

September 2026

Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

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

The Annual MJLD Ball

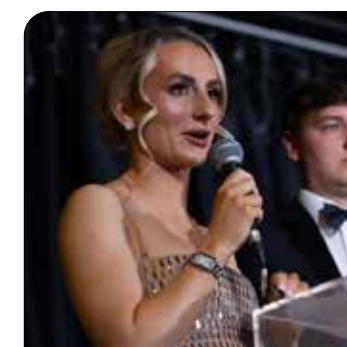
*Celebrating 12 months of activity, collaboration and
community support for Merseyside's junior lawyers.*

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September 2026

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DEADLINES

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 September edition of Liverpool Law



The deadline is looming for our Awards ceremony so please be quick and submit any nominations. The dinner is held on 12 November when the winners will be announced and there’s still time to buy your tickets. It is always a lovely evening bringing our legal community together to celebrate.

The MJLD have also had their awards ball and feature on our front page this month, which again is always a lovely event to see the next generation coming through. Congratulations to their winners, including my own firm and colleagues. I’ve mentioned many times how important it is to give young people opportunities and encouragement and I was very fortunate to have had that. We have a great article from JR Levins which sums it up lovely so please do give that a read.

At the other end of the career I mentioned last month the retirement of our lovely Ann Murphy and Liz Weeks here at Liverpool Law Society. Ann joined Liverpool Law Society in October 1988 and Liz in July 2000. Between them, they have dedicated nearly six decades of service to the Society, supporting countless Presidents, Officers, Directors and members, and making an invaluable contribution to the success and continuity of the organisation. We have an article and some nice photographs of their leaving lunch and I once again wish them both the best of luck and relaxation in their next chapter.

Until next month.

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

From the President

The latest from the President, Sarah Mansfield

Copilot said:
Holiday Handover: Why Solicitors Earn Their Breaks

As the summer holiday season reaches its peak, many people look forward to switching off, packing a suitcase and escaping the daily routine. For solicitors, however, a holiday often begins with a significant amount of preparation long before they reach the airport or set off on a staycation.

The nature of legal practice means that our clients’ matters cannot simply be paused while we are away. Deadlines continue, transactions progress, court timetables remain fixed and clients rightly expect continuity of service. As a result, solicitors typically spend considerable time preparing detailed handovers, reviewing active files, anticipating potential issues and ensuring colleagues have all the information they need to step in if required.

While this preparation can create a busy period before a holiday, it also highlights one of the profession’s greatest strengths: teamwork. Effective planning, clear communication and strong collaboration allow firms to deliver a seamless service while enabling colleagues to take a well-earned break.

There are also practical steps that can help lessen the burden. Starting holiday preparations early, identifying urgent matters well in advance and keeping file notes up to date throughout the year can make handovers far less stressful. Increasingly, technology also plays an important role, with case management systems, shared digital files and automated processes helping teams access key information quickly and efficiently.

Most importantly, solicitors should remember that taking time away from work is not a luxury, but a necessity. Rested professionals are better able to serve their clients, make sound judgments and maintain the high standards expected of the profession.

As President of Liverpool Law Society, I am continually impressed by the dedication shown by solicitors across



our region. The effort that goes into preparing for a holiday may sometimes go unnoticed, but it reflects the professionalism and commitment that define our profession. And when the preparation is done well, everyone benefits, including the solicitor returning refreshed and ready for the challenges ahead.

Sarah Mansfield
President
president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk



LLS Meetings & events – Sept/Oct 2026

Start Time	Meeting/Event
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
15/09/2026 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
16/09/2026 11:00	COO and Practice Manager Forum
16/09/2026 13:00	Civil Litigation Sub-Committee
17/09/2026 13:00	Future Planning Sub-Committee
24/09/2026 13:00	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee
24/09/2026 16:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee
28/09/2026 20:45	TLS Labour Party Conference reception (P, VP, PLO attending)
29/09/2026 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
01/10/2026 13:00	Access to Justice Sub-Committee
01/10/2026 17:00	The University of Law celebrates 150 years
06/10/2026 13:00	Employment Law Sub-Committee
09/10/2026 13:00	Directors' Meeting with MPs
13/10/2026 12:30	General Committee 2025-2026 (In-person)

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



Routes into the law: Kiera Dean



Kiera Dean

Kiera Dean, an apprentice Solicitor, also serves as Sponsorship Representative for the Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division. She grew up in Formby and attended Formby High School, where she studied A levels in History, Maths and Physics. During her GCSEs she considered several career paths, including Law, Finance, Teaching and Engineering, although History had always been her preferred subject.

She provided some tutoring during this period, mainly in Maths and occasionally in History, and found the experience valuable. However, it also confirmed for her that teaching was not the path she wished to pursue.

While applying to study History at university with the intention of completing a conversion course afterwards, Kiera learned about apprenticeship opportunities in Law and Finance. She applied for several positions and accepted an offer from Weightmans. After spending a day in the office during the interview process, she felt the environment suited her and chose the apprenticeship over her original plan. She now combines her working week with study at BPP University on Wednesdays, along with additional study days before examinations. Her most recent exam took place in late August.

On 14 August, Kiera and her colleagues

completed the demanding challenge of climbing Helvellyn twice to raise money for charity, covering 26 kilometres and 950 metres of elevation.

During her apprenticeship, Kiera has completed two seats in claims and is keen to explore other areas before deciding on a specialism. She is currently part of the casualty team and ultimately hopes to progress to partnership at Weightmans. She values the firm’s culture and, as it is a national practice, would welcome the opportunity to work beyond Liverpool. Having grown up nearby, she is interested in experiencing another part of the country, possibly Manchester or London, while remaining within the same firm.

Kiera’s uncle is a magistrate, and she may one day wish to become a Stipendiary Magistrate or a Judge to experience a different aspect of the law.

She became involved with MJLD through **Faye Morris**, a colleague in the casualty team who was elected Chair last year. Kiera was elected Sponsorship Representative and has enjoyed the role, particularly liaising with councils and assisting with event organisation. Her responsibilities include contacting firms, chambers and recruitment companies to secure sponsorship, and she spends much of her time at events speaking with representatives from these organisations, gaining insight into different areas of legal practice.

Outside work, Kiera enjoys travelling and recently returned from Bali and Vietnam. She is already planning her next destination. Alongside challenging hikes, she also enjoys gentler walks along Formby beach with friends and family.

We wish Kiera every success in her career.

Slater and Gordon welcomes its latest legal appointment, Brittany Evans



Brittany Evans

Family Solicitor, Brittany Evans has joined Slater and Gordon's family team, marking the latest addition of its continued expansion to its Liverpool legal offering. After recently becoming a new mum, Brittany looks forward to this latest chapter, bringing nearly five

years of legal experience to the team.

Working alongside Head of Family Law [Jenniffer Brunt](#), Senior Associate [Andrew Ormrod](#) and Associate [Rebecca Cliff](#), together the team combines more than 60 years of family law experience.

Brittany says: "I'm in a really exciting period of my life. After moving to the Wirral in 2024, recently becoming a new mum and now joining the Liverpool team here at Slater and Gordon; I'm looking forward to supporting the local community facing some of the most challenging moments in their lives."

"Being a new working mother, I can truly resonate how complex family life can be and there's every part of me that wants to help those facing legal decisions find comfort and strength."

Currently, the firms Liverpool and

Wirral-based family team advises clients across Merseyside on a range of services including divorce, financial matters, child arrangements and more.

Initially starting her career in conveyancing, Brittany's knowledge in property will offer clients a valuable perspective when navigating the financial implications of separation and divorce.

Reflecting on the first month with the firm, Brittany says: "I've settled into the team very well, which isn't a surprise given how lovely the team are. They are truly committed to helping others which plays a big part for me. This gives me great confidence for my journey ahead."

Head of Family Law, Jenniffer Brunt says, "We're thrilled to have Brittany as our latest team member. She brings fantastic experience, a fresh perspective and a genuine passion for supporting clients."

Richard Edwards & Co marks hitting 1 year in business



Leading catastrophic and serious injury lawyer, Richard Edwards, is celebrating after his firm marks its first anniversary.

Richard, 48, founder of city firm Richard Edwards and Co, has been looking back on the first year achievements: "We have recovered damages totalling £8.75 million for our clients" said Richard.

"In addition, we have been instructed in 8 new catastrophic injury claims and 10 serious injury claims. On top of this we have been entrusted with referrals from the judiciary, leading members at the personal injury bar, charities, the police and from existing clients. This provides a solid base upon which to build going forward."

Richard also spoke about the challenge of raising awareness of his new firm:

"I have had to start from scratch and with a limited budget. I have

been fortunate enough to be invited to speak at a number of events by leading bodies in the sector, including the Expert Witness Institute, the newly established Pathway Expert Chambers and the Expert Witness Directory all of which has helped to build awareness of my firm."

Aside from this Richard also spoke about the importance of partnerships with insurers:

"Crucial to our offering to clients is having a relationship with a trusted legal expense provider. Early in the year we put a lot of effort into establishing a partnership with Markel for the benefit of all our clients. It was pleasing to see this work come off".

Speaking of future plans Richard continued:

"Our clients with catastrophic and serious personal injury claims benefit from fair funding models, with no success fees being charged. They are also not asked to top up any shortfall in costs recovery, meaning that they get to keep all of their compensation. Going ahead, we will look to build upon this as marking us out as distinct from other specialists in the serious and catastrophic injury field."

Richard Edwards
Richard Edwards & Co



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FINDING YOUR VOICE IN TODAY'S DIGITAL LANDSCAPE

Carpenters Group Names Alder Hey as Charity of the Year Following Colleague Vote

Carpenters Group has announced Alder Hey Children's Charity as its Charity of the Year, following a company-wide vote involving colleagues across the business.

The vote gave colleagues the opportunity to nominate and select a charity that holds a special place in the heart of their people. Following strong support from teams across the organisation, Alder Hey Children's Charity was chosen as the charity they will champion over the next 12 months.

Alder Hey Children's Charity raises vital funds to support Alder Hey Children's Hospital, helping to provide life-saving equipment, innovative research and enhanced experiences for children and their families.

Throughout the year, colleagues from

across Carpenters Group will take part in a variety of fundraising activities, events and challenges, with all funds raised helping Alder Hey continue its incredible work supporting young patients and their families.

Donna Richards, CEO of Carpenters Group, said: *"We are delighted to announce Alder Hey as our colleague voted Charity of the Year. The result reflects our colleagues' desire to support a cause local to our headquarters that has a significant impact on the children and families in contact with the hospital. We are looking forward to working with Alder Hey throughout the year and raising as much money as we can to go towards the amazing work they do."*

Carpenters Group has a long-standing

commitment to supporting charitable organisations and giving back to the communities in which it operates. The appointment of Alder Hey as Carpenters Group's Charity of the Year complements their existing charitable commitments and community partnerships. Alongside fundraising activities in support of Alder Hey, Carpenters Group will continue their extensive work with grassroots organisations and local initiatives, including Fans Supporting Foodbanks, Fishing the Mind, the LFC Foundation, the Greenbank Project and many more. Through these partnerships, the business remains committed to making a positive impact in their local communities.

Further details about planned fundraising events and opportunities to support Alder Hey will be shared throughout the year.

Ex-President Norman Jones' 5K eclipse race



On Wednesday evening on 12th August 2026, I took part in the Ellesmere Port Running Club 5K race around the lanes in Capenhurst. A course I was familiar with having ran this race many times in the past.

This race was however different for many reasons apart from my age. I ran during an almost total eclipse of the sun. This created a very unusual phenomenon of total silence as all the birds stopped singing as the lanes were plunged into darkness.

Secondly I was running in the hottest heat I had ever experienced. 32.5° centigrade and in old money 90.5° Fahrenheit. These conditions made for the hardest race I had ever taken part in.

I had trained hard for the event but could not replicate these conditions.

I was the last to finish but had two fabulous back markers keeping me company as I sprinted for the finish line with loads of other runners cheering me on. Then onto an iced lolly which I devoured.

I suppose times were not that important I simply could not go any faster. I finished in a time of 49.09 minutes.

Two starters didn't finish and 84 didn't start. In all 451 finished including four male veterans over 75.

I slept well that night.

Norman Jones



**St. Mary's College
& Preparatory School**

Join us for our 2026 Open Events:

Thursday 17th September, 4pm - 7pm
Saturday 19th September, 10am - 12pm

**Entrance Examination (2027 admissions):
Friday 13th November**

To register, visit www.stmarys.ac/open-events

The independent Catholic school for boys and girls of all faiths aged 0-18

MSB's Famous Five to qualify in September



Dian Zheg

Five trainees at MSB Solicitors are set to qualify as solicitors in September, marking an important milestone in their careers and highlighting the firm's commitment to developing and retaining legal talent across Merseyside.

All five began their careers at MSB at paralegal level after completing their undergraduate Law degrees and subsequently achieving their SQE1 and SQE2 qualifications. Their progression reflects both their individual dedication and the opportunities available to those developing their careers within the firm.

Dian Zheg will qualify into Litigation, **Jessica Craige** into Family, **Abigail Eves** into Social Housing, **Amba Cathcart** into Residential Conveyancing and **Sabrina Parker** into the Family team.

Alongside their legal training, all five have made valuable contributions to MSB and the wider communities it serves.

Dian is a member of MSB's ESG subcommittee for race and has represented the firm at dragon dancing celebrations and helped organise its Lunar New Year events. She has also participated in University of Law and Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division events, developing her professional network and experience.

Abigail has supported MSB's community and fundraising initiatives, including



Abigail Eves



Amba Cathcart

events raising funds for Bradbury Fields, and represented the firm at schools and colleges to promote careers in law. She is also a key member of MSB's ESG subcommittee for disability and wellness.

Jessica will specialise in children matters and domestic abuse within the Family team. Passionate about access to justice, she regularly contributes to Tomorrow's Women's legal advice clinic and works with organisations supporting those affected by domestic abuse. Her achievements were recognised in 2025 when she received the Law Society's Enoch Harvey Prize for her professional examinations.

Amba will qualify into Residential Conveyancing, having developed expertise across a broad range of property matters,



Jessica Craige



Sabrina Parker

including complex Building Safety Act and leasehold transactions. She has also embraced business development, networking and cross-departmental collaboration, while supporting careers outreach at Liverpool John Moores University and work experience students within the firm.

Sabrina will qualify into Family after gaining experience across divorce and financial remedy proceedings, injunctions and public and private children law. She has developed particular expertise in evidence analysis and advocacy in sensitive matters involving domestic abuse and safeguarding. Originally from Turks and Caicos and now based in Liverpool, Sabrina is passionate about improving access to justice. With MSB's support, she

has hosted free legal clinics for Liverpool's Afro Latin community and represented the firm at LJMU's Round Table on Race Equality. She also mentors LJMU students from minority backgrounds.

For MSB, trainee development extends beyond qualification. The firm is committed to creating an environment where aspiring solicitors can develop their legal and professional skills, build confidence and establish fulfilling careers.

This ethos is reflected throughout the organisation. Managing Partner **Emma Carey** began her own career at MSB as an office junior, demonstrating the opportunities for progression that can arise when individuals are supported to realise their potential.

The firm also recognises the value of fresh perspectives, particularly from its younger colleagues, whose contribution to areas such as ESG, inclusion and access to justice

helps shape MSB's future.

The qualification of **Dian, Jessica, Abigail, Amba** and **Sabrina** represents the culmination of significant professional development and the beginning of an exciting new chapter. MSB is proud of their achievements and looks forward to supporting them as they continue to grow as solicitors and make a positive contribution to the profession and the communities they serve.

Council Member's Report



Jeremy Myers

Before turning to the Council meeting which I attended in person on 01 July, a word about my role in the Scrutiny and Performance Review Committee (SPRC). I observed the Board meeting on 09 June (online). Readers may recall that the Board is the seventeen-person executive of The Law Society (TLS).

The observation gave me an important insight in addition to having watched the Policy and Regulatory Affairs Committee in May. We members of SPRC then looked at the feedback forms which we each completed after observing meetings, when SPRC met on 23 June for our quarterly discussion. We then feed back.

There are a handful of administrative items to mention about Council on 01 July. Council approved a proposal to amend

the Bye-Laws to provide flexibility for the date of the national AGM. This will go to the AGM for approval. The proposed amendment would help to allow changes to the hand-over date for national Officers. We received the outline of the Year Plan for the **Brett Dixon** as he prepares to take up the President's role in October. Civil Justice and access to justice will be key themes for **Brett** who is a litigator. Also, the TLS Budget for 2026-27 was confirmed and reflects the already-approved PC fee increase.

The breakout session which I attended during the morning was on Wellbeing, in the context of Responsible Business (one of the five themes for the 2025-28 TLS Plan). Leadership flexibility given the broad ranges of types of people – and their responsibilities – was a key item. I made the point that the One-Day courses in years 1 and 3 PQE, mandatory in the 1990's helped me to understand and prepare for practice pressures, should be re-instated.

Visits from the SRA and from Kaplan were the main highlights of the day. **Anna Bradley** (Chair) and **Sarah Rapson** (CEO) gave their annual presentation and took some questions. This was not as in depth as **Sarah's** visit to the March Council. Nevertheless, it was an opportunity for the SRA leaders to confirm that they are changing their culture and tools. Specific Directors have been appointed plus a General Counsel role created, and an

independent review of the SRA's oversight into PM Law had been commissioned.

Kaplan was represented by four senior staff – plus a SRA liaison person – for the presentation. The essence of the SRA, Kaplan's role in assessing the candidates' and the administration of the examination process were each covered. A key point was set out is that the SQE is designed to test candidates to ensure that they can show their knowledge, how to carry out steps, that they can show how to do so (known as Miller's Pyramid). Written questions were to be passed to Kaplan for reply. Council's involvement in the SQE review is ongoing.

A social wrap-up to the day is traditional at the July meeting. We adjourned to the National Liberal Club for a Drinks Reception on the terrace overlooking the Thames. Council members and TLS staff mingled with guests. A past President whom I got to know when I was Liverpool President and she was TLS President (2022-23), **Lubna Shuja**, joined us. It was a lovely way to finish the day and to get to know some colleagues better.

In October, Council meets and then straight afterwards the AGM takes place. The AGM is open to all and I would encourage people to think about the issues involved and to contact me. Details are available on the TLS website. I shall update you in the Autumn.

Jeremy Myers



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.

Bookings now open



Liverpool Law Society's
2026 Legal Awards

NOMINATIONS CLOSING SOON!
CATEGORIES

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

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

For further details & to nominate, [click here](#).
Nominations close 12pm on 04.09.26

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

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MJLD Review of the year / Summer Ball



The 2025/2026 MJLD year has now concluded and what a busy year it has been! We are now looking ahead to 2026/2027 and are reviewing our applications for the new committee to begin in September.

Over the past year, we have hosted several networking and social events for the junior lawyers of Merseyside to connect with peers and to help build professional relationships with those in the industry. Our chosen charity this year was Alfie's Squad, which was a charity looking to support young people who have lost a loved one to suicide. We have raised a significant amount of money for the charity and have supported them via a pre-loved clothing sale, yoga wellness evening, a fashion show catwalk, raffle and quiz night.

The year started with the MJLD's autumn social at Ma Boyle's Alehouse and Eatery, which was a chance to meet the new committee for an evening of nibbles and networking. In the new year, we held our annual January social at PINS social club in collaboration with G2 Legal Services Limited. This is one of our larger events of the year with around 60 attendees and was a great way to socialise via an evening

of darts, bowling and pizza.

Later in March, we held the annual MJLD v LLS Quiz Night. This is always such a well-attended event, and we had over 100 attendees this year. This year the MJLD won the trophy – well done Morecrofts! We look forward to seeing who can take the top spot next year.

On 10 August, we hosted our **annual summer ball** at the Bentley, which rounded up the year, and was a celebration of the talent of junior lawyers in the region. Congratulations again to all our award winners. Weightmans were the winner of our Supporter to Rising Talent Award, which recognises a firm that goes above and beyond to support their junior lawyers.

Charlotte Ashton from Fletchers Solicitors won the Legal Excellence award, which recognises a junior lawyer working at a level beyond of what is expected of them. **Tija Fitzgerald** from Brabners won the Care in the Community award, which recognises the extra work that a junior lawyer does, i.e. supporting a charity, and **Anya McNally** from Weightmans won the Outstanding Contribution to the Committee award.

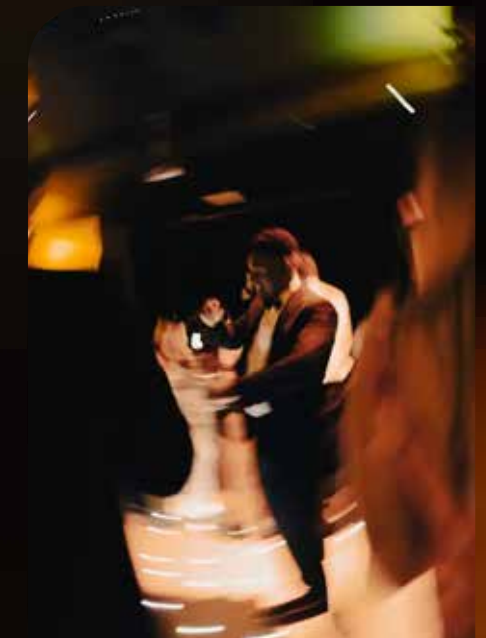
This was awarded for her efforts in helping to organise all our social events this year, including the summer ball.

Our committee have also maintained relationships with the local universities, to help enhance student knowledge via workshops, court marshalling schemes and attending university open evenings, to discuss their routes into the law and how the MJLD can support them throughout their studies.

The last few years on the committee have been a brilliant learning experience. We would recommend anyone who has not been to an MJLD event to come along and meet new people. We are a friendly bunch and are always looking for new ideas and members to join. We are looking forward to seeing what the 2026/2027 committee achieve. No doubt that there will be another action-packed social calendar for the coming year!

Faye Morris
Chair
Weightmans

Callum Waterhouse
Vice Chair
Fletchers Solicitors





LIVERPOOL LEGAL WALK

6PM, WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2026
5k fundraising walk in aid of



**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!**

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



SUPPORTED BY

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

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

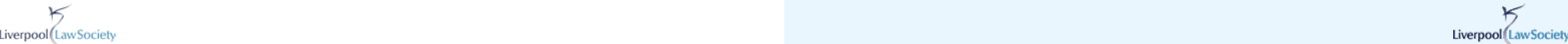
At the end of the 5K fundraising walk, the walkers will have a chance to relax and mingle at our post-walk drinks reception kindly sponsored by St John's Buildings and the University of Law.

IN AID OF THE ACCESS
TO JUSTICE
FOUNDATION



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





MAPD Group becomes first legal business in the UK to take ‘the pledge’ and switch all kitchen knives to rounded-tipped knives



The [MAPD Group](#) has become the first legal services business in the UK to replace all office kitchen knives with round-tip blades, after pledging support to the Let’s Be Blunt campaign, founded by Southport survivor, Leanne Lucas.

The Let’s Be Blunt Community Interest Company (CIC), founded by the campaigner and client of MAPD Group firm, [Broudie Jackson Canter](#), asks individuals and businesses to take a pledge to switch to round-tipped knives to prevent harm and spark a national conversation through education and practical, evidence-informed action.

This month, to mark MAPD Group taking the Let’s Be Blunt pledge, they have replaced over 40 knives across 11 legal and professional services brands and 15 offices, including Jackson Lees Group (which comprises Broudie Jackson Canter, Jackson Lees and Farrington Law), Bermans, Bromleys Solicitors, Myers & Co.

As part of their ongoing programme, **Leanne** delivered an educational seminar exploring the evidence behind safer knife design and the practical steps organisations, workplaces and households can take to help reduce knife crime.

The Group hopes the move will create a ripple effect across the legal sector by encouraging other firms to remove their traditional kitchen knives for disposal via local authority safety bins for melting or crushing.

The Office for National Statistics’ latest homicide data (2025) shows the kitchen knife is the most commonly used weapon and represents around 46 per cent of all fatal stabbings. Replacing pointed kitchen knives with rounded blades has been shown to significantly reduce the risk of serious injury.

Chief People & Culture Officer of MAPD Group, **Mairi Probin**, said: “Switching to round-tipped knives across our offices normalises safer knife design as part of everyday prevention. The consequences of the attack in Southport were devastating for the community, but Southport is not alone. While a round tip doesn’t stop a knife from being used in a crime or accident, it massively reduces the risk of a fatal injury.”

Managing Director of Jackson Lees Group, **Esther Leach**, said “Through our work representing the three adult survivors of the Southport attack at the independent Inquiry chaired by **Adrian**

*Fulford, as well as other victims of knife crime, we know first-hand the importance of prevention and education and hope other firms will follow our lead. **Leanne** is an inspiration, taking her horrendous experience and turning it into something that can help countless others.”*

MAPD Group - which stands for Making a Positive Difference – implemented the safety initiative following a talk by the Let’s Be Blunt founder at Broudie Jackson Canter’s latest Journey to Justice event, an initiative which explores how communities can work together to create better access to justice, truth and accountability.

All staff across the Group are being encouraged to take the Let’s Be Blunt pledge and join over 34,000 people who have actively committed to replacing their kitchen knives and learning about responsible knife use, storage, and disposal since the campaign launched in 2025.

Leanne Lucas said: “Law firms understand better than most businesses the truly devastating impact of knife crime and the ripple effect it has on the many innocent victims across the country. We need to change the way we view our pointed kitchen knives as just another harmless kitchen tool and embrace this simple safety measure to protect communities. I’m pleased to see MAPD Group backing the campaign and leading the way on this.”

Additional MAPD Group firms include: Thomson Hayton Winkley & The Rural Law Practice, Gisby Harrison and Avidity IP.

For further information, please contact: **Lucy Gardner**, Black Letter Communications: 020 3567 1208 lucy.gardner@blacklettercommunications.co.uk

Shape the future of your local Law Society

Members are invited to consider becoming a director of Liverpool Law Society and having an opportunity to influence one of the most active local and prominent local law societies in England and Wales. You will make professional contacts and friends, use and enhance skills in a professional environment and be at the centre of the work and decision-making of a membership organisation with approximately 2,420 members from about 170 law firms, barrister chambers, patent attorneys, in-house lawyers, educational establishments and other branches of the legal profession.

We would like to have a committee of Directors which is as representative as possible of the wide membership the Society encompasses. Our membership is broad, taken from all branches of the legal profession. Please note only full* members of the Society are eligible for election to the General Committee.

2026 AGM

The Society’s Annual General Meeting will be held from 1.00pm – 2.00pm on **Thursday, 26th November 2026** at **The Racquet Club**, Liverpool city centre.

By standing for election at this year’s AGM in November, you would become a director and member of the Society’s General Committee. The General Committee consists of up to 27 directors, who each serve a three-year term. The nominee must be a member of the Society, be nominated by three members of the Society and is elected to serve a three-year term.

Every year, nine members of the General Committee retire by rotation at the AGM: up to five of those due to retire may be nominated by the Committee for re-election, and the others are not eligible for re-election until the next AGM.

How to stand for election

Members of the Society will receive an email in mid-October with details on how to nominate a full member of the Society to become a director. The nomination form must be completed and returned to the Society by 1.00pm on Monday 26th October 2026. Elections will then take place at the AGM in November.

If you would like further information about the Society and the work of the General Committee and sub-committees please visit <http://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/about-the-society/committees> or email committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk and we will get back to you.

*Full member

The following persons practising or working in the Area (Area means the City of Liverpool, the Metropolitan Boroughs of Wirral, Knowsley, St. Helens and Sefton; and Widnes and Neston in the County of Cheshire;) (with the exception of the persons referred to in Article 27.1.2 who are not required to be practising or working in the Area but shall have been so practising or working immediately prior to his or her retirement) shall be eligible to be Full Members of the Society:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 27.1.1 | any solicitor who holds a current practising certificate; |
| 27.1.2 | any solicitor on the Roll who has retired from practice; |
| 27.1.3 | any barrister; |
| 27.1.4 | any Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives; |
| 27.1.5 | any registered foreign or European lawyer who is regulated by an Approved Regulator; |
| 27.1.6 | any person holding a judicial appointment or teaching law; |
| 27.1.7 | any trainee solicitor; |
| 27.1.8 | any patent attorney; |
| 27.1.9 | any licensed conveyancer; |
| 27.1.10 | any notary public; |
| 27.1.11 | any trade mark attorney; |
| 27.1.12 | pupil barristers; and |
| 27.1.13 | subject to Article 29, any person who is in a senior position at an organisation providing legal services which is subject to supervision by an Approved Regulator and who is approved by the Committee. |

Marking 200 Years

Liverpool Law Society Bicentenary Festival Week

21st to 25th June 2027

Liverpool Law Society invites all member firms to take part in our upcoming Bicentenary Festival Week, marking 200 years of supporting and advancing the legal profession across Merseyside.

This week will shine a spotlight on the vibrant Merseyside legal community, bringing together professionals, organisations and the wider public to celebrate everything that makes our sector so special.

We'd love to see member firms across the network join in by creating and hosting their own events throughout the festival week. This could include:

- Seminars & open days
- Community outreach initiatives
- Networking events
- Educational activities

Every event will be promoted on the Liverpool Law Society website as part of the official festival programme, giving your firm a fantastic opportunity to showcase your firm's work, connect with the community, raise your profile, and play a part in this landmark bicentenary celebration.

Mark the evening of the **22nd June** in your diary and join Liverpool Law Society for its annual Legal Walk. Taking place during the bicentenary festival week, the event provides an opportunity to come together and support the Access to Justice Foundation's important work.

Further details on how to register your event and get involved will be shared soon.

Contact us for more information

✉ contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

☎ 0151 236 6998

What Happens After a Forensic Laboratory Test Is Completed?



Forensic laboratory analysis is only one stage within a structured forensic analysis process. Once samples have been collected under strict chain of evidence, and analysis is complete, important steps must occur before results can be relied upon in legal or safeguarding contexts.

Understanding what happens after the laboratory analysis helps set realistic expectations and supports appropriate use of the evidence. Laboratory results are reviewed, verified, interpreted in conjunction with full details of the client's circumstances, and reported within a formal framework designed to meet evidential standards required in legal proceedings.

At Forensic Testing Service (FTS), post-testing processes focus on clarity, proportionality and evidential integrity to support balanced decision-making in line with the required burden of proof: the Balance of Probabilities.

Laboratory Analysis Completion

Once forensic analysis has been carried out, results are not released immediately as a standalone Certificate of Analysis. The first step is a review of all available data, and a validation check to ensure analytical integrity.

This includes quality control checks, confirmation of findings and internal review to verify results are consistent

with validated methods. Any anomalies or technical issues are resolved before reporting begins.

Report Preparation

Forensic reports are prepared in a structured and legally defensible format, presenting findings clearly and objectively without assumptions or advocacy.

Reports explain what was tested, how analysis was carried out and what the results show.

Language is neutral and scientific, avoiding unnecessary technical complexity while remaining precise. FTS reports do not rely solely on Society of Hair Testing cut-off levels or binary terminology such as "detected" and "not detected". Instead, results are interpreted in the context of the available evidence and the circumstances of the case.

The information is presented clearly so that it can be understood by legal and safeguarding professionals and considered appropriately by the court, focusing on evidential value rather than volume of data.

Expert Interpretation

Interpretation is a critical part of forensic analysis. Results must be considered alongside relevant contextual information.

Expert interpretation takes account of case background, declared information, biological variability and environmental factors that may influence findings. This can include passive

exposure, cosmetic treatments or other influences relevant to the testing method. Interpretation helps avoid simplistic conclusions and explains both what results indicate and their limitations.

For the findings to be of evidential value, the expert must clearly describe the process, record the results and explain their potential significance in the context of the case. Industry guidance also emphasises the expert's responsibility to report findings fully and faithfully.

Communication and Expert Support

Once reporting is complete, results are shared securely and confidentially only with those who instructed the testing, such as solicitors, local authorities, or private individuals. Sensitive information is handled in accordance with confidentiality and the latest UK GDPR requirements.

Where appropriate, support remains available to explain methodology, address technical questions or clarify how findings relate to the case context. Additional documentation, such as expert statements, may also be prepared where necessary.

Use of Results in Legal or Safeguarding Contexts

Expert forensic analysis informs legal and safeguarding decisions rather than determining outcomes on their own.

Reports may support risk assessment, clarify disputed facts or contribute to the wider evidential picture, alongside witness evidence, professional assessments and other relevant material. Forensic evidence provides objective information but does not replace judicial judgement or professional discretion.

Ultimately, this is expert opinion

evidence and should be treated as such. Court guidance cautions against attributing a false sense of certainty to forensic findings, particularly where laboratory results are presented numerically.

Record Handling and Evidential Integrity

Evidential integrity does not end with reporting. Testing data, collected samples, and documentation are stored securely in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements.

Confidential handling, secure storage and appropriate retention periods ensure evidence remains available and traceable should it be required at a later stage.

Timelines and Expectations

Reporting timeframes vary depending on the type of testing, case complexity and whether priority handling has been requested.

Standard timelines are communicated at the point of instruction, with sample availability, confirmation requirements and case-specific considerations potentially influencing turnaround times. While efficiency is important, accuracy and evidential reliability are prioritised to ensure realistic expectations.

Do you need forensic testing for a case?

If you require guidance on the most appropriate testing approach or reporting requirements for your case, our experienced case managers are available to provide advice.

You can request a quote, make an instruction or speak to a member of the FTS team via email: expert@forensic-testing.co.uk or call 01924 480272.

www.forensic-testing.co.uk/



Society Honours Two Members of Staff with More Than 60 Years of Dedicated Service



LLS staff at Annual Dinner 2006

On 24th August, past presidents, current and past directors and staff came together to celebrate the contribution made by two long-standing members of staff at Liverpool Law Society, Ann Murphy and Liz Weeks.

Ann joined in October 1988, working under President David Thomas for a short time, followed by Roger Arden and then the Society’s first female President, HH Elizabeth Steel DL. Liz joined in July 2000 on a part-time basis, with David Swaffield as her first President, followed by Eddie Goldsmith.

Over the years, they have supported and guided numerous presidents and directors with utmost patience and diligence. In what can often be a busy and demanding environment, they have always brought a positive, can-do attitude and provided a reassuring sense of continuity through many changes in leadership and personnel. They have been invaluable members of the staff team, generously sharing their wealth of knowledge about the Society when helping new colleagues find their feet.

CEO Sarah Poblete remarked “I will

managed to fit everything in while continuing to give so much to the Society.”

Ann and Liz have each made a lasting contribution to Liverpool Law Society, and both have played an important part in its history. They will be greatly missed, not only for all that they have done, but for the warmth, experience and friendship they have brought to the team over the years.

At the lunch, both Ann and Liz were presented with gifts made possible through the generous donations from many presidents, directors and staff which included jewellery, a large bouquet

remember Ann for her quiet kindness, her thoughtful nature and her love of books. She lent me pretty much the whole No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency series amongst others, a series which I thoroughly enjoyed.

I will remember Liz for her wise counsel, her unwavering loyalty to the Society and her remarkable ability to balance so many commitments. Whether supporting her multi-generational family, dog-sitting or travelling abroad, she has always somehow



Liz on drinks station



Summer Ball 2005 - Ann, guest & Liz



Ann 30 years, 2018

of flowers and a pamper box each.

Some of the comments made about Ann and Liz by past presidents and directors include:

“Thank you so much both for being so welcoming, all of your hard work, and your endless patience! All the very best in this new chapter!”

“With thanks for all you have done for the Liverpool Law Society over many years.”

“Thank you both for all your outstanding contributions to Liverpool Law Society and your great support to me personally, both as sub-committee Chair and as Treasurer. Good luck for the future.”

“Big thank you to both Ann and Liz for all their hard work and support.”

“Thank you both for your tireless work and many years of outstanding service to the Liverpool Law Society.”

“Good luck to you both in this new phase of your life. Thank you for all the help.”

“Thank you for the immense amount that both of you have done to make Liverpool Law Society such an important force for good on Merseyside and beyond.”

On behalf of us all, thank you both for your dedication, support and service. We wish you every happiness and good health in the years ahead.

Sarah Poblete
CEO
Liverpool Law Society



Liz with Vincent & Flavia of Strickly Come Dancing



It's a Knock Out competition 2018
Kimberley Naomi Liz Sarah



Sarah & Ann 2016 Legal Walk



Staff team, ADLA 2025



Driving blind; failing driver eyesight behind four preventable deaths sparks critical road safety debate webinar

Law firm Slater and Gordon and road safety campaign platform Project EDWARD have announced details of a special joint live webinar on the impact of declining eyesight among older drivers.

The thought-provoking event, entitled ‘*Driving blind? Lessons from a preventable tragedy*’, will take place on Tuesday 22 September from 9.30-10.30am at Slater and Gordon’s Manchester offices.

Prompted by a recent Lancashire coroner’s inquest examining the tragic deaths of four people in three separate road traffic accidents, this session will explore how undetected or unreported visual impairment can lead to catastrophic consequences and why current systems may be failing to prevent it.

The webinar brings together leading voices from policing, healthcare, road safety and advocacy to provide a balanced, evidence-led discussion aimed at policymakers, practitioners and professionals committed to safer roads by examining one of the most sensitive and complex issues in modern road safety.

The session will be chaired by **Joy Allen**, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner and Roads Policing Lead for Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, and will feature contributions by prominent speakers including **Steve Hardman**, Police Relationship Manager at Slater and Gordon, **Ross Moorlock**, CEO of road safety charity Brake, **Helen Parkinson**, Lead Investigating Officer for Lancashire Police, **Dr James Adeley**, retired Senior Coroner for Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen and star of Channel 5’s *Cause of Death*, and ophthalmologist and expert witness **Richard Booth**.

In front of an invited live audience, the expert panel will examine the role of individual responsibility, medical oversight, licensing policy and enforcement in managing driver fitness. They will offer frontline perspectives, from collision investigation and emergency care to behaviour change and public awareness. The session will also consider practical steps to reduce risk, including earlier intervention, improved screening and more effective cross-sector collaboration.

The Lancashire coroner’s inquest brought together cases of two fatalities across the county and a further two deaths by expanding the scope of his investigation to the neighbouring jurisdiction of Sefton, which had seen a similar case that all exposed a serious gap in how eyesight-related driving risk is managed in the UK. The

cases involved older drivers who had either been told by health professionals that they were unfit to drive, or who had significant untreated vision problems, yet continued to get behind the wheel.

- The cases included:
- In Southport in November 2021 two female pedestrians aged 79 and 85 were crossing Lulworth Road when they were struck by a 67 year old male driver. CCTV and court evidence showed he drove into them without braking and the women died later the same day from catastrophic injuries. The driver had previously been advised over many years that he was unfit to drive because of severe eye disease.
 - In March 2022 an 80 year old, was killed in Billington near Blackburn when he was hit while crossing the road by an 81 year old driver. The court heard he had been told to stop driving as early as 2013 but still declared to the DVLA that nothing was wrong with his eyesight. His vision was so poor that he could only read a registration plate at eight feet, far below the legal requirement of 66 feet.
 - In July 2023 a 75 year old was killed in Whitworth after being struck by a 72 year old who had recently been diagnosed with severe cataracts in both eyes. An optometrist described his condition as the most extreme they had seen in 23 years of practice.

Together, these deaths prompted the coroner to question whether the current self-reporting system for visual fitness is safe or fit for purpose.

Jamie McDonnell, Strategic Partnership Lead at Slater and Gordon who is organising the event, said: “*Road safety depends on honesty, awareness and effective safeguards, particularly when it comes to something as fundamental as eyesight. Most drivers act responsibly, so the aim of this webinar is not to single out any group of drivers but bring together leading experts from across sectors to facilitate an open, evidence-led conversation about responsibility, regulation and prevention.*

“*These tragic cases demonstrate the devastating consequences that can occur when serious visual impairment goes undetected or unreported and highlight a potential gap in the systems designed to keep all road users safe. The findings emerging from the Lancashire coroners court have raise important questions about how we assess driver fitness, whether enough is being done to identify and manage eyesight-related risks on our roads and if these current approaches to eyesight testing and self-reporting provide sufficient protection to reduce risk and save lives. “We are proud to be working with Project EDWARD to host this important discussion and by bringing together experts from*

policing, healthcare, road safety and the legal profession, we hope this webinar will encourage informed discussion, challenge existing assumptions and help identify practical measures help drive forward solutions that could make our roads safer for everyone and prevent similar tragedies in the future.”

Project EDWARD (Every Day Without A Road Death) is the UK’s leading road safety campaign, bringing together government, emergency services, and businesses to eliminate all traffic fatalities and serious injuries through an evidence-led, collaborative approach.

James Luckhurst, Founder of Project EDWARD, said: “*Behind every statistic is a family whose lives have been changed forever. These were not unavoidable tragedies so when four preventable deaths occur in circumstances where serious eyesight concerns*

had already been identified, it is right that we take a closer look at what can be learned. In each case, there were warning signs that should have prevented vulnerable people from being exposed to serious risk on our roads.

“*These issues can be uncomfortable to discuss, but avoiding the conversation is not an option when lives are at stake. This webinar is not about blaming older drivers but will provide a unique opportunity for professionals from across sectors to examine the challenges, explore potential solutions and consider what changes may be needed to better protect all road users. It is about asking difficult but necessary questions about whether our current systems for monitoring and managing driver eyesight are fit for purpose.”*

Anyone who would like to join the webinar can sign up [here](#).

Legal Ombudsman launches Model Complaints Resolution Procedure (MCRP)

The Legal Ombudsman (LeO) has launched its [Model Complaints Resolution Procedure \(MCRP\)](#), a voluntary framework designed to help legal service providers resolve complaints more effectively, consistently and at an earlier stage. Developed following extensive engagement with the profession, including consultation with stakeholders such as Liverpool Law Society, the MCRP is supported by practical guidance and resources to help firms strengthen their complaints-handling processes and improve outcomes for consumers.

The MCRP is a voluntary, evidence-based framework. It can be adopted in full or in part and is intended to complement existing regulatory requirements.

The model has been developed using LeO’s complaint-handling insight, informed by international best practice and shaped through extensive engagement with the legal sector. It was also tested through a three-month pilot involving firms and chambers of different sizes and practice areas.

- The results were encouraging:
- 57% of complaints were resolved at the Early Resolution stage, often through straightforward explanations, prompt action, or constructive conversations with consumers.
 - Complaints resolved through Early Resolution were closed in an average of seven days, compared with 21 days for those requiring Full Investigation.
 - Only 19 complaints from pilot firms were escalated to the Legal

Ombudsman during the pilot period. Of these, 92% were considered suitable for LeO’s Early Resolution process and 77% have already been resolved.

Alongside the procedure itself, the LeO have developed a range of practical resources to help service providers strengthen their complaints processes, including guidance on supporting vulnerable consumers, handling complex complaints, managing unreasonable behaviour, and learning from complaints to improve services.

The full MCRP and supporting materials for service providers are available [here](#).

Liverpool Law Society’s response to LeO Call for Input - MCRP is available to read [here](#)

One Opportunity Can Change a Young Person's Future: Why I Believe Businesses Have More to Gain than Lose



Ruby Jordan with Tracy Morgan at Unitemps Awards

After reading a recent BBC article on the difficulties young people are facing in today's job market ([read it here](#)), I felt it was important to share a positive perspective on the issue. Although the situation is challenging, there is an opportunity here for both young people and employers.

As Managing Partner at JR Levins, I have seen first-hand how much value can come from giving a young person the chance to enter a real working environment, contribute properly and grow in confidence. We have seen the benefits of this arrangement ourselves through our engagement with Liverpool John Moores University and Unitemps internships programme. This isn't a charity gesture, but one that has provided the firm with

new perspectives, energy, and ideas.

At a time when many young people are finding it harder to secure their first meaningful role, work experience, internships, apprenticeships and entry-level opportunities can make a significant difference. However, what is often overlooked is how much businesses themselves can gain when they are willing to give someone that chance. I do not believe every opportunity needs to be part of a large formal scheme, nor does every business need to have everything perfectly in place from day one, but where there is capacity to support someone properly, the rewards can be significant.

At JR Levins, **Ruby Jordan** first joined the firm through a funded 100-hour

marketing internship. At that stage, we had never employed a dedicated in-house marketing professional, which meant Ruby was not entering an established department with existing systems and a list of routine tasks waiting for her. Instead, we trusted Ruby's knowledge and gave her genuine responsibility from the outset, which not only allowed her to apply what she had learned in a real workplace, but also gave us the chance to dip our toe into marketing for the first time and understand the value it could bring to the firm.

The internship later led to Ruby remaining with us and progressing to Marketing Coordinator, and her contribution has helped us build a more consistent and structured approach to marketing across the organisation. For Ruby, the opportunity provided real workplace experience and a clearer direction; for the firm, it created additional capacity, introduced new ideas and helped us see the longer-term value of developing a dedicated marketing function.

Ruby said:

"When I finished university, I felt quite lost and didn't really know what direction I wanted to take. Like many graduates, I had qualifications but still needed somebody to give me the opportunity to apply what I had learned in a real workplace."

"JR Levins never made me feel like I was just the intern. They trusted me with real responsibility and helped me believe in my own ability at a time when I did not always believe in it myself."

"Without the funded placement through LJMU and Unitemps, I would not have secured my role at JR Levins. That first opportunity gave me experience, confidence and a direction."

"It's really disheartening that so many

people my age are struggling to get their foot in the door, especially when the young people I know are hardworking, pragmatic and determined to build a secure future."

"Employers often ask for experience, but that experience has to start somewhere. Businesses need to be willing to trust young professionals and give us the chance to show what we can do."

Ruby's contribution was recognised when she was named Intern of the Year at the 2026 Unitemps Awards. JR Levins was also named Highly Commended for Employer of the Year, recognising the firm's support for early-career development.

For me, this experience has reinforced the belief that giving a young person an opportunity should not be seen as a favour or a one-way act of support, but as a practical business decision that can bring long-term value when it is approached properly. Young people often bring a different way of thinking, particularly around digital communication, social media, technology, audience behaviour and the expectations of the next generation of clients, customers and colleagues. They ask questions that can challenge outdated processes, notice gaps that established teams may have learned to work around, and bring curiosity into areas that may otherwise be done simply because "that's how it has always been done".

The current job market is undeniably difficult for many young people, particularly those trying to move from education into employment, where the familiar "need experience to get experience" cycle can quickly become discouraging. According to the [Office for National Statistics](#), there were an estimated 1.012 million young people aged 16 to 24 in the UK not in education, employment or training between January and March 2026, representing 13.5% of that age group. Those figures are concerning, but they also show why meaningful employer involvement matters, especially when young people are capable, motivated and ready to learn, but need someone to open the door.

There is also a strong case for seeing early-career opportunities as part of long-term workforce development. Many businesses talk about skills gaps, recruitment challenges and the difficulty of finding people who understand their culture, but one of the most effective ways to address this is to help develop people from the beginning. By giving young people structured, meaningful work, businesses have the chance to shape talent early, build loyalty, strengthen internal processes and create a pipeline of people who understand not only the tasks required, but the values, standards and expectations of the organisation.

The key, in my view, is making the opportunity meaningful. Young people do not benefit fully from being given token tasks, and businesses will not see the full return if early-career roles are treated as an afterthought. The strongest outcomes come when young people are trusted with responsibility, given clear guidance, encouraged to ask questions and allowed to see how their work contributes to the wider organisation.

The job market may be difficult, and businesses are facing pressures of their own, but this is exactly why practical action matters. Where a business has the capacity to offer a real opportunity, even on a small scale, there is far more to be gained than lost.

Tracy Morgan

Managing Partner at JR Levins Solicitors

The client account feels safe. That's the problem.

Most law firms treat holding client money as the conservative choice. The SRA's own enforcement record suggests otherwise.

There's a different way to think about it: Shieldpay.

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A 'Significant Development' is required to vary a cost budget

A good budget is one that anticipates the potential work to be undertaken to take the claim to trial or to which ever point the Court has determined is reasonable to budget up to. The benefit of a good budget cannot be understated because it provides clarity to both parties in respect of costs and this can facilitate quicker settlements in the substantive matter and when it comes to costs.

However, the course of litigation doesn't always run smoothly and there are times when unexpected events can render a previously good budget obsolete with significantly more work required, and subsequently more costs to be incurred, over and above that previously envisioned when setting the cost budget. The rules do provide for cost budgets to be varied at CPR 3.15A. The rules do confer a discretion upon the court to vary a cost budget when there has been a significant development.

The recent decision in the matter of *Bassey v Whittaker & Anor* [2026] EWHC 2126 (KB) has provided further clarification as to how broad the Court's discretion is when it comes to varying a cost budget.

Background

This was a high value personal injury claim where the Claimant was a pedestrian who was struck down by a car driven by the First Defendant. As a result of the serious injuries suffered the Claimant is now a protected party and lacked capacity to conduct the litigation.

A Costs and Case Management Conference took place on 18 December 2024. At the hearing the Second Defendant, the Insurer of the First Defendant, conceded liability. Furthermore, Directions were set and a timetable was provided through to trial. As part of Directions there were terms requiring rolling disclosure on a four monthly basis, the exchange of updated expert evidence, the exchange of witness evidence and a trial window between June 2026 and December 2026. The Claimant's budget was initially drafted in the total of almost £2 million and this was reduced to just over £1 million by **DJ Maddison**.

In July 2025 the trial window was extended through to March 2027 due to the lack of availability provided by the parties for the original trial window. An Application was made to vary the Directions Order and a further case management hearing took place on 27 November 2025. An Order was subsequently made by consent making a number of variations to the Directions Order. This included extending the time for service of updated and further expert evidence, increasing the frequency of rolling disclosure to three months and also made provision for an additional 2 quantum witness statements. As part of the consent order it included terms that *"the parties shall file and serve Precedent Ts...to take account of the increased costs associated with the amendments to the order of DJ Maddison dated 18 December 2024"*. The matter

was then listed for a costs management hearing to take place on 6th February 2026. The Claimant prepared a Precedent T seeking to vary their approved cost budget upwards by £238,350. At the hearing on the 6th February 2026 there was not agreement between the parties as to whether there had been significant developments to enable the Court to vary the cost budget. Furthermore, the preamble of the order made on the 6th February stated that the amendments to the Directions *"were not a significant development within CPR 3.15A but does not prevent the costs being increased"*. A further hearing was due to follow to address the quantum of any potential increase to the approved budgets.

The Questions to be addressed

Mr Justice Cavanagh considered an initial point as to whether the parties had consented to the cost budgets to be varied or not or if the parties had agreed that there had been significant developments by consent which would satisfy the first part of the test to vary a cost budget. The conclusion reached was that there was clearly no agreement reached by consent that the budgets should be varied or that there was a significant development.

Two questions were therefore left to be addressed.

Firstly, did the rules provide a discretion for a judge to vary a cost budget when there is no significant development?



In addressing the first of these questions **Mr Justice Cavanagh** considered the decision of **Master Kaye** in *Persimmon Homes Ltd v Osborne Clark LLP* [2021] EWHC 831 (Ch). The construction of CPR 3.15 and 3.15A were considered and it was noted that the first part of the test was that there must be a 'significant development' in a case before the Court can proceed to exercise their discretion to vary a cost budget or not.

Secondly, did the circumstances in the present case reach the threshold for amounting to significant developments?

The Claimant's referred to a number of aspects which they considered amounted to a significant development: The Claimant's rehabilitation had changed resulting in a need to obtain a further round of updated expert evidence, the trial window had been extended and two additional quantum witness statements were required. All of the above were said to not have been envisaged when the cost budget was approved in December 2024.

However, the Defendants referred to comments of **DJ McLoughlin** at the February 2026 that all of the above were considered to have been known or at least anticipated at the time the cost budget was approved in December 2024 and, therefore, could not meet the threshold of being a significant development.

Mr Justice Cavanagh considered the position and

the threshold to be met for developments to become significant. Reference was made to the fact that the cost budgeting exercise being broadbrush and the need for it to avoid becoming a line-by-line assessment process. As such, to achieve the broadbrush approach, it would be necessary to allow for some estimates and assumptions to change as there are developments in the litigation. Furthermore, it would be disproportionate to engage in 'constant tinkering with cost budgets' for each and every development. The threshold was therefore considered to be that if the

development is 'something that was not and could not reasonably have been anticipated' when the cost budget was approved. Such a test would be case specific and dependent on the facts.

As such, the conclusion reached was that the above developments referred to by the Claimant were anticipated at the time the cost budget was approved and, therefore, did not meet the threshold of being a significant development. Therefore, the cost budget was not varied.

Summary

It is therefore clear that it is

vitaly important to ensure that you get your cost budget correct from the outset and that it provides for all potential minor developments which could occur during the normal course of litigation. Failure to anticipate the costs of such developments may result in a cost budget which at an inadequate level because the opportunity to vary a cost budget may now be closed accept for unusual or out of the ordinary developments which would meet the threshold of being a significant development.

That is not to say that all is lost

because there is the opportunity to attempt to argue that there is 'good reason to depart' from the cost budget at the end of the claim. However, this is likely to be an 'uphill battle' if the cost budget could or should have been varied during the course of the litigation.

If you would like expert advice on cost budgeting then please get in touch with Peak Costs.

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



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EXPERT OPHTHALMIC MEDICO-LEGAL REPORTS:

Dr Nima Ghadiri

MBBChir, FRCP, MCLinEd, PGCert, MNEWA

DR NIMA GHADIRI is a Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist at Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and an Honorary Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Liverpool. A University of Cambridge graduate, he completed specialist training in Medical Ophthalmology and Internal Medicine at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, followed by fellowships at the Medical Eye Unit, St Thomas' Hospital, and Moorfields Eye Hospital. He holds the Expert Witness Certificate.

His practice focuses on complex medical eye disease and conditions at the interface of ophthalmology and systemic medicine. His expertise includes uveitis; retinal and optic nerve disorders; and ophthalmic manifestations of neurological, rheumatological, autoimmune, infectious and inflammatory disease, including cases in which visual symptoms or ocular findings reflect wider systemic pathology.

Dr Ghadiri accepts clinical negligence and personal injury instructions on behalf of claimants and defendants, and as a Single Joint Expert. His opinions address diagnosis, investigation and management; breach of duty; delay in diagnosis; causation; prognosis; complex visual loss; and the visual consequences of systemic disease.



Dr Ghadiri provides clear, balanced, objective and well-reasoned CPR Part 35 compliant reports within agreed timelines. His research, teaching, clinical trials and editorial work support a detailed, evidence-based approach to complex ophthalmic assessment.

INSTRUCTIONS AND ADMINISTRATION: Suzanne Coslett, Administrator, UK Ophthalmology Experts

For clinical negligence or personal injury instructions, or an initial discussion, contact Suzanne through UK Ophthalmology Experts. Instructions may also be made through Inspire MediLaw Chambers or the MLS Experts Panel.



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Law firms in the North West urged to sign up for Will Aid 2026



Peter de Vena Franks

Law firms across the North West are being encouraged to join this year's Will Aid campaign, using their legal expertise to help thousands of people make a Will while raising vital funds for charities supporting vulnerable people in the UK and around the world.

Will Aid is an annual charity Will-writing campaign that takes place every November.

Participating solicitors volunteer their time to write

basic Wills and, instead of charging their usual fees, invite clients to make a donation to Will Aid. Those donations help fund the work of Will Aid's partner charities, supporting a wide range of causes from providing humanitarian aid to protecting vulnerable children and tackling homelessness.

As well as making a meaningful difference through the campaign, taking part also brings wider

benefits to participating firms.

It provides an opportunity to strengthen relationships with existing clients, introduce new clients to the firm, demonstrate a commitment to corporate social responsibility, and give staff the satisfaction of using their professional skills to support good causes.

Last year's campaign saw participating solicitors write 8,375 Wills, raising

a fantastic £832,000 in donations which will have an immediate impact changing lives for the better. But it also generated an estimated £3.64 million in future charitable legacy pledges for the eight partner charities. Alongside the donations, the campaign's total impact is more than £4.46 million.

Peter de Vena Franks, Campaign Director at Will Aid, said: "Every year we're inspired by the generosity of solicitors who give their time to support Will Aid. Their expertise helps thousands of people put an important legal document in place, while also raising funds that make a real difference through our partner charities."

"Taking part in Will Aid is a fantastic opportunity for firms of all sizes. It enables practices to support their local community, engage colleagues in a rewarding initiative and often build lasting relationships with new clients. We're encouraging firms across the North West to join us this November and help make this year's campaign another success."

Since its launch in 1988, Will Aid has raised more than £26 million in donations, with millions more pledged in charitable legacies thanks to the generosity of participating solicitors.

Firms interested in taking part in Will Aid 2026 can find out more and register at www.willaid.org.uk/register



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



Café Laziz

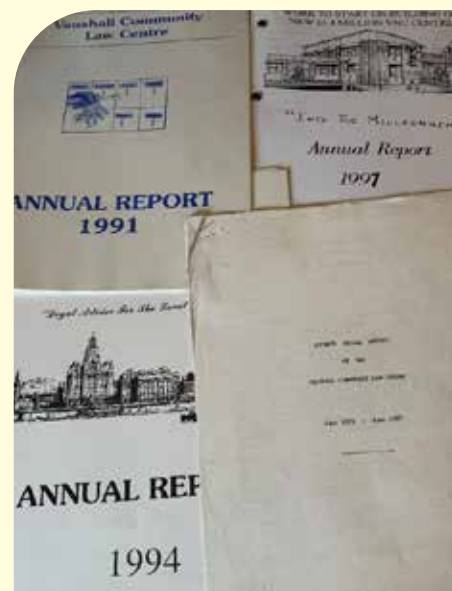
Last month, both Elly and David were invited to attend a fantastic advice marketplace run by Café Laziz – a support service for new arrivals based in St Helens. Their work helps individuals and families find a sense of community by bringing people together through community cooking, ESOL classes, employment support, and more general support for those seeking sanctuary.

Whilst there, Elly & David were able to interact with other service providers in the area, as well as service users, offering help and support on how they can access support with their legal issues and entitlements. It was a great opportunity to hear about some of the great work happening in St Helens and surrounding areas, as well as the perfect chance to taste some of the delicious food on offer at Café Laziz.

History Project

We recently sat down with David Taylor, one of our solicitors and our longest-serving member of staff, to begin a new history project. Through this, we hope to document some of the long history of our charity, helping newer members of staff and volunteers better understand the beginnings of the law centre. Through a recorded Interview, David talked about his own understanding of the early beginnings, as well as his memories of the beginning of his own career, as well as how he came to work at Vauxhall Law Centre back in 1989. Following this interview, we're hoping to speak to other previous staff members and trustees to learn even more and gain new insights.

Alongside this work, Development Volunteer Isabel has been hard at work helping us to archive many old letters, end-of-year reports, and other documents into a digital archive - ensuring their



safety and providing ease of access. It's been a fascinating project to undertake - both uplifting and concerning to read the positive impact of the work that those who came before us undertook for

the community, set against the difficult constraints of continued funding cuts and threats of closure. These are familiar themes for our current team, and represent a real threat to our work. However, with the help of our incredible funders and supporters, we continue on with the same spirit of the staff who came before, continuing to help our community and beyond access legal advice and representation.

We're incredibly excited to further develop this project, and always keen to hear from anyone who may have their own insights. If you have any connection to the Law Centre's history during any period of our existence, we'd love to hear from you. You can get in touch via email at samholmes@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk.

Case Study

Our client, who is in their early 60s, made their first claim for PIP following a major change in circumstances to their health and was initially refused. Following Mandatory Reconsideration, they were also refused. Our client has multiple illnesses & disabilities, leaving them unable to work and unable to care for themselves. They also struggle to leave home without their daughter to help. Their illnesses included COPD, emphysema, as well as other debilitating physical and mental health conditions. For this, they have been under the care of their GP, as well as other hospital specialists. The client was advised and represented throughout their appeal process, including a telephone appeal hearing.

Our client's outcome was that their appeal was allowed, with Enhanced Daily Living and Enhanced Mobility for an indefinite period, and an ongoing weekly award of £184.30 and backdated payment of £16,359 – a huge, life-changing amount of money that will help support them with their ongoing health problems and disabilities. Following the outcome of their appeal, the client provided us some feedback:

"I was helped in explain my health problems [and their complexities]. Only for Nancy helping me, I wouldn't have disclosed my problems. Thank you, Nancy

and the Team of Solicitors for helping me." The client is now financially secure up until and including his pension & retirement years.

Can you help Vauxhall Law Centre?

The current state of Legal Aid in the UK has created a network of Law Centres reliant on grant funding from trusts and foundations, as well as generous donations from supporters, both of which have helped keep us in existence in these tough times. Without Law Centres like ours, many in the poorest communities across our city would be without legal support. We know this is the case, as we are often stretched beyond our capacity, whilst still being inundated with requests for support (more commonly for housing legal advice).

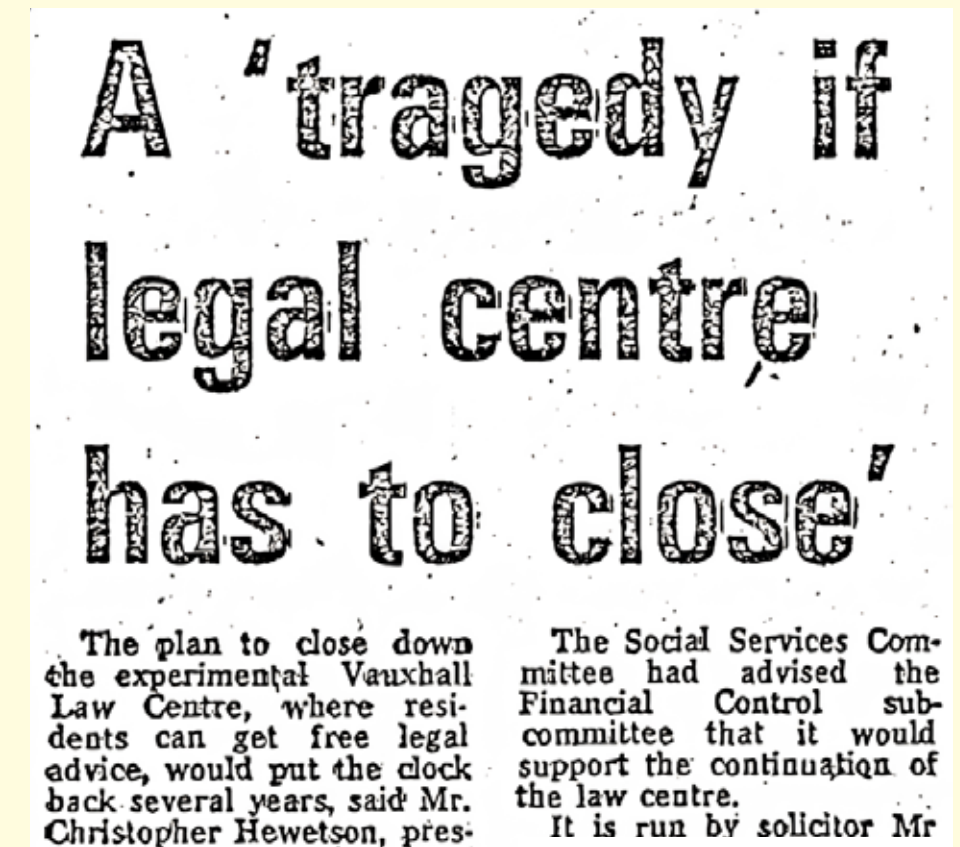
Grants and donations have also helped us support the next generation of Social Welfare Solicitors into work, through programs like the Justice First Fellowship, launched by the Legal Education Foundation in 2014. Through this fellowship, we've helped train two solicitors, with another just beginning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

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

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

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

"By mutual confidence and mutual aid, great deeds are done, and great discoveries made".
(Liverpool Echo, Thursday 19th February, 1976)





Regulation Update September 2026

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

As we enter the final quarter of 2026, (how did that happen?) regulators are focusing on AI governance, emerging money laundering risks, litigation funding arrangements and compliance oversight, whilst recent disciplinary decisions continue to demonstrate the importance of integrity, transparency and supervision. Recent developments from the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA), Legal Services Board (LSB) and Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal (SDT) suggest a continued shift towards earlier intervention, greater accountability and increased scrutiny. For law firms, the message is straightforward: effective compliance is no longer simply about having policies and procedures in place. The key is to be able to demonstrate that those arrangements are effective in practice.

Compliance Officers under the spotlight

A significant development is the approval by the Legal Services Board of SRA rule changes affecting COLP and COFA arrangements, despite opposition and concerns being raised by practitioners, Law Societies etc in response to the SRA consultation on the proposals. The reforms will require certain firms to separate management and compliance responsibilities where key decision-making powers are concentrated in the same individuals. Implementation is expected to be phased from 2027, with

larger firms likely to be affected first. Exemptions will apply to firms where the maximum annual turnover is £600,000 and maximum client money total £2m. In sole owner-manager firms which operate beneath the thresholds, the sole owner-manager can be the COLP but not the COFA.

The SRA says the changes are intended to strengthen governance arrangements and improve the independence of compliance functions, and arise directly from lessons learned following high-profile regulatory failures, including Axiom Ince and SSB, where questions arose regarding governance, risk escalation and oversight arrangements.

Although implementation will be phased from 2027, firms should begin considering whether current arrangements provide sufficient independence, authority and challenge.

Boards, COLPs and COFAs may wish to consider:

- Reporting lines.
- Escalation procedures.
- Governance frameworks.
- Risk management structures.
- The ability of compliance officers to challenge decisions effectively.

For some firms, this may represent the most significant governance review since the introduction of the COLP and COFA regime.

The LSB also approved new SRA rules requiring law firms to submit annual accountants' reports whether they are qualified or not or face fixed financial penalties.

AI moves up the risk agenda

The SRA has published a warning notice on the use of artificial intelligence [SRA | Misuse of AI - Warning notice | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#). The SRA revealed that it received 42 reports of potential AI-related misconduct between July 2025 and

July 2026 and is investigating concerns including fabricated legal authorities, inaccurate legal research, failures of supervision and confidentiality breaches arising from the use of public AI tools.

The warning notice follows growing judicial and regulatory concern about AI-generated content being used without adequate verification. The SRA has highlighted particular risks arising from fabricated case citations, inaccurate legal analysis, disclosure of confidential information and overreliance on technology without proper human oversight. Crucially, the regulator has emphasised that responsibility always remains with the solicitor. The use of AI does not alter obligations relating to competence, integrity, supervision or confidentiality.

While the SRA has not produced a guidance note alongside the warning notice, firms are referred to resources from other regulators and professional bodies, including the Law Society [Generative AI – the essentials | The Law Society](#) and the Bar Standards Board [Guidance on the use of Artificial Intelligence and Other Technologies | The Bar Standards Board](#).

For many firms, AI governance is rapidly becoming a standing board-level risk issue rather than simply an IT consideration. We suggest that you review AI governance arrangements, update risk assessments to include AI-specific risks, train staff on verification and supervision requirements, review confidentiality and data protection controls and ensure AI usage policies are documented and regularly reviewed.

Emerging AML and sanctions risks

Anti-money laundering compliance remains a core priority for the SRA. The updated Sectoral Risk Assessment [SRA | Sectoral Risk Assessment - Anti-money laundering, terrorist financing, proliferation financing and sanctions | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#) contains

several notable additions reflecting the changing nature of economic crime. Particular emphasis has been placed on AI-enabled fraud, deepfake technology, technology-enabled impersonation, sanctions circumvention, complex ownership structures, company formation activity and increasingly sophisticated attempts to disguise the true source of funds and wealth.

The SRA has also highlighted the risks arising from geopolitical instability, capital flight and international sanctions developments. Firms within scope of MLR should ensure that these emerging risks are reflected within firm-wide risk assessments and matter risk assessment processes.

Lessons continue from SSB

The regulatory consequences flowing from the collapse of SSB continue to influence both regulatory policy, as referred to above, and enforcement priorities. 18 months after completing its investigation into the collapse, and 12 months after the time it said its aim was to make decisions by (before summer 2025), the SRA has referred the firm's co-founder to the SDT in relation to allegations concerning adverse costs advice, reporting of financial difficulties and litigation practices. The allegations remain unproven.

The case reflects broader concerns around governance, management information, financial resilience and consumer protection, themes which have repeatedly appeared across recent regulatory reviews and consultations.

Recent disciplinary cases

Recent SDT and SRA decisions continue to show that many enforcement cases arise from familiar themes: failures to communicate effectively with clients, poor record-keeping, AML shortcomings, dishonesty, misuse of client money and attempts to conceal mistakes.

Fines for breaches of MLR

Decisions reported since our last bulletin included two firms fined £25000 for breaches going back to 2017 relating

to PCPs, one fined almost £21,000 for incomplete CMRAs, a firm fined £16000 for acting for a PEP and their associated companies in 14 residential property purchase transactions, and other firms fined up to £6000.

Reprimand for partner for failing to provide adequate information to client

A partner involved in a property transfer was reprimanded after failing to provide sufficient information to the client before a transaction was completed.

The tribunal accepted that the solicitor had not acted dishonestly. However, it concluded that the client had not been given enough information about the nature and implications of the transaction to make properly informed decisions.

Struck off for asking colleague to hide file

A junior solicitor was struck off after asking a colleague to conceal a file to cover up lack of progress. The request was reported and the firm discovered the solicitor had failed to file a first registration application with the Land Registry, and when asked about it, insisted that it had been done, and denied asking the colleague to hide the file. She later admitted that she lied.

She made an agreed outcome with the SRA that she should be struck off.

Struck off for giving client misleading information

A conveyancer was struck off after repeatedly giving misleading information to a client about the status of a transaction. The tribunal found that inaccurate explanations had been provided over an extended period and that the solicitor's communications were designed to conceal delays and other difficulties. The conduct involved repeated dishonesty rather than a single isolated incident, which was a significant factor in the decision to strike off.

Strike off for sending explicit messages to Counsel

A solicitor was struck off after sending explicit and inappropriate messages

to a female barrister and to a potential employee and planning to do the same to a third person. He was aware of the SRA investigation into his conduct towards the barrister when he began communicating with the potential employee, and that he had been referred to the SDT over the barrister and was under investigation over the potential employee when he approached the third person.

He initially rejected the complaints made against him, even complaining to chambers when she complained about him, and blamed the victims instead, but he admitted his misconduct before the tribunal.

He was struck off and ordered to pay costs of £75,000, reduced from £100,000 to take into account his means and inability to continue to practise.

Strike off for dishonest insurance claim

A solicitor who had been on the roll for less than two years when he made a dishonest insurance claim for a stolen bike, claiming the bike was covered after amending the policy, was struck off. The insurer accused him of a deliberate attempt to defraud. He then requested that the claim be withdrawn as the bike was covered by a separate home insurance policy. The insurer declined and he was asked to attend an interview with a claims investigator.

The tribunal accepted he was not 'inherently dishonest' but ruled out any exceptional circumstances that might have prevented a strike-off, saying his lack of experience was not a material factor. He was also ordered to pay costs of almost £21,000.

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



Better mental health for all

Wirral Mind is a local, independent mental health charity. We've been supporting people across Wirral since 1967, and we won't give up until everyone experiencing a mental health problem gets both support and respect.



"If it wasn't for Mind I wouldn't be here now. I will never forget their part in my recovery."



Our vision

We won't give up until everyone experiencing a mental health problem gets both support and respect.



Our mission

We normalise conversations, tackle stigma and discrimination, raise awareness and support our community to live mentally healthier lives.



Who can access our services?

Our services are open to adults aged 18+ in the Merseyside area.

Our services

We provide a range of services to support our community.



Support & wellbeing

- Mental Health Resource Centre
- Support groups
- Counselling
- Befriending



Health & wellbeing

- Motivate (Physical Activity Project)
- Mums Matter



Living independently

- Supported Living Service



Community connection

- Lived Experience Networks
- Third Sector Connector



Workplace support

- Workplace Wellbeing Training
- Suicide Prevention Training



Training & education

Building knowledge and confidence through mental health training including First Aid and awareness.



Volunteer opportunities

Make a difference, meet new people and use your skills to support others.

There are lots of ways you can make a difference



Fundraise for us

Take on a challenge, hold a fundraising event or come up with your own idea. Every pound raised helps us continue providing support to people in our community.



Volunteer with us

Your time can make a real difference. Volunteers help us connect with and support the local community in so many ways.



Support us at work

From workplace fundraising to booking mental health training for your team, there are many ways businesses and organisations can support Wirral Mind.



Spread the word

Talk about mental health, share our work and help challenge the stigma that can stop people from asking for support.

As a local charity, the support of our community helps us continue our work. Whether you have time to give, want to raise money or simply want to help spread the word – you can play a part in improving mental health across Merseyside.

Workplace Wellbeing Training

We provide cost-effective training to help organisations create mentally healthier workplaces.

Our training includes:

- ✓ Mental Health Awareness
- ✓ Adult Mental Health First Aid
- ✓ Line Manager Training
- ✓ Suicide Prevention Training



1 in 4 people will experience a mental health problem each year.

The good news is that well-trained managers and supportive workplaces play a powerful role in fostering wellbeing.



Could you help us make a difference?

Whether you fundraise, volunteer, support us through your workplace or simply help spread the word, your support can help Wirral Mind continue to be there for people when they need us most.

Thank you.

Get in touch

- 0151 512 2200
- learning@wirralmind.org.uk
- www.wirralmind.org.uk



Wirral Mind is a local, independent mental health charity, established in 1967 to help people in our community achieve better mental health.



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Professional services: Key considerations for implementing AI

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

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

Governance and firm-wide policies

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

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

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

Confidentiality

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

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

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

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

Client knowledge of AI use

Where a firm's advice or work product contains inaccurate or hallucinated

material as a result of AI use, and the client then relies on that advice, firms may risk being accused of negligence or misleading the client.

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

Training

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

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

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

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

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



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The financial risks clients don't see coming: planning for loss of capacity

Most clients understand the importance of planning for death.

They make wills, think about inheritance tax and consider how their assets should pass to future generations. Yet many overlook a risk that can have an immediate impact on their finances and family life: losing capacity during their lifetime.

Whether caused by dementia, illness, stroke or a serious accident, loss of capacity can leave individuals unable to manage their financial affairs. When this happens, families are often forced to make important decisions while dealing with significant emotional and practical challenges.

For both solicitors and financial planners, helping clients prepare for this possibility is becoming an increasingly important part of long-term planning.

More than a legal document

When loss of capacity is discussed, the conversation often focuses on Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs). These legal documents allow trusted individuals, known as attorneys, to make decisions on a client's behalf if they lose capacity.

There are two types of LPA in England and Wales. A **Health and Welfare LPA** allows attorneys to make decisions about matters such as daily care, medical treatment, moving into a care home and, where authorised, life-sustaining treatment. This type of LPA can only be used when the individual is no longer able to make their own decisions.

A **Property and Financial Affairs LPA** allows attorneys to help manage financial matters, including bank accounts, paying bills, collecting pension or benefit income and, where necessary, dealing with property. Once registered, it can be used with the client's permission, or if they lose capacity in the future.

Clients may choose one type of LPA or both. LPAs apply only in England and Wales, with different arrangements in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

However, legal documentation is only part of the picture. Clients also need to consider how their finances would be managed if they were unable to oversee them personally.

Investments may require ongoing review. Pension income may need adjustment. Care costs may have to be funded. Household finances still need to function.

Without proper planning, these responsibilities can become difficult and stressful for loved ones to manage.

The financial consequences of delay

Many people assume their spouse or children will automatically be able to step in if something happens. In reality, the situation is often far more complicated.

Even where legal authority exists, families may face challenges if financial arrangements are fragmented or unclear. Multiple pension plans, investments and savings can be difficult to identify and manage when swift decisions are required.

The issue is rarely a single financial product. More often, it is the combined effect of decisions, accounts and obligations built up over many years.

This is why proactive planning can make such a significant difference.

The value of joined-up advice

Solicitors are often the first professionals to have conversations around wills, estate planning or LPAs. These discussions frequently reveal wider questions about a client's long-term financial resilience.

For example:

- How would future care needs be funded?
- Are pension and investment arrangements fit for purpose?
- Is there a clear record of assets and liabilities?
- Do family members understand the client's wishes?

These questions sit at the point where legal and financial planning overlap.

When solicitors and financial planners work together, clients benefit from a more complete understanding of their options. Legal advice provides the framework, while financial planning helps clients understand the long-term impact of decisions. This collaborative approach can improve confidence, reduce uncertainty and support better client outcomes.

Planning for resilience

Preparing for loss of capacity isn't about expecting the worst. It's about ensuring clients retain as much control as possible if circumstances change unexpectedly.

A strong plan may include:

- Appropriate Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Clear records of assets and liabilities
- Well-organised pension and investment arrangements
- Regular reviews of financial objectives
- Consideration of future care costs
- Open communication between clients, families and trusted advisers

These measures can help provide clarity and reassurance when they are needed most.

Looking beyond the will

A will determines what happens after death. Planning for loss of capacity helps protect clients while they are still living.

By encouraging early conversations, solicitors and financial planners can help clients build resilient plans that protect their wishes, support their families and provide peace of mind.

At Benchmark Financial Planning, we work alongside solicitors to help clients understand the wider financial implications of important legal decisions and support joined-up planning that delivers stronger long-term outcomes.



Get in touch

Chris Cobley

Regional Director

E: chris.cobley@benchmarkfp.co.uk

W: www.benchmarkfp.co.uk

Important information

Benchmark Financial Planning Limited is an Appointed Representative of Best Practice IFA Group Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. This article is for general information only and aimed at professional connections. It does not constitute legal, tax or financial advice. The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate Lasting Powers of Attorney, estate planning or care fee planning. Tax treatment depends on individual circumstances and may change in the future. Clients should seek personalised advice before making decisions. Approved by Best Practice IFA Group on 17th August 2026.

Former Law Society President highlights need to support solicitors to thrive in the profession



Former Law Society President Dr I. Stephanie Boyce CBE has called for greater attention to the pressures affecting solicitors from different backgrounds, after figures discussed in the latest episode of The Legal Pause showed a disproportionate number of Black solicitors seeking support from The Solicitors' Charity.

While around 3% of solicitors are Black across the profession, Black solicitors represented 15% of new people approaching The Solicitors' Charity for support in 2025.

In the episode, **Dr Boyce** describes the figures as concerning and says they should encourage further discussion about the barriers affecting who enters, progresses and thrives within the profession.

She said: *"We as a profession have to ask ourselves what is going on, and what we should be doing."*

The comments feature in Episode 8 of The Legal Pause, titled *"Breaking Barriers, Opening Doors and Supporting Wellbeing in Law."*

Hosted by **Nick Gallagher**, CEO of

The Solicitors' Charity, the episode explores **Dr Boyce's** journey into law, the barriers she faced, the persistence that shaped her career and the leadership lessons she learned along the way.

Dr Boyce made history as the first person of colour to serve as President of the Law Society of England and Wales. She held the role for 19 months during an exceptional period shaped by the pandemic, Brexit and wider international unrest.

During the episode, she reflects on the importance of listening, adaptability and humility in leadership, as well as the determination required to reach the presidency after three previous rejections. The discussion also considers why improving access to law is only part of the challenge. **Dr Boyce** argues that the profession must also focus on helping people remain, progress and thrive once they are in it.

She said: *"Having done so much work getting people in, it is not enough just to stop there. We need to help people be sustained in our profession and thrive in our profession."*

The episode also explores redundancy and the impact of unexpected firm closures, with both **Dr Boyce** and **Nick Gallagher** reflecting on their own experiences of being made redundant. Now Chair of The Solicitors' Charity, **Dr Boyce** shares her ambition for the organisation to become the "go-to" charity for everyone in the profession. The Solicitors' Charity provides confidential, non-judgemental support across emotional, physical, professional and financial wellbeing. The episode explores how redundancy, financial pressure, career uncertainty, discrimination and mental or physical ill health can affect solicitors at different stages of legal life.

Nick Gallagher said: *"Stephanie's experience brings together two important conversations for the profession. We need to continue removing barriers to access and progression, while also making sure that people already working in law have the support they need to stay and thrive."*

"The figures discussed in this episode deserve greater attention. They raise important questions about who is seeking support and what more we can do, collectively, to ensure that help is visible, accessible and available when it is needed."

The episode concludes with a direct message to solicitors who may be reluctant to seek help. **Dr Boyce** emphasises that support from The Solicitors' Charity is impartial, confidential and non-judgemental, and that starting a conversation can be an important first step in resolving a problem.

The Legal Pause – Episode 8 is available now on all major streaming platforms. Listen here: <https://thesolicitorscharity.org/the-legal-pause/>



Business Valuation – FHM Forensic discuss the thorny issue of undisclosed cash and personal expenditure



Business valuations in shareholder disputes and matrimonial cases often highlight undisclosed cash takings and personal expenditure hidden in company accounts. It can also be relevant when considering the valuation of a company for strategic planning or a business sale.

When dealing with disputes, including divorces, it is not uncommon for one party to raise concerns about undisclosed cash or personal expenditure and the impact they have on the valuation. At the same time, the other party may dispute the existence, extent or relevance of the transactions.

Undisclosed cash takings

Historically, cash-based industries provided an opportunity to not record all takings and to either spend the cash personally or bank it in a private account. The move to a cashless economy has made it more difficult to divert cash income in this way. However, we do come across situations where certain types of business sales are omitted completely from the records and the sales receipts are diverted to a private bank account.

Quantifying undisclosed cash takings is difficult unless the parties are willing to provide an estimate that we can use in our calculations. In some industries, we may be able to estimate a figure based on, for example, diary entries or bookings. Clearly if the undisclosed takings are banked in a private account, we can use statements from those accounts to quantify the amount omitted from the accounts.

We have had cases where both parties are fully aware of a long-term practice of undisclosed sales and it only becomes an issue at the time of the divorce. We also need to consider the

implications in respect of underpaid tax, VAT and penalties.

In terms of the impact on valuation, it depends on valuation basis in our instructions. If instructed to provide an “open market valuation”, we may decide not to include undisclosed takings in the valuation calculation. This may be because, in our view, the undisclosed takings cannot be reliably estimated or because an external buyer will not be prepared to pay for profits that are not recorded in the accounts. An external buyer may in fact discount the valuation due to the potential tax issue.

Alternatively, if instructed to provide an “equitable basis” valuation, we may decide to include the undisclosed income to arrive at a fairer outcome where one party is going to retain the company and future undisclosed profits.

In a divorce case, undisclosed takings may also be relevant in assessing future sustainable income if it is expected the undisclosed takings will continue.

Personal expenditure within business accounts

In family companies it is common for personal or discretionary expenses to be paid through the company. In the first instance the valuer needs to ascertain if the expenditure has been charged to a director’s loan account or whether it is charged within the profit and loss account.

If expenditure is charged to a director’s loan account, then there is no impact on the valuation of the business. In effect a cash balance is replaced by a debt in the company. It may be an adjustment if the directors is unable to repay an overdrawn loan.

The expert may be instructed to investigate the level of private expenditure in the accounts or it may be identified through analysing the profit and loss variances. However, it can be difficult to identify, particularly if hidden in the “cost of sales” heading.

If the expenditure is in the profit and loss account and can be quantified, there is likely to be an impact on valuation – potentially significant. For example, let’s assume that the personal expenditure in the profit and loss is £100,000 annually. A value based on future maintainable earnings/EBITDA and a multiplier will increase: if we adopt a multiple of, say, 5X, then the valuation in this case increases by £500,000.

Again, in divorce cases, personal expenditure within the profit and loss account will impact the assessment of future sustainable income as well as valuation.

Personal expenditure within the profit and loss account may also raise potential issues in terms of potential future tax liabilities.

In commercial valuations for a potential sale of the business, the seller will provide an estimate of personal and discretionary expenses which a buyer is unlikely to continue paying. They will seek to add these back in the assessment of the company’s market value. Such adjustments typically include family wages and other benefits to directors which exceed an assessment of the commercial salary for the role.

In conclusion

Undisclosed takings and personal expenditure are typically sensitive issues but can have a significant impact on a business valuation. If instructing an expert, it is helpful to engage early with the expert and to provide clear instructions on how the issue is to be dealt with. Valuations can be prepared based on alternative assumptions.

Contact **Fiona Hotston Moore** for case enquiries:
fiona@fhmforensic.co.uk
+44 (0)7770 642491
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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
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
07/10/2026	Best Practice and Avoiding Complaints with the Legal Ombudsman	Clair Daniel
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	2026 Employment Conference	Lisa Wright
20/10/2026	2026 Private Child Law Conference	Various
11/11/2026	Conference for Legal Cashiers & Managers	Various
25/11/2026	2026 Civil Litigation Conference	Various

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

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

For full details or to book any of the above courses (& more!) please visit:
<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/training/>

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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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.

[BOOK NOW](#)

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.

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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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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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2026 Property Conference

Wednesday 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](#)

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.

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Management

Best Practice and Avoiding Complaints with The Legal Ombudsman

with Clair Daniel

Online, 7th October, 1.00pm - 2.00pm

This session will explore the most common types of complaints received by LeO and provide practical guidance on how to prevent, manage and resolve them effectively. It will examine how service providers can capture and embed learning from complaints to improve service quality and reduce future issues. The session will also introduce LeO's new Model Complaints Resolution Procedure and the supporting resources available to help strengthen complaints handling processes.

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Property

Key Issues Affecting Easements

with Richard Snape

Online, 12th October, 1.30pm - 4.30pm



This practical and informative course explores the complex and often contentious area of easements, which continue to generate significant litigation and present numerous challenges for conveyancers.

Designed to help practitioners identify common pitfalls and avoid costly mistakes, the session will examine the key principles governing easements and their application in practice. Topics include the characteristics of an easement, rights of light, car parking and drainage rights, adding to the dominant land, vehicle access issues, implied and prescriptive easements, the distinction between easements and wayleaves, intensification of use, and the methods by which easements may be extinguished. Ideal for conveyancers and property professionals, this course provides valuable guidance on navigating one of the most technical areas of property law with greater confidence.

BOOK NOW

2026 Private Child Law Conference

Tuesday 20th October 2026, 9.30am till 4.00pm
Hybrid Event - Online or In Person

Join leading practitioners, barristers, judges, and child-focused professionals for an insightful and practical conference examining the latest developments in private children law. Bringing together specialist barristers and professionals working across the family justice system, the conference will examine some of the most significant issues currently facing practitioners. Sessions will cover achieving child-focused outcomes in cases involving domestic abuse, the legal and practical challenges arising from allegations of alienating behaviour, strategic and effective advocacy in fact-finding hearings, and the growing emphasis on ensuring children's voices are heard through CAFCASS and child-inclusive practice.

Delegates will also gain practical insight into the enforcement of Child Arrangements Orders, developments arising from the Private Law Pathfinder Pilot and its impact on the experiences of children and families, and a comprehensive case law update reviewing the changing landscape of private children law.

This is an essential event for family law practitioners seeking expert analysis, practical guidance, and the opportunity to engage with leading figures shaping the future of private children proceedings.

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Check your entry [here](#).

Management

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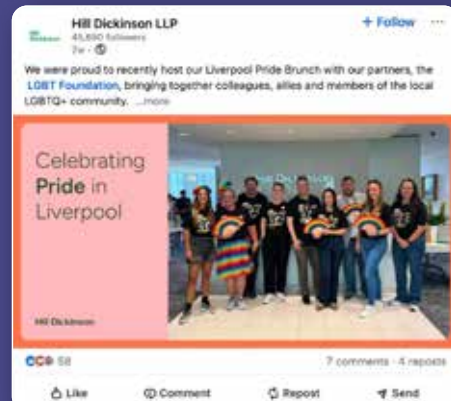
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Each month we will be bringing you a selection of the latest social media posts by Liverpool Law Society and its members.



If you have an interesting story to share, why not send it to us, clearly labelled 'Social Media Page':
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