverpool Law Society for making the event such a success.

Gaynor Williams,
President
Liverpool Law Society



The latest news from Merseyside Law Centre, providers of free specialist legal advice and assistance for the Liverpool City Region. Access to Justice for all.

Welcome to our new Welfare Team Lead.

We are delighted to welcome **Andrew Wilson** to the team as our new Welfare Benefit’s Lead. Andrew has worked in multiple roles within the advice sector on Merseyside since the early 1990s, most recently heading the welfare advice teams at Big Help and, before that at Cobalt Housing.

“Unmet demand for advice and legal help around welfare rights is currently huge and looking at ways to use Merseyside Law Centre’s expertise even more effectively and to build and develop the capacity of our welfare rights service is a much-needed opportunity.”

We look forward to Andrew developing our welfare benefit’s service and to all the expertise and knowledge that he will be bringing to this role.

Updated Services

We have recently added a couple of new free advice drop-in sessions to our services, at Liverpool Civil & Family Court. These sessions take place after we have covered the Housing Court Duty Possession scheme in the morning at court on Wednesdays and Fridays. There is an unprecedented need for these types of services due to an increase in Section 21 no-fault evictions and general issues with social and private rental housing. We are now also able to offer more help with early intervention in these cases to try and prevent them from having to go to court. This intervention helps in avoiding unnecessary stress and disruption for clients in often difficult situations.

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“MLC has helped me turn a corner in my life”.

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We recently helped a client who was finding it incredibly difficult to fill in the required paperwork to appeal against their PIP claim that had been rejected. Our client had severe mental health issues and ongoing physical issues that meant she was unable to work or fully look after herself on a daily basis. We helped her to fill in a Mandatory Reconsideration and sat in with her for her UC assessment to provide support. The client was eventually awarded enhanced rate daily living needs and standard daily rate for mobility after our appeal. We also referred her to a debt service and helped her successfully apply for charitable funding to pay for alternative therapies to treat her mental health issues.

“If it wasn’t for MLC I would not have been able to complete all the paperwork and forms and I would not have received the financial help and support I am entitled to. I think MLC provide an amazing service to people who are in very difficult circumstances that they cannot face by themselves. I would like to thank Donna especially at MLC. I am so grateful for her help and support; she has helped me turn a corner in my life.”

This case is an important example of the impact of our work for especially vulnerable clients and the complex nature of the issues many of our client’s face. Often a client will initially approach us wanting to get advice on a single issue but after gaining a clearer picture of their situation, we can see that they need help with numerous other aspects of their life. We helped this client gain access to the financial support she was entitled to and so desperately needed during a very difficult period in her life. The wraparound work we provided with referrals and applications to charities for additional funding also made a great difference to this client’s outcome. We are proud to have been able to make such a defining impact in this client’s life.

Volunteer & Donation Opportunities

Volunteers are the backbone of Merseyside Law Centre. We are looking for like-minded individuals and organisations to get involved with the valuable work we do in the Merseyside City Region.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the services we offer to the public. For example, advice work, reception and signposting or general admin work.

We have a second volunteer stream to help with our campaigns, community outreach, fundraising, social media presence and event organisation.

We would also love to hear from you if you are an organisation that would like to get involved or contribute to our work. We would really like to hear from fellow legal professionals who may be able to contribute their expertise or legal firms who may want to financially support the work we do.

Whatever your skills or experience, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you want to make a difference to the lives of people in your community and have a passion for social justice.


To download our Volunteer Application Pack, please visit www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/get-involved and e-mail the completed form to enquiries@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk

merseysidelawcentre.co.uk

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

As always, our current contact details and drop in session details are below so please do pass these onto anyone you think may benefit from or require our services. If you are unable to attend a drop-in session, there is an online enquiry form on our website. www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/enquiryform

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IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS FEB '24

Financial Gains for Clients: £20, 240

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LawtechUK to host event in Liverpool: A Gateway to Innovation and Collaboration

LawtechUK, a promoter of digital innovation in the UK's legal sector, is excited to announce a must-attend event in Liverpool on Tuesday, April 24, 2024. Open to LawtechUK's existing network and anyone intrigued by the lawtech landscape, this Liverpool event promises a dynamic agenda tailored for startup founders, legal professionals, investors, government officials, students, and academics.

Those attending the event will: Gain valuable insights, including the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities within the Liverpool lawtech ecosystem Hear about the government's efforts to support and nurture lawtech in Liverpool Learn about the visionary plan of LawtechUK and its work in legal technology.

Network with other startups, industry leaders, and investors in the lawtech community.

"Liverpool has a rich heritage of enterprise and innovation, which continues to be fostered by the presence and output of the many Universities in the region. The Department of Computer Science at the University of Liverpool has been at the forefront of research into AI and the law for decades, even before lawtech was a 'thing'. Research and collaboration with academia has never been more important as we grapple with some of the philosophical, sociological, legal and technical aspects of lawtech and in Liverpool we have this expertise on our doorstep." Says **Catriona Wolfenden**, Product & Innovation Director, Weightmans.

This event is a unique chance to delve into the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities in the lawtech ecosystem. Participants will gain insights from the government's dedicated efforts to bolster lawtech, as well as LawtechUK's strategy and its significant contributions to legal technology.

"The Liverpool lawtech scene is ripe with innovation, home to a burgeoning community of startups and legal technologists eager to redefine the future of legal services. Our event serves as a crucial platform for fostering collaboration and showcasing the cutting-edge advancements shaping our sector," says **Katie Atkinson**, LawtechUK Advisory Panel Member. For more information and to register, visit: <https://lawtechuk.io/events/lawtechuk-in-liverpool-24-april-2024/>



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The seizure of assets through the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA)

Cryptocurrency represents an almost unprecedented change in the way that assets are viewed under the law. Digital currencies work through transactions that are recorded and maintained by a decentralised system, differentiating them almost entirely from traditional currency forms.

The cryptocurrency market has seen rapid growth since its inception with the total cryptocurrency currency market having a value estimated at over \$15 trillion. As one would expect, when the Proceeds of Crime Act (2002) was originally enacted, it did not contain any powers to allow law enforcement agencies the ability to seize cryptoassets as the technology simply did not exist at that time.

This was of major concern to the government as the lack of regulation in this area has meant that cryptocurrency has become a haven in which money can be moved without the usual level of scrutiny. The use of crypto assets allows money to be laundered quickly and anonymously under the noses of law enforcement.

The anonymous nature of cryptocurrency, coupled with the lack of regulation and the law enforcement agencies inability to act against crypto assets under POCA has meant that for people under investigation, cryptocurrency became a way in which assets could be hidden. As a result of this, law enforcement and the government in the UK has looked to amend the POCA to be able to seize cryptoassets during investigations.

Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023: What has changed?

The government wanted to update the POCA legislation and create cryptoasset-specific civil forfeiture powers to better recover and control cryptoassets connected to investigations or proceedings. The latest of these pieces of legislation is the ECCT Act 2023 that received royal assent on 26th October 2023. The proposed aim of this is

to mitigate the risk posed by parties that cannot be prosecuted. It would ensure that they cannot use their funds for any further criminal or terrorist purposes by holding them as cryptoassets.

There are two main categories of asset recovery powers, which relate to criminal and civil matters respectively. Criminal powers, or ‘in personam’ powers, are used to impose an order against a person convicted of a crime, who is found to have benefited from that crime. Civil powers, or ‘in rem’ powers, order the seizure of assets that have been deemed to have been obtained through unlawful conduct or are intended for use in unlawful conduct. The reforms made to POCA to include cryptoassets pertained to both the criminal and civil powers.

Changes to Criminal Regime

There are 4 key changes to POCA in relation to criminal proceedings and cryptoassets. The first allows law enforcement agencies to take control of and recover cryptoassets discovered when executing a search warrant. This means that even where cryptoassets are “unhosted” and placed in the owner’s personal wallet, they can be accessed by law enforcement agencies. The second change means that cryptoassets can also be recovered from cryptoasset wallet providers. The third change means that the assets can be converted to cash in order to safeguard against significant fluctuations in market value.

The changes made to the POCA also mean that cryptoassets can, in exceptional circumstances, be destroyed by law enforcement agencies. This, however, only applies where there is significant risk of negative outcomes from the funds being in circulation, such as the potential threat of terrorism.

The final change in relation to criminal matters and cryptocurrency in POCA allows for cryptoassets to be given back to victims in order to pay back the loss of funds due to activities such as fraud.

Changes to Civil Regime

The changes to POCA were also extended to relate to civil matters. First, POCA legislation was changed so that in certain circumstances, the requirement for someone to have been arrested before seizure processes can take place was removed. These powers were extended to cover all assets but were specifically designed with cryptoassets in mind. The second change was to make it explicit that law enforcement officers had the power to seize cryptoassets in the same way as other assets. Likewise the magistrates’ court has been granted powers to authorise the sale of any cryptoassets. Finally, such as with the criminal element of POCA, a change was made to allow the destruction of cryptoassets in exceptional circumstances where the circulation of funds could be used in potentially criminal ways.

The changes to the law mean that, under the eyes of the law, cryptoassets are now viewed as assets in the same way that currency and physical assets are. This means that despite the anonymity and encryption characteristics used by parties under investigation or subject to criminal proceedings, it is becoming easier for law enforcement agencies to ascertain the value of cryptoassets and seize them as part of their investigation.

It is hoped that with these new changes to the law that it will allow enforcement agencies to gain control of crypto assets at an earlier stage and remove the incentive of those wishing to utilise crypto assets simply due to the fact they can remain anonymous or not declare the assets. The regulation and monitoring of cryptoassets will eventually become no different to other assets both in the eyes of the law and in practice as law enforcement agencies become better equipped to find and value these assets.

Sam Healey,
Partner in Business Crime at JMW Solicitors



Use unclaimed balances and unused budget for good: donate to The Solicitors' Charity

- Make a firm commitment to support solicitors in difficult times
- Find out how donating your unclaimed client balances will make a positive difference
- Contribute any of your law firm's unused budget to a good purpose by donating to The Solicitors' Charity and helping solicitors in times of need

The Solicitors' Charity is calling on law firms to help make a positive difference to the wellbeing of solicitors by donating its unclaimed balances, risk-free, at any time. With some financial years also coming to a close, the Charity is calling on law firms to contribute any unused budget to a good purpose.

The Solicitors' Charity CEO **Nick Gallagher** said: *"Now is the perfect time to make a firm commitment to support the profession through The Solicitors' Charity. With our expanded range of wellbeing support, we're reaching more individuals than ever before."*

"We invite you to join us. Wherever you are in your financial year, just beginning, halfway through, or end, your contribution, whether a one-time donation or regular RCB support, can help solicitors facing adversity. Together, let's ensure no solicitor stands alone in times of need."

The Solicitors' Charity offers a range of wellbeing and emotional support services, as well as practical and financial help, to provide a safe place for all solicitors going through difficult times.

The charity works with many support organisations, including LawCare, Onebright, Renovo, Citizens Advice Manchester (CAM), Pennysmart, and Advice Works to get solicitors back on their feet. LawCare, is the mental health and wellbeing charity offering peer-to-peer support to the legal sector, while Onebright is dedicated to providing end-to-end services for mental health. The Charity offers referrals, signposting, and

provides funds for both.

Solicitor 'Dan' (name changed for privacy) explained: *"The help with accommodation and financial support provided by The Solicitors' Charity is really helping me get back on my feet."*

"The best thing now is being debt-free, having a roof over my head and a warm room. If the Charity hadn't been there for me, I don't know what would have happened. They've been massively helpful and a real lifesaver."



Regular RCB donor, **Anthony Earl**, Director at Earl and Crocker Solicitors said: *"I am honoured to advocate for this commendable Charity, which provides essential support to our profession amidst its demanding and high-pressure nature. The ease of donating, coupled with the assurance of fund return, if necessary, underscores its accessibility and reliability."*

"Particularly in these times of financial strain and heightened focus on wellbeing, its importance is paramount. I urge fellow law firms to join us in supporting this essential cause, enriching the very profession in which we work."

Solicitor 'Naomi' (named changed) says: *"I don't know how I would have survived without the kindness and support of The Solicitors' Charity. When I contacted the Charity, I was treated like a human being. I was struggling to pay rent, bills, food, living essentials, and relying on the goodwill of friends."*

"The Solicitors' Charity provided me with essential support and relief in desperate circumstances; they made it possible for me to live."

The Charity's new fundraising campaign invites law firms to use any unused budget they may have to make a one-off donation, or to donate their RCBs

regularly, with no risk involved. It is also reaching out to lapsed law firm donors to restart their donations and urges existing donors to continue with their much-needed support.



Anna Dunford, LLB Solicitor's firm, Hadgkiss Hughes & Beale, currently donates its RCBs. She said: *"The Solicitors' Charity carries out vital work supporting solicitors in England and Wales. We have found that donating our unclaimed balances is simple, and we regularly encourage other firms to do the same."*

"We're thankful for the help the Charity provides to solicitors in need, and proud that our contributions make a difference."

Nick Gallagher adds: *"I think all firms will be very aware of unclaimed client balances because of the accounting rules, but they may not realise that they are able to donate them to The Solicitors' Charity and that we give an absolute indemnity that they will get the money back if a client gets in touch in the future."*

"The process for donating RCBs is very simple and straightforward. Send us an email, call us, or fill out the form on our website and we will support you through the process."

"Any single donation over £500 needs approval from the SRA, but we have the necessary forms and can talk you through them. When you're ready to donate, you can send a cheque with a covering letter, or make a payment through BACS and we will send out an indemnity letter by return. It's a very easy process, so please get in touch."

"Together, we can make a difference and improve the wellbeing of many people in the profession, and those who depend on them."

Find out more about The Solicitors' Charity, and give your support, by visiting <https://thesolicitorscharity.org/support-our-work/>

Empowering Legal Minds:

In-House Legal Solutions' collaboration with LJMU Legal Advice Centre.

In-House Legal Solutions (IHLS) proudly stands at the forefront of community engagement and legal education, epitomised by the active involvement of two of our Trainee Solicitors, Harrison Fearn and Jacob Lewis, with the Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) Legal Advice Centre (LAC).

The LAC provides vital legal assistance entirely free of charge and is operated by LJMU; serving the public by offering advice across a spectrum of legal areas. What sets this initiative apart is its innovative approach to legal education, the clinic not only addresses unmet legal needs within the community but also nurtures the growth of aspiring lawyers by providing hands-on experience.

IHLS' distinctive involvement:

At the heart of the LJMU LAC are the students, eager legal minds looking to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. Over the recent weeks, Harrison and Jacob have been

contributing their expertise and time to bolster the ongoing initiatives at the LAC and encourage students to develop their skills in interviewing, researching, drafting, writing and oral presentation, as well as other transferable employability skills such as teamworking, commercial awareness, project management and self-efficacy - not to mention confidence!

The process begins with client interactions, where students conduct interviews under the supervision of external solicitors, such as Harrison and Jacob. The IHLS representatives then actively engage in the students' learning journey, encouraging individuals to navigate the complexities of legal consultations, research, and participate in feedback sessions and ask pertinent questions – which results in an advice letter being drafted by the students, signed off by and sent to the client. This collaborative effort ensures no detail is overlooked and contributes to the development of a well-rounded legal skill set.





In summary, In-House Legal Solutions' collaboration with the LJMU LAC exemplifies our steadfast commitment to community engagement and the development of legal talent. We recognise the importance of providing accessible legal assistance and information to those who need it most.

IHLS' commitment extends beyond legal expertise, reflecting our sincere dedication to fostering a new generation of lawyers equipped with both legal proficiency and a profound sense of community responsibility. As we continue to contribute to the LJMU LAC's initiatives, we look forward to the positive impact we can collectively achieve in shaping the legal landscape and supporting the next generation of aspiring lawyers.

Find out more about the LJMU LAC, and how you can get involved, here: [Legal Advice Centre | Liverpool John Moores University \(ljmu.ac.uk\)](https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/legal-advice-centre/liverpool-john-moores-university)

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Liverpool Law Society

ADLA

Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

Liverpool Law Society's 2024

Annual Dinner and Legal Awards

will take place on Thursday, 14 November
at the Rum Warehouse, Liverpool

GUEST SPEAKER:

THE RT HON THE BARONESS HALE OF RICHMOND DBE

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

Members and non-members can attend the Dinner.

Nominations for the 2024 Legal Awards will open in
early July and close early September

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

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ADILA

Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

The Legal Awards are back for 2024!

Open to members of Liverpool Law Society

CATEGORIES

- RISING STAR AWARD
- OUTSTANDING TEAM AWARD - NON-CONTENTIOUS
- OUTSTANDING TEAM AWARD - DISPUTE RESOLUTION & LITIGATION
- OUTSTANDING TEAM AWARD - FAMILY LAW
- EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AWARD
- OUTSTANDING LAWYER AWARD
- LAW FIRM AWARD (1-49 EMPLOYEES)
- LAW FIRM AWARD (50+ EMPLOYEES)

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

The winners of the 2024 Legal Awards will be revealed at a glittering black-tie ceremony during the Annual Dinner on Thursday, 14th November 2024.

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

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Regulation Update

April 2024

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

Welcome to Spring! We provide our usual overview of what has been happening in the last month in the world of risk and compliance, including recent regulatory and disciplinary decisions, and look ahead to what's on the horizon.

Amendments to the SRA sectoral risk assessment

On 5 March the SRA published an updated sectoral risk assessment in relation to anti-money laundering and terrorist financing <https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/research-publications/aml-risk-assessment/>

The major points to note and take into account when you review your firm-wide risk assessment, which you should now do, are as follows:

- Vendor fraud, pooled funds and funding platforms, third-party managed accounts and irregular methods of transferring funds have been added as new risks to be aware of.
- Sanctions now have their own risk

heading, reflecting the continuing expansion of the sanctions regime.

- References to Covid-19 have been amended, with risks that are now part of usual business being retained those no longer relevant being deleted.
- Modern slavery is now flagged as a risk in relation to cash-based industries.
- Further references to AI and cybercrime have been added.
- The position with regard to domestic PEPs has been updated to reflect the recent change to MLR.

The SRA are continuing its desk-based reviews and firm visits and will ask to see your firm's written risk assessments and policies, procedures and controls as part of its proactive supervision programme, or in response to specific information it has received. As we note in the Disciplinary and regulatory decisions section below, the SRA is continuing to take action against firms who fail to comply with their AML obligations, with the latest fines reported this month ranging from £3600 to £23000. From October to the beginning of March the SRA issued fines in relation to 19 firms, at least 10 of which were for £10,000 or higher. We are aware that there are a number of ongoing investigations, so we can expect to see similar decisions reported for some time. If you have any concerns in this regard, require an independent AML audit or general advice, the Compli team is on hand to aid you in this respect, so please do get in touch if we can be of assistance.

Economic crime and corporate transparency update

At the time of writing, the draft

Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 (Financial Penalty) Regulations 2024 are at Commons committee stage. This is the latest development in the reform to economic crime and corporate transparency, a process which began in 2022.

Once in force, the Regulations will give the Registrar of Companies ("the Registrar") the power to impose a financial penalty of up to £10,000 for relevant offences under the Companies Act 2006. The Registrar will therefore have the discretion to either impose a financial penalty directly, where they are satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the person has committed a relevant offence, or pursue criminal sanction in the usual way.

The Regulations will come into force either on 2 May 2024 (if they are made on or before 1 May), or on the day after the day on which they are made (if they are made on or after 2 May).

SRA consultation on rule changes to regulate CILEX non-authorised members

The SRA has issued a new consultation on the rule changes required to enable it to regulate CILEX non-authorised members, including paralegals and students, that are not authorised to carry on any reserved legal activities. The SRA believes the changes will not affect the solicitors' profession and state that its communications will distinguish between solicitors, authorised CILEX members and non-authorised CILEX members to help make sure the public are aware of differences between them and make informed choices when accessing

legal services. The consultation runs until 15 May 2024. If the SRA and CILEX agree to proceed with re-delegation, an application would need to be made to the Legal Services Board to agree to the relevant changes to both organisations' regulatory arrangements.

New draft resources for in-house solicitors

The SRA has published new draft guidance for in-house solicitors and their employers (see below). In the news release introducing the new resources, the SRA highlights that there are more than 34,500 solicitors working in-house in England and Wales and that the recent Post Office case has revealed the challenges that in-house solicitors face.

The documents were published ahead of the SRA's second annual in-house solicitors conference on 14 March, and feedback is being sought before the materials are finalised later this year.

New practice notes and guidance

The SRA has published a number of draft guidance and case studies, including several aimed at in-house solicitors and their employers. Further, the Law Society has published three new practice notes since our last update.

SRA guidance

- Internal investigations - Guidance (Draft) <https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/internal-investigations/>
NB: this is within the suite of guidance for in-house lawyers, but is applicable to all SRA regulated firms and all solicitors, wherever they work.
- Reporting concerns about wrongdoing when working in-house - Guidance (Draft) <https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/reporting-concerns-wrong-doing-working-in-house-guidance/>
- Reporting concerns about wrongdoing when working in-house - Case study (Draft) <https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/reporting-concerns-in-house-case-study/>

www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/reporting-concerns-in-house-case-study/

- Identifying your client when working in-house - Guidance (Draft) <https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/identifying-client-working-in-house-guidance/>
- Identifying your client when working in-house - Case study (Draft) <https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/identifying-client-working-in-house-case-study/>
- Understanding in-house solicitors professional obligations employer - Guidance (Draft) <https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/understanding-in-house-solicitors-professional-obligations-employer/>

Law Society practice notes

- Raising concerns and whistleblowing: guidance for staff. <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/hr-and-people-management/raising-concerns-and-whistleblowing-guidance-for-staff/>
- Implementing whistleblowing arrangements. <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/regulation/implementing-whistleblowing-arrangements>
- Representation before mental health tribunals. <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/private-client/representation-before-mental-health-tribunals>

Disciplinary and regulatory decisions

There has once again been a large number of decisions and judgments reported since our last update. Notable decisions include:

Fines for AML failures

At the date of writing, eight firms have been fined between £3,600 and almost £20,000 for AML failures, including failure to have in place a firm-wide risk assessment ("FWRA"), and failure to have in place adequate policies, controls, and procedures ("PCPs").

Another firm has been fined over £23,000 for failure to carry out any

client or matter risk assessments on its files prior to March 2023.

Compliance officer failures

A solicitor has been fined £2,376 for causing, allowing and contributing to his firm failing to satisfy its CDD obligations in relation to seven conveyancing transactions, and for allowing the firm's client account to be used to make payments unrelated to the legal transaction, thus breaching the Solicitors Accounts Rules.

Another solicitor has been fined £18,750 for a myriad of failings, including: allowing the firm's client account to be used as a banking facility; failing to carry out adequate CDD, source of funds checks, and ongoing risk assessment checks, and failing to ensure the firm had an MLRO and compliant FWRA and PCPs. As an RFL, he also failed to ensure he was supervised when carrying out reserved legal activity.

Firm fined for facilitating vendor fraud

A firm has been fined just under £20,000 for undertaking a conveyancing transaction which was later found to be fraudulent. The firm had failed to properly identify the client, failed to act upon the "refer" decision on the AML report and remitted over £110,000 to an unrelated third party.

Fines for failure to notify material change

Two firms have been fined £750 and ordered to pay costs of £150 after failing to promptly notify the SRA of a material change to the information it had previously provided to the SRA about their COLP and/or COFA.

Further fines for workforce diversity data failures

A firm has been fined a fixed penalty of £1,500 and ordered to pay costs of £150 for continuing to breach the requirement to submit workforce diversity data to the SRA. This was its third fine in as many years: the firm

was initially fined £750 for this failure in November, and was previously fined £2,000 in November 2022 for breaches of the SRA Transparency Rules.

A second firm was fined £750 for failing to submit workforce diversity data.

Section 43 order for supply of class A drug offences

A legal secretary has been banned from being employed at a law firm without SRA approval, following her conviction for offences in connection with a county lines drugs supply operation. She had been fully aware of the drugs supply operation and had driven both the co-accused and a minor for the purpose of dealing drugs on multiple occasions.

Section 43 order for misleading the court

A caseworker has been banned from working in a law firm for falsely presenting himself as a criminal barrister, misleading the court in an application, and allowing a sealed court order to be drafted and approved which referred to him as counsel. The order, which resulted in a child being removed from their father, was later overturned in full. He was ordered to pay a proportion of the SRA's costs of £600.

Section 99 order after criminal conviction

A former law firm employee has been banned from working for a law firm or licenced body after her criminal conviction for impersonating another individual while using a police webchat to obtain unauthorised access to data.

Rebuke for abusive tweets

For the second month in a row, a fine has been issued in connection with social media use. A solicitor has been rebuked and ordered to pay costs of £1,350 in relation to three tweets published between November 2021 and April 2022 which were deemed abusive to such an extent that he breached SRA Principle 2.

Rebuke for unsolicited direct approaches

A solicitor has been rebuked for using the personal details of 619 people inadvertently sent to him by a client in order to send them an unsolicited marketing email. He was ordered to pay costs of £600.

Conveyancer rebuked

A solicitor has been rebuked for completing a property purchase without ensuring the clients' Declaration of Trust had been executed, thus failing to act in the best interests of one of the clients. It was noted in mitigation that her work was highly pressurised at the time (June 2021) due to the approaching deadline of the SDLT reduction.

Solicitor struck off for acting without telling firm

A solicitor has been struck off for acting for clients without the knowledge or authority of the firm he worked for, and for receiving client money into his own personal bank account. The SDT made a finding of dishonesty and he was accordingly struck off.

Signature short-cuts leads to strike off

A solicitor has been struck off for submitting two LPAs which misleadingly showed she had witnessed the donor's signatures. The SDT found that dishonesty was 'woven into a thought-out process of corner cutting', warranting striking off, and warned of the importance of taking advice from experienced colleagues to obtain insight upon the risk of departing from correct procedures. She was ordered to pay costs of just over £19,000.

Solicitor suspended for using colleague's signature on court documents

A partner has been suspended for 28 days after signing six Statements of Truth using an absent colleague's electronic signature without their knowledge or consent, which were then filed at court. The partner self-

reported to the SRA after the colleague noticed his signature had been used and raised that he was not comfortable having his signature on documents he did not draft. He was ordered to pay costs of £3,500.

Litigator struck off for misleading client, firm and court

A solicitor has been struck off for informing a client that an agent who was booked to attend a hearing could not attend due to illness, when in fact no advocate has been booked. Additionally, in relation to two separate matters for the same client, she fabricated an attendance note relating to a court hearing. She further misled the client about the progress of six litigation matters. She was ordered to pay costs of £2,000.

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.

Andrea Cohen
Compli,
Weightmans LLP

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Costs Budgeting Case Law Round-up



Kris Kilsby

We may only be a couple of months into 2024 and there have already been some important developments in the world of cost budgeting. Below is a case law summary of some of the more important decisions to understand going forward.

Tan v Idlbi & Anor [2023] EWHC 2840 (KB) – Relief from Sanctions and Costs Budgeting

This is a cautionary tale for any litigator to not only serve a cost budget on time, but to also ensure that service is effective.

The chronology of events are complex and detailed, but simply put, this was a claim for possession of a property and rent arrears. The claim proceeded with both sides represented until the Defendants’ solicitors applied to come off the record. This was approved by the Court and Directions were set down for cost budgets to be filed no less than 14 days before the CCMC. The Defendants, now acting as litigants in person, were not required to file a cost budget. The cost budget was required to be served on 1st December 2022. However, the Claimant served their cost budget on 5th December

2022 at 16:38 by email.

Whilst the Defendant did not raise the point regarding the defective service nor the late filing of the cost budget, it was picked up at the CCMC hearing on 15 December 2022 and the Claimant was advised to file an application for relief from sanctions. The relief from sanctions was not served by email until 29 December 2022.

The matter was not dealt with until the point was raised by the Defendant at Trial in April 2023. At first instance when applying the *Denton* principles the Court found that firstly, the failure to serve the cost budget on time was a significant and serious breach. Turning to the second strand of the *Denton* test, the judge found that there was no good reason for the non-compliance, the Claimant submitting that there had been human error regarding the dates and a delay in getting information to finalise the cost budget. Turning to the final strand of the test the judge found that whilst considering the conduct of all of the parties that there was no good reason to grant a relief from sanctions.

On Appeal the decision reached was considered carefully and it was noted that the original decision made was within the broad ambit of the judge to make. Reference was made specifically to the fact that had the cost budget been properly served on time or that an application for relief been dealt with before trial there could have been an opportunity for cost budgeting to have taken place.

The sanction imposed for failing to serve a cost budget is that the cost budget be dealt with as if it was simply filed with the estimated costs consisting solely of court fees (CPR 3.14). In this matter, that meant that approximately £18,000.00 of budgeted costs were lost and would not be recoverable from the losing party.

Yelland -v- Space Engineering Services Ltd [2023] EWHC 2823 (KB) - Varying a Cost

Budget – What is a reasonable delay?

In this matter the Claimant attempted to argue that the Defendant had not complied with CPR 3.15A when applying to vary their cost budget after the service of surveillance evidence. The surveillance evidence was obtained after the first CCMC Hearing (where a cost budget was set except in respect of the PTR, Trial Preparation and Trial phases) but before a second CCMC hearing. Furthermore, the surveillance evidence was not served until after the final exchange of expert evidence.

The Claimant argued that as a result of the Defendant not applying to vary their cost budget promptly that they should not be allowed the additional costs of obtaining the surveillance evidence.

Costs Judge McCloud considered the arguments and the unique position of surveillance evidence and the policy considerations set down in *Purser v Hibbs & Anr* [2015], namely that surveillance evidence should only be disclosed once a party has in effect ‘pinned their position to the mast’. Given that the ‘proper time’ to disclose the surveillance evidence was once the Claimant had finalised and served their expert evidence, then there was minimal delay. Costs Judge McCloud holding that the Defendant had acted promptly and stating that when considering ‘promptness’ in respect of CPR 3.15A then context was important.

It is therefore clear that the meaning of promptness will remain context dependent, but in the majority of circumstances it is always wise to exercise caution and take proactive steps as soon as a significant development has been identified.

Kris Kilsby is a Costs Lawyer at Paramount Legal Costs and a Council member of the Association of Costs Lawyers. For any further questions or queries about costs and costs budgeting please get in touch at Kristopher.Kilsby@paramountlegalcosts.co.uk



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Arthritis Action has worked tirelessly for over 75 years to ensure people living with arthritis gain the knowledge and confidence to self-manage their condition and live life to the full. Whether that's a warm welcome at one of our local groups; someone at the end of the phone to provide advice; a tailored nutritional plan; or a consultation with one of our clinicians.

Gifts in wills have been critical to our work and are the only way we will be able to reach the increasing number of people living with arthritis.

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Charity Spotlight: The Owen McVeigh Foundation



The foundation was formed by Owens mum and dad Mark & Jo shortly after Owen died suddenly after being diagnosed with leukaemia in 2015, he was 11 years old. Their vision from day one was that something good should come from this. Their mission was to provide life memories for children suffering from cancer and their families.

Anyone either visiting Liverpool Football Club to watch a match or watched a televised game will have no doubt seen our large flag depicting our logo situated at the Kop end of the ground. A number of suggestions of design for the flag were put forward before the final design was settled on. After much discussion the final design included the family name and the number 12. The committee who look after the flags at Anfield came up with the idea of the name on the shirt and that Owen was Liverpool's 12th man as he loved them so much.

Members

The number of families affiliated to the foundation continue to grow at a rapid rate each year. We work closely with a number of staff on the oncology unit at Alder Hey hospital who refer families to us. This along with the referrals that current members have encouraged new families to join us. We cover the Merseyside area and Wirral.

Life Memories

We have provided literally thousands of special memories for children and their families.



The Foundation's annual Snowdon climb



We have partnered with the M&S Arena in Liverpool to provide VIP experiences for over 200 families, to watch various family shows such as Disney on Ice, Radio City Live, Monster Trucks Worlds Strongest Man etc. For teenage members a number of concerts such as Olly Murs, The 1975 etc. In the past 12 months we have branched out to provide special nights for just the parents. Shows have included, Elton John, Pet Shop Boys, with Eric Clapton to come. We feel it is important that parents occasionally can go out and feel normal if only for one night.

Liverpool Football Club have been extremely supportive of the charity for a long time. Families have had the luxury of watching games in the comfort of an executive box. We have

had a number of children fortunate enough to be chosen as the mascot. This along with special visits to the training ground, sometime on a one family only basis when it is a special time that is needed, or a number of families at the same time to watch the first team train.

Peacock Lodge

Is a luxury lodge situated on a lovely site in the Lake District. Families can attend for free and have a lovely holiday or much needed respite break. There is a kayak and all the safety equipment at the lodge for them to use on the lake. Also, a hot tub is provided for them to use

Site has a restaurant, pool and gym facilities and a childrens play area. A break away can mean so much to

a family especially if their child has been in hospital for a long time. For our bereaved families time away from the family home at certain times is a blessing. There are many families who do not want to be at home on certain dates.

Christmas Party

Our year usually ends with the Christmas Party. Held in a Liverpool City Centre hotel the family are treated to a very special day. Food is provided for all. The presents for the children, including all siblings along with the best entertainment.

Finally, with families attending all these events, many long-lasting friendships have been made. If nothing else we can be a vehicle for bringing families together as they go through probably the worst time of their lives.

For more information why not follow us on:

Website: <https://owenmcveighfoundation.co.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/owenmcveighfoundation/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/mcveigh_owen

Eddie Hincks
Charity Officer
Owen McVeigh Foundation.

Charity Number 1167794



Peacock Lodge



Rev Up Your Legal Firm with Cutting-Edge Case Management Software: A 2024 Vision

Let's dive deep into why you can't afford to stick with outdated software in 2024, and why taking a chance on new software could be the game-changer your business needs to thrive.

Picture this: You're cruising down the motorway in a classic car from the 90s. Sure, it's got that nostalgic vibe, but let's be real - it's lacking in horsepower, efficiency, and the latest safety features. Now, imagine trading in that old clunker for a sleek, state-of-the-art electric car. You're not just driving; you're soaring. That's the power of upgrading your software game.

Unlock your law firms potential

Nowadays, sticking with outdated software is like driving that old car. Sure, it might get you from point A to point B, but it's holding you back from reaching your full potential. And let's face it - in the competitive landscape of the legal industry, you need every advantage you can get.

That's where Denovo comes in. We aren't just selling software; we're offering you the keys to unlock your firm's true potential. With our cutting-edge technology solutions tailored specifically for law firms, we're revolutionising the way legal professionals operate.

Think about it: With Denovo, you get a whole practice management solution - combining case management and legal accounts software into one platform. You can streamline your processes, automate routine tasks, and deliver top-notch service to your clients - all while boosting your bottom line. It's like trading in that old clunker for a turbocharged car that's built for speed, efficiency, and success.

But hey, I get it. Taking a chance on new software can feel like a risk. After all, change can be scary. But let me tell you something - playing it safe is the

riskiest move of all. If you want to stay ahead of the curve, you've got to be willing to embrace change and adapt to new technologies.

So, here's my advice to you: Don't let fear hold you back. Don't settle for mediocrity when you could be soaring to new heights. Take a chance on Denovo's game-changing software, and watch your legal firm reach levels of success you never thought possible.

The power of partnership in legal software implementation

I also wanted to bring you some insider knowledge on why building a solid partnership with your legal software provider is absolutely paramount for your firm. Buckle up, because we're about to dive into the importance of spending quality time together, working hand-in-hand to tackle challenges, and why those first six months post-implementation are so crucial.

Let me paint you a picture: You've just invested in some top-notch legal software to take your firm to the next level. You're excited, you're ready to dive in headfirst, but here's the kicker - implementation is just the beginning. It's what happens in those first six months, which truly determines whether you're going to soar or stumble.

See, here's the thing: Many software providers are great at getting you set up and running, but once you're out there on your own, they vanish into thin air. And let me tell you, that's a recipe for disaster. In those crucial first six months, you're navigating uncharted territory, learning how to use the software in real-time while still grinding away at the coal face. It's a make-or-break period where you're trying to figure out if you're truly getting the most out of your investment.

That's where Denovo comes in. We're not just here to sell you software and disappear into the sunset. No, we're here to be your partners every step of the way. We understand that those first six months are absolutely critical, which is why we're committed to sticking with you through the ups and downs.

Think of us as your Sherpas, guiding you and your team through the treacherous terrain of new technology. We're here to listen, to learn, and to work with you to overcome any obstacles that come your way. Because at the end of the day, your success is our success, and we're in this together.

So, if you're ready to take your firm to new heights, don't go it alone. Partner up with Denovo and let us be your guide through the wild world of legal technology.

The time to upgrade your software game is now. Don't let outdated technology drag you down. Embrace change, take a chance, and watch your business soar to new heights of success. Trust me, you won't regret it.

.....

If you would like to find out more about how Denovo are making lawyers lives easier all over the UK, visit denovobi.com. If you would like to chat call 0141 331 5290. Or if you would prefer, you can email info@denovobi.com.

Tech Talk Webinar Series



Unlocking the Potential of Legal Technology: A 2024 Outlook

Join us for an insightful webinar where we will explore the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities shaping the legal technology landscape. This webinar is essential for law firms seeking to stay ahead in today's digital age.



Tuesday, 2nd May 2024



10.00am

- Law firms' technology adoption challenges.
- Innovative solutions for tech obstacles.
- Denovo's 2024 software solutions for law firms' evolving needs.
- Seamless integration's role in workflow optimisation for law firms.
- Expert advice for smooth technology transitions and ROI maximisation in 2024.

Simon Castell
Baskerville e-Media



Steven Hill
Managing Director
Denovo



Secure your free spot!

Don't miss this opportunity to gain actionable insights and strategic guidance from leading experts in the field and unlock the potential of legal technology for your firm.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

denovo

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and Newcastle News **NEWCASTLE News**

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Forthcoming Courses

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
17/04/2024	Commercial Property Update	Richard Snape
19/04/2024	Is it enforceable? - Making Agreements Stick	Chris Beanland
24/04/2024	Public Child Law Conference 2024	Various
29/04/2024	AML for Fee Earners	Matthew Hickling
08/05/2024	Loan Agreements: Law & Practice	Alan Wilkinson
09/05/2024	Personal Injury Update	Andrew McLoughlin
10/05/2024	Personal Branding for NQs	Jannette Brimm
13/05/2024	Introduction to Wills and Probate, and Connection with Family Law	Safda Mahmood
15/05/2024	Private Client Conference 2024	Various
17/05/2024	AML for Support Staff	Matthew Hickling
22/05/2024	Managing & Mitigating Directors' Conflicts under the Companies Act	David Impey
23/05/2024	Private Child Law Update	Safda Mahmood
23/05/2024	Public Child Law Update	Safda Mahmood
05/06/2024	A Tricky Business: BPR and APR Explained	Rebecca Roscoe
07/06/2024	Insolvency for Family Lawyers	Chris Beanland
07/06/2024	The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor (day 1)	Vicky Ling
10/06/2024	Taking Security: A Practical Guide	Alan Wilkinson
12/06/2024	Civil Litigation Update	Andrew McLoughlin
14/06/2024	The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor (day 2)	Vicky Ling
17, 18 & 28/06/2024	Children Law Accreditation (former CPQ) 3 Day	Safda Mahmood
19/06/2024	Reporting to the Lender and Hot Mortgage Issues	Richard Snape
21/06/2024	Personal Branding for Associates/Partners	Jannette Brimm
25/06/2024	Alternative financing: crowdfunding platforms	Alan Wilkinson
26/06/2024	IHT400: A Practical Guide	Rebecca Roscoe
26/06/2024	International Children Law Update	Various

To comply with the SRA's [Code of Conduct for Solicitors, RELs and RFLs](#), all solicitors must keep their professional knowledge and skills up to date. Liverpool Law Society courses will help you maintain an up-to-date understanding of relevant law, policy and practice.

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

For full details, or to book any of the above courses (& more!) please visit: www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk



Managing & Mitigating Directors' Conflicts under the Companies Act

with David Impey

Wednesday 22nd May, 10am - 11.30am

This online course will help commercial lawyers in private practice and in-house, and company directors and secretaries cover all the bases, including for companies in a group, and take the practical steps needed to keep conflicted directors within the law.

Covering;

- Terminology
 - ⇒ 'Situational' and 'transactional' conflicts
- Situational conflicts (s 175)
 - ⇒ The elements of the duty
 - ⇒ Remedies for breach
 - ⇒ Examples of 'situations'
 - ⇒ Exceptions
 - ⇒ Who is caught?
- Authorisation of situational conflicts by members
- 'Conduct' provisions in articles/resolutions

& more....

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



Commercial Property Update

with Richard Snape

Live online: Wednesday 17th April, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Commercial property is undergoing major changes in the post-Covid era. This online course aims to look at some of the changes.

Topics covered include:

- Post Covid debt claims
- Lease renewals in the post lockdown era
- Break clauses in the light of the case of Thomas v Turner
- Service changes in the light of the Supreme Court case of Sara & Hossein v Blacks
- The latest on Energy Performance Certificates
- The Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill and high street rental auctions
- Auction sales in the light of SPS v Mahil
- Latest Developments in planning

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)



Is it enforceable? Making Agreements Stick

with Chris Beanland

Live online: Friday 19th April, 2pm - 4pm

It is vital that any agreement that we draft is enforceable.

This online course deals with factors practitioners should bear in mind on transactional/contractual work. It should be of interest to anyone whose practice involves drafting or litigating contracts.

The course covers:

- Capacity of companies, individuals, and other contracting parties
- Authority of agents
- What evidence of authority should be obtained in respect of company directors?
- Contracts that require a particular form
- What does 'in writing' and 'under hand' mean?
- When is a deed required?
- The formalities required for a valid deed
- Defective deeds
- Executing documents electronically
- Virtual execution and the Mercury Tax case

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



PUBLIC CHILD LAW CONFERENCE

2024

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL | 9.30AM - 3.30PM

HYBRID event - attend in person or online



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

To be chaired by His Honour Judge Parker

Special Guardianship Orders
Margaret Parr, 7 Harrington Street

Post Adoption Contact Planning
Julie Young, University of East Anglia

Transparency
Jack Harrison, Dean's Court Chambers

Communicating Safely & Securely Online
Katie Deans, OurFamilyWizard

Representing Parents with learning difficulties
Fergal Allen, 18 St Johns Street Chambers

Quality and Service Assurance
Sandra Van Empel & Amanda Walsh, Advanced Child Care Assessments

Supporting the Trans and Non-Binary Community
Gaia Reed, The Diversity Trust

Senior's Top 10
Mark Senior, St Johns Buildings

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**BOOK
HERE**



AML Update for Fee Earners
with Matthew Hickling

Live online: Monday 29th April, 11am - 1pm

With expanding sanctions and a public focus on lawyers as ‘professionally enabling’ the laundering of criminal proceeds, there has never been a more important time for law firms to be able to demonstrate compliance with their training requirements.

This online seminar is geared to the realities of legal practice. With emphasis on the everyday problems & issues for legal practitioners & their clients, it will include:

- Regulatory Update – What’s hot with the SRA and other regulators
- Legal Update – The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023
- Risks and vulnerabilities – What’s current in fraud cybercrime
- Case Study – Can you see the risks, the threats, and the red flags?

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

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)



***NEW* Loan Agreements: Law & Practice**

with Alan Wilkinson

Live online: Wednesday 8th May, 12pm - 2pm

This online session will examine key issues & provisions of loan agreements. It will consider loan facility agreements, including the different types of facilities available. Core elements of loan agreements will be considered including representations and undertakings & covenants.

The course is appropriate & relevant for lawyers and those involved in negotiating loan agreements.



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

[BOOK HERE](#)



***NEW* Personal Branding for NQs**
with Jannette Brimm

Live online: Friday 10th May, 12pm - 1pm

Developing your personal brand is an investment that will pay off significantly for newly qualified lawyers so please join Jannette online to learn how to brand the authentic you, showcase your strengths, skills and expertise and have a successful, rewarding & fulfilling legal career.

Personal Branding Skills:

- ◆ Gives you differentiation in a competitive market
- ◆ Builds your credibility and trust with clients and colleagues
- ◆ Maintains your professional online presence
- ◆ Increases relationships building and revenue making
- ◆ Supports Career Promotion Opportunities

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

[BOOK HERE](#)



Intro to Wills & Probate, and Connection with Family Law
with Safda Mahmood

Live online: 13th May, 10am - 4pm


This online course will equip you with the essentials in terms of principles of wills & probate, and as to how it links into other areas of law, particularly family law. It will be of benefit to those delegates who seek to get an understanding of this area of law.

The areas to be covered are:

- Requirements for a valid will
- capacity and formalities
- Witnesses and types of gift
- making changes to wills
- Revising and revoking wills
- Clauses to assist children
- Family provision claims
- Divorce, dissolution and wills
- Intestacy and contentious probate
- Introduction to probate and administration
- Grants and carrying out probate




[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



2024 Private Client Conference
 Wednesday 15th May | 9.30am - 3.30pm
Hybrid - attend in person or online

This conference is packed with insight and discussion covering the latest technical developments & best practice

Sessions include:

- Representing those who lack capacity – understanding the MCA and regulatory requirements**
 Peter Edwards, Peter Edwards Law
- The Court of Protection and property and finances litigation**
 Sophie Hurst, Kings Chambers
- Capital Planning Update**
 Emma Chamberlain, Pump Court Tax Chambers
- IHT/CGT anticipating changes post election - what clients should do now?**
 Michael Sherry, Complete Counsel
- Wills Reform Update**
 Ian Bond, Irwin Mitchell
- LPA Update**
 Louise Scholes, Brabners

Sponsored by 



www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

[Book Here](#)


AML for Support Staff
 with Matthew Hickling
 Live online: 17th May, 11am - 12.30pm

With expanding sanctions and a public focus on lawyers as ‘professionally enabling’ the laundering of criminal proceeds, there has never been a more important time for law firms to be able to demonstrate compliance with their training requirements.

This online seminar is geared to the realities of legal practice. With emphasis on the everyday problems and issues for legal practitioners and their clients, it will include:

- Regulatory Update – What’s hot with the SRA and other regulators
- Legal Update – The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023
- Risks and vulnerabilities – What’s current in fraud cybercrime
- Case Study – Can you see the risks, the threats, and the red flags?

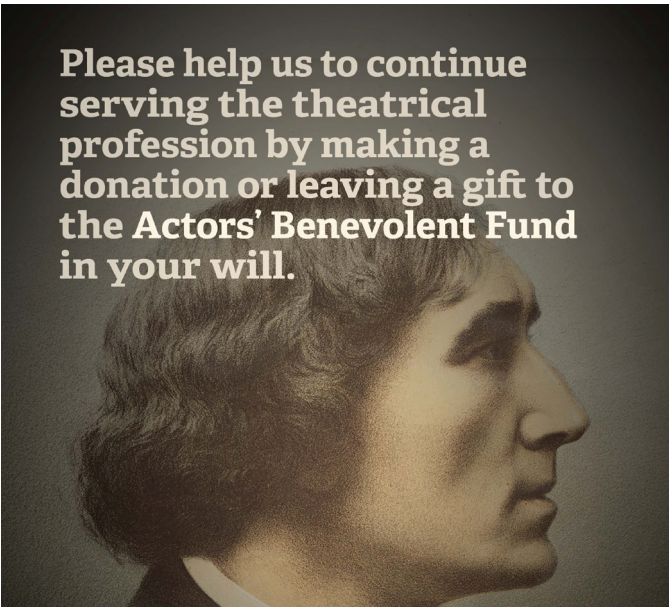
[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)


Training Passport
 Exclusive Offer for members
SAVE UP TO 42% ON THE COST OF TRAINING FOR ALL STAFF

For more information, visit:
<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/training-passport/>



Please help us to continue serving the theatrical profession by making a donation or leaving a gift to the Actors’ Benevolent Fund in your will.



In 1882, the great actor manager Sir Henry Irving founded the **Actors’ Benevolent Fund** with a promise to help actors and actresses experiencing hardship due to accident, illness or old age.

Sir Henry’s legacy lives on today, and the Fund remains committed to his promise by offering confidential advice and support to those most in need. This vital work is made possible through the kindness of our supporters.

For further information, including details of inheritance tax relief, please call us or visit our website.

020 7836 6378
actorsbenevolentfund.co.uk

Registered charity number 260624

Children Law Accreditation:

For Children & family law solicitors who wish to join the Children Law Panel

Obtaining the Children Law

Accreditation (previously the Children Panel Qualification) and joining the Law Society's children's panel is evidence that that you are a specialist in your field of practice and capable of all types of child related legal services.

It can increase your employability & can generate more work, increasing revenue for your firm.

Liverpool Law Society is delighted to welcome back Law Society approved solicitor and professional legal trainer, Safda Mahmood to deliver this training

online 17th, 18th & 28th June (all 10am till 4pm) online, for just £799 members (£899 non members).

This training will greatly increase the delegates knowledge of private and public children law, as well as injunctions and adoption law. It is designed to enhance the legal knowledge, as well as to ensure that the delegates are familiar with the requirements for Law Society membership. In addition, it will also provide essential guidance for good practice.

On completion of this online course

delegates will be able to obtain the Law Society's Children Law Accreditation and have the knowledge necessary to apply to join the Children's Panel.

For full information & to book, see: [3 Day Children Law Accredited Course \(online\) | Liverpool Law Society](#)

For further information on the Children Law Accreditation Scheme and how to become a Law Society children's panel member, please visit the relevant section of the Law Society website <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/accreditation/children-law/>

Welcome Alan!



Alan Wilkinson

Liverpool Law Society is delighted to introduce a new speaker to our programme; Alan Wilkinson. Alan studied at Harvard University, Leicester University, the London School of Economics, the College of Law and the University of Greenwich. On being admitted as a solicitor, he worked in private practice, before becoming the Director of Legal Affairs and Compliance for a London stock exchange listed financial services company.

He has lectured to a wide variety of audiences in the UK and internationally on topics including 'the City of London,'

Financial Services, Compliance, Banking and Investment Law, Islamic Financial Law, Corporate Finance, Insolvency, Fraud, Pensions, International Trade, Business Crimes and Negotiation.

Some of the first events we be holding with Alan are;

- **Loan Agreements: Law & Practice (8th May, 2-4pm)**

Examining key issues and provisions of loan agreements. Considering loan facility agreements, including the different types of facilities available. Core elements of loan agreements will be considered including representations and undertakings and covenants.

- **Taking Security: A Practical Guide (10th June, 2-4pm)**

Designed to enhance the understanding of the commercial rationale for lenders taking security and the different methods of taking security over assets as well as the specific concerns in relation to certain asset clauses. It will also analyse security agreements generally and outline the structure and principle terms of a debenture together with areas for negotiation.

- **Alternative Financing: crowdfunding platforms (25th June, 12.30-2pm)**

During the pandemic, we witnessed a significant transition from traditional to alternative finance among UK consumers and SMEs. Current statistics demonstrate that there is currently a £6.26 billion market in alternative lending which represents a major opportunity for these lenders to meet the evolving needs of their customer base. The transaction value in the Crowdfunding market alone is projected to reach £48.54m in 2024. This online course will introduce alternative lending, and the associated risks. More detailed consideration will then be given to crowdfunding which the European Commission describes as "an emerging alternative form of financing that connects those who can invest money directly with those who need financing for a specific project".

All of the above will take place online and so recordings will be available if you can't make the date.

For full details & to book see: [Company & Commercial Archives | Liverpool Law Society](#)



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As expert Auctioneers & Valuers, Outhwaite & Litherland have been supporting North West Lawyers and professionals with valuations and advice since 1907.

We offer a complete probate valuation service, which now includes RICS accredited property valuations, in addition to the existing valuation service, estate sales and property clearance.

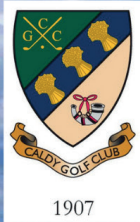
We hold a variety of specialist auctions during the year along side a catalogue of regular general household sales.

Outhwaite & Litherland are always just a phone call or email away and happy to offer free, friendly advice.



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e: auction@lots.uk.com
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**THURSDAY
6TH JUNE 24**

Register Online
www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/events

The power of specialisation: Why law firms should choose specialist, not generalist, software trainers

Why law firms should choose specialist software trainers

While it's widely recognised that the fast-paced, complex world of law demands continuous learning and professional development, not least in relation to software usage, when it comes to training, a critical debate arises... whether to opt for specialist trainers or generalist trainers.

We present a strong case for specialists to ensure a more targeted, efficient and impactful learning experience which spawns a bank of adept software users who can take advantage of everything your technology offers...

#1: Deeper expertise

Specialist trainers bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in law. Their deep understanding of niche legal areas allows them to provide comprehensive guidance in prime use of your technology. This expertise is invaluable in ensuring training aligns with the intricacies of your business, cultivating better-prepared professionals so you're able to use technology optimally to perform your roles to the best of your abilities.

While generalists may offer a broad range of skills, they don't have nuanced understanding of sector problems. Software training tends to become a button-pressing exercise, demonstrating which buttons to press to achieve particular outcomes. The result is superficial software intelligence – not the ability to drill down to granular layers.

#2: Focused and relevant

Law firms often require training applicable to their specialisms. Specialist trainers design customised programmes catering for these unique needs with a spotlight on software utilisation. This targeted approach ensures training sessions are efficient and effective, directly addressing specific objectives with minimal time repercussions as employees only attend sessions related to their positions in practice.

On the flip side, generalist trainers struggle to provide the same standard of tailored instruction, leading to a disconnect between training content and firm demands. Issues faced and gaps in the learning process

remain. Added to this, your staff are possibly attending training that's not relevant to their job. Everyone is given the same 'flavour'. A probate lawyer doesn't need to know about conveyancing completion statements. It's a waste of their valuable time and they'll immediately lose interest. Your fee earning targets and engagement will suffer.

#3: Keeping up with evolving laws

In the constantly shifting legal landscape, new rules and regulations emerge regularly. Specialists stay ahead of these changes, ensuring their materials are up-to-date, and software training hones on handling and confronting every modification and development as they occur.

Conversely, generalists may possess outdated knowledge which can lead to costly mistakes and complications when this outdated information is passed on through software training. While good tools make a skilled craftsman better, they will not make a poorly skilled craftsman good. It's a catch-22 situation – even with market-leading technology, you won't survive and thrive if you're not trained in how to use it superlatively.

#4: Improved learning outcomes

Specialist trainers are passionate about your sector and its tools – and this enthusiasm is contagious. When trainers are profoundly interested in the subject matter, including technology, it inspires and motivates learners. Training sessions led by specialists are engaging and interactive, fostering a positive learning environment. Your employees will get to know your software inside out.

Additionally, specialists draw upon their real-world experiences to provide practical insights and anecdotes that resonate, making software training relatable and memorable. Generalists are incapable of doing so – by not knowing your industry to the same degree. The knock-on effect is amateur-standard software users powerless to make the most of the technologically advanced tools at their fingertips.

#5. Enhanced reputation

Clients often choose law firms based on their reputation and expertise in certain practice

areas. By investing in specialist trainers, you can rely upon your software by using it optimally and become a recognised authority in these areas, leading to greater trust and loyalty – for a notoriety (and bottom-line) boost.

On the opposite spectrum end, generalist trainers have broader insights, wider perspectives and surface-level software awareness. Your reputation (and revenue) is not in safe hands in this scenario.

#6. Efficient use of resources

If specialist trainers command higher fees, it's because their focused expertise creates efficient and effective software training programmes. Over time, there are cost savings to be made as the training process becomes streamlined and employees are thoroughly equipped to handle complicated legal matters in less time with technology back up. Time is a precious commodity. It's your practice's currency. Doing more work in less time equates to an income surge.

In contrast, generalist trainers require more time and resources to achieve a similar level of software proficiency in students. Selecting generalists on price alone is false economy in the longer term as you'll have to sift through extraneous information during generalist training plans. On the 'time is money' theme, losing time equals a drop in earnings.

Final thoughts

In the competitive law sphere, staying ahead of the curve is essential. The specialised nature of legal practice demands a tailored approach to software training. Specialist trainers offer a distinct advantage by providing bespoke training backed by in-depth knowledge so your employees are armed with the necessary skills to excel in their fields with technology for support.

While generalist trainers have their merits, the benefit of choosing specialists is clear: it's a strategic investment in continuous staff development, contributing to your success in the increasingly challenging legal scene.

Discover Jayva at info@jayvaglobal.com or www.jayvaglobal.com/training-services.



Specialist training support for your law firm

- + Harness the power of your technology
- + Realise ROI from your software investment
- + Thrive in today's challenging legal space
- + Benefit in many more, expansive ways

“

“The training of super users was a genius stroke. It spreads the technical know how around and prevents one sole person being inundated with system queries.”

Andrew Horwich, Symes Bains Broome Solicitors

“Our Jayva trainers showed us around the software features relevant to our diverse roles in practice. The staff are friendly and efficient which is a formidable combination.”

Andrew Gray, Truth Legal

”



Get in touch to learn more:

0333 20 20 995 | info@jayvaglobal.com | www.jayvaglobal.com/training-services

Social Media Highlights

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

CEL Solicitors @CelSolicitors · 8 Mar
Happy International Women's Day! 🎉👩🏫

Today we're celebrating the women that help make CEL Solicitors the number 1 consumer law firm in the UK!

Through championing our female talent, we aim to #InspireInclusion inside the workplace and beyond.

#InternationalWomensDay

Cognitive Law @CognitiveLaw · 8 Mar
Happy International Women's Day

Today's the day where globally we celebrate the achievements of women. Let's cheers to the incredible women making waves in every industry, especially the legal sector, breaking barriers, and inspiring change.

#IWD ♀ #IWD2024

Jo Downey @JoDowney6 · 6 Mar
Giving ALL... the thanks today to DJ Baldwin for chairing the @LpoolLawSociety online Costs Conference, the brilliant speakers for their time & expertise and of course the delegates for supporting - 'THANK YOU'

WHO'S AWESOME?

Jackson Lees @JacksonLeesLaw · 18 Mar
Jackson Lees Group is proud to sponsor Heswall in Bloom.

The aim of the project is to enhance Heswall's streetscape and make it a vibrant and welcoming place to live, work, and visit.

You can contribute towards Heswall in Bloom here: ow.ly/bYzW50QSlx7

Jackson Lees Group is proud to sponsor the Heswall in Bloom project!

Rowlinsons @Rowlinsons · 15 Mar
Well that's almost it for National Conveyancing Week 2024! We've had the British Conveyancing Awards 🏆, a mountain of pizza 🍕 and even a quiz that included guess your colleague as a baby 🤖

🥳 We can't wait for next year! #NatConveyWk2024 #bcawards2024

Excello Law @ExcelloLaw · 15 Mar
Excello Partners Richard Osborn and Sharon Playford have been enjoying the MIPIM 2024 International Real Estate Festival this week. MIPIM is the international event where all sectors of the real estate industry meet to make their future a reality.

#realestate #mipim2024

Paul Crowley & Co @PaulCrowleyCo · 12m
🥰 A pleasant surprise greeted all the staff this morning at Paul Crowley & Co solicitors with an early Easter egg from the Directors 🍫

#easter #easter2024 #happyeaster #paulcrowleyandco #eastereggs #easteregg #cadsburys #liverpool #paulcrowleysolicitors #paulcrowleyandcosolicitors

Morecrofts LLP @Morecrofts · 35m
We are delighted to continue our support of Morecrofts Netball Club by funding their innovative new kits and equipment, including a game-changing option for players to choose shorts over the traditional netball dress 🏃‍♀️

morecrofts.co.uk/morecrofts-jum...
#CommunitySport #Inclusivity

MSB Solicitors @MSBSolicitors · 4h
Did you hear?

MSB Woolton @WooltonJuniorFC have been nominated for 'Grassroots Initiative of the Year', sponsored by @FootballCo, at this year's Women's Football Awards 🏆👏

More info, and voting details below 📄

Shortlist revealed for the 2024 Women's Football Awards

From metro.co.uk

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