

June 2024

Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

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



Liverpool Law Society's General Committee meeting, May 2024

*Front row left to right: Lindsey Knowles, Nina Sahu, Rachel Stalker, Alum Ullah and Gaynor Williams
Back row left to right: Jeremy Myers, David Tournafond, Jonathan Berkson, John-Paul Dennis, Nicola Walker, Emma Palmer and guest Fiona Swarbrick, President of Southport & Ormskirk Law Society*



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Time & Fees

Office Accounting



New
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Guides &
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New Correspondence



New Chat



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June 2024

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DEADLINES

Tues, 25.06.24

Tues, 23.07.24

Tues, 27.08.24

Tues, 22.10.24

Tues, 26.11.24



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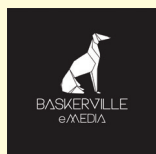
Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

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.

17.06.24 (Monday)
17.07.24
20.08.24
17.09.24
15.10.24
19.11.24

Welcome to the June edition of Liverpool Law



I cannot believe we are half way through the year already!

You will see this month we have an appeal from The Law Society for some input on the planned Bicentenary celebrations and seeking stories from members. I have no doubt our member firms will have lots of fascinating stories to tell and I encourage you to get in touch with The Law Society on this to ensure these go down in history.

Our editorial meeting this month had an interesting discussion on our new social media handles and the engagement we are receiving from this, which is fantastic. Please continue to like/follow/share with these platforms and send us any suggestions you may have or any improvements you would like to see. And as always keep your articles coming.

Our front page this month features many of our General Committee members following a face to face meeting last month. You can also find details of how to join our committees within the magazine too. We have the date set for the next social on 13 June and I hope to see many of you there.

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 May's General Committee meeting.

There were 197 individuals from the following organisations:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • 174 Family Law | • Irwin Mitchell LLP |
| • Astraea Linkskills | • Jackson Lees Group Limited |
| • Barrow & Cook Solicitors Ltd | • KLS Law |
| • Berkson Family Law Solicitors | • Liverpool Hope University |
| • Brabners LLP | • Maxwell Hodge |
| • Brown Turner Ross | • Morecrofts LLP |
| • Carpenters | • MSB Solicitors |
| • CEL Solicitors | • Napthens LLP |
| • CG Professional Limited | • O'Connors Legal Services Limited |
| • Driscoll Kingston Solicitors | • Paul Crowley & Co |
| • DWF LLP | • Peter Edwards Law |
| • Excello Law | • Prosperity Law LLP |
| • Glenville Walker | • Quinn Barrow |
| • Hanratty & Co | • Quinn Melville |
| • Haworth & Gallagher | • SBW Law |
| • Huntsman Surface Sciences UK | • Spence Family Law |

Liverpool Law Society's membership now exceeds 2,430 individuals from 190 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

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since Liverpool hosted the Eurovision song contest. Although we were not hosting this year, in true scouse fashion, Liverpool joined in the party and there were Eurovision themed events and performances throughout the city, culminating with a screening of the final at the Exhibition centre on the Liverpool waterfront. I am not ashamed to admit that I remember Bucks Fizz winning the competition many years ago. I see that Liverpool is to host Taylor Swift in June and become 'Taylor Town' from 8 June 2024, so the party theme will continue. Please send your pictures and stories of 'Taylor Town' to our editing team.

I attended the Leeds Law Society Annual Dinner on 2 May 2024 and there was also a party spirit that evening. Leeds President, **Shanika Varga Haynes** and her top table guests were led into the dinner by drummers, and this really did set the scene for an enjoyable evening. **Shanika's** speech was heartfelt and inspiring and there followed excellent speakers including **Mr Justice Fancourt**, **Jason Pitter KC** and President of The Law Society **Nick Emmerson**. It was a fun filled evening and I managed to have a chat with **Lubna Shuja**, past President of The Law Society, as well as **Nick Emmerson** and **Justice Fancourt**.

While I was enjoying an evening in Leeds, Vice President **James Mannouch** attended QEII Law Courts 40th Anniversary. Feedback was very positive and there was a good turnout. **James** also attended CISI Annual dinner on 9 May 2024, it is always a very well organised event and also well attended. Sometimes I am unable to attend events due to other commitments and I do appreciate **James** and the other Officers stepping in to ensure that Liverpool Law Society is represented at as many events as possible.

On 14 May 2024 we had a face-to-face committee meeting at St Johns Buildings Chambers, opposite the County Court on Vernon Street. Online meetings are convenient and allow people to attend meetings from their home or offices, however it is nice to see everyone face to face from time to time. The Officers, Directors and Committee chairs were also joined by the charity Local Solutions, who talked about the invaluable work that they do in the Liverpool City Region in relation to homelessness, community projects and social care. It was a packed agenda, and we also discussed The Law Society's Bicentennial at the end of 2024, as well as Liverpool Law Society's Bicentennial in 2027. These dates seem a long way off, but they are fast approaching. The Law Society is asking for any ideas, be it significant stories or milestones from lawyers in the Liverpool City Region to be fed through to them. Please contact **Beth Quinn** at The Law Society if you have any



ideas and/or stories to tell. In terms of Liverpool Law Society's Bicentennial, we will be organising a working party in the near future, and also reaching out for ideas and local stories.

On 16 May 2024 **Alum Ullah** and I attended the offices of our members, Fletchers Group, to meet **Timothy Moulton** and his team. As a bonus, we were treated to a lovely lunch, and this was followed by a Q and A session. Meeting the members is one of the most enjoyable parts of being President and if any firms would like me to come and visit them, please get in touch.

On 17 May 2024 I attended the online Access to Justice Forum, always a popular and well attended forum. **Kemi Duroshola**, Manager, Value for Money, at the National Audit Office provided an update about the 'Value for Money' report on the Government's management of legal aid. **James Mannouch** noted that the topics raised by the National Audit Office (reduction of legal aid practitioners, legal aid deserts and lack of funding) mirrored the issues discussed at the Access to Justice meetings. **Chris Minnoch**, CEO of the Legal Aid Practitioners Group also updated the forum about ongoing issues facing legal aid practitioners including the housing crisis and the lack of advice providers. It was a sombre update from both speakers however what shone through was the passion and

commitment from everyone, and an eagerness to pull together and try and make a change.

Turning to some more upbeat news, as I write this column I am very much looking forward to the Joint Walk with Cheshire & North Wales Law Society to Hilbre Island on Sunday, 2nd June 2024. We are all so busy in our practices, and it is good to take a break, enjoy some fresh air, and meet new people.

We also have the inaugural Liverpool Law Society Golf Tournament on 6 June 2024, and I will update you about these events in next months' column. Thank you to **Emma Palmer**, Honorary Treasurer, for attending Manchester Law Society's Legal Awards on the same day.

Anyone who fancies an informal get together with Committee members and lawyers from various firms, head down to The Atrium, Tempest, Tithebarn Street on 13 June 2024 from

5.15 pm, for our Committee Social. It is always an enjoyable evening, and good for lawyers from of all different ages and practices to get together and meet old and new people.

I also look forward to the Leaders in Law Dinner on Wednesday, 19 June 2024 at the Bluecoat in the City Centre. It is a relaxing evening and a chance for practitioners to discuss any issues and ideas they may have in relation to the work Liverpool Law Society do.

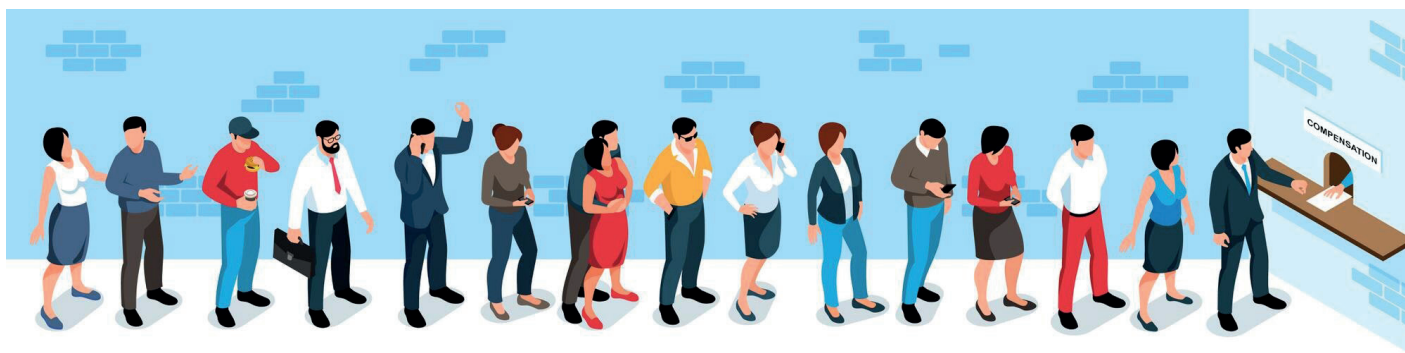
We are already 6 months into this year, and before we know it, we will be finalising the order of events for the Annual Dinner and Legal Awards on 14 November 2024. With **Lady Hale** as speaker, I am sure this event will sell out soon, so book your places.

Gaynor Williams

President

president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

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

LIVERPOOL LEGAL WALK

6PM, TUESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2024

5k fundraising walk in aid of



THE
ACCESS
TO JUSTICE
FOUNDATION

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

THE LIVERPOOL LEGAL WALK GATHERS THE LOCAL LEGAL COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTERS OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE TOGETHER TO WALK 5K AROUND LIVERPOOL CITY CENTRE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE ADVICE SECTOR



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The money you raise goes towards the most vulnerable in society to fund access justice and legal advice. The organisations the Access to Justice Foundation supports help:

- Prevent families being made homeless
- Prevent destitution
- Allow older people gain the support to which they are entitled
- Support women and children who have been trafficked for domestic servitude or prostitution.

At the end of the 5K fundraising walk, each walker will have a chance to relax, mingle and network at our post-walk drinks reception kindly sponsored by the University of Law.

IN AID OF THE ACCESS
TO JUSTICE
FOUNDATION



This is a great opportunity for colleagues from across the region to come together and take part in a relaxed event after work.



[More info](#)

LLS Meetings & events – June/July 2024

Date / Time	Meeting/Event
11/06/2024 12:30	General Committee
13/06/2024 16:00	Family Business Sub-Committee
13/06/2024 17:00	Sub-Committee Social
17/06/2024 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
19/06/2024 18:00	Leaders in Law Dinner (invitation-only)
20/06/2024 13:00	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee
25/06/2024 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
27/06/2024 16:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee
02/07/2024 13:00	Access to Justice Sub-Committee
09/07/2024 12:30	General Committee
10/07/2024 13:00	Employment Law Sub-Committee
11/07/2024 13:00	Future Planning Sub-Committee

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

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

Consultation Papers

Papers referred to committees:

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

Committee	Consultation Paper title	Closing date
Criminal Practice	Proposed amendments to PACE Codes of Practice A and C: strip searches	10.06.24
Criminal Practice	Immigration offences – consultation	12.06.24
Criminal Practice	Updating the domestic homicide review statutory guidance	01.07.24
Regulatory	https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/consultations/discussion-papers/consumer-protection-review/	01.07.24
Access to Justice	Modernising support for independent living: the health and disability green paper	22.07.24

Leaders in Law: Julie Mogan of Excello Law



1. Briefly describe your role as Regional Director.

My role as Regional Director is outward facing, my focus being to ensure that the values attaching to our brand are communicated within the professional environments of the North West and Lancashire. No day is the same and I may either be travelling around different cities attending client meetings and various events, meeting potential new candidates and clients, or working with the leadership team on strategy. I split my time between our three regional offices which helps to ensure that the continuing business development needs of our existing lawyers are properly understood and being met.

2. What are the positive and negative aspects of the role?

The main positive I associate with my role is helping to transform the lives of those lawyers who join us. Having been a corporate lawyer myself for over 30 years, I possess a genuine insight into the many challenges of being a lawyer in a traditional law firm model and I know how liberating our model is by comparison. We operate a flat structure where all are equal and which encourages collaboration. Being part of a leadership team of professionals with

vision and individuals whom I like and trust is wonderful too.

I truly love my job so it is hard to think of any negatives but if I am pushed, the worst part is when travel plans go awry (usually leaving me stuck on a train or a motorway). Also the amount of calories I am “encouraged” to consume weekly as a result of the number of functions and events and working lunches I attend is often a challenge. I also wish there were more hours in the day to meet more people.

3. What changes to the running of the firm have you implemented because of Covid?

As we know the pandemic sent a shockwave through most businesses. Traditional law firm models struggled to quickly adapt some of their archaic practices and to find emergency solutions for suddenly having to manage non office-based workforces. At Excello we did not need to adapt as we were already operating an agile business model where our lawyers and support teams were perfectly set up to work from home.

4. What do you see as your biggest challenges?

The fee-share law firm market has become increasingly saturated, so our challenge is to differentiate ourselves. It's crucial that we clarify that not all firms in this sector are alike! In many other firms in our sector there is often an overstated emphasis on the size of a firm and the number of lawyers on board. For us, growth isn't just about increasing our lawyer count; it's about attracting truly talented and ambitious individuals who share our dedication to excellence. We are committed to growing thoughtfully and responsibly, prioritising quality over sheer quantity of lawyers.

5. What aspects of the firm are you most proud of?

Hands down it is the culture! At Excello Law, we take immense pride in our core values: integrity, fairness, excellence, and agility. Unlike many law firms, we prioritise the careers and well-being of each individual lawyer and staff member. Our collaborative culture is consistently praised by our lawyers, who describe a unique sense of belonging when part of our firm.

6. What are your immediate short-term goals?

My personal short-term goal is to make sure that all lawyers in my patch who are suitable for our model are aware of what we can offer.

7. Where do you see the firm ten years from now?

At Excello, we're dedicated to growing while maintaining our focus on quality. Looking ahead, our aim is sustainable expansion, with the objective of building a national team of over 300 lawyers. Over the next ten years we will have expanded internationally and we are already having conversations with entrepreneurial commercial lawyers and firms, in the USA, Europe, and the UAE. It's exciting!

8. What legacy would you like to leave the firm?

I hope it is a very long time before I must leave a legacy, as for the last 10 years at Excello I have thoroughly enjoyed my working life. However the legacy I would like to leave would be my contribution towards our continued growth in the North West whilst maintaining the dynamic, collaborative, happy culture that we have always had.

Interview: Jewels Chamberlain, Director of LLS



Jewels Chamberlain, a partner in DWF, has been elected as a Director of Liverpool Law Society for 2024. Jewels was born in Chorley but emigrated to South Africa with her parents during her primary school days when her father, who worked for Leyland Motors, was given a position with the company in Cape Town, where Jewels eventually attended University. The LLB Law degree was a postgraduate degree, so she needed to initially take an undergraduate degree, which led to Jewels taking both Bachelor of Arts, followed by a Bachelor of Law. Embarking on these two degrees together reduced her studying period from seven to five years.

After finishing her degrees, Jewels undertook her articles of clerkship, as they were known at that time, at the University of Cape Town Legal Aid Board. At the same time she took the legal practical course at night school, which enabled her to qualify in one and a half years rather than three years.

Jewels desire to study law was driven by her growing up in South Africa under the apartheid system. She didn't really understand the concept of it until she was in high school due to the tight media control around this issue. At this time she realised that not everyone had the same standard of living that she enjoyed. Every citizen

had a race classification, which defined which school you could attend, where one could live, what beaches one could visit and even who one could marry. Jewels was keen to understand why people were separated in this way and wanted to rebel against the regime. She was keen to integrate with other races - which was forbidden - but Jewels achieved this by joining a dance group, as in the arts, there was a small bit of flexibility on integration. This caused issues with the people around her including the police and even her school headmaster but this only spurred her on to work for change. She volunteered in her first year at University to work at the legal aid clinic, but wasn't permitted to join until her second year, when she ended up as a convener of the clinic, managing 11 sites and around 70 advisors, which she held until her fifth year at the University.

Jewels was keen to further the experience she'd gained, so applied to the Universities Legal Aid board where she successfully completed her articles.

After qualifying as a Solicitor, Jewels then went to practice at Aremband Dick Attorneys, an insurance firm, but had to leave when the Partnership ended.

On a holiday back in England, Jewels, who held both a British and South African Passport, decided she wanted to come back and work here permanently.

After looking around for opportunities in the legal profession for a few months, Jewels decided that, as very little was known about South African attorneys in the UK, she needed to get a foot in the door of a Solicitor's firm, so Jewels joined a temping agency in Bolton initially as a legal typist. Her plan was to begin networking once embedded in an environment where senior partners could see her potential.

Her cousin then advised her that she should join a different temping agency in Manchester as it is a bigger city than Bolton and once she joined, her first placement was at James Chapmans Solicitors. Whilst there, she asked around to see if there were any opportunities for her to get back into a proper legal role. She was informed by a senior Partner in the firm that there was a vacancy to work in insurance. Jewels successfully applied for the position and James Chapman and partners paid for her Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test. Because of her large amount of litigation experience, both criminal and civil, Jewels didn't have to undertake a training contract and only had to do a couple of the subjects on the qualified lawyers transfer test.

Jewels spent 5 years with James Chapman solicitors but after a Client panel caused a reshuffle, she took voluntary redundancy.

Jewels then joined Rickson's Solicitors working in their Preston office until 2007, when Rickson's merged with DWF where she has worked ever since and is now a partner in the firm. She has won numerous awards, including the DWF Rubie Contribution to Inclusion award, the Woman in Insurance award for Role Model of the year and awards at industry awards for her work.

The Preston office closed around seven years ago and was relocated to Liverpool, where she is now based and has become a Partner in the firm, specialising in defendant personal injury litigation as well as managing a team of motor litigation fee earners. Jewels is also trustee of the DWF Foundation, a charity whose sole aim is to provide funds, resources and mentoring support to help groups, communities and individuals achieve their full potential. During her ten year involvement, the foundation has

granted over 1.5 million pounds from their fundraising activities.

Jewels is a relative newcomer to Liverpool Law Society and last year was a member of the subcommittee for diversity and inclusion, which led her to be offered a position of Director. Her aims in this role are to find out more about the community in relation to social mobility and utilising all the legal knowledge the Society has to look

at where we will get the next generation of legal workers from; how we attract talent into the legal profession and retain it. She also intends to look into succession planning and what opportunities are available.

Jewels is married and has a 16 year old daughter Francesca, who is currently taking her GCSE's and planning to follow her mother into the legal profession.

Jewel met her husband Shane, whilst in high school back in South Africa when they were teenagers, but lost touch after he was called up for national service. Twenty five years later, they got back in touch and they rekindled their relationship, which led to their marriage.

We wish Jewels every success in her new role.

MSB continues expansion with two new offices



MSB is expanding its footprint by opening two new offices in Chester and Birmingham.

With a rich history of delivering expert legal services for 36 years, the new city centre offices will be the fifth and sixth locations for [MSB Solicitors](https://www.msbsolicitors.co.uk), which currently employs 220 people.

The decision to establish a presence in both cities comes as the firm continues its exceptional growth trajectory, having doubled its team headcount and turnover since 2018.

MSB Solicitors will be looking to recruit solicitors, paralegals, and trainees across all areas of the legal profession at the

offices. This strategic move reflects the firm's commitment to serving the growing demand for legal services in the cities.

Each office will provide clients with expert advice and representation, serving the entire community – from international corporations to start ups, from ultra net-worth clients to the most vulnerable.

Emma Carey, Managing Partner at the firm, believes that this growth trend will continue, as the firm solidifies its position as a top-tier legal service provider.

"As an all-service law firm, we pride ourselves on our excellence and that is undoubtedly reflected in our growth," said Emma.

"Since we opened our Manchester office just two years ago, our team has expanded by a huge 250%, and we aim to replicate this success in Chester and Birmingham.

"This will allow us to further expand our reach, providing clients with the high-quality legal services they deserve. We look forward to being a part of the community in both areas, contributing to the growth and success of each city."

For more information about MSB Solicitors and its services, visit: www.msbsolicitors.co.uk.

Fletchers Solicitors announces exceptional growth in 2022/23 annual report and accounts

Fletchers Solicitors, one of the UK's leading Personal Injury and Medical Negligence firms with offices in Liverpool and Southport, has announced a year of exceptional growth in its report and accounts for the year ended April 2023.



Alexandra Lynch

Chief Financial Officer, **Alexandra Lynch**, said revenues had increased by 26 per cent to £43m (2021/22: £34m), operating profits grew by £3.4m to £3.1m, while profit before tax grew to £2.1m (2022: £0.2m loss).

Commenting on the financial performance, **Lynch** said that investment in more direct-to-consumer marketing spend and the purchase by Fletchers of case acquisition specialists Blume in November 2022 had helped deliver this increase in revenues.

"The 'Blume factor' was also behind a 17 per cent increase in case signings, with a trend towards higher value cases also boosted by our other acquisitions during that period including Cycle SOS in May 2022 and Minton Morrill in September 2022, plus a renewed impetus by our Charities and Partnerships team."

Fletchers opened two new offices in Leeds and Liverpool during 2022-23 to extend its market reach across the north and attract more talent.

Fletchers' Chief Executive Officer, **Peter Haden**, said: "Our people proposition is core to sustaining our success and building a diverse and inclusive working environment is a major focus of our Responsible Business Strategy, launched in 2023.



Peter Haden

"We lead the market in enabling colleagues from non-traditional backgrounds to build a career in the law and have issued stretching targets on gender, ethnicity and social mobility."

The firm continued to invest in technology, in particular AI and machine learning. A renewed partnership with the data science department at the University of Liverpool is building on the organisation's earlier work to speed up the claims process and focus on the most promising enquiries and identify cases with a higher chance of success.

Haden said: "AI has saved time and helped direct work towards the right person for the job, but we still make sure our specialist colleagues make any final decisions. We intend to leverage our experience with the University to build additional tools which will help grow our practice and ultimately open up access to justice for more people."

Fletchers also launched the Fletchers Foundation in 2022-23 with the aim of helping people who have suffered life changing injury and who do not have recourse to a compensation claim. During its first year, the Foundation approved over 24 grants for individuals and raised over £55,000 in fundraising.

Fletchers remains on course for further growth during the current reporting period. **Haden** said: "We've seen a 41 per cent increase in signed cases this year, a 30 per cent increase in overall headcount and we've opened further new offices in Bolton and Cambridge, following the acquisition of Serious Injury Law.

"The 2022/23 report and accounts has underlined the progress we made as a result of the investment by an affiliate of Sun European Partners, LLP and in particular the acquisition of Blume, which has been a hugely beneficial addition to the Group's portfolio."

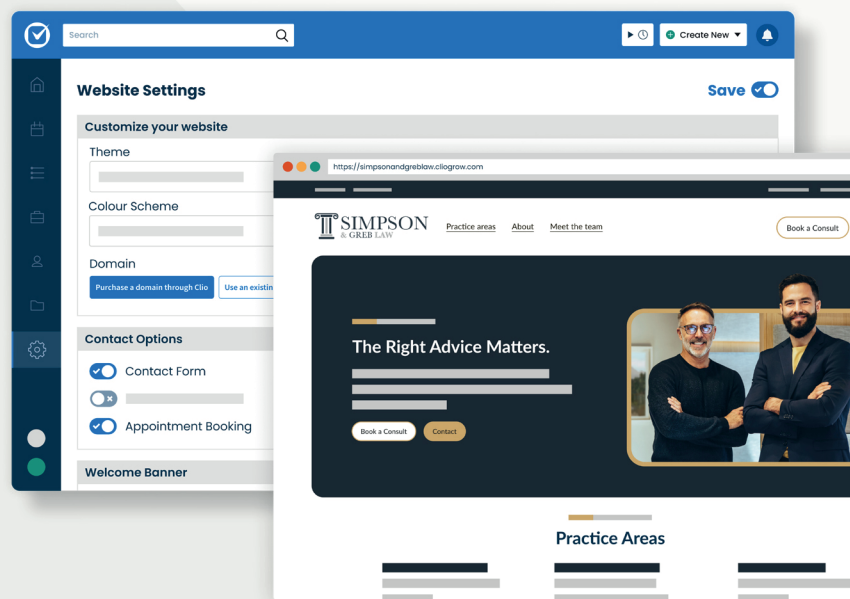
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Peter Edwards Law appoints two new Directors



Paul Williams

Paul Williams and Laura Edwards have been appointed Directors of award-winning Hoylake law firm, Peter Edwards Law.

Peter Edwards founded the law firm in 1995 with his wife Jolanta and welcomed **Paul** and **Laura** to the Board, “*Next year the Practice will celebrate 30 years. Since Paul and Laura joined us in 2012 and 2015 respectively, these two talented lawyers have proven to be huge assets to the team and of course, our vulnerable clients. Undoubtedly, they will continue to help protect the rights of vulnerable people for many years to come.*”

Paul and **Laura** are currently members of the Senior Management Team at Peter Edwards Law and bring almost 30 years’ legal experience and specialist knowledge to their new roles.

Paul Williams’ career began when he graduated from Liverpool John Moores University in 2008. After working in several areas of law he joined Peter Edwards Law in 2012 and qualified as a solicitor in 2015.

A delighted **Paul** said, “*Peter Edwards Law has played a huge role in protecting the rights of vulnerable people and even helping to shape the law. I’m excited to be a part of the future, tackling the many challenges ahead.*”

He added “*To have worked at this firm for 12 years and to be recognised as someone who can move the firm forward in our very specialised area of law is a privilege. Each day this area of law allows you to recognise the barriers people are subjected to when they lack mental capacity and suffer with mental health issues. As legal professionals we can provide a voice which, unfortunately without our help and assistance, is not always heard.*”



Laura Edwards

Laura Edwards graduated from the University of Liverpool in 2011. Spending over 5 years as a paralegal in firms in Liverpool and London, **Laura** joined Peter Edwards Law in 2015 and became a trainee solicitor in November 2017.

Laura said, “*Peter Edwards Law has not only been at the forefront of Mental Health and Incapacity Law, but also in appointing women into senior roles. I am incredibly proud to take on this role and work with our fantastic team to continue the important work we do.*”

“*It’s a real honour to join the board of directors. Since joining I have been privileged to continue my training and develop as a solicitor. I feel passionately about the work we do; helping ensure vulnerable people’s rights are heard and respected. I am excited to take on this new role and continuing to work with our very talented team*”

Peter Edwards Law is at the forefront of mental health and incapacity legal issues and has built an enviable reputation as a leading practice in this specialist area.

Working exclusively in the field of mental health, mainly representing those who have been sectioned under the Mental Health Act, they also represent vulnerable people who lack capacity, mainly in the Court of Protection. **Peter Edwards** was recently awarded a ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ by the Liverpool Law Society in 2021. In 2019 the practice was also awarded ‘Niche Firm of the Year award’ and Harriet Hanson received the ‘Rising Star Award’ last year.

More details of the firm can be found at <https://www.peteredwardslaw.com/>

Insurance and Commercial specialist joins law firm O'Connors



Sally Lazar, Insurance and Commercial Lawyer joins O'Connors

Liverpool and London-based business lawyers and advisers, O'Connors, has appointed insurance and commercial specialist, Sally Lazar, as a solicitor as it accelerates the national roll out of its sector support for financial services and legal services businesses.

Sally has 10 years' experience as an insurance and commercial lawyer, working with major international and regional law firms in London and Liverpool, and as head of legal and business affairs at an award-winning UK animation studio.

Sally joins O'Connors after a sustained period of investment by the firm in its

corporate, commercial, insurance and regulatory teams and as it broadens its offering to financial services, legal services, and sports sector clients.

Sally said: "I've had such a great welcome at O'Connors and experienced its special team culture. Having worked in very large law firms for most of my working life, I can already see how its unique blend of corporate, commercial, insurance and regulatory expertise and sector specialism offers a distinctive model for delivering projects and transactions. I am really looking forward to sharing my know-how and experience with the O'Connors team and with the firm's clients."

Commenting on Sally's arrival, CEO **David Malone** said: "Sally is another major appointment for us as we develop our team and our client offering. She will be part of our insurance and regulatory team, headed by **Josh Bates**, and assisted by our legal and support colleagues. I am delighted to welcome Sally to the firm, and I am looking forward to introducing her to our many clients and business friends."

O'Connors was founded in 2003 and comprises more than twenty lawyers and support staff, bringing together best of breed teams to help clients achieve remarkable results, wherever in the world they are doing business.

Fletchers Solicitors hires renowned cycling accident specialist to lead cycling practice



Nadia Kerr

Fletchers Solicitors has appointed Nadia Kerr as partner to lead its dedicated cycling team including its renowned Cycle SOS brand, which Fletchers acquired in 2022.

An avid cyclist herself, with more than 30 years' legal experience representing cyclists and other vulnerable road users, Kerr joins Fletchers from JMW Solicitors where she headed up the cycling claims team, following previous roles as a Partner at Pannone LLP and in the senior management team at Minister Law.

Kerr is also a Trustee and Director for the national cycling charity, Cycling UK, for which Fletchers' is a Legal Partner.

She was named in Cycling UK's 2021

'100 Women in Cycling', runs a women's cycle group in South Manchester, and was also a founding member and Director of WalkRide GM, a campaign group focused on walking, wheeling and cycling in Greater Manchester.

Alongside her extensive legal career, Kerr is a key ambassador for road safety and active travel. Her advocacy efforts have led to tangible changes, including improvements in road layouts and targeted resources for repairing dangerous potholes, and she has previously appeared on media outlets to provide expert commentary on long-term government funding for pothole repairs.

Speaking on her appointment, **Kerr** said: "I'm delighted to be joining the team at Fletchers, who have a stellar

reputation as a leader in personal injury cycling accident claims.

"The safety of cyclists on UK roads is still of utmost concern and I'm committed to advocating for safer cycling for vulnerable road users, as well as being dedicated to delivering access to justice for my clients."

She is set to join Fletchers' growing two-wheel team, under the direction of **Victoria Marsden**, Director of Personal Injury.

Marsden said: "We're delighted to welcome Nadia to the team. She has an outstanding client-centred ethos and is truly tireless in her pursuit of justice, and long-term change. She is sure to make a meaningful impact to the lives of her clients, and the broader cycling community at Fletchers."

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Morecrofts Solicitors take on The Walk of hope for Charity



Last year, Morecrofts announced their partnership with charity Love, Jasmine as their Charity of the Year. After a successful 12 months raising just over £6000, they decided to continue their partnership for an extra year.

The most recent fundraising event was organised by Love, Jasmine themselves and a team of Morecrofts colleagues joined the challenge to complete 'The Walk of Hope'.

The Walk of Hope consists of either the full 13.1 mile walk from Hooton to West Kirby, or a short walk of 3 miles from Thurstaston to West Kirby.

After deciding to take on this challenge, the Morecrofts team made a JustGiving page to raise money for Love, Jasmine with a target of achieving £200. The team more than tripled their target by raising over £600.

The walk took place on 28th April, with lovely warm weather and the team thoroughly enjoyed their time helping raise money and awareness for the amazing cause.



The Law Society's Bicentenary: Celebrating 200 years



About the Bicentenary

In 2025 the Law Society of England and Wales will celebrate its 200th anniversary. This is a huge milestone in our history and an exciting moment to be part of.

Our bicentenary will be about feeling proud of the Law Society and the legal profession and celebrating our diverse community. We want to engage with members more than ever before and we want to demonstrate the impact of the profession on a public platform. Our 200 years will also be a moment to reflect – on where we are now, on how far the profession has come, and where it is headed.

To celebrate this, we are planning a year-long programme of activities and events, showcasing the past, present and future of the Law Society and the legal profession. The programme has been in the making for the past year and has been developed in tandem with our members, including local law societies and Council members. The bicentenary programme's guiding thematic principles have been identified with members through the practicing certificate fee member consultation last year.

What the year will look like?

The bicentenary celebrations will start in October 2024, in line with the opening of

the new legal year, and run throughout 2025.

The bicentennial programme itself will draw together existing work across the organisation and create new initiatives specifically for the bicentennial year. These include activities such as:

- A digital exhibition showcasing the history of the profession.
- An enhanced Presidential roadshow with special events across England and Wales focusing on local stories championing solicitors and the profession. We will base this tour on a 'history road map', highlighting important stories from the past and present.
- Admissions ceremonies with a unique 200-year focus and feel.
- International receptions and webinars engaging the significant member community working outside England and Wales.
- A Gazette special feature
- Creation of an expert art advisory group to help us diversify our current portrait collection and plan how it can better reflect and engage the modern profession.
- Launch of the Reframing Justice report (read about the project and our Year 1 findings) alongside the culmination of our work on ethics and 21st Century Justice.

Alongside our confirmed events, we would also like to open 113 Chancery Lane to the public as part of the much-loved Open House Festival weekend and showcase our heritage and beautiful historic building.

How you can support

We are keen to engage with our members across England and Wales to seek ideas and input for stories we might tell in a history of the profession. For this, we would like to understand the experience of regional law societies, particularly their experiences of celebrating similar milestones, and how they may wish to support the bicentenary programme.

We would be grateful to receive any ideas, be they significant solicitor stories from your region or milestones past and present. All ideas will feed into the research we are undertaking into historic and contemporary stories for the creation of our digital history and history road map.

If you are interested in finding out more, or would like to share information or a story of the profession in your area please contact amy.murat@lawsociety.org.uk

Amy Murat,
Bicentennial Programme Manager

Violence Against Women and Girls Symposium including Immigration Advice



On 8 May 2024 Liverpool Law Society facilitated an important symposium concerning violence against women and girls and immigration advice. The event was held at University of Liverpool's School of Law and Social Justice building. The symposium was proposed by Liverpool City Council and the event was supported by Liverpool Law Society, University of Liverpool and University of Law.



Councillor Laura Robertson Collins

The objective of the meeting was to try and address the need for better advice to be provided to women and girls facing violence against them, and to discuss issues surrounding the lack of legal advice for immigrants.

After an initial welcome, Liverpool City Council representatives confirmed that they are keen to work towards strengthening its relationship with elected representatives, legal representatives, and advice agencies.

Councillor Laura Robertson Collins spoke about the issues with lack of access to legal advice and violence against women and girls. **Dr Jo Wilding**, an asylum and immigration Barrister, joined online to give an insightful overview of the issues relating to immigration and asylum, and the 'droughts and deserts' in the immigration legal aid market. The Liverpool Access to Advice Network also provided an update before the attendees formed groups to discuss how they can build better working relationships between partners, establish more efficient referral links, understand how support agencies can be upskilled to better support lawyers, share knowledge and good practice between partners and explore grant funding and commissioning opportunities.

There were useful and positive discussions around the tables and representatives and members from Liverpool Law Society, universities and the advice agencies provided valuable input. It was especially beneficial to have lawyers and representatives attending who are in client facing roles, allowing them to have a voice about problems being encountered with legal aid/legal advice for family issues, immigration, housing and benefits. Although lawyers and agencies have worked exceptionally hard navigating through funding



Access to Advice Network presentation

challenges, the consensus was, not surprisingly, that increased funding and access to justice was imperative to keep up with the demand. If people have access to legal advice at an early stage, this can result in savings in immigration, family, health, housing and benefits. Funding should also be sought to offer protection and education about violence against women and girls.

Prior to the event **James Mannouch**, Vice President and Chair of the Access to Justice Committee, noted *"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."* The feedback from attendees was that the symposium was a success and should be repeated. It was acknowledged however that there is a lot of work to be done to try and deal with the problems with the advice deserts and lack of access to justice in the Liverpool City region.

Gaynor Williams
President



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Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division

News from the National JLD

The Junior Lawyers Division have their second meeting of 2024 upcoming on 16th June to discuss prominent issues for junior lawyers across the country and share ideas for networking and educational events.

Some key themes on the agenda at national level are:

SQE Marking Errors

175 candidates who sat the SQE1 in January were incorrectly informed that they had failed a part of the assessment due to an issue with marking. The Solicitors Regulation Authority and Kaplan have apologised for the error which resulted in some candidates losing training contracts and confirmed they are conducting a full review to prevent a reoccurrence. Kaplan have offered a goodwill payment of £250 to the affected candidates.

The Junior Lawyers Division have expressed concern about the magnitude of the error amongst several other issues raised with the SQE and are urgently meeting with the SRA to seek clarification on how they propose to rectify this.

Civil Justice Reforms

The Junior Lawyers Division continue to engage with The Law Society's proposals for reform of civil justice under their 21st Century Justice Project. Following from the Green Paper in October 2023 and consultation in January 2024, an interim report was published in April which will be a hot topic of conversation at the coming meeting.

The Law Society Aspiring Solicitor Project

The Law Society are in the process of reaching out to universities to pilot their Aspiring Solicitor project. The project is designed to increase student engagement with the Law Society and is planned to include a programme of outreach events, training, and student clubs to deliver resources and create space for aspiring lawyers to develop their professional skills.

Other points to be discussed will include the JLD's wellbeing survey to be published later this year and the possibility of regional admissions ceremonies and an annual JLD Awards ceremony to recognise the achievements of junior lawyers.

The Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division are holding a webinar on 10th June to discuss these points and any other matters our members wish to raise in advance of the national meeting. Make sure to join our mailing list and follow us on LinkedIn and Instagram to receive the invitation to join!




Holly Knowles

We want to hear your views! You can always speak to our National Representative **Holly** or reach us through any of our channels:


LinkedIn: [Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division](#)

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Professor Carlo Panara
Director of the School of Law at Liverpool
John Moores University

[Read more about the judges](#)

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

S P O N S O R E D B Y

MPs Meeting Report



Lauren Cannon

The Liverpool Law Society held a meeting for local MPs, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Lords on 15 March. We were joined by Ian Byrne MP (West Derby), Justin Madders MP (Ellesmere Port & Neston) and Audrey Woods (Margaret Greenwood MP's caseworker).

Siobhan Taylor-Ward, Solicitor at Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre and member of Liverpool Law Society Access to Justice Committee spoke about the housing advice crisis affecting the Liverpool City Region which is seeing an unprecedented level of homelessness and has been heavily impacted by cuts to legal aid. Vauxhall Law Centre provide housing law advice however they are extremely stretched, particularly in light of others in our region no longer having legal aid contracts to offer this. Vauxhall Law Centre see clients who are homeless, face eviction or are living in substandard conditions who desperately need legal advice, not only from the Liverpool region but beyond into surrounding areas. Within Liverpool City Region, only Liverpool and Sefton have any Housing legal aid providers and there are legal aid deserts in Cheshire, Warrington and North Wales where there is no legal aid housing help and clients will then come to Liverpool desperate for assistance. With other legal aid providers in Liverpool losing their legal aid contracts or having moved their team elsewhere, there are now only four housing legal aid contract holders in Liverpool each with no more than two housing solicitors. In a city of 500,000 and with high deprivation, this is not enough.

Siobhan has stated that *"it is clear that without reinstatement of a legal aid system which pays providers adequately for the work they do for vulnerable clients and which brings back into scope many of the vital areas removed from scope under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, the system is unlikely to be able to continue to function. Cuts to legal aid have directly led to an acute recruitment and retention crisis in the civil legal aid sector leading to a loss of expertise and areas across the UK which have no access to any providers in particular areas of law. Salaries have been frozen or slashed and the recent inflation has further exacerbated the impact this has had upon practitioners in the sector."*

Law Society research has found that 43.6% of the population of England and Wales do not have a legal aid provider in their local authority area and only 33.3% of the population have access to more than one provider in their area in 2023.

The cost of living crisis along, following austerity and in addition to recent levels of inflation has only increased the need for expert civil legal aid advice in our area. In the Indices of Multiple Deprivation Report 2019, Liverpool was ranked as the third most deprived local authority area in England with neighbouring Knowsley, an area without any Housing Legal Aid providers, ranked second. An immediate increase in legal aid fees is required, along with expansion of scope and urgent dedication of resources to train the next generation of civil legal aid lawyers."

Justin Madders MP explained he was aware of housing disrepair cases, including those involving claims management companies. **Ian Byrne MP** reiterated he was aware of such issues at Vauxhall Law Centre and would hope, in light of the upcoming election, that there needs to be a clear ask of his party how they will deal with issues of legal aid. Liverpool Law Society is convening a housing round-table meeting, inviting MPs and others, to discuss how funding could be raised to cover additional housing legal support in our region.

We then discussed some of the current bills being debated in Parliament. These bills span across policy, criminal law, information and housing/property areas.

The Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill continues to attract press attention, which aims to revive the plan to send certain asylum seekers to Rwanda purportedly to deter Channel crossings. This comes after the ruling of the UK Supreme Court where it was unanimously held that Rwanda was not a safe country to remove asylum seekers to. At the time of the meeting, the House of Lords had proposed ten changes to the bill which included restoring the jurisdiction of domestic courts in relation to the safety of Rwanda and enabling them to intervene, and a block on the removal of victims of modern slavery and human trafficking, as well as those who worked with the UK military or government overseas. In a note from The Law Society of England and Wales, they have raised concerns that the Bill undermines the rule of law, the role of our independent judiciary and our country's crucial constitutional balance of powers.

The Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill had at the time of the meeting progressed to the House of Lords, with the aim of the Bill being to stop public bodies from taking account of foreign states' conduct, including their human rights record, when making procurement and investment decisions. There are concerns from some human rights organisations that the Bill effectively restricts and discourages public bodies, including universities, local authorities and government departments, from making ethical and responsible investment and procurement decisions in line with their human rights and environmental responsibilities and obligations.

The Post Office (Horizon System) Offences Bill for the quashing of convictions in England and Wales for certain offences alleged to have been committed while the Horizon system was in use by the Post Office was passing through Parliament. The idea that parliament might legislate to quash

criminal convictions is seen by some as controversial though there is public support prompted by concerns about the numbers of cases affected and the time it would take for them to be dealt with by the normal court processes. Precedents for such approach though hard to find, do exist. The Indemnity and Oblivion Act 1660 declared null and void “Judgements Indictments Convictions Attainers Outlawries Penalties Escheats and Forfeitures and every of them” for most crimes committed during the English Civil War and Commonwealth.

Further bills include those stemming from the last Budget, and criminal law related bills

such as the Criminal Justice Bill, Sentencing Bill and Victims and Prisoners Bill. Of interest to all that deal with personal data is the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill which if passed will amend UK GDPR and Data Protection Act. The Investigatory Powers (Amendment) Bill looks at a framework for the use and oversight of investigatory powers by the intelligence services, law enforcement, and other public authorities. And relevant to the housing concerns mentioned above, the Leasehold and Freehold Reform Bill, which if passed would ban new leasehold houses, and the Renters (Reform) Bill continue to be debated.

Liverpool Law Society's next meeting with MPs and others is on Friday 11 October 2024.

With my thanks to **Siobhan Taylor-Ward** for her input and expertise, and to **Kieran Williams**, trainee solicitor at Jackson Lees currently seconded to In-House Legal Solutions, for assistance with research on these bills.

Lauren Cannon

Liverpool Law Society Parliamentary Liaison Officer,
Co-Founder and Director of In-House Legal Solutions

King Charles III announced as new Patron of The Solicitors' Charity

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Ginny Cannon

The Solicitors' Charity Chair, Ginny Cannon (pictured), is delighted to learn that King Charles III will be the Charity's new Royal Patron

Following His Majesty The King's Accession in September 2022, a major review of more than 1,000 Royal Patronages and charity Presidencies was undertaken. To mark the first anniversary

of Their Majesties' Coronation, the conclusions were shared with The Solicitors' Charity this week.

Queen Elizabeth II was patron of 492 organisations, while **King Charles III** was affiliated to 441 and **Queen Camilla** 100. Following the review, just over 830 have been retained by the king and queen or passed to other members of the royal family.

The Solicitors' Charity is honoured that His Majesty has accepted the patronage of The Solicitors' Charity. The late **Queen Elizabeth II** was the Charity's previous Royal Patron.

The Solicitors' Charity has been supporting solicitors since 1858. It provides comprehensive support to improve the wellbeing of solicitors, helping them to overcome life's challenges.

Chair, **Ginny Cannon**, said: “We are honoured and thrilled that His Majesty The King is to become our Royal Patron.

Royal patronage is a huge endorsement of the vital services we offer to solicitors and the positive impact we make on the lives of the people we help.

We are delighted to welcome His Majesty as Patron of the Charity.”

The patronage was announced by the Royal Household to mark the first anniversary of the Coronation. The Solicitors' Charity was told that **King Charles III** was “delighted” to accept the role.

Royal patronage endorses the work of more than 800 charities retained by Their Majesties and Members of The Royal Family, including military organisations, and professional and public service bodies in Britain and the Commonwealth. It allows their achievements and valuable contributions to society to be more widely recognised and promoted.

Find out more about the Charity's work at: thesolicitorscharity.org

Why should you join our LLS specialist committees?

LLS Committee social event



A “reason for and benefit of joining LLS specialist committees is you get to meet and expand your network of your peers working in other law firms, meaning if you are conflicted in a matter, you know people who you can refer the matter on to!”

James Mannouch - Vice President of LLS

Our specialist sub-committees are fundamental to the representation activity of Liverpool Law Society as a membership organisation for the legal profession in the Liverpool city region and beyond.

They exist to enable the exchange of information and views, to formulate responses to consultation papers and encourage debate on areas of mutual interest by members of Liverpool Law Society.

On the committees, you find out about changes in local procedures and practice. Further, where applicable the

committee gives feedback to the courts to ensure that the community is served as well as possible.

Join our specialist committees to meet, network and learn from peers regardless of seniority and experience. The Committees provide an excellent opportunity for keeping up to date and professional networking. You can also enjoy informal social get-togethers at various locations across the city!

Find out more on our website: <https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/about/committees/specialist/>

What are the announced changes to social housing consumer standards?



Daniel Conroy

Baroness Scott, the Minister for Social Housing, recently stated that “everyone deserves a decent home and to be treated with fairness and respect. That’s why we are taking strong action to improve the quality of social housing and the services landlords provide. If landlords fail their residents, there will be consequences”.

Baroness Scott’s statement follows on from the introduction of new consumer standards across the social housing sector which took effect from 1 April 2024, introduced on the back of the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023, with the intention to raise the regulatory standards which apply to the country’s social housing stock.

The new consumer standards

The Regulator of Social Housing (“the Regulator”) will now assess landlords against the following, four, consumer standards:

1. The Safety and Quality Standard – concerning the safety and quality of a property;
2. The Transparency, Influence

and Accountability Standard – concerning how information is provided to tenants and if tenant’s views are taken into consideration;

3. The Neighbourhood and Community Standard – concerning the work done by landlord to ensure neighbourhoods are safe for tenants; and
4. The Tenancy Standard – concerning how landlords allocate tenancies and manage them.

How will the new standards be monitored?

The Regulator of Social Housing intends to monitor the new consumer regulations by regularly inspecting landlords, with large landlords subject to a programmed inspection at least once every four years, and an ad hoc inspection if warranted due to concerns over a landlord’s compliance with the new consumer standards or it is considered the appropriate way to investigate an issue.

The Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 repealed sections of the Housing

and Regeneration Act 2008 which provided that the Regulator of Social Housing could only take action if there were a “risk of serious detriment” to a tenant. The removal of the serious detriment requirement enables the Regulator of Social Housing to intervene and take action much sooner.

What action can the Regulator take?

Where a landlord is found to have fallen below the new consumer standards, the Regulator of Social Housing can require a landlord to prepare a performance improvement which, once finalised, must be implemented in full.

The Regulator of Social Housing also has the power to issue an enforcement notice to a landlord where a standard has been breached requiring them to take action to remedy the issue. Should a landlord fail to comply with an enforcement notice, the Regulator of Social Housing can issue the landlord with a fine and award compensation to a tenant. It is worth noting that the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2003 removed the previous cap of a £5,000 fine for non-compliance enabling the Regulator of Social Housing to issue an unlimited fine.

The effect of the new regulations

The new consumer standards introduced by the Regulator of Social Housing are designed to drive a raise in standards across the social housing sector.

Landlords should be aware of the new standards and how they will be monitored by the Regulator of Social Housing.

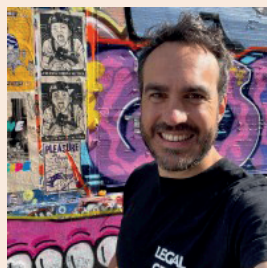
Daniel has advocacy experience from acting on behalf of a number of registered providers and housing associations in seeking access injunctions to enable gas safety and electrical safety checks.

Daniel Conroy
Associate, Weightmans

LawtechUK in Liverpool: A Summary



Dr Catriona Wolfenden



Jimmy Vestbirk



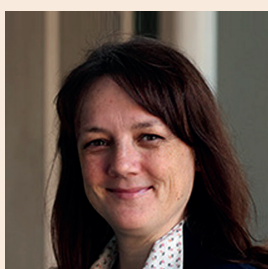
Gaynor Williams



Jeremy Marshall



Michael Nkansah



Katie Atkinson



Sonia Williamson



Lauren Cannon



Paul Madden



Mike Leeman

On 24 April 2024, Weightmans hosted the Liverpool leg of the LawtechUK tour in our office on Old Hall Street organised by **Dr Catriona Wolfenden**, a partner at Weightmans, and **Jimmy Vestbirk**, the founder of Legal Geek.

The event brought together law students, academics, practitioners, and entrepreneurs to explore the opportunities and challenges of legal technology in the UK.

As members of a team who regularly travel down to London to attend conferences and other industry events, it was refreshing to be able to attend an event hosted in Liverpool and even better for it to be on such familiar territory!

The event was opened by a speech from Liverpool Law Society's President, **Gaynor Williams** who welcomed the attendees to the event.

The event featured a presentation from **Jeremy Marshall**, the head of the Law School at the University of Liverpool, who shared how the university has worked extensively with the legal industry to create a new module that provides insights into how legal technology is being leveraged by law firms. A key component of the module is creating a chatbot using IBM Watson to solve legal problems and deliver legal services.

He also highlighted the benefits of legal tech education for enhancing the students' employability, creativity, and collaboration skills.

Another highlight of the event was the talk by **Dr**

Catriona Wolfenden, who showcased how Weightmans have collaborated with the University of Liverpool to utilise abstract dialectical frameworks (ADFs) in practice. ADFs are a form of argumentation logic that can model complex and dynamic legal scenarios, such as contract disputes, negligence claims, and regulatory compliance. **Dr Wolfenden** demonstrated how ADFs can help lawyers to analyse, visualise, and communicate the strengths and weaknesses of different legal arguments, as well as to generate optimal solutions and strategies.

The event also featured a presentation from **Michael Nkansah**, the head of education at CodeBase, a leading tech incubator and partner of LawtechUK. He introduced the education programmes that CodeBase offers for lawtech founders and organisations, such as workshops, bootcamps, mentorships, and networking events. He explained how CodeBase supports lawtech innovation from ideation to scale, and how it helps to bridge the gap between the legal and tech sectors.

The event concluded with a panel discussion, moderated by **Dr Catriona Wolfenden**, on the role of tech in the legal industry and how it is supported within different firms.

The panelists were **Katie Atkinson**, **Sonia Williamson** of Pinsent Masons, **Lauren Cannon**, Director of In House Legal Solutions, **Paul Madden** of MAPD, and **Mike Leeman**. The panelists shared their insights and experiences on how they use, develop, and promote legal tech in their respective fields, and how they overcome the challenges and barriers that they face.

Why Laboratory Cut-Off Levels For Drugs Of Abuse In Hair And Nail Testing Must Now Be Abolished



The Society of Hair Testing (SoHT) laboratory cut-off levels were established 30 years ago following rudimentary research and when lab equipment was in its infancy. Given the grave consequences of wrong decisions regarding a child's future, and previous calls from the Judiciary to scrap laboratory cut-off levels, FTS firmly believes it is time for the family law sector and the Judiciary to demand that laboratory cut off levels be abolished, and all laboratories instructed to report all findings, thereby providing expert forensic investigations that supports decisions based on the balance of probabilities.

We can trace the forensic analysis of hair all the way back to 1855 when it was used as part of the murder trial of **John Browning**. At this time, it was not possible to examine hair for organic substances such as drugs because analytical methods were not sensitive enough. During the 1980s, developments of specific assay methods such as gas chromatography/mass spectrometry enabled the analysis of organic substances trapped in the hair. In the late 1990s hair strand testing started to be introduced into care proceedings as evidence.

Hair presented a new challenge because it existed outside the body, unlike blood, urine, and oral fluids, and is exposed to environmental contaminants. So how would those interpreting the laboratory analysis know whether the results showed actual

drug use or passive exposure? Back in the 1990s the laboratory equipment and methods were not sensitive enough to establish actual use (and levels of use) versus passive exposure.

Around 1995, limited and uncontrolled studies were carried out on unsegmented hair. These revealed that certain thresholds were exceeded when the donor was a regular user. Conversely, when the donor was exposed passively to drugs in the environment, the results would fall below this threshold. Following this rudimentary study, the Society of Hair Testing (SoHT) laboratory reporting cut-off levels were established. So, above the SoHT threshold, the donor would be deemed a chronic substance abuser, below the threshold, no drug use.

Two things have simultaneously happened during these 30 years since the SoHT laboratory cut-off levels were introduced; Laboratory techniques and scientific understanding of hair strand analysis has progressed immensely. People have started to bleach, dye, heat-treat, straighten, and style their hair much more than they did three decades ago.

Every laboratory knows how all these factors can radically affect the level of drugs in someone's hair. The industry also knows from published and peer reviewed studies such as *Rollins, D* (2004), "Role of Melanin in Drug Incorporation into Hair", that those

with black hair (more melanin) could have up to 10 times more of the same amount of drug as opposed to someone with blonde or ginger hair.

Moreover, there are now many more laboratories than existed 30 years ago. They all have different methods of hair collection, sample preparation, sample analysis and equipment. Therefore, each set of results from each laboratory on any given day will report various levels of drug. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) External Quality Assessment Scheme's (EQAS) send all accredited laboratories 'blind' homogenised hair samples to analyse, and their published results clearly show marked differences in all laboratory results.

Therefore, to apply the SoHT cut-off levels, developed 30 years ago to these 21st Century laboratories, with all their different methodologies, and with donors manipulating their hair so much makes no sense at all. They are not appropriate for complex care cases and family legal proceedings where decisions can have immeasurable effects on children and families.

In family courts, evidence must achieve a standard of proof described as "*balance of probabilities*." Recent high-profile court of appeal cases have exposed that the incumbent process when relying on the use of laboratory cut-off levels, does not achieve this in all cases (*Re H (A Child - Hair Strand Testing)* [2017] EWFC 64). Using this binary approach to report drug test results, in isolation of forensic investigations, is leading to the gravest injustices imaginable; the wrongful removal of a child from their parents or leaving a child to harm or suffering.

FTS (Forensic Testing Service) believes now is the time for change.

Public Law Conference 2024

On 24th April 2024, I attended the Public Law Conference, hosted by His Honour Judge Parker. It was my first time attending such a conference, with a full day's itinerary and different speakers. Attendees had the option prior to the day of the conference, to attend in person or remotely. Whilst there was a full room in person, many attended online, giving it a flexible and laid-back feel.

Barrister, **Margaret Parr**, of 7HS Chambers started the conference with an overview of Special Guardianship Orders. It was a good introduction to this area of family law, setting out the different options available and potential challenges to those seeking Orders. Financial support was also discussed with relevant case law.

Following **Margaret Parr** was Barrister, **Mark Senior**, of St John's Building, who reviewed the judicial approach to a composite of final hearings. It was interesting as we journeyed through the various cases, which covered topical themes, such as transparency in the family court and the use of intermediaries.

We then had a comfort break before returning to hear from Barrister, **Jack Harrison**, of Dean's Court Chambers. **Jack** discussed the issue of transparency in family court proceedings and his active role in the organisation, The Transparency Project. We were given an update as to how transparency in the family court is progressing and what to be aware of when a reporter is seeking permission to sit in on a family matter.

Katie Deans speaking on behalf of sponsors Our Family Wizard, gave a whistle stop tour of the co-parenting app and shared the most recent features such as being able to document audio and video calls.



Katie Deans

We then had a lunch break, where there was a selection of sandwiches, crisps, fruit and cookies. There was lots of tea and coffee as well!

Upon returning to the conference room, we were addressed by Barrister, **Fergal Allen**, of 18 St John's Street Chambers, who explored the challenges of representing parents with learning difficulties. The use of intermediaries was raised here again, and it was noteworthy to learn about the frequency in which intermediaries should be instructed during proceedings.



Sandra van Empel and Amanda Walsh

Sandra van Empel and **Amanda Walsh** from sponsors Advanced Child Care Assessments talked about the quality and service assurances for Independent Social Workers. The framework of how quality is assessed was considered, and Sandra and Amanda carried out an informative role play session which gave insight into how it works in practice.

We were then welcomed by **Gaia Reed** from The Diversity Trust. **Gaia** gave a very informative overview of how professionals can support the Trans and Non-Binary Community.

Concluding the event, **Julie Young** of the University of East Anglia, explained the effect adoption has on children and whether a contact plan should be in place for adopted children, who are often left very confused about their life story.

Liverpool Law Society thanks **HHJ Parker** and all speakers for taking part, plus sponsors OurFamilyWizard and Advanced CCA.

Rebecca De Stefano

Chartered Legal Executive FCILEx, MSB Solicitors

How do you become a great place to work? Easy, listen.

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



Julie Johnson

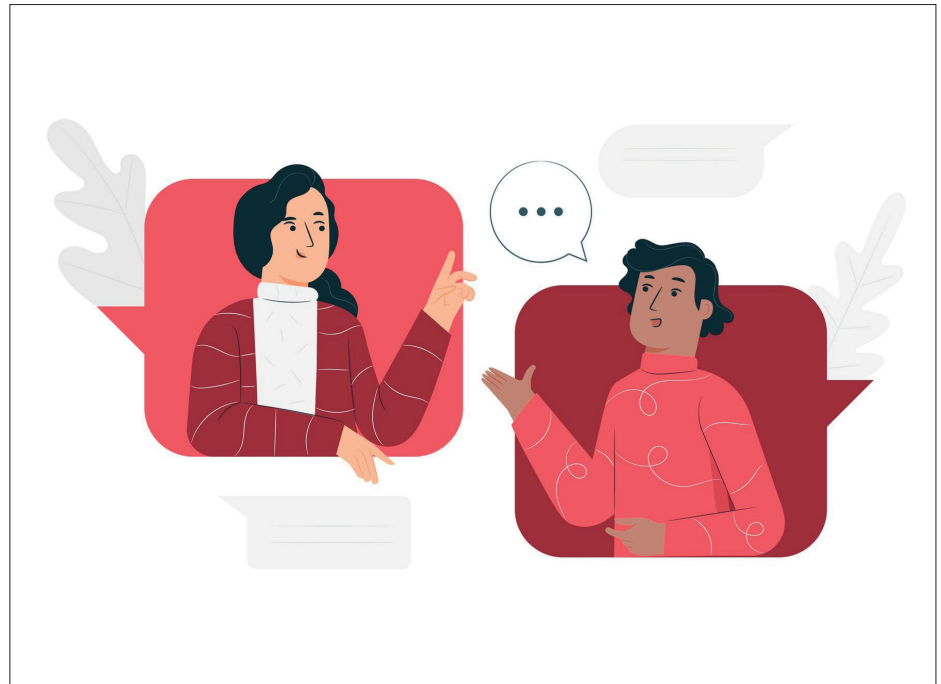
As an organisation that both organises and sponsors award ceremonies, we know what the recognition and awareness means to businesses.

At Liverpool BID Company we organise awards, like the Mystery Shop awards in both the professional sector and the retail sector, identifying excellence in service. We also sponsor awards, like the Liverpool Hospitality Awards, the Merseyside Independent Business Awards, and the Liverpool City Region Tourism Awards, celebrating the best performers in a valuable industry.

For our levy payers, we know that it is both the nomination and, if they are successful, the award itself, that means so much. It is recognition for putting in the extra mile, showing your dedication and passion. It means that extra effort was worth it.

Needless to say, despite knowing the value of awards, when we were notified that Liverpool BID Company would be a recipient of an award itself, we were both delighted and surprised.

The Sunday Times Best Places to Work List, powered by WokL, is an annual



accolade recognising the best small, medium, big and large organisations to work for. The nationwide workplace survey honours and celebrates Britain's top employers - which number over 500 organisations across industries and sizes - It includes the best workplaces for women, LGBTQIA+ community, disabled employees, global majority, younger and older workers and for inclusivity and wellbeing. Organisations are ranked by their own employees.

Liverpool BID Company has been recognised as one of the best small organisations to work for in the country.

It is such an honour, perhaps more so because the endorsement comes from our own team. We very much see ourselves as at the heart of Liverpool, and we often act as a voice and a platform for business within the city. It is vital, therefore, that we act above and beyond as an organisation and are

leaders in terms of how we approach our day to day working existence, and how we treat and engage with our employees.

Our team has refreshed over the past few years and we have chosen people with real consideration to their passion, commitment and interest in the work we do for Liverpool. That helps to foster a great team spirit. We have grown considerably to where we began but that growth has been taken very seriously and strategically.

We like to think that the work we do as a platform for business is what has contributed to our workplace culture. To be a voice for others it is critical that you listen. Yes, you have to lead, to be creative and generate ideas, but you also have to be a sponge. You have to be flexible and, crucially, to hear what others are saying. It's an old adage but by listening you learn, and if you keep learning you're always improving.



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.

We are expanding our team



We have several new, exciting opportunities for people who share our commitment to Access to Justice, to join our growing Law Centre.

Merseyside Law Centre delivers free specialist social welfare legal advice and assistance in Housing, Immigration and Asylum and Welfare Benefits. We provide services from 3 offices across the Liverpool City Region as well as Court based services in Liverpool and Birkenhead. We provide all levels advice including specialist legal casework and representation in courts and tribunals including appeals and Judicial Reviews.

The need for our services has never been greater and we are committed to increasing our capacity to meet growing demand and achieve better outcomes for our clients at all stages of the legal advice process.

We are recruiting to the following roles:

- Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- Immigration Team Lead

- Housing Solicitor/Specialist Caseworker
- Legal Assistant

We encourage people with lived experience of the issues we deal with to apply for posts.

For an application pack please visit:

www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/vacancies

Closing date for applications: Various-see Job description for specific details for each post.

Interviews will take place: Various-see Job description for details for each post.

Housing Focus

Helping a client with PTSD avoid homelessness.

Our client, his wife and 2 dependent children sought our advice after Liverpool City Council had discharged their duty and evicted them from temporary accommodation as they had refused an offer of 'reasonable' accommodation. Which, in this case was a flat in the L8 area of Liverpool. Our client had a phobia of flats as he was kidnapped and held in a flat whilst in Iraq. He still suffers with flashbacks and severe PTSD due to such a harrowing event in his life and felt unable to be rehoused in this type of accommodation.

Our client also did not understand the implications of refusing the offer of accommodation due to his limited English proficiency. MLC asked LCC to

conduct a review of our client's case as we argued that LCC did not consider our client's mental health issues when making their decision. We also supplied further medical evidence in support. We argued that client could not have been expected to understand the legal complexities of rejecting the offer of accommodation, particularly as LCC did not fully explain this to him via an interpreter.

As a result of our intervention LCC revised their decision, agreed to offer the family temporary accommodation, and put them back in Band A on Property Pool. They also agreed to provide ongoing support to find somewhere else to live. This case illustrates the importance of having appropriate support in place during pivotal decision-making processes. Without access to justice, this family may have ended up indefinitely homeless, further intensifying the client's mental health issues and effecting the wellbeing of the entire family.

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

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. <https://www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/online-enquiry-form>

Twitter: @MerseyLawCentre

Facebook: Merseyside Law Centre

Instagram: @merseysidelawcentre



Merseyside Law Centre

LET US BE YOUR **HELPING HAND**

Providing the fifth emergency service for the most vulnerable in society

WHAT WE DO?

We provide free legal advice, assistance and representation for **housing matters**, mainly early legal advice to avoid court action and legal aid matters, across the Liverpool City Region. Also, **welfare benefits, debt, immigration and asylum advice** for residents of Liverpool.

OUR SERVICES

FREE Drop In Sessions

Advice Drop In Every Monday & Thursday 10am-12pm No appointment required. Dovecot Multi Activity Centre, Back Dovecot Place, Liverpool L14 9BA	Housing Advice Drop In Every Wednesday & Friday 11am-1pm No appointment required. Liverpool Civil and Family Court 35 Vernon Street, L2 2BX
If you are unable to attend a drop in, please fill in the enquiry form on our website. Links below. www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/enquiryform	Debt Advice Drop In in partnership with Raise Advice Appointment Only. Check website on info how to book. Every Thursday 1pm-4pm Appointment only. Dovecot Multi Activity Centre, Back Dovecot Place, Liverpool L14 9BA

QR code linking to www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/enquiryform



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS MAY '24

Financial Gains for Clients

£55,178.07

Work Completed

13,608 minutes

Current number of cases open

280

Weightmans announces CyXcel expansion to North America

CyXcel, a business owned by UK law firm Weightmans LLP, is expanding its operations and establishing a new, permanent presence in North America.

Since launching last year, the cybersecurity, breach management and transformation consultancy has exceeded all strategic objectives, with rapid growth across an international client-base overseen by a leadership team of market experts.

The business's new North America operation will be led from the USA, with a specialist on-the-ground team offering clients the same core risk, strategy and technical consultancy offered in the UK.

John Schorah, managing partner at

Weightmans, remarked: *"We are delighted that after a strong first year, CyXcel is expanding rapidly with the opening of a new operation in North America. Our investment in CyXcel reflects not only the increased global demand for cyber technical services but also the firm's growing stature on the world stage as a pioneer of solutions to the broader business challenges faced by our clients."*

Edward Lewis, managing partner and co-founder of CyXcel, said: *"We are now in a very strong position to leverage the success CyXcel has already seen in the UK and Europe since launch, and replicate it in North America, the biggest cybersecurity market in the world. This presents a huge opportunity to realise a market leading position, and I must*

thank both Weightmans and our fabulous team for laying such solid foundations in making our global ambitions possible."

CyXcel is the first global business to integrate expertise across law and cybersecurity, giving organisations the knowledge and means to defend against threats, navigate crises, and retain control of their data and technology. Its diverse team is drawn from a cross-section of the industry's best – including the legal sector, Big 4, and government cyber teams on both sides of the Atlantic. The result is a depth of expertise and speed of crisis response that sets a new standard on the global security stage.

Bryn Madden



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.



Outhwaite & Litherland
39-41 Hoghton Street, Southport, Merseyside PR9 0NS

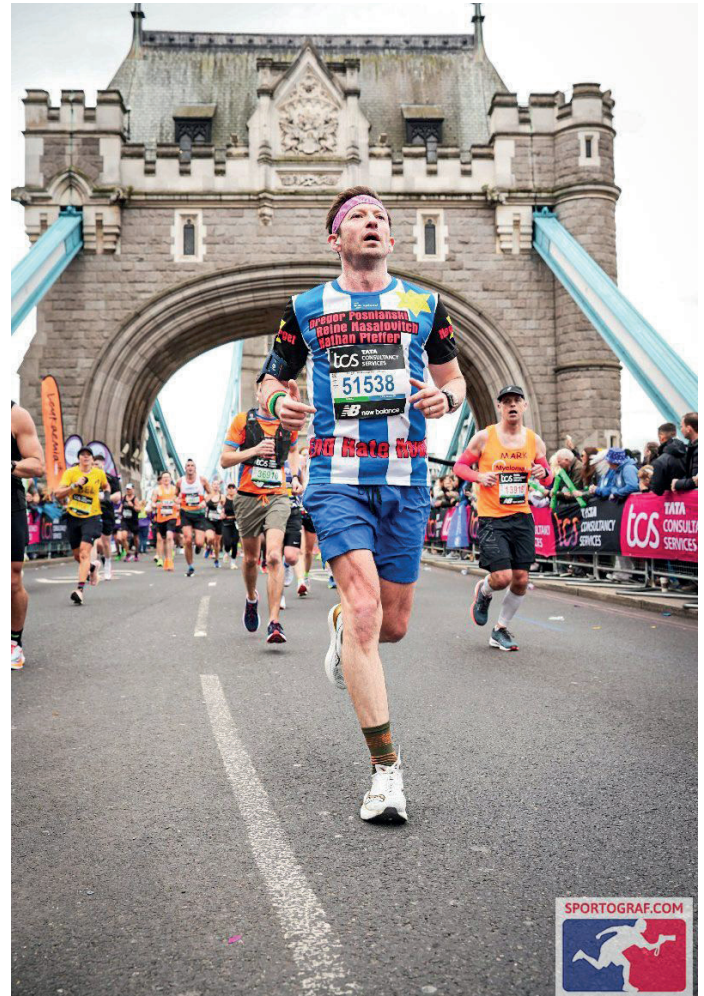
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www.lots.uk.com



Gregory Abrams Davidson marathon runners



Jackie Thomas



Jonathan Abrams

The 2024 London Marathon included 2 runners from Gregory Abrams Davidson Solicitors – Jackie Thomas who was a first time runner and Jonathan Abrams who took on the challenge for the second time.

Whilst Jonathan's place was secured through a ballot entry, Jackie was running for the Macmillan Cancer charity, a cause very close to her heart as her father-in-law was cared for by Macmillan nurses during his illness with cancer.

The 26.2 mile run was an incredible feat for both runners and Jackie and

Jonathan achieved their personal bests, with Jonathan completing his run in 3hours 37 minutes, an incredible improvement of 20 minutes on his first run in 2017.

Regarding the gruelling training programme Jackie commented; *"The 16 week training was a huge commitment, especially through the winter months, and it has really tested my resilience."*

Jackie raised over £2751 for the charity and has been humbled by the support she received.

On the day, Jonathan felt the energy

and warmth of the crowd and said the encouragement and positivity helped him enormously to cross the finish line.

According to runnersworld.com, this year the Marathon saw 53,000 runners making it the largest London Marathon since 1981, with 44 record breakers in a range of categories.

Colleagues and team members at GAD congratulated them, with Gregory Abrams, CEO saying *"We are incredibly proud and impressed by their dedication to this enormous mental and physical achievement."*

10 years of technology throughout 10 years of Jayva

Jayva was ‘born’ ten years ago, in 2014, out of our founder Nicola Moore-Miller’s passion for helping law firms with their technology adoption in order to achieve amazing outcomes. As we celebrate the impressive milestone of our tenth anniversary, we review the past decade of technology innovation.

Digitisation of the office

Law firms have moved from an old school set up composed of paper files, manual processes and physical office to a digital workplace made up of electronic records, technology-automated procedures and remote-or-hybrid environment. As such, the contemporary lawyer is untethered from his or her desk.

This shift was already happening, however, the sudden arrival of covid caused rapid acceleration. It was a case of ‘go digital or go bust’ when lockdowns grounded us in our homes overnight. The technology powering the current-day office includes...

Case, document and practice management

– Maintaining the electronic records alluded to earlier, this is the central platform for your matter, client and accounts information, whether it’s correspondence templates, document depository, financial data, whatever. This software is designed to produce, store and manage information with ease.

Workflow management – One of this type of software’s biggest selling points is case workflow with automation. This means guidance through the stages of a standard matter by automating structured processes with workflow rules. The amount of human input is minimised so, in turn, your fee earning potential is maximised.

Smartphone app – If every legal professional didn’t already have a mobile phone ten years ago, they certainly do now. The trend initially began way back when with widespread adoption of BlackBerry devices in the business world; latterly, Android and iOS platforms. With the proliferation of smartphones come apps for case management on the go – at

home, in police stations, in court and in the community. Traditional barriers exist no more as lawyers become location agnostic.

Cloud computing – Also known as software-as-a-service (SAAS), this concept applies to the migration from on-premise systems hosted by the data centre model to remotely accessed systems hosted in the cloud. Solicitors only need an internet connection to log into their core systems anywhere, anytime, any device, further assisting remote-and-hybrid working.

5G connectivity – Having referenced the web’s vital role in driving the modern lawyer’s technology, the fifth generation or 5G telecommunications standard provides connectivity to most mobile phones. 5G comes with higher bandwidth and faster download speeds for significant time-saving advantages on everyday tasks.

Full fibre broadband – In a similar vein, broadband technology has advanced rapidly, now promising superfast speeds, less buffering, fewer dropouts and reduced slowdown, even at busier times. From a professional perspective, full fibre broadband permits a productivity boost.

Artificial intelligence – AI has emerged onto the legal scene in numerous guides, from chatbots mimicking human conversation through text or voice interactions, to generative AI applications for content creation in every format, to e-discovery software sourcing case- or claim-specific evidence. Ultimately, AI is anything simulating human intelligence by machines performing tasks typically done by people for major efficiency benefits.

Data-driven decision making

– Appreciating the value of data and its insights with regards to making strategic decisions across all aspects of practice, ‘business intelligence’ has become another buzzword in our industry. Law firms own a wealth of data but converting this data into insights is a challenge. It’s made possible by business intelligence systems and their promises to create captivating

visual stories that propel practices forward.

Standalone becomes integrated – With so many specialised programs in the marketplace, each performing an essential function for commonplace duties, the ability to connect these disparate tools is paramount. Application programming interfaces, known widely by their acronym API, link tools together using requests and responses, so everything works as one in pursuit of the same goal – this being to tackle incompatibilities, abolish silo operations and digitise processes optimally.

Courtroom video conferencing

– Virtual hearings in digital courts is another initiative transforming the UK’s justice system by swapping bricks-and-mortar venues and printed paperwork necessitating in-person attendance for online conferencing technology and electronic documentation with participants joining by video and/or telephone links. Court backlogs are being cleared and the course of justice is being expedited with revolutionary efficiencies for all parties concerned in these virtual proceedings.

Final words

Having taken our readers on a whistlestop tour of all-things legal technology over the past decade, we’ve only touched upon its expansive and diverse perks and rewards. While it’s a huge oversimplification, these technological advancements and developments are truly of life-changing and metamorphic proportions.

At Jayva, our mission is to inspire law firms to harness the power of technology to succeed in an increasingly competitive landscape. Our extensive portfolio of software consultancy and training services are the ideal solution to any technology conundrum. Read more on our website at www.jayvaglobal.com/toolkit/technology. Get in touch with our friendly team to discuss your upcoming projects by emailing info@jayvaglobal.com or visiting www.jayvaglobal.com/contact-us.



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

Morecrofts Solicitors Ladies Evening 2024

More than 65 guests attended the annual Morecrofts Solicitors Ladies Evening which took place at One Fine Day in Liverpool on Wednesday 15th May.

The event traditionally sees women in business from all over the Liverpool City Region come together for an evening of networking and stall shopping.

A raffle was hosted on the night to raise money Morecrofts' partner charity of the year, Love Jasmine, which supports bereaved families who have lost children. At the end of the night more than £400 was raised.

During the event, guests shopped around stalls held by Merseyside brands including Owen Drew Candles, Think Wine and The Liverpool Cheese Company.





Regulation Update

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

Welcome to Summer (well, the sun is shining at the time of writing!) Once again, 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.

AML

In addition to the HM Treasury consultation on changes to the MLRs that we referred to last month, as part of a wider programme aimed at reducing money laundering, HM Treasury and the Home Office are updating the UK's National Risk Assessments on Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (NRA) and Proliferation Financing (PF), and seeking input from practitioners that fall under the scope of the regulations. They want to understand the sector's views of vulnerabilities, likelihood and mitigations of the money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation financing risk.

The National Crime Agency (NCA) and the UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU) have published a guidance document on requesting a defence from the NCA under POCA and Tact, aimed at those who report SARs. It

includes how to request a defence, the information needed, the decision making process, FAQs and next steps.

Sanctions

As discussed previously, sanctions remain a 'growth' area, and affects all law firms, not just those in scope of MLR. In the last few weeks, the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) has

- introduced FAQs relating to financial sanctions <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-financial-sanctions-faqs/uk-financial-sanctions-faqs>, including specific regimes and countries, Licensing and definitions
- updated the General, Russia, Counter-Terrorism and Enforcement and Monetary Penalties guidance, as a result of amendments to sanctions regulations, to reflect new reporting requirements and new immigration measures, and updated the reporting forms for designated person asset reporting requirements.
- Continued to add names/assets to the sanctions list

Complaints requirements

The Legal Services Board (LSB) has issued new requirements and guidance to regulators aimed at improving how first tier complaints are handled. Watch this space for what this will mean for law firm complaints handling!

SLAPP issues

Following the warning notice issued by the SRA in 2022, the SRA carried out a thematic review involving firms and file inspections that are not currently subject to an investigation and 'found good overall awareness on the issues of SLAPPS'. Most firms were aware of the warning notice, and more than half said they had changed their working practices since its publication.

There are some concerns regarding the use of third parties and the review

indicated that when instructing PR companies or private investigators, firms need to have checks and balances in place to make sure they are acting ethically and within the law.

As a result of the review and feedback, the SRA will be publishing an updated version of its warning notice.

Warning to law firms working on financial compensation claims

Following discussions with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Financial Ombudsman Scheme (FOS) and concern that there may be a new surge in financial compensation complaints in light of reports of car finance being arranged at higher rates of interest than were needed, the SRA has issued a warning notice, together with updated guidance, relating to claims management activity and where claims relate to financial services and products [SRA | High-volume financial service | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#).

The SRA are particularly concerned about potential issues regarding firms getting proper instructions from clients and supervising staff in relation to financial services claims when part of high-volume/bulk claim processes involving multiple clients, and the new guidance draws together previous guidance and warnings on areas including claims for mis-sold payment protection insurance, holiday sickness and personal injury.

Paul Philip, SRA Chief Executive said: "As demonstrated by the various warning notices we have issued in past years, how mass claims are handled is a topic which regularly causes us, and other others such as the FCA concern... We expect the profession to treat clients as individuals, not just a number within a group. This means, for example, communicating with them clearly, giving them a proper assessment of their specific case and related decisions to be

made, and asking them for consent before taking any actions in their name.”

New practice notes and guidance

As referred to above, the SRA have published the following guidance since our last update.

- Claims management activity: guidance for solicitors, law firms and their employees when representing clients during claims. [SRA | Claims management activity | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)
- High-volume financial service claims – Warning notice for Law firms, solicitors and individuals working under their supervision who undertake claims management activity and where claims relate to financial services and products. [SRA | High-volume financial service | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)

Disciplinary and regulatory decisions:

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

Notable decisions include:

Solicitor who strung along client with false case updates struck off

A solicitor who, for 16 years, made false and misleading statements about the progress of a personal injury case, including telling the client she had been awarded £360,000 following an arbitration, and that he had issued enforcement proceedings against HMRC, her former employer, following an unsuccessful appeal, has been struck off and ordered to pay costs of £6,300. No claim had been issued and he had created documents to substantiate these misleading statements, including submissions to counsel and notes of court hearings.

Solicitor struck off after failing to pay bill

A solicitor convicted of fraud for carrying out a ‘dine and dash’ at a Harvester restaurant has been struck off the roll. She said she would come back to pay the £60.91 bill, but did not, and on a separate occasion made a false representation that she had paid for a £43.47 takeaway when she had not.

Solicitor who charged higher rate is struck off

A solicitor who charged grade A fees for work he had not carried out himself has been struck off the roll. He endorsed a statement of costs totalling £85,000 in total, which included his hourly rate of £450 but most of the work had been carried out and invoiced by a consultant solicitor who had made an advanced fees agreement.

The tribunal said *“dishonesty, where proven is inherently serious and it causes great harm to the standing of the*

profession in the eyes of the public. Here, the respondent had claimed for work which he knew he had not carried out and he had then not been truthful to the High Court when signing the statement of costs, nor to an arbitrator when later questioned about it.” He was also ordered to pay £10,650 costs.

Solicitor rebuked for rejecting settlement offers without client instructions

A solicitor who rejected offers to settle a case without taking prior instructions from his client has been rebuked by the SRA.

The SRA said he had a clean regulatory history up to this point and there was *“a low risk of repetition”*. A rebuke was appropriate because his *“conduct was reckless as to the risk of harm”*.

Firm fined for breach of MLR

Further to a regulatory settlement agreement, a firm has been fined £5,334 and £600 costs for not having compliant AML documentation, namely policies, controls and procedures (PCPs) and client/matter risk assessments, between June 2017 and November 2022.

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 complil@weightmans.com.

Andrea Cohen

Compli,
Weightmans LLP



**PROFESSOR
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Charity Spotlight: St Vincent's School

ST VINCENT'S SCHOOL
A Specialist School for Sensory Impairment and Other Needs



Dr John A Patterson BEd (Hons) QTVI, MSC, PhD - Principal

Lighting pathways for inclusion

The lack of inclusion, equity and opportunity for visually impaired (VI) and blind young people is reflected in some starting statistics.

Unemployment rates for VI in the UK stands at some 85% with little variant over decades. Simultaneously, VI young people have on average 5-6 less friends which can lead to isolation, poor health



Pupils delivering VI awareness training at Hope Uni to students on disability studies

and wellbeing with the potential for a life on the NHS.

Further concerns surround the lack of and barriers to access for extra curricula activities with VI being the lowest participatory group pan disabilities. Statistics in context for VI young people in the 'Global North' with an estimated one hundred million VI and blind people are harrowing and nor for the faint hearted, with less than one in ten having any access to education.

Nonetheless, VI are globally recognised as the world largest 'untapped workforce' where a school in Liverpool with nearly 200 years history of service to VI is bucking the trend on inclusion and employability. Central to the schools vision is a creative and ENRICHED curriculum empowering VI young people's limitless imagination for innovation from their lived experience in 'seeing things differently'.

Pupils at St Vincent's 'education and enterprise village' (as far as records show being the first purpose built school for VI in the world) are encouraged to

develop ideas from their strengths in the creative areas of music, art, dance, drama, sport, ICT and horticulture. Herein lies the chance and opportunity for pupils to showcase their abilities and act as 'trainers of the trainers' within those strengths locally, nationally and indeed internationally; adding value to their CV's towards further study, apprenticeships, supported internships and indeed Small to Medium Sized (SME) generation.



Sightbox India

For those interested in the academic underpinnings attached to the school vision and its curriculum 'engine', an alignment is established with calls from the World Bank and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for a 'formula' to 'reconcile social cohesion with economic success'. As such, peer review publications on the school vision and curriculum outcomes are shared on the school website accessible as below in relevant publications.

[Relevant Publications | stvinwebsite](#)

Sharing Examples

Underpinnings aside, the best way to share best practice and pupil outcomes is 'learning by doing'. Two projects serve as good examples i.e. 'Sightbox' and the



Sightbox presentation at the Liverpool and Chester Commonwealth association meeting in Chester attended by HRH (Now) Prince of Wales

'Journey for Peace' as now showcased. Focussing on sports, the Sightbox is a 'toolkit' for access to sports and education. The physical box of sports equipment for VI (such as Boccia and balls with bells in) has been innovated by pupils with new content ideas generated from pupils 'lived experience' in collaboration with Liverpool John Moores University.

SightBoxes funded by Charities including Rotary and Lions have been sent to over 20 countries including Pakistan, India, Rwanda, Nepal, Gambia, Indonesia. A surrounding education 'package' supports the use of the equipment for pupils receiving the equipment supported by Liverpool Hope University. Pupils at St Vincent's have worked physically (and remotely) as 'trainers of the trainers' in the use of the equipment fostering both wider awareness and yet more innovative ideas for VI access (including with technology)

[Sightbox | stvinwebsite](https://stvinwebsite.com)

'The Journey for Peace' focuses on literacy, music and Citizenship education. Pupils at St Vincent's have created storylines for comics surrounding local iconic statues sharing seven themed messages of love, hope and JUSTICE (such as the Liver birds and Sir Ken



Liverpools darker past connection to the slave trade saw the worlds first school for the blind

Dodd's statue in Lime Street station). Pupils managed artists into developing physical comics and short animations with the aim of drawing communities together both locally and internationally into community action, such as for the climate. Quite wonderfully, and supported by **Yoko Ono** and **Midge Ure** VI young people in receipt of SIGHTBOX around the world wrote songs against the key themes shared in an international concert held online and connecting with further community awareness opportunities whilst engaging St Vincent's pupils in leadership opportunities.

[Journey for Peace 'The Musical' | stvinwebsite](https://stvinwebsite.com)

[Citizenship, Comics & Climate Action | stvinwebsite](https://stvinwebsite.com)

SO what and what next?

Liverpool's darker past, and why it had the first school for the blind in the world relates back to the slave trade. What if Liverpool was to share its best practices for those 'enslaved' to sightloss across the Commonwealth and beyond? What would that look like? St Vincent's has established a 'blueprint' already where

VI pupils and their teachers came to a residential immersion in our best practices from Indonesia and Sierra Leone. Returning with 'Sightbox' curriculum knowledge (and the resources) the scene is set for those young people (supported remotely by St Vincent's pupils as the trainers of the trainers) to peer tutor VI young people in their communities of learning adapting content for their localities. It's a real 'win win'. Our next step is seeking collaborative partners with a social conscience to sponsor a child from anywhere in the world for a six week immersion at St Vincent's. Imagine... what if football players in all the Premiership teams who come from all over the world sponsored just one child a year from their home countries, what a real difference that would make. As Martin Luther King looked for the day when his children would not be judged on the colour of their skin but the content of their character; St Vincent's pupils who can't see what colour anyone is have the VISION to put words into measurable action.

If you wish to help please contact by email **Dr J Patterson** johnp@stvin.com for more details

Solicitor/Own Client Assessments - *Kenig v Thomson Snell & Passmore LLP* [2024] EWCA Civ 15

This is a matter that was a key case in 2023 and the subsequent Court of Appeal decision has further confirmed its importance. This was a matter which involved the beneficiaries of an estate seeking to challenge the costs of the solicitors instructed by the Executors. In the first instance the decision of Costs Judge Brown allowed the beneficiaries to bring a claim under s.71(3) of the Solicitors Act 1974 and provided to undertake an assessment of the costs which had previously been approved by the Executor.

The Court of Appeal heard specific and limited appeals in respect of the original decision made by **Costs Judge Brown**. The main ground focused on the difference between orders for assessment under s.71(1) and s.71(3) of the Solicitors Act 1974, namely, whether there is a material difference if an Executor applies for an assessment and if a beneficiary applies for an assessment.

The second argument that was raised related to whether the Court would then be subsequently bound by the decision of *Tim Martin Interiors Ltd v Akin Group LLP* [2011] EWCA Civ 1574 which, in effect, severely restricted the scope of the challenges a third party could make at an assessment.

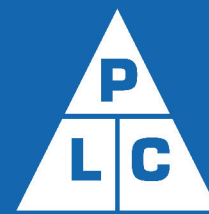
Both arguments were dismissed by the Court of Appeal, albeit, the Court of Appeal judges recognising that their decision was limited to the two specific appeals brought. **Lord Justice Stuart-Smith** undertook a detailed consideration of the centuries old right for clients and third parties to challenge their solicitors' bill of costs. During the consideration **LJ Stuart-Smith** noted that there had been a well established principle for third parties, such as beneficiaries, to seek an assessment of solicitors' bills of costs where the bills were to be paid out of funds from which they had an interest.

It was this distinction that formed the basis of the conclusion reached by the Court that it would not then be bound by the approach clearly set out in *Tim Martin*. This was based on the finding that given the unique position that beneficiaries find themselves in and that there are different interests to be protected when compared to an executor applying for an assessment under s.71(1). For instance, beneficiaries may not have instructed the solicitor, or been in a position to have approved the work undertaken by a solicitor, or have the information available to them as when a solicitor's bill has been raised.

The Decision in the Court of Appeal therefore opens the doorway for beneficiaries to potentially make applications

for Solicitors' bills to be assessed. So if such an Order is received, what is the process?

- From the date of the Order the Solicitor has 28 days to serve a breakdown of costs. (A breakdown of costs includes: details of the work done under each bill to be assessed and a cash account showing money received from the client and credited against the Bill).
- From the date of service of the breakdown of costs the Client has 14 days to prepare and serve Points of Dispute.
- From the date of service of the points of dispute the Solicitor has 14 days to serve any Points of Reply
- Either party may file a request for a hearing date: (a) after Points of Dispute are served; but (b) no later than 3 months after the date of the order for costs to be assessed.
- The Court will give at least 14 days notice of the time and place of the Detailed Assessment. Unless otherwise ordered, the solicitor must file the papers in support of



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the Bill no less than 7 days before the date of the detailed assessment hearing and no more than 14 days before the hearing.

At an assessment the Court will consider the contents of the Bill of Costs and assess the costs on a particular basis. The first rebuttable assessment criteria is set out at s.74(3) of the Solicitors Act 1974, namely, that the assessed amount of costs shall not exceed the amount which would be allowed on an inter partes basis. It should be noted that s.74(3) only applies to contentious work that relates to proceedings in the county court. Furthermore, CPR46.9(2) states that s.74(3) will apply unless there is a written agreement which 'expressly permits' payment to the solicitor in an amount greater than what would be recovered from another party in proceedings.

With that presumption dealt with, the contents of the Bill will be assessed on the indemnity basis but are to be presumed –

(a) to have been reasonably incurred if they were incurred

with the express or implied approval of the client;
(b) to be reasonable in amount if their amount was expressly or impliedly approved by the client;

(c) to have been unreasonably incurred if –

(i) they are of an unusual nature or amount; and

(ii) the solicitor did not tell the client that as a result the costs might not be recovered from the other party. (CPR 46.9(3)).



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 solicitor/own client assessments please get in touch at Kristopher.Kilsby@paramountlegalcosts.co.uk



LEAP launches Matter AI providing instant answers from matters for legal professionals

21st May 2024 – London, UK – LEAP, the global provider of legal practice management software, announces the launch of Matter AI, a new, integrated software tool that intelligently examines LEAP matter correspondence, providing instant insights and information to legal professionals.

Users can chat with Matter AI to immediately access insights and information directly from correspondence in LEAP matters. Leveraging cutting-edge AI algorithms, Matter AI analyses all the intricate details within documents, and correspondence in matters, enabling users to streamline their workflow to deliver exceptional legal counsel to clients.

Matter AI can search documents, spreadsheets, emails, and attachments, it will OCR (Optical Character Recognition) images, scanned PDFs and even handwritten notes from 10 to 10,000 plus documents. Users then receive a detailed response along with references to the specific documents in seconds. Lawyers can bid farewell to laborious manual searches and embrace a new era of productivity and efficiency in legal practice.



Gareth Walker, CEO, LEAP UK comments, "This launch represents a significant advancement in our commitment to equipping lawyers with state-of-the-art AI technology. Matter AI's innovative capabilities allow law firms to manage cases more effectively, conduct research with greater precision and ultimately increase productivity and the quality of legal services they deliver."

This advanced capability ensures accurate analysis, promoting a higher standard of reliability and precision in document review processes. LEAP users can ask Matter AI to:

- Check matter details and dates
- Draft documents
- Draft emails
- Summarise documents
- Compare multiple documents for discrepancies
- Extract key terms and concepts from documents
- Analyse financial transactions
- Provide a chronology

For more information, please visit www.leap.co.uk/ai.

All-In-One Legal Case Management Software - Training & Implementation... Getting It Right

Law firms require seamless transitions when adopting new technologies, especially when it comes to case management software. Efficiency is paramount. To shed light on the best practices in this arena, [David Cross](#), Denovo's Training & Implementation Consultant, delves deep into the intricacies of implementing legal case management software efficiently.

Training – How It's Delivered

Q: David, could you walk us through the various training options Denovo offers for implementing its legal case management software?

A: Certainly. At [Denovo](#), we recognise that every law firm is unique, with its own set of challenges and preferences. That's why we provide a range of training options tailored to suit different needs and circumstances.

Face-to-face training remains a popular choice among our clients. This approach allows us to conduct training sessions directly in the law firm's office, ensuring minimal disruption / time out of the office and fostering a conducive learning environment. We work closely with our clients to make prior arrangements, ensuring that the training space is equipped with all necessary amenities, such as a large screen for presentations.

For firms seeking a change of scenery, we also offer training sessions at our own offices. Our fully operational training room is equipped with PCs and large screens, providing an immersive learning experience away from the daily distractions of the office environment.

In addition to these in-person options, we understand the growing trend towards remote work. That's why we offer remote training sessions conducted via platforms like Zoom or MS Teams, providing flexibility and convenience for firms with remote or satellite teams.

At Denovo, we believe in flexibility and customisation, allowing firms to mix and match these training options based on their specific needs, location, and staff availability.

Training – The Actual Process

Q: What can law firms expect during the training process?

A: During the training process, our primary objective is to ensure that all staff members are proficient in using our [legal case management software](#) to carry out their day-to-day tasks effectively. This includes tasks such as locating clients and matters within the software, [generating documents](#), managing emails, and handling mail efficiently.

We understand that transitioning to new software can be daunting, especially for staff members accustomed to familiar work processes. That's why our training sessions are designed to be comprehensive and hands-on, providing practical skills that can be applied immediately.

Furthermore, we provide ongoing support throughout the training process, whether it's through on-site assistance or remote guidance. Our team is available to address any queries or concerns that may arise, ensuring a smooth and successful transition to our software.

Common Errors/Difficulties in Implementations

Q: What are some common challenges law firms face during software implementations, and how does Denovo address them?

A: One of the most common challenges we encounter during software implementations is a lack of commitment in terms of time and resources from the law firms themselves. Implementing new software

requires dedication from both the software provider and the law firm.

To address this challenge, we start by conducting thorough consultations with our clients to understand their unique needs and requirements. Based on this information, we tailor our training sessions to focus on the specific functionalities and features that are most relevant to their practice areas and workflows.

Additionally, we emphasise the importance of preparation and collaboration throughout the implementation process. We work closely with our clients to ensure that all necessary documents, templates, and styles are integrated into the software, providing a seamless transition from their previous systems.

Ultimately, successful software implementation hinges on proactive communication, collaboration, and commitment from both parties involved. By working together closely and leveraging our expertise and resources, law firms can maximize the benefits of their legal case management software and enhance their overall efficiency and productivity.

In conclusion, implementing legal case management software requires careful planning, effective training, and ongoing support. With Denovo's comprehensive training options, hands-on approach, and commitment to collaboration, law firms can embrace the future of legal technology with confidence and ease.

To find out more about how Denovo can successfully implement new case management and legal accounts software into your legal practice, reach out to us to arrange a free consultation by visiting <https://www.denovobi.com/contact-us/>, or call us on 0141 331 5290.

All in one legal software built for the way you work

Case Management and Legal Accounts Software, with 40 years experience working with UK firms.



Unlike many providers all the development, implementation, training and support is provided by Denovo, so you work with our team throughout your partnership with us. We work with you to customise the software to fit your actual working practices.

We also know changing providers can be an apprehensive experience, that's why we have our own experts in data migration meaning you start working with the Denovo team from day one.



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Case Management



Legal Accounts

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Forthcoming Courses

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
10/06/2024	Taking Security, A Practical Guide	Alan Wilkinson
11/06/2024	How To Respond to The New Residential Enquiries	Richard Snape
12/06/2024	Civil Litigation Update	Andrew McLoughlin
17, 18 & 28/06/2024	3 Day Children Law Accreditation (former CPQ)	Safda Mahmood
19/06/2024	Introduction to the new ICO GDPR Certification for the Legal Sector, LOCS:23	Orlagh Kelly
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
02/07/2024	Solicitors Regulatory Update	Matthew Hickling
03/07/2024	Tax Doesn't Have to be Taxing: A Masterclass	Rebecca Roscoe
10/07/2024	Civil Harassment Litigation	Sophie Mitchell
11/09/2024	The 2024 Private Child Law Conference	Various
13/09/2024	Writing Pitch Documents and Proposals for New Work	John Trimpos
17/09/2024	RegTech, SupTech and LegalTech	Alan Wilkinson
18/09/2024	The Residential Property Conference 2024	Various
20/09/2024	Private Child Law Update	Safda Mahmood
20/09/2024	Public Child Law Update	Safda Mahmood
24/09/2024	Introduction to Consumer Credit Act	Alan Wilkinson
25/09/2024	The 2024 Family Finance Conference	Various

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

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

For full details or to book any of the above courses (& more!) please visit:

<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/training/>



***NEW* Taking Security: A Practical Guide**

with Alan Wilkinson

Live online: Monday 10th June, 12pm - 2pm

This online session is designed to enhance the understanding of the commercial rationale for lenders taking security & 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 & outline the structure & principle terms of a debenture together with areas for negotiation.

This online course covers;

- Types of security
- Taking security
- Taking security over specific assets
- Capacity and authority
- Borrower's perspective—granting security
- Lender's perspective—issues with taking security
- Negotiating security documents
- Perfection and priority of security
- Syndicated security documents
- Amending and transferring security
- Enforcing Security

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK, CLICK HERE



***NEW* How to Respond to the New Residential Enquiries**

with Richard Snape

'Live' online on Tuesday 11th June, 2pm - 3pm

The new TA6 form will become compulsory for CQS firms on June 25th and are complicated in the extreme with plenty of scope for misrepresentation and negligence. This online course aims to look at some of the issues.

Topics covered include:

- Enquiries generally and how to avoid misrepresentation;
- The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations;
- Material Information;
- New solar panel enquiries;
- New Japanese Knotweed enquiries;
- Building Safety Act and Leasehold enquiries.

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



Civil Litigation Update

with Andrew McLoughlin

Live online: Wednesday 12th June, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Where to begin! A course you cannot afford to miss.

The landscape continues to change at some pace following the introduction of FRC to procedure & practice.

This online course will cover the following topics:

- Relief from Sanctions—is it getting any better 10 years on
- Part 36 – developments in the last 12 months
- Procedure in Practice-case law for the last 12 months
- All the procedural changes in the last 12 months
- Mandated ADR
- Costs update/budgeting/assessments
- Civil procedure- NEW- a topic covering what it says including April's Rule changes

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



3 Day Children Law Accredited Course

with Safda Mahmood

Day 1– 7th June/Day 2–18th June/Day 3–28th June,
all 10am - 4pm

On completion of this online course, delegates will be able to obtain the Law Society's Children Law Accreditation & have the knowledge necessary to apply to join the Children's Panel.

Covering:

- Private Children law and Procedure
- Local authority procedures and duties
- Contact and assessments
- Threshold and use of experts
- Human rights issues
- Taking instructions from children and separate representation
- Care planning and Public Law Outline
- Evidence, procedure, advocacy and preparation
- Adoption, Placement Orders and Attachment
- Secure Accommodation
- Complaints procedures and Criminal Injuries Compensation

You will have 6 months to submit your application after attending the course.

BOOK HERE



Reporting to the Lender & Hot Mortgage Issues with Richard Snape

Live online: Wednesday 19th June, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Reporting to the mortgage company is a perennial problem for the conveyancer. This online course selects some issues and discusses solutions. In particular the Building Safety Act 2022 is causing major problems.

Topics covered include:

- Conflicts of interest and valuation issues
- Leasehold issues and lender requirements
- Some specific areas:
 - * Japanese knotweed
 - * solar panels,
 - * planning issues, and
 - * flying freeholds
- Building Safety Act 2022 and Lender Requirements
- Estate Rentcharges
- Planning Permission and Lender Requirements



[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

PERSONAL BRANDING FOR ASSOCIATES & PARTNERS

Personal Branding is not only relevant for individuals but is also a powerful tool for developing and growing a business. Join Jannette Brimm, the leading Personal Branding Consultant, who will share know-how as to why having, building and incorporating your personal brand into your business development is a powerful business development strategy.

For full details & to book, click [HERE](#)



Alternative financing: crowdfunding platforms

with Alan Wilkinson

'Live' on Tuesday 25th June, 12.30pm - 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".

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

[BOOK HERE](#)



IHT400: A Practical Guide

with Rebecca Roscoe

'Live' on Wednesday 26th June, 9.30am - 12.45pm



This online course tackles the difficult issue of inheritance tax and will be of interest to probate practitioners who are required to complete the IHT 400.

It will provide delegates with an in depth analysis of the pitfalls and problems to be aware of when completing IHT400 and, through the use of sample scenarios, will offer comprehensive guidance on how to complete the IHT400 successfully.

The course will also provide practitioners with top tips and supporting documentation which you can use in practice.

[TO BOOK, CLICK HERE](#)

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN LAW UPDATE

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

Live online 26 June, 2-5pm

To see full details, including speakers, click [HERE](#)

Liverpool  Law Society

Solicitors' Regulatory Update with Matthew Hickling

'Live' on Tuesday 2nd July, 10am - 1pm

With an emphasis on the everyday problems and issues facing legal practitioners and their clients, Matthew will cover as much of the following as time permits:

- **AML, Risk Management, Good Governance, and SRA enforcements**
- **Fake identification and Due Diligence** – Threats, Risks, Vulnerabilities
- **Sanctions and Evasion Techniques** – Relatives, agents, and proxies
- **Websites, Quality Indicators, and Transparency** – Ongoing reviews
- **Cybercrime, Legal Technology, and Innovation** – The weakest links?
- **Being a solicitor** – Continuing competence; how it affects your private life
- **Regulatory News** – Workplace culture, SLAPPS, succession, and SQE

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](#)

Liverpool  Law Society

Tax Doesn't Have to be Taxing: A Masterclass with Rebecca Roscoe

Wednesday 3rd July, 9.30am - 5pm

As a private client practitioner understanding personal taxation is fundamental to both lifetime planning as well as dealing with trust and estate administration.

This online course will guide you through income tax, capital gains as well as inheritance tax to give you a comprehensive overview of this complex subject.

Using practice scenarios and calculations this course will give you confidence when approaching personal taxation as well as during the administration of an estate or trust.

[BOOK HERE](#)



Social Media Highlights

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



If you have an interesting tweet to share, why not send it to us, clearly labelled 'Social Media Page': editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk



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