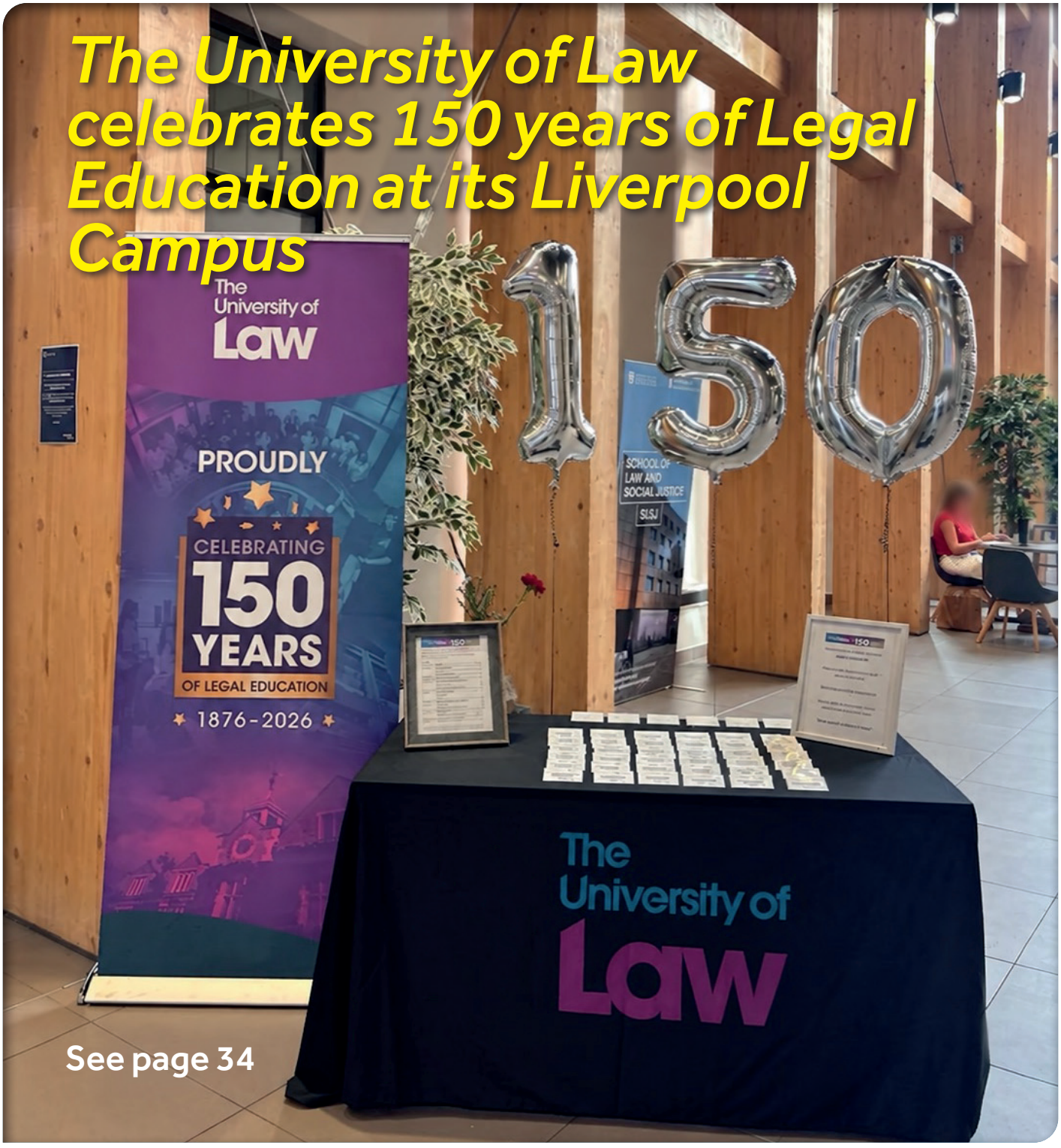
November 2026

Liverpool Law

Liverpool Law Society

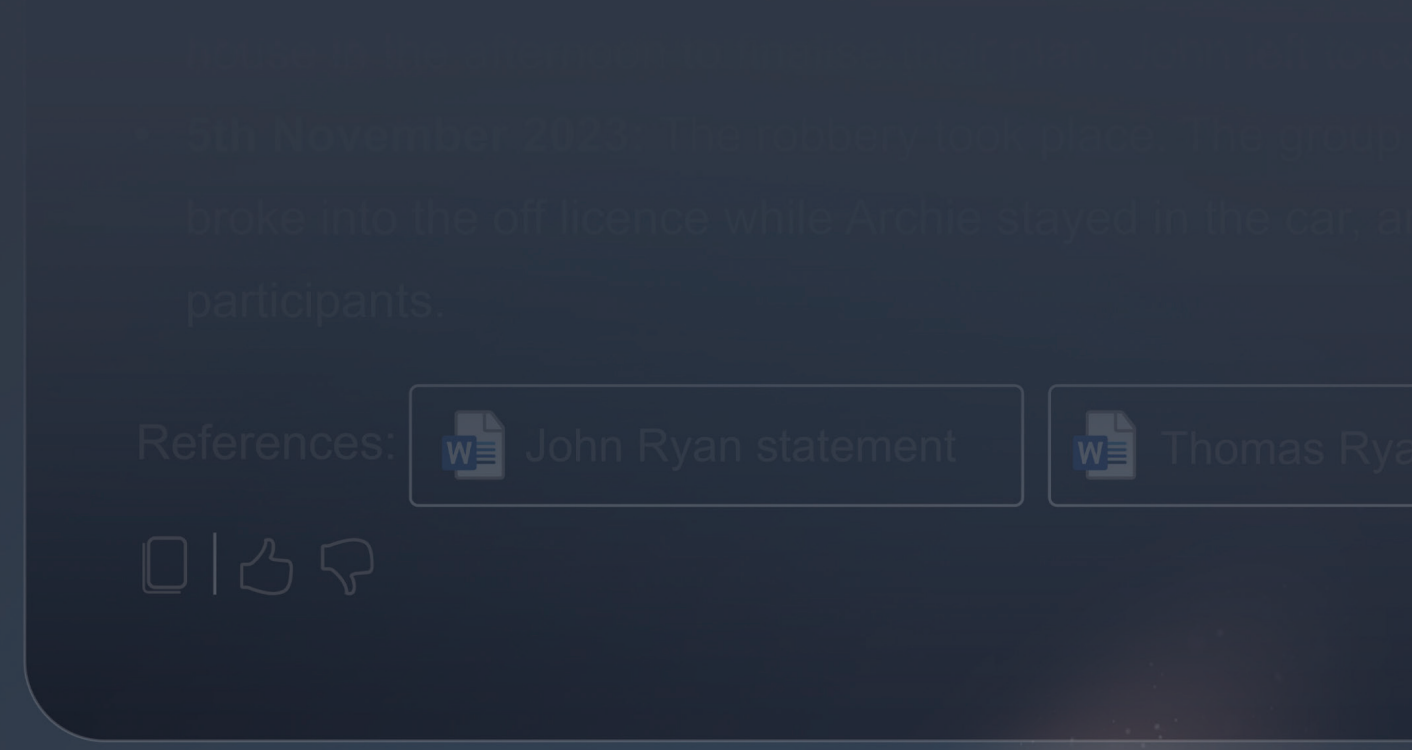
THE MAGAZINE FOR THE LEGAL SECTOR IN MERSEYSIDE AND THE NORTH WEST

The University of Law celebrates 150 years of Legal Education at its Liverpool Campus



See page 34

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Liverpool Law Society

DEADLINES

December 2026 edition: Friday, 20.11.26
January 2027 edition: Wednesday, 09.12.26
February 2027 edition: Friday, 22.01.27
March 2027 edition: Monday, 22.02.27
April 2027 edition: Friday, 19.03.27
May 2027 edition: Friday, 23.04.27
June 2027 edition: Friday, 21.05.27
July 20207 edition: Friday, 25.06.27
August 2027 edition: Friday, 23.07.27
September 2027 edition: Friday, 20.08.27
October 2027 edition: Thursday, 23.09.27
November 2027 edition: Friday, 22.10.27
December 2027 edition: Friday, 19.11.27

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

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 2027

Meetings start at 01.00 pm.
except where noted.

Tuesday, 17.11.26 *(no December meeting)*
Tuesday, 19.01.27
Thursday, 11.02.27
Tuesday, 16.03.27
Tuesday 20.04.27
Tuesday, 18.05.27
Tuesday, 15.06.27
Wednesday, 14.07.27 at 11am
(No August meeting)
Tuesday, 21.09.27
Tuesday 19.10.27
Tuesday, 16 .11.27

Welcome to the November edition of Liverpool Law



Unfortunately we have still been unable to regain our LinkedIn profile. We are still working on it but in the meantime our publishers have created a new profile - Liverpool Law Live. It is such a shame as we had built up a good following from our members and vice versa. Can you please follow our new page for the time being and as always tag us in your activities and we will try and feature them where possible.

We have received the sad news at LLS of the passing of **Michael Globe** who was an Hon Member. Michael died on 24 September 2026 and had been on the Roll from January 1960 for 65 years until 2025. What an amazing achievement. Our condolences our with Michael's family at this sad time.

We do try where possible to keep in touch with our former members and Past Presidents and we have another great article in from **Norman Jones** on page 45 this month. Norman is putting us all to shame with yet another great run under his belt- congratulations to him.

The article I am most pleased to see this month is that of our former colleague **Ann Murphy**, who has started at Excello Law. Wishing Ann the best of luck in her new endeavours, I have no doubt she will be a success.

Until next month.

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

Welcome to new members

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new members who were approved for membership over the last few months at our General Committee meeting. There were 25 individuals from the following organisations:

• Bond Turner	• Jackson Lees Group
• Brabners	• Lilac Law Limited
• CEL Solicitors	• Liverpool Civil Law
• Clyde & Co	• LRG Group
• Dee Consultancy Solutions	• McAlister Family Law
• Fletchers Group	• Paul Crowley & Co
• Hill Dickinson	• Phoenix Legal

Liverpool Law Society's membership now exceeds 2,400 individuals from around 170 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, Sarah Mansfield

Celebrating Success Beyond the Law

As President of Liverpool Law Society, I am delighted to celebrate the achievements of our local legal community through our annual awards. These awards provide a fantastic opportunity to recognise the outstanding work of law firms and individuals, not only in their legal practice but also in the many ways they contribute to business, our profession and the wider community.

While legal expertise is at the heart of what we do, success in today's world extends far beyond technical knowledge. Our awards shine a light on the achievements that make firms truly stand out, from investing in their people, embracing innovation and championing diversity, to supporting charities, engaging with local communities and developing positive workplace cultures.

Winning an award is, of course, a wonderful achievement. It recognises the dedication, creativity and hard work of the teams behind each success. It can boost morale, strengthen a firm's reputation, help attract talented people and provide a valuable opportunity to share success with clients, colleagues and the wider business community.

However, the value of the awards goes well beyond winning. The process of reflecting on achievements and sharing success stories allows firms to recognise milestones and celebrate the contributions of people whose efforts might otherwise go unnoticed. It also gives us a valuable opportunity to appreciate the many different ways in which our profession continues to develop and make a positive impact.

With our awards dinner just two weeks away, there is a real sense of anticipation as we prepare to come together to celebrate the talent and dedication across our legal community. The evening promises to be an opportunity not only to recognise outstanding achievements, but also to reconnect with colleagues, strengthen relationships and enjoy the camaraderie that makes our profession so special.

I look forward to celebrating with everyone attending and to hearing more about the fantastic work taking place across Liverpool's legal sector.



Congratulations to all our nominees and finalists. Whatever the outcome on the night, reaching this stage is a testament to your hard work and commitment. I wish you all the very best, and look forward to a memorable evening celebrating the very best of Liverpool's legal community.

Sarah Mansfield
President
president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

LLS LinkedIn Update

Over the past few months, we have experienced an issue with the Liverpool Law LinkedIn account and, despite weekly attempts, have not yet been able to regain access. This handle was previously used to share the pages of each issue of the Liverpool Law e-magazine.

To prevent any further delays, we have created a new handle, **Liverpool Law Live**, which will allow us to resume our social media activities. We will begin posting from this issue onwards while we continue our efforts to recover the original account. Please follow and share our new page: **https://www.linkedin.com/company/liverpool-law-live/**



Liverpool Law Society

LLS Meetings & events – Nov/Dec 2026

Start Time	Meeting/Event
03/11/2026 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee 2025-2026
10/11/2026 12:30	General Committee 2025-2026
17/11/2026 13:00	Editorial Sub-Committee 2025-2026
18/11/2026 13:00	Civil Litigation Sub-Committee 2025-2026
19/11/2026 12:00	Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee 2025-2026
24/11/2026 12:00	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee 2025-2026
26/11/2026 13:00	Annual General Meeting
26/11/2026 16:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee 2025-2026
01/12/2026 12:00	Future Planning Sub-Committee 2025-2026
01/12/2026 13:00	Employment Law Sub-Committee 2025-2026
02/12/2026 13:00	EDI Sub-Committee 2025-2026
03/12/2026 13:00	Access to Justice Sub-Committee 2025-2026
03/12/2026 16:00	Family Business Sub-Committee 2025-2026
08/12/2026 12:30	General Committee 2026-2027
10/12/2026 13:00	In-House Lawyers Sub-Committee 2026-2027

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

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

Consultation Papers referred by the General Committee:

Papers referred to committees:

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

Committee	Consultation Paper title	Closing date
Criminal Practice	Amendments to the Poisons Act 1972 framework	**11/11/26**
Criminal Practice	Copy of Miscellaneous Amendments 2026	**02/12/26**
Civil Litigation	Standard of Proof for the Short Form Inquest	**07/12/26**
Regulatory	Your ideas for law reform	**31/12/26**

Liverpool Law Society

Leaders in Law: Natalie Dickson

Partner and Head of Liverpool Hall Brown Family Law



Natalie Dickson

1. Briefly describe your role as Head of Liverpool and the main duties of this position.

Leading Hall Brown Family Law's Liverpool office is a privilege because it allows me to combine everything I enjoy most about my career: supporting clients through difficult times, developing talented people and representing a city that means a great deal to me.

Much of my time is spent advising clients on complex family law matters including divorce and financial settlements, wealth protection agreements, arrangements for children including financial provision, and cohabitee disputes. That can be as part of a voluntary and negotiated process, supporting them in various methods of non-court dispute resolution, or in litigated proceedings.

Alongside that I am responsible for growing Hall Brown's presence across the Liverpool City Region, taking part in firm management at a national level, supporting colleagues and ensuring we continue to deliver the exceptional service for which the firm is known. I spend a significant amount of time building relationships within the professional, business and charitable communities because I believe successful firms should be active participants in the places where they operate.

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

The most rewarding aspect of the role is the opportunity to build something special. Establishing and growing the Liverpool office has allowed me to bring together my passion for family law, leadership and my commitment to the city

The role gives me the opportunity to make a difference to people, whether that is a client facing one of the most difficult periods of their life, a colleague developing their career or a local organisation benefiting from support and collaboration.

I particularly enjoy the variety. No two days are the same. One day I might be resolving a complex financial case, the next attending a business development event, mentoring a junior lawyer or helping shape the future direction of the office.

I love people and I am a problem solver by nature and this job gives me the opportunity to do that. Relationship building (with clients, colleagues and contacts) is such an important element of the role and one which I thoroughly enjoy. I particularly enjoy supporting colleagues to develop and succeed.

The negatives come in the shape of an under-resourced and groaning court system, laws that are a little antiquated and not quite fit for purpose, hostile and difficult personalities where the situation has brought out the worst in someone, not enough hours in the day and the struggle to try to do everything as well as can be.

3. What do you see as your biggest challenges?

For me, the biggest challenge is ensuring we continue to grow without losing what makes us special. Growth is important, but not at the expense of culture, client service or our values. Hall Brown has an exceptional reputation because of its people, approach and commitment to clients, and maintaining that as we continue to grow is incredibly important.

I am also conscious of the responsibility that comes with leadership. Throughout my own career I have benefited from the support, encouragement and opportunities provided by others. I want to ensure the next generation of lawyers enjoys the same support and is given the confidence to succeed.

More broadly, family law clients are facing increasingly complex personal, financial and emotional challenges. Maintaining the highest standards of service while responding to those changing needs requires constant learning and development. For me, leadership is about embracing those challenges and creating an environment where both clients and colleagues can thrive.

On a personal level, balancing everything effectively is an ongoing challenge. Family law clients deserve time, empathy and attention, and leadership roles carry responsibilities. Alongside that, I have longstanding commitments to charitable and community organisations away from work which means there are often competing demands on my time, but I see that as a privilege rather than a drawback because each role allows me to contribute in a different way.

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

Without question, I am most proud of the unwavering commitment to excellence and people-first culture.

Hall Brown has built an outstanding national reputation, but despite its success it has remained approachable, supportive and genuinely focused on achieving the best outcomes for our clients. The firm prides itself on exceptional legal expertise, honest and straight-talking advice and a client-first commitment based on the premise that quality client service comes before targets.

I am proud that the firm is ambitious and strives to be the leading national family law practice, that it takes responsibility for the future and that it operates a one team, one standard approach at a national level. It recognises that each office has its own character and local connections but there

Continued over page.

Liverpool Law Society

Continued...

are shared values, shared expertise and a consistent commitment to excellence across the board.

I am also proud that Hall Brown recognises its role beyond the legal profession. The firm actively supports charitable initiatives, community projects and local organisations, which is something that resonates strongly with me personally. Through my involvement with organisations including Professional Liverpool, the Sefton Park Palm House, Liverpool Sportswoman's Lunch and Marie Curie, I have seen first-hand the positive impact businesses can have when they engage with their communities.

5. What are your immediate short-term goals?

My immediate focus is continuing to strengthen Hall Brown's presence in Liverpool and the wider region. I want to further establish the office as the leading option for clients seeking specialist family law advice while maintaining the quality and culture for which Hall Brown is known.

I am particularly focused on growing our profile within Liverpool's business and professional community and strengthening relationships with organisations that play an important role in the city. I want Hall Brown to be recognised not only for legal excellence but also for making a positive contribution to the wider community.

Personally, I would like to continue creating opportunities for others, whether through mentoring, networking initiatives or supporting charitable projects. I am involved with several local organisations including the LeadHer Alliance within Professional Liverpool which supports and champions senior female professionals and leaders, and our membership of The Hive 100 which is an excellent example of third sector and professional services partnership. Through these, I have seen how much can be achieved through collaboration. I would like to build on that and ensure Hall Brown continues to be seen as a firm that contributes positively beyond its day-to-day legal work.



Hall Brown

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

In ten years, I believe Hall Brown will continue to be recognised as one of the country's leading specialist family law firms, but I hope its legacy will extend beyond legal rankings and growth.

I would like to see it remain committed to excellence while retaining its culture and sense of purpose. The legal profession is evolving rapidly, but relationships, trust and good judgement will always matter. I am sure Hall Brown will continue to attract exceptional lawyers who share those values.

I would also like to see the firm recognised for developing future leaders and supporting the communities in which it operates. Success should not be measured solely by financial performance. It should also be reflected in the opportunities we create, the people we develop and the impact we have beyond the office. As Hall Brown continues to excel in those areas, I believe its future will be incredibly bright.

7. What legacy, as Head of the Liverpool Office, would you like to leave Hall Brown?

I would like my legacy to be one of relationships, opportunity and positive impact.

Of course, I would like to leave behind a thriving and successful Liverpool office, but success is about so much more than financial performance or growth figures. I hope people would say that I helped create opportunities for others, supported colleagues to fulfil their potential, strengthened Hall Brown's connection to the city and supported clients in the best possible way.

I've always believed in working hard (if you're doing something, do it well) and I've always tried to leave things in a bit of a better shape than when I found them. I'm fortunate to have the career I have with the team I have with Hall Brown in Liverpool. I'm grateful for the opportunities I enjoy as part of that career and, through my work with charitable and community organisations, I have always tried to give something back. I would like that approach to be reflected in my leadership and legacy.

Ultimately, if I leave behind a successful office, a strong team, a national firm that has built on where it is now and a positive impact on the community around us, I would consider that a legacy worth being proud of. (But I'm not planning on going anywhere for a long time!)

Liverpool Law Society

ADLA

Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

12 November 2026 6.15pm for 6.45pm at Rum Warehouse, Liverpool

President **Sarah Mansfield** looks forward to welcoming 400 members & guests to the Annual Dinner and Legal Awards, the highlight of the Liverpool City Region legal calendar.

We will hear from guest speaker

Professor Michael Wooldridge

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



CENTREPOINT

A collection will be made on the evening for the speaker's nominated charity on youth homeslessness (Registered Charity Number 292411).

Centrepoint provides safe housing and support to almost 14,000 young people every year. With a commitment to end youth homelessness by 2037, they advocate for the systemic change that will give every young person a fair chance in life.

The Legal Awards ceremony will take place during the evening, a chance for us to celebrate excellence, achievement and innovation across the legal profession.

Bookings have now closed.

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Introducing the MJLD Committee: Falak Iqbal



Falak Iqbal

Falak Iqbal, a Court Clerk with MSB Solicitors, has been elected as the Careers and Education Representative for the MJLD for the 2026/27 term.

Born and raised in Manchester, Falak attended Whalley Range High School and later Loreto College for sixth form. Throughout her school years, she maintained a strong interest in politics and drama, even running a drama club for younger pupils during Year 11. Although her time at sixth form coincided with the COVID-19 lockdown, it was during this period that she decided to pursue a career in law. This decision was shaped by her natural articulacy and a keen interest in political issues, such as Brexit and rising local crime rates. As she researched legislation to stay informed about current affairs, she realised that a legal career would allow her to make a positive impact. She was particularly drawn to gender-based crime and during her second year of university, she chose to focus her dissertation on forced marriage and gender-based violence.

During her time at university, she was involved heavily with the Liverpool Law Clinic, acting as a McKenzie friend in court. It was during this time, Falak had found her passion for family law, particularly legal aid given the emotional intelligence needed in these hearings to support parties.

After completing her A-Levels, Falak earned an LLB from the University of Liverpool. Following graduation, she worked briefly as a criminal law paralegal before securing a scholarship to study the Bar Training Course with LLM at BPP University Law School in Manchester. Despite personal circumstances requiring her to retake a few assessments, she successfully completed the qualification.

Just before sitting her final exam, Falak had an interview at MSB Solicitors and was offered a position as a Court Clerk in their Liverpool office—a role unique to the firm. Because the work involves supporting clients through emotionally challenging situations, her duties include attending hearings alongside clients and barristers, taking detailed notes, and ensuring proceedings run smoothly. When in the office, she manages the administrative aspects of various cases.

Falak's long-term ambition is to qualify as a barrister, ideally specialising in family law. Her current role allows her to interact daily with barristers and gain valuable experience as she prepares to apply for pupillage, with the ultimate goal of conducting her own advocacy.

In her role as Careers and Education Representative with the MJLD, Falak will oversee the upcoming marshalling scheme, offering students the opportunity to shadow a judge and observe court proceedings. Working alongside co-representative Matt, she will focus on educational outreach: Falak aims to deliver an event on the Barrister route and the qualification process. They also plan to conduct mock interviews to help students develop their interview skills and practice answering challenging questions.

Falak commutes daily to Liverpool from Manchester, where she still lives and frequently attends community events. Outside of work, her relaxation includes taking weekly dance classes in commercial dance—a blend of pop, hip-hop and has recently started heels dancing.

We wish her every success in her future career.

Liverpool Legal Walk 2026: Thank You for Making a Difference

A final message from me about this year's Liverpool Legal Walk!

Once again, many thanks to all who took part either by walking, marshalling or just making a donation. This year – at the time of writing - we have raised **£5,132** against our target of £5,000, and together with a separate donation the 2026 Liverpool Legal Walk has raised in excess of **£5,300**. We are absolutely delighted – thank you. This is a great increase on last year and every penny given will allow the Access to Justice Foundation to continue their invaluable work.

You can find out about ways to support the Access to Justice Foundation here https://atjf.org.uk/support-us

If you are already looking forward to next year's walk do keep your eyes peeled as it will be here sooner than you expect!

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to help organise the walk so if you want to join in with our wonderful team do get in touch with **Sarah Poblete** at sarah@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Chris Topping
Liverpool Law Society President 2018-2019
& Liverpool Walk organising party member

Liverpool Law Society

Leading Catastrophic and Serious Injury law firm Richard Edwards & Co is celebrating after the latest round of legal directory releases.



After just one year since being launched by city solicitor Richard Edwards, the firm has been recognised in the Legal 500 Directory.

Of the firm the leading directory, which bases its rankings on extensive research and client feedback, includes the following plaudits:

"Richard Edwards and co treats all clients as individuals, getting to know and understand specific individual needs and requirements to ensure high-quality, appropriate, professional and bespoke advice and support. Richard Edwards and Co invested time to understand the details and nuances enabling them to reach an informed and appropriate decision/ position. I would strongly recommend them to anyone looking for support on challenging personal injury cases"

And the rather more pithy:

"Excellent. Detailed focused; Client-driven; A great firm."

Richard, 48, founder of the city based firm, has also been recognised as a Leading Partner in the Legal 500 2027 Directory and ranked Band 2 in the Chambers Directory.

Richard is described as "highly professional", "extremely knowledgeable",

"always able to see the wood for the trees" in the Legal 500.

In Chambers and Partners he is noted to be: *"technically superb and very determined to do well for his clients"* and *"passionate about his work and one of the most dedicated professionals in the business."*

Richard lays claim to be the only lawyer specialising in catastrophic injury litigation based in Liverpool who holds dual rankings in both Chambers and Partners and as a Leading Partner in Legal 500.

Richard said: *"we have enjoyed a strong first year and secured damages of nearly £9m for clients so far in 2026. Even so for the firm to secure recognition in the Legal 500 was an especially proud moment, coming just after our first anniversary. I am delighted also to be personally recognised for the work that I'm continuing to deliver for my clients. Acting for the seriously injured is a privilege, and ensuring they achieve access to justice is the driving force behind everything that I do."*

Richard Edwards
Richard Edwards & Co

Liverpool Law Society

Partner and paralegals bolster clinical negligence team at Jackson Lees group



Sorcha McMullan, Paul Harrison and Helen Innes

Law firm Jackson Lees Group has strengthened its clinical negligence team with the appointment of Paul Harrison as a partner and two new paralegals.

Paul has joined the group from Fletchers Solicitors, where he was a partner and team leader. He has specialised in clinical negligence work for more than 10 years.

He trained and qualified at Scott Rees & Co, which was acquired by Fletchers last year.

While at Scott Rees & Co, he worked with **Jeanette Aspinall**, who is the head of the clinical negligence team at Jackson Lees.

The 30-strong team, based at offices in Liverpool and Wirral, handles all aspects of clinical negligence claims, with particular experience in complex matters such as catastrophic brain and spinal injuries, serious birth injuries and life-changing injuries including amputation.

The department also deals with surgical claims, including unnecessary scarring and delayed diagnosis or treatment of cancer and other diseases, as well as care home claims, GP negligence, cerebral palsy and maternity claims.

Jackson Lees is part of the Jackson Lees Group, a full-service practice which includes Broudie Jackson Canter and Farrington Law.

Paul said: *"I am thrilled to join Jackson Lees and to be working alongside Jeanette once again.*

"The firm's commitment to providing empathetic, top-tier legal support aligns perfectly with my own approach to clinical negligence, and I'm looking forward to drawing on my experience to support the team, help grow the department and achieve the best possible outcomes for our clients."

Paralegals **Helen Innes** and **Sorcha McMullan** have also joined the clinical negligence team. **Helen** has joined from Hill Dickinson while **Sorcha** has joined from Broudie Jackson Canter, where she was part of the major inquests and inquiries department, working on behalf of bereaved families at the UK Covid-19 Inquiry and the DES Justice UK campaign.

Jeanette said: *"Having worked with **Paul** previously, I know the expertise, commitment and leadership he will bring to our department. This is an exciting appointment for the firm, and we look forward to the positive impact he will make for our clients and colleagues.*

"Expanding our clinical negligence team with these three appointments demonstrates our commitment to growth and providing excellent service. We are continually investing in attracting outstanding talent to ensure we deliver the highest standard of support and representation for our clients, and recruitment at all levels is ongoing.".

Liverpool Law Society

Familiar new hire for Excello Law!



Ann Murphy

After just turning 62 and having 37.5 years under my belt at Liverpool Law Society, I didn't think I would be starting a new job at Excello Law at the beginning of September. I thought initially I would be retiring following my voluntary redundancy but a very serious look at my pension pot put an end to that thought.

During my first week at Excello Law, I had several inductions from the lovely staff members in the Compliance, HR, IT, Finance and finally Unity departments some of which went over my head as I am a complete newbie to working in a lawyer's office.

I now have worked several weeks at Excello Law and I am getting through the emails my new Boss, Sarah Mansfield, forwards me to start up new client matters. So far, I have had to draft risk forms as well as client engagement letters for Sarah to approve before I send them to Excello Law's Matter Opening office.

I have also asked clients for ID and with some further training will shortly be learning how to bill them using E-chits. I will also be archiving old cases on Sarah's behalf too.

This is all still new to me but I am getting used to the order of things. Who said you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

It seems odd to be working for one lawyer rather than a whole team of directors but it is lovely to see the other side of the coin. I always knew lawyers were busy people and I am continually surprised at the way Sarah can recall all of her client's names and case numbers. I am looking forward to seeing how my new job develops.

I do miss the staff at Liverpool Law Society and its members and I wish them every success for the future.



Liverpool Law Society

Paul Crowley & Co Taking Legal Services to the Heart of the Community



Alison from Paul Crowley & Co with Loise Campbell (EitC) during a recent visit to The Blue Base

Paul Crowley & Co Solicitors continues its longstanding involvement with Everton in the Community's dedicated wellbeing and support centre, The Blue Base. Through its ongoing support of the initiative, the firm helps local people access information about legal services and, where appropriate, arranges contact with members of its legal teams who can provide specialist advice and assistance.

A Longstanding Community Presence

The Blue Base is home to a wide range of community programmes and has become an important hub for local residents seeking support, advice and opportunities to connect with others.

Over many years, Paul Crowley & Co has become a familiar presence at the centre, helping ensure people know where to turn when legal issues arise and providing an accessible route to professional legal support when needed.

On this occasion, the firm was represented by **Alison Priestley** and **Tatiana Domracheva** from the Marketing Department, who spent time meeting residents and discussing the support available through the firm. While qualified legal professionals often attend the sessions, **Alison** and **Tatiana** were on hand to introduce residents to the firm's services and arrange follow-up contact with the appropriate legal specialists where further advice was required.

Conversations That Matter

Many of the conversations during the visit centred on Wills and future planning, highlighting an issue that many people recognise as important but often delay addressing.

Although Wills generated significant interest, discussions covered a broad range of legal matters. Residents were encouraged to ask questions, explore the services available and, where appropriate, arrange appointments with members of the firm's legal team who could provide specialist advice tailored to their circumstances.

A popular feature of the visits is the firm's raffle prize, with a bottle of prosecco always proving a welcome addition to the day and helping create a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Making Legal Services More Accessible

The informal nature of the sessions helps make legal services feel more approachable. Meeting representatives from a local law firm in a familiar community setting can often be the first step towards seeking professional support.

The firm would like to thank **Loise Campbell**, Veterans Coordinator at Everton in the Community, and **Amy Powell**, Community Health Manager, for their continued support in helping facilitate the visits and maintain the longstanding relationship between the two organisations.

Alison Priestley said:
"It is always a pleasure to spend time at The Blue Base and meet members of the local community. Many people are unsure where to start when they have a legal concern, so being able to speak with them in a relaxed and familiar environment is invaluable. Our role is to help connect people with the right expertise within the firm and ensure they know support is available whenever they need it."

Looking Ahead

Community engagement remains an important part of life at Paul Crowley & Co. Through trusted partnerships, approachable conversations and a commitment to accessibility, the firm continues to help ensure local people know where to turn when they need support.

Leslie Priestley,
Head of Marketing
Paul Crowley & Co Solicitors

Liverpool Law Society

JR Levins relocates Widnes team to new base as firm continues local growth



Sue Hurd, Julie Urmston, Natalie Reason and Ruby Jordan

JR Levins Solicitors has relocated its Widnes team to new premises at Kingsway House as the firm continues to invest in its services for clients across Widnes and the surrounding area. The firm has moved from its previous Widnes town centre premises to BusinessLodge Widnes at Kingsway House, located next to the walk-in centre on Caldwell Road.

The relocation builds on JR Levins' established presence in Widnes, giving the team a more modern and client-friendly base with free parking, more space and dedicated rooms for meeting clients. The Widnes office provides a base for JR Levins' team in the area, with a particular presence from the firm's growing conveyancing department.

The move follows the recent appointment of experienced property specialist **Natalie Reason**, who joined JR Levins to support the continued development of its conveyancing services across Widnes, Runcorn, Warrington and the wider area. **Natalie** brings more than 20 years of experience in property and has overseen more than 5,000 home moves during the last decade. Her appointment, followed closely by the Widnes relocation, marks a further investment in the firm's conveyancing department.

Tracy Morgan, Managing Partner at JR Levins, said: *"We already had an established presence in Widnes, so this move was really about finding a space that worked better for both our clients and our team.*

"When we were looking at different options, we thought carefully about what people need when they come to see their solicitor. Free parking, somewhere welcoming to meet privately and a convenient location can all make a difference.

"Widnes and the wider Halton area are important to us, and we want our offices to reflect the level of service we aim to provide. Moving to Kingsway House gives us more room to continue developing the team while making it easier and more comfortable for clients who want to see us face-to-face."

Gail, the Centre Manager at BusinessLodge said: *"It's a pleasure to welcome JR Levins Solicitors to BusinessLodge at Kingsway House. We're delighted to have you join our community and look forward to supporting you as you settle into your new space.*

"A very warm welcome from us all at BusinessLodge!"

Liverpool Law Society

Bell Lamb & Joynson Criminal Defence Team Retains Legal 500 Ranking for Second Consecutive Year

Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors is celebrating after its Criminal Defence Team retained its Legal 500 ranking for a second consecutive year in the 2027 edition of The Legal 500 UK.

The team has maintained its Tier 3 ranking in the North West's General Crime and Fraud category, marking another significant milestone for the department. Having secured a Tier 3 ranking when the firm entered the Legal 500 rankings for the first time in 2025, Bell Lamb & Joynson has successfully retained its position, reinforcing the strength and reputation of its Criminal Defence Team across the region.

The firm has also received all three Legal 500 client satisfaction accolades for Lawyer & Team Quality, Billing & Efficiency and Sector Knowledge, making Bell Lamb & Joynson the only ranked firm in the North West's General Crime and Fraud category to receive all three distinctions.

The Legal 500 continues to highlight the department's expertise across a broad range of criminal matters, from motoring offences through to serious and complex cases involving fraud, violence and other major criminal allegations.

Led by Managing Partner and Head of Crime, **Mike Leeman**, alongside **Jeremy Rawson**, the team supports clients across the North-West, providing expert advice and representation from the police station through to the courts.

The latest rankings also see **Marcela Salter** named as a Leading Associate for a second consecutive year, further reinforcing her reputation as one of the region's leading criminal defence solicitors.





The recognition follows an exceptional year for **Marcela**, who was named Crime Leading Associate of the Year at The Legal 500 Northern Powerhouse Awards in March 2026. With more than three decades of experience in criminal law, **Marcela** is highly regarded for her courtroom expertise, compassion and dedication to achieving the best possible outcomes for her clients.

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

"To retain our Legal 500 ranking for a second consecutive year is a tremendous achievement for the entire team. The Legal 500 rankings are based on independent research, client feedback and peer recommendations, making this recognition particularly meaningful.

Criminal defence is about supporting people through some of the most difficult and uncertain moments of their lives. Every member of our team is committed to providing clear advice, strong representation and unwavering support, and this ranking reflects that dedication.

We are also delighted to see Marcela recognised as a Leading Associate for a second consecutive year. Her success at the Legal 500 Northern Powerhouse Awards, together with this latest recognition, is thoroughly deserved and reflects the outstanding work she does for clients every day."

Now in its 38th year, The Legal 500 is one of the legal profession's leading independent directories, with rankings based on extensive research, client feedback and recommendations from legal professionals across the UK.

Established in 1821, Bell Lamb & Joynson has been helping people across the North West for more than two centuries. This latest Legal 500 recognition reflects the firm's continued commitment to providing expert legal advice, strong representation and exceptional support to clients when they need it most.

Contact Details

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Brabners' charity foundation reaches milestone amount of £250,000 in donations



The Brabners Foundation has reached a major fundraising milestone, pledging donations totalling £251,329 to charities that support local communities in the locations in which Brabners' colleagues live and work.

Launched in 2019, the Foundation is an independent charity established by Brabners law firm as part of its mission to make the difference. Since then, the Foundation has awarded 97 grants to more than 80 charities across the communities served by each of the firm's five offices.

Recent donations have supported organisations such as Go Beyond in Leeds, The Manchester Frame Running Club, The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity in Liverpool, and Paws for Kids in Lancashire. The most recent round of donations also included a grant to The Sick Children's Trust - the Foundation's first ever grant to a London charity following the opening of Brabners' London office earlier this year.

Funds are raised across the year through various means including flagship events such as the Foundation's annual ball. The 2026 ball was held last night at the iconic Manchester Monastery in Gorton in what was the charity's most successful event to date.

Hayley Morgan, Legal Director at Brabners and Trustee of the Brabners Foundation said: *"Brabners is a certified B Corp and we are committed to improving the world around us wherever possible. Previously the firm donated to one chosen charity a year. Now that we have established the Brabners Foundation, we can support a range of charities including smaller organisations delivering extraordinary work in our local communities. As well as the brilliant work of the Foundation, all Brabners colleagues receive two full days of paid volunteering leave each year. With over 600 people across the firm, that's a huge amount of people power.*

"The Foundation could not operate without every individual and every business that has engaged with us in any way, however small. Every single penny raised goes towards supporting charities that are working tirelessly to improve lives, strengthen communities and provide help where it is most needed. I'd like to thank everyone for their generosity and time and for helping us continue to make the difference."

Nik White, Managing Partner at Brabners said: *"Since its inception in 2019, The Brabners Foundation has embodied the very best of our firm and our people. Last night encapsulated that perfectly. It brought together friends of the firm, community members and our people to do something extraordinary: reach over £250,000 in donations. The milestone is the culmination of thousands of acts of generosity, hours of volunteering and planning fundraising events both big and small.*

"Beyond the Foundation Ball being a fundraising event, it's an opportunity for us to shine a light on the smaller charities that our Foundation supports, that are typically grassroots, community-based and often don't get public funding.

"I want to personally thank everyone on the committee, everyone who came along to support the ball last night and the clients, businesses and supporters of the Foundation whose generosity made this possible."

Applications for the next round of grant funding from the Brabners Foundation open in July 2027. In the meantime, if you're a charity that would benefit from volunteering resources in and around Lancashire, Leeds, Liverpool, London or Manchester, get in touch with the Brabners team with information on your charity let us know how volunteer hours could help.

For more information, visit: brabners.com
To find out more about The Brabners Foundation, visit: brabners.com/about/brabners-foundation

Liverpool Law Society

IHLS wins Talent Trailblazer Award as it marks 10 years in business



Lauren Cannon



Brian Noon receiving the award

Liverpool-based In-House Legal Solutions has won the Talent Trailblazer Award at the Liverpool Chamber Innovation & Impact Awards, recognising its work to support and develop people at different stages of their careers.

The award comes as IHLS celebrates its 10th anniversary and reflects a decade of creating opportunities for people entering the profession, developing their skills and progressing into more senior roles.

Since launching in 2016, IHLS has supported future solicitors through training contracts, taken part in a legal Year in Industry programme with the School of Law and Social Justice at the University of Liverpool, offered internships including through Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU), and created opportunities for young people through the Government's Kickstart Scheme.

Lauren Cannon, co-founder of In-House Legal Solutions, said:

"Winning the Talent Trailblazer Award feels particularly special in our 10th anniversary year.

"Over the last decade, we've supported people at many different stages of their careers, from those just starting out through to colleagues progressing into senior roles.

"There is a huge amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to support, mentor and develop people, so it means a great deal to see that recognised.

"We were also incredibly touched that the nomination came from outside the business. A huge thank you to Kerry Swift for taking the time to nominate us, and to the judges for recognising the work of the whole team."

The latest recognition follows IHLS being named Social Mobility Initiative of the Year at the Legal 500 ESG Awards 2026, where the business was recognised for initiatives including its Wider Participation-focused Summer Vacation Scheme, paid Year in Industry placement with the School of Law and Social Justice at the University of Liverpool and its "Leg Up to Law" schools outreach programme.

IHLS was also highly commended in the Law Firm of the Year category at the Women & Diversity in Law Awards 2026. Founded in Liverpool in 2016, IHLS provides businesses and in-house legal teams with flexible access to experienced legal support.

Ten years on, the business works with clients in the UK and internationally, while continuing to create opportunities for people to build experience, develop their careers and progress within the profession.

The Talent Trailblazer Award adds to a milestone year for IHLS as the business celebrates a decade since it was founded in Liverpool.

Liverpool Law Society 200
1827 - 2027

CELEBRATION FOR NEW ENTRANTS TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

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

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

This event is aimed at:

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

What's included?

★ Arrival drink ★ Canapes ★ Professional photography ★Training voucher

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

Hazel Snell DL
The High Sheriff of Merseyside

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

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

Sponsored by The University of Law

Book Here

Liverpool Law Society

Retention and destruction: turning compliance into risk control

For law firms, documents and personal data are not simply administrative records: they are central to client service, regulatory compliance and the ability to defend a complaint or professional negligence claim.

Document retention and destruction should be treated as a practical risk-management discipline, not a back-office housekeeping exercise.

The core challenge is balance. Firms must keep sufficient information to meet client, legal, regulatory and insurance-related requirements, while complying with the UK GDPR principle that personal data must not be retained longer than necessary. Keeping everything indefinitely may feel safer, but it can increase the scale and severity of a potential data breach, create unnecessary regulatory exposure and make data harder to manage.

Start with a policy that works in practice

A sound retention and destruction policy should set clear baseline rules, be easy for people to use, and include a process for exceptions. It needs to be supported by an up-to-date information audit: firms should know what information they hold, where it sits, why it is held, the legal basis for processing it and when it is due for review or destruction.

This applies equally to paper files, email inboxes, messaging platforms, call recordings, legacy systems, backups, cloud services, social media, staff devices and third-party systems. ***Data cannot be properly managed if it cannot first be located.***

Data mapping is the foundation

Firms should undertake a data-mapping exercise, potentially beginning department by department. This should record:

- what data is collected and whether it includes personal or special-category data;
- where and how it is stored, including encryption and backups;
- why it is needed, including AML, KYC, conflict and other regulatory purposes;
- the lawful basis for processing;
- retention periods and any exception criteria;
- third-party recipients, international transfers and security controls.

The resulting map must itself be protected: it is a valuable and sensitive information asset.

Retention periods must be deliberate, not generic

There is no universal retention period for closed client files. The appropriate period depends on the matter type, the potential limitation period, the nature of potential claims and any specific regulatory or client-service requirement. A commonly used approach is the relevant limitation period plus one year as a reasonable safety margin.

Miller has produced a full guidance paper on this topic which provides some indicative examples: commercial/corporate, general, family and medical negligence matters may be retained for 15 years; sale files for seven years; purchase files for 15 years; and trusts for the life of the trust plus seven years. Wills and certain original documents may need indefinite retention. Longer periods may also be appropriate for matters involving children, serious injuries, lifetime losses, long-term conditions or complex claims.

Firms should set out standard periods in an accessible table, identify exceptions, and record the reasoning whenever a departure from the usual rule is made. The policy must be actioned – it is pointless having a policy that says all the right things but isn't implemented.

File closure is where retention succeeds or fails

Retention planning should begin when a matter closes, not years later. A robust file-closing process should ensure that material information has been captured, duplicate or unnecessary material removed, and original documents separated for different treatment.

The file owner should ensure the record includes relevant emails, call recordings, portal or Teams messages, paper records and documents held by all relevant fee-earners. However, "slimming" a file must not remove important drafts, notes or email chains that may later be needed to demonstrate the advice given or the decisions taken.

Clients should also be told that their matter has closed, given an opportunity to retrieve the file where appropriate, and informed of the firm's retention and destruction arrangements.

Destruction means genuine destruction

Simply overwriting a record or deleting it from a live system may not be enough. Effective digital destruction must consider backups, archived systems and third-party suppliers. Where immediate full deletion is not possible, firms should work with IT teams to put the information "beyond use" until it can be fully removed.

Physical files require equally careful handling. Secure destruction providers are data processors, so firms should carry out due diligence and ensure appropriate contractual data-protection provisions are in place.

In some cases, anonymisation is preferable to deletion, particularly where aggregated information remains useful for risk analysis or diversity reporting. However, anonymisation must be robust: if an individual can still be identified, the data remains personal data.

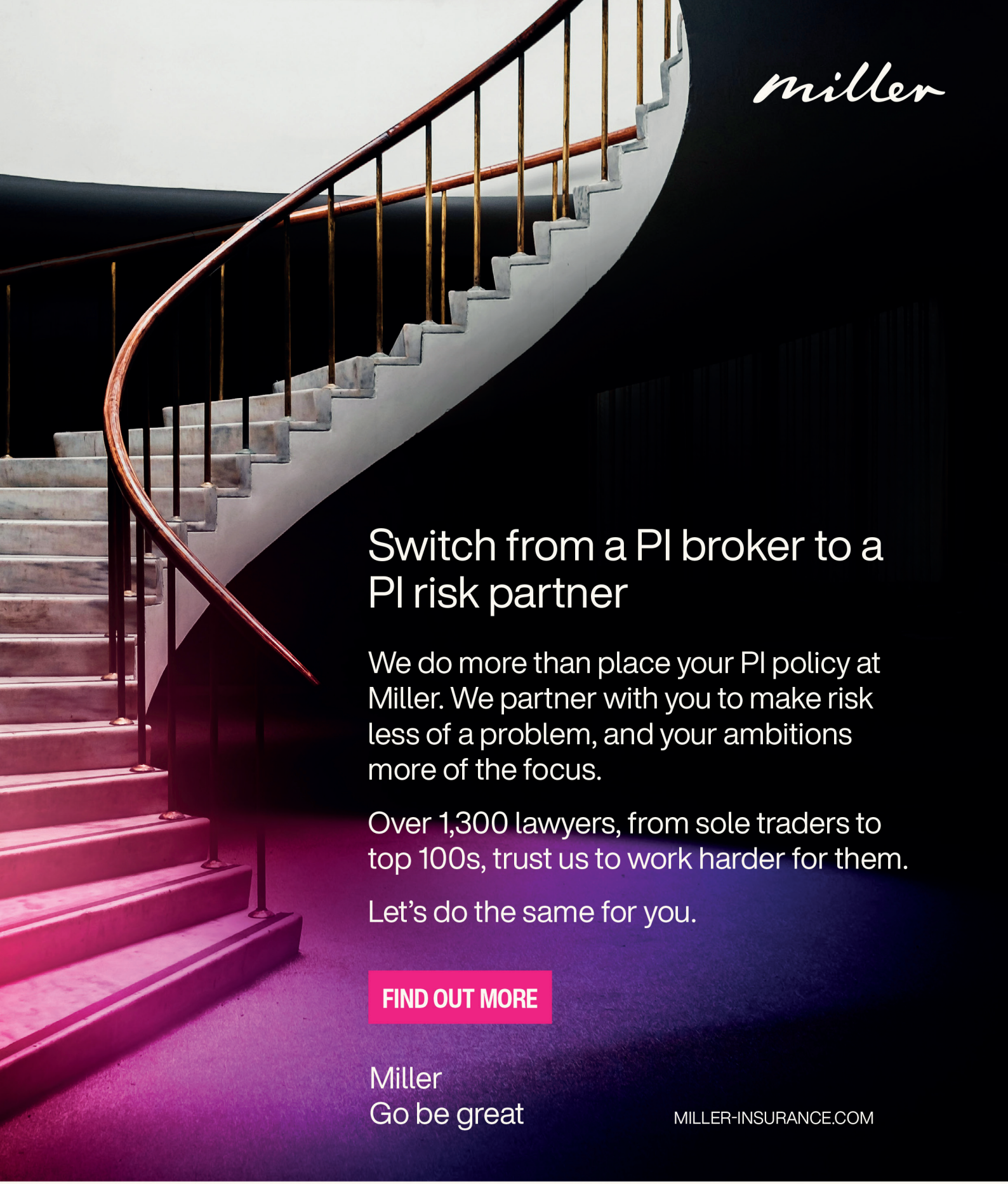
Ownership, automation and historic data

You should assign clear overall responsibility for making the policy work. Automation can help by generating review dates and alerts, although destruction should generally involve a human decision rather than occur automatically.

Historic and legacy data will often be the hardest problem. Where old records cannot easily be interrogated, firms may need to use encrypted off-network archives, data-mining tools or other records to identify files requiring longer retention. The priority is to stop the problem growing by ensuring that current matters are accurately categorised and assigned a destruction date at closure.

Ultimately, effective retention management protects clients, supports regulatory compliance and reduces a firm's exposure when something goes wrong.

If you would like a copy of our full guidance, please contact Samantha Pye [Samantha.pye@miller-insurance.com].



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Liverpool Law Society

Leigh Day builds for the future with new Executive Board



Martyn Day



Nigel Mackay



Jamie Beagent

Leigh Day is building for the future with a wider leadership team structure that reflects the law firm's national profile.

Following a summer of internal elections among the partnership's Equity Partners, an Executive Board is now in place.

The five-strong team of lawyers is tasked with taking the firm forward, building on the foundation laid by Senior Partner Martyn Day, 70, who is looking next year to step back from the day to day running of the firm.

Martyn, who founded Leigh Day in 1987 with now retired Sarah Leigh, is working closely with the next generation of litigators who share his 'David and Goliath' vision for access to justice in the UK and around the world to ensure a smooth handover. He will remain in the firm, continuing to drive forward claims as he has throughout his legal career. The new team will be:

Senior Partner Elect Nigel Mackay
Managing Partner Jamie Beagent
Deputy Managing Partner Clare Campbell

The three will be the core of a new Executive Board, supported by fellow Equity Partners Andrew Bradley, who heads up the Manchester arm of Leigh Day, and Elizabeth George, an in-house barrister who leads the firm's landmark equal pay claim against Next.

The Executive Board lawyers have a four-year term of office which began on 1 October, 2026.

Jamie Beagent, 51, is best known for his role as head of Leigh Day's Human Rights Department with a personal portfolio specialising in judicial review. Jamie's new role will take him away from his casework as he drives development, planning and operations at Leigh Day. Jamie has worked at Leigh Day since 2003.

Chambers & Partners says **Jamie Beagent** is *"absolutely amazing"*.

Jamie Beagent said:
"It is a huge privilege to take up the position of Managing Partner at Leigh Day. This is a unique firm, packed with talented lawyers and staff. I have grown up here as a lawyer and seen first-hand the positive impact of

*our high quality and ground-breaking work for our clients, on wider society and the environment. I am excited by the prospect of working alongside **Nigel** and **Clare** to take the firm forward into its next chapter. Most of all, I am looking forward to working closely with Martyn, the firm's founder, whose original vision for a different kind of law firm, nearly 40 years ago, remains absolutely central to who Leigh Day are today and what we will be in the years to come."*

Clare Campbell, 49, heads the Travel litigation group in Leigh Day's Personal Injury department, and champions the firm's regional heft from its Manchester base which she joined in 2014. In 2025 Clare was named Personal Injury Lawyer of the Year by the Pan-European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers (PEOPIL), for her work to secure justice for Liverpool FC fans affected by the 2022 Champions League Final at the Stade de France in Paris.



Clare Campbell



Liz George



Andrew Bradley

Legal 500 says: *"Clare Campbell is an excellent all-round travel lawyer who has huge respect in the industry and secures excellent results for her clients."*

Clare Campbell said:
*"I am delighted to take on the role of Deputy Managing Partner at Leigh Day. As the first person to hold this position, I see it as an opportunity to work closely with **Jamie** and the rest of the Executive Board to help shape the future of the firm while remaining committed to the values, culture and client service that have underpinned our success for the last 40 years. I am proud to be entrusted with this responsibility and look forward to helping to drive the firm's strategic objectives, invest in our amazing staff and support the success of the firm in the future."*

Nigel Mackay, 48, moves from the role of Leigh Day joint head of Employment which brought Uber, Bolt and Just Eat to book over their record on gig economy workers. Nigel will continue his casework maintaining his emphasis on employment group claims. He has been at Leigh Day since 2012.

Chambers and Partners says: *"Nigel is a brilliant lawyer, he has his eye on the ball and is very committed to his clients."*

Nigel Mackay said:
*"It is a true honour to succeed **Martyn Day** in the role of Senior Partner of Leigh Day. I am hugely proud of our firm, and the transformative work we do for our clients, helping them achieve justice and hold powerful interests to account.*

"It is also an immense privilege to work alongside such talented and committed colleagues, who share a common passion for using the law to improve the lives of our clients and bring about positive change.

*"I am excited to work with **Martyn** and the new Executive Board to ensure that our unique firm goes from strength to strength over the coming years."*

Martyn Day remains in the Senior Partner post until late 2027. His focus on the cases he is running, not least being the Dieselgate emissions claims, is unchanged.

Martyn Day said:
"The approaching 40-year milestone made me reflect on my ongoing position within the firm.

*"When I set up Leigh Day with **Sarah** all those years ago I wanted a firm where I could have felt happy to work here as a lawyer at any level. I wanted a firm where members could stand tall when talking about the firm's work to family and friends. I wanted a firm where quality lawyers and support staff would come to work here, feeling that this is their natural home within the legal world we operate in. I am proud to have achieved that goal.*

*"**Nigel Mackay** will take over the reins as Senior Partner when I stand down next year. It gives us a decent period to ensure there is a smooth handover. I have no doubt **Nigel Mackay** and the new board will do a cracking job.*

"I will be standing down with a happy heart - knowing that the firm is going to be in very good hands for the years ahead."

Liverpool Law Society

MSB Solicitors celebrates strong performance in Chambers and Partners 2027 rankings


Emma Palmer


Pippa Tudor


Andy Moore


Steven Davies


Amy Tagoe


Louise Murphy

MSB Solicitors is celebrating a strong performance in the 2027 Chambers and Partners rankings, with recognition for both its teams and individual lawyers across several practice areas, reflecting the firm's continued commitment to excellence and its mission of delivering access to justice for all.

The latest rankings see MSB recognised across Family, Crime, Social Housing and Employment, with several lawyers achieving Chambers rankings for the first time alongside teams and individuals who have continued to maintain their positions among the country's leading legal professionals.

The Chambers and Partners rankings recognise lawyers and law firms for their legal expertise, client service and professional reputation, based on extensive independent research and client feedback.

Family

MSB's Family team has once again received significant recognition. In the North West, the team has retained its Band 2 ranking, while its UK-wide Family Public Law practice has maintained its Band 3 position. The firm's work in international child abduction has also secured national recognition, with the team entering the newly expanded UK-wide rankings in Band 3 following the opening of the category beyond London-based firms.

Individual recognition within the department also remains strong. **Dr Emma Palmer**, Head of Family, retains her Band 1 ranking, while **Pippa Tudor** continues to be recognised in Band 4. In the West Midlands, partner **Gemma Kelsey** has retained her Band 2 ranking.

Social Housing

MSB's Social Housing team has maintained its Band 3 ranking in the North West, with further success coming through individual recognition. **Louise Murphy** retains her Band 2 ranking, while colleagues **Amy Tagoe** and **Andy Moore** have achieved Chambers recognition for the first time, being ranked Band 3 and Up and Coming respectively.

Employment

The firm's Employment team also celebrated a significant milestone, with **Steven Davies** securing his first Chambers ranking, entering the guide in Band 5.

Crime

MSB's Crime team has continued its consistent performance, retaining its Band 2 ranking in the North West and reinforcing the firm's reputation for excellence across its core practice areas.

Managing Partner's view

Commenting on the results, **Emma Carey**, Managing Partner of MSB Solicitors, said: *"We are immensely proud of this year's Chambers and Partners results. To see so many of our teams and individuals recognised, whilst also welcoming several colleagues into the rankings for the first time, is a tremendous achievement.*

"These rankings reflect the expertise, dedication and commitment of our people across Liverpool, Manchester, Cheshire and the West Midlands. They demonstrate the strength and depth of talent we have throughout the firm and the exceptional service we provide to our clients every day.

"What makes me particularly proud is that this recognition spans so many different practice areas. Whether supporting vulnerable individuals and families, protecting tenants' rights, defending clients facing criminal proceedings or advising employers and employees, our teams remain committed to delivering outstanding legal services and access to justice for all.

"These results are a reflection of the hard work of every colleague across MSB and provide a platform for us to continue building on our success," she added.

Liverpool Law Society

Astraea Linskills celebrates ten years of growth, success and international expansion

Award-winning Liverpool law firm marks milestone anniversary with operations in London and Dubai and ambitious plans for the future



Nama Zarroug and Sara Perischine

October 2026 marks a significant milestone for Astraea Linskills as the award-winning independent law firm celebrates ten years since Astraea Legal was founded by Liverpool solicitor Nama Zarroug.

What began in 2016 has evolved into a respected legal practice with operations in Liverpool, London and Dubai, the team of 30 combine specialist expertise with almost five decades of legal heritage.

Headquartered on Castle Street in the heart of Liverpool's commercial district, the firm has expanded its team, diversified its services and established a reputation for handling complex legal matters for individuals, families and businesses.

A defining moment came in 2020 when Astraea Legal acquired Linskills, an established Liverpool criminal law practice dating back to 1978. The acquisition brought together Astraea's modern, ambitious approach with Linskills' longstanding reputation and experience, providing a strong foundation for the firm's development.

Under the leadership of founding director **Nama Zarroug** and director **Sara Perischine**, Astraea Linskills has developed expertise across family and matrimonial law, criminal defence, regulatory matters, wills and probate, commercial property, media and reputation management and electoral law.

Its electoral law practice has received national recognition from The Legal 500, while closer to home, Astraea Linskills was named **Law Firm of the Year at the Liverpool Law Society Legal Awards in 2022**.

That same year, continued expansion prompted a move to larger headquarters on Castle Street, with the establishment of operations in London and Dubai further extending the firm's reach.

Founding Director **Nama Zarroug** said:
"Reaching our tenth anniversary is a proud moment and an opportunity to reflect on just how far we've come. From the outset, our ambition was to build a modern, independent law firm combining exceptional legal expertise with a genuine commitment to our clients.

"The acquisition of Linskills was a pivotal moment, bringing together two businesses with complementary strengths and creating new opportunities for the future.

"What makes me most proud is the talented team we've built and the reputation we've established. Liverpool will always be our home, and it's incredibly rewarding to see how far we've progressed."

As Astraea Linskills enters its second decade, plans include further investment in its people, strengthening its specialist practice areas and developing its client base across the UK and internationally.

Nama added:
"Ten years is an important achievement and one that gives us enormous pride in what we've created. We have strong foundations and the confidence that comes from everything we've achieved so far.

"Maintaining our independence, integrity and the personal service we offer our clients will always be fundamental to who we are."

From its beginnings in Liverpool to its growing national and international presence, Astraea Linskills enters its second decade with the same ambition that inspired its launch ten years ago - and a determination to make the next chapter its most successful yet.

Liverpool Law Society

MSB enters into Access To Justice Foundation partnership to donate residual client balances



Emma Carey, Managing Partner at MSB Solicitors

MSB Solicitors has entered into an agreement with the Access To Justice Foundation (ATJF) to donate eligible residual client balances to the organisation, which is a grant-making charity that funds free legal advice, support and representation across the UK and which has awarded around £80 million to over 360 organisations.

ATJF indemnifies donated balances, removing the risk for firms if a former client later comes forward. Using their sector expertise, the Foundation directs funding where it can have the greatest impact, supporting communities where access to legal advice can be transformative. This gives firms a practical way to turn dormant funds into meaningful support for people who would otherwise struggle to access justice.

The funds are then pooled into grants for free legal advice, including organisations in Liverpool such as Citizens Advice Liverpool Limited, Merseyside Law Centre, Vauxhall Community Law and Information Centre and Raise Ltd.

As well as receiving donations from residual client balances, the ATJF receives funding from the National Lottery and the Ministry of Justice and also via two other different routes in completed cases.

Funds via Pro Bono Costs Orders

One of these is from Pro Bono Costs Orders (PBCOs), which allows costs to be awarded after a successful civil case where legal representation has been provided free of charge. If a solicitor or barrister represents a client on a pro bono case and wins, an order for costs cannot normally be made because the client has not incurred a loss. However, the legal representative can seek a PBCO, with the money being paid directly to the ATJF, rather than to the lawyers or barristers involved.

Although these orders will not apply to every pro bono case, they can be sought where appropriate in successful civil litigation. MSB encourages all legal colleagues, from trainees to barristers, to consider PBCOs wherever they apply, both as a useful litigation tool and as a way to extend the impact of pro bono work.

Funds via collective actions

The Foundation also receives money from collective actions where orders are made for damages to be paid but the claimant either has not made a claim or is non-traceable. This is a significant route of funding as there are currently around 70 live cases to which it could apply, with one case in particular potentially generating an eight-figure sum for the Foundation.

Commenting on the partnership, **Clare Carter**, CEO of the Access To Justice Foundation, said: *"We are delighted to welcome MSB Solicitors as a supporter of the Foundation. By donating residual client balances and helping to raise awareness of Pro Bono Cost Orders, MSB is turning legal-sector resources into vital support for people who might otherwise struggle to access legal advice.*

"This partnership will help strengthen the frontline organisations providing free legal help across the UK, including in Liverpool," she continued.

Emma Carey, Managing Partner at MSB Solicitors, commented: *"The values of MSB and the ATJF align perfectly, as we are both passionate about providing justice for everyone in society who needs it. We are proud to be in partnership with an organisation that can help vulnerable people and communities.*

"Funding methods such as PBCOs are not as well-known as they might be and we hope that by shining a light on them we can encourage more of our colleagues in the sector to make use of them and help provide justice for all," she added.

For more information on donating residual client balances to the ATJF, head to https://atjf.org.uk/

Liverpool Law Society

New research by Slater and Gordon challenges the 'it's better to wait' divorce narrative



Rebecca Cliff

Slater and Gordon's newest family research finds that many divorcing clients wait longer than necessary before seeking legal advice, despite later regretting the delay. In a survey of 2,000 UK adults, nearly a quarter of divorced couples reported they waited between four to six months (22%), or one to three years (22%) before starting their divorce process.

However, more than half of respondents (57%) say they wished they had started the divorce process sooner. Amongst those who regret delaying their divorce, 43% reported experiencing more stress and anxiety, and ultimately a quarter said it had a negative impact on their children (25%).

Following the findings, it raises an important question - are misconceptions around divorce preventing clients from access timely advice at the point they may need it most?

Rebecca Cliff, solicitor at Slater and Gordon, says these concerns are understandable but delay can sometimes have deeper consequences.

"Delays can take a greater emotional toll on both parties, as well as their loved ones. Prolonged uncertainty can heighten stress and make reaching agreements harder during divorce proceedings."

In the research, the firm also brought to light the positive outcomes that many experience following the divorce process. More than three-quarters of divorcees (79%) feel a weight lifted after ending their marriage and nearly half of all respondents said their mental health improved (48%).

Rebecca notes that these findings reflect what many family solicitors see in practice: *"The decision to end a marriage is a difficult one. However, everyone deserves to seek a solution if their relationship is no longer making them happy. If both parties aren't benefitting from their relationship, not only can this take a toll on themselves mentally, but it can go on to impact their children, wider family and even other areas such as work."*

"Following divorce, many people find they have the opportunity to refocus on what they want from life. This freedom comes guilt-free without pressure from anyone else and that can be very empowering."

With the research, the firm encourages the value of family lawyers encouraging clients to seek advice early. She concludes: *"There is no right or wrong timeline when it comes to making decisions about your future. However, understanding your options and seeking advice early can help people make informed choices that are right for themselves and their family."*

Dear LLS Committee Members,

Following the success of our previous Sub-Committee Socials, we are delighted to invite all Liverpool Law Society sub-committee members to another informal, in-person gathering.

The social will take place on **Thursday 4th February** from 5pm and will provide an excellent opportunity to meet fellow committee members, make new connections, and catch up in a relaxed and friendly setting.

The event will be held at a Liverpool city centre venue. We are grateful to **Haley Farrell** for once again kindly assisting with the organisation of the venue.

To help with arrangements, please register your attendance by emailing committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk.

We hope as many of you as possible can join us. **Please note that this is a self-funded social event, and a cash bar will be available.** We look forward to seeing you there.

Liverpool Law Society

Bell Lamb & Joynson Retains Top Spot in Digital Conveyancing Maturity Index 2026



Bell Lamb & Joynson Solicitors is proud to announce that it has once again been recognised as the most digitally mature conveyancing firm in the UK, retaining its number one ranking in the 2026 Digital Conveyancing Maturity Index (DCMI).

Published by InfoTrack and launched at the Digital Conveyancing Summit in London, the DCMI measures the level of technology adoption and digital maturity across conveyancing firms throughout England and Wales. This year's report assessed firms across six key areas, including client onboarding, pre-completion, post-completion, new business, integration and digital records and for the first time, AI usage and governance.

Bell Lamb & Joynson achieved an exceptional Digital Maturity Score of 94.5%, making it the highest ranked firm in the UK and retaining its number one position from a previous report. With the industry average standing at 59.8%, the result demonstrates Bell Lamb & Joynson's continued commitment to innovation, efficiency and delivering a modern conveyancing experience for clients.

The report highlights the rapid evolution of technology within the conveyancing sector, with expectations continuing to rise as firms embrace digital processes and artificial intelligence. While digital maturity scores across the industry have improved, Bell Lamb & Joynson has maintained its position as a leader in innovation, client service and operational efficiency.

This recognition reflects the firm's ongoing investment in technology designed to enhance the client's experience, streamline transactions and support colleagues in delivering a more efficient and transparent conveyancing service.

Laura Cartwright, Head of Conveyancing at Bell Lamb & Joynson, said: *"We are delighted to have retained our position as the highest-ranking firm in the 2026 Digital Conveyancing Maturity Index. Innovation has always been at the heart of our conveyancing offering and this achievement reflects the hard work of our team and our commitment to continually improving the service we provide to our clients.*

As technology continues to evolve, we remain focused on embracing solutions that make the conveyancing process, smoother, faster and more accessible, while ensuring our clients continue to receive the personal support and expert legal advice they expect from Bell Lamb & Joynson."

The latest ranking adds to a growing list of industry recognition for Bell Lamb & Joynson's Conveyancing Team and further reinforces the firm's position as one of the UK's leading modern conveyancing practices.

PROFESSOR ELIZABETH J. SOILLEUX
MA, MB, BChir, PhD, FRCPath
CONSULTANT PATHOLOGIST
Experienced Cambridge and Oxford-trained consultant pathologist with particular interests in haematopathology (lymphomas, leukaemias), cardiovascular pathology & autopsy pathology.
Expert Witness Certificate (Civil Law), Bond Solon / Cardiff University
• Biopsy Pathology (esp Lymphoma & Leukaemia)
• Autopsy Pathology (esp Cardiovascular Pathology)
• Professional Conduct (GMC work undertaken)
Department of Pathology, Cambridge University / Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge
Tel: 07798 643879 Email: lizsoilleux@gmail.com
www.expertwitnesspathologist.co.uk

The Solicitors' Charity launches new Wellbeing Alliance with leading legal wellbeing organisations



Anita McCallum, Director of Impact and Development, The Solicitors' Charity
Mark Evans, Past President, The Law Society
Nick Gallagher, CEO, The Solicitors' Charity

LawCare's Life in the Law 2025 research found that half of solicitors have experienced anxiety in the last 12 months, with three in five reporting poor mental wellbeing.

Numbers like that are exactly why four organisations decided that working together, solicitors will have a stronger, more joined-up network of support.

That's why The Solicitors' Charity is launching the **Solicitor Wellbeing Alliance** in partnership with the Law Society, LawCare, and the **Mindful Business Charter** – a new collaboration bringing together four organisations with a shared ambition: To improve wellbeing across the solicitors' profession.

The Solicitors' Charity is joining forces with the Law Society, LawCare, and the Mindful Business Charter to launch the Solicitor Wellbeing Alliance – four organisations who each already support the profession in their own way, now pulling in the same direction.

Four partners with shared ambitions

- Improve awareness and signposting between organisations, so support is easier to find
- Work on shared priorities – achieving together what none can alone
- Share insight on the trends and emerging issues affecting solicitor wellbeing
- Provide a unified voice, helping to shape healthier workplace cultures across the profession

A more joined-up route to support

The Solicitors' Charity has always taken a whole-person view – supporting emotional, physical, professional and financial wellbeing, tailored to individual need. What the Alliance adds is a better way in. Wherever a solicitor turns first – to us, to LawCare, to the Law Society or to their own firm – the aim is simple: they end up in the right place, faster. And they may need a combination of support from each organisation!

The Law Society President hopes for healthier workplace cultures with easier-to-find support

The Law Society of England and Wales president, **Mark Evans**, said: *"Solicitors face significant wellbeing challenges and no single organisation can tackle them alone. By joining forces, we can raise awareness of the support already available, share expertise and help drive healthier workplace cultures across the profession.*

"The Alliance brings together organisations with a shared goal: ensuring solicitors can access the support they need to thrive.

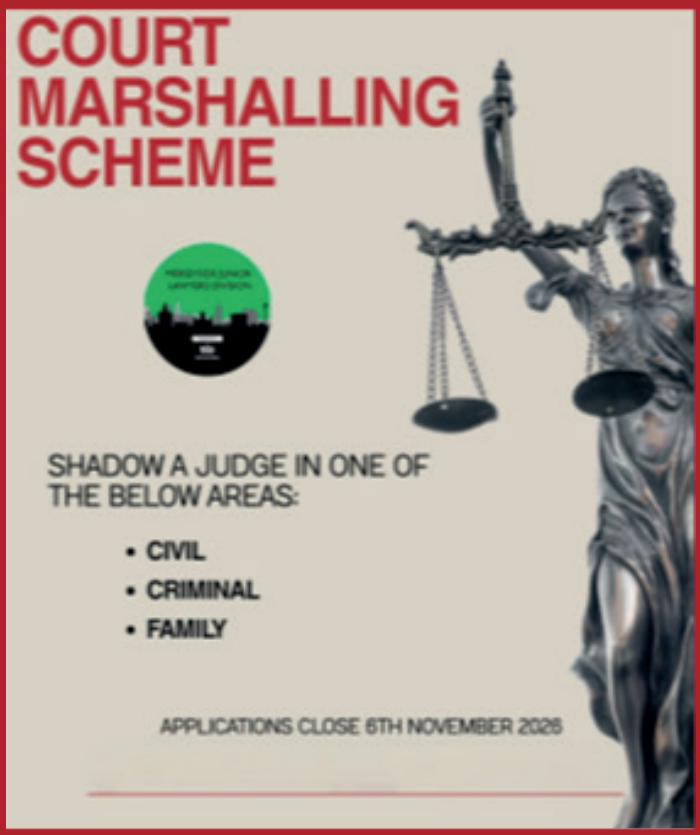
"Over the coming year, Alliance members will work together to develop and deliver practical outputs that improve awareness of support, share learning and help solicitors and legal organisations take positive action on wellbeing."

Nick Gallagher, CEO of The Solicitors' Charity shared: *"Solicitors are used to being the person others rely on. This Alliance is about making sure that when they need support themselves, it's easy to find – and that they're never having to look for it alone. We're proud to be part of a collaboration that's finally joining up to make that happen."*

Solicitors give so much of themselves to other people. This Alliance means there's more, and easier, support ready for them in return. Find out more about the Law Society's wellbeing hub or read LawCare's Life in the Law 2025 research.



Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division Launches Winter Court Marshalling Scheme



The Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division (MJLD) is opening the region's courts to the next generation of legal professionals through its new Winter Court Marshalling Scheme. Organised by Careers and Education Representatives Matthew Jones and Falak Iqbal, this initiative offers students a rare chance to observe judicial work first-hand and gain invaluable insight into courtroom life—an opportunity to look beyond academic study and experience where legal principles are applied daily.

Successful candidates will be placed at Liverpool Crown Court, Liverpool Family Court, or Birkenhead County Court. Placements run for 1–3 days during the weeks starting 30 November, 7 December, or 14 December 2026, subject to judicial availability. Sitting alongside a judge, participants will observe proceedings up close—an experience no lecture can match. They will see advocacy in action, track how cases move through the system, and gain clarity on judicial decision-making, while witnessing the vital roles of preparation, professionalism, and clear communication in hearings.

For aspiring legal professionals, the scheme bridges theory and practice. Students will learn courtroom etiquette and terminology. They will see how written work, oral arguments, evidence, and procedure come together in real cases, making their studies feel more relevant and deepening their understanding of how justice is administered.

Marshalling builds confidence sharpens listening and analytical skills, and provides strong, concrete examples for job applications and interviews, providing informed talking points for work experience, or further study. It also helps students recognise their existing strengths and pinpoint skills to develop.

How to apply

Applications open on 23 October 2026 and close at 6 pm on 6 November 2026. Applicants may select only one court and must submit the official application form to hello@merseysidejld.com using the subject line "MJLD Court Marshalling – Winter – [preferred court]". Successful candidates are expected to be contacted during the week beginning 23 November 2026. Applicants should allow enough time to review their form carefully and ensure that their answers clearly explain their motivation, relevant interests and reasons for choosing their preferred court.

With only 10 places available, demand is expected to be high. Students are encouraged to prepare a clear, thoughtful application explaining both their interest in a legal career and what they hope to gain from the experience.

Future opportunities

MJLD is currently reviewing the scheme's capacity for spring and summer. Provisional plans include a spring round in February and March, with applications opening in February, followed by a summer round in June and July, with applications opening in May. Timings and capacity will be revisited after the Winter Scheme, so university students should keep an eye on MJLD's updates for further opportunities. Those who are unable to secure a winter place should therefore remain engaged, as later rounds may provide another opportunity to apply and benefit from courtroom exposure.

Meet MJLD at upcoming careers fairs

The MJLD Careers and Education Representatives, joined by other committee members, will also attend two university careers fairs on 18 November 2026. Students can meet the team on campus at Liverpool John Moores University from **1.30 pm to 3.30 pm**, and at the University of Law from **4.15 pm to 6.15 pm**. These events will provide an opportunity to learn more about the marshalling scheme, MJLD's wider programme of careers support and routes into the legal profession.

Liverpool Law Society

DWF on the UK labour market

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



Joanne Frew

The latest figures point to a labour market that remains resilient, with employment increasing and unemployment edging down despite the continuing economic uncertainty facing employers. The UK employment rate increased by 0.2% on the year and on the quarter, to 75.3% in June to August 2026, compared with the previous quarter. The UK unemployment rate decreased by 0.1% on the year and on the quarter, to 4.7%. The latest figures provide some cautious encouragement, suggesting that the labour market is proving capable of withstanding broader economic headwinds.

However, beneath the headline figures, there are signs that employer confidence and hiring appetite are not moving in lockstep. The estimated number of vacancies in the UK decreased in the latest quarter. Early estimates for July to September 2026 suggest a decrease of 21,000 to 691,000, compared with April to June 2026. The continued easing in vacancies may reflect a degree of caution among employers as they navigate one of the most significant periods of employment law reform in recent years.

Annual growth in employees' average regular earnings was 3.7% in June to August 2026 and has been relatively stable over the past six consecutive three-month periods, after a year of slowing growth. After a year of moderation, earnings growth now appears to be finding a new equilibrium, providing a clearer backdrop for pay and reward decisions.

For employers, predictability on wages is likely to be welcomed after several years in which workforce costs have been anything but predictable.

While the outlook for UK growth has improved, employers are unlikely to feel that the pressure is off. Rising energy costs are expected to continue weighing on business costs, while the Employment Rights Act 2025 is already reshaping workforce planning decisions. With enhanced unfair dismissal protection due to take effect from 1 January 2027, reducing the qualifying period from two years to six months and removing the compensation cap, employers are placing greater emphasis on getting recruitment decisions right first time. The result is a growing focus on hiring fewer people, but hiring the right people. As the cost and risk of a poor recruitment decision increases, robust recruitment processes, effective onboarding and well-managed probationary periods are becoming business-critical rather than simply HR best practice.

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simon@baskervilleemedia.co.uk



FINDING YOUR VOICE
IN TODAYS DIGITAL LANDSCAPE

Marking 200 Years

Liverpool Law Society Bicentenary Festival Week

21st to 25th June 2027

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

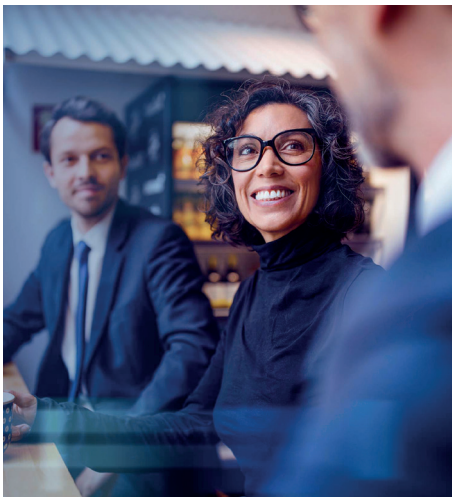
Contact us for more information

contactus@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

0151 236 6998

Liverpool Law Society

Budget speculation versus client reality: what solicitors should focus on now



Every Budget brings fresh speculation. Will pensions face further reform? Could inheritance tax rules change again? What will happen to long-term care funding?

For clients, these headlines can create uncertainty. Many turn to their solicitors for clarity on what potential changes could mean for their families, businesses and long-term plans.

While policy may change, clients' planning needs do not. Decisions around pensions, trusts, estates and later life still need to be made. Many sit where legal advice and financial planning overlap, making collaboration increasingly valuable.

Beyond the headlines

Budget coverage can encourage clients to delay important decisions while they wait for certainty. Others may rush to act because they fear an opportunity will disappear.

Both responses carry risks. Waiting may stop clients addressing issues that matter today, while acting on rumours can create problems if the final measures differ from expectations.

Good planning is not about predicting government policy. It is about helping clients make informed decisions based on their objectives, with enough flexibility to respond if the rules change.

The questions clients are asking

Although Budget speculation often focuses on tax and spending, clients tend to ask broader, practical questions:

- Whether their estate plans remain appropriate
- How pension changes could affect their family
- Whether trusts should form part of their planning
- How future care needs might be funded
- What could improve their financial resilience

These issues are rarely solved by one document or one piece of advice. Trust, pension, capacity and estate planning all benefit from a wider understanding of the client's circumstances and objectives.

A plan for different scenarios

Rather than trying to forecast legislation, it can be more useful to test a range of outcomes. This shifts the conversation from reacting to headlines towards understanding which decisions are needed now, which can wait and where flexibility should be built into the plan.

Cashflow modelling and long-term financial planning can show how different scenarios may affect a client's future. This can help them understand their options, test decisions before acting and proceed with greater confidence during periods of uncertainty.

For solicitors, this analysis can complement legal advice by showing how decisions made today may affect a client's long-term financial wellbeing. Early collaboration can also reduce misunderstandings and help avoid unintended consequences.

Looking beyond the Budget

Whatever this year's Budget brings, the principles of good planning are unlikely to change. Clients still need to understand how assets will pass between generations, prepare for retirement, consider later-life costs and ensure their arrangements reflect their circumstances.

The most useful conversations are often not about what might happen in Westminster. They are about helping clients prepare for a range of possible outcomes.

Better outcomes through collaboration

When solicitors and financial planners work together, clients gain a clearer view of how legal decisions interact with their wider finances. Each professional can focus on their area of expertise while supporting more informed decisions and plans that remain aligned with long-term objectives.

This joined-up approach can be particularly valuable when a legal decision affects pensions, investments, future income or the way wealth will pass to the next generation.

Budget announcements may change the headlines. Helping clients make informed decisions with confidence remains a constant.

Get in touch

Benchmark Financial Planning works alongside legal professionals to help clients navigate complex financial decisions with clarity and confidence. Together, we can help ensure plans remain robust as legislation evolves.



Chris Cobley
Regional Director
E: chris.cobley@benchmarkfp.co.uk
W: www.benchmarkfp.co.uk

Important information

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Liverpool Law Society

The University of Law celebrates 150 years of Legal Education at its Liverpool Campus



The University of Law's Liverpool Campus recently welcomed colleagues from across the city's thriving legal sector for an evening of celebration, networking and reflection as we celebrated 150 years of legal education.

The event brought together guests from across Liverpool's legal community, alongside colleagues from The University of Law, to explore some of the opportunities and challenges shaping the profession today. With discussions ranging from the future of legal apprenticeships to the rapidly developing role of artificial intelligence, the evening provided an opportunity not only to celebrate but to consider where the profession has come from and where it is heading next.

150 years of preparing lawyers for practice

The evening began with our Associate Pro Vice Chancellor, **Matt Tomlinson**, himself an alumni of the University of Law from the Christleton campus, Chester (formerly the College of Law) reflecting on ULaw's history of legal education and the continuing importance of preparing lawyers not simply to pass examinations, but to understand the realities of legal practice.

This year, as we celebrate 150 years of legal education, it is a milestone that reflects our rich heritage and our longstanding commitment to shaping the future of the legal and business professions.

Our story began in 1876 with the formation of the leading tutorial firm Gibson & Weldon, followed by the establishment of The Law Society School of Law. These two influential institutions combined in 1962 to establish The College of Law, laying the foundations for what we are today. Our evolution continued in 2012 when we achieved full university status, followed by the launch of our Business School in 2016, which has since expanded across our campuses and through international partnerships. In 2020 we launched ULaw Online providing a high quality and flexible way for students to achieve their ambitions no matter where they are.

As we mark 150 years of legal education in 2026, we remain at the forefront of professional education and continue to develop the best legal minds and industry leaders.

The next generation: apprenticeships and access to the profession

As the Legal profession and routes to qualification continues to diversify, one of the key discussions of the evening lead by Nicola Goodman, focused on legal apprenticeships and their growing role in developing the next generation of legal talent. The evening provided a valuable forum for the local legal community to hear more about these routes and to consider how apprenticeship models could support future recruitment and talent strategies.

The University of Law outlined its current apprenticeship offering, including a range of pathways into the profession, with opportunities to combine academic study, professional qualifications and workplace experience.

AI: opportunity, challenge and professional responsibility

The keynote discussion from Patrick Grant, Associate Professor at The University of Law, turned to perhaps the most significant technological development currently facing the profession: artificial intelligence.





With firms, universities and professional organisations all being encouraged to "do something with AI", the challenge is increasingly to distinguish genuine opportunities from technology looking for a problem to solve.

The discussion explored the potential for AI to transform aspects of legal work, while also highlighting the risks that come with increasingly sophisticated technology.

The presentation emphasised the importance of responsible implementation, including testing technology in controlled environments, establishing appropriate governance and ensuring that experts check AI-generated outputs.

Building the Liverpool legal community

The evening was also a lovely opportunity to bring together people working across Liverpool's legal network and celebrate a thriving Liverpool Legal community. For The University of Law, engagement with the local profession is an important part of understanding the changing needs of employers and ensuring that legal education continues to reflect the realities of practice.

For legal professionals, these conversations provide an opportunity to connect with educators, share perspectives on recruitment and skills, and contribute to the development of the next generation of lawyers.

Looking ahead that connection is increasingly important as the profession navigates changes in qualification routes, apprenticeship funding, technology and the expectations of clients and employers.

We look forward to continuing these conversations, creating opportunities to collaborate and working together to strengthen Liverpool's legal community and support the next generation of local legal talent.

We would like to thank everyone who joined us for the evening, and for their continued support of The University of Law, our Liverpool Campus and our students.

Sophie Threlfall
& **Nicola Walker**,
The University of Law.



Liverpool Law Society

Council Member's Report



Jeremy Myers

The usual two-day meeting of Council took place on 13 and 14 October. I attended online for the first day, and in person in Chancery Lane for the second day for the morning session and the AGM of the Law Society (TLS).

I must record a big thank you to **Lauren Cannon**, Chair of Liverpool Law Society's In House committee, before I turn to the Council meeting and AGM. **Lauren** kindly agreed to my suggestion to be a panel member in the session about In House Solicitors which was part of the TLS's national Conference of Local Law Societies held online on 23 September as I had participated in Council's online working group. Lauren flew the flag for Liverpool with incisive comments and ideas about the development of in-house practice.

There is much to report from the nonconfidential sections of the meeting and – as ever – I am providing a snapshot. It was the final Council chaired by the outgoing President, **Mark Evans**, well known from Chester contacts with LLS. **Mark** had held meetings with Ministers in both the new UK and new Welsh Governments in starting the process of engaging with them. **Richard Atkinson**, immediate past President, reported on the Government's response to the Leveson Report on criminal justice, which he characterised as disappointing. **Mark** commented approvingly on how **Kaplan** – examiner for the SQE – has replied to a set of written questions from Council members. Please let me know if you would like to see this.

There was some useful internal updating. Voting participation in online elections by Council members – such as for the Deputy Vice President and TLS Board – was not full being about 70 out of 97 people. Personally, I had found no IT problem, but TLS is looking at this as one possibility. Liverpool practitioners who have Welsh clients should be keen to read the new Practice Note by TLS on the Senedd's laws. A workshop session for Council was planned about how we as members engage with you – our constituents. That session had to be cancelled as we had overrun on earlier topics, so I hope that it will be re-scheduled.

The broader picture was covered. A Government reviewed of the Legal Services Board – which supervises the regulators of each branch of the profession – is awaited. The regulatory field is busy. The COFA and COLP roles and how TLS should properly influence the SRA's proposed new Rules for small practices was the subject of debate in the confidential section of the meeting. The SRA has bowed to pressure to "pause" the matter and I contributed to the debate. There is more on this below. Work is continuing on how a Defence Union could be created which would assist Solicitors facing regulatory or disciplinary proceedings. TLS is limited in what it can do but a Special Committee of Enquiry is in place.

The AGM was open of course to all TLS members in person and online. You can read about it in the *Gazette* including its via online news service. A group of sole and small practitioners affected by the SRA's proposed requirements for COFA and COLP roles and the split of responsibilities, was present. Their position is acute as regards how their practices could accommodate such requirements their motion about the SRA could not be debated as it had been submitted out of time. Their concerns were taken on board and TLS continues to engage with SRA. We await developments.

Motions proposed by Council for a change of date of Officer handover and for the President's salary were adopted. Personally, in the AGM, I voted against the removal of the salary cap tied to a District Judge's salary.

The handover then took place from **Mark Evans** to **Brett Dixon**. Brett's practice background is as a Personal Injury specialist and he was raised not far from us, in Burnley.

Council convenes again on 16 December 2026 for its regular quarterly meeting. Having said farewell to members leaving, I shall look forward to meeting some of the newly elected colleagues. There is its annual Strategy Day on 16 February 2027 and I plan to attend each in London. I am always happy to e-mail or speak to LLS members who are interested in TLS's work or have comments to be forwarded.

Jeremy Myers
Council Member

LIVERPOOL LEGAL COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

The Table is Set



EVERYONE WELCOME

MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2026 · 6PM

LIVERPOOL PARISH CHURCH
OUR LADY AND ST NICHOLAS
OLD CHURCHYARD, CHAPEL STREET, LIVERPOOL, L2 8TZ

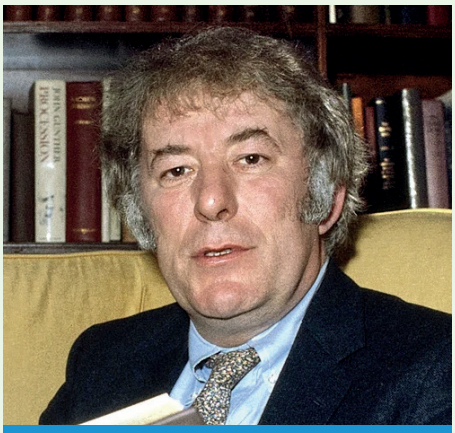
An interview with
Nisha Katona
conducted by
Sir Mark Hedley
and featuring
Liverpool Brass Band

lcf

Please join us for refreshments after the service

Liverpool Law Society

Uni of Liverpool events / SRA Consultation



Seamus Heaney



Dame Siobhan Keegan



Kathy Kiera Clarke

The 2026 Seamus Heaney Lecture: The Right Hon Dame Siobhan Keegan

Interested in poetry, literature, law or Irish culture? Join the University of Liverpool for the annual Seamus Heaney Lecture, featuring a special evening of poetry and discussion.

This year's lecture will be delivered by **Dame Siobhan Keegan**, **Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland**, the first woman to hold this position.

The evening will open with readings of poems by Nobel Prize-winning poet **Seamus Heaney**, performed by **Kathy Kiera Clarke**, the award-winning actress best known for playing Aunt Sarah in *Derry Girls*. With an impressive career across television, film and theatre, Kathy will bring Heaney's work to life through her readings.

Organised by the University of Liverpool's Institute of Irish Studies in association with the Estate of Seamus Heaney, this is a great opportunity to experience an evening celebrating poetry, culture and public life.

Date: Thursday, 19 November
Time: 6 PM - 7:30 PM

Book your place: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2002993275807

Law Clinic

Each year, the University of Liverpool Law Clinic provides around 450 law students with valuable hands-on client experience, helping them develop the skills they need to succeed in the workplace, particularly within the legal profession. As AI continues to transform the way legal services are delivered, the University of Liverpool Law Clinic are keen to ensure that their students are developing the knowledge and skills they will need to thrive in an AI-enabled working environment. To help inform their teaching and training, they have created a short survey and would greatly welcome responses from professionals across a range of roles, including legal practitioners, managers, and HR professionals. They are particularly interested in the views of those involved in recruiting, supervising, and developing staff.

The survey can be accessed here: Skills for Law Clinic students in the age of AI – Fill in form

The SRA Consultation: Review of the Statement of Solicitor Competence and the SQE Functioning Legal Knowledge went live recently. The consultation period ends at 23:59 on 3rd December 2026.

Members are encouraged to respond to SRA consultation on the Statement of Solicitor Competence

The SRA Consultation: Review of the Statement of Solicitor Competence and the SQE Functioning Legal Knowledge went live recently. The consultation period ends at 23:59 on 3rd December 2026.

The SRA are seeking views on proposed changes to the Statement of Solicitor Competence (SoSC) and Functioning Legal Knowledge (FLK) both of which underpin the content of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE).The Statement of Solicitor Competence is also used as a tool by solicitors as part of their continuing competence requirements.

The consultation is to be provided via online questionnaire, and can be saved as a partial response for later completion. For any questions about the consultation or if you need to respond in a different format, please contact statement-consultation@sra.org.uk

After the consultation closes, the SRA will collate and analyse responses and publish their response to the consultation along with final versions of the SoSC and FLK in April 2027. Any changes would come into effect in September 2027, ahead of SQE1 assessments taking place in January 2028.

You can download the consultation paper or read it on the consultation webpage.

Liverpool Law Society

2026 Domestic Abuse Conference

The Liverpool Law Society Domestic Abuse Conference took place online on 22 September, bringing together leading practitioners, counsel and policing professionals to examine the latest developments in domestic abuse law, family proceedings and offender management. Through a series of expert-led sessions, delegates gained valuable insight into emerging case law, the implementation of Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs), multi-agency public protection arrangements, and the new guidance on Non-Molestation Orders.

The conference opened with a comprehensive case law update delivered by **Rachael Banks** of MSB Solicitors. The update provided an overview of the latest domestic abuse case law affecting private children proceedings. The session examined developments in the application of Practice Direction 12J, the courts' approach to coercive and controlling behaviour, and recent decisions concerning fact-finding hearings, welfare assessments, and child arrangements where domestic abuse is a factor.

Chris Wallace of Central Chambers explored the practical operation of Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) nearly two years into the pilot scheme. Delegates considered the advantages of DAPOs compared to Non-Molestation Orders, including enhanced enforcement powers and positive requirements, while also discussing the challenges that have limited their wider adoption within family proceedings.

Inspector **Maciej Matusiak** of Merseyside Police provided insight into Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and the management of high-risk offenders. The presentation explained how police, probation and partner agencies work together to assess risk, safeguard victims, and manage domestic abuse perpetrators through specialist offender management frameworks.

Tim Shortt of St John's Buildings Chambers concluded the conference with a review of the updated 2026 Non-Molestation Order Guidance. The session highlighted key procedural and drafting changes, judicial expectations, and practical considerations for practitioners making or responding to applications, ensuring delegates were equipped to navigate the latest developments in protective injunctions.

The 2026 Domestic Abuse Conference demonstrated the continued evolution of domestic abuse law and practice. From developing case law and procedural reforms to innovations in protective orders and offender management, delegates were provided with practical guidance to support effective representation and safeguarding in this complex and rapidly changing area of law. The event highlighted the growing importance of a multi-disciplinary approach, ensuring that legal professionals remain equipped to respond to the challenges faced by victims, children and families affected by domestic abuse.

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

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

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

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

Check your entry here.

Liverpool Law Society

Liverpool Law Society Property Conference 2026



On 23rd September 2026, Liverpool Law Society welcomed property law practitioners, conveyancers, barristers and industry professionals to the annual Property Conference at Winston Taylor, Liverpool.



The conference provided delegates with a comprehensive update on the rapidly evolving property law landscape, covering developments in planning, landlord and tenant law, leasehold reform, housing legislation, land registration and conveyancing practice. The event brought together leading experts from across the profession to discuss both the opportunities and challenges arising from significant legislative and regulatory change.

The day opened with **Philip Bryne** of St Johns Building, who examined how the courts and tribunals have interpreted claims under the Building Safety Act. His session highlighted key developments in the approach taken by the Technology and Construction Court and the First-tier and Upper Tribunals, providing valuable guidance for practitioners advising clients in an increasingly complex area.

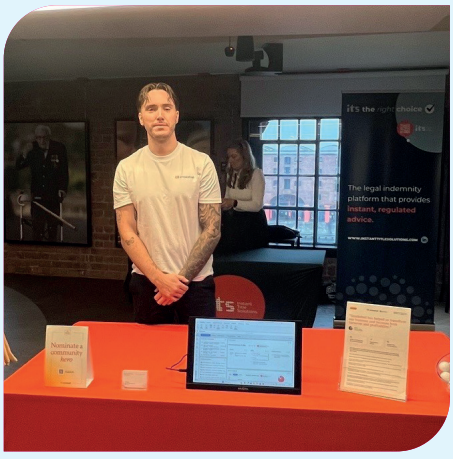
Delegates then heard from **Ian Ford** of Pegasus Group, who explored the implications of the new National Planning Policy Framework 2026. The session examined the introduction of 79 National Decision-Making Policies, the increasing importance of location-based development policies, support for brownfield and station-led development, and the Government's wider ambition to create a more rules-based and growth-focused planning system. The presentation provided useful insight into how planning considerations are increasingly influencing land value, development opportunities and transaction risk.

The conference continued with an engaging review of leasehold reform from **David Green** of Hundred Court Chambers. Focusing on the draft Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Bill, delegates considered proposals to phase out new leasehold flats, the adoption of commonhold ownership and reform existing leasehold arrangements. The session offered an overview of the significant changes that may reshape residential property ownership in the years ahead.

Delegates received a commercial landlord and tenant update from **Daniel Wood**

of Charterhouse Chambers. Through a review of recent case law and legislative developments, the session highlighted important issues affecting commercial leases, including certainty of term, statutory protections under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 and anticipated reforms relating to rent review provisions. **Caitlin Corrigan** of 18 St John Street Chambers delivered a detailed examination of the Renters' Rights Act 2025. Delegates received practical guidance on implementation of the legislation, including the abolition of Section 21 notices, changes to assured tenancies, new possession grounds, rent regulation, anti-discrimination provisions and the introduction of the Private Rented Sector Database and Ombudsman scheme. The session also considered emerging litigation trends and the wider impact of the reforms on landlords, tenants and the rental market.

The conference then turned to developments under the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, with **Brynmor Adams** of Exchange Chambers explaining the new Register of Contractual Controls. Delegates explored the purpose of the register, the agreements caught by the legislation, reporting obligations and the practical implications for developers, landowners and conveyancers. Particular attention was given to the increased transparency requirements and their potential impact on future development projects.





The final session was from **Keith Lloyd** of HM Land Registry whose session provided an update on HM Land Registry's strategic priorities, digital transformation programme and plans to modernise property transactions. Topics included Local Land Charges digitisation, innovation initiatives, data-sharing projects and proposals emerging from the Government's home buying and selling reform roadmap.

A special thank you goes to sponsors Smokeball and Instant Title Solutions - The legal indemnity platform that provides instant, regulated advice for their generous support of the conference. Smokeball is powering people-law. Our legal practice management software lightens the administrative burden, giving legal professionals more time to focus on the people who need them most.

Liverpool Law Society extends its sincere thanks to all speakers, delegates and to Winston Taylor for helping to make this year's Property Conference another successful and informative event. The conference provided delegates with valuable insight into the latest developments affecting property law and practice.



Liverpool Law Society

Exploding the Valuation Myths: A Lawyer's Guide to What Really Matters



Graham Hines, Nick McCarthy, Fiona Hotston Moore, Tom Arnold and Kirsty Shuckford

In this article two of the valuation experts at FHM Forensic Accounting, Fiona Hotston Moore and Nick McCarthy, debunk some of the key myths that we frequently come across.

Myth 1 – A company with no assets has no value

We are often asked whether a company with minimal net assets (or even net liabilities) in the accounts can have any value. This can be relevant in family law cases in determining whether appointing a Single Joint Expert to value the company is cost proportionate.

The short answer is yes, a company with no assets or even net liabilities can have value. In most cases the net assets in the published accounts will give an indication of the "bottom line valuation" of the company but the market value of the business can be significantly higher.

It may also be the case that the company owners have chosen to distribute all or most the profits each year and thus the net assets (retained reserves) are minimal but the company may be generating significant earnings and thus will have a value far higher than its net assets.

In deciding if the company has value over and above its net assets, we need to assess its ability to generate a positive cash flow in the future. There are several methods to value a profitable company. Typically, the valuer will look at the historical profits to estimate a figure for the future maintainable earnings ("FME") of the company and then apply a multiple to the FME to assess what we describe as "Enterprise Value". If financial projections are available these will also be considered.

Unfortunately, smaller companies are not currently required to file their profit and loss account in the published accounts and therefore it is necessary to obtain either a copy of the accounts prepared for the shareholders or other information to assess if the business is generating a commercial return.

A simplistic example – Traitors Limited

Net assets as at 31 December 2024:	£10,000
Valuation based on net assets:	**£10,000**

However, from our enquiries we identify that the business is generating profits each year which are distributed in full to the owners each year and hence net assets are minimal.

Estimated future maintainable earnings:	£50,000
Applying a multiple of, say, 4X gives an Enterprise Value of:	**£200,000**

In this instance the value of goodwill is approximately £190,000 (£200,000 less £10,000).
In conclusion, if the net assets on the balance sheet are minimal or even negative, this may suggest the company has negligible value. However, reaching an informed conclusion requires some information on the recent trading performance.

Myth 2 – Start-ups cannot be valued

Start-up valuations may be required in divorce, shareholder disputes or in raising funds or investment. As in all valuation, the reason for the valuation is relevant in deciding on the approach to the valuation.

Start-ups tend to have negative cash flows and possibly minimal or no sales, limited historical cashflows and the proof-of-concept may not yet have been proven. Traditional valuation methods such as capitalized earnings and net asset valuations may not be relevant depending on the stage of development.

There are several ways we can value start-ups and these are explained below. We may adopt more than one valuation method to get a broad range of valuation for the company.

The cost approach

The cost approach (also called "cost to duplicate") looks at the costs incurred to get the start-up to its current point. The assumption is that an investor will at least cover the costs already incurred. This method gives no credit for the future value that may be generated and it gives no value to the intellectual property beyond the actual costs.

The venture capital method

Using this method, we estimate what the "exit-value" might be in a few years when the company is sold. This figure is then discounted back to arrive at the present value. The risk that this venture will not achieve the exit value will be factored into the calculation through the discount rate.

The scorecard method

This method assesses the business against various criteria that

an investor considers important including the team, the product, the target market and the strategic relationship, and then applies a value to each one. This value is discounted for the risk attributed to the start-up. This method tends to be investor specific.

Discounted cashflow

If the start-up is at a point where future cashflows can be reasonably estimated, then we can adopt the discounted cashflow method and discount future cashflows back to give us the current value.

Market multiple

If sufficient information on estimated future income is available and we have data on recent acquisitions that are similar in nature, then we may be able to use a calculated market multiple.

In summary, valuing a start-up is highly subjective and, in all methods, requires an assessment of the risk and rewards as well as the likelihood of success of the enterprise.

Myth 3 - Partnership interests can be valued in the same way as a shareholding

The key to valuing a partnership interest is an understanding of the legal framework of the partnership. The valuer should consider if there is a partnership agreement or, for an LLP, a Members' Agreement. If not, and if the entity is a general partnership, the valuer needs to understand the implications of the Partnership Act

The starting point to assess the value of a partnership interest is to establish the balance on the partner's capital and current accounts (including any tax reserve). The balance on these accounts represents profits already earned and due to the partner.

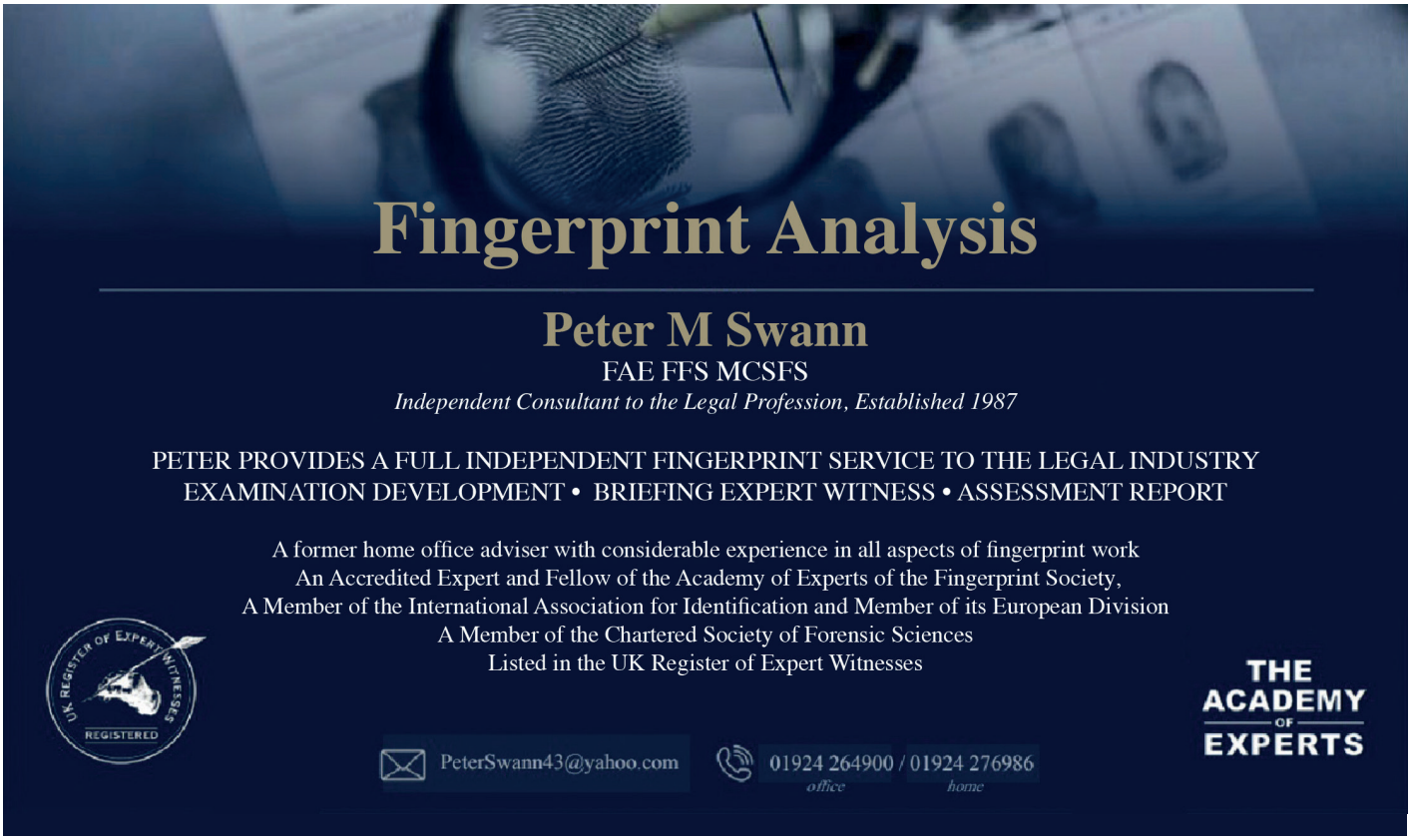
The second point is to consider is whether there is any value to be attributed to goodwill (i.e. the ability to generate future profits from the partner's interest).

The partnership agreement or LLP Members Agreement may include provisions regarding how a partner can exit the partnership agreement and how their interest in goodwill should be valued. It is typical in professional partnerships for an exiting partner to be precluded from realising any goodwill. Alternatively, the agreement may specify how any goodwill is to be valued.

Conclusion

Once the legal and commercial framework is understood, the valuer can determine if there is any value attributable to the partner's interest beyond their capital and current accounts.

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+44 (0)7770 642491
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Liverpool Law Society

The Hidden Cost of Pension IHT Changes



Philip Nairn

The proposed inheritance tax changes for unused pensions from April 2027, are inevitably sparking conversations around tax.

Discussion around who will pay more, and how many more estates will become liable are certainly valid talking points. However, for private client professionals responsible for administering estates, a couple more pressing questions merit attention: what about the increased risk and how will firms cope with the additional workload?

The reality is that the proposed changes will involve administering more complex estates and many more will fall under the new IHT rules then before, opening the door to increased risk. In reality this means more financial information will need to be gathered from multiple providers. It also means potential delays and the chance for human error. When most firms are already working at full capacity, it's a challenge that needs to be planned for carefully.

Complexity Adds Risk

Estate administration has always involved a balance of legal expertise and detailed administration.

The IHT400 for example, and its associated schedules, is already one of the most detailed and time-consuming forms in the estate administration process. Firms have shared with us that in some cases it can take a full day to complete properly.
When additional asset information comes to light late in the process, figures then need to be updated consistently throughout the entire form. Detailed data entry and repetitive work likes this naturally creates risk of human error. And, as more estates become liable for inheritance tax, the volume of this administration is only likely to increase.

It only takes a missed digit or a figure not updated following new asset discovery for inaccuracies to creep in. At the very least, one small error could lead to HMRC queries resulting in delays and dissatisfied beneficiaries. In the worst case, a firm could be liable for professional negligence.

Technology Support

Here's where we believe technology can play a key role to support private client teams. The greatest gains come from removing repetitive administration that offers little value to clients. It also saves unbillable time that is often needed to amend or correct forms or accounts. Automatically populating forms, carrying information across documents, updating figures consistently and reducing manual data entry is a bread and butter for task for today's advanced legal tech. In fact, tech can complete data replication and calculations far faster and more accurately than any person can and it's more accurate therefore reducing risk.

At Exizent, we see these benefits every day. Firms appreciating software that removes hours of administration, allowing those solicitors to spend more time advising clients and supporting bereaved families.

Lara Waddell, Legal Assistant at Warners in Edinburgh uses Exizent and described just how significant that difference has been: *"We have used Exizent since 2025 to help produce Estate Accounts, create correspondence to institutions to make enquiries about assets, and for IHT400 form completion. The Exizent platform is intuitive and brings everything together. A simple update or change needed within an IHT400 form for example needs to be reflected across the entire form. Exizent swiftly automates this process ensuring accuracy and saving hours, if not days, of repetitive, detailed administration relating to form completion, while also removing any chance of human error."*

This example shows how our technology can deliver real value for private client firms to remove unnecessary administration and also reducing risk.

Questions

There are still questions about exactly how the pension inheritance tax changes will operate when they come into force. However, we do know that many more estates are likely to require IHT reporting. This will result in more and complex administration placing pressure on already busy private client teams. Those that will be best prepared will have invested the time in looking at suitable technological solutions to help them create the most efficient processes such as Exizent.

There can be a certain level of fear surrounding technology. However, these days, tech has been designed for ease of use and for specific real-world applications such as IHT 400 form automation and the creation of estate accounts.

At Exizent, our solution helps private client solicitors manage higher workloads while reducing risk every day.

As **Lara Waddell**, puts it: *"Exizent ensures we get everything right first time every time, and this means we provide an even better service for our clients".*

At Exizent, that's what drives us: helping private client professionals spend less time on paperwork and more time doing what they do best offering valuable legal advice and guiding families through their bereavement journey as smoothly as possible.

In advance of the IHT changes in relation to pension, find out more about how Exizent's award-winning solutions here: www.exizent.com

Philip Nairn,
Co-Managing Director, Exizent

Liverpool Law Society

Wirral Way 5 mile run Sunday 18th October 2026

On a bright sunny Sunday morning I set off to join almost 180 young runners to take part a five mile race organised by Race Wirral.The race was on the 18th October 2026 so I should have known better that the temperature was going to drop.The sun was deceiving the temperature was down to 9/10 degrees and was a dramatic drop from my previous race at Capenhurst when in August I ran 5K in 32 degrees.



This was a day for leggings, probably a thermal overcoat wouldn't have gone amiss.

The course was described as picturesque with no mention of hills.I soon found hills everywhere but ploughed on.

I found myself with the back marker and first aid cyclist keeping me company.

This was not a day for breaking records but getting to the finish line in one piece. I completed the course in a time of 80 minutes.I discovered I was first in my age category (75 and over male)I thought that was a small victory until I discovered I was the oldest in the race and their were no other 75s and over either male or female!

So I was last in the field.My position was 177 the runner in front of me was 3 minutes ahead although he was 30 years younger.

Another great experience and a fantastic welcome from the organisers at the end who all joined me in the group photo below.

Even the medal was a bit special.

Norman Jones
Past President, LLS





Liverpool Law Society

The Fallout from *Lumb* - 7 Applications resolved – A Summary

Peak Costs



Kris Kilsby

One of the biggest decisions to impact professional deputies for property and finances in recent years was that of HHJ Hilder in *Lumb v NHS Humber & North Yorkshire ICB* [2024]. At the heart of the case was the issue of whether the management of Direct Payments or other local authority funding for care packages fell within the general authority of a deputy for property and finances.

The decision held was that it did not fall within the general authority of a deputy for property and finances because there was such an overlap with health and welfare coupled with the wording of relevant regulations governing the management of funding.

This decision had a big impact on professional deputies who can spend a significant amount of time managing Direct Payments to ensure that the Protected Parties own assets are not depleted in respect of expensive care packages. The costs involved can quickly add up and a range of figures were provided by the 7 Applicants from £1,200 up to £13,200 per year to manage P's care package and the associated Direct Payments/local authority funding.

As a result, 7 Applications were made to the Court of Protection to seek a number of determinations regarding the management of Direct Payments.

The overall conclusion reached was that the original decision was upheld and that the management of Direct Payments cannot be considered to fall within the 'general' authority of a professional deputy for property and finances. **HHJ Hilder** found that there was input which was required to give effect to the 'choice agenda' which could not mean that the management of direct payments was purely 'operational' as contended by the applicant deputies. This reflects the original decision reached in *Lumb* and that the authority to manage Direct Payments is mixed and involved both property and affairs and health and welfare.

However, some important clarifications were provided:

- The Court of Protection can give a deputy authorisation as P's deputy to manage Direct Payments, on the basis that the beneficiary of the direct payments is over 16 (in accordance with the decision in SBB).

- The requesting of Direct Payments from the statutory body and making arrangements for the Direct Payments to be paid does not fall with the general authority.

- Negotiating with the statutory body concerning the Direct Payments sufficiency does not fall within the general authority.

- The actual use and management of Direct Payments once received does not fall within the general authority.

- The preparation of employment contracts for directly employed carers does fall within the general authority.

- Retrospective approval of costs associated with managing Direct Payment can be obtained and a Deputy should make an Application to the Court to obtain specific authority to manage Direct Payments moving forward. A detailed draft Schedule of a proposed Order is provided within the Judgment and would be highly recommended to be adopted.

- The SCCO have provided guidance in respect of bills awaiting provisional assessment which cover the period after 11 October 2024 and include costs relating to managing direct payments. It is recommended that the Deputy should email the SCCO providing the details of the bill along with details confirming that the bill contains costs relating to direct payments and that an application is being made to the Court to obtain authority to manage Direct Payments. The SCCO will then pause the assessment until the Application has been determined. However, the SCCO has confirmed that once the Order granting authority has been received the assessment process will recommence and the bill will retain its place within the assessment queue.

- Retrospective approval need not be sought for steps taken and costs incurred by a Deputy managing Direct Payments for any period prior to 11 October 2024. The SCCO have subsequently provided guidance and confirmed that any bills awaiting provisional assessment where the entirety of the bill period falls before 11 October 2024 then the bill will be assessed in the normal way.

Liverpool Law Society

- Currently appointed Deputies can consider whether to make an Application to recover costs incurred by former Deputies in managing Direct Payments, if it is in P's best interests.
- The judgment also included detailed guidance on the information and evidence which should be required when making an Application to the Court for authority to manage direct payments. This included:
    - Setting out a succinct description of P's current situation regarding the care needs and any care plans provided by the local authority.
    - Details of the current care arrangements including how and by whom it is delivered.
    - Details of the current care arrangements.
    - Details of the size and nature of P's estate.
    - Details of the apportionment between private and public funding required for P's care package.
    - Details of the Deputy's costs overall of managing P's property and finances, alongside details of the costs (or likely costs) of managing P's care package and direct payments.
    - Details of why it is in P's best interests for the Deputy to manage the direct payments and whether there are any realistic alternatives to the Deputy who could manage P's direct payments.

If you have any questions or queries in respect of the recovery of costs in respect of direct payments then please feel free to get in touch.

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

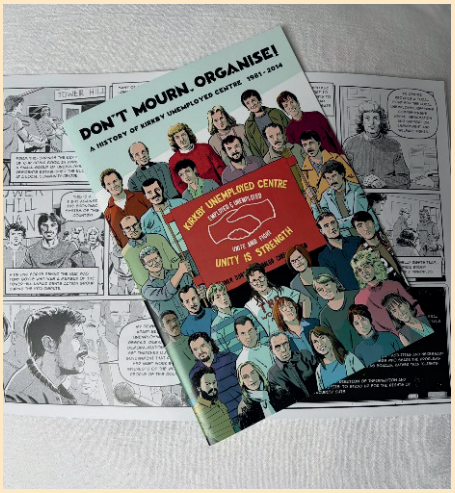




Liverpool Law Society

Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre

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







Don't Mourn, Organise!

On Saturday the 3rd of October, we launched **Don't Mourn, Organise**!, a project celebrating and capturing the important history of **Kirkby Unemployed Centre** and the work of its members. The project has been led by Greig Campbell, who previously led our **So We Marched**, our previous heritage project on the People's March for Jobs of 1981. Greig, along with his team of volunteers, spent long hours conducting interviews with members of the KUC discussing their memories of the work undertaken at the centre. The centre was a pioneering example of community and solidarity in what were undeniably difficult times for many residents of the town and beyond. From the vital work of their welfare rights team to the importance of their fierce campaigning, gaining such a detailed insight first-hand from the voices and memories of those who were present has been inspiring.

To help share this history, a short comic was also commissioned for the project - written by **Sean Michael Wilson** and illustrated by **Jamie Huxtable** - that follows the journey of the KUC from its beginning all the way to the legacy work of some of its members, including our own trustee **Alan Kelly**. If you would like to learn more, or you're interested in obtaining your own copy of the comic, please get in touch with **Grieg** at info@thepeoplesmarch.co.uk, or with the law centre at development@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk.

Welcome to Students

At the start of this month, we welcomed our new cohort of students from Liverpool John Moores University, who will be in placement with us for one day a week until April next year. They'll be here to learn more about our work, gaining an understanding of both social welfare law, and the struggles that our clients face. Additionally, they'll be helping us provide our open-door triage service, following extensive training from our fantastic coordinator, Simon. Students will also have the opportunity to attend tribunals, and occasionally court dates too, providing a hands-on experience.

We've had some great feedback from past cohorts, with many agreeing that the opportunity to learn a different side of legal work to what they may experience in private practice has helped them understand the issues affecting the city they live in.

We're always looking for additional volunteers, so if you're interested in joining us, have skills in administration, social welfare law, or have a real passion for serving your community, get in touch with us at development@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk.

A visit from the Law Society

A big Congratulations to the President of the Law Society, **Brett Dixon**, from everyone at Vauxhall Law Centre. Not too long ago, we had a visit from **Brett**, who was then vice-president of the Law Society, during his visit to Liverpool. We had a long discussion on access to justice, as well as on how social welfare lawyers can be better supported both in our centre and nationally. **Brett** showed real care and understanding of our centre's position, and provided welcome insights. We would like to wish him all the best in his tenure as President. (Pictured opposite: **Ngaryan Li** - CEO and Senior Solicitor, **Brett Dixon**)



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

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

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

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

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



A 'tragedy if legal centre has to close'

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

The Social Services Committee had advised the Financial Control sub-committee that it would support the continuation of the law centre.

It is run by solicitor Mr John Linden, who was taken on in June, 1973 at a

(Liverpool Echo, Thursday 19th February, 1976)

Liverpool Law Society

Regulation Update November 2026

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

The past month has produced a familiar mixture of regulatory ambition, operational reality and disciplinary reminders, but with a bit of a twist: recent developments show that proportionate regulation still requires the SRA to listen when a proposal risks creating cost without a commensurate reduction in harm.

Compliance officer reform

The SRA has stepped back from introducing its proposed restriction on individuals with unilateral decision-making power also acting as COLP or COFA. The measure, which would have affected firms above specified turnover or client-money thresholds, had been due to take effect in January 2027. Following sustained concern about its impact, particularly on smaller firms and sole practitioners, the SRA will instead reconsider the proposal and develop a more targeted, evidence-led approach.

This is sensible. Independence and effective challenge matter, but structure alone does not create a strong compliance culture. Firms should use the breathing space to test whether their compliance officers have genuine authority, access to information and a clear route for escalation. The proposal may have been paused, but scrutiny of governance and accountability has not.

SRA annual AML report: improvement, but no room for complacency

The SRA's 2025/26 AML report issued on 22 October 2026 records its largest programme of proactive supervision to date: 966 proactive engagements, including 358 inspections, 578 desk-based reviews, 26 independent audit reviews for the largest firms and thematic work. While financial sanctions increased to a total of £2.6 million, compliance has improved in several areas, but the recurring weaknesses remain familiar: client and matter risk assessments; source of funds enquiries; policies and controls, and firm-wide risk assessments.

The SRA's thematic review of AML policies, controls and procedures reinforces the link between governance on paper and performance on files. Firms with weaker or outdated frameworks were more likely to display wider file-level failings, while those that reviewed and refreshed their arrangements regularly generally achieved better outcomes. The message is that a policy is only effective if it is embedded, followed and tested.

Good practice also includes retaining review records, setting and tracking remedial deadlines, analysing trends through registers or reports, escalating findings to senior management or risk committees, feeding lessons into training and applying greater scrutiny to higher-risk matters. By contrast, informal or undocumented reviews, procedures that are not followed, reliance on fee earners without structured oversight and lighter scrutiny of partners all undermine assurance.

The SRA identifies recorded internal file reviews, AML checklists, case-management alerts for outstanding customer due diligence and independent audits as useful controls. It asks firms for copies of independent audits and found that 63% of firms had commissioned one. However, 18% of those audits did not fully meet the requirements of Regulation 21. The SRA observed higher levels of compliance among firms that had undertaken a compliant independent audit.

To support firms, the SRA has produced an AML policy checklist, a model file-review form and guidance for reviewers. These materials provide a useful benchmark, but the more important question is whether a firm can evidence that deficiencies are identified, corrected and used to strengthen its systems.

The FCA is expected to begin taking over AML supervision of legal services providers in late 2028, with a phased transition completed by 2030. For now, obligations and SRA supervision continue. Firms should avoid treating the future transfer as a reason to defer remediation; if anything, the prospect of more data led supervision makes reliable records and demonstrable control effectiveness more important.

If you have not had an independent AML audit, or your last one was some time ago, please get in touch with Compli.

Sanctions, tax advice and the wider economic crime picture

Firms holding frozen assets should check the November reporting deadline and ensure that responsibility is allocated rather than assumed. The SRA has also highlighted HMRC's ability to seek information and documents from tax advisers in prescribed circumstances. These developments sit alongside the Government's 2026–2029 anti-

money laundering and asset recovery strategy, which emphasises intelligence sharing, emerging threats and closer collaboration between regulators, law enforcement and the private sector.

The practical lesson is to connect compliance disciplines. Sanctions screening, AML risk assessment, tax work, suspicious activity reporting and information requests should not operate in separate silos. Firms need clear ownership, escalation routes and an audit trail showing why decisions were made.

The SRA's next thematic review will focus on Economic Crime…you have been warned!

AI: disclosure is only one part of the answer

The Law Society's new practice note on artificial intelligence Using artificial intelligence in legal practice | The Law Society brings together the professional and practical issues that arise when AI is used in legal work. It addresses governance, supervision, confidentiality, privilege, data protection, insurance and cyber security, as well as the need to verify AI-generated material. It also indicates that clients should be told about AI use where that is material to the retainer, the way the service is delivered or the client's decision-making.

A generic sentence in terms of business will not cure weak controls. Firms need an approved tools framework, clear restrictions on data entry, human review proportionate to the risk, and records showing how outputs were checked. Client communication should be transparent without implying that responsibility has shifted to the technology. The solicitor/firm remains accountable for the work and for explaining any material effect on cost, confidentiality or service.

Investigations and enforcement

On 23 October 2026 the SRA published its annual report 2024/25 into its investigations and enforcement work. The data points to increasing regulatory activity. In 2024/25 it received 15,914 reports about solicitors and firms, the highest level in seven years, while cases resulting in regulatory action rose to 1,202, up from 1,069 the previous year. Those actions included 437 warnings, 197 financial penalties and 41 rebukes. At the more serious end, 105 cases were concluded at the SDT, compared with 78 in 2023/24, resulting in 38 strike-offs, 27 suspensions and 29 fines.

While changes in reporting categories mean year-on-year comparisons require some caution, the overall direction is clear. With the SRA combining reports of concern with proactive compliance checks, firms should ensure they can not only identify and address regulatory issues promptly, but also evidence that their systems and controls are working effectively.

Competence framework

The SRA is consulting on changes to the Statement of Solicitor Competence and functioning legal knowledge, with responses invited by 3 December SRA | Review of the Statement of Solicitor Competence and the SQE Functioning Legal Knowledge. | Solicitors Regulation Authority. The review is intended to reflect modern practice and follows engagement with firms, practitioners, educators and representative bodies.

The exercise should not be treated as relevant only to qualification and the SQE. The competence statement underpins continuing competence throughout a solicitor's career. Firms should therefore consider whether appraisal, supervision and learning records are capable of showing not merely that training was completed, but that identified risks and capability gaps were addressed. That evidence becomes particularly important where new technology, new service models or rapid growth alter how work is delivered.

New/updated SRA guidance and Law Society practice notes:

SRA guidance

SRA | Anti-money laundering policies, controls and procedures | Solicitors Regulation Authority

SRA | How we gather evidence in our regulatory and disciplinary investigations | Solicitors Regulation Authority

SRA | How we gather evidence in our regulatory and disciplinary investigations | Solicitors Regulation Authority

SRA | Reporting and notification obligations | Solicitors Regulation Authority

SRA | Legal professional privilege when working in-house - Guidance | Solicitors Regulation Authority

Practice notes

Alternative business structures | The Law Society

Residual client balances | The Law Society

SRA Transparency Rules | The Law Society

Compliance officers | The Law Society

Using artificial intelligence in legal practice | The Law Society

Disciplinary decisions

Fine for misleading client

A solicitor received an expert report in a clinical negligence matter but told the client on three occasions that it remained outstanding. The tribunal found a failure to act in the client's best interests but did not find dishonesty or lack of integrity. The solicitor was fined £15,000 and ordered to pay costs of over £14,000.

Struck off for failure to serve claim and attempted cover-up

A solicitor failed to serve a clinical negligence claim on the correct defendant within the required period, maintained that service had been effective and produced a letter which the tribunal found had been fabricated and backdated. Dishonesty was proved and the solicitor was struck off.

Continues over page...

Liverpool Law Society

Regulation Update continued...

Struck off for practising without insurance

A sole practitioner continued to accept instructions and carry out legal work for about a year after the firm's qualifying insurance ended and the cessation period expired. The tribunal rejected attempts to characterise some relationships as personal rather than professional, found dishonesty and ordered strike-off and costs of over £45000.

Fined for using client account as a banking facility

A solicitor allowed a firm's client account to be used as a banking facility in four matters and made payments involving companies controlled by the solicitor or family members, creating a significant own-interest conflict risk. There was no evidence of client loss. The solicitor was fined £4,950 and ordered to pay investigation costs of £1,350.

Section 43 order for failure to disclose arrest

A former apprentice solicitor gave an untrue explanation for an absence following arrest and failed to disclose the arrest when directly asked by a supervisor. The police investigation later concluded with no further action, but the dishonesty towards the employer led to a section 43 order preventing work in an SRA-regulated firm without permission.

How Compli can help...

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

Andrea Cohen
Compli, Weightmans LLP

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BELIEVE IN YOUNG FUTURES. END HOMELESSNESS WITH CENTREPOINT

CENTRE POINT ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Why partner with Centrepoint?

As the UK's leading youth homelessness charity, Centrepoint, along with its partners, supports almost 14,000 people a year. With a commitment to end youth homelessness by 2037, we advocate for systemic change, provide safe housing and support, and give every young person a chance at a better life.

Youth homelessness is one of society's biggest problems. We're here to end it for good.

The housing crisis, rising levels of mental health problems and the spiralling cost of living are just some of the forces driving the shocking level of youth homelessness in the UK – and more young people are at risk every year.

Every
4 minutes
a young person becomes homeless

118,000
16-25 year olds were homeless or at risk last year

1 in 62
young people faced homelessness last year

CENTREPOINT'S MISSION AND IMPACT

We aim to end youth homelessness by 2037. Succeeding in this strategy will mean no one born in 2021 will become homeless by the time they turn 16.

It all starts with wraparound support: a safe place to stay and the first chance at a new beginning. Our expert staff help young people overcome their struggles by teaching them skills for healthy, independent living, and providing access to homes and jobs. Our work will only end when young people are no longer at risk of homelessness.

Centrepoint has
50 years
of understanding complex experiences and the challenges feeding youth homelessness.

Our goal is for
70%
of the young people we support to move on with a stable job and home.



Want to get involved?

Get in touch!
Email: events@centrepoint.org
Website: www.centrepoint.org.uk

Liverpool Law Society

Forthcoming Courses

MULTI DELEGATE DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS

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

DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
11/11/2026	Conference for Legal Cashiers & Managers	Various
13/11/2026	Stand and Deliver – Advocacy Principles	Safda Mahmood
17/11/2026	The Return Journey - A Look At What To Do When Assests Are Located Overseas	Louise Leverne
18/11/2026	Civil procedure: the backbone of the TOLATA claim	Tom Hynes
19/11/2026	International Mens Day	Various
24/11/2026	Key legal considerations for Shareholders Agreements	Jackie Sheldon
25/11/2026	Civil Litigation Conference	Various
02/12/2026	Pensions, IHT and Family Dynamics: Advising Clients Through a Changing Landscape	Various
03/12/2026	Best Practice and Avoiding Complaints with the Legal Ombudsman	Ombudsman
21/01/2027	VAT and Property: Key Updates and Practical Issues	Carolyn O'Shea
03/02/2027	Compliance That Works	Eilish Cullen

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

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

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

Liverpool Law Society

2026 Legal Cashiers Conference

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

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

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

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

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

BOOK NOW

Liverpool Law Society

Family

Stand And Deliver – Advocacy Principles

with Safda Mahmood

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



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

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

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Liverpool Law Society

Wills, Trust, Tax and Probate

The Return Journey - A Look At What To Do When Assets Are Located Overseas

with Louise Levene

Online, 17th November, 1.00pm - 2.00pm

For investors acquiring assets, crossing borders is often made very simple; it can even be a passive process. Bringing them back into an estate is rarely as straightforward.

We will dive into the topic of how differently assets located overseas may need to be dealt with, compared to those located in the UK. This talk will include some case studies to help show just how commonly occurring these issues are in estates, and the headaches they cause practitioners. We'll look at how we help overcome the obligations and hurdles that arise, and how different even two accounts held with the same bank can be.

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Liverpool Law Society

Family

Civil procedure: the backbone of the TOLATA claim

with Tom Hynes

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

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

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

In Partnership With

resolution

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Liverpool Law Society

International Men's Day

Thursday 19th November 2026, 4.30pm till 6.30pm
In Person Event

Join us for a thought-provoking International Men's Day event for legal professionals, exploring leadership, communication and workplace wellbeing. Through two engaging sessions, delegates will gain practical insights into building supportive workplace cultures, communicating effectively under pressure and leading with confidence in a demanding profession.

Stephen Eccles of Inner Launch will explore how workplace culture shapes confidence and communication, sharing practical techniques to help colleagues feel heard and supported. Peter Jackson will draw on more than 20 years of law firm management experience to share candid lessons, real-life stories and leadership insights from the front line of legal practice.

This event offers a valuable opportunity to reflect on leadership, resilience and workplace culture while celebrating International Men's Day and its theme, The Future Is Everyone.

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Company & Commercial

Key legal considerations for Shareholders Agreements

with Jackie Sheldon

Online, 24th November, 1.00pm - 2.30pm



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

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

This online course will cover the following:

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

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Liverpool Law Society

2026 Civil Litigation Conference

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

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

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

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

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Liverpool Law Society

Wills, Trust, Tax and Probate

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

with Russell Kaminski and Blaise Davies

In Person, 2nd December, 8.00am - 09.00am

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

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

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Liverpool Law Society

Management

Best Practice and Avoiding Complaints with The Legal Ombudsman

with Clair Daniel

Online, 3rd December, 1.00pm - 2.00pm

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

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Liverpool Law Society

Property

VAT and Property: Key Updates and Practical Issues

with Carolyn O'Shea

Online, 21st January, 1.00pm - 2.00pm

This practical webinar will look at recent VAT developments affecting land and property and some of the common issues that arise during property transactions. It will focus on the key points to identify at an early stage, where problems commonly arise and when specialist VAT advice is required.

Topics covered include:

- Option to tax issues and common pitfalls
- VAT treatment of commercial property sales and leases
- Transfers of property businesses as going concerns
- VAT implications on residential and mixed use developments
- Changes to the Capital Goods Scheme
- VAT reforms for land intended for social housing
- Practical VAT points to consider during property transactions

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Liverpool Law Society

Management

Compliance That Works

with Eilish Cullen

In Person, 3rd February, 12.30pm - 2.30pm

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

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

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

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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!

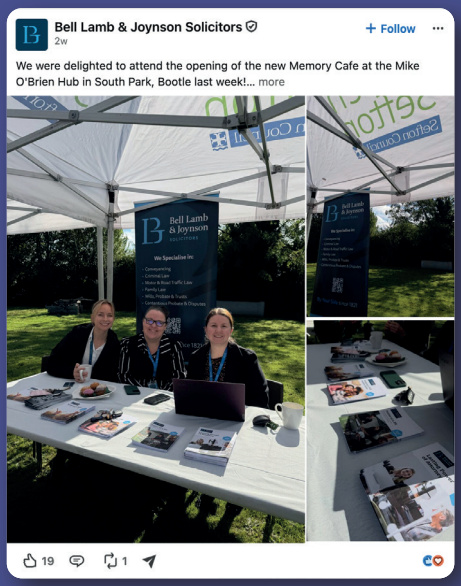
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Social Media Highlights

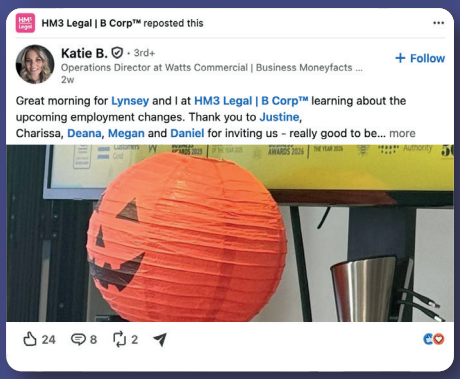
Each month we will be bringing you a selection of the latest social media posts by Liverpool Law Society and its members.



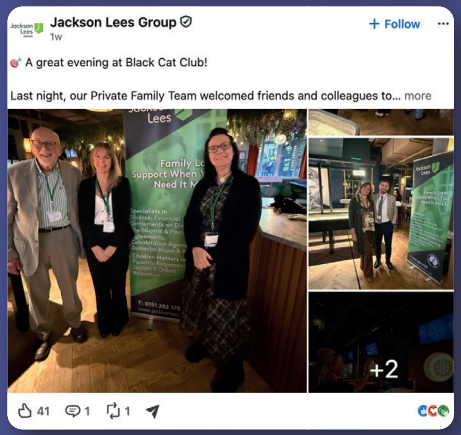














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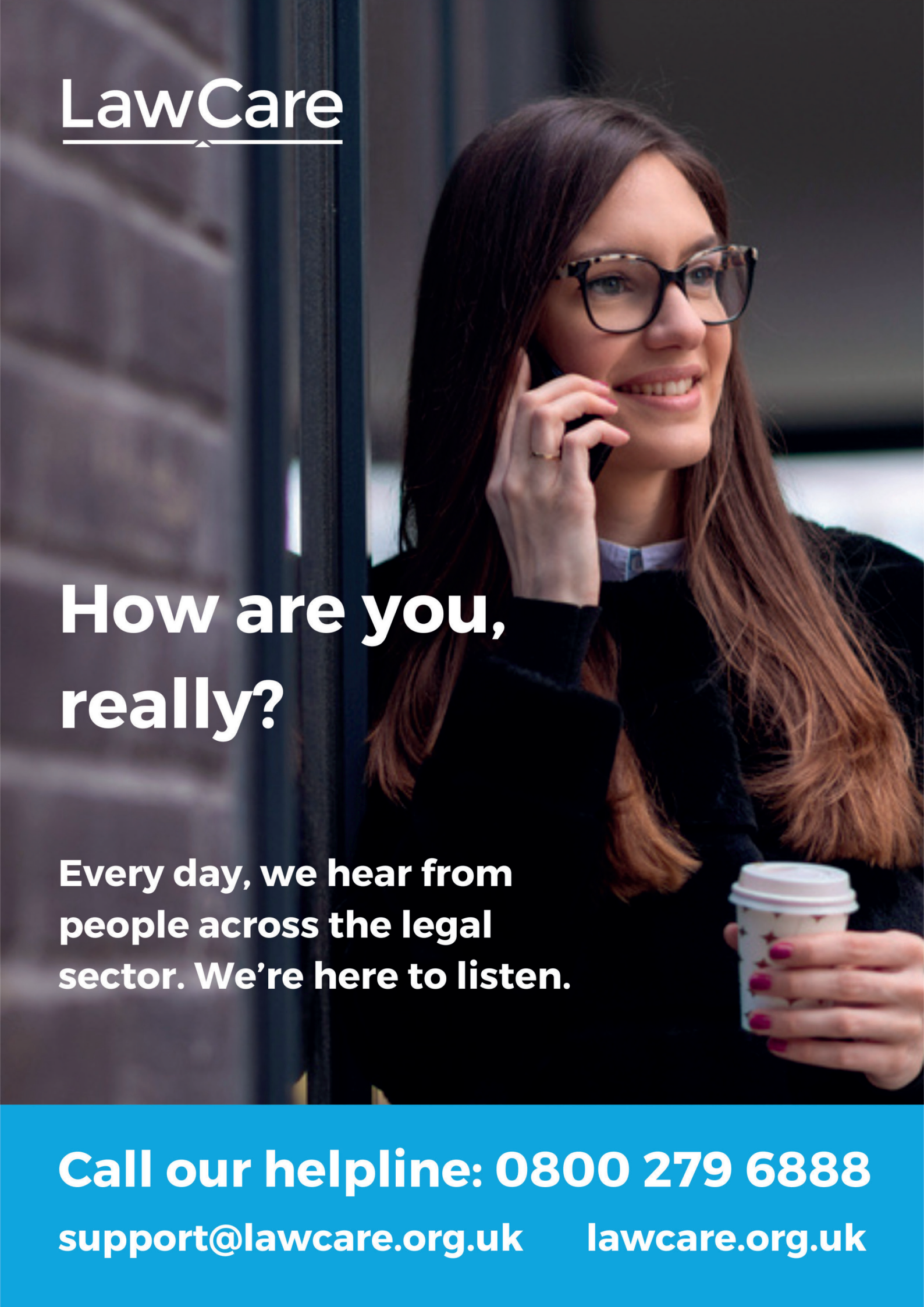
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