

October 2026

Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

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

LLS Legal Walk 2026: ***Supporting Access to Justice***



Report and photos starting on page 26

www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

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

References:



John Ryan statement

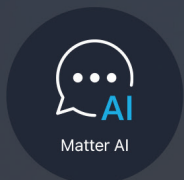


Thomas Ryan statement



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The Law
Society

October 2026

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DEADLINES

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.

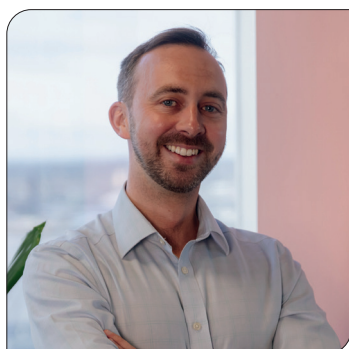
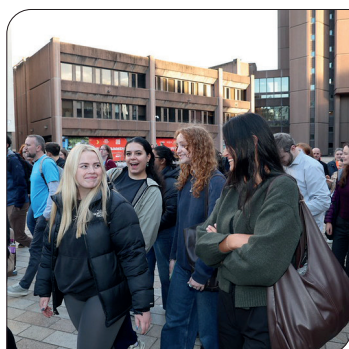
* Spanning a single column

** Spanning two columns

*** Spanning three columns



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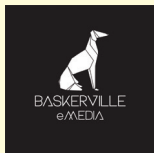
Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

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 20th October
Tuesday 17th November

Welcome to the October edition of Liverpool Law



What a fantastic front page we have this month showing the turnout for the walk. We couldn't fit everyone on the page so my apologies if you have found yourself cut off! There is a link to all the photographs on page 26 for you to enjoy and share.

We are having difficulties with our LinkedIn page at the minute which seems to have completely disappeared. If we have any experts out there I would be extremely grateful if you could get in touch to help before we have to take the step of creating a new page and starting again from scratch building our following. In the meantime please use the Liverpool Law Society page to tag us in any of your photographs from the walk and thank you again to everyone who attended. There is still time to donate if you haven't got around to it yet or add in your firms raised funds.

There is also still time to purchase your tickets to the Annual Dinner and Awards on 12 November, which is another big event in our calendar where firms can get together and celebrate what an amazing legal community we have. You will see from the shortlist we have a lot to get through and I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

As always should you have any ideas or suggestions for the magazine please do reach out.

Many thanks

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

Welcome to new members

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new members who were approved for membership at September's General Committee meeting. There were 9 individuals from the following organisations:

- Brabners
- CEL Solicitors
- Jackson Lees Group
- McAlister Family Law

Liverpool Law Society's membership now exceeds 2,430 individuals from 173 law firms, barristers' chambers, and other organisations with legal professionals in the Liverpool City Region and beyond.

From the President

The latest from the President, Sarah Mansfield

Walking Together for Access to Justice

It was a real privilege, as President of Liverpool Law Society, to take part in this year's Liverpool Legal Walk and to see so many members of our legal community come together for such an important cause.

The 5K walk through Liverpool city centre brought together solicitors, barristers, law students, support staff, advice organisations and colleagues from across the profession. I was particularly pleased to be joined by our lead walkers, including members of the Liverpool and family judiciary, whose support demonstrated the shared commitment across our legal community to ensuring that access to justice remains at the heart of what we do.

The money raised goes to the Access to Justice Foundation, supporting organisations providing free legal advice to people facing some of life's most difficult circumstances. This includes families at risk of eviction or homelessness, people seeking support for loved ones and workers experiencing discrimination.

Fundraising through the Legal Walk has benefits far beyond the total raised. For those who rely on free legal advice, it can provide a vital lifeline at a time when professional advice may otherwise be out of reach. For those taking part, it is an opportunity to support a cause directly connected to our profession, while enjoying the benefits of being active, meeting colleagues and strengthening relationships across the Liverpool legal community.

There are also real benefits for firms and organisations. Taking part demonstrates a commitment to social responsibility, supports staff wellbeing and provides an opportunity for colleagues at all levels to come together outside the workplace. It also reminds us that, collectively, the legal profession can make a tangible difference to the communities we serve.



My thanks go to everyone who walked, donated, organised, marshalled and supported this year's event. The Liverpool Legal Walk is a wonderful example of our profession walking together—quite literally—to help make access to justice a reality for those who need it most.

Sarah Mansfield

President

president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

LLS Meetings & events – October 2026

Start Time	Meeting/Event
01/10/2026 13:00	Access to Justice Sub-Committee
09/10/2026 13:00	Directors' Meeting with MPs
13/10/2026 13:00	General Committee 2025-2026 (In-person)
20/10/2026 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee 2025-2026
21/10/2026 13:00	Education & Charities Sub-Committee 2025-2026
03/11/2026 13:00	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee 2025-2026
10/11/2026 13:00	General Committee 2025-2026
17/11/2026 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee 2025-2026
18/11/2026 13:00	Civil Litigation Sub-Committee 2025-2026
19/11/2026 13:00	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee 2025-2026
24/11/2026 13:00	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee 2025-2026
26/11/2026 13:00	Annual General Meeting
26/11/2026 13:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee 2025-2026

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

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

Consultation Papers referred by the General Committee:

Papers referred to committees:

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

Committee	Consultation Paper title	Closing date
Civil Litigation Sub-Committee		
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	Standard planning agreements for medium-sized sites	20/10/26
	Planning powers for mayors in England	05/10/26
	Best Value Duty: consultation on revised statutory guidance	07/10/26
Criminal Practice Sub-Committee		
The Sentencing Council	Sentencing Council for England and Wales: strategic objectives 2027-2030 – Consultation	30/10/26

Leaders in Law: Tracey Parry



Tracey Parry

1. Briefly describe your role as Chief Operating Officer and the main duties of this position.

As Chief Operating Officer, I am responsible for ensuring the firm operates efficiently, effectively and in a way that supports both our people and our clients. My role covers a broad range of responsibilities, including strategic planning, compliance and risk management, HR, technology, finance, business continuity, and operational performance. Ultimately, my job is to create an environment where our lawyers and support teams can focus on delivering exceptional legal services, while ensuring the firm remains resilient, compliant and ready for future growth.

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

The most rewarding aspect is seeing people succeed. Whether it's supporting someone's career progression, introducing new initiatives that improve working life, or helping the business achieve its goals, it is incredibly satisfying to know that you have played a part in that success.

The challenging side is balancing competing priorities. The legal sector is evolving rapidly, with increasing regulatory requirements, technological advances and changing client expectations. There are occasions when

difficult decisions need to be made, and part of leadership is ensuring those decisions are taken fairly, transparently and with the firm's long-term interests in mind.

3. What do you see as your biggest challenges?

One of the greatest challenges is ensuring that we continue to evolve while maintaining the personal service and strong values that our clients expect. Technology, AI and automation are transforming the legal profession, presenting enormous opportunities but also requiring careful consideration around risk, security and implementation.

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

Without hesitation, our people and our culture. We have worked hard to build an environment where colleagues genuinely support one another and where wellbeing, learning and development are taken seriously. Winning the Workplace Culture Award at the Wirral Wellbeing Awards a few months ago was particularly meaningful because it recognised something that we have always believed to be important: that business success and a positive workplace culture can and should go hand in hand.

I am also proud of our commitment to innovation and continual improvement. We are never complacent and are always looking for ways to improve the service we provide to our clients.

5. What are your immediate short-term goals?

My immediate priorities are focused on strengthening the firm's operational resilience, continuing our investment in technology and ensuring that we remain ahead of regulatory and compliance requirements. We are also committed to developing our people through training and career development opportunities, while

continuing to enhance the wellbeing initiatives that have become such an important part of our culture.

Most importantly, I want to ensure that we continue delivering outstanding service to our clients while supporting sustainable growth across the business.

6. Where do you see the firm ten years from now?

In ten years' time, I see us as a larger, even more technologically advanced firm that has remained true to its values. I believe clients will increasingly expect legal services to be more accessible, responsive and technology-enabled, and I want us to be at the forefront of that evolution.

While growth is important, success will not simply be measured by size. I would like us to be recognised as one of the most trusted and respected firms in the region, known for outstanding client service, an exceptional workplace culture and a commitment to supporting our local communities that are so important to us.

7. What legacy, would you like to leave the firm?

I would like to leave the firm stronger than I found it, with a culture that continues to place people at the centre of everything we do. If colleagues feel supported, valued and empowered to achieve their potential, that creates a positive impact for clients and for the business as a whole.

Professionally, I hope to leave behind robust systems, strong governance and a resilient organisation that is well positioned for future generations. Personally, I would like to be remembered as someone who cared deeply about both the success of the firm and the wellbeing of the people within it, although I am not going anywhere anytime soon!

Tracey Parry
Chief Operating Officer,
Gregory Abrams Davidson Solicitors

Routes into the law: Daniella Norman



Daniella Norman

Daniella Norman, a newly qualified Solicitor with HM3 Legal, served as the social representative on the Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division (MJLD) committee for 2025/26.

Raised in Little Neston on the Wirral, Daniella attended Wirral Grammar School for Girls. During her school years, she maintained an exceptionally active extra-curricular schedule, participating in the netball, volleyball, and athletics teams, alongside two school choirs. She regularly performed as a vocal soloist, including notable appearances at the Floral Pavilion in New Brighton.

For her A-Levels, Daniella studied Law, English Literature, and Music, and developed a strong interest in the analytical nature of legal studies in particular, leading her to pursue an undergraduate Law degree at Liverpool John Moores University.

Upon completing her degree, Daniella worked as a legal assistant at Bond Turner, and subsequently joined Provenio Litigation LLP through its Graduate Solicitor Apprenticeship scheme, completing the SQE with the University of Law alongside two years of qualifying work experience in commercial litigation.

Shortly after qualifying as a solicitor in November 2025, she joined HM3 Legal's Resolution and Recovery team, advising businesses and individuals on a broad range of commercial disputes. Her practice encompasses a variety of contentious matters, including contractual disputes, commercial debt recovery, shareholder and director disputes, insolvency-related matters, contested trials, and urgent injunction applications. She is passionate about making complex legal issues easier to understand and helping clients find

practical solutions that achieve their goals, giving them the confidence to make informed decisions and move forward positively.

Looking to the future, Daniella aims to continue developing her expertise within her specialism and eventually progress to Partner.

After serving on the MJLD committee for a full year, Daniella stepped down to focus on her role as Events Coordinator for the Merseyside Women Lawyers Division (MWLD) for 2026/27. In this role, her key priority is organising fundraising initiatives for MWLD's chosen charity, The Owen McVeigh Foundation, which supports children with cancer and their families across the local region.

Outside her legal work, Daniella enjoys hiking with her partner and continues to perform as a vocalist. Having begun gigging at age 14, she spent a brief period performing full-time before shifting her primary focus toward her legal career.

We wish Danni a very successful career in Law.

Your local Law Society: AGM

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at 12.30pm for 1.00pm on Thursday, 26th November 2026 at The Racquet Club, Chapel Street, Liverpool city centre. The formal business of the meeting will finish around 1:30pm with networking until 2pm.

The AGM is an important opportunity for us to conduct our formal business but also to reflect on the past year and look forward to the future.

We will be recapping the work of the Society over the last year and outlining what we have achieved and where the challenges lie in the future.

Please do attend the AGM whether or not you are standing for

election. Current directors and staff appreciate the opportunity to meet and mix with members.

Members will receive an email in mid-October about the AGM with an RSVP link so we know how many people to expect.

If you would like further information about the Society and the work of the General Committee and sub-committees, please visit our website [here](http://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk).



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Crosby**

Entrance Examination: Friday 13th November 2026

Register now for September 2027 admissions

www.stmarys.ac/admissions

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

McAlister Family Law Dominates North West with Liverpool Expansion and Five New Recruits



Calum Whelan, Vicky Withers, Megan Brookfield, Amanda McAlister, Chelsey Bayliss, Nicola McDaid and Leah Martin

McAlister Family Law, one of the North West's leading family and children law practices, is accelerating its growth and market dominance with the opening of a new office at Exchange Station in Liverpool.

With established offices in Alderley Edge, Manchester, Leeds and London, McAlister Family Law already handles a significant portion of family and children law cases in Merseyside. The new Liverpool office now provides a permanent, local presence, bringing the practice closer to clients across the region. The location was chosen due to its proximity to the child and family court providing easy access for in house advocates and clients.

The Liverpool office will be launched and driven by a dynamic team, including five new recruits from top-tier firms. **Kirsty Leedam** joins as Partner from HM3 Legal, **Chelsey Bayliss** joins as a

Partner from Price Slater Gawne, **Calum Whelan** joins from MSB Solicitors as an Associate Partner, **Megan Brookfield** as Senior Associate from Stowe Family Law and **Leah Martin**, formerly with Tracey Miller, joins as Client Services Executive. The team will be further supported by partner **Nicola McDaid** and **Vicky Withers** who are Law Society Children Law accredited solicitors who are already well-known in the city and surrounding area.

Amanda McAlister, Managing Partner of McAlister Family Law, said: "Our expansion into Liverpool marks an exciting milestone for McAlister Family Law. We are thrilled to welcome **Kirsty, Chelsey, Calum, Megan and Leah** to our team – their expertise and dedication further strengthen our ability to provide exceptional service to our clients. Having a physical presence in Liverpool allows us to support clients across Merseyside even more effectively, combining our experience,

strong reputation and award-winning track record with the fresh perspectives and energy of our new recruits."

Mark Dawson, CEO of Beyond Law Group, added: "It's an exciting start to the year for McAlister Family Law as it continues to demonstrate strategic growth and its dominance in the market. Our expansion into Liverpool reflects not only our ambition for McAlister Family Law but is also part of a wider Group strategy to expand nationally, bringing our award-winning legal services to more regions of the UK."

The new Liverpool office at Exchange Station positions McAlister Family Law at the heart of the city, enabling the practice to respond swiftly to the growing demand for specialist family law services. With a blend of experienced partners and rising talent, McAlister Family Law is poised to become the leading family law practice in Merseyside.

MSB Solicitors' Sabrina and Melissa share their inspiring Black History Month stories



Melissa Bosoboe



Sabrina Parker

Despite there being 14 years between Melissa Bosoboe and Sabrina Parker qualifying as solicitors, both members of the MSB team have similar stories as Black legal professionals which they wanted to share during Black History Month.

Sabrina qualified earlier this year, having come to the UK from Turks and Caicos aged 17 with her sister. Neither of them knew anyone and her story is one of independence and resilience as she navigated the education and legal fields at the same time.

"I always wanted a career where I could advocate for people and make a real difference. Family law was ideal because it combines detailed legal knowledge with empathy and giving people a voice," she explains.

"It wasn't always easy to find the information I needed on so many different subjects when I first moved to the UK. This has driven me to help people in similar circumstances, so they don't have the same difficulties," she adds.

Meanwhile, **Melissa** qualified in 2012 after arriving in the UK from the Solomon Islands in 1997. Her route to the profession was not as defined as **Sabrina's**, as she initially began a course at John Moores University dedicated to business studies and law before switching to a full law degree. She then completed her LPC before beginning her training contract at MSB.

Growing up where she did and in a family of doctors and lawyers, Melissa did not feel that people of her skin colour were excluded from professional roles. *"Because of that, I did not feel as though I needed a particular role model – I decided what I wanted to be and I worked towards attaining it," she says.*

However, it was a different story for **Sabrina**. She did not have just one person to whom she looked up. *"My family made sacrifices to help me pursue my education while my colleagues at MSB have supported me from my internship to my qualification. I've been truly inspired by seeing Black female lawyers succeeding in the profession," she says.*

That foundations of the inspiration that **Sabrina** was able to take were laid by people like **Melissa**. *"There were very, very few female Black lawyers working in Liverpool when I joined MSB. That has now changed and it is great to see so many students from diverse backgrounds coming into our firm through MSB's work experience scheme. It offers a glimpse into a more diverse and inclusive future for the legal profession.*

"I have also, with the Anthony Walker Foundation, had the privilege of taking part in the See Me, Be Me campaign. This was aimed at sharing the stories of Black Liverpool professionals and showing young people that people from backgrounds like theirs can build

successful careers in fields that may at first seem inaccessible. The project helps to challenge perceptions, broaden horizons and, most importantly, allow young people to see themselves represented in places they may never have imagined they could belong.

"Having experienced the much lower visibility of Black solicitors, I know how powerful it is for a person to see someone who looks like them succeeding," she says with pride.

Sabrina agrees. *"Representation and visibility make the career look achievable. I want to support the next generation of Black legal talent and have already mentored students at John Moores University and been involved in community-focused legal work as part of my role on MSB's DE&I committee.*

"I think representation also helps clients too and helps me relate to them, so they feel included, listened to and understood.

"Black History Month to me is about celebrating, reflecting and recognising the contributions Black people make and asking what more can be done to make opportunities genuinely accessible. A person's background or where they grew up should not determine how far they can go.

"I want to be the kind of person I'd have benefitted from meeting when I began my journey," she concludes.

A New Chapter Begins: Lilac Law Acquires Long-Established Bennett & Co Solicitors



Roger Billinge and Andrew Holmes

Lilac Law is proud to announce the acquisition of Bennett & Co Solicitors, a respected Liverpool law firm that has served generations of clients from its Allerton Road office.

For more than four decades, Bennett & Co has been a trusted part of Liverpool's legal community, providing dedicated advice and support to individuals, families and businesses across the region. Throughout that time, the firm has built a reputation for professionalism, integrity, and personal service, becoming a familiar and valued presence within the local community.

At the heart of that success have been **Andrew Holmes** and **Roger Billinge**, whose combined legal careers span many decades. Together, they have guided countless clients through some of life's most important moments, building relationships with generations of families and leaving a lasting legacy within Liverpool's legal sector.

Roger, having completed his training contract with Bennett & Co in 1967, has never waived in his obligations to his city community having taken up the helm as partner in 1978. **Andrew** joined the firm in 1978 and became Partner in 1985. The firm having operated since the early 1960s with offices in Cook Street, Moorfields Liverpool, Kensington and has now

officially closed its doors in Allerton Road.

As **Andrew** and **Roger** now begin their well-earned retirement, Lilac Law is honoured to continue the work of a firm that has offered so much to the local legal community with its office that opened in 2025 in One Derby Square at the heart of Liverpool city where Bennett & Co first began.

We extend our sincere gratitude to them for their years of service, dedication, and professionalism.

Building on a proud legacy

Looking to the future, Lilac Law will build upon the strong foundations established by Bennett & Co while embracing a modern and forward-thinking approach to legal services. This acquisition comes at an exciting time for Lilac Law, which has continued to grow and develop its offering to clients.

As part of that growth, Lilac Law has recently opened **two new specialist departments** — **Wills & Probate** and **Commercial Services** — expanding the range of expertise available to

both existing and new clients. The new departments complement our established legal services and reflect our ambition to create a modern law firm capable of supporting clients through every stage of their personal and professional lives.

Alongside this expansion, Lilac Law has also welcomed **two new directors to its board** — **Natalie Hogarth** and **Jo Alty**. Their appointment further strengthens the firm's leadership team, bringing additional experience, expertise and new perspectives as Lilac Law enters its next phase of growth. Together with existing Managing Directors **Lisa** and **Lorna**, the expanded board brings together a strong combination of experience, ambition and fresh thinking, with a shared commitment to maintaining the highest standards of client care.

Respecting the past, embracing the future

While the legal profession continues to evolve, our core values remain unchanged: trusted advice, personal relationships and a commitment to achieving the best outcomes for our clients.



Lorna Ferguson, Roger Billinge, Lisa Neary, Andrew Holmes and Natalie Hogarth

Nationwide Legal and Insurance Firm Expands with new Cardiff Office

Insurance and Legal Services firm, Carpenters Group, headquartered in Merseyside and employing around 1500 people, has opened a new office in Cardiff, marking a significant milestone in the firm's continued expansion across the UK.

Located in Callaghan Square, the office becomes Carpenters Group's eighth UK location and strengthens the company's presence in Wales as it continues to invest in supporting insurer partners and customers nationwide.

The opening forms part of Carpenters Group's long-term commitment to growing alongside its clients and ensuring it has the capability and resources needed to meet changing market demands. The move will also create opportunities for talented professionals across South Wales to join the business.



Donna Richards, CEO of Carpenters Group, said:

"Successful growth is about making the right investments, in the right places, at the right time. Our brand-new Cardiff office reflects our commitment to supporting our clients' future needs while creating meaningful career opportunities."

"Most importantly, it is about people. We are thrilled to welcome our new Cardiff colleagues to Team Carpenters and

look forward to achieving success together."

The decision to establish a presence in Cardiff reflects confidence in the region's thriving business community and the strength of its local talent market. The office will support Carpenters Group's continued growth while helping the business remain close to the clients it serves across the UK.

For more than 30 years, Carpenters Group has provided specialist legal and insurance claims services to insurers, brokers and customers. It serves many of the UK's best-known insurers and offers rewarding employment in legal, insurance and support services. As the sector continues to evolve, the firm remains focused on making investments that strengthen service delivery and support future growth.

Richards added:

"Our ambition has always been to grow in a way that benefits our clients and creates opportunities for people. Opening in Cardiff is an important step for the business and reflects our confidence in the future."

"We look forward to building our presence in the city and welcoming more talented people to Team Carpenters in the years ahead."

The Cardiff office is now operational, with colleagues already based at the new location.

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

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

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

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

Check your entry [here](#).

Aldridge Foundation and Brabners launch a new pathway bringing schools and businesses closer together



The Aldridge Foundation and leading independent law firm Brabners, today announce a major new partnership involving Brabners' True North network to tackle one of the most urgent challenges facing young people: the gap between education and employment.

This partnership will create a pathway connecting young people in schools and colleges with employers, giving them greater access to the skills, experiences, relationships, and opportunities they need to move successfully into further education, apprenticeships, or employment.

At its heart is a simple ambition: to demonstrate what can be achieved when education and business work together systematically — and ultimately create an approach capable of being replicated more widely.

This partnership comes at a critical time, with the recent work led by **Alan Milburn** highlighting the scale of the challenge facing young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), and the economic and social

consequences of allowing a generation to become disconnected from opportunity.

To address this, the Aldridge Foundation and Brabners believe the answer must begin much earlier. Rather than waiting until young people have left education to address the barriers they face in finding work, the new partnership will bring schools and businesses closer together while young people are still in education.

Sir Rod Aldridge, Founder and Chair of the Aldridge Foundation, said:

"We must tackle the NEET challenge before a young person becomes NEET. Too many young people are leaving education without the experience, contacts or understanding of the workplace that can help turn their talent into opportunity. The first door is often the hardest to open. Some young people already know the person on the other side of that door; however, many of the young people we work with don't have the advantage of personal connections into the world of work. We are therefore asking businesses to open their doors – but just as importantly, to open their networks."

"Our ambition is that every young person should leave education with skills,

meaningful experience of work and a professional network. Talent is everywhere. Opportunity is not. This partnership is about changing that."

Robert White, CEO of Brabners said:

"Our True North network brings together over 650 purpose led businesses and is perfectly placed to create opportunities for talented young people across the region. Our mission is to Make the Difference. If we can connect schools, academies and FE colleges with our own firm and the businesses we work with, together we can shape the future workforce and make a lasting impact on the lives of young people."

"We are proud to work alongside the Aldridge Foundation whose work has transformed the lives of thousands of young people. By bringing together education and business, we have an opportunity to build on this and we look forward to seeing what we can achieve together."

The partnership will initially work with Aldridge MAT schools based in Blackburn with Darwen, along with the University Technical Colleges in Salford and Warrington, drawing on the reach and expertise of Brabners' True North network.

It will create a pathway connecting young people to employers through mentoring and Industry Advocates, workplace experiences, careers and interview support, technical education and T Level placements, apprenticeships and employment opportunities. It will also enable the Aldridge Foundation to accelerate its highly successful Next Steps Bursary programme, which supports young people both financially and through mentoring at the critical transition point from education to the next stage of their journey towards work.

Crucially, businesses will be asked to

become active participants rather than simply supporters — opening their organisations to young people, sharing expertise, providing mentoring and experience, and creating routes into apprenticeships and employment.

Brabners established True North to bring together like-minded organisations from across the North to share knowledge, connect and collaborate, and to help unlock the economic potential of the region. From its outset, a central focus of the network has been harnessing talent and developing the skills needed for the future by connecting people with the opportunities Northern businesses can provide.

This new partnership will put that ambition into practice by connecting the True North business network directly with young people in schools and

colleges, creating opportunities to develop skills, experience and relationships that can support their transition into work.

The launch of this partnership also comes as the Aldridge Foundation celebrates its 20th anniversary.

Sir Rod Aldridge added:

“For 20 years, our belief has been that where you come from should not determine where you are going.

“The transition from education into work is now one of the biggest barriers to making that belief a reality.

“We cannot wait until young people become NEET and then try to reconnect them. We need to build the pathway before they leave education.”

To register your interest in working with

the partnership, please visit <https://hub.brabners.com/aldridge>

About the Aldridge Foundation

The Aldridge Foundation was established in 2006 to create opportunities for young people, particularly those from communities where access to opportunity and professional networks can be limited. Its work includes education, employability, the Next Steps Bursary programme, together with a focus on enrichment involving sport and creative opportunities.

About Brabners and True North

Brabners is a leading independent law firm with a strong presence across the North of England. It's True North network brings together organisations and business leaders committed to the economic and social prosperity of the North.



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Introducing the MJLD: Matthew Jones



Matthew Jones

Matthew Jones, an Apprentice Solicitor at Hill Dickinson LLP, has been elected to serve as the Careers and Education Representative for the Merseyside Juniors Lawyers Division. Matthew joined Hill Dickinson via the Paralegal Apprenticeship programme in 2023 and has since progressed onto the Solicitor Apprenticeship programme whereby he will complete his undergraduate degree (LLB) and SQE (Solicitor Qualifying Examinations), qualifying with more than 6-years' experience.

Before undertaking his school-leaver apprenticeship, Matthew studied at Cronton Sixth Form College in Widnes. He completed A-Levels

in English Language, History and Sociology. Matthew originally applied to study his LLB full time at University but after researching alternative routes during the summer following his exams, Matthew interviewed with Hill Dickinson and joined the firm in September 2023.

Matthew works for the Costs Team who operate under the Health Business Group, one of Hill Dickinson's three business groups. The team's largest client is NHS Resolution, an organisation that resolves medical negligence claims. Matthew represents NHS Resolution across a range of clinical negligence, employer liability and public liability cases, resolving civil costs disputes and supporting clients through costs litigation. Given the current public scrutiny surrounding government spending, this work plays a vital role in safeguarding public funds. Matthew has also had some experience supporting colleagues across Hill Dickinson in costs issues relating to Fundamental Dishonesty cases, Welfare Proceedings and Commercial Disputes.

Matthew is thoroughly enjoying his time at Hill Dickinson and feels strongly motivated to follow his ex-apprentice colleagues, now Associates of the firm, into qualification. His

long-term goal is to reach a senior role at the firm, potentially joining the partnership. In the near term, he is focused on completing his undergraduate degree over the next two years, followed by the two-year SQE pathway. Upon qualifying, he hopes to secure a NQ role and progress from Associate to Senior Associate.

Having regularly attended MJLD events prior to joining the committee, Matthew now aims to develop the organisation's educational outreach. In his new role, he plans to co-ordinate event dates with participating local schools for careers fairs and social mobility initiatives, maintain MJLD's court marshalling schemes, and organise mock assessments for university students aiming for post-graduate roles. Matthew also intends to run workshops with MJLD to raise awareness and promote the benefits of apprenticeships to support future applicants.

Matthew is a committed individual who is extremely passionate for social mobility and demonstrates the success of an increasingly popular alternative route into law.

We wish Matthew a very successful career in Law.

Call for Practices: Inclusive Workplace Cultures

The legal sector has an important opportunity to help shape more inclusive workplace cultures across the profession.

The Law Society is seeking examples from legal practices that have implemented initiatives to support inclusive workplace cultures. By sharing experiences, challenges, and best

practice, firms can help build a stronger evidence base and contribute to positive change across the profession.

Whether your organisation has introduced innovative policies, wellbeing initiatives, flexible working arrangements, mentoring programmes, or other approaches that have made a difference, this is an opportunity to showcase what works and

support the wider legal community. Legal professionals and organisations are encouraged to get involved and help drive meaningful progress towards a more inclusive and supportive profession for all. Find out more and submit your contribution here: <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/membership/get-involved/opportunities/inclusive-workplace-cultures-call-for-practices>

Office Junior to Leader: Paul Crowley & Co Celebrates Rachel Frost's Promotion to Operations Manager



Rachel Frost, from Office Junior to Leader

We are delighted to announce the promotion of Rachel Frost to Operations Manager at Paul Crowley & Co, a truly well-deserved achievement for someone who has helped shape the firm for nearly four decades.

A Career Built from the Ground Up

Having joined the firm in an Office Junior role, Rachel steadily progressed through the business, gaining experience across multiple departments and developing the broad operational knowledge for which she is known today. Over her 37 years at the firm, she has become far more than a colleague. Taking on an ever-widening range of

responsibilities; she has quietly become the person others turn to when something needs to be done properly. In many respects, she has become part of the very fabric of the company.

In her new role, working closely with the Directors, Rachel will now oversee several key areas of the business including HR, Finance, IT, Marketing and Compliance.

The Value of Longevity in a Law Firm

Stories like Rachel's serve as a reminder of something that is not always openly acknowledged with the legal sector: the value of employees who grow with a business and develop deep expertise over time. Longterm service provides institutional knowledge, continuity for clients, and a strong culture from which new employees can learn. Whilst these are often overlooked when it comes to recruitment and retention, they play a vital role and the daytoday operation and long-term success of a firm.

Paul Crowley & Co has long believed in supporting employees' professional development from within, rather than simply recruiting new specialists whenever business needs evolve. This approach has paid dividends time and again. Rachel's journey, from her first days at the company to her appointment as Operations Manager, is a powerful example of that philosophy in action.

"What makes Rachel's achievement particularly valuable is that it embodies everything we value as a firm: dedication, reliability, and a genuine willingness to take responsibility. Over the past 37 years, Rachel has developed an exceptional understanding of all aspects of the business and has earned the respect of her colleagues throughout the company. Her promotion is not only a recognition of her contribution to date but also a reflection of the important role she will continue to play, contributing to the growth and development of Paul Crowley & Co in the coming years."

- Paul Lowry, Director, Looking Ahead

Rachel's promotion is a milestone worth celebrating, not only for what it says about her own career, but also for what it says about Paul Crowley & Co as a place where people can build long-term careers, develop their expertise and take on real responsibility over time. On behalf of everyone at the firm, congratulations, Rachel, thoroughly deserved.

Tatiana Domrecheva

Paul Crowley & Co

Property specialist who has overseen 5,000 home moves joins JR Levins



Natalie Reason and Michelle Fisher

Law firm JR Levins has appointed experienced property specialist Natalie Reason to lead the growth of its conveyancing services across Runcorn, Widnes and Warrington.

Natalie brings more than 20 years of experience across the property industry, including over 12 years working in estate agency and conveyancing roles. During the last decade alone, she has overseen more than 5,000 house sales and purchases.

Her appointment represents a major coup for JR Levins as the firm builds on the success of its established conveyancing

division, which already supports home movers across Huyton, Runcorn, Widnes and the surrounding areas.

Natalie's career gives her a rare understanding of both sides of the house-moving process. She spent nine years working in estate agency, progressing from sales negotiator to branch manager, before returning to the legal sector and developing her career in residential conveyancing.

Most recently, she served as Head of Conveyancing at MJV Solicitors near Blackpool, where she played a central role in building and growing the firm's conveyancing department.

Natalie has developed a strong reputation among clients, estate agents and other property professionals for delivering clear communication and an exceptional customer experience throughout what can be a stressful and uncertain process.

Natalie said: "Buying or selling a home is never just a legal transaction. It involves people's savings, family plans and future, so clients need to feel that the person handling their move understands how important it is to them."

"Having worked in both estate agency and conveyancing, I understand the pressures experienced by buyers, sellers, estate agents and solicitors throughout a property chain. Good communication, realistic advice and identifying potential problems early can make an enormous difference."

"JR Levins has already built a successful conveyancing service in Huyton and Runcorn. I am excited to build on that success and bring something fresh, responsive and genuinely client-focused to home movers in Widnes and Warrington."

Michelle Fisher, Head of Residential Property at JR Levins added: "Natalie's appointment is a significant coup for the firm. Her experience is unusual because she understands property transactions from the perspective of the client, the estate agent and the conveyancer."

"She has built an outstanding reputation for looking after clients, maintaining communication and developing strong relationships across the property industry. We believe she is the ideal person to lead the next stage of our conveyancing growth in Widnes and Warrington."

MSB Solicitors go one better than last year and scoop national legal sector prize at Employer Excellence Awards



MSB Solicitors, a full-service law firm with offices in Liverpool, Manchester, Cheshire and Birmingham, is celebrating after being named Legal Employer of the Year at the 2026 Employer's Excellence Awards, held in conjunction with the nationwide daily Metro newspaper.

The award is presented annually to honour the legal employers who support wellbeing and building positive, progressive workplaces across the legal sector.

This win follows on from MSB's Highly Commended status in the same category of the same awards last

year and backs up the practice's Outstanding Commitment to Equality, Diversity & Inclusion win at the Employer's Excellence Awards in 2024.

The firm was shortlisted alongside other leading law firms Brabners, Forbes Solicitors, Hill Dickinson, JMW Solicitors, Menzies, Pearson Solicitors, RPC and Weightmans. It fought off strong competition from Forbes who were this year's Highly Commended entrant to take home the trophy which was presented by television and radio personality **Vernon Kay**.

On the same night the firm's Partner and Head

of Disrepair, **Thomas Stockton-Hughes**, achieved Highly Commended status in the Outstanding Employee category of the Employer's Excellence Awards.

The Employer's Excellence Awards celebrate organisations and individuals demonstrating excellence across areas including employee support, diversity, training, workplace culture and leadership.

The award adds further to a series of recent recognitions for MSB, which describes itself as a progressive, inclusive and responsible firm with a strong commitment to community impact and access to justice.

"We are delighted to have won this award and for Thomas to have achieved his recognition, both of which embody our spirit and ethos of being a values-led, inclusive and supportive place to work," said Emma Carey, MSB Solicitors' Managing Partner.

"For us, being a good employer is about much more than policies and processes. It is about creating a workplace where people feel valued, supported and able to develop, while giving them the opportunity to make a positive difference both within MSB and in the wider community.

"To take the step up from last year's Highly Commended status to winning the Legal Employer of the Year is testament to our team who make MSB what it is. Their tireless work on our ESG committee and its many and varied sub-committees makes our practice a firm that is inspired to provide justice for all and help those who need justice the most feel confident that they can access it.

"Our growth has never been about losing sight of who we are. We want MSB to be a place where talented people can build their careers, where different perspectives are welcomed and where our success has a positive impact beyond the work we do for our clients," Carey concluded.



Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

From rising stars to established leaders, this year's nominations highlighted the remarkable achievements of individuals, teams and firms across Liverpool Law Society's membership. After thorough deliberation, the independent judging panel has selected a shortlist that reflects the very best of the Liverpool City Region's legal profession.

Legal Awards 2026 Shortlist

Outstanding Team Award (Dispute Resolution & Litigation)

- Brabners
- DWF
- Fletchers Solicitors

Rising Star Award sponsored by The University of Law

- Charlotte Ashton, Fletchers Solicitors
- Jack Enright, Provenio Litigation
- Erin Sunderland, Broudie Jackson Canter

Outstanding Team Award (Non-Contentious) Sponsored by Landmark Information

- Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors
- Hill Dickinson
- Weightmans

Outstanding Lawyer Award sponsored by Miller

- Elkan Abrahamson, Broudie Jackson Canter
- Michelle Connor, CG Professional
- Jasmine Stuart, Complex Law

Outstanding Team Award (Family)

- 174 Family Law
- JMW Solicitors
- MSB

Law Firm Award (1-49 employees) sponsored by Clio

- Complex Law
- HM3 Legal
- Peter Edwards Law

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Award sponsored by LJMU

- DWF
- Fletchers Solicitors
- Morecrofts Solicitors

Law Firm Award (50+ employees) sponsored by Benchmark

- Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors
- Fletchers Solicitors
- Hill Dickinson

The awards ceremony will take place at the Society's Annual Dinner on Thursday, 12th November 2026

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Professor

Michael Wooldridge

Ashall Professor of the Foundations of Artificial Intelligence in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Oxford



The Legal Awards ceremony will take place after Dinner.

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MJLD: Introducing the 2026/27 Committee

The Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division (MJLD) is delighted to introduce its new committee for 2026/27.

Leading the committee for the year ahead will be Chair, **Anya McNally** of Weightmans, supported by Vice Chair, **Sean Hale**. They will be joined by a dedicated team covering a range of areas, including careers and education, social events, charity, press, sponsorship, and equality, diversity and inclusion.

The committee is looking forward to providing opportunities for junior lawyers to meet new people, build professional relationships and unwind at social events. Members will also have the chance to get involved with charity and community initiatives, as well as attend careers and educational events designed to broaden their experience during the early stages of their careers.

The full 2026/27 committee

Keep an eye out for further announcements about the Autumn Social. The new committee is currently planning its first event: the **MJLD Autumn Social**. This will be one of the first opportunities for members to meet the new committee and welcome the start of the 2026/27 year. Further details will be announced in due course, so please keep an eye on MJLD's social media channels for updates.

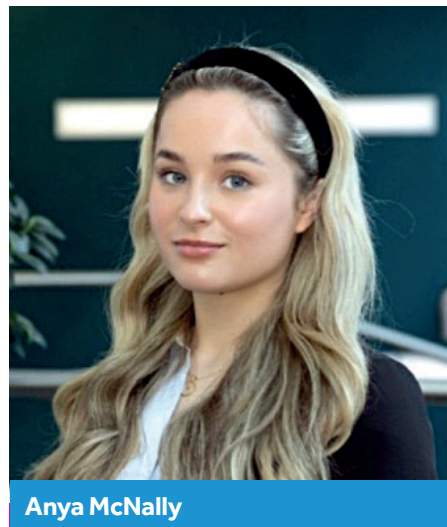
MJLD looks forward to welcoming the incoming committee and to another successful year of events, opportunities and support for junior lawyers across Merseyside.

MJLD Chair - Anya McNally

MJLD Vice Chair - Sean Hale

Chair Anya McNally and Vice Chair Sean Hale will lead the committee throughout the year, working alongside the wider team to make MJLD an engaging, inclusive and supportive network for junior lawyers across Merseyside.

Eleanor Lawrence
Bond Turner,
MJLD Press Team



Anya McNally



Sean Hale



MJLD NEW COMMITTEE

<i>Chair</i> Anya McNally (Weightmans)		<i>Vice Chair</i> Sean Hale
<i>Secretary</i> Oliver Roberts (Phoenix Legal)	<i>Treasurer</i> Ashley Fitzgerald (Bond Turner)	<i>National</i> George Mason (MSB)
<i>Careers & Education</i> Falak Iqbal (MSB)	<i>Careers & Education</i> Matthew Jones (Hill Dickinson)	
<i>Social</i> Abigail Fowler (Fletchers)	<i>Social</i> Robbie Oates (HM3 Legal)	<i>Social</i> Caitlin Firkins (Fletchers)
<i>Charity</i> Laura Bennett (Fletchers)	<i>Charity</i> Damian Ronander (Clyde & Co)	
<i>Press</i> Elle Lawrence (Bond Turner)	<i>Press</i> Sofia Rescorla-Brown (Fletchers)	<i>Press</i> Jennifer Starkey (Bond Turner)
<i>Sponsorship</i> Kiera Dean (Weightmans)	<i>EDI</i> Cara O'Neill (MSB)	



Rethinking Risk

The challenge with managing risk is that there are a multitude of things that can go wrong. Some risks are tangible, such as flood, fire, or physical damage, while others are less visible, including disruption, loss of confidence, or damage to reputation. Over the course of my career, I have come to understand that while not every risk can be anticipated, organisations are always better protected when insurance is considered part of a wider, proactive risk management conversation.

Over the years, I have been involved in placing cover for a wide range of unusual and complex risks from hospitality venues like restaurants, high value livestock to more specialist assets such as the steel dome now protecting Reactor No. 4 at Chernobyl following the nuclear disaster. While organisations can take sensible steps to reduce risk, such as regularly inspecting unoccupied properties, there will always be unforeseen circumstances that no amount of preparation can prevent. That is where the right insurance contract plays an essential role.

Take the example of a residential property near the coast that was struck by lightning during a severe storm. The roof was badly damaged, with replacement costs estimated at well over £100,000. The legal team responsible for the property was incredibly grateful that appropriate cover was in place through a comprehensive unoccupied property insurance policy. It was a clear reminder that even well-managed properties can be exposed to sudden, devastating risks.

That lightning strike came literally out of the blue, but there are situations where risk can be assessed more fully in advance. For example, I used to arrange cover for an luxury car dealership in Tewkesbury, an area renowned for flooding due to its proximity to the River Severn in Worcestershire. In those circumstances, sophisticated modelling and local risk data helped us determine exactly where and when flooding was most likely to hit. This informed the structure of the insurance contract, supporting better decisions around risk prevention, mitigation, and transfer.

Sometimes it is not a natural disaster but human error that creates the issue. Around 20 years ago, I worked on a risk involving an important historic building in central London, standing right in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral. A single careless act, a cigarette discarded in a wastepaper bin, led to a major fire that almost razed the site to the ground. In cases like this, the impact is rarely limited to the physical building; priceless documentation dating back to the thirteenth century was lost, and the resulting insurance claim was huge. Thankfully, the broker I worked for at the time had properly reinsured themselves against such massive losses, preventing what could have been a catastrophic financial jeopardy for the firm.

Risks to the intangible aspects of a business must also be considered. I remember one leading London restaurant that suffered a serious E. coli outbreak, which severely affected several celebrities who had dined at the establishment. The business was forced to close temporarily, and the public fallout had far-reaching consequences for their reputation. Because this business had invested in a crisis containment policy, they were able to immediately deploy a legal team and a damage-limitation PR specialist to mitigate the effects of the crisis.

Cyber and fraud risks are another excellent example of exposures that are not always immediately visible. Another restaurant I came across had their IT system hacked, and an employee inadvertently paid over £100,000 to a fraudster posing as a regular supplier. Because they did not have appropriate cyber cover in place, the business was forced to absorb the financial loss entirely on the chin. This underlines the importance of reviewing both physical assets and also digital systems, procedures, and human vulnerabilities.

So often, particularly with property, we think first of fire, flood, or storm damage. These are important, but they are only part of the picture. The best advice I can offer is to talk candidly to your broker, who can help identify both the tangible and intangible risks that your business may have otherwise overlooked.

No matter what you do to mitigate risk, an insurance contract remains the ultimate safety net for unexpected events. Whether you are protecting tangible assets like property, or intangible assets like reputation, continuity, and confidence, it is well worth taking the time to rethink risk and ensure the right conversations have taken place.

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Kevin Bonner

Group Head of Insurance Services, Estatesure

About the Author



Kevin Bonner has 39 years' experience in the insurance industry, joining Estatesure from a Lloyd's insurance broker in London, where he served for over three

years. Throughout his career, Kevin has held senior roles with global insurance and reinsurance brokers, working with clients in the UK, Middle East, Latin America and Asia Pacific. During his last role, Kevin also gave his time to mentoring at the world-famous Lloyd's Lab, a collaborative environment for startups, scale-ups and innovative companies to develop technology-driven solutions for the insurance and risk management industries.

MR RICHARD GUY

MBChB MD FRCS FRCS(Gen)



COLORECTAL & GENERAL SURGEON

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

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People, Place and Prosperity:

Building Stronger Communities Through Business

Economic growth is often measured through investment levels, employment figures and business performance. While these indicators remain important, sustainable growth is built on something much broader: people, place and opportunity.

At Knowsley Chamber, supporting business success has always been about more than membership numbers. Since 1987, the Chamber has worked alongside businesses, public sector partners and community organisations to create the conditions that allow individuals, companies and communities to thrive together.

This collaborative approach sits at the heart of the Chamber's work. As part of 'Invest Knowsley' and co-located with Knowsley Council's Business Growth and Major Development Teams, the Chamber helps connect businesses to the support, networks and opportunities they need to grow. Just as importantly, it works to ensure that growth benefits local people and contributes to the long-term prosperity of the borough and the wider Liverpool City Region.

Based on 'Better Together' principles, **Rachel Peak** is both Chief Executive at Knowsley Chamber and Head of Business Growth at Knowsley Council a joint post which has been in place for over 12 years.

Rachel commented,
"At Knowsley Chamber, we believe that successful businesses and thriving communities go hand in hand. Economic growth is not just about investment and jobs; it's about creating opportunities for local people, supporting healthier workplaces and ensuring businesses have access to the networks, talent and partnerships they need to succeed. When organisations come together with a shared purpose, we can create lasting benefits for our borough and build a stronger future for everyone."

This philosophy is reflected across every aspect of Knowsley Chamber's work.

At its core, the Chamber is a proactive local connector, bringing together businesses, strategic partners, education providers and the public sector to create opportunities for economic, social and environmental benefit. Through its programme of 'Business to Business' networking events, well established

sector-specific forums, specialist workshops and business engagement activities, the Chamber provides a solid platform for its members to drive their growth.

The Chamber's forums, including Manufacturing, Construction, Environment, People and Women in Business, create spaces for collaboration and open conversations around the challenges and opportunities facing modern businesses. These networks enable organisations of all sizes to learn from one another, develop partnerships and access support, helping to build a stronger and more resilient local business community. Supporting business growth also means supporting people. Recent events have focused on topics including Women in Construction, innovation, AI technology and recent changes in HR legislation, helping organisations stay informed, connected and resilient.

All members receive access to the Quest business support platform, member services, training opportunities and signposting to specialist advice. Quest helps businesses navigate everything from legal and HR matters to health and safety, compliance and workforce development. This practical support allows organisations to focus on growth while ensuring they have access to trusted expertise when it is needed most.

The Chamber's delivery of the 'Working Well' programme is another example of its commitment to putting people at the centre of economic growth. Delivered on behalf of Knowsley Public Health since 2011, the programme supports workplaces throughout the borough and beyond. Through health campaigns, wellbeing resources, training and access to specialist services, Working Well helps employers create healthier, more inclusive workplaces where employees can thrive. In turn, businesses benefit from improved engagement, reduced sickness absence and stronger staff retention. The programme has become a recognised example of how investment in workforce wellbeing can deliver positive outcomes for both people and organisational performance.

Continued social value work also extends to the Chamber's Youth Initiative, which aims to raise awareness and aspirations amongst young people by showcasing the wealth of businesses and career opportunities available on their doorstep. Its reach is being developed

currently but includes connecting schools with employers, equipping employers to support work experience placements, signposting young people to resources to support the transition from education to employment.

The Chamber works closely with Knowsley Council through the Invest Knowsley partnership, as well as with schools, colleges, universities, youth and community organisations. This collaborative approach recognises that sustainable economic growth is not achieved by any one organisation acting alone; it is achieved when businesses, communities and partners work together towards shared goals. For professional services organisations, attracting and retaining talented people, investing in workplace culture and demonstrating a genuine commitment to communities are now recognised as key drivers of long-term success. Businesses that place people at the heart of their decision-making are often better equipped to adapt, innovate and grow.

As Knowsley continues to evolve, the Chamber remains focused on championing local businesses, strengthening partnerships and creating opportunities that benefit both people and place. By fostering collaboration, supporting workforce development and encouraging responsible business growth, Knowsley Chamber continues to play a vital role in building a prosperous, inclusive and resilient borough for future generations.

For more information about Knowsley Chamber, visit www.knowsleychamber.org.uk or email info@knowsleychamber.org.uk.

Upcoming Knowsley Chamber Events:

Knowsley Chamber Environment Forum- Tuesday 15 October 2026, Riverside College Green Skills Centre, Kingsway, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 7QQ

Business to Business Networking- Tuesday 3 November, Venue to be confirmed

Small Business Network- Tuesday 24 November, North Mersey Business Centre, Knowsley Industrial Estate, Woodward Rd, Liverpool L33 7UY

Knowsley Chamber Manufacturing Forum, Thursday 14 January 2027, Venue To be Confirmed

People's Forum- Thursday 21 January 2027, Venue to be Confirmed

Business to Business Networking- Tuesday 26 January 2027, Venue to be Confirmed



Hundreds of Legal Professionals Walk to Support Access to Justice



320 legal professionals, advice sector supporters and half a dozen of our four-legged friends took to the streets on 23 September to take part in Liverpool Law Society's fundraising walk for the Access to Justice Foundation. Bringing together lawyers, support staff and students from 37 law firms, barristers' chambers, law centres, university law departments, Merseyside JLD & WLD, and advice providers, the evening showcased the legal community's commitment to improving access to justice while raising vital funds for the Foundation's work.

Starting outside the QEII Law Courts in Liverpool city centre, and led by **Sarah Mansfield**, President of Liverpool Law Society, **Anya McNally**, Merseyside JLD Chair, **His Honour Judge Medland KC**, **HHJ Pierpoint KC**, **HHJ Harris** and **HHJ Parker**, Senior Circuit Judge and the Designated Family Judge for Cheshire and Merseyside, the walkers began a 5K route in the late evening sunshine around the city centre that took in iconic venues such as the Port of Liverpool building, the Royal Albert Dock, Chinatown and St George's Hall before arriving at the Lady of Mann pub. Walkers were welcomed with a drink on arrival kindly sponsored by [St John's Buildings](#) and [The University of Law](#). We very much appreciate their support. Thanks also go to the Lady of Mann pub for hosting the post-walk gathering and providing the soft drinks.

A shout out to all the marshals who kindly volunteered and cheered on the walkers: **Lana Stanley, Matthew Broomhall, Nina Sahu, Haley Farrell, Nicola Walker, Jeremy Myers, Chris Topping** and **Nina Ferris**.

And a big THANK YOU to the organisations who took part in the 2026 Liverpool Legal Walk:

- Aaron & Partners
- Bermans
- Bond Turner
- Brabners
- Broudie Jackson Canter
- Capsticks
- Carpenters Group
- CEL Solicitors
- Clyde & Co
- Cook Legal Solicitors
- DWF
- Equality & Employment Law Centre
- Exchange Chambers
- Fletchers Solicitors
- Greenhalgh Kerr Solicitors
- Hill Dickinson
- Hundred Court Chambers
- Hunters Legal
- In-House Legal Solutions
- Irwin Mitchell
- Jackson Lees Group
- Leigh Day
- Liverpool Law Society
- Maria Fogg Family Law
- Medical Legal Services
- Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division

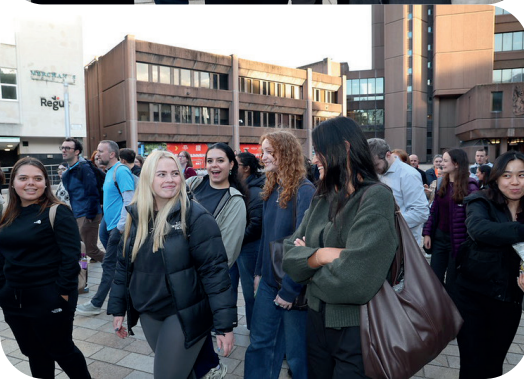
- Merseyside Women Lawyers Division
- MSB
- National Legal Service
- O'Connors Legal Services
- Peak Costs
- Peter Edwards Law
- Slater and Gordon Lawyers
- Steve Cornforth Consultancy
- St John's Building Chambers
- The University of Law
- Vauxhall Law Centre
- Weightmans
- Winston Taylor

Chris Topping, president of Liverpool Law Society 2018-19 and one of the organisers of the Walk said "Another memorable gathering of so many lawyers walking with one purpose. We were delighted with the turnout this year, as every year, but we cannot lose sight of the reason for the walk. Now more than ever access to justice is under threat and doing what we can to assist the Access to Justice Foundation enables them to make a massive difference to those most in need of free legal advice. We have a target of £5000 this year which we hope to reach or even exceed! Whether you walked or not if you haven't contributed please do so!"

To make a donation, click [here](#).

Event photography kindly donated by **Ray Farley**. View flickr album [here](#).

Sarah Poblete
CEO
Liverpool Law Society





CELEBRATION FOR NEW ENTRANTS TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Liverpool Law Society would like to invite all those who qualify into the law during 2026 from the Liverpool City Region and surrounding area to a celebration that marks the launch of their professional career

THUR 28 JAN 2027	RACQUET CLUB, CHAPEL STREET, LIVERPOOL
	5.30PM FOR 6PM

This event is aimed at:

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

What's included?

★ Arrival drink ★ Canapes ★ Professional photography ★ Training voucher

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

Hazel Snell DL
The High Sheriff of Merseyside

Members of the Merseyside JLD are also invited to attend and network with senior members of Liverpool Law Society.

This is a free event but you must book your place.

LLS annual Family Finance Conference

On Thursday 03 September 2026, Liverpool Law Society held its annual conference – this year partnering with St John's Buildings Chambers and Resolution Merseyside.

The in person event was kindly hosted by Chambers, and delegates had time for registration, refreshment and networking before the event began. The day had fantastic attendance (despite competing with the Sportswoman's Lunch!), and it was lovely to get together and see so many faces.

We heard first from **Dr Lucy Crompton**, with her presentation The Untold Story of Financial Remedies Law. **Dr Crompton** unpicked the history of how the principles used daily by financial remedy practitioners actually came to be and, importantly, how a re-examination of the interpretation and citation of White in the cases that followed gives real pause for thought about whether the current approach can truly be said to reflect the intended principle of 'fairness'. It certainly left me (and lots of others in the room) with so much to think about.

We were then joined by **Hayley Myers** and **Vicki Harper** from Evelyn Partners, who shared some important things to think about from a financial advice and planning perspective. It was an important reminder of the benefit of a holistic, 'team' approach – and the value that can be added in doing this early, rather than handing clients over at the conclusion of a case.

James Fish from Armitstead Barnett then gave a hugely insightful talk on why farms present such a unique challenge in financial remedy cases. He explained perfectly the key distinction between agricultural and market value, implications of this when approaching valuation and division, and gave helpful practical takeaways for practitioners.

The day was kindly chaired by **Samantha Hillas KC**, who also talked about current themes and changes in the world of financial remedy – specifically touching on a post-Standish era, Conduct, Transparency, and the Fairer End to Relationships consultation. Her run-down was brilliant as always, and I am sure I'm not alone in thinking I could have listened to her for far longer!

Before lunch, I stepped in briefly to host a panel discussion with all of our speakers. We shared experiences and views about Standish, the use of AI and the Express Financial Remedy Pilot. It was really a very inclusive discussion, and I am massively grateful to all in the room who contributed – it always makes for the best conversations.

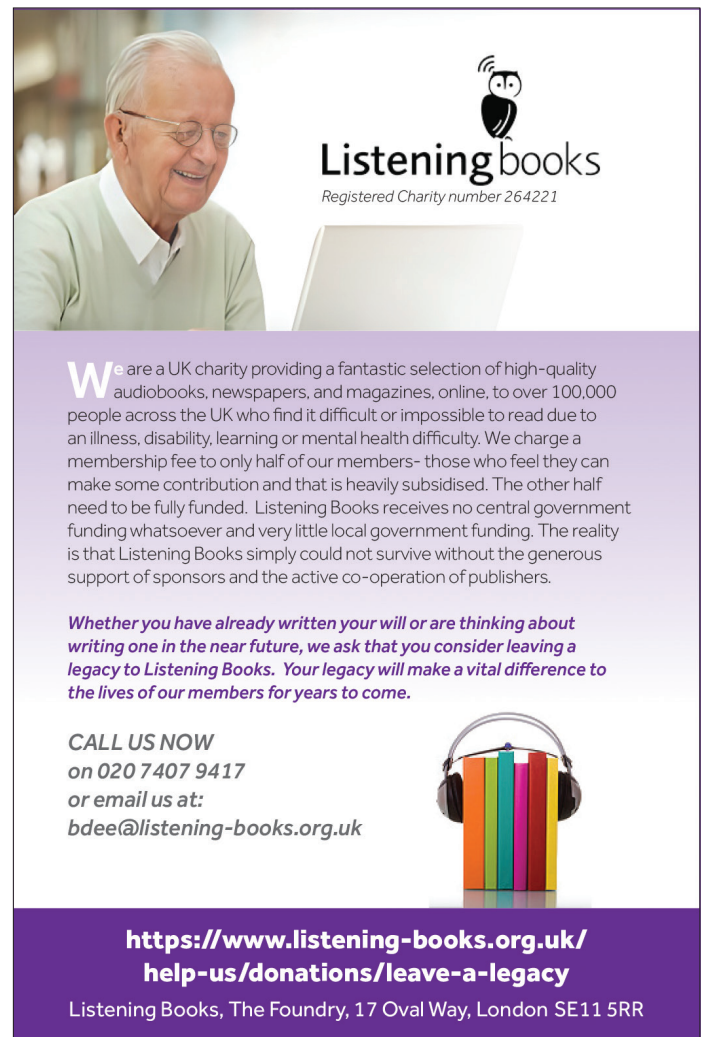
After lunch, we heard from **Daniel Currie** who provided an overview of capacity. A reminder that whilst most of us don't encounter those issues every day, it is important not to forget

or become complacent as practitioners. **Daniel** talked us through the two-part functional test and the range of options available where a client lacks capacity – from appointing a lasting power of attorney, to deputyship, Court of Protection proceedings and a litigation friend – all valuable tools to keep in mind

Finally, **Kerri O'Neill** gave a Case Law Update, always one of my favourite elements of the annual conference. This year's round-up ran through five key 2026 cases, from LSPO applications to conduct and cohabitation disputes, and was as sharp and practical a summary as ever.

Thank you to all our speakers not only for taking the time to share their expertise, but for their ongoing contributions and discussion throughout the day. And thank you to all who attended, without whom there wouldn't be an event!

Laura Spence
Parliamentary Liaison Officer



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IHLS launches The GC Spotlight Podcast

In-House Legal Solutions (IHLS) has launched **The GC Spotlight Podcast**, a new series of conversations with **General Counsel** and senior in-house legal leaders from some of the UK's best-known organisations.

Hosted by IHLS co-founders **Brian Noon** and **Lauren Cannon**, the podcast explores how its guests built their careers, the decisions that shaped them and what they have learned along the way.

Explaining where the idea for the podcast came from, **Brian** said:

"When Lauren and I founded In-House Legal Solutions almost ten years ago, we didn't know where it would take us."

"Fast forward to today and we've had the privilege of working with in-house legal teams across a huge range of organisations. We've learnt so much from the legal teams we've worked with because every team approaches the role differently."

"That's why launching The GC Spotlight Podcast felt like such a natural next step. We wanted to create a place where General Counsel – and aspiring General Counsel – can learn from other General Counsel."

The first episode features **David Morgan**, General Counsel at Warburtons, who talks about his unconventional route from management trainee to GC, how he planned his career and why taking calculated risks helped him build a fulfilling career without sacrificing the things that mattered outside work.

The second episode features **Helen Kennedy-Shamir**, Chief Legal Officer at Checkatrade, who talks about understanding the business, communicating effectively and having the confidence to bring your personality to work. From building genuine relationships to her funny out-of-office messages, **Helen** explains why there is still room for humour and personality in a senior leadership role.

The next episode, due to be released on 6 October, features **James Blair**, former General Counsel at Speedy Hire PLC.

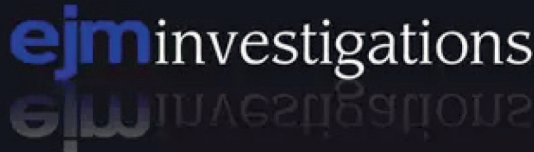
From dawn raids to difficult decisions, **James** shares what he has learned about staying calm under pressure, trusting his instincts and doing the right thing when the stakes are high. He also explains why being an effective GC sometimes means accepting that not everyone is going to like you.

Reflecting on what she hopes listeners will take from the series, **Lauren** said:

"Every organisation is different and every General Counsel approaches the role in their own way."

"We hope The GC Spotlight Podcast gives listeners different perspectives, practical ideas and reassurance that many of the challenges they face are shared by others across the profession."

Listen to The GC Spotlight Podcast and find the latest episodes at gcspotlightpodcast.com.



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Incoming Law Society President calls for disability adjustments to become a 'normal conversation' in legal workplaces



Incoming Law Society President Brett Dixon has called for greater openness around disability in the legal sector, as figures highlight a significant gap between solicitors disclosing a disability compared to the wider population.

Speaking to **Nick Gallagher**, CEO of The Solicitors' Charity, in the latest episode of *The Legal Pause*, **Dixon** discusses disability, inclusion and the changes legal workplaces can make to better support their people.

During the conversation, **Nick** highlights figures showing that while 23% of working-age adults nationally disclose a disability, only 8% of solicitors do so. **Dixon** argues that creating a more inclusive profession requires moving towards an environment where talking about disability and the support people need become an ordinary part of workplace conversation.

He explains that employers do not always understand what is needed by disabled colleagues. Rather than assuming what support someone requires, **Dixon** argues that employers should begin by listening to the

individual and understanding what already works for them.

The issue has particular resonance for The Solicitors' Charity. During the episode, **Gallagher** explains that around two-thirds of people contacting the Charity identify as having a disability.

Dixon also reflects on his personal experience as the parent of a daughter born with a limb difference, and how that changed his understanding of some of the everyday barriers experienced by disabled people.

He said that supporting his daughter has reinforced the importance of enabling people to find solutions that work for them and making potentially difficult conversations feel normal. The discussion features in Episode 9 of *The Legal Pause*, "*Breaking Down Barriers and Building a More Supportive Legal Profession*."

Dixon is President of the Law Society of England and Wales from October 2026. Disability inclusion is among the priorities he discusses for his presidential year. Along with a commitment to championing a refreshed Reasonable Adjustment Guide (for the disabled) and Best

Practice Guides on Disability Training, Mentoring and Senior Leadership Progression.

The episode also explores his previous work on the Civil Procedure Rule Committee to improve participation for vulnerable people within the civil justice system, his move into consultancy and his enthusiasm for technology, coding and AI.

Nick Gallagher, CEO of The Solicitors' Charity, said: "*Brett makes an important point about the value of creating environments where people feel comfortable talking about what they need.*"

"We know from our own work that disability, whether relating to physical health, mental health or both, is a significant part of the picture for many people who approach us."

"Support starts with understanding the individual. By working collaboratively across the profession, we can help make those conversations easier and ensure solicitors know where they can turn when support is needed."

The episode concludes with a discussion about collaboration between organisations supporting the sector, including The Law Society, The Solicitors' Charity, LawCare, and other specialist providers.

Gallagher argues that these organisations should not be viewed as competitors, but as parts of a wider support network that can work together to make help more accessible to solicitors (and others working in the law).

The Legal Pause – Episode 9 is available now on all major streaming platforms: <https://thesolicitorscharity.org/the-legal-pause/>

Liverpool Legal Service

11th October

Liverpool Law Society members are warmly invited to attend the Service to Mark the Beginning of the Legal Year on Sunday 11th October 2026 at 10.30am in Liverpool Cathedral.

This annual service provides a valuable opportunity for members of the legal profession to come together at the start of the new legal year, reflecting on the role of law and justice within our communities while celebrating the contribution of those working across the profession. The sermon will be delivered by **HHJ Andrew Menary KC DL**, former Resident Judge and Honorary Recorder of Liverpool.

The service is open to all members of the legal profession, together with their family, friends and guests. Whether you are a solicitor, barrister, judge, legal executive, academic or law student, we encourage you to join colleagues from across the region for this longstanding and important occasion in the legal calendar.

The Valedictory for His Honour Judge Cadwallader

HHJ Cadwallader, Judge of the Business and Property Courts in Liverpool, will retire on 4th November 2026. Members of the Liverpool Law Society are invited to attend the valedictory sitting to mark the retirement of His Honour Judge Cadwallader.

Date: Wednesday, 4 November 2026 **Time:** 9:30am to 10:30am (approx.)

Please find below the CVP link for any members who wish to attend the valedictory on Cloud Video Platform.

CVP Arrangements

9am: CVP link will open

Accessing the CVP link

Please use the guest pin provided below.

Web browser link: Join via web browser

Conference address/CVP Room name: hmcts1009@meet.video.justice.gov.uk

Guest PIN: 2001

Phone number: +44 2036088838 (to join by telephone only – use the 'Voice Conference ID' below.)

Voice conference ID: 25409883#

Sport governing bodies need different legal structures for their commercial ventures



Philip Bowers

As the fall-out from the FIFA Forward Enterprise proposal rumbles on, where and how national governing bodies and international federations sit in a world of sport which is continually being shaped by commercial pressures, capital requirements, and increasing competition is an intriguing question.

Traditionally, governing bodies and federations develop their sport globally, represent members and participants, maintain competition structures, manage elite athlete participation and development and, in many cases, distribute public or centrally generated funding back into their sport. They are increasingly performing these functions in a commercial market in which privately financed businesses can raise capital, pursue audiences, athletes, and revenues without carrying the same responsibilities. They are also often constrained by legacy decision-making structures and administration which can create bureaucracy and a lack of reactivity to market forces.

For most governing bodies outside the largest commercial sports, capital is also significantly constrained. Income remains concentrated around government and lottery funding cycles which is at risk of political changes, economic climate, membership, broadcast revenues which

are under attack, sponsorship, and a limited portfolio of events. There is rarely substantial discretionary capital available to develop a new competition, build a digital platform or invest in another commercial opportunity.

The resulting challenge for governing bodies and federations is increasingly one of maintaining their commercial relevance and the revenues required to support the wider sport. However, the right corporate restructuring, contractual structure, and commercial thinking can allow these challenges to be overcome if their own balance sheet is constrained.

When investment moves outside the governing structure

Triathlon provides a useful example. [The Professional Triathletes Organisation](#) (PTO) developed outside the governing body, World Triathlon, and raised private capital to build a professional proposition around elite long-distance athletes. The T100 series created a new event inventory, athlete remuneration, and a media product without requiring the international federation to finance its development.

Over time, the relationship between the two organisations has developed substantially. World Triathlon and PTO agreed a 12-year strategic partnership covering the long-distance World Championship Tour, anti-doping, safeguarding, sponsorship and broadcast collaboration, and PTO-promoted events have increasingly incorporated World Triathlon competition.

This experience demonstrates the commercial risk for governing bodies where external capital identifies value around a sport before its established institutions have the means to develop it themselves. [World Triathlon](#) has ultimately found a way to participate in the commercial platform built by PTO, combining its regulatory authority, competition portfolio, and

athlete ecosystem with the capital and commercial capability of an external operator.

[British Cycling](#) offers a particularly relevant UK example. In December 2025, it established British Cycling Ventures (BCV) as a dedicated commercial entity designed to develop new revenues and attract strategic investment. The BCV structure provides a vehicle through which private capital can participate in selected commercial activities which include the development of new events and formats without investing directly into the governing body.

From a legal perspective, the devil will be in the detail on what assets and rights are made available to BCV, what level of economic interest will be retained by British Cycling, and the level of governance afforded to investors who will need to ultimately support the wider sport. The governing body also needs to understand the investor's objectives and exit requirements.

Four legal structures worth considering

The appropriate structure will largely depend upon the commercial opportunity, the capital required, and the rights available to support it. For governing bodies operating with limited balance-sheet capacity, four approaches are particularly relevant:

1. **A dedicated commercial vehicle with external equity** allows selected commercial assets or opportunities to sit within a separately managed company into which private capital can be raised. This can provide capital and specialist management while allowing the governing body to retain a significant economic interest. Care is required in defining which rights are transferred, which are licensed, the treatment of existing sponsorship and media agreements, investor governance rights, and the

mechanisms through which value returns to the sport.

2. **A corporate joint venture** can suit a governing body or federation with valuable rights but insufficient capital or specialist capability to exploit them. The governing body might contribute IP, sanctioning, event rights, calendar access, or athlete relationships, while its partner provides capital, technology, distribution, and / or operating expertise. Governance becomes particularly important in these arrangements, including board representation, reserved matters requiring the consent of a % of shareholders, further funding obligations, exclusivity, ownership of newly created rights, deadlock, and termination rights.
3. **A strategic commercial partnership without equity** may be more appropriate where an opportunity is not sufficiently developed to support an external valuation. Revenue-sharing arrangements around events, technology, media, licensing or participation products can give a commercial partner sufficient incentive to invest its

resources while leaving ownership with the governing body. The duration and scope of exclusivity require particular attention; rights granted too broadly or for too long can restrict subsequent commercial development.

4. **A spin-out or partial sale** becomes possible where an existing commercial activity has sufficiently independent revenues, management and growth prospects to operate as a business in its own right. The transaction can release capital and give the business greater freedom to grow, although the board must assess the value received against the future income and strategic control being surrendered. That calculation is particularly important where commercial revenues ultimately fund distributions and development across the sport.

Commercial development as part of stewardship

For governing bodies operating with constrained resources, commercial development is increasingly relevant to their ability to fund participation, performance, and the long-term development of their sport. Accessing private capital and

specialist capability can form part of that strategy, provided the commercial and legal structure preserves an appropriate balance between investment, control, and the interests of members.

Whilst the FIFA saga grabbed headlines for all the wrong reasons, it should not deter the questions that other governing bodies should rightly be considering about their own assets and the markets developing around them in order to safeguard and grow their particular sport.

At O'Connors, we advise governing bodies, rights holders, investors and commercial partners on establishing and funding new sports ventures, including investment vehicles, joint ventures, strategic partnerships and spin-outs. Early consideration of rights ownership, governance, funding and stakeholder approvals can materially improve both the investability of a proposition and the governing body's position when external capital is introduced. If you have any queries or need more information please contact **Phil Bowers**, Head of Sports and Commercial.

Philip Bowers
Legal Director
O'Connors

Hillsborough Law advances amid justice system concerns

The Law Society of England and Wales has welcomed the Second Reading of the Public Office (Accountability) Bill also known as the Hillsborough Law in the House of Lords as the legislation edges closer to becoming law.

Law Society president, **Mark Evans**, said: "After decades of campaigning, the families of the victims are closer to seeing real change as the Bill edges closer to becoming law. But passing this Bill is only the beginning. The justice system must be ready to deliver it. Cases are projected to increase from about 250 to 11,400 cases a year. Our justice system is already

under pressure with significant court backlogs, legal aid deserts and a crumbling infrastructure.

"The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has not yet published its response to the consultation on legal aid fee rates, which are grossly inadequate to attract firms to take on this kind of work. Families of victims have already gone through a lot, they should not have to fight for legal support as well.

"The MoJ must raise the fees so solicitors can support the families.

"Creating parity of arms for victims is a key provision in this Bill. Legal aid support

for inquests should be appropriately resourced, while maintaining the wider legal aid sector."

Mark Evans concluded: "We support the duty of candour. Public authorities must act transparently and truthfully cooperating fully with inquests, inquiries, and investigations.

"Families affected by Hillsborough and Grenfell know all too well the devastating cost when institutions cover up and obstruct justice. This Bill can change all that. It can put victims and their families first and strengthen accountability promoting truth and justice."



The Law Society

From Awareness to Action: EDI Committee Meeting Highlights



Sarah Poblete

The Liverpool Law Society Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee met in a hybrid format, with attendees joining both via Microsoft Teams and in person at DWF Liverpool in early September. The meeting provided an opportunity to share initiatives being delivered across local law firms, discuss past and upcoming awareness events, and promote wider engagement in inclusion-focused activities across the legal sector.

Members discussed how firms have recently been marking, or are preparing to mark, key EDI events. Recently-held activities included South Asian heritage breakfast at DWF mentioned by Chair Jewels Chamberlain and planned activities include World Menopause Day initiatives in October, and accessibility-focused awareness campaigns. Olivia Wyld highlighted opportunities for involvement in [Social Shifters](#), a global innovation programme delivered through an alliance of law firms which offers volunteering opportunities for legal professionals. Olivia also outlined plans for participation in the [10,000 Black Interns](#) programme, encouraging broader engagement across firms.

The Committee was reminded of

LawCare's online lunchtime event that took place on 17 September, which focused on the theme of regret and wellbeing within the legal profession.

A discussion was held around Parenting Groups and Family Matters Networks that currently exist and / or are being set up. Attendees shared knowledge of how the group or network works in their own firm. Some offer support through drop-in sessions. Some deal with not only parents or those wishing to become parents, but also carers. Some have dedicated ambassadors covering specialist areas such as IVF, bereavement, adoption and neurodiverse children.

A significant part of the meeting focused on the Liverpool Legal Walk and its development since its launch in 2012. Fourteen years on, the Walk regularly attracts between 250 and 300 participants from across the legal profession, including solicitors and barristers. While participation levels remain strong, fundraising continues to present a challenge. A fundraising target of £5,000 has been set for this year. Funds raised support the Access to Justice Foundation's work in increasing funding for free legal advice services and supporting vulnerable communities facing issues relating to housing, debt, welfare and employment.

Although the Walk has now taken place, the [JustGiving page remains open](#), so please consider making a donation and helping to demonstrate the Liverpool legal community's commitment to access to justice.

Finally, members were reminded of upcoming Liverpool Law Society events, including:

- the [Annual Dinner](#) on 12 November at the Rum Warehouse, where the legal professionals can

- come together to celebrate being part of a strong and vibrant sector
- the [Celebration for New Entrants to the Legal Profession](#) on 28 January 2027, at which the High Sheriff of Merseyside will present Certificates of Celebration to all those who qualified into the law during 2026, alongside academic and JLD prizes award by Liverpool Law Society's Education & Charities Committee.
- [Menopause and the Workplace](#) online 1pm – 2pm Thurs 15 Oct Free to LLS members

The session will illustrate how an organisation can implement menopause policies and practices along with the different aspects around becoming a menopause friendly employer.

And keep a look out for announcements about the inaugural Liverpool Law Society's International Men's Day event taking place in November 2026.

For information about the EDI Committee and how to join, please visit our website [here](#).

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Sarah Poblete
CEO
Liverpool Law Society

DWF on the UK labour market



Joanne Frew

The latest figures suggest a labour market that is proving relatively resilient despite ongoing economic uncertainty. The UK employment rate decreased by 0.1% on the year, but remained largely unchanged at 75.1% in the quarter May to July 2026, compared with the previous quarter. The UK unemployment rate was estimated at 4.9% for the same quarter. This is an increase of 0.2% on the year but largely unchanged on the latest quarter. The data presents a picture of gradual cooling rather than significant change. Employment levels have eased, while unemployment has ticked up compared with a year ago, highlighting the pressures facing both employers and jobseekers. That said, the shifts remain relatively modest, suggesting that the labour market continues to be characterised by stability rather than volatility.

Vacancy estimates in the UK decreased in the latest quarter. Early estimates for June to August 2026 suggest a decrease of 8,000 to 702,000 compared to March to May 2026. Survey feedback suggests that rising labour costs may be prompting some smaller employers to scale back recruitment activity. The latest data indicates that hiring intentions remain subdued amid ongoing economic uncertainty and significant workplace reform, with vacancy levels continuing to provide an important insight into wider business confidence.

Annual growth in employees' average earnings was 3.5% in May to July 2026 and has been relatively stable over the past five consecutive three-month periods, following a year of slowing growth. The continued moderation in earnings growth suggests that, while competition for talent remains a feature of the labour market, many employers have limited scope to meet expectations for higher pay as they contend with ongoing cost pressures.

Looking ahead, employers continue to navigate a challenging operating environment. Inflation increased to 2.9% in the year to July 2026, driven largely by higher energy costs, highlighting

that cost pressures remain a significant consideration despite signs of resilience elsewhere in the economy. At the same time, organisations are preparing for the next phase of implementation of the Employment Rights Act 2025, with a number of employment law reforms due to take effect at the end of October 2026. Many employers are also beginning to plan for the significant changes to unfair dismissal rights expected in January 2027, including the reduction of the qualifying period for ordinary unfair dismissal claims to six months and the removal of the cap on compensation.

Against this backdrop of ongoing economic and regulatory change, many employers are likely to maintain a cautious and carefully targeted approach to recruitment, workforce planning and reward decisions in the months ahead.

Joanne Frew

Global Head of Employment & Pensions,
DWF

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**Lynne Lister, Managing Director,
X-Press Legal Services**

X-Press Legal Services is urging law firms to take a closer look at their property data suppliers to ensure they are not being exposed to unnecessary compliance risks.

The largest independent provider of property data in England and Wales, X-Press Legal Services has reaffirmed its membership of the Council of Property Search Organisations (CoPSO) and upholding of the Search Code, code of practice. Together with the firm's Cyber Essentials Plus certification, these credentials reflect a commitment to compliance that X-Press believes should be standard across the industry.

The Search Code was introduced by the Council of Property Search Organisations (CoPSO) in 2006 to set minimum standards for private sector search providers to protect consumers, estate agents, conveyancers and mortgage lenders. It sets requirements for private search providers covering data accuracy, professional conduct, insurance and complaints handling. Compliance is independently monitored by the Property Codes Compliance Board (PCCB), meaning



conveyancers don't need to undertake supplier due diligence on member firms like X-Press that display the Search Code logo.

Cyber Essentials Plus provides further assurance through an independent technical assessment of the systems and security controls used to protect against common cyber threats.

CoPSO estimates that over 80 per cent of property searches are conducted by providers subscribed to the Search Code but X-Press Legal Services believes every responsible law firm should still check the credentials of their chosen supplier.

Lynne Lister, managing director of X-Press Legal Services commented: "The majority of consumers buying

property searches have no idea how critical they are to property transactions, but conveyancers do and they should ensure they are buying products from firms that are regulated. Our membership of CoPSO and the Search Code is something we proudly share with all clients to demonstrate that we are a supplier committed to proactive, independent regulation. I'd encourage all conveyancing firms to recognise the protection these regulatory bodies provide and prioritise working with CoPSO members as part of their compliance regime."

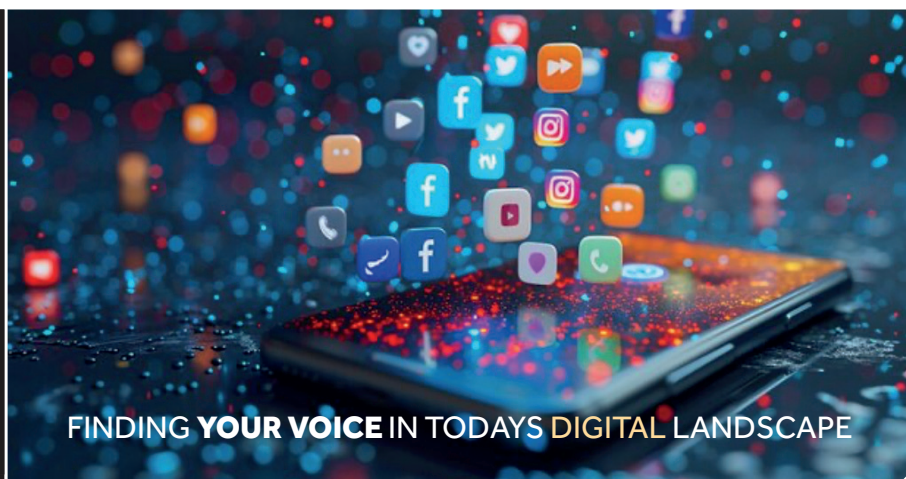
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The latest news from Merseyside Law Centre, providers of free specialist legal advice and assistance for the Liverpool City Region. Access to Justice for all.

Congratulations to our Newly Qualified Housing Solicitor

We are delighted and proud to announce that our trainee solicitor **Anthony Akalon** has now officially qualified as a solicitor. Anthony began his journey with us several years ago as a volunteer and then progressed by successfully interviewing for a trainee solicitor role in March 2025. This role ordinarily lasts for 2 years, but due to **Anthony's** diligence, perseverance and focus he has qualified 6 months early which is a truly impressive achievement

Anthony is now a housing solicitor for MLC, and we are so pleased that he has chosen to stay with us to practice social welfare law and continue his dedication to fighting for a fairer and more equal society. As an organisation, we strive to create a supportive environment where individuals like **Anthony** can develop their skills, experience and confidence so they can progress professionally and channel their passion for justice into a fulfilling career. Anthony has already made such a positive impact on the clients he has worked with, and we look forward to him to continuing to provide

excellent assistance to some of the most vulnerable and in-need people across Merseyside.

Free welfare advice to over 65's

Statistics show that in a single year, £2.8 billion of Pension Credit and Housing Benefit goes unclaimed by older people and over a third (37%) of pensioner households entitled to Pension Credit are not claiming it. Council Tax is also becoming an increasingly unmanageable expense for older people in financial hardship. Council Tax Reduction (CTR) is a lifeline for these older people and is something we are also able to assist with. For qualifying older people, it can reduce their Council Tax bill to £0.

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

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

Free Welfare Advice for Over 65s

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

We're here to help. We offer free advice and support with applying for benefits, including:

- Pension Credit
- Council Tax Reduction
- Housing Benefit
- Attendance Allowance

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

For more information see our website:
www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/over65welfareadvice
 or contact us on : 0151 452 2495 email: gabriele.cluzelyte@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk

or use your phone camera to scan the QR code

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

Case Study- Preventing Homelessness

Our client, a 40-year-old woman living with her husband and two dependent daughters in a privately rented property, was receiving Universal Credit and had several long-term physical and mental health conditions. Following possession proceedings and a Tomlin Order requiring them to leave the property, the client was threatened with homelessness.

The property also had longstanding disrepair issues, which had previously resulted in an Improvement Notice from the local authority. Advice was provided regarding the client's homelessness position and potential priority need (the position of the client's 18-year-old daughter who was in full-time education.)

RECENTLY AT MLC..

Merseyside Law Centre
 USING THE LAW AS A TOOL FOR INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE.

- ▶ We appealed against a wrongful benefits decision and won a full financial award for a client who had severe mental health issues.
- ▶ We helped a vulnerable, deaf client and her son avoid homelessness.
- ▶ We hosted a "Section 21 Action Day" where we invited clients who had been served with Section 21 notice of possessions to come in to check their validity. Our team found lots of these notices to be invalid which meant we were able to prevent the risk of them unfairly losing their homes. An excellent result!

www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk

Please donate to help us continue our vital work.

We submitted a homelessness application and liaised with the local authority regarding the eviction, medical circumstances and the family's needs.

The local authority confirmed that temporary accommodation would be provided before eviction. The client and her family were subsequently accommodated in temporary accommodation and placed on the council housing list, avoiding homelessness.

This case illustrates the importance of seeking advice as early as possible when there is a risk of homelessness and ensuring that any priority needs are identified to ensure the best case is put forward, to avoid homelessness.

Join us in our mission to improve lives across Merseyside



"I'm more positive about the future"

Improving lives through free access to legal advice and representation.

Volunteers are the backbone of Merseyside Law Centre, providing an integral contribution to our services. We are always looking for passionate, justice-driven individuals to get involved with the valuable work we do in the Merseyside City Region.

We also want to appeal to legal

professionals who may be able to contribute their expertise or legal firms who may want to financially support the work we do. Legal aid cuts in the UK have severely impacted access to justice, especially for marginalised groups, and we see the negative fallout from this every day. The funding landscape is also proving difficult, and we are having to make cuts to our services that will sadly have a negative impact on outcomes for individuals who may need our help. Providing free legal advice and representation can truly transform lives for the better and has positive ripple effects that reach far and wide across our communities. We are asking that our fellow legal professionals may consider supporting us with our work and find ways to work together to create partnerships that uplift the most vulnerable and in-need people in our society.

Please get in touch with sophie.brown@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk if you are interested in discussing collaboration or contributing to our organisation.

To download our Volunteer Application



Merseyside Law Centre

LET US BE YOUR **HELPING HAND**

WHAT DO WE DO?

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

OUR SERVICES

Free Advice Drop In Sessions
Every Monday & Thursday
10am-12pm
No appointment required.
Dovecot Multi Activity Centre,
Back Dovecot Place,
Liverpool L14 9BA

Free Housing Possession Advice Drop In Sessions
Every Wednesday & Friday
11am-1pm
No appointment required.
Liverpool Civil and Family Court
35 Vernon Street, L2 2BX

Please bring all relevant documents with you to any drop-in sessions.
If you are unable to attend a drop in, please fill in the enquiry form on our website. [Link below.](http://www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/enquiryform)
www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/enquiryform



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The solicitors of Merseyside Law Centre are regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

Pack, please visit [Get Involved | merseysidelawcentre](http://www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk) and e-mail the completed form to enquiries@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk.

Our services are now needed more than ever. If you could consider donating to Merseyside Law Centre, it would contribute to making a difference to many people's lives in Merseyside. Our donation details are up on our website www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/donate

As always, our current contact details and drop-in session details are below. If you are unable to attend a drop-in session, there is an online enquiry form available on our website.

[Online Enquiry Form | merseysidelawcentre](http://www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk)

Tel: 0151-709-0504

E-mail: enquiries@merseysidelawcentre.co.uk

Facebook: Merseyside Law Centre

Instagram: @merseysidelawcentre

Bluesky: @merseysidelaw.bsky.social



Merseyside Law Centre

FREE HOUSING ADVICE
IMPROVING OUTCOMES THROUGH LEGAL SUPPORT AND HOUSING LOSS PREVENTION ADVICE SERVICE

- ✓ We offer free legal advice and representation if you have received a notice seeking possession of your home from your landlord or mortgage lender and if you are being evicted.
- ✓ We can provide early advice and assistance and representation if your home might be at risk.
- ✓ We can represent you on the day of your hearing or help you in advance if you contact us before the date of your hearing.
- ✓ If your landlord issued a claim for possession we can help you to defend the claim.

Our services are free even if you do not qualify for Legal Aid

HOW TO ACCESS OUR SERVICES
DROP INS- NO APPOINTMENT REQUIRED.
PLEASE BRING ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS WITH YOU.

Liverpool Civil and Family Court 35 Vernon Street, L2 2BX	Wed & Fri 11am-1pm
Dovecot Multi Activity Centre, L14 9BA	Mon & Thurs 10am-12pm
Kuumba Imani Millennium Centre, 4 Princes Road, L8 1TH	Wednesday 10am-12pm

[Online enquiry form available here.](http://www.merseysidelawcentre.co.uk/enquiryform)



Regulation Update October 2026

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

As we move through the Autumn regulatory round of PII and PC renewals, conferences, and Christmas party ‘Save the dates’ landing in our inbox, the SRA, LSB and SDT continue to focus on governance, compliance oversight, competence and the practical effectiveness of firms’ systems, with the FCA just ‘round the corner’ for firms within scope of MLR (the end of 2028 will come around very quickly!).

Compliance officers under the spotlight

A significant current development is the approval by the Legal Services Board of SRA rule changes affecting COLP and COFA arrangements, forcing many firms to separate management and compliance roles. The reforms have caused understandable concern, particularly for smaller firms and owner-managed practices. The SRA has since clarified that the restriction is not aimed at every owner, partner or senior manager. The issue is narrower: whether an individual can unilaterally determine or direct significant management decisions about how the firm is structured or run. However, that does not mean firms can ignore the issue. The real question is not what appears on the organisation chart, but who actually makes the decisions about client money, staffing, finances, supervision and risk. A firm may describe management as collective, but if one person in practice controls

the key decisions, there is an obvious question about whether that person can also provide independent compliance oversight.

Implementation is expected to be phased from January 2027. The changes will apply to firms above the relevant financial thresholds, including firms with annual turnover of more than £600,000 or which have held more than £2 million in client money. Firms should not wait until renewal season or a regulatory enquiry to consider the position. Boards, partners and compliance officers should be looking now at reporting lines, escalation procedures, governance frameworks and whether the COLP and COFA have enough authority and information to challenge decisions effectively. For some firms, this may represent the most significant governance review since the introduction of the COLP and COFA regime.

There is much ongoing discussion, meetings etc. around the rule changes, and it is anticipated there may be further ‘clarification’, so watch this space.

Why governance remains high on the agenda:

The focus on compliance officers sits within a wider regulatory context. The ongoing consequences of Axiom Ince, SSB Law and PM Law continue to influence regulatory policy and enforcement priorities. Those cases have raised difficult questions about client money, financial resilience, management information, risk escalation and the point at which concerns should be reported or acted upon.

The collapse of PM Law is now expected to result in around £30m being paid from the SRA Compensation Fund, contributing to a steep proposed increase in compensation fund contributions for the next practising year. That cost falls across the profession, including firms that have no connection with the failed practice. The lesson for firms is that financial stability, client money controls and governance are no

longer background regulatory issues, they are central indicators of public protection risk.

The LSB’s decision to initiate further enforcement action against the SRA is also significant. It reflects concern not merely about individual firm failures, but about whether regulatory systems are identifying risk early enough and translating new processes into better outcomes for clients. The inevitable consequence is that firms should expect similar scrutiny of their own arrangements. Where warning signs exist, the question will be who saw them, who had authority to act and why action was or was not taken.

Continuing competence: more than an annual declaration

In its annual assessment of continuing competence 2026, the SRA reported that most solicitors are undertaking learning and development and that many firms have robust systems in place. However, it remained concerned about the evidence showing why particular learning needs were identified and how they were addressed. Competence-related reports increased from 2,720 in 2024 to 4,038 in 2025 but remained stable at 23% as a proportion of all reports received.

For firms, the practical point is that continuing competence should not be treated as an annual tick-box exercise. A list of webinars attended may show activity, but it does not necessarily show reflection. Firms should be able to explain why particular training was needed, what risk it addressed and what changed as a result. Complaints, file reviews, claims, supervision concerns and client feedback should all feed into competence planning.

Ethics, client communication, costs information, timescales and explanation of options should also sit at the centre of competence arrangements. These are often the areas where client dissatisfaction and regulatory concern arise. Before practising

certificate renewal, firms should check whether competence records evidence real reflection rather than simply attendance.

Legal Ombudsman signals move towards fuller publication of decisions

The Legal Ombudsman has given a clear indication that it intends to move towards publishing ombudsman final decisions in full, although implementation is unlikely before 2027/28 and would be phased.

The stated aim is greater transparency as published decisions would give consumers more than statistics and would allow the profession to learn from common service failures. For firms, this would represent a real shift in reputational risk. Even where complainants are anonymised and legal professional privilege protected, firms may be named. Complaints handling, file notes, client communication and evidence of remedial action will therefore matter not only to the individual outcome, but potentially to how the firm is publicly perceived.

New /updated Law Society practice notes

[Solicitors offering legal services to the public from unregulated entities](#) | [The Law Society](#)

[Outsourcing](#) | [The Law Society](#)

[What to do when the law firm you work for is closing down](#) | [The Law Society](#)

[Professional undertakings](#) | [The Law Society](#)

[What to do when a complaint goes to the Legal Ombudsman](#) | [The Law Society](#)

[Information on letterheads, emails and websites](#) | [The Law Society](#)

Recent disciplinary cases

Recent SDT and SRA decisions continue to show that many enforcement cases arise from familiar themes: dishonesty, poor record-keeping, failures in supervision, defective AML controls, misleading communications and attempts to conceal mistakes. The facts vary, but the message remains consistent - small problems become serious when they are hidden, repeated or allowed to drift.

Solicitor struck off for dishonesty

A solicitor was struck off after admitting that he had misled his employer about a paid second role with an online professional advice platform. The tribunal heard that payments from the second role totalled around £81,000 and that he had falsely claimed the payments related to work undertaken by a family member. The agreed outcome was approved, with costs ordered in the sum of almost £6,000.

Struck off for backdating correspondence and misleading employer.

A solicitor was struck off after backdating a letter to make it appear that an acknowledgement of service had been sent months earlier. He later accepted that he had backdated the document and misled his employer, explaining that he feared losing his job. The sanction was strike-off, with costs of £5,000.

Solicitor suspended for improper access to Home Office files

A now-qualified solicitor was suspended for 12 months after accessing Home Office records relating to clients, family members and another person known to him while also working as a trainee solicitor at an immigration firm. The SDT found a potential conflict of interest and foreseeable risk of harm, although there was no evidence the information was disclosed to a third party. He was suspended for 12 months and made subject to practice conditions for a further 12 months, with costs of over £41,000.

Reprimanded and barred from COFA role for multiple compliance failures

A senior solicitor and equity partner was reprimanded and prohibited from acting as COFA for one year after admitting a series of compliance failures, including inaccurate professional indemnity insurance proposal forms, residual balances and delayed qualified accountant's reports. The SDT also required completion of COFA training before any return to the role.

Firm fined for AML failures in relation to politically exposed person

A firm was fined after acting for a non-domestic PEP and associated companies on multiple residential property

transactions without adequate systems to identify the PEP or establish source of funds and wealth. The SRA's fining guidance, based on turnover, indicated a penalty of almost £18,000, but this was reduced to £16,000 to reflect the firm's cooperation and remedial action.

Sole practitioner suspended for failing to maintain accounts

A sole practitioner was suspended after failing to maintain proper accounts, client ledgers and reconciliations. Investigators identified a discrepancy of almost £600,000 between client liabilities and client account funds, and the SRA intervened into the practice. The SDT approved a nine-month suspension, with costs of almost £8000.

Registered foreign lawyer struck off

A registered foreign lawyer was struck off after being convicted of knowingly employing someone who was disqualified from employment by immigration status, and after using misleading AI-generated quotations and citations in documents filed in SDT proceedings. The tribunal said strike-off would have been justified on either basis.

Sole practitioner fined for multiple regulatory and client account breaches.

A sole practitioner was fined over £20,000 after the SRA found failures including non-compliance with an undertaking, failure to act in clients' best interests, improper transfer from client account, failure to keep books of account and failures to cooperate with the SRA and Legal Ombudsman. The SRA described the conduct as showing reckless disregard for regulatory obligations.

How Compli can help...

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

Andrea Cohen
Compli,
Weightmans LLP

Charity Spotlight: National Museums Liverpool



Conversations private view at Walker Art Gallery. Photo ©Pete Carr

We believe that museums have the power to change lives.

National Museums Liverpool celebrates its 40th birthday this year. That's 40 years since the Merseyside Museums and Galleries Order was presented to Queen Elizabeth II with the aim of nationalising its internationally-significant collections and safeguarding it for many generations to come.

National Museums Liverpool comprises seven magnificent venues, of which many readers are bound to have a favourite. The Walker Art Gallery, World Museum, Museum of Liverpool, Maritime Museum, International Slavery Museum, Lady Lever Art Gallery and Sudley House all fall under the umbrella.

2027 marks an important year for Walker Art Gallery as it celebrates



Anthony Walker Foundation workshop.
Photo © John Dom Paiva / National Museums Liverpool

its 150th anniversary. The gallery has one of the most important and renowned painting collections in the UK, featuring masterpieces by artists ranging from **Rembrandt, Turner and Stubbs** to **Rossetti, Hockney and Riley**. As part of its birthday celebrations, the Walker will begin the year with a major exhibition exploring the gallery's collection from 1750 to the present day, alongside a partnership with the National Gallery – *Mary Magdalene*:

Woman & Myth. The celebrations will continue throughout the year, with new acquisitions, once-in-a-generation loans and partnerships, culminating in the 70th anniversary edition of the John Moores Painting Prize.

The redevelopment of Maritime Museum and International Slavery Museum are at the heart of the major Waterfront Transformation Project, with both venues due to reopen in 2029. Engaging with communities across the Liverpool City Region is central to the Waterfront Transformation Project, with a strong example being the recent rewarding co-production workshops held with local young people in collaboration with the Anthony Walker Foundation and museum architects, Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios (FCBStudios). When the museum reopens, the new Anthony Walker Education Centre will stand out as a space shaped by young people, for young people – reflecting **Anthony's** values, and inspiring future generations.

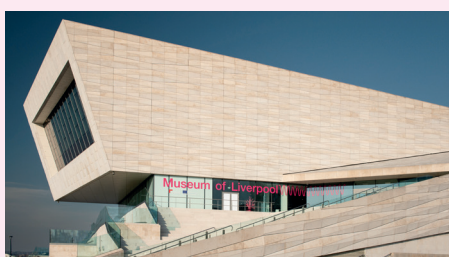
The preservation and conservation of objects is fundamental to National Museums Liverpool's work, with four million objects under its care. Its skilled



Walker Art Gallery Summer 2021. Photo © Pete Carr



Stage and screen display in the Wondrous Place gallery. Photo © Pete Carr



The Museum of Liverpool. Photo © Pete Carr

collections care team are involved in a number of fascinating projects. Most recently, the conservation team used a digital infrared camera to uncover underdrawings behind *The Hunted Slaves*, painted in 1861 by Liverpool artist **Richard Andsell**. Similarly, conservators have been working at the Lady Lever Art Gallery to restore a number of Tudor Spanish altarpiece panels in full view of visitors; a project that was only made possible as a direct result of external funding.

As a charity, National Museums Liverpool depends on the generosity of its supporters to help preserve its collections, deliver inspiring experiences, and ensure that its museums and galleries remain accessible to everyone. There are a number of different ways that you can support this.

Giving Circles

Help to shape the future of museums by being part of an exclusive network of supporters. Join one of four Giving Circles to make a real impact, enabling National Museums Liverpool to ensure that its collections remain accessible,



Installing Turner - Always Contemporary at Walker Art Gallery. Photo © Gareth Jones

inspiring, and relevant. In turn, you gain access to unique events and behind-the-scenes experiences. You will become part of a warm and engaged community at the heart of National Museums Liverpool, championing culture, creativity, and learning across the city.

Legacies

By including a gift to National Museums Liverpool in your will, you will help others make a lifetime of memories. You'll also be able to benefit from your gift right away, with exclusive privileges that are tailored to suit you. The funding that you provide could be used in a number of important ways, such as to fund research and educational visits for young people, preserve collections, or even to acquire

carefully selected new objects.

Corporate support

National Museums Liverpool's corporate partnership packages can be tailored to the specific needs of your business with a range of partnership levels starting from £1,500 + VAT annually. Benefits range from wide-reaching brand association to exceptional entertaining opportunities, invitations to exclusive events and tickets to exhibitions for your clients and staff.

To discuss any of these opportunities and to begin making a real difference to lives in the Liverpool City Region and beyond, please contact development@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

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
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	Menopause in the Workplace	Lisa Wright
20/10/2026	2026 Private Child Law Conference	Various
04/11/2026	An update on Family Investment Companies	Deborah Clark
05/11/2026	Restrictive Covenants, Positive Covenants and Commonhold	Richard Snape
10/11/2026	Advising Modern Families in Private Client Law	Russell Kaminski
11/11/2026	Conference for Legal Cashiers & Managers	Various
13/11/2026	Stand and Deliver – Advocacy Principles	Safda Mahmood
18/11/2026	Civil procedure: the backbone of the TOLATA claim	Tom Hynes
24/11/2026	Key legal considerations for Shareholders Agreements	Jackie Sheldon
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/>

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.

[BOOK NOW](#)

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](#)

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.

[BOOK NOW](#)

An Update on Family Investment Companies

with Deborah Clark

In Person, 4th November, 1.00pm - 2.00pm

This session will provide a practical overview of Family Investment Companies (FICs), exploring the key considerations involved in their establishment and ongoing management. Attendees will gain insight into the different types of FIC structures available, the complexities associated with debt arrangements, and the challenges of managing valuation issues. The session will also examine strategies for maintaining privacy and asset protection, before looking ahead to the potential opportunities and challenges that may shape the future of FICs.

Deborah Clark is a barrister and partner at Mills & Reeve who specialises in acting for high net worth individuals on all aspects of estate planning with a national reputation for advising on and forming family investment companies. Deborah is the author of Bloomsbury Professional Tax Insight's book on Family Investment Companies.

BOOK NOW

Restrictive Covenants, Positive Covenants and Commonhold

with Richard Snape

Online, 5th November, 9.30am - 12.30pm



The course will look at some of the issues relating to the enforceability of restrictive and positive covenants in freehold land. In addition, the draft Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Bill has now been published and the course will also look at an overview of Commonhold.

Topics covered include:

- Enforceability of restrictive covenants against third parties
- Identifying the dominant land
- Tips as to how to render restrictive covenants unenforceable
- Enforceability of Positive Covenants
- Commonhold as a means of enforcing positive covenants

BOOK NOW

Advising Modern Families in Private Client Law

with Russell Kaminski and Chelsey Bayliss

In Person, 10th November, 8.00am - 09.00am

Family structures continue to evolve, presenting new challenges and opportunities for private client practitioners. This session will provide a practical legal update on advising modern families, including unmarried couples, blended families, same-sex families, cohabitants, stepchildren, and internationally connected families. Delegates will explore how changing family dynamics impact estate planning, succession, trusts, tax planning, capacity issues, wealth protection, and inheritance disputes.

The session will examine recent legal developments and case law affecting wills, inheritance claims, cohabitation rights, family provision, and the administration of estates. Particular focus will be given to ensuring that clients' wishes are accurately reflected in their estate planning arrangements while mitigating the risk of future challenges and family conflict.

BOOK NOW

2026 Legal Cashiers Conference

Wednesday 11th November 2026, 9.30am till 2.30pm
Hybrid Event - Online or In Person

Join leading experts for a dedicated conference designed to address the key regulatory, compliance, and financial management challenges facing legal cashiers and finance professionals in today's legal sector.

This practical and informative event will provide invaluable guidance on navigating the evolving regulatory landscape, with expert-led sessions covering the SRA Accounts Rules, anti-money laundering obligations, and the increasing threat of financial crime. Delegates will also gain insight into the latest cybersecurity risks and fraud prevention strategies, ensuring their firms remain protected against emerging threats.

Further sessions will focus on the effective handling of client money, identifying and managing financial risks, and maintaining robust systems and controls to support regulatory compliance. Attendees will also hear from the Legal Ombudsman on the importance of ensuring clients are kept fully informed of changing costs throughout legal procedures, helping firms meet their obligations, manage client expectations, and reduce the risk of complaints.

Bringing together legal cashiers, finance managers, compliance professionals, COFAs, and law firm leaders, this conference offers a valuable opportunity to hear from industry experts, share best practice, and strengthen the knowledge and processes that underpin a compliant and successful legal practice.

BOOK NOW

Stand And Deliver – Advocacy Principles

with Safda Mahmood

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



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

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

[BOOK NOW](#)

Civil procedure: the backbone of the TOLATA claim

with Tom Hynes

In Person, 18th November, 08:00am - 09:00am

This practical one-hour session looks at the civil procedure that underpins TOLATA and cohabitation claims, providing practitioners with a clear roadmap through the key stages of litigation. Tom Hynes will examine the most common civil procedures encountered in cohabitation disputes, the importance of procedural compliance, and the steps that should be taken before proceedings are issued.

The seminar will also consider the different types of offers available and the strategic thinking behind them, together with guidance on issuing proceedings, responding to claims, and managing cases effectively once litigation is underway. Drawing on practical experience, Tom will provide useful insights into the realities of conducting civil litigation and the key considerations for achieving the best outcomes for clients.

In Partnership With



[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.

[BOOK NOW](#)

Key legal considerations for Shareholders Agreements

with Jackie Sheldon

Online, 24th November, 1.00pm - 2.30pm



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

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

This online course will cover the following:

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

[BOOK NOW](#)


2026 Civil Litigation Conference
Wednesday 25th November 2026, 9.30am till 3.30pm
Hybrid Event - Online or In Person

Join leading experts for a practical conference exploring the latest developments, challenges, and opportunities in modern civil litigation. Designed for litigators at all levels, the programme covers core principles and emerging areas of practice.

Sessions will provide practical guidance on witness statement drafting, Part 36 strategy and costs recovery, crypto litigation, quantum in the civil courts, and best practice when instructing expert witnesses. Delegates will also benefit from a comprehensive civil litigation case law round-up, ensuring they are up to date with the latest developments affecting litigation practice.

This conference is an invaluable opportunity for solicitors, barristers, legal executives, and litigation professionals to hear from leading experts, strengthen their skills, and stay ahead in an evolving litigation landscape.

[BOOK NOW](#)



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JOIN US IN THE BATTLE AGAINST CHRONIC PAIN



Together, we can raise awareness, drive research, and create a future where **no one suffers in silence.**

BELIEVE in a better future

SUPPORT one another

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RAISE YOUR VOICE make an impact

CREATE CHANGE together

- 1 in 10 people in the UK suffer from chronic pain - which does not go away.
- Over half of sufferers endure chronic pain all day every day.
- Many say they can't remember what it is like not to be in pain.
- Thousands of sufferers lose their jobs because the pain is so bad they can't work.
- Pain stops sufferers enjoying walking, sleeping, shopping and even playing with their children.

 Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

For more information about the Pain Relief Foundation, please visit our website
www.painreliefoundation.org.uk
 Email Hayley.McCullough@painreliefoundation.org.uk or call 0151 529 5820

Chronic Pain effects people of all walks of life, 43% of the population suffer from chronic pain.

Pain is a universal experience, but for 43% of the UK population, it is far more than a passing discomfort. For these millions of people, chronic pain—ranging from fibromyalgia and migraines to nerve damage and arthritis is an exhausting, daily battle.

At the Pain Relief Foundation, based in Aintree, Liverpool, we are dedicated to ending this cycle of suffering. As the only registered charity in the UK focused exclusively on funding research into chronic pain, we take a multidisciplinary approach to uncover groundbreaking new treatments. Because we receive no government or NHS funding, our life-changing work is only possible thanks to the generosity of our supporters. Join us in our mission to bring relief to those who need it most.

Help Support people with chronic pain with a legacy gift in your will or make a donation today.



Registered Charity No 1156227

New free course to support wellbeing in legal workplaces

LawCare



LawCare has launched a new free online course, [Supporting legal workplace wellbeing](#), for anyone with a role in creating healthier, more supportive working environments across the legal sector.

Aimed at managers, team leaders, wellbeing leads and champions, as well as people working in human resources, learning and development and other support roles, the course offers practical guidance on creating better ways of working. It looks at how individuals and organisations can help create workplaces where people feel supported and able to speak openly.

The course is free and can be completed online at your own pace.

[Supporting legal workplace wellbeing](#)

is the third free online course in the [Fit for Law series](#), which helps legal professionals develop psychologically and emotionally healthier ways of working. Fit for Law is a collaboration between LawCare and academics at the University of Sheffield and The Open University.

Trish McLellan, Interim CEO of LawCare, said:

"We know from our support service and Life in the Law 2025 research that workplace culture and the way people are managed can have a big impact on wellbeing. Many people want to support colleagues, have better conversations and create healthier ways of working, but aren't always sure where to start. This course is designed to help them do that."

Dr Emma Jones, Senior Lecturer at the

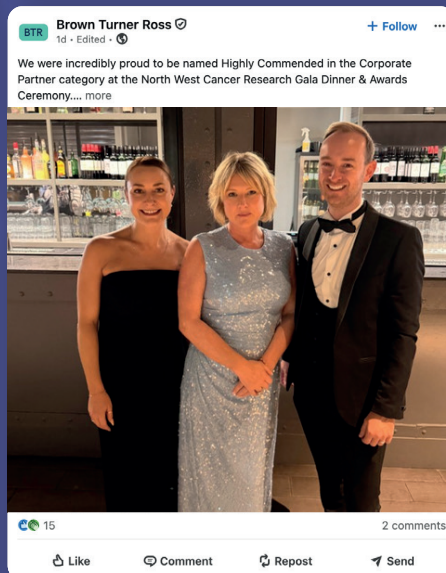
University of Sheffield and a LawCare Trustee, said:

"Many individuals within the legal sector are involved in supporting workplace wellbeing. This may be as part of their job description, through a volunteer role, or as part of their wider responsibilities as a line manager or leader. Despite this, research demonstrates that legal workplaces do not always prioritise resourcing this work and providing adequate training. The new Fit for Law course aims to provide evidence-informed practical support for anyone who wishes to upskill themselves in this area and drive positive change in their workplace."

For more information and to access the course, visit: <https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/course/view.php?id=17127>

Social Media Highlights

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



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

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](tel:01512366998)



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