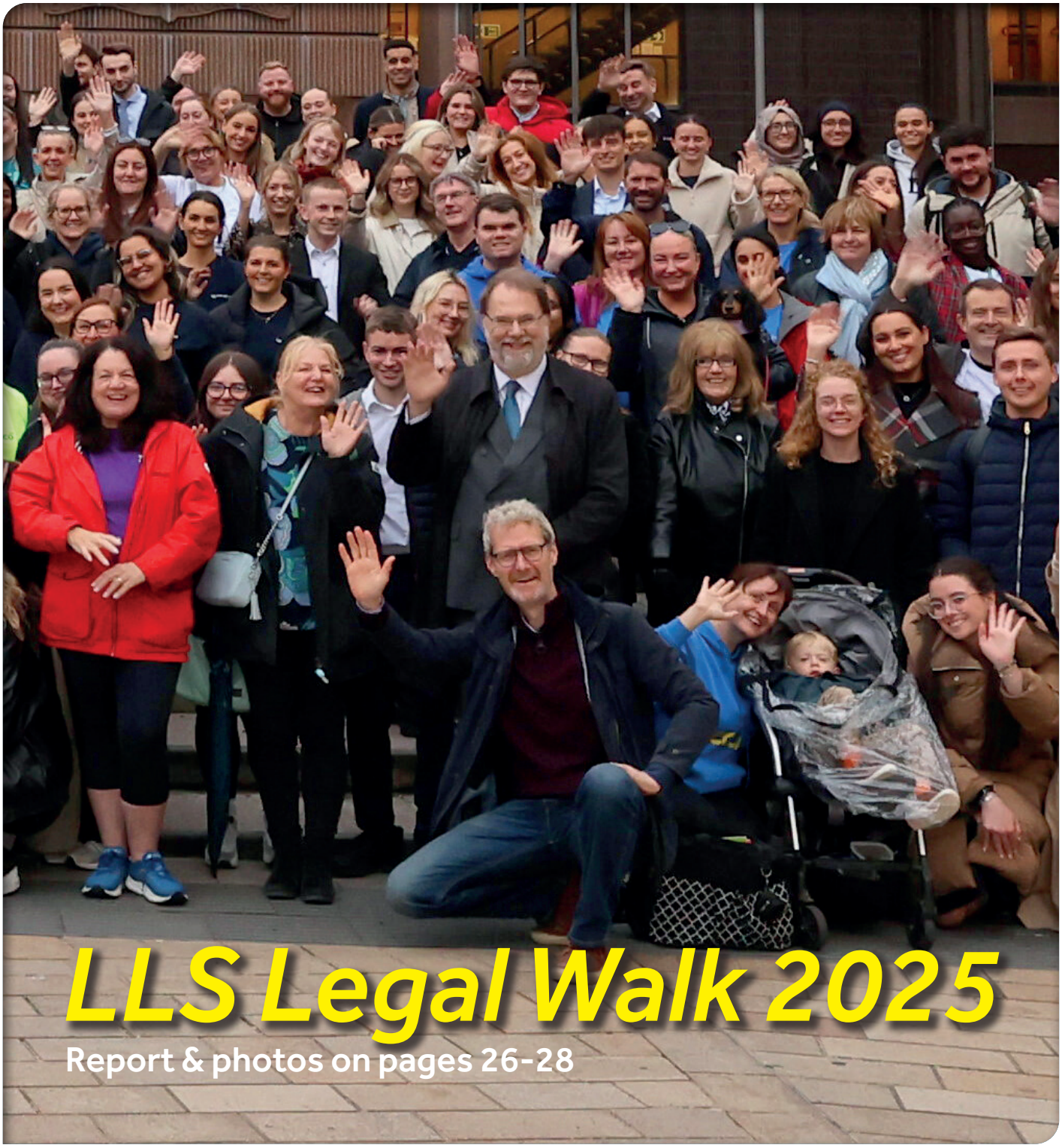
November 2025

Liverpool Law

Liverpool Law Society

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



LLS Legal Walk 2025

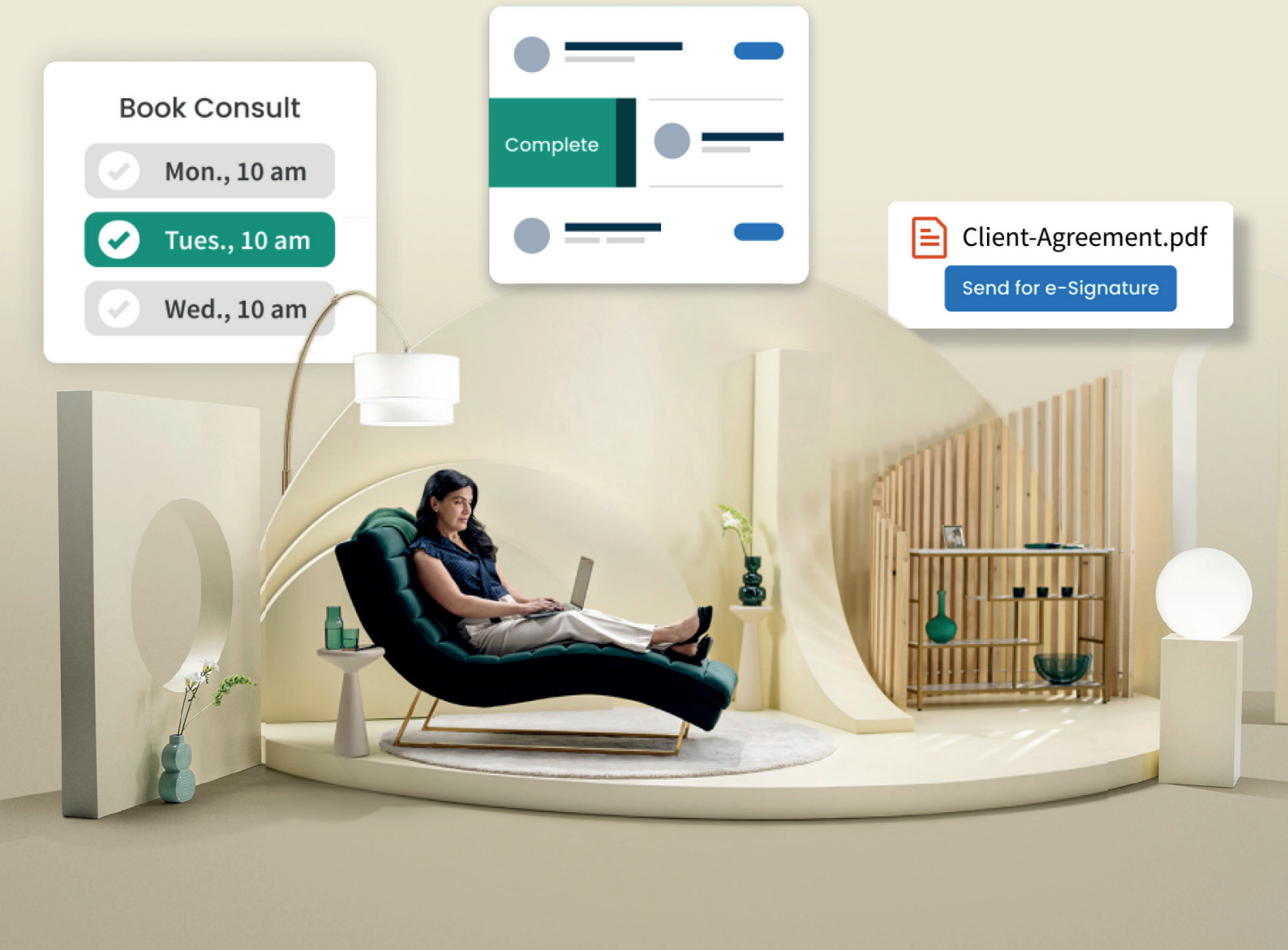
Report & photos on pages 26-28

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Liverpool Law Society

DEADLINES

December 2025 edition: Tue, 25.11.25

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

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 2025

Meetings start at 01.00 pm.

Tue, 18 Nov 25

Welcome to the November edition of Liverpool Law



It's good to be back after a full MOT. I want use this space to personally thank everyone at LLS and our publishers for keeping things going smoothly whilst I've been poorly, it was reassuring knowing things are in safe hands.

It looks like things have been eventful whilst I've been away with the case of Mazur causing so much uncertainty for many of our members and colleagues. Things are ever changing with this but we have drafted an article on the position - as at the time we go to print. You will see the article includes a plea for members to work with LLS on the situation as it develops so please help us with this. I know it's a worrying time for many and we are here at LLS to help navigate these uncertain waters, as well as Lawcare and others if needed, please do reach out. I hope we will have a clearer position and reassurance by next month's edition.

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 October's General Committee meeting. There were 10 individuals from the following organisations:

- 7 Harrington Street Chambers
- Haworth & Gallagher
- Jackson Lees Group
- Leigh Day
- Slater Heelis
- Taylor Wessing
- Weightmans

Liverpool Law Society's membership now exceeds 2,345 individuals from 174 law firms, barristers' chambers, and other organisations with legal professionals in the Liverpool City Region and beyond.

Liverpool Law Society

From the President

The latest from the President, James Mannouch

As was ever thus, Autumn is proving to be a busy time of year, and I have much to report.

On 25 September, I represented LLS at the Local Law Societies' Annual Conference. The title of this year's conference was *"Engage, Manage, Grow"* and it proved to be an interesting afternoon, full of ideas. For the break-out session, I attended *"Dormancy to Dynamism – Reinvigorating your Local Group"* and heard from speakers who had overcome challenges to rebuild their local law society. Liverpool boasts a dynamic society, but we must always ensure that we do not rest on our laurels.

Next, a question… When is a law society not a law society? The answer is when it is a Solicitors' Association, and I had the pleasure of attending Belfast Solicitors' Association (BSA) annual dinner on 30 September. Formed in 1943, the BSA's constitutional objects include *"maintenance of the highest professional standards; provision of a social programme; interaction with other local solicitor associations; and delivery of an efficient and effective service to the general public"* – remarkably similar aims to our own. I must say that I found the Northern Irish profession to be in rude health and links were forged for the benefit of both cities. Any member who is interested in establishing contacts in Northern Ireland or the Republic should get in touch with LLS and we will do our best to facilitate.

On 30 September, I travelled to London to attend the Opening of the Legal New Year. My thanks go to the outgoing national President, **Richard Atkinson**, and incoming President, **Mark Evans**, for their wonderful hospitality. I must confess that I was previously unacquainted with the occasion, and I did not really know what to expect. A clue arrived when I was seated between representatives from Switzerland and Australia for the preceding night's dinner. These individuals, like so many others from around the world, had travelled to the UK to mark the date – a real insight into the high esteem in which the English and Welsh legal profession is held overseas. The next day, I attended the Service itself at Westminster Abbey in the company of my peers from Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and Bristol law societies. The Liverpool legal community should be proud of its standing nationally and abroad. All the international delegates I spoke to were incredibly keen to discuss Liverpool! That evening, I attended a reception at The Gerkin to celebrate 200-Years of the national Law Society. Liverpool Law Society is such a progressive organisation that it does not feel 198 years old to me, while the national Law Society, with all its finery at Chancery Lane, certainly does. So, it is important for us to recognise the heritage we possess – more on this shortly.

On 12 October, I was just as privileged to attend a Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving at the beginning of the Legal Year, held at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. This occasion



marks Liverpool's opening of the legal new year, and I must say the spectacle easily compares with the Westminster event. It is always nice catching up with people you know and meeting new people you do not – be they judges, academics or legal professionals - and the Liverpool event is as much about celebration as it is about giving thanks. I shall certainly attend in future, and I would encourage other members to do so.

Returning to the topic of Liverpool Law Society's great age (198 years and counting!), I attended our bicentenary working-party meeting on 15 October, expertly chaired by our immediate past president, **Gaynor Williams**. I am pleased to report that plans are now firmly in place and that 2027 is shaping up to be a real success. Thanks must go to the past presidents and officers for being so supportive and helpful. As part of the celebrations, the Society shall invite member firms to share their own history, so now might be a suitable time to dust down your archives.

Looking forward, a reminder about our AGM, scheduled for 27 November 2025 at the Racquet Club, Liverpool city centre. Please mark in your diary and come along on the day - it will be great to see you.

James Mannouch
President
president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Liverpool Law Society

LLS Meetings & events – Nov/Dec 2025

Start Time	Meeting/Event
11/11/2025 12:30	General Committee
13/11/2025 18:15	2025 Annual Dinner featuring the Legal Awards
18/11/2025 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee
19/11/2025 13:00	Civil Litigation Sub-Committee
20/11/2025 12:00	Joint V Meeting (hybrid, in Bristol)
20/11/2025 16:00	Family Business Sub-Committee
25/11/2025 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
26/11/2025 13:00	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee
27/11/2025 13:00	Annual General Meeting
27/11/2025 16:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee
02/12/2025 13:00	Employment Law Sub-Committee
03/12/2025 11:00	Future Planning Sub-Committee
04/12/2025 13:00	Access to Justice Sub-Committee
09/12/2025 12:30	General Committee
10/12/2025 13:00	Access to Justice in Liverpool Project
11/12/2025 13:00	In-House Lawyers Sub-Committee
18/12/2025 13:00	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee

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

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

Consultation Papers

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 & Regulatory	Discussion Paper: How can the high-volume consumer claims market work better for consumers?	**14/11/25**
Non-Contentious Business	Home buying and selling reform consultation	**29/12/25**
Non-Contentious Business	Material information in property listings consultation	**29/12/25**

Liverpool Law Society

Spotlight on: Peter Edwards

50 years as a human rights solicitor



Peter's early career

He started on his legal journey when Teddy Gold, who ran the Bronte Youth Centre, in which he was a volunteer, suggested he spoke to a well-known criminal solicitor, Tony Ostrin. It was through Tony that Peter was introduced to what was then Moss Side Top Security Hospital (now Ashworth).

Under what was then the Pink Form Scheme, Peter was one of the very few lawyers representing patients. Indeed, at his first tribunal, the medical director refused to give evidence because the patient was represented!

Peter saw some terrible sights at Moss Side. One patient showed him where the skin had come off his back after he had been dragged around a floor by a nurse. There was a mixed ward where vulnerable women shared the ward with sex offenders to see how the men were progressing.

It is hardly surprising that Peter became determined to improve the legal rights of those with mental health problems.

He became chair of Liverpool MIND, and shortly afterwards was appointed to the management committee of National Mind. This was at a time when MIND was campaigning to improve the 1959 Mental Health Act. Peter recalls that they were exciting times.

Around this time Peter would also get phone calls from a 'Sister Sarah' (usually at night) asking him to rush down to a police station where someone had been detained under the then Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Peter also helped mothers regain children who had been snatched. On one occasion he found himself in the kitchen of a Judge's home at 1.00am seeking an urgent order. There was also a very frightening incident where a man whose children Peter successfully returned to their mother, threatened to snatch Peter's children. Police protection was required.

He was appointed a legal member of the Mental Health Act Commission from 1983 – 1989 where he served on the Central Policy Committee helping to develop the work of the new Commission (now the CQC).

A campaigner and influencer

He was a founder member of the Law Society Mental Health and Disability Committee.

He campaigned for the introduction of a specialist panel for those representing patients at MHRT's, which was initially firmly rejected by the Law Society. The MHRT panel was the first Law Society panel created.

He was Chief Assessor of the MHRT Panel where he introduced the reaccreditation scheme. Subsequently he was appointed consultant to SRA and oversaw their accreditation scheme.

For a short time, he was a legal consultant to the World Health Organisation where he assisted in editing a WHO Resource book on human rights and mental health legislation.

Peter was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine in 2016 and was on the editorial board of the International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare.

Peter says that his proudest achievement was in January 1995 when he and his wife, **Jolanta** established Peter Edwards Law which works exclusively in the fields of mental health and mental capacity law.

He is a MCA 'Accredited Legal Representative' and was previously a member of the MHT Panel.

He was formally President of MHLA until he had to resign when appointed Chief Assessor.

Peter has spent nearly all his professional life trying to improve understanding of mental health and capacity law. He is a retired honorary senior lecturer at Edge Hill University. He runs Peter Edwards Law Training. This provides practical legal training across the range of mental health and capacity law issues for many disciplines.

Raising awareness through the media

For many years Peter appeared regularly on TV and Radio. He spoke out against the brutality at Ashworth and was one of those who campaigned for a public enquiry into the abuse of patients to which he gave evidence. Just how bad it was can be seen in the Guardian article A history of mismanagement and ill-treatment of patients | UK news | The Guardian.

Shaping the law

More recently he has worked with the Isle of Man Government on the development of their mental health and capacity laws.

He has also assisted the Jersey Government and Jersey MIND in updating their mental health laws and assisting in their plans to introduce capacity legislation. In addition, he has also assisted the Jersey Law Society in introducing an accreditation scheme to allow their lawyers to show that they have achieved a certain level of excellence when representing vulnerable people who are detained under their Mental Health Law.

Despite everything Peter is of the view that when it comes to respecting the law with regards to the mentally ill and those who lack capacity, there is still much for him and others to do.

Peter Edwards
Director/Solicitor,
Peter Edwards Law

Liverpool Law Society

MSB Solicitors celebrate listing of 27 team members as recommended lawyers and recognition of five areas of practice in this year's Legal500



MSB Solicitors is proud to announce that 27 members of its team have been listed as recommended lawyers, and five areas of the firm's practice have been recognised, in the 2026 Legal500 which has been published today.

The firm's crime and family teams appear in tier 1 of the list, while its social housing, commercial litigation and commercial property teams are ranked between tiers 2 and 4.

Andrew Pearson, **Sean Sexton** and partner and head of the firm's family division, **Dr Emma Palmer**, have been named as Leading Individuals.

Meanwhile, partner and head of social housing and regeneration, **Louise Murphy**, and partner and head of built environment and compliance, **Andrew Fairman**, have been named as Next Generation Partners.

Head of housing management **Amy Tagoe** and partner in the firm's family division, **Katie Comozzi**, have been listed as Leading Associates.

In the firm's crime division, **Michael McKeown**, **Alison Sharples** and **John Davies** have been recognised as recommended lawyers, as have **Nicola Harris**, **Emma Carey**, **Hayley Catherall**, **Pippa Tudor**, **John Owens**, **Daniel Pierce**, **Nicole Ralston**, **Diane Matthews** and **Susan Alexander** in MSB's family division.

In commercial litigation, **Jonathan Alderton**, **David Tarttelin** and **John McCreaney** have been afforded the same recognition, along with **Melissa Bosoboe**, **Helen Schofield**, **Tom Mealand** and **Sarah Coakley** in commercial property. **Beth Hyams** in MSB's social housing division completes the firm's impressive roster in the recommended lawyers list.

The recognition for the firm continues its growth trajectory following the opening of new office locations in Chester and Birmingham to go with relocation of its Manchester office to the historic Blackfriars House.

MSB Solicitors' managing partner **Emma Carey** said: *"The recognition of our team is testament to all their hard work in ensuring we make justice available for everyone, regardless of their status in society.*

"We are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and it is fantastic to see the people at the heart of the work we do, such as free initial pro bono advice to transgender and LGBTQ+ people and a free multi-lingual family law clinic for refugees, being recognised by the industry," she added.

For more information about MSB Solicitors and its services, visit: www.msbsolicitors.co.uk

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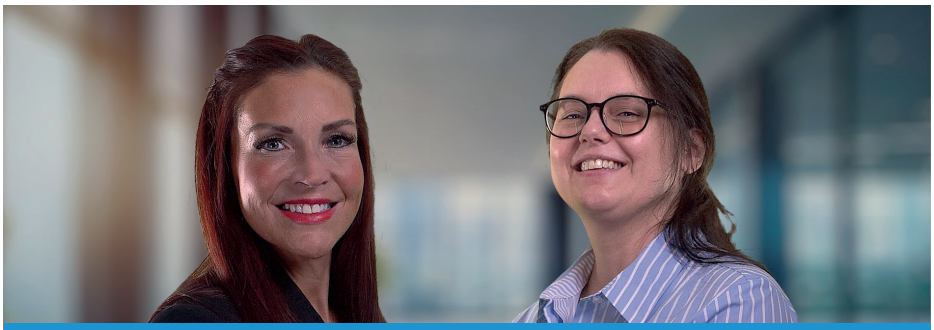
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Liverpool Law Society

Slater and Gordon's family lawyers recognise a year of growth, promotions and new office space



Jenniffer Brunt and Rebecca Cliff

With an expansion into a new office and a raft of promotions and new hires, this year, Slater and Gordon's family law team embarked on the next chapter in delivering its specialist services to the Merseyside community.

The team has decades of combined experience, delivering tailored legal advice to the local community across divorce, child arrangements, financial disputes and other difficult family matters; their commitment to service shown by a host of five-star reviews.

However, glowing reviews only shows one side of the team's story. Here, we learn more about the family solicitors – based across Liverpool and the Wirral - and their story, further understanding their impact in supporting those going through some of life's most challenging moments.

"From the moment I met with her I knew I had chosen the right person. She was empathetic, understanding and knowledgeable throughout." Five star review for **Jenniffer Brunt**

Since May 2025, Jenniffer Brunt has been Head of Family Law at Slater and Gordon. Initially joining the firm in 2022 as a Principal Lawyer, Jenniffer has more than 28 years of experience under her belt including family cases such as compromising assets in excess of £100 million, High Court public law children's cases and handling intricate pension structures.

Jenniffer looks forward to building the team even further, the team already introduced a new hire in May 2025, welcoming Jayde Hampson, solicitor; bringing more family law experience to the table.

Recently, the family team also welcomed **Lucy Powell** as a paralegal, after building her career with the firm over the last four years in the legal advice team.

"Andrew was great. He put me at ease immediately, and this made it easier for me to talk to him about my situation. I was impressed with his attitude and empathy towards me." Five star review for **Andrew Ormrod**

With more 20 years of experience as a family lawyer for the Liverpool, Wirral and Merseyside community, Andrew Ormrod joined the family team in 2024. Andrew's appointment as senior associate brings a breath of experience including representing clients in complex child arrangement cases in High Court and Court of Appeal.

Recently, Legal 500 featured **Andrew Ormrod**; *"Andrew has long confirmed his reputation as a conscientious, thoughtful, courteous and diligent solicitor. Mr Ormrod is a good advocate who achieves success without losing sight of the importance of being professional, opting for common sense and retaining a sense of compassion and innate decency. A powerful combination in a family lawyer."*

Both **Andrew** and **Jennifer** are members of Resolution. With over 6500 members, Resolution values the purpose of encouraging non-confrontation approaches to family law issues, and ultimately reaching better outcomes for families, guardians and children.

"Rebecca Cliff has helped me immensely over the last few months to attain a very positive outcome in court. I am so grateful for everything the team has done and continues to do for me." Five star review for **Rebecca Cliff**.

Rebecca Cliff has been providing legal guidance for 15 years, since qualifying as a family solicitor in 2010. Also a member of Resolution, she has supported those in the community in divorce settlements, financial assets, cohabitation agreements and child arrangements.

In 2024, **Rebecca** was proud to be recognised in Legal 500; *"Rebecca Cliff is extremely capable and conscientious, giving her client's exceptional service."*

Amongst continuous five-star reviews, the firm has built a team of professionals with a sincere and compassionate approach to resolving difficult family matters.

Looking ahead

The team's ambitions for growth continue as they look ahead into the new year.

As **Jenniffer** adds, *"We are proud to see what we have already achieved this year and we are looking to build on that even further. Since we have added some fantastic members to the team, we are more passionate than ever towards our purpose, helping those find comfort in their most difficult moments. We want to see how we can grow that purpose and make an even greater impact in supporting families across Liverpool, and the Wirral."*

Liverpool Law Society

Raft of senior promotions in private client division at Jackson Lees Group



Back row, L-R: Chris Stone, Esther Leach and John-Paul Dennis.
Front row, L-R: Sarah McCarthy, Claire Martini and Janet Jones.

Law firm Jackson Lees Group has announced a raft of senior promotions in its 70-strong private client division.

John-Paul Dennis, who joined earlier this year as a partner and head of the wills, trust and probate team, has been appointed to the new role of divisional director.

Sarah McCarthy and **Janet Jones**, who head the family and residential property teams respectively, have been promoted to partner level. **Chris Stone** and **Claire Martini** have also become partners.

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

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

Chris, a specialist in wills, trusts and probate, joined Jackson Lees as a team leader in 2017 from Morecrofts Solicitors. He was appointed as a director in 2022 and in 2024 became deputy head of his team. **Chris** is a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

Claire moved to Jackson Lees in 2024 from Wirral firm BBH Legal Services. She joined as a team leader and became deputy head of the Court of Protection department in 2024. She has now been made head of the department.

She looks after the finances of clients who have lost mental capacity after sustaining serious injury. This often includes managing millions of pounds in settlement, overseeing modifications to their home, purchasing specially-adapted vehicles, and other activities that make their lives more comfortable.

Sarah, a highly-experienced CiLEX chartered family lawyer with more than 20 years in the field, joined Jackson Lees last year from Hill Dickinson. She advises clients on a wide range of family law matters, including divorce, private children arrangements and special guardianship orders.

Janet, who joined Jackson Lees in 2022, has worked in conveyancing since 1987. She specialises in a wide range of residential transactions, including freehold and leasehold sales and purchases, share ownership, new builds, re-mortgages and transfers of equity. She is working towards becoming a licensed conveyancer.

She also handles probate sales and transactions involving deputyships with the Court of Protection.

The promotions at Jackson Lees follow the launch of the firm's Legal Career Pathway earlier this year. The initiative has been introduced to recognise the achievements of team members by providing a clear route for progression.

Esther Leach, managing director of Jackson Lees Group, said: *"For me, private client is the area where we are really driving growth at Jackson Lees Group.*

"We now see private client as a unified division within the business, and appointing John-Paul as our divisional director marks an exciting new chapter for us.

"Alongside this, we are committed to building from within – our career pathway is designed to develop our own people, provide clear routes for progression, and retain the talent we have invested in.

"These latest promotions are a testament to that approach – we are nurturing future leaders, strengthening our team and benefiting from the dedication and ambition of our colleagues.

*"I am delighted to see **Chris, Claire, Janet, John-Paul** and **Sarah** take up the reins of leadership. It's a significant milestone and recognition that they totally deserve. This is all part of our wider strategy to deliver outstanding service, grow our reputation and build lasting relationships with our clients, the communities we serve and other professionals."*

In addition to private client matters, Jackson Lees advises on a diverse range of specialisms including medical negligence, commercial, litigation and personal injury. Broudie Jackson Canter specialises in civil liberties and social welfare, with teams working on actions against the police, inquests and inquiries, immigration, criminal matters, prison law and family and children law. It is representing around 1,500 clients at the Covid Inquiry and has been instrumental in shaping the Hillsborough Law.

Liverpool Law Society

MSB Solicitors' practice areas and lawyers receive nationwide and regional recognition in Chambers and Partners 2026 list



Dr Emma Palmer



Gemma Kelsey



Pippa Tudor



Michael McKeown



Louise Murphy

Liverpool, 16 October: Liverpool-headquartered law firm MSB Solicitors, which is committed to justice for everyone regardless of their background, is celebrating several of its divisions and lawyers being named in Chambers and Partners' 2026 list.

The firm's family team has once again been highly ranked in the North West and its children's law division, which deals with public law matters, has beaten stiff competition to achieve nationwide recognition in the list for the first time. The division works on complex care and social services proceedings that are frequently funded by Legal Aid.

The family team is headed by **Dr Emma Palmer**, who was recognised once again in Chambers and Partners' band 1 list of individual lawyers working in the North West and in band 3 nationally for complex care work.

Partners in the MSB family team, **Gemma Kelsey** and **Pippa Tudor**, have been recognised again in the directory for their legal prowess achieving rankings in band 2 West Midlands and band 4 North West respectively.

This banding represents lawyers with exceptional technical ability, client service, commercial vision and track record.

Both **Michael McKeown**, crime specialist, and **Louise Murphy**, Partner and Head of MSB's social housing team, complete the line-up of the MSB individuals who have been named in the 2026 list, with both being named in band 2.

To go alongside the family team's national recognition, MSB's crime practice (band 2), family (band 2) and social housing team (band 3) have all been named in Chambers' list of the best regional talent in the North West.

MSB's managing partner **Emma Carey** said: *"I am extremely proud of our recognition from Chambers and Partners. It represents the culmination of so much hard work from every member of our team and the skill, ability and foresight of our lawyers who have received individual recognition.*

"Our commitment to making justice something that is accessible to everyone, from high net-worth individuals through to asylum seekers and others from disadvantaged backgrounds, is what motivates our team. To see this officially recognised on a nationwide level, as our family and children's law practice has been, is the best validation we could hope to receive, following on from our recent placements in the Legal500 list too," she added.

Liverpool Law Society

Maria Fogg Family Law Marches with Savera UK



On 27th September, Maria Fogg Family Law was pleased to sponsor the annual Savera UK march, held in Liverpool to raise awareness of harmful practices and so-called "honour"-based abuse.

A Day of Awareness and Solidarity

The march began in Liverpool city centre and brought together survivors, community members, professionals and partner organisations. Walking side by side, participants demonstrated a shared determination to challenge abuse, safeguard those at risk and support the ongoing work of Savera UK.



The event was strongly supported by civic and community leaders, including the Merseyside Police & Crime Commissioner, whose presence underlined the importance of a multi-agency approach to protecting those at risk. The involvement of police, legal professionals, and charities showed how vital it is for different sectors to work together to achieve lasting change.
The presence of survivors at the forefront of the march was a powerful reminder of why awareness and continued action are so important. Their courage in speaking out has been central to shining a light on harmful practices that are too often hidden from public view.

The Cultural Event at the Bombed Out Church



Following the march, a cultural event was hosted at Liverpool's iconic Bombed Out Church. The gathering featured music, performance and community contributions, offering a creative space to celebrate resilience while reflecting on the challenges that remain.

This event brought together both education and culture, highlighting the value of awareness-raising that goes beyond traditional forums. By combining serious messages with art, music and performance, it created a memorable experience that engaged all who attended and reinforced the importance of community in bringing about change.

A Long-Standing Relationship

Maria Fogg Family Law has had a long relationship with Savera UK and is proud to continue supporting the charity's vital mission. Sponsorship of the march formed part of the firm's wider commitment to standing alongside organisations that work to protect and empower vulnerable individuals.

As a specialist family law firm, Maria Fogg Family Law recognises the challenges survivors face and the importance of access to legal advice, advocacy and community support. Partnering with Savera UK reflects the firm's ethos of working not only within the legal system but also in the wider community to effect lasting change.

Looking Forward

The event on 27th September was not only a demonstration of solidarity, but also a call to action. Taking place just days before the beginning of **October's Domestic Abuse Awareness Month**, it was a fitting start to a period dedicated to reflection, education, and commitment to ending abuse in all its forms.

Maria Fogg Family Law commends Savera UK for their tireless efforts and extends thanks to all who took part in making the march and cultural event such a success. The firm also acknowledges the ongoing support of the Merseyside Police & Crime Commissioner, whose leadership continues to strengthen collective efforts to tackle harmful practices across the region.

The firm looks forward to continuing its partnership with Savera UK and others dedicated to creating a future where every individual can live free from fear, control and harm.

Liverpool Law Society

Jill Heywood joins leading national Birth Injury Team at Fletchers Solicitors



Background photo: Kevin Cummins

Fletchers Solicitors, one of the UK's most respected clinical negligence and serious injury law firms, is delighted to announce the appointment of Jill Heywood to its nationally renowned Birth Injury Team.

With over 20 years of clinical negligence experience, **Heywood** joins from C L Medilaw and brings an exceptional record of success in complex, high-value cases. She previously spent more than two decades at Shoosmiths LLP, where she held senior positions and led on numerous multimillion-pound claims involving catastrophic injuries at birth.

Fletchers' Birth Injury Team is one of the largest and most experienced in the UK, known for securing multi-million-pound settlements for families affected by avoidable injuries during childbirth.

The team recently launched a powerful new campaign, ***"For every birth. For every baby. For every family."***, highlighting its commitment to advocacy, accountability, and long-term support for families impacted by clinical negligence at birth.

"We're delighted to welcome Jill to the team," said **Adrian Denson**, Chief Legal Officer at Fletchers. *"Her wealth of experience, particularly in maximum severity cases, aligns perfectly with our mission to fight for families at one of the most vulnerable times in their lives. Jill's appointment further strengthens our position as a national leader in birth injury case work."*

Heywood said: *"I'm incredibly proud to be joining Fletchers' Birth Injury Team at such an exciting time – they are one of the UK's largest, and most well respected, teams of birth injury lawyers in the UK."*

"The firm is not only at the forefront of legal excellence, but it's also deeply committed to supporting families beyond compensation. I look forward to contributing to the important work the team is doing and supporting families through some of the most difficult moments of their lives, ensuring they receive the birth injury compensation, justice and support they deserve."

The Fletchers Birth Injury team are some of the most highly regarded legal professionals in the country with colleagues sitting on the Specialist Law Society Clinical Negligence Accreditation Panel, the Action for Victims of Medical Accidents (AvMA panel), Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) accredited, and many have been recognised in The Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners for their outstanding work in birth injury litigation.

Heywood's appointment reflects Fletchers Solicitors' ongoing investment in top-tier legal talent and its dedication to providing the highest level of support to families affected by life-changing birth injuries.

Liverpool Law Society

ADLA

Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

13 NOVEMBER 2025

6.15PM FOR 6.45PM

RUM WAREHOUSE, LIVERPOOL

President James Mannouch looks forwards to welcoming members and guests at the region's premier event for the legal sector.

We look forward to welcoming guest speaker

Mark Evans

President of The Law Society



Mark became the 181st president of the Law Society of England and the third Welsh president in The Law Society's 200-year history. With over 28 years' working in property and private client law and four years as a lecturer, Mark brings extensive experience of the legal profession.

In aid of Parkinson's UK

The nominated charity is Parkinson's UK. The charity campaigns for better health and care, funds research into groundbreaking new treatments, and runs life-changing support services for those with Parkinson's. Registered charity in England and Wales (258197)

We are delighted to be holding the Legal Awards ceremony during the evening, showcasing the excellent legal work of local firms and individuals completed over the last 12 months.

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Liverpool Law Society

Brabners adds to commercial litigation team as part of continued growth



Nik White and Chris King

Purpose-led independent law firm Brabners has appointed Chris King to its commercial litigation team as it continues to grow its support for mid-to-large corporates.

Based in Brabners' newly refurbished Liverpool office at Exchange Flags, Chris joins from DWF, where he spent more than two decades advising on high-value, business-critical disputes. He brings extensive experience in commercial litigation, including matters relating to private equity investments, share sales, business acquisitions, shareholder disputes and commercial fraud. Chris' expertise spans a range of sectors, including technology, media and telecoms (TMT), manufacturing and retail, enhancing Brabners' ability to support national and international clients.

Joining one of the largest and most experienced litigation teams in the UK, he will play a key role in helping Brabners' clients – including leading businesses, brands and multinational corporates – to develop proactive risk management strategies as well as defending claims through litigation, mediation and arbitration.

Recognised as a tier one practice by the Legal 500 and in The Times Best Law Firms 2025, Brabners' litigation team specialises in both commercial and personal dispute resolution. In recent years it has secured a series of high-profile outcomes, including a landmark Supreme Court malicious falsehood case; a nine-figure settlement for the Commonwealth Games Federation relating to Australia's withdrawal from hosting the 2026 Games and **Coleen Rooney's** successful defence in the widely reported Wagatha Christie trial.

Brabners, which has offices in Liverpool, Manchester, Lancashire and Leeds and was named the UK's Best Law Firm to Work For by Best Companies for the second consecutive year as it posted a seventh consecutive year of growth.

Paul Lunt, head of litigation at Brabners, said: *"Our litigation practice continues to go from strength to strength, supporting clients new and old to deliver positive outcomes in cases of national significance. Chris is a fantastic addition – his deep commercial expertise, particularly in transactional disputes and advisory work, complements our existing capabilities and will help us build even stronger client relationships and deliver service excellence through industry-leading, expert advice."*

Nik White, managing partner at Brabners, said: *"Dispute resolution plays a vital role in how we help clients to protect their interests, manage risk and achieve positive outcomes – whether acting for individuals or businesses. Chris' appointment will only serve to build on what is already an award-winning litigation practice. As we continue to invest in our teams across the firm, Chris will play an important role in deepening our commercial litigation capability and ensure we continue to provide robust support to clients at every stage of their journey."*

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Liverpool Law Society

Fletchers Group celebrates North West success in Legal 500 & Chambers UK 2026 rankings


Trevor Ward


Julia Eyton


Caroline Morris


Iain Dodd


Ben Priestly


Michael Gray


Louise Riley


Kate Lozynska

Top-tier recognition continues for serious injury and clinical negligence work across the region

Fletchers Group, a leading law firm specialising in serious injury, clinical negligence, and group action litigation, has once again been recognised for its outstanding legal expertise in the Chambers UK 2026 and Legal 500 UK 2026 directories – with the North West practice receiving top-tier rankings across both guides.

The results reaffirm Fletchers' position as a market leader in the North West, where it continues to support individuals and families affected by life-changing injury or clinical negligence.

The rankings also reflect the strength added by the integration of Serious Injury Law, which joined Fletchers Group in 2024 and now operates as part of the wider North West team.

Fletchers achieved and maintained Band 1 status in both their personal injury and clinical negligence specialisms.

A number of North West-based lawyers received individual recognition, including:

- **Trevor Ward** – Star Individual, Clinical Negligence
- **Julia Eyton** – Band 1, Personal Injury
- **Caroline Morris**, Managing Director of Serious Injury Law – Eminent Practitioner, Personal Injury
- **Julia Eyton** – Band 1, Personal Injury
- **Iain Dodd** – Band 2, Clinical Negligence
- **Ben Priestley** – Band 3, Personal Injury
- **Michael Gray** – Band 3, Clinical Negligence
- **Louise Riley**, Band 3, Personal Injury
- **Kate Lozynska** – Associates to Watch

Fletchers' North West-based teams also maintained Tier 1 status in Personal Injury (Serious Injury Law) and Tier 2 in Clinical Negligence in the Legal 500, which were announced at the beginning of the month, with praise for their handling of catastrophic injury cases, particularly involving birth, brain, and spinal injuries.

Trevor Ward was recognised in the Hall of Fame, while **Margaret Ryan** was listed as a Next Generation Partner. Colleagues including **Leanne Devine**, **Kate Lozynska**, **Michael Gray**, and **Iain Dodd** were also named in editorial commentary for their compassionate, knowledgeable approach.

While Fletchers continues to expand nationally – including the addition of new offices in Birmingham, Northampton, and Reading – the firm's North West presence remains a key foundation. Offices in Manchester, Southport, and Liverpool serve as hubs for some of the firm's most complex and high-value litigation.

Adrian Denson, Chief Legal Officer, commented: *"The North West is at the heart of who we are, and we're proud to see our teams in the region once again recognised at the highest levels.*

"The combination of our long-standing clinical negligence strength and the Serious Injury Law team's personal injury expertise has created an exceptional offering for clients across the North West.

These rankings reflect the calibre of our people, the trust of our clients, and the dedication shown by every team member. We look forward to building on this foundation as we continue to grow."

Liverpool Law Society

CELEBRATION FOR NEW ENTRANTS TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Liverpool Law Society would like to invite all those who qualified into the law during 2025 from the Liverpool City Region and surrounding area to a celebration that marks the launch of their professional career

THUR 29 JAN 2026	LITTLE LEAF (ONE FINE DAY) OLD HALL 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

Andre Rebello OBE
Senior Coroner, Liverpool and Wirral Area

Members of the Merseyside JLD are also invited to book a place to network with senior members of Liverpool Law Society.

This event is free to attend but you must book your place.

Sponsored by The University of Law

Book Here

Liverpool Law Society

Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence: Gill Smith



Gill Smith, Senior Legal Secretary, Paul Crowley & Co

At Paul Crowley & Co Solicitors, we're proud to honour Gill Smith, Senior Legal Secretary from our Personal Injury department, as she celebrates an incredible 30 years of service, highlighting her exceptional commitment, loyalty, and unwavering dedication to both colleagues and clients.

Over the course of her career, Gill has become an integral part of the Personal Injury department, quickly establishing herself as a trusted and dependable presence while managing complex administrative tasks. Widely recognised for her professionalism and meticulous attention to detail, Gill's consistent dedication has supported colleagues and reassured clients, helping the department run smoothly and earning her the respect of everyone at the firm.

A Career of Dedication

From the very beginning, Gill has been a model of consistency and professionalism. She has contributed to the Personal Injury department through every stage of its growth, providing a reliable presence that colleagues and clients alike have come to depend on. Her approach to work demonstrates an impressive balance of thoroughness and care, ensuring that clients receive the care and attention they deserve.

Her dedication goes beyond completing daily tasks; it is her steady, calm presence and approachable nature that make her such a valued member of the team. Over the years, Gill's commitment has helped foster a supportive and positive environment where colleagues can rely on her expertise and clients feel reassured.

Embracing Change

Throughout her career, Gill has embraced new technologies and systems, using them to enhance efficiency and provide consistent support to both the department and clients. She has responded to the evolving demands of the legal sector with dedication and a positive attitude, ensuring that her work remains thorough, reliable, and supportive. Her steady presence and adaptability have been a constant support to her colleagues, helping the Personal Injury department run smoothly through times of change.

A Lasting Impact

Gill's contribution goes beyond her administrative excellence. She is known for her reliability, professionalism, and friendly presence, all of which create a welcoming and reassuring atmosphere in the department. Reaching 30 years at one firm is increasingly rare, and her commitment exemplifies the values at the heart of Paul Crowley & Co: integrity, professionalism, and dedication to service.

Julie Jones, owner, "*Gill's commitment, knowledge, and positivity make her an invaluable member of our team. We are so proud to celebrate her 30-year achievement, it's an accomplishment that speaks volumes about her character and dedication.*"

Celebrating Commitment

Gill's career highlights the importance of long-term dedication within the firm. Achievements like hers showcase how experience, loyalty, and perseverance form the backbone of a successful legal team. Her 30-year career is a shining example of the positive impact that consistency, professionalism, and dedication can have over time.

Gill exemplifies the values at the heart of Paul Crowley & Co: integrity, dedication, and excellence in service. Her contribution strengthens the team every day and helps ensure the department continues to operate smoothly and efficiently.

Honouring a Career

We extend heartfelt thanks to Gill for her three decades of exceptional service. Her presence continues to inspire colleagues, support clients, and contribute to the welcoming culture of the firm. Today, we celebrate not only her long-standing dedication but also the ongoing positive impact she has on everyone around her.

Congratulations, Gill, on 30 remarkable years of excellence!

Liverpool Law Society

Serious Injury Law appoints Team Leader to head up international injury division



Ross Smith

Serious Injury Law, one of the UK's leading specialist law firms for catastrophic and serious injury cases, is proud to announce the appointment of Ross Smith as Team Leader of its international injury division.

With an extensive background in cross-border personal injury litigation and a strong track record of delivering justice for clients injured abroad, Smith brings a wealth of experience, leadership, and legal expertise to the role.

Having joined from Howe & Co Solicitors, Smith was previously Head of Travel and Joint Head of Post Office Compensation, pursuing compensation for those affected by the Post Office Scandal.

Prior to that, he held senior team leadership roles within the travel divisions of leading firms.

Smith brings significant expertise in complex high value personal injury matters and foreign and domestic matters, including direct actions in the UK against foreign insurers. His appointment reflects the firm's ongoing commitment to strengthening its international capabilities and providing exceptional representation to clients facing complex international injury cases.

"Ross has consistently demonstrated outstanding dedication, technical excellence, and compassion in handling serious injury claims through his vast and varied experience," said **Caroline Morris**, Managing Director at Serious Injury Law. *"His leadership will be crucial in guiding our international injury division through its next phase of growth."*

Smith has worked in travel litigation since 2012 and has played a key role in securing significant settlements and judgments for clients involved in international road traffic collisions, holiday accidents, and workplace injuries abroad. In his new role, he will lead a team of experienced solicitors and case managers, oversee high-value, cross-jurisdictional claims and foster collaboration with international legal networks.

"I'm delighted to join such a highly respected firm." said **Smith**. *"Serious Injury Law has built a formidable reputation for taking on some of the most challenging and complex cases, both in the UK and across borders. I am proud to play my part in delivering justice for clients and helping them rebuild their lives, wherever in the world they are injured."*

Established in 1989 and now part of the Fletchers Group of companies, Serious Injury Law has built a reputation for securing multi-million-pound settlements and providing comprehensive wraparound support to clients and their families.

This appointment reflects the firm's commitment to strengthening its international expertise and supporting continued growth in complex injury work.



Liverpool Law Society

Hillsborough Law takes centre stage at INQUEST Northern conference



Pete Weatherby KC

Law firms Leigh Day, Garden Court North and Ison Harrison hosted a northern conference for charity INQUEST on Thursday, 18 September.

A highlight of the event was a presentation by Garden Court North barrister **Pete Weatherby KC**, director of the Hillsborough Law Now campaign.



Leanne Devine

Pete Weatherby KC reported that the Hillsborough Law had begun its journey through Parliament known officially as the Public Office Accountability Bill 2025. He, Leigh Day partner **Leanne Devine** and other lawyers had supported families and campaign groups at the presentation of the Bill earlier that week before it was laid down in Parliament.

Pete, who also represented families of victims at the Manchester Arena bombing inquiry, has worked with INQUEST over many years to see the Hillsborough Law on the statute books. **Pete** and **Leanne** represented Hillsborough victims' families at the judge-led fresh inquest into their deaths.

He explained that, in line with INQUEST's campaign, the Hillsborough Law will include a statutory duty of candour for public officials or private entities engaged to do public work. There will be a statutory duty to assist – to proactively provide information to inquests. Families will also be entitled to government funded representation *"to rebalance the lawyering"* of inquests and to ensure that they are able to effectively participate in the process.

Pete said Hillsborough Law will empower public servants to be truthful and will prevent the security services and military from lying.

The INQUEST event was also an opportunity for legal aid inquest lawyers in the Greater Manchester area to catch up on caselaw updates. They were guided through the latest developments by Kate Stone of Garden Court North Chambers.

Leanne Devine, **Anna Morris KC** of Garden Court North and **Gemma Vine** of Ison Harrison provided guidance on the Coroner's Bench Book and gave practical tips for latest developments in inquest practice.

The event included a taster session from **Rachel Francis**, of Claiming Space and One Pump Court Chambers around vicarious trauma in the legal profession. The conclusion was a showing of the documentary film relating to the charity INQUEST which details the story of the charity's birth and the many cases of families they have supported since 1981.

The event was followed by a fundraising quiz in support of the INQUEST charity.



Stephanie Hill

Leigh Day partner **Stephanie Hill** who attended the event said:

"*INQUEST provides invaluable support to bereaved families and Leigh Day was delighted to sponsor this fantastic event. It was great to meet with other claimant lawyers based across the north, to share knowledge and experiences and learn about all the work that has been going into developing Hillsborough Law. A particular highlight was watching the very moving INQUEST documentary, surrounded by so many dedicated colleagues.*"

Liverpool Law Society

Mazur – the case that shook litigation

The name "Mazur" has probably been searched and checked online and on professional media site LinkedIn thousands of times in the last few weeks, due to its significance and role in litigation and regulatory matters. It has delivered a tremor across the industry and led to firms and individuals reviewing their own position, procedures, and processes.

The case itself *Mazur v Charles Russell Speechlys* [2025] EWHC 2341, did not set out to create the impact that it has. It was an appeal surrounding a costs dispute over £10,653.00. The case, which has been cited so many times, centres around the core issue of whether a representative of one of the parties, **Mr Middleton**, was authorised to conduct litigation as he did not hold a current practising certificate. The short answer was no.

Conducting litigation is a "reserved activity" within the meaning of the Legal Services Act 2007 ("the LSA").

With involvement from the Solicitors Regulation Authority ("the SRA"), The Law Society, and The Legal Services Board (" the LSB"), Mazur seems to have stirred a lot of debate in the profession, as to who is "authorised" to "conduct litigation".

During the Mazur case, and in a strange set of circumstances, the SRA, sent a letter dated 2 December 2024, which stated:

"['GBS'] employees are permitted to undertake reserved legal activities due to section 21(3). We are satisfied that Mr Middleton has not conducted reserved legal activity without entitlement to do so".

HHJ Simpkiss relied on this letter in his original Judgment.

In the subsequent appeal it was submitted that the SRA had wrongly construed section 21(3) of the LSA.

The SRA intervened and retracted from its own position. The Law Society also intervened.

Supervision was not enough

The thrust of the submission made on behalf of **Mr Middleton** was that he was carrying on activities under the supervision of **Mr Ashall** (who was authorised). The court was then tasked with deciding whether this was permissible under the LSA.

Mr Justice Sheldon, provided a detailed analysis and Judgment, at paragraph 48 the conclusion was:

"The short answer to this question is "no": Mr Middleton was not entitled to conduct litigation under the supervision of Mr Ashall."

The outcome was that non-authorised persons may "support" an authorised person in the conduct of litigation but cannot conduct litigation themselves, even if supervised by an authorised person. This then gave rise to further questions, as to what amounted to the "conduct of litigation".

The decision has understandably raised concerns from many experienced litigators who, as a result of **Justice Sheldon's** finding, may be categorised as not "authorised". CILEX members have questioned the Judgment and looked to CILEX for answers. It is not clear if members, who believed that they had the rights to conduct litigation, are now expected to undertake further training or assessment.

Further advice and guidance

Following the Judgment in Mazur, the following responses have been received:

- 1 October 2025 – The SRA issues a statement SRA | SRA Statement following the case of Julia Mazur & Ors v Charles Russell Speechlys LLP | Solicitors Regulation Authority
- 13 October 2025 – The LSB releases a statement LSB Statement: High Court Decision in Mazur - 13 October 2025 - The Legal Services Board
- 17 October 2025 – The Law Society produces Guidance for its members Mazur: Law Society publishes new guidance for profession | The Law Society

There are conflicting views being aired, some commentators (along with the LSB) have stated that Mazur does not change the existing law, it affirms it. Others are of the opinion that the LSA is wrongly interpreted, and Mazur is incorrect. Eminent legal professionals, including Barristers, and KCs, have aired their views online.

We now wait, as a profession, to see how matters evolve and how our member firms respond to Mazur, after considering the guidance provided. No doubt there will be a need for consultations, seminars, and forums for discussion on the issue.

As the dust settles many are left wondering how a point of interpretation of statute has led to the current situation.

As a representative body for the legal profession, whilst we are not in a position to hold any opinions on the matter; we are aware that the conflicting interpretation of Mazur is creating confusion in the legal industry.

Liverpool Law Society is representative of all its members, and we ask for any member firms to reach out to Liverpool Law Society with any concerns and issues that arise. We will endeavour to assist as much as we can by looking to engage with relevant committees, bodies and stakeholders. Please email committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk.

The Judgment, is of course, more detailed than the summary and commentary that we have provided, so we urge our members to read a full copy of the Judgment which is readily available online.

Liverpool Law Society

The Family Finance Conference 2025



District Judge Sheren Guirguis

On Wednesday, September 24th, Liverpool Law Society hosted the Family Finance Conference, a dynamic and engaging event delivering a comprehensive update on the latest developments in family law and practice. With a packed agenda and a lineup of top-tier speakers, the day proved to be both insightful and inspiring, offering invaluable knowledge for all professionals working in the field of family law.

The day began with a warm welcome from **District Judge Sheren Guirguis**, who greeted attendees both in person and online before handing over to the first speaker, **Margaret Parr** from 7 Harrington Street, to launch the day's programme. The first session delved into the concept of matrimonialisation, exploring the critical question: when does non-matrimonial property become matrimonial, and how does the sharing principle apply? A key focus was *Standish v Standish* [2024] EWCA Civ 567, with delegates eagerly anticipating the forthcoming Supreme Court judgment. This decision is expected to have a significant impact on future financial remedy proceedings.

The next session was from **Nicholas Bennett** of 29 Bedford Row who delivered a thought-provoking session titled *"You Can't Make an Omelette Without Breaking Eggs: Nuptial Agreements after Entwistle v Helliwell."* Bennett unpacked the upcoming Court of Appeal decision in *Entwistle v Helliwell*, a case that has sparked widespread interest is expected to help answer the question arising from the law of nuptial agreements, what is a *"predicament of real need"*? The judgement is expected to address the impact of defective financial disclosure on the validity of a nuptial agreement. **Bennett** also considered what the judgment could mean for litigating contentious agreements and how best to approach drafting them in a post-Entwistle world. The session was as informative as it was memorable, with a nod to the moment when **Francis J** advised the husband seeking £26,000 a year for a meal plan to *"learn to cook an omelette."*

Following a welcome refreshment break, the mid-morning session resumed with presentation by **Joseph Price** of Deans Court Chambers, titled *"Needs vs Resources: Modest Asset Divorces."* **Price** tackled an issue that often makes cases particularly challenging where limited or insufficient assets make it difficult, if not impossible, to meet the needs of both parties, and in some cases, the children. Drawing on examples and case law, he explored how the courts navigate these difficult scenarios, raising key questions around whether both parties' needs must always be met, and whether children invariably take priority.

Jack Clitheroe of BTG Advisory followed delivering an informative session on Matrimonial Business Valuations: Interpreting accounts & using experts.

Financial accounts come in many shapes and sizes, with varying levels of disclosure. It can be difficult for non-accountants to know what to look out for. This session will reviewed key areas to consider when analysing business accounts, as well as providing clear, actionable guidance on how to review valuation reports and effectively engage accounting experts in matrimonial proceedings.

The sessions then broke for a networking lunch, offering delegates and speakers a valuable opportunity to build connections, exchange ideas, and reflect on the morning's thought-provoking discussions. **Lee Speakman** from Exchange Chambers commenced the afternoon session looking at Disability and Divorce looking at advancing a 'needs' claim on behalf of a spouse with actual or anticipated physical or mental disabilities.

The days agenda closed with a final presentation from **Sam Hillas KC** from St Johns Buildings who provided an engaging round-up of some of the most relevant or interesting financial remedy developments and authorities from the past 12 months.

Thank you to all our incredible speakers, **District Judge Sheren Guirguis** and Taylor Wessing who hosted us for the day who made this event possible. We hope to welcome you all at next year's Family Finance Conference.

Kirsty Barker
Training and Events Manager,
Liverpool Law Society

Keith Maxwell Tamlin 19.07.28 - 19.09.25



Keith was born in Dartmouth and moved to Liverpool with his parents when he was a small child. He attended Ruthin School from 1939 to 1946, during which time he proved himself as a good sportsman, playing rugby, cricket and 5s. He became Captain of School Rugby and Head Prefect. His headmaster wrote of him that he had a talent for leadership above the average and was a young man of the highest principles and character.

Keith did his National Service from December 1946 to March 1949 attaining the rank of Infantry Captain. He then attended Aberystwyth University graduating in 1951 with an LLB.

Back in Liverpool Keith did his articles and was admitted to the Roll of Solicitors on 1st October 1954. He became a partner in North Kirk and Co and, when that firm merged with Cuff Roberts in 1982 (a merger forged, rumour has it, at the Law Society's Annual conference at which both firms were regular attendees) he continued as a Partner in the merged firm Cuff Roberts North. He remained so until he retired from the practice aged 65. He continued as a Consultant for a short period. After he left the practice he continued to work on his own account for a few more years. Keith's work and reputation led him into other fields. Having been Everton Football Club's Solicitor for a number of years, he was then invited to join the Board as a Director in 1974 and continued a Director until 2004 when he was appointed as Honorary Life Vice President in recognition of his contribution to the Club particularly in relation to Youth Development. He had contributed to the winning of two FA Youth Cups and later he gave his name to an annual award to recognise emerging talent. He continued to attend Everton matches well into his 90's and was extremely happy and proud that the dream of a new stadium became a reality.

Also, through his work for clients, in the 1970's Keith became involved in the Mail Order Traders Association, becoming Secretary of that organisation and travelling to Europe, particularly Brussels, contributing to the development of trade for that sector in the (at the time) newly formed EU.

Keith was President of Liverpool Law Society in 1983/4 having previously held the role as Treasurer for a few years. During his year the legal profession had to deal with the thorny issues of the Conveyancing monopoly being removed and the relaxation of the rules to allow advertising for solicitors and Keith represented Liverpool Law Society at numerous events discussing these issues. Amidst the doom and gloom at the time, entirely characteristically, Keith remained optimistic that the profession would embrace the changes and flourish. He also represented the Society at the opening of the Queen Elizabeth II Law Courts in Derby Square by the Queen, in May 1984, and considered himself honoured to have been presented to the Queen on that occasion.

Keith was not only a successful solicitor, he was an accomplished after dinner speaker and raconteur, and at different times, also a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool Round Table, and Childwall Golf Club. He was also an honorary member of the Atheneum club. In Keith's style he contributed fully to the life of any organisation with which he was involved. He was well known in Liverpool professional circles and very highly regarded by both clients and fellow practitioners.

Keith was above all however a lovely man with great integrity, a great sense of humour, a generous spirit, a caring nature and a good friend to those who knew him. He was great company, always ready with some anecdote to amuse others. He continued to attend Law Society events and gatherings with his former colleagues well into his 90's. He remained a 'practical optimist' as he called himself even in the last few years of his life when he suffered ill health. He will be greatly missed.

Keith was also essentially a family man, married to **Marian** for over 52 years until her death in 2007. He is survived by his daughters **Helen** and **Michele**, his granddaughters **Hannah** and **Rebecca** and his great grandchildren **Izzy**, **Finn**, **Thea** and **Harry Maxwell**, who was born very shortly before his death.

Anne Heseltine
Past President Liverpool Law Society



Liverpool Legal walk 2025

Photos by Ray Farley

Despite rather inclement conditions over 280 people from more than 35 Law firms, barristers chambers, law centres, law departments, Merseyside JLD and WLD turned up on a wet and windy autumnal evening on 2nd October to take part in the annual Liverpool Legal Walk organised by Liverpool Law society to support and raise funds for The Access to Justice Foundation. This charity provides vital funding for agencies that give free legal advice and help to those in need. The Just giving page is open until December so please if you haven't done already, please support.



The weather may have been damp but it didn't dampen spirits and in true Liverpool fashion everyone came together to support this great cause. Starting outside the QEII Law courts in Liverpool and led by **HHJ Cadwallder**, Judge of the Business & Property Courts in Liverpool, **Norman Jones**, President of Liverpool Law Society (2011-2012), **Beth Walker**, Merseyside JLD and current Law Society President **James Mannouch**, the walkers took a new, slightly revised route around our wonderful city, past iconic venues such as the Museum of Liverpool, Royal Albert Dock, Chinatown and St George's Hall before arriving slightly bedraggled at the Dale Street Social club where they were treated to a drink and some much needed warmth!



Thankyou to the sponsors, The University of Law and St John's Barristers chambers, those who acted as marshalls and most of all thank you to everyone who helped organise this and took part.

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Leigh Day, Liverpool Hope University, Manleys Solicitors, Merseyside Law Centre, Merseyside Women Lawyers Division, MLA Ltd, MLS (Medical Law Services), Morecrofts Solicitors, MSB Solicitors, National Legal Service, Peter Edwards Law, Primas Law, Provenio Litigation LLP, Simpson Millar, Slater and Gordon, St John's Buildings Chambers, Statement Drafting Services, Stephensons, Steve Cornforth Consultancy, Taylor Wessing, University of Law, University of liverpool School of Law and Social Justice, Vauxhall Law Centre, Weightmans LLP, Wilson & Roe High Court Enforcement

Thankyou to **Ray Farley** for the fantastic photos which capture our wonderful Liverpool Legal community and spirit!

Nicola Walker
Lecturer in Law, FHEA
Campus Manager - Liverpool
The University of Law











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Liverpool Law Society

New TA6 and TA7 forms released

The Law Society (TLS) has released two new and updated transaction forms for use in residential property sales:

- **TA6 Property Information Form (6th edition)**
- **TA7 Leasehold Information Form (5th edition)**

Both have been redesigned to make them easier for sellers to complete and for buyers to understand. For the TA6, this involved listening to industry feedback, working closely with conveyancing experts and testing the form with real users. To ensure a smooth transition, firms accredited by TLS's Conveyancing Quality Scheme (CQS) will have until **30 March 2026** before the forms become mandatory. All previous editions will be withdrawn after this date.

Over the coming months, the Law Society will be encouraging solicitors and conveyancers to **make the switch** sooner through targeted communications that promote benefits such as the TA6's clearer explanatory notes.

TLS's website has been updated with information about the new forms, including how they've been improved and where to access them. Please do view the following pages:

- What's changing – visitors can preview the new forms and download the explanatory notes.
- Transaction forms – includes links to suppliers.

There will also be a free online event on 13 January, where members can ask questions and hear more about what's changed and why.

New Brighton 10K sponsored run 12th October 2025



Norman Jones





On a cool Sunday morning I made my way to the start point at New Brighton Head to take part in the 12th October 2025 10K race from New Brighton to Seacombe and return.

The race was a sellout with competitors from Canada and Italy taking part.Nearly 900 runners lined up at 9.30 .I was one of four males in the over 75 category. This was my fourth race this year each one proving to be more challenging than the last.
As I closed in on the finishing line I was cheered on by hundreds of well wishers chanting *"Norman Norman..."* The cadets turned out in force and gave me a rapturous round of applause as I made my way to receive my medal.

A brilliant end to a tough race.

Initially I had no plans to seek sponsorship for the race but the cancellation of a major event this Christmas meant fund raising would suffer immensely for Rotary Charities.With just over two weeks before the race I decided to launch a crowdfunding site with a target of £1000 to try to fill the gap. To date the funds raised stands at the amazing £1877 which will go to Community and International Projects supported by Rotary. The crowdfunding page remains open for any further donations.

PP Norman Jones

Postscript: *Since writing the above I have now raised £2,000. Fifty percent will go to International Charities.The Rotary Club have chosen to donate £1,000 to Mary's Meals feeding school children in Africa. This money attracts match funding so in all £2000 will go to the project.This money will therefore feed a whole school for one year.*

Liverpool Law Society

Life in the Law 2025

LawCare
Supporting the Legal Community

Act now and lead the way to a sustainable future

The legal sector has the opportunity to change for the better. Life in the Law 2025, LawCare's latest research, shows that if we act now, we can create a sector where people feel supported, can build sustainable and successful careers, and where mental health and wellbeing are valued as an integral part of everyday working life culture.

What the research tells us

From January to March 2025, we asked people across the sector how working in law affects their mental health and wellbeing.

The research showed that there has been progress in some areas:
"More openness to talking about mental health. More access to counselling, wellbeing coaching and therapy services. More senior people being open about their own mental ill-health."

A senior solicitor also reflected:
"Working from home has been a game changer in terms of managing childcare and managing my disability. I love it and it has prolonged my career by 10 years."

Yet the findings show there's still work to do:

- 56% said they could see themselves leaving their current workplace within the next five years, with 32% saying they could leave the sector entirely.
- Nearly 60% reported poor mental wellbeing.
- Almost 79% said they regularly work beyond their contracted hours.
- Only 31% of people who managed others said that their targets or billable hours were adjusted to take into account the time they need to spend managing others or undertaking appropriate training.

The quotes behind these statistics speak volumes. A licensed conveyancer told us:
"I would like to leave but couldn't afford to and don't know what else to do."
A senior solicitor in England said simply:
"More work, shorter deadlines, fewer lawyers, higher pressure, more greed."

Others pointed to long hours. One junior solicitor said:
"Monday to Friday my days are filled with work from getting up to going to bed after midnight, so there is no time for any other activity."

The need for stronger people management came through strongly in comments. One person said:
"People management is a special skill… it does not follow that because someone is a good lawyer, they are a good manager."

Why mental health and wellbeing matters
When people in the legal sector are healthy and well, the whole profession benefits. Lawyers who feel supported are more focused, better equipped to handle pressure, and able to make sound ethical decisions. They bring clarity of thought, stronger relationships with colleagues and clients, and the energy needed to do their best work.

But when wellbeing is neglected, the effects ripple out far beyond the individual. High levels of stress and burnout can lead to increased sick leave and people leaving their jobs - or even the profession altogether. Overwork and exhaustion raise the risk of errors, which in turn can compromise judgement and ethical decision-making. Over time, this doesn't just harm careers, it undermines confidence in the whole sector, damaging both reputation and public trust.

What can help

The good news is that there are clear, practical steps that can make a real difference. The report highlights five key areas for action:

1. **Tackle overwork** – manage workloads, rethink targets, and challenge the culture of long hours.
2. **Support managers** – train and support people to manage effectively and recognise that management is a vital skill.
3. **Offer flexibility** – embed hybrid and flexible working in ways that support diverse needs.
4. **Check what works** – regularly review wellbeing initiatives and adapt as necessary.
5. **Properly prepare future lawyers** – equip students and trainees with the appropriate skills they need for a sustainable career.

Leadership is key

As LawCare CEO **Elizabeth Rimmer** says:
"We have it in our hands to transform the way we work and build a future where people are supported to perform at their best and build sustainable careers. The path to prioritising mental health and wellbeing before us is clear. Now is the time for leaders to act with courage: move away from practices that normalise overwork, which risk driving people out of the sector, and take the path to a better future by valuing people management."

Leadership makes a vital difference. By valuing people, making space for good management, and moving away from practices that normalise overwork, we can build a legal sector that is healthy and sustainable.

A shared responsibility for the future
Life in the Law 2025 is a wake-up call - but also an opportunity to do better. Many people in law are struggling, but we now know the steps that can help.

Read the full Life in the Law 2025 report here: https://lawcare.org.uk/life-in-the-law/

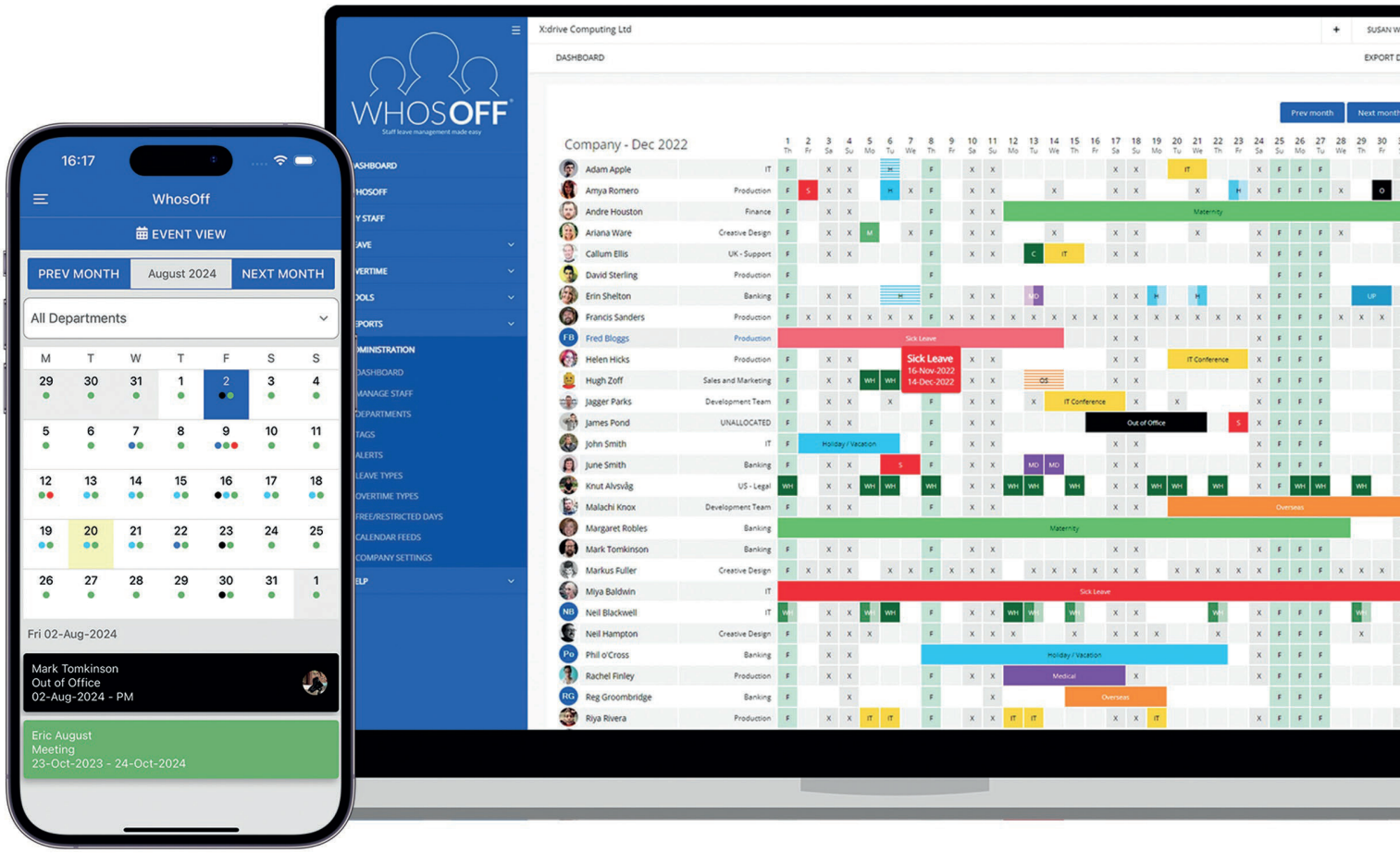
In 2026 LawCare will start a programme of engagement to develop resources and training to support leaders and organisations to put these recommendations into practice. Follow LawCare on LinkedIn or visit www.lawcare.org.uk to see what is coming up.

Trish McLellan
and **Niamh Warnock**

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Liverpool Law Society

University of Liverpool Law with a Year in Industry programme celebrates student successes and welcomes new partner Provenio

The second cohort of students from the University of Liverpool Law School's Law with a Year in Industry programme have commenced their placements. The programme offers students the opportunity to spend their third year gaining practical experience with leading law firms before returning to complete the final year of their LLB degree.

Building on the success of its inaugural year, the programme is expanding by supporting 15 students in 2025/26 and welcoming a new partner, Provenio.

Described by Legal 500 as *"the best boutique in the North West - without a doubt"*, Provenio is a Liverpool based boutique law firm specialising in high-value, complex business litigation for corporates and high net worth individuals across the UK and internationally

Commenting on Provenio's partnership with Liverpool Law School, founder and managing partner **Mark Goodwin** said: *"We are delighted to partner with the University of Liverpool Law School on this programme. As a firm we are absolutely committed to developing the next generation of legal talent. The Law with a Year in Industry initiative, alongside our Graduate Solicitor Apprenticeship Programme, marks our ongoing dedication to providing meaningful opportunities for career development."*

The programme continues to partner with prestigious law firms across Liverpool, including:

- Brabners
- DWF
- Hill Dickinson
- In-House Legal Solutions
- Taylor Wessing
- Weightmans

Lorna Mitchell, School of Law and Justice Employability Lead and Director of Studies for the programme said: *"Participation in these year-long placements as part of the Law with a Year in Industry programme has been a transformative experience for our students, providing them with an opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge in a real-world setting, enabling them to develop skills and competencies highly sought after by employers and ensuring both their personal and professional development."*

Students gain practical, hands-on experience across a range of legal areas, while being paid by their respective law firms. Four students from the 2024/25 cohort have already secured training contracts with the very firms where they completed their placements, while a further two students have used the experience and skills that they have gained from the programme to secure training contracts with law firms outside the programme. These successful outcomes highlight the programme's direct impact on career progression and future opportunities in the legal profession.

Liverpool Law School student **Muhammad Rafique**, who secured a training contract with DWF following his placement, said: *"It's one thing to study law in a classroom but applying it in a real-world legal environment has deepened my understanding in ways I couldn't have imagined. I've developed a sharper eye for detail, grown in confidence when communicating with clients and colleagues, and built resilience, patience and a stronger sense of responsibility, qualities that are essential for a career in law. Being offered a training contract is a huge vote of confidence from the firm and means they've seen your potential and want to invest in your future."*

Professor Valsamis Mitsilegas, Dean of the University of Liverpool School of Law and Social Justice, commented: *"The Law with a Year in Industry programme provides an exceptional bridge between academic study and professional practice. Seeing our students gain real-world experience, develop confidence and secure career opportunities is incredibly rewarding. The addition of Provenio as a partner firm reflects the programme's continued growth and prestige, offering more pathways for our students to thrive in the legal profession."*

The programme continues to promote inclusivity and equal opportunity, encouraging applications from students from under-represented backgrounds or those facing potential barriers in the legal profession.

Details of the 2026/27 programme will be announced in due course. Please note that the programme is not open to external applicants and cannot be applied for via UCAS.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL



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Southport BID



Southport BID continues to be busy, representing Southport's town centre businesses whilst also working to help to diversify and grow the local economy.

Summer was a good season for us, helped by decent weather for a change! Feedback from businesses says that Southport showed notable increases in footfall data in summer and in the lead up to Christmas 2024. Sales also showed increases for most of 2025 compared to previous years. This compares favourably with many other places, outperforming some of our regional and national competitors. However, economic conditions continue to be challenging for the town as they are for the whole of the UK at the moment. We are very proud and appreciative of the commitment which continues to be shown by all of our businesses, across all sectors.

Lobbying on behalf of our businesses does pay off and it was pleasing to see the recent announcement of further funding from government for Southport Pier which remains an important image for Southport. Meanwhile, work has continued around the Market St area to improve the physical environment of the town centre.

One area of increasing activity is the emergence of Lord Street Living. We are seeing more and more investor and developer interest in converting space in and around former retail units on Lord St for residential use. Sefton Council has recently granted planning permission for a number of smaller apartment projects as well as larger schemes such as the Garrick at the Victoria Park end of Lord St. Such interest reflects a modern view of the changing character of Southport as a beautiful place to live as well as to visit. This in turn will help ongoing efforts to diversify Southport's economy and change people's perceptions. This change is also complemented by increasing demand for co-working spaces, including projects like the Engine Room at Wayfarers Arcade and the Enterprise Arcade. For further information, see lordstreetliving.org.

In keeping with changing perceptions, we launched our new website www.yourSouthport.com in early summer to better reflect and project what we know about our town to new as well as existing audiences. The website now captures everything about life in Southport, including a section on Live, Work and Study to showcase



using vibrant and contemporary photography what life is actually like in 2025 Southport. Feedback and reviews have been very positive. Dip your toe in. Let us know what you think at www.yourSouthport.com

We continue to promote Southport through the website as well as through our events programme. This autumn we ran the Coastal Jam weekend headlined by Andy and the Odd Socks for our younger audience and a number of bands for our live music lovers. Despite the inclement weather, Jam was a big success.

As the town moves from Halloween towards Christmas, we will again be arranging a programme of activities for winter. Children's superstar characters **Peppa Pig**, **Bluey** and **K-Pop** will kick-start the traditional festivities as part of all -day event on Saturday 15th November in Town Hall Gardens. After the live entertainment, don't miss the launch of the UK's largest interactive lit Christmas tree with music. Be there to see it for yourself!

Looking further ahead, we await further progress with the Marine Lake and Exhibition Centre project as well as private sector investment projects such as the Cove both of which will add enormously to Southport's attractiveness as a visitor destination.

Liverpool Law Society

Charity Announcement; Alfie's Squad





Hannah Chapman



Holly Knowles

Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division are delighted to announce our charity for 2025/2026, Alfie's Squad.

Alfie was only 8 back in 2017, when his dad died by suicide. Unable to find support from others who understand what he was going through, Alfie decided to begin fundraising, so other children didn't feel alone.

Launched in 2023, Alfie's Squad is still the only peer support group of its kind in the UK, for children and young people aged 6–17 who have lost a loved one to suicide. Alfie's Squad welcome up to 50 young members to weekly fun and engaging activities in a safe and welcoming space. Families travel across the North West to the Liverpool-based group, where young members meet others who understand and share experiences. Their second Hub recently opened in Bolton on 13th October, allowing them to reach even more families with key support.

There is a high risk of children and young people bereaved by suicide struggling with their own mental health in later life. Feelings of isolation, guilt, and stigma are common. That's why their groups are so important.

Whether it's being covered in paint, trying new skills like photography or simply encouraging each other at games night, the peer support between them all is helping to build friendships and confidence. Parents and carers also get the chance to benefit from their own support group, while the young members are nearby.

The MJLD are proud to support the vital work of Alife's Squad. Our Charity Representatives, **Hannah Chapman** and **Holly Knowles**, have some exciting events planned including a pre-loved sale, charity fundraiser night, and wellbeing event.

We are inviting donations for our pre-loved sale now! Do you have any formal wear (office or evening) which could go to a new home? Please consider donating it at our collection point at 4 St Paul's Square, Liverpool.

Holly Knowles
Solicitor at MSB Solicitors and MJLD Charity Representative



Liverpool Law Society

LLS Directors' Meeting with Marie Rimmer, MP for St Helens South & Whiston



Anthony Neild

On 10th October, Directors of Liverpool Law Society hosted a meeting with MP Marie Rimmer to discuss several issues affecting the local legal community.

Court Telephony:

Ian Townley, Chair of the Access to Justice Committee raised the continuing problems experienced by Court users in relation to the centralisation of the Court telephony system. Ian highlighted the inconsistencies in the comments of a representative of HMCTS with the lived realities of Court users daily. Ian emphasised the difficulties encountered by Court users in obtaining reliable, real-time information as to the status and progression of their cases and the problems this causes, especially for litigants in person. Suggestions were made for a callback system to be implemented to deal with any queries that were unanswered at first contact, which is an issue presently compounded by the inordinately lengthy wait times.

MOJ Proposal to utilise client account interest to fund access to justice:

The MoJ has tabled a proposal for law firms to utilise the interest on client accounts to fund Access to Justice cases. Interest On Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) is a program where lawyers' pool trust accounts, which hold client funds that cannot be individually identified or are too small to generate significant interest, are used to earn interest. This interest is then used to fund public service projects and pro bono legal work for low-income individuals and families. Ian raised the point that a lot of legal aid practitioners cannot make money on legal aid cases but on other cases. It would mean increasing legal aid work to 30%. The concern was raised that a lot of law firms would be precluded from taking on legally aided cases as they would not be able to afford to, and consequently, this proposal would be pricing people out of access to justice who need it the most.

Continued CCMS Outage:

Legal Aid Agency (LAA) digital systems are used to bill civil legal aid and claim other legal aid work. Following the cyber-attack earlier this year significant amounts of client of data in client accounts from 2007 has been breached. The Criminal Legal Aid side has returned to normal but Civil Legal Aid operations are still experiencing a backlog of problems.

The point was raised that no form of redress has been proposed by the LAA for those affected and nothing has been done alleviate the pressure experienced daily by legal aid practitioners. Clients are completely unaware of the data breach, and it was suggested that the LAA should have had a data recovery protocol in place as a contingency for such incidents and nothing appears to be happening to prevent a repeat occurrence.

Actions were agreed to draft written parliamentary questions which **Marie Rimmer** will raise on behalf of Liverpool Law Society. This has since been done and we will report further on this in a future edition of the magazine.

Housing Issues:

Vice President **Sarah Mansfield** highlighted the series of standards and obligations imposed upon landlords which will come in force during 2026. The following practice issues were raised:

- Lack of provision of training for Social Housing Officers and how this creates issues with recruitment.
- The way properties are built and maintained following Awaab's Law - easing of mould/damp issues and fitness for habitation under the Health and Safety standards and the need to evaluate at how levels of maintenance are kept up for rented properties.
- Lack of housing for homeless people.
- Lots of Housing reform legislation causing concern for those dealing with rental accommodation. The onus is on private landlords to retrofit their properties which is resulting in more private landlords selling off properties.
- Not enough strategy for building new properties. There must be more incentive for people to rent properties and for landlords to offer properties.

No regional bandings for salary requirements for those on visas to work in the UK:

Lauren Cannon, Parliamentary Liaison Officer for LLS raised the changes in immigration rules which came into effect in July this year resulting in increased salary banding for regions who are sponsored by work. This is pushing out talented legal sector professionals, resulting in a lack of competitive edge in regions outside of London. North West England practices cannot match salaries offered by those in London causing an imbalance in distribution of talent regionally.

The Directors of Liverpool Law Society very much value this twice-yearly meeting where it is possible to meet and discuss concerns and developments of mutual interest to our clients, colleagues and constituents alike. As most of you will know, Liverpool Law Society's area covers the Liverpool City Region, Widnes in Halton and Neston in Cheshire West & Chester and we invite representative(s) from this area to meetings. Our meetings with MPs enable us to learn from one another about new legal developments, and the pressing requirements of local residents and how they might be answered. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 13th March 2026.

Anthony Neild
Director of Liverpool Law Society & Public Relations Officer

Liverpool Law Society

Cyber Security: "The Good, The Bad and The Amusing"



In September, delegates attended a roundtable event on cyber security by Aabyss, Liverpool-based IT solutions provider. This event was free for members of Liverpool Law Society.

Topics covered included:

- How to find if your user credentials are in the dark web?
- What's the worst that can happen?
- Are employees secure at work?

Delegates saw a live demo of how easily data can be extracted. There were two speakers from Aabyss:

Andrew Allen, Chairman of Aabyss Ltd, a Liverpool-based IT solutions provider. With a strong background in technology leadership and business transformation, he helps organisations drive growth through digital innovation. A committed advocate for regional enterprise, Andrew is an active contributor to the local business community and a frequent voice on leadership and the future of work.

Robert Gibbons, CRO & Storyteller of Aabyss Ltd and has a particular interest in Cyber Security with a passion to educate user on how to be more secure in the digital world we live in. He's worked on projects with some of the top Cyber influencers in the UK as well as Government partners. Contact Robert at robert.gibbons@aabyss.uk

Liverpool Law Society is grateful to Aabyss for speaking at this roundtable event. To find out more about Aabyss, visit their website here.

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Liverpool Law Society

Council Member's report



Jeremy Myers

The final Council of the 2024-25 year of The Law Society (TLS) took place on 07 and 08 October. I attended online on 07 October and in London on 08 October for the wrap-up session and the AGM.

It was the final meeting for almost one third of the 97 Council members. "Buddy" groups have been established for incoming members – which I found helpful when starting – and I have been allocated to a group to bring on those joining. Council voted to extend by six months the new position of Deputy Chairman of TLS's Board (of 17 members).

Council was informed that the 22,000 or thereabouts Ethnic Minority Solicitors are represented by a cohort elected only by 670 Solicitors whom TLS has established are in that category. This point is being examined by TLS.

Welfare of transgender and non-binary Solicitors continues to be a concern noted by Council.

Regulation also featured as a topic although limited in TLS's role in relation to the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). The Report for the Legal Services Board into the SRA's conduct of supervision of SSB Solicitors had not yet been published when Council met. You will know that that incendiary report has been published. It will be the subject of a special online Council on 29 October.

The question remains live as to whether the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives could succeed in its attempt to be regulated by the SRA. Litigation might yet be required in order to determine this point. TLS is opposed, and I share this view as the SRA has many challenges to meet after its Axiom Ince and SSB failures.

In campaigning mode, TLS continues to lobby strenuously. The Officers have engaged with the newly appointed Lord Chancellor and Justice Secretary **(David Lammy MP)** plus the new Solicitor General **(Ellie Reeves MP)**. The limitation on Government support of Level 7 Apprenticeships to the 16 - 21 years remains a topic on which TLS seeks an age extension.

Confidential areas cannot be disclosed in detail. Topic wise, I can confirm that the subjects of distinct Law in Wales – where I have highlighted the need for training for English Solicitors – plus TLS's Committee of Inquiry into how Solicitors facing Disciplinary action might be supported were covered.

The AGM saw the defeat of the Council proposed motion to increase the threshold for calling a Special; General Meeting from 100 members to 0.5% of the membership, by 52.8% to 48.2%. Immediately on the result being declared, **Richard Atkinson**, the outgoing President, instigated a ballot of the entire membership.

The new officers took up their roles: **Mark Evans** – whom many in Liverpool know from his time in Cheshire and North Wales Law Society and as a senior lecturer in the University of Law – became President. **Brett Dixon** succeeded as Vice President and **Dana Denis-Smith** – elected by Council this year – became Deputy Vice President, all as planned.

A theme running through the opening comments of the row Officers – and the President's Plan for 2025-26 – is welfare of Solicitors. **Mark** referred to the importance of wellbeing to practitioners and **Dana** emphasised that very many people in the profession have responsibilities as carers.

Any comments or suggestions on the Welsh practice point and of course on any issues would be very welcome.

Jeremy Myers

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Liverpool Law Society

A guide to AI in accounting and finance: Benefits and outputs

Artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionising the law sector. Front-office fee earners, and back-office administrators and managers are benefiting from AI-powered automation, generation, prompts, templates, research and analysis, amongst other uses and purposes – with tools continuing to advance at a rapid pace.

Accounting teams are undergoing transformation by utilising AI for the collation, presentation, summarisation and distribution of key management information as well as trend analysis, credit control, VAT procedures, accounts reconciliation and more. AI functionality is replacing previously manual, time-heavy reporting and bookkeeping tasks. So, AI technology is doing the hard work and speeding up processes – in a major way.

As change experts, we're dedicated to helping businesses navigate new technology easily and effectively. Here, we share the benefits and outputs of AI used in an accounting and finance setting.

AI's plentiful advantages for bookkeeping

While the legal cashier's role was traditionally reliant on manual processes and time-consuming checks, AI technologies are delivering improvements to automation, efficiency, speed and accuracy across every aspect of financial management and reporting. The benefits of AI in bookkeeping include:

- **Time savings on manual finance tasks**: AI automates routine duties like bank reconciliations, transaction postings and ledger updates – freeing up time for higher-priority tasks.
- **Increased efficiency in financial processes**: AI streamlines finance workflows thereby reducing duplication and delays in payments, invoices and account management.
- **Greater productivity across the finance team**: By handling high-volume, repetitive tasks, AI enables legal cashiers to manage larger workloads with fewer errors and lower stress.
- **Improved profitability through faster processing**: Quicker and more accurate financial operations help reduce write-offs, improve billing cycles and ultimately boost profitability.
- **Smarter financial reporting and insights**: AI tools give real-time financial data analysis so bookkeepers can share timely, accurate reports for better decision-making.
- **Stronger cash flow via AI-driven credit control**: AI can flag overdue accounts, automate reminders and prioritise collections for healthier cash flow overall.
- **Up-to-date financials at your fingertips**: AI ensures financial data is always current, with live updates across ledgers, bank accounts and WIP, all of which is crucial for reporting and compliance.
- **Assured regulatory compliance**: AI supports compliance with accounting rules and other regulations by tracking client money, automating breach alerts and maintaining audit trails.
- **Less mistakes and reduced risk**: AI reduces oversights in postings, invoicing, reconciliations and calculations to enhance accuracy and decreased regulatory jeopardy.
- **Augmented collaboration with fee earners, suppliers, clients and other stakeholders**: With AI improving access to financial data and documents, cashiers can more easily support stakeholders with insights, forecasts and performance updates.

Top tips for optimum AI outputs

With AI, it's not just about using the tools – it's about using them wisely. AI delivers its best results when guided with precision, context and clarity. Optimising your approach enhances AI's performance for smarter, reliable results:

- **Ask long form AI questions**. Results will be comprehensive and complete if you use specific requests. Talk to your AI engine the same way you'd speak to an assistant using layman's language.
- **Undertake due diligence on answers as you can't be 100% confident**. The volume of cases against law firms using false citations in court documents is growing. These are known as 'AI hallucinations'. The same issues apply to financial reporting. Relying upon AI-produced reports without checking data sources and results through robust controls, audit and oversight is dangerous.
- **Seek AI tools with built-in capabilities to verify results**. Every AI system comes with the disclaimer that it's generated by AI and hasn't been verified by an actual person. There are kits which have the option to get a qualified individual to check results for accuracy.
- **Create a secure matter in your case management software as a report-storing hub**. Simply lock down access to designated individuals. It makes your AI outputs easy to access while maintaining data privacy.
- **Give your AI sufficient time to ingest inputs before requesting outputs. AI learns quickly so you won't have long to wait**. And note how the quality of these inputs directly shapes the quality of your outputs. The adage 'rubbish in, rubbish out' applies here.
- **Remember practice makes perfect**. The best way to learn the new skill of AI querying is to do it. Keep practising, rewording and refining until your prompts achieve maximum outputs. Through trial and error, become proficient in AI and uncover its true possibilities.

AI is empowering significant wins for finance professionals by interacting with these tools capably and responsibly.

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Liverpool Law Society

Equality & Employment Law Centre

The latest news from the Equality and Employment Law Centre



The EAEL team

It's been an incredibly busy few months for the team at the Equality and Employment Law Centre, with the pace of change showing no signs of slowing down. We've relocated our offices from Dale Street to our new office on Myrtle Street, and our calendar has been packed with events which we have actively participated in including the Fabian Society, Society of Labour Lawyers, Bar Council, and Social Enterprise Mission Driven Business fringe sessions at the Labour Party Conference. Despite the rain, we completed the Legal Walk, and we're proud to have secured the face-to-face contract for discrimination law under the Legal Aid Conference.

In addition, we submitted evidence to the Government's Justice Committee inquiry into access to justice, contributed to research on how legal aid providers deliver legal help and responded to the Department for Business and Trade's call for evidence on the opt-out collective actions regime.

LLS Employment Law Conference

We also attended the Liverpool Law Society Employment Conference, continuing our commitment to staying engaged and informed across the sector.

In a sector defined by constant change, staying informed isn't optional—it's essential. The recent Employment Law Conference held by Liverpool Law Society at Taylor Wessing's stunning Royal Albert Dock offices was a powerful reminder of the rapid pace of change in the legal sector. Our team at the Equality and Employment Law Centre was proud to attend, leaving not only with the latest legal updates but also with renewed inspiration and practical strategies for the year ahead.

Running from 9:30am to 3:20pm, the conference delivered a dynamic and expertly curated agenda that tackled the most pressing developments in employment law. It struck a thoughtful balance between headline legal reforms and hands-on advice for practitioners. Chaired by **Henry Sturm**—whose passion for inclusive workplaces set the tone—the day was a compelling blend of policy insight and people-focused discussion. The event covered major legislative updates, case law, practical guidance for employment tribunals, and workplace inclusion.

Learning and development is a strategic priority for our organisation and this event proved to be an outstanding day of learning, networking, and professional development.

The conference delivered a dynamic agenda, presented by expert barristers, employment judges and practitioners expertly curated to address the most pressing developments in employment law.

Highlights included:

Employment Rights Bill and its passage into law

David Flood, Barrister at St Johns Buildings, delivered a compelling and enlightening overview of the Employment rights Bill outlining its core aims, headline reforms, and implementation roadmap . The session provided timely updates following the publication in July 25 of the governments road map for the delivering its "Plan to Make Work Pay" Implementing the Employment Rights Bill - GOV.UK. The session offered valuable context on how these reforms are expected to unfold and impact workplaces.

This is the biggest shake-up to employment law in a generation. Whether you're an employee or an employer, the sweeping changes proposed in the new Employment Rights Bill will affect you.

We learnt from **David** that this isn't a minor update: it's a 330-page legislative overhaul, divided into six parts, 163 sections, and 12 schedules, set to reshape the world of work and strengthen much needed workers rights.

As an organisation primarily supporting claimants, the Equality and Employment Law Centre welcomes the Bill's ambition to put fairness back at the heart of the workplace.

David explained that implementation will be rolled out from April 2026 through to 2027, with some key reforms—such as extending the tribunal limitation period from three to six months—not expected until 2027.

As employment law practitioners, we

are deeply disappointed by this delay. Through our free employment advice line regularly supports workers who are unaware they have just three months less one day to bring a claim. Extending this deadline would significantly improve access to justice.

David's session broke down the Bill's structure:

- **Part 1**: Employment rights
- **Part 2**: Employer duties relating to areas such as redundancy and equality-related matters
- **Part 3**: Pay and conditions in specific sectors
- **Part 4**: Trade union rights and workplace access

Among the most impactful changes we learnt:

- **Statutory sick pay** will be available from day one, and the earnings threshold will be removed—making it accessible to all and easing the financial stress of short-term illness.
- **Fire and rehire practices** will be addressed, tackling a widespread issue that leaves workers vulnerable to worse contract terms.
- **Third-party harassment protections** will be reintroduced, covering incidents involving customers or clients.
- **Unfair dismissal rights** will be strengthened, including the abolition of the two-year qualifying period.
- **Zero-hours contracts** will be regulated, with new rights to guaranteed hours.
- **Trade union access** will be expanded, ensuring better representation and workplace democracy.

David's session was not only informative but also practical. He emphasised that employers must prepare for more robust consultation processes—no more "tick box" exercises. Meaningful engagement with staff will be essential when handling redundancies or contract changes.

The government currently has open consultation in 3 areas under the Employment Rights Act :

- **Duty to inform workers of their right to join a union** (open until 18 December 2025)
- **Enhanced dismissal protections for pregnant women and new mothers** (open until 15 January 2026)
- **Bereavement leave, including pregnancy loss** (open until 15 January 2026)

At the Equality and Employment Law Centre, we believe these reforms have the potential to benefit millions of workers—particularly those in lowpaid and insecure work. Our advice line remains a vital service for workers who are often the backbone of our society, yet frequently underpaid, underprotected, and unaware of their rights. This includes for example : restaurant and catering staff, cleaners, care workers, warehouse operatives, shop assistants, and security guards—many of whom lack union representation and access to early legal advice.

These are the workers who support and enrich our daily lives. We can only hope that funding continues to support our essential work—because without early legal advice, even the best laws risk becoming ineffective.

We also know that fairer, safer workplaces don't just empower workers—they deliver real value to employers too, who benefit from increased productivity, reduced turnover, and motivated staff. As the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) puts it, *"Healthy workplaces help people to flourish and reach their potential, benefiting both employees and the organisation"*

David Flood's session was a standout moment at the conference, offering both clarity and a dose of reality. This landmark legislation has the potential to redefine workplace protections for years to come, promising a fairer, safer, and more inclusive future for millions. Let's hope the Bill passes in full and doesn't emerge as a watered-down version by 2027.

David Campion (Nine Chambers) delivered a timely and thought-provoking session on the use of Generative AI in Employment Tribunal proceedings—an increasingly relevant topic as AI begins to reshape the legal landscape. He explored how generative AI is influencing employment law practice and highlighted both its potential and its pitfalls.



Ellie Reeves

David was clear: AI is not a search engine. *"It's not reasoning or understanding your question,"* he explained. *"It's simply predicting the most likely next word."* He cited the high-profile *Deloitte* incident in Australia, where a report for the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations included fabricated academic references, non-existent quotes, and even a misspelled Judge's name—all due to uncritical use of generative AI. The firm later admitted to relying on AI to produce the report.

While AI can be a powerful tool for legal research, drafting, translation, and document preparation, **David** stressed the importance of understanding its limitations. Generative AI operates on static knowledge—often outdated by one or two years—and may not reflect current case law or legislation. This poses a real risk, especially as more litigants in person begin using AI tools, sometimes referencing overruled or fictitious cases.

He warned that over-reliance on AI

can undermine professional skills, erode critical thinking, and lead to poor legal judgment. *"Everything we produce must be grounded in professional expertise,"* he said, *"with AI used only as a secondary assistance device."* Sole reliance on AI risks deploying fake case law, introducing bias from training data, and incurring wasted costs. **David** cited *Ayinde v The London Borough of Haringey*, where reliance on fabricated case law led to wasted costs orders against both counsel and solicitor.

Key risks include:

- Undermining professional judgment and legal reasoning.
- Reduced critical thinking, especially among junior practitioners.
- Bias and inaccuracies in AI-generated content.
- Security concerns, depending on the platform used.
- Reputational and financial risks, including wasted costs and ethical breaches.

David also highlighted the importance of knowing which platform your organisation uses, as some are more accurate and secure than others. He noted that AI is poised to transform areas like evidence management, real-time transcription, and decision-making support—but these advances must be balanced with concerns around transparency, fairness, judgement and access to justice.

Practical takeaways:

- Understand how AI works and the differences between platforms like ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Claude and sector-specific legal tools.
- Use AI to enhance—not replace—professional expertise.
- Maintain rigorous standards of review and verification.
- Be cautious of AI-generated content, especially in legal submissions.

Neurodiversity in the Workplace: Embracing ADHD with Inclusion and Insight

In a powerful session led by disability advocate **Snoof** from The Brain Charity, the conversation centred on meaningful inclusion for neurodivergent individuals—particularly those with ADHD. Snoof highlighted the often-overlooked reality of executive dysfunction, a core trait of ADHD that affects the ability to initiate tasks, prioritise, and break down steps. This can be misinterpreted by others as laziness or lack of motivation, contributing to harmful stereotypes and low self-esteem.

She offered an insightful explanation of what ADHD is, how it affects the brain, and the different types of ADHD. **Snoof** described the neurological underpinnings of ADHD, particularly the role of dopamine, which influences motivation, attention, and reward processing. She used a memorable analogy: *"If you don't put petrol in your car, then your car isn't going anywhere—and you're left wondering why you're not moving."*

Referencing *Armstrong* (2010), she explained: *"People with ADHD seem to have lower levels of dopamine in the brain, causing a kind of chronic hunger for stimulation. People with ADHD are actually under-stimulated."*

Snoof urged employers to adopt a strength-based approach, focusing on what neurodivergent staff do well rather than what they struggle with. This means recognising the value of diverse thinking styles and creating environments where those differences are not just tolerated, but actively welcomed.

A critical point she raised was that reasonable adjustments—such as flexible working patterns, assistive technology, or tailored support—should not be refused if external funding options like Access to Work have not been fully explored.

Access to Work is a government-funded scheme in the UK that provides financial support for disabled people in employment. It can cover the cost of workplace adaptations, specialist equipment, support workers, and even travel to and from work if public transport is inaccessible. Employers are encouraged to engage with the scheme before claiming that adjustments are unaffordable, ensuring that financial barriers do not stand in the way of inclusion.

At the Equality and Employment Law Centre, we know from the many disability discrimination cases we run that a significant number involving neurodivergent clients—particularly those with ADHD—could have been avoided if employers had a better understanding of their responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010. A lack of awareness around the benefits of schemes like Access to Work, and a failure to recognise the strengths neurodivergent staff bring to the workplace, often leads to unnecessary conflict. The cost of not creating inclusive workplaces goes far beyond financial settlements or legal fees—it includes disruption to teams, loss of talent, and a very real human cost in terms of stress, exclusion, and diminished wellbeing. Proactive inclusion isn't just the right thing to do—it's essential for building resilient, respectful, and high-performing organisations.

Snoof reminded us that conversations around neurodiversity often focus on challenges rather than strengths. She emphasised that we rarely talk about what neurodivergent people are good at—and as a result, their unique skills and talents can be overlooked. Instead of centring workplace adjustments solely around deficits, she advocated for building environments where everyone fits in, and where diverse cognitive styles are recognised as assets. By shifting the narrative to one of capability and contribution, organisations can foster cultures that truly value difference and unlock the full potential of their teams.

Further insightful sessions were delivered as follows:

Tribunals Update by Employment Judge **Nicky Benson**, offering insights into recent reforms, digitisation, and legal developments affecting employment tribunals.



An Expert's Guide to Interim Relief in the Employment Tribunal by **Dan Northall KC** (Littleton Chambers), a practical session on urgent remedies in employment disputes.

Religion and Belief Discrimination – Where Are We After Higgs? by **Andrew Edge** (KBW), examining recent case law and its impact on workplace equality.

Legal Round Up by **Martin Mensah**, Barrister (Nine Chambers), reviewing key employment law cases from the past year.

Martin delivered a succinct and engaging legal round up to close the Liverpool Law Society Employment Conference. Far from being the "graveyard shift," **Martin's** session was lively and thought-provoking, with a selection of six recent cases that provided practical applications for advice and strategy. The cases were genuinely interesting, and the accompanying handouts—complete with references—were excellent take-home resources for further reading and reflection.

A key theme was the complexity of cases involving neurodiverse clients or litigants in person with mental health challenges. Martin highlighted that while some cases may appear straightforward on paper, they often require greater effort and time in preparation and hearing. Litigants in person, especially those with neurodiversity or mental health issues, may present their cases in ways that demand careful attention from advisers and the tribunal. Judges may scrutinise such cases with a fine-tooth comb, meaning hearings that typically last half a day can take much longer.

Among the six cases discussed, *Vessey v Richmond Photography EAT 135* stood out for its lessons on amendment applications and case management. The claimant's application to amend was not in precise legal terms and was granted based on a note produced at the hearing. This led to issues at the preliminary hearing, underlining the importance of:

- Ensuring all amendments are clearly defined and produced in writing before being determined.
- Agreeing a thorough list of issues as a roadmap for the hearing, leaving no room for ambiguity or shifting goalposts.
- Pinning down both parties at the case management stage to avoid surprises later.

Martin's round up also stressed that tribunals are increasingly faced with litigants in person who may not use explicit legal terminology or set out protected characteristics clearly. Advisers should prepare for tribunals to take a holistic view of the context and cumulative effect of management actions, especially in discrimination and victimisation claims.

Practical takeaways included:

- Focus evidence on the strongest arguments and avoid unnecessary detail on points likely to be accepted.
- Prepare bundles, witness statements, and skeleton arguments meticulously—especially important where clients may struggle with communication or organisation.
- Be alive to the need for reasonable adjustments and inclusive practices throughout tribunal proceedings.

Overall, Martin Mensah's session was a fitting conclusion to a highly informative day—engaging, relevant, and packed with actionable insights. The quality of the handouts and references provided delegates with valuable tools for further learning, ensuring that everyone left with practical strategies for future tribunal work.

Speaker Quality: Engaging and Expert
The quality of the speakers was outstanding. Each session was delivered by leading practitioners, judges, and barristers with deep expertise in their fields. Presentations were not only highly relevant but also engaging and accessible, sparking lively discussions during lunch and breaks. Importantly, every session offered practical takeaways for all attendees.

We found the day particularly inspiring and, like many other delegates, felt that this was an engaging and expertly delivered conference. It motivated us to revisit the case studies and listen to the recordings again. We left feeling energised and better informed to navigate the ongoing challenges in the ever-changing world of work. Liverpool Law Society did a fantastic job organising this exceptional event.

Our Experience

We thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the day. The conference was incredibly well organised—everything ran exactly on time, and the venue provided an ideal setting for both learning and networking. We are especially grateful for the "not for profit" reduced rate, which made it possible for organisations like ours to attend.

A huge thank you to the Liverpool Law Society organisers and speakers for such a brilliant event. We look forward to putting what we learned into practice and to attending again next year! When we hope that the Employment Rights Bill has made good progress enhancing workers rights.

Liverpool Law Society

Lady Simler appointed as President of the Expert Witness Institute

EXPERT WITNESS INSTITUTE



Dame Ingrid Simler

The Expert Witness Institute is delighted to announce that Lady Simler, Justice of the Supreme Court, was appointed as President of the Institute on 15th October 2025.

Lady Simler was called to the Bar by Inner Temple in 1987, having read law at Cambridge University, and completed a post-graduate diploma in EU law at the Europa Institute, University of Amsterdam. She practised at the Bar at Devereux Chambers where she became Head of Chambers before becoming a judge. During her time at Devereux she was a member of the Attorney General's Civil Panel A and was Junior Counsel to the Inland Revenue (Common Law) between 2002 and her appointment to silk in 2006.

She became a Judge of the High Court King's Bench Division in October 2013. In January 2015 she was appointed President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal for a three-year term which ended on 31 December 2018.

Having served as High Court Liaison Judge for Diversity she was appointed chair of the Diversity Committee of the Judges' Council in 2019. She also served as a member of the Civil Executive Team chaired by the Deputy Head of Civil Justice, reporting to the Master of the Rolls. She was sworn in as a Lady Justice of the Court of Appeal in June 2019. She was appointed as a Justice of the Supreme Court in November 2023.

Lady Simler succeeds The **Right Hon Lord Hodge**, Deputy President of the Supreme Court who became president in 2020 and stepped down as he is due to retire from the Supreme Court at the end of the year.

EWI Chair, **Sir Martin Spencer**, said *"We are thrilled to welcome Lady Simler as our new President. She has already demonstrated a strong interest in the role of experts, expert evidence and the work of the Institute. We look forward to working with her and bringing her strategic insight to the organisation and membership."*

Lady Simler said *"It is a pleasure and a privilege to have been asked to take over from Lord Hodge as president of the Expert Witness Institute. There is a strong public interest in the work performed by experts and the justice system depends on expert evidence being both impartial and of the highest quality it can be. The EWI has an important role to play in supporting this and I look forward to working with the EWI and taking forward the excellent work done by my predecessor, Lord Hodge."*

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MR RICHARD GUY

MBChB MD FRCS FRCS(Gen)

COLORECTAL & GENERAL SURGEON

Cardiff University BondSolon Civil Expert Witness Certificate AWARDED 2009

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



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Liverpool Law Society

Regulation Update November 2025

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

With the clocks going back and the days growing shorter, we bring the autumn season to a close and look ahead to the final weeks of the year. It's a natural moment for reflection and preparation, as Compli continues to navigate through an ever-evolving regulatory landscape and anticipate what's to come. With the 'revelations' prior to and at the recent SRA COLP and COFA conference, there was confirmation, if you needed it, that there's never a dull moment in the world of regulation and compliance!

AML

Change of AML regulator

When the news broke just before lunch at the SRA COLP and COFA conference on 21 October, that the FCA will take over AML supervision from the SRA of over 6000 law firms in scope of MLR, it was one of the main topics of discussion, with much speculation as to what the effect would be when the FCA becomes the Single Professional Services Supervisor (SPSS) for AML. The speculation has continued in the legal media, LinkedIn etc with discussion around increased costs, duplication, legal professional privilege, confidentiality, potential conflict, whether the SRA will retain its wider responsibilities in relation to prevention of economic crime etc. and there was comment that the FCA is known for robust enforcement. As yet, we don't know when the change will take place but, for now, you should ensure you are complying with all the requirements, you are prepared if the SRA contacts you and you are in as good a position as you can be when the FCA takes over. This includes keeping your firm wide risk assessments (FWRA) and AML policies, controls, and procedures (PCPs) up to date and followed 'on the ground', regular training, and that you have carried out an independent AML audit. If you need any assistance, please contact us *compli@weightmans.com*.

SRA AML report 2024-25

At the conference, some details were provided of the most recent AML report which is being published soon. There has been an increase in AML oversight (visits, desk reviews etc) from 545 firms in 2023-24, to 864 'pro-active engagements' in 2024-25, which included 317 inspections and 516 desk based reviews, and inspections of independent AML audits. 30% of firms were not compliant and 451 were only partially compliant. Common non-compliant areas were client and matter risk assessments (CMRA), source of funds, PCPs and FWRA.

AML information for clients

The SRA has published a client information sheet, referred to in the section 'Your AML obligations', updated 17 October to help explain why identity and financial checks are required which it says can be shared with clients, but which can be found in the 'For the public' section' SRA | Anti-money laundering: What you need to know | Solicitors Regulation Authority As far as we can see, that is the only update to the 'Your AML obligations' section.

SRA next thematic review

The next thematic review the SRA will be carrying out early 2026 will be on Regulation 19 - PCPs,, including monitoring and management of compliance with PCPs, and the disconnect between polices and what's happening on the ground.

SRA AML data collection exercise

The SRA have confirmed that more than 97% of firms completed the AML and sanctions data collection exercise, which closed on 15 August. Those firms in scope who didn't return the information have been contacted and may face regulatory action.

SSB Law report

The long-awaited independent report commissioned by the LSB into the SSB debacle was published shortly before the SRA conference and was another topic discussed by delegates, and in a number of sessions. The SRA had received more than 100 complaints about the firm's handling of claims but failed to deal with them and failed to heed its own warning notice about firms dealing with cavity wall claims. SSB went into administration in January 2024 with debts of over £200m. The report was more critical of the SRA than last year's Axiom Ince report. The LSB said the SRA failed to protect clients and weakened trust and confidence in the regulation of legal services. In contrast to its response to the Axiom Ince report, the SRA apologised and has accepted all the recommendations. **Anna Bradley**, Chair of the SRA said: *"We are sorry that we did not act more quickly in relation to SSB, and that issues in our handling contributed to the harm and distress suffered by the many vulnerable consumers affected."* On being asked at the conference about the findings, **Ms Bradley** made it clear that she would not be resigning as the SRA needed stability and she would stay to assist the

new CE who joins the SRA in November. The conclusions could though lead to additional powers for the SRA to question firms on the type of work carried out, reliance on certain practice areas and arrangements with funders. **Paul Philip**, Chief Executive said that the SRA needs to be proactive and carry out more inspections to deal with the risks before they happen, referring to high risk areas including conveyancing, immigration and high-volume consumer claims.

FCA consultation on motor finance claims

The FCA has published a 360-page consultation paper on its proposed redress scheme for motor finance claims, which includes a proposal that those claiming would receive approximately £700 per eligible agreement. The FCA does not believe consumers need to use law firms or CMCs to make claims and aims to discourage consumers from pursuing potentially higher compensation depending on the facts of the case, but they would receive less once legal fees are taken into account.

New practice notes and guidance

SRA guidance

The SRA has published the following updated guidance since our previous update:

- Firm authorisation: SRA | Firm authorisation | Solicitors Regulation Authority

Law Society practice notes

- Mazur and the conduct of litigation | Mazur and the conduct of litigation | The Law Society
- Providing services and taking on roles outside your practice as a solicitor | Providing services and taking on roles outside your practice as a solicitor | The Law Society
- In-house practice: regulatory requirements | In-house practice: regulatory requirements | The Law Society
- Setting up a practice: regulatory requirements Setting up a practice: regulatory requirements | The Law Society
- Supervision | Supervision | The Law Society
- Alternative business structures Alternative business structures | The Law Society
- Information on letterheads, emails and websites Information on letterheads, emails and websites | The Law Society

Disciplinary and regulatory decisions

Struck off for serious misconduct

A non-practicing solicitor who sent misleading information to his client, filed a misleading witness statement at court about relevant evidence, made untrue representations and failed to disclose material documents has been stuck off and ordered to pay £7,500 costs in an agreed outcome.

Senior partner fined for inadequate property sale supervision

A senior partner was fined £40,000, as well as being ordered to pay £28,000 in costs, for failing to supervise a junior solicitor in a residential property sale for vulnerable clients, leading to inadequate enquiries, risk advice and consent issues.

Solicitor suspended for poor supervision in immigration sting

A solicitor was suspended for failing to provide supervision in an office where a caseworker allegedly encouraged falsified asylum claims. Suspending the solicitor for a period of nine months with indefinite practice conditions on his practice for an indefinite period to commence at the end of the suspension, the SDT said: *"The respondent's supervision, as described in his evidence, was woeful and lacked substance and structure. There were no spot checks, no reviews of file volumes, no monitoring of invoices or billing practices, and no evidence of compliance oversight in areas such as client care, money laundering, or scope of work."* He was ordered to pay £35,000 for costs.

Struck off for concealing case failure

A solicitor was struck off for concealing from the client for ten years that her clinical negligence claim had been dismissed as he failed to issue in time, and settling another claim without the client's instructions or authority, and then not paying the settlement to the client for over a year. The solicitor, who was also the COLP made an agreed outcome with the SRA which was approved by the SDT and he was ordered to pay £10,000 costs.

Partner cleared of misconduct despite misleading emails

The SDT dismissed allegations against a litigation partner, finding that emails, while carelessly worded and misleading to the client, did not amount to misconduct and there was no lack of integrity or dishonesty. The solicitor was ordered to pay a third of the costs sought by the SRA as he said the self-report in which admissions were made had been drafted by someone else, and he resiled from them, and he accepted some of the shortcomings in his actions.

How Compli can help...

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

Andrea Cohen
Compli,
Weightmans LLP

Liverpool Law Society

Charity Spotlight: Mary's Meals





Buhle

About Mary's Meals

In 2002, Mary's Meals Founder, **Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow**, visited Malawi during a time of terrible famine and met **Emma**, a mother of six young children who was tragically dying of AIDS. When **Magnus** asked her eldest son, Edward, what his dreams were in life, he replied simply: *"To have enough food to eat and to be able to go to school one day."* Inspired by Edward's moving words, Mary's Meals was born. In that first year, the charity provided nutritious meals to a group of 200 children every day they attended school in Malawi.

Today, more than 20 years later, Mary's Meals serves more than three million children a daily school meal across some of the world's poorest communities in 16 countries, including Malawi, Ethiopia and Haiti.

Conflict, climate change, and rising food costs are just three seismic challenges faced daily by communities living in the countries where Mary's Meals operates its school feeding programme. Many of these families earn below the international poverty line of just $2.15 per day and often go a whole day without anything to eat. Through food and education, Mary's Meals works with communities to provide a ladder out of poverty and hope for a brighter future.



Feeding Dreams for the Future

In schools where meals are served by the charity, impact research shows that hunger is reduced, enrolment increases, attendance improves, drop-out rates fall, absences dwindle, parents are less anxious, and children are happier.

One of the three million children receiving a nutritious meal every school day is 11-year-old **Buhle** from Zimbabwe. After losing both her parents, **Buhle** went to live with her aunt, **Girl**. But with six children to feed, the family faces daily challenges putting enough food on the table. Prolonged drought in this region of Zimbabwe has wiped out their livestock, and supplies are so stretched that most days the children don't eat before going to school.

A daily serving of nutritious Mary's Meals porridge (enriched with vitamins and minerals) brings **Buhle** to school each day and gives her the energy to focus in class so she can achieve her dream of becoming a pilot. With support from donors, more children like **Buhle** can be helped to achieve their dreams. She says: *"The porridge being at school gives us the chance to concentrate. I can now read and then I can pass and get nearer to becoming a pilot."*

The Low-Cost Charity

It costs just £19.15 to feed a hungry child every day for a school year, and only 10 pence to provide a nutritious school meal. This is only possible because of an incredible network of volunteers who give their time and skills to help feed hungry children.

In the countries where the charity operates, volunteers rise early to prepare nutritious meals for children in their communities. Across the UK, volunteers play a vital role in growing support for the charity's work through what Mary's Meals calls 'little acts of love'.

Liverpool Law Society

Little Acts of Love in Liverpool

One of the Liverpool volunteers helping to spread the word of Mary's Meals' mission locally is **David Holroyd** from Formby, choir master of Amadeus: The Chamber Choir. Over the past 15 years, the group has raised more than £50,000 for the charity through a variety of fundraisers.



David says: *"Liverpool people are incredibly generous, and I think that's why they connect so strongly with Mary's Meals. They know that the money they give goes straight to feeding children, with only a tiny fraction spent on administration. That transparency makes it a charity people trust and feel proud to support, especially in times when every penny counts."*



Anna Houghton, Supporter Engagement Officer for Liverpool at Mary's Meals, says: *"The charity is so grateful for the amazing efforts of David and the choir and their fellow volunteers and supporters throughout Liverpool. Their dedication has helped to transform the lives of so many children through the gift of daily meals and education.*

"The charity is already reaching three million children every school day – and, together, with your support, we can reach more hungry children."

How to Support Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals' vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education and that all those who have more than they need share with those who lack even the most basic things. The charity encourages those who share this vision to offer their time, money, skills, or prayers to help reach out in love to those experiencing the effects of food poverty.

It costs less than £20 to feed a child every day for a school year with Mary's Meals. For those unable to donate at this time, there are many other ways to support the mission, including fundraising, volunteering, or simply sharing the story of Mary's Meals with others.

To find out how you can help, visit www.marysmeals.org.uk





Liverpool Law Society

Forthcoming Courses

NEW
MULTI DELEGATE DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS

In September we launched our brand-new members-only benefit - booking multiple delegates on the same legal training course will enjoy substantial discounts, making it ideal for teams looking to learn together or firms aiming to of- fer equal training opportunities across departments.
This offer cannot be used in conjunction with the Training Passport.

DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
11/11/2025	SRA Business Competencies Intermediate Level (3 year PQE +)	Keith Harper
19/11/2025	Conference for Legal Cashiers & Managers	Various
21/11/2025	Looking after you too – Building resilience and wellbeing	Denise Chilton
25/11/2025	Allotting and issuing shares – a How To Guide	Jackie Sheldon
27/11/2025	AI in Legal Services: Foundations and Future	Various
02/12/2025	All About Alphabet Shares	Jackie Sheldon
03/12/2025	Trusts: Drafting to Distribution	Rebecca Roscoe
04/12/2025	Will Drafting & Estate Planning Update	Prof Lesley King
10/12/2025	Introduction to Estate Administration	Rebecca Roscoe
11/12/2025	Staying Ahead on AML & Compliance Standards: 2025 Insights and 2026 Priorities	Tracy Thompson

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

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

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

Liverpool Law Society

Company & Commercial

PSC Register Requirements – the Fundamentals

with Jackie Sheldon

Online, 4th November, 1.00pm - 2.30pm



This online course will examine the fundamental requirements in relation to the People With Significant Control regime in order to ensure your clients remain compliant with the current legislation. As well as the key elements of the legislation, it will also explain the latest position in relation to identity verification requirements and other key issues for PSC's under the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 ('ECCTA').

This course is appropriate for solicitors, accountants, and company secretaries who advise companies in relation to the PSC regime.

BOOK NOW

Liverpool Law Society

Management

SRA Business Competencies Intermediate Level (3 year PQE +)

with Keith Harper

In Person, 11th November, 9.30am - 4.30pm



The SRA defines competence as "the ability to perform the roles and tasks required by one's job to the expected standard". Three of the four SRA competency areas for solicitors are non-technical. The highest levels of technical skills are expected by clients, therefore the non-technical competencies are often what makes the crucial difference both to clients and the performance of the firm.

This intermediate level course is aimed at 3+ PQE lawyers with some existing management/supervision responsibilities within their firms, or those about to assume them. The session will deliver the business skills required to meet the SRA standards and to improve the performance of the firm.

BOOK NOW

Liverpool Law Society

Legal Finance in focus - From Cashiering to Compliance

The Legal Finance in Focus conference offers legal professionals a 360° view of financial duties in modern legal practice. This conference is a 'must attend' for; Legal Cashiers, COFAs, Practice Managers & Finance Directors.

November 19, 2025, 9.30am till 3.00pm
Hybrid - Attend In Person or Online

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Sessions include a review of the SRA Accounts Rules, highlighting increased expectations in the wake of recent high-profile failures; The Cashflow Conundrum: The Real Cost of Poor Credit Control; and Should You Incorporate? Exploring the Merits of Transferring Your Law Firm to a Limited Company. Additional topics include Securing Financial Management in Law Firms. Attendees will also learn how to use AI tools to enhance LinkedIn profiles and streamline everyday tasks, and get up to date on AML compliance, including source of funds and wealth checks.

SPEAKERS

- DAVID FLOOD, ST JOHNS BUILDINGS
- DAVID CAMPION, NINE CHAMBERS
- EMPLOYMENT JUDGE NICKY BENSON
- ANDREW EDGE, KBW
- SNOOF, THE BRAIN CHARITY
- MARTIN MENSAH, NINE CHAMBERS

BOOK NOW

Liverpool Law Society

Management

Looking after you too – Building resilience & wellbeing

with Denise Chilton

Online, 21st November, 12.00pm - 1.30pm



By the end of the bite sized session, you will have some practical tips about how to:

- Prioritise your time when everything is urgent
- Healthy boundaries – How to say "yes" more slowly!
- Manage your energy levels and stay out of overwhelm

Denise Chilton is an award winning commercially aware executive career coach and leadership development specialist who for the last 15 years has been providing coaching and training programmes for leaders, managers, specialists and future talent working within professional services organisations both nationally and internationally.

BOOK NOW

Liverpool Law Society

Company & Commercial

Allotting and issuing shares – a How To Guide

with Jackie Sheldon

Online, 25th November, 1.00pm - 2.30pm



This online course will provide a step-by-step guide to allotting and issuing shares under the Companies Act 2006 ("CA 2006").

This online course will cover the following:

- The step-by-step procedure for allotting shares (including for companies that pre-date the CA 2006) (including an analysis of the legal considerations and consequences for failure to follow procedure)
- Filings following a share issue
- Considerations by the board/board minutes

This course is appropriate for anyone involved in advising UK companies on issuing shares/preparing the documentation for share issues for private limited companies.

BOOK NOW

Liverpool Law Society

AI in Legal Services: Foundations and Future

November 27th 2025, 4.00pm till 6.30pm
In Person Event

ABOUT THE EVENT

Are you part of an SME and unsure how AI could fit into your business? This event is designed specifically for professionals like you, those with limited experience in artificial intelligence but curious about its potential. At this session you will hear from North West industry experts and gain insights into the foundations of AI, including what we know so far and how it's already being used in the legal sector. The sessions will explore the potential benefits of adopting AI in your firm, key data and regulatory considerations, and shine a light on the "Black Box" challenge in AI in legal practice. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and network informally with others exploring similar ideas.

SPEAKERS

EDMUND CHAN, HILL DICKINSON

CATRIONA WOLFENDEN, WEIGHTMANS

OLIVIA WYLD, TAYLOR WESSING

JOSH BATES, FREETH LLP

DR. ALISON LUI, LJMU

BOOK NOW

Liverpool Law Society

Company & Commercial

All About Alphabet Shares

with Jackie Sheldon

Online, 2nd December, 1.00pm - 2.30pm



This online course will provide an understanding surrounding share classes (including a discussion of different types of shares and an appreciation of class rights). It will practically identify how to create a different class of share and provide a step-by-step guide to follow.

This online course will cover the following:

- Analysis of different classes of shares and examples of methods to draft share particulars
- Extracts from real life articles of association showing how different share classes may be used (and appreciation of why Alphabet Shares may be utilised in practice)
- Case law on alphabet shares
- Practical process to create different classes
- Variation of class rights

This course is appropriate for paralegals, junior solicitors, accountants or company secretaries that are involved in advising on share capital.

BOOK NOW

Liverpool Law Society

Wills, Trust, Tax and Probate

Trusts: Drafting to Distribution

with Rebecca Roscoe

Online, 3rd December, 9.30am - 4.30pm



This course is designed to develop the practitioners understanding of both will and lifetime trusts and will help them to have confidence when drafting trusts as well as running the trust up until the final distribution.

This course will cover:

- What is a trust and why do we use them?
- Creating a valid trust and effective drafting
- Characteristics and features of different trusts
- Taxation (IHT, CGT and income tax)
- Trustees; powers and duties
- Administering a trust effectively
- Dealing with mistakes
- Bringing the trust to an end

BOOK NOW

Liverpool Law Society

Wills, Trust, Tax and Probate

Introduction to Estate Administration

with Professor Lesley King

Online, 4th December, 11.15am - 1.15pm



Nobody wants to draft a will which gives rise to litigation or which fails to meet the needs of the deceased and family. It is particularly important at the moment to draft flexibly to allow provisions to be adapted if changes in legislation make it desirable.

Problems often arise as a result of failure to take initial precautions and failures of communication. 'Deathbed' wills provide particular challenges. This session will suggest some routine processes and procedures which can minimise the risks.

Many clients worry about the possibility of 1975 Act claims. The decision in Sim v Pimlott provides a possible route to minimising the risk.

The session will also consider how to approach will drafting and estate planning in the light of the changes coming to the treatment of undrawn pension funds and the cap on business and agricultural property relief.

BOOK NOW

Liverpool Law Society

Wills, Trust, Tax and Probate

Introduction to Estate Administration

with Rebecca Roscoe

Online, 10th December, 9.30am - 4.30pm



This is an introductory course will be of benefit to practitioners who want to understand the process of estate administration from taking instructions to closing your file following the final distribution.

The focus for this course will be non-taxable estates and will consider:

- Taking instruction
- Gathering information
- Applying for the Grant
- Post-grant
- Income and Capital Gains Tax during the administration
- Accounts and distribution
- Simple Deeds of variation

BOOK NOW

Liverpool Law Society

Management

Staying Ahead on AML & Compliance Standards: 2025 Insights and 2026 Priorities

with Tracy Thompson

Online, 11th December, 12.30pm - 1.30pm

2025 has brought a wave of important Anti-Money Laundering (AML) developments, requiring firms to revisit their Firm-Wide Risk Assessments and update AML policies and procedures. This session will provide a concise yet practical overview of the past year and prepare firms for what lies ahead in 2026.

Key areas covered include:

- Revised LSAG Guidance (April 2025): Practical updates and implications for day-to-day compliance.
- National Risk Assessment (July 2025): Insights from the Treasury's findings and consultation on the Money Laundering Regulations.
- SRA Sectoral Risk Assessment (July 2025): How the regulator's updated view affects your firm's risk profile.
- SRA Compliance Conference Highlights (October 2025): Key compliance priorities emerging from the SRA's annual Compliance Conference.
- SRA Thematic Visit Findings: Unpublished but critical regulator expectations.

BOOK NOW

Not receiving emails from Liverpool Law Society?

Please check your junk or spam folder. Email providers constantly update their spam filters so even though you used to receive our emails, suddenly this might stop.

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

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

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Liverpool Law Society

Voices of The Solicitors' Charity launched to share expert insights on the future of the legal profession

THE SOLICITORS' CHARITY.
Supporting you, since 1858



The Solicitors' Charity has launched the Voices of The Solicitors' Charity to position its Trustees and senior figures as thought leaders available to comment on key issues affecting the legal profession.

The charity, established in 1858 (previously known as The Solicitors' Benevolent Association), is highly regarded for its vital work supporting all solicitors and their dependants in times of need so that they can thrive. It offers an authoritative and credible voice for the profession, offering expert views on wellbeing, governance, digital change, inclusion, and much more.

Voices of the Solicitors' Charity will make it easier for journalists, editors, industry partners, and event organisers to connect with the charity's experts who have the specialist legal knowledge to give insights into topics affecting the sector.

Voices of The Solicitors' Charity include:

- **Nick Gallagher**, CEO, The Solicitors' Charity, offering guidance on matters of governance, leadership, the Big Report and sector change.
- **Anita McCallum**, Director of Impact and Development at The Solicitors' Charity, specialising in charity marketing, fundraising and organisational change within the charity.
- **Rory O'Keefe**, Trustee and Founder of RMOK Legal, giving expert advice on cyber security, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital regulation.
- **Eugene Farrell**, Trustee and Business Owner of HealthEFarrell, leading on wellbeing issues, including psychological health management, emotional wellbeing, managing stress and resilience.
- **Ejike Ndaji**, Trustee and Partner at Leathes Prior Solicitors, advising on charity law, governance, pro bono work and social responsibility.

By providing a platform for these Voices, the charity aims to comment and contribute to sector-wide conversations on the issues that matter most to solicitors.

CEO **Nick Gallagher** explains: "Through Voices of The Solicitors' Charity, we want to show that our people are not only here to support solicitors in times of need to help them thrive, but also to contribute to the wider debate on the future of the profession.

"We've built a team of experts who are ready to share their knowledge and experience as trusted voices."

The Solicitors' Charity encourages media outlets, event organisers, and sector partners to engage with its experts for comment, analysis, and collaboration on the challenges and opportunities shaping the legal profession.

Email hello@thesolicitorscharity.org to find out more, or download the Voices of The Solicitors' Charity: http://thesolicitorscharity.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Voices-of-The-Solicitors-Charity.pdf

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

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Liverpool Law Society

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.

Acuity Law
6,447 followers
7h · Edited ·

What a fantastic day at the Swansea University / Prifysgol Abertawe Careers Fair last week! ...more



18 2 comments · 7 reposts

Like Comment Repost Send

Bermans
2,499 followers
4d ·

☆ We had a brilliant time at the University of Liverpool Careers Fair this week, where Bermans and Jackson Lees Group joined forces to showcase opportunities in law. ☆ ...more



13

Like Comment Repost Send

ClwydAlyn
4,080 followers
5d ·

We were delighted to welcome ITV Wales to our community allotment in Garden City yesterday. ...more



28 1 comment · 4 reposts

Like Comment Repost Send

Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors
2,440 followers
5h · Edited ·

We're thrilled to share that we came away with three awards at Estate & Letting Agent Awards - The Estas on Friday! ...more



29 9 comments · 4 reposts

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Jackson Lees Group
4,237 followers
2w · Edited ·

Today, we're celebrating a huge milestone for Arbaaz Mehmood, Jaimy Fearn, Jennifer Reid, and Rosie Bryan as they take the next step in their legal careers and begin their training contracts with us at the Jackson Lees Group. ...more



76 8 comments

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DTM Legal LLP
2,205 followers
3w ·

We had a fantastic day yesterday at the Cheshire Ploughing Match.

A huge thank you to everyone who visited our stand, it was wonderful to ...more



38 3 reposts

Like Comment Repost Send

DPP Law Solicitors is with **Macmillan Cancer Support**.
1h ·

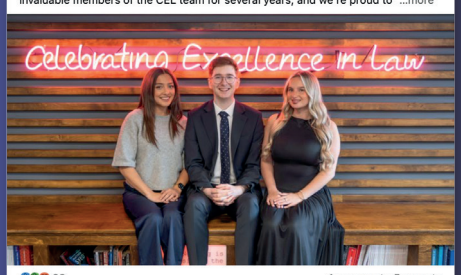
Proof that cake counts as work. 😉 ... See more



3 1

CEL Solicitors
5,720 followers
4h ·

We're delighted to wish Holly Edmondson, Demi Thomas, and James C. the best as they begin their SQE apprenticeship with BPP University. All three have been invaluable members of the CEL team for several years, and we're proud to ...more



28 1 comment · 5 reposts

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

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