

June 2025

Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

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

Private Client Conference 2025



Full report and photos on pages 50-51



The last legal software your firm will ever need

The thought of switching practice management solutions might seem daunting. Do it right with Clio, and set your firm up for long-term success.

Trusted by
150,000
legal professionals

Recommended
by over
100
law societies
and associations

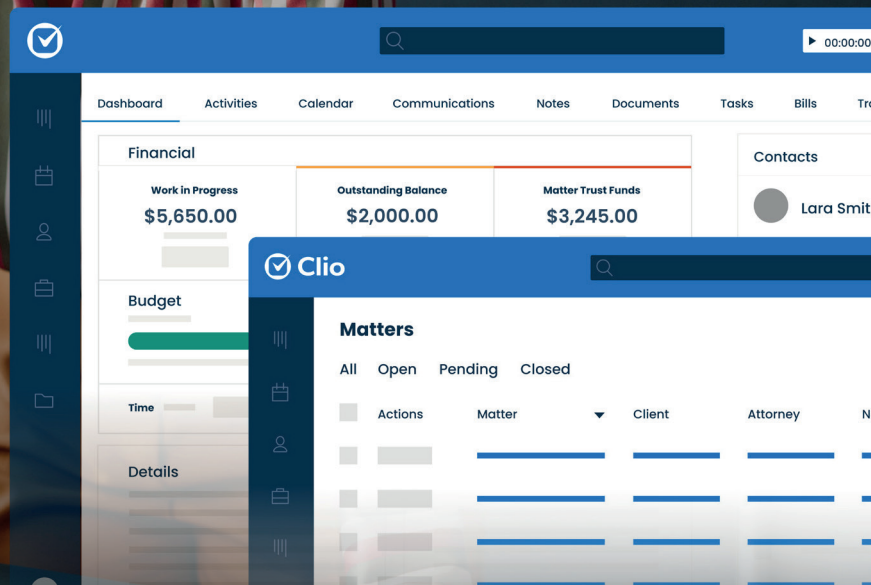


Easy setup
Free training
Award-winning
support

★★★★★ 4.7

Capterra, 2024

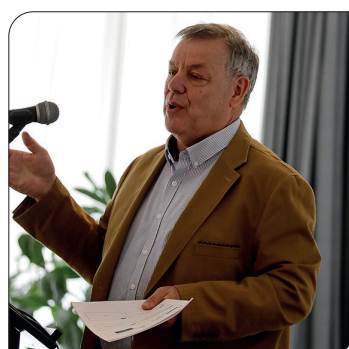
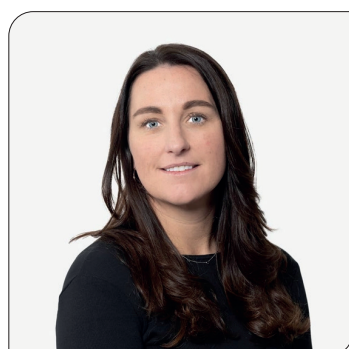
Trusted by 150,000 legal professionals and recommended by more than 100 law societies and associations, Clio is the industry's best and most comprehensive practice management solution.



Start your free trial or get a no-obligation demo and clio.com/uk

June 2025

CONTENTS



4	The latest from the Editor, Jennifer Powell
5	From the President
6	Bite-Sized Learning
7	LLS Meetings & events
7	Consultation Papers
8	Spotlight on: Kevin Donohughe
8	Council Member's Report
10	Leaders in Law: Tim Moulton
11	Client referrals via LLS
12	Paul Crowley & Co Expands Conveyancing
	Team Amid Surge in Demand
15	Specialist inquest and inquiry solicitor Emily Driver joins law firm Leigh Day's Liverpool office
17	Brabners Completes HQ overhaul with Liverpool refurbishment
18	Everton Unveils Hill Dickinson Stadium in Landmark Naming Rights Deal
19	Celebrating Strength, Unity, and Community
22	Leading UK Clinical Negligence lawyer joins JMW
23	Fletchers appoints Director of Business Development to drive strategic growth
24	Invitation: 'New Government - new hope for justice?'
25	Evidence Required: Court Centralisation Process
25	Navigating the UK's Evolving Job Market
27	'AI is transforming the legal profession'
28	Hair strand testing and the Public Law Outline process
29	Joint V
30	Chattel or family? Pets in divorce and separation
32	Acting as an expert in housing conditions claims – the future
34	Liverpool Chamber of Commerce
36	Merseyside Law Centre
38	Insights from an underwriter
40	Regulation Update
42	Merseyside Against Blood Cancers
43	How SME Law Firms can tackle the 2025 legal skills shortage
44	Detailed Assessment in Action
46	Forthcoming Courses
50	2025 Private Client Conference
52	2025 Public Child Law Conference
54	Social Media Highlights

Cover photo: Dan Bentley

DEADLINES

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)



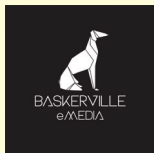
Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

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@baskervillemedia.co.uk



Editorial Committee Dates 2025

Meetings start at 01.00 pm.

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 June edition of Liverpool Law



I had a planned article this month to discuss the ongoing cyber attacks and how law firms are vulnerable to such. I planned to seamlessly link it to the cyber security course being offered by LLS on 16 September. I also planned to try and politically include reference to the now known Everton's Hill Dickinson stadium without stepping over the mark on football teams given the Liverpool victory parade.

But then the horrific incident happened after the parade and it is simply the only thing I think is right to discuss in my column. As the President quotes in his column- there is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do.

As the Editor of the magazine I have last review, usually the week after the submissions deadline when our publishers have done a wonderful job of piecing it altogether. This has meant on a few occasions now, especially during COVID, that some significant events can occur in between our deadlines and going 'live' as it were that may not feature in the magazine itself but simply cannot be overlooked. I don't believe it is within my gift as Editor to share my personal views on such things but I do believe I should address a significant and abhorrent event that will once again have shaken our City to the core and very likely have affected many of those in our membership. To not address it would be ignorant in my view.

What was and should have been remembered as a great day for Liverpool, whatever football team you support, took a drastic and life changing turn for many and one which, like the recent Southport attack, will not be forgotten. As a Mother I cannot even begin to imagine what the children and families experienced that afternoon, both those involved and those who just missed being injured, or even in the area at all. The videos alone were enough. It goes without saying that if you are affected by what happened and there is anything we can do here at LLS to support you then please reach out. There are also other agencies we are fortunate to have such as The Solicitors Charity and Lawcare which we can assist with if needed.

My thoughts are with all those affected by the incident and their families.

Many thanks

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

Welcome to new members

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new members who were approved for membership at May's General Committee meeting. There were 121 individuals from the following organisations: *Berkson Family Law, Carpenters, Coyne Learmonth, DPP Law, Dyne Solicitors, In-House Legal Solutions, MJP Solicitors, Morecrofts, MSB Solicitors, Nyland & Beattie, Peter Edwards Law, Phoenix Legal, SBW Law, Taylor Wessing*

Liverpool Law Society's membership now exceeds 2,365 individuals from 236 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

What *are* ethics? Do we ever really ask ourselves this question? Perhaps a more pertinent question is to ask, ‘what are *your* ethics?’ and ‘where did you obtain them?’ Potter Stewart, an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court for nearly a quarter of a century, described ethics as “*knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do.*” Potter was a lawyer, and he clearly understood the legal profession is one built on trust. He understood the difference between what could be done, and what should be done.

If I am being honest, I rarely consider my ethics. The reason? Well, ethics all seem a bit abstract don’t they and, besides, we have ‘conduct’ instead. Specifically, the “SRA Code of Conduct for Solicitors, RELs, RFLs and RSLs.” Having taught law in addition to practising it, I have witnessed the attitude of students towards the need to learn the professional conduct rules. Whilst most students understand the importance of conduct, some regard it as a *bolt-on* rather than a *built-in*, and it is the job of education providers to invert this point of view. Legal practice can often be lonely, and the conduct rules serve an invaluable friend. The Code states that “*They apply to conduct and behaviour relating to your practice, and comprise a framework for ethical and competent practice.*” So, there we have it, our professional ethics are bound up in the Code. This said, the Code is far less prescriptive than it used to be. I can remember the ‘purple’ edition which was like a satisfying paperback. It contained ‘Indicative Behaviours’ which I always considered to be a particularly good idea. If you were displaying these behaviours, the chances were that you were operating within the Rules. These days, the Code is far shorter than it used to be, which of course creates a need for greater interpretation. Does interpretation introduce greater subjectivity? Most likely - and I am not sure this is such a good thing.

The reason for all this musing is that since my last column, I had the pleasure of attending an LLS meeting to consider the Legal Services Board’s (LSB) proposed statement of policy for Upholding Professional Ethical Duties. The meeting was expertly chaired by **Mickaela Fox** (Chair of Liverpool Law Society’s Regulatory Committee), and a formal Response to the consultation was drafted by **Joshua Bates** of O’Connors. The Foreword to the consultation paper suggests the LSB desires “*a legal profession in which every lawyer has a deep understanding of their professional ethical duties and the confidence to uphold them effectively.*” Of course, wanting something and knowing how to achieve it are quite different things, and this is where the knowledge and expertise of LLS members is so vital. Liverpool Law Society formally responds to numerous government consultations each



year, and this function ensures our members’ views are heard at the appropriate level. Anyone wishing to contribute to the consultation process should consider co-option on to one of our Specialist Committees (<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/about/committees/specialist/>) and email committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

To other matters...

The month of May has been a busy time for the Society and I have needed to rely on other Officers stepping in to ensure the Society is represented at as many events as possible.

Vice President, **Sarah Mansfield**, was kind enough to attend the Leeds Law Society Dinner on 8 May. LLS reciprocates with members of the Joint V (Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, and Manchester) as well as our regional law societies (Chester & North Wales and Southport). These arrangements create opportunities to discuss issues affecting our respective memberships and are of great benefit. Sarah was also kind enough to Chair the meeting of the Joint V, held here in Liverpool on 20 May. The event was kindly hosted by Taylor Wessing at its Albert Dock offices and attendees worked through a very full Agenda. You can read more details inside this month’s edition.

From the President continued...

It has been a lighter month for me socially (welcome news for my waistline) but I did have the pleasure of attending the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment (CISI) annual dinner on 15 May, held at Oh Me Oh My. It was a lovely evening and a chance to meet individuals from another area of professional life that is very active in Liverpool, namely financial planning and investment. Lawyers frequently dovetail with CISI members, as demonstrated by the large number of delegates who attended the Society's Private Client Conference in May. This was a very well attended event, reflecting the expertise & value that is offered through our CPD training courses (<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/training-courses/>).

More excellent fayre was on offer at Leigh day's office drinks reception on 22 May, and I am grateful to **Kevin Johnson** and his team for hosting such a pleasant evening.

June is looking busy, and I would like to draw members' attention to the national Law Society 200 Year celebrations to be hosted here in Liverpool on Friday June 20th. There will be a daytime event to discuss Access to Justice (please keep an eye on our website for further details) followed by

a larger event to be held at Liverpool Town Hall the same evening. This is free to attend and can be booked via our website (<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/events/the-law-societys-200-year-celebration-liverpool-event/>).

I should also bring your attention to our Legal Services Roundtable with the Department for Business & Trade to be held at RSM's offices in Chapel Street. Attendees will hear how to Connect with a DfBT Local International Trade Adviser & Sector Advisor to obtain free exporting advice. They will also learn about the different Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) being negotiated internationally and what this means for law firms. To sign up, please visit our Events page (<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/events/legal-services-roundtable-with-the-department-for-business-and-trade/>).

I hope you can attend, and I will look forward to seeing you there.

James Mannouch

President

president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Bite-sized learning. Big-league insight.

Overview:

Liverpool Law Society are delighted to offer two informal, **discussion-driven lunchtime sessions** designed for employment lawyers. Each session focuses on a current hot topic or tricky issue in employment law, led by experienced barristers.

Key Features:

Format: 90 min sessions (12–1:30pm) with lunch provided

Style: Conversational; not lectures — encourages Q&A and real-life problem sharing

Led by: Practising employment law barristers from Nine Chambers

Topics: [Tricky Issues rising in constructive dismissals](#) and [Sexual Harassment and the New Worker Protection \(amendment to Equality Act 2010\)](#)

Cost: £35 per session (members)

For more info & to book, visit: [Employment Archives](#) | [Liverpool Law Society](#)

LLS Meetings & events – June/July 2025

Start Time	Meeting/Event
10/06/2025 12:30	General Committee
12/06/2025 13:00	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee
17/06/2025 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
18/06/2025 12:30	Legal Services Roundtable with the Department for Business and Trade
19/06/2025 13:00	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee
20/06/2025 18:00	The Law Society Bicentenary celebrations in Liverpool
24/06/2025 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
25/06/2025 11:00	2025 Golf Tournament
03/07/2025 13:00	In-House Lawyers Sub-Committee
08/07/2025 12:30	General 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-committee of Liverpool Law Society is considering responding to this consultation paper. 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	Criminal Legal Aid: Proposals for Solicitor Fee Scheme Reform	04.07.25

Spotlight on: Kevin Donoghue



Kevin Donoghue, the founder and Director of Donoghue Solicitors, has been elected as a Director of the Liverpool Law Society for 2025.

A specialist in civil litigation, Kevin grew up in Bootle and attended Savio High School. During his time there, he captained the school football team, leading them to an unbroken winning streak throughout his school years, securing the Sefton Cup annually.

Kevin's early upbringing, immersed in socialist values, fostered a desire to help people within his community navigate difficulties. His parents, Margy and Steve, regularly helped those locally in so many ways which was a positive grounding. Influenced by a distant relative in the legal field, he found the prospect of aiding victims and securing compensation for injustices to be both intrinsically and financially rewarding. As a lifelong Liverpool supporter, the Hillsborough disaster deeply affected his family and community, which fostered a keen interest in him to combat police injustices against the local community.

After completing his A-Levels, Kevin immediately embarked on his legal career as a clerk at David Philips & Partners and he welcomed the opportunity to serve his local community in Bootle.

His commitment was evident from the task given to him in his first week, which involved visiting Walton Prison to take a witness statement from a victim of sexual abuse. Unfazed by the challenge, he immersed himself in the firm, undertaking diverse tasks from reception duties to client consultations when colleagues were unavailable. Kevin consistently sought opportunities to gain further experience and was always keen to learn from others.

He spent a happy and successful ten years at DPP, diligently pursuing his ILEX (now CILEX) qualifications in the evenings. Opting against university due to financial considerations and a desire to avoid student loan debt, Kevin was supported by the firm, which recognised his dedication and financial contributions. They provided both financial assistance and time off for his studies. This backing enabled him to qualify as a Chartered Legal Executive in 2006. He then attended the College of Law (now the University of Law), qualifying as a Solicitor in 2007, the first at his firm to achieve this qualification through this route.

A pivotal moment arrived in 2009 when Kevin was offered a partnership in recognition of his dedication and the significant income he generated. However, he chose to establish his own practice. Having cultivated an extensive network of contacts, particularly in Bootle, he preferred the prospect of building his own firm rather than remaining a small part of a larger, national operation.

Setting up his practice was a challenging endeavour, coinciding with the birth of his first son, William, and the purchase of a new home with his wife Stephanie, which depleted most of their savings. Undeterred, Kevin started on a shoestring, initially transforming his family dining room into his office and managing every aspect of the business, from handling cases to sorting mail. Despite the less-than-ideal timing, he felt it was a "now or never" moment. Since

then, Donoghue Solicitors has become a highly respected and established firm in the region and beyond, dedicated to securing justice and compensation for its clients.

Kevin's future plans include continued growth for the firm and staying abreast of legal developments to drive positive change, particularly in Civil Law, his area of expertise. He is also committed to maintaining and supporting his staff, a dedication reflected in Donoghue Solicitors' impressive employee retention rates. He aims for steady, organic growth rather than rapid expansion driven by vanity. Kevin does not take himself too seriously, but takes his work very seriously.

Before his directorship, Kevin had a loose involvement with the Liverpool Law Society, attending training courses, being nominated for awards, and knowing previous Presidents through their practices. As a Director, his initial goals are to learn from his fellow board members and those serving on various committees to understand the Society's operations fully. This understanding will inform his strategic decisions on how best to contribute to and benefit the Liverpool Law Society in future years.

Outside of his professional life, Kevin maintains an active lifestyle. He regularly attends Liverpool home games, plays for a squash team, coaches an Under 13s boys' football team (his firm set up a new FA Club to help establish teams in his area), and is keen runner. With three sons—William (15), Philip (12), and Rupert (7)—all playing football, much of his free time is spent driving them to games or training sessions. He also enjoys playing football himself on Monday nights – he's still 'got it' (apparently).

We are delighted to welcome Kevin as a Director and wish him every success in his role this year.

Council Member's Report



Jeremy Myers

The latest meeting of the Council took place on Wednesday 07 May. It was three hours shorter than the usual length and accordingly there is much less to report. Attendance in person was lower. I made the point of being in London as I believe it is vital to engage personally whenever possible with Council Members and Staff of the Law Society (TLS).

The routine sets of reports and matters for Council to note were taken as read and questions were not raised. This enabled Council Members to progress to the first of the two key Agenda items of the day: Rule of Law. This was divided into two parts, each following the same path of break-out sessions and report back: International and UK (precise contents to be confidential), to help to guide TLS Strategy in the period 2025-28.

We split into allocated groups of about 20 people. The first topic was International Rule of Law. TLS staff took notes and a Council Member mediated each session. Our group's conversation covered mainly such

issues as TLS's links with other membership organisations of lawyers around the globe and the jeopardised position of jailed Russian lawyers.

The issue which took up most discussion was the position of English Solicitors in US law practices where those organisations have been subject to Executive Orders issued by the Trump Administration. This is a very live issue as I understand that there are about 100 such practices in England. I suggested that TLS could engage with the US Embassy.

The second topic was UK Rule of Law. The break-out group in particular covered topics such as delays in reaching Trial, access to Justice and the plight of vulnerable clients. There was also discussion about the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Convention, with it being noted that there are a range of options between no change and withdrawal from the Convention. The feedback session highlighted how other groups had identified modern slavery and the protection on in-house solicitors as key elements for the next 3-year Strategy.

The second part of the afternoon was the Husting for election of a Council member to become Deputy Vice President of TLS in October 2025 and so to be President in 2027. At the time of writing, the inline ballot remains open. As at 23 May, 74 Members of Council (out of 95) had voted with five days to go before the close. I cast my ballot the week after the Meeting after allowing a few days for final reflection.

Five members of Council comprised

the group of candidates. TLS had circulated to us for each candidate a Statement and a CV. Of course, we had each come to know the candidates personally through meetings and events. Introductory speeches and closing comments sandwich a set of pre-tabled questions from Council Members, to which each candidate responded. Topics of questions included the internal workings of TLS, its relationship with the SRA, Welsh jurisdictional issues, review of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination and Interest on Client Account funds.

My initial experience of this process as a first year Council member suggested to me that we do not make public our choices. The diverse group of candidates had much to offer with emphasis on certain points differing. The preferential system of visiting enabled some weight to be given to a second choice or to more. I marked a choice 1 and a choice 2 only. We await the result of the ballot.

To close, I mention to an issue which was raised at Liverpool Law Society's Access to Justice (ATJ) Committee: the difficulties encountered in using the HMCTS national call line which has replaced the line for each separate Court centre. I referred to TLS staff and accordingly the LLS ATJ Chair, Ian Townley, is now in direct contact with Richard Miller of TLS who leads lobbying on such issues.

I would always be happy to discuss non-confidential topics and to represent members' views as offered to me.

Jeremy Myers

Leaders in Law: Tim Moulton



Tim Moulton, Partner, Head of Clinical Negligence and Office Head for Liverpool. Currently on a 12-month secondment to Mergers & Acquisitions in the role of Head of Legal New Acquisitions.

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

No two days are ever the same, even more so since I have been seconded into the world of M&A.

I have been with Fletcher's for nearly 7 years now and it has been a real journey in lots of ways. The people are genuinely fantastic, and I take great pleasure in heading up our Liverpool Office since we opened in June 2022, which despite our hybrid working policy is regularly fully booked. As Office Head for Liverpool, I'm also responsible for driving the culture, mentoring teams, and aligning office operations with firm-wide goals. As Head of Clinical Negligence, I have worked on the strategy, performance, and growth of the Liverpool CN department—ensuring we deliver exceptional outcomes for clients while maintaining our high standards of care and professionalism. I have stepped away from this temporarily to my current secondment as Head of Legal Acquisitions, where I lead part of our M&A team, working directly with the

businesses Managing Directors, from the point of a deal being identified and struck, through to integration of new colleagues and cases that align with our vision for sustainable expansion. Across all these roles, my focus is on delivering authentic leadership and creating an inclusive, productive and enjoyable culture for everyone.

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

The most rewarding part of my role is seeing the tangible impact we make—both for clients who've suffered life-changing injuries, and for the staff we mentor and support as they grow in their careers. I have recently had an opportunity to work with an external advisory company, around our business reputation and that of the wider personal injury sector, which was really interesting and gave our leadership team some real food for thought about how we develop Fletcher's going forward. It's incredibly fulfilling to help shape the firm's future direction in this way and especially through acquisitions and strategic growth.

I think the more challenging aspects have until recently included balancing the diverse demands of each of the roles when I was completing all three. Managing operations, office leadership, and M&A simultaneously required constant prioritisation and mental agility. At times, that can be overwhelming—but I thrive on pace and purpose, so it has suited me well and I have found it a huge opportunity for personal and professional growth.

3. What do you see as your biggest challenges?

As the team grows, one of the biggest challenges I have found is remembering everyone's names every day is a school day on this given our rate of growth! However, it is nice to see new faces

and hear new ideas that arrive with the colleagues who have joined from external businesses.

I think the one that takes up most of my thoughts is scaling our Liverpool Office without losing the culture and care that have made us successful since we opened. As we expand—through acquisitions and organic growth—it's essential we maintain our standards, values, and client-first mindset. We all really look after each other in our offices and I wouldn't want that to fall by the wayside because working in the law can be tough. I heard someone at an external event recently talking about how "culture eats strategy" and that really resonated with me as a simple but effective way of remembering the importance of culture to the success of a business such as in the legal sector. At the leadership level, making space for strategic thinking amid day-to-day operations is an ongoing challenge, but one that I try and embrace whilst walking the dog!

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

I'm proud of our people and the lived culture we have created. I think it is very easy to talk about culture, but more difficult to deliver it and I think we are really doing that well at the moment.

We've built a team that combines technical excellence with genuine empathy for clients and even as we grow, we still provide the same opportunities for personal development and leadership that we did years ago. Given my many job titles, I feel like I am a real example of that and have firsthand experience of the great opportunities Fletcher's offers its employees. We have an incredible Partner and Associate program, and we take tangible pride in our investment into our people.

We are a business that likes to say ‘yes’ to new ideas, regardless of where they come from. We have embraced new ways working, are at the forefront of AI in the legal sector with a dedicated team of AI experts and continue to evolve through our value-added services such as our Early Rehab Team in Serious Injury Law, to our dedicated medico-legal teams in Medical Law Services. From a leadership perspective, I also take pride in seeing junior team members rise through the ranks, many of whom are now beginning to contribute to the shaping of the department themselves.

5. What are your immediate short-term goals?

My short-term points to focus on are:

- Support the business achieve its overarching strategic objectives.
- Successfully integrate recent acquisitions into our wider business while maintaining operational excellence and culture.
- Continue mentoring and developing our next generation of leaders within the clinical negligence teams.
- As well as this, I am keen for our

Liverpool office to further develop our involvement in Liverpool Law Society and community initiatives across the Liverpool and wider Merseyside region.

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

I joined Fletchers in 2018 and the firm is already unrecognisable from when I first arrived. The growth trajectory that we’re on is second to none and we’re actively expanding across the North of England, as well as growing our existing presence in the Liverpool region.

In ten years, I see us as an even more significant employer across Merseyside, affording opportunities to specialist legal colleagues in personal injury and clinical negligence and across the wider business functions such as finance and HR etc. I also believe our charitable organisation, Fletchers Foundation, will have grown exponentially which sees us providing grants to those who do not have a valid legal claim.

I believe we will be a national leader in claimant clinical negligence and

personal injury work—respected not just for our results, but for our ethics, innovation, and client care. I envision a larger, more diverse team with a strong footprint across multiple regions, unified by shared values. I also see us pushing boundaries—leveraging data, AI, and new technologies to enhance access to justice and streamlining how we work. Really exciting stuff!

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

When people talk to me about legacy or leadership, the **Maya Angelou** quote always springs to mind, *“people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel”*. I think this summarises it for me. I would like to be remembered as an authentic, curious and vulnerable leader and for people to want to lead in the same way. If I can remain true to this and at the same time deliver the businesses strategic objectives including developing our regional presence in Liverpool and the surrounding area, I’ll call that a win.

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

Paul Crowley & Co Expands Conveyancing Team Amid Surge in Demand



New and senior members of Paul Crowley & Co's Conveyancing team, Wayne Kadandara, Joanne Garnett, Nicola Stevenson (Associate), Jenna Gall (Director), and Nicola Duffy - brought in to help manage increased demand and support the firm's continued growth.

Paul Crowley & Co Solicitors is pleased to announce the expansion of its Conveyancing Department, driven by a marked increase in client instructions and a surge in referrals following recent award wins. The firm has welcomed three new team members—Nicola Duffy, Joanne Garnett, and Wayne Kadandara—who bring a wealth of experience and fresh energy to the department.

This strategic expansion reflects the firm's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of client service while managing a growing caseload. The influx of new instructions, particularly from estate agents and mortgage brokers, is a testament to the firm's reputation for excellence in residential property transactions.

"We're thrilled to welcome Nicola, Joanne, and Wayne to the team. Their arrival comes at a pivotal time as we continue to experience a sharp rise in demand for our conveyancing services. This growth is not only a reflection of our recent successes but

also of the trust that clients and industry professionals place in us. We're committed to delivering a seamless, client-focused service, and this expansion ensures we can continue to do just that," said Jenna Gall, Director and Head of Conveyancing.

The firm's recent accolades have played a key role in this upward trajectory. Recognition within the legal and property sectors has led to increased visibility and credibility, prompting a wave of new business opportunities. Estate agents and brokers are increasingly turning to Paul Crowley & Co as their preferred legal partner, confident in the firm's ability to deliver efficient and reliable conveyancing services.

In addition to strengthening the senior team, the expansion has enabled the firm to invest more time and resources into the development of its people. Conveyancing Assistant **Hayley King** has recently completed her training with distinction, and two other staff members are currently training to become licensed conveyancers—an achievement that

underscores the firm's dedication to professional development.

Associate **Nicola Stevenson** added: *"One of the most rewarding aspects of our restructuring is the opportunity it gives us to nurture talent from within. This renewed focus on training and mentorship ensures that the next generation of conveyancers is equipped with the required skills and knowledge to thrive. We're incredibly proud of Hayley's recent success and of two other staff currently in training. By investing in our people, we're not only strengthening our team today but also building the foundation for the future."*

The firm's approach to training is hands-on and collaborative, with senior staff actively involved in mentoring and guiding junior colleagues. This culture of support and continuous learning is central to Paul Crowley & Co's ethos and has been instrumental in maintaining high standards across the board.

As the property market continues to evolve, Paul Crowley & Co remains committed to adapting and growing in response to client needs. The expansion of the Conveyancing Department is just one example of how the firm is positioning itself for long-term success, while staying true to its core values of integrity, professionalism, and client care.

With a strengthened team, a growing client base, and a clear vision for the future, Paul Crowley & Co is poised to build on its momentum and continue setting the standard for conveyancing excellence across Liverpool and beyond.

As part of Paul Crowley & Co's continued growth, the firm is also currently expanding its Crime and Family operations and is recruiting solicitors in these areas.

For more information about Paul Crowley & Co and its services, please visit: paulcrowley.co.uk



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



Safeguard the Trust You've Built – One Breach is All it Takes

New 2024 Insight: 50% of UK businesses experienced a cyber attack last year, with average costs reaching £10,830 for larger firms. The total estimated cost of cybercrime to UK businesses in 2023 was £30.5 billion.

Why You Could Be at Risk:

- Law firms routinely handle sensitive information, making strong cybersecurity especially important.
 - SRA requires effective systems to protect against IT-related risks.
- A well-managed IT environment helps mitigate both reputational and financial risks.

How Taylored Solutions Can Help:

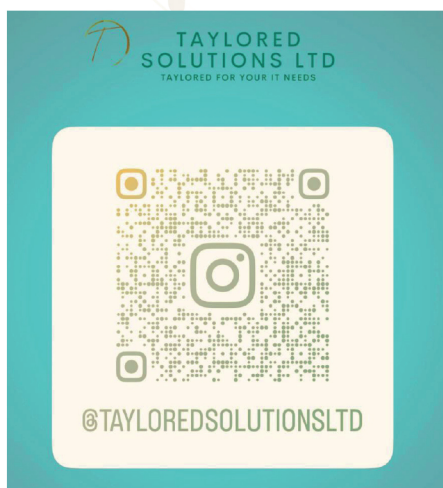
- Free external Cybersecurity Review to assess your IT risks.
- Guidance from a Virtual CTO aligned with legal compliance.
- Ongoing support to maintain your systems and client confidence.

Book Your Complimentary Cybersecurity Review – Limited June/July Appointments Available

Email: mail@tayloredolutionsltd.co.uk

Telephone: 0151 329 3989

Website: www.tayloredolutionsltd.co.uk



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

www.tayloredolutionsltd.co.uk

Keep an Older or Disabled Person Safer.



Cold calling is not illegal. However, any trader that ignores a sticker or notice on a door stating that the occupier does not wish to receive cold calls may be committing a criminal offence.

As a nationwide, live-in, home care provider since 1980 we decided to try and help prevent, where we could, an older or disabled person becoming a victim.

The above door sticker may be of interest to someone you know. These are free of charge and if you email to info@ablecommunitycare.com, we will be happy to send some for you to pass on. (since 2019 we have given out over 250,000).

We do not keep any individual details on a database, and we do not give information to other organisations. **We are happy for you to share this offer if you have a Facebook page or local newsletter.**

www.ablecommunitycare.com

Live-in, Care Provider, based in Norfolk but available everywhere.

Established 1980. T- **01603 764567**

Able Community Care, The Old Parish Rooms, Trowse, Norwich. NR14 8TZ

Specialist inquest and inquiry solicitor Emily Driver joins law firm Leigh Day's Liverpool office

Emily Driver, a solicitor specialising in inquests and public inquiries, has joined Leigh Day's human rights department as an Associate Solicitor and will be working in the firm's Liverpool office.

Emily has been a member of the legal teams representing families in statutory public inquiries including the Manchester Arena Inquiry and the Covid-19 Inquiry and has also supported families through inquests. Emily will work in the human rights team in our Liverpool office led by partner **Leanne Devine**. She will specialise in representing bereaved families where their loved one has died in circumstances involving public authorities, such as people who have died whilst detained under the Mental Health Act, in police custody, and in prison.

Emily is a member of Inquests Lawyers Group and a committee member of Young Legal Aid Lawyers. She was also shortlisted for the Rising Star Award at the Liverpool Law Society Awards in 2021.

Emily is the most recent member of Leigh Day's Liverpool office following the move to the Plaza as it continues its expansion in the region. Leigh Day's Liverpool office was granted a Legal Aid Contract for inquests and claims against public authorities in September 2024.

Emily said:
"I am delighted to be joining Leigh Day, who do incredibly important work representing victims and fighting against injustice."

"I very much look forward to joining Leanne

Devine's stellar team and helping them continue to go from strength to strength."

Leanne Devine, human rights partner at Leigh Day, said:

"I am sure that Emily will be a valuable asset to our team, and I am thrilled that we will be working together."

"Our team in Liverpool do vital work to support people in the region following the death of their loved one. Their loved one's death has very often occurred in tragic circumstances where Coroners and other bodies are conducting various investigations."

"With Emily on board we will be in an even stronger position to provide the support and representation to families when they need it the most."



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



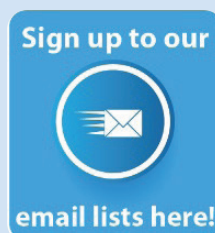
Not receiving emails from Liverpool Law Society?

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?



Brabners Completes HQ overhaul with Liverpool refurbishment



Purpose-led independent law firm Brabners has completed a major refurbishment of its 30,000sq ft Liverpool office at Horton House, within the city's iconic Grade II listed Exchange Flags building – marking the latest step in the firm's ongoing growth and evolution.

Designed by Incognito and delivered by Flexible Business Interiors, the newly transformed space reflects the firm's commitment to its clients, people and the wider Liverpool community.

The new office includes departmental 'neighbourhoods' designed to encourage collaboration and facilitate agile working practices, while also paying homage to Liverpool's rich maritime history through bespoke design features.

Completed with sustainability in mind, incorporating energy provisions, upcycled materials and high air quality performance, the new space is reflective of the business' position as one of the first law firms in the UK to become B Corp-certified.

To help minimise waste and ensure the maximum benefit to the local community, the firm has also donated furniture from its former fitout to local charities, including social regeneration charity Rotunda and Liverpool Homeless Football Club, while previous artwork has been auctioned to raise funds for The Brabners Foundation – the firm's independent grant-making charity. All other furniture

items were recycled or repurposed.

The move represents the final step in Brabners' overhaul of its offices following significant investment into its Manchester, Leeds and Lancashire spaces. This has been underpinned by a strong period of growth during which the firm has achieved record revenue figures and continued to expand its national and international client base.

Founded in Liverpool in 1815, Brabners remains deeply embedded in the city's growth strategy and support for local communities. The firm continues to play a central role in the regeneration of Liverpool's waterfront, including advising on the development of Everton FC's new Bramley-Moore Dock Stadium, due to open later this year. The firm is also sponsoring the World Boxing Championships, set to take place in the city this September, as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting local initiatives and championing the city on the global stage.

Through The Brabners Foundation, the firm continues to provide critical support to a range of Liverpool-based charities and grassroots organisations.

The firm also continues to grow its True North network, which now comprises more than 450 purpose-led organisations and business leaders from across Liverpool and the wider North. True North was established by Brabners to unite the region's most influential, purpose-driven voices and to shape and unlock its true economic potential.

Nik White, Managing Partner at Brabners, said: *"Liverpool has been Brabners' home for more than 200 years, and the city's distinctive ethos – a unique blend of innovation, creativity and community – remains at the heart of everything we do. As we continue to invest in our office base across the North, we're pleased to have retained the heritage of our long-standing home in the city while creating an inspiring new space for our talented team to collaborate and welcome clients.*

"In particular, it reflects our ambition to act as a force for good – creating not only a sustainable space but one that will help us to champion Liverpool and have a lasting impact in the communities we serve."

Howard Powsney, Director at Incognito, said: *"From day one, this project was about much more than maximising space – it was about supporting Brabners' values, culture and people. The Liverpool office reflects a firm that's forward-thinking, grounded in its community and ready for the future of work. Every design decision was made with purpose, from the layout and functionality down to the finishes and heritage-inspired theme.*

"It's also important to recognise how instrumental the Brabners facilities management team have been throughout this process – their insight, openness to collaboration and attention to detail played a vital role in helping us bring this vision to life."

Dave Barton, Project Manager at Flexible Business Interiors, added: *"This was a highly technical build, delivered within a live environment and across complex existing infrastructure. Our role was to make the design vision a reality while ensuring minimal disruption to the business. We're proud to have helped Brabners create a workplace that truly supports its people."*

For more information, visit: <https://www.brabners.com/>

Everton Unveils Hill Dickinson Stadium in Landmark Naming Rights Deal



Everton Football Club is proud to announce Hill Dickinson as the official naming rights partner for the Club's new stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock, in a long-term agreement that will see the iconic venue named the Hill Dickinson Stadium.

This transformational partnership represents one of the largest stadium naming rights deals in Europe. It brings together two Liverpool institutions, united by a global outlook, a deep commitment to the city of Liverpool, and a shared history that dates back to the very founding of Everton in 1878.

Founded in Liverpool in 1810, Hill Dickinson is a commercial law firm spanning 11 offices across the UK, Europe and Asia. Hill Dickinson's national and international growth has been underpinned by the hallmarks that also define Everton – with both organisations striving for excellence, supporting their local communities and delivering long-term positive impacts.

Set to officially open in August this year, the 52,888 capacity Hill Dickinson Stadium will be a new

home for Evertonians and a year-round destination for major sport, music, entertainment, business, and cultural events. As the centrepiece of the wider regeneration of North Liverpool, Hill Dickinson Stadium will deliver thousands of jobs, attract significant inward investment, and serve as a catalyst for long-term social and economic growth in the city.

Angus Kinnear, Chief Executive Officer of Everton, said: *"Welcoming Hill Dickinson as our naming rights partner is a bold and strategic step forward. This partnership goes beyond branding — it's a shared commitment to progress, excellence, and the regeneration of our city. Hill Dickinson Stadium will stand as a symbol of Everton's ambitions, our values, and the global future we are building together."*

The naming rights agreement with Hill Dickinson will create a shared legacy that extends beyond matchdays.

Hill Dickinson will work closely with Everton in the Community, helping to amplify the reach and impact of the Club's award-winning charitable programmes and its own Hill Dickinson Foundation across

Merseyside and beyond.

Craig Scott, CEO of Hill Dickinson, said: *"To put our name to Everton's new stadium is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. We believe deeply in what this project stands for - a bold, transformational vision for Liverpool and its future."*

"This partnership is about legacy, ambition, and the power of two globally recognised organisations coming together to make a difference."

"As Hill Dickinson continues to grow nationally across the UK and internationally, we remain proud of our Liverpool roots - and we are honoured to be part of one of the most exciting waterfront developments in Europe. It couldn't come at a more opportune time, with the deal providing the perfect platform to launch our new brand to a global audience."

Further announcements will be made in due course, including partnership community programmes, commercial activations, and milestone moments leading up to the opening of the Hill Dickinson Stadium.

Celebrating Strength, Unity, and Community: Maria Fogg Family Law at Savera UK's International Women's Day Event



On the 25th April 2025 Maria Fogg Family Law had the privilege of partnering again Savera UK's International Women's Day 2025 celebration at Liverpool's historic Adelphi Hotel. Themed 'Accelerate Action,' this powerful event reflected Savera UK's ongoing commitment to tackling culturally specific abuse and harmful practices while empowering women from all walks of life.

The evening was a true celebration of unity, inclusion, and community. Thoughtfully timed to follow the end of Ramadan, the event ensured that women of all backgrounds and faiths could fully participate — a clear and intentional move towards making space for every voice.

The programme included inspiring guest speakers, moving performances, and a vibrant selection of stalls from local service providers. However, one of the most impactful elements was a simple yet powerful installation titled "I Am Remarkable Because..." — a wall filled

with handwritten notes from attendees affirming their own strength, courage, and achievements. The messages ranged from surviving personal trauma, to uplifting others, to simply believing in their own worth — a collective testament to the resilience of women.

As we stood reading the wall, we couldn't help but reflect on the importance of this exercise. This installation invited every woman to pause, ask herself what makes

her remarkable, and to own her answer unapologetically.

Maria Fogg Family Law is proud to be a longstanding supporter of Savera UK. Our firm shares its values of justice, empowerment, and advocacy. Through our work in family law, we regularly support women escaping abuse and seeking legal protection, safety, and stability. Collaborating with an organisation like Savera UK — which provides holistic, community-based support — strengthens our collective ability to effect meaningful change.

It was especially meaningful to bring our children to this year's event. Witnessing such a strong sense of community and solidarity offered them a living lesson in empathy, inclusion, and courage — a chance to see the very best of what society can be when we stand together.

We left the event inspired, encouraged, and reaffirmed in our commitment to empowering women through the law and through community partnerships. Events like this are not only celebrations — they are calls to action.

Charlotte Fogg
Director of Development,
Maria Fogg Family Law



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



ADILA

Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

MEET THE JUDGES

We are proud to introduce the 2025 Legal Awards judging panel



District Judge John Baldwin

Civil, Costs, Business & Property Court Judge



Rachel Owen MBA

Chief Executive of Halton Chamber of Commerce



Professor Valsamis Mitsilegas

Dean of the School of Law and Social Justice at the University of Liverpool

[Read more about the judges](#)

Nominations for the 2025 Liverpool Law Society Legal Awards will open in early July and close early September

SPONSORED BY



Leading UK Clinical Negligence lawyer joins JMW



Beverley Jones Head of JMW Liverpool Sara Stanger partner Clinical Negligence Eddie Jones Head of JMW Clinical Negligence

Sara Stanger, well known for her handling of high-profile public inquiries, has joined full-service law firm JMW, where she will head up their new Liverpool-based Clinical Negligence team, an addition to the firm's existing teams in Manchester and London.

Sara brings to the firm more than 15 years' experience in high value, complex cases of Clinical Negligence and Personal Injury, and is accredited by the Law Society for her specialism in Clinical Negligence as well as holding Senior Litigator status with the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).

She has represented clients in a broad range of serious cases involving birth injuries, delays in diagnosis, surgical negligence, amputations, and fatal claims—securing millions of pounds in compensation.

Known for her compassionate approach to client care, she has acted for families in a wide variety of cases, including a high-profile Public Inquiry (the Thirlwall Inquiry involving the crimes of Lucy Letby) and assisted the bereaved families in the Southport dance school tragedy.

"These cases are incredibly sensitive and demanding, and I am passionate about ensuring that the families involved in such extraordinary circumstances receive the support and justice they deserve," says Sara.

"I am experienced in both the claimant and defendant sides of litigation and therefore able to offer a strategic and well-rounded perspective," she adds. *"I am absolutely delighted to join JMW, a law firm with a well-deserved reputation for excellence, and where I will continue my commitment to securing justice for those*

individuals and families affected by medical negligence."

The move to JMW sees a reunion between Sara and Head of the firm's Liverpool office, **Beverley Jones**, the pair first having worked together more than 15 years ago.

Beverley says: *"Our Liverpool base is well known for its award-winning work in family law, so it is a double bonus that not only are we joined by someone I have known and respected as a lawyer for many years, but also that through Sara's appointment we are now offering Clinical Negligence expertise to our clients."*

"She will now build her practice, and I have every expectation that Sara's high-profile reputation will attract some of the best legal talent out there."

Sara is consistently recognised in leading legal directories, being ranked by both Chambers and Partners, which notes *"Sara Stanger possesses a broad clinical negligence practice, with particular experience in obstetric injury and amputation cases, as well as fatal claims"* and The Legal 500, which describes her as *"superb"* and a *"first-rate litigator"*.

Sara says: *"JMW's holistic approach to its clients is something that I found particularly compelling, and I aim to be involved in the sterling work it does with the many charities it supports. I believe we're creating something very special here in Liverpool and I'm excited to be a part of it."*

Eddie Jones, head of Clinical Negligence at JMW, added: *"Sara has an excellent reputation for her Public Inquiry work and supporting the families involved. She is a great addition to the team and her appointment broadens the expertise of the department."*

Fletchers appoints Director of Business Development to drive strategic growth



Michelle Beat

Fletchers Group, one of the UK's leading personal injury and clinical negligence law firms, has appointed Michelle Beat as Director of Business Development.

Michelle joins Fletchers with over 25 years of experience in legal sector marketing and business development, most recently as Business Development Director at Irwin Mitchell. She has a proven track record of delivering client-focused growth strategies and building high-performing teams.

In her new role, Michelle will be instrumental in leading Fletchers' continued expansion - driving marketing strategy, establishing new partnerships, and strengthening the company's position as a market leader in serious injury and clinical negligence law.

Her appointment comes at a time of significant growth for Fletchers, which is pursuing an ambitious business strategy through acquisitions, strategic partnerships, ongoing investment in

its people, and the expansion of its UK network of offices.

"We're delighted to welcome Michelle to the team to support us through the next phase of growth," said Adrian Denson, Chief Legal Officer. "Attracting someone of Michelle's calibre underlines how far Fletchers has come over the past few years, and the strength of our reputation in the sector, which has enabled us to attract a raft of high performing individuals."

"Michelle's expertise in delivering impactful, sustainable business strategies and her deep understanding of client needs will be invaluable in helping us reach new milestones and deliver even greater value to those we represent."

During her time at Irwin Mitchell, Michelle led numerous successful initiatives to drive market growth, strengthen client relationships, and build strategic partnerships - contributing to significant revenue growth across a range of practice areas.

Commenting on her new role, Michelle said: *"I'm thrilled to join Fletchers, a business with such a strong reputation for legal excellence and client advocacy and I'm proud to join a team so deeply committed to helping clients rebuild their lives after serious life-changing injuries."*

"I look forward to working closely with Adey and the wider leadership team to build on Fletchers' success, and work towards their goal of ensuring that clients have the best possible life after injury. I am looking forward to collaborating with the team to strengthen our relationships within the legal and medical communities and expand our portfolio of partnerships with charities and other key organisations."

Fletchers continues to invest in talent and innovation to meet the evolving needs of clients affected by serious injury. Earlier this year, the company acquired North West personal injury firm Scott Rees, and recently announced the launch of a new office in Newcastle to better serve clients and partners in the North East.

Invitation: 'New Government - new hope for justice?'



Discussion event - Liverpool, Friday 20 June 2025

The Law Society of England and Wales is pleased to invite you to a discussion event, kindly hosted by Jackson Lees, on Friday 20 June 2025 from 12.00 - 2.30pm. This event is for members, and aspiring members, of the Law Society based in Liverpool and the surrounding areas.

Complimentary refreshments will be provided and there will be ample time to connect with your peers in a relaxed, informal setting.

We are delighted to be joined by colleagues from [Liverpool Law Society](#), National Law Society Council Members and other local stakeholders.

Date: Friday 20 June 2025

Time: 12.00 - 2.30pm

Details: In-person

Venue: Jackson Lees, 3rd Floor, Walker House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool L2 3YL

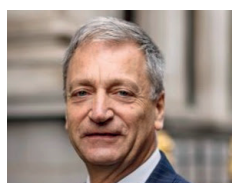
RSVP: Via this MS Form: forms.office.com/e/32RJkXQbwq

About the event

Join us for an engaging discussion on the Law Society's fight for access to justice and the latest developments in criminal and civil legal aid, the court modernisation programme, ongoing challenges in the justice system and what the future may hold for practitioners, including opportunities and the role of technology.

Our expert speakers

Richard Atkinson, President of the Law Society of England and Wales



Richard is the 180th president of the Law Society, a member of our Criminal Law Committee, and

is the managing partner at Tuckers Solicitors LLP. He specialises in criminal law, focusing on serious crime litigation,

and is a solicitor advocate who has appeared in several high-profile cases. Richard aspires to promote justice and the rule of law both in the UK and internationally.



Richard Miller, Head of Justice, the Law Society of England and Wales

Richard qualified as a solicitor in 1992 and worked for 8 years in a small high street legal aid firm in Kent. In 2000, he became the first full time director of the Legal Aid Practitioners Group, where he was responsible for preparing the Group's policy responses to a whole host of Government consultations on changes to the legal aid system. In 2007, he became Head of Legal Aid at the Law Society and Head of Justice in 2016. Richard and his team lead the Society's work in relation to criminal and civil legal aid, pro bono, advocacy and judicial diversity.

Our agenda

12.00 - 12.30

Arrival time, networking and light lunch and refreshments

12.30 - 12.35

Welcome remarks

12.35 - 12.45

Keynote address (Richard Atkinson, President of the Law Society)

12.45 - 13.05

Presentation 'New Government - new hope for justice?' (Richard Miller, Head of Justice, the Law Society)

13.05 - 13.55

Wider discussion with attendees

13.55 - 14.00

Closing remarks (*James Mannouch, President of Liverpool Law Society*)

14.00 - 14.30

Final networking and refreshments

As this is an in-person event only, spaces are limited and you are encouraged to [RSVP early](#) to avoid disappointment.

Last chance to book: Bicentenary celebration in Liverpool

Join us for an evening of discussion and celebration as we reflect on two centuries of supporting and representing solicitors.

As we mark 200 years of the Law Society, our bicentenary events are an opportunity to celebrate the historic impact of your region to the legal profession. This free event is open to all members, retired members and aspiring solicitors.

Find out more about our speakers, agenda for the evening and how to book on our [event page](#).

Friday 20 June, 6pm-9pm, Liverpool Townhall



Evidence Required: Court Centralisation Process

Liverpool Law Society's General Committee comprises 27 lawyers from a wide range of legal practice. One objective for Committee members is to identify issues affecting their respective practice area. This is particularly the case where an issue might have impacted a lawyer's ability to act in the best interests of their client or to ensure the effective administration of justice.

Court backlogs have long since been on the agenda of the Society's Civil Litigation Committee. The centralisation of court telephony has now become a prominent sub-issue.

On 8th April 2025, Operations Director for HMCTS **Daniel Flury** appeared before the Justice Committee with **Sarah Sackman KC** and commented:

"I am hoping the court users will recognise this one day: we are seeing, post-centralisation, a vast improvement in our telephones, from call waiting times to abandonment rates."

This statement appears inconsistent with the lived reality of our members. Feedback to the Society suggests that problems are manifesting themselves in several ways, including:

- The inability to connecting to an advisor within a reasonable time frame is driving additional time and costs. This additional cost comes under scrutiny and is often unrecovered.
- Advisors have not received the requisite training, or do not have information necessary to resolve a user's query, meaning repeat calls are necessary.
- Litigants in Person increasingly struggle to have their queries resolved first-time.

What we need?

Liverpool Law Society intends to lobby on the issue of centralisation of Court telephony. This is with a view to improving court services for the benefit of our members.

The Society requires qualitative evidence to enable it to effectively lobby. We are seeking details of your experience when dealing with the Court post-centralisation. We wish to understand the quality of the service you received and any flow-through issues it may have caused.

- It would be useful to have the following information:
- date and time of call
- length of wait
- brief reason for call (no court case number or other identifying information necessary) and
- whether the call was successful

Examples can be sent in the strictest of confidence to: committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

We would appreciate submissions before 5.00pm on Monday, 16 June 2025.

Navigating the UK's Evolving Job Market

The headline figures show ongoing resilience in the UK labour market despite economic pressure. The UK employment rate was estimated at 75% in January to March 2025. This is above estimates of a year ago but largely unchanged on the quarter. The UK unemployment rate was estimated at 4.5%, this is above estimates of a year ago, and up in the latest quarter.

The estimated number of vacancies in the UK fell by 42,000 on the quarter, to 761,000 in February to April 2025 – the 34th consecutive decline with quarterly falls seen in 13 out of the 18 industries. We are seeing employers across the board taking a cautious approach to recruitment with the Employment Rights Bill implementing a raft of new protection for

the workforce, including making unfair dismissal a day one right.

Annual growth in employees' average regular earnings excluding bonuses in Great Britain was 5.6% in January to March 2025, and annual growth in total earnings including bonuses was 5.5%. With the hike in employer National Insurance contributions we are seeing earnings plateau as employers seek to reduce costs. However there is some movement in the market as employees change employers to seek out higher wages. The recent fall in inflation perhaps offered the market some optimism, however, the fall is predicted to not last long and has been described as the calm before the storm. Labour

intensive industries such as hospitality, retail and manufacturing are likely to face the toughest challenges in such a volatile market. It is crucial for employers to keep up with the latest employment law developments and plan accordingly – including balancing protected characteristics following the Supreme Court decision on biological sex. Fostering a positive workplace culture and employee engagement, ensuring clear communication, and maintaining transparency are essential components for employers to stay ahead of the curve.



Joanne Frew,
Global Head of
Employment
& Pensions at DWF

LIVERPOOL LEGAL WALK

6PM, THURSDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2025

5k fundraising walk in aid of



THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOUNDATION

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

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



SUPPORTED BY

Liverpool Law Society

St John's Buildings

The University of Law

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

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

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

IN AID OF THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOUNDATION



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



[More info](#)

'AI is transforming the legal profession – but be informed and stay human' says The Solicitors' Charity Trustee and innovative tech lawyer



Rory O'Keeffe

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionising the legal sector, bringing major advances in efficiency and accessibility. But it also demands new levels of scrutiny, responsibility, and ethical oversight, says Rory O'Keeffe, AI and innovative tech lawyer, Founder of [RMOK Legal](#), and Trustee of [The Solicitors' Charity](#).

Reflecting on the fast-moving integration of AI into legal workflows, O'Keeffe highlights both opportunities and risks for professionals across the sector.

"AI is no longer a futuristic concept", he says. "It's here, it's in use, and it's reshaping how solicitors research, draft, and interact with clients".

AI-powered platforms now offer support ranging from clause suggestions in Word to first-draft case summaries that mirror the work of a junior lawyer.

"Time savings are the most obvious win", O'Keeffe notes. "AI can help firms work faster and more cost-effectively, but we must remain vigilant. These tools are still developing, and mistakes – like fabricated case law – can and do happen if we trust them blindly".

O'Keeffe also points to the growing role AI is playing in improving access to justice. Chatbots and automated tools now guide the public through tenancy disputes, employment rights and immigration queries, offering vital support for those who might not otherwise seek legal help.

"It's a win-win", he says. "The public get informed, and firms can triage cases more efficiently, directing time and expertise where it really counts".

Despite these benefits, O'Keeffe urges the profession to proceed with care. "Lawyers have a new duty, not just to use these tools, but to understand them", he explains.

"Knowing where your data goes, how your AI system works, and what biases may be embedded is now part of delivering safe, responsible legal services".

He adds that AI adoption is no longer limited to large firms. "Smaller practices, once priced out of legal tech, are catching up thanks to more accessible and scalable tools. The gap is narrowing, and that's exciting for the future of the profession".

However, he cautions against being swept up in hype. "The best advice? Treat AI's output like a junior lawyer's memo. It's a starting point, not a final answer".

The Solicitors' Charity, which supports the health and wellbeing of solicitors across England and Wales, is keen to ensure that lawyers are equipped to adapt to these changes while maintaining high standards of care, ethics, and professionalism.

"As the technology evolves, so must we", says O'Keeffe. "AI will never replace lawyers, but it will change what we do, how we do it, and how we deliver value. The key is to stay informed, stay engaged – and above all, stay human".

To learn more about The Solicitors' Charity and its work supporting solicitors in challenging times, visit www.thesolicitorscharity.org.

[Want to support The Solicitors' Charity?](#)

Rory O'Keeffe,
AI and innovative tech lawyer and
Trustee of The Solicitors' Charity.

.....

**THE
SOLICITORS'
CHARITY.**
Supporting you, since 1858

How hair strand testing supports the Public Law Outline (PLO) process

Central to many childcare proceedings is the use of forensic testing to determine patterns of drug or alcohol use by a parent. Public Law Outline (PLO) proceedings aim to resolve such cases swiftly, within a target timeframe of 26 weeks. The PLO model, which ultimately aims to keep cases out of court, was designed to put the child first and to support the Local Authority to keep children with their families, wherever possible.

FTS was set up 15 years ago solely to work on family law and child protection. We are trusted by over 50 Local Authorities and hundreds of solicitor firms across the UK to support children and families through the PLO process.

For something as important as a family court proceeding, you can't rely on the standard "off-the-shelf" lab drug test offered by many companies. With the PLO mandate to get things right from the outset, you can be confident that FTS's expert interpretation of all laboratory results will get you the right outcome for your case.

This is particularly important given that, in the PLO, pre-proceedings assessments must stand and are not to be repeated in care proceedings unless necessary and there are strong reasons to support this. Further assessments inevitably lead to a delay in welfare decisions being made for a child.

By becoming the instructed partner with the local authority, FTS's expert assessment of all available evidence enables the court to arrive at the right decision the first time, based on the "balance of probabilities" required by the court.

Expert interpretation removes uncertainty, which means that all parties in a case can rest assured that they get the right evidence required

in the pre-proceedings stage. It also means they avoid unnecessary delays or complications, such as disputed test results, later down the line. FTS is regularly instructed to review tests carried out by other companies, so instructing FTS's expert opinion from the outset helps avoid unnecessary and costly retesting.

Why choose FTS to support your case?

From a customer perspective, there is very little difference in the process of instructing an expert compared to ordering a test from a laboratory that uses cut-off levels. With FTS, you can instruct with just one telephone call. A dedicated Case Manager will advise you throughout the process.

FTS stands out in the forensic testing market for its commitment to accuracy, transparency, and client support. Unlike many other laboratories, FTS does not rely on arbitrary cut-off levels to report its findings. The UK High Court and Court of Appeal have both clearly stated that cut-offs are unsuitable for evidence in court, yet FTS is the only company who heeds this guidance. At FTS, every drug and alcohol toxicology result is thoroughly reviewed by experienced forensic experts who provide clear, actionable reports insights

Given the complexities of hair-strand analysis, relying solely on laboratory results without context is insufficient. Forensic experts provide critical insights by reviewing all available evidence, including test results, client histories, and environmental factors. This holistic approach ensures that findings reflect the reality of the individual's circumstances, helping local authorities and courts make informed decisions.

FTS leads the industry in expert interpretation, offering detailed reports that go beyond basic test results. By incorporating client questionnaires

and considering external factors, FTS ensures a comprehensive understanding of each case.

FTS also prioritises a secure and reliable chain of evidence. Using mobile clinics, samples are collected in sterile environments, ensuring the integrity of the evidence from collection to analysis. These mobile units enable quick sample collection, often within two days, with expert reports available in as little as 7-8 days.

Moreover, FTS's client questionnaires offer valuable context by exploring the individual's environment, lifestyle, and personal habits. This approach helps build trust with clients and ensures that social workers and legal professionals have all the necessary information to make sound decisions.

How FTS's Instruct an Expert service supports PLO:

- It is the only way to ensure the full facts of the case are known and reported on
- It reduces the time that care proceedings take to conclude
- It ensures the full evidential picture is gathered and interpreted from the outset, minimising the need for second opinions or retesting of disputed results
- Assessments carried out pre-proceedings are to stand as evidence in care proceedings and are not to be repeated, thereby reducing unnecessary costs and delays.

By providing accurate, comprehensive forensic toxicology and expert interpretation, FTS helps ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of children and their families. The PLO process is complex and emotionally charged, but with the right evidence and expert support, it is possible to achieve the right outcome the first time.

www.forensic-testing.co.uk

Statement of the Joint V Law Societies on the Legal Aid Agency Data Breach

21 May 2025



The Joint V Law Societies express deep concern at the recent data breach affecting the Legal Aid Agency, which may have compromised highly sensitive personal information of legal aid applicants and contracted firms. As we understand it, the breach may include details such as applicant financial information, previous convictions, allegations that did not result in a conviction, and sensitive information about domestic abuse in the case of family law applicants.

This breach represents not only a grave data protection failure but a potential threat to the safety and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable individuals in society. Many of those affected are already at risk and have come to the justice system for protection and support. The exposure of such personal and often traumatic information could have serious consequences for their privacy, security and mental health.

Our member practitioners working in legal aid have been significantly affected. The ongoing outage of the LAA's online portal has left them not knowing how to submit applications for legal aid

or to process claims for payment. A contingency plan has not been forthcoming and information as to how practitioners should continue working is scarce. For firms already working on the narrowest of margins, this interruption in work, and possibly in income places them at real risk of financial instability. These are firms whose commitment to access to justice sustains entire communities – their survival cannot be taken for granted.

Delays in processing legal aid applications also add further pressure to a court system already under strain. Hearings may be postponed, vulnerable clients left unrepresented, and justice delayed – or denied – for those who cannot proceed without public funding.

We call upon the Legal Aid Agency to:

- Urgently update practitioners with clear guidance on contingency arrangements for making legal aid applications, submitting bills, and applying for payments on account and interim payments;
- Commit to full transparency about the nature and extent of the data breach, including its impact on

clients and practitioners;

- Ensure the restoration of functionality for vital systems such as the online portal as soon as possible, and provide regular progress updates;
- Engage meaningfully with practitioners to understand the operational and financial consequences of the disruption, and to ensure appropriate mitigation and support.
- Reassure practitioners and applicants of the steps taken to ensure that a similar breach cannot occur in future.

Legal aid providers have consistently gone above and beyond to uphold access to justice in increasingly difficult circumstances. They – and their clients – deserve urgent action, honest communication, and robust support.

21st May 2025

Bristol Law Society Birmingham Law Society Leeds Law Society Liverpool Law Society Manchester Law Society

The views expressed in this statement are not necessarily the views of the individual members or directors of the Joint V Law Societies

Pets on divorce & separation

Chattel or family?



In the eyes of the law, pets are currently classified as chattels, grouping companion animals such as cats and dogs with inanimate items like furniture or cars. This is a description which sits uneasily with many pet owners who regard their animals as cherished family members.

This outdated legal concept is now being carefully considered, particularly during divorce or separation.

The Current Position

Under the current law of England and Wales, companion animals are treated as property within the family law dispute. Due to this, when a couple separates, or divorces, decisions around the ownership of any pets are handled just like the division of any other possessions.

The presiding Judge may consider who purchased the pet, whose name is on the microchip registration, who has paid for most of the pet's maintenance and who purchased the pet in the first instance. Sadly, the emotional bond between the pet and the human members of the family is often disregarded in proceedings.

The reality is that pets are sentient beings. Pets form emotional attachments

to their owners, and, in turn, the owners form emotional bonds with their pets. In some families, pets are regarded more like children, but the current legal system does not reflect this. It is worthy of note how many clients are horrified when they are advised that their beloved pet is simply a chattel, like their pots and pans.

How Pets are Treated in Separation

Many of you will have noticed the recent, seminal case of *FI v DO* [2024] EWFC 384. This was a case handled by my MSB Solicitors colleague, **Susie Packer**, involving financial remedies. Within this case, the District Judge, **District Judge Crisp**, considered the position of the family dog, who was apparently purchased by both parties.

Whilst the Judgment noted that "*the dog is a chattel*," the Court did consider the welfare of the dog to some degree. The Judge gave a view as to who had cared for the dog since the breakdown of the relationship and who was considered her care giver. This case highlights the careful balance the Judge had to make, given that pets are currently classified as chattels whilst also recognising the importance of the dog's wellbeing.

Following her involvement in the above case **Susie** said:

"Disputes relating to family pets are becoming increasingly common with many couples seeing dogs and pets alike as 'part of the family'. Throughout the course of this case, it became apparent that there is little legal framework relating to ownership of pets and how such 'chattels' should be distributed.

I am delighted that this case has received much needed attention, and we are now looking to take positive steps towards a more modern approach to pets."

There have been various widely publicised cases of arrangements for pets. For example, there was a recent celebrity divorce, involving **Ant McPartlin**, the well-known television presenter. These proceedings attracted significant media interest, not only because of **Ant McPartlin's** celebrity status, but also due to a disagreement regarding who should retain their chocolate Labrador, **Harley**. Arrangements for **Harley** were ultimately dealt with by agreement and whilst this did not involve the making of a Court Order, it did reflect some recognition that pets do matter more than "just" chattels.

Should the Law be Reformed?

England and Wales are falling behind other jurisdictions. There have been developments in the law in relation to the treatment of pets in Latin America and in Spain. Columbia, Argentina and Spain have all, in various ways, changed their laws to ensure that a pet is not treated in the same way as a mere chattel on divorce or separation. Surprisingly, Spain legislated in 2022, providing that the welfare needs of a pet must now take priority. The Spanish Courts must consider the welfare of a domesticated animal as a priority, considering the emotional and care needs of the pets. In addition, the Court may consider the emotional bond with family members and the best interests of the animal, in the context of separation or divorce situation.



Working Group on Pets on Divorce and Separation

In 2024, the Working Group on Pets on Divorce and Separation was founded by Sarah Lucy Cooper, a Barrister from Thomas More Chambers, London and Estella Newbold-Brown, a solicitor with Amphlett Lissimore in London. The aims of the Group are to bring about change in this country to bring us into line with current thinking on pets elsewhere in the world. I feel privileged to be a member of the Working Group whose members comprise lawyers from Scotland and Northern Ireland


in addition to several notable Silks, a well-known actor, a vet, a veterinary nurse, and an animal behaviouralist. The Group is privileged to have **Sir Nicholas Mostyn** as it's President.

The Working Group met at the House of Lords on 3rd April 2025. The meeting took place in Committee Room 1, previously used by the Law Lords in the days before the Supreme Court. We were privileged to be guided and assisted by **Baroness Berridge**, who raised the issue of the treatment of pets on divorce in the House of Lords

debate on 26th February 2025 regarding Pre-Nuptial Agreements. We were also assisted at our meeting by the **Earl of Courtown**, a committed animal lover who has an encyclopaedic knowledge of procedure.

We have a LinkedIn page which I would encourage any likeminded individuals to follow and work with us to bring about change in this interesting area.

Diane Matthews
MSB Solicitors




Listeningbooks
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

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.




Acting as an expert in housing conditions claims – the future



Kady Preston

Housing conditions claims have been pursued against social housing providers for as long as there have been social housing providers. However, the volume of claims being brought has increased exponentially over the last decade. This is proving to be a lucrative area of work for many claimant firms, particularly those already working in other volume litigation areas such as personal injury and travel claims.

A critical element to a claim is expert evidence. Without defects falling within the landlord's repairing obligations there cannot be a claim. As a result, there has been a boom in the number of surveyors offering their services as expert witnesses, capable of preparing independent reports which comply with Part 35 of the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR). However, the reports relied upon by claimants in support of their claims are not always satisfactory for a variety of reasons, including lack of detail regarding defects, no explanation as to causes, and unnecessary and costly remedial works.

Although it used to be fairly routine for experts to be called to attend trial to be cross examined on their written reports that is much less common today. As such, there is less opportunity to challenge an expert's findings other

than by way of Part 35 questions or, if the facts justify, by applying to court to prevent a claimant from relying on their expert's report.

Social housing providers therefore need to be aware of what to consider when instructing their own independent expert witnesses, and when considering the reports provided by claimants in housing conditions claims. In that regard, the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' (RICS) recent [Practice Alert in April 2025](#) (Alert) acts as a useful starting point.

The Alert sets out the standards expected of expert witnesses, particularly when dealing with high volume work such as housing conditions claims. It addresses the growing concerns about the quality and independence of expert reports, many of which fall short of professional standards. The Alert raises key concerns around the impartiality of expert reports, the increasing reliance on generic or pre-populated content, and potential financial conflicts of interest.

If a landlord wishes to challenge an expert's report there are a number of matters to have regard to.

Originality and authorship

RICS standard: reports must be the expert's own work, based on an independent inspection, and must not rely on generic or pre-populated templates.

Practical advice:

- check reports for signs of template-based findings, such as repeated wording across multiple cases or vague descriptions not specific to a particular property
- if a report lacks evidence of an in-person inspection or site-specific analysis, request clarification and/or raise this with the court if the report is sought to be relied upon in proceedings

- confirm that the report has been written by the same person who carried out the inspection
- look for inconsistencies between the report's findings and any photographs. Stock or duplicated images across unrelated claims may show that an original inspection has not been undertaken
- examine reports for specific identifiable features such as 'black mould to the top right-hand corner of the external wall in the kitchen', as opposed to generalised statements like 'mould throughout the property.'
- be cautious of 'copy and paste' defects where the same repair schedules appear in multiple reports with no reference to property specifics such as layout, tenancy details, or building age
- ask whether supporting data such as moisture meter readings, thermal images, or photographic logs are included and attributed to the inspection date.

Accuracy and verifiability

RICS standard: only those with appropriate expertise and RICS accreditation may produce reports using the RICS name. Reports must include accurate qualifications and a signed statement of truth.

Practical Advice:

- Check whether the expert is RICS accredited and has relevant up-to-date qualifications:
- Search the official [RICS member checker](#) to confirm certification.
- Look for a RICS membership number and badge.
- Identify designations such as AssocRICS (Associate), MRICS (Member), or FRICS (Fellow).

Review the expert's experience to ensure their qualifications and specialisms are appropriate for the type of property and the nature of the alleged defects reported. Different issues, such as damp,

structural movement, building age, or construction type, may require different surveying expertise.

Check whether the expert has a history of disciplinary findings or RICS complaints by searching the [RICS disciplinary database](#).

Question whether the expert's experience or accreditations appear inflated or irrelevant. For example, claiming expertise in multiple unrelated disciplines.

If a report does not include a signed statement of truth, confirming that the expert is aware of and adheres to their duty under [Civil Procedure Rule 35](#) (Part 35 CPR), this should be brought to the court's attention for a potential regulatory breach.

Disclosure of conflicts

RICS standard: any financial dependency or potential conflict of interest, including frequent instructions from the same client, must be disclosed. Success based or conditional fee arrangements are not permitted.

Practical advice:

be alert to patterns such as:

- the same expert receiving repeated instructions from the same firm or claims management company
- estimates that consistently sit just above the £1,000 threshold for fast-track eligibility
- reports that recommend disproportionate or unnecessary remedial works regardless of the nature or severity of the defects
- request disclosure of the expert's instruction history where concerns arise. If the expert fails to provide this transparency they may be in breach of their duty under Part 35 CPR
- ask whether the expert is retained under a block agreement, informal arrangement, or referral

network that could compromise independence

- raise any concerns with the court early, ideally in directions or at a CMC, where you can request that the expert's evidence be limited or excluded if impartiality is in doubt.

Duty to the court

RICS standard: an RICS expert's primary duty is to the court, not the instructing party. Their opinions must be independent, honest, and free from external influence.

Practical advice:

- look for reports that seem biased towards the claimant or instructing party instead of offering a balanced, impartial analysis
- identify the use of emotionally charged or accusatory language such as 'clearly negligent' or 'serious failings', or statements that draw legal conclusions, as these are not within an expert's remit
- flag unsupported conclusions that are not backed by photographs, measurements, or a clear diagnostic rationale. For example, claims of 'severe damp' without moisture readings or a traceable source
- challenge one-sided assumptions regarding liability, causation, or tenant behaviour that are presented as fact, but are not tested against alternative explanations or evidence
- if appropriate, ask the court to limit or disregard the report's evidential weight where it appears the expert has failed in their overriding duty under Part 35 CPR
- apply for permission to cross-examine an expert where there is suspicion of bias, overreach, or lack of independence.

The wider impact of inadequate expert reports

Expert evidence that lacks quality or is biased not only causes difficulties in

the context of litigation, but results in financial and operational challenges. Reports that overestimate the cost or degree of remedial work can result in disproportionate settlements, escalated legal expenses, and unnecessary work orders.

This leads to a general decline in trust towards expert evidence and adds pressure on housing providers who must divert already limited budgets to defend or settle inflated claims. These are funds that could otherwise be invested in genuine maintenance, tenant support services, or improvements to housing stock.

The RICS makes it clear that these practices are simply unacceptable and highlights the importance of maintaining the integrity of expert evidence to ensure that disputes remain fair, proportionate, and sustainable.

Action

Where a landlord considers that the independent expert evidence they seek to rely on falls short of RICS standards, the same should not be relied upon and any defects with the report should be remedied or another expert sourced.

Where a claimant's expert's report falls short the landlord may, if the facts warrant it, report the matter to the RICS and seek an order from the court that the claimant is prevented from relying on that report in the proceedings.

For further support on housing condition claims, please get in touch with our [social housing solicitors](#).

Kady Preston,
Weightmans

Liverpool's business voice stronger than ever as it marks 175th Anniversary



This is a milestone year for Liverpool Chamber as it marks the 175th Anniversary of its foundation. It is a landmark of which the Chamber team, and its membership, is understandably proud and plans are afoot for a series of celebratory events and activities throughout 2025.

Another cause for celebration at the Chamber is its own commercial performance over recent years. The organisation achieved record growth across a number of key areas in the last financial year, as group turnover rose by 3.5% to more than £1.3m, leading to surplus in excess of £75,000 and continuing a long-term upward trend.

This was underpinned by an 8% increase in membership subscriptions, including new patrons and strategic partners, higher revenues from its wide-ranging event programme and higher demand for its specialist trade and export documentation services. It is also delivering business advisory services on behalf of Liverpool City Council and leading development of the Local Skills Improvement Plan alongside neighbouring Chambers of Commerce.

This period of growth is set against a backdrop of ongoing economic and political volatility, as global affairs and policy decisions made on either side of the Atlantic conspire to create cost pressures and uncertainty for firms.



Paul Cherpeau

As chief executive **Paul Cherpeau** explains, this is more than mere coincidence.

"Our anniversary reflects the enduring relationships we have been able to foster across various sectors and underlines why we continue to be seen as the authentic voice of business in the Liverpool City Region. With that proud reputation comes a sense of responsibility to represent businesses in fair weather and foul - and we take that responsibility very seriously."

"This is a difficult time for many firms as they face a barrage of cost pressures, some imposed by government policy, others by geo-political pressures. As domestic policies, such as National Insurance Contributions and National Minimum Wage rises, combined with President Trump's tariffs, start to bite, businesses must wait to see what the short and longer term impacts will be."

*"In uncertain times, it is understandable that businesses seek collective support and advocacy from an established representative organisation such as ourselves. In turn, we seek answers and guidance from those in power, which is why we regularly hold events that allow members to question and converse with senior figures such as the Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, **Steve Rotheram**, and **Liam Robinson**, Leader of Liverpool City Council."*

"Akin to many law firms, and indeed Liverpool Law Society itself, our role often places us at the coalface of key issues affecting business owners. We work hard to stay connected to the mood of local businesses and understand their evolving challenges. We do this through a variety of means, including our Quarterly Economic Survey and our leadership of the Local Skills Improvement Plan, and I would certainly urge Law Society members to lend their influential voices to those endeavours."

"We enjoy close and long-term relationships with a number of legal firms and our door is always open to gaining further insights from lawyers about the topics of greatest importance to them and their clients. I would also urge you to share your success stories with us through our Innovation in Business Awards, which recognise those firms which are helping to create a sustainable and prosperous economic future for those who live, work and visit here."



BECOME AN AFFILIATE LIVERPOOL CHAMBER MEMBER

Liverpool Law Society

Upgrade your membership via:

membership@liverpoolchamber.org.uk

Take advantage of the following benefits:



Organisation profile on website



Use of Chamber member logo



**Quarterly magazine
subscription**



Discounts on selected events



Digital membership certificate



**Access to Law Society partnered
events**

Request an application form from a member of
Liverpool Law Society's team by emailing
contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Call - 0151 227 1234





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



Dave Coe

A Tribute to Dave Coe.

During April, we very sadly lost a much-loved member of our staff, our fundraiser **Dave Coe**. Dave was married to our Head of Legal Practice, **Janet Coe**, and was involved with MLC indirectly for many years. He joined us officially two years ago and in such a short time achieved quite remarkable results. Thanks to Dave, MLC secured core funding for 5 years as well as securing other lucrative funding pots, enabling the organisation to plan ahead knowing we were financially secure. His achievements in this role cannot be underestimated and his work will go on to make a difference in so many people's lives. Personally, Dave was a kind, intelligent, funny and creative person whose genuine & warm nature brought so much to our team. He will be sadly missed.

Welcome to our new Justice First Fellow, Khalil.

We would like to officially welcome our new Justice First Fellow, **Khalil Muslem**, to the team. Khalil first began



Khalil Muslem

his journey with Merseyside Law Centre as a volunteer, helping to triage and assist clients during our drop-in sessions. During his time as a JFF, he will complete a two year fully funded training programme and develop a project in collaboration with us. The project's aim will be to help advance access to justice. We are delighted that he will be furthering his career in social welfare law with us and look forward to seeing the difference his work makes during his time as a JFF and beyond.

The 'West Derby Centre for Social Justice' Launch.

Last month, we were delighted to officially launch the 'West Derby Centre for Social Justice' in partnership with **Ian Byrne**, at The Dovecot Multi Activity Centre. The Centre was formally opened by **Eileen Turnbull**, a researcher for the Shrewsbury 24 Campaign. Eileen has a long history of involvement in seeking justice for working class people and achieved national prominence through her leadership of the Shrewsbury 24 Campaign, discovering the vital fresh evidence that caused the Court of Appeal to quash all the historic

convictions of the 24 pickets. We were so pleased to welcome Eileen and other local social justice advocates at the launch, and it was a great opportunity to come together to celebrate this exciting new chapter for social justice in the area.

*"Merseyside Law Centre has been providing pivotal access to justice for the residents of Dovecot & surrounding areas for many years and have been the catalyst for positive change in so many local lives. We are thrilled to be working in partnership with **Ian Byrne MP** to deliver the West Derby Centre for Social Justice to increase and diversify the provision of advice in the area and to help address the evident inequalities within this community. We will be welcoming partner organisations in throughout the week at the centre to establish a regular timetable of sessions, providing a broad spectrum of advice. Our aim is to grow a sustainable and holistic service at the heart of the local community to elevate the quality of*



Eileen Turnbull



life for future generations and we look forward to working with Ian and his team on delivering this."

Liz Reed, Merseyside Law Centre CEO

Volunteer & Donation Opportunities

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

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

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

have a passion for social justice.

To download our Volunteer Application Pack, please visit [Get Involved | merseysidelawcentre.co.uk](http://www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/get-involved) and e-mail the completed form to enquiries@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk

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

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

Twitter: @MerseyLawCentre

Facebook: Merseyside Law Centre

Instagram: @merseysidelawcentre

Bluesky: @merseysidelaw.bsky.social


Merseyside Law Centre

 @Merseyside Law Centre
 @MerseyLawCentre
 @merseysidelawcentre

www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk

LET US BE YOUR HELPING HAND

WHAT DO WE DO?

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

OUR SERVICES

Free Advice Drop In Sessions
 Every Monday & Thursday
 10am-12pm
 No appointment required.
 Dovecot Multi Activity Centre,
 Back Dovecot Place,
 Liverpool L14 9BA

Free Housing Possession Advice Drop In Sessions
 Every Wednesday & Friday
 11am-1pm
 No appointment required.
 Liverpool Civil and Family Court
 35 Vernon Street, L2 2BX

Debt Advice
 in partnership with Raise Advice
Appointment Only.
 Check website for info on how to book.
 Every 2 weeks on a Thursday.
 1pm-4pm
 Appointment only.
 Dovecot Multi Activity Centre,
 Back Dovecot Place,
 Liverpool L14 9BA

If you are unable to attend a drop in, please fill in the enquiry form on our website. Links below.
www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/enquiryform



Merseyside Law Centre Limited is a company registered in England & Wales under company number 09662302 and a registered charity, number 1199464. Registered office: Merseyside Law Centre, The Kuumba Imani Millennium Centre, 4 Princes Road, Liverpool, L8 1TH. The solicitors of Merseyside Law Centre are regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.


Merseyside Law Centre






FREE HOUSING ADVICE

IMPROVING OUTCOMES THROUGH LEGAL SUPPORT AND HOUSING LOSS PREVENTION ADVICE SERVICE

- ✓ We offer free legal advice and representation if you have received a notice seeking possession of your home from your landlord or mortgage lender.
- ✓ We can provide early advice and assistance and representation if your home might be at risk.
- ✓ We can represent you on the day of your hearing or help you in advance if you contact us before the date of your hearing.
- ✓ We may be able to help you defend the claim against you.

Our services are free even if you do not qualify for Legal Aid

HOW TO ACCESS OUR SERVICES

DROP INS- NO APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

Liverpool Civil and Family Court
 35 Vernon Street, L2 2BX
Wed & Fri 11am-1pm

Dovecot Multi Activity Centre,
 L14 9BA
Mon & Thurs 10am-12pm

 **ONLINE**
 Online enquiry form available
www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/enquiryform

 **TELEPHONE**
 Call us on:
0151 709 0504
 (9.30 - 5pm, Mon - Fri)

Merseyside Law Centre Limited is a company registered in England & Wales under company number 09662302 and a registered charity, number 1199464. Registered office: Merseyside Law Centre, The Kuumba Imani Millennium Centre, 4 Princes Road, Liverpool, L8 1TH. The solicitors of Merseyside Law Centre are regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

Solicitors' Professional Indemnity renewal: insights from an underwriter



Sarah White

Recently, the solicitors' professional indemnity market has seen an increase in the number of insurers offering firms primary insurance. With more choice available, how should firms best present their risk — and why should they choose HDI?

At HDI, how do we assess you as a firm?

As your insurer, we are there for you when the worst happens. However, insurance is just one tool in your armoury against risk. We look for firms that invest in a clear and robust risk management strategy. We want to hear about how you identify and manage risk in your firm. This can include how you structure your firm, risk management planning, business continuity plans, file review and supervision policies, and external audits.

When reviewing a firm's proposal form, I like to pay particular attention to the answers that provide insight into the workings and values of your firm. Your submission can be really enhanced, for example, by sharing your firm's history, any particular specialisms, your future goals, the type of work you like to do and the type of work that you would turn away. These details allow me to take a more holistic view of your firm.

Getting your submission in early and in full order is vital. Work with your

broker to ensure you have up-to-date claims summaries. It is also very helpful to include a narrative around any open and closed claims — for example, what the allegation was and what lessons were learned. The fact that you may have experienced a claim is not necessarily an issue — at HDI, we recognise that there is often a story behind every claim, and we are open-minded and willing to listen.

What are the key concerns for Insurers currently?

Whilst the frequency of claims appears stable, the severity of claims has notably increased in recent years. Contributing factors include rising asset values, more complex transactions and defence cost inflation. Worryingly, the market has begun to see more claims exceeding the compulsory primary limit. Firms should have heightened risk management measures in place when taking on matters of high value, or when acting for clients of considerable net worth.

Conveyancing remains the main source of claims, both in frequency and overall cost. Conveyancing firms continue to be prime targets for property fraud. Being aware of key red flags and undertaking rigorous due diligence is vital to protect your firm from such claims.

Additionally, there has been a notable rise in claims from wills, trust and probate work. The drivers for this are a combination of more complex family structures, increases in overall estate values and the challenges that can arise with people living longer. Our advice is that this would be a good time to conduct a review of policies and procedures and implement targeted refresher training for staff.

Beyond this, insurers will be taking into account the economic environment, technological development and other similar contextual factors as drivers for claims, such as the impact of AI, and

the continued cyber threat we all face. Sharing your firm's policies and risk management strategy for these areas helps provide insurers with reassurance that your firm is well equipped to navigate such challenges.

Why choose HDI as your insurer?

In the past, we have seen volatility created by insurers entering and exiting the solicitors' professional indemnity market. At HDI, we have the experience, strength and stability to support you now and into the future. Our recent credit rating upgrade by international rating agency S&P Global Ratings to AA- (Very Strong) is a testament to our financial resilience, enabling us to be your trusted insurance partner.

We look to provide law firms with a high-quality, long-term solution. That's why many of the practices we cover have been with us for the 15+ years as we have been a primary insurer for law firms. We use our specialist experience to ensure that we are the experts for your needs today – and help prepare you for what might happen tomorrow.

If you are a firm with a turnover of under £20 million and would like to obtain a quotation from HDI, please contact Lockton Insurance Brokers.

By **Sarah White**,
Underwriting Manager,
HDI Global SE.





Get ahead

Don't let one mistake undo it all

Protect your business with Professional
Indemnity Insurance from Lockton



E. solicitors@lockton.com T. +44 (0) 330 123 3870

Visit our website



Regulation Update

June 2025

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

This article is being written prior to the last Bank Holiday until end of August (it would be good if they were spread out more evenly!) following weeks of dry, bright weather – and the forecast is predicting a wet weekend, followed by more rain! At least the gardens and reservoirs will get the benefit. The forecast for risk and compliance is also changeable, with the SRA's unlimited fining powers in relation to economic crime coming into play shortly, version 1.1 of the latest LSAG guidance being introduced a few weeks ago, and two questionnaires set to land from the SRA.

Updated LSAG guidance

As we reported last month, the latest version of the LSAG AML compliance guidance (ominously titled version 1.1) was published on 23 April 2025. Helpfully, a full list of the changes is in the Schedule of Amendments at pages 221 - 228. Firms should review their FWRA and PCPs in light of the new guidance and record the fact they have done so.

We understand there may be a further update later this year to reflect the effect of the Uyghur case on the limits of the 'adequate consideration'

exemption from criminal liability for money laundering. The Law Society's view, based on advice, is that the decision does not impose additional suspicious activity reporting (SARs) obligations on solicitors, but discussions are ongoing.

SRA enforcement relating to AML to increase

The SRA has announced that as a result of firms not complying with AML obligations, it will be stepping up its enforcement. Paul Philip, Chief Executive of the SRA, said it is still finding fairly basic deficiencies, fines are going up and if firms continue not to comply, the consequences will be increased.

At the end of June, the SRA will carry out a data gathering exercise about AML, Sanctions and suspicious activity reports and the results will help prioritise firms that require inspections and desk-based reviews. The SRA beat its inspections target by 70% for the first quarter of the year, which the SRA put down to streamlined processes, making use of desk-based reviews alongside inspections, retention and development of staff working within AML teams leading to quicker and more effective inspections. This announcement follows closely on the heels of a large number of recent decisions relating to breaches of AML in the first quarter of this year. Fines for firms ranged from £1600-£300,000, and £3500 to £45,000 for individuals.

If the SRA want to inspect your AML processes you will need to provide the documents within 10 days, so it's a good idea to collate them now and put them in a separate folder, with more than one person being aware of where they are kept, in case the MLRO/MLCO/COLP is away when the request lands!

SRA looks for budget rise

Last month we reported that LeO was seeking a budget increase of over 11%, and In its recently published business plan for 2025/26, the SRA is proposing a 25% increase in its budget due to an increase in reports of misconduct, leading to 40% more investigations being opened per month, compared to 12 months ago. According to the SRA, efficiency has improved and 18% more cases are being concluded per month, but the scale and complexity of the caseload has increased. However, the improvement in efficiency has not been noted by practitioners - if the SRA decides to investigate a firm or individual it can take months, and often years, for the process with little/no progress for months at a time. The plan also confirms that the SRA will develop a programme of work on professional ethics and progress work on high-volume consumer claims. The proposed budget increase is subject to consultation and will require approval from the LSB.

Reporting your firm's diversity data

We reported last month that the biannual collection of diversity data by the SRA will be carried out this summer, and it appears that summer is almost here, as firms will need to report its diversity data between 9 June and 4 July 2025. As well as reporting diversity data, there are questions about plans for publishing a summary of the data. It is a regulatory requirement to complete the report and if the SRA takes action for failing to comply a firm could be issued with a fixed penalty fine for non-compliance.

AI

The increase in the use of AI is affecting firms. Policies should be considered, particularly in light of recent cases where, in one case, fake case authorities have been referred to in court and the

judge ordered the defendant to send the transcript of the judgment to the SRA and BSB, and in another, a former solicitor referred to almost 30 false cases in support of his appeal against strike off in 2017 for misleadingly stating his practice had indemnity insurance.

We are seeing more complaints from clients/litigants in person written with 'the assistance' of AI, which makes them more difficult to respond to, replies to responses arrive quicker, and add to the pressure of a stressful workload. We anticipate firms may consider settling spurious complaints in order to deal with the matter quickly and avoid it being escalated to LeO/SRA.

Law Society In-house ethics framework

The Law Society has introduced an ethics framework 'providing practical guidance, tools and resources to assist in-house solicitors uphold their ethical and legal obligations while operating effectively within their organisations', intended to complement the SRA's guidance which covers specific issues such as identifying the client, internal investigations and legal privilege. The Law Society will continue to review and improve the framework based on feedback from putting it into practice.

New practice notes and guidance

The following have been since our previous update:

SRA guidance/news

- Complying with the UK Sanctions regime: [SRA | Complying with the UK Sanctions Regime | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)

Law Society practice notes

- Climate change and property: [Climate change and property | The Law Society](#)

Recent decisions

Largest ever fine imposed

While the SRA is continuing the discussion about fining powers, (it already has the ability to impose unlimited fines for failure to prevent fraud), it has just reported its largest ever fine of almost £4 million on a former non-solicitor owner of an ABS. The previous largest fine was for £500,000 for AML breaches and failing to prevent clients being involved in a dubious investment scheme. Investigators found evidence of 310 improper transfers to companies linked to the manager of a now closed firm that were used for loan repayments and to buy assets unrelated to the business, and forged statements attempting to conceal the transactions. The SRA intervention in the firm in 2020 secured £22.5m of client money but there was still a shortfall of £10m. Two other non-lawyers involved in the matter were disqualified from working in a law firm without SRA permission and ordered to pay costs and a solicitor was fined almost £27,000 and costs.

Struck off for falsifying LPA details and fraudulently obtaining confidential medical information

A solicitor has been struck off the roll for misleading the Office of the Public Guardian by indicating that an LPA was signed and dated by her client and attorney, and that she had acted as certificate provider. She had in fact instructed the parties to not date the LPA and had added dates for the signatures which she knew to be false. She also called a hospital to ask for confidential information regarding the client and gave another person's name in order to acquire the information in question, clearly knowing this to be false.

The solicitor admitted that her conduct had been dishonest and the SDT made the order in accordance with the statement of agreed facts and proposed outcome and made an order for costs of £20,000.

Struck off for not disclosing bankruptcy

A solicitor with over 40 years' experience was struck off for failing to disclose a 2014 bankruptcy and related financial issues to both his firm and the SRA. He had continued to practise as a solicitor, falsely stated in three annual compliance declarations that he had never entered into an IVA, despite doing so in 2009 and was found to have acted dishonestly, with the Tribunal rejecting his explanations of forgetfulness and reliance on advice from a now-deceased accountant.

The SRA sought costs but in view of his limited means, age and health issues the Tribunal made no order for costs.

Suspension for failing to comply with court order

The sole owner of a firm was suspended for 6 months by the SDT, with conditions at the end of the period, including being unable to be a sole practitioner or partner, for failing to ensure his firm complied with a court order to serve and file a witness statement and not responding to an application for wasted costs, and then failing to respond to the SRA and not complying with decisions made by the SRA to pay fines for regulatory breaches. He was also ordered to pay almost £25,000 costs.

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

Charity Spotlight:

Merseyside Against Blood Cancers

Blood Cancer and the Patient.

Cancer. A disease we all hope we will never encounter but seemingly increasingly its shadow crosses our path. Cancers of the breast; prostate and lung grab headlines when it comes to screening; research; fundraising.

But what about blood cancer? A disease whose singular form does not do justice to the over two hundred complex disease types that fall within its grouping.

Neither do the Greek based etymologies of Leukemia, Myeloma and Lymphoma make this cohort of disease easier to understand. And yet blood cancer is the fifth most common cancer, affecting all ages and backgrounds.

Thankfully the prevalence of blood cancer has been at the forefront of the concern of a dedicated team of healthcare personnel and researchers within hospitals in Merseyside and the University of Liverpool who work tirelessly to treat and research the disease in all its forms. Treatment; research and the education of health care professionals are essential components of the management of all health issues. What can get lost, however, are the holistic, social and financial needs of patients. Recognising the need to address blood cancer on all fronts Merseyside Against Blood Cancers (MABC) - formerly Bloom - was founded in 2012 by an inspirational team headed by **Professor Nagesh Kalakonda**, Consultant Haemato-Oncology. Raising funds to address the fields of research and education whilst also meeting the needs of those whose personal financial circumstances make their disease and its treatment particularly difficult to bear, became the group's aim.

Charitable status was achieved in 2014. No mean feat for a small fundraising group and surely a mark of the determination of the founders that the

group would grow and indeed prosper. The late **H.H. John Morgan** came on board as a Trustee bringing not only invaluable legal input but also his own experience of the disease. As those who knew him well would expect he gave generously of his time supporting the team's many early fundraising efforts.

Nagesh, Frank Donovan, Elkan Abrahamson and David Matthews joined **John Morgan** as the charity's pioneering Trustees.

MABC flourishes. Joining forces with North West Cancer Research to fund a talented PhD student at the University of Liverpool; funding half the cost of a dedicated unit for Teenage and Young Adults with Cancer at the new Clatterbridge Cancer Centre in Liverpool; convening annual Patient and Physician workshops are just a few of the achievements of this small but dynamic charity.

Central to its work is the patient; a young single mother with leukemia and little in the way of resources - financial or family - required a stem cell transplant necessitating prolonged in-patient admission. The charity covered the cost of nursery and childcare. Similarly recognising the impact of treatment on fuel bills - keeping warm is essential - a winter hardship allowance has long been on the charity's menu of support. And within the last few months a message from an anonymous patient's partner sums up the impact that a grant can make:

I am replying on behalf of my partner who has AML (Acute Myeloid Leukaemia)... who received a £1,000 grant from your charity. His specialist nurse at Clatterbridge told him about your charity and helped him to apply as he was so unwell at the time. He is self employed and so was receiving no income at all from anywhere and applying for benefits is a lengthy process... you cannot

claim 'til three months of being ill... Your charity helped enormously at our greatest time of financial need and helped to take the immediate financial stress he / I had when he was at this most stressed and unwell. We cannot thank you enough and hope to help when he is well enough and able to.

Grants made by MABC ensure that those who face the hardship of disease are not further burdened by the hardship of financial stress. Whilst grants bring financial relief they also send a powerful message of hope namely - you are not alone in this.

It is perhaps not surprising that this is a charity driven by compassion, kindness and an earnest desire to improve the lot of those who are in need. Several of the charity's Trustees have encountered blood cancer issues themselves. Having walked the walk they are uniquely placed to understand just how profound the reaching out of one hand to another can be.

If you would like to know more about Merseyside Against Blood Cancers or make a donation please contact me via the info@mabc.org.uk email address.

Gail Aubrey

Trustee Merseyside Against Blood Cancer (MABC)

Charity Registration: 1157459

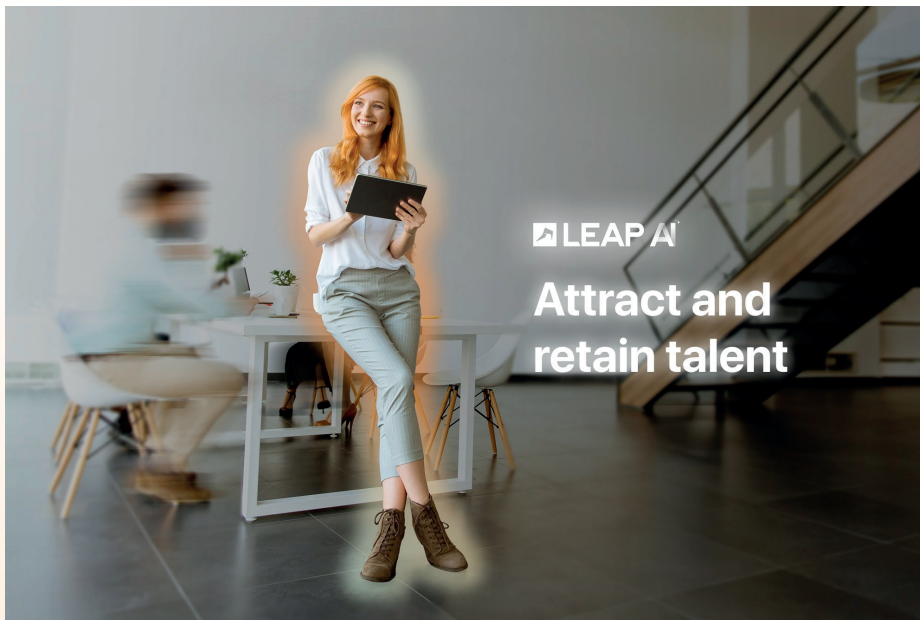
W: mabc.org.uk

E: info@mabc.org.uk

Registered office: Merseyside Against Blood Cancers, Liverpool Science Park, 131 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, L3 5TF



How SME Law Firms can tackle the 2025 legal skills shortage



The legal landscape is evolving and SME law firms face an ongoing skills shortage that threatens long-term viability.

With Gen Z and Millennial lawyers bringing different career expectations and experienced professionals moving toward flexible working or retirement, firms must evolve to attract and retain talent. A 2024 PwC study found that 37% of Gen Z employees considered leaving their roles in the past year. This reflects a broader generational shift toward flexibility, purposeful work, and the use of modern technology. For SME firms, adapting is critical for survival.

The workforce is changing and firms must change too

Today's legal professionals are rethinking the traditional 9-to-5. Gen Z and Millennial lawyers prefer flexible or hybrid roles, supported by digital tools using AI that reduce admin and enable meaningful client engagement. Meanwhile, many senior lawyers are stepping away from full-time roles, leaving mid-level expertise gaps. Replacing skilled employees is difficult and expensive. Firms must reassess their employee experience, looking beyond salary to flexibility, work-life balance, and technology adoption.

Those who fail risk losing talent to larger, more progressive competitors.

Technology: The problem and the solution

Technology is both a cause and a cure for the skills shortage. Legal software has streamlined tasks once handled by secretaries, bookkeepers, and junior lawyers, creating a leaner workforce where departures are keenly felt. However, cloud-based practice management systems powered by AI can turn this to firms' advantage. AI-driven tools automate repetitive tasks, freeing lawyers to focus on billable client work.

Winning back talent through flexibility

Many lawyers have left traditional firms but remain in the profession. Offering remote and flexible work supported by cloud-based software allows SME firms to re-engage this skilled group. With integrated tools and AI powered solutions, a workday no longer means long office hours. Lawyers can work around family commitments or travel, boosting satisfaction and reducing burnout.

Empowering the next generation of lawyers

Junior lawyers have higher expectations and can struggle to gain experience. Many firms hesitate to invest in training, but ignoring development risks losing future leaders.

AI-enhanced tools offering integrated guides and templates, enable junior lawyers to upskill independently, reducing the mentoring burden while accelerating career growth.

Automate to let lawyers focus on what matters

Administrative overload drives many lawyers from the profession. Automation software can handle time recording, drafting, billing, and updates, freeing lawyers for high-value legal work. This not only improves productivity but also creates a more rewarding and sustainable environment.

Hiring without borders

Cloud-based systems powered by AI eliminate geographical barriers. Lawyers no longer need to live near an office to contribute meaningfully. Gen Z lawyers are exploring digital nomad visas, while experienced practitioners embrace consultancy and relocation. Firms that embrace a flexible working model facilitated by cloud-based and AI enhanced systems can build agile, distributed teams, ensuring access to talent regardless of location. The skills shortage isn't going away, but by investing in a flexible work culture, AI-powered tools, and professional growth, SME firms can future-proof their operations and build a modern, resilient workplace.

Gareth Walker,
LEAP

For more information [CLICK HERE](#) to download the full whitepaper.

Detailed Assessment in Action



Kris Kilsby

There are many principles which underpin the recovery of costs at a detailed assessment. These range from the all-encompassing test of reasonableness and proportionality to specific principles applicable to certain kinds of work which are considered non-recoverable on an inter partes basis. Whilst understanding these in theory is all well and good, it is incomparable to seeing them applied in action.

Helpfully, that is exactly what Costs Judge Nagalingam did when setting out a written judgment part way through a detailed assessment in the matter of *XX & Anor v Jordan Young & Anor* [2025] EWHC 680 (SCCO). CJ Nagalingam prepared the judgment whilst sitting in private following the first 3 days of the detailed assessment in an attempt to streamline the assessment process and to keep costs to a minimum.

CJ Nagalingam had concerns regarding the reasonableness and proportionality in respect of the level of 'internal time' claimed within the Bill. He found that this was a case that was run by a senior fee earner who deferred and delegated to lower grades from time to time and he bore this approach in mind when it came to assessing the costs claimed.

The Costs Judge made comments in respect of the following classes of costs which straddled both 'internal communication' and 'documents' time:

Delegation – CJ Nagalingam set out the following principle succinctly: 'Where the senior fee earner delegates certain tasks, it must not lead to increased costs in monetary terms as compared with the senior fee earner undertaking the task personally.'

Therefore, it is clear that where a cost saving can be achieved via delegation then the Court should allow the time claimed for delegation. Furthermore, CJ Nagalingam confirmed that delegation had to be communicated in some form to the lower grade for the cost saving to be achieved and, as such, the time spent by a senior fee earner delegating a task is recoverable.

Administrative work with Sharefile and Password issues – There was time claimed within the Bill in respect of arranging for documents to be upload and manage documents electronically. Furthermore, the Defendant had challenged items which it considered to be managing or attempting to resolve password issues relating to the use of Sharefile. Further time was claimed in respect of pagination. CJ Nagalingam found that these items were examples of work which is purely administrative in nature and disallowed the vast majority.

Consent Forms/Forms of Authority – CJ Nagalingam did not believe that time spent in preparation of such documents was an 'administrative' task. He noted that they are important documents which need to be completed accurately in to order achieve the purpose of obtaining important evidence to a claim. As such, he held that the costs incurred for preparing consent forms were recoverable on an inter partes basis.

Case/Action Plan – CJ Nagalingam disagreed that the use of a case plan was irrecoverable in principle, however, he did maintain that the use of such a document must result in a saving of time and costs.

Collation – CJ Nagalingam dismissed the argument that collating documents was a purely administrative task. However, he did identify that the 'fee earner' task was that of carefully selecting the documents relevant to case and distinguished this against the administrative task of physically reproducing a list of documents.

Summary

Whilst the decisions of CJ Nagalingam helpfully provide some clarification in respect of what types of costs are recoverable on an inter partes basis, it must always be remembered that the Court will still assess the recoverable costs in respect of the level of time claimed to determine whether this was reasonable and proportionate in amount.

CJ Nagalingam did emphasise that the Claimant ought not to see this as a victory given that he found the level of 'internal communication' to be the highest that he had ever seen and if he was invited to consider the final assessed sum on the grounds of proportionality then this would be an area which would come under significant scrutiny. Furthermore, when considering the time claimed in respect of the documents section and considering the Defendant's arguments that the time claimed was excessive, CJ Nagalingam reduced the time claimed by at least a third.

Litigators, therefore, must ensure that they are working in an efficient and proportionate manner in respect of all aspects of running a claim. Failure to do so may result in significant reductions to costs at assessment, even if the types of costs are recoverable on an inter partes basis in principle.

Kris Kilsby is a Costs Lawyer at Paramount Legal Costs and a Council member of the Association of Costs Lawyers. For any further questions or queries about the assessment of costs or if you are interested in further in-depth training on the topic please get in touch at Kristopher.kilsby@paramountlegalcosts.co.uk.



PARAMOUNT LEGAL
COSTS LIMITED

The Litigation Team

Specialising in Clinical Negligence, Civil & Commercial and Personal Injury matters.

Detailed Bills & Negotiations

Costs Budgeting & Estimates

Advocacy

In-House Training

Improve your costs recovery, file
turnaround and cash flow!

paramountlegalcosts.co.uk
01228 815390

PROFESSOR ELIZABETH J. SOILLEUX

MA, MB, BChir, PhD, FRCPath
CONSULTANT PATHOLOGIST

Experienced Cambridge and Oxford-trained consultant pathologist with particular interests in haematopathology (lymphomas, leukaemias), cardiovascular pathology & autopsy pathology.

Expert Witness Certificate (Civil Law),
Bond Solon / Cardiff University

- Biopsy Pathology (esp Lymphoma & Leukaemia)
- Autopsy Pathology (esp Cardiovascular Pathology)
- Professional Conduct (GMC work undertaken)



**Department of Pathology, Cambridge University /
Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge**

Tel: 07798 643879 Email: lizsoilleux@gmail.com
www.expertwitnesspathologist.co.uk



TRANSLATE HIVE

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

customer.services@translatehive.com
0845 505 9961



Forthcoming Courses

DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
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
16/09/2025	Cyber Security	Abyss
17/09/2025	The Property Conference 2025	Various
24/09/2025	Family Finance Conference	Various
03/10/2025	Will Drafting & Estate Planning Update	Prof. Lesley King

* 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 of the event to watch at your leisure!

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](#)

Tricky issues arising in constructive dismissals

with Jolene Charalambous

Wednesday 18th June, 12.30pm - 2pm

Venue: Brabners, Horton House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool

****LUNCH & LEARN****

Join barrister, Jolene Charalambous, for this lunchtime session to discuss the tricky issues that arise in constructive dismissals.

Bring your problems & questions to chat through over a sandwich!
(lunch included)

Jolene will cover:

- The seriousness of the breach
- Practical considerations following a change in the working environment such as the move to working from home and hybrid working
- Resignation and affirmation of contract
- Delaying resignations
- Alternative actions pursued such as raising a grievance
- The dangers of early resignation

For more information, [click here](#)

NEW Identity Verification at Companies House – the key points

with Jackie Sheldon

'Live' online, Thursday 19th June, 1pm - 2.30pm


The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act ('ECCTA') received Royal Assent on 26 October 2023. One key element of the ECCTA is the introduction of a new identity verification process. This impacts anyone setting up, running, owning or controlling a company in the UK.

This session will benefit anyone who has any dealings with Companies House (including members of LLPs, who will also need to verify).

We will cover:

- Key dates
- Who will need to verify
- How to self verify (and how the process impacts appointments of directors and PSCs)
- Implications for becoming an Authorised Corporate Service Provider ('ACSP'), including the role as ACSP and consequences of failure to comply with requirements
- How ACSPs can verify their clients

For more 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](#)



Sexual harassment & the New Worker Protection (amendment to Equality Act 2010) - what do risk assessments look like?

with Amy Smith

Monday 14th July, 12.30pm - 2pm

Venue: Brabners, Horton House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool


****LUNCH & LEARN****

Join barrister Amy Smith of Nine Chambers, for this lunchtime session to discuss Sexual harassment & the New Worker Protection. Bring your problems & questions to chat through with Amy over a sandwich!
 (lunch included)

Amy will cover:

- The context: is this relevant in today's business environment
- Summary of the legal framework
- Update on some new cases
- The new duty

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

Fingerprint Analysis

Peter M Swann

FAE FFS MCSFS

*Independent Consultant to the Legal Profession,
Established 1987*

PETER PROVIDES A FULL INDEPENDENT
FINGERPRINT SERVICE TO THE LEGAL INDUSTRY

• EXAMINATION DEVELOPMENT • BRIEFING
• EXPERT WITNESS • ASSESSMENT REPORT

- A former home office adviser with considerable experience in all aspects of fingerprint work
- An Accredited Expert and Fellow of the Academy of Experts of the Fingerprint Society,
- A Member of the International Association for Identification and Member of its European Division
- A Member of the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences
- Listed in the UK Register of Expert Witnesses



PeterSwann43@yahoo.com

Office: 01924 264900

Home: 01924 276986

**THE
ACADEMY
OF
EXPERTS**

OUR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Liverpool Law Society

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

2025 Private Client Conference



Photos: Dan Bentley

The annual Private Client Conference was held on 14 May 2025 in the INNSIDE Hotel in Liverpool. The tri-partite event, centred on Wills, Trusts, Tax, and Probate, was jointly hosted by STEP Liverpool, the Liverpool Law Society, and Professional Liverpool and kindly sponsored by Evelyn Partners and Kin Probate.

The conference offered the opportunity to hear from a range of speakers, with a variety of topics spanning from post-budget updates to crypto assets.

The event was in person for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, which allowed the attendees to reconnect, network, and engage in meaningful discussions on all things private client.

The conference was hosted by **Kelly Monaghan**, Senior Associate at Hill Dickinson LLP and Chair of STEP Liverpool, who warmly welcomed everyone and provided introductions for the speaking panel.

Probate Update

Julie Bell of Read Roper

Julie Bell opened the morning session by

providing an update on the probate service, as well as some valuable tips to avoid stopped applications and progress delayed ones.

Julie also provided a helpful overview of the SRA probate review, encouraging all attendees to review their practices such as price transparency. Following on from this, Julie provided a summary of several interesting case updates.

Post-Budget Insights: Inheritance Tax Changes for the Future

Vicki Harper of Evelyn Partners

Vicki Harper followed with an insightful presentation on the key Inheritance Tax deadlines brought by the 2024 Budget, and how Inheritance Tax on pensions may work in theory.

Moving on to talk about effective estate planning, Vicki highlighted the balancing act between financial security and tax efficiency, and the actions that can be taken now to help clients plan ahead.

Trusts and Inheritance Tax

Iris Wuenschmann-Lyall

Iris Wuenschmann-Lyall then spoke on the



classification of trusts and their Inheritance Tax treatment. Iris provided a helpful overview of both Qualifying Interest in Possession Trusts, and Relevant Property Trusts. Iris then went on to discuss the new Agricultural and Business Property Relief rules and how these will apply to trusts dependent on the settlement date.

Wills Bill 2025

Stephen Lawson of IDR Law and Ian Bond of Hockley Heath



Stephen Lawson

In a thought-provoking presentation, Stephen Lawson and Ian Bond then offered their thoughts and predictions in relation to the Wills Bill 2025. The hot topics included marriage no longer revoking Wills, electronically signed Wills and reducing the age required to make a Will.

Family Investment Companies

Amanda Bailey, Brabners

Amanda Bailey then spoke about Family Investment Companies (FIC). Amanda outlined the typical structure of a FIC, the typical user of a FIC and outlined the tax treatment of FICs on establishment, during their lifetime and on exit to highlight how they can be considered for pre-April 2026 planning.

Larke v Nugus

Stephanie Kerr, Irwin Mitchell

Stephanie Kerr then turned to the important topic of Larke v Nugus requests. Firstly outlining important points of practice, such as GDPR and duties owed to clients, Stephanie went on to explain what happened in Larke v Nugus, and how to respond to a Larke v Nugus request, highlighting that will-drafters are material witnesses.

A failure to respond to a Larke v Nugus request: What Next?

Norman Lamb, 9 St Johns Street

Norman Lamb followed Stephanie's discussion with an insightful presentation



Ian Bond

on Addison -v- Niaz (2024), in which Norman successfully appeared for the Applicants. Norman's discussion covered the possibility of being ordered to attend the High Court as a draftsman for cross examination, and the costs consequences that can come with this.

Dealing with Crypto Assets: From Disputes to Distributions

Richard Marshall, Hill Dickinson LLP

Richard Marshall then finished the conference's discussions with an informative presentation regarding crypto assets. Explaining the different types of crypto assets and how they can be held, Richard highlighted the administration considerations that come along with crypto assets such as AML and decentralised distributions.

A big thank you to STEP Liverpool, the Liverpool Law Society and Professional Liverpool for the thought-provoking and insightful event as well as chair Kelly Monaghan and all guest speakers who helped the day to be such a success!

Sincere thanks also to **Jo Downey** (Liverpool Law Society) and **Phil Adams** (Professional Liverpool) for their invaluable support in organising the event — and thanks to the overwhelmingly positive feedback, plans are already underway for next year's May conference!

Elizabeth English
Associate,
Hill Dickinson LLP



James Gartland



Private Client Conference 2025 speakers

2025 Public Child Law Conference



The Liverpool Law Society held its 2025 Public Child Law Conference on Wednesday 30th April 2025 within the offices of Taylor Wessing LLP (Edward Pavillion, Albert Dock). Delegates were warmly welcomed by Jo Downey from the Liverpool Law Society before the day began at 9:30am.

HHJ S Parker kindly hosted this year's conference which featured attendees both in person and remotely. HHJ Parker firstly gave an overview of the speakers throughout the day and delivered a useful update in relation to the exciting new launch of the FDAC in the Liverpool Family Court and spoke about his personal ambition to have all nine authorities across both counties involved in FDAC.

The first guest speaker of the day was **Dr Jaime Craig** – a consultant clinical psychologist, expert witness, and Director of Policy & Governance Association of Clinical Psychologists. **Dr Craig** presented a helpful overview of 'Getting your head around what psychological interventions are appropriate, and who is qualified to tell you'. **Dr Craig** emphasised the importance of understanding what is needed from a psychological assessment and what psychological intervention may be required to ensure that the evidence before the Court is of the highest standard. He also shared his active involvement in encouraging

the Government to legislate so that only regulated psychologist experts can appear before the Family Court.

We then heard from **Ginnette Fitzharris** from St Johns Building Chambers who spoke about Contact Post Adoption and whether anything has really changed in the law. **Ginnette** started her talk sharing personal anecdotes of her experience with both adopters and adoptees and then delved deeper into the developments in case law over the years when it comes to contact post adoption.

We were then afforded a short comfort break with an opportunity for in person attendees to catch up with colleagues and ask any questions of the guest speakers who had presented so far.

Following the break, **Vanda Reeves** from ADDvanced Solutions gave a very informative talk on how we can support those with an ND diagnosis. ADDvanced Solutions provide support for neurodivergent people both pre, during, and post diagnosis. **Vanda** gave a useful overview of the different neurodevelopmental conditions and explained the impact they have upon individuals and how we can ensure we as professionals are doing all we can to support those who are ND.

A representative from sponsors Alpha Biolabs, **Ashley Friday**, was up next.

Ashley spoke about the different types of testing and gave us a helpful guide for how to determine which testing is the most appropriate for our client.

It was then time for the lunch break where in person delegates were offered an array of refreshments. Again, we had the opportunity to catch up with the guest speakers during the break and ask any further questions.

After the lunch break, **Celestine Greenwood** (Exchange Chambers) gave a very informative talk about the introduction of FDAC to Liverpool covering all topics from what we can expect from the introduction of FDAC and what place there is for problem-solving courts in the public law family justice system. **Celestine** spoke about the staggering statistics associated with FDAC which highlighted the positive impact FDAC would have on the family justice system, as well as discussing the challenges which may arise from FDAC.

Finally, the last guest speaker of the day was **Mark Senior**, from St Johns Building, who ended the day with 'Seniors Top 10'. **Mark** delivered an entertaining yet informative presentation which discussed 10 of the most prevalent cases over the course of the last year.

HHJ Parker finalised the conference by giving a closing summary and gave thanks to all delegates for attending.

The conference was extremely well-received and the array of speakers throughout the day ensured that a broad range of topics were discussed, giving practitioners a valuable insight into current trends, developments, and issues in the family justice system.

A big thank you to **Jo Downey** and all of those involved at the Liverpool Law Society for organising yet another successful and educational conference.

Amy Deane
Paul Crowley & Co Solicitors



**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




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

LIVERPOOL • NORTH WALES • MANCHESTER • LONDON

CQC • SAVE FACE • Fully Insured

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.

JMW Solicitors LLP
18,959 followers
5d · Edited · 🌐

Team JMW will be taking part in the London Legal Walk on 17th June where they'll be walking 10km across the city with Lady Chief Justice and thousands of lawyers to raise funds for the [London Legal Support Trust](#). ...more



25 1 comment · 4 reposts

Like Comment Repost Send

DLA Piper
362,330 followers
1w · Edited · 🌐

As part of our annual Tax Academy II programme, our team came together for insightful sessions on post-BEPS treaty anti-abuse rules, Pillar Two, and VAT and fixed establishments. We also hosted interactive workshops on leadership, ...more



125 4 comments · 11 reposts

Like Comment Repost Send

ClwydAllyn
3,786 followers
1w · Edited · 🌐

Our Customer Service team have worked together to show their support for Mental Health Awareness week by decorating the office and reception and displaying quotes to acknowledge mental health and demonstrate our community. ...more




25 2 reposts

Like Comment Repost Send

Acuity Law
6,153 followers
1w · Edited · 🌐

Walk & Talk for Mental Health Awareness Week 🌱

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week 2025, teams across our offices ...more



71 1 comment · 7 reposts

Like Comment Repost Send

MannBenham Advocates
512 followers
1w · Edited · 🌐

Last Friday, the MannBenham Team geared up for the [Isle Listen Dodgeball](#) competition, organised by [Active Souls](#) and sponsored by [Flutter Entertainment](#). ...more

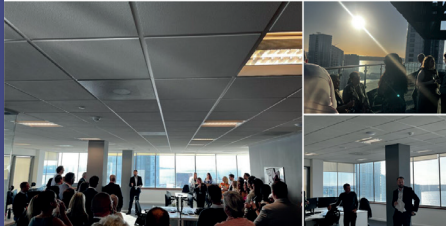


33 3 comments · 2 reposts

Like Comment Repost Send

Leigh Day
23,341 followers
4d · Edited · 🌐

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us at the launch of our stunning new [#Liverpool](#) office yesterday. We were thrilled to celebrate this exciting new chapter with you all. ...more




37 8 reposts

Like Comment Repost Send

Rowlinsons Solicitors
999 followers
4d · Edited · 🌐

Earlier this week, we were delighted to attend the official launch of [BusinessLodge Widnes!](#) ...more



6

Like Comment Repost Send

Dutton Gregory Solicitors
3,611 followers
6d · Edited · 🌐

Over the weekend, team Dutton Gregory took part in the [Barratt Homes Romsey Relay Marathon](#) supporting [The Rose Road Association](#). ...more



22 1 comment

Like Comment Repost Send

Freeths
31,702 followers
4d · Edited · 🌐

Yesterday, we had a great afternoon getting together with contacts in the region at our annual [Agricultural Professionals Lunch](#) co-hosted with [James Cowper Kreston](#). ...more



20 1 comment · 1 repost

Like Comment Repost Send

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

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