

June 2026

Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

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

Leaders in Law Dinner 2026

*Guest Speaker Bill Addy praises LLS.
Report on page 26*



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

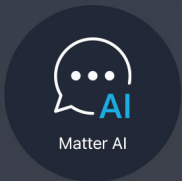


Thomas Ryan



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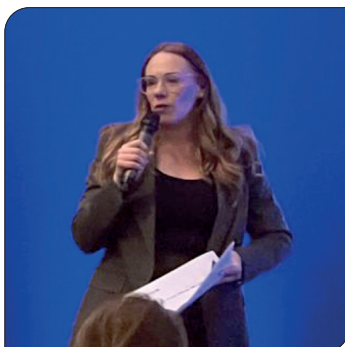
Strategic Partner



June 2026

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 August 2026 edition: Friday, 24.07.26
 September 2026 edition: Friday, 21.08.26
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 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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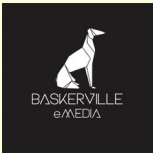
Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

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.

- Tuesday 16th June
- Tuesday 21st July
- No August Meeting
- Tuesday 15th September
- Tuesday 20th October
- Tuesday 17th November

Welcome to the June edition of Liverpool Law



I hope you have all managed to enjoy the nicer weather and mini heat wave, perfect timing for school half term for once!

I've found myself at a loss what to write this month, which is unusual. I explained in last month's column I had a family bereavement- my young nephew passed away shortly before his 21st birthday in a tragic accident. I have no doubt this will be the explanation for my writers block. I didn't have the energy to give any detail last month and was very much in auto pilot trying to get the magazine proof still out on time. I mentioned it briefly as I didn't want to just pretend like nothing had happened, but I also didn't want to bring down the tone of the magazine.

Noting, however, how it was recently mental health week and how I have spoken many times in this column about looking out for our colleagues and seeking support, it seems hypocritical to not address it myself. We are in our careers, and often our firms, for long periods of time and it would be short sighted to think life events and losses will not happen during the course of that time.

I don't want to be self-indulgent in this column but I do want to practice what I preach and admit it has been difficult. Life continues and the work is still largely there. The bills still need to be paid and the family still need to be cared for. Whilst I am still very much in the thick of it with the funeral imminent I do need to give thanks to my Firm, Weightmans, and colleagues and friends at Liverpool Law Society and our publishers who have helped me get through this difficult time and continue to help me while I learn to navigate this new way of life.

Life really is too short and whilst our work is important our mental health and our friends and family matter more. Please look after our selves and those around us, your kindness and generosity of time may mean more to people than you ever realise.

Until next month.

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

Welcome to new members

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new members who were approved for membership at May's General Committee meeting. There were 61 individuals from the following organisations:

Bell Lamb & Joynson	Halsalls	Morecrofts
Bond Turner	Jackson Lees Group	O'Connors Legal Services
Brabners	JMW Solicitors	Peter Edwards Law
Carpenters	KLS Law	Prosperity Law
CEL Solicitors	Laurence Lee & Co	SBW Law
CG Professional	Leigh Day	The Keith Jones Partnership
Dickinson Parker Hill	Merrick Solicitors	Wilde & Company

Liverpool Law Society's membership now exceeds 2,405 individuals from 174 law firms, barristers' chambers, and other organisations with legal professionals in the Liverpool City Region and beyond.

From the President

The latest from the President, Sarah Mansfield

It was a privilege to attend the recent Journey to Justice event, 'The Long and Winding Road,' which brought together an exceptional panel of voices committed to accountability, equality, and access to justice across our region and beyond. The event served as a powerful reminder of the vital role campaigners, legal professionals, public representatives, and survivors play in shaping a fairer society.

We were honoured to hear from **Steve Rotheram**, whose reflections on public service and community resilience reinforced the importance of leadership grounded in compassion and transparency. Particularly moving was the contribution from **Leanne Lucas**, whose work following the Southport survivor experience demonstrates the profound impact advocacy organisations can have in supporting individuals through trauma while campaigning for meaningful reform.

Insightful contributions also came from **Suzanne Massey**, alongside the distinguished perspectives of **Baroness Chakrabarti** and **Baroness Hale**. Their remarks highlighted the continuing importance of an independent legal system capable of holding government and public authorities to account. We also heard from **Elkan Abrahamson** who represents the Hillsborough families fighting for justice since 1989, whose testimony was a poignant reminder of the enduring struggle many families face in their pursuit of truth and justice.

Events such as this demonstrate why organisations dedicated to justice and legal reform remain essential. They amplify voices that may otherwise go unheard, challenge institutional failings, and help secure legislative and cultural change. Above all, they reinforce a fundamental principle: justice must be accessible to all, regardless of background, status, or circumstance.



Thank you to Jackson Lees and Brodie Jackson Canter for hosting this event. Liverpool Law Society is proud to support conversations that inspire progress, accountability, and confidence in the rule of law.

Sarah Mansfield, President LLS
president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk



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FINDING YOUR VOICE IN TODAY'S DIGITAL LANDSCAPE

LLS Meetings & events – June/July 2026

Start Time	Meeting/Event
09/06/2026 12:30	General Committee
11/06/2026 13:00	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee
16/06/2026 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
18/06/2026 13:00	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee
18/06/2026 18:00	Summer social event
01/07/2026 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
08/07/2026 12:00	Joint V meeting (Hosted by Manchester Law Society)
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 13:00	Directors' meeting with local councillors

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

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

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

Committee	Consultation Paper title	Closing date
Non-Contentious Business	Plan approval requirements for new builds and fire safety order buildings	11/06/26
Employment	Call for Evidence - Make Work Pay: Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations	01/07/26
Employment	Make Work Pay: misuse of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs)	08/07/26
Regulatory	Strengthening our continuing competence approach	15/07/26

DWF announces 91 promotions across Manchester and Liverpool



Rowena Lewis

DWF, the global provider of integrated legal and business services, has announced 91 promotions across its Manchester and Liverpool offices as part of its latest global promotions round.

The promotions include five new partners across the two offices. In Liverpool, insurance lawyer **Rowena Lewis**, dispute resolution lawyer **Paul Maddock**, and head of business performance **Emma Louise Smith** have also been promoted to partner.

A further six colleagues have progressed to a higher level within DWF's partnership structure, including dispute resolution lawyer **Dan Williams**, tax lawyer **James Cashman**, central services lawyer **Nicola Critchley**, insurance lawyer **Jewels Chamberlain**, head of chambers **Dan Monaghan**, and **Sarah Mir**, managing partner of DWF in Liverpool.

Additionally, 11 colleagues have been promoted to director or equivalent roles: **Nicola Garcia**, **Jodie Kinnear**, **James Thomas**, **Anne O'Kane**, **Amanda Lea**, **Francesca Kinsella**, **Joseph White**, **Elinor Jackson**, **Sophie Hughes**, **Lucy Sales**, and **Matthew Johnson**.



Paul Maddock

The promotions form part of DWF's global promotions round, which saw 263 colleagues promoted across the business, including 22 new partners or partner-equivalent roles. A further 18 existing partners were also promoted to a higher career level within the partnership structure.

Sarah Mir, managing partner of DWF in Liverpool, added: *"These promotions reflect the exceptional talent we have across our Liverpool office and the strength of our teams. It is always rewarding to see colleagues recognised for their hard work, commitment and contribution to our clients and the wider business. I would like to congratulate everyone on this well-deserved achievement and wish them continued success in their new roles."*

The remaining promotions are:

- **James Douglas**, Senior Associate, Liverpool
- **Jill Kay**, Senior Associate, Liverpool
- **Kate Brown**, Senior Associate, Liverpool
- **Rebecca Alexander**, Senior Associate, Liverpool
- **Sophie Biedla**, Senior Associate, Liverpool
- **Danielle Maddison**, Associate, Liverpool
- **Adam Lynch**, Associate, Liverpool
- **Adrian McGurk**, Associate, Liverpool
- **Andrew Nathan**, Associate, Liverpool
- **Doug Pyrke**, Associate, Liverpool
- **Lauren Deary**, Associate, Liverpool
- **Shaun Johnson**, Associate, Liverpool
- **Sophie Livesey**, Associate, Liverpool
- **Jessica Gallagher**, Senior Paralegal, Liverpool
- **Agata Trocka**, Lead Paralegal, Liverpool
- **Chloe Sutcliffe**, Lead Paralegal, Liverpool
- **Jassicka Gurung**, Lead Paralegal, Liverpool
- **Joe Hamer**, Lead Paralegal, Liverpool
- **Joshua Atkinson**, Lead Paralegal, Liverpool
- **Katie Bunting**, Lead Paralegal, Liverpool
- **Lucy Paton**, Lead Paralegal, Liverpool
- **Lucy Weir**, Lead Paralegal, Liverpool
- **Oliwia Szukal**, Lead Paralegal, Liverpool
- **Samuel Lloyd-Hercules**, Lead Paralegal, Liverpool
- **Shannon McMahon**, Lead Paralegal, Liverpool
- **Kes Earl**, Senior Organised Fraud Intelligence Investigator, Liverpool
- **Ryan Lysaght**, Senior Client Data Analytics Solutions Analyst, Liverpool
- **Adrian Davies**, Senior Associate, Liverpool
- **Amy Jackson**, Senior Associate, Liverpool
- **Catriona Basey**, Senior Associate, Liverpool
- **David Hathorn**, Senior Associate, Liverpool
- **David Jeanrenaud**, Senior Associate, Liverpool

Brabners welcomes new head of corporate for next phase of team growth



Ruth Hargreaves

Independent law firm Brabners has appointed corporate partner Ruth Hargreaves as its new Head of Corporate, following a strong 12 months for the team, during which it advised on more than £762m worth of deals.

Ruth's planned succession of *Mark Rathbone* in the role follows year-on-year growth for Brabners' 76-strong corporate team, which she will head as it continues to build on its sector-led investment and the firm's expanding national platform.

In the 12 months from May 2025 to the end of April 2026, Brabners' corporate team advised on transactions with a combined value of £762.3m, up from £465.1m in the previous 12-month period.

Ruth trained at Brabners before moving

in-house as senior legal counsel at global technology company TomTom. She returned to the firm in 2017 as a senior associate and has since spent almost nine years with Brabners, during which time she has been promoted to partner.

It also follows a period of wider momentum for Brabners, which is opening a new London office. For FY2024-25, the firm reported annual revenues of £60.2m and pre-tax profits of £20.3m, marking an eighth consecutive year of profitable growth. It has also recently secured B Corp recertification and set out a roadmap to reach net zero by 2040.

Brabners' corporate team has continued to invest in specialist expertise across key markets and sectors, including private equity, technology, sport and tax.

Recent strategic appointments include tax partner Euri Yoon, strengthening the firm's ability to provide full-service support to clients across the lifecycle of a transaction, and corporate partner Stuart Hatcher, who joined from Forsters to help anchor the firm's new London platform.

Ruth Hargreaves, Head of Corporate at Brabners, said: *"It's a privilege to take on the role of Head of Corporate at such an exciting point in the team's development.*

"We're operating in a challenging environment, but there's still capital in the market and a clear appetite among ambitious businesses and investors to pursue the right opportunities. We're seeing signs of cautious optimism, with continued activity across private equity, owner-managed businesses and key sectors including technology, sport and healthcare. The issue for many now is confidence - having the conviction to invest or exit at the right time and with the right support around them.

"In recent years at Brabners, we've invested in the sectors and markets where we know we can make the greatest difference for clients, and that approach has stood us in good stead. We're able to continue to invest in our people, deepen our sector expertise and support all types of companies through every stage of their growth journey."

Nik White, Managing Partner at Brabners, added: *"Ruth's appointment is a landmark moment for Brabners and our corporate team. She's a trusted adviser to clients and a hugely respected colleague who embodies the culture and ambition of the firm. Her breadth of experience makes her exceptionally well placed to lead the team through its next phase of growth.*

"Our corporate team is one of the largest and most active in the north, and Ruth's leadership will ensure we continue to build on its success while staying true to Brabners' distinctive identity."

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In-House Legal Solutions win Social Mobility Initiative of the Year Award



In-House Legal Solutions has been awarded with the Social Mobility Initiative of the Year Award 2026 at the [Legal 500 ESG Awards](#) at the Intercontinental Hotel in London.

The awards celebrate organisations that are driving meaningful change across environmental, social and governance priorities within the legal profession, and the Social Mobility Initiative of the Year category recognises programmes that successfully attract, support and retain talent from less privileged backgrounds, with a clear focus on measurable impact.

Shortlisted in this category alongside IHLS were A&O Shearman, Addleshaw Goddard, BCLP, Birketts, KPMG Law, Michelmores and Trowers & Hamlin.

Social mobility has been embedded in IHLS's business model since we were founded in 2016. The firm was deliberately built outside London to allow lawyers in the North West to have the opportunity to work on in-house matters in financial services firms that would usually be dealt with in the City of London, before expanding to offer a generalist legal team in serving all sectors of business. The founders have always been passionate about social mobility and the team at IHLS regularly give up their time to take part in a range of schemes and activities.

Key initiatives recognised by the judges include our **Wider Participation-focused Summer Vacation Scheme**, where applications from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds are actively encouraged and positively weighted. The scheme provides hands-on legal experience, structured training (including SQE guidance), community volunteering and meaningful feedback – giving participants exposure and confidence they may not otherwise receive.

We were also recognised for our partnership with the **University of Liverpool School of Law and Social Justice**, where last year we were one of only seven firms nationally to fund and host this paid **Year in Industry** placement.

Our “**Leg Up to Law**” outreach programme was another key factor in the award. Delivered entirely using our own resources, the initiative sees our lawyers visiting schools across the North West, including areas with high levels of child poverty, to explain legal career pathways, provide mentoring and offer work experience opportunities. Feedback from schools highlights the tangible impact these sessions have on students' confidence and aspirations.

The award comes shortly after IHLS being ‘Highly Commended’ in the Law Firm of the Year category at the [Woman & Diversity in Law Awards 2026](#). IHLS was also awarded the Equality Diversity & Inclusion Award at the Liverpool Law Society's 2025 Legal Awards last November and has also recently been shortlisted for New Law Business of the Year at The Lawyer Awards 2026.

Commenting on the awards, co-founder **Lauren Cannon** said:

“To be a small firm alongside organisations such as A&O Shearman, Addleshaw Goddard and KPMG Law – and to come

out on top – is a wow moment. Social mobility has always been close to our hearts, and this award belongs to the whole team who give their time to mentoring, outreach and supporting the next generation of legal talent.”

Director and Co-Founder **Brian Noon** added:



“IHLS was founded to create opportunities for young lawyers in Liverpool to gain access to the type of work and experiences that have traditionally been centred elsewhere. Social mobility has always been something we've cared deeply about, so it's incredibly rewarding to see the work of our team recognised in this way.”

We are grateful to the Legal 500 judges for this recognition and to everyone who supports and participates in our initiatives. Most of all, we are proud of our team for helping us build a business with purpose – and remaining committed to continuing this work in the years ahead.

Operating since 2017, IHLS has grown from a husband-and-wife team to over 20 staff, operating out of its Tithebarn Street base and covering Europe, APAC and North Americas. The firm offers in-house legal advice, commercial contract review services and legal risk management consultancy and optimisation services to business and legal teams nationally and internationally.

JR Levins marks record investment in early careers with nine apprentices and trainees



Pictured (L-R) Bobby Woods, Demi Dryhurst, Angela White - Practice Manager, Rebecca Woodcock and Lucy Box of JR Levins, whose apprenticeship and training journeys show there is more than one route into a career in law.

JR Levins, the high street law firm with offices across Merseyside, now has nine members of staff undertaking apprenticeships or training contracts, as it continues to invest in local talent, widen access to legal careers and strengthen its long-term skills pipeline.

The figure underlines the firm's commitment to long-term talent development following the 2024 merger of Levins and Jones Robertson, which brought together two long-established practices with deep roots in their local communities. In its first year, JR Levins reported growth in key departments, the creation of local jobs and continued investment in staff development as part of its aim to provide accessible, community-based legal services.

For JR Levins, developing talent is not simply about recruitment. It is about widening access to the profession and demonstrating that the legal sector benefits from multiple entry routes and a broader understanding of what a successful legal career can look like.

That is reflected in the experience of team members including **Rebecca, Demi, Bobby** and **Lucy**.

Rebecca joined JR Levins in May 2025 as a wills and probate assistant, having previously worked in office administration and sales support while studying law with the Open University. She is now undertaking a CILEX apprenticeship to become a Chartered Legal Executive, combining practical experience with structured professional development.

Lucy's progression highlights the value of internal development pathways. She joined the firm as a receptionist in 2022, completed a Level 3 paralegal apprenticeship and now works as a criminal paralegal. She has since progressed to a further apprenticeship route to qualify as a Chartered Legal Executive Litigator and Advocate.

Demi first entered the business through work experience while studying business, criminology and media. After gaining practical experience within the firm, she joined full-time as a receptionist and is now completing a Level 3 Business Administration apprenticeship. **Bobby**, meanwhile, is also completing a Level 3 Business Administration apprenticeship after studying sport at Everton Football College, where football gave him opportunities to play overseas in New York, Dallas and Chile. He chose the apprenticeship route as a practical way to enter the legal sector without pursuing university.

Together, their stories illustrate an important point for employers and the wider profession: future legal talent does not come from a single background, age group or educational route.

Tracy Morgan, Managing Partner at JR Levins, said: *"We believe the profession is stronger when it is more open, more representative and more connected to the communities it serves. Apprenticeships and training pathways allow us to invest in local talent, build skills from within and create genuine opportunities for people who may not see the traditional university route as right for them."*

"As a high street firm, we are particularly aware of the importance of accessibility, not only in the services we provide to clients, but in the careers we create. We want people to see that a legal practice needs a wide range of skills and disciplines to succeed."

She added: *"While some of our current case studies are progressing through legal routes, the wider legal sector offers opportunities well beyond qualification as a solicitor or lawyer. Modern firms need strong professionals in business administration, finance, HR, IT, cyber security, client care, compliance, marketing and operations. Those roles are vital to delivering excellent client service and building sustainable businesses."*

JR Levins has offices in Huyton, Wirral, Runcorn, Widnes and Warrington, and says that approach reflects its broader post-merger direction: combining professional expertise with local understanding, while building a firm that grows with and for its communities.

At a time when the legal profession continues to examine inclusion, social mobility and workforce development, JR Levins' approach offers a practical example of how regional firms can help broaden access to careers while strengthening their own talent pipeline.

ADILA

The Legal Awards are back for 2026!

Open to members of Liverpool Law Society

CATEGORIES

**Dispute Resolution &
Litigation Team Award**

Rising Star Award
Sponsored by University of Law

**Non-Contentious Team
Award**

Sponsored by Landmark

Outstanding Lawyer Award

Sponsored by Miller

Family Team Award

**Law Firm Award
(1-49 employees)**

Sponsored by Clio

**Equality, Diversity &
Inclusion Award**

Sponsored by LJMU

**Law Firm Award
(50+ employees)**

Sponsored by Benchmark

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

The winners of the 2026 Legal Awards will be revealed at a glittering black-tie ceremony during the Annual Dinner on Thursday, 12th November 2026 in Liverpool. Book your table now!

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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 will open in early July and close early September

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The
University of
Law

LJMU wins Law School of the Year



Liverpool John Moores University’s School of Law and Justice Studies has been named Law School of the Year. The university was recognised at an Educate North Awards ceremony held in Manchester which celebrates excellence and world-class achievements across the University, HE, FE and Sixth Form sectors in the North of England.

“The school is exemplary in our collective commitment to student success, public service and making a difference within our community.”

Vice-Chancellor, Professor **Mark Power**

LJMU Vice-Chancellor, Professor **Mark Power**, said:

“We are so proud to have won the Law School of the Year award for LJMU’s School of Law and Justice Studies.

“The school is exemplary in our collective commitment to student success, public service and making a difference within our community.

“Congratulations and thank you to the school’s students, staff and partners, whose dedication, commitment and talent are behind this award win.”

Nominated for three awards

Liverpool John Moores University was shortlisted for three awards at this year’s Educate North Awards 2026 including:

- Law School of the Year: LJMU School of Law and Justice Studies
- Leadership and Innovation Award: Professor Caroline Wilkinson, Face Lab
- Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Award: Diversity and Inclusion Funded Projects

You can view all the nominees and Educate North 2026 award winners [here](#).

Award-winning 18 months for LJMU

The latest Educate North accolade comes after an award-winning 18 months for the university following several key achievements including:

- [The 2025 Queen Elizabeth Prize](#) – the nation’s highest award for education was awarded to LJMU for its pioneering Face Lab work
- LJMU was a [2 x 2025 Times Higher Education Award winner](#) for Business School of the Year: Liverpool Business School and Widening Participation or Outreach Initiative of the Year: Roma Education Aspiration Project at LJMU
- Liverpool Business School also won the [Educate North Award 2025 for Business School of the Year](#).

Find out more about [LJMU’s impact and achievements](#).

Chris Fazakerley Retires



Chris Fazakerley

Chris Fazakerley has retired from Maxwell Hodge Solicitors after a momentous legal career, spanning 42 years.

Chris started with Maxwells back in 1984. Her first role involved working on reception before progressing her career and qualifying as a Legal Executive in 1998. Her role at Maxwells further evolved as she became Office Manager at Maghull.

Throughout her career, Chris was empathetic, thoughtful, and patient with clients and colleagues alike, providing advice, support, friendship, and mentorship. She has acted for numerous clients over the years, often acting for different generations of the same family, whether that be in relation to Wills, Lasting Power of Attorney, Deputyship

matters or Probate, she was always there to provide a helping hand.

Chris will have a long-lasting legacy at Maxwell Hodge as her values of client service, kindness, and looking after your colleagues, as well as her family values, and belief in community, have made a huge impression throughout the company.

Congratulations and best wishes Chris from everyone at Maxwell Hodge – the Directors thank you for your tremendous service, loyalty, and support and wish you a long, happy, and healthy retirement – we cannot think of anyone who deserves it more.

Constant pressures facing solicitors highlight need for stronger support across the profession

Solicitors across England and Wales are facing increasingly complex pressures, with many experiencing challenges that affect their wellbeing, confidence, and ability to cope.

The Solicitors' Charity's Big Report 2025–2026 highlights a growing shift across the profession. Demand for support has now tripled since 2023, with more solicitors navigating overlapping challenges across emotional, financial, professional, and physical wellbeing.

For law societies and professional bodies, the findings reinforce the importance of ensuring solicitors know where to turn when life becomes difficult.

Behind each case is a solicitor dealing with real and often interconnected issues. Financial pressure, health challenges, career uncertainty and emotional strain are rarely experienced in isolation.

Nick Gallagher, CEO of The Solicitors' Charity, said: "What we are seeing across the profession is not just increased demand, but more complex need. Challenges rarely exist in

isolation, and that has implications for how we respond as a profession.

Local law societies play a vital role in awareness-raising of our support, helping us reach people earlier and ensuring no-one feels they have to face these challenges alone."

The report also highlights the impact of timely support. 83% of those supported said they felt more positive and able to cope, both now and in the future.

Thanks to the support of the legal

community, The Solicitors' Charity delivered:

An anonymous beneficiary shared: "Support was there when I needed it most, and it helped bring me back from a very dark place."

The Solicitors' Charity is encouraging law societies to share the findings with their members and help ensure awareness of support across the profession.

The full Big Report 2025–2026 is available to read online: <https://thesolicitorscharity.org/big-report/>



Big Report
2025-2026

The pressures facing the profession are changing, read The Big Report 25/26 to understand what's happening.

→ Download your copy today.

83%
agreed the charity's support helped them feel more positive and able to cope now and in the future.
(83% agreed, 13% were neutral and 4% disagreed)

Who We Helped.

Sex: 65% Women, 35% Men

Disabilities: 72% Women, 28% Men

Ethnicity: White 19%, Black 19%, Asian 19%, Unknown 19%

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Supporting you, since 1888

Prosperity Law accelerates North West growth with Liverpool relocation, Chester expansion and key senior hires



Left to Right: Daniel Jones, Ryan Marr, Rachel Evans, Richard Moose

Together, these strategic moves highlight Prosperity Law’s clear ambition to scale its operations across the North West, attracting top legal talent while expanding its geographic reach to meet increasing client demand.



Richard Moose

Prosperity Law has reinforced its ambitious growth strategy in the North West with a series of significant developments, including the relocation of its Liverpool office, a new client meeting presence in Chester, and the appointment of two key legal hires.

The firm has relocated its Liverpool team to new offices at the iconic Albert Dock, reflecting continued expansion and increasing demand for its services in the city. The move provides space for its growing team and supports the firm’s continued development in the region.

Further demonstrating its commitment to regional growth, Prosperity Law has also established a presence in Chester with a dedicated client meeting space. The new location will enable the firm to better serve clients across Cheshire and North Wales, expanding its accessibility for both businesses and individuals without requiring them to travel to Liverpool or Manchester.

These developments build on Prosperity Law’s existing footprint, with established offices in Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds and a client meeting space in London. This underlines the firm’s position as a full-service law firm offering a comprehensive range of legal services.

As part of its continued investment in talent, the firm has welcomed **Rachel Evans** as a Partner in its Employment Law team. Rachel brings a wealth of experience advising both employers and employees on a wide range of employment matters, further strengthening the firm’s offering in this key practice area.

In addition, Prosperity Law has appointed **Ryan Marr** as a Corporate & Commercial Solicitor. Ryan’s expertise will support the firm’s growing client base, particularly in advising businesses on corporate transactions, commercial agreements and strategic growth.

Richard Moose, Head of the Liverpool Office, commented:

“We are delighted to have grown the team in Liverpool and to welcome Rachel and Ryan. Leading the expansion of the office and our client base has been incredibly rewarding, and these appointments ensure we can continue to meet that growing demand.”

“These developments are all about better serving our clients. By strengthening our presence in Liverpool and expanding into Chester, we’re making sure we’re accessible, responsive and well-equipped to support individuals and businesses across the region.”

Prosperity Law is a full-service law firm with offices in Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds and, a client meeting facility in Chester and London, offering a broad range of specialised legal services. Each of the firm’s partner-led teams prides itself on delivering exceptional client service and building strong relationships founded on trust, transparency and expert legal advice.

Bell Lamb & Joynson Strengthens Advocacy Team as Darren Jones Qualifies as Higher Court Advocate



Darren Jones

Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors has announced that Criminal Defence Solicitor Darren Jones has qualified as a Higher Court Advocate, further strengthening the firm's in-house advocacy offering across the North West.

The qualification allows Darren to represent clients in the Crown Court, enabling continuity of representation throughout criminal proceedings, from police station attendance through to trial and appeal.

Darren's qualification means Bell Lamb & Joynson is now home to 10 Higher Court Advocates and Barristers within its Criminal Defence Department, further strengthening the firm's ability to provide consistent in-house

representation across complex criminal matters.

Darren completed both his LLB and Legal Practice Course at the University of Staffordshire before qualifying as a Solicitor in January 2004. Since qualifying, he has specialised in Criminal Defence and Motoring Law, representing clients across a broad range of criminal matters for more than two decades.

Known for his calm approach and strong courtroom presence, Darren has become a highly respected member of Bell Lamb & Joynson's Criminal Defence Team, supporting clients through some of the most difficult and stressful periods of their lives.

His qualification follows a demanding examination process involving both written and advocacy assessments. Speaking about the achievement, Darren said:

"I didn't expect to be sitting any more exams at my age, but I wanted to prove to myself that I could still do it. I couldn't have achieved this without the support of Bell Lamb & Joynson, for which I am incredibly grateful. I have many years of advocacy experience behind me, so I feel confident in my ability, but this is still a new chapter for me.

It just goes to show you are never too old to learn something new."

The wider Criminal Defence Department also includes 16 Duty Solicitors alongside a dedicated team of Paralegals and Police Station Representatives, enabling the firm to provide extensive police station coverage and rapid support across the region.

Mike Leeman, Managing Partner and Head of Crime at Bell Lamb & Joynson, said:

"Darren's qualification is a fantastic achievement and one that reflects the commitment and professionalism he brings to the department every day. We are incredibly proud of him. Higher Rights qualifications require significant dedication and advocacy ability, and Darren thoroughly deserves this success."

The qualification represents another important step for Bell Lamb & Joynson's Criminal Defence Team as the firm continues to invest in advocacy, client representation and access to justice across the North West.

Honouring the Past, Shaping the Future at Paul Crowley & Co



Directors: Jenna Gall, Dan Griffiths, Paul Lowry (MD), Edwina Harkin and Emma Smith

Paul Crowley & Co Solicitors stands at a defining moment in its distinguished history following the completion of a Management Buy Out (MBO) by its directors. With formal approval now granted by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, ownership of the firm transfers to the directors. The change marks both a continuation of the firm's long held values and the beginning of a new chapter shaped by a modern, forward thinking leadership team.

The MBO represents a natural progression for the Liverpool based practice, established in 1991 by its founder, **Paul Crowley**. Under Paul's drive, entrepreneurial spirit and focus on client care, the firm grew into a respected presence within the city's legal community. His sudden passing was deeply felt across the profession, leaving a culture defined by integrity, compassion and service.

The directors are clear that the contributions of Paul and, more recently, his partner **Julie**, remain central to the firm's direction.

Reflecting on the change, Managing Director **Paul Lowry** commented, "Our commitment is to uphold the values we have

built together while continuing to develop a modern, ambitious and supportive firm for the future. That balance between respect for the past and progress sits at the heart of our strategy."

Announcing the MBO, **Paul** highlighted the team's shared ambition to grow the firm in a controlled and sustainable way. In recent months, the directors have worked behind the scenes to strengthen operational infrastructure and modernise internal processes.

The directors are clear that it is business as usual and that the transition does not change the experience for clients or business partners. The same trusted teams, high standards and consistent service remain in place.

Our clients are at the centre of everything we do. We have built a strong reputation for client care and will continue to deliver that standard to more clients as we grow. With stability at our core, the firm is a dependable and collaborative partner, focused on strong working relationships, building from a position of strength and creating opportunities for growth, investment and enhanced client service.

Innovation will play a central role in the firm's development, with technology strengthening efficiency, improving responsiveness and supporting the evolving needs of clients and the wider legal landscape.

Equally important is the firm's support for its people, creating an environment where colleagues feel supported, valued and able to develop their careers.

The firm has made key appointments to strengthen its teams across core practice areas. These additions bring further expertise and energy into the business, supporting client demand and a progressive workforce.

Opportunities to position the business for long term success are being actively progressed, with several roles now advertised on the firm's website.

As Paul Crowley & Co moves forward, it honours its past, strengthens its present and builds a future defined by stability, responsible growth and a clear commitment to those it serves.

Leslie Priestley
Paul Crowley & Co Solicitors

LIVERPOOL LEGAL WALK

IN AID OF THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOUNDATION

6PM, WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

5k fundraising walk in aid of



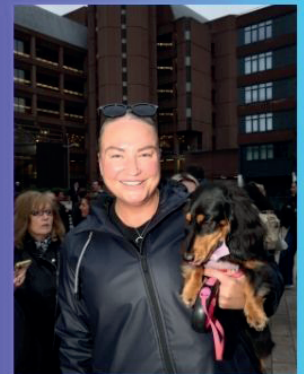
REGISTRATION

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



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



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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.

[More info](#)

ONS latest UK family data highlights shift in family structures



Jennifer Brunt

New data released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) highlights how the UK family life continues to evolve, painting a picture of the increasingly diverse household structures across the UK. For family lawyers, the figures provide a valuable insight into modern client needs and future legal demand.

Commenting on the findings, [Jennifer Brunt](#), Head of Family Law at Slater and Gordon, says the figures clearly demonstrate a shift away from a single “traditional” family model.

Married couples remain the most common family type accounting for around 65% of all UK families. However, the data also shows a notable change in family composition. Families without children now stands at 8.2 million, nearly matching, and in future likely to exceed, the 8.5 million with dependent children. Overall, just 43% of families have dependent children, noting changing financial and childcare dynamics.

Among those with children; 45% have one child, 41% have two children, only 14% have three or more children. *“These figures likely reflect broader social and economic pressures,”* Jennifer adds. *“Financial considerations, including the ongoing cost of living pressures, can put limits on family size. For others, particularly women, career priorities may also play a greater role in deciding whether or when to have children.”*

The data also highlights the reality of single-parent families. Nearly 3.2 million families with dependent children are lone-parent families, where a striking 84% are lone mothers (at 2.7 million). However, the number of lone-parent fathers has increased over time, reflecting a justice system that is increasingly focused on the best interests of the child following separation or divorce.

Cohabitation continues to be a key area of legal significance. There are now 3.5 million cohabiting families, representing 18% of total UK families, with numbers rising steadily year on year.

Jennifer notes that financial pressures and shifting social attitudes are driving this trend. *“For many couples, cohabitation*

is a practical choice rather than a stepping stone to marriage,” she says. *“We’re no longer in a society where marriage is needed to access financial or legal benefits.”*

“Although, the cohabitation law reforms expected in Spring 2026 could further reshape family law, where these reforms may introduce improved rights around property, finances and longterm security for families who choose to live together but not marry.”

Jennifer concludes, *“The data is a fantastic way to draw upon how the family law is being adapted to meet the shifting needs of UK family types. Using such reports enables us as family lawyers to anticipate what trends are emerging and understand the different dynamics of different household types.”*

“It reminds us as legal experts how data can reshape our understanding of law, and it’s something we must proactively seek to continuously improve our services to clients.”



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THURSDAY 18TH JUNE
6PM - 8PM

This event is open to members and non-members from across the legal sector and is the perfect opportunity to expand your professional network in an informal, friendly setting.

Drink on arrival & canapés included

[BOOK HERE](#)

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Southport survivor and DES campaigner share spotlight with Baronesses at justice summit



Baroness Chakrabarti and Baroness Hale during their fireside chat

A Southport attack survivor, a prominent campaigner in the DES pregnancy drug scandal crusade, and two leading legal figures took centre stage at the second annual Journey to Justice summit in Liverpool.

The audience at Liverpool Town Hall heard yoga teacher **Leanne Lucas** describe how she has turned trauma from the Southport attack into action to reduce knife harm and save lives through her Let's Be Blunt campaign.

Let's Be Blunt promotes the adoption of kitchen knives with rounded ends instead of pointed tips.

Suzanne Massey, a campaigner with DES Justice UK, spoke about her experiences and called for a public inquiry to establish the truth about the DES drug and its long-term impact.

In a fireside chat, **Baroness Hale of Richmond** – a former president of the Supreme Court – and **Baroness Shami Chakrabarti**, a House of Lords Member and former shadow attorney general, discussed the justice system and how it could be improved.

The event was hosted by Liverpool law firm Broudie Jackson Canter in partnership with cross-party law reform charity JUSTICE.

It attracted 200 campaigners, legal professionals, political leaders and community representatives from across the region.



Suzanne Massey

Broudie Jackson Canter, which is part of the Jackson Lees Group, is the longest-standing law firm member of JUSTICE, having joined in 1963.

The event, titled 'Journey to Justice: The Long and Winding Road', focused on concerns about access to justice, delays in the system and efforts to strengthen the



Broudie Jackson Canter legal director and solicitor Nicola Brook, Leanne Lucas, Steve Rotheram, Suzanne Massey and Broudie Jackson Canter partner Clare Fletcher

rule of law and achieve reform.

Esther Leach, managing director of Jackson Lees Group, said: *“It was a truly fantastic and inspiring evening filled with speakers who delivered powerful insights.*

“It was an honour for us, together with JUSTICE North, to share that space with them. I’m so proud of our collective commitment to fighting for justice in all its forms.

“Having so many amazing people gathered to celebrate and acknowledge that commitment made the evening feel genuinely special.

“We are hugely grateful to all the speakers and everyone who helped bring the event together, as well as to each person who attended.

“It was uplifting to be part of such a positive atmosphere, and so encouraging to be reminded that there are still so many of us who care deeply about our fellow human beings.”

Baroness Hale said the current criminal justice system is ‘extremely slow, expensive and often inefficient’.

Turning to jury trials, she described them as the ‘gold standard’, designed so that innocent people are not wrongly convicted.

However, she suggested it could be an option for minor cases to be heard in an intermediate court with a judge and two lay members, to improve speed and efficiency while maintaining public confidence.

Baroness Chakrabarti said the jury system gives ordinary people the chance to play their part in the justice system as jurors. It protects judicial independence, and acts as a safeguard against unjust laws, she added.

Speaking at the start of the event, **Steve Rotheram**, Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, told the audience: *“Liverpool is a city with a strong sense of fairness. We know what it means when communities*



Fiona Rutherford and Tyrone Steele of JUSTICE, Esther Leach, Baroness Chakrabarti, Baroness Hale, Steve Rotheram, Joanna Kingston-Davies and Kim Johnson, MP for Liverpool Riverside

have to fight for truth.

“Decisions are made too far away by people who are remote from the realities that people face every day.”

Fiona Rutherford, chief executive of JUSTICE, also addressed the audience, saying: *“Liverpool knows only too well what it looks like when truth is resisted, when institutions close ranks and when accountability is delayed for years.*

“It knows what persistence, collective action and careful legal work can achieve when communities refuse to accept that as the end of the story.”

Elkan Abrahamson, head of major inquiries at Broudie Jackson Canter,



Leanne Lucas

praised the courage of people affected by tragedies who go on to campaign for change.

The event also marked the official launch of the first JUSTICE North report, which said justice devolution in the region has stalled and urged more local decision-making to accelerate reform.

The new JUSTICE North division is based in Broudie Jackson Canter’s offices in Walker House, Exchange Flags.

Broudie Jackson Canter is a leading inquests and inquiries law firm, having represented families at the Hillsborough inquests, the Birmingham pub bombings inquests, the Covid-19 inquiry, the Manchester Arena inquiry and the Southport inquiry. The firm is now supporting DES Justice UK campaigners in their fight for awareness, accountability, screening and compensation, and has been instrumental in shaping the Hillsborough Law, also known as the Public Office (Accountability) Bill.

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

Professional ethics focus groups

SRA launches professional ethics listening exercise

Professional ethics sit at the heart of public trust in legal services. While most solicitors strive to act with integrity, modern legal practice can present challenges, including commercial pressures, workplace culture, emerging technologies and increasingly complex roles. We want to better understand the experiences of solicitors in meeting their ethical duties.

What factors drive ethical decision-making in the legal services sector?

What more can we do to support regulated individuals and law firms in applying ethical principles in their day-to-day work?

Listening exercises in June 2026

We want to hear your insights on:

- How are professional ethical duties understood and applied day to day?
- What challenges and risks do

regulated individuals encounter when making ethical decisions?

- What can cause, or drive, unethical decision-making or behaviour?
- How is the existing SRA guidance, our standards, and support – for instance our Professional Ethics helpline – used in practice? How can we improve what we offer?

Our listening exercise will involve seven facilitated focus groups. Each one will bring together participants in comparable roles or circumstances to support open and meaningful discussions.

This is about learning from the profession. We are looking for honest conversations that explore the real-world factors shaping ethical choices. By taking part, you will help inform our work to further support ethical practice, strengthen workplace cultures and prevent harm to consumers and the reputation of the profession.

The focus groups are an exploratory

exercise. We are not consulting on specific proposals, and we will not be testing predetermined solutions.

Who can take part

These sessions are open to solicitors and others working in the legal services sector, including those at an early stage of their career and those in non-authorised roles (for example, paralegals and legal assistants).

How your views will be used

Insights gathered through the focus groups will inform our ongoing work on professional ethical duties. We will also consider how this evidence can help us to better support our regulated communities and stronger workplace cultures.

By listening and working collaboratively with the sector, we aim to strengthen ethical practice across legal services.

If you would be interested in participating, please register for the session most relevant to your situation.

Sessions	Location	Date	Time	Registration
In-house solicitors	Virtual	04.06.26	12.00 - 13.00	BOOK NOW
Sole Practitioners	Virtual	09.06.26	12.00 - 13.00	BOOK NOW
Wider law firm employees (paralegals, legal assistants and non-authorised employees)	Virtual	11.06.26	13.00 - 14.00	BOOK NOW
Practising solicitors (all levels of seniority)	Geldards LLP, 4 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff	16.06.26	09.30 - 11.00	BOOK NOW
Early career (junior solicitors, aspiring solicitors and students)	Virtual	18.06.26	12.00 - 13.00	BOOK NOW
Compliance officers (COLP and COFA)	Virtual	23.06.26	09.30 - 10.30	BOOK NOW

We aim to hold two of these focus groups in person to enable rich and open discussion. However, if it becomes clear that a virtual format would be more suitable, some sessions may be hosted online instead.

We will contact participants with further details closer to the time.

Read more about [upholding professional ethics](#).

Conference and events privacy notice

This [notice](#) explains how we collect and use your personal data when running events.

Donna Scully leads from the front in £150,000 charity football fundraiser for dementia research

Donna Scully, Owner and Director of Carpenters Group, took centre stage at a charity football match at Macclesfield FC Stadium that raised £150,000 for Insurance United Against Dementia in support of Alzheimer's Society.

The event, led by Enterprise Mobility, brought together professionals from across the insurance industry, with more than 50 organisations and individuals contributing and over 250 supporters in attendance.

Donna managed the Yellow team, securing an 11-2 win against the Blue team led by Stuart Sandell, Assistant Vice President for Sales at Enterprise Mobility. In a moment that captured the spirit of the day, Donna also made a surprise appearance on the pitch for the final five minutes, drawing strong support from those in the stands.

Carpenters Group sponsored the event, supporting both the fundraising effort and the wider aim of raising awareness of dementia. Each player wore the number three on their shirt, reflecting the reality that someone in the UK develops dementia every three minutes.

Donna Scully said:

"As anyone who knows me will confirm, I believe in the power of sport, and specifically football, as a power for good."

Sadly, almost everyone knows someone affected by dementia; it is a cruel and unforgiving disease.

Today was such a brilliant opportunity to come together as an industry and fundraise while having a great time.

We're strongest when we work together, and this event was a great example of what we can achieve when we do."

Enterprise Mobility made a significant contribution to the total raised, helping to drive the success of the event alongside the wider industry effort.

Insurance United Against Dementia has now raised £12 million for Alzheimer's Society since 2017 and is working towards a £20 million target by 2030.

This latest event highlights what can be achieved when the industry comes together, with Donna's leadership and involvement helping to make the day both memorable and impactful.

To find out more about the event, click [HERE](#).

Fingerprint Analysis

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Leaders In Law Dinner 2026



On 20th May 2026, the Law Society hosted their annual Leaders in Law Dinner. The event was held in the Municipal Buildings on Dale Street.

This event is held yearly, and it gives industry leaders a chance to network in a social environment. Guests were welcomed with complimentary drinks in the fantastic reception area of the Municipal and then later moved into the dining area.

Our President, **Sarah Mansfield**, provided a warm and welcoming speech, before handing over to our guest speaker, **Bill Addy** on behalf of our sponsors of the event, Liverpool BID (Business Improvement District).

Sarah discussed the new foundation aimed at young professionals, the 2026 legal awards, and the Liverpool Legal walk in aid of the Access to Justice Foundation.

Bill Addy was the guest speaker and very gracious and elegant with his speech. Highlighting the importance the Liverpool Legal Profession had, not only in the UK but also internationally.

Bill is a Chartered Construction Manager and has been CEO of Liverpool BID since March 2013. The work of BID is to support businesses in Liverpool City centre through a range of services that improve the environment for them both physically and economically. Bill is currently chair of Liverpool Visitor Economy Network, leading the representation of the major constituents of the city's visitor economy. He is the former chair of The BID Foundation, the national industry body for business improvement districts. In other areas of influence, he is a director of the Global Business Districts Innovation Club, member of Liverpool's Beatle's Legacy Group, a Senior Fellow of the Institute

of Place Management and a Conseiller d'Honneur de Grand Vins de Bordeaux.

We were also fortunate to have with us as a guest on the top table, **His Honour Judge Andrew Menary KC**, who is the Resident Judge and Honorary Recorder of Liverpool, and sits primarily at the Liverpool Crown Court. Prior to his judicial career, **Judge Menary** was a Barrister, practising in Liverpool, specialising in serious crime, police law, and other areas of law.

Liverpool Law Society's membership is made up of 2,405 individuals from 174 law firms, barristers' chambers, and other organisations with legal professionals in the Liverpool City Region and beyond.



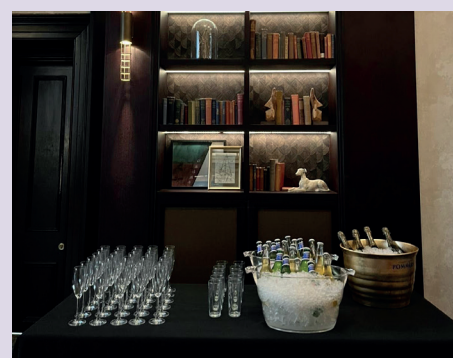


We value members' support and engagement and thank everyone who attended the dinner for attending and thank our sponsors Liverpool BID (**Bill Addy** CEO and **Julie Johnson**, Business Operations Director at Morecrofts who also wears the hat of Non-Exec Director of Liverpool BID Company and Chair of the Culture and Commerce BID Board.

We would like to thank the Municipal

and their staff for being such great hosts, along with thanks to our distinguished guests, and of course the sponsors of the event, without which the event would not have taken place.

Alum Ullah
 Training Principal and Solicitor,
 Bond Turner
 Vice President of Liverpool Law Society



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

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



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



Esther and Shannon

Esther's New Role/Shannon JFF

We'd like to say a huge congratulations to both **Esther Sills** and **Shannon Donnelly** this month! Esther has recently completed her Justice First Fellowship, and subsequently embarked on the

next chapter of her journey at Vauxhall Law Centre as our newest Housing Solicitor. **Esther** joins **Mary, Tom, and Joe**, as they continue their work across the city, providing vital Housing and Homelessness legal support. **Shannon**

will be joining us as our newest Justice First Fellow, where she'll be spending time in different posts across our organisation, learning from our welfare rights advisors, understanding how our development team supports the centre, and learning more from our Housing team.

Both **Shannon's** and **Esther's** achievements are a testament to the incredible professionalism, compassion, and commitment they bring to their work, and represent the spirit of what Vauxhall Law Centre exists to provide.

We hope you'll join us in wishing them both the very best of luck in their next chapter with us.

Strategy Day

Last month, we were visited for the second of our strategy days by **Matt Howgate**. Matt has been helping us to better understand our strategic aims as a centre, helping us move into the future whilst creating greater stability.

As a Law Centre, we have grown and changed over the years, and since 2019, we have grown from three to fifteen full-time members of staff. This change has helped us grow our capacity for new cases, helping us to provide a route to justice for so many in our community. With help from **Matt**, we can better angle our collective compass as a team, and ensure that through the collective action of our whole team, with the input of all, we can work together to create a successful, stable law centre that can weather the storm during difficult times.

We're in a pickle... can you help?

The state of Legal Aid in the UK has created a network of Law Centres



A 'tragedy if legal centre has to close'

The plan to close down the experimental Vauxhall Law Centre, where residents can get free legal advice, would put the clock back several years, said Mr. Christopher Hewetson, president of the Liverpool Law Society, to-day.

The Social Services Committee had advised the Financial Control sub-committee that it would support the continuation of the law centre. It is run by solicitor Mr John Linden, who was taken on in June, 1973 at a salary of £4,000 a year and

(Image from Liverpool Echo, Thursday 19th February, 1976)

reliant on grant funding from trusts and foundations, as well as generous donations from supporters, both of which have helped keep us in existence in these

tough times. Without Law Centres like ours, many in the poorest communities across our city would be without legal support. We know this is the case, as we are often stretched beyond our capacity, whilst still being inundated with requests for support (more commonly for housing legal advice).

Grants and donations have also helped us support the next generation of Social Welfare Solicitors into work, through programs like the Justice First Fellowship, launched by the Legal Education Foundation in 2014. Through this fellowship, we've helped train two solicitors, with another just beginning their training (as described above).

Donations from private practices across our city have already helped make an

impact for us. They have allowed us to update our equipment, like installing vital infrastructure such as panic alarms for lone workers - an important safety measure when working with vulnerable adults. These costs are often hard to cover through restricted grant funding, so donations are hugely important in implementing these advances.

We would be grateful if you could support our organisation's work by [making a donation towards our charity](#), helping us to continue providing access to justice to those who need it most.

If you'd like to chat with us, learn more, or arrange a visit to our Law Centre here in Vauxhall, please get in touch – we'd love to hear from you! We're always happy to talk about our work and how we can work with others across our city.

Regulation Update

June 2026

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

You have to love a month with two Bank Holidays, and at the time of writing, we're being promised record temperatures and a hot Bank Holiday Monday (for a change!) However, by the time this goes to print, that could have changed, which is not dissimilar to the regulatory and compliance world where things change rapidly – over the last few months alone we've had the announcement of the FCA takeover of AML regulation, Mazur, SRA interventions etc.

Regulatory landscape: pressure on standards and resources

Recent developments continue to underline the increasing expectations placed on firms and the corresponding pressure on the regulator. Reports indicate a continued rise in misconduct referrals to the SRA, with suggestions that increased funding is now being positioned as a necessity rather than a choice. It remains to be seen, although it is an educated guess, that the large increase is in part due to the use of AI to draft referrals, rather than a huge increase in solicitors behaving badly.

Alongside this, scrutiny of the SRA's approach to regulation has intensified, with commentary questioning whether

perceived failures arise from the substance of regulation or its structural delivery. There is also ongoing debate, arising in part from the CA decision in Dentons around the threshold for misconduct, that breaches of the SRA Standards and Regulations must reach a level of "sufficient seriousness" before disciplinary action is justified.

Separately, proposals to strengthen whistleblower protections suggest a continued policy shift towards encouraging reporting and transparency. For firms, this reinforces the importance of having robust internal reporting channels and a culture that supports early escalation of concerns.

SRA strategy, funding and competence reforms

The SRA's draft business plan and funding proposals for 2026/27 highlight ongoing cost pressures across the regulatory framework and signal the likelihood of further financial demands being placed on the profession.

At the same time, the SRA continues to emphasise professional ethics and competence. Its ongoing consultation on raising the bar on continuing competence is likely to have practical implications for firms' appraisal, supervision and training processes. Firms should anticipate a more structured and evidence-based approach to competence assessment in future, building on the SRA's wider focus on maintaining high ethical standards.

These developments collectively point towards a regulatory environment where firms will be expected not only to comply, but to demonstrate how compliance is embedded in practice.

AI and professional obligations

Concerns around the use of artificial intelligence in legal practice have come into sharper focus following judicial criticism of lawyers relying on unverified AI-generated material in court proceedings. Two solicitors were referred to the SRA after submitting court documents relying on AI-generated authorities which were not checked and were found to be inaccurate. The court emphasised that responsibility for the accuracy of submissions cannot be delegated to junior staff or technology. The case reinforces the fundamental duty not to mislead the court and highlights growing regulatory risk around the use of AI without effective supervision and verification processes.

In parallel, the Law Society has called for clearer and more immediate guidance on the use of AI in preparing court documents, recognising both the potential benefits and the risks.

The consistent message is clear: while AI may support efficiency, it does not dilute a solicitor's professional obligations. Firms should ensure appropriate supervision, clear policies and robust verification processes for any AI-assisted work.

Sanctions and AML developments

The Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) has marked its 10-year anniversary by emphasising the growing importance of coordinated sanctions enforcement and the role of partnerships across government and industry.

Recent regulatory changes also have practical implications for firms. Amendments to the UK sanctions regulations introduce a shift from euro to sterling thresholds, with the €10,000 reporting threshold now replaced

by £10,000. This is intended to align sanctions reporting with UK anti-money laundering requirements and simplify compliance processes.

Additional changes include confirmation that licensing notices may be served electronically, clarification of the Treasury debt exception across payment chains, and broader flexibility in licensing “*prior obligations*.” While largely technical, these changes reinforce the need for firms to keep sanctions compliance frameworks under regular review.

In addition, new HMRC requirements mean that firms interacting with HMRC on behalf of clients may need to register as tax advisers from May 2026. This includes demonstrating AML supervision and ensuring the firm is appropriately registered via HMRC’s digital system.

Financial services and claims sector scrutiny

Beyond the legal profession, the FCA’s review of claims management companies signals increased regulatory attention on sectors perceived to be causing consumer harm. The FCA has recently launched a market study to gather evidence to understand the root causes of practices it has observed by firms in the claims management market and requested responses by 19 June 2026. If it finds the market is not working well, next steps may include making recommendations to other bodies, such as the SRA. While not directly impacting all law firms, those operating in adjacent areas should be alert to the potential for increased scrutiny and tightening standards.

New SRA guidance and Law Society practice notes

[SRA | Terminating a retainer | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)

[Mazur and the conduct of litigation | The Law Society](#)

[Rights of audience | The Law Society](#)

Disciplinary and regulatory decisions

Recent SRA and SDT decisions provide a continued reminder of the breadth of conduct issues giving rise to enforcement action:

Failure to report criminal conduct

A solicitor was fined £15,000 for failing to notify the SRA of multiple drink driving convictions. The Tribunal made clear that prompt self-reporting of criminal matters is a core regulatory obligation. Delay or omission, even where there is no underlying professional wrongdoing connected to client work, will be treated seriously as a failure of transparency and integrity.

Dishonesty involving client records – exceptional circumstances considered

In a case concerning the creation of a false client attendance note, the SDT found dishonesty but nevertheless stopped short of a strike off. The Tribunal accepted that exceptional circumstances were present, demonstrating that while dishonesty will ordinarily lead to removal from the roll, the SDT retains discretion where there is compelling mitigation.

Failure to comply with court orders and Ombudsman decisions

A solicitor was struck off following a sustained failure to comply with court orders and a Legal Ombudsman determination. The decision reflects the Tribunal’s clear expectation that solicitors must engage with and comply promptly with both court processes and complaints outcomes. Persistent non-compliance is treated as a serious

breach of professional obligations and undermines public trust.

Misleading conduct and attempted concealment of errors

A solicitor was struck off after attempting to conceal a missed court deadline, including misleading others about the position. The Tribunal regarded the attempt to cover up the error, rather than the underlying mistake itself, as the most serious aspect of the misconduct.

Improper dealings with clients and third parties

A solicitor was struck off following involvement in property transactions where he agreed to sign leases confirming he’d witnessed a signature as a favour to a client and subsequently provided misleading information to the police. He asked the client to get the leases signed as soon as possible and return them, but they were never received.

Allegations of misleading communications not upheld

A solicitor accused of sending misleading emails was cleared by the SDT, with the Tribunal accepting that workload pressures and context were relevant to the assessment of conduct accepting her evidence that when writing the email she had no intention to mislead.

How Compli can help...

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

Andrea Cohen
Compli,
Weightmans LLP

Charity Spotlight: Merseyside Water Rescue



Serving the Community – Saving Lives

Merseyside Water Rescue is an award winning registered charity offering voluntary rescue boat services at the south Liverpool docks every Friday and Saturday evening. Ian and Ruth Milburn, the husband and wife team who lead the team, started the charity in May 2018 when they realised that there was no safety provision on the docks and people were losing their lives. Ian had volunteered with lowland search and rescue groups but wanted to be there in time to help people and prevent loss of life, so Merseyside Water Rescue was born. In a borrowed boat and with a group of like minded volunteers, the duty nights began ready for Christmas of 2018.

We worked with the Canal and River Trust for the proper permissions and consents, and for the first twelve months or so we were self funding. Ian funded the replacement for the borrowed boat; at last we had our own. Our experience and reputation grew and it was possible to raise funding for the purchase of Boat 2 in 2020.

Ian is the lead trustee and manages the Operations, Ruth is the ‘admin lady’ and manages the fundraising, accounts and record keeping. It is a demanding role for us both and takes a great deal of our time. Sarah Mansfield is another trustee, and her legal expertise has been invaluable. Peter Kenny of ‘The Grace’ in the south Liverpool docks also serves as a trustee.

We have been fortunate in being joined by other committed volunteers with very different skills and backgrounds. We have raised funds for personal safety kit for our volunteers (PFD’s, helmets, throwlines etc), equipment and training, but we are always fundraising to keep our boats and operations running smoothly and to expand the team. We managed to raise funds to buy a narrow boat base (The ‘Duchess’) with the help of the Judges at the Liverpool Court and the Proceeds of Crime funding in 2023. She has transformed volunteering for our team.

Our aim is to be there in the vital few minutes between a person entering the water and the arrival of the emergency services when the risks of drowning or cold water shock are greatest. We soon found that people rarely fall into the water by accident, they choose to enter often due to a mental health crisis and are seeking to end their lives. Our team, under Ian’s leadership, have become very good at gently engaging with people who seem despondent and asking if they need help. We also found that when a person enters the water, they change their minds. The instinct to live is strongest but self rescue is difficult in a steep sided dock when cold and panic hit.



MWR at the LFC Parade May 25th 2025



MWR at Eurovision 2023

The training for the team members includes First Aid (many to First Responder), Land Search Technician, Boat Handling and communications. We are affiliated with SLS GB (national water safety charity) which gives us access to training and insurance, and a mechanism for reporting incidents which feeds into the national water safety picture.

Our success is helped by us being 'on the spot' able to react immediately. Over the years we have been involved in many different incidents - full casualty recovery from the water, persuading people to seek help and not enter the water, first aid incidents ranging from broken bones, sudden illnesses, heart attacks to cuts and bruises. Searches for Concerns for Welfare at the request of the Police, we have found unaccompanied children (under 10 yo) and given help and advice to many people.

Ian happened to be first on scene when two young lads were stabbed one summer evening and was able to give emergency first aid until the ambulance arrived. A member of the public told to our team that a person had jumped into the River Mersey and his friend had gone in to 'help', our team secured both casualties on throw lines and held them until Marine Fire One arrived. One team member won an award for entering the dock to rescue a person when it wasn't safe for the boat to approach, and three of our team members won awards for their actions after the LFC Homecoming parade in May 25 when they answered the call for medics to the scene. In June 2025, our team members gave CPR to the drummer of 'The Christians', on stage at a concert at the Pier Head. Most incidents are not so high profile or exciting, talking with a person struggling with their issues and making sure they are



safe happens frequently, and we do what we can to help.

Our Education team give talks in local primary schools on water safety in an age appropriate way, the children love spotting dangers, learning about 'Float to Live' and seeing the kit. They particularly like practising calling for help (FIRE!!! As calling 'help' can be ignored).

Ian and I were told in the early days that it couldn't be done without many thousands of pounds (and probably not even then). To think of all we have achieved is amazing. It has been a labour of love and determination for the past 9 years and we are exceptionally proud of the team and everything we have all achieved. All our funding is through charitable giving and what the team has earned through safety boat cover for events. The volunteers have trusted Ian's leadership and ability to respond purposefully and with calmness and together they have saved lives.

<https://merseysidewaterrescue.org>

E: merseysidewr@gmail.com



Ruth and Ian receiving the Sheriff's Award

DSARs: Light at the end of the tunnel?

Few areas of data protection law generate as much frustration for organisations as data subject access requests (DSARs). What began as a cornerstone transparency right under the UK GDPR has, in practice, become a significant compliance burden, particularly for organisations holding large volumes of unstructured data (i.e. anyone using Outlook).

For in-house legal and compliance teams, DSARs are rarely routine. Requests are often broad (“all data held”), tactically deployed (for example in employment disputes), and time-sensitive. The statutory one-month deadline, extendable in limited circumstances, places considerable pressure on organisations to identify, review, and redact material at pace.

The cost implications are equally well understood. Many organisations now rely on external legal advisers or e-discovery providers to manage complex responses, particularly where privilege, third-party data, or litigation risk is in play.

Against that (bleak) backdrop, practitioners may reasonably ask whether the regulatory tide is beginning to turn in favour of data controllers.

The enduring burden

It is important to acknowledge at the outset that the fundamental position has not changed: the right of access remains a core data protection right, and the threshold for refusing to comply with a DSAR remains high.

ICO guidance continues to emphasise that controllers must be able to justify any limitation on the scope of their searches. Even where searches are narrowed, controllers are expected to act transparently and document their approach.

In practice, therefore, the burden

remains substantial. Poor data governance, fragmented systems, or under-resourced teams do not provide a defence, nor does the significant inconvenience or cost of compliance.

The UK position: “reasonable and proportionate” searches

That said, recent legislative reform provides some cautious optimism. The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (DUAA) amends Article 15 of the UK GDPR to make explicit what had previously been implicit in ICO guidance: controllers are only required to conduct “reasonable and proportionate” searches when responding to DSARs.

This is not, in truth, a radical departure. The concept has long been reflected in regulatory guidance, which recognises that organisations are not obliged to undertake searches that would be disproportionate to the importance of the right of access. However, its codification is significant.

First, it provides clearer statutory footing for controllers seeking to limit the scope of searches—for example, by restricting date ranges, custodians, or systems, where appropriate. Secondly, it reinforces a more pragmatic, risk-based approach to DSAR compliance, allowing organisations to balance effort against likely relevance and impact.

The legislation does not give carte blanche to limit searches aggressively, the bar for demonstrating disproportionality remains high, and controllers must be able to evidence and justify their decision-making. The DUAA offers reassurance rather than revolution, but controllers are now in a materially better position now than when compared to 2018 and the early years of the enforcement of the GDPR.

The EU perspective: abuse of rights gains traction

More striking developments have emerged at EU level. In March 2026,

the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) confirmed in *Brillen Rottler* that even a *first* DSAR may be refused where it is “excessive” or abusive.

The case concerned an individual who systematically submitted DSARs shortly after engaging with organisations (typically by signing up for newsletters), allegedly with the aim of bringing compensation claims when the request was refused. The CJEU held that Article 12(5) GDPR (which allows controllers to refuse “manifestly unfounded or excessive” requests) is not limited to repeated requests, as had typically been understood. A single request may be refused on this basis, provided the controller can demonstrate abusive intent.

The Court emphasised that these were specific circumstances and that the exemption remains narrow. The burden of proof in demonstrating abuse firmly with the controller, and there remains a presumption in favour of the data subject that they have a genuine interest in their personal data. Nevertheless, the judgment is noteworthy in reflecting a growing judicial willingness to recognise that data subject rights may be exercised tactically or in bad faith.

The Omnibus proposal: a signal of direction

This shift is echoed in the European Commission’s proposed “Digital Omnibus” reforms. Among a range of simplification measures, the proposals include consideration of additional safeguards against the abuse of data subject rights, aimed at reducing compliance burdens on organisations.

Although still at proposal stage, and subject to negotiation, the inclusion of such measures is telling. It signals an acknowledgment at EU level that the balance between individual rights and organisational burden may, in certain respects, require adjustment.

What does this mean for UK controllers?

From a UK perspective, these EU developments do not have direct legal effect. The UK GDPR remains distinct, UK courts are not bound by post-Brexit CJEU case law, and there has been no equivalent statutory move in the UK to introduce a broader “abuse of rights” exemption in the context of DSARs.

However, these developments are unlikely to go unnoticed. UK regulators

and courts have historically drawn on EU jurisprudence in matters of data protection law. The CJEU’s reasoning may therefore prove influential over time, especially in litigation contexts.

Conclusion: cautious optimism

So, is there light at the end of the tunnel? The answer is: yes, but it is still only a faint light.

The fundamentals remain unchanged. The right of access is here to stay, and

the threshold for refusing or limiting compliance remains high. Controllers must continue to invest in robust processes, good data governance, and clear audit trails. What is changing is the narrative, with regulators and legislators increasingly acknowledging that DSAR compliance must be workable in practice and not merely in principle.

Jonny Caldwell,
Data and AI Partner,
CG Professional

Council Member's Report



Jeremy Myers

The May meeting of the Council of The Law Society (TLS) is usually shorter than the rest, essentially being an afternoon. I was once again able to attend in person in London.

The bulk of the afternoon was spent considering how AI affects our profession and the ways in which we can harness it as well as protecting our clients and ourselves. There was a panel discussion of law-related AI experts to set the themes and provide insight and knowledge. We then split into breakout sessions and afterwards reconvened for a wrap-up.

The breakout discussions formed part of the ongoing work of TLS in improving practitioners’ knowledge and setting an agenda for how to develop the profession’s application of AI. TLS staff members took detailed notes of our discussions. IT development is the first listed amongst the five key missions of TLS’s Strategy for 2025-28.

It might be useful for readers of this column if I summarise the topics discussed. These included issues such as how AI impacts SRA regulation, GDPR, privilege, professional indemnity insurance and authorised use of IT within a practice, were predominant.

Much routine business formed the rest of the afternoon. Council members were asked about how TLS has conducted the recruitment process for assessing candidates for the new position of Deputy Chair of the TLS Board (with the 17-member Board being effectively TLS’s executive). There was further mention of the idea of a Defence Union, much talked about outside Council by members, which would be outside the scope of what TLC is permitted to fund.

The afternoon finished with the Hustings for the election of the next Deputy Vice

President of TLS. The person elected by Council members from amongst our number will become DVP in October 2026, and in 2027 and 2028 respectively will become Vice President and then President.

There is a broad mixture of experiences and backgrounds both personal and professional amongst the six candidates, one of whom stood in 2025 unsuccessfully. This provides a broader spread than the five candidates in 2025. In 2025, there were five women and one man, and this year the split is three / three. I was fortunate that my question to the candidates was one of those chosen to put forward. Essentially, it was to ask whether or not the President should visit nations which are adversaries of the UK and do not foster human rights. No one gave a categorical answer but there appeared to be shades of opinion.

I have cast my electronic secret ballot in the preferential system – marking for three of the six – and we all now wait to see who is announced as the winner.

Council meets again on 01 July and we shall be together for a full day.

Jeremy Myers
Council Member

Inclusivity is everything at MSB as Pride Month approaches



John Owens

When MSB Solicitors was founded, our ethos was, and remains, ‘justice for all’. June is Pride Month, which is an important time of the year for us as it offers an opportunity to reflect on our sector’s role in advancing equality and inclusion, both internally and in the communities we serve.

Pride represents visibility, responsibility and the opportunity to advocate for those who continue to face discrimination, particularly those within more vulnerable groups.

National recognition

At the British LGBT Awards 2026 which



MSB Pride Bingo Liverpool

were held on 28 May, MSB received three nominations: Managing Partner, **Emma Carey**, as business ally; Associate, **Michael Boland**, as future leader; and MSB’s LGBTQIA+ committee as network group.

The awards bring together leading organisations, individuals and allies who drive meaningful change for the LGBTQIA+ community and

these nominations acknowledge the firm’s efforts on one of the UK’s most prominent platforms celebrating diversity, visibility and impact.

They reflect a collective effort, from senior leadership advocating for inclusion, to internal networks driving grassroots change and emerging leaders championing inclusion in practice.



MSB at Liverpool Pride

Embedding inclusion

Diversity and inclusion are embedded into MSB’s environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategy. The core pillars of our framework create an inclusive and empowering environment where opportunity is open to all.

Our ESG committee has several subcommittees, including one for dedicated to LGBTQ+ which plays a central role in shaping initiatives, policy development and community engagement.

Our approach goes beyond internal culture as we frame inclusion as part of a broader responsibility to contribute to a



MSB pride bingo

fairer, greener and more inclusive society. We reinforce the idea that law firms do not only advise clients but actively advance social justice.

Practical LGBTQIA+ support

MSB's commitment is most visible in the support offered to LGBTQIA+ clients that is tailored to the needs of the community.

This includes surrogacy and adoption advice, applications under TOLATA and free change of name deeds for transgender clients. The latter addresses a practical barrier often faced by individuals during social transition and we also work with specialist organisations such as CMAGIC to ensure informed, holistic support in a culture that emphasises empathy, respect and understanding.

We recognise that legal issues often arise alongside broader personal challenges.

An inclusive workplace

We have invested to create a supportive and visible LGBTQIA+ network that includes regular participation in Liverpool Pride to demonstrate allyship and progression towards recognised standards such as Navajo accreditation, a mark of commitment to LGBTQIA+ inclusion.

These sit alongside other focused resources and awareness and education campaigns to foster wider inclusion across race, gender, disability and social mobility. Our message is clear: inclusion must be lived daily, not limited to symbolic gestures or annual events.

During Pride Month, we reflect and recommit. It is an opportunity to advocate for those who face discrimination, particularly those from more vulnerable groups such as the transgender community.

Our recognition at the LGBT Awards is a milestone but it is not the destination. Our objectives are ongoing and as our sector evolves, we continue to combine professional excellence with genuine social impact.

Inclusion isn't just a moral imperative – it is a cornerstone of modern legal practice.

John Owens,
Partner, MSB Solicitors

LLS Education and Charities Committee

We met on 11 May as part of our twice yearly cycle of formal discussions. Naturally, there is much work carried out between meetings and this column gives a flavour of it. There was routine work to carry out for the Education Fund and the Pritt (benevolent) Fund and some special matters to consider.

Fund Grants were discussed. Two grants of each of £500.00 were awarded to deserving applicants who have Qualifying Work Experience in the geographical area of Liverpool Law Society (LLS). The Solicitors Charity (previously the SBA) has informed us about payments it had made to Solicitors in the LLS area, and in turn the committee decided that £10,000.00 would be paid to the Solicitors Charity prior to LLS's 31 May year end, which was the same sum as in 2025.

Plans were confirmed for obtaining details from local Universities later in the year to

enable Prizes to be awarded at LLS's Newly Qualified event in January 2027. The SRA has confirmed that data issues prevent it from disclosing the name of the youngest admitted Solicitor in the LLS area annually – to whom the Rex Makin Prize is awarded. The Law Society's national staff very helpfully are looking at how it might facilitate a permitted disclosure to able the Prize to be awarded. I am hoping for early news.

Of course, 2027 sees the bicentenary of LLS. There are two key events which this committee manages and which will be part of that special year. I have written previously about the Conkerton Lecture in March 2027 to be delivered by **Mr Justice Fancourt**. The Pathways into the Profession event will be in the first half of 2027 for local schools when young people can discover how to prepare for a life in the law. We are looking at the feasibility of returning to an in person event for 2027 as our special

year before going back to the usual online format. Fletchers' Law Fair may be repeated in 2027 with possible LLS involvement.

Members may recall that as I am to retire from the LLS by rotation in December, the chair of this committee will need to change. We are continuing with the process of including **Nichola Lennon**, already an LLS Director, in this Committee's work, as **Nichola** is the prospective chair.

There is our October Committee meeting ahead of the handover. It remains the case that these Funds could not be administered effectively and the committee's work carried out without dedicated advice and input from LLS's CEO **Sarah Poblete** and Deputy CEO **Liz Weeks**.

Jeremy Myers
Chair
Education and Charities Committee

Valedictory: HHJ Graham Wood KC

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

His Honour Judge Graham Wood KC, the Designated Civil Judge for Cheshire and Merseyside, is retiring at the end of July. A valedictory will be held in court 26 on the 3rd floor of the Liverpool Civil and Family Court in Vernon Street on 23rd July at 9.30 am. An invitation is extended to all practitioners, judges, retired judges, and court staff who may wish to attend. This event will also be streamed by CVP for those unable to attend. A reminder will be sent out nearer the time.

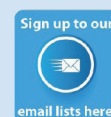
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Clinical Negligence Conference

22nd April 2026

The Liverpool Law Society Clinical Negligence Conference, held on 22nd April 2026, brought together a broad range of legal and medical professionals for a focused and insightful exploration of the current challenges shaping clinical negligence practice. Chaired by HHJ Wood KC, the event provided an expert-led programme combining practical guidance with analysis of recent legal and procedural developments.

Robert Macadam, a consultant general surgeon and experienced expert witness, started the days programme with a session looking at from Operating Theatre to Court Room; the experiences of a general surgery expert witness. Drawing on real-life case scenarios, he examined how outcomes that appear adverse do not necessarily indicate negligence, reinforcing the principle that breach of duty must be carefully distinguished from recognised complications. He emphasised that the role of the expert witness is not to advocate but to evaluate, applying a recognised standard of care to facts established elsewhere. This perspective highlighted the importance of objectivity, clarity and independence in expert evidence, particularly in cases where the clinical picture is complex or emotionally charged. Macadam also addressed the growing recognition of systems-based failures within healthcare. Rather than focusing solely on individual clinicians, his presentation demonstrated how errors are often the product of multiple pressures, including fragmented communication, time constraints and the challenges of emergency care. This shift towards understanding the conditions in which errors occur reflects wider changes in healthcare governance and has significant implications for how cases are analysed and argued in litigation.

The complexities of fatal accident

claims were examined in detail by **Martyn Elliott** and **Alison Hills** from Fletchers, who provided a comprehensive overview of the statutory framework governing claims following death. Their session explored the operation of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1934 and the Fatal Accidents Act 1976, alongside the practical realities of proving causation in cases where the primary witness is no longer able to give evidence. They highlighted the evidential burden placed on medical records, expert reports and family testimony, as well as the importance of early investigation into probate issues and the identification of dependants. The speakers also addressed the challenges of quantifying loss, particularly in relation to dependency and services, noting that such claims require careful and methodical preparation from the outset.

Costs and litigation management formed a key area of focus. Sessions delivered by **James Miller** from 18 St Johns Street and **Adam Grant** from Peak Costs emphasised the increasing significance of costs budgeting in clinical negligence proceedings. Delegates were reminded that an approved costs budget plays a central role in determining recoverable costs and that parties must actively monitor and revise budgets when the case develops in unexpected ways. The importance of acting promptly in response to significant developments was repeatedly stressed, reflecting the growing procedural discipline required in modern litigation. These discussions also touched on evolving practices, including simplified budgeting pilots, indicating a continued shift towards greater judicial control over litigation costs.

The practicalities of evidential preparation were addressed by **Chris Gutteridge** from Exchange Chambers, whose session focused on how cases

are ultimately proved. His presentation highlighted the fundamental importance of building a coherent and persuasive evidential narrative. This included careful drafting of witness statements, thorough analysis of medical records and strategic use of expert evidence. Attention was also drawn to the increasing relevance of digital material, such as communications and social media, as part of the evidential picture. The underlying message was that success in clinical negligence claims depends not only on the strength of the underlying facts but on how effectively those facts are presented and understood by the court.

The conference concluded with a detailed legal update from **Aneurin Moloney**, a Clinical Negligence Barrister practising at Gatehouse Chambers, London, who reviewed key developments across recent case law. His session provided valuable insight into how courts are currently approaching issues such as causation, expert independence and informed consent. Among the notable developments discussed was the Supreme Court's decision in *CCC v Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*, which revisited and expanded the scope of "lost years" claims. The update also illustrated the courts' continued scrutiny of expert evidence, particularly where issues of independence or reliability arise.

Overall, the 2026 Clinical Negligence Conference offered a comprehensive and thought-provoking overview of the current state of the field. By bringing together perspectives from both law and medicine, it reinforced the importance of collaboration in achieving fair and effective outcomes and provided delegates with valuable insights to inform their future practice. A big thank you to all speakers for their contributions, and a special thank you to Peak Costs for sponsoring the event. Their support makes events like this possible.

Costs Conference 6th May 2026



Matthew Smith

The Liverpool Law Society's 2026 Costs Conference, held on Wednesday 6th May 2026, brought together leading costs specialists for a focused halfday event examining the latest developments in costs law, litigation strategy, and case law trends. With contributions from Matthew Smith from Kings Chambers, Darren Malone from 18 St John Street Chambers, Kris Kilsby from Peak Costs and Lucy Bill from 3PB Chambers. The event provided attendees with both strategic insight and daytoday guidance relevant to modern practice.

Opening the conference, **Matthew Smith** delivered a detailed update on Part 36 offers, focusing on key 2026 appellate decisions and their practical consequences. Central to the discussion was *Attersley v UK Insurance Ltd* [2026] EWCA Civ 217, which clarified that fixed recoverable costs can still apply even where a claim is later allocated to the multitrack, provided the relevant Part 36 period expired while the claim remained within the fixed costs regime. This decision reinforces the principle that parties cannot benefit



Darren Malone

from delaying acceptance of offers in anticipation of higher recoverable costs later in the litigation process. Delegates also explored the wider purpose of Part 36 in encouraging early settlement, alongside the growing judicial emphasis on certainty in costs exposure. Overall, the session underlined the importance of timely decision-making and careful drafting of offers as part of effective litigation strategy.

Darren Malone followed with a highly practical session on fundamental dishonesty and its profound impact on costs outcomes. The presentation examined how allegations of Fundamental Dishonesty often raised where claims are suspected to be exaggerated or fraudulent can fundamentally alter the financial risks of litigation. Where proven, Fundamental Dishonesty can lead to dismissal of the entire claim, even where some genuine injury exists, remove the protection of Qualified One-Way Costs Shifting and expose claimants to significant adverse costs order. Recent case law illustrated both the serious consequences of proven dishonesty and the risks of making unsuccessful



Kris Kilsby

allegations, including circumstances in which courts have imposed significant penalties where dishonesty is established, alongside a judicial reluctance to award indemnity costs automatically, even where misconduct is found. A key takeaway from the session was that costs remain firmly within the court's discretion, and practitioners must carefully evaluate both the evidential basis and the strategic value of advancing allegations of fundamental dishonesty.

In the next session **Kris Kilsby** provided an indepth look at costs assessment, including recent authority and common pitfalls. A major focus was *Duffy v Birmingham City Council* [2026] EWCA Civ 146, which clarified that technical defects in a bill of costs such as certification issues will not automatically invalidate the bill or justify procedural defaults by the paying party. The session also offered practical guidance on the detailed assessment process, including applicable time limits, procedural requirements, and common areas in which costs are reduced, particularly in Court of Protection matters. The discussion reinforced



Lucy Bill

the importance of accurate drafting, proportionality, and procedural compliance, all of which remain central to successful costs recovery.

Closing the conference, **Lucy Bill** delivered a comprehensive costs case law roundup, tying together recent decisions and their practical implications. This included *CILEX v Mazur* [2026] EWCA Civ 369, confirming that supervised delegation of litigation tasks to nonqualified staff remains lawful. Lucy reviewed *Smithstone v Tranmoor Primary School* [2026] EWCA Civ 13, which established that liabilityonly Part 36 offers can, in principle, trigger costs consequences, though outcomes depend heavily on the facts. The session concluded with practical takeaways for practitioners seeking to navigate recent developments in case law.

The 2026 Costs Conference delivered a concise yet comprehensive update on the changes and key cases impacting cost law right now. For attendees, the event provided not only legal updates but also clear, actionable insights to apply in practice.



STEP Liverpool Conference – 14 May 2026

The annual Private Client Conference was held on 14 May 2026 in the Crowne Plaza, based on the iconic Liverpool Docks. The tri-partite event, centred on Wills, Trusts, Tax, and Probate, was jointly hosted by STEP Liverpool, the Liverpool Law Society, and Professional Liverpool and kindly sponsored by Evelyn Partners, Kin Probate and Currency Connect.

The conference offered a comprehensive programme of private client topics, ranging from investment markets and residence nil rate band pitfalls to alternative dispute resolution, trust accounts, crossborder payments, and the evolving inheritance tax landscape.

The conference was hosted by **Kelly Monaghan**, Senior Associate at Hill Dickinson LLP and Chair of STEP Liverpool, who warmly welcomed everyone and provided introductions for the speaking panel. There was also an introductory segment from Councillor **Liam Robinson** who opened the whole speaking panel for the day.

The Bond Market, The Wonder of Compound Interest & Current Outlook

Lloyd Harris, of Premier Miton

Lloyd Harris opened our session by providing an interesting perspective on the utility of the bond market and the attractive nature of bonds in rich beneficial relationship of compound interest.

Lloyd explained the history and the inverse relationship between yields and prices. With correct utilisation, bonds and compound interest can be used to provide clients with consistent returns and reinvestment to significantly amplify long-term wealth. As emphasised in the presentation, the maths on the short end is frankly, quite compelling.

Understanding Residence Nil Rate Band: Technical Pitfalls and RealWorld Scenarios Where Relief Is Lost

Rebecca Roscoe, RJR Legal

Rebecca Roscoe followed with a perceptive and useful presentation on the key understandings of the Residence Nil Rate Band, highlighting practices that can lead to reduced relief.

Here, **Rebecca** raised the technical issues and barriers that hindered with tax saving potentials of the Residence Nil Rate Band. With the savvy insights raised, we can see from this presentation this relief can still be preserved and maximised for clients.

Alternative Dispute Resolution in Private Client Disputes

Nina Ferris, Hill Dickinson and Jac Armstrong, Hundred Chambers

The dynamic duo of **Nina Ferris** and **Jac Armstrong** provided key wisdom onto an important stage of the contentious side to private client disputes, alternative dispute resolution.

With this presentation, we were taken on a deep dive into aspects that make up Alternative Dispute Resolution, with methods such as negotiation, mediation and neutral evaluation being explored. Alternative Dispute Resolution remains a pivotal tool in reducing costs for both parties by keeping the firmly positioning litigation as a last resort.

Getting The Best Out Of Alternative Dispute Resolution

Nina Ferris, Hill Dickinson and Jac Armstrong, Hundred Chambers

Nina Ferris and **Jac** returned to the stage to build on their earlier session, offering a practical and engaging insight into how practitioners can truly maximise the benefits of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

With this presentation, attendees were guided through the realities of preparing for Alternative Dispute Resolution, from selecting the appropriate method to ensuring clients are both legally and emotionally ready for the process. Ultimately, it would seem success preparation, realistic expectations, and a clear strategy for it to work as a cost and time saving way of solving private client disputes.

Investment & Financial Planning Hot Topics

Vicki Harper and Sam Myers, Evelyn Partners

The session on **Investment & Financial**



Planning Hot Topics, delivered by **Vicki Harper** and **Sam Myers**, provided a timely and practical overview of the evolving financial planning landscape.

Here, we looked at a focus on the growing importance on proactive Inheritance Tax planning. The pair explored key developments such as the increased use of lifetime gifting, the changing role of pensions, and the need to reassess traditional cash strategies in a higher interest rate environment, reinforcing the value of joinedup professional advice.

Accountability starts with Accounts... Annual Accounts for the Modern Trustee

Anthony Whittaker, Bennett Brooks

Anthony Whittaker's session provided an informative overview of the importance of annual accounts in trust administration, emphasising their role in ensuring transparency and effective governance.

Accounts serve as a vital record of a trust's financial position, income, and expenditure, while also supporting accurate distributions and tax compliance. The presentation reinforced that well-maintained accounts are essential in helping trustees fulfil their duties.

4 Big Mistakes To Avoid – when sending inheritance payments internationally

James Caley, Currency Connect

The presentation by **James Caley** highlighted common pitfalls when handling international inheritance



payments, stressing the importance of accuracy and due diligence. Key risks include relying on beneficiaries to complete forms correctly, failing to verbally verify payment details, overlooking currency jurisdictional differences and not utilising specialist currency brokers.

Ultimately, the presentation emphasised the use of specialist currency brokers can significantly reduce both financial loss and professional risk in cross-border transactions.

IHT: Where are we now? Planning and drafting in the new IHT landscape

Professor Lesley King

Professor **Lesley King's** session provided a timely and enlightening overview of the evolving inheritance tax landscape, with a strong focus on how recent and upcoming changes are reshaping both planning and drafting strategies.



The presentation guided us through key developments, including the inclusion of pension funds within the IHT estate from 2027 and the continued pressure of frozen thresholds, highlighting the increasing likelihood of higher tax liabilities.

Overall, the presentation underscored that proactive, well-informed planning is now more critical than ever, with practitioners needing to adopt a more holistic and forward-looking approach to IHT advice.

A sincere thank you to STEP Liverpool, the Liverpool Law Society, and Professional Liverpool for delivering such an engaging and insightful conference. Special thanks go to **Kirsty Barker**, **Kelly Monaghan**, **Matt Whelan** and **Phil Adams**, the sponsors Evelyn Partners, Currency Connect and Kin Probate and the talented lineup of speakers whose expertise made the day such a success.

Jack Price

Hill Dickinson LLP,
Trainee, Private Client



Disaster after bowel surgery: who's to blame?

Introduction

In the National Bowel Cancer Audit (<https://www.nboca.org.uk>) around 40,000 people in England and Wales are diagnosed with colorectal cancer (CRC) each year, of whom 50-60% undergo major resection. Outcomes for most patients are good - death rate within 90 days of elective operation is around 3%, although it is 4-5 times higher for emergency operations. Unplanned re-operation following CRC surgery occurs in around 6-8%, often for consequences of a failed bowel anastomosis (or join). For surgeons a feared complication is anastomotic leak (AL) – a breach in that join, sometimes with catastrophic results. The prevalence of AL in colorectal surgery varies from 1-19%, highest rates being for anastomoses in the pelvis eg after removal of a rectal cancer.

Why are anastomotic leaks important?

An AL means a longer hospital stay at the least but, at worst, more surgery, a permanent stoma, malnutrition, sepsis, multi-organ failure and death. Sepsis - life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by dysregulated response to infection - has a mortality rate of >10%; septic shock - in which profound circulatory, cellular, and metabolic abnormalities ensue - is associated with mortality rates of >40%. AL may also increase the risk of cancer recurrence and reduce cancer-specific survival. Economic studies demonstrate a significant financial burden to hospital trusts when AL occurs. It is in everyone's interest to keep AL rates as low as possible.

Why do anastomotic leaks occur? Surgeon factors

The exact causes and nature of ALs are uncertain. Bowel surgery, especially when undertaken for pathology within the pelvis, can be technically demanding. Various techniques are

used - open, minimally invasive laparoscopic ('keyhole') and robotic surgery - all with advantages and disadvantages. Regardless of approach, construction of a safe anastomosis is paramount – lack of accuracy is usually unforgiving. Surgeons need to be familiar with a range of anastomotic techniques, including hand-sewn stitching methods and those using stapling devices – and what to do when an anastomosis goes wrong: should he/she repair or re-do the join, or 'bail out' and form a colostomy which may never be reversed, or whose reversal is potentially formidable?

A healthy anastomosis needs a good blood supply (perfusion) to both ends of the bowel to be joined. Whilst this might partly depend upon a patient's general health, the surgeon must be satisfied that there is adequate arterial flow into the ends of the bowel at the time of surgery – if not, the join is likely to fail. Furthermore, surgical manoeuvres that a surgeon may use to ensure that the bowel reaches the pelvis for a 'tension-free' anastomosis, may critically compromise perfusion.

Patient factors

UK society is ageing - a 'frailty epidemic' means that many patients having surgery for CRC are compromised by cardiac or respiratory disease, potentially affecting outcome: there is a linear relationship between increasing frailty and worse outcomes after surgical admission. A less active, over-indulgent population has generated an 'obesity epidemic,' influencing surgical decision-making and operative ease: expectations for a favourable outcome need adjustment for many individuals, especially when difficult bowel surgery is being planned.

How should ALs be treated?

Diagnosis of anastomotic complications can be challenging – vigilance, recognition of illness and a high index

of suspicion are required. Symptoms and signs may be insidious, subtle and difficult to discriminate from other problems, such as pneumonia or heart failure. But early diagnosis of AL – including close monitoring of blood tests eg C-Reactive Protein (CRP), and timely radiological scanning - is more likely to permit successful treatment, including operative intervention and salvage of a leaking anastomosis. Treatment of sepsis should start as early as possible. Delays in antibiotic administration show a linear increase in mortality - for every hour's delay, mortality may increase by around 8% in shocked patients. Annual National Emergency Laparotomy Audits (NELA) consistently highlight antibiotic delays (<https://www.nela.org.uk>).

Many emergency operations are time-sensitive: once a decision has been made for an unwell patient with AL to have surgery, this should proceed promptly, according to guidelines from the National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths (<https://ncepod.org.uk/classification.html>). For patients with peritonitis delay of a few hours can substantially increase the risk of death: each hour of delay is associated with >2% decrease in 90-day survival. NELA consistently shows that patients requiring emergency surgery may experience considerable delays, with only around two-thirds arriving in theatre within an appropriate time. Insufficient Critical Care (Intensive Care Unit or High Dependency Unit) capacity also means that only 80% of high-risk patients are admitted to this environment, potentially compromising recovery. In our currently overwhelmed NHS critical timelines may be very difficult to meet.

What are the medicolegal aspects of anastomotic leaks?

In my Expert Witness practice, unravelling cases of alleged clinical negligence where there has been a poor

surgical outcome – and determining whether care has fallen below an expected standard – must consider all confounding factors in this complex landscape. Whilst there may be identifiable individual inadequacies, patient factors and system failures must not be overlooked.

Surgical complications occur unexpectedly, even in the best hands: no surgeon intends to cause harm and most are adversely personally affected by a patient's suffering. The Bolam and Bolitho tests provide some 'protection' for clinicians who make reasonable decisions in accordance with accepted guidelines and opinion. Assigning 'blame' for surgical misadventure to an individual may be inappropriate. For

me, the significance of complications lies not in their occurrence per se, or because a surgeon lacks necessary skills – although technical competence may need questioning – but owing to responses to operative difficulty or clinical scenarios in sick patients, including:

- Failure to recognise or accept that a problem has occurred and to deal with it – reflective of lack of vigilance and responsibility, or lack of safe delegation, preferring to “bury one's head in the sand.”
- Failure to seek help or opinions from colleagues – reflective of surgical arrogance, blinkered practice and inability to work in a team.
- Failure of sound decision-making

– potentially resulting in an even worse clinical situation.

A combination of factors usually exists. A traditional surgical aphorism reads: “*Good surgeons know how to operate, better ones know when to operate and the best know when not to operate*”: rushing back into an abdomen following AL, for example, may make matters worse. On the other hand, missing a critical opportunity to re-operate may result in an unsalvageable situation. Superior technical expertise is undoubtedly an advantage in some situations, but poor clinical decision-making in the face of disaster may have catastrophic consequences.

Mr Richard Guy

MR RICHARD GUY

MBCChB MD FRCS FRCS(Gen)

COLORECTAL & GENERAL SURGEON

Mr Guy undertakes Expert Witness work, including the preparation of medicolegal reports in personal injury and clinical negligence cases and is trained to appear in court. Mr Guy can act on behalf of either claimant or defendant or as a Single Joint Expert.

HIS FIELD OF EXPERTISE INCLUDES:

- *Emergency abdominal surgery*
- *Abdominal sepsis*
- *Abdominal catastrophe*
- *Intestinal failure*
- *Colorectal cancer*
- *Inflammatory bowel disease*



Email: info@richardguyexpertwitness.co.uk

Website: www.richardguyexpertwitness.co.uk

Mr Guy is based in the North West and consults in Liverpool, but is prepared to travel nationwide.

Forthcoming Courses

****NEW****

MULTI DELEGATE DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS

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

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

DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
10/06/2026	Private Children Law: 2026 Update	Safda Mahmood
10/06/2026	Public Children Law: 2026 Update	Safda Mahmood
16/06/2026	Financial Orders: Law and Practice	Safda Mahmood
16/06/2026	Cohabitation: Law Practice	Safda Mahmood
17/06/2026	Civil Litigation Update	Andrew McLoughlin
17/06/2026	Personal Injury Update	Andrew McLoughlin
23/06/2026	Third Party Harassment: Rights, Liabilities and Future Developments	Rebecca Jones
24/06/2026	Magistrates Court Advocacy: From Opening to Closing	John Dove
30/06/2026	Communication and Collaboration in Clinical Negligence	Various
07/07/2026	Domestic Abuse: Key principles and Updates 2026	Safda Mahmood
14/07/2026	How to Respond to the New Residential Enquiries	Richard Snape
23/09/2026	Property 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/>

Private Children Law: 2026 Update

with Safda Mahmood

Online, 10th June 10:00am - 12:30pm



Join us for an essential training session designed to bridge the gap between theory and practice in private children law. This event will help you master key legislative and case law developments, understand crucial procedural steps, and stay ahead of the game in a fast-moving area of law. Gain confidence in applying case law and legislation effectively, avoid common pitfalls, and enhance both your efficiency and professional competence. Whether you're looking to refine your skills or strengthen your practical knowledge, this session will equip you with the tools to succeed.

[BOOK NOW](#)

Public Children Law: 2026 Update

with Safda Mahmood

Online, 10th June, 1:15am - 15:45pm



Join us for an in-depth session designed to help you put the theory of public children law into practice with confidence and precision. This course will guide you through key legislative and case law developments, essential procedural steps, and practical strategies to stay ahead in this complex area. You will learn how to apply case law and legislation effectively, avoid common mistakes, and enhance your efficiency in managing cases. By the end of the session, you'll feel more confident and equipped to handle challenges in public children law with clarity and competence.

[BOOK NOW](#)

Financial Orders: Law and Practice

with Safda Mahmood

Online, 16th June, 10.00am - 12.30pm



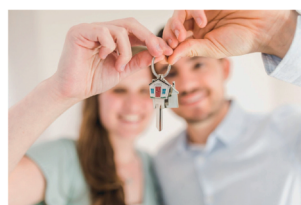
This course will consider the various factors surrounding financial orders and the developments in the case law and statutory provisions and will be of benefit to those delegates who seek to be aware of the current themes and developments surrounding this area of law. This course will support you in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

[BOOK NOW](#)

Cohabitation: Law Practice

with Safda Mahmood

Online, 16th June, 1:15pm - 3.45pm



The course will be of benefit to those delegates who seek to become more confident with how to run/defend a case through the courts involving trusts of land and Schedule 1 Children Act Matters.

The course will be of benefit to those delegates who seek to become more confident with how to run/defend a case through the courts involving trusts of land and Schedule 1 Children Act Matters.

This course offers assistance in understanding the manner in which cohabitation issues are raised in family matters, helping you become more confident with key legislative and case law developments. It aims to increase confidence with the relevant practice and procedure, particularly under TOLATA 1996, and to equip you to deal with anticipated difficulties. You will gain an understanding of the various steps that can be taken to assist cohabiting parties, and overall the course will help you improve your confidence and efficiency.

[BOOK NOW](#)

Civil Litigation Update 2026

with Andrew McLoughlin

Online, 17th June, 9:30am - 12:30pm

Join us for a comprehensive update on the fast-moving landscape of procedure and practice following the introduction of FRC.

This course will explore key developments including conducting or assisting in litigation post-Mazur and the procedural and costs challenges arising from it; relief from sanctions and whether the position has improved a decade on; the latest Part 36 developments; case law and procedural changes from the last 12 months; and an essential update on costs, budgeting, and assessments.

[BOOK NOW](#)

Personal Injury Update 2026

with Andrew McLoughlin

Online, 17th June, 1:30pm - 4:30pm

As a busy Personal Injury Practitioner, it is essential to be up to speed on the latest changes in Personal Injury Law. Nothing ever stays the same!

Expert Personal Injury and Litigation trainer, Andrew McLoughlin, is delivering a session that will look at practical solutions for practitioners, do the best for your client, and provide you with an innovative approach to Personal Injury Litigation.

Join us for a session providing every practitioner with updated knowledge in the field of personal injury law and practice. Topics covered include:

- Fundamental Dishonesty – review of the last 12 months' cases
- Road Traffic Accident claims – a case review
- Part 36 – its impact on personal injury in the last 12 months
- Occupiers Liability – an update
- Employers Liability – some recent cases

[BOOK NOW](#)

Third Party Harassment: Rights, Liabilities and Future Developments

With Rebecca Jones

In Person, 23rd June, 12.30pm - 2.00pm

Join us in person for a focused lunch-and-learn session on Third Party Harassment: Rights, Liabilities and Future Developments, led by Rebecca Jones of 23 Essex Street.

This seminar will provide a clear and comprehensive overview of third-party harassment in the workplace, drawing on key legislation, recent case law and upcoming changes under the Employment Rights Act 2025. It's an ideal opportunity to deepen your understanding of employer obligations, evolving legal standards and practical steps for managing risk.

[BOOK NOW](#)

Magistrates Court Advocacy: From Opening to Closing

With John Dove

In Person, 24th June, 4.30pm - 6.00pm

This 90 minute interactive advocacy training session is designed to develop practical skills for conducting cases in the Magistrates' Court. Ahead of the session, delegates will receive a mock case scenario based on a straightforward summary-only offence. The materials will include prosecution witness statements and the Defendant's proof of evidence, allowing attendees to prepare in advance and engage fully during the session.

The session will cover the core stages of advocacy, including:

- Opening speeches – how to structure and present your case clearly and persuasively
- Witness handling – effective Examination-in-Chief and Cross-Examination
- Closing speeches – drawing together the evidence and submissions

The training will be highly interactive, with delegates encouraged to contribute at each stage. For example, during the witness handling section, attendees will be invited to suggest potential lines of questioning, key themes to explore in cross-examination, and tactical considerations in dealing with different witnesses.

This session is ideal for practitioners looking to build confidence, refine technique, and gain insight into criminal advocacy in the Magistrates' Court.

[BOOK NOW](#)

Communication and Collaboration in Clinical Negligence

In Person, 30th June, 1:30pm - 4:30pm

Effective communication and collaboration play a vital role in resolving disputes and promoting constructive dialogue in Clinical Negligence cases. The Liverpool Law Society is delighted to host a panel event bringing together Claimant and Defendant representatives to discuss how improved cooperation and open engagement can drive more efficient case resolutions and better outcomes for all involved. This thought provoking session will provide balanced insight into the claims process, highlighting key challenges faced throughout litigation from both perspectives.

The panel will be hosted by Nina Sahu, Deputy Vice President of Liverpool Law Society and Legal Director at Hill Dickinson. Panellists include Joanne Hughes (Defendant Solicitor, Hill Dickinson), Kris Inskipp (Claimant Solicitor, Irwin Mitchell), and HHJ Wood.

[BOOK NOW](#)

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.

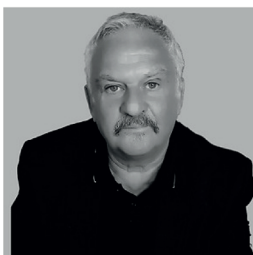
Join us for a focused and practical course designed to deepen your understanding of the law, practice, and procedure in personal protection cases. This session will help you stay up to date with the latest case law and statutory developments, anticipate potential challenges in handling domestic abuse 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 enquires 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.

[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](#)

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.

Fletchers Group 14,258 followers
1w • Edited •

A proper pub quiz for a proper good cause. 🍷

Last Thursday, we hosted our Proper Pub Quiz at the White Lion in ...more

22

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Gregory Abrams Davidson Solicitors 866 followers
1mo •

A few more pictures from our round table event with leaders from Liverpool's hospitality sector. ...more

27

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HMS Legal | B Corp™ reposted this

The teddesk 350 followers
3d •

Last week some of The teddesk and Crime Prevention Services team had a fantastic day attending the Davies Partnership Annual Charity Golf Day at Bromborough Golf Club. 🌳🏌️‍♂️ ...more

32

3 comments · 1 repost

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In-House Legal Solutions reposted this

Brian Noon Director and Co-Founder, In-House Legal Solutions Limited
3rd •
1mo •

What a way to throw a party! 🎉

Thanks to all our guests who attended our celebration yesterday to mark ...more

56

6 comments · 1 repost

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Irwin Mitchell 37,444 followers
3w •

We're proud to be recognised for our legal excellence and innovation in four categories at this week's Modern Law Awards. ...more

Celebrating four wins at the Modern Law Awards · 7 pages

Celebrating four wins at the *Modern Law Awards*

Read how we're striving for excellence across the business →

61

2 comments · 7 reposts

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Mann Roberts Solicitors 4,171 followers
Learn more
3w •

A great few days last week enjoying some sun and golf in Spain 🌞🏌️‍♂️

Great preparation for our charity golf day in June! #forwhenitmatters ...more

36

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MannBenham Advocates reposted this

STEP Isle of Man 974 followers
3d • Edited •

We hosted our first STEP Isle of Man Next Gen focused educational event on Wednesday and thank you to all those who attended. It was great to see so many new faces engaging with STEP. ...more

10

3 reposts

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Leigh Day 27,302 followers
1w •

Today at Leigh Day we had our #HatsForHeadway! Headway - the brain injury association is an incredible charity supporting people affected by brain injury, and we are proud to support the vital work they do. If you would like to support ...more

35

6 reposts

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



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