

July 2026

Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

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



5th November 2023. The robbery took place. The group
broke into the off licence while Archie stayed in the car, and
participants.

References:



John Ryan statement

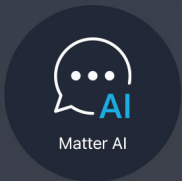


Thomas Ryan



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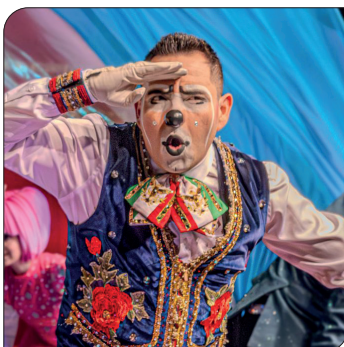
Strategic Partner



July 2026

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August 2026 edition: Friday, 24.07.26
 September 2026 edition: Friday, 21.08.26
 October 2026 edition: Tuesday, 22.09.26
 November 2026 edition: Friday, 23.10.26
 December 2026 edition: Friday, 20.11.26

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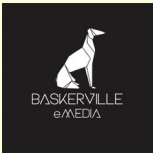
Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

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

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.

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Editorial Committee Dates 2026

Meetings start at 01.00 pm. except where noted.

- Wednesday 15th July (12.00pm)*
- No August Meeting*
- Tuesday 15th September*
- Tuesday 20th October*
- Tuesday 17th November*

Welcome to the July edition of Liverpool Law



I'm pleased to report we now have further guidance from the SRA on Mazur. John Hyde of The Law Society Gazette has kindly given permission for us to use his article which you can read on page 22 and it is also covered in our regular Regulation Update which you can read on pages 40-41. I know from colleagues and friends this has been a stressful time for many and I hope this guidance document provides the reassurance needed. As your local Society if there is anything you wish to discuss on this please do reach out.

Our edition this month seems to have a theme of Diversity and Inclusion with news of some fantastic award wins and recognition, our congratulations to all. This comes at the perfect time ahead of the Pride parade and we would like any of our members attending or any other office activities etc to please send them over to us on editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk or tag us on your social media posts.

We also have our update from LLS' own EDI committee and an award at our own dinner in November up for grabs, nominations close on 4 September so you have plenty of time to get them in.

Until next month enjoy the hot weather while it lasts(!)

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

Welcome to new members

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new members who were approved for membership at June's General Committee meeting. There were 68 individuals from the following organisations:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Bermans | • Liver Law Solicitors |
| • Bond Turner | • Maria Fogg Family Law |
| • Brabners | • Maxwell Hodge |
| • Donoghue Solicitors | • Morecrofts |
| • DWF | • MSB Solicitors |
| • Irwin Mitchell | • Paul Crowley & Co |
| • JMW Solicitors | |

Liverpool Law Society's membership now exceeds 2,405 individuals from 172 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, Sarah Mansfield

Driving Positive Change in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

As President of Liverpool Law Society, I am proud to reaffirm our commitment to advancing equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) across the legal profession. While progress has undoubtedly been made in recent years, there remains significant work to do to ensure that our profession truly reflects the diverse communities we serve and provides opportunities for all to thrive. This is such an important commitment that benefits everyone working in the legal profession in Liverpool.

For the Directors of Liverpool Law Society, EDI is not simply an aspiration—it is a priority. We are fortunate to have an active and engaged EDI Committee that works tirelessly to champion inclusive practices, raise awareness of barriers faced by underrepresented groups and promote meaningful dialogue across our membership. We have benefitted from some inspirational speakers and through education, collaboration and advocacy, the Committee plays a vital role in driving positive change both locally and across the wider profession.

We at LLS welcome and fully support the Law Society's emerging three-year EDI strategy and continue to assist in its development and delivery. The strategy's focus on turning ambition into action is both timely and essential. Achieving lasting progress requires clear objectives, measurable outcomes and collective commitment from organisations at every level of the profession.

The strategy's priorities resonate strongly with our own values and ambitions. LLS continue to actively support efforts off our member firms to strengthen diversity in senior leadership, ensuring that decision-making bodies benefit from a broader range of perspectives and experiences. We also recognise the importance of providing greater support for disabled solicitors, helping to remove barriers and create genuinely accessible workplaces. Equally important is the commitment to building more inclusive workplace cultures, where every



individual feels valued, respected and empowered to succeed.

By working together, sharing best practice and maintaining a relentless focus on outcomes, we can create a legal profession that is more representative, more inclusive and better equipped to serve society. Liverpool Law Society looks forward to playing its part in delivering that vision.

Sarah Mansfield

President

president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Share Your Pride: Be Featured in August's Liverpool Law

Calling all LLS members! We'd love to celebrate Pride in the August edition of Liverpool Law—and we need your help. If you're attending Liverpool Pride or taking part in any Pride celebrations, please share your photos and stories with us. Whether it's a moment with colleagues, a personal reflection, or highlights from the day, your contributions will help showcase the vibrant spirit of our community. We're hoping to feature Pride on the front cover, so don't miss the chance to be part of it. Submit your content and be proudly seen! Send in your contributions to editor@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

LLS Meetings & events – July/August 2026

Start Time	Meeting/Event
06/07/2026 11:00	Visit of Dr Carlos Ensínck, member of the National Council of the Judiciary of Argentina
08/07/2026 12:00	Joint V meeting (Hosted by Manchester)
09/07/2026 16:00	Family Business Sub-Committee
14/07/2026 12:30	General Committee
15/07/2026 13:00	Civil Litigation Sub-Committee
16/07/2026 16:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee
21/07/2026 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
23/07/2026 09:30	Valediction for HHJ Wood KC
23/07/2026 13:00	Future Planning Sub-Committee
28/07/2026 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee

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

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

Consultation Papers referred by the General Committee

Papers referred to committees:

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

The Regulatory Committee discussed the SRA's [Draft Business Plan and funding requirement 2026/27](#) at a committee meeting and submitted a response on 19th June.

Committee	Consultation Paper title	Closing date
Employment	Make Work Pay: misuse of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs)	08/07/26
Regulatory	Strengthening our continuing competence approach	15/07/26
Criminal Practice	Strengthening our continuing competence approach	14/08/26
Employment	Make Work Pay: ending one-sided flexibility – reforms of zero hours and similar contracts	25/08/26

Liverpool Law Society services

Amalgamations records

Looking for information about a law firm that has closed?

Did you know Liverpool Law Society holds historic information on Merseyside-based firms who have closed or merged. We receive a number of calls from members of the public and members of the legal profession looking for where information might be found or their files might be. It may be law firms have closed, amalgamated, or might be trading under a different name, and often we are able to assist.

To enquire, please email contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

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

The staff at the Society receive dozens of calls a week from members of the public and organisations looking for a lawyer.

We will give out members' firm name and telephone number to callers who contact the Society seeking legal advice. Check out your entry on our website. Put your organisation's name in the 'keyword' box and hit return. If any of it needs updating, let us know by emailing subscriptions@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

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Check your entry [here](#).

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](#).

Routes into the law: Faye Morris



Faye Morris

Faye Morris, a Paralegal at Weightmans, has been elected as Chair of the Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division (MJLD) for 2026. Faye grew up in Merseyside and is a former pupil of St Mary's College in Crosby. While at school, she learned the piano and played oboe in the school orchestra. She also sang in the choir, and achieved both the bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh awards. Her public-spirited nature also led her to serve as a youth ambassador for Edmund Rice International, during which she completed an advocacy and social justice qualification that culminated in a visit to the United Nations in Geneva.

Her passion for the legal profession was sparked during primary school after a fascinating visit to a magistrates' court in Ormskirk. This early exposure to the mechanics of the court system inspired a lifelong ambition, and from the age of 11, Faye never wavered in her desire to pursue a career in law. After completing her A-levels, she earned a place at Edge Hill University. Alongside her studies, she gained valuable work experience with Paul Jenson Associates, a construction arbitrator and adjudicator in Wigan, as well as within the commercial property department at Weightmans. Despite the disruptions

of the pandemic during her final year, which required a challenging transition to online learning, her hard work culminated in graduating with a First-Class LLB Honours degree, placing her in the top 3% of her cohort.

Following graduation, Faye spent a few weeks assessing her options before successfully applying for a role at Weightmans, where she had greatly enjoyed her previous work experience. She initially joined the motor credit hire department, spending two and a half years there before transitioning to commercial casualty in July 2024 to experience a new area of law. Looking ahead, she will begin studying for the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) this September, with the goal of qualifying as a solicitor in 2028 and building a long-term career with the firm.

Faye's involvement with the MJLD began in 2022 when she joined the committee as Treasurer, driven by a desire to build connections within the local legal community. The following year, as education representative, she organised the marshalling schemes with local courts, as well as mock assessment days at regional universities to help students secure experience before applying for training contracts. She then stepped up as Vice Chair, assisting with key responsibilities including attending Liverpool Law Society meetings, overseeing events, liaising with sponsors, approving payments, and handling online correspondence. Following this successful tenure, the committee elected her as Chair. Her dedication was further recognised when she received an MJLD award for outstanding contribution for the 2024–25 year. A notable experience during her time as current Chair was being invited to attend the Liverpool Law Society Awards Dinner in November 2025 as a guest of the President.

In addition to her professional

obligations, Faye has dedicated much of her spare time to voluntary work. While studying family law at university, she sought out practical experience by volunteering on Saturday mornings at Child Family Connect, a local family contact centre charity. There, she supported families navigating difficult breakdowns and assisted parents and children of all ages, continuing this work until the charity unfortunately closed due to a lack of funding. Through Weightmans, she has also collaborated with Grow Mentoring, reviewing CVs and offering interview advice to a student applying for legal apprenticeships. She currently mentors a student from Edge Hill University and was recently invited back to her alma mater as a panellist for a Law Alumni event discussing her experiences and providing advice to students. Faye is a member of the Alumni Association for Edge Hill. Furthermore, she serves as a Diversity and Inclusion Champion for Weightmans' Liverpool branch, organising events that promote equality.

As Chair of the MJLD, Faye intends to focus heavily on raising awareness about social mobility. Recognising that the legal field is often viewed as highly competitive and inaccessible, she aims to promote available opportunities to as many young people as possible. She has already succeeded in driving engagement by organising a wide variety of events, resulting in higher attendance levels and a notable increase in individuals attending independently, reflecting growing confidence among prospective lawyers.

To relax away from her demanding schedule, Faye enjoys regular strength and conditioning training at the gym before work, and enjoys visiting her caravan in Porthmadog for long walks. As a hardworking and deeply committed paralegal, we wish her every success in her future career.

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Slater and Gordon welcome a string of new legal hires



Slater and Gordon is embarking on its latest chapter of growth, with a raft of hires over the last nine months.

The team expansion will enable the law firm to strengthen its legal services across the Liverpool community and surrounding Merseyside area.

[Jennifer Brunt](#), principal lawyer and head of family law at Slater and Gordon says the new additions will be invaluable for clients seeking support with divorce proceedings, nuptial agreements and other legal matters.

“The growth of our team has been incredibly exciting. From introducing some new faces to colleagues from other departments within Slater and Gordon, I am looking forward to seeing what we can achieve together.”

Among the new hires, **Tabassum Baig** joins the team, bringing more than 15 years of experience in family law. She has handled a broad range of cases including high-value family cases, child arrangements and financial remedies.

Tabassum looks forward to contribute her unique expertise to the team.

The team also welcomed paralegals **Lauren Risdale** and **Bella Thorley**. Lauren joined the team with two years of experience in family law.

Bella joined the team after working as a legal assistant at Alfred Newton Solicitors. After admiring Slater and Gordon’s mission to supporting clients through challenging times, she has been enjoying working alongside **Jennifer** and the team. *“I wanted to pursue a career in law for the goal of helping others. I found with Slater and Gordon, they are truly committed to that in every way they can.”*

Lucy Powell also joined the family team as a paralegal, as an internal hire after more than seven years of experience at Slater and Gordon. Having spent the last four years in the Legal Advice team and completing her LPC, she was keen to take the next step in her legal career.

Currently, the family team offers decades of combined experience, supporting



Lucy Powell

clients through some of life’s challenging moments, including separation and divorce.

Jennifer added, *“I couldn’t be happier with the direction the team is heading. We have built something truly special. Our fantastic team members not only have amazing experience, but are highly committed to offering high-quality legal support. Supporting our clients is at the heart of what we do and we really share that value as a team.”*

Graduated progression: Nicola's career with MSB Solicitors



Nicola Harris

Graduation season is upon us, and the streets of our city will soon be full of students in their gowns and mortarboards, taking one last look at the place they chose to study before heading out into the wide world.

I'm from Liverpool and I studied in Liverpool, and I wanted to work and live in Liverpool to give back to the city that I am proud to call home. It is this rooting in our community on the banks of the Mersey that I share with MSB Solicitors, where I started my career with the practice after I graduated with a degree in Law in 2004 and completed my LPC a year later.

There are now many routes into the legal profession but it can sadly still be seen as something of an elitist sector. I come from a very working class background, having been brought up by a single mother and my grandparents in North Liverpool, and I understand financial hardship. To me, Law was a profession that would offer me an intellectual challenge but I also hoped it would offer me a long-term stability and opportunities which might not always have been available to someone with a background like mine.

MSB's ethos of 'justice for all' chimes with my personal experience too. It is because of the firm's support that I have received over the last 21 years that I have been able to embark on and progress within my career, that has taken me from trainee solicitor to associate to partner.

The support has enabled me to find my professional standpoint, namely helping people by promoting access to justice and mentoring students who are pursuing a career in law. It is rewarding to see a client in an improved situation. The difference between where a client can end their journey as opposed to where they were when we first met, is my motivation. Often in family law this involves potentially distressing issues and circumstances. I am also extremely proud that students I have mentored went on to join MSB and have secured training contracts within the firm.

I have worked hard in my career with a work ethic I undoubtedly get from my assiduous grandparents and mother. It was my grandfather in particular who encouraged me to break the mould of the jobs that generations of my family had previously taken, and education was massively important to my family. A refreshed attitude towards social mobility in the profession and my own perseverance have helped me on my journey that includes my position in Liverpool Law Society.

As I reflect on graduation season, and where my journey started, I am grateful for every opportunity, the late nights studying and working, the people who believed in me in my personal and professional life, and most importantly the clients who put their trust in me.

Nicola Harris,

Partner, MSB Solicitors

(and Joint Honorary Secretary of the Liverpool Law Society)



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Paul Crowley & Co Solicitors recognised as a Sunday Times Best Place to Work 2026



Lydia Hamilton, HR Manager at Paul Crowley & Co, marking the firm's recognition in the Sunday Times Best Places to Work awards

Liverpool-based firm Paul Crowley & Co Solicitors has been named among the Sunday Times Best Places to Work 2026, a national listing which recognises organisations demonstrating strong workplace culture, employee engagement and staff experience across the UK.

The recognition reflects a sustained focus within the firm on building and maintaining a supportive working environment, underpinned by collaboration, professional development and a people-led approach to leadership. These priorities continue to shape how the firm manages growth while responding to the wider demands of the legal sector.

Lydia Hamilton, HR Manager at Paul Crowley & Co Solicitors, said: *“This recognition is particularly meaningful as it reflects the views of our colleagues. Their feedback demonstrates the importance of maintaining an environment in which people feel supported, informed and able to progress in their careers. As a firm, we remain focused on ensuring that our culture continues to evolve in line with the needs of our staff and the profession more broadly.”*

In 2026, just 34 legal services organisations nationwide were included on the list. Paul Crowley & Co is the only Liverpool-based practice recognised within its size category, highlighting its position within a competitive and often high-pressure profession. The award is determined through anonymous employee feedback, providing an insight

into day-to-day working life within participating organisations.

At Paul Crowley & Co, this included a reported job satisfaction score of 96 per cent, alongside consistently positive feedback in areas such as communication, trust and employee pride.

Like many firms seeking to address retention and wellbeing challenges across the profession, Paul Crowley & Co has implemented a range of initiatives aimed at supporting its workforce. These include structured professional development opportunities, funded training and clear progression pathways, alongside measures to promote flexibility and work-life balance. Regular staff feedback mechanisms form part of this approach, enabling employees to contribute to the firm's ongoing development.

The firm's inclusion in the 2026 list comes during a period of continued growth across its practice areas, with a strategic focus on sustainable development and long-term investment in its people.

Leslie Priestley
Paul Crowley & Co Solicitors

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FINDING YOUR VOICE IN TODAY'S DIGITAL LANDSCAPE

Bermans bolsters litigation team with senior hire



North west law firm Bermans has strengthened its litigation team with the appointment of James Thornton as a senior associate.

James has joined Bermans in its Liverpool office from Warrington firm Fiona Bruce & Co, where he was head of litigation and dispute resolution.

He worked at Eversheds Sutherland and Weightmans before moving to Fiona Bruce & Co. Before training as a solicitor, he worked in the logistics and shipping industries.

James, a former semi-professional footballer for clubs including Brandon United, Esh Winning and Northallerton Town FC in his native north east, advises clients on commercial and insurance litigation, property disputes, private client issues, including contentious probate and trust matters, defamation, misuse of private information and consumer claims.

He also advises on and manages claims in the specialist lists of the Admiralty Court, Commercial Court and the Technology and Construction Court, as well as handling cases before the County Court.

Bermans partner and head of litigation **Andrew Koffman** said: *“James is an assured and calm litigator who has worked at national law firms and before that in the logistics and shipping sectors.*

“He brings extensive experience advising on a wide range of commercial disputes, including the niche area of carriage of goods, and his appointment will strengthen our growing litigation team and enhance our presence in Liverpool. He is a very welcome addition to the firm.”

Bermans is an award-winning, full-service commercial practice advising owner-managed and SME businesses,

investors, developers and funders across the north west and nationally from offices in Liverpool and Manchester.

Its specialist areas of law, alongside commercial litigation and dispute resolution, include asset-backed lending, tech-enabled debt and asset recovery for lenders and businesses, insolvency, corporate, commercial, intellectual property, employment and property. The firm is part of MAPD Group, which was founded by Brian Cullen and Joanna Kingston-Davies in 2020 to power the growth of local law firms nationally through acquisition. MAPD stands for Making a Positive Difference.

James said: *“Bermans is a well-established, forward-thinking and modern firm which I’m delighted to join. I look forward to working with colleagues across the practice and continuing to advise clients on a range of property, business and financial disputes.”*

DWF advises STRABAG UK on the acquisitions of Van Elle Holdings plc and Crofton Engineering Limited



Paddy Eaton

DWF has advised STRABAG UK Limited on its recommended £58.8 million acquisition of Van Elle Holdings plc by way of a court-sanctioned scheme of arrangement, as well as on its acquisition of Crofton Engineering Limited.

STRABAG UK is a subsidiary of STRABAG SE, one of Europe's largest listed construction and infrastructure technology groups, specialising in construction services including civil engineering and building construction.

Van Elle Holdings plc is the UK's largest specialist geotechnical engineering contractor. The recommended acquisition, valued at £58.8 million, represents a significant strategic investment for STRABAG UK in the UK construction and infrastructure market.

Crofton Engineering Limited, based in Cambridge, specialises in structural steelwork, architectural metalwork and fire training infrastructure. Its acquisition further strengthens STRABAG UK's specialist capabilities and broadens the range of services it can offer across key sectors.

The recommended acquisition of Van Elle Holdings plc was led by DWF's corporate team comprising **John Campion**, Partner,

and **Jemil Visram**, Director, supported by **Richard Wood**, Head of Legal Due Diligence, **Ciara Healy**, Senior Associate, and **Feras Alobaidli**, **Alec Mackenzie** and **Adrianna Zawilska**, Solicitors. Tax advice was provided by **James Cashman**, Partner, and **Douglas Pyrke**, Solicitor, while competition and foreign investment advice was led by **Dimitris Sinaniotis**, Partner, and **Gabriella Rasiah**, Solicitor.

The acquisition of Crofton Engineering Limited was led by DWF's corporate team comprising **Paddy Eaton**, Partner, supported by **Richard Wood**, Head of Legal Due Diligence, **Sophie**

Morris, Senior Associate, and **Matthew Kernohan**, Solicitor. Tax advice was provided by **Jon Stevens** and **Alex Tolcher** and foreign investment advice was led by **Dimitris Sinaniotis**, Partner, and **Gabriella Rasiah**, Solicitor.

Together, the acquisitions mark a significant period of strategic growth for STRABAG UK, with both deals reaching fruition within a month of each other and demonstrating the business' continued investment in expanding its capabilities and market presence across the UK construction and infrastructure sector.

Paddy Eaton commented: "We are delighted to have advised STRABAG UK on its recommended acquisition of Van Elle Holdings plc, alongside the acquisition of Crofton Engineering Limited. Together, these transactions represent a significant strategic step for STRABAG UK, further strengthening its position in the UK construction and infrastructure market and enhancing its specialist capabilities. The acquisitions support STRABAG UK's continued growth ambitions and expand the breadth of services it is able to offer across its key sectors."



John Campion

O'Connors Announces Promotion of Three Associates



Mollie, Michael and Megan

O'Connors are pleased to announce the promotion of Mollie Williams, Michael McKenna, and Megan Crone to Associate, recognising their outstanding contributions to the firm and continued commitment to delivering exceptional client service.

These promotions reflect the firm's ongoing investment in developing its people and strengthening its legal expertise across key practice areas.

Mollie Williams

Mollie Williams has been an integral part of the firm since joining in 2022, specialising in corporate and commercial law. She has advised clients on a wide range of matters, including management buyouts, sales to employee ownership trusts and mergers and acquisitions of businesses. She

is recognised for her attention to detail and pragmatic approach to complex legal issues

Michael McKenna

Michael McKenna has built a strong reputation within the firm across both Corporate and Commercial disciplines. Since joining O'Connors in 2023, he's played a key role in advising clients on a broad range of corporate and commercial matters, including Mergers, Acquisitions & Disposals, Corporate Advisory and Governance matters, while consistently demonstrating strong technical expertise, commercial awareness, and a practical approach to client service.

Megan Crone

Megan Crone has consistently demonstrated excellence in her work within the firm's Corporate and Commercial team. She has contributed

to many significant matters for some of the firm's high profile clients including acquisitions, group restructures and commercial contracts and is valued for her collaborative approach and commitment to achieving the best outcomes for clients.

Commenting on the promotions, **David Malone**, CEO said:

"We are delighted to recognise Mollie, Michael and Megan on their well-deserved promotions. Each has shown exceptional dedication, professionalism, and talent, making a significant impact within the firm, and providing service excellence to our clients."

These promotions mark an important milestone for each individual and reflects O'Connors' commitment to developing talent and supporting career progression throughout the firm."

MSB Solicitors' Michael Boland celebrates British LGBT Award win



Michael Boland

MSB Solicitors is proud to announce its associate solicitor Michael Boland has been presented with the Future Leader prize at the British LGBT Awards.

The awards recognise individuals, organisations and businesses which have made a significant contribution to advancing equality, inclusion and support for LGBTQ+ communities across the UK.

Michael was presented with the Future Leader award in recognition of his commitment to championing diversity, inclusion and equal access to legal representation for LGBTQ+ individuals.

Commenting on the award, Michael said: "I was delighted to be shortlisted alongside so many inspiring individuals, but to win this award is an incredible honour and something of which I am extremely proud.

"Early in your career, it can sometimes be difficult to feel completely comfortable in being yourself. I've always tried to be open and authentic, and I hope this recognition shows that you don't have to hide who you are to succeed professionally.

"Being a positive role model for members of the LGBTQ+ community is something

that means a great deal to me, and I'm grateful to work for a firm that places such importance on diversity, inclusion and creating opportunities for everyone to thrive."

MSB Solicitors' LGBTQIA+ subcommittee was also shortlisted for the Network Group award at the ceremony and managing partner Emma Carey was shortlisted for the Business Ally award.

Emma Carey added: "We are incredibly proud of Michael and this well-deserved recognition. His passion for creating a more inclusive profession and ensuring people feel represented and supported is evident in everything he does.

"Receiving this recognition during Pride Month makes it particularly meaningful. While significant progress has been made, it remains vital that the legal profession continues to champion inclusion, representation and equal access to justice for all.

"Michael is a fantastic role model, both within MSB and across the wider legal sector, and this award is a reflection of the positive impact he continues to make."



Emma Carey Managing Partner, Michael Boland, John Owens, Partner

LIVERPOOL LEGAL WALK

6PM, WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

5k fundraising walk in aid of



The Access to Justice
Foundation

REGISTRATION

NOW OPEN!

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



S U P P O R T E D B Y



The money you raise goes towards the most vulnerable in society. The organisations the Access to Justice Foundation supports:

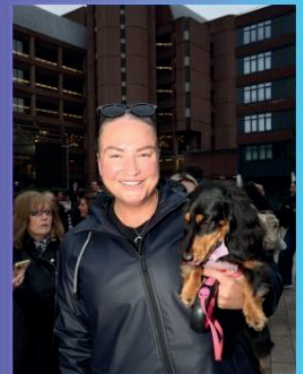
- help families at risk of eviction and homelessness
- help grown children fighting to get care for a loved one
- help workers challenging discrimination from an employer

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

IN AID OF THE ACCESS
TO JUSTICE
FOUNDATION



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



[More info](#)

ADILA

Liverpool Law Society's 2026 Legal Awards

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

CATEGORIES

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

With eight categories to choose from, we are confident there is something for everyone. Open to Liverpool Law Society members only.

For further details & to nominate, [click here](#).

Nominations close 12pm on 04.09.26

The winners of the 2026 Legal Awards will be announced at the Society's Annual Dinner on Thursday, 12th November.

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ADILA

MEET THE JUDGES

We are proud to introduce the 2026 Legal Awards judging panel

HHJ Andrew Menary KC DL

Resident Judge and Honorary Recorder of Liverpool

Gary Millar FJMU

Alderman

Professor Dan Silverstone

Director of the School of Law at Liverpool John Moores University

[Read more about the judges](#)

Nominations for the 2026 Liverpool Law Society Legal Awards
are now open and will close on Friday 4 September

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DWF advises on Protein Works acquisition by Lactalis



Jonathan Robinson

DWF has advised the shareholders of award-winning lifestyle nutrition brand Protein Works on its acquisition by Lactalis, the world's leading dairy company.

Founded in 2012, Protein Works innovates, manufactures and sells a wide range of protein-based nutrition products focused on health and wellbeing, including protein shakes,

meal shakes, wellness supplements and protein snacks. The business is headquartered in Liverpool and operates a fully integrated model, manufacturing products at its recently opened facility in Speke and distributing through its UK and European direct-to-consumer platforms. Protein Works generates annual revenues of approximately £55 million and has sold more than 500 million shakes to date.

The sale to Lactalis marks a successful exit for YFM Equity Partners who first backed the business through its Buyout Fund in 2019. DWF has a long-standing relationship with Protein Works, having acted for the business on the original investment by YFM when the business was generating £13m in revenue and now acting for YFM and the other shareholders on the sale to Lactalis.

The DWF team was led by corporate partner **Jonathan Robinson** and included **Will Munday**, **Katy Butler**, **Alec Mackenzie** and **Jim Murphy** from the corporate team, alongside **Caroline**

Colliston and **Zita Dempsey** from the tax team.

Jonathan Robinson, corporate partner at DWF, said: *"We are delighted to have supported the shareholders of Protein Works on this significant transaction. The acquisition is a testament to the strength of the Protein Works brand, its impressive growth journey and the quality of the team that has built the business into a market-leading lifestyle nutrition brand."*

"This deal highlights the continued appetite for high-growth consumer and wellness brands, and we wish the Protein Works and Lactalis teams every success for the future."

Laura Keir, CEO of Protein Works, added: *"Our acquisition by Lactalis is a very exciting new chapter in the Protein Works story. There are natural synergies between the two businesses, and a deep care for quality, customers and our teams. The move allows us to accelerate the growth of the Protein Works brand and reach new customers, whilst providing new expertise to the group as a whole."*

Carpenters Group among Merseyside organisations recognised at the British LGBT Awards

Merseyside was strongly represented at this year's British LGBT Awards, with Carpenters Group, Sahir House and Kamran Rasul of The Dental Clinic all recognised during the evening.

Under the leadership of CEO **Donna Richards**, Carpenters Group was recognised as a Breakthrough Business and received The Mirror Spotlight Award, marking a significant milestone for the organisation's continued focus on inclusion and equality.

Donna Richards, alongside members of the firm's DEI Network, attended the ceremony among businesses, charities and individuals working to create more

inclusive environments across the UK.

Speaking after the event, **Donna Richards** said:

"We are incredibly proud to be part of a movement that continues to drive meaningful change. Attending the British LGBT Awards alongside our DEI Network was a special experience and reinforces our commitment to creating a workplace where everybody feels valued, respected and empowered to simply be themselves."

The evening also highlighted the impact of organisations and individuals across the Liverpool City Region. Sahir House was recognised in the Charity or Community

Initiative category, reflecting its longstanding work supporting LGBTQ+ communities and people living with HIV. Kamran Rasul of The Dental Clinic was also honoured, receiving recognition in the Inspirational Leader category.

Together, the recognition of these Merseyside names reflects a shared commitment to inclusion across the region. For Carpenters Group, the recognition builds on its 'Forever Proud' campaign, which continues to drive inclusion beyond Pride Month and throughout the year.

To find out more about the night and view pictures, click [HERE](#).

Hall Brown marks 10 years of specialist family law



This year marks a very special milestone for Hall Brown Family Law as the firm celebrates its 10th birthday. Founded in April 2016 by Sam Hall and James Brown, the firm was created with a clear ambition: to deliver exceptional family law advice alongside the highest standards of client care. A decade on, Hall Brown has grown from an ambitious boutique practice into one of the country's leading specialist family law firms, with teams now based in Manchester, London, Sheffield, Leeds, Birmingham and Liverpool.

To celebrate this milestone, the whole firm took a short trip to France. It was a fantastic opportunity to run some update sessions, strengthen our internal relationships and then celebrate in style!

The anniversary is an opportunity not only to celebrate the firm's achievements, but also to reflect on the values which have shaped its growth. Hall Brown was established on the belief that clients facing relationship breakdown, children issues or complex financial matters need more than legal expertise alone. They need clear, practical advice, delivered with empathy, responsiveness and discretion at what is often one of the most difficult periods in their lives.

That approach has helped the firm build a national reputation for excellence. Hall Brown is recognised in the leading independent legal directories and has been named among The Times' Best Law Firms. Its lawyers are known for combining technical expertise with a straightforward, accessible style: avoiding unnecessary jargon, giving honest advice and working closely with clients to achieve the best possible outcome.

While Hall Brown is frequently instructed in complex, high-profile and high-value cases, the firm's philosophy has always been that every client should receive the same level of care, attention and service. The emphasis is on taking on the right number of clients so that the team can remain accessible and responsive, guiding people through the legal process with clarity and confidence.

The opening of the Liverpool office is a natural part of that continued growth, extending Hall Brown's specialist family law offering to clients across Merseyside and the wider North West. It also reflects the firm's commitment to being present in the communities it serves, building trusted relationships with clients, referrers and fellow professionals.

Led by the empathetic and tenacious **Natalie Dickson**, the team (**Antonia Williamson**, **Ellie Coffey** and **Vicky Burnell**) works hard to support their clients through what can be one of the most distressing and life changing moments of their lives. Legal 500 describe **Natalie** and **Antonia** as "passionate and committed to what they do", "exceptionally responsive and solution focussed" and able to make "a difficult period in your life a little easier".



Committed to their clients, the city of Liverpool and providing excellent service, **Natalie**, **Antonia**, **Ellie** and **Vicky** are proud and grateful to be leading Hall Brown's presence in Liverpool and celebrating the office's first six months.

As Hall Brown celebrates 10 years, the firm does so with pride in what has been achieved and gratitude to the clients, colleagues and professional contacts who have supported its journey. The next chapter will be guided by the same principles on which the firm was founded: specialist expertise, straight-talking advice and exceptional client service.

SRA sets out post-Mazur guidance

Reproduced by kind permission of John Hyde, Deputy News Editor, the Law Society Gazette



Law firms have received eagerly-awaited guidance aimed at helping them stay compliant in the light of the Court of Appeal's ruling in Mazur.

The Solicitors Regulation Authority released a [24-page guide](#) on 12th June to the safe supervision of unauthorised staff carrying out litigation.

The Court of Appeal established earlier this year that an unauthorised person such as a legal executive, paralegal or trainee solicitor may lawfully perform any tasks within the scope of the conduct of litigation.

But the caveat to this ruling was that delegation of tasks by an authorised person requires 'proper direction, management supervision and control'. The SRA has taken more than two months to respond in detail: its new expanded guidance has been reviewed by representative bodies including the Law Society, other regulators such as CILEX Regulation, government departments and other key partners such as the Legal Aid Agency and the Law Centres Network.

Read more

- [Conduct of litigation: Court gives clarity on delegation in Mazur](#)

- [Live: Mazur judgment day](#)
- [Legal services: Mazur must be a catalyst for change](#)

The SRA addresses how and when tasks are delegated and how a solicitor can demonstrate responsibility via direction, management supervision and control. The regulator has also expanded on sections for those supervising and being supervised.

Jonathan Peddie, SRA executive director of investigations, enforcement and litigation, said: *'We know that recent developments have been concerning for many firms, so we are pleased to be able to release our updated guidance. It was important, given the previous uncertainty, that we took the time to review the position thoroughly and collaboratively with others from across the legal sector.'*

'The court has provided clarity and our overall position remains the same – firms should take a risk-based approach tailored to their circumstances. Each firm will be different, but hopefully our case studies will help them as they exercise their professional judgement in practice.'

The guidance stresses from the outset there is no single model of supervision that should be relied upon, and firms

should use a risk-based approach when deciding on what is appropriate.

Providers are urged to consider who will supervise work, how many people they will supervise, how much of each person's work a supervisor will see, how often they will communicate, and whether supervision will take place face-to-face, remotely or through a combination of approaches.

Those conducting supervision should have a 'clear oversight' of work being done and be 'readily available' to support the unauthorised person.

The guidance states: *'Supervision needs to be effective. Merely putting supervision arrangements in place is necessary but not sufficient to meet legal services providers' regulatory obligations. Legal services providers should take proactive steps to make sure that supervision operates effectively, that supervisory arrangements are clear and understood, and that supervisors are accountable for how those arrangements function.'*

Supervision can be carried out by those with no line management responsibilities, but solicitors in this position should consider whether they have sufficient expertise and skills to understand the work they are overseeing.

Those being supervised should make sure there is clarity about what tasks have been delegated to them and when their supervisor is available to help. The guidance adds that they should be open about their capacity to do the work and when they need help.

Law Society vice president **Brett Dixon** welcomed the publication. *'We hope it will provide members with clarity as to how to comply with their professional and legal obligations in most situations.'*

John Hyde

Deputy News Editor,
The Law Society Gazette

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee – June Meeting Highlights

The Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Sub-Committee of Liverpool Law Society met on 11 June 2026 for a hybrid meeting that brought together members, guest speakers, and stakeholders to discuss key initiatives, community engagement, and forward planning.

A central highlight was a presentation by **Janette Drew** from Breast Cancer Now. Drawing on both professional insight and personal experience, she outlined the charity's extensive work in research, support services, and advocacy. The committee heard that one in seven women in the UK will develop breast cancer, while men are also affected, underscoring the importance of awareness and early detection. Janette emphasised initiatives such as nurse-led helplines, peer support services, and public health campaigns including "More Time To Live," which encourages regular self-checks. The charity's ongoing research investment—already exceeding £30 million—was highlighted alongside opportunities for the legal sector to engage, including the upcoming "[Tour de Law](#)" fundraising challenge.

The committee also welcomed **Tija Fitzgerald** of the Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division, who outlined plans for Liverpool Pride 2026. Efforts are underway to increase participation from legal professionals, particularly younger colleagues, with encouragement for firms to collaborate, promote inclusivity, and join the Pride march scheduled for July. This discussion reinforced the committee's commitment to visible allyship and community engagement.

Looking ahead, the committee explored ideas for future speakers and programming, including potential contributions from organisations such as The Brain Charity and topics such as Tourette's awareness. Updates from the North West Men's Legal Wellbeing Group highlighted a broad programme addressing issues from workplace conflict to mental health, demonstrating continued momentum in supporting wellbeing across the profession.

Further updates included upcoming events such as the Liverpool Legal Walk, Summer Social, and the Society's annual Legal Awards, which will again feature an EDI category. The Law Society's Pride survey was also promoted, alongside discussions on mentoring schemes and inclusive initiatives.

Finally, planning for the 2027 inaugural EDI Conference is already underway, with proposed themes including social mobility, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and the impact of emerging technologies.

Overall, the meeting reflected a strong and ongoing commitment to embedding equality, diversity, and inclusion across Liverpool's legal community, with practical actions and collaborative opportunities continuing to drive progress.

Our thanks to DWF for kindly hosting the in-person meeting and to Nina Sahu for stepping in to chair at short notice.

If you are interested in joining the LLS EDI Committee, please visit our website [here](#).

Sarah Poblete
CEO & EDI Committee member
Liverpool Law Society



ejm investigations

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

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LLS Summer Social at Little Leaf



The Liverpool Law Society President’s Summer Social provided an excellent opportunity for members of the local legal community to come together in a relaxed and welcoming setting at Little Leaf, Liverpool. Kindly sponsored by Aabyss, a leading cyber security firm, the evening was attended by representatives from a wide range of local law firms and chambers, reflecting the strength and diversity of the profession across the region.

The event offered attendees the chance to network with fellow professionals, exchange ideas, and strengthen existing relationships while also meeting new colleagues. Beyond the professional benefits, the social provided a valuable opportunity to catch up with friends and acquaintances from across the legal community in an informal atmosphere.

Sarah Mansfield President of Liverpool Law Society thanked everyone who attended for making the evening such a success. The President also expressed thanks to Aabyss

for its generous sponsorship and continued support of the legal profession, noting the increasing importance of cyber security awareness for legal practitioners.

The President commented: *“It was wonderful to see so many members of our legal community together. Events like these reinforce the strong professional relationships that underpin our profession while providing an enjoyable opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the evening such a memorable occasion.”*

Sarah Mansfield

President

president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk







Women Lawyers
Merseyside



MWLD Annual Opening Event

Merseyside Women Lawyers Division
are hosting their annual opening event
for the **2026/2027** committee year!



Glass of
prosecco/soft drink,
nibbles, and game
of darts
provided!

EVENT DETAILS



Date:
Thursday 2 July 2026



Time:
6pm drinks reception,
with darts from 7pm!



Venue:
Flight Club,
5-6 Kenyon's Steps,
Liverpool, L1 3DF



**Owen McVeigh
Foundation**

Tickets are £5 (plus Eventbrite fee) via Eventbrite, and all attendees will be entered into a raffle.
All ticket sales will be donated to the Owen McVeigh Foundation.

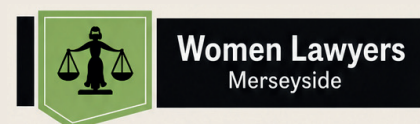


@merseyside women
lawyers division



@women_lawyers_merseyside

Merseyside Women Lawyers Division



Women Lawyers
Merseyside

An event to welcome the new MWLD Committee Year with all proceeds from ticket sales going to MWLD's chosen charity, the Owen McVeigh Foundation.

MWLD's Welcome Event is the perfect opportunity to meet the new committee and network with those in the Legal profession. A glass of fizz, nibbles & darts will be provided!

Tickets are available through the following link – <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/merseyside-women-lawyers-division-2627-annual-opening-event-tickets-1990978834289>.

Your ticket will also be your entry into a raffle on the night! Tickets are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Free cyber training for lawyers from police-funded cyber prevention organisation



DI Dan Giannasi, NWCRC

Law firms continue to be targets for cyber fraudsters in 2026 as new technology such as AI enables more sophisticated cyber attempts. Lawyers are often targeted by cyber attackers because they deal with sensitive data and handle large amounts of money.

New [Government statistics](#) have highlighted the growing scale of cyber threats facing businesses, with more than 612,000 UK businesses (43% of all

businesses) reporting a cyber breach or attack over the past 12 months.

DI Dan Giannasi, who heads up the team at the North West Cyber Resilience Centre (NWCRC), said: *"We work closely with all businesses, including law firms and professional bodies, across Merseyside to help grow their cyber resilience."*

"It's never been more important for law firms to ensure that every employee understands the risks of cyber breaches and how to protect against them."

"We recommend that every law firm in Merseyside makes cyber resilience a key business priority to protect their business and their clients against cyber attacks."

Many cyber crimes have an overseas nature, which makes it incredibly difficult to investigate or gain a conviction. This is one of the reasons that the Home Office has funded the NWCRC, which focuses on building cyber resilience through free training, guidance and support.

The Government stats found that phishing attacks have affected 38% of businesses over the past 12 months. Among those businesses that reported a cyber breach, phishing now accounts for 51% of those incidents, up from 45% last year.

On top of that, 37% of businesses have experienced ransomware attacks, while 12% of businesses have experienced an impersonation breach or attack.

It's really important for individual employees to have access to cyber training. Just one click onto a phishing email can take down a whole IT system, so awareness and insight training is vital for cyber resilience.

The NWCRC offers free 1-2-1 training for law firms for small to medium businesses across the region.

Sign up for more information: <https://www.nwcrc.co.uk/maillinglist>
Or contact Niomie Haynes, Cyber Resilience Manager: Niomie@nwcrc.co.uk

Norman's 5K!

This is the story of my first 5K race after the October 25 10K in New Brighton.

The race took place on Sunday 7th June 2026 in the picturesque village of Port Sunlight. There are hills throughout the village so the course was very challenging. Fortunately the weather held off after a threat of early rain. I managed to finish the race in under 48 minutes. The time wasn't brilliant but my excuse is Father Time! (78 and a half)

I managed to avoid the wooden spoon with about 6 runners, all younger, behind me. I was able to run in over a minute quicker than last year.

I received a fantastic welcome from the crowds at the finish line with loads of congratulations.

Those six months of training paid off.

Norman Jones
Past President, LLS



Latest UK labour market statistics

Joanne Frew says: Overall, the headline figures point to a broadly stable labour market, with little movement in employment and mixed signals on unemployment trends. The UK employment rate was estimated at 75% in the period February to April 2026. This is largely unchanged on both the year and in the latest quarter. The UK unemployment rate was estimated at 4.9% in the same period. This is an increase of 0.3% on the year, but a decrease of 0.3% in the latest quarter. Taken together, the data suggests a labour market that remains steady, with a modest year-on-year increase in unemployment but some improvement in the most recent quarter.

Vacancy estimates decreased in the latest quarter, with early estimates for March to May 2026 suggesting a decrease of 19,000 vacancies to 707,000, compared with December 2025 to February 2026 – this is the lowest level since February to April

2021. The latest data suggests employers are taking a more measured approach to hiring, reflecting ongoing uncertainty in both the economic outlook and the evolving legislative landscape, with vacancy levels continuing to act as a useful barometer of changing business confidence.

Annual growth in employees' average earnings in Great Britain was 3.4% for regular earnings (excluding bonuses), and 4.4% for total earnings (including bonuses) in February to April 2026. This cooling reflects a more cautious labour market backdrop, with employers balancing ongoing cost pressures, including the higher National Living Wage, against a slightly reduced demand for labour. As a result, while pay growth remains positive, the scope for significant wage increases appears increasingly constrained as businesses look to manage costs throughout the remainder of 2026.

Inflation remains at 2.8%, pointing to a more settled but still elevated economic backdrop, while the Employment Rights Act 2025 continues to be implemented in stages, with further reforms expected in October 2026. Together, these factors are likely to keep pressure on margins and reinforce a more disciplined approach to workforce investment and reward over the months ahead. Looking ahead, seasonal demand linked to the summer sporting calendar, including the World Cup, may provide a modest short-term uplift in hiring in sectors such as hospitality, which should become more visible in labour market data over the coming months. More broadly, speculation around future political leadership may add a further layer of uncertainty for employers already operating in a shifting economic and regulatory environment.



Joanne Frew
Global Head of Employment & Pensions at DWF

MJLD Summer Ball - Save the date



Keira Dean

Merseyside Junior Lawyers division invites you to their Summer Soirée at The Bentley on 7th August 2026. Let your hair down for a night of dining, dancing, and celebrating at our annual awards!

Keep your eyes out for tickets which will soon be available for purchase.

Help us celebrate exceptional individuals and firms by nominating candidates for the following awards:

- Supporter of Rising Talent

- Care in the Community
- Legal Excellence

Further information regarding the nomination process will be shared in due course.

This event has been kindly sponsored by Weightmans LLP and Hundred Court Chambers.

Keira Dean

Solicitor Apprentice
Weightmans LLP



The Solicitors' Charity explores burnout and "always on" culture in latest Legal Pause podcast episode



The Solicitors' Charity has released Episode 7 of The Legal Pause podcast, featuring Richard Martin, CEO of the Mindful Business Charter, in a candid conversation about burnout, workplace pressure, and the realities of modern legal life.

Titled "When 'Just Keep Going' Stops Working in Law", the episode explores how inhumane working practices can lead to stress and ultimately, burnout. And that signs and symptoms can quietly build over time within the legal profession, and why many solicitors still find it difficult to ask for help before reaching crisis point.

Hosted by Nick Gallagher, CEO of The Solicitors' Charity, the discussion draws on Richard's personal experience of mental health breakdown and recovery following a successful legal career in London. Together, they explore the warning signs of stress, the impact of "always on" workplace culture, and the importance of creating healthier and

more sustainable ways of working across the profession.

The episode also considers the emotional impact of legal work itself, including the pressures associated with demanding workloads, constant availability, and vicarious trauma transferred from their caseload.

Nick Gallagher, CEO of The Solicitors' Charity, said: "Many solicitors are incredibly resilient people, but that can sometimes mean stress and pressure build quietly over time before support is sought. This episode is an important reminder of the value of recognising warning signs early and creating professional environments where people feel able to speak openly."

Richard Martin added: "The legal profession attracts highly capable and conscientious people, but that can sometimes make it harder to stop, reflect, or ask for help. Conversations like this matter because they help normalise wellbeing and encourage people to seek

support earlier."

Alongside discussing Richard's own recovery journey, the episode explores the wider work of the Mindful Business Charter and ongoing conversations around workplace culture, respect in business, and sustainable careers within law.

Mentioned in the podcast, individuals and firms are urged to look out for and act on the warning signs of potential mental health breakdown in themselves and colleagues.

The conversation also highlights the support available through organisations such as The Solicitors' Charity and LawCare, while encouraging greater openness around mental health and wellbeing within the profession.

The Legal Pause – Episode 7 is available now on all major streaming platforms. Listen here: <https://thesolicitorscharity.org/the-legal-pause/>

2026 Housing Conditions Conference



Kirsty Barker

The Liverpool Law Society Housing Conditions Conference 2026 took place on the 21st May virtually and it brought together leading barristers, solicitors, surveyors and housing specialists to examine the rapidly evolving landscape of housing conditions law. The conference delivered a detailed and practical overview of reform, regulation and litigation trends.

Brynmor Adams and Georgia Cooper from Exchange Chambers opened the conference with a detailed analysis of the Renters' Rights Act 2025, asking whether it represents a "brave new world" or simply "business as usual" for housing conditions litigation.

They outlined the Act's core reforms, including the abolition of Section 21, the shift to periodic tenancies, a new statutory process for rent increases and the introduction of a landlord ombudsman and national database. While they emphasised that the substantive law on disrepair claims remains largely unchanged, they highlighted a fundamental shift in dynamics: tenants can now pursue claims without fear of retaliatory eviction, and landlords face a more complex regulatory environment with multiple parallel routes to enforcement, including rent repayment orders and local authority action.

Following on, **Ethan Riley** from Liverpool Civil Law focused on costs in housing disrepair claims, providing a practical overview of allocation, cost recovery and recent procedural developments. He examined the distinction between the small claims and fast track, emphasising that claims involving repairs or damages exceeding £1,000 will generally fall outside the small claims track. His session explored the continued relevance of key authorities such as *Lee v Birmingham City Council*, alongside the evolving approach to pre-allocation costs and the importance of Part 36 offers. The overarching message was that careful valuation, early strategy and procedural compliance are essential to managing costs risk effectively in modern housing litigation.

The next session by **Louise Murphy** from MSB Solicitors addressed the impact of Awaab's Law on repairs and enforcement, highlighting the significant legal and cultural shift introduced by the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 and subsequent regulations. She explained how the law imposes strict, enforceable timeframes for investigating and remedying hazards, distinguishing between "emergency" and "significant" risks, with emergency hazards requiring action within 24 hours. **Louise Murphy** emphasised the move toward a person-centred approach, requiring landlords to consider tenants individual circumstances when assessing risk, and outlined the procedural framework from initial report to investigation, repair and, where necessary, temporary rehousing demonstrating a far more structured and accountable system of enforcement.

Closing the morning sessions was **Rosie Wills** from Nova Surveyors who explored the role of expert evidence in housing disrepair claims, focusing in particular on damp and mould. She highlighted the increasing volume and cost of claims, noting that accurate

diagnosis of causation whether structural defect, service failure or tenant behaviour is essential. **Rosie Wills** drew attention to common criticisms of expert reports on both sides, including overstatement, poor methodology and lack of proper testing, and stressed the importance of objective, evidence-based analysis supported by recognised standards such as the Housing Health and Safety Rating System. Her practical guidance reinforced the need for early triage, appropriate use of experts and high-quality reporting.

To end the conference **Craig Leigh** from 8PP Barristers & Associates Ltd provide a case law round-up, reviewing key recent decisions shaping housing law. He covered authorities including *Muca v El Amrani*, *Duffy v Birmingham City Council*, and *Court v Beyond Housing Limited*, illustrating how courts are addressing issues such as gas safety compliance, costs assessment and case allocation. **Leigh** emphasised a consistent judicial trend toward substance over technicality, alongside a structured approach to allocation and proportionality. His analysis highlighted the importance of understanding both procedural rules and their practical application, ensuring that practitioners remain alert to developments that may significantly affect outcomes in housing conditions litigation.

Overall, the conference highlighted a sector undergoing significant change, with new legislation, stronger enforcement and evolving case law reshaping the housing conditions landscape. Sincere thanks go to all speakers for their insightful contributions and for delivering a comprehensive and practical overview of this important and developing area of law.

Kirsty Barker

Training and Event Manager
at Liverpool Law Society
kirsty@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Failure to carry out proper BTE Enquiries can result in success fees being disallowed



The Following the implementation of LASPO the majority of success fees and ATE premiums are no longer recoverable on an inter partes basis. Instead, such items are now recoverable from the client directly. There have been several circumstances where the client has sought to challenge the level of the success fee or ATE premium and this has resulted in the CFA and other client care documentation coming under significant scrutiny by the Courts.

Unfortunately, this comes right at the end of the claim, and it is likely to be too late to make amendments or corrections to ensure that a success fee or an ATE premium can be deducted from a client's damages.

Evans v Fletchers Solicitors Ltd [2026] EWHC 1523 (SCCO) provides another example of where a potential failure at the beginning of the claim can result in a significant loss in the amount of costs which are recovered. In this matter the Claimant instructed the Defendant to pursue a personal injury claim following an RTA. The claim was successful and a settlement sum of £250,000 was agreed between the parties. The inter partes costs were subsequently agreed and, as such, the Defendant proceeded to raise an invoice in the sum of £61,615.13 inclusive of a success fee of £30,365.13 which was capped at 25% of the relevant damages.

The Claimant brought proceedings pursuant to the Solicitors Act seeking assessment of this invoice. A number of challenges were raised regarding the items contained within the invoice and one of the key challenges raised was whether the claim should have been funded by way of a CFA in the first place. At the outset of the claim initial enquiries were made in respect of the availability of Legal Expenses Insurance

or BTE Insurance. These enquiries took place in 2017 immediately after the accident with very little information coming to light. In 2019, when proceedings were required to be issued, further investigations were undertaken and correspondence was sent to the home insurance policy company directly. The response directed the Defendant to the policy documents but did neither confirm nor deny the potential availability of LEI for the claim. Senior Costs Judge Rowley proceeded on a methodical basis asking a number of questions to arrive at a suitable conclusion. The first question was whether the Defendant's approach to enquiries for alternative funding unreasonable? Considering the facts and the limited enquiries made the answer was yes, the lack of enquiries was unreasonable. Reference was made to the Defendant Firm only raising enquiries with Zurich, the main policy provider, and not with DAS, the LEI provider.

The next question was whether there was LEI available to the Claimant to use to fund his claim? **SCJ Rowley** confirmed that there could be no definitive answer to this question due to the time which had passed. However, he was able to find on the information presented to the Court that, on the balance of probabilities, there would have been LEI available to the Claimant.

The next question posed was whether the use of the LEI would have resulted in no deductions being made? **SCJ Rowley** considered the generally accepted approach that the availability of BTE, and the security it provides by covering both parties' costs in the event the claim is unsuccessful, would nullify the need for a success fee because the Claimant's solicitors would be paid in either event. Furthermore, the lack of indemnity provided by the LEI was not sufficient to displace the answer with **SCJ Rowley**

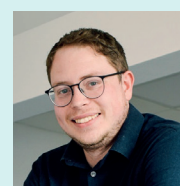
referring to the availability of top-up ATE cover.

The final question considered was whether the Claimant would have used the LEI if it was available? Given the findings above, and that by relying on the LEI the Claimant would have avoided any deductions from damages being made, **SCJ Rowley** found on the balance of probabilities that the Claimant would have used the LEI available.

The Claimant's representative attempted to argue that such findings would result in the disallowance of all the Defendant's base costs in accordance with the decision in *McDaniel & Co (a firm) v Clarke* [2014] EWHC 3826 (QB). **SCJ Rowley** was able to distinguish the present case from the decision in *McDaniel* on the facts and that the BTE cover available to the Claimant in present case would have resulted in the Defendant still being able to recover their base costs from the BTE provider if the claim was unsuccessful.

SCJ Rowley concluded that *"the success fee would not have been incurred if the BTE policy had been utilised. On that basis, I disallow the success fee in its entirety"*.

It is therefore clear that great care needs to be taken at the commencement of a claim to conduct proper BTE insurance checks and to explore alternative funding options. Failure to do so, or a failure to check you CFA sets out the terms you intend may result in all or part of the success fee being disallowed.



Kris Kilsby is a Costs Lawyer at Peak Costs. If you have any questions regarding the recovery of legal costs then please feel free to get in touch

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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.

Renters Rights Act

The Renters Rights Act, that became effective as of May 1st 2026, has brought about major changes in the rental landscape of the UK. We noticed an increase in clients being served with Section 21 notices in the months leading up to the changes and we continue to see a large number of people who have been served with a notice of possession. On receiving a notice of possession, the earlier you seek advice, the better your outcome will be. We run a free drop-in session at Liverpool Civil & Family Court twice a week, on a Wednesday and Friday from 11am-1pm, where people can come to us to seek advice regarding these matters. Clients seeking early advice from us will always tend to have better outcomes than if they had not pursued legal advice, we regularly help people to avoid homelessness and come to understandings with landlords. With the ever-changing landscape in the rental sector, we help people understand their rights and how to use these rights to create better outcomes in these very stressful situations.

Free welfare advice to over 65's

Statistics show that in a single year, £2.8 billion of Pension Credit and Housing Benefit goes unclaimed by older people and over a third (37%) of pensioner households entitled to Pension Credit are not claiming it.

Council Tax is also becoming an increasingly unmanageable expense for older people in financial hardship. Council Tax Reduction (CTR) is a lifeline for these older people and is something we are also able to assist with. For qualifying older people, it can reduce their Council Tax bill to £0.

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- ✔ We can represent you on the day of your hearing or help you in advance if you contact us before the date of your hearing.
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PLEASE BRING ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS WITH YOU.

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Dovecot Multi Activity Centre, L14 9BA	Mon & Thurs 10am-12pm
Kuumba Imani Millennium Centre, 4 Princes Road, L8 1TH	Wednesday 10am-12pm

Online enquiry form available here.

Some older people feel if they are a homeowner or have a small private pension that they will not be entitled to anything which is not the case.

We want to ensure that older people are receiving the benefits they are entitled to and deserve by providing a free welfare advice specifically for people aged 65 or over.

Please share with your networks and get in touch with us if you or anyone you know may benefit from this service.

Case Study – Succession of Tenancy

Following our client’s mother’s death, he sought to succeed her tenancy on the basis that he had been residing at the property as a family member for the required period. The client stated that he had been permanently residing at the property due to his mother’s deteriorating health. She became

bedbound, required a hospital bed, and needed round-the-clock care, which the client provided.

Following notification of the mother’s death, their social landlord served the client with a Notice to Quit. They also advised the client that his continued occupation of the property was unlawful.

We advised the client on the evidence needed to establish succession and gathered supporting documentation to evidence the client’s residence at the property. We also liaised with the landlord, representing the client in all their communications and submitted a formal Application for Succession of Tenancy.

Following consideration of the application, the client was offered an assured tenancy on the basis that his late mother’s tenancy was protected. The client was advised to accept the offer, and the succession application was successfully concluded. As a result, the client avoided homelessness and was able to remain accommodated.

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](http://GetInvolved|merseysidelawcentre)

and e-mail the completed form to enquiries@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk

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

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

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LET US BE YOUR HELPING HAND

WHAT DO WE DO?
 We provide free legal advice and representation for housing matters, mainly early legal advice to avoid court action and legal aid matters, across the Liverpool City Region. Also, welfare benefits advice and representation for residents of Liverpool.

OUR SERVICES

<p>Free Advice Drop In Sessions</p> <p>Every Monday & Thursday 10am-12pm No appointment required.</p> <p>Dovecot Multi Activity Centre, Back Dovecot Place, Liverpool L14 9BA</p>	<p>Free Housing Possession Advice Drop In Sessions</p> <p>Every Wednesday & Friday 11am-1pm No appointment required.</p> <p>Liverpool Civil and Family Court 35 Vernon Street, L2 2BX</p>
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Please bring all relevant documents with you to any drop-in sessions.

If you are unable to attend a drop in, please fill in the enquiry form on our website. Link below.

www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/enquiryform

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Independent Age

Free Welfare Advice for Over 65s

Many people over 65 are missing out on benefits they're entitled to

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- Council Tax Reduction
- Housing Benefit
- Attendance Allowance

Appointments are available at our offices, or if preferred, we can arrange a home visit to suit you

For more information see our website:
www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/over65welfareadvice

or contact us on : 0151 452 2495 email: gabriele.ciuzelyte@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk

or use your phone camera to scan the QR code

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Joined up advice: Why legal outcomes are stronger when financial planning is part of the conversation

Solicitors operate at the heart of some of the most important decisions their clients will ever make. Whether advising on divorce, estate planning or later life arrangements, the legal framework is essential. But increasingly, it is only part of the picture.

As the financial landscape grows more complex – and with further pension changes coming into force from April 2027 – the long-term consequences of legal decisions are becoming harder to separate from the legal advice itself. This is why joined up legal and financial advice is no longer a “nice to have”, but an important part of delivering robust, future proof outcomes for clients.

Where legal advice ends – and financial consequences begin

Solicitors rightly focus on rights, obligations and legal structures. Yet once a matter concludes, clients live with the financial outcomes of those decisions for years, often decades.

Pensions, investments and long-term income planning regularly sit outside the immediate legal process, but they are frequently shaped by it. Decisions made during divorce proceedings, estate planning or trust arrangements can have far reaching financial implications that may not be fully visible at the point legal advice is given.

This is not about blurring professional boundaries. It is about recognising where early collaboration can help clients better understand the long-term impact of legal decisions – and reduce the risk of unintended consequences later on.

Pensions: a growing pressure point

Pensions are already one of the most complex assets clients hold. They are often among the most valuable, yet also the least understood.

Looking ahead, the prospect of further pension changes from April 2027 adds another layer of uncertainty. While solicitors are not expected to advise on pension strategy, these changes heighten the

risk that decisions taken today – without financial context – may no longer deliver the outcomes clients expect in the future.

For clients, this uncertainty can be unsettling. For solicitors, it increases the importance of recognising when specialist financial input can add clarity and reassurance at an early stage.

Better outcomes through collaboration

Joined up advice allows each professional to do what they do best.

When financial planners and solicitors work alongside one another, clients benefit from a clearer understanding of how legal decisions interact with their wider financial position. This can help to:

- reduce misunderstandings and unrealistic expectations
- support more informed decision making
- lower the risk of future disputes or complaints
- improve confidence in the overall advice process

In practice, this might mean financial modelling that helps a divorcing client understand the long-term impact of a settlement, or financial planning input that supports estate planning discussions by highlighting how assets are likely to be used over time.

The legal advice remains central. The financial planning supports it.

Enhancing service without losing control

One common concern for solicitors is whether involving another adviser risks diluting their role or confusing the client. In reality, effective collaboration tends to have the opposite effect.

Joined up advice strengthens the solicitor client relationship by demonstrating foresight, professionalism and a commitment to holistic outcomes. It shows clients that their solicitor understands not just the immediate legal issue, but the

broader context in which it sits.

Importantly, collaboration does not mean handing over control. It means working with trusted partners who respect professional boundaries and support the legal advice being given – particularly at a time when upcoming pension changes are likely to prompt more complex client questions.

Looking ahead to 2027

As the legal and financial landscape continues to evolve – particularly with further pension changes on the horizon from April 2027 – joined-up advice will play an increasingly important role in protecting client outcomes. Benchmark Financial Planning works alongside solicitors to provide clear, practical financial insight that complements legal advice and supports better long-term decision-making. By collaborating early and effectively, law firms can enhance their client proposition, reduce risk and deliver advice that remains robust well beyond the conclusion of any legal matter.

Get in touch



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Regional Director/
Chartered Financial
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This article is for information only and does not constitute legal or financial advice. Financial planning and pensions advice should only be provided by a suitably authorised professional. The value of investments and pensions can fall as well as rise and clients may get back less than they invest. Tax treatment depends on individual circumstances and may change in the future. Benchmark Financial Planning works in partnership with legal professionals to support joined-up client outcomes but does not provide legal advice.

Approved by Best Practice IFA Group on 15th June 2026.



Knowsley Chamber: Connecting, Supporting and Championing Business

For almost four decades, Knowsley Chamber of Commerce has played a central role in supporting and representing businesses across the borough and the wider Liverpool City Region. Established in 1987, it has grown to become the largest independent, private sector-led business group in Knowsley, bringing together organisations of all sizes, sectors and ambitions.

At its core, the Chamber is committed to ensuring that businesses are not only connected, but fully supported to thrive. Its vision is clear: to be a trusted ally for businesses, while serving as a strong and influential voice contributing to the economic development of Knowsley and the wider Liverpool City Region.

A defining feature of Knowsley Chamber is the breadth and accessibility of its activity. The Chamber's events programme is a valued and robust offer, the events create regular opportunities for businesses to engage, exchange knowledge, and build meaningful connections. This includes well-established sector forums such as Manufacturing, Construction, Visitor Economy and People (HR), alongside focused networks including Women in Business, Environment, the Small Business Network and Business to Business networks.

These forums extend beyond traditional networking, offering valuable platforms for professional development, peer-to-peer collaboration, and open discussion around key issues such as workforce challenges, innovation, sustainability and leadership. Complementary initiatives, including Working Well events, further demonstrate the Chamber's commitment to supporting employee wellbeing and fostering positive workplace cultures.

The Working Well Programme, funded by Knowsley Public Health and delivered by Knowsley Chamber of Commerce

since 2011, plays a key role in this offer. It is designed to improve the health and wellbeing of Knowsley's workforce, supporting businesses to reduce sickness absence and meet health and safety responsibilities. The programme is available free of charge to all businesses, regardless of whether they are Chamber members. Evidence consistently shows that investing in employee health and wellbeing leads to improved outcomes for both individuals and organisations. The Working Well Programme demonstrates that meaningful improvements do not require significant financial investment; even small changes and time commitments can deliver measurable benefits. Dedicated Business Engagement Managers provide tailored support and expert advice to organisations looking to enhance workplace wellbeing, helping to create healthier, more productive working environments.

This strong sense of connection is complemented by access to practical, high-quality support. Through its affiliation with the British Chambers of Commerce, Knowsley Chamber provides members with access to a wider network of expertise and resources, ensuring businesses are well positioned to succeed locally, nationally and internationally.

The Chamber also plays a vital advocacy role, representing the voice of business across a network of more than 2,500 contacts. By actively listening, informing and engaging with its members, it champions key issues including skills, economic growth, and social value. Its close collaboration with Knowsley Council is further strengthened through co-location arrangements and the delivery of the Invest Knowsley "single front door" approach. This integrated model brings partners together in a shared space, enabling more seamless communication, and a more responsive service for businesses. By working side by side, the Chamber and the Council are able to coordinate support more

effectively, working to a shared priority for the economic growth of Knowsley. This ensures that businesses, whether new investors or existing enterprises, can access clear, streamlined and joined-up support for investment, growth and development, without the need to navigate multiple organisations. Ultimately, this collaborative and co-located approach enhances the overall customer journey and reinforces Knowsley's reputation as a business-friendly borough.

In an evolving economic landscape, the value of a strong, connected business community and a Better Together approach cannot be overstated. Knowsley Chamber continues to demonstrate the power of collaboration, supporting businesses to succeed individually while contributing collectively to the prosperity of the borough and beyond.

For more information about Knowsley Chamber and how we support businesses, please contact info@knowsleychamber.org.uk.

Upcoming Events (Post-Summer Programme)

Following the summer break, the Chamber will resume its events programme with a range of opportunities to connect and engage:

- Tuesday 8 September – Knowsley Chamber People's Forum
- Liverpool Hope University, Hope Park, Liverpool, L16 9JD
- Tuesday 15 September – Knowsley Chamber Construction Forum
- Structec, Windsor House, North Mersey Business Centre, Woodward Road, Knowsley Industrial Park, Liverpool, L33 7UY
- Tuesday 22 September – Business to Business Networking
- Everyman Playhouse, 5–11 Hope Street, Liverpool, L1 9BH
- We look forward to welcoming businesses from across the region to connect, collaborate and grow.

FHM Forensic Strengthens North East Presence with Senior Durham Appointment



Nick McCarthy

FHM Forensic Accounting is delighted to announce that we are building our presence in the North East with the appointment of Nick McCarthy as a senior manager.

Nick is an experienced forensic accountant based in Durham. Over the past six years, he has undertaken instructions from various law firms based in the North East and North West. These have covered a broad range of matters including valuations, investigations and disputes. He has written expert reports that have been submitted to the International Court of Arbitration, various Family Courts and the High Court.

After graduating from the University of Edinburgh with a Master of Arts degree in German and Philosophy, Nick moved to Oxfordshire to begin his

accountancy studies. Here Nick gained valuable experience in the fundamentals of accountancy by working on accounts preparation, audit and tax assignments. In 2018 Nick relocated to the North and has since then focused his time on forensic accounting including business valuation and expert witness assignments. In 2021 he qualified as a Chartered Accountant.

In his spare time Nick plays golf.

Nick will work alongside our experts, **Fiona Hotston Moore** (the founder of FHM Forensic Accounting) and Associate Director **Tom Arnold** as well as two further team members **Kirsty Shuckford** and **Graham Hines**.

The key services provided by FHM are:

- Business and share valuation for litigation as well as commercial/tax valuations

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- Shadow adviser reports and support
- Shareholder and commercial disputes
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We are happy to offer training to professional organisations or law firms covering topics such as business valuation and interpretation of business accounts. Our legal contacts can sign up for our complimentary webinars which run throughout the year as well as for relevant mailings. CVs and brochures can be found on our website together with useful technical articles.

We look forward to developing further our relationships in the North East and we hope to catch up with many of you soon.

Contact **Fiona Hotston Moore**

for case enquiries:

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Mr Baird holds prestigious Bond Solon accreditation and the Cardiff University Medico-Legal Foundation Certificate, ensuring rigorous adherence to Civil Procedure Rules.

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**THE
ACADEMY
OF
EXPERTS**

Regulation Update

July 2026

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

The areas covered in this month's update won't come as a surprise to regular readers, but the direction of travel is getting sharper. The SRA and Legal Ombudsman are both focusing less on what policies say, and more on how firms actually operate, AML regulations have been amended, requirements for a data protection complaints process introduced and details from the consultation regarding the move to the FCA as sole AML regulator have been released [Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Supervision Reform: Duties, Powers, and Accountability Consultation - GOV.UK](#).

Supervision, AML and complaints handling all remain firmly in scope, and firms are increasingly expected to evidence that their frameworks work in practice. Nothing here is entirely new, but expectations are tightening. Firms that rely on historic policies or light-touch oversight may find it harder to justify their position. This is a good moment to step back and make sure your compliance framework reflects reality, not just intention.

Supervision post Mazur

The SRA has issued expanded guidance on supervision following the Court of

Appeal's decision in *Mazur*, supported by practical case studies, and it's worth a careful read [SRA | Effective supervision | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)

The core message is clear: there is no "safe" model. Firms must take a risk-based approach to supervision, considering who supervises, how many people they oversee, the nature of the work, and how oversight is exercised day-to-day.

In practice, firms should now be able to evidence:

- Active and regular file oversight
- Clear supervision structures with accountability
- Supervisor capacity aligned to workload
- Escalation routes that are used in real time

There is no one-size-fits-all model, but the expectation is that firms can demonstrate clear oversight, appropriate supervisor capacity and real-time escalation where needed. Firms need to show that supervision is active, effective and properly resourced. Reliance on nominal or overly stretched supervision, particularly in high-volume or heavily delegated work, will be difficult to justify if challenged.

Client money – tighter controls coming

The SRA is continuing to strengthen its approach to client money, including mandatory accountants reports and greater separation between decision-making and compliance roles.

The SRA recently opened another consultation [Client money in legal services: Notifying the SRA of changes to help identify and act on risks](#), part of its 'Consumer Protection Review – focused on protecting client money held by solicitors.' The consultation includes proposals to make a rule to

require firms to notify it of events that it will prescribe from time to time, and give the SRA the option of using fixed financial penalties (FFPs) to help ensure compliance. It will use the new power in the first instance to require firms to pre-notify of a merger or acquisition that has reached the Heads of Term stage or equivalent, and notify when beginning to receive or hold client money, having previously reported that the firm does not do so. The consultation period ends at 9.00 on Monday 17 August 2026.

Some of these changes may not come into force until 2027 or later, but firms should not treat them as a distant issue. The regulator's focus is clearly on early visibility of risk and stronger internal challenge.

Now is a good time to sense-check whether your governance, finance function and compliance roles would stand up to scrutiny.

Consultations

Other consultations remain open on:

- Continuing competence reforms (July 2026)
- Legal Ombudsman changes (September 2026)

These all point in the same direction: greater accountability, stronger consumer focus and closer scrutiny of how firms operate in practice.

AML

Action required now

With changes to the Money Laundering Regulations taking effect from 30 June 2026, firms should be taking stock now. In particular, review your FWRA and update it to reflect your current risk profile, PCPs should be refreshed and aligned to current requirements, and updates should be documented and communicated clearly to staff.

The key point is that regulators expect these documents to drive behaviour, not sit on a shelf. If your FWRA does not reflect how your firm actually operates, it is unlikely to assist if challenged.

Same issues, same outcomes

Recent enforcement shows little change in theme, but continued failures in practice. Common gaps remain, including outdated or generic firm-wide risk assessments, weak or unused PCPs and missing or incomplete client/matter risk assessments.

It is reported that the SRA has fined 59 firms £600,000 in recent months for these types of failings, underlining that basic AML controls are still not being applied consistently. Firms are, and will continue to be, fined for earlier breaches of MLR that are no longer ongoing, and the clock cannot be turned back, but all firms should ensure present processes are fully compliant to avoid higher sanctions being imposed. As fines are based on turnover and banding determined by the SRA, a number of matters will be referred to the SDT as the fines are over the SRA limit of £25,000, leading to additional costs, reputational risk etc. for firms.

Data collection exercise

The annual AML and sanctions data collection exercise is also underway, placing further emphasis on firms having accurate, up-to-date records. The form opened on 29 June 2026, and we advise you don't leave it until the last minute to complete it! Information is required relating to work carried out within scope of MLR, any contact / involvement with the sanctions regime and any persons designated under it, and submission of suspicious activity reports to the NCA. There is useful guidance about completing and submitting the form, together with Q & A at [SRA | Firm anti-money laundering and sanctions data requirements | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)

Complaints – rising expectations

The Legal Ombudsman has launched a wide-ranging consultation following a

37% increase in complaints. A striking point is that many complaints escalate simply because firms fail to issue a timely final response. For firms, the takeaway is straightforward, namely complaint handling needs to be treated as part of core risk management, not an administrative task.

In addition, from 19 June 2026 all organisations must have a process in place for people to make data protection complaints, which includes acknowledging them within 30 days, investigating without undue delay, keeping complainants informed, and communicating outcomes promptly. The ICO has published guidance [How to deal with data protection complaints | ICO](#)

Existing complaints procedures can be amended to reflect the requirements, or a separate procedure put in place, which, we suggest would be preferable, as there are different time limits and data protection complaints may be directed to a different individual.

Whistleblowing and culture

The SRA's designation as a prescribed whistleblowing body means individuals now have clearer protection when reporting concerns externally.

Firms should assume that if internal processes are not trusted, matters may go straight to the regulator. Firms should ensure clear and accessible reporting channels, strong non-retaliation safeguards and proper investigation and documentation of concerns. Culture, reporting channels and escalation processes therefore remain squarely in scope for compliance teams.

Disciplinary decisions

12month suspension, suspended for 2 years (under appeal) for bullying and abuse of position

A law firm owner engaged in sustained bullying, coercion and inappropriate behaviour towards junior staff over several years, with over 40 allegations proved. The tribunal identified a clear imbalance of power and repeated

misconduct across multiple individuals. The SRA has confirmed an appeal, indicating the sanction may be insufficient to reflect the seriousness of the conduct.

12month suspension, suspended for 2 years with restrictions for offensive social media posts

A solicitor posted offensive and discriminatory antisemitic content on social media over an extended period. While insight and remediation were accepted, the tribunal emphasised the reputational damage to the profession and imposed restrictions on future conduct.

Struck off for misuse of client funds and concealment

A criminal solicitor kept a matter outside firm systems and required a client to pay fees into a personal account, concealing the arrangement over a period of months. The conduct was found to be deliberate and dishonest.

Twoyear suspension for misleading information on insurance documents

A solicitor provided misleading information on professional indemnity insurance documentation and allowed the firm to continue practising without proper cover, creating risk to clients and the wider profession.

Strikeoff for fabricating documents

A solicitor fabricated and backdated a disclosure letter to give the impression that court directions had been complied with and maintained that position when challenged internally.

How Compli can help...

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

Andrea Cohen

Compli,
Weightmans LLP

Charity Spotlight: **Circus Starr** the circus with a purpose.

Creating a Lasting Legacy of Inclusion



Circus Starr has enjoyed an exceptional start to 2026, marking an exciting new era following its transition to registered charity status in 2025. The Cheshire-based organisation, affectionately known as “*The Circus with a Purpose,*” has spent almost four decades ensuring that disabled and disadvantaged children can experience the joy and wonder of live entertainment. This year, that dedication has been recognised through a series of prestigious awards and nominations, reinforcing its reputation as one of the UK’s leading inclusive charities.

For almost 40 years, Circus Starr has worked to remove the barriers that prevent many families from enjoying live entertainment. Each year, the charity embarks on three national tours, visiting 74 towns and cities and delivering 148 accessible and inclusive performances

across the UK. Through its unique Donated Ticket Programme, thousands of children with disabilities, life-limiting conditions, additional needs or those living in challenging circumstances are invited to attend with their family completely free of charge. Local businesses and community sponsors fund the tickets, which are distributed through schools, hospitals, hospices, charities and support organisations, ensuring that those who would benefit most can experience the magic of the circus.

Circus Starr is far more than a traditional circus. Every aspect of the performance is designed with accessibility and inclusion at its heart, creating an environment where every child and family feels welcomed, valued and able to enjoy the experience without barriers. Relaxed performances, sensory-considered environments and flexible seating



arrangements allow audience members to engage in the way that feels most comfortable for them, removing many of the anxieties often associated with attending public events.

The organisation continues to lead the way in accessible entertainment through innovative initiatives that support families before and during their visit. Every performance includes British Sign Language interpretation, ensuring Deaf audiences can fully enjoy the show, while a mobile Changing Places facility provides essential support for visitors with complex disabilities and their carers.

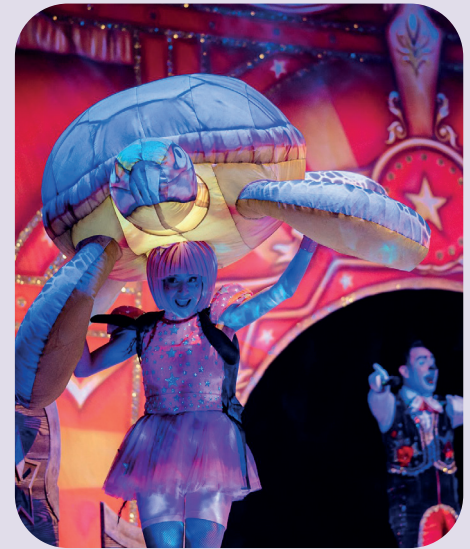




Before families even arrive, the Sensory Story Pack helps prepare children with additional needs by introducing them to the sights, sounds and atmosphere of the circus, reducing anxiety and building confidence ahead of the performance.



Tourism Awards and the Local Service Award presented by Scope, recognising its dedication to improving accessibility and enriching the lives of disabled children and their families. Building on this success, Circus Starr has also been named a finalist in the Learning Disabilities and Autism Awards in the Making a Difference category, reflecting the significant impact it continues to have within communities across the UK.



experience the joy, excitement and sense of belonging that only live entertainment can provide. Legacy gifts help fund accessible performances, innovative inclusion initiatives and free tickets for families who might otherwise never have the opportunity to attend.



Behind every performance lies a simple but powerful belief: every child deserves the opportunity to laugh, be amazed and create treasured memories with their family. For many children attending Circus Starr, the experience represents far more than an afternoon of entertainment. It provides a sense of belonging, inclusion and celebration that can have a lasting impact long after the final applause.

The charity's work extends far beyond its performances. Through its Community Outreach Days, Circus Starr brings the magic of the circus directly into special schools, hospitals, hospices and community settings, delivering interactive circus skills workshops and memorable experiences to children and adults who may be unable to attend a live show. These visits encourage confidence, creativity and social connection, ensuring that the joy of Circus Starr reaches even more people within the communities it serves.

No matter the size of the gift, every legacy helps keep the show on the road, bringing laughter, confidence and unforgettable memories to thousands of children and their families across the UK.

As Circus Starr continues its mission to make the magic of the circus accessible to all, a gift in your Will can become part of that story - creating a lasting legacy of inclusion, accessibility and happiness long after the final curtain falls.

Circus Starr's commitment to accessibility and inclusion has earned national recognition throughout 2026. The charity received the Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Award at the Visit Cheshire

As Circus Starr continues to grow as a registered charity, the generosity of individuals, businesses and communities remains essential to its future. Alongside sponsorship and fundraising, legacy giving offers an opportunity for supporters to make a lasting impact that extends far beyond their own lifetime.

Leave a Legacy of Inclusion

By remembering Circus Starr in your Will, you can help ensure that disabled and disadvantaged children continue to



To find out more about leaving a legacy gift or supporting Circus Starr through sponsorship or donations, visit www.circus-starr.org.uk or contact the team on 01260 288690.

Professional services: Key considerations for implementing AI

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are becoming increasingly embedded within professional services, with uses that range from automating routine tasks to conducting deep-level data analysis. But embracing AI isn't risk-free. A survey of underwriters conducted by the Lloyd's Market Association (LMA) identifies Professional Indemnity (PI) as the insurance line most likely to experience AI-related losses,* driven by the potential for erroneous or hallucinated outputs.

Against this backdrop, we've set out some key areas of risk that professional services firms may wish to keep in mind when developing and implementing AI tools.

Governance and firm-wide policies

As a starting point, all firms should have firm-wide policies in place which cover the responsible use of AI tools, bearing in mind that data inputs might differ depending on the nature and security parameters of the tool. The limitations of AI use should be explained to employees at all levels of the firm, including the potential for bias, generation of inaccurate information, as well as privacy concerns. Procedures, including escalation processes, should be established for the management of adverse incidents relating to the use of AI. Firms may also wish to prepare a guidance note to accompany any firm-wide policy. Such guidance can include examples of how the policy applies in practice, and be periodically updated as the relevant technologies develop.

Where a firm is considering developing AI tools in-house, it may wish to document how that development process took place. Key areas to cover might include a description of the tool, its anticipated function, as well as decisions made in relation to testing and evaluation, design oversight, and controls implemented regarding use of the tool. The document might also consider the likelihood of risk events materialising and any potential impacts on the firm.

Ultimately, practitioners need to remember that professional judgement remains crucial and should be exercised when conducting any independent evaluation of AI outputs. The quality of any services provided must not be undermined by undue reliance on technology.

Confidentiality

One of the major risks with unchecked AI usage is the potential for compromising confidential client data.

Firms need to consider carefully how data is used when training AI models and framing prompts for AI tools, including how any data inputted could be subsequently disseminated, especially in the case of open-source AI tools. How such data is treated could also have an impact on material which would otherwise be subject to legal professional privilege.

Similar considerations will apply when firms are contemplating purchasing AI tools. Firms should seek to understand exactly what data the tool can collect, where that data is stored, how long it is retained for, and whether customer or client data is used for training models. A vendor should also be able to provide specific details regarding encryption standards, model information, and the use of external data. If a vendor is unable to answer these questions in a clear manner, firms should think carefully before making a purchase.

Considerations in this area frequently overlap with legal obligations concerning privacy, data protection, and intellectual property. It should be remembered that PI exposure is significantly heightened where there is an indication that confidentiality obligations might have been breached.

Client knowledge of AI use

Where a firm's advice or work product contains inaccurate or hallucinated material as a result of AI use, and the client then relies on that advice, firms

may risk being accused of negligence or misleading the client.

From the outset, firms should consider informing prospective clients of any AI tools to be used while work is carried out on their file. Clients may also need to be made aware of the extent of any reliance placed on the tool's output by the firm. This could take the form of a disclaimer, and may form part of the firm's letter of engagement.

Training

Many professionals, and especially those in regulated sectors, are required to exercise due care in service delivery, as well as consistently maintaining good levels of professional knowledge and skill. With the rapid adoption of AI across the professional services sector, staying abreast of technological developments may now be considered necessary to ensure that clients continue to receive a competent professional service in 2026.

Firms should therefore review their current training/CPD programmes and consider whether training on AI usage may need to be further embedded. This will ensure that employees remain capable of making informed decisions when using AI tools and that they are up to date on important technological developments, including having a working knowledge of an AI tool's capabilities and limitations. Additional training on prompt usage and redflag outputs may also be useful.

For more information, contact Nicola Anthony, Risk Manager, Lockton at: nicola.anthony@lockton.com

This article is co-authored by Lockton in collaboration with Kingsley Napley LLP.

**<https://lmalloyds.com/lma-survey-maps-underwriters-views-of-ai-loss-scenarios-across-key-lines/>*



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Liverpool Law Society offers a 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.

DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
07/07/2026	Domestic Abuse: Key principles and Updates 2026	Safda Mahmood
14/07/2026	Domestic Abuse: Key principles and Updates 2026	Richard Snape
03/09/2026	Family Finance Law Conference	Various
21/09/2026	A Guide to Share Buy Backs in a Private Limited Company	Jackie Sheldon
22/09/2026	2026 Domestic Abuse Conference	Various
23/09/2026	2026 Domestic Abuse Conference	Various
06/10/2026	2026 Domestic Abuse Conference	Richard Snape
14/10/2026	2026 Employment Conference	Various
20/10/2026	2026 Private Child Law Conference	Various
21/10/2026	2026 Private Child Law Conference	Richard Snape
11/11/2026	Conference for Legal Cashiers & Managers	Various
13/11/2026	Stand and Deliver – Advocacy Principles	Safda Mahmood
25/11/2026	2026 Civil Litigation Conference	Various

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

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

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

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

Domestic Abuse: Key Principles And Updates 2026

with Safda Mahmood

Online, 7th July, 10:00am - 16:00pm



There has been a vast amount of change to the law surrounding domestic abuse over the course of the last few years.

This course will provide a good round up of the different law and major changes, so as to provide a comprehensive update on domestic abuse legislation and case law.

Join us for a focused and practical course designed to deepen your understanding of the law, practice, and procedure in personal protection cases. This session will help you stay up to date with the latest case law and statutory developments, anticipate potential challenges in handling domestic abuse matters, and develop strategies to manage them effectively. By the end of the course, you will feel more confident and efficient in navigating this complex area, ensuring you deliver the best possible outcomes for your clients.

[BOOK NOW](#)

How to Respond to the New Residential Enquiries

with Richard Snape

Online, 14th July, 1.30pm - 2.30pm



Join us for a one seminar with Richard Snape looking at how to respond to the new residential enquiries. The TA6 (6th edition) became compulsory for CQS firms on March 30th 2026. It is fundamental to the conveyancing process. The course aims to look at enquiries generally and how to avoid misrepresentation and specific enquiries in the light of the new TA6 and TA7.

Topics we will cover include:

- Misrepresentation generally;
- Enquiries generally;
- The Consume Protection Regulations and as of April 6th 2026 the Digital Markets Competition and Consumers Act 2024;
- TA6 6th edition;
- Solar panel enquiries in the light of the TA6 6th edition;
- Japanese Knotweed enquiries in the light of the TA6 6th edition;
- Leaseholder protections;
- Building Safety Act enquiries in the light of the new TA7; and
- Septic Tanks and the new TA6 enquiries.

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Save The Date Family Finance Conference

THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2026

Mark your calendar for our upcoming Family Finance Conference, in partnership with Resolution Merseyside and St John's Building Chambers and where industry leaders will share the latest updates insights, and trends shaping the field. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and elevate your expertise.

A Guide to Share Buy Backs in a Private Limited Company

with Jackie Sheldon

Online, 21st September, 1.00pm - 2.30pm



Join our focused online seminar for a clear, practical guide to share buybacks under company law.

We'll walk you through the legal principles, procedures, and filings from maintenance of capital to buybacks out of profits or capital.

This online course will cover the following:

- Doctrine of maintenance of share capital
- What a buyback is?
- Why carry out a buyback?
- Procedure overview
- Buyback out of distributable profits - steps
- De minimum exception
- Buyback out of capital - steps
- Required documents and filings

(Not covering tax advice or accountancy treatment).

[BOOK NOW](#)


2026 Domestic Abuse Conference
Tuesday 22nd September 2026, 1.00pm till 4.30pm
Hybrid Event - Online or In Person

This half-day conference brings together leading practitioners to explore the most significant developments shaping domestic abuse law and safeguarding practice.

Designed for professionals across family law, the event offers a timely opportunity to stay ahead of fast-moving policy and procedural changes. The programme will cover an in-depth update on the new molestation orders, examining what has changed. Attendees will also hear a detailed review of Domestic Abuse Protection Orders, reflecting on where we stand a year and a half into the DAPO pilot and will explore MAPPO, helping participants understand its purpose and what it means for effective multi-agency working.

[BOOK NOW](#)



2026 Property Conference
Tuesday 23rd September 2026, 9.30am till 3.30pm
Hybrid Event - Online or In Person

Join us for a timely and practical conference exploring the latest and most significant developments shaping the UK property landscape. Our expert speakers will unpack the expanding reach of the building safety regime and provide clarity on the Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024, separating what is now in force from what remains delayed or blocked.

The programme will also cover a comprehensive commercial landlord and tenant update, alongside a deep dive into the Renters' Rights Act, focusing on implementation challenges, emerging litigation trends and its wider market impact.

Looking ahead, the session will explore the draft Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Bill, asking whether it truly signals the end of leasehold flats, and consider the implications of the new register of contractual controls (including options and conditional contracts) introduced under the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023. Designed for property professionals who need clear insight and practical takeaways, this conference will help you stay ahead of reform and confidently plan for what comes next.

[BOOK NOW](#)


2026 Employment Conference
Wednesday 14th October 2026, 9.30am till 3.30pm
Hybrid Event - Online or In Person

This essential employment law conference brings together expert insight on the key legal and practical issues currently shaping the workplace. The programme opens with an Employment Rights Act update, highlighting the most important reforms, what is already in force, and what employers should be preparing for next.

Delegates will benefit from a focused Tribunal Update Session, examining recent trends, procedural developments and lessons from key cases, alongside a practical discussion on unreasonable and vexatious litigants, covering case management strategies, costs recovery and striking out claims.

The conference will also tackle critical issues, including whistleblowing and the impact of the Employment Rights Act on trade unions, exploring collective rights, industrial action and employer obligations.

The day concludes with a comprehensive Employment Law Round-Up reviewing recent cases and legislative changes.

[BOOK NOW](#)



Company & Commercial

Key legal considerations for Shareholders Agreements
 with Jackie Sheldon
Online, 24th November, 1.00pm - 2.30pm



Gain practical insight into the key legal and commercial issues that shape shareholder arrangements.

This concise online seminar breaks down share transfers, leaver provisions, control rights, and deadlock solutions with real-world clarity.

This online course will cover the following:

- Fundamentals (including exploring the differences between the articles and shareholders agreements)
- Mechanics of share transfers
- Permitted transfers
- Deemed transfers
- Good Leaver/Bad Leaver
- Drag and tag
- Sensible suggestions to deal with deadlock
- Enforceable non-compete provisions
- Veto rights

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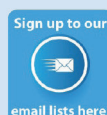


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Our training, member and general news & events emails will come from legalnews@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk and automated messages from our website (such as when making a booking for one of our courses or events) will come from enquiries@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk.

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

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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.

Leigh Day 27,504 followers
5d · Edited · 🌐

It was a privilege to attend and sponsor the **Medical Journalists' Association Symposium 2026: The State of Maternity – Safety, Inequality and Culture** on 17 June 2026. ...more

👍❤️🔁📩 40 8 reposts

Fletchers Group 14,514 followers
2w · 🌐

On Sunday, we hosted our first ever netball tournament in aid of **Fletchers Foundation!** ...more

Fletchers Foundation Netball Tournament · 5 pages

👍❤️🔁📩 51 5 comments · 9 reposts

Hall Brown Family Law 3,026 followers
5d · 🌐

At the end of last week, the firm gathered in a beautiful place near Paris to celebrate our 10th anniversary. And what a way to do it! ...more

👍❤️🔁📩 141 7 comments · 10 reposts

HM3 Legal | B Corp™ reposted this

Lindsey Kidd · 3rd · Law Firm Leader | A refreshing take on legal services | Doing law diff...
5h · 🌐

The first year of anything new is a funny thing.

You spend months planning, then suddenly you're looking back wondering ...more

👍❤️🔁📩 34 6 comments · 2 reposts

ClwydAlyn 4,571 followers
1h · 🌐

Longyfarchiadau mawr i **clare budden** a Paul Taylor.

Congratulations to Clare and Paul who were finalists in the lifetime ...more

Sarah Harvey · 3rd · Head of Culture and Communications at ClwydAlyn
4h · 🌐

Lovely night at the **Inside Housing #housingheroawards** last night celebrating the achievements of **clare budden** and ClwydAlyn's Paul Taylor who were finalists in the life time achievement in housing and inspirational ...more

👍❤️🔁📩 3

CEL Solicitors 5,940 followers
2w · 🌐

Congratulations to **Hannah Lowe** and **Thomas Ali**, who have both started their Training Contracts this week! ...more

Celebrating Excellence in Law

👍❤️🔁📩 52 2 reposts

Dutton Gregory 4,283 followers
5d · 🌐

Who knew a Cook Off between lawyers could be this entertaining? 🤔

This live event took place at Winchester Cookery School, with our ...more

👍❤️🔁📩 83 13 comments · 5 reposts

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