

December 2025

# Liverpool Law

Liverpool Law Society

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



ADILA 2025

*Celebrating excellence*

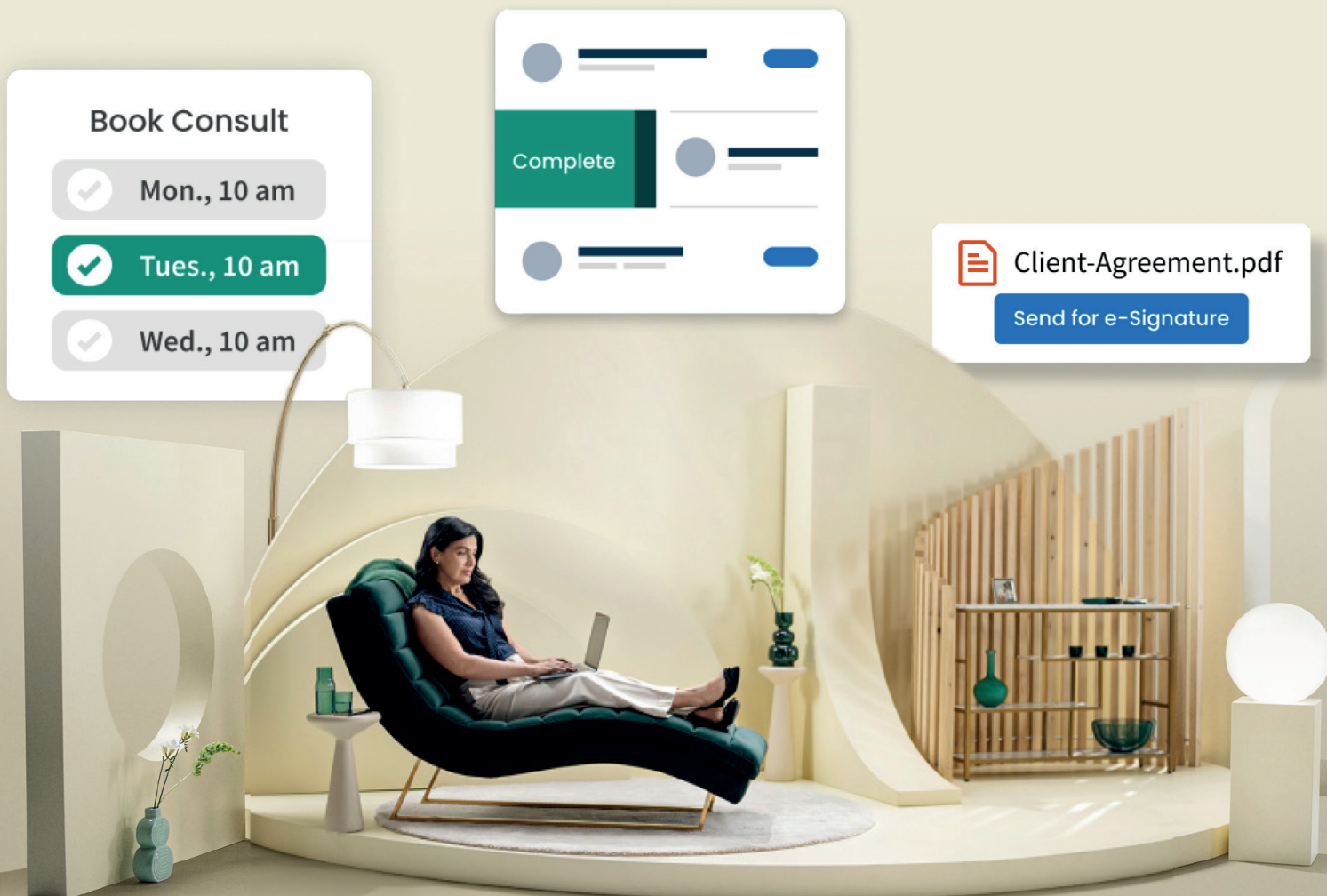
Full Report on Pages 22-27





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# December 2025

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## Copy Deadlines for 2026

<b>Jan</b>	12 December 2025
<b>Feb</b>	12 January
<b>Mar</b>	23 February
<b>Apr</b>	17 March
<b>May</b>	21 April
<b>Jun</b>	22 May
<b>Jul</b>	22 June
<b>Aug</b>	24 July
<b>Sep</b>	21 August
<b>Oct</b>	22 September
<b>Nov</b>	23 October
<b>Dec</b>	20 November

### 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



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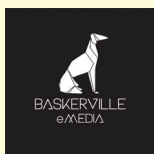
Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

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

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@baskervillee.media.co.uk](mailto:simon@baskervillee.media.co.uk)



## Editorial Committee Dates 2026

Meetings start at 01.00 pm.

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July  
No August Meeting  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November

# Welcome to the December edition of Liverpool Law



We have a jam-packed edition for you this month with lots of lovely photographs from our Annual Dinner and Legal Awards. Congratulations to all our winners and everyone who was shortlisted, what an achievement.

We also have a write up from some of our Directors attending the Anthony Walker Foundation dinner. I often think of **Anthony Walker** in my career, I never had the pleasure of meeting him but always remember being stopped in my tracks on his passing as he was the same age as me in school and had ambitions of a legal career. Such an awful loss. How wonderful that his memory lives on so vividly 20 years later.

I had hoped there would be more to say on Mazur at the time of our December edition but it seems things remain as uncertain as before. As at the time of writing The Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEX) confirmed that permission to appeal the Judgment in Mazur has been granted. Whilst CILEX was not a party to the original proceedings they relied upon the Court of Appeal's discretion to allow a challenge brought by a person adversely affected by the Mazur outcome. There could still be a significant wait for any decision by the Court of Appeal as the online case tracker lists the case to be heard by 1 February 2027. We will keep you updated as best possible once we know more, in the meantime please keep an eye on our website where we will detail updates as they come in.

This edition will be the last from our President **James Mannouch** and I would like to thank him personally for his support this year. **James** has attended many of our editorial meetings and has been a welcome addition. **James** is always quickly available outside of the formal meetings to respond to queries and provide reassurance. I will miss his cool and calm demeanour and wish him an enjoyable rest after a very busy year!

I feel like it's finally okay to say Merry Christmas to you all now it is December. I hope you all have time to relax and enjoy time with your family and friends. Many happy returns for 2026.

Many thanks

Jennifer Powell, Editor  
**Weightmans**  
[editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk](mailto: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 November's General Committee meeting. There were 22 individuals from the following organisations:

• Bond Turner	• Hill Dickinson
• Broudie Jackson Canter	• In-House Legal Solutions
• CEL Solicitors	• Leigh Day
• Driscoll Kingston	• MSB Solicitors
• DWF	• O'Connors Legal Services
• Fletchers Group	• Slater & Gordon

Liverpool Law Society's membership now exceeds 2,365 individuals from 174 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

It has been a busy and rewarding conclusion to my year as President of the Society. I recall Past President Steve Cornforth advising me at the 2024 Liverpool Legal Walk that “*it will go fast*” – and he was absolutely right. Representing our Society has been both a privilege and a pleasure, and I hope I have repaid the trust placed in me.

November is traditionally a month when law societies reflect on their history, and this year was no exception. The month began with a visit to Bristol Law Society’s Annual Dinner. As someone accustomed to seeing the sun rise over the land and set over the sea, Bristol always feels reassuringly familiar, and I enjoy visiting the city. Bristol Law Society, founded in 1770, is one of the oldest in the country, and its rich tradition shines through. My thanks go to outgoing President **Coralie McKeivor** and her team for their warm hospitality on what was a truly memorable evening.

A week later, Liverpool Law Society hosted its own Annual Dinner and Awards at the splendid Titanic Hotel. We were honoured to welcome **Mark Evans**, President of the National Law Society of England and Wales, as our Special Guest. His speech captured the breadth of opportunities our profession provides. It was a busy evening, and I was delighted to meet so many members and guests. Congratulations to all our award winners – the standard of nominations rises year after year, making each success a remarkable achievement. The evening also raised a significant sum for our nominated charity, Parkinson’s UK.

Later in the month, I attended Southport and Ormskirk Law Society’s Annual Dinner at Hillside Golf Club. My thanks to President **Ged Horton** and his team for such an enjoyable evening, and it was a pleasure to see so many familiar faces.

Turning to the work of the Society, I joined colleagues from Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds and Manchester at the Joint V meeting on 20th November. This forum provides an invaluable opportunity to share information and, where necessary, act collectively. The agenda was wide-ranging, covering the ramifications of the Mazur case, the Legal Services Board’s independent review of the SRA’s handling of SSB Law Group Ltd, and the Home Buying & Selling Reforms consultations. Members wishing to contribute to these discussions are welcome to do so via the email address below.

I also continued my work on the Liverpool City Region’s professional business services growth strategy. I met with **David Meyerowitz**, Chair of the Business & Enterprise Board, as well as **Graham Bond** and **Stephen Stuart**, who play key roles in the growth hub. Professional business



services form the largest economic sector in our region, and legal services must be at its forefront. Members will shortly be invited to contribute market intelligence and ideas to help shape this strategy.

November also saw our AGM at Liverpool’s Racquets Club, a busy meeting that combined formal business with the election of new Directors. Congratulations and thanks to **Kathy McQuillan**, **Andrew Ormrod**, **Peter Parsonage** and **Josh Bates** for stepping forward to serve. As a reminder, any member wishing to contribute further may apply for co-option onto our specialist sub-committees (<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/about/committees/>). I strongly encourage you to do so – it is professionally beneficial and personally rewarding.

As the year draws to a close, I wish all staff, Officers, Directors, members and friends of LLS a safe and joyful Christmas. Next year marks our 199th as a Society and it promises to be just as busy and fulfilling. Thank you to everyone who has supported me during my Presidency. I look forward to supporting **Sarah Mansfield** as she takes up the role in the year ahead.

**James Mannouch**  
President

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



# LLS Meetings & Events – Dec 2025 / Jan 2026

Start Time	Meeting/Event
09/12/2025 12:30	General Committee
11/12/2025 13:00	In-House Lawyers Sub-Committee
15/12/2025 18:00	Liverpool Legal Community Carol Service
18/12/2025 13:00	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee
08/01/2026 16:00	Family Business Sub-Committee
13/01/2026 12:30	General Committee
14/01/2026 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
15/01/2026 13:00	Directors' meeting with local councillors

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](mailto:committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk)

## Consultation Papers referred:

### Referred by the General Committee:

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

Committee	Consultation Paper title	Closing date
Civil Litigation	Call for Evidence: <a href="#">Whiplash reforms post-implementation review: Call for Evidence</a>	22/12/25
Non-Contentious Business	<a href="#">Home buying and selling reform consultation</a>	29/12/25
Non-Contentious Business	<a href="#">Material information in property listings consultation</a>	29/12/25
Civil Litigation	Fixed Recoverable Costs (FRC) Interim Implementation Stocktake – <a href="#">Consultation</a>	06/01/26



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# Quartet awarded training contracts at Jackson Lees Group



Arbaaz Mehmood, Rosie Bryan, Jaimy Fearn and Jennifer Reid

Law firm Jackson Lees Group has awarded training contracts to four paralegals to enable them to become fully-qualified solicitors.

The quartet are **Rosie Bryan, Jaimy Fearn, Arbaaz Mehmood** and **Jennifer Reid**.

They are undertaking their training across various departments at the full-service practice, which has 240 people across offices in Liverpool, Wirral and Southport.

**Rosie**, who joined the practice in 2023, and **Arbaaz**, who joined in March this year, work in the wills, trusts and probate department.

**Jaimy**, a trainee in the major inquests and inquiries department, has been at Jackson Lees Group since August 2024.

**Jennifer** joined the firm in September 2024 as a paralegal in the Court of Protection department.



**Esther Leach**, managing director of Jackson Lees Group, said: "Our team is packed with talent and dedication, and these trainees are an example of building that team from within."

"We create an environment where everyone can grow, thrive and advance their careers. We're proud to offer opportunities in legal pathways, like these training contracts, to not only boost their development and their careers as a whole but also to help them make a positive difference to the lives of our clients."

**Rosie** said: "I'm deeply passionate about accessibility and communication in the legal sector, and I'm proud to be able to continue my legal journey with a firm whose values align with my own."

"I'm incredibly grateful for the support I've received from my colleagues and mentors, and I'm excited to continue growing within a firm that makes me feel inspired."

**Jaimy** said: "The past year has been a journey of immense personal and professional growth. Securing a training contract is a dream come true and I'm incredibly grateful for the support and opportunities the firm has given me."

"I'm excited to begin my next chapter as a trainee solicitor and continue growing with a firm that truly values inclusion, excellence and purpose."

**Arbaaz** said: "I'm over the moon to have my hard work recognised by this truly exceptional firm."

"I'm excited to progress my career, learn from the abundance of experienced colleagues and continue making a positive difference to our clients' lives."

**Jennifer** said: "Every day, I have the privilege of supporting vulnerable clients in managing their finances and navigating decisions that impact their wellbeing. It's a department that makes a real difference in people's lives."

"It's incredibly rewarding to know that the work we do helps safeguard dignity and independence. I'm excited to continue growing my legal career as a trainee solicitor and extremely grateful for the support I've received along the way since joining Jackson Lees Group."

## Addendum

In the initial upload of our November issue it was incorrectly stated that **Sarah McCarthy** of Jackson Lees Group was a family solicitor instead of her actual status as a highly-experienced CiLEX chartered family lawyer. Apologies for any misunderstanding this may have caused.





# False Economics?



**I have no ambition to be the Chancellor of the Exchequer. However, like almost everyone I have an opinion on what Rachel Reeves should do in her long-awaited budget. (By the time you read this you will know!)**

What I can almost guarantee is that she will not provide any new funds for Access to Justice as that doesn't win any votes. You may be surprised to learn that this is a false economy!

In their report 'Value Of Justice for All' in 2024 the Access to Justice Foundation provided very detailed evidence that *"the provision of funding for free specialist legal advice is a financially sound decision"*.

Their research calculated that for every £1 spent on free specialist legal advice and its outcomes in 2023, there was a saving to government of £2.71.



So, if the Chancellor wanted to try and balance the books, reduce the borrowing deficit and keep taxes fixed she could provide more funds for legal advice. I am afraid that we know she won't and so the consequence of this policy is that the need for legal advice will still not be met and many in our society will continue to live in poor housing, in poverty and in debt.

The work of the Access to Justice Foundation in providing funds to Law Centres and Advice Agencies to support their work has never been more needed.

You will recall that at the beginning of October the Liverpool Law Society organised our annual walk to raise funds to support the Access to Justice Foundation.

*The donation page is still open and as we aim to hit our target of £5,000 by the end of December there is still a way to go. If you want to be part of changing our economics, without becoming Chancellor of The Exchequer, then a donation, however large or small, can begin to make a massive difference to the benefit of everyone.*

Please visit [Liverpool Law Society is fundraising for The Access to Justice Foundation](https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/fundraising) and add what you can to the 81 people who have already made a contribution to stopping a false economy.

**Chris Topping**  
Legal Walk Committee Member

*[The-value-of-justice-for-all-a-report-for-the-Access-to-Justice-Foundation-and-the-Bar-Council-from-Pragmatix-Advisory.pdf](#)*



# JR Levins LLP Marks One Year Since Merger with Expansion and Client Service Success



Partners at JR Levins Huyton office

**Liverpool and Halton based firm reflects on a year of regional expansion, team development, and a strengthened commitment to exceptional client care.**

JR Levins LLP is marking one year since the successful merger of Levins and Jones Robinson, celebrating 12 months of expansion, integration, and significant progress in delivering expert legal services across Merseyside.

Although the firms had been established for nearly 40 years each, combining the firms brought new challenges. They merged in 2024 with the objective of creating a more comprehensive and regionally accessible legal service, but the priority for the first year was stability - maintaining consistent service and retaining valued clients while laying the groundwork for future growth.

Over the past year, the firm has:

- Expanded its Private Client and Crime departments, responding to increased client demand.
- Welcomed a new Head of Conveyancing, bringing fresh leadership and strategic direction to the property team.
- Invested in staff development, offering cross-departmental training and promoting an internal culture of continuous learning.
- Enhanced marketing capability, transitioning an intern into a full-time marketing role and building a two-person in-house marketing team.
- Joined the Halton Chamber of Commerce, cementing its role within the local business community.

JR Levins has worked steadily to integrate systems and processes from both legacy firms. Internally, the team has made strong progress in aligning workflows and improving collaboration between leadership and departments.

The firm's success is still driven by its dedication to client service. As evidence, **Karla Cope**, Head of Wills and Probate, recently received the Lifetime Lawyer Award, which recognises her work in supporting elderly and vulnerable clients.

Reflecting on the past year, **Tracy Morgan**, Managing Partner, said *"This anniversary represents how far we've come together as a team. The merger provided us the opportunity to determine who we want to be, and I'm glad that our expansion has gone hand in hand with our commitment to care and expertise. Last year set the ground running for the future, where we invest in our team and continue to deliver the best possible service to our clients."*

Looking ahead, JR Levins LLP plans to continue its trajectory of growth, expand its service areas and deepen its investment in digital transformation and client experience.



# Fletchers Group agrees to acquire Rayden Solicitors in first move into Family Law

- *Fletchers' first move into Family Law adds a new specialist pillar to the Group.*
- *Investment will accelerate Raydens' long-term growth and national expansion.*
- *Family Law seen as a people-centred, high-growth area ripe for consolidation.*

Fletchers Group, one of the UK's leading Clinical Negligence and Personal Injury firms, has agreed to acquire Rayden Solicitors (Raydens), one of the country's most highly regarded Family Law practices.

The deal marks the Group's first move into Family Law and adds a new specialist pillar to its Serious Injury and Clinical Negligence operations.

Founded in 2005 by **Katherine Rayden**, Raydens has grown from its base near St Albans to offices across Buckinghamshire, Essex, Central London, and Birmingham. The firm employs 113 people and is one of the largest specialist Family Law firms in England and Wales.

Following the acquisition, Raydens will retain its brand, offices, and leadership team, with Katherine Rayden joining the Fletchers Group Executive Committee.

Clients will continue to receive the same trusted service from the Raydens team, now supported by Fletchers Group's investment, technology, and strategic backing to drive the next stage of growth.

This is the tenth acquisition by Fletchers Group in the past four years and follows the addition of Scott Rees and Shoosmiths' Serious Injury practice earlier this year, alongside the Group's ongoing expansion into Birmingham, Northampton, and the Thames Valley - part of a broader strategy to build a



**Peter Haden**

nationwide presence across specialist consumer law.

**Peter Haden**, CEO of Fletchers Group, said: "Our strategy is clear: to invest in brilliant specialist firms and help them grow more quickly, help more clients, and strengthen their organisation.

"We're keen to apply the same successful approach to Raydens as we have in our Serious Injury and Clinical Negligence practice, moving at pace to build a national leader in Family Law through a mix of organic and inorganic growth.

"Our experience in scaling up specialist legal practices gives us a strong platform to support Raydens' next stage of growth, drawing on our expertise in marketing, client service, people development, and the use of technology and AI to improve efficiency and deliver exceptional outcomes for clients.

"Katherine has built a fantastic business. With Fletchers Group's investment and infrastructure, we can give her and her team the backing to accelerate their national growth plan, strengthen their



**Katherine Rayden**

market presence, and lead consolidation in Family Law."

**Katherine Rayden**, Founder and Senior Partner at Raydens, added: "This is a fantastic opportunity for us; we are delighted to be joining forces with Fletchers Group. This acquisition will benefit both our colleagues and our clients, whilst retaining our trusted Raydens brand. We will have access to more resources and support in all areas of the business, helping us to accelerate our growth plans and thereby augmenting our capabilities and our offering to clients.

"We share the same values as Fletchers - a commitment to providing the best possible results for our clients, based on industry-leading expertise and first-class client care. This acquisition is the natural next stage in the growth of Rayden Solicitors."

The deal is subject to SRA approval.

**Note:** Advisors to Fletchers were DLA Piper and KPMG.

# Carpenters Group Recognised Among Merseyside's Top 100 Private Companies in Prestigious 2025 Report



Donna Richards at the Top 100 presentation

Carpenters Group, a leading provider of insurance and legal services, is proud to announce its inclusion in the Merseyside Ltd Report 2025, which celebrates the region's 100 most successful privately owned businesses. The report, compiled by Grant Thornton, highlights the exceptional growth, innovation, and resilience of Merseyside's business community.

Founded and headquartered in Merseyside, Carpenters Group has grown from its local roots to operate seven offices across the UK, employing almost 1,500 people. This recognition reflects the hard work and dedication of the entire Carpenters team, whose commitment to excellence and customer service has driven the company's continued success.

*"We are absolutely delighted to be*

*featured in the Merseyside Ltd Report 2025," said Donna Richards, CEO of Carpenters Group. "This achievement is a testament to the passion and effort of our colleagues, whose teamwork and determination have enabled us to grow and thrive. This, along with our long-term partnerships with clients and the unwavering support of our owners John Carpenter and Donna Scully, has proven to be a winning combination. We are proud of our Merseyside heritage and remain committed to supporting our clients, customers, and communities as we continue to deliver."*

Carpenters Group provides a comprehensive range of insurance and legal services, partnering with insurers, brokers, and MGAs to deliver fully outsourced claims solutions. The company is recognised for its customer-

first approach, technological innovation, and unwavering commitment to quality.

Beyond business, Carpenters Group is deeply invested in social mobility and giving back. The company supports a wide range of local and national charities, organises fundraising events, and encourages colleagues to volunteer in their communities. This culture of care and responsibility is central to Carpenters' identity and ongoing success.

The Merseyside Ltd Report 2025 showcases the strength and diversity of the region's economy, with the top 100 companies delivering a 54% increase in turnover and a 58% rise in employment. Carpenters Group is honoured to be part of this dynamic business landscape and looks forward to building on this momentum in the years ahead.



## Christmas Closing Times:

LLS closes at 5pm on Tuesday 23 December 2025 and reopens on Monday 5 January 2026

The Staff & Officers of Liverpool Law Society wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

### Chris Makin

Chartered Accountant  
Accredited Civil Mediator  
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N Christopher Makin FCA FCMI FAE QDR MCIArb

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# Excello Law announces record results after year of growth and international expansion



George Bisnought

- Law firm with several offices in the North West sees revenue rises 26.6% to £30.5 million (with a three year increase of 170%)
- First overseas offices opened in California, Dubai and Belfast
- Eight House of Brands network firms launched in 2025
- 49% of partners are women

Leading new model law firm [Excello Law](#), which has offices in Manchester, Liverpool and Chester, has announced record financial results, marking another year of strong growth and expansion in the UK and internationally.

Annual turnover rose to **£30.5 million** by year end 30 June 2025 – an increase of 26.6% on the previous twelve months. Total turnover has grown 170% overall since 2022. Excello Law has **270 lawyers worldwide** as of October 2025, more than double the 2020 headcount.

Of the firm's 216 partners, 105 (49%) are women, reflecting Excello's longstanding commitment to equality and inclusion at senior levels.

This year has marked Excello's first international expansion with offices opened in California and Dubai, as well as a new office in Belfast. The growing firm, one of the first fee-share law firms to be launched in the UK when it was founded by George Bisnought in 2009, is not funded through private equity. Net profit in 2025 was £731,000, reinforcing Excello's position as one of the UK's most successful and innovative dispersed law firms.

## A unique model

Excello's structure offers multiple tailored entry routes: from fee-share partnerships and team transitions to the creation of new, independently branded firms within its unique House of Brands model. This flexibility allows lawyers to shape their own journey, supported by Excello's established reputation, technology and offices.

Most recently [Three Points Law](#), a pioneering tech enabled firm specialising in sports, technology and IP law, was launched in partnership with former Mischo de Reya lawyers Simon Leaf and Tom Murray. Of the 14 law firms in Excello's House of Brands, eight were founded in 2025.

**George Bisnought**, Excello's founder and Chief Executive, commented on these results: *"Our continued success and long-term sustainable growth are down to the exceptional calibre of our lawyers and the strength of our model. At Excello, individuality is our greatest asset. We provide an environment where lawyers are free to lead their practice, supported by world-class infrastructure designed around their goals."*

*"We recruit only highly experienced lawyers who value autonomy, excellence and entrepreneurship. Our success shows that when you truly listen to people, support their ambitions and remove the barriers of traditional law, excellence follows naturally."*

## Support for consultant lawyers

Excello Law's 'Excello 360' support model provides every lawyer with tailored access to a full law firm infrastructure, including a dedicated team of more than 40 professionals in compliance, finance, IT and marketing. The firm also offers support with business development and transition assistance, ensuring lawyers can focus on their clients from day one. Collaboration is at the heart of the Excello community: 42% of new client matters are generated through internal referrals, supported by the firm's Director of Community, who fosters cross-practice connections.

Excello Law has 10 offices across the UK including in London, Manchester, Birmingham and Belfast. It has international offices in California and Dubai.



# New cohort joins Fletchers' 12-month legal training programme



Fletchers Group, a national law firm specialising in personal injury and clinical negligence, has launched the latest intake of its Fletchers Academy — a structured 12-month training programme aimed at supporting people starting their careers in law.

The Academy is designed to provide practical experience, legal knowledge, and support for individuals who may not have had traditional access to opportunities in the legal profession.

This year, seven new trainees have joined the programme and will spend the coming months building their legal and professional skills before potentially moving into permanent roles within the firm.

**Andrew Clark**, Director of Learning and Development at Fletchers, said: *“Of all the things we do in the Learning & Development team throughout the year, hosting our Academy is one that I always find particularly enjoyable and rewarding.”*

*“It’s a brilliant way to support aspiring young lawyers—especially those who might have faced challenges breaking into the profession.”*

*“The Academy helps open doors and*

*show that a legal career can be within reach, regardless of background. I’ll be spending the next few weeks working closely with our seven enthusiastic new Academy trainees before they join our legal teams and take a major step in their careers. On a personal level, I’m very excited to be a part of their journey!”*

The Academy combines on-the-job experience with structured learning, including an introduction to civil litigation, personal injury and clinical negligence law, legal business skills, and mentoring from experienced lawyers. Much of the programme is delivered through virtual modules, with opportunities to shadow working teams across the business.

Trainees completing the programme can pursue a range of development pathways, including solicitor apprenticeships, graduate routes to qualification, or the CILEX and costs lawyer training programmes.

One of this year’s new trainees, **Shannen Millar**, said: *“After struggling for years to gain legal work experience, the opportunity to learn and grow within the supportive environment of the Fletchers Academy seemed too good to be true — but it isn’t.”*



**Andrew Clark**



**Shannen Millar**

*“Fletchers’ commitment to supporting early careers is clear, and I feel fortunate to have a place where I can develop and contribute. The welcome I’ve received has been incredibly reassuring, and I’m looking forward to building my career here and working with clients who are going through difficult times.”*

The Academy launches once per year and is open to candidates from a wide range of backgrounds and academic routes. In its fourth year, it is part of Fletchers’ broader efforts to improve access to the legal profession and offer long-term development within the firm.

# Recognition for Catastrophic Injury lawyer



**Richard Edwards**

**Leading Catastrophic Injury Lawyer**  
Richard Edwards is celebrating after the recent round of legal directory releases this autumn. Richard, 47,

founder of new city firm Richard Edwards & Co, has been recognised as a **Leading Partner in the Legal 500 2026 Directory** and also ranked in **Band 2 in the Chambers Directory**.

Richard is described as “*outstanding*”, “*more than a match for any lawyer within the sector*” and someone who is “*particularly experienced in advising on cases involving amputations and brain injuries*”.

He has won plaudits for being “*an expert in what he does*”, “*who fights for his clients as if it were his own battle, demonstrating both professionalism and genuine care*” whilst being “*tactically very astute, but never loses sight of the wider strategic picture*”.

Richard lays claim to be the only lawyer specialising in catastrophic injury litigation based in Liverpool who holds dual rankings in Chambers and Partners and as a Leading Partner in Legal 500.

Richard said: “*I have been practicing in serious and catastrophic injury work for more than 20 years now and I have always strived to deliver the best outcomes for my clients.*”

“*Of course it’s nice to be recognised for my work, but first and foremost, it’s about my clients’ needs and doing what I can to get the outcome they deserve.*”

“*I’m looking forward to building upon this with my new firm in Liverpool.*”



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# CELEBRATION FOR NEW ENTRANTS TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Liverpool Law Society would like to invite all those who  
qualified into the law during 2025  
from the Liverpool City Region and surrounding area  
to a celebration that marks the launch of their professional career

<b>THUR 29 JAN 2026</b>	<b>LITTLE LEAF (ONE FINE DAY) OLD HALL STREET, LIVERPOOL</b>
	<b>5.30PM FOR 6PM</b>

This event is aimed at:

Newly Qualified Solicitors | Barristers who completed pupillage  
Chartered Patent Attorneys | Fellows from CILEx | licensed conveyancers  
notary public | trade mark attorney | other branches of the law

What's included?

★Arrival drink ★ Canapes ★Professional photography ★Training voucher

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

**Andre Rebello OBE**

**Senior Coroner, Liverpool and Wirral Area**

Members of the Merseyside JLD are also invited to book a place to network  
with senior members of Liverpool Law Society.

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

Sponsored by



**[Book Here](#)**



# Liverpool Law Society's 2025 AGM



The Liverpool Law Society's 198th AGM took place on Thursday 27th November 2025 at the Racquet Club in Liverpool city centre with President, **James Mannouch**, opening formal proceedings by welcoming all to the meeting.

As with previous years, the election of vacancies for General Committee took place during the meeting and this year five existing committee members were voted on to continue for a full term of office (three years) were:

- **Lauren Cannon**, In-House Legal Solutions
- **Lindsey Knowles**, Brabners & LLS Employment Committee chair
- **Sarah Mansfield**, Excello Law & LLS Vice President
- **Nina Sahu**, Hill Dickinson
- **Laura Spence**, Hill Dickinson

The following directors stepped down and were thanked for their contribution to Liverpool Law Society:

- **Jonathan Berkson**, Bermans
- **Millie Hayden**
- **Lorna Mitchell**, University of Law although Lorna will continue to assist General Committee.
- **Gaynor Williams**, Excello Law and LLS Immediate Past President

And we are delighted to welcome as new directors of Liverpool Law Society from the wider membership, a further three directors:

- **Kathy McQuillan**, Morecrofts Solicitors
- **Andrew Ormrod**, Slater and Gordon
- **Peter Parsonage**, Carpenters Group

As most of you will know, Liverpool Law Society is a company limited by guarantee and those elected become Directors with the associated duties owed by virtue of that position.

The Hon. Treasurer presented the Society's accounts ending 31 May 2025. **John-Paul Dennis** commented "The Society's income is drawn primarily from membership subscriptions, training delivery, events and sponsorships.

*It is positive that membership remains steady and subscription payments timely. The annual awards and dinner continues to be successful and has been for a number of years. Aged debt is under management and nominal.*

*However training remains challenging with strong competition from all sectors together with a change in the requirements for people in the profession resulting in a lower*

*number of delegates attending events... The Society continues to offer in-person, hybrid and on-line events with the new Legal Training and Event Manager, **Kirsty** joining us in September 2025, focusing on engagement with member firms and their requirements going forward.*

*The officers of the Society remain focussed on keeping expenses to a minimum while exploring avenues to increase the provision of training."*

Finally, the outgoing President **James Mannouch** gave his address to the members where he reflected on the past 12 months. James commented "I have organised and held ad hoc meetings through the year...I have met representatives of law firms to determine their needs and to ensure the Society acts in response. I have worked hard to integrate the society with national business organisations, including the Institute of Directors, Federation of Small Business and the Confederation of British Industry. Closer to home, I have met with Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, Professional Liverpool, the Liverpool BID Company and the Liverpool City Region Business Group. It is vital that the Society influences the environment in which our members operate.

*In July, I attended a dinner with the SRA's Executive Board and discussed several regulatory issues with its chair, **Anna Bradley**. I also provided a presentation on conditional fee arrangements and their effect on access to justice. I have tried to my best to attend SRA events on behalf of the Society, including virtual meetings dealing with the compensation fund, requirements for first-tier complaints and the ongoing budget of the SRA vis a vis our practising certificate fees.*

*I met up with **David Meyerowitz**, Chair of the Liverpool City Region Business & Enterprise Board. This meeting has led to the Society being invited to contribute to the formal growth strategy for professional business services within the region, and work is currently ongoing in this regard.*





*Professional business services is the largest economic sector within our region and it is vital that professional legal services sit at its forefront.”*

The president concluded his speech with a number of thanks, including a thank you to the member firms who “allow us to use their offices for our training events and meetings, Brabners, CEL Solicitors, Jackson Lees, DWF, LJMU, Morecrofts, St John’s

*Building Chambers and Taylor Wessing. Thank you to our General Committee – 27 directors and Chairs of all our specialist committees, who have selflessly given their time and expertise to drive the Society forward. You will have already seen from [our Committee Reports](#) the outstanding work that our Committee Chairs do.*

*And a special thank you to you, our members, for continuing to loyally support*

*the Society, and ensuring it remains vibrant and successful for generations to come.”*

The Society’s new General Committee will meet for the first time on 9th December 2025 and Officer positions will be elected at the meeting and chairs of specialist committees appointed.

**Sarah Poblete**  
CEO

## Qualifying Work Experience (QWE) Exchange for Members

The Exchange, which is only open to member practices of Liverpool Law Society, is essentially a noticeboard whereby the member practice details what seat or area of competency they can offer and also what seat or competency they are seeking. Currently we have listed on our website:

**Seats Offered:** Medical Negligence; Personal injury; Landlord & Tenant

**Seats Sought:** Family; Commercial; Conveyancing; Wills & Probate

If you would like to advertise your seats or specified competencies, and for more information about the QWE Exchange, please click [here](#).

## Paul Crowley & Co Triumphs Again at the LEAP Modern Law Conveyancing Awards

Host Larry Dean with Jenna Gall and Nicola Stevenson of Paul Crowley & Co Solicitors receiving their award from sponsor John Margett of OneSearch.

Paul Crowley & Co has once again demonstrated its strength in the residential property sector with a remarkable victory at the LEAP Modern Law Conveyancing Awards 2025. The firm has been named Residential Property Team of the Year for the second consecutive year, reflecting its sustained commitment to client service, teamwork, and excellence in conveyancing.

The awards ceremony, attended by leading figures from across the legal industry, celebrated firms that continue to raise standards and deliver exceptional work in the conveyancing field. Paul Crowley & Co's success was one of the standout moments of the evening. The recognition follows a year of significant activity for the conveyancing department, which has continued to support clients through a busy and often demanding property market.

Representing the firm at the ceremony were **Jenna Gall**, Director and Head of

Conveyancing, and **Nicola Stevenson**, Associate and Conveyancing Executive. Both have been instrumental in maintaining the department's strong performance and ensuring that clients receive a clear, proactive, and supportive service throughout their transactions. Their leadership has played an important part in the team's continued success.

Speaking after the win, **Julie Jones**, owner of Paul Crowley & Co, said: *"We are proud to receive this award for a second year running. It is a real reflection of the hard work and professionalism shown by everyone in our conveyancing team. The property market continues to move quickly and our clients rely on us to guide them with clarity and confidence. Winning again this year shows that our commitment to delivering a high standard of service is recognised at a national level. I am incredibly proud of our team and grateful to our clients for placing their trust in us."*

The judging panel commended the firm

for its strong client-focused approach, its ability to manage high volumes effectively, and its emphasis on maintaining open and consistent communication from start to finish. Paul Crowley & Co's well-coordinated processes and commitment to reliability were highlighted as key strengths.

The award reinforces Paul Crowley & Co's position as one of the region's leading conveyancing practices. With a dedicated team, a growing client base, and a proven track record of success, the firm is well placed for another year of progress.

Looking ahead to the new year, Paul Crowley & Co is set to expand further and is currently recruiting for a number of positions across the firm. This growth reflects the company's ongoing commitment to delivering dependable, client-centred services across Liverpool and beyond, while continuing to drive standards across all areas of its practice.

**Leslie Priestley**



# Court and Tribunal Hearings (CaTH) Service

**Civil and Family Courts across the Lancashire & Merseyside has begun publishing hearing information on the Court and Tribunal Hearings service (CaTH).**

The Court and Tribunal Hearings service (CaTH) is HMCTS's lead service where all HMCTS public and press hearing information can be published to uphold the principles of open justice. The aim of the service is to provide professional users, the media and the public access to hearing information in a clear and consistent way on [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk).

CaTH contains a verified user space where legal professionals and members of the media can access enhanced information that they are entitled to, but that should not be in the public domain.

To provide smoother access for legal professional users, CaTH is integrated with MyHMCTS, the case management system for the Civil, Family and Tribunals jurisdiction and will soon also integrate with Common Platform for criminal court hearing information.

Please read the [user guide for Legal Professionals and members of the media](#), where it explains how you can create an account to view information and subscribe to hearing lists of interest.

If you need additional support with your MyHMCTS account, please email [MyHMCTSsupport@justice.gov.uk](mailto:MyHMCTSsupport@justice.gov.uk). We aim to respond to your email within 5 working days.

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EXPERTS**



# ADLA 2025

## *Celebrating excellence:*

## **Outstanding Legal Achievements Honoured at Regional Awards**

Photography by Ray Farley



**Mark Evans, Law Society President**

The Liverpool City Region legal community came together on 13th November in an evening of inspiring speeches and celebration at Liverpool Law Society's Annual Dinner and Legal Awards 2025. The distinguished black-tie event highlighted the exceptional talent and dedication of the city region's legal sector, bringing together some of the brightest minds in the legal community.

The Legal Awards honour excellence within the legal profession, celebrating individuals and firms for their remarkable contributions and achievements. These accolades shine a spotlight on outstanding talent, innovative practices, and a steadfast

commitment to upholding the rule of law.

The judges were "very impressed by the talented and industrious law firms and lawyers in the Liverpool City Region. The support provided by those working with vulnerable clients, offering outreach clinic and conducting pro-bono work, was substantial. A strong sense of community engagement was evident with many partnering with local charities, working with law schools to encourage new talent and opportunities, especially to under-represented groups. Our local lawyers attract national and international work and lead on the development of the law. All should be very proud of themselves."



## The winners of Liverpool Law Society's 2025 Legal Awards are:

Law Firm Award (50+ employees) –  
**CEL Solicitors**  
Law Firm Award (1-49 employees) –  
**Phoenix Legal Solicitors**  
Outstanding Lawyer Award –  
**Kevin Donoghue from Donoghue  
Solicitors**  
Equality Diversity & Inclusion Award –  
**In-House Legal Solutions**  
Rising Star Award –  
**Jessica Roberts from Fletchers  
Solicitors**  
Outstanding Team Award (Family Law) –  
**Morecrofts Solicitors**  
Outstanding Team Award  
(Employment Law) –  
**Morecrofts Solicitors**  
Outstanding Team Award  
(Non-Contentious) –  
**MSB Solicitors**  
Outstanding Team Award (Dispute  
Resolution & Litigation) –  
**DWF**



**James Mannouch**

The President of the Society, **James Mannouch** said “what a wonderful way to celebrate the legal talent that Liverpool City Region has to offer. From sole-practitioner to multi-national, our firms



*lead the way in delivering professional legal services. To have Mark Evans, President of the Law Society of England & Wales, address us in their 200th year made the occasion one to remember and was befitting to Liverpool Law Society's standing.”*

At the Annual Dinner, members and guests were privileged to hear from the President of The Law Society, **Mark Evans**, about his life, background, experiences and route into the law, full of inspiration for every person in the room about what each and every person can achieve.

There was a collection for the nominated charity, Parkinson's UK. A wonderful £3,470 was raised on the night that will go towards the important work the charity does.

The thanks of the Society go to the sponsors of the evening Benchmark Financial Planning, Clio, Fazenda, Landmark Information, Liverpool John Moores University, Miller Insurance and the University of Law and to all the members and guests who attended and supported the evening:

*Accord Associates  
Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors  
Benchmark Financial Planning  
Bond Turner  
Brabners  
Broudie Jackson Canter  
(part of the Jackson Lees Group)  
CEL Solicitors  
Charterhouse Chambers*

*Clio  
Donoghue Solicitors  
Driscoll Kingston Solicitors  
DWF  
Edge Hill University  
Excello Law  
Fazenda  
Fletchers Group  
Hadfield Bull and Bull Solicitors  
HarKaye Core Talent  
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HM3 Legal  
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Peter Edwards Law  
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President's Guests  
St John's Buildings Chambers  
Taylor Wessing  
The University of Law  
Top Tables  
University of Liverpool  
Weightmans  
Wilson & Roe High Court  
Enforcement*

The online photo album is available to view [here](https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk).



# The Winners...



**Alisha Butler Director & Solicitor Advocate of Phoenix Legal Solicitors**  
*"Winning Law Firm of the Year 1-49 employees is an incredible honour for our firm and a milestone that reflects the dedication, passion, and resilience of our entire team. This recognition highlights not only the quality of work we deliver,*

*but also the care and commitment we show to each of our clients. It reinforces that our client-centred approach, strong professional values, and collaborative culture truly make a difference. We are immensely proud of this achievement and grateful to the Liverpool Law Society for acknowledging our efforts and impact within the legal community".*



**Morecrofts Solicitors Managing Partner Alison Lobb:** *"We are delighted to have won in two categories at this year's Liverpool Legal Awards. To be recognised in both employment and family law is an incredible achievement and reflects the outstanding work our teams*

*deliver day after day. Their professionalism, empathy, and commitment to achieving the very best outcomes for clients truly set them apart.*

*"I also want to highlight our exceptional support staff, without whom none of this would be possible. Every part of the firm contributes to delivering the high standards for which Morecrofts is known. These awards belong to all of us, and we are immensely proud."*



**Morecrofts Solicitors Head of the Employment Team, Charles Millett:** *"This award reflects the depth of expertise within our team and the strength of the relationships we build with employers and employees. I am so proud of the dedication our incredible team has shown over the past year."*



**Morecrofts Solicitors Head of the Family Law Team, Jo-anne Lomax:** *"We work with clients during some of the most difficult and emotional periods of their lives, so being recognised as Outstanding Team means the world to us. I am grateful for the close collaboration we have with our colleagues across the firm, which helps us deliver the best possible outcomes for families across all areas."*



**Kevin Donoghue from Donoghue Solicitors** *"Winning the Liverpool Law Society Outstanding Lawyer Award was humbling and exhilarating in equal measure. Even though my name is on the trophy, I wouldn't have won it without the fantastic work of my fantastic team at Donoghue*

*Solicitors and those clients who trust us every day to help them through the most difficult times of their lives. Thank you to the Liverpool Law Society for this prestigious recognition."*





**Jessica Roberts from Fletchers Solicitors for Rising Star Award:** *It has been a real privilege to receive the Rising Star Award and to be recognised amongst the wonderful talent that we have in Liverpool and across Merseyside. It reflects the support, mentorship and belief of those around*

*me and inspires me to continue growing, giving back to the community and championing the values that brought me into the profession: driving real change, improving accountability, raising care standards and contributing to a legal system that serves and empowers those most in need."*



**Jessica Hampson (Director, CEL Solicitors):**

*"The calibre of entrants was exceptional this year, which makes winning this award even more meaningful. It's incredibly rewarding to have our firm's hard work and dedication recognised by the Liverpool Law Society."*



**Paul Hampson (Director, CEL Solicitors):**

*"The strength of Liverpool's legal community lies in our shared commitment to excellence. The awards were a great example of the collaborative spirit that is driving the entire profession forward, with lots of fantastic individual solicitors and firms recognised on the night."*



**Emma Carey, Managing Partner of MSB Solicitors regarding the Outstanding Team Award (Non-Contentious):** *"MSB residential team has been through a real period of transition over the last few years, they have moved to our city centre office, restructured their teams, embraced*

*technology and brought through the next generation of lawyers. I was delighted that was recognised by Liverpool law society and that the team were there on the night to celebrate."*













# Employment Law Conference

**On Wednesday, October 15th, Liverpool Law Society hosted the Employment Law Conference, an engaging event providing a thorough update on the latest developments in employment law and practice. Featuring a full agenda and a roster of leading experts, the day was both informative and motivating, delivering essential insights for all professionals working in the field of employment law.**

The day was hosted by **Henry Sturm**, Supported Employment Specialist at Fedcap, who welcomed attendees both online and in person to Taylor Wessing LLP. **David Flood** from St Johns Chambers kicked off the days presentations with an update on the Employment Rights Bill. The Bill has completed its Committee Stage in the House of Lords and Royal Assent is expected in Autumn 2025. This session reviewed overview of the key changes introduced by the Employment Rights Bill and their implications for modern workplaces. It explored the new landscape of employee protections, including the unfair dismissal rights, statutory probation periods, and changes around zero-hours contracts, fire-and-rehire practices and collective redundancy rights. The likely upcoming changes to parental and bereavement leave entitlements, and flexible working rights were reviewed. **David Flood** reviewed the emerging obligations on employers to prevent harassment by third parties, sexual harassment being added as grounds for protected disclosure and changes to limitation periods. To close the impact the changes will have on employers, employment figures and the day to day administration of the Employment Tribunal Service.

**David Campion**, from Nine Chambers, then presented on the use of generative AI in Employment Tribunal beginning with an exploration of the nature of generative AI and its rapid acceleration across industries. It examined both the benefits and dangers of AI usage, highlighting efficiencies alongside risks such as misinformation, exemplified by the Ayinde case and other incidents involving fake authorities and consequent wasted costs. The discussion then turned to emerging regulatory and

professional standards designed to guide responsible AI adoption, followed by an international perspective on how different jurisdictions are managing AI use in legal proceedings. The session concluded with a set of best practice recommendations to help practitioners leverage AI effectively while maintaining accuracy, compliance, and professional integrity.

Following the mid-morning break Employment **Judge Nicky Benson** commenced the session after the break reviewing Employment Tribunals in 2026 and beyond. The session on offered a forward-looking review of key developments shaping the tribunal landscape. It began with reflections on the Employment Tribunals at 60, considering how their role and structure have evolved over six decades. The discussion then moved to the presentation of claims and responses and an overview of the Employment Tribunal Rules followed, outlining areas where interpretation and application continue to develop. The session also addressed the closure of the reform programme and looking ahead exploring future digitisation and the increasing role of AI in Employment Tribunals and emerging legal developments, offering insight into how evolving legislation and case law will influence tribunal processes in the years to come.

The morning session closed with **Dan Northall**, KC Littleton chambers, providing an Expert's Guide to Interim Relief in the Employment Tribunal. The session provided a detailed and practical exploration of interim relief applications in the employment tribunal, emphasising their time-pressured nature and the significant financial and reputational consequences they can carry for both employers and employees. **Dan Northall** drew on his extensive first-hand experience, offering an expert's guide, beginning with an overview of the statutory scheme then examined how to make an application and defend an application. The session concluded with a discussion of available remedies, providing clarity on potential outcomes and their implications. Throughout, **Daniel** shared valuable practical insights shaped by real-

world practice, giving attendees a grounded and actionable understanding of this complex area.

The sessions then paused for a networking lunch, giving delegates and speakers a welcome opportunity to connect, share ideas, and reflect on the morning's engaging discussions. **Andrew Edge**, KBW, then commenced the afternoon session looking at Religion and Belief discrimination – where are we after Higgs? **Andrew Edge** provided a comprehensive analysis of how the law currently integrates in manifestation claims, beginning with a detailed examination of the impact of the Higgs decision and a critical assessment of whether its interpretation is right. It then identified the emerging key battlegrounds in litigating these claims and explored the anticipated future direction of the law in this area, offering insight into potential developments and challenges that practitioners and claimants may face moving forward.

**Snoof** from the Brain Charity delivered a compelling presentation on ADHD in the workplace, explaining what ADHD is and highlighting the unique strengths it can bring to a professional environment. The presentation also focused on practical ways employers can create an accessible and supportive workplace for both employees and clients with ADHD, fostering inclusion and maximizing potential.

The final session of the day was presented by **Martin Mensah**, Nine Chambers, who provided a Case Law Update, delivering an overview of the latest significant employment law cases. This update highlighted current key rulings, offering valuable insights into how recent decisions are shaping the legal landscape for practitioners and employers alike.

A huge thank you to our incredible speakers, our chair **Henry Sturm**, and Taylor Wessing for hosting us and making this event possible. We look forward to welcoming you all to next year's conference!

**Kirsty Barker**

Training and Events Manager, LLS





## Social announcement: A fantastic few months for Merseyside's junior lawyers

It has been a busy and exciting first few months for the Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division 2025/26 year, with some fantastic events that have encouraged networking amongst our fellow junior lawyers in Merseyside, welcoming both familiar faces and new members alike, and truly showcasing the strength of Merseyside's junior legal network.

### **MJLD Welcome Event; Our Autumn Social**

We were thrilled to host our first event of 2025/26 at Ma Boyle's, where junior lawyers, trainee solicitors, apprentices, and paralegals joined us for an evening of introductions and networking, whilst also enjoying some "boss scan" (as quoted directly from the Japanese ambassador, Hiroshi Suzuki, who visited the venue only one day later!) It was wonderful to meet so many and to see returning members reconnect and setting a fantastic tone for our social events in the year ahead.

### **A Night of Style; MJLD x FB Fashion Ball**

This 2025/26 year also saw the MJLD attend the FB Fashion Ball's launch event in Liverpool. It was a great opportunity for our committee members to enjoy an

evening of both glamour and networking with individuals across Merseyside's professional community, with several of our committee members also taking part in the catwalk for charity – something which was an entirely new experience to us all, and very different to our typical day jobs, but we all genuinely had a fantastic time and were absolutely delighted to take part.

### **Celebrating Excellence; Liverpool Law Society's Annual Dinner and Legal Awards**

The MJLD committee were also proud to attend the Liverpool Law Society's ADLA 2025, which is always a highlight in the region's legal calendar, and were also proud to represent our fellow MJLD members as the next generation of legal talent within Merseyside. The evening celebrated the achievements of several outstanding members of the legal profession, and it was an incredible experience for junior lawyers such as ourselves to be welcomed personally by the President of the Law Society of England and Wales, Mark Evans, which serves as a strong example of the Law Society's genuine investment in the future of the legal profession within Merseyside.

### **Looking Ahead; MJLD Christmas Social**

We are also excited to announce that our MJLD Christmas Social is just around the corner and will be taking place on Thursday 18 December 2025 at the Tempest on Tithebarn. This event is always an MJLD-favourite and a perfect way to round off the year – it is a fantastic chance for junior lawyers to unwind, celebrate all that we have each achieved in 2025, and enjoy the company of colleagues who have become friends. Whether you are an MJLD-regular, or are thinking of attending your first networking event, we would love to see you there for an evening of celebration and festive fun.

Thank you to everyone who has attended and supported our events so far, as you are helping us build and promote an inclusive, vibrant, and friendly junior legal community. We have had a fantastic year so far, and we are excited for our further events in 2026, so make sure to keep an eye on our socials!

**Daniella Norman**  
Solicitor  
and MJLD Social Representative



# Members of Liverpool Law Society attend Anthony Walker Foundation 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala



On Thursday, 23 October, I had the privilege of attending the 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner of the Anthony Walker Foundation at the Rum Warehouse. I was accompanied by my fellow Directors from the Liverpool Law Society, alongside other distinguished guests.



It was a real honour to participate in this special occasion, which celebrates the incredible work of the Anthony Walker Foundation over the past two decades. Witnessing the impact that **Dr. Gee Walker** has had on so many lives was truly inspiring. The Foundation's commitment to creating opportunities for individuals aspiring to enter the legal profession, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, is commendable.

The Foundation's efforts in addressing social mobility and educational challenges resonated deeply with me. A powerful showreel, highlighting scholarship recipients, illustrated how the Foundation's support has enabled aspiring lawyers to turn their dreams into reality. It was moving to see so many lives transformed.

The recipients of the evening's awards are a testament to the outstanding work being done, and their achievements reflect the Foundation's enduring legacy. On a personal level, this event touched on many issues that are close to my heart, and ones I have experienced in my own journey.





John-Paul Dennis, Alum Ullah, Lauren Cannon, Kemmi Alfa, Jeremy Myers and Laura Spence



It was a true privilege to be part of such an important celebration.

It was a special occasion, and I was glad to have shared this with my fellow table guests: **John-Paul Dennis, Lauren Cannon, Jeremy Myers, Laura Spence, Kemmi Alfa, and Pamela Chesterman** (who regrettably went missing for the group picture!).

**Alum Ullah,**  
Training Principal,  
Bond Turner





# Regulation Update

## December 2025

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

As the year draws to a close and the festive period approaches, Compli continues to monitor an evolving regulatory landscape where momentum remains strong, even as we begin to wind down for the holiday season. However you are planning to spend the break, we hope you find time to relax and switch off.

### AML and financial crime:

#### SRA AML annual report

The SRA's latest AML annual report, for the period April 2024 – April 2025, was published on 30 October 2025. The number of pro-active engagements with firms increased by 72% to 935 (including thematic engagements), an increase from 545 in the last reporting year, with over 800 firms receiving an onsite AML inspection or desk-based review. Over 30% of firms were found to be non-compliant, in relation to e.g. failure to carry out due diligence or client/matter risk assessments, failure to have FWRA and/or adequate PCPs. 137 firms received SRA enforcement outcomes with almost £1m fines, and 14 cases going to the SDT, with total fines of almost £550,000. The SRA identified three key themes it says contributed to breaches:

- Inadequate importance placed on

having robust and compliant AML controls in place.

- Inadequate supervision or training of fee earners on the regulations and PCPs.
- No process in place to stop moving to the next stage in the transaction when e.g. an element of customer due diligence has not been performed, monies received from an unexpected source.

Only half of the firms had carried out an independent audit, with the majority having been carried out within the last two years, but over 30% of the audits were not compliant with regulation 21 as they did not include file reviews. The SRA found that firms with a compliant independent audit had a higher rate of overall compliance than firms who had not conducted an audit at all.

#### SRA Thematic review of source of funds and wealth compliance

The results of the SRA's latest thematic review were published on 5 November. The report sets out the findings from a review of how regulated firms are complying with source of funds/wealth requirements and how the SRA expect firms to comply. It also provides regulatory best practice, FAQs, case studies and further resources, including a form, with guidance, to record the approach taken. It found that while awareness is good, there was evidence of non-compliance including weak document review (collecting without proper analysis), poor record-keeping and audit trails, and a disconnect between declared fund origins and those shown in ledgers (in 8% of cases). Over 5,800 client files were reviewed in 2024/25, with 11% lacking evidence of any source of funds checks and 18% showing inadequate scrutiny of the information provided.

The SRA emphasises that checks must be proportionate, risk-based and clearly

documented, and reminds firms that the costs of CDD, including source of funds and wealth checks can be charged to clients, providing the cost is clearly stated in your terms and conditions. It accepts there is need for more clarity on when and how the checks should be carried out and will be working with HM Treasury and stakeholders to examine existing guidance but whether this work will be completed prior to the FCA taking over AML supervision remains to be seen.

The next SRA thematic review, on Regulation 19 - PCPs, including monitoring and management of compliance with PCPs, is expected to be carried out early 2026.

#### Next steps after SRA sanctions data exercise

The SRA has analysed the data collected through the recent AML and sanctions data collection exercise. As a result, over the next few months, the SRA will be increasing its engagement with firms by:

- Sending tailored guidance letters to 490 firms where the data suggests sanctions controls could be strengthened, signposting practical steps and good practice. These are firms who confirmed they have not assessed their sanctions risk in writing and do not screen new clients for sanctions.
- Carrying out desk-based reviews to understand sanctions risk and exposure with firms who have clients with connections to sanctioned countries and/or offer services that may carry a higher sanctions risk.
- Continuing with the sanction control in its AML inspection programme, so firms inspected for AML compliance will also have their sanctions procedures reviewed.

All firms should ensure that their sanctions controls are proportionate and kept under regular review, and, in



particular, should:

- Assess and document their sanctions risk in writing.
- Carry out appropriate sanctions screening of new and existing clients; and
- Ensure staff understand when and how to report to OFSI.

### New OFSI sanctions licence

The Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) issued a new General Licence (INT/2025/7323088) effective from 28 October 2025. This allows UK legal firms and advisers to receive payment for services provided to designated persons under the UK autonomous sanctions regimes without needing an individual OFSI licence. The requirements are different to previous versions, so, where relevant, policies, onboarding processes etc. should be updated.

### HMT consultation on AML reform

Further to the decision that the FCA should take over responsibility for AML/CTF supervision of legal, accountancy, and trust and company service providers, on 6 November HMT has published the first of what is expected to be a number of consultations, 'The Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Supervision Reform: Duties, Powers, and Accountability Consultation', which closes midnight on 24 December 2025 – great timing! It sets out proposals for the key duties, powers, and accountability mechanisms that the FCA will need and the legislative changes required and asks for views on whether these are the right changes to make, setting out a list of 28 questions. One area that stands out, which is already within the FCA enforcement process, is the ability to deny, suspend or cancel a business registration, which would mean that firms could no longer carry out work within scope of MLRs.

### New SRA guidance

The UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU) has published updated guidance, available on the NCA and SRA website [SRA | Your AML obligations | Solicitors Regulation Authority under](#) the tab 'Suspicious activity reports', covering:

- Using the SRA portal
- Submitting a good quality SRA
- Understanding DAMLs and DATFs.

This replaces all previous guidance, so update links were applicable.

### ECCTA

The legal requirement for new directors, PSCs and members of LLPs, to verify their identity, and the 12 month transition plan for existing directors, PSCs and members of LLPs to verify their identity, began on 18 November 2025, an informal process having started in April, with only one million of the estimated seven million directors, PSCs and LLP members having verified their identities with Companies House before the new law came into force. On 17 November 2025, Companies House published guidance on its approach to non-compliance with mandatory identity verification, which includes three main routes for enforcement action; prosecution, referral to The Insolvency Service and financial penalties (which may be issued to the company or individual officer). Where there is evidence of fraud and criminal activity, it will use its powers and work with law enforcement partners to convict criminals.

### SRA Consultations:

Changing requirements on first-tier complaints

Following the consultation earlier in the year and feedback from stakeholders, the SRA has applied to the LSB for approval to regulatory changes to:

- make changes to when complaints information must be provided to a client, to include providing it at the

conclusion of the matter (despite most respondents to the consultation opposing this proposal);

- require complaints information to be clear, accessible and in a prominent place on firms' websites, where they have one (and made available on request when they don't have a website); and
- include the LSB's definition of a complaint in the SRA glossary of defined terms.

The SRA will produce new complaints handling guidance and case studies and start to collect more complaints data.

### Safeguarding client money

You may well recall the three SRA consultations relating to protecting client money, which closed on 25 February. We understand that a further consultation will be issued at the end of November relating to a requirement for all firms to file Accountants reports; the numbers of compliance roles that can/should be held by one person, and SRA oversight of mergers and acquisitions. Responses will be due by end of January (unless, by the date of publication, the SRA has reconsidered the closing date in view of the Christmas period). The question of solicitors holding client money remains on the SRA agenda for the longer term but will not be included in this consultation.

### New practice notes and guidance

#### SRA guidance

- [SRA | AML guidance – reporting breaches | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)

#### Law Society practice notes/guides

- [Social media | The Law Society](#)
- [Administering insolvent estates | The Law Society](#)

*Continues over page...*



- [Consumer protection measures in conveyancing | The Law Society](#)
- [Support for solicitors facing disciplinary investigation and enforcement | The Law Society](#)
- [UK sanctions regime | The Law Society](#)
- [Mazur and the conduct of litigation | The Law Society NB](#) The latest version, as at the date of writing, is dated 18 November 2025, and is the 5th published since 16 October 2025, with no indication of amendments from previous versions. This has been pointed out to the Law Society.

## Disciplinary and regulatory decisions

### No dishonesty in costs schedule

A solicitor alleged to have provided false and/or misleading information in a schedule of costs was cleared by the SDT. It found that while correspondence was poorly drafted, there was no intention to mislead, and the schedule accurately reflected the fee agreement in place.

### Suspended for failing to undertake due diligence with employees

A sole practitioner who failed to carry out basic checks, resulting in the employment of a disbarred barrister using a false identity and a struck-off solicitor working under a pseudonym, and the closure of the firm, has been suspended for 18 months and ordered to pay £25,000 costs. The individuals carried out reserved legal work, generating significant fees, and were involved in serious compliance failings, including breaches of AML and accounts rules. In addition to the suspension the SDT imposed an indefinite restriction order.

### Struck off after admitting misleading client

A partner specialising in immigration and asylum law was struck off following his admission that he misled a client, the client's MP, the COLP and the Home Office regarding the progress of an asylum claim. He was ordered to pay £6,000 costs.

### Struck off for providing false information as company director

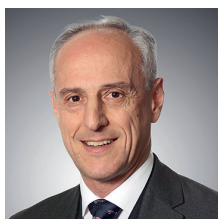
A solicitor was struck off by the SDT after providing false information to obtain a corporate loan as a company director, impersonating a co-director and electronically signing a guarantee without authorisation. He also misrepresented to counsel's clerk that payment had been authorised when it had not, and failed to co-operate with the SRA investigation. The tribunal found his behaviour clearly dishonest, lacked integrity, undermined public trust and amounted to professional misconduct despite the conduct occurring outside active legal practice.

### How Compli can help...

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

**Andrea Cohen**  
Compli,  
Weightmans LLP

# LLS Education and Charities Committee



**The second of the two routine 2025 meetings took place on 06 November. Members may be aware that I am chairing the Committee following the handover from David Tournafond – who led it for decades of careful service – and who has helped to guide me, and my retirement as an LLS Director in December 2026. We have a succession plan in place.**

There were matters to report, such as that the Conkerton Lecture has been fixed for March 2027 in LLS's Centenary year. The lecturer will be Mr Justice Fancourt, well known to many Liverpool practitioners as Vice Chancellor of the County Palatine. The extension of LLS Pritt Fund (for Solicitors in need) and Education

Foundation to match LLS's area – with wording approved at the last AGM – had been logged by the Charity Commission.

We considered the one application by a Trainee Solicitor and in line with recent years approved a grant of £350.00. The process of awarding academic Prizes at the Newly Qualified event in January 2026 was reviewed. The new process of seeking online nominations had yet to yield names and further contacts are to be made to ensure that the requisite details are received. The SRA had advised that it could no longer provide the name of the youngest person admitted to the Roll in the LLS area, which puts the Rex Makin Prize in doubt, so that the Makin family is being consulted.

Rathbones manages the two mentioned funds. An online meeting with the Rathbones adviser is planned. Particular

issues to address were identified and include performance plus how investments in particular stocks of shares are to be held.

The Committee looked forward also to two events in addition to that for the newly qualified individuals. New in 2026 is the Careers Fair in February, initiated by Fletchers which LLS is helping to organize and in which LLS will participate. The Pathways into the Profession event online in March is being prepared, to assist students in career choices ahead of A Levels.

If any LLS members are interested in the Committee's work and might like to join then please contact me.

**Jeremy Myers**  
Chair  
Education and Charities Committee



# Halebank Industrial Business Improvement District (BID) in Widnes Delivers

## Our regular update from Halton District BID



coverage with 51 cameras including four ANPR cameras and supporting the further development of a well-educated, highly skilled local workforce through additional courses and fully funded workshops.

*“Halton BID ensures that everyone across the estate is better connected and fully informed with monthly newsletters, an annual AGM and regular networking meetings.”* **Rachael Owen**, Director of ‘Halton BID’ and CEO of ‘Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise Ltd’, explained: *“We work with a number of local contractors to deliver a breadth of services. This model allows us to remain agile and respond quickly to sometimes changing business needs, as and when required. The Halebank Industrial BID is a great example of organisations voting to have a say over their business environment and working together to deliver additional estate wide services and facilities for the betterment of all. It’s a true partnership with organisations from across the estate volunteering to serve on the Operating Group which guides investment decisions and identifies areas for further action/improvement.”*

The BID in Widnes is run by ‘Halton Chamber Enterprises Limited’ t/a ‘Halton BID’, a not-for-profit organisation which runs two industrial BIDs, Halebank BID in Widnes and Astmoor BID in Runcorn, serving approximately 210 organisations across both estates.

For more information about Halebank BID please visit our website [www.haltonbid.co.uk](http://www.haltonbid.co.uk)



It’s over 20 years since the first Business Improvement Districts were piloted in the UK. Initially 20 BIDs were formed with the original pilot in October 2003 and then brought into law with the ‘The business improvement districts (England) regulations 2004’. Four years later, Halebank BID in Widnes was formed, an industrial BID which is now in its 4th Term. Halebank BID is one of 350+ BIDs operating across the UK: a geographical defined area of a town or city where a levy is charged on all eligible business rate payers. Every five years, eligible businesses vote in a ballot to decide whether the BID and its levy should continue.

Halebank BID in Widnes delivers a range of day-to-day services which include regular litter picks, removing graffiti, connecting businesses and training. Halebank BID currently serves approximately 70 businesses spanning a range of sectors, all located within the BID boundary on Halebank Industrial Estate. The current BID was created having successfully won a business rate payers ballot in March 2023 and will continue until 2028. For this term additional focus has been given to enhancing estate safety by expanding extensive CCTV/ANPR



# Charity Spotlight: Ahead Of The Game Foundation – Changing the Way We Fight Cancer



**Dave Bolton (centre) – founder of Ahead Of The Game Foundation and Kilimanjaro summiteer.**

At the heart of Merseyside lies a charity redefining what it means to live — and thrive — in the face of cancer.

Ahead Of The Game Foundation, founded by former world kickboxing champion and ex-detective **Dave Bolton**, is an award-winning registered charity providing fully funded physical, mental and emotional support to individuals and families affected by cancer.

Born from lived experience, the Foundation was created to fill the gap between hospital treatment and true recovery — helping people find strength, hope and purpose when they need it most.

## From One Man's Battle to a Movement of Hope

In 2015, Dave was given just three months to live after being diagnosed with Glioblastoma Multiforme, one of the most aggressive and terminal forms of brain cancer.

Refusing to accept that prognosis, he channelled his lifelong resilience and athletic mindset into a new fight — not just for himself, but for others.

Ten years on, Dave stands as one of the world's longest surviving cases of his tumour type, having defied every medical prediction. His journey from hospital bed to mountain summits — including becoming the first person in the world to

summit Mount Kilimanjaro with terminal brain cancer — is not just a story of survival, but of defiance.

*"We can't always control what happens to us — but we can control how we respond, how we fight, and how we rise again."*

– **Dave Bolton**, Founder

That same drive led him to establish Ahead Of The Game Foundation, ensuring no one has to face cancer alone, unsupported or without hope.

## Restoring Hope and Rebuilding Strength

Ahead Of The Game provides a comprehensive Health & Wellbeing Cancer Rehabilitation Programme, delivered fully funded.

Every individual supported by the charity follows a personalised plan that can include:

- **Physical rehabilitation** – specialist cancer-trained exercise coaches rebuild strength, mobility and confidence.
- **Emotional and psychological support** – counsellors and wellbeing professionals help individuals and families process trauma and regain emotional balance.
- **Holistic therapies** – innovative treatments such as hyperbaric oxygen therapy, infrared light therapy and contrast therapies aid recovery and improve quality of life.
- **Community connection** – group sessions and wellness workshops foster belonging and resilience long after treatment ends.

This whole-person approach recognises that cancer doesn't just affect the body — it impacts every aspect of life. The Foundation helps people regain control, purpose and independence, empowering them to live well again.





**Supporting cancer patients through physical, mental and emotional recovery.**

### A Charity with Impact

Since its launch, Ahead Of The Game has supported hundreds of individuals and families across Merseyside and beyond, helping them regain strength, confidence and hope.

The Foundation's work has been recognised nationally, with Dave receiving the National Lottery Award for Special Achievement — the highest honour within the UK National Lottery community.

The charity's unique approach has attracted strong partnerships with brands such as Keiser, Supreme CBD, London Nootropics, Celler8 and Montirex, alongside the unwavering support of local businesses, volunteers and fundraisers.

Every donation and every partnership directly funds life-changing programmes for people living with or beyond cancer. For many, it's the difference between surviving and truly living again.

### Beyond Cancer – Building a Community of Strength

Ahead Of The Game is more than a charity — it's a family. Its doors are open not only to patients, but to their loved ones, who often shoulder their own invisible burden.

Through initiatives such as *Ahead Of The Game Heroes*, the Foundation celebrates acts of courage, kindness and perseverance within the community. From spa days and wellness retreats to mountain challenges and gala events, every initiative is rooted in one powerful belief: healing happens together.

That sense of unity has created a growing movement of survivors, supporters and



**Dave receiving the National Lottery Award for Special Achievement**

volunteers — all working towards a shared goal: helping others find hope in the darkest moments.

The Foundation's growth over the past year is a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together for a shared purpose.



**Supporters and volunteers at a recent fundraising event**

### Looking Ahead

As the Foundation moves into 2026, its mission is clear – to ensure every person diagnosed with cancer in the North West has access to the holistic care and rehabilitation they deserve, regardless of background or financial means.

Upcoming initiatives include the Three Peaks Challenge (twice in 48 hours), Charity Golf day Celebrity charity football match, community wellness events and new partnerships designed to expand the reach and sustainability of the charity's life-changing programmes.

Behind every event, every fundraiser and every success story is a simple message:

*There is another way, there is another option, but most of all there is hope.*

### Get Involved

Ahead Of The Game Foundation relies entirely on public support, donations and partnerships to continue its vital work. Whether through fundraising, volunteering, corporate sponsorship or simply spreading the word — every act makes a difference.

To learn more, get involved or refer someone in need of support, please visit:

[www.aheadofthegamefoundation.com](http://www.aheadofthegamefoundation.com)

*Ahead Of The Game Foundation  
Restoring hope. Rebuilding strength.  
Redefining recovery.*

# The Costs Consequences of Alleging Fundamental Honesty – Basics, Basics - Fundamentals

Peak  
Costs

## Introduction

Fundamental dishonesty was introduced as part of the LASPO forms and was a key counter-lever in the Qualified One-way Costs Shifting (QOCS) regime. The QOCS regime was introduced as a way of off-setting the non-recoverability of additional liabilities (success fees and ATE premiums) on an inter partes basis to ensure that injured Claimants still had access to justice where they have suffered personal injuries.

The main premise being that a successful Defendant could only enforce costs orders in their favour up to the amount of the damages and costs recovered by the Claimant. Therefore, the Claimant would have some element of costs protection as if they had taken out an ATE premium, but without incurring the premium itself.

However, QOCS protection could be removed in some limited circumstances. The main circumstance was where a Claimant was found to be fundamentally dishonest. Therefore, Defendants have been proactive in alleging fundamental dishonesty in personal injury claims in order to remove QOCS protection and to enable them to recover their costs from the Claimant.

## The Background to *Hakmi v East & North Hertfordshire NHS Trust* [2025] EWHC 2597 (KB)

This was a clinical negligence claim which related to the alleged failure to provide thrombolysis as treatment for the stroke suffered by the Claimant. The claim was highly contested in respect of both breach of duty and causation, however, quantum was agreed between the parties at just over £1m. The matter proceeded to trial where both breach of duty and causation were addressed by the Court. Unfortunately, for the Claimant, the Judge concluded that the claim would fail on causation due to the finding that even if the proposed treatment had been administered it was unlikely to have resulted in a better outcome for the Claimant.

Towards the end of the claim, and prior to trial, the Defendants proceeded to allege fundamental dishonesty on the part of the Claimant. Allegations were made by the Defendants that the Claimant had deliberately underperformed in neuro-psychological testing carried out by its experts and that this was a deliberate attempt by the Claimant to increase the value of the claim.

Whilst it was agreed by both parties that the Claimant had suffered global cognitive decline as a result of the strokes, the question was to what extent.

The allegations were fully heard at trial and a number of experts were cross-examined as a result. Conflicting evidence was considered as to whether the Claimant had deliberately exerted less effort when carrying out some of the testing with the Defendant's experts. The Claimant's expert evidence addressed some of the allegations and it was submitted that the testing relied upon by the Defendants was not suitable for individuals who had suffered strokes or patients with moderately severe brain injury.

## The Costs Decision

The Judge considered the pleading of fundamental dishonesty and applied the 5 stage test. It was found that there was no evidence that the Claimant had been fundamentally dishonest. The Judge concluded that *"I do not consider that he was trying to mislead the court in any way. He is a proud man against whom a serious allegation has been made which, if found proven, could have serious consequences on his registration and employment by his Trust."*

Following the decision reached, submissions in respect of costs were received in respect of the allegations made and pursued to trial by the Defendants. The judge considered that the Defendants had a number of opportunities to drop the allegations in the build up to trial and, during the trial itself, when the evidence was found "increasingly

wanting." Instead, the Defendants continued to pursue the allegations all the way through the trial.

The judge was invited to consider the making of a costs order against the Defendants in respect of the fundamental dishonesty point. The Judge concluded that he did not *"accept that to make such an order, where a claimant fails, undermines the costs regime. If anything it is the converse, not to make such an order would give a defendant a free tilt at raising the issue of fundamental dishonesty"*.

As such, the judge proceeded to make a costs order in the Claimant's favour for the Defendants to pay 15% of the Claimant's costs from 18 March 2025 (the date when the first allegation of fundamental dishonesty was first raised), with costs to follow the event in respect of the main action.

## Takeaway Points

Whilst the actual practical effect of the Order made in this case may not see any costs being paid by either party, it is a clear indication that the Court will not entertain Defendants making unfounded or wanting claims of fundamental dishonesty.

Where such allegations are made, a Claimant solicitor should be prepared to seek an additional costs order against the Defendant. This could be in the form of an indemnity basis costs order where allegations are pursued all the way to trial.



Kris Kilsby is a Costs Lawyer at Peak Costs and a Council member of the Association of Costs Lawyers. For any further questions or queries about QOCS or if you are interested in further in-depth training on the topic please get in touch at [kris.kilsby@peakcosts.com](mailto:kris.kilsby@peakcosts.com).



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FINDING YOUR VOICE  
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# Edge Hill University Law School Tops North West Rankings for Student Experience and Graduate Outcomes



Edge Hill University's SCHOOL OF LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE has achieved sector-leading results in 2025, securing **FIRST PLACE IN THE NORTH WEST** for graduate outcomes (Graduate Outcomes Survey) and overall student experience in the National Student Survey (NSS). These results tell a consistent story: law students are experiencing an outstanding education and are leaving well-prepared for work and further study.

## Outstanding Student Experience

The School prioritises the development of students from the moment they start their programme, introducing a 'CARE' model that ensures a holistic approach to developing students' core skills of Curiosity, Adaptability, Resilience and Entrepreneurship, along with technological literacy. Through resilience programmes, commercial awareness initiatives, and AI/digital skills training, students can develop the skills needed to thrive in their future careers. To address the impact of new technologies on the

legal sector, the School has introduced modules on artificial intelligence and technology law, hosted employer-led workshops on the use of AI in their firms, and has secured a Lexis+ AI license for all of its staff and students – making it only the second university in the UK to do so.

A culture of student partnership is also at the heart of the School, with a significant emphasis on the 'student voice' as evidenced in the NSS results where the School ranked top regionally in five core areas—Teaching on My Course, Learning Opportunities, Student Voice, Organisation & Management, and Learning Resources—and placed among the UK top ten in six NSS categories.

## Graduate Success

There is also a significant emphasis on employability and supporting students' individual career journeys through personalised guidance, employer networking, workshops, professional mentoring and work-integrated

learning. As a result, the School has seen outstanding results in recent Graduate Outcomes Surveys with data released in July 2025 revealing that **over 75% of Law graduates are in highly-skilled employment** 15 months after graduation, the highest rate in the region. This alignment between student satisfaction and career success reflects Edge Hill's integrated approach, combining practice-based learning, employer-led workshops, and mock courtroom and Law Clinic facilities with strong academic support.

Edge Hill Law School's performance underscores its commitment to widening participation and delivering **life-changing opportunities**. To find out more or to collaborate with the School and its students, please contact: Professor Jay Cullen ([cullenja@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:cullenja@edgehill.ac.uk)) Head of School of Law and Criminal Justice or Dr Jennifer Giblin ([giblinje@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:giblinje@edgehill.ac.uk)) Associate Head of School

**Professor Jay Cullen  
and Dr Jennifer Giblin**





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# The Expert Witness Gateway



**Dr Russell Keenan is a Consultant Paediatric Haematologist with over thirty years' clinical experience and extensive medico-legal practice. A Cardiff University Bond Solon (CUBS) accredited expert, he has given evidence across family, civil, criminal and coroner jurisdictions. As Director of the Expert Witness Gateway, he helped shape the platform after years of frustration with inefficiencies and outdated instruction models.**

## Where did the idea for the Gateway come from?

### Dr Russell Keenan (RK):

With many years of experience of expert witness work I felt I had made my part of the process reasonably efficient. I had become aware and frustrated at how time consuming and what I thought was inefficiencies the whole process of expert witness and solicitor interaction. From initial instruction to multiple emails to arrange an expert meeting or court attendance I felt there should be a more efficient way.

Also, for experts there is a significant amount of medicolegal time that isn't report writing and I felt that this could be made more efficient for example dealing with diary management, invoices, actually getting paid and dealing with accounts.

## How does it work in practice for a solicitor starting a case?

**RK:** The aim was to transform the way solicitors work with experts and make the process simple and quick. We visualised a judge asking for a specialist expert report. The solicitor can advise the court within 1 minute the names of experts in that discipline that are available on the Gateway, the costs, current turnaround times, CV and provisionally instruct the expert at the click of a button.

The only caveat is that experts must first review case details to confirm no conflict of interest. Solicitors create a secure case workspace and select relevant specialties. Experts are automatically notified when instructed and see all court deadlines.

Documents are uploaded once, with solicitors controlling expert access. All responses are timestamped and auditable, and built-in messaging keeps communication within the case. Additional parties can be added with read-only access, ensuring everyone views the same live record rather than separate threads.

## And for experts?

**RK:** Experts maintain a profile reflecting their practice, supported by a simple calendar for court dates, conferences, and report deadlines. Automatic notifications help ensure timelines are met. Each case keeps all instructions, documents, and messages together with a full audit trail. Two-factor authentication provides state-of-the-art security. When workloads rise, a "pause new instructions" toggle protects existing commitments without cutting communication.

Getting paid has long been a headache for experts, especially with complex multi-party invoicing in Family Court cases. The Gateway automates invoicing and guarantees payment within 30 days. Income records are easily accessible and downloadable for accountants or can be copied directly into accounting software such as Xero, turning tax return preparation from hours into minutes.

## Data protection and security are perennial concerns. What's built in?

**RK:** Data security is state-of-the-art. Developing the Gateway shifted my view on balancing access with protection—recent Legal Aid chaos only reinforced this. Security comes first, even if it takes a few extra seconds. All data is encrypted in transit and at rest, with two-factor authentication, regular backups, and a defined incident-response plan. Built from the outset for UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, our aim is simple: keep data confidential, preserve integrity, and ensure availability when it matters most.

## Multi-party and high-volume cases are especially messy. How does the Gateway help?

**RK:** Transparency and simple organisation. You can add parties with appropriate permissions so they see the same document index, instructions and timeline—but can't inadvertently edit or fork the record. If a matter proceeds to court, exporting the chronology and key artefacts is simple. The platform ends discussions about who sent what, when, and which version applies. All communications are auditable.

## What distinguishes this from "just another portal"?

**RK:** Two things set it apart. First, lived experience — it was built from years of real frustration with the failures everyone knows at 11 pm before a hearing. Second, real-time single-record working — any update to instructions, bundles, hearing dates or parties is instantly visible to all authorised users, with alerts and a time-stamped audit trail. No lost emails, no outdated copies. We're not replacing professional judgement; we're protecting it by keeping the live record accurate at every moment.

## What's next on your roadmap?

**RK:** We're developing tools to streamline expert meetings. Solicitors can set a date range, and the Gateway checks experts' calendars to suggest times when all are available. Once confirmed, the meeting is added automatically to each expert's synced calendar, with notifications and reminders to prepare. Built-in video conferencing and real-time multilingual transcription make meetings seamless, and transcripts are instantly available for review and approval while details are still fresh.

## Final thought for readers who feel the current model "just about works"?

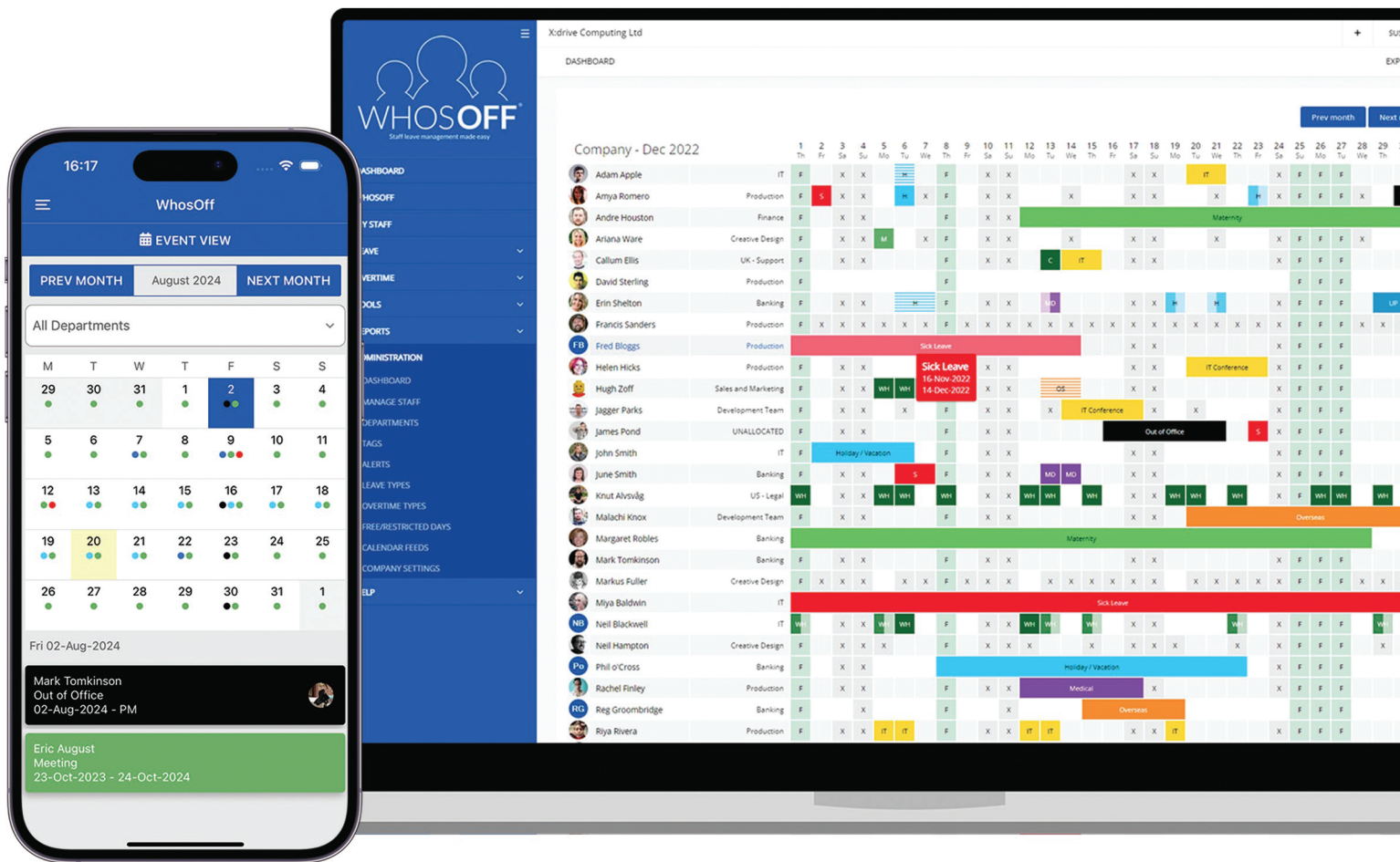
**RK:** "Just about" is not good enough when the stakes are this high. The traditional model tolerates avoidable risk—lost messages, wrong versions, missed dates. All these challenges cause delay for the courts which adds to costs. The Expert Witness Gateway is simply a better way: one case, one record so one truth. It helps experts focus on evidence and solicitors on strategy, which is ultimately better for clients and the court. ●



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Commencing September we launched our brand-new members-only benefit - booking multiple delegates on the same legal training course will enjoy substantial discounts, making it ideal for teams looking to learn together or firms aiming to offer equal training opportunities across departments.

This offer cannot be used in conjunction with the Training Passport.

DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
09/12/2025	Commercial Property Update	Richard Snape
11/12/2025	Staying Ahead on AML & Compliance Standards: 2025 Insights and 2026 Priorities	Tracey Thompson
22/01/2026	Essential SRA Business Competencies for Newly Qualified Solicitors Part 1	Keith Harper
22/01/2026	The Renters' Rights Act 2025: Obtaining Vacant Possession in a New Age	Richard Snape
28/01/2026	Personal Injury Conference	Various
29/01/2026	Essential SRA Business Competencies for Newly Qualified Solicitors Part 2	Keith Harper
10/02/2026	Developing Management and Business Skills for Lawyers	Keith Harper
12/02/2026	How to Respond to the New TA6 6th Edition	Richard Snape
19/02/2026	Introduction to Wills and Probate, and Connection with Family Law	Safda Mahmood
18/03/2026	Financial Orders: Law and Practice	Safda Mahmood
18/03/2026	Cohabitation: Law Practice	Safda Mahmood

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

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

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

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## Commercial Property Update

with Richard Snape

Online, 9th December, 1.30pm - 4.30pm



Commercial property is undergoing major changes, and this CPD course will look at recent developments including the proposed ban on upwards only rent review clauses.

Topics we will cover include:

- Recent cases on the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954;
- Recent cases on service charges;
- The latest on energy performance of buildings;
- The Building Safety Act 2022 and commercial leases;
- Changes to planning law;
- High-Street Rental Auctions
- The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill and the banning of upwards only rent review clauses; and
- Recent cases on easements and restrictive covenants in relation to development land
- Recent case law on leases, licences and tenancies at will

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## Staying Ahead on AML & Compliance Standards: 2025 Insights and 2026 Priorities

with Tracy Thompson

Online, 11th December, 12.30pm - 1.30pm

2025 has brought a wave of important Anti-Money Laundering (AML) developments, requiring firms to revisit their Firm-Wide Risk Assessments and update AML policies and procedures. This session will provide a concise yet practical overview of the past year and prepare firms for what lies ahead in 2026.

Key areas covered include:

- Revised LSAG Guidance (April 2025): Practical updates and implications for day-to-day compliance.
- National Risk Assessment (July 2025): Insights from the Treasury's findings and consultation on the Money Laundering Regulations.
- SRA Sectoral Risk Assessment (July 2025): How the regulator's updated view affects your firm's risk profile.
- SRA Compliance Conference Highlights (October 2025): Key compliance priorities emerging from the SRA's annual Compliance Conference.
- SRA Thematic Visit Findings: Unpublished but critical regulator expectations.

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## Essential SRA Business Competencies for Newly Qualified Solicitors

Two Part Webinar Sessions with Keith Harper

Online, 22nd January, 9.30am - 12.30pm



The SRA defines competence as "the ability to perform the roles and tasks required by one's job to the expected standard." Of the four SRA competency areas for solicitors, three focus on non-technical skills.

While technical expertise is expected – and often assumed – by clients, it's the non-technical competencies that frequently make the greatest impact: on client satisfaction, personal effectiveness, and firm performance.

This practical online course is designed specifically for solicitors with 0–3 years PQE. It focuses on developing the business and professional skills essential for meeting SRA standards, building trusted client relationships, and making a meaningful contribution to your firm's success.

Session one will focus on ethics, professionalism and judgement, as well as managing yourself and your work, including improving profitability.

[BOOK NOW](#)

## The Renters' Rights Act 2025: Obtaining Vacant Possession in a New Age

with Richard Snape

Online, 22nd January, 1.30pm - 4.30pm



The Renters Rights Act 2025 received the Royal Assent on October 27th 2025, the changes to assured tenancies will come into force on May 1st, 2026. It is the most important change to security of tenure and obtaining vacant possession in residential leases for a generation. This seminar will provide an overview of key topics with regards to the Renters Rights Act allowing attendees to have a greater understanding of changes come in to force in May 2026.

The topics covered include the abolition of assured shorthold tenancies, tenants' notice periods, changes to the grounds for possession, student accommodation and HMOs, rental bidding wars, transitional provisions, the maximum duration of assured tenancies, a comparison with the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016, and discrimination against keeping pets, benefits tenants, and children.

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# Save The Date

## Personal Injury Conference

**28TH JANUARY 2026**

Mark your calendar for our upcoming Personal Injury Conference, where industry leaders will share the latest strategies, insights, and trends shaping the field. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and elevate your expertise.

Liverpool Law Society

Management

## Essential SRA Business Competencies for Newly Qualified Solicitors

Two Part Webinar Sessions with Keith Harper

**Online, 29th January, 9.30am - 12.30pm**



The SRA defines competence as “the ability to perform the roles and tasks required by one’s job to the expected standard.” Of the four SRA competency areas for solicitors, three focus on non-technical skills. While technical expertise is expected and often assumed by clients, it’s the non-technical competencies that frequently make the greatest impact: on client satisfaction, personal effectiveness, and firm performance.

This practical online course is designed specifically for solicitors with 0–3 years PQE. It focuses on developing the business and professional skills essential for meeting SRA standards, building trusted client relationships, and making a meaningful contribution to your firm’s success. Session two will focus on working with others, managing and developing client relationships, and collaborating effectively within your firm.

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Liverpool Law Society

Management

## Developing Management and Business Skills for Lawyers

with Keith Harper

**In Person, 10th February, 9.30am - 4.30pm**



The SRA defines competence as “the ability to perform the roles and tasks required by one’s job to the expected standard.” While technical excellence is assumed by clients, it is often the non-technical competencies, leadership, management, communication, and business awareness, that make the crucial difference to client satisfaction and firm performance.

This course is designed for solicitors with at least three years’ PQE who currently hold, or are preparing to take on, management or supervision responsibilities. During this session, delegates will explore how to meet the SRA Competence standards and gain insight into the key aspects of management within law firms, including profitability, people leadership, and client relationship development, building the business skills that drive both individual and firm success.

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Family

## Introduction To Wills And Probate, And Connection with Family Law

with Safda Mahmood

**Online, 19th February, 10.00am - 4.00pm**



This course is designed to help you become more familiar with the law, practice, and procedure in Wills and Probate, while keeping you up to date with case law and statutory developments. It will enable you to anticipate potential problems in handling cases and provide you with the knowledge and skills to draft wills with greater confidence and be aware of common types of clauses in wills. This course is written and presented by an experienced family solicitor. The course will equip you with the essentials in terms of principles of Wills and probate, and as to how it links into other areas of law, particularly family law.

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## Financial Orders: Law and Practice

with Safda Mahmood

Online, 18th March, 10.00am - 12.30pm



This course will consider the various factors surrounding financial orders and the developments in the case law and statutory provisions and will be of benefit to those delegates who seek to be aware of the current themes and developments surrounding this area of law. This course will support you in understanding financial orders and financial remedies, helping you become more knowledgeable about key legislative updates and recent case law developments. It will also enhance your awareness of relevant practice and procedure, prepare you to manage anticipated challenges, and highlight the value of nuptial agreements. Overall, the course is designed to strengthen your confidence and improve your efficiency in this area.

[BOOK NOW](#)

## Cohabitation: Law Practice

with Safda Mahmood

Online, 18th March, 1:15pm - 3.45pm



The course will be of benefit to those delegates who seek to become more confident with how to run/defend a case through the courts involving trusts of land and Schedule 1 Children Act Matters. This course offers assistance in understanding the manner in which cohabitation issues are raised in family matters, helping you become more confident with key legislative and case law developments. It aims to increase confidence with the relevant practice and procedure, particularly under TOLATA 1996, and to equip you to deal with anticipated difficulties. You will gain an understanding of the various steps that can be taken to assist cohabiting parties, and overall the course will help you improve your confidence and efficiency.

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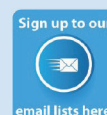
## Not receiving emails from Liverpool Law Society?

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](mailto: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](mailto: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?





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

### Welcome to our new team members.

We are delighted to announce that we have hired a new Legal Assistant and an Our Liverpool Project Caseworker who have joined our team this month.

**Sarah**, our new Legal Assistant, is currently a local councillor, bringing with her an understanding of the key issues causing housing insecurity in our communities.

Sarah has an extensive background as a housing rights campaigner and advisor, previously a Liverpool City Council Cabinet Member for Housing.

*"I'm really happy to be joining the team at Merseyside Law Centre. I'm passionate about social justice and access to decent, truly affordable housing. I've been involved in a wide range of housing campaigns, calling for rent controls, tougher regulations of private landlords, and council house building programmes. I know firsthand how vital the advice Merseyside Law Centre provides is, and I can't wait to get started!"*

**Neil** is joining as an Our Liverpool Project Caseworker and so will be giving advice on welfare rights issues. He has been working in the charitable sector for the past 6 years.

*"I am really excited about the opportunity of joining the team. I have been volunteering here for several months and can see the passion and dedication that staff and volunteers have for social justice. I hope to become a valuable team member as soon as possible, whilst remaining committed to learning and improving each day."*

We look forward to having Sarah and Neil on the team and having their expertise and knowledge contribute to great outcomes for our clients.


### West Derby Centre for Social Justice Update- SEN Drop-in Session

We are excited to announce that we have a new organisation on board for the West Derby Centre for Social Justice, The SEN Advice Service from The University of Liverpool Law Clinic. We are so grateful to the Law Clinic for bringing this much needed service to the centre and know that their advice will make a profound difference to the lives of families with SEN needs in our community. They will be providing one more drop-in session before Christmas, no appointment necessary.

### West Derby Centre for Social Justice Timetable



*Elevating local lives through access to justice.*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Merseyside Law Centre Drop-In Session Weekly 10am-12pm Housing & Welfare Benefits	ACORN Union Drop-In Session 1st Tuesday of the month (check social media for dates) 12pm-2pm	Partners Credit Union Drop-in session Weekly 10am-3pm	Merseyside Law Centre Drop-In Session Weekly 10am-12pm Housing & Welfare Benefits	Broudie Jackson Center Drop-In Session Weekly 9.30am-11.30am Family Law
<b>Located at: Dovecot MAC 10 Back Dovecot Place L14 9BA</b>		SEN Advice Service University of Liverpool Once a month (check social media for dates) 12pm-4pm	Raise Advice Weekly Appointment only 1pm-3pm Debt advice	

To find out more, please e-mail:  
[sophie.brown@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk](mailto:sophie.brown@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk)

We politely ask that you only attend if you are a resident in **Ian Byrne's** West Derby constituency. If you are not in this constituency, please contact the Liverpool Law Clinic directly at below link:

[www.liverpool.ac.uk/law/liverpool-law-clinic/clients/children-with-sen-or-disability/](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/law/liverpool-law-clinic/clients/children-with-sen-or-disability/)

### Case Study- Importance of Face-to-Face advice for a PIP appeal.

Our client had learning difficulties as well as a physical disability and had attended a 1st tier hearing about their Personal Independence Payment. They represented themselves and the court adjourned the matter as the client was unable to read and could not adequately conduct their part in the proceedings. The tribunal instructed the client to seek representation.

The DWP had awarded them 4 points in total for mobility – thus not qualifying for any benefit. The client then approached several other agencies and was told her case had no merit. In desperation she contacted MLC through our drop in. As this was a face-to-face service, she felt more comfortable attending than trying to access help online. There was one week to go until the reconvened tribunal when she came to us. We were able to register as representatives and prepare evidence and a submission and then attend the hearing with the client and her adult daughter. The appeal succeeded and the client has been awarded over 24 points in total giving her entitlement to the enhanced (highest) rates of PIP for both daily living and mobility.

This is a backdated amount of around £3749 and an on-going



weekly award of £187.45 ( £9747.40 annually). The client may also be entitled to other additional benefits because of the award. This result really highlights the importance of offering a face to face service, many of our clients are vulnerable with issues that mean online or over the phone advice does not work for them. We were delighted to help the client achieve this result and know that it will make a significant positive change to her life.

### Volunteer & Donation Opportunities

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

We 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](https://www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/get-involved) and e-mail the completed form to [enquiries@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk](mailto: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](https://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](https://www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/online-enquiry-form)

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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](https://www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/enquiryform)



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Wed & Fri 11am-1pm

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L14 9BA

Mon & Thurs 10am-12pm

Kuumba Imani Millennium  
Centre, 4 Princes Road,  
L8 1TH

Wednesday 10am-12pm

Online enquiry form  
available here.



# A guide to AI in accounting and finance: Prompts and challenges

Having previously cast a lens on artificial intelligence's transformation of the accounting and finance function specifically examining the benefits and outputs of AI technology (take a look at [www.jayvaglobal.com/news/ai-accounting-benefits-outputs](http://www.jayvaglobal.com/news/ai-accounting-benefits-outputs)), we're now focusing on prompt examples to apply and pitfalls to overcome – in order to succeed in your AI strategies and objectives.

## Example prompts and scenarios for AI queries

In bookkeeping, collecting information from various sources, consolidating it and preparing reports and documents for period end (and routine) activities or in readiness for annual auditing from scratch takes an excessively long time. With AI, these tasks happen in minutes. Here are a few real-life scenarios of AI prompts in an accounting and finance setting:

1. Summarise the financial position of the firm for July, August and September, covering the specific headings 'working capital', 'client liabilities', 'cash flow movement', 'fee performance by staff member' and 'profit'.
2. Create a management report which includes the key financials from each month in the quarter ending 30th September, with an executive summary of financial position, identifying any concerning large debtor and WIP balances which need to be actioned.
3. Compare the document titled office receipts report and cross reference with the invoices reports for each month, identifying the average number of days between the invoice date and invoice receipt date. Utilise that information to calculate an average number of debtor days on invoices where receipts have been paid against invoices with the same invoice number.
4. Review fee earner summary reports for the three-month period from July

to September and identify which staff members have the highest fees billed amount compared with their fees entered budget figure for the same period.

5. Our firm's average debtor days are X. How does this compare with the current average in law firms in the UK?
6. Our EBITDA is 18%. How does this compare in our sector?
7. Create a revised and comprehensive checklist for my legal cashing team to follow as part of robust month end controls. The checklist should identify the tasks required and the sequence of those tasks, identifying any dependencies and also anything required for compliance with the solicitors' accounts rules and HMRC compliance.

This is not an exhaustive list. More suggestions are available at [www.jayvaglobal.com/news/ai-accounting-prompts-challenges](http://www.jayvaglobal.com/news/ai-accounting-prompts-challenges).

## Challenges of using AI in legal accounts

In business-critical accounting and finance roles, there are security and compliance risks associated with AI usage, some of which are outlined here:

- **Client money is sacrosanct.** Protecting client money is the number one priority of any legal accounting professional. Don't become complacent about data security as it increases the risk of data breaches which is an infringement of accounting rules and regulations.
- **Wider impact of AI internally and externally to your organisation.** The impact on professional indemnity insurance, staff retention, supervision oversight, billing models, pricing transparency and more are still evolving.
- **Historically, the law sector hasn't been an early adopter of new innovations.** AI poses an interesting new chapter for practices as they progress along their AI adoption

journey. Companies must strike the right balance between embracing AI's transformational opportunities and fighting AI's privacy threats.

- **Lack of confidentiality within open web-based AI answer engines.** To keep your data safe, only use AI systems which operate in your own protected environment such as Microsoft Copilot or functionality within your case and practice management software. Open web models can memorise and reveal personal information by lacking the necessary safeguards to prevent unauthorised data access.
- **Inability to deliver region-specific results.** You don't want outputs referring to other currencies and VAT/GST rates or other nuanced differences. If your AI system knows your location, results pertain exactly to your region which is much preferable and actionable.

## Final thoughts

The way you interact with AI is just as important as the technology itself. Thoughtfully crafted prompts unlock impressive efficiencies, while a clear-eyed understanding of potential issues ensures AI's operated safely, compliantly and effectively – paramount on the legal cashing stage. As AI evolves, law firms embracing it with both curiosity and caution are best positioned to lead the way.

## Even more help from Jayva

Jayva's here to help you strike the 'curiosity-caution' balance and get the most out of the tools at your disposal.

Read our earlier blogs on [AI at www.jayvaglobal.com/news](http://AI at www.jayvaglobal.com/news), discover our AI services at [www.jayvaglobal.com/ai-consultancy-training](http://www.jayvaglobal.com/ai-consultancy-training), and contact us by emailing [info@jayvaglobal.com](mailto:info@jayvaglobal.com) or calling 0333 2020 995.

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## About Jayva

- + Legal sector experts
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# LIVERPOOL LEGAL COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

## There is Room



**MONDAY 15 DECEMBER 2025 - 6PM ADMISSION FREE**

SPEAKER  
HIS HONOUR DAVID TURNER KC

LIVERPOOL BRASS BAND

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LIVERPOOL PARISH CHURCH  
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Please join us for refreshments after the service



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# 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.

**Brabners** reposted this

**Andrew McGregor** · 3rd+  
Experienced Sports Lawyer at Brabners LLP  
3w · 📍

Last night **Brabners** Sport Sector Team won the Northwest Football Awards 2025 award for best 'Business or Professional Services Organisation' in the north west football market. We've been working hard over the years to position ...more




138 9 comments · 4 reposts

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**Excello Law**  
6,134 followers  
4d · 📍

Yesterday our Chester office hosted a wreath making workshop, just in time for the holiday season. ...more



27 5 comments

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**Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors**  
2,500 followers  
4d · 📍

We are over the moon to share that we have won Conveyancing Firm of the Year (North) at the Modern Law Conveyancing Awards 2025! 🏆 ...more




120 18 comments · 7 reposts

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**Jackson Lees Group**  
4,281 followers  
1d · Edited · 📍

We're delighted to share that **Jackson Lees Group** is once again sponsoring the Hoylake & Meols Christmas Lights tree on the Kings Gap roundabout! ...more



27 2 reposts

Like Comment Repost Send

**O'Connors Legal Services Limited**  
1,473 followers  
8d · 📍

Last night we hosted our first sport sector Strictly Boardroom Live dinner for leaders across the world of sport. With the sector evolving at pace, from increasing multi-sport investment and technology advancements to innovative fan ...more



with Phil Bowers and 2 others

31 1 comment · 2 reposts

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**Fletchers Group**  
12,290 followers  
1d · 📍

We had an amazing time at the **Fletchers Foundation** Greek Night last week! 🇬🇷 ...more



18 1 comment

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**Rowlinsons Solicitors**  
1,096 followers  
4d · Edited · 📍

🏆 We're thrilled to announce that our Associate Solicitor, **Ally S.**, has been Highly Commended in the 'Rising Star of the Year' category at the **Modern Law Magazine** Conveyancing Awards 2025! ...more



with Mike Daly and 7 others

45 2 comments · 2 reposts

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**MSB**  
4,460 followers  
4d · 📍

A great evening at the LEAP Modern Law Conveyancing Awards last night! 🏆

Our conveyancing team were honoured to be highly commended for the ...more



43 4 comments · 3 reposts

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



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