

May 2025

Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

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

The Past Presidents' Lunch:

Photo Gallery on pages 30-31





Legal software that gives you space to breathe

Find out why over 150,000 lawyers use Clio at clio.com/uk

Book Consult

- ☒ Mon., 10 am
- ☒ **Tues., 10 am**
- ☒ Wed., 10 am

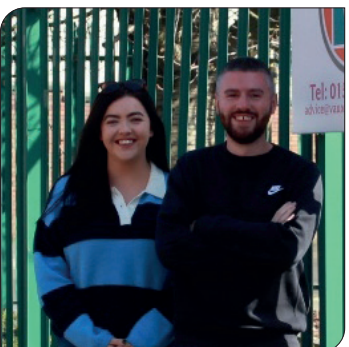
Complete

Client-Agreement.pdf

[Send for e-Signature](#)

May 2025

CONTENTS



4	The latest from the Editor, Jennifer Powell
5	From the President
6	LLS Meetings & events
6	Consultation Papers
7	Leaders in Law: Donna Richards
8	Weightmans appoint Sarah Walton as first female managing partner
10	Bermans bolsters property & construction team with new partner
13	Morecrofts Solicitors announces new appointments and promotions
15	Weightmans appoint new Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Manager
17	Brabners enhances tax advisory services as corporate team goes from strength to strength
18	DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2025
18	Update from the Society's Access to Justice Committee
20	Reconnecting Runcorn is looking forward and delivering in 2025
22	Merseyside Domestic Violence Services Honoured with King's Award for Voluntary Service
24	Are you feeling overwhelmed?
25	Fletchers director says 'We are committed to Southport'
26	LLS Golf Day
28	A Past President writes...
29	The Solicitors' Charity
30	The Past Presidents' Lunch
33	A fundamentally dishonest claimant
34	Top ten disadvantages of not using workflow in your practice
36	EDI Committee Meeting – March 2025
38	Vauxhall Law Centre
40	Regulation Update
42	Charity Spotlight: Love, Jasmine
44	Forthcoming Courses
48	Social Media

Cover photo: **Ray Farley**

DEADLINES

June 2025 edition: Fri, 23.05.25
 July 2025 edition: Tue, 24.06.25
 August 2025 edition: Tue, 22.07.25
 September 2025 edition: Fri, 22.08.25
 October 2025 edition: Tue, 23.09.25
 November 2025 edition: Tue, 21.10.25
 December 2025 edition: Tue, 25.11.25

Word Count Guidelines: Notes for Contributors

We receive many enquiries about submitting articles for LLS News and one of the questions that comes up every time is 'how long should it be?' While we don't (in theory) restrict the number of pages you can write, there are a few guidelines that you need to follow, like how many words fit on a page, how photographs, affect the word count etc.

With this in mind, the following is a rough approximation of how we calculate word counts for articles:

A full page of text is around 750 words without images, and 400 for a half page. The amount of text space an image takes up depends entirely on how it relates to the text (e.g. a by-line photo will take up less room than something illustrating the main theme of the article). So, we would suggest the following:

Full page with one small* image: 690 words
 Full page with two small* images or one medium** image: 480 words
 Full page with one large*** image: 480 words
 Half page with one small image: 330 words

The word counts do not include the main heading or secondary headings, but do include sub-headings.

* Spanning a single column

** Spanning two columns

*** Spanning three columns



Join us on Linked In:

[LiverpoolLawEMag](https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)

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

Photographs should be provided in the highest resolution possible to ensure a good reproduction. Photographs must not be subject to copyright.

The views and opinions expressed in Liverpool Law are those of the individual contributed and not those of the Liverpool Law Society.

Published by Baskerville eMedia
Merseybank Business Centre
55-57 Seabank Road, Wallasey
Merseyside CH45 7PA
Tel: 0151 203 0440
simon@baskerville-e.media



Editorial Committee Dates 2025

Meetings start at 1.00 pm.

Tue, 20 May 25
Tue, 17 Jun 25
Tue, 15 Jul 25
Tue, 19 Aug 25
Tue, 16 Sep 25
Wed, 15 Oct 25
Tue, 18 Nov 25

Welcome to the May edition of Liverpool Law



The sun is beaming as at the time of writing and it just makes things feel brighter all around. I hope it is still lasting by the time we go to publish and that you all have a chance to enjoy it whilst reading our magazine.

We have a largely celebratory magazine this month with many firm announcements of Partnerships and promotions, which is always great to see. I try not to be biased in talking about my own firm too much in this column, but I am pleased to see the appointment of the first female Managing Partner at Weightmans. Whilst this shouldn't be a big deal in firms and gender shouldn't play a role unfortunately it still does and I am really looking forward personally to the impact Sarah will make in our legal community.

We have some great photographs from the Past President's lunch and a column from **Past President Norman Jones** clearly demonstrating that age is but a number! It is great to see our relationship with Past Presidents flourishing and I look forward to hearing the plans for Liverpool Law Society's celebrations in 2027.

As always please get involved in our training and events and let us know your feedback. This is your Society and we are here to represent you as our members in the best way possible.

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 April's General Committee meeting. There were 8 individuals from the following organisations:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| • Hill Dickinson | • MSB Solicitors |
| • Jackson Lees Group | • Myerscough & Clegg |
| • Fletchers Group | • WP Thompson |

Liverpool Law Society's membership now exceeds 2,370 individuals from 235 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, James Mannouch

Emily Brontë described May as “*the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope.*” What a way to describe the harbinger of Summer. For me, May provides a taste of what will surely follow, and in this respect, May is perhaps the most forward-looking month. No one laments the passing of April, and why should they? That said, there is always a balance to be struck between looking forward and looking back and I have been engaged in both activities recently.

In terms of retrospection, I attended a meeting of Past Presidents and current Directors to discuss plans for the Society’s Bicentenary year. Liverpool Law Society will celebrate its 200-year anniversary during 2027, and it is important for the Society and its members to fittingly mark the occasion. There is such a rich history to professional legal services within the Liverpool region that must be properly examined, and so much of the discussion centred around archive materials. However, the bicentenary also offers an opportunity to consider the future, and thought is being given as to what sort of organisation our members will require in the decades to come.

In the same vein, I began to meet heads of firms this month. One purpose of these meetings is to discuss the services the Society currently provides and, more importantly, to discuss services it might provide in future. I am interested in our members’ views and will seek to meet as many individuals as time will allow. If you would like to participate in this conversation, please contact me on the address below as I would welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

One forum where such discussion took place was the annual Leaders in Law dinner, this year held at the Double Tree Hilton. It was a well-attended event, and I had the pleasure of meeting several members for the very first time. The dinner is a unique event in our social calendar because its informality encourages debate and discussion. Attendees were encouraged to mingle and by the end of the evening most guests had moved seats at least once – a reminder of the benefits of face-to-face networking.

Back to the topic of prospection/retrospection. On 11 April I had the privilege of attending a luncheon with several of the Society’s Past Presidents to provide my interim report as current President. I would like to thank the Past Presidents for making me feel so welcome and for sharing their thoughts and wisdom. I should also like to thank the Racquet Club for its excellent hospitality. Delivering an interim report is a requirement of the role and it represented an excellent opportunity for me to stop and take stock – something we should all do more often.



It brought clarity and purpose, and for my own benefit, I shall repeat the exercise later in the year.

An event I always look forward to is the annual quiz organised by the Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division of the Law Society; this year held at the Bier Keller. The evening was brilliantly organised, and I am glad to say I contributed to the winning team, captained by our Deputy Vice President, **Alum Ullah**, and assisted by his colleagues from Bond Turner.

A final word is reserved for some upcoming events you may enjoy. We still have a few team spaces for the LLS Golf Tournament at Heswall Golf Club on 25 June. If you have any budding, or keen golfers, of any ability, book a team on because it looks to be a fun filled day followed by an evening meal and prizes. Remember to save the date for the Annual Dinner and Legal Awards on 13 November. Speakers include **Mark Evans**, as President of the Law Society of England and Wales, and I am sure there will be a lot of demand for tickets.

James Mannouch

President

president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

LLS Meetings & events – May/June 2025

Start Time	Meeting/Event
13/05/2025 13:00	General Committee
15/05/2025 13:00	Future Planning Sub-Committee
19/05/2025 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
20/05/2025 13:00	Joint V Meeting
22/05/2025 13:00	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
22/05/2025 13:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee
28/05/2025 13:00	Civil Litigation Sub-Committee
03/06/2025 13:00	Employment Law Sub-Committee
05/06/2025 13:00	Access to Justice Sub-Committee
10/06/2025 13:00	General Committee
12/06/2025 13:00	EDI 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; 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

Referred by the General Committee:

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

Committee	Consultation Paper title	Closing date
Criminal Practice	Oversight and regulation of private prosecutors in the criminal justice system consultation	08.05.25
Regulatory	Consultation on policy statement on professional ethics	29.05.25
Criminal Practice	Publication: Criminal Appeals Consultation Paper	30.05.25

Leaders in Law: Donna Richards



1. Briefly describe your role as CEO and the main duties of this position.

Carpenters Group started as a regional law firm over 30 years ago now. Since then, we have grown and evolved into a national insurance and legal services business. I joined in 2015, and the business has very much a corporate structure, we have no partners as such and my role being CEO.

As CEO I work with the Executive team to formulate strategy and then lead the team on the delivery of this. It is important we meet our objectives with operational efficiency and maintain a healthy culture in our organisation.

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

I feel a great responsibility both to our colleagues and shareholders, is a privilege to hold this role. I'm not sure I would say there are negatives, but sometimes it can be very challenging to be responsible for making decisions on things where there are equally competing priorities, the buck stops with me, after all.

The positives are far easier to share. I am incredibly proud of Team

Carpenters and of the work we do, the service we deliver and most of all, the people who work here with me.

3. What do you see as your biggest challenges?

There always have and always will be many challenges, how can we forget Covid and the OICP! Some that we are trying to lean into at the moment are;

- AI and Tech: There is a huge opportunity for us to grasp the opportunity that AI presents, the challenge is making sure we make the right changes at the right time and that we take people on that journey with us. We have formulated an AI council that will carefully and ethically assess any usage. We offer an omni channel experience for our clients, I do not see this changing, you cannot replace the human touch which clients often need during their journey.
- Global and National economic landscape: No business is immune to the changes we see at the moment. The national insurance hike recently for example is a huge outlay to plan for. Making sure we are alive to the issues and planning to ensure a sustainable business, almost regardless of the unknown, is key.
- Speed of Change: I suppose this links in with my first point. We are blessed with colleagues who are innovative and are always looking at ways of working smarter. This is often a challenge, looking at the best use of resource without stifling the spirit of agility across the whole team.

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

I am privileged to lead such an

amazing business. We've managed to create a business that can enable people to build their careers, and in many cases, those are professional careers that people never thought achievable. We are huge champions of investing in our own and developing people. Social mobility is so important.

We have an amazing gender mix from the top down, this is purely down to meritocracy and definitely something to be proud of.

I also cannot forget the heart of the business and its people who are so generous in supporting many organisations and causes with not just fund raising but giving of their time.

5. What are your immediate short-term goals?

To keep Team Carpenters on course, the keep full steam ahead on our path to delivering great insurance and legal services for our clients and to keep creating a great place to work for our people.

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

Interesting question... That would be telling, but what I will say is that I see continued growth, continued positive impact on our local communities and importantly to see the progression of our colleagues careers!

7. What legacy, as CEO, would you like to leave the firm?

As CEO at Carpenters Group, I'd like to know I left the business better than I found it (even though it has always been an exceptional firm). I'd like to know I helped as many people as I could to succeed, and I'd like to leave it in high profit and high spirits!

Weightmans appoint Sarah Walton as first female managing partner



Sarah Walton

Sarah Walton has become the first female managing partner of Weightmans, as the national law firm announces a raft of changes to its strategic leadership team.

Walton, previously client relationships director, assumes the role as of 1st April 2025, and succeeds John Schorah, who is stepping down after 12 years at the helm and 18 years on the company's board.

As her first act as managing partner, Sarah confirmed several new board appointments.

Stuart Jones has been appointed as client relationships director, Dewi Ap-Thomas will take on the role of regulatory and litigation director, and Ben Daniel will serve as transaction and advisory director.

In addition, former managing director at L&G Insurance, Duncan Finch, will join the board as a non-executive director.

Sarah Walton said: "This firm has built an exceptional reputation under John's leadership, and I am committed to driving forward a strategy that champions

innovation, collaboration and client excellence.

"I'm fortunate to be coming in at a time of significant growth for the firm, so my strategy will be evolution, not revolution. The new additions to our board and leadership team will help continue to drive innovation and agility, and we are well-positioned for a strong and dynamic future."

John Schorah will continue supporting Weightmans in a strategic capacity, focusing on key growth projects. His role will include supporting the development of CyXcel, Weightmans' international cybersecurity law consultancy, and the firm's international expansion ambitions.

John said: "Leading Weightmans has been an extraordinary privilege, and I am immensely proud of everything we have achieved over the last 12 years. We have grown significantly, embraced new opportunities, and built a culture that puts people and clients at the heart of what we do.

"Sarah is a natural leader with deep experience and a clear vision for the future, and I have no doubt she will continue to drive Weightmans forward. I am pleased to remain involved in strategic projects that will further strengthen the firm, and I look forward to seeing the next phase of its success under Sarah's leadership."

Client referrals via Liverpool Law Society

Is your organisation's website record with us up-to-date?

As a member of Liverpool Law Society, we may give out your organisation's name and telephone number to callers who contact the Society seeking legal advice. Staff at the Society receive dozens of calls each week from members of the public and organisations looking for a lawyer.

Check your entry on our website is correct and up-to-date. Please visit our 'Find a Lawyer' website [here](https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk). Type your organisation's name in the 'keyword' box and hit the return button. If any of your information needs updating, let us know by emailing contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

ADILA

Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

The Legal Awards are back for 2025!

Open to members of Liverpool Law Society

CATEGORIES

Rising Star Award
sponsored by
The University of Law

Outstanding Team Award -
Dispute Resolution & Litigation

Outstanding Team Award
- Non-Contentious
sponsored by
Landmark

Outstanding Team Award -
Family Law

Outstanding Team Award -
Employment Law

Equality, Diversity &
Inclusion Award
sponsored by
Liverpool John Moores University

Outstanding Lawyer Award
sponsored by
Miller Insurance

Law Firm Award
(1-49 employees)
sponsored by
Clio

Law Firm Award
(50+ employees)

Nominations will open in early July and close in early September.

The winners of the 2025 Legal Awards will be revealed at a glittering black-tie ceremony during the Annual Dinner on Thursday, 13th November 2025 in Liverpool. Save the date in your diary!

SPONSORED BY



Bermans bolsters property & construction team with new partner



Fergal O'Cleirigh with James Harris

North west law firm Bermans has strengthened its property & construction team with the appointment of James Harris as a partner.

James, who is based in the firm's Liverpool office, has more than 20 years' experience as a commercial property specialist.

He advises clients across the north west, North Wales, the Midlands, the London area and other parts of the UK, with a focus on acting for landowners, developers, high-net worth individuals and owner-managed businesses on residential and commercial property developments. He also advises licensees of restaurants and pubs.

He is currently advising Manchester-

based residential developer and development manager Zentra Group as it seeks to complete the acquisition from Urban Splash of a site in the city's New Islington area. The land is earmarked for a six-storey apartment block and a ground-floor commercial unit.

James has joined Bermans from Manchester practice Pannone Corporate. Before joining Pannone Corporate, he worked at Knights and was managing partner at Jolliffe & Co.

At Bermans, he is a senior member of the property team. As client partner for his network, he will be working with the corporate, employment, private client and property finance teams.

Further recruitment of commercial property specialists is under way as

Bermans continues to expand.

James, who competes in marathons, iron man competitions, triathlons and duathlons, said: *"Much of my existing client base is in the Liverpool City Region and Chester, so being at Bermans enables me to better service these businesses, as well as to continue operating in the Manchester property scene."*

"We have a number of initiatives planned, including an event with Homes England next month, and I am encouraged that my client base will be well-served at Bermans."

Fergal O'Cleirigh, head of the property & construction team at Bermans, said: *"James has a wealth of experience and is a great addition to the firm."*

"He brings with him an impressive list of clients and contacts who will benefit not only the property team but the firm as a whole. We are also looking forward to introducing his client base to our existing network for the benefit of all."

"It's really encouraging that we are able to attract such high-quality lawyers as James and our other recent recruits."

Bermans recently bolstered its litigation, asset-based lending recoveries and private client teams with the arrival of partner **Mike Carter**, senior associate **Adam Tiesteel** and associate **Jobeth Copping-Barrett**, who are based in the Manchester office.

Their arrival followed the recent appointments of property partner **Usha Sharma**, corporate partner **Paul Edels** and paralegal **Paul Rabbette** at the Liverpool office.

Bermans is part of MAPD Group, which was founded by **Brian Cullen** and **Joanna Kingston-Davies** in 2020 to power the growth of local law firms nationally through acquisition. The initials stand for Making a Positive Difference.



**TAYLORED
SOLUTIONS LTD**
TAYLORED FOR YOUR IT NEEDS



44% OF UK BUSINESSES HAVE A CYBER SKILLS GAP Are You One of Them?

Cybercrime Cost UK Businesses £30.5 Billion in 2023 - Are You at Risk?

One Breach Can Destroy Trust - How Would Your Customers React?

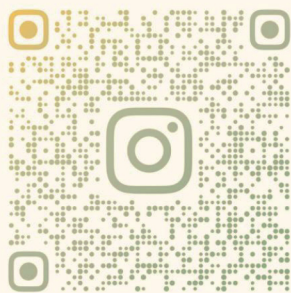
When Was Your Cybersecurity Last Externally Checked?

Contact Us NOW to Secure Your Business!

mail@tayloredolutions.im



**TAYLORED
SOLUTIONS LTD**
TAYLORED FOR YOUR IT NEEDS



@TAYLOREDSOLUTIONSLTD

**Get a Free
Cybersecurity
Review -
Protect Your
Business
Today!**

www.tayloredolutions.im

In association with:



Legal Services Roundtable

18.06.25

Exclusively for members of
Liverpool Law Society

BOOK NOW

Liverpool Law Society

MORE INFORMATION
www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk



FINDING YOUR VOICE IN TODAY'S DIGITAL LANDSCAPE

TEL: 0151 651 2776
SIMON@BASKERVILLE-E.MEDIA

Morecrofts Solicitors announces new appointments and promotions

Morecrofts Solicitors has announced a series of new appointments and internal promotions across its offices in Liverpool, Wirral, Crosby, Prescot, Allerton, and Woolton.

Successful training contracts

Megan Williams and Amy Knowles have both successfully completed their training contracts within the firm and been offered permanent roles as solicitors.

From April 1, Megan has joined the Private Client team at the Crosby office.

Megan is passionate about this area of law and is eager to contribute to the team's continued success. She said: "I am excited to have qualified into the Private Client team in Crosby. This area of law has been a keen interest to me for many years, and I find it very rewarding. I am extremely proud of my achievements and I can't thank Morecrofts enough for giving me the opportunity to fulfil my career goal of becoming a solicitor."

Amy joined the Employment team at the

City office, also from April. She is excited to take on the next phase of her legal career, saying: "I am really excited to be qualifying into the employment team. It's been almost four years since I started at Morecrofts and I'm very grateful for all the support and guidance I have received along the way. I am excited to be getting started!"

Managing partner, Alison Lobb, commented: "I am delighted that we have offered Megan and Amy roles at the firm. They're both great assets and I know they will flourish in their teams. Congratulations to both – I am looking forward to watching your careers continue to grow at Morecrofts."

New appointments

The firm has also welcomed several new colleagues:

- **Lydia Potter** – Receptionist/legal support assistant
- **Pam Anderton** – Receptionist/legal support assistant
- **Sophie Wilson** – Executive assistant
- **Ben Towell** – Property paralegal
- **Savannah Taylor** – Family paralegal

- **Molly Evans** – Court of Protection manager

Internal promotions

As part of Morecrofts' ongoing commitment to developing and retaining talent from within, the firm has also announced a raft of promotions:

Claire Johns and Clare Kerrigan, solicitor and chartered legal executive on the family law team, and Shirley English, chartered legal executive in commercial and residential property, are all promoted to senior associate roles, whilst Ella Neale and Heather Lyon, both solicitors in the family team, are promoted to associate.

Alison Lobb added: "At Morecrofts, we believe in the value of maintaining top talent within the firm. By promoting people internally, we ensure they feel valued and recognised for their hard work and dedication. These promotions are a testament to the exceptional contributions of Claire, Clare, Shirley, Ella, and Heather, and I look forward to seeing them continue to thrive in their new roles."

Celebrate Liverpool's legal legacy at the Law Society bicentenary reception

To mark 200 years of the Law Society, president Richard Atkinson invites you to celebrate the incredible impact of our region on the legal profession. Join us at this complimentary event, to reflect on our achievements together and how we can continue to make a lasting impact.

Date Friday 20 June 2025, 6pm to 9pm

Venue Liverpool Town Hall, High Street, Liverpool, Merseyside, L2 3SW

RSVP Places are limited, [book your spot today](#)



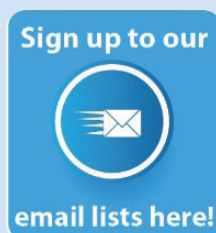
Not receiving emails from Liverpool Law Society?

Please check your junk or spam folder. Email providers constantly update their spam filters so even though you used to receive our emails, suddenly this might stop.

Our training, member and general news & events emails will come from legalnews@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk and automated messages from our website (such as when making a booking for one of our courses or events) will come from enquiries@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk.

We suggest you regularly check your junk email and add both these LLS email addresses to your 'safe senders' list to ensure you receive news, events and invitations from Liverpool Law Society!

Not signed up?



Weightmans appoint new Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Manager



Liliana Corrieri

National law firm, Weightmans, has appointed its first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) Manager.

Liliana Corrieri joins the top 40 law firm after two years as a senior Inclusion and Diversity Consultant at a London-based training and consultancy firm. Prior to that, she worked in healthcare regulation where she looked at both workplace culture and health inequalities, and at a global organisation where she focused on adapting principles and strategies to different cultural contexts.

With experience in national and international organisations, Liliana is a true subject-matter expert. She will work alongside **Abhay Srivastava** (head of ESG), **Sue Gould** (head of HR), the firm's strand leads and DE&I champions, strengthening its strategic objectives and ensuring it becomes a leader in the DE&I space. The appointment comes as Weightmans was awarded UK Top 10 Employer status for the 18th year in a row – reaching its highest ranking ever at number five. The award recognises and celebrates outstanding people-centric policies and practices that have created positive workplace environments around the world.

Liliana said: “My passion and commitment for DE&I is deeply rooted in my upbringing, lived and learnt experience, and what I stand for. As an individual and a professional, I am continuously expanding my horizons and refining approaches, as this area of work becomes progressively more interdisciplinary and nuanced. DE&I is a journey for both individuals and organisations, and I am delighted to have joined Weightmans to support the firm in its strong commitment to people, opportunities and positive change.”

Helen Taylor, director of HR, said:

“Liliana is a navigated DE&I professional and brings to

Weightmans a wealth of experience in strategic approaches and best practice to advance equality of outcomes, celebrate and represent diversity, and drive inclusive cultures. What is also apparent is her longstanding passion for social and environmental justice.

“Her appointment is another significant moment for the firm and comes as our first female managing partner, Sarah Walton, takes the helm with a business strategy centred around evolution.

Liliana’s experience will be integral as we continue to build on our strong foundations and grow a diverse and inclusive culture where success is shared and where everybody has a voice.”

The news comes following the firm’s recent staff engagement survey which produced an engagement score of 86, which reflects a highly engaged workforce.

ejm investigations

Private & Commercial Investigators and Process Servers EJM Investigations are a North West based detective agency in Preston, Lancashire, with a team of private investigators and process servers across the UK. We can carry out private investigations, commercial investigations and process serving at home, throughout Europe and worldwide.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Surveillance
- Trace Missing Persons
- Process Server
- Background Checks
- Criminal Defence
- Trace Debtors
- Vehicle Tracking

- Pre-Sue Reports
- Criminal Defence
- Employee Absenteeism
- Debtor Tracing
- Debugging
- Background checks and employee vetting

Tel: 01772 334 700

Mob: 07940 135 006

Email: info@ejminvestigations.co.uk

Web: www.ejminvestigations.co.uk

20 Years+
Experience,
Professionalism,
Quality Results.











Menstrual Cycles and Productivity Webinar



DATE: 13 May 2025, 12:30 - 13:15

Join us as we discuss Menstrual Cycles & Productivity, linking to the theme of Accelerate Action, working to ensure barriers are removed for women to reach their full potential.

EVENT DETAILS

Jewels Chamberlain, a DWF Partner and Lead on our Menopause Group will be speaking to **Amy Blakeman**, a Menstrual Cycle Coach for a talk about Menstrual Cycles and Productivity.

Amy combines her knowledge from her 19 years in HR, along with her accreditation as a Menstrual Cycle Coach to spread awareness on how our cycles can be a source of strength and insight to support our confidence, wellbeing and productivity.

RSVP Here:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7475826294193645659>

Brabners enhances tax advisory services as corporate team goes from strength to strength



Euri Yoon and Nik White

Purpose-led independent law firm Brabners has bolstered its tax advisory capability, as the firm looks to broaden and diversify the offering of its corporate team to meet the needs of its growing client base.

Multi-disciplinary tax specialist **Euri Yoon** joins Brabners as partner from Spencer West LLP and brings more than two decades of experience to the team – one of the largest corporate practices in the North of England – as it supports an increasing number of M&A, investment and exit mandates for public and private businesses in the UK and internationally.

Euri joins Brabners' corporate team – ranked as one of the UK's most active M&A advisors by Experian – as it targets further growth having delivered £800million-worth of deals in 2024 – a 31% increase on the prior year.

A solicitor, chartered tax adviser, accountant and MBA graduate, Euri has worked both in private practice and in-house for international organisations including British Airways and Samsung. Her depth of expertise has seen her

advise on a wide range of corporate and commercial tax matters, including mergers and acquisitions, private equity transactions, property tax planning, corporate structuring, employment taxation and share schemes, as well as international tax issues for mobile employees and expatriates.

In her new role, Euri will focus on enhancing Brabners' corporate tax advisory services, both by supporting the corporate team on transactions and drawing from her varied legal and accounting experience to aid the development of standalone tax-focused services. She will also play a key role in broadening the firm's international tax practice, leveraging her extensive experience in supporting multinational corporations in expanding or relocating to the UK.

Her appointment further strengthens the complementary services within Brabners' corporate practice as it leads on complex work on behalf of large multinational clients. Brabners is the only UK law firm with a dedicated in-house deal advisory team comprised of chartered accountants, offering clients

access to leading financial and legal advice in one place.

Based primarily in London, Euri's work will see her engage with colleagues across Brabners' offices in Manchester, Lancashire and Leeds, as well as its recently upgraded home in Liverpool.

Euri Yoon, partner in the corporate team at Brabners, said: *"Brabners' reputation as a purpose-led firm with a strong culture and B Corp certification stood out to me. Together with the team's standing as a top 20 M&A adviser nationally, its ongoing commitment to delivering outstanding service to its clients was a particular draw. Through both its client work and its social impact initiatives, Brabners is making real strides in delivering real and lasting change in the communities in which it operates."*

"I've already had the chance to meet some incredibly welcoming colleagues, and I'm excited to start building a broader and more diverse tax practice here, with the potential to further develop the specialism for the firm in the future."

Nik White, managing partner at Brabners, said: *"Euri's appointment brings a new dimension to our corporate team and aligns perfectly with our ambition to grow our transactional and specialist tax capabilities. Her extensive experience in both UK and cross-border matters will be invaluable as our national and international client base continues to grow."*

"Continuing to invest in top talent remains a key priority for us, and Euri's appointment – alongside our recognition as the UK's Best Law Firm to Work For and, more recently, the Legal 500's Northern Powerhouse Firm of the Year – is testament to this drive."

DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2025

This year, three North West lawyers have been promoted to partner, effective 1 May 2025. They are:

Liverpool, UK
Gary Davies, Employment

Manchester, UK
Ben Morton, Finance

Rob Lyons, Finance

Global law firm DLA Piper announces 65 promotions to its partnership. The promotions are effective as of 1 April in the United States and Canada and 1 May for EMEA and Asia Pacific.

Globally, the Corporate practice group has the largest intake of new partners with 19 promotions; followed by 12 in Finance; 13 in Litigation; and six in Real Estate. Other practice groups

include Employment (5), Intellectual Property & Technology (5), Tax (3), and Regulatory & Government Affairs (2).

Regionally, the US has the highest number of promotions with 23 new partners, followed by Continental Europe with 20 and the UK with 12. Other countries include Canada (5), Ireland (2), and South Africa (2).

Commenting on the North West promotions, **Mark Beardwood**, North West Office Managing Partner, says “*Ben Morton, Gary Davies and Rob Lyons have shown that they are trusted advisors and it’s wonderful to welcome them to the partnership. I am certain that they will devise smart, creative solutions for our clients as partners in the Projects, Pensions and Restructuring teams respectively.*”

Charles Severs, International Managing Partner and Global Co-CEO, commented: “*This year’s cohort joins our firm’s partnership during a time of significant change and opportunity in the global landscape. We are committed to helping our clients navigate these challenges and our 2025 cohort of new partners have been instrumental in delivering this support. We are very proud of them all for achieving this milestone moment in their careers.*”

Frank Ryan, Americas Chair and Global Co-CEO, added: “*Our newly promoted partners are focused on helping their clients succeed in today’s rapidly evolving business environment. They collaborate with their colleagues and give back to their communities. We are proud to welcome them to the partnership and look forward to their contributions to the firm.*”

Update from the Society's Access to Justice Committee

The Access to Justice Committee met on 3rd April. It was a well attended meeting with many issues discussed.

We discussed capacity and the difficulties we were having in obtaining reliable data and whether this was something that LATAN could assist with.

Our response to the latest legal aid consultation was discussed, **Ngaryan Li** updated us regarding the recent changes to legal aid welfare benefit advice and **Kristian Khan** provided an update on the tendering process for remote discrimination contracts.

Siobhan Taylor Ward provided us with an update regarding access to housing advice within the region and it was encouraging to see the housing advisors and solicitors had acted together as a group to raise issues of concern with the court.

The main issue to arise from the meeting was the problems and delays in contacting Liverpool County Court via the new centralised system which was introduced in February. There are frequent delays with many calls going unanswered and this appears to impact on all categories of law. It was agreed

that we would collate anonymised examples with **Jeremy Myers** agreeing to raise this issue with Chancery Lane.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 5th June and we look forward to seeing committee members then.

Should you wish to raise any issues with me, I can be contacted on itownley@broudiejacksoncanter.co.uk

Ian Townley
Chair
LLS Access to Justice Committee

DIGITAL AND VISUAL EVIDENCE CONSULTANCY SERVICES



We specialise in providing expert opinion and recognition evidence in CCTV, ensuring that critical visual evidence is accurately interpreted and presented in legal proceedings. Our team excels in producing detailed CCTV evidential documents and witness statements, covering a wide range of evidential areas, including:

- Presenting the actions and movements of individuals
- Firearms, knives, clothing (configuration of clothing), footwear
- Vehicle recognition, comparison & vehicle reconstructions
- Physical description, location of injuries, and detailing how injuries were inflicted

Our founder, a retired Detective Sergeant with three decades of experience, has been instrumental in investigating numerous high-profile cases, including those involving serious organised crime, murder, terrorism and delivering evidence across multiple complex Crown Court trials.

DAVE-UK LTD

YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER IN
DIGITAL AND VISUAL EVIDENCE CONSULTANCY

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To offer independent and objective expertise, guaranteeing an unbiased opinion. Our invaluable service is built on 30 years of unparalleled experience in tackling Serious and Organised Crime within law enforcement.



Enquire now:

Email: paul@dave-uk.com
Tel: 0161 636 3154
www.dave-uk.com



**OUTHWAITE
& LITHERLAND**
ESTABLISHED 1907

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

Tel: 01704 538489
e: auction@lots.uk.com
www.lots.uk.com



Reconnecting Runcorn is looking forward and delivering in 2025



Building Mercia Place

Reconnecting Runcorn is an ambitious regeneration programme aimed at improving the lives and economy of Runcorn. It was awarded £23.6 million in 2021 from the UK Government's Towns Fund to support the Runcorn Town Investment Plan.

The programme consists of eight key projects, including:

- Brindley Theatre Enhancements – Expanding and upgrading the theatre facilities.
- Creative & Digital Skills Centre – Providing training and opportunities in creative industries.
- Health & Education Hub – A new facility to support healthcare and education needs.
- High Street Connectivity– Enhancing accessibility and infrastructure through the delivery of four project strands.

- Unlock Runcorn Canal Experience – Revitalising the canal area for tourism and community use.
- Runcorn Station Quarter Enterprise Hub – Supporting business incubation and growth.
- High Street Town Centre New Homes – Developing 66 new apartments as a part of an independent living scheme over 55's on the high street.
- Rutland Street Town Centre New Homes – Developing community led housing scheme to support local residents.

The initiative aims to boost local connections, create economic opportunities, improve transport links, and enhance visitor attractions.

Delivering Transformation

2024 was a transformative year for the projects and strands that are part of

the Reconnecting Runcorn programme as ground was broken and community hubs opened. 2025, however, is set to bring even more as this year sees Runcorn go from strength to strength:

The Brindley Enhancement

Last year saw work begin on The Brindley site which is continuing to progress really well. This year will see the steel works start on site in the spring, with the project set to be completed by 2026.

Health and Education Hub

Work began onsite at the beginning of April, with the aim of handing over the facility at the end of the year to the NHS ahead of opening to the public. Ahead of works commencing, the current library had to be moved to its temporary home on 6 Church Street, its new home in the Brindley extension which will be finished in 2026.



A representation of the Enterprise Hub

Street Art Celebrating Runcorn

Spring also sees the two commissioned artists **Aylo Nomad** and **Liam Bononi**, create four incredible murals celebrating Runcorn's history and culture, telling stories from the Dukesfield area. They will create their masterpieces and bring vibrant new life to the viaduct pillars from the 28th April – 10th May. To celebrate the completion of the murals there is a live music event on 10th of May 'Beyond the Walls' with local artists performing in Society Taprooms. For tickets to this event please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/tales-from-the-walls-the-dukesfield-murals-4106943>

New Homes for the Town Centre

Construction is ongoing with the steel frameworks completed, for the new homes in partnership with Halton Housing Trust, with completion expected for Spring 2026. The new development has been named 'Mercia Place', after the Aethelflaed of Mercia who founded Runcorn in 915 AD as a fortification to protect against Viking invasions at the narrowing of the River Mersey.

Unlock Runcorn: Canal Experience

Planning permission was achieved in 2024 for phase one of the canal restoration, with work on site programmed to start this year. Runcorn Locks Restoration Society (RLRS) are currently getting ready to submit a

planning application for their new café adjacent to Waterloo Bridge.

Runcorn Station Quarter-Elite House

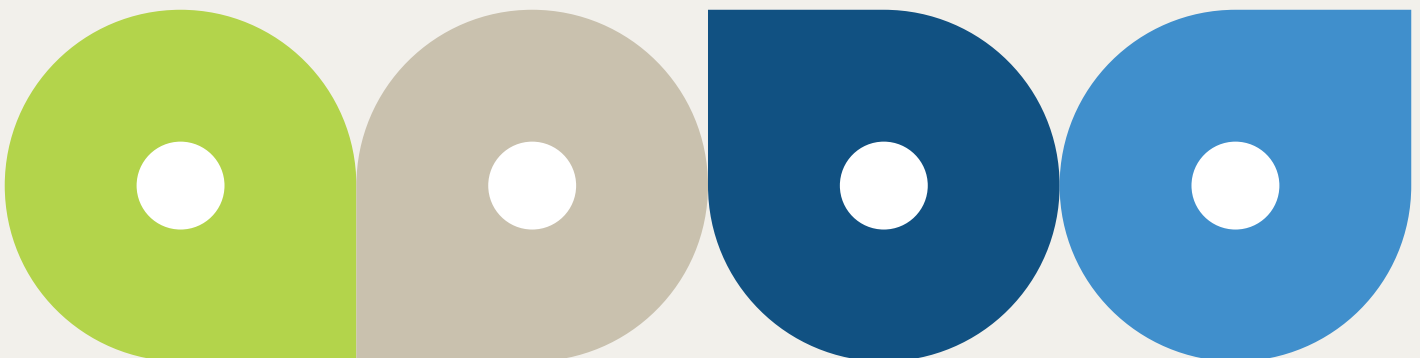
Designers are currently developing conceptual drawings for Elite House, enterprise hub which will further evolve as the year progresses.

Like to know more about the exciting 12 months ahead...?

2025 is already looking like an exciting year for Runcorn, as these projects continue full steam ahead, transforming the area as they develop. Keep up to date with the projects by visiting <https://reconnectingruncorn.info/>.

To showcase developments happening in Runcorn, Halton Chamber is dedicating it's July 1st Tuesday Breakfast Networking Event on the 1st July 2025 to Reconnecting Runcorn. This meeting will be held in Runcorn at Norton Priory so if you'd like to join us and visit one of the Borough's oldest tourist attractions whilst learning about some of Runcorn's latest developments you can book online through the Chamber's web site www.haltonchamber.co.uk/events or call 0333 358 2480. Everyone is welcome to attend as there will be lots of opportunities to network with fellow businesses, learn about the Reconnecting Runcorn and speak to some of the organisations involved in what is a truly transformation initiative.

www.haltonchamber.co.uk
0333 358 3480
info@haltonchamber.co.uk



Merseyside Domestic Violence Services Honoured with King's Award for Voluntary Service



Paul Crowley & Co Solicitors are delighted to congratulate Merseyside Domestic Violence Services (MDVS) on being honoured with the King's Award for Voluntary Service – the highest accolade granted to volunteer groups across the UK. Equivalent to an MBE, this prestigious award is a powerful recognition of the extraordinary commitment MDVS has shown in supporting vulnerable women and girls affected by domestic violence and abuse.

Founded in Liverpool in 2003, MDVS is a voluntary organisation committed to supporting individuals impacted by domestic abuse. Through immediate assistance, long-term recovery programmes, and educational outreach, MDVS works tirelessly to break the cycle of abuse and foster healing and empowerment. The organisation's receipt of the King's Award for Voluntary Service, bestowed by **King Charles** and formally presented by The Lord Mayor of Liverpool, **Richard Charles Kemp CBE**, is a fitting tribute to their remarkable efforts in empowering women. This prestigious honour recognises the outstanding contribution MDVS has made to the community and the unwavering dedication of its volunteers.

At the heart of MDVS are co-founders **Jacqui** and **Ayla Nasuh**, whose deep compassion and dedication have been instrumental in driving the charity's vision forward. Their leadership has created a safe space for countless survivors to rebuild, grow, and thrive. The energy, empathy, and determination they bring to the cause are evident in everything the organisation does.

Julie Jones, owner at Paul Crowley & Co and a long-standing trustee of MDVS, praised the founders' unwavering commitment: "*Jacqui and Ayla are the driving force of MDVS. Their work is not only transformative for those they support*



(L to R) Ayla Nasuh (MDVS), Lord Mayor of Liverpool Richard Kemp CBE, Jacqui Nasuh CEO (MDVS), Deputy Lieutenant Mrs. Paige Earlam, Clerk of the Lieutenancy Miss Helen Tanzey, Lady Mayoress Erica Kemp CBE, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant Mr Mark FW Blundell, Volunteer Coordinator Ilham Hamood, Clerk of the Lieutenancy Miss Helen Tanzey.

but inspirational to everyone around them. They have built a service that is driven by empathy and purpose, and this award is a truly fitting recognition of their relentless efforts."

The King's Award not only celebrates what MDVS has already achieved but shines a spotlight on the issue of domestic abuse – a deeply rooted problem in our society that continues to require urgent attention. With this national recognition comes greater visibility, potentially increasing public awareness, community engagement, and funding opportunities that will allow the service to grow and reach even more people in need.

For volunteers, such recognition is deeply affirming. It boosts morale, validates their efforts, and reminds them that their time, energy, and compassion are truly making a difference. Moreover, this award can serve as a powerful motivator for others across the legal profession and beyond to consider how they can contribute their own skills to causes that protect and uplift vulnerable people.

Established in 2002 to celebrate Queen

Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee and formerly known as The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the award has since become a symbol of excellence in community service. It has been renamed in honour of King Charles, and continues to be awarded for life, cementing the legacy of the groups it recognises.

At Paul Crowley & Co, we are incredibly proud of our long-standing association with MDVS, exemplifying the values of service, compassion, and leadership – qualities that drive positive change far beyond the legal sphere. Julie's and the other Trustees involvement with MDVS demonstrates how members of the legal profession can make a profound impact on their communities.

On behalf of everyone at Paul Crowley & Co, and the wider legal community here in Liverpool, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Merseyside Domestic Violence Services. We celebrate this well-deserved honour and look forward to seeing the continued growth and success of MDVS as they expand their life-changing work.

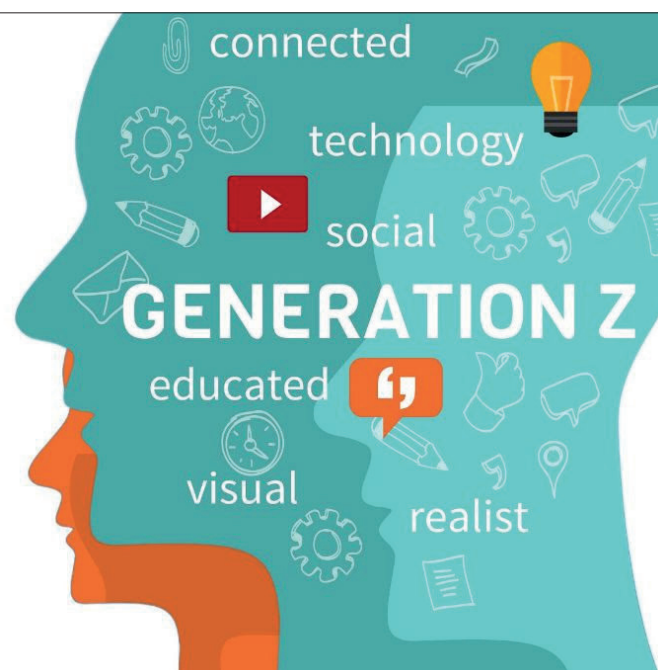
Let's talk about Gen Z

Webinar

Thursday 15 May

12.30 to 1.30pm

LawCare



Join LawCare this Mental Health Awareness Week for a webinar exploring how generational differences are shaping the profession and what this means for the future.

Book your free place [here](#)

- What do people starting out in their careers expect and what do they need to thrive?

- How can the sector adapt to attract and retain great talent?
- How can firms, in-house teams and chambers bridge the gap between generations?

The webinar isn't just for Gen Z - it's for everyone involved in the legal sector who wants to be part of a community that evolves with the

times. Allies, leaders, and forward-thinkers, we want you to be part of the conversation.

Please note that this webinar won't be recorded.

If you have any questions about how to book please email admin@lawcare.org.uk. Book [here](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Liverpool Law Society

St John's Buildings

The University of
Law

LIVERPOOL

6PM, THURSDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2025

5k fundraising walk in aid of



THE
ACCESS
TO JUSTICE
FOUNDATION



Are you feeling overwhelmed?



Many people who contact LawCare are struggling because they are overwhelmed. They might have agreed to take on additional cases or work late, volunteered to bake cakes for school, juggled numerous social commitments—all while managing their existing workload and home commitments.

People working in the legal sector are often people pleasers – they like to make other people's lives easier and solve their problems. The problem with saying yes all the time is it sets a precedent. People will think they can ask you again next time, or that you enjoy doing some of the tasks you would rather not. Whilst it is admirable to want to help others and earn respect from our bosses, colleagues, family, and friends, it's crucial to occasionally say no. Prioritising your own health, energy, and sanity is essential. Lawyers who don't learn to say no run a very real risk of burning out.

What to do if you are feeling overwhelmed

Manage your diary

Have a proper look at your diary. Is it

packed? Have you said some half-hearted 'yes' to things? Are there things you could cancel? Schedule in personal and work events and block out time to complete various pieces at work so you can see how much time you actually have before you agree to attend another meeting or dinner. Try not to put things in the diary at all if you know you don't really want to do them, even if they are weeks away. It is unlikely you'll feel differently nearer the time!

Schedule in down time

It's important to include and prioritise time for you to rest and relax and just do nothing. Resist the temptation to fill all the gaps in your diary. Sometimes having no plans needs to be your plan – you don't need to be busy all the time.

Delegate

Make a list of everything you have to do. Is there anything on the list that someone else could do? Are you holding on to pieces of work that could be given to someone else in the team? If it feels like a chore, could you buy the cakes from the shop rather than bake them if you don't have time?

Stop volunteering for everything

If you are feeling overwhelmed now is not the time to volunteer for extra duties. Learn not to automatically agree to do things you don't have time to do or you will find yourself promising to turn up to every zoom meeting, offering to take notes, volunteering to check someone's emails when they are on leave. Don't feel the need to explain why you can't do something or have an excuse – a simple 'Thanks I can't this time' is fine.

Be honest

If you are feeling overwhelmed and cannot do something within a particular timeframe for whatever reason, then let your colleagues know, preferably face to face. Don't assume they will be angry - you might be surprised at their reaction, and together you can work out a new plan to move forward.

.....

If you need emotional support call LawCare on 0800 279 6888, email support@lawcare.org.uk, or visit www.lawcare.org.uk to get in touch using our live webchat.

Fletchers director says 'We are committed to Southport'



**SOUTHPORT BUSINESS
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**



Dan Taylor

Dan Taylor is meticulous when it comes to separating his roles as chair of Southport BID and as a director at law firm Fletchers.

However, his passion for both the town he calls his home and the business where he has built his career over almost three decades, shines through. And Dan is clear there is a symbiotic relationship between the two that is mutually beneficial.

"I was honoured to be asked to speak at the Southport and Ormskirk Law Society annual dinner in November in my capacity as BID chair," he said.

"It was a brilliant evening but it was very strange because I had attended that event as a member of Fletchers around 20 times over the years and looked at some of the amazing speakers - I never thought I would be one of them.

"I talked a lot about the importance of Southport to Fletchers but also how personally invested I am in the town and why I am proud to be BID chair. I've lived in the town longer than I have lived in Liverpool (where he grew up). I met my wife here, raised my family in the town."

Fletchers was founded as a small high street personal injury and criminal negligence firm in 1987. Today it operates nationally with bases in Liverpool, Manchester, Bolton, Leeds and other locations.

Dan trained as an accountant in Liverpool with Deloitte and, after working for a number of small accountancy practices in the city, joined Fletchers in Southport in 1996.

By 2000 he had been appointed as the firm's finance director. After a decade in that role he became director of technology, then director of operations and now director of mergers and acquisitions integration. And given Fletchers' M&A ambitions that is a key role in the business.

"While Fletchers has grown massively, and continues to do so, we very much remain committed to Southport - this is our founding office," explained Dan.

"One of the things I remain proud of is that we are still one of the biggest employers in Southport. Out of our 1,000-plus colleagues around 400 of them would call Southport their base office. We have a hybrid model so people aren't always in the office.

"Our commitment to Southport is not just in name. We continue to recruit locally for teams that are Southport-based. We are very much invested in local people by offering legal apprenticeships here."

Fletchers' corporate social responsibility arm engages with organisations across Southport, and it supports local charities as well as operating its own charity, the Fletchers Foundation, which was founded two years ago.

Dan is passionate that Fletchers plays an active role, and supports local businesses and the wider economy. He said: "Our partnership team attends BID events to make sure we get involved in supporting local businesses.

"Membership of Southport BID is one of the ways we ensure we focus resources here in Southport. It gives us a reason to stay anchored to our roots.

"In my capacity as BID chair I am there because I work for a levy-payer. Myself and the other board members always have to balance that. We are on the BID board to represent the levy-members and not the businesses we work for."

Southport, he adds, is a town "in transition". And he talks about bumps in the road such as the currently closed Southport Pier, which needs significant investment to reopen.

The town is now "beyond green shoots and is starting to blossom" he insists. And there is plenty of evidence to back up that assertion.

Investment has gone into the north end of Southport with money now also going into the other end of Lord Street in ventures such as the Garrick and the new Wetherspoons Hotel. Work will also get under way this year on the construction of the new £73m Southport Marine Lake Events Centre.

Dan is excited by the potential of these facilities. He explained: "That is our new paradigm now. We are not anchored into buildings and locations in the way we were pre-pandemic. You can start to see business people thinking in a different way about how they operate.

"A lot of micro-businesses have appeared in Southport. Seeing that happen feels like a real change. Diversification will come from individual entrepreneurs.

"Fletchers is always looking at ways to support local businesses. We have a wealth of knowledge and experience in this business and we want to share it. Southport's success is Fletchers' success and vice-versa."

Rachel Fitzgerald
Chief Executive Officer
Southport Business Improvement District

LLS Golf Day

Enjoy a day of golfing, networking and camaraderie with fellow professionals.

Bookings will close at noon on THURSDAY, 22ND MAY 2025 so don't delay, book today!

Date: Wednesday, 25th June 2025

Time: Tee Times start from 11am

Location: Heswall Golf Club

Address: Cottage Lane, Gayton, Wirral, CH60 8PB



Event Highlights:

1. **Tournament:** The day will feature an exciting golf tournament at Heswall Golf Club, a championship course with breathtaking views across the Dee Estuary. The course provides the perfect challenge for golfers of all abilities.

2. **Prizes:** Prizes will be awarded for various categories, including Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Team Winner and the overall Tournament Winner. Who might wrestle the trophy from the existing holders The Keith Jones Partnership?

3. **Networking:** It's not just about golf! This event will provide a wonderful opportunity to network and socialise with fellow members. Forge new friendships, catch up with old ones, and enjoy the company of like-minded individuals.

4. **Dinner & Awards Ceremony:** After the tournament, we will gather for a delicious dinner and an awards ceremony to recognise the tournament winners and share memorable moments from the day.

Entry Fee:

£500 + vat per Team of 4.

The entry fee includes light refreshments on arrival, green fees and evening dinner.

Registration Details

To book a team, go online to <https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/events/2025-golf-tournament/>

We look forward to welcoming you to the Liverpool Law Society Golf Day and making it a memorable experience for everyone.

Following the success of the inaugural golf tournament in 2024, we can't wait to see you on the green this year!

Teams to date include:

- Bermans
- Clio
- Donoghue Solicitors
- High Court Enforcement Group
- Irwin Mitchell
- Landmark
- Oriel Chambers
- Quality PI
- The Keith Jones Partnership – current cup holders!



Headline sponsor



Liverpool Law Society
GOLF TOURNAMENT 2025

25 JUNE - 11AM ONWARDS

£500 + vat
for a team of 4

waiting list in
operation
for individuals

REGISTER NOW



Heswall Golf Club

Hole sponsors

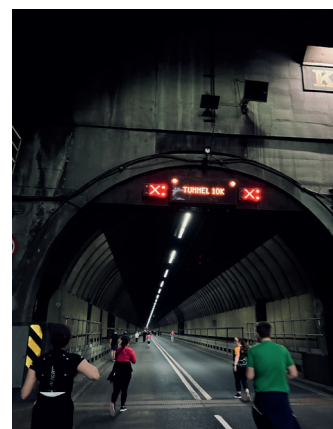
Excello Law

Landmark.
Information

Q
QUALITY PI



A Past President writes...



I felt fantastic at the end of the race.

I'm hoping this will be the first of more races this year as I step up my training and try to improve my overall fitness.

At a recent Past Presidents meeting PP Steve Cornforth thought at 77 years I was the oldest Past President to have completed this run.

Norman Jones,
Past President LLS

It was a bright sunny spring Sunday morning 9.30 13th April 2025. I set off on the Mersey Tunnel 10K run. My first race in almost two years after picking up a back injury 2023.

The last time I ran this race was back in 2019. The




field that year was 2201 runners. I came in 2124.

I took a couple of pictures on the way. The first on entering the tunnel, the second my favourite number (9K) at this stage of the 10K race and after reaching the finish line in New Brighton. My last picture is my tee shirt and a fabulous medal.

This year I completed the run in 1 hour 31 minutes, 11 minutes slower than 6 years ago. No excuses. My field position was 1939 out of 1951.

The only consolation those behind me were all younger.

It was an amazing day and




Listening books
Registered Charity number 264221

We are a UK charity providing a fantastic selection of high-quality audiobooks to some 50,000 people across the UK who find it difficult or impossible to read due to an illness, disability, learning or mental health difficulty. We charge a membership fee to only half of our members- those who feel they can make some contribution and that is heavily subsidised. The other half need to be fully funded. Listening Books receives no central government funding whatsoever and very little local government funding. The reality is that Listening Books simply could not survive without the generous support of sponsors and the active co-operation of publishers.

Whether you have already written your will or are thinking about writing one in the near future, we ask that you consider leaving a legacy to Listening Books. Your legacy will make a vital difference to the lives of our members for years to come.

CALL US NOW
on 020 7407 9417
or email us at:
bdee@listening-books.org.uk



www.listening-books.org.uk/Legacies
12 Lant Street, London SE1 1QH

THE SOLICITORS' CHARITY.

Supporting you, since 1858



Over the past year, three times more solicitors have turned to The Solicitors' Charity for help. Financial pressures, workplace stress, and personal challenges are affecting legal professionals across the UK.

Now, we're asking for your input to shape a new initiative – Firm Friends – that will ensure law firms can start to play a vital role in supporting their colleagues and the profession as a whole.

What is Firm Friends?

Firm Friends is the working title for a proposed membership programme designed to unite law firms in support of solicitor wellbeing. By joining, firms will

contribute to a long-term solution that ensures solicitors facing hardship receive the assistance they need.

We want to hear from legal professionals to make sure Firm Friends delivers real value – to firms, the profession, and those who need help the most.

Have your say

This short survey will help us understand:

- How firms view charitable giving in the legal sector
- What role firms see for a sector-wide membership programme
- The best ways to encourage participation and engagement

Your input will directly shape the structure and benefits of Firm Friends, ensuring it meets the needs of law firms while delivering lasting impact for solicitors.

Who should take part?

The survey takes just 5 minutes to complete, and we would like to hear from solicitors in England and Wales. Plus, as a thank-you, the first 50 respondents of fully completed surveys will receive a £25 Amazon voucher. Please click the link below to complete the survey.

[Take part in the survey today](#)

Photo Gallery: Past Presidents' Lunch

Images by Ray Farley

President's mid-term report to Past Presidents

On Friday 11 April president of Liverpool Law Society, James Mannouch, was guest of honour at the Past Presidents' Lunch held at the Raquet Club.

Steve Cornforth, president in 2011-2012,

was chair of the lunch, and said "*Past Presidents had travelled far and wide to attend the lunch.*"

Those attending this year were **Alistair Fletcher, Glenys Hunt, Norman Jones, John Leith, Alison Lobb, Barrie Marsh, Timothy Marshall, Richard McCullagh, Jeremy Myers, Peter Rhodes, David Swaffield,**

Gaynor Williams and Steven Zdolyny.

An excellent lunch was provided by the catering team at the Raquet Club followed by a comprehensive report by our guest of honour on the state of health of the Society.

The photo album of this year's lunch is available to view here <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjC8WSG>





Digital Forensics Experts

Our world-class experts have extensive technical expertise and experience acting on complex and sensitive matters, holding industry-recognised certifications and expert witness accreditation. Coupled with our broad suite of the latest forensic tools, our deep expertise allows us to offer forensic capability in the following areas:

- Forensic evidence preservation and advanced data recovery techniques
- Deep forensic analysis of digital evidence including:
 - Computer forensics
 - Mobile phone forensics
 - Cloud and social media forensics
- Complex analysis including:
 - Determining the authenticity, provenance, and attribution of files and user activity
 - Advanced communications analysis for chat applications, including encrypted third-party applications
- eDiscovery and data analytics

Our experts act for individuals and corporations in a range of jurisdictions and industries, acting in both expert witness and expert adviser capacities, to assist our clients and the courts in matters such as:

- Corporate and commercial disputes, such as IP theft, employee misconduct and breach of contract
- White-collar crime, such as fraud, insider trading, and bribery
- Reputation management, such as defamation, libel and other related private disputes
- Criminal defence, uncovering overlooked evidence to ensure the validity of conclusions
- Post-data breach liability claims, including data analytics, liability and damage assessment



Amy Francis

Director, Digital Forensics

Amy Francis leads the Digital Forensics practice at S-RM and acts as an expert witness

in high-profile digital forensics investigations. She has been instructed as an expert in civil and criminal proceedings, and has testified on complex issues including the authenticity and provenance of documents, and the attribution of fraudulent activity. Recently, Amy was instructed as an expert in the high-profile Wirecard fraud matter, where she testified in Singapore earlier this year. Amy also advises legal teams and executives on investigative strategy for internal investigations, and provides expert advisory and investigation services to HNWI and other private clients for litigation and private investigations. She holds multiple GIAC certifications and a BA in Physics from the University of Oxford.



Ryan Shields

Senior Associate,
Digital Forensics

Ryan Shields is a digital forensics expert at S-RM, specialising

in expert witness work in complex civil and criminal defence cases. He has expertise in performing digital investigations involving document falsification and evidence tampering, fraud, cyber incidents, and a range of bespoke and sensitive private matters. Ryan acted as an expert in a multi-million-dollar unfair prejudice petition, and helped secure a court order in a business email compromise matter following the fraudulent transfer of monies. He also acted as an expert advisor for the defence in the Wirecard fraud case in Singapore. Ryan holds a BEng (Hons) in Digital Forensics and an MSc in Cyber Security and has attained industry-leading certifications.



DFsupport@s-rminform.com



+44 (0)20 3763 9595

Find out more: www.s-rminform.com/digital-forensics

A fundamentally dishonest claimant

Summary

This case concerns a fundamentally dishonest claimant. The judge held that the experts in the case were reliant on self-reporting by the claimant, who the judge found to be wholly unreliable, as to the extent to which the alleged injuries suffered had impacted her life.

Learning points

Learning points for experts:

- The medical and psychological experts in a personal injury case will often need to rely largely on the self-report of the claimant,
- If an expert's report is built on a false factual basis (e.g. the client is found to be wholly unreliable), the expert evidence can be rejected
- Consequently, the credibility of the injured person is of central importance.

Learning points for instructing parties:

- The rule determined by the Supreme Court on uncontroverted evidence in *Tui v Griffiths* does not apply in certain circumstances. Seven circumstances are cited in the judgment including where the report is founded on a false basis.

The case

The claimant was seeking damages for soft tissue and psychological injuries she claimed to have suffered while a passenger in 3 separate car accidents between 2015 and 2016. She also claimed to have suffered tinnitus as a result of the second and third accidents.

Expert evidence in general

The judge noted that these types of soft tissue and psychological injuries are rarely susceptible to objective proof, and that a medical expert must instead rely almost exclusively on examination and the history provided by the apparently injured party. As **Mr Justice Martin Spenser** had noted in *Molodi v CVMS* [2018] EWHC 1288 (QB) if the history is not materially accurate, then the medical opinion expressed must be unreliable.

Key to any history is the impact of the injury on the person's life, with an injury that prevents or limits pursuit of a loved pastime likely to be seen as more serious than one that does not. Therefore, the judge noted, the credibility of the apparently injured person is

of central importance. The judge noted that the factors referred to by **Mr Justice Spenser** in *Molodi* as likely to be present in a genuine claim, concern credibility, including: seeking medical assistance and acting in accordance with medical advice.

The expert evidence in the case

The claimant instructed **Mr Farhan**, who dealt with shoulder and back issues, and **Dr Whittington**, who dealt with the psychological injury. She also saw experts in tinnitus and rheumatology, and a pain consultant.

Mr Farham found some generalised restriction of the claimant's cervical spine and, based on the claimant's accounts of the psychological impact, referred to her a psychologist after concluding that the psychological reactions to the accident overshadowed her physical injuries.

Dr Whittington diagnosed mixed anxiety and depressive disorder ('MADD'), body dysmorphic disorder ('BDD') and bulimia, attributing them to the accident. He relied on the claimant's account that before the accident she had *"attended the gym 6 times per week, twice daily and regularly competed in fitness events"* but after the accident *"she was unable to exercise"*.

The experts did not provide oral evidence.

The claimant's evidence

The claimant had held a number of roles in legal firms. In cross-examination, the claimant accepted that in her LinkedIn profile and CV she held herself out to be far more qualified than she actually was, leading her, the judge determined, to pre-emptively resign from a role ahead of a disciplinary meeting about her qualifications.

The judge determined that the claimant was *"a wholly unreliable witness who gave evidence without any regard for the truth guided only by what she perceived to be her own interests. She made things up when asked difficult questions and on occasion gave patently false answers."*

Documentary evidence

The court considered documentary evidence on the number of times the claimant accessed the gym after the accidents and Facebook posts showing that she had competed in

several strenuous runs and hikes in 2017 and 2018, which were inconsistent with the self-reporting of the impact of her life.

Findings of fact

The judge made several findings of fact including:

- The Claimant deliberately lied about her academic achievements on her CV and LinkedIn profile.
- She deliberately lied about her professional status.
- She made up a story about being effectively blackmailed by a witness in the case who she maintained had threatened to share an intimate video of the 2 of them with the Claimant's long-term boyfriend.
- She deliberately failed to give Dr Whittington the full story of her recovery from any injury sustained in the accidents by failing to mention the fact that she had completed an ascent of Ben Nevis and the Yorkshire 3 Peaks.
- The claimant is a generally dishonest person.

Tui v Griffiths

Counsel for the claimant submitted that the defendant's had to *"undermine the factual substratum of the claimant's uncontroverted evidence"* and that the points ought to have been raised in questions to experts.

The Supreme Court held in *Tui v Griffiths* [2023] UKSC 48 that generally, if a conclusion expressed in an expert report was to be challenged, the expert should be given an opportunity to respond to the challenge. However, this rule would not apply in certain circumstances including where the report is founded on a false basis.

The judge found that he was entitled to reject the expert evidence in this case because it was built on a false factual basis, i.e. the claimant's untrue history.

Findings in respect of injuries suffered

The judge dismissed all parts of each claim, rejecting the claimants account of the injuries in its entirety as the entire case was based on her credibility.

Sean Mosby,
EWI

[Link to the Judgment](#)

Top ten disadvantages of not using workflow in your practice



In today's fast-paced and competitive legal environment, you're reliant upon technology to streamline operations and maximise efficiency. One central element of legal technology is the use of workflow systems which automate routine actions to progress your matters in a more organised and effective manner with less human input.

Workflow software explained

Workflow functionality is a key part of case and practice management software. It's a way of automating how sequences of tasks in standard matters get done – using technology. The common workflow applications in law firms comprise:

- **Document automation:** Auto-creation of case-related letters, contracts and other paperwork via assistance of templates and precedents at the appropriate pre-defined workflow stage.
- **Task automation:** Auto-actioning of ordinary administrative duties from data entry when opening a new matter to billing at its completion, with auto-facilitation of tasks like document filing and time recording throughout.
- **Case management automation:** Auto-progression of matters including preparing for court, liaising with third parties, communicating with clients and tracking financials to keep cases moving.
- **Compliance automation:** Auto-documenting of tasks, auto-reminding of deadlines and auto-triggering of risk mitigation features, not least anti-money laundering checks, gives an accountability and compliance boost.

Adopting workflow technology significantly supercharges your law firm's overall output. Failing to implement such systems causes a range of issues that negatively impact your practice performance and client satisfaction.

Disadvantages outlined

To explore the disadvantages fully, here we set out the main drawbacks of not integrating workflow solutions to showcase how embracing technology is no longer optional but a critical factor in surviving and thriving in the modern legal landscape:

1. **Increased risk of human error.** Without automated workflows doing a lot of the heavy lifting in place of your people, there's a higher chance of

mistakes due to manual handling of tasks and duplicated data entry. Instead, rule-based logic launches a series of steps with a single point of data entry and limited human intervention.

2. **Inefficiency and wasted time.** Following on from #1, the absence of workflow means the presence of time-consuming manual processes, such as producing documents from scratch or repeatedly entering the same data, can reduce chargeable hours, restrict profitability and lower productivity. In contrast, automation assistance allows your lawyers to focus on client-facing and strategic activity, saving vast amounts of time along the way.
3. **Missed deadlines and important dates.** No automated reminders and tracking systems lead to your vital milestones being overlooked and deadlines forgotten, potentially causing delays in cases and damaging client relationships. Legal matters are extremely time sensitive and setbacks have serious consequences on their success (or otherwise!).
4. **Unpredictable client service.** Without a clear workflow, your clients experience irregular updates, matter hold ups (as per #3) and inconsistent levels of service, as tasks and communications are handled on an ad hoc basis, often late, with differing approaches. Each interaction with your practice should feel similar but this is far from assured when workflow's unavailable.
5. **Reduced visibility into case progress.** Similarly, without a structured workflow, it becomes difficult to monitor the status of your matters so there are problems regarding transparency, accountability and audit trailing. Conversely, real-time tracking and centralised information permits your internal teams to run optimally.
6. **Poor collaboration among team members.** Being devoid of workflow hinders communication and coordination between your employees and managers alike, so there's confusion, duplicated effort, missed tasks and fallen-behind cases. Whether your teams are on-site, remote or hybrid, they're empowered to collaborate seamlessly with workflow, particularly beneficial with cases involving multiple contributors.
7. **Inability to scale.** As your practice grows, managing a rising volume of

cases manually becomes unsustainable, restraining your ability to take on more clients. When workflow's utilised, more cases can be accepted and managed with the same headcount, so your earnings go up but your overheads don't.

8. **Heavier operational costs.** Manual procedures require more clerical and secretarial staff who necessitate greater operational expenditure in terms of time, resources and salaries which impacts your revenue. Rather, workflow performs administrative tasks on your behalf, so staff concentrate on business-critical duties and you don't need new recruits.
9. **Hampered performance, measurement and decision making.** Without the help of workflows, you struggle to collect meaningful performance-related data, making it harder to pinpoint current performance, identify areas for improvement and plan ahead for future success. Workflow, however, enables smarter decisions to drive your business continually forward.
10. **Elevated compliance and other risks.** Non-workflow governance of cases, documents, clients and data impedes conformity with regulations, for example accounting rules, practising and standards requirements, data protection laws and wider enforcements, thereby resulting in investigation, sanctions or reputational harm. With compliance support tools provided by workflow, stay ahead of regulations and keep your business out of regulatory hot water.

Workflow options made clear




It's good to know that workflow functionality is readily available in your marketplace. Discover some of the best workflow platforms at www.jayvaglobal.com/about-us/our-partners. You may even find your existing software contains workflow features you weren't previously aware of and aren't yet using.

Jayva can help by optimising the technology you already own or subscribe to, as well as choosing and implementing new software packed with sophisticated workflow capabilities. Read about what we do at www.jayvaglobal.com/services and master workflow technology with Jayva right by your side.

Dedicated consultants and trainers for the law sector

Empowering legal professionals to harness technology, invest in their people and streamline processes for transformational client service outcomes.

Get in touch

-  www.jayvaglobal.com
-  info@jayvaglobal.com
-  0333 20 20 995

Our services



Project management



Client trust accounting consultancy



Training



Power BI consultancy



Legal accounting consultancy



About Jayva

- + Legal sector experts
- + Launched in 2014
- + Offices in 6 countries
- + Client success centric
- + Global support 24/6
- + Gold Xero & Elite QuickBooks advisors
- + LEAP consultancy

EDI Committee Meeting – March 2025

With March containing International Women's Day, our speaker this month was Amy Blakeman (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/amyblakemanhr/>) whose profession focuses on supporting professionals to apply menstrual cycle-based strategies that boost workplace performance and personal well-being.

We were fortunate enough to get her as a speaker due to the connections of our Chair; as Amy is a former DWF employee, as she worked in HR at DWF for about 6 years, having been in HR for over 16. Amy has worked in both the public and private sector and now works in the renewable energy sector. Amy became a qualified coach four or five years ago, and found her niche focusing on Menstrual Cycle Coaching. She advised that we all have different cycles and they can change month to month, and her focus is on helping women learn about their cycles in order to both boost their well-being and increase workplace productivity, and to work with their cycle to boost confidence and well-being.

She explained that there is more to the menstrual cycle than just the fertility aspect; it impacts your energy, your muscles, your emotions and your cognitive function – both in positive and negative ways dependant upon what point of your cycle you are in.

In her opinion, the main issue with discussion of this matter is to demystify and to basically make it more acceptable to discuss; not something people wince at hearing any more. We need to change the narrative; rather than focusing on the negative aspects, focusing on understanding your ebbs and flows at each phase of your cycle, and utilising the positive aspects to increase your confidence, well-being and productivity. We need to work with our hormones, not against them, and be kinder to ourselves.

An example on how this can assist in the workplace is that one phase of your cycle provides the most cognitive benefit; so this would be a period of time for more in-depth, complex tasks. Another period may provide a higher energy level, enabling you to interact

with people more easily; so this could be a week for networking, presentations, increased office attendance etc. Whereas there will be other phases when you will have less energy; both physically and socially, so these would be times best for more working from home, solo tasks etc. These are not 'bad' phases, they are just different from the others.

The most important thing to come out of this discussion is the importance of raising awareness, and rather than menstruation being a topic of dread or disgust, something to be hidden away and not discussed, we need to empower women and enable them to be more open, to allow for shared knowledge and increased understanding. The importance of training (especially at the management level) cannot be understated.

After Amy's insightful talk, the Committee moved on to discussing what our respective firms did to celebrate International Women's Day. I myself expressed that I wore the colour representing this awareness day (purple) for the entire week, as well as being involved in the preparation in the office for Weightmans celebrating the Day; providing baked goods (both a purple sheet cake and vegan cookies!) for my colleagues to enjoy whilst we watched an interesting and thought-provoking video of an interview between Weightmans Trainee Solicitor **Eve Burns** and incoming Managing Partner **Sarah Walton**. CEL advised that they participated in The Brilliant Breakfast 2025 (<https://events.kingstrust.org.uk/event/brilliant-breakfast/home>) for The Kings Trust, with the money raised going to give young women the support they need to get back on their feet and into work. CEL themselves arranged for senior staff to speak with their younger female staff to share their knowledge and experience, with the possibility of some reverse mentoring.

In respect of the issue of menstruation, CEL had also previously held an ingenious event to raise the issue of period poverty, by having a bake sale, whereby the 'currency' was menstrual products (which they thereafter donated to The Whitechapel Centre). The entire committee was very much impressed with this unique concept.

At Carpenters, **Emma** advised that their Menopause and Menstruation Policy had been finalised, and **Amy Blakeman** assured that there was no requirement for these matters to be dealt with separately, and in fact in her opinion Carpenters are 'ahead of the game' in producing a policy that mentions menstruation. Hopefully, this will be the catalyst for other firms to consider implementing a similar policy.

Lauren Cannon summarised the International Women's Day event organised by Liverpool Law Society, which was well attended and well-received, with a variety of speakers, and included discussion with regards upskilling being a key part of trying to break down barriers. The hope is to encourage and ensure men in the profession are also aware that such events are open to them as well, as they would equally benefit from the information imparted therein. Any ideas regarding encouraging men in the profession to attend and get involved in such events would be greatly appreciated by this Committee.

The North West Men's Legal wellbeing Group had their most recent meeting on Tuesday 25 March with the subject "Stress – Good Stress vs Bad Stress". It was a good session with a good range of opinions. It was also good to have some attendees from Manchester for the first time which demonstrates the groups continued growth. Next session will be on "Resentment".

In respect of upcoming events, we discussed the Legal Talent and Leadership Conference in May, and the Liverpool Legal Walk on Thursday 2nd October.

With regards other relevant dates from this month, I highlighted Neurodiversity Celebration Week (<https://www.neurodiversityweek.com>) which took place between 17th and 23rd, and International Transgender Day of Visibility on 31st.

Amy Rachel Planche
Solicitor



Resolve Legal Solutions

Investigating with Precision. Delivering with Integrity.

Karl Starkey, Director info@resolvelegalsolutions.com

Tel: 0151 640 0928 www.resolvelegalsolutions.com

Mob: 07775 430 403

We work with many Liverpool based Law Firms in several areas of law providing our services in:

- Investigations
- Statement Drafting
- Process Serving
- People & Asset Tracing
- Surveillance
- Due Diligence
- Background Reports
- Specialist Forensic Services



TRANSLATE HIVE

Providing seamless, accurate and court approved translation and interpretation services.

customer.services@translatehive.com

[0845 505 9961](tel:08455059961)





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



Shannon and Joe

Big congratulations are in order for two members of our fantastic Housing team. **Joe** recently learned that he's passed his SQE 1 (Solicitor's Qualifying Exam). He's been hard at work studying for the past few months in preparation, and we're all so proud that his hard work and dedication have paid off!

In further good news, **Shannon** was successful in achieving funding through the Social Welfare Solicitors Qualification Fund (SWSQF) to undertake her SQE as well!

This same fund allowed Joe to undertake the exam, and provides a route to a career as a solicitor for those working in the Social Welfare and Legal Aid sector.

We're so proud of both of our trainee solicitors and committed to supporting

the next generation of Social Welfare Solicitors.

Esther's Case Success

Our fantastic Justice First Fellow **Esther Sills'** work with one of our client's was recently shared by Garden Court North's blog due to the complicated nature of the case.

The client was a vulnerable refugee, who had recently been granted status, and had nowhere else to go. She was originally refused interim accommodation by Halton council while she was being assessed, as they deemed her non-priority need, which the client disputed. Following this decision, urgent judicial review proceedings were issued, as well as an interim injunction requiring the council to accommodate the client for the duration of the claim.

The article goes on to say :
"Reviewing the application on the papers, the Court neither granted nor refused the application for interim relief, but instead scheduled an oral hearing to take place in three weeks. This would have left M street homeless for a significant amount of time before the issue came before the Court."

Alexander drafted an urgent application to set aside the order which listed the oral hearing under CPR 3.3(5)(a) – and to require a same-day hearing to consider the application for relief."

Thankfully, this was granted, ensuring the client was not made street homeless, and in the interim time, they were able to find themselves a long-term housing solution. You can read the full article [here](#).

Well done to both **Esther** and **Tom** for all of their hard work on behalf of their client!

Strategy Day

Earlier in the year, our staff and trustees came together for a productive strategy and AGM day, focused on regrouping and planning for the future.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Matt Howgate** for expertly facilitating our strategy day and to The Legal Education Foundation for their generous funding, which makes our work possible.

We left the day with a renewed sense of purpose and unwavering dedication to fighting poverty and injustice. Our team discussed the significant challenges faced by a charity dependent on funding to amplify the



voices of local communities through legal challenges, advocacy, and support. None of this work would be possible without the support of local communities and partner organisations that share our commitment to challenging discrimination, poverty, racism, and fascism. We all agreed that, now more than ever, it is crucial to stand up and be vocal against the government's attacks on disabled people, refugees, vulnerable migrants, and working-class communities.

Student presentations

We spoke in our last article about our Student Volunteers and their placement with us here, one day a week for, the last nine months. After the conclusion of this placement, the students were tasked with delivering a presentation about some of the issues that our client's face, and the students' understanding of this, and the wider legal issues they face.

We heard from **Sean, Amy, Jack, and Harry** on Welfare Rights issues as

'Access to Benefits in Merseyside: Legal Rights and Challenges'. We also heard from **Gerarda and Hannah** (Pictured below with Ngaryan and Sam) about issues that affect those who have recently been granted refugee status in *'The Silent Crisis... Asylum, The Beginning of the Struggle'*.

They showed true understanding of the issues that VLC aims to tackle, and a great understanding of how our Law Centre functions. Additionally, they produced some interesting and insightful visions for a fairer legal future.

We'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to them for their time, and all of their hard work helping the centre. We're so proud of all the work they put into our service, and grateful for the passion and support they gifted us.

Can you help Vauxhall Law Centre?

We would be grateful if you could support our organisation's work by [making a donation towards our charity](#), helping us to continue providing access to justice to those who need it most. As a charity, we are reliant on funding and donations. Without this, we would not be able to meet the increasingly high level of demand on our services.

[Further information can be found on our website.](#)

Alternatively, if you think you or your company can support our work at VCLIC, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are looking for volunteers with skills in a wide range of areas such as Financial Management, HR, Technology, Fundraising, and Advice. If you have any skills and would like to get on board with us, please drop us a line at recruitment@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk

Please consider using volunteering as a means to meet some of your company's Corporate Social Responsibility commitments and support the local community.



Sam, Gerarda, Hannah and Ngaryan

Regulation Update

May 2025

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

At the time of writing, it's been a fairly quiet month in the world of risk and compliance (which could just be the lull before the storm!), but we do have some news to bring you in our monthly round-up of developments and updates from the regulatory sector, and an overview of recent disciplinary decisions.

LSAG guidance approved by HM Treasury

Approval has finally been received from HM Treasury to the updated Legal Sector Affinity Group (LSAG) AML compliance guidance, effective from 23 April. The April 2025 LSAG guidance replaces the March 2023 guidance and the December 2023 addendum.

A full list of the changes can be found within the Schedule of amendments at pages 221 - 228. Amendments include:

- information on the applicability of the Economic Crime Levy for firms with an annual turnover of more than £10.2 million
- updated guidance on the receipt of Third Party Source of Funds contributions
- the introduction of a new high-risk third country definition
- details on the requirement for Overseas Entities wishing to buy, sell or transfer property or land in

the UK to register with Companies House.

At the date of writing, the SRA website had not been updated, but the 2025 guidance was on the Law Society of Scotland website [AML guidance for legal sector updated | Law Society of Scotland](#).

Reporting your firm's diversity data

All SRA-regulated firms have to collect, report and publish data about the diversity make-up of the firm every two years, and the biannual collection of diversity data by the SRA will be carried out this summer. The date will be published on SRA Update and firms will have 4 weeks to complete the report, and there are apparently no significant changes to the questions asked in 2023. The SRA has updated the information on the website, including the questionnaire, Q&As. [SRA | Reporting your firm's diversity data | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#). As well as reporting diversity data, there are questions about plans for publishing a summary of the data.

Legal Ombudsman seeks rise of over £2m in budget

On the basis that levels of demand for its services cannot be met, LeO is seeking a budget increase of over 11%, stating that 'persistently high demand was a clear indicator that consumers are being 'let down', with poor complaints handling by firms and issues with the quality and tone of responses'. If approved, LeO says this would allow an increase in investigator resources and reduction in waiting times. The present backlog of cases to be allocated is similar to that of last July. If the Legal Services Board approves the budget, it would mean an increase of almost £5m since 2022. LeO had previously suggested a case fee increase from £400 to £800 but is not progressing that proposal pending further consultation.

Legal Services Board report criticises regulators

In its recent regulatory performance

assessment, the LSB has 'serious concerns' about the SRA following the issues surrounding Axiom Ince and SSB, deeming its operational delivery as 'insufficient' for authorisation, supervision and enforcement, and raised concerns about communication and accountability between the Board and senior executives. The LSB's independent review into the SRA's handling of SSB is still awaited. In addition, the report comments on the SRA's failure to publish information relating to SQE training providers. The report also criticises the Bar Standards Board for taking too long to authorise.

New practice notes and guidance

SRA guidance/news

The SRA has published the following since our previous update:

- The SRA approach to SLAPPs (strategic litigation against public participation) cases: [SRA | Our approach to SLAPPs cases | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)
- A new "failure to prevent fraud" offence coming into force in September: [SRA | SRA Update 138 prevent fraud crime | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)
- Can cryptocurrency be used as payment for legal services: [SRA | Compliance with the regulations and preventing money laundering Q&A | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)
- Understanding your continuing competence requirements: [SRA | Understanding your continuing competence requirements | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)

Law Society practice notes

- Cloud computing: [Cloud computing | The Law Society](#)
- Implementing whistleblowing arrangements: [Implementing whistleblowing arrangements | The Law Society](#)
- Raising concerns and whistleblowing: guidance for staff: [Raising concerns and whistleblowing: guidance for staff | The Law Society](#)

Disciplinary and regulatory decisions

A number of decisions and judgments have been reported since our last publication, including:

Fines for not complying with AML regulations

A firm which undertakes significant conveyancing work was fined more than £36000 for failing to conduct client and matter risk assessments from February 2019 to November 2024.

Another firm was fined £25,000 in a regulatory settlement agreement with the SRA for failing to obtain adequate evidence of source of funds or source of wealth, failing to conduct EDD when acting for a non-domestic politically exposed person (PEP), and their associated companies in 36 matters.

Suspended for not disclosing conflict

A solicitor who acted for a property

development company which failed and did not disclose to buyers and investors that his wife and two of the firm's staff were directors of the development company has been suspended for 6 months and ordered to pay costs of over £40,000. He claimed he was not aware his wife was a director and denied acting without independence, a defence the SDT found to be 'fundamentally flawed'. He was found to have acted without integrity and shown a lack of insight into his regulatory obligations.

Suspended for allowing client account to be used as banking facility

A law firm owner who allowed the client account to be used as a banking facility for over £30m over a period of 3 years for one client, has been suspended for 12 months with an indefinite restriction order on his practising certificate preventing him from practising as a sole practitioner, a freelance solicitor, a solicitor in an unregulated organisation, being

a compliance officer or holding client money and being a signatory on any client account.

Rebuked for holding dormant client funds

Three former directors of a firm now in administration have been rebuked for holding over £350,000 in client account with no activity for over 3 years. They were found to have failed to ensure that client money was returned promptly once there was no proper reason to hold it.

How Compli can help...

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

Andrea Cohen

Compli,
Weightmans LLP


AMANDA AZZOPARDI™
AESTHETICS



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT HOW YOU WANT TO AGE?

Are you looking tired? Do you have bags under your eyes? Is your face starting to sag? Take control of your ageing journey today.

At Amanda Azzopardi Aesthetics, we believe in empowering you to take control of your ageing journey and creating true confidence from within.

Amanda Azzopardi is an ANP / INP with over 25 years in the medical aesthetics industry including 11 years as a midwife.

WE OFFER A RANGE OF TREATMENTS, INCLUDING:

SKIN

- 3D skin analysis
- Acne, rosacea, spider veins & sun damage
- Mole & skin tag removal
- Resurfacing peels
- Radiofrequency Microneedling

FACE

- Facial Volume Restoration
- Facetite / Jawtite
- Sagging Jowls - Threads
- Anti-wrinkle and filler injections
- Laser treatments
- Crepey skin - Profhilo / Polynucleotides
- Sculptra - face and neck

BODY WELLNESS

- Bodytite for sagging arms, knees,
- Thighs & abdomen
- Intimate vaginal rejuvenation
- Cellulite & body tightening
- Pelvic floor treatments for Stress urinary incontinence

Our treatments all commence with a complimentary medical consultation to assess suitability for treatment.



BEFORE



AFTER



BOOK YOUR COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION BY SCANNING THE QR CODE TODAY



Tel: 0151 558 0742
Email: contact@amandaazzopardi.co.uk
www.amandaazzopardi.co.uk

Charity Spotlight: Love, Jasmine^x



Jasmine Lapsley



Love, Jasmine was founded in September 2016 by two bereaved parents, Rob and Kathy Lapsley following the death of their 6-year-old daughter, Jasmine in August 2014. The loss of Jasmine unfortunately gave them an insight into what services were available to bereaved families in the Merseyside area and the organisation was initially established with the intention of providing peer group support for bereaved parents and siblings because at that time there wasn't any available in the area and this was something that they felt needed addressing. The support that the charity provides is love from Jasmine and they support families bereaved by the loss of a child of any age (from 20 weeks pregnancy) including families who have lost an adult child. As well as supporting bereaved parents, the charity also now supports families whose child has been given a terminal diagnosis.

From the outset Love, Jasmine has tried to create a support service that meets the needs of bereaved families.

Their vision is that *bereaved families should get the support that they need, when they need it*, for as long as they need it. This vision is fundamental to who they are and everything that they try to do to support bereaved families. The support that each family needs is as unique as the child that they have lost and over the years they have tried to provide families with the support that they weren't able to access elsewhere.

The families that Love, Jasmine support are dealing with the most unimaginable grief and many go on to develop mental health conditions because of the grief and trauma that they have experienced. Bereaved parents are also more at risk from suicide and developing physical health conditions than non-bereaved parents, so it's important to the charity that families get support as soon as they need it.

Everybody deals with grief differently and the charity understands this. Some family members prefer being in a one-on-one environment as they

seek to understand how to better manage their grief and trauma, whereas others prefer to talk to others who have walked the same path as them. This is why their emotional support is varied and includes one to one therapy for both adults and children, one to one peer support, couples counselling, peer groups





and trauma therapy. Many of the counsellors that work with Love, Jasmine are themselves bereaved parents who accessed the charity's services when they sadly lost their child. Love, Jasmine then supported them through their training. It is important to the charity that bereaved families are able to connect with those who are there to help them and having bereaved parents as counsellors is an important part of that.

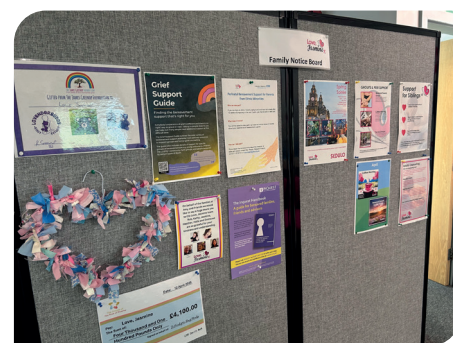
Most of the charity's activities take place at their Wavertree office, although families who can't get there can access therapy remotely using zoom or telephone. More recently the charity began offering hypnotherapy to family members who needed help dealing with specific issues such as lack of sleep.

Their practical help includes signposting to other organisations to ensure that they get appropriate legal advice or help accessing benefits. As well as signposting, the charity provide transport to families to ensure that they can get to their appointments if they're unable to get to Love, Jasmine themselves. This can be for different reasons such as financial difficulties; mobility issues and where remote support wouldn't be appropriate. Each year Love, Jasmine raises money to help families

who are in financial distress and help them with emergency purchases for essential items.

Love, Jasmine recognises the importance of promoting self-care as way of reducing stress and anxiety relating to the loss of a child and offer families access to relaxation therapies, yoga and meditation classes.

Collaborating with other charities is important to Love, Jasmine and this helps to ensure families get the support that they need. They help provide emotional support to families who use Zoe's Place and also to Amy and Friends who are a charity that support families whose children have



rare DNA repair disorders. They have also recently begun a bereavement counselling pilot project with Tiny Tickers who support families whose baby has a congenital heart disease.

Love, Jasmine don't receive any government funding and therefore rely heavily on the local community getting involved in fundraising to help support their work. People can get involved by following the charity on social media to learn more about the charity's own fundraising efforts. Instagram [lovejasminesupport](https://www.instagram.com/lovejasminesupport) and Facebook [LoveJasmineSupport](https://www.facebook.com/LoveJasmineSupport). The charity would love to hear from you if you're taking part in a challenge and are looking to support a charity at the same time or if your organisation is looking to work with a charity as a 'Charity of the Year'.

Families can refer themselves via the charity's website www.lovejasmine.org.uk, by phoning 0151 459 4779, or by texting or whatsapping 07566 225 253.



Forthcoming Courses

DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
09/05/2025	Trial advocacy for solicitors	Mike Winston
13/05/2025	Civil Litigation Update	Andrew McLoughlin
13/05/2025	Personal Injury Update	Andrew McLoughlin
14/05/2025	Private Client Conference in conjunction with STEP Liverpool & Professional Liverpool	Various
16/05/2025	Ogden tables and future losses	Mike Winston
21/06/2025	Legal Talent & Leadership Conference 2025	Various
10/06/2025	Adverse Possession and other Boundary Issues	Richard Snape
17/06/2025	The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor	Vicky Ling
18/06/2025	Tricky issues arising in constructive dismissals	Jolene Charalambous
19/06/2025	Identity Verification at Companies House - the key points	Jackie Sheldon
25/06/2025	Restrictive and Positive Covenants in Freehold Land	Richard Snape
02/07/2025	Introduction to Private Client	Rebecca Roscoe
08/07/2025	Divorce and Financial Orders Certificate	Safda Mahmood
14/07/2025	Sexual harassment and the New Worker Protection (amendment to Equality Act 2010) – what do risk assessments look like?	Amy Smith
09/09/2025	Introduction to Trusts	Rebecca Roscoe
10/09/2025	Private Child Law Conference	Various

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

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

ONLINE & HYBRID events are recorded, so if you can't make the date/time, no problem!
Booking onto any of our online or hybrid events means you will receive a link to access a recording

Civil Litigation Update

with Andrew McLoughlin

'Live' online, 13th May, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Where to begin! A 3-hour course you cannot afford to miss. The landscape continues to change at some pace following the introduction of FRC to procedure and 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? Register to receive access to the recording

For more information, [click here](#)

Personal Injury Update

with Andrew McLoughlin

'Live' Online, 13th May, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

This online course will provide practitioners with updated knowledge in the field of personal injury law and practice.

Topics covered include:

- Fundamental Dishonesty - review of the last 12 months' cases
- Qualified one-way cost shifting - proposed changes
- Road Traffic Accident claims - a case review
- Part 36 - its impact on personal injury in the last 12 months
- Occupiers Liability - an update
- Employers Liability - some recent cases
- Official Injury Claim Portal - pitfalls and solutions

For more information, [click here](#)

The Ogden tables and claims for future losses

with Mike Winston

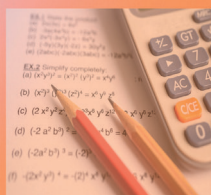
Friday 16th May, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Venue: St Johns Buildings Chambers, 38 Vernon Street, Liverpool, L2 2AY.

This course takes delegates from the absolute basics through all the major calculations required in a PI claim including more advanced uses of the Ogden tables including calculating bereavement and dependency awards in fatal accident and disease claims.

What you will learn:

- The new discount rate - what does that mean tactically?
- Introduction to the 8th edition of the Ogden tables
- Multiplicands and multipliers
- Discounting for early receipt and mortality
- Calculating losses for life
- Calculating losses to a fixed age
- Using the reduction factor tables
- Calculating loss of earnings
- Challenging evidential assumptions
- Using Conner v Bradman in disability claims
- Evidential uncertainty - is Blamire appropriate?



& more...

For more information, [click here](#)

LEGAL TALENT & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: THE PEOPLE PERSPECTIVE

21ST MAY 2025 | 9.30AM - 3PM
HYBRID - ATTEND IN-PERSON OR ONLINE

For anyone who currently is or is striving to create the best culture in their organization to attract & retain the best team. Suitable for Practice Managers, Managing Partners, Chief Legal Officers, Heads of HR & Innovation, & those with management responsibilities

People, and The Perfect Legal Business

Simon McCrum, MCCRUM LEGAL
Management Consultancy / The McCrum Academy

Breaking Down Barriers: Unlocking the Potential of Multigenerational Teams

Gemma Ellison, Heart Leadership

Embedding a good risk culture: a practical view

Calum MacClean, Miller Insurance

How Culture Drives Commercial Success - View from the Top: Can Culture Drive Commercial Success?

Lindsey Kidd, MD of HM3 Legal

The people bottom line: mental health matters

Elizabeth Rimmer, Lawcare

Breaking the Invisible Cage

Cat Williams, Building Your Confidence

How do YOU make a difference?


Keith Harper, Harper Professional, Management Development and Consultancy for Lawyers

Sponsored by

miller

BOOK
HERE





Adverse Possession and other Boundary Issues
 with Richard Snape

'Live' online, Tuesday 10th June, 11am - 12.30pm

This is an area which frequently causes problems for conveyancers. This online course aims to look at some of the issues and suggest solutions. It will also cover Land Registry issues in relation to plans.

Topics covered include:

- Adverse possession in registered land
- Adverse possession in unregistered land
- Factual possession and intention to possess.
- Rights of light and rights of support
- Flying freeholds
- Presumptions in relation to boundaries
- Party walls
- Access to Neighbouring Land Act 1982 and Party Walls Act 1996
- Case law



For more information, [click here](#)


The Complete Legal Aid Supervisor
 with Vicky Ling

Tuesday 17th June, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Venue: Liverpool City Centre


This is an in-person only event & is likely to be the only date we offer for 2025

Attending both parts will qualify a new supervisor who hasn't supervised before under Standard Contract Specification requirements for both the new Civil/Family Standard Contract 2024 and the Crime Standard Contracts 2022 and 2025. If you need to attend a course to qualify as a supervisor, this course is for you. It is also a useful refresher for experienced supervisors.

You will learn about:

- Latest developments in legal aid
- Relevant SQM and Lexcel provisions
- SRA Competence Statement requirements for supervision
- How supervisors qualify and maintain status, completing Supervisor forms
- The main types of legal aid audit, including Contract Manager visits and peer review
- Characteristics of good supervision
- What supervisors need to look for in file reviews
- An introduction to the inter-personal skills supervisors need; listening and feedback
- Different approaches to supervision
- Finding the time to supervise

For further information, [click here](#)


Restrictive and Positive Covenants in Freehold Land
 with Richard Snape

'Live' online, Wednesday 25th June, 1.30pm - 4.30pm


Both restrictive and positive covenants are frequently met: over 70% of all freehold titles being subject to the former.

This online course aims to look at the enforceability of such covenants. In addition, estate rent charges continue to be a major issue.

Topics covered include:

- Enforceability of restrictive covenants
- The consequences of the Supreme Court decision in *Alexander Devine v Housing Solutions*
- Interpretation of restrictive covenants
- The implications of the Court of Appeal decision in *Bath Rugby v Greenwood* 2021
- Enforceability of positive covenants
- Flying freeholds
- Estate rent charges in freehold land
- Implications of common hold
- Changes to Rent charges under the Leasehold and Freehold Reform Bill 2023-24

For more information, [click here](#)


Introduction to Private Client
 with Rebecca Roscoe

'Live' online, Wednesday 2nd July, 9.30am - 4.30pm


Level – introduction/basic

Are you new to Private Client or a practitioner returning to this area?

This online course is designed to give you an understanding of the day-to-day work of a Private Client practitioner, exploring the preparation of simple Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and straight forward estate administration. Using practical case studies the day will give you confidence when taking instructions, preparing documents and taking a case from start to finish.

What you will learn?

- Key elements of simple Wills including common pitfalls
- Signing Wills effectively
- Preparation of Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Dealing with a simple (non-taxable) estate administration



For more information, [click here](#)



Divorce & Financial Orders Certificate

with Safda Mahmood

'Live' online, Tuesday 8th July, 10am - 4pm

This online course will be of benefit to those delegates who seek to put the theory of family law into practice. It will be of assistance to those who are new to this area of law, and those who want a refresher.

The areas to be covered are:

- Domicile and Habitual Residence
- How Can a Marriage be ended? – Breakdown of Marriage
- Void and Voidable Marriages
- Law of Divorce
- Bars and use of Judicial Separation
- Divorce Procedure and On – line Divorce
- Public Funding in Family Cases
- Financial Orders
- Type of Order and Procedure
- Financial Order Procedure
- Criteria for Financial Orders
- Consent Orders
- Nuptial Agreements



For more information, [click here](#)



LLS ANYWHERE

SAVE UP TO 42% ON OUR
TRAINING EVENTS

HOW DO I SAVE UP TO 42% ON TRAINING?

Purchase Training Passport exclusive to LLS members

HOW LONG IS THE PASSPORT VALID FOR?

12 months from date of purchase

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Purchase 6/12/18 credits as required, from £450 +VAT. No limit on number of credits purchased. See website.

CONTINUING COMPETENCE

The cost effective solution for our members.

VALID FOR FACE-TO-FACE AND ONLINE EVENTS

Watch online events 'live' or view the recording.

SIGN UP NOW

[CLICK HERE](#) TO APPLY
ONLINE

TRAINING PASSPORT

OUR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Reach
—
2400
members of
the legal
profession



We offer sponsors



- AVENUES TO SHOWCASE THEIR PRODUCT ATTRIBUTES IN A TARGETED MARKET AREA.
- OPPORTUNITY TO CROSS BORDERS & SHARE COMMON VALUES.
- TO INTEGRATE YOUR PRODUCT OR SERVICE INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF LIVERPOOL LAW SOCIETY.
- POSITIVE PUBLICITY WHICH HELPS CREATE HEIGHTENED VISIBILITY OF PRODUCTS & SERVICES.

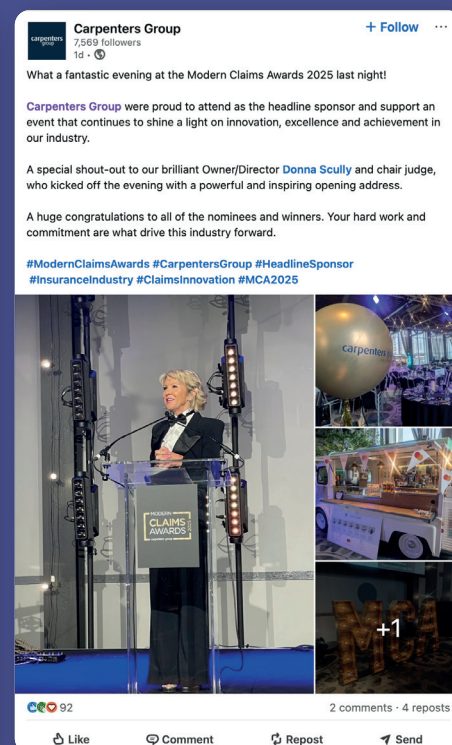
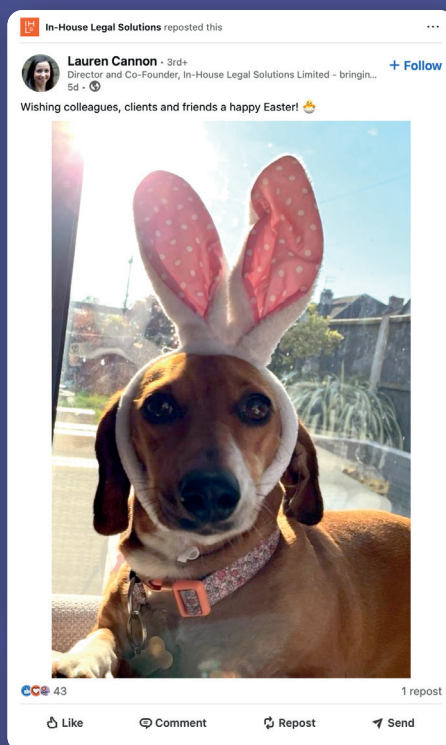
"Liverpool Law Society has always been a pleasure to work with. The team always go above and beyond to help sponsors achieve their objectives in supporting the Society, always keeping the members at the centre of everything they do."

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

ENQUIRE

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.



Liverpool Law Society is leaving 'X'

We have taken the decision to close our X accounts – the Society's own X account and the dedicated 'Liverpool Law e-magazine' account. Thank you for all your engagement over the years on X. We wish to prioritise those channels that our members and followers engage with us most. You can find us on LinkedIn and Instagram. We want to assure you that our commitment to providing relevant, informative posts will remain our top priority. Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this transition.

If you like our technology, you'll love our people

With 28 offices across England and Wales, X-Press Legal Services is the largest independent property search network and a trusted, friendly partner to hundreds of legal practices since 1998. Our local owners have an in-depth knowledge of their area and we provide a wrap-around service including residential & commercial searches, pre & post completion services, cyber security, compliance products and much more.



Client onboarding and sales progression platform



Pre-post completion conveyancing platform

- ID, AML and Proof of Funds checks
- Legal forms
- Land Registry submission
- SDLT submission



X-Press Legal Services®
Group

- Indemnity insurances
- Home buyer and seller protection
- Property searches and reports
- CPD training and webinar provider



Client direct payment facility

Law **Plain** and **Simple**

A little knowledge is a wonderful thing



The latest in legal compliance

To find out more, simply get in touch

T: 01925 393333 | E: hello@xpresslegaluk | xpresslegal.co.uk





LawCare

**How are you,
really?**

**Every day, we hear from
people across the legal
sector. We're here to listen.**

Call our helpline: 0800 279 6888

support@lawcare.org.uk

lawcare.org.uk