

August 2026

Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

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

Liverpool Pride 2026

Marching, Celebrating and Supporting
over the Pride weekend!



See page 17

- 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

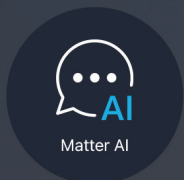


Thomas Ryan statement



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The Law
Society

August 2026

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DEADLINES

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

Word Count Guidelines: Notes for Contributors

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

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

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

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

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

* Spanning a single column

** Spanning two columns

*** Spanning three columns



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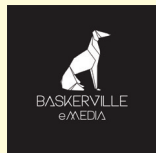
Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

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

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

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

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Editorial Committee Dates 2026

Meetings start at 01.00 pm.
except where noted.

Tuesday 15th September
Tuesday 20th October
Tuesday 17th November

Welcome to the August edition of Liverpool Law



I hope you're all having a relaxing summer whilst reading this or have some nice plans in place.

One of the highlights this month is Liverpool Pride 2026, with members once again coming together to celebrate diversity, inclusion and equality. It was fantastic to see so many firms proudly supporting Pride across the city, demonstrating that our profession continues to champion workplaces where everyone feels respected, valued and able to be themselves. Thank you to my colleague **Josh Suffield** for the article and great front page this month.

This month also marks the end of an era for Liverpool Law Society as we say farewell to **Ann Murphy** and **Liz Weeks**. Between them, they have dedicated many years of service to the Society, playing pivotal roles in its success and supporting countless members along the way. **Ann's** work as our Administrator and **Liz's** leadership as Deputy CEO have made a lasting impact, often behind the scenes but always at the heart of the Society. On behalf of everyone at Liverpool Law Society, I would like to thank them both for their unwavering commitment, professionalism and friendship. We wish them every happiness and success in the future—they will both be greatly missed.

Many thanks

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

Welcome to new members

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new members who were approved for membership at July's General Committee meeting. There were 15 individuals from the following organisations:

• Bond Turner	• Lilac Law Limited
• Clyde & Co	• Liverpool Civil Law
• Fletchers Group	• LRG Group
• Hill Dickinson	• Paul Crowley & Co
• Jackson Lees Group	• Phoenix Legal

Liverpool Law Society's membership now exceeds 2,420 individuals from 173 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

The Value of International Collaboration in the Legal Profession

The legal profession has always learned and evolved through the exchange of ideas. While laws and legal systems may differ across jurisdictions, the challenges facing lawyers today are increasingly shared. From technological innovation and artificial intelligence to professional ethics, access to justice and regulatory reform, there is much to be gained from engaging with colleagues around the world.

Recently, Liverpool Law Society had the pleasure of welcoming **Dr Carlos Ensínck** of Argentina, a member of the country's National Council of the Judiciary. His visit provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing the legal profession in different jurisdictions and to explore how legal institutions can continue to adapt in a rapidly changing environment.

Such international dialogue offers significant benefits. It allows us to learn from approaches that have been developed elsewhere, to challenge our own assumptions and to identify best practice that may be adapted to meet local needs. Equally, it provides an opportunity to showcase the strengths of our own profession and the important role that organisations such as Liverpool Law Society play in supporting solicitors, promoting high professional standards and serving the wider community.

International cooperation also reinforces the values that unite lawyers across borders. Regardless of the specific legal framework within which we operate, we share a commitment to the rule of law, professional integrity, independence and public service. Building relationships with legal professionals from other jurisdictions strengthens these common foundations and encourages greater understanding between legal communities.

In an increasingly interconnected world, the ability to exchange knowledge and experience across borders is more important than ever. These conversations broaden



perspectives, foster innovation and help ensure that the legal profession remains responsive to the needs of society. Liverpool Law Society has a proud history of building professional connections beyond our own jurisdiction, and I hope we will continue to develop relationships that enable us to learn from others while contributing our own expertise. Such collaboration ultimately benefits not only our members, but also the clients and communities we serve.

Sarah Mansfield

President

president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

LLS Meetings & events – August 2026

Start Time	Meeting/Event
25/08/2026 13:00	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
03/09/2026 13:00	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee
04/09/2026 12:00	Legal Award nominations close at noon
08/09/2026 12:00	General Committee
10/09/2026 13:00	In-House Lawyers Sub-Committee
10/09/2026 16:00	Family Business Sub-Committee

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

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

Consultation Papers referred by the General Committee:

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

Committee	Consultation Paper title	Closing date
Criminal Practice	Using violence to secure entry	14/08/26
Family Business	A fairer end to relationships	14/08/26
Non-Contentious Business	VAT treatment of land for social housing	18/08/26
Employment	Make Work Pay: ending one-sided flexibility – reforms of zero hours and similar contracts	25/08/26
Employment	Make Work Pay: employment rights for unpaid carers and parents of seriously ill children	01/09/26
Civil Litigation	Changes to Scheme Rules, case fees, and the publication of ombudsman decision	02/09/26
Criminal Practice	Imposition of community and custodial guideline - Consultation	02/09/26
Non-Contentious Business	Law Commission consultation on commercial leasehold: overcoming barriers to transactions	16/09/26
Employment	Make Work Pay: holiday pay compliance and enforcement	22/09/26

The Regulatory Committee submitted their response to the SRA's [Strengthening our continuing competence approach](#) consultation paper on 15th July.

Leaders in Law: **Barrie Marsh**



Barrie Marsh

Barrie Marsh, who served as President of the Liverpool Law Society (LLS) from 1977 to 1978, has been made a lifetime member of the Society. Born in Rochdale, he relocated to Leicester at the age of twelve when his father, a local authority worker, received a job promotion. Barrie attended Loughborough Grammar School and was just seventeen when he went up to Liverpool University to study Law, graduating in 1955. His career path was heavily influenced by his grandfather, Mr A. E. Baucher—known locally as AEB—who rose from a humble background to become a highly respected senior Barrister on the Liverpool Circuit. Although AEB might have become a High Court Judge had his wife's illness not prevented it, he instead served as Deputy Stipendiary Magistrate in Liverpool and also judge of the Liverpool Court of Passage (an old established court dealing with civil cases in the Liverpool area; it is no longer in existence).

During his final year of university, Barrie participated in a hybrid scheme that allowed him to begin his articles whilst completing his degree, spending half his time at university and the other half in the office. Guided by his grandfather, he was articled at the local firm Mace and Jones, which is now part of Weightmans. Although he initially considered following his grandfather to the Bar,

he chose to become a solicitor after it was made clear that a trainee barrister's income would remain exceptionally low for the first three to five years.

Initially focusing on general, non-contentious work, Barrie's career was temporarily paused in 1957 when he was called up for National Service, which had been deferred until he qualified as a solicitor. Due to his legal background, he spent his two years of compulsory service involved in court martial duties with the Royal Army Service Corps. Upon returning to civilian life, a position opened up at Mace and Jones. The slot had originally been reserved for the son of one of the partners, but the young man decided to take holy orders and enter the Church whilst studying Law at Oxford. Barrie successfully secured the vacancy, largely due to having achieved exceptionally high marks in his Law Society qualifying examinations.

For a number of years, Barrie continued with non-contentious practice such as wills, conveyancing, and probate. However, around 1972, as Britain prepared to join the European Common Market, one of the partners, **Brian Fraser Harrison**, began looking for new opportunities, anticipating that conveyancing would eventually decline as a primary income stream. Although **Fraser Harrison's** initial interest in European law came to nothing, rumours were circulating about upcoming changes to employment legislation aimed at protecting workers against unfair dismissal and discrimination. Recognising a major growth area, **Fraser Harrison** partnered with a local personnel officer to establish educational seminars, which were a novel concept at the time. They designed a programme featuring a top trade union leader, and a lawyer to explain the impending legislation to business leaders. To Barrie's surprise and initial horror **Fraser Harrison** selected him to deliver the legal presentations.

This role launched Barrie's reputation as an expert in the field. After a successful presentation, the American head of the UK headquarters of Cabot Carbon in Ellesmere Port invited him to a meeting and instructed him to deal with their "labour law" issues. Other businesses followed and Barrie's practice grew rapidly from there. Encouraged again by Fraser Harrison to compile his extensive lecture notes into a book, Barrie published *Employer and Employee: A Complete and Practical Guide to the Modern Law of Employment* in 1977, with a third edition following in 1990. The publication triggered an influx of work, leading the firm to hire more staff and establish Mace and Jones as one of the top employment law firms in the North West and among the top ten in the country. Barrie also began operating frequently as an advocate before tribunals, often receiving instructions from external firms of solicitors. Amongst his many memorable moments include arriving at an Industrial Tribunal and enquiring as to who was appearing against him being told that it was a QC, namely **Cherie Booth** (Blair) and on another case it was **Alexander Irvine** (subsequently Lord Irvine) QC.

Mace and Jones maintained close ties with the LLS, and both senior partners served as past presidents. Barrie became involved early in his career through a new movement focused on young solicitors. Passionate about providing educational opportunities, he organised weekend conferences, including a major annual event at Oxford or Cambridge University that attracted high-profile speakers. In 1975, he became Chairman of the National Young Solicitors Group, a role that allowed him to travel to the United States, France, Italy, and Belgium as a guest of international young lawyers' associations. Two years later, at the age of forty-two, he became the youngest President in the history of the LLS at that time.
Continues over page...

Leaders in Law continued...

His expertise also caught the attention of Lord Denning, the Master of the Rolls, who invited Barrie to become one of the founding solicitor members of The Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal (the regulatory body that eventually became the Solicitors Regulation Authority). Five years later, Barrie was appointed Chairman of the Tribunal, which has the power to strike off solicitors when appropriate. His partners at Mace and Jones generously supported this unpaid work, despite the significant time it kept him away from the office.

Alongside his professional achievements, Barrie committed himself to local community projects. He served as

Chairman of Radio City, a Trustee of the Liverpool Museum and the Walker Art Gallery, Chairman of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, a Non-Executive Director of the Liverpool Health Authority, and Chairman of the Liverpool Publicity Association. As he approached the end of his career, he also acted as a consultant and Chairman for the Medical Appeals Tribunal.

Reflecting on his long association with the LLS, Barrie views the transition to the internet as the greatest change he has witnessed. He fondly remembers studying in the Liverpool Law Library on Cook Street, which housed a

magnificent collection of books and a committee room. The LLS began to hold further education courses and seminars. In the modern digital age, the demand for these are somewhat diminished.

Barrie has been retired since 2003. Outside of the law, he is a passionate hill walker and birdwatcher. Alongside his wife, he has successfully climbed all 282 Scottish Munros—mountains standing at over 3,000 feet—which is a remarkable achievement. Barrie and his wife celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary earlier this year. We wish them a continued and very happy retirement.

Spotlight on: Dan Leith



Dan Leith

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

I deal with all aspects of Residential Conveyancing and Commercial Conveyancing as Senior Lawyer in the Liverpool office at Dutton Gregory.

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

Positive - I love helping clients, whether that be a multi-million pound deal or advising Mrs Jones about her right to buy property.

Negative - Low fees and everyone wanting to knock fees down. You want to feel valued for the work you do.

3. What do you see as your biggest challenge?

AI is beginning to be a challenge as clients are trying to use it to be savvier and ask questions which may not be relevant. This makes the job harder and more time-consuming.

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

Growing the Liverpool Team from a standing start and seeing each year become more successful than the previous one.

5. What are your immediate short-term goals?

Continue growing the team and making the Liverpool office a greater success and bigger asset to the firm.

6. Where do you see yourself ten years from now?

I would have thought that in 10 years' time if I keep doing what I'm doing I will have made partner here at Dutton Gregory. Hopefully!

7. How would you like to be remembered as a Property Lawyer?

As a good, reliable, trusted lawyer who helped to build an enduring legal culture in Liverpool.

Dan Leith is a Residential Property Executive at Dutton Gregory

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Bell Lamb & Joynson Celebrates Record Financial Year with Two New Partner Appointments



Ashleigh Wong and Michaela Hayes

Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors has announced the promotion of Ashleigh Wong and Michaela Hayes to Partner following a record financial year that saw turnover increase by 25% to £6.5 million – the highest in the firm’s 205-year history.

The appointments, effective from 1 July 2026, recognise the significant contribution both solicitors have made to the firm’s continued growth and further strengthen its leadership team. Women now make up 67% of the firm’s Partnership, reflecting Bell Lamb & Joynson’s long-standing commitment to recognising, developing and promoting talented lawyers.

Ashleigh Wong joined Bell Lamb & Joynson in 2025 to establish and lead the firm’s Contentious Probate & Disputes department. Recognised as a Key Lawyer in The Legal 500 and an accredited Lifetime Lawyer, she has built a specialist team advising clients on contested wills, inheritance and trust disputes.

Michaela Hayes joined the firm in 2021 as a Residential Conveyancing Solicitor and has become an integral part of the Residential Conveyancing department. Alongside her promotion to Partner, Michaela has also been appointed Joint Head of Residential Conveyancing, reflecting her outstanding client care, technical expertise and commitment to mentoring colleagues.

The partner promotions form part of a wider period of investment across the firm. The Family Department has welcomed **Hannah Beardmoore** as a Solicitor and **Aaron Williams** as an Associate Solicitor, supporting the continued expansion of the firm’s private family offering. Their appointments bring the Family team to 14 members, further strengthening the firm’s ability to support clients across all areas of family law. Within Residential Conveyancing, **Amy Rouse** has been appointed Head of the newly established Panel Residential Property Team, supporting the continued growth of one of the firm’s busiest departments.

The firm’s continued growth has also seen it return to Liverpool city centre for the first time in 15 years with the opening of a new office, expanding its presence to six offices across the North West and strengthening its ability to support clients across the region.

The firm has also recognised the exceptional contribution of **Ruth Scarsbrick**, who has stepped down from the Partnership after 41 years with Bell Lamb & Joynson. **Ruth** will continue supporting clients and colleagues as a Consultant, ensuring the firm retains the benefit of her extensive knowledge and experience.

The appointments conclude another landmark year for Bell Lamb & Joynson, reflecting continued investment in its people, specialist legal services and long-term growth. With record financial results, a strengthened leadership team, continued investment in specialist departments and an expanded regional presence, the firm is well positioned to build on another successful year.

Pathways into the Law: Tija Fitzgerald



Tija Fitzgerald

Tija Fitzgerald, a paralegal in the Commercial Litigation team at Brabners, has been elected to serve as the National Representative for the Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division (MJLD) for 2025–26.

Born and raised in Southport, where she still resides, Tija attended Greenbank High School. During her time there, she was a house sports leader and represented the school in both hockey and netball. After completing her GCSEs, she moved to King George V Sixth Form College to study A-levels in Sociology, History, and English Language. She found her History teacher, **Paul Finnigan**, particularly inspiring, which motivated her to pursue the subject at degree level. Tija subsequently won a place at the University of Leeds, where she completed a History degree blending medieval and modern history. Her favourite module was Colonial and Imperial History, where she focused extensively on African studies and the impact of colonialism, writing her dissertation on pre-colonial Uganda, then known as the Kingdom of Buganda.

Tija's first insight into the legal profession came through a placement at Preston Crown Court as a Judge's Marshal. Set up by **Judge Robert Altham**, this opportunity allowed her to shadow the judge, observe court proceedings, and return to chambers to discuss the cases. This invaluable experience inspired her to pursue a career in law. Upon graduating, she secured a role as a paralegal back in Southport with Peterson Solicitors, where she worked in family law on private practice cases covering divorce, child arrangements, and non-molestation orders.

After five years with Petersons, Tija wanted to progress her career and qualify as a solicitor. She successfully secured a position at Brabners, initially joining their Commercial Litigation team as a paralegal. Since joining the firm, she has enrolled on the Postgraduate Diploma in Law (PGDL) at BPP Law School and is currently studying for her Master's degree part-time while continuing to work full-time. Her goal is to qualify as a solicitor once she completes her postgraduate studies and to continue her professional growth with Brabners.

Tija joined the MJLD last year. In her role as National Representative, she attends meetings every ten weeks with other Junior Lawyers Division representatives from across the country. These meetings focus on national initiatives, networking events, and opportunities to help junior lawyers build their CVs. While JLD priorities vary nationwide, the MJLD concentrates on well-being,

networking, and social events. Tija finds these national meetings useful for sharing ideas, such as adapting Manchester's successful Junior Lawyers running club for her local division. Her ambition for the year ahead is to drive initiatives in line with the national body while keeping Merseyside a vibrant and active division.

Alongside her demanding work and study schedule, Tija volunteers as an ambassador for the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS), a charity supporting children in care, foster care, or adoptive placements under local authority supervision. Because many of these children have experienced significant instability and dealt with a rotating cast of professionals, NYAS provides independent visitors to offer consistent, non-institutional support. Tija is paired with a child whom she meets monthly. These informal get-togethers—whether going to the cinema, going for an ice cream, or talking about anything the child wants—are designed to ensure the child has a trusted friend entirely independent of social services and other formal agencies.

Outside of her professional and volunteer commitments, Tija relaxes by going to the gym, practising yoga, and taking long walks.

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We wish Tija, who is clearly a vibrant and driven young lawyer, every success in her future career.

Legal firm recovers £3.3 million of lost Bitcoin, making client overnight millionaire

A British man has become an overnight multi-millionaire after cryptocurrency he 'lost' for more than a decade was recovered - with scores of UK investors also set to finally cash-in.

Legal firm [CEL Solicitors](#) revealed it has successfully reclaimed Bitcoin worth more than £3million for the man, who wants to remain anonymous, a landmark achievement in cryptocurrency asset recovery.

Chris (not his real name) originally purchased his first Bitcoin in December 2011, when a single coin was valued at just £2.94. The transaction was made via the UK's first Bitcoin exchange, Bitcoin, which was then renamed Intersango.

He lost access to his crypto wallet when Intersango went bust. But he's finally had the total amount returned to him at its current market rate.

He said: "The worst thing was seeing Bitcoin grow and knowing what I could have done with the money. I haven't had much work in the last few years, my son got married, my father-in-law passed away so my wife had to quit work to look after her mum.

"Both of my parents are in their 80s and have health issues. My children have been through university, my son has bought a house that ended up needing a lot more work than he realised.

"When I lost access to the wallet it was a big shock and quite devastating, because we weren't in a great financial position. I had a young family, a new home and it was money I couldn't afford to lose. My wallet had grown from my initial £1,500 investment to about £4,000.

"For a long time I didn't tell my family. When it was growing I'd suggested to friends and family that they should buy

Bitcoin, too. So friends knew I had it and they'd bring it up over the years - how big it had got - but I didn't want to talk about it."

Chris' Bitcoin wallet is now worth £3,331,618.45, which means he became a multi-millionaire overnight when [CEL Solicitors](#) returned it back to him.

He added: "I'm not used to that sort of money. We've never struggled but we've never been able to live the life that we want to live. We're still down to earth and I wouldn't go crazy, but we do need to upgrade to a bigger house so that we are able to better accommodate my mother-in-law and her disabilities.

"I can help my son pay off some of his loans on his new house. I want to keep some Bitcoin to see if the value rises again but if I do it does make me nervous in case it goes down and although some investments are more regulated now, crypto isn't.

"There are still a lot of scammers around. You can be hacked and all the money's gone. It's not like moving money between a normal bank account."

Ryan Sweetnam, Director of Financial Litigation at [CEL Solicitors](#), said: "When it comes to recovering crypto assets, the path to repatriation is never straightforward.

"In the case of Intersango, gathering vital documents and the verification of legitimate claims was challenging after so many years.

"A significant hurdle in this case was obtaining bank records from almost 15 years ago to evidence proof of purchase, but it is possible."

When it launched in July 2011, Bitcoin quickly attracted thousands of users

and became the second-largest Bitcoin exchange in the world.

However, access to early investments was reduced in late 2012, when sterling and the US dollar trading stopped.

By early 2014, the website went down and users received no response when they tried to withdraw their funds.

During this time, a single Bitcoin was valued at hundreds of pounds, a significant increase from when it was originally purchased, but still far below its peak of around £94,000 in October 2025.

Intersango Ltd was dissolved in March 2016 and the Bitcoin was never returned, leaving thousands of users without a clear path to their cryptocurrency for more than a decade.

Using specialist crypto-tracing software through its sister company, [The Crypto Tracing Experts](#), the Liverpool-based law firm has identified a wallet containing more than 5,500 Bitcoin, believed to belong to Intersango users.

Mr Sweetnam said: "Hundreds of millions of pounds is still sitting in a wallet capable of being returned.

"We urge anyone who lost Bitcoin because of the closing of Bitcoin or Intersango to get in touch. Recovery is possible and, as in the case of this client, it could be life changing."

The settlement follows a 10-year legal battle between Intersango's co-founders over the handling of its users' Bitcoin.

Intersango LLC, through its representatives, have now acknowledged in court proceedings that they continue to hold Bitcoin belonging to the platform's original users.

Leigh Day expands Liverpool presence with new personal injury solicitor

Law firm Leigh Day has expanded its presence in Liverpool with the addition of personal injury lawyer Dave Eyres, who joins the firm as a senior associate solicitor.

Dave joins Leigh Day after several years as a solicitor at Fletchers Group, and specialises in representing people who have sustained life-changing injuries.

This includes people who have suffered brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, paraplegia, and limb loss. He has worked with numerous clients to achieve high-value settlements.

Dave works closely with rehabilitation teams, specialist barristers and support groups to ensure clients have access to the care, equipment and resources they need.

Dave joins a growing personal injury team in Liverpool, with Leigh Day having welcomed personal injury lawyer Ged Horton as a partner in its Liverpool office in September 2025.

The firm's personal injury team in Merseyside also extends to specialist asbestos lawyers, with Leigh Day partners Kevin Johnson and Joanne Candlish both based in the firm's Liverpool office.

Prior to qualifying as a lawyer, Dave worked in sports journalism as a television producer for the BBC and Sky.

Dave Eyres said:

"I'm delighted to be joining Leigh Day, as the firm grows and strengthens its personal injury presence in Liverpool and the North West. The firm has a great reputation in the legal world, and I look forward to getting to work here supporting and representing people who have suffered serious and often life-changing injuries."

PROFESSOR ELIZABETH J. SOILLEUX

MA, MB, BChir, PhD, FRCPath
CONSULTANT PATHOLOGIST

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- Professional Conduct (GMC work undertaken)



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Michelle Beat



Peter Haden



Fletchers Solicitors has today unveiled a refreshed brand, reflecting the firm's significant evolution over recent years following a period of sustained growth, national expansion and investment in specialist legal expertise.

The refresh marks the next chapter in the firm's history, with a brand that better reflects the scale, expertise and ambition of the business it has become while remaining true to the founding principles that have shaped Fletchers Solicitors for almost 40 years.

Founded by **Rob Fletcher** in 1987, the firm was built on a simple belief - that people whose lives have been changed by serious injury deserved exceptional legal representation and someone to stand alongside them through the challenges ahead. That belief became

deeply personal when **Rob's** nephew, **Ed Fletcher**, sustained a life-changing spinal injury following a motorcycle accident. His experience reinforced the firm's commitment to helping people rebuild their lives - a commitment that continues to shape Fletchers Solicitors today.

Today, Fletchers Solicitors employs more than 1,400 colleagues, including more than 1,000 legal colleagues, supports more than 22,000 clients across England and Wales and is home to one of the UK's largest clinical negligence and serious personal injury teams.

Over recent years, the business has more than trebled in size, expanded its national footprint and strengthened its specialist expertise through continued organic growth and the integration of specialist legal teams, including the clinical

negligence practice from Freeths and the serious injury team from Shoosmiths.

Fletchers Solicitors undertook a six-month insight programme designed to ensure the brand reflected the business the firm has become and the experience it wants to create for clients, colleagues and partners. The programme included stakeholder interviews, customer journey mapping, analysis of thousands of client enquiries, digital performance and competitor benchmarking, ensuring every aspect of the refresh was grounded in evidence and insight.

As part of the refresh, the Serious Injury Law brand has been retired, with all of the firm's specialist serious injury services now operating under the Fletchers Solicitors brand. While the specialist teams, expertise and client support remain unchanged, bringing the firm's serious injury and clinical negligence expertise together under one brand provides greater clarity for clients, referrers and partners and further strengthens its position as one of the UK's leading specialist serious injury and clinical negligence law firms.

The refresh also reinforces Fletchers Solicitors' broader approach to supporting clients. Alongside exceptional legal expertise, the firm invests in rehabilitation, wellbeing and practical support, recognising that rebuilding lives often extends beyond achieving the best possible legal outcome.

At the heart of the refreshed brand is the idea, 'For the moments that matter', recognising that exceptional legal expertise is about far more than securing a financial outcome. It reflects the firm's commitment to helping clients reach the moments that matter most after serious injury or clinical negligence - whether that's receiving answers, returning home, regaining independence, returning to the things they love or simply looking ahead with confidence.

Peter Haden, Chief Executive Officer of Fletchers Solicitors, said:

"Fletchers Solicitors has evolved significantly over recent years. We've expanded our specialist expertise, welcomed exceptional new colleagues and strengthened our position as one of the UK's leading serious injury and clinical negligence law firms."

"As the business has grown, we're determined to keep making Fletchers better while staying true to the principles that shaped the firm nearly 40 years ago - putting people first, standing alongside our clients and making a genuine difference during some of the most difficult moments of their lives."

"Looking ahead, we wanted our brand to better represent who we are today - a firm with exceptional specialist expertise, ambitious for the future and proud of the culture and purpose that have defined us since the very beginning."

Michelle Beat, Director of Marketing, Business Development & Communications at Fletchers Solicitors, added:

"People have always known Fletchers Solicitors for its culture, compassion and the way it supports clients. What wasn't always as visible was the scale of the business and the breadth of specialist expertise and services we now provide."

"The refresh brings those strengths together. It combines the humanity that has always been at the heart of Fletchers Solicitors with the authority of one of the UK's leading specialist serious injury and clinical negligence law firms."

"For the moments that matter' captures that perfectly because it's rooted in real experiences. It reflects the difference Fletchers Solicitors makes every day - helping people reach the moments that matter most through exceptional legal expertise, genuine care and support."

The refreshed brand will be introduced across the firm's digital channels, communications and offices throughout July as part of a phased rollout.

MR RICHARD GUY

MBChB 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.

Bethany Strickland's Outstanding First Year in Criminal Defence at Paul Crowley and Co



A moment of celebration for Bethany Strickland after an exceptional first year.

Paul Crowley and Co Solicitors, recently recognised as a Sunday Times Best Place to Work, are pleased to highlight the impressive progress of Bethany Strickland. Her achievements over the past twelve months have strengthened the firm's Criminal Defence Department and demonstrated the value of investing in emerging talent within the legal profession.

Bethany joined Paul Crowley and Co in August last year, arriving with a background in civil law but a longstanding interest in criminal defence. The transition was a significant step, yet from her first day she showed determination, focus and a clear commitment to expanding her expertise. Her colleagues quickly recognised her ability to absorb complex information, adapt to demanding situations and maintain a calm and measured approach when supporting clients.

Over the past year, Bethany's progress has been remarkable. Within twelve months she successfully completed her police

station accreditation, a demanding qualification that requires resilience, precision and a thorough understanding of criminal procedure. This achievement alone reflects her dedication to mastering the foundations of criminal defence work. She has now gone on to secure her full Duty Solicitor qualification, enabling her to represent clients at every stage of the criminal justice process. Her rapid progression reflects her skill, dedication and determination to deliver the highest standard of representation.

Her colleagues describe her as a trusted and influential member of the team, thoughtful and driven, with an instinctive ability to balance empathy with professional precision. This combination of skill and character has strengthened the Criminal Defence Department and enhanced the support offered to clients during some of the most challenging moments of their lives. Bethany approaches each case with care, clarity and a strong sense of responsibility, ensuring that clients feel informed and supported throughout the process.

"Bethany has shown exceptional commitment and professionalism throughout her first year with us. Her rapid development and her dedication to clients reflect the values we uphold within the Criminal Defence Department. She is a credit to the team and we are proud of everything she has achieved."

- **Emma Smith**, Director and Head of Crime

This past year marks the beginning of what promises to be a distinguished career in criminal defence. Paul Crowley and Co are delighted to celebrate her development and look forward to supporting her continued success as she takes on new challenges and responsibilities within the department.

Well done, Bethany. This is an outstanding and well deserved accomplishment that showcases both personal dedication and the strength of the firm's commitment to excellence.

As Paul Crowley and Co continues to expand across several departments, the firm is actively recruiting talented legal professionals who share the same drive, focus and dedication to excellence. Bethany's remarkable progress reflects the supportive culture within the firm, where talent is encouraged and given the opportunity to thrive. The recognition as a Sunday Times Best Place to Work highlights this commitment and reinforces the value placed on professional development. Her achievements show what is possible within a team that invests in its people and provides the environment for those ready to build a rewarding and meaningful career in the legal profession.

Leslie Priestley
Head of Marketing
Paul Crowley & Co

Weightmans is Proud!



Another year, another Pride season celebrated in and around the Liverpool City Region by Weightmans LLP. Colleagues had a ball taking part in a number of exciting LGBTQ+ events to celebrate in Pride 2026.

Celebrations commenced on 4 June 2026 when colleagues from around the firm joined forces to compete in the annual cross-office Pride quiz and raise money for MindOut, a charity which provides a mental health service run by and for LGBTQ+ people. A total of £492 was raised across all offices.

Saturday 25 July 2026 saw the return of Liverpool's new iteration of Pride weekend: Liverpool's Pride, hosted by Sahir House, Liverpool City Region's LGBTQ+ and HIV charity, for the second year running. As per Weightmans' Liverpool office's tradition for over six years, colleagues at the firm, along with their friends and families met up for a pre-Pride celebratory brunch. The day continued into Weightmans taking place in the annual tradition of March with Pride which saw attendance from many other Liverpool-based law firms amongst the thousands of attendees.

Pride celebrations matter to Weightmans LLP because they are both a celebration of progress and a reminder that equality cannot be taken for granted. At a time when diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives are being scaled back in some organisations and communities, Pride provides a visible affirmation that LGBTQ+ people belong, deserve respect, and have the right to live authentically. Visibility helps challenge prejudice, builds understanding, and reminds us that inclusion benefits everyone.

Pride also honours the generations of activists who fought for rights and recognition while inspiring continued advocacy for those who still face discrimination. As social and political landscapes evolve, Pride remains an important opportunity



to stand in solidarity, amplify underrepresented voices, and reaffirm a commitment to creating workplaces and communities where everyone feels safe, valued and empowered to be themselves.

Josh Suffield
Paralegal
Weightmans LLP





Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

Liverpool Law Society's 2026
Annual Dinner and Legal Awards
will take place on Thursday, 12th November
at the Rum Warehouse, Liverpool

Liverpool City Region's lawyers are invited to come together to celebrate being part of a progressive and dynamic legal community.

Members and non-members can attend the Dinner.

Nominations for the 2026 Legal Awards will open in early July and close early September. Details appear on the website.

Bookings now open

SPONSORED BY



Liverpool Law Society's 2026 Legal Awards

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

CATEGORIES

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

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

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

Nominations close 12pm on 04.09.26

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

S P O N S O R E D B Y

Trio qualify as solicitors at Jackson Lees group



Laura Porter, Georgia Drohan and Abbie Harrison

Three members of the team at north west law firm Jackson Lees Group have qualified as solicitors after completing their training contracts.

The trio are Georgia Drohan, Abbie Harrison and Laura Porter.

Georgia and Abbie graduated in law from the University of Liverpool and then completed the Legal Practice Course at the University of Law before joining the firm.

Laura gained a history degree from the University of Chester before completing a Graduate Diploma in Law and a combined Legal Practice Course and Master of Laws (LLM).



Esther Leach

Esther Leach, managing director of Jackson Lees Group, said: "It is absolutely fantastic to see Georgia, Abbie and Laura successfully come through the ranks and I have no doubt that many more achievements lie ahead for each of them.

"Helping our people to grow, develop and fulfil their potential is one of the most rewarding aspects of what we do and is at the very heart of the Jackson Lees Group."

Georgia, who works in the clinical negligence team, said: "Qualifying as a solicitor is a significant milestone, and one I am incredibly proud to have achieved.

"My time at Jackson Lees has provided me with invaluable experience across family law and clinical negligence cases, helping me to develop the skills and confidence needed for the next stage of my career."

Abbie initially joined Jackson Lees Group's major inquests and inquiries team as a paralegal, representing bereaved families at the UK Covid-19 Inquiry.

She also completed a seat in the clinical negligence team before joining the private family department, where she advises clients on divorces, contested financial remedy proceedings, private children matters and domestic abuse.

Abbie said: "Throughout my training

contract, I have supported individuals and families through some of the most challenging periods of their lives.

"I am really delighted to have qualified into the private family team at Jackson Lees, where I can continue helping clients navigate sensitive and often complex issues with clear, compassionate advice.

"I am hugely grateful to my colleagues for their support throughout my journey and look forward to continuing to develop my career while making a positive difference for our clients."

Laura works in the clinical negligence team, advising on cases involving clients with terminal diagnoses, as well as acting for families that have lost a loved one following alleged negligent treatment.

She joined Jackson Lees Group in 2019 as a paralegal and began her training contract in 2024.

Laura said: "If there is one thing I have learnt over the last 10 years, it is that everyone's route to qualification is different and it is never too late to pursue your dream career.

"I am incredibly proud to have now qualified as a solicitor. I genuinely enjoy supporting individuals and families throughout the legal process, and it's hugely rewarding when they get the outcomes they deserve."

Jackson Lees Group is a full-service practice which comprises Jackson Lees, Broudie Jackson Canter and Farrington Law. The group employs 240 people across offices in Liverpool, Wirral and Southport.

It 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.

Slater and Gordon's latest family survey uncovers the hidden summer challenges faced by separated families



Andrew Ormrod

While the summer holidays are often a much-anticipated time for families, new data has revealed the hidden challenges faced by divorced or separated parents when arranging family holiday plans.

In new research by Slater and Gordon, more than a quarter of divorced or separated parents struggle to make holiday arrangements with their former partner, leading to conflict and negative impacts on their children.

The law firm conducted the research bringing to light the difficulties faced by some families each year, highlighting the importance of respectful communication, early discussions and clear holiday planning.

Senior associate solicitor, **Andrew Ormrod** adds: *"The unfortunate reality is that some families often face several barriers before getting the chance to enjoy their holiday, or they may even be deterred from making such plans.*

"Therefore, family lawyers have an important part to play in recognising the potential moments of conflict in the future. With this understanding, we can support families with planning ahead and prevent any unnecessary conflict emerge."



Among respondents who struggle to organise holidays with their former partner, 57% said their experience is due to ongoing tension with their ex. More than one in three reported they face disagreements on the type of holiday (36%), and a third (34%) also reported struggling to agree on dates.

Consequently, more than half of respondents facing disagreements, experienced stress or anxiety (55%), and one in two (50%) reported that disagreements led to conflict. For a quarter of individuals, their holiday did not go ahead in the end.

Not only were former partners affected, but a third of parents (34%) said tensions negatively affect their children. When parents disagree on the type of holiday, struggle to agree on potential dates, or become involved in arguments, children's expectations can be mismanaged, and they may be left disappointed if plans do not go ahead, as well as any negative effects on their mental health.

The research by Slater and Gordon serves as an important reminder of the

role family solicitors play in supporting effective communication between separated parents. As **Andrew** explains: *"The summer holiday period can raise tensions and place pressure on separated families. When we work with clients, we must encourage them to look ahead at where plans can be made in advance to avoid disagreement, heightened emotions or changes to arrangements.*

"Divorced or separated parents must feel comfortable and committed to discuss earlier on what holidays they have in mind for their children before going ahead with booking. From my experience, many disputes can happen when plans are last minute, sudden changes are involved or there's a lack of communication. Effective communication is necessary for parents to consider travel dates, arrangements and any costs without pressure or tension. Not only does this apply to the summer holidays, but also Christmas or half-term breaks."

Andrew Ormrod

Senior associate solicitor
Slater and Gordon

andrew.ormrod@slatergordon.uk

Building International Connections: Welcoming Dr Carlos Ensinnck to Liverpool Law Society



LLS President Sarah Mansfield with Dr Carlos Ensinnck

It was a pleasure to welcome Dr Carlos Ensinnck, legal member of Argentina's National Council of the Judiciary, to Liverpool Law Society, where he met with our Chief Executive, Sarah Poblete, and me to exchange ideas on the future of the legal profession.

Dr Ensinnck's visit formed part of his international programme of engagement with legal institutions, exploring how different jurisdictions support and regulate the legal profession. Having met with organisations across Europe, North and South America, he was keen to learn more

about the important role local law societies play in representing and supporting solicitors in England and Wales. His work focuses on professional governance, legal ethics, institutional modernisation and the growing impact of technology and artificial intelligence on legal practice.

A particular highlight of the meeting was the invaluable contribution of our Chief Executive, **Sarah Poblete**, whose fluent Spanish enabled our discussions to flow seamlessly and ensured a rich exchange of ideas between our respective jurisdictions. The meeting demonstrated the importance of communication and collaboration in strengthening international professional relationships.

We were also delighted to exchange research publications with **Dr Ensinnck** as a lasting symbol of our growing professional friendship. His book, *Colegio de Abogados de Rosario: 100 Años de Historia* (*Rosario Law Society: 100 Years of History*), has now been proudly displayed at the Racquet Club of Liverpool alongside Liverpool Law Society memorabilia, celebrating the Society's commitment to fostering international links and promoting legal excellence beyond our own jurisdiction. **Dr Ensinnck** received a dedicated copy of the book *A Century of Liverpool Lawyers*.

While our legal systems differ, we share common values of independence, professionalism and public service. I would like to thank **Dr Ensinnck** for his visit and his thoughtful insights, and **Sarah Poblete** for her exceptional support throughout the meeting. We look forward to developing this relationship further and continuing to share knowledge that benefits our members and the wider legal profession.

Sarah Mansfield

President

president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

DWF on UK labour market statistics

Joanne Frew, Global Head of Employment & Pensions at DWF, has provided insights on the latest UK labour market statistics.



Joanne Frew

Joanne Frew says: “The latest figures point to a labour market that is holding steady rather than accelerating, with only modest movement in employment and unemployment levels. The UK employment rate was estimated at 75.1% in the period March to May 2026. This is down 0.1% on the year but up 0.1% on

the latest quarter. The UK unemployment rate was estimated at 4.9% in the same period. This is an increase of 0.2% on the year but down 0.1% on the latest quarter. For employers, the figures reinforce the importance of focusing on retention, productivity and workforce planning, as recruitment conditions remain finely balanced and economic uncertainty continues to influence hiring decisions.

Vacancy estimates in the UK decreased in the latest quarter, with early estimates for April to June 2026 suggesting a decrease of 7,000 to 712,000, compared with January to March 2026. While the pace of decline has moderated, vacancy levels remain subdued by historical standards, suggesting that many employers continue to take a cautious and strategic approach to recruitment. The relatively modest fall suggests recruitment demand may be stabilising, but employers remain selective in their hiring decisions as they adapt to a changing workforce and employment law landscape.

Annual growth in employees’ average earnings in Great Britain was 3.4% for regular earnings (excluding bonuses)

and 4.3% for total earnings (including bonuses) in March to May 2026. Annual average regular earnings growth was 5.5% for the public sector and 2.9% for the private sector. While wage growth remains positive, the relatively modest increase in earnings is unlikely to offset concerns for workers facing ongoing pressures on household budgets. The stronger growth in public sector pay compared with the private sector reflects the different pressures facing employers, and may present additional recruitment and retention challenges for some private sector organisations competing for talent.

Although the arrival of a new Prime Minister is unlikely to result in any immediate change to the employment law reforms already underway, it does introduce an additional layer of political uncertainty at a time when employers are continuing to adapt to a significant programme of workplace change. As a result, many organisations are likely to favour a measured approach to recruitment, reward and workforce investment until there is greater clarity on the government’s longer-term policy direction.”



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HMRC v Bluecrest: The Supreme Court redraws the line between member and employee in LLPs



Rajesh Chavda

On 1 July 2026, the Supreme Court handed down its long-awaited judgment in *HMRC v BlueCrest Capital Management (UK) LLP*. For anyone advising professional services firms on LLP structuring – asset managers, law firms, accountancy practices, consultancies – this is an essential read.

The Salaried Members Rules (found in the Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005) (“Rules”) seek to identify cases of ‘disguised employment’ in Limited Liability Partnerships (“LLPs”). Under these Rules, members of an LLP are treated as employees for tax purposes if three conditions (A to C) are met:

- **Condition A** – whether the member is rewarded for their services through a ‘disguised salary’ that is fixed or varied without reference to the profits or losses of the LLP.
- **Condition B** – whether the member lacks significant influence over the affairs of the LLP.
- **Condition C** – whether the member’s capital contribution is below 25% of their disguised salary.

The judgment is concerned with the meaning of Conditions A and B.

Condition A – Disguised Salary

Under the Rules, Condition A is satisfied where at least 80% of expected remuneration of an LLP member is fixed, or variable without reference to overall LLP profits/losses. The Court held that remuneration calculated by reference to an individual’s own portfolio or desk profits still falls within this test, even where a firm-wide profit figure operates as a backstop cap on individual awards. A cap that merely limits downside exposure does not create the kind of substantive link to overall profits needed to escape “disguised salary” characterisation.

Condition B – Significant Influence

Condition B received the most substantial clarification from the Court. The Court held that:

- Qualifying influence must derive from legally enforceable mutual rights and duties – the LLP agreement, statute, or other binding instruments or delegations derived from the LLP agreement. De facto influence, however real in practice, is excluded if it lacks such a source. This overturns the tribunals’ approach below, which had treated “realistic” or de facto influence as sufficient.
- “Significant” imports a requirement of real practical and commercial substance, not merely nominal or token participation.
- Influence deriving from personal qualities, strong performance, client relationships, or financial contribution to profits (i.e. rainmaking) does not qualify, however commercially significant.
- “Affairs of the partnership” carries a broad meaning encompassing the partnership’s business, interests, and management generally – not merely the member’s own book or department.
- Influence confined to operational or day-to-day decision-making within

one part of the business, even a core part, is insufficient; the requisite influence is likely to be managerial or strategic in character, reflecting a genuine ‘voice in the management’ of the partnership as a whole.

Practical Takeaways and Structuring Considerations

1. **LLP Agreement drafting is now determinative for Condition B:** the constitutional document - not day-to-day practice - is the primary evidential source. Firms should audit governance clauses (management, delegation, committee membership, voting and information rights) against desired tax outcomes for each membership tier.
2. **For members intended to qualify as genuine partners:** ensure strategic influence is expressly documented – LLP board or executive committee membership, voting rights on reserved matters, or clearly delegated managerial authority traceable to the LLP Agreement. Informal consultation or attendance at meetings without formal appointment is unlikely to suffice.
3. **Delegation chains matter:** rights sub-delegated from the LLP Board to committees or individual role-holders can count towards Condition B, provided the chain of authority is traceable to the LLP Agreement. Firms should ensure delegation instruments are properly documented and not left as informal practice.
4. **Remuneration architecture for Condition A:** profit-linked caps designed only as downside protection (rather than genuine profit-sharing formulae tied to firm performance) will not prevent a finding of disguised salary. Firms

wishing to preserve partner status for high earners should consider remuneration structures with genuine, formulaic exposure to overall firm profitability, not merely individual- desk profits subject to a firm-wide ceiling.

5. Audit existing membership

categories: given the remittal, firms with tiered membership structures (junior/fixed share/equity members, desk heads, etc.) should proactively review whether documented rights match the practical narrative previously relied upon and consider whether amendments to the LLP Agreement are needed to align formal entitlements with intended tax treatment.

6. Distinguish role scope from role

performance: a member who performs brilliantly in a narrow operational function will not, on this authority, acquire Condition B protection through that performance alone. The right to participate in strategic decisions is what counts.

7. Stress-test remuneration formulas: bonus pools or discretionary

allocations calculated primarily against individual or team profitability – common in asset management firms – are vulnerable under Condition A even where a firm-wide cap exists on paper.

8. Revisit “made-up” memberships granted for retention or optics:

elevating high performers to LLP membership without a corresponding, enforceable governance role increases PAYE/NIC exposure rather than mitigating it.

How can O’Connors help

BlueCrest will now be the leading authority on Conditions A and B for the foreseeable future. For firms that have used LLP status as much for its tax profile as its governance substance, this judgment is a prompt to ensure the two are properly aligned – not just at the top table, but throughout the membership structure.

O’Connors can help LLPs across the professional services, financial services and other regulated sectors on:

- **Governance framework review** – assessing whether committee structures, delegated authority

and decision-making rights are properly documented and capable of evidencing genuine influence over the LLP’s affairs as a whole and not just a discrete department or practice group.

- **Member agreement review and drafting** – auditing existing LLP agreements against the BlueCrest standard and amending provisions on voting rights, management responsibilities and profit allocation so that Condition B analysis is supported by clear, legally enforceable terms rather than informal practice.
- **Remuneration structure analysis** – reviewing profit-sharing, bonus and discretionary allocation arrangements to identify where remuneration may in substance fail Condition A and advising on restructuring to strengthen the link between individual pay and overall LLP profits.

Rajesh Chavda

Senior Associate
O’Connors

*For further information please email
Raj Chavda or Phil Bowers or call 0151
906 1000.*

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

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

We will give out members’ firm name and telephone number to callers who contact the Society seeking legal advice.

Check out your entry on our website. Put your organisation’s name in the ‘keyword’ box and hit return. If any of it needs updating, let us know by emailing
subscriptions@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Check your entry [here](#).

MJLD – Summer Ball

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

The following are nominated for wards:

Support to Rising Talent:

- MSB
- HM3
- Weightmans

Legal Excellence:

- Olivia Jones – Weightmans
- Jessica Roberts – Fletchers
- Charlotte Ashton – Fletchers

Care in the Community:

- Tija Fitzgerald – Brabners
- Daniela Keogh – HM3
- Rory Jordan – Fletchers

The winners will be revealed at the ball. Individual tickets may be purchased on the [MJLD website](#) (subject to limited availability).

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



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**THE
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EXPERTS**

Making the return to school easier for everyone



Katie Camozzi

It's not just children who groan at the thought of the return to school after the summer break. For the nuclear family unit, it is the crazy September rush and changing routines. For parents who are separated, the education of a child caught in the middle can also bring stressful conflict. Disagreements over the school that the child attends can be the spark that then reignites all kinds of differences of opinion that have emerged during the separation process.

Education is complex, but parental-conflict resolution does not always require court intervention. Having open discussions about arrangements well in advance is a starting point. Agree routines early, use AI tech to generate sharing calendars and always plan ahead. Failing this, mediation can be an appropriate starting point. Children often pick up tension and this, in many cases, can be avoided.

Mediation is a voluntary and confidential form of alternative dispute resolution where an impartial third party ('the

mediator'), helps disputing parties negotiate a mutually-acceptable solution. When parents share parental responsibility, they cannot make a unilateral decision on something as fundamental as choice of school. Simply, they must find a way to resolve a dispute. Financial pressures, communication breakdown and uncertainty between moving households is something we see frequently.

If a resolution cannot be reached, an application for a Specific Issue Order can be applied for. The court will decide a particular issue concerning a child's upbringing, including schooling. The court's paramount consideration will always be the welfare of the child, and a judge will not automatically favour one parent's preference over the other. Every last factor will be weighed up to determine what is in the child's best interests. The court will consider various aspects such as the child's educational needs, proximity to each parent's home, the child's wishes and feelings (depending on their age and degree of maturity) and any special educational needs.

If one parent is worried that the other is going to remove a child from their school without prior agreement, they can apply for a Prohibited Steps Order. This is an order the court can make to prevent a child being taken out of their current school and to prohibit a parent applying to alternative schools. Parents should always act in the best interests of their child, court should be the last resort and parents should be encouraged to see their dispute through the eyes of their child, placing their own needs aside.

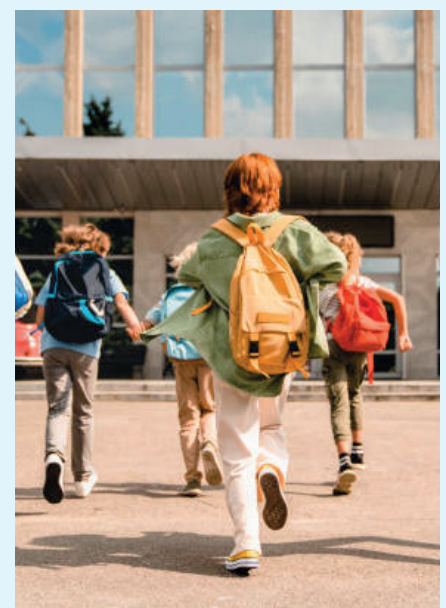
Co-parenting can undoubtedly be difficult and emotive at times. As well as remembering to buy new stationery, new uniform and to sew name tags onto every item, acting in a child's best interests as they recommence their education should also be the overriding focus. We have a duty in our profession to make this as friction-free as possible.

My top three tips to enjoy summer:

1. Have open discussions well in advance before school application deadlines, share research and reach mutual ground
2. Focus on your child as the priority, as their education needs must be the centre of joint decisions
3. Consider mediation to help resolve issues without escalating conflict.

Katie Camozzi

Partner,
MSB Solicitors



Enhancing Compliance Expertise: Our New Collaboration with Teal Compliance

Liverpool Law Society is delighted to announce a new partnership with Teal Compliance for our upcoming Autumn training calendar.

Teal Compliance are recognised for their expertise in supporting law firms with their risk and compliance obligations. They help firms transform compliance from a regulatory burden into a strategic advantage through Compliance That Works. This makes them an ideal partner to deliver high-quality, relevant training for our members.

Through this collaboration, Teal Compliance will be leading a series of engaging and insightful sessions focused on key topical issues affecting law firms of all sizes, ensuring attendees remain informed, confident, and compliant in an

evolving regulatory landscape.

This Autumn's programme includes:

10 September 2026 -

AML Supervision: From the SRA to the FCA

A timely session exploring the evolving expectations around anti-money laundering supervision, and what firms need to know when navigating oversight from different regulatory bodies.

13 October 2026 -

Compliance That Works

A practical and solutions-focused session designed to help firms build effective, proportionate compliance frameworks that support day-to-day operations.

In addition, Teal Compliance will be joining us at our Legal Cashiers Conference on **11 November 2026**, where they will present on:

SRA Accounts Rules

Offering essential guidance and clarity on compliance with the rules, with practical insights for those managing client accounts.

We are confident that this partnership will bring significant value to our members, equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate today's increasingly complex regulatory environment.

Member firms will also receive a 10% discount on Teal Compliance services by mentioning "Liverpool Law Society".

Liverpool Law Society meet with Liverpool City Region Councillors

On Thursday 16th July 2026, Liverpool Law Society held a meeting with the Liverpool City Region Councillors.

President, **Sarah Mansfield**, chaired the meeting which continues to provide an important platform through which to raise local issues, and particularly their impact on our local communities.

Parliamentary Liaison Officer, **Laura Spence** began by addressing the overwhelming backlog at the Employment Tribunal. Our Employment Committee have reported growing concern surrounding the increasing use of AI, and first listing dates starting to dip into 2028. The Councillors were informed of the proposed 'track' system, whereby claims could be triaged with a view to achieving swifter resolutions. It was proposed that a joint request be made

by the Society and Councillors to the Courts addressing the issue, along with correspondence to the Justice Secretary.

Chair of the Non-Contentious Business Committee, **Pamela Chesterman**, addressed the implications of the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 will have on our local community – particularly given the Peak Cluster project on the Wirral.

Laura Spence and **Sarah Mansfield** jointly presented about the impact on the ground (both intended and unintended) of implementation of the Renters' Rights Act 2025. In particular, the increased appetite for landlords to sell, resulting in removal of properties from the rental market altogether. Councillors helpfully updated the Society about plans to assess available stock and investigate whether

the same can be renovated and utilised to ease the difficulties.

Finally, **Elkan Abrahamson** and **Ian Townley** had provided a helpful written update (delivered by **Laura Spence**) about progress of the Public Office (Accountability) Bill (Hillsborough). The primary update was the continued issues with funding – whilst engagement with the Government and Legal Aid Agency is ongoing, to date there has not been a satisfactory resolution proposed. Access to Justice is a cause supported by the Society, most notably via the annual Liverpool Legal Walk – this year taking place on 23 September 2026 at 6pm. Support, donations and attendance are all very much welcomed.

Laura Spence
Parliamentary Liaison Officer

UK Supreme Court Judgment: The End of the Acid Test – Why is it relevant to me?

This could impact any of your family members or clients irrespective of the area of law in which you practice.

The case was 'a Reference by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland of a devolution issue under paragraph 34 of Schedule 10 to the Northern Ireland Act 1998 [2026] UKSC 2' known as 'AGNI'. <https://supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2025-0042>

The recent UK Supreme Court decision to abolish the 'Acid Test' with immediate effect represents one of the most significant developments in Deprivation of Liberty

law in recent years. Unusually it overturned another Supreme Court decision.

The 'Acid Test' was created by the Supreme Court in the case of *Cheshire West and Chester Council v P* [2014] UKSC 19. This meant that anyone lacking capacity to consent to their living arrangements under the Mental Capacity Act, even if they were happy with these, would be considered to be deprived of their liberty under Article 5 of the ECHR. This had created additional safeguards, such as someone to protect their rights (a relevant person's representative) and the ability to

appeal to the Court of protection, which represents much of our work.

The judgment has created a degree of chaos for families, advocates and professionals working across health and social care and legal advisors, raising important questions about how Deprivation of Liberty should now be identified and what the practical implications are for those supporting vulnerable individuals.

Peter Edwards

Peter Edwards Law



Merseyside Women Lawyers Division

Merseyside Women Lawyers Division (MWLD) were delighted to welcome so many familiar and new faces to our Annual Opening Event at Flight Club, Liverpool. It was a fantastic evening of networking, social darts and catching up with colleagues, while also raising valuable funds for the Owen McVeigh Foundation. We would like to thank everyone who attended and supported such a worthwhile cause, helping to make the evening a great success.

Following such a wonderful start to the committee year, MWLD are excited to launch our upcoming events, and look forward to welcoming members and guests again soon.

If anyone would like to get in touch with MWLD about our upcoming events or membership, then please do not hesitate to email us at wldevent@gmail.com.

Lucy Baker

Associate, Provenio Litigation LLP

AI for Liverpool Law Firms: Start with the Workflow, Not the Tool



Jorge Sánchez

For many law firms, the difficulty is not recognising that artificial intelligence may be useful, but knowing where to begin. Throughout this article, practical examples and clearly defined workflows will help firms relate the opportunities to their own circumstances and make a more informed decision about where to start.

Before exploring those opportunities, however, it is useful to be clear about what AI is and how it differs from conventional software.

Many conventional software systems follow predefined rules: the same input is intended to produce the same expected result. Generative AI works differently. It creates responses by identifying patterns across large quantities of data. Its outputs can therefore be fluent and useful, but also variable, incomplete or wrong.

AI can reduce the effort required for certain tasks, but it does not understand its own output, exercise professional judgement or assume responsibility for the consequences. For law firms, the practical question is where it can assist people while preserving the checking, judgement and accountability that legal work requires.

Where AI can help in practice

The most realistic opportunities tend to arise where work is document-heavy, repetitive, structured or time-consuming. This does not mean that every firm should adopt the same uses. It means that certain activities are more likely to produce a clear and measurable benefit.

AI can help people understand and organise information. It can prepare an initial summary of a document bundle, extract dates, parties or clauses, group documents by type and highlight items that may require attention. The [Law Society](#) has described similar applications in contract review, including summarisation, information extraction and identifying unusual terms.

An initial summary can give a solicitor a quicker overview. It should not replace reading the underlying documents where accuracy and completeness matter. When the user does not already know the material, the summary should be treated as a starting point rather than an authoritative account.

AI can offer greater efficiency when the user already understands the facts and intended message. A fee earner might use it to prepare a first draft of an attendance note, client email, internal memorandum, chronology or routine letter. The output still requires review, but that review is easier when the user knows what the document should say and can recognise omissions, inaccuracies or inappropriate wording.

It can also support research by helping identify issues, organise possible sources and prepare an initial synthesis. This may reduce the time spent finding and structuring information, but the underlying authorities must still be checked directly. A plausible quotation or citation is not evidence that the source is genuine or supports the proposition being made.

Other opportunities include classifying enquiries, identifying missing information, structuring data, preparing internal summaries and routing work. AI may also form part of a wider automation that moves information between systems or prepares the next stage of a process.

These examples are not universal prescriptions. They are intended to help firms recognise comparable opportunities within their own work.

Start with the workflow

A workflow is the sequence through which work moves from an initial input to a completed outcome. Starting with the workflow helps the firm identify the actual problem before considering how technology might address it.

“Using AI for conveyancing” or “using AI for litigation” is too broad. A more useful starting point is to identify a particular stage that creates delay, repeated effort, inconsistent outputs or avoidable administrative work.

There are multiple possible workflows, and each firm must define its own according to its practice areas, working methods, systems, volumes and risks. The examples above illustrate a way of thinking, not templates for implementation.

Potential candidates usually share several characteristics. The task happens frequently enough to matter. It consumes measurable time. Its inputs and expected outputs are reasonably clear. The result can be checked. An error would normally be detected before it affected a client or legal decision. There is also a benefit that can be measured, rather than a vague impression that the firm is becoming more innovative.

The aim is not to identify every possible use of AI. It is to recognise where a specific part of the firm’s work creates enough friction to justify closer examination.

Keep the first initiative controlled

The first project should be limited in scope, practical and low-risk. Limited does not necessarily mean small in scale. It means clearly bounded: applied within a controlled and proportionate area of the firm, with defined users, a clear purpose and active monitoring.

Initial cost and complexity should be modest. The process should be easy to adjust, pause or stop, with a workable fallback if the technology is unavailable or the results are unsatisfactory.

Risk must also be considered in professional, rather than purely financial, terms. An initial project should not allow an unverified output to pass directly to a client or determine legal advice. Human review should identify errors before they cause a material consequence.

Once the firm can show that the process works, users understand it and the benefits justify the cost, it can expand the initiative. Scaling should follow evidence, not precede it.

Assess the initiative before investing

A useful assessment should be proportionate to the scale, cost and risk of the proposed initiative, but it should still be sufficiently rigorous to support a sound decision. For each proposed workflow, decision-makers should ask:

- What specific problem or inefficiency are we addressing?
- How often does it occur, and how much time or cost does it consume?
- Could a simpler process improvement or existing technology solve it?
- What would a satisfactory output look like, and how easily could it be checked?
- What would happen if the output were incomplete or wrong?
- What data, systems, skills, training and support would be required?
- How will the new process be compared with the current one?
- What evidence would justify scaling, modifying or stopping it?
- These questions turn a general idea into a testable proposition.

For example, a firm might measure the time currently required to organise a recurring set of documents, then compare it with a controlled AI-assisted process while recording correction rates and review time. An apparent saving is not valuable if it is cancelled out by additional checking, integration difficulties, licensing costs or new risks.

The [SRA's guidance](#) encourages firms to understand their needs, consider whether existing technology already provides the required capability and ensure that any new product works with existing systems.

The [UK Government's AI Playbook](#) similarly recommends that use cases begin with business and user needs, pain points and inefficiencies, with feasibility, impact and cost-benefit considered before implementation.

The assessment may show that the best answer is a familiar product, a specialist tool, an automation, a combination of systems or no AI at all. The objective is to solve the problem well, not to justify using a particular technology.

Where the firm lacks the internal expertise to compare those options properly, seeking specialist input before committing significant resources may be a commercially sensible step.

Put rules in place from the outset

Governance should not wait for a sophisticated AI programme. Staff may already have access to general-purpose tools and use them informally because they appear convenient.

Without clear rules, people may enter confidential or sensitive information into unsuitable systems, rely on unverified outputs or assume that someone else is responsible for checking the result. These risks can arise even where the firm has not launched a formal AI initiative.

Firms therefore need an organisation-wide position covering which tools are authorised, what information may be entered, which uses are permitted, what human review is required, who remains responsible for the final work and how

concerns or errors should be reported.

Training should explain not only the rules, but why they exist. A policy that staff do not understand is unlikely to produce consistent behaviour.

Each initiative then requires proportionate controls of its own. The firm should define who may use it, for what purpose, who reviews the output, how performance is monitored and when the process should be corrected, paused or stopped. This connects governance directly to the workflow instead of treating it as a separate compliance exercise.

The [Law Society's guidance](#) notes that generative AI cannot validate its own results and may produce false outputs. It also emphasises that professional obligations continue to apply whether AI is used directly by a solicitor or by someone under their supervision. Human review is therefore part of maintaining responsibility for the work produced.

A controlled route to value

AI can offer meaningful improvements in speed, capacity and consistency, but useful adoption is built gradually.

Firms need a basic governance foundation, a clear understanding of where work creates friction, a controlled and measurable first initiative, and evidence that the result is worth expanding.

The aim is not to use AI everywhere. It is to identify where it genuinely helps, keep professional judgement in control and build carefully on what proves valuable.

Jorge Sánchez is Founder and AI Risk Advisor at Akrivium. He previously worked as a senior software engineer at AXA, Virgin Media O2, the University of Cambridge and Public Health England.

If you would be interested in attending an interactive, LLS online training session with Q&A with Jorge Sánchez, let us know by emailing into training@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

LSSA holds special meeting to support Government home buying reform roadmap



LSSA members return to the meeting after lunch

The Legal Software Suppliers Association held a special member meeting in London this week to follow up on the government's latest updates on home buying reform and to examine the role legal technology will play in delivering change across the sector.

The meeting built on earlier engagement between the LSSA and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, with this latest session focused on the published roadmap and the practical considerations for implementation.

Held at the Royal Air Force Club on 30 June, the special LSSA members' meeting included representatives from leading legal technology businesses including LEAP, Access Legal, OneAdvanced, Bundledocs, Ochresoft, TM Group, Dye & Durham and Timeslice, alongside newer members and emerging providers.

Supporting home buying reform

A central focus was how the reforms could work in practice for law firms, conveyancers and property professionals. Representatives from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government joined LSSA members to discuss the direction of reform and how software providers can support a more efficient, transparent and data-led conveyancing process.

The proposals include greater use of upfront property information, improved

data sharing, digital property logbooks and work to reduce duplication in areas such as anti-money laundering checks.

For LSSA members, the meeting underlined a clear point: reform will only succeed if the systems used across the sector can support it effectively.

Kevin Horlock, LSSA CEO, said: *"The practical delivery of reform depends on the systems law firms use every day. That is why it's so important that legal software suppliers have a voice in these conversations."*

"The LSSA brings together the companies building and supporting much of the technology used across the legal sector. By working constructively with government, regulators and each other, our members can help shape reforms that improve outcomes for law firms, consumers and the wider property market."

Collaboration across the legal technology sector

Members also shared updates on product development, customer needs and market activity. Key themes included conveyancing digitisation, workflow automation, compliance, client information management and integration between platforms.

The range of companies in the room showed how broad the LSSA's membership has become over the past

30 years. Established suppliers serving thousands of law firms were joined by newer businesses developing AI-led legal guidance, cloud-based case management, digital client information platforms and collaboration tools.

That mix gave the meeting a useful operational focus, linking policy and market change with software development, law firm processes and the day-to-day delivery of legal services.

AI and responsible innovation

AI also featured prominently, with members considering how the sector can encourage innovation without creating unnecessary complexity for suppliers or law firms.

The discussion focused on the value of high-level guidance that helps organisations think clearly about data protection, accuracy, security, regulatory alignment and client confidence.

Members recognised that AI will continue to influence legal services, but that adoption needs to remain proportionate and aligned with the professional responsibilities of the sector.

30 years of legal technology change

The meeting also took place in the year of the LSSA's 30th anniversary. Founded in June 1996, when "Three Lions" topped the UK charts during Euro 96, the Association has seen legal technology move from early desktop systems and paper-heavy processes to cloud platforms, integrated workflows, digital conveyancing and AI-supported services.

As part of its anniversary activity, the LSSA is gathering member perspectives on how technology has changed over the last three decades and where the sector is heading next.

Thirty years on, the LSSA continues to give suppliers a shared voice as technology, regulation and client expectations change.

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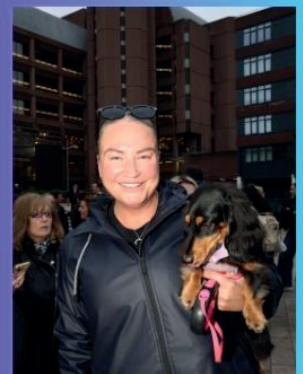
- help families at risk of eviction and homelessness
- help grown children fighting to get care for a loved one
- help workers challenging discrimination from an employer

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.

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



[More info](#)

A single legal services regulator: what it could mean for firms and practitioners

The Legal Services Consumer Panel has renewed its call for a single regulator to replace the eight approved regulators currently governing legal services in England and Wales.

In its July 2026 *position paper*, the Legal Services Consumer Panel (*Panel*) has repeated its call, after a similar call in 2017, for a single regulator to govern legal services in England and Wales. Current eight regulators are: the Solicitors Regulation Authority, the Bar Standards Board, the Council for Licensed Conveyancers, the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives, the Intellectual Property Regulation Board, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, the Faculty Office (Master of the Faculties, regulating Notaries), and the Costs Lawyer Standards Board.

For those of us who advise law firms and legal professionals on regulatory compliance and corporate strategy, this may not remain an abstract policy debate anymore. If the Government acts on even part of the Panel's agenda, the structural assumptions underpinning law firm governance, compensation arrangements, and complaints handling and regulatory compliance responsibilities will change fundamentally.

The Panel's Diagnosis

The Panel has concluded that the framework of eight approved regulators overseen by the Legal Services Board (*LSB*) is structurally incapable of protecting consumers, governing modern risks or improving access to justice. Its answer is not reform of the existing architecture but replacement of the system with a single, independent, risk-based regulator for all legal services in England and Wales.

The Panel discusses several failures to make its case:

- **The Regulatory Information Service (RIS):** The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) recommended RIS in 2016 with the purpose of

empowering consumers to make informed decisions. In the 10 years since CMA first called for RIS, only two tools that constitute the RIS's delivery to date, 'check a legal adviser' and 'choose a legal adviser' are now live on the Legal Choices website. 'A decade to reach beta is not a success story. It is a structural indictment. And the beta itself covers only regulated providers, draws on eight separate data systems, and sits on a platform most consumers have arguably never heard of.'

- **Axiom Ince (2023):** over £60 million missing from client account. The SRA's initial partial intervention allowed a further £36 million to be lost before full intervention, prompting the LSB's first-ever use of its Section 32 enforcement powers and a 270% rise in the SRA Compensation Fund levy.
- **SSB Law (2024):** collapse with debts exceeding £200 million, after more than 100 complaints were miscategorised across the artificial 'service/conduct' divide between the Legal Ombudsman and the SRA. The LSB formally censured the SRA in March 2026 and ordered it to publish mandatory performance targets.
- **Mazur (2025–2026):** two rounds of litigation - High Court and Court of Appeal - were needed to establish that unauthorised staff may perform litigation tasks under the supervision and responsibility of an authorised lawyer. 'Eight regulators issued eight different guidance notes in response to the High Court judgment, with varying interpretations and different timelines. The Court of Appeal subsequently noted that supervision requirements are 'a matter for the regulators', precisely the outcome a coherent, unified framework should have delivered without two rounds of costly litigation.'

What the Panel Recommends

The Panel makes 10 recommendations. The headline items, being:

- a single regulator with specialist internal divisions replacing all eight

frontline bodies;

- a regulatory perimeter redrawn around risk rather than professional title - expressly capturing AI tools, automated document services and digital platforms;
- abolition of the artificial service/conduct divide in complaints handling;
- establishing a single, universal compensation scheme for all consumers of legal services; and
- mandatory user-tested transparency standards for price, quality, and redress.

Drawbacks and Crosswinds Ahead

For all the coherence of the Panel's diagnosis, the case for consolidation is not without its drawbacks. A single body risks subordinating the distinct professional traditions - and the calibrated, title-specific oversight - that the present framework accommodates, substituting regulatory diversity for a monolith whose institutional priorities may not sit comfortably across the full spectrum of solicitors, barristers, notaries and the specialist professions. It would also remove the comparative discipline of an eight-regulator architecture overseen by the LSB, concentrating supervision in a single point of failure against which under-performance cannot readily be benchmarked.

The crosswinds are also considerable. Replacing the current settlement would require primary legislation to unpick the Legal Services Act 2007 - a demanding undertaking for which no government has yet shown sustained appetite, as the fate of the Panel's identical 2017 call attests - and one that entrenched professional interests, from the Law Society and the Bar Council to CILEX and the smaller approved regulators, are expected to resist. Questions of funding remain unresolved too, not least who bears the cost of a universal compensation scheme and how cross-subsidy between professions of markedly different risk profiles is to be justified.

Practical Takeaways for Law Firms and Legal Practitioners

- **Governance and risk frameworks will face sharper scrutiny now.** The LSB's censure of the SRA and its first-ever use of Section 32 enforcement signal a more interventionist supervisory climate. Firms - particularly those pursuing acquisition-led growth or reliant on litigation funding - should expect heightened attention to financial resilience, and client account controls.
- **First-tier complaints handling to get stricter scrutiny.** 46% of complaints investigated by the Legal Ombudsman in 2023/24 revealed unreasonable first-tier handling. Expect regulators to demand robust complaints handling procedures.
- **Get ahead on transparency.** Price transparency without quality indicators is, in the Panel's phrase, half-transparency. Firms that build

verifiable quality metrics, early on, will be well placed for any future mandatory standards.

- **Supervision arrangements need documentary rigour.** Post- Mazur, the delegation of litigation tasks to non-authorised staff is lawful only under genuine supervision and responsibility of an authorised person. Supervision frameworks should be written, current and auditable.
- **Prepare for AI disclosure.** The Panel calls for mandatory disclosure of AI use in service delivery and binding quality standards for automated tools. Practitioners deploying AI tools should consider implementing validation, version control and client-facing transparency, i.e., being clear on what they use AI for and when in their client engagements. They also need to be mindful to use such AI tools that will protect the client confidentiality.

- **The corporate lens.** Due diligence on law firm acquisitions, ABS investments and consolidator strategies would be well placed to price in structural regulatory change - transitional compliance costs, compensation scheme contributions and regulatory perimeter expansion. The Ofcom precedent cited by the Panel is instructive: from Green Paper to operational regulator in five years. Those advising on legal sector M&A may be better placed to treat that horizon as a live planning assumption and not a distant hypothesis.

For further information please email **Raj Chavda or Phil Bowers** or call 0151 906 1000.

Rajesh Chavda
Senior Associate
O'Connors



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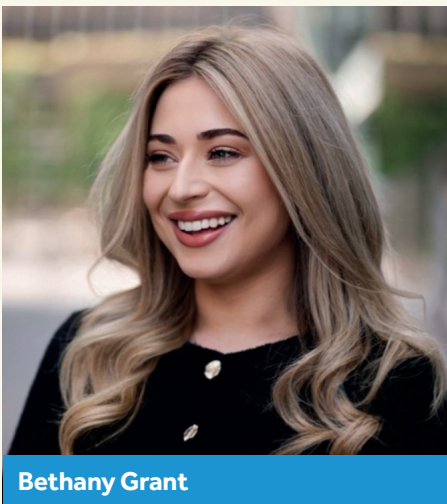
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Communication and Collaboration in Clinical Negligence: Building Better Outcomes Through Constructive Dialogue



Bethany Grant

On 30 June 2026, Hill Dickinson was delighted to host a Liverpool Law Society panel discussion exploring the role of communication and collaboration in clinical negligence litigation. The event brought together legal professionals from claimant and defendant backgrounds, alongside the judiciary, to discuss how constructive engagement can help achieve fairer, swifter and more cost-effective outcomes for all parties involved.

The panel was chaired by **Nina Sahu**, Deputy Vice President of Liverpool Law Society and Legal Director at Hill Dickinson, and featured:

- **Joanne Hughes**, Partner at Hill Dickinson, providing the defendant perspective;
- **Kris Inskip**, Partner at Irwin Mitchell, providing the claimant perspective; and
- **His Honour Judge Wood**, who shared valuable judicial insight on the practical realities of clinical negligence litigation.

A common thread throughout the discussion was the importance of understanding differing perspectives while recognising the shared objective of achieving fair and timely resolutions for clients.

Seeing both sides of the dispute

One of the strengths of the panel discussion was the opportunity to hear both claimant and defendant perspectives. While approaches may differ, the discussion highlighted that there is often more

common ground than practitioners might initially expect.

Understanding the priorities, pressures and challenges experienced by the opposing party can help foster more productive discussions and reduce unnecessary conflict. Effective communication begins with recognising that every participant in the process brings a different perspective but often shares the same desire for a fair outcome.

The cost of poor collaboration
A key theme explored by the panel was the cost of poor collaboration.

When communication breaks down, disputes can become unnecessarily prolonged, costs can escalate and opportunities for early resolution may be lost. Delays can have significant consequences not only for the parties involved but also for the wider healthcare and justice systems.

The panel reflected on how entrenched positions can sometimes distract parties from the real issues in dispute. By contrast, constructive engagement can help narrow disagreements and ensure that resources are focused where they are needed most.

New ways of working



The discussion also considered how the profession continues to evolve and the need to embrace new ways of working. With increasing pressure on court resources and ongoing challenges across the healthcare sector, there is growing importance in finding more efficient methods of progressing claims. Technology, early engagement and greater cooperation between professionals all have a role to play in improving the litigation process.

The golden rules of effective communication

Throughout the discussion, several “golden rules” emerged as key principles for successful engagement in clinical negligence litigation:

- Be transparent and open in dealings with the other side.
- Communicate early and proactively.
- Be realistic about the strengths and weaknesses of your case.
- Engage constructively with expert and factual witness evidence.
- Focus on resolving the issues that genuinely matter.
- Maintain professionalism and respect throughout the litigation process.

Both claimant and defendant representatives highlighted the value of approaching discussions honestly and openly. Being transparent about the strengths of an opponent’s case, as well as

recognising challenges within your own, can support more meaningful negotiations and ultimately improve outcomes.

Panel Themes

Attendees were encouraged to consider ‘stock take’ meetings and the importance of holding ADR at the ‘right time’. Early Neutral Evaluation (ENE) was suggested as another option to resolve issues. Audience feedback and engagement confirmed there was an appetite to engage in collaborative



ways of working and that it was helpful to consider each other’s perspectives.

The panel concluded by reflecting on the shared goal that underpins all clinical negligence litigation: achieving fair and swift resolution of disputes.

Hill Dickinson would like to thank Liverpool Law Society, our fellow panellists and all attendees for contributing to an engaging and thought-provoking discussion. The event demonstrated the value of bringing together claimant representatives, defendant representatives and the judiciary to explore how communication and collaboration can continue to improve the clinical negligence landscape.

Bethany Grant

Hill Dickinson



Harvey v Heaver: At Long Last, Judicial Guidance on Section 9A of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985



Ethan Riley

Joseph Harvey & Ors v Polly Louise Heaver & Anor [2026] EWHC 1671 (KB), Before Paul Bowen KC (sitting as a Deputy Judge of the High Court)

The High Court has, for the first time, provided analysis of and guidance on the implied covenant for ‘fitness for human habitation’ under section 9A of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985. For anyone practising in housing disrepair, *Harvey v Heaver* is essential reading!

The facts in brief

The claimants were a family of six — parents and four children aged 7 to 16. They brought claims for breach of the landlord’s repairing covenant (section 11), breach of the implied fitness covenant (section 9A), personal injury, and discrimination under the Equality Act 2010. A single joint expert (chartered building surveyor) produced an unchallenged report identifying:

- Damp and mould in every habitable room and both roof spaces, with these issues attributable to a combination of the limited thermal performance

of the construction and the active moisture ingress through the chimneys, external walls and roof – the visible mould growth was “generally of a light extent, with localised areas of moderate intensity”;

- A cracked, deflected and leaking ceiling in the main bedroom, which contained asbestos;
- Electrical Installation Condition Report of ‘unsatisfactory’, with exposed live wiring and an uncovered junction box;
- Active rodent infestation;
- A damaged septic tank vent pipe and inadequate seals;
- Defects to the oil supply serving the oil-fired heating system and a cracked and rusted wood-burning stove; and
- Garden fencing with numerous gaps and missing sections, with fence panels damaged and decayed.

The High Court proceeded to deal with essentially one issue: at the time of the hearing was the property ‘unfit’ for human habitation within the meaning of section 9A Landlord and Tenant Act 1985?

The approach to section 9A

The judgment contains a thorough and detailed analysis of the legislative history which came before the Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act 2018, in particular, the court considered:

1. Section 11 requires disrepair - damage or deterioration to the structure or exterior - and so does not apply to a dwelling that is unfit without being out of repair, the paradigm being condensation, damp and mould: *Quick v Taff Ely Borough Council* [1986] QB 809.

2. The decision in *Summers v Salford Corporation* [1943] AC 283, a decision of the House of Lords under section 2 of the Housing Act 1936 (the predecessor to section 8 LTA 1985).
3. The decision in *Rendlesham Estates plc v Barr Ltd* [2015] 1 WLR 3663 (Edwards-Stuart J), being a judgment of the High Court dealing with section 1 Defective Premises Act 1972.
4. The relevance of ‘prescribed hazards’ under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System.

In short, the court followed the decisions of *Summers* and *Rendlesham* when considering the meaning of ‘fitness for human habitation’. At paragraph 45, the judge set out what was said by the court in *Summers*:

“Of particular relevance is Summers v Salford Corporation [1943] AC 283, a decision of the House of Lords under section 2 of the Housing Act 1936 (the predecessor to section 8 LTA 1985) from which the following propositions may be drawn:

(a) A house is not ‘reasonably fit for human habitation’ if the state of repair of a house is such that by ordinary user either (i) ‘damage may naturally be caused to the occupier, either in respect of personal injury to life or limb or injury to health’; or (ii) the premises ‘cannot be used and dwelt in ... with reasonable comfort’: per Lord Atkin, p. 289.

(b) Unfit is not the same as uninhabitable. A single defect can render a dwelling unfit. ‘A burst or leaking pipe, a displaced slate or tile, a stopped drain, a rotten stair tread, may each of them until repair make a house unfit to live in’: Lord Atkin, p. 288. Here, an unusable window due to a broken sash-cord in a small

house meant the dwelling was not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.”

Thereafter, at paragraph 50, the judge considered what was said in *Rendlesham*:

“Rendlesham Estates plc v Barr Ltd [2015] 1 WLR 3663 (Edwards-Stuart J). The Court adopted a materially identical test to that applied by Lord Atkin in Summers, namely that the property is not fit if it is ‘not capable of occupation for a reasonable period without risk to the health or safety’ or ‘without undue inconvenience or discomfort’ to the occupants [68]. In the context of damp and mould, both parties emphasised this passage at [79]:

I have no doubt that the presence of mould and damp in living rooms or bedrooms, if persistent and more than minor, renders an apartment unfit for habitation. Damp living conditions are well known to pose a risk to health, and there is evidence from some witnesses of actual risks to health or concern about the potential risk, either to themselves or children.

As for the ultimate decision of the court, at paragraph 54 Judge Paul Bowen KC found there to be two distinct components of the test for ‘fitness’: *“premises may be not fit if, first, the living conditions present a risk to the health or safety of the occupiers; and, second, the living conditions have a sufficiently negative effect on the occupier’s comfort and convenience, even if there is no risk to health or safety”*.

Further, the court considered the importance of the presence of ‘prescribed hazards’ (under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System). The court considered that the addition of the ‘prescribed hazards’ extended the matters which are relevant to the issue of ‘fitness’ under section 10, and crucially, at paragraph 57 the court said: *“a local authority assessment of a category 1 or category 2 hazard would be strong evidence of unfitness”*.

Procedural difficulties for the Defendant

The judgment also deals with the procedural difficulties faced by the Defendant who sought a (very) late amendment to rely on the defence afforded by s9A(3) LTA 1985 – essentially that the condition of the property was “wholly or mainly” attributable to the Claimants’ breach of covenant (in that they failed to allow access to carry out repairs).

The judge refused permission to amend the defence on the first day of trial, and proceeded only in relation to the question of whether the property was, as at the date of the hearing, fit for habitation within s9A LTA 1985.

The judge, in refusing permission to amend the defence, provided a helpful reminder and summary of the law regarding late amendments. At paragraph 81, the judgment provides: *“The principles governing late amendments are well settled. The court has a discretion, to be exercised in accordance with the overriding objective, and must balance the injustice to the amending party if the amendment is refused against the injustice to the other party, and to other court users, if it is allowed: Swain-Mason v Mills & Reeve LLP [2011] EWCA Civ 14, [2011] 1 WLR 2735 (at [69]–[72], [85], [106]); and Quah Su-Ling v Goldman Sachs International [2015] EWHC 759 (Comm), [36–38], the principles in which were approved by the Court of Appeal in Nesbit Law Group LLP v Acasta European Insurance Co Ltd [2018] EWCA Civ 268, [40–45]. A heavy burden lies on the party seeking a late amendment to explain why it was not made earlier, to show the strength of the new case, and to show why justice requires that it be permitted. The later the amendment, the heavier that burden. A very late amendment – one made when the trial is imminent or under way, and which threatens the trial date – is approached with particular caution, and its lateness may itself be a sufficient reason to refuse it.”*

The Key Takeaways

This judgment comes as welcome news to Claimants and those acting for Claimants in housing conditions claims. The High Court’s decision makes clear that the hurdle to overcome when bringing a claim for unfitness is not as high as some once thought.

In essence, there are two key questions for the court when considering whether a property is ‘reasonably fit for habitation’:

1. Is the premises such that the living conditions present a risk to the health or safety of the occupiers?
2. Is the premises such that the living conditions have a sufficiently negative effect on the occupier’s comfort and convenience, even if there is no risk to health or safety?

If, when answering those questions, the court concludes that the answer to either question is “yes”, then the property is likely not reasonably fit for human habitation under s9A LTA 1985.

A local authority assessment of category 1 or 2 prescribed hazards amounts to strong evidence of unfitness.

Practitioners should remember – unfit is not the same as uninhabitable. In this case, the court refused to order a ‘decant’ or temporary accommodation, there being no evidence that vacant possession of the property was required to complete the required works.

Positive defences (such as the unfitness being “wholly or mainly” attributable to the tenant’s breach of covenant) must be expressly and properly pleaded.

Ethan Riley
Barrister
Liverpool Civil Law

Regulation Update

August 2026

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

The summer has brought no let-up in regulatory activity, but, then again, is that surprising to those of us working in the world of regulatory risk and compliance? Recent developments span sanctions compliance, consumer claims, litigation funding, complaints handling and disciplinary enforcement. A common theme runs through them all: regulators are increasingly focused on governance, transparency and evidence of effective oversight.

Our advice is clear: if you've not yet been away, go and relax, switch off, refresh and know it will all be waiting for you when you get back, and if, like me, you've been away and that relaxed feeling disappeared when you logged back on (provided of course, unlike me, you managed to completely switch off emails etc.), start planning your next break!

Sanctions compliance – UK and US regulators seek greater alignment

The UK's Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) and the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) have published joint guidance comparing key aspects of the UK and US sanctions regimes. The guidance examines sanctions lists, licensing arrangements, record-keeping requirements and reporting obligations, with the aim of making

compliance easier to understand and implement for businesses operating across jurisdictions.

For law firms, particularly those involved in international transactions or higher-risk client work, the guidance reinforces the need to view sanctions compliance as an ongoing governance obligation rather than a standalone screening exercise. As sanctions regimes continue to evolve, periodic review of policies, training and reporting procedures will help ensure firms remain equipped to identify and respond appropriately to sanctions-related risks and obligations.

Consumer claims – scrutiny continues

The SRA's focus on the consumer claims market shows no sign of diminishing. Recent reporting highlighted findings from an SRA poll indicating that more than half of consumers reported experiencing problems when dealing with claims firms.

Against that backdrop, the SRA has launched a consultation on protecting consumers where solicitors and law firms use or arrange third-party litigation funding for consumer claims [SRA | Protecting consumers when solicitors and law firms use and/or arrange third-party litigation funding for consumer claims | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#) and sets out proposals to strengthen the regulatory obligations that apply in those circumstances. The consultation reflects growing regulatory concern around transparency, consumer understanding and the risks that can arise where funding arrangements influence litigation activity.

Alongside that, the FCA issued a notice to request information from the claims management industry as part of its Claims Management Services Market Study (CMMS), following its publication in May of the Terms of Reference for the study, which sets out its scope and objectives.

The study is examining how claims management services are supplied, including lead generation, and whether conduct and behaviours in the market may have adverse effects on the interests of consumers.

The latest developments suggest that regulatory expectations in this area are continuing to increase. Firms involved in high-volume consumer claims work may wish to consider whether funding arrangements, client communications and supervision arrangements would withstand closer scrutiny, particularly where clients may have limited understanding of funding structures, costs or available alternatives.

Car finance claims – uncertainty remains

The ongoing debate surrounding car finance redress has taken another turn with reports that the proposed FCA compensation scheme has been suspended and may face legal challenge from both claimant representatives and lenders.

While the outcome remains uncertain, significant consumer interest remains. Any changes to the proposed scheme could affect funding arrangements, case acquisition strategies and client expectations, meaning that firms active in this sector are likely to be monitoring developments closely as the position evolves.

Post Office Horizon – regulatory consequences continue

Regulatory scrutiny arising from the Post Office Horizon scandal remains active. The SRA has referred two solicitors to the SDT in relation to conduct that took place after the scandal. The developments illustrate how regulatory scrutiny can continue long after the events under investigation and how conduct connected to major public inquiries may remain subject to review for years afterwards.

It also reinforces the importance of transparency, cooperation and accuracy when dealing with regulators, courts and public bodies.

Consultations

As we reported last month the SRA opened a consultation [Client money in legal services: Notifying the SRA of changes to help identify and act on risks](#) which closes for responses on 17 August, so you still have a little time to put forward your views.

In July the SRA opened two further consultations, the first relating to changing its requirements on first-tier complaints [SRA | Changing our requirements on first-tier complaints – supplementary consultation | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#) which ends on 1 September, and which seeks views on two new, targeted requirements on how solicitors and firms communicate with clients when a complaint is raised, namely, that clients are provided with a timeline for resolution of their complaint when a complaint is first notified and are given regular updates on the progress of their complaint; its intention to publish a Complaints Handling Requirements Statement, and the areas it plans to cover in its new complaints handling guidance.

The second consultation, referred to above, relates to third party funding for consumer claims which ends 17 September.

New/updated practice notes and guidance SRA

[SRA | Using or arranging Third-Party Litigation Funding | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)

[SRA | Dealing with conflicts of interest, independence and confidentiality for in-house solicitors - Case studies | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)

Law Society

[Solicitors Regulation Authority \(SRA\) powers of investigation | The Law Society](#)

[Handling complaints as a solicitor | The Law Society](#)

[Raising concerns and whistleblowing: guidance for staff | The Law Society](#)

[Implementing whistleblowing arrangements | The Law Society](#)

Disciplinary decisions

Recent disciplinary decisions continue to reinforce familiar themes.

Fines for breaches of AML

Fines continue to be imposed on firms for breaches of MLR following AML desk-based reviews/investigations, with approximately 10 firms in July being fined, in total, over £100,000.

Chaotic practice leads to SDT ban

A sole practitioner was banned by the SDT after operating what was described as a chaotic practice, placing clients at risk and misleading insurers, having retained outstanding client balances on almost 700 matters, one going back to 1999, and telling insurers on his PI renewal form that the firm had not been subject to any investigations from the SRA. He was also ordered to pay over £45,000 costs.

Strike-off following deadline cover-up

A solicitor was struck off after missing a deadline and subsequently creating an explanation intended to conceal the error, which included creating and backdating correspondence to clients and deliberately misspelling an email address, which he then blamed on his secretary. His initial explanation was accepted but an investigation by IT specialists identified the backdating, and he also then admitted his secretary had not been responsible

for the error. In non-agreed mitigation, he said he was under pressure balancing family life, including a new baby, with his demanding professional role. He made an agreed outcome with the SRA to be struck off and was ordered to pay almost £17,000 costs.

Prospective trainee banned

A senior paralegal who had been offered a training contract forged a client and their sponsor's signature on an immigration document sent to the Home Office, falsified a language test certificate in the client's name and faked an email to try and prevent her firm finding out about her mistakes. The individual had been barred from the profession, the SRA imposing a s43 order meaning she cannot work for a law firm without its permission.

Suspended for touching colleagues and racist remarks

A partner who inappropriately touched junior female colleagues and made antisemitic remarks was suspended for a year, the SDT ruling that while public confidence in the profession required that he be penalised, his conduct did not require him to be struck off. In mitigation it was said that the misconduct, while serious, did not involve clients, dishonesty or sustained exploitation and occurred within a limited period at social events. He was ordered to pay costs, which are subject to detailed assessment.

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: **The Reader**

Changing the lives of care-experienced children one page at a time



Reading Heroes is a Shared Reading project from The Reader, supporting care-experienced children and young people to develop confidence, build relationships, and discover the joy and value of reading together. Through regular sessions led by trained facilitators, young people are invited to explore stories and poems in a safe, welcoming environment where their thoughts and experiences are listened to and valued.

Reading Heroes

Since 2016, The Reader has supported over 550 care-experienced children and young people across the UK to experience the benefits of reading for pleasure. Children aged 2-15 years are supported to become their own 'reading heroes' by developing a love of reading for pleasure, while improving their confidence and building strong stable relationships with trusted adults.

The term 'care-experienced' includes those living in foster care, residential homes, with a relative (who is not a parent), and those who have been adopted after previously spending time in the care system.

After their 26 sessions, children report greater enjoyment of reading and increased levels of wellbeing, whilst carers report increased confidence in both reading and overall demeanor. These improvements are seen both at school, with children more actively taking part in lessons, and at home, where reading a book can become a preferred pastime and reading together a valued and regular activity.

"Reading Heroes has completely changed him. He talks more about how people feel, relating to characters in the books he reads. Sometimes he is really quiet and I wonder what trouble he is up to and when I go upstairs I just find him sitting there reading. I can't thank you enough for everything!" - Reading Heroes Carer

Feedback from the 2025/26 Reading Heroes cohort highlights just how incredible an impact these online, 1:1 sessions can have, with young readers benefitting from:

- **Improved confidence** (88% of carers said that their child is a more confident reader, and 75% said that taking part has boosted the child's overall confidence)
- **Increased wellbeing** (88% of children said it was good to talk about their thoughts and feelings, and 75% of carers agreed that Reading Heroes has improved their child's wellbeing)
- **Enjoyment of reading** (75% of young people enjoy reading more now).



Continued Support

And the fun doesn't stop after their sessions do, with each child becoming a 'legacy reader' and being able to continue to grow their world through new books, a Reading Heroes reading group, online author events and illustrator masterclasses. This legacy support has been proven to further improve confidence and wellbeing and continues to develop these heroes' love of reading, making sure that they can take it with them wherever they go.

'Reading for pleasure is the single most important thing that will make a child successful in life.'
- UNESCO, 2011

The benefits of this programme are life-changing for any child, but for those who have care experience, they are essential in offering them the opportunity to stand on equitable footing with their non-care-experienced peers. Nearly every care-experienced child lives with the life-long physical and mental effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences, such as abuse, neglect or caregiver substance abuse or mental illness. Reading Heroes can act as a resilience factor, boosting the confidence and self-esteem of these children, increasing their wellbeing at a time when the mental health repercussions of their experiences make life and learning challenging, and providing them with the love of reading, a life-long self-care tool.

How You Can Help

As a charity, The Reader relies on the generous support of individuals and organisations to help them change lives through Shared Reading.

Below are just some of the ways that you can make a positive difference to the lives of care-experienced children across the UK:

- **Volunteer and share.** Every Reading Heroes child needs a volunteer to read with, and that person could be you, a friend or loved one. Share this article, send someone the link to volunteer (<https://www.thereader.org.uk/what-we-do/who-we-read-with/reading-heroes/>) or sign up to volunteer an hour a week of your time.
- **Fundraise for Reading Heroes.** Take part in an abseils, marathons, skydive or contact The Reader with your own idea of how you want to raise money for this incredible cause.
- **Get your organisation involved.** Do you have volunteer days to use up? Ask if you can split them up into hours. Share Reading Heroes with your colleagues and consider nominating The Reader as the next cake sale charity partner.
- **Donate.** The Reader are always grateful for any and all donations, with every penny going a long way.

Donate via www.thereader.org.uk/donate
To find out more about The Reader and



ways you can get involved please visit www.thereader.org.uk or email Megan at development@thereader.org.uk.
Charity Registration Number 1126806



thereader.org.uk/readingheroes



Exclusive PI announcement

Exclusive PI made easier for law firms

Miller has launched an exclusive professional indemnity (PI) insurance facility designed specifically for sole practitioners and firms with up to three partners.

The exclusive is backed by a leading Lloyd's insurer and is easy to quote and compare with your current policy. The team can prepare a quote using any completed proposal form, making it easy to assess your options without starting from scratch.

The policy is also an ideal option for conveyancing-focused firms, with no caps on the conveyancing work you undertake. If you'd like to find out more, get in touch with the Miller team solicitors@miller-insurance.com.

Why Miller?

Miller's solicitors' PI team supports more than 1,300 UK law firms, from sole practitioners to some of the country's largest firms. Combining dedicated legal sector expertise with strong insurer relationships and year-round support, they deliver great service for every firm at every stage.

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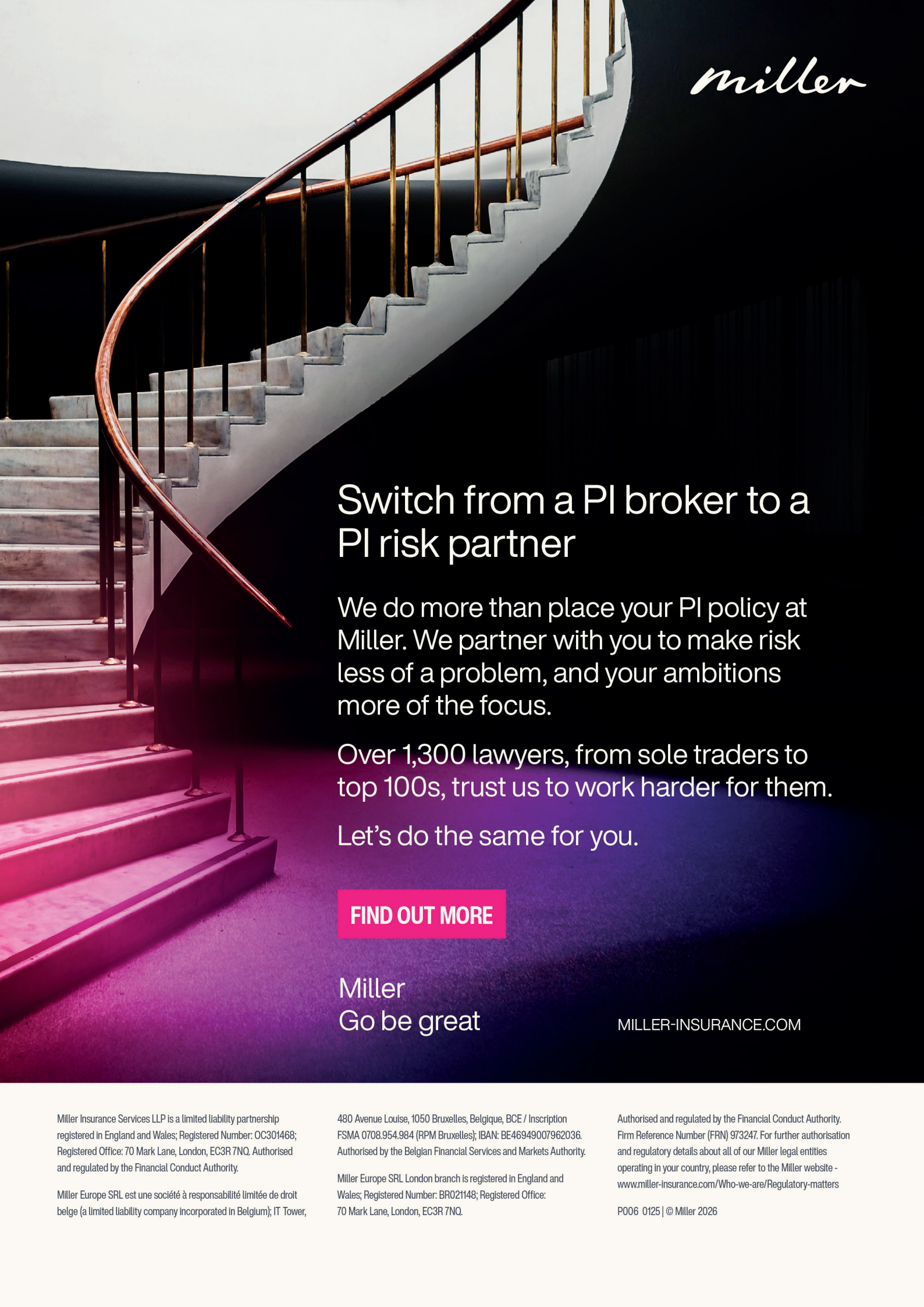
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Forthcoming Courses

MULTI DELEGATE DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS

Liverpool Law Society offers a members-only benefit - booking multiple delegates on the same legal training course will enjoy substantial discounts, making it ideal for teams looking to learn together or firms aiming to offer equal training opportunities across departments.

DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
03/09/2026	Domestic Abuse: Key principles and Updates 2026	Various
10/09/2026	AML Supervision: From the SRA to the FCA	Amy Bell
15/09/2026	The Sentencing Act 2026	Colin Beaumont
16/09/2026	Successful Careers are Built through In-Person Collaboration	Various
21/09/2026	A Guide to Share Buy Backs in a Private Limited Company	Jackie Sheldon
22/09/2026	2026 Domestic Abuse Conference	Various
23/09/2026	2026 Property Conference	Various
24/09/2026	Pensions, IHT and Family Dynamics: Advising Clients Through a Changing Landscape	Various
12/10/2026	Key Issues Affecting Easements	Richard Snape
13/10/2026	Compliance That Works	Eilish Cullen
14/10/2026	2026 Employment Conference	Various
15/10/2026	Menopause in the Workplace	Lisa Wright
20/10/2026	2026 Private Child Law Conference	Various
11/11/2026	Conference for Legal Cashiers & Managers	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/>

Liverpool Law Society

2026 Family Finance Conference

Thursday 3rd September 2026, 9.00am till 4.00pm
In Person Event at St Johns Building, Liverpool

Liverpool Law Society, Resolution and St John's Buildings are pleased to present a specialist conference exploring key developments and practical issues in family law financial remedies.

Bringing together leading barristers, academics, financial advisers and practitioners, the programme offers a comprehensive examination of the evolving financial remedies landscape. Sessions will explore the untold stories of financial remedies law, capacity and Court of Protection, the unique challenges presented by agricultural and farming cases, financial advisers key issues for practitioners to be aware of, together with the latest developments in case law. The conference will also feature a keynote address from Samantha Hillas KC and conclude the morning programme with a panel discussion involving all speakers.

Designed for family law professionals at all levels, this event provides an excellent opportunity to gain expert insight, discuss emerging challenges, and share best practice with colleagues from across the profession.

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Liverpool Law Society

Management

AML Supervision: From the SRA to the FCA

with Amy Bell

In Person, 10th September, 12.30pm - 2.30pm

Join us for a lunch and learn session Amy Bell, Founder of Teal Compliance, presenting on AML Supervision, from the SRA to the FCA.

The way law firms are supervised under the Money Laundering Regulations is changing and this session will help your MLRO, MLCO and compliance officers be prepared for the transition from the SRA's current approach to the FCA's strategy. We will cover the potential timeline for the change, what is likely to be the FCA's approach, and why establishing a robust control framework is crucial to success.

Amy is the Founder of Teal Compliance and the current chair of the Law Society's Economic Crime Taskforce. She is one of the UK's foremost experts on anti-money laundering and economic crime prevention in the legal sector. She has over two decades of experience advising law firms, regulators and industry bodies on risk, regulation and compliance.

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Liverpool Law Society

Criminal

The Sentencing Act 2026

With Colin Beaumont

Online, 15th September, 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Colin Beaumont returns to Liverpool Law Society to deliver a 1-hour online presentation on the Sentencing Act 2026, providing a practical update on the Act's key provisions and developments.

The session will cover all Commencement Orders published up to 15 September, including the four Orders issued by 9 July, alongside amendments to the Bail Act 1976. It will also examine the presumption of suspension, including sentence lengths and suspension periods in both the Magistrates' Court and Crown Court, as well as the significance of offence, conviction and sentencing dates.

Delegates will receive guidance on when courts may depart from the presumption of suspension, including the exceptions set out in section 1 of the Act, and will consider changes to deferred sentences. The presentation will also review provisions on early prisoner release (if commenced), changes to the Fixed Term Recall regime, special custodial sentences for offenders of particular concern, and new requirements relating to domestic abuse findings, whole life orders and High Court referrals of certain Parole Board release decisions.

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Liverpool Law Society

Liverpool Law Society Presents
The New Foundation Series

Successful Careers Are Built Through In-Person Collaboration

 Wednesday 16th Sept, 4.00pm to 6.00pm  In Person

Join us for the first session in our new foundation series for early-career professionals across Professional Business Services, focused on how real career momentum is built through purposeful, in-person collaboration.

We'll explore why showing up, connecting face to face, and building genuine relationships, both within your organisation and across the wider professional community, can accelerate your growth and open unexpected opportunities.

Chaired by Sarah Mir, DWF Liverpool Managing Partner, and James Mannouch, Immediate Past President of Liverpool Law Society and Supervising Solicitor & Pro Bono Coordinator at The University of Law, the session features a panel of business-services experts sharing practical insights and real-world experience.

You'll also have dedicated time to network, meet new people, and expand your professional circle in a relaxed, welcoming setting.

WHY REGISTER?

- Develop core skills to build career momentum
- Expand your network and confidence for long-term growth
- Gain practical insights to strengthen your professional foundations

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Company & Commercial

A Guide to Share Buy Backs in a Private Limited Company

with Jackie Sheldon

Online, 21st September, 1.00pm - 2.30pm



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

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

This online course will cover the following:

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

(Not covering tax advice or accountancy treatment).

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2026 Domestic Abuse Conference

Tuesday 22nd September 2026, 1.00pm till 4.30pm

Hybrid Event - Online or In Person

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

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

[BOOK NOW](#)



2026 Property Conference

Tuesday 23rd September 2026, 9.30am till 3.30pm

Hybrid Event - Online or In Person

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

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

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

[BOOK NOW](#)



Wills, Trust, Tax and Probate

Pensions, IHT and Family Dynamics: Advising Clients Through a Changing Landscape

with Russell Kaminski and Blaise Davies

In Person, 24th September, 8.00am - 09.00am

The proposed changes to the inheritance tax treatment of pensions are set to have a significant impact on estate planning and succession arrangements. In this joint seminar, Russell Kaminski, Partner and Head of Private Client at Vault Private Client, and Blaise Davies, Director and Senior Financial Adviser at Neptune Wealth, will explore the legal, financial and practical implications of the reforms.

The session will cover estate planning, wills and succession, lifetime gifting, pension and inheritance tax planning, and intergenerational wealth transfer. Speakers will also examine the challenges of advising clients with blended families, vulnerable beneficiaries and complex family relationships, offering practical insights into collaborative working between legal and financial professionals to deliver effective, joined-up wealth planning advice.

[BOOK NOW](#)

Compliance That Works

with Eilish Cullen

In Person, 13th October, 12.30pm - 2.30pm

Join us for an upcoming lunch and learn session which will cover why law firm compliance programmes often fail and the compliance rules every firm should know to build a robust compliance framework. We will focus on the 'Six C's of Compliance' and why 'Culture' is the biggest cog in your framework. You will learn:

- why compliance programmes often fail
- best practice tips for building a culture of compliance
- what makes a successful compliance officer

Eilish is a solicitor specialising in SRA regulation, anti-money laundering, data protection and CQS compliance. She is Head of Partnerships at Teal Compliance.

[BOOK NOW](#)

2026 Employment Conference

Wednesday 14th October 2026, 9.30am till 3.30pm

Hybrid Event - Online or In Person

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

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

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

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

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Menopause and the Workplace

with Lisa Wright

Online, 15th October, 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Creating a menopause-friendly workplace is increasingly important for organisations seeking to support employee wellbeing, improve engagement and foster an inclusive working environment. This informative session will provide a practical overview of the menopause transition, helping delegates understand its impact on employees and the workplace, while highlighting the benefits of developing effective support strategies and raising awareness across all teams.

The session will explore the different stages and types of menopause, demographic trends, organisational and legal considerations, and the physiological, physical and psychological effects that individuals may experience. Delegates will also gain guidance on implementing formal and informal menopause policies, adopting supportive workplace practices, and becoming a menopause-friendly employer. The programme will conclude with practical recommendations and a Q&A session, equipping attendees with the knowledge and confidence to create a more supportive and inclusive workplace culture.

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Stand And Deliver – Advocacy Principles

with Safda Mahmood

Online, 13th November, 10:00am - 16:00pm



With increasing pressure on lawyers to undertake their own advocacy in family proceedings, this practical course will help build confidence and develop essential advocacy skills across injunction and personal protection cases, as well as private and public children law matters. The programme covers advocacy at all stages of proceedings, including initial, directions, case management, interim, contested and final hearings, together with Family Law Act applications for non-molestation and occupation orders.

Using realistic case scenarios and pre-course materials, delegates will gain practical experience and guidance on effective preparation, examination-in-chief and cross-examination, opening and closing submissions, calling live evidence, and advocacy in emergency, fact-finding and contested hearings. The course is suitable for lawyers acting for parents, children, extended family members and local authorities.

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Social Media Highlights

Each month we will be bringing you a selection of the latest social media posts by Liverpool Law Society and its members.

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A Wonderful Saturday at the All Out Together Ball...

We take pride in being a sponsor of this event. As a firm, we recognise that ...more



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Our summer socials are in full swing and our teams have been taking time out with colleagues to celebrate their successes. ...more





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A real pleasure to visit Leigh and catch up with **Pam Gilligan** and **Craig** from **Compassion in Action**. ...more



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We were delighted to host our netball tournament alongside **Dyke Yaxley Chartered Accountants**, bringing together local businesses from Shrewsbury and the surrounding areas for an evening of fun, teamwork, and fundraising. ...more



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A heartfelt thank you to all who joined **Jonathan Abrams** and **Gregory Abrams** for our business breakfast at the beautiful Botanico Dining Room yesterday morning at Liverpool's iconic Municipal Hotel. ...more



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