

September 2024

Liverpool Law

Liverpool  Law Society

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



The annual MJLD Summer Ball 2024

Report and photos on page 16

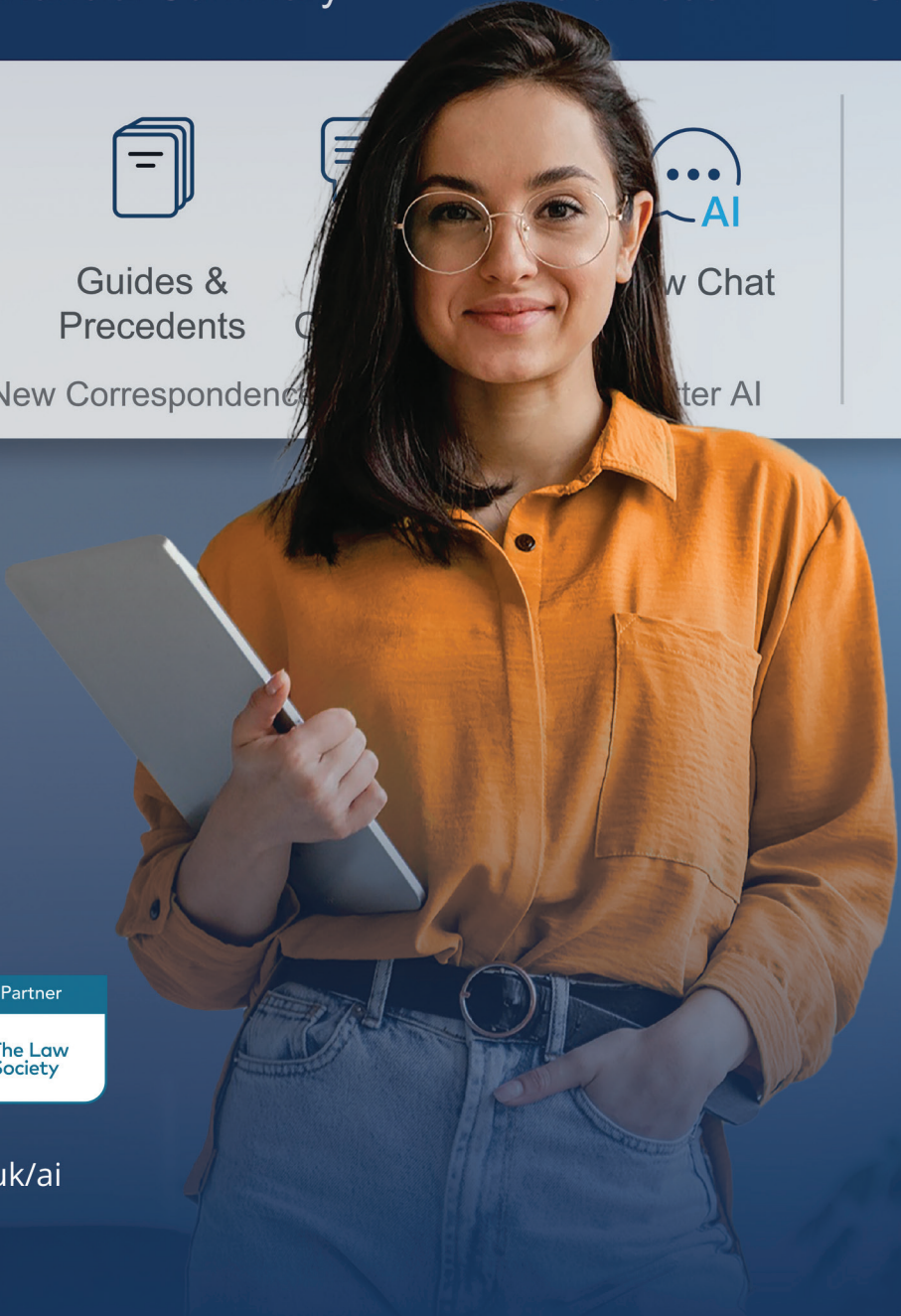


Firms using LEAP make more money

Committed to creating intelligent software customised to meet the needs of legal professionals, LEAP employs a dedicated team of specialist developers who present innovative AI solutions to automate routine tasks, simplify document management, and enhance decision-making, allowing lawyers to do what they do best - practise law.

Tasks Financial Summary Time & Fees Office Accounting

 New Email	 Guides & Precedents New Correspondence	 Law Chat Letter AI	 AI Legal Assistant LawY
--	--	---	---



leap.co.uk/ai

September 2024

CONTENTS

DEADLINES



- 4 The latest from the Editor, Jennifer Powell
- 5 From the President
- 6 LLS Meetings & events
- 6 Consultation Papers
- 7 Spotlight on: Peter Crook
- 8 Leaders in Law: Emma Carey
- 10 Senior litigation hires among six new arrivals at Morecrofts
- 11 Law firm eyes further growth with new Wirral office
- 12 MSB Solicitors celebrates raft of team promotions
- 14 DWF achieves 14% revenue growth
- 15 PR mention - Focus on legal in the North in Modern Law Magazine
- 16 MJLD Summer Ball and Annual Awards 2024
- 18 EDI Committee Meeting – July 2024
- 21 Liverpool BID Company
- 22 Weightmans take on the Edale Skyline Challenge
- 24 Vauxhall Law Centre
- 26 What are the benefits and challenges of hair strand testing for alcohol use biomarkers?
- 28 LEAP launches AI-powered tool to speed up the identification and creation of legal documents
- 30 Shape the future of your local Law Society
- 32 Regulation Update
- 34 Charity Spotlight: Sefton Women's and Children's Aid (SWACA)
- 36 Windmills and Practical Wisdom
- 37 X-Press celebrates milestone by giving back to communities
- 38 Forthcoming Courses
- 42 PII- Where are claims emanating from?
- 44 Introducing CaseLoad Notebooks
- 46 Social Media Highlights



Tues, 24.09.24

Tues, 22.10.24

Tues, 26.11.24



Follow us on 'X': [@LpoolLawEMag](https://twitter.com/LpoolLawEMag)

Join us on Linked In:

[LiverpoolLawEMag](https://www.linkedin.com/company/liverpool-law-society)



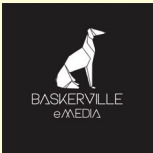
Liverpool Law Society Magazine is produced by and for Liverpool Law Society Members. This is our opportunity to share our news, events and celebrations with our friends in the legal community.

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.

Published by Baskerville eMedia
Unit 27a, Price St. Business Centre,
Price St., Birkenhead, Wirral,
Merseyside CH41 4JQ
Tel: 0151 203 0440
simon@baskerville-e.media



Editorial Committee Dates 2024

Meetings start at 01.00 pm on a Tuesday, except where noted.

17.09.24
14.10.24
19.11.24

Welcome to the September edition of Liverpool Law



I've typed and re-typed my column this month. I wanted to make a quip about the children being back at school but I simply can't bring myself to do it after the horrific incident in Southport and the outrageous aftermath.

I'm not one to bring down the tone of the magazine or discuss politics, I tried my absolute utmost to keep up spirits during COVID and focus on the positives, but I'm struggling to this month. As a mother and your Editor, it feels like it would be remiss of me to sweep over it like it never happened.

Our legal community and membership has been shook by the events. Not least as there was a heroic costs lawyer **Jonathan Hayes** injured whilst trying to protect some of the children and some of his colleagues involved in the aftermath also. A number of firms also evacuated their offices in the days following due to planned and/or rumoured riots. The President has included the link to Liverpool Law Societies' statement on the events and the support available. Our Immediate Past President **Jeremy** and our Hon. Treasurer **Emma Palmer** will also be representing Liverpool Law Society at a Southport Community event to provide support and assist wherever possible. More to hopefully follow on this next month.

It goes without saying if anyone feels in any way unsafe or in need of support please reach out to your firms, to us here at Liverpool Law Society or a number of charities we feature every month including LawCare and The Solicitors Charity. Equally if anyone wants to discuss anything affecting them personally there is help available, please do not suffer in silence.

Not sure how to conclude other than to hope that you have all managed some enjoyable time over the 'summer' holidays. At the time of publishing there may be some time to get your last minute entries in for the Annual Dinner and Legal Awards which closes at midday on Friday 6 September 2024. Best of luck to all.

Until next month and a hopefully more cheerful article from me!

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

From the President

The latest from the President, Gaynor Williams

August has been a quiet month, in terms of events and commitments, with the school holidays, and university students heading home for a break. I hope that everyone has had an opportunity to take a break and recharge their batteries. Autumn will soon be upon us, and although we did not have the best summer, it is always nice to see the changing colours of the trees, get into the spirit of Halloween, and then countdown, dare I say, to the Christmas period.

There have been difficult times since I wrote my last column, and I watched in horror, as I imagine our members did, at the civil unrest following the tragedy in Southport. The team at Liverpool Law Society did their best to keep up to date with the developments, and we made plans in case the unrest escalated, thankfully it did not, and I am relieved that all is now calm. There is a link below to the statement we released supporting our members. <https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/news/liverpool-law-society-statement-supporting-our-members-during-this-time-of-civil-unrest/>

As I write this column, I am looking forward to the Joint V Law Societies meeting on 3 September 2024 in Manchester. The Joint V consists of Manchester, Leeds, Bristol, Birmingham, and LLS, being the five largest law societies. I will update you all about what issues were raised and discussed at the meeting, in the next edition of the magazine.

Looking forward, there is a lot planned for the remainder of the year. The Labour Party Conference is coming to Liverpool, Sunday 22 September 2024 to Wednesday 25 September 2024.

We have our Liverpool Legal Walk supporting the Access to Justice Foundation, on Tuesday, 1st October 5.30pm for 6.00pm, please think about entering a team or just come along individually, it is always a good turnout, and it is a very friendly relaxing walk, and a time to catch up with your colleagues and meet new friends. You can book online <https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/events/liverpool-legal-walk-2024/>

We have the Directors' meeting with Liverpool City Region Councillors on Thursday, 3 October 2024, this is a time for us to update Councillors about any issues in the region, and for them to ask the Directors questions. If any of our members have any issues affecting the Liverpool City Region, or questions that they would like to be raised with the Councillors, please let us know.

The Conkerton Memorial Lecture is taking place at



Rathbone Hall, Liverpool on 10th October 2024 from 5.30pm for 6.15pm, and we are honoured to have His Honour Justice Cobb as speaker. Please book online <https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/events/conkerton-memorial-lecture/>

This event is followed by the Directors' meeting with MPs on 11th October 2024. Again, if any of our members have any issues or questions that they want to raise with the MP's, please let us know.

The Annual Dinner and Legal Awards takes place on 14 November 2024 at Rum Warehouse, Titanic Hotel, Liverpool. I am very much looking forward to the evening and I hope that everyone has submitted their applications.

Our annual AGM is scheduled for 28 November 2024 at the Racquet Club, Liverpool city centre. Please see the article in this edition about how you can apply to become a Director of the Society. It is a busy, friendly Society and it is good to have a diverse group of people from different areas of law, with different experiences and ideas, to drive the society forward.

Gaynor Williams

President

president@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

LLS Meetings & events – Sept/Oct 2024

Start Time	Meeting/Event
09/09/2024 13:00	Regulatory Sub-Committee
10/09/2024 12:30	General Committee
11/09/2024 13:00	Civil Litigation Sub-Committee
11/09/2024 16:00	Family Business Sub-Committee
12/09/2024 13:00	Newly Qualified Lawyers Celebration Event
17/09/2024 13:00	Civil Litigation Sub-Committee
19/09/2024 13:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee
19/09/2024 17:00	EDI Diversity Event 'Empowering Diversity: Your Path to Leadership in Law & the Judiciary'
24/09/2024 12:30	Finance & Policy Sub-Committee
25/09/2024 13:00	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee
26/09/2024 16:00	Criminal Practice Sub-Committee
01/10/2024 17:30	Liverpool Legal Walk
03/10/2024 11:00	Directors and LCR Councillors' Meeting
08/10/2024 12:30	General Committee
10/10/2024 17:30	Conkerton Memorial Lecture
11/10/2024 13:00	MP & LLS directors' Meeting

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; Editorial; Family Business; In-House Lawyers; Non-Contentious Business and Regulatory committees, which are open to all members of Liverpool Law Society. To enquire about your membership status and/or being co-opted onto one of the above committees, please email committees@liverpoollawsociety.org.uk

Consultation Papers

Papers referred to committees:

The following sub-committee of Liverpool Law Society is considering responding to this consultation paper. 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
Regulatory	Financial Penalties: further developing our framework	20.09.24

Spotlight on: Peter Crook



Peter Crook, who has been a member of Liverpool Law Society for fifty years, has been granted honorary Membership.

Peter, now aged eighty, was born and bred in Wallasey and attended the now closed Wallasey Grammar school, which he left after taking his 'A' levels in 1961. Two of Peter's contemporaries were fellow solicitors and Society members Godfrey Freeman and David Kirwan.

From school, Peter joined the Town Clerks department in Wallasey as a trainee before entering the legal section. Peter was taken on as a clerk, but at that time, if you obtained a degree in your own time, the Town Clerk would consider articling you. Anxious to further his career, Peter embarked on an external degree at London University, studying at night after a day's work. A colleague at the department had previously taken this route, so Peter had a path to follow and did a correspondence course with Metropolitan College in St Albans, which saw Peter through to gaining his degree. Peter was expected to take four to five years, but after gaining higher than expected marks, finished in three years, starting in September 1964 and finishing in June 1966. Once Peter had got his degree, he was articled to the Town Clerks Deputy, Mr CK Wilson, who later became the Secretary and Solicitor to the now defunct Merseyside County Council. Under the guidance of the late John and Mary Conkerton, who are remembered by the more experienced and retired members

of LLS for their huge contribution to legal education in Liverpool, Peter went to study at the College of Law and qualified in 1969.

He remained with the Town Clerk's department for another two years, working on prosecutions and looking after committees etc. He didn't have to sign the usual undertaking to remain working there for a period as his fees were paid for by them as there was no position immediately available.

It was during his time with the Town Clerk's department that Peter got his first taste of Liverpool Law Society. As a Law Clerk he used to travel into the city to do research in the reference library, at the Law Society, then based in Tower buildings on the Strand. Here he met Mr Hughes, who ran the Society for many years before retiring in the 1980's. By the time Peter had qualified and begun working in Liverpool, LLS had moved to Castle Chambers in Cook Street, opposite the old Watson Prickard building. Peter's father, who was killed serving with the RAF during the war, had previously worked on Cook Street in what was known as the Chancery Court, County Palatine of Lancaster, as Chancery Clerk. Peter was just six weeks old at the time of his Father's death and never knew him, so whenever he went to Castle Chambers he felt a certain amount of poignancy.

In those days, if you were going to be articulated, you had to be interviewed by the local Law Society as to fitness for the profession. Peter's interview took place at Castle Chambers by a panel which included Sir Maxwell Entwistle and Charles Cocks who was the honorary registrar of the Palatine Court and when Peter qualified, Charles invited him to sign the register. Although the jurisdiction, by that time had gone, being absorbed by the courts act, it was a great honour to be on the register of the court where his father had been Clerk in the 1930s. Peter became an active member of LLS during the 1970s when Sir Christopher Hewetson was President.

In 1974, Peter and Sir Christopher were visiting their respective wives who were

in the same maternity ward and became acquainted as a result.

Peter was on the General Committee of LLS for a number of years until around 1997, when he retired as Legal Aid Area Director for number 15 Area, Peter took a consultancy role, during which he volunteered to do work for the Abbeyfield Society Care Home Charity. This led Peter to become their Company Secretary, starting in 1998 and with a couple of breaks in between, continuing until his retirement in 2021, giving a total of sixty years and one week for his working life.

Peter found the charity's excellent work for the elderly very rewarding and had a position on their Northwest committee as advisor on law and charities.

Over the years, Peter feels that LLS has become more corporate, with a Chief Executive and Limited Company board, and is more management focussed than in his early years, when it was mainly Lawyers doing extra work in their spare time. Peter has always been hugely impressed with the coming together for common purposes that the local Law Societies undertake.

LLS has always been very well organised. The quality of debates in the lunchtime meetings was extremely high, which is to be expected considering there are and were some enormously gifted practitioners in Liverpool, which makes LLS a highly professional body of Lawyers.

Since retirement, Peter has written two books, one called 'These Vile Guns' and the other 'Mr Pooter's Progress', which is based on the novel 'Diary Of A Nobody' written by George and Weedon Grossmith, which has had some interest, particularly in America. Both books are available on Kindle.

Two years ago Peter was appointed an Hon. Life Vice-President of the Allandale Care Group Ltd - a charity providing residential care for the elderly.

We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Leaders in Law: Emma Carey



1. Briefly describe your role as Managing Partner and the main duties of this position.

I became Managing Partner in March 2018.

My role is solely managing the firm, overseeing all strategic business development. I put in place practices, procedures and policies to ensure that we run smoothly as a law firm. Our aim is to deliver excellence in legal services. It is my job to ensure that we have practices, procedures, and policies in place to ensure that we deliver the very best to our clients and that we are compliant in accordance with all regulatory and legal obligations. I appreciate that our people are our greatest asset and my role is to ensure that I create an equitable workplace where all people can achieve their true potential, where people feel safe, respected and supported. MSB believes in giving back to the community we serve and I oversee our ESG and EDI policies and strategies.

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

I came from being Head of a Family Department with 60 people, most of whom I had recruited and trained, so the job was extremely lonely at first. It is however extremely rewarding to see

the firm go from strength to strength, expand nationwide, and to see people's careers flourish.

3. What changes to the running of the law firm have you implemented because of COVID?

Obviously the big change that everybody has implemented is home working. Although we were one of the first businesses to come back into the office, we recognised there were benefits but we very much promoted the benefits of working in the office. As the Managing Partner, I believe it is my responsibility to create a working environment that people genuinely want to be a part of and that they see the benefits of working in a team in the office as opposed to working remotely at home. That is not to say that I do not see the benefits of working remotely.

4. As a result of COVID, what are the new agile policies and why?

As a Managing Partner I am committed to creating an equitable workplace and that means treating everybody fairly. Our basic standard policy is that after peoples' probation period, they can apply to work at home for two days a week. There are always exceptions to this, and we do have some people who work full-time at home, and we are happy to consider applications by our team on a case-by-case basis. Our aim is to ensure that we are a workplace that is accessible to all and that we support family life and the achievement of a proper work life harmony.

5. What do you see as your biggest challenges?

Retention of our junior staff. We train to an exceptional standard. Our trainees are also exposed to a wide client base and complex legal issues. We have always shown a commitment to training the next generation of

lawyers. We have found over the last few years that our trainees are approached by bigger firms that can afford to offer initial higher salaries. We are doing a lot of work around looking at how we retain and create a working environment in which people want to work. We cannot always compete with the salaries of the bigger firms, but we can offer a better working life.

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

I am extremely proud of our commitment to train the next generation of lawyers and I am proud when I see team members trained at MSB go on to do amazing things in their career, whether that be at MSB or at other firms. Through our commitment to EDI, I hope in the future, that I will be extremely proud to see that our training has contributed towards making our profession far more diverse.

7. What are your immediate short-term goals?

We have recently opened offices in Manchester, Birmingham and Chester. I want to solidify those offices, recruit staff, and grow in those cities.

8. Where do you see the firm 10 years from now?

Well, I have an apartment in Majorca and so I would eventually love for us to open a Spanish office which I would run!

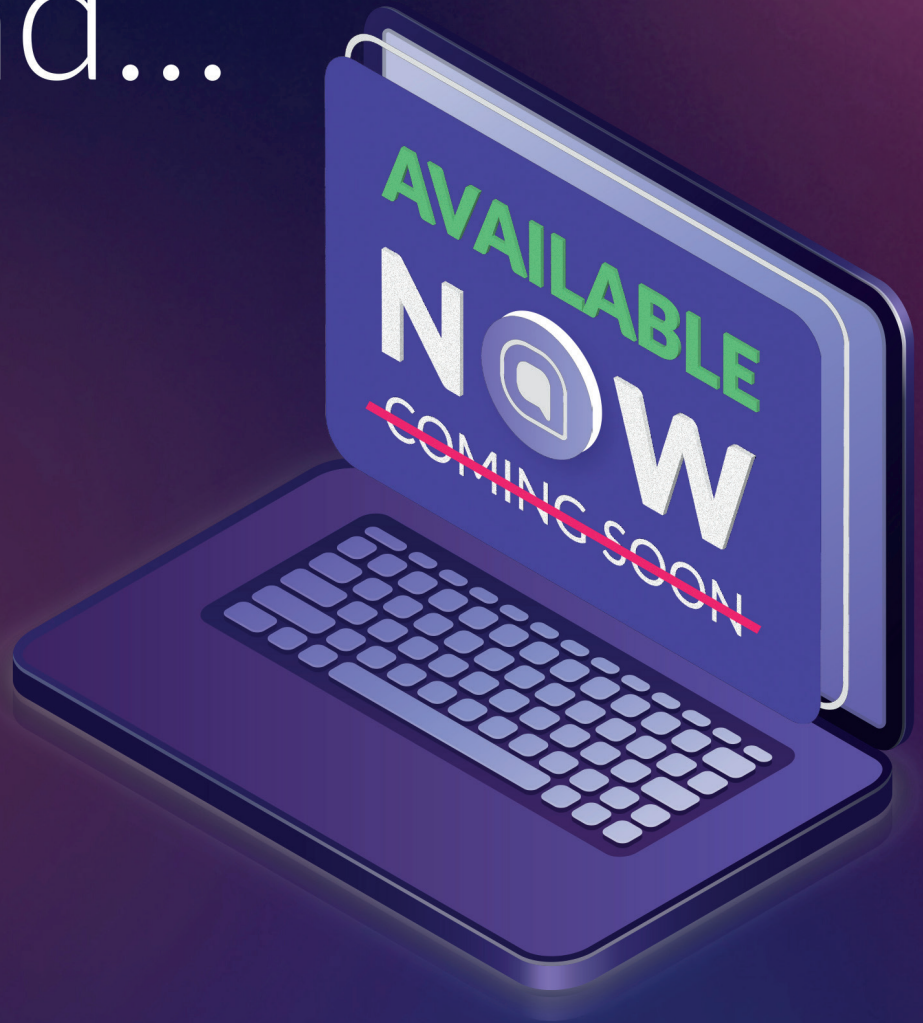
9. What legacy as Managing Partner would you like to leave the firm?

I am committed to making MSB an equitable workplace and I would like that to be my legacy. I would like us to have a Partnership that reflects the diversity of the community we are part of.



Lexis+ AI™

Secure, Accurate,
Fast and...



Get Your Quote Today



Senior litigation hires among six new arrivals at Morecrofts



Paul Barnes

Morecrofts Solicitors has made six new additions across its property, litigation and family law teams in the Liverpool City Region.

Among those are experienced clinical



Simon Murphy

negligence and personal injury specialist **Simon Murphy** and senior litigation consultant **Paul Barnes**.

They are joined by two new paralegals, **Elizabeth Rose Jeffrey** and **Joanne Smith**,

who arrive in the family and property law teams respectively, alongside litigation legal assistant **Yvonne Barnes** and trainee family law paralegal **Louise Barwood**.

Morecrofts has also awarded six new training contracts, with four commencing from October 2024, adding to the six trainees already at various stages of their training within the firm.

Alison Lobb, managing partner at Morecrofts, said: *“This has been a period of consistent growth for our business, with an expansion in client numbers across a number of different departments.*

“We are pleased to have been able to reinforce the team with an excellent blend of new future talent alongside experienced lawyers such as Paul and Simon, who both bring significant expertise to our client services offer.”



As expert Auctioneers & Valuers, Outhwaite & Litherland have been supporting North West Lawyers and professionals with valuations and advice since 1907.

We offer a complete probate valuation service, which now includes RICS accredited property valuations, in addition to the existing valuation service, estate sales and property clearance.

We hold a variety of specialist auctions during the year along side a catalogue of regular general household sales.

Outhwaite & Litherland are always just a phone call or email away and happy to offer free, friendly advice.



Outhwaite & Litherland
39-41 Hoghton Street, Southport, Merseyside PR9 0NS

Tel: 01704 538489
e: auction@lots.uk.com
www.lots.uk.com



Law firm eyes further growth with new Wirral office



Aaron & Partners has taken up a bigger residence at Egerton House in Birkenhead

Solicitors from a fast-growing law firm have strengthened their Wirral presence after picking up the keys to a larger office.

Aaron & Partners, which also has offices in Chester and Greater Manchester, has put pen to paper on a new lease at Egerton House in Birkenhead, with solicitors from a variety of departments moving into a new and improved space.

The law firm has been established in Wirral for several years and opened its first office in the area back in 2022, building on a strategic partnership with the Wirral Chamber of Commerce which is still very much in place.

Solicitors at the firm – many of whom live in Wirral – have also helped forge new partnerships with the likes of Caldy Rugby Club and more recently Neston Cricket Club. Both affiliations have seen exclusive networking events take place in addition to fundraising and support for good causes locally.

Paul Hennity, a Senior Associate Solicitor in the Employment Law team, said: “Wirral has been my home for a long time and I’m proud to represent Aaron & Partners in this region.

“This new office is a fantastic space for us to work but also to meet with clients whenever we need to. Egerton House is an excellent facility and since our first office was opened back in 2022, we’ve really gone from strength to strength here.”

Aaron & Partners already offers its full range of services from Wirral, including employment law, family law, corporate and commercial, wills, trusts and tax; as well as a wide breadth of legal expertise such as in construction, transport and private client.

Victoria Syvret, a Family Law Partner at the firm, added: “We see Wirral as an important base for many of our team members and we have lots of clients in the region already. We’ve been actively working with individuals and businesses here for a long time.

“Having a new, larger office space underlines our long-term commitment to supporting this area and it also expands our reach, building on the dedicated office spaces we already have in Chester, Shrewsbury and Altrincham.”

MSB Solicitors celebrates raft of team promotions

A leading all-service law firm has announced a host of new promotions, recognising the exceptional contributions of its team members over the last year.

MSB Solicitors, which currently employs over 200 people, has promoted fourteen employees from across its Manchester, Liverpool, Wavertree and Widnes offices.

This news comes as the firm continues on its growth trajectory, after opening two new offices in Birmingham and Chester earlier this year.

The promotions span a range of department areas, with team members from the Litigation, Residential Property, Commercial Property, Family, Social Housing, Crime and Employment teams being recognised for their achievements. The full list of promotions and locations across Liverpool are as follows:

Jonathan Alderton, Litigation (Liverpool) - promoted to Senior Associate

David Tarttelin, Litigation (Liverpool) - promoted to Senior Associate

Helen Schofield, Residential Property (Liverpool) - promoted to Senior Associate

Nicole Ralston, Family (Wavertree) - promoted to Senior Associate

Molly Quirke, Commercial Property (Liverpool) - promoted to Associate

Amy Forshaw, Employment (Liverpool) - promoted to Associate

Siobhan McCallum, Family (Liverpool) - promoted to Associate

Michael McKeown, Crime (Wavertree) - promoted to Associate

Emma Hannah, Family (Wavertree) - promoted to Associate

Rebecca Butler, Family (Wavertree) - promoted to Associate

Beth McKeown, Social Housing (Widnes) - promoted to Associate

Dominique Owens, Social Housing (Widnes) - promoted to Associate

Emma Carey, Managing Partner at MSB Solicitors, said: *“These promotions are testament to the hard work of our team members and our commitment to career development.*

“Each individual demonstrated a keen understanding of MSB’s values and culture, as well as a commitment to driving our growth and success. I am confident that they will continue to excel in their new roles and contribute to our ongoing success.”

MSB Solicitors congratulates each of the newly promoted team members and looks forward to the continued success and growth of the firm.

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



BASKERVILLE
eMEDIA

TEL : 0151 651 2776
simon@baskerville-e.media



FINDING YOUR VOICE IN TODAY'S DIGITAL LANDSCAPE

LIVERPOOL LEGAL WALK

6PM, TUESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2024

5k fundraising walk in aid of



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

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



S U P P O R T E D B Y



The money you raise goes towards the most vulnerable in society to fund access justice and legal advice. The organisations the Access to Justice Foundation supports help:

- Prevent families being made homeless
- Prevent destitution
- Allow older people gain the support to which they are entitled
- Support women and children who have been trafficked for domestic servitude or prostitution.

At the end of the 5K fundraising walk, each walker will have a chance to relax, mingle and network at our post-walk drinks reception kindly sponsored by the University of Law.

I N A I D O F T H E A C C E S S
T O J U S T I C E
F O U N D A T I O N



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



[More info](#)

DWF achieves 14% revenue growth



Julie Simms

DWF, the global provider of integrated legal and business services, has announced its financial results for the year ending 30 April 2024. Highlights include:

- Net revenue increased by 14%, from £380m to £435m
- All three divisions achieved increases in net revenue
- Sir **Nigel Knowles**, Chief Executive Officer of DWF, said: *“This is an excellent performance for our business and provides further evidence that our integrated legal management approach is helping us win with our clients. We have achieved continued profitable growth despite macroeconomic uncertainty, which is testament to the exceptional service our colleagues provide, and the trust placed in them by our clients.”*
- Other group highlights this year:
- Insurance Services saw the fastest growth at 24%, driven in part by the successful addition of Whitelaw Twining in Canada. Commercial Services grew by 8% organically, despite a challenging transactional market, while Legal Operations also grew by 8%.
- DWF secured more than 30 legal panel appointments or reappointments including with BT, Tesco, Aspen Insurance and Cadent Gas Limited.



Joel Heap

- Our Net Promoter Score, an industry benchmark of how likely our clients are to recommend us to others, increased from +62 to +67.
- We promoted 33 colleagues to partner, or to a higher career level within our partnership structure. In total, more than 220 colleagues were promoted across the business in our January promotions.
- In addition to our internal promotions, we made a further 25 lateral hires at partner level.

Knowles added: *“This past financial year was marked by the completion of our take-private transaction with Inflexion. At the time, we said that Inflexion’s investment would help us to go faster in the pursuit of our strategic goals and we are already seeing that come true. In recent weeks [we announced](#) our first M&A transaction since the Inflexion investment with the intended acquisition of leading Australian claims management business, Proclaim. This transaction will scale our global Claims Management and Adjusting team to 320 colleagues across nine jurisdictions, and further demonstrates our commitment to expanding our footprint in key global markets. We have also kicked off the next stage of our digital transformation programme with a significant investment programme which includes the roll out of AI tool, Microsoft Copilot, to all of our colleagues globally. I am encouraged by*

the start the group has made to the new financial year and we anticipate further expansion-driven corporate activity in 2024.”

Joel Heap, managing partner of DWF in Manchester, said: *“In my new role as managing partner, I am incredibly proud to have witnessed the remarkable success and growth that our people in Manchester have achieved during the last financial year.*

“In January, we announced 32 promotions in Manchester which stands as a testament to the dedication and hard work of everyone within our team here. Furthermore, welcoming new partners such as Ian Sydenham in our Private Capital team and David Wynn in our Insurance team has further strengthened our expertise and commitment to delivering exceptional service to our clients. We also recently welcomed back former colleague Chris Gee as a dispute resolution partner and appointed Michelle Headrige as Head of Environment which highlights our continuous effort to expand and enhance our capabilities. As we look to the future of the business, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead, to build on our success, and further strengthen our presence within the Manchester legal market.”

Julie Simms, managing partner of DWF in Liverpool, added: *“Our Liverpool team has exhibited exceptional dedication and expertise and we have seen remarkable growth across various sectors this year. We have successfully managed numerous high-profile engagements and bolstered our team with the addition of several talented professionals, including insurance partner Jim Bryant. Additionally, 30 people in Liverpool achieved deserving promotions in Liverpool this year. I am confident that we will continue to build on this momentum, nurturing diverse talent, delivering outstanding results and creating new opportunities for growth and success.”*

PR mention - Focus on legal in the North in Modern Law Magazine

The President, **Gaynor Williams** and **David Tournafond**, Chair of the Society's Education & Charities Committee were thanked by the Modern Law Magazine for their recent contribution to the soundbite article on 'Navigating the Legal Landscape'. You can read the article by visiting the following link (page 20): <https://modernlawmagazine.com/>



Liverpool Law Society

ADLA

Annual Dinner featuring Legal Awards

Annual Dinner and Legal Awards

Thursday, 14 November 2024
at the Rum Warehouse, Liverpool

[More information](#)

SPONSORED BY



Landmark
Information



reviewsolicitors



MJLD Summer Ball and Annual Awards 2024



On Saturday 10th August 2024 the Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division hosted its Summer Ball and Annual Awards Ceremony at The Bentley, kindly sponsored by Liverpool John Moores University and Fletcher's Solicitors.

This year's Summer Ball was 'Bridgerton' themed with over 130 junior lawyers from across the region coming out to celebrate their accomplishments in the Liverpool legal sector this past year. The Summer Ball marks the end of the MJLD Committee year, with elections being opened for those wanting to stand for a committee position for the 2024/2025 period.

There were some outstanding nominations for our three awards categories this year and LJMU had a tough time picking the winners. We're delighted to say that this year's awards went to:

- Legal Excellence - **Harrison Fearn** of In House Legal Solutions
- Care in the Community – **Abishna Arunprakash** of Jackson Lees Group
- Support to Rising Talent – **Fletcher's Solicitors**

Faye Morris of Weightmans was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to the Committee award having served as one of the Careers and Education representatives and played a pivotal role in running various work experience schemes and producing a podcast with the University of Law.

The winners each took home a trophy and a £50 Liverpool One Voucher!

A charity raffle was also hosted for this year's nominated charity, Centre 56. Thanks to the generosity of our members the MJLD has successfully raised over £1200 this year to support Centre 56's mission.

We'd once again like to thank all of firms, businesses and chambers across the region that have offered their help support and sponsorship to the MJLD this year.

It's been my absolute pleasure to serve as this year's MJLD Chair and I look forward to passing the mantle over to our new Chair, **Beth Walker** of Jackson Lees Group who will be introducing our new 2024/2025 committee very shortly!

Jemma Castell
2023/2024 Chair of Merseyside Junior Lawyers Division





EDI Committee Meeting – July 2024

As this was our last meeting before our joint EDI/MWLD Event in September, this was of course our focus at this month's meeting.

However, before discussing the upcoming event, we were delighted to meet our newest member – **Josh Suffield**; who is a Paralegal from Weightmans, where he is a D&I Champion and an integral part of their LGBTQ+ Network.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion are issues that everyone should be interested in; regardless as to whether they consider themselves part of a minority. Unfortunately, such Committees do tend to be predominantly female, so it was a pleasure to expand our small pool of male members. We would really like to have more male participation and engagement. The Committee is open to all members of the Law Society, so if there are any other men interested in getting involved, please let us know!

We also had a brief discussion about the involvement of our various firms at Liverpool

Pride; Josh had helped organise Weightmans participation in the March, and I spoke about Carpenters Group not only being part of the March, but also having a stall at the event. Both Weightmans and Carpenters were proud to have staff from all levels in attendance; including Board representation. Those who attended were in agreement as to what a great event it was, and how great it was to see so much representation from the profession.

We also briefly discussed the Merseyside Men's Legal Wellbeing Group; an online forum for men in the legal profession to have a safe space to discuss their mental well-being. The group is becoming more established and is going well. Anyone who is interested in joining, please email legalmenswellbeing8@gmail.com

We then spoke about our upcoming event; **Empowering Diversity: Your Path to Leadership in Law & the Judiciary** which is to be held at LJMU Law Centre from 5pm on Thursday 19th September.

We are proud to have obtained a variety of speakers from various different backgrounds, to provide insight as to how they attained their positions, and about their experiences in the profession in light of factors such as gender, ethnicity and orientation.

Given the location we have been granted, the event has also been opened up to Law Students at the University. Our hope is to inspire future law professions by showing how law is open to everyone, and that being a minority is not a barrier.

The aim of the event is to show the diversity and progression within the profession, with hopes to encourage positive discussion about overcoming barriers, and encouraging people into the profession at all levels.

If anyone has any questions they wish to be put before the speakers at the event, please do let us know.

Amy Planche, Deputy Chair, EDI Committee



Listening books
Registered Charity number 264221

We are a UK charity providing a fantastic selection of high-quality audiobooks to some 50,000 people across the UK who find it difficult or impossible to read due to an illness, disability, learning or mental health difficulty. We charge a membership fee to only half of our members- those who feel they can make some contribution and that is heavily subsidised. The other half need to be fully funded. Listening Books receives no central government funding whatsoever and very little local government funding. The reality is that Listening Books simply could not survive without the generous support of sponsors and the active co-operation of publishers.

Whether you have already written your will or are thinking about writing one in the near future, we ask that you consider leaving a legacy to Listening Books. Your legacy will make a vital difference to the lives of our members for years to come.

CALL US NOW
on 020 7407 9417
or email us at:
bdee@listening-books.org.uk



www.listening-books.org.uk/Legacies
12 Lant Street, London SE1 1QH



ejm investigations

Private & Commercial Investigators and Process Servers EJM Investigations are a North West based detective agency in Preston, Lancashire, with a team of private investigators and process servers across the UK. We can carry out private investigations, commercial investigations and process serving at home, throughout Europe and worldwide.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Surveillance
- Trace Missing Persons
- Process Server
- Background Checks
- Criminal Defence
- Trace Debtors
- Vehicle Tracking
- Pre-Sue Reports
- Criminal Defence
- Employee Absenteeism
- Debtor Tracing
- Debugging
- Background checks and employee vetting

Tel: 01772 334 700
Mob: 07940 135 006
Email: info@ejminvestigations.co.uk
Web: www.ejminvestigations.co.uk

20 Years+ Experience. Professionalism. Quality Results. 



CONKERTON MEMORIAL LECTURE 10.10.24



BY THE HON. MR JUSTICE COBB

Justice must be seen to be done: One hundred years since *Rex v Sussex Justices* [1924]

Transparency in the courts: awareness and fairness; confidence and confidentiality: public interest in the justice system in the twenty first century.

- This Lecture is for legal professionals and graduate and under-graduate law students.
- It is free to attend. Booking essential.

5.30PM FOR 6.15PM , 10 OCTOBER
RATHBONE HALL,
PORT OF LIVERPOOL BUILDING

BOOK YOUR PLACE
HERE

MENTOR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



The University of Law, Liverpool will shortly be launching this year's Mentoring Scheme for their LPC, LLM Legal Practice (SQE 1&2), PGDL, MA Law conversion and MA Law (SQE 1) students and we are looking for further legal mentor volunteers!

The scheme runs December 2024 until June 2025. The University of Law asks that students initiate a minimum of 4 contacts. These contacts can be by e-mail, telephone, zoom/teams/skype or face to face - whatever suits you!

If you are keen to volunteer and support the scheme - do email the ULaw Liverpool Careers Manager katherine.meehan@law.ac.uk to register your interest or to find out more details.

The
University of
LAW



Staff Development



Our regular update from Julie Johnson, partner at Morecrofts Solicitors and chair of Liverpool BID Company's Commercial District BID operating board



Julie Johnson

Knowing how to help your staff develop is a key component of running a business. The modern workplace is constantly changing and evolving. It is the duty of any responsible business to make sure your team is ready and prepared for anything that comes to them. A business that invests in its staff is one that is attractive to new candidates as well.

Hundreds of businesses in Liverpool city centre have access to online training courses, thanks to a new partnership between Liverpool BID Company and SEEDL. Working together, the two have developed an innovative learning hub, which is free for all BID levy payers. Liverpool BID's learning solution is amongst the first of its kind around the UK.

There are a range of courses covering Communications, Customer Service, Leadership and Wellbeing. The courses are designed to help improve the skills and experience of staff members and are developed to suit their needs. The training courses cover counter terrorism training, to pool plant operators, counter fraud investigation and how to make a business as sustainable as possible. As well as competency and skills based training, there are also courses around

health and wellbeing including suicide prevention and awareness, mental health resiliency and how to create happier and healthier employees.

Each of the courses is available via live, interactive webinars, which allows both businesses and their staff to train flexibly and organise it around their working day and commitments.

At Liverpool BID, we hear a great deal from our levy payers about the importance of accessible and flexible training for staff. The city centre is home to a wide range of sectors, from hospitality to professional services. When we were working with SEEDL to develop the model for these courses,

it had to be a solution that would support a range of businesses and be available for free.

Learning is a key part of candidate attractions and retention. It is a vital way of businesses giving themselves a competitive edge, while developing a more productive, happier and skilled workforce. That, in turn, goes to benefit Liverpool as it ensures that workers here have access to some of the most innovative training and learning available.

The Liverpool BID Company learning hub is available to access at liverpoolbidcompany.com/opportunity and is free for all levy payers.



Weightmans take on the Edale Skyline Challenge



At 5am on Friday, August 16, while many of us were sound asleep, twenty six staff and partners from Weightmans' Liverpool office and over thirty of their colleagues from Weightmans' offices from across the UK - along with a dog named Bernie - were up, (partially) awake and getting ready to take on the Edale Skyline Challenge for their office charities.

The Edale Skyline challenge is a circular ridge walk that incorporates several of the Peak District's most spectacular views and challenging ascents, including Mam Tor, Win Hill and the Kinder Plateau. However, the difficulty in taking on this challenge doesn't necessarily come from summiting the peaks, rather the distance the participants must hike. Depending on the route, the total mileage isn't all that far off a marathon and must be completed inside a twelve-hour target time.

On the day the hikers (and their canine companion) were treated to some spectacular sights, including inverted cloud formations, stunning views of the Ladybower reservoir and -

due to part of the route being closed to the public - a dramatic descent down Jacob's Ladder.

The Liverpool office was fundraising for its official office charity, The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity, which it elected as its charity partner in April 2022, raising £54,000 during the first two years. Earlier this year the staff at the firm voted to extend the partnership with Clatterbridge for another two years and the relationship continues to go from strength to strength.

At the time of writing the hike participants have raised over £11,500 in much needed funds for Clatterbridge and the total raised by all the Weightmans' offices combined now exceeds £21,250. Special thanks are due to **Chris Ainsley** and the team at Optimal Adventures UK for ensuring the group made it around the hike in one piece!

Michael Westcott,
Solicitor, national law firm, Weightmans

There's a better way to get paid

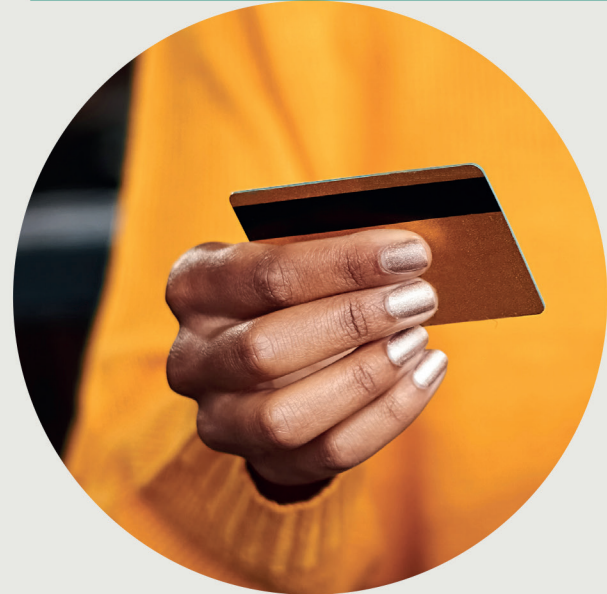
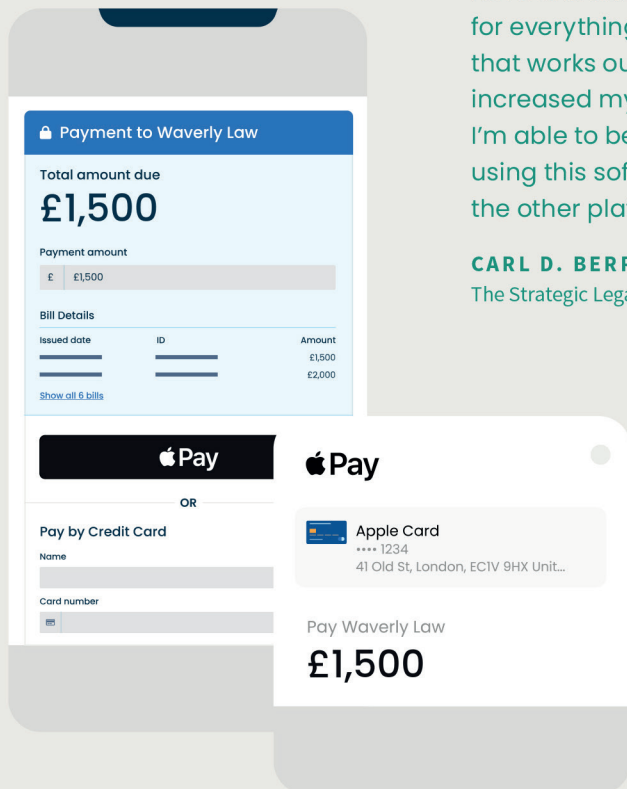
Unlock a simpler billing and payments experience—for you, and your clients.

Clio Payments makes the payment process easier, and it's all in one place.

- Draft bills using time entries right from Clio
- Send bills by email or text message
- Accept payment by credit, debit, digital wallet or pay-by-bank payments
- Get paid instantly

“ The set-up was fast and I now have one integrated place for everything in a platform that works outstandingly. It's increased my revenue because I'm able to be a lot more efficient using this software over any of the other platforms that I've tried.

CARL D. BERRY
The Strategic Legal Group, PLLC





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



A visit from Kim Johnson

With her successful re-election in July, we contacted Liverpool Riverside MP **Kim Johnson** and asked her to visit us at the Law Centre to hear a little more about the work we do, and some of the issues we currently face. We spoke in detail about the difficulties our staff face when dealing with the Local Authority Housing Options team, how we could overcome this problem, and the ongoing high level of demand that we currently face for our services in the face of the cuts to Legal Aid and the impact this has had on our sector.

It was a productive meeting, with great input from Kim, and we look forward to working together in the future to raise issues around Access to Justice and Legal Aid.

Simon Says – Volunteer with us!

We'd like to say a formal welcome to our Volunteer Coordinator **Simon Petty** who joined us earlier in the summer. Simon brings his passion for leading volunteers to us after a long career working in legal services led him to move on to his own volunteering. Simon has spent some time now



volunteering for Care4Calais as an area lead for Liverpool, and his experience in this post is what led him here.

Since starting his new post, he's already been hard at work recruiting new Volunteers, and in recent starts **Millie** (pictured with Simon, above) and **Nasara** (pictured with Simon and Kim Johnson, above), we've gained two driven triage volunteers. Our phones are often busy with those seeking help with urgent issues affecting their lives, and our volunteers do a fantastic job of making sure our client's voices are heard, assisting them where we can. Even if we can't offer them the service they need, we can always find somewhere that can, and frequently keep our external referral and signposting resources up to date, ensuring clients don't get stuck with signposting fatigue. If you're interested in volunteering with us, please see more details at the end of our feature.

Candy Says – Farewell

Along with saying hello to Simon, we also say goodbye to **Candy Chan** our HK(BNO) & Welfare Benefits Caseworker, who has been working with us for the last year helping BN(O) visa holders with access to Welfare Rights



and providing support, information and resources to Cantonese speakers. Candy has also been providing key Welfare Benefits support and representation for clients, as well as being a key helping hand during our 50th birthday celebrations last year.

Having begun herself here as a volunteer, Candy has been an ever-supportive force in the Law Centre for new volunteers. We'll sorely miss her presence in the office and wish her every success in her future career as a solicitor. You can find all of the valuable resources Candy has helped develop for BN(O) visa holders on our website, including our Low-Income Support pack, and helpful information about Housing.

An update from our Housing Team

Our Housing team have been focusing on challenges against the homelessness team at Liverpool City Council for several years now. Most recently a homeless man with severe mental health issues and several other vulnerabilities was left to sleep on the streets despite having asked the local authority for help and met the legal threshold for support (being homeless, eligible for assistance as per their immigration status and giving reason to believe that they may be in priority need due to their health conditions and vulnerabilities). Our client's request for assistance was ignored and not progressed despite us having chased the Homelessness team for a response. We issued a letter before action asking that (1) he was immediately provided with the temporary accommodation required

by law and (2) his application for help was accepted, assessed and properly progressed. He was accommodated on the same day as the letter was sent to the legal team at Liverpool City Council and a case officer has been assigned to progress their case.

In the 12 months to the 17th of July this year, our Housing team issued more than 70 letters before action in Judicial Review to the Homelessness team at Liverpool City Council. This has been a result of unlawful decision-making on issues including refusal to accept requests for help, refusal to provide legally required accommodation, failure to make decisions on client cases, failure to accept client vulnerabilities, provision of severely unsuitable temporary accommodation and others. Each of these letters led to a successful outcome for the client before any need for a Judicial Review claim to be issued in court.

We will continue to challenge the local authority with hopes of not only improving the situation for our clients but also bringing about systemic change to improve the experience of all those requiring homelessness assistance in the city.

Liverpool Legal Walk - 1st October '24



It's that time of year again, so come along and join us for this year's Liverpool Legal Walk. We'll be raising money as usual for the Access To Justice Foundation whose

aim is to help empower communities by supporting their access to advice, and divert people from crisis.

Come along for a 5k walk through Liverpool City Centre to help raise money and awareness for this important cause, followed by a well-deserved drink and a further chance to socialise and chat with others in the profession.

We hope you can join us, and many others in the legal profession to help promote this worthy cause. [You can find the full details including how you can raise or donate yourself here.](#)

Can you help Vauxhall Law Centre?

At Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre, volunteers are the backbone of our organisation. Their dedication to supporting our work and commitment to promoting access to justice during the cost of living crisis has been immense. We get support from our volunteers in many different ways:-

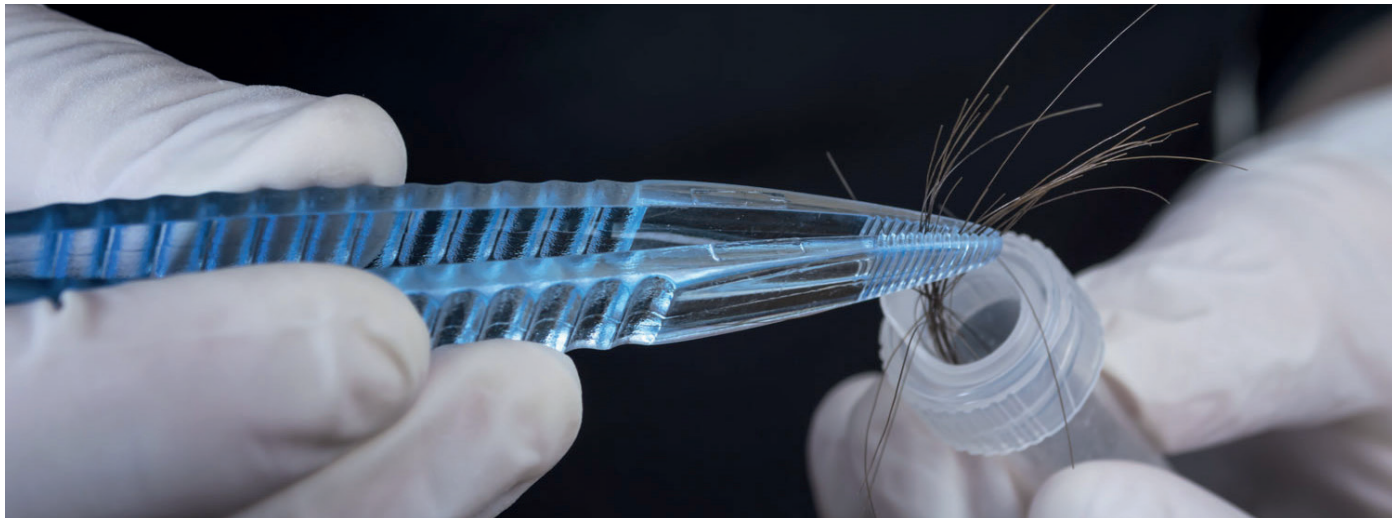
- Our Board are volunteers, providing support and strategic direction for the organisation.
- Volunteers assist with our advice provision and representation.
- Volunteers help with our Triage work, helping clients book appointments, and helping to signpost them in the right direction.

If you think you or your company can support our work at VCLIC, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are looking for volunteers with skills in a wide range of areas such as Financial Management, HR, Technology, Fundraising, and Advice. If you have any skills and would like to get on board with us, please drop us a line at recruitment@vauxhalllawcentre.org.uk

Please consider using volunteering as a means to meet some of your company's Corporate Social Responsibility commitments and support the local community.

Alternatively, we would be grateful if you would consider [donating](#) to support our organisation's work in providing access to justice to those who need it most. [Further information can be found here.](#)

What are the benefits and challenges of hair strand testing for alcohol use biomarkers?



The Science and Significance of Hair Strand Testing for Alcohol Use

In forensic toxicology, the analysis of alcohol consumption is crucial in various legal and clinical contexts. Forensic Testing Service (FTS) stands at the forefront of this field, offering expert services in hair strand testing to accurately determine patterns of alcohol use over extended periods.

This article explores the benefits, challenges, and methodologies of hair strand and blood testing for alcohol biomarkers, as shared in a recent expert webinar featuring Damian World, Technical Support and Reporting Manager at FTS, and Steve Nurdin, Senior Account Manager.

Understanding Hair Strand Testing

Hair strand testing is a highly specialised form of toxicological analysis that provides a long-term view of alcohol consumption. Unlike blood, saliva or urine tests, which offer snapshots of recent consumption—hours in the case of blood alcohol concentration and days for urine—hair testing can cover periods of up to nine months. This extended window is invaluable for assessing chronic alcohol use, providing evidence that is crucial in both legal and medical settings.

The principle behind hair testing is straightforward. Alcohol biomarkers, such as ethyl glucuronide (EtG), are formed in the body following the consumption of alcohol. These biomarkers are then transported via the bloodstream into the hair follicles, where they become incorporated into the hair shaft.

Over time, this biomarker remains locked within the hair, offering a historical record of alcohol consumption. For example, FTS can conduct alcohol testing over a 6-month period, to demonstrate an individual's mean alcohol

consumption over this period, if dictated by a court order assessment.

Key Biomarkers: Ethyl Glucuronide (EtG) and Phosphatidylethanol (PEth) Testing

FTS focuses on testing two primary biomarkers in alcohol consumption assessments: EtG and PEth. Both of these are direct metabolites of ethanol, the type of alcohol found in alcoholic beverages, and their presence in hair and blood respectively indicates alcohol consumption.

- **Ethyl Glucuronide (EtG):** This is the primary biomarker tested by FTS. It is also present in urine and is widely used in alcohol assessments when urine testing is required. The key advantage of EtG is its specificity; it is only formed when ethanol is metabolised by the body, making it a reliable indicator of alcohol consumption.
- **Phosphatidylethanol (PEth):** PEth is another significant biomarker, found in blood samples. Like EtG, it is a direct metabolite of ethanol and is used to confirm alcohol consumption over the 3 to 4 weeks prior to sample collection. PEth is especially useful in cases where the hair has been exposed to external factors, such as dyes or bleaches, that might strip EtG from the hair.

The Process and Challenges of Hair Strand Testing

Hair strand testing involves more than just the detection of biomarkers. The process must account for various external factors that could affect the accuracy of the interpretations provided. One of the main challenges is the potential removal of biomarkers from the hair due to the use of hair treatments like dyes or bleach. These products open the hair follicle to alter pigmentation, which can also remove substances like EtG from the hair. In such cases, FTS always attempts to test an alternative sample to ensure the reliability of the results.



Moreover, the testing process can be further complicated by factors such as pregnancy, which can cause a significant reduction in biomarkers across all biological samples. This occurs because the developing foetus absorbs alcohol and other substances ingested by the parent, making these biomarkers less available in the mother’s bloodstream, and consequently in the hair. While this factor is crucial, standards used by laboratories other than FTS have not yet established specific cut-off levels for pregnant individuals. FTS, on the other hand, compare results to our database of over 4000 alcohol tests, including those from pregnant individuals, to reach an assessment based on the balance of probabilities.

Segmental Analysis and its Forensic Value

A unique advantage of hair strand testing is the ability to segment hair samples into specific periods of interest. Typically, alcohol biomarker testing is segmented into three-month periods, but FTS can also perform monthly alcohol assessments if required. This capability allows for a more detailed analysis of an individual’s alcohol consumption over specific periods of time, which can be particularly valuable in legal cases where precise timelines are essential.

For instance, in situations where an individual has declared low levels of alcohol consumption say, less than five units per week, FTS’s experience suggests that this would not produce detectable levels of EtG in the hair. However, if an individual reports moderate consumption, around 15 to 30 units per week, this could lead to detectable levels of EtG. Although these might fall below the reporting thresholds used by other providers. At FTS, even such low levels are considered valuable and are reported in the context of the individual’s declared consumption.

The Importance of Expert Interpretation

One of the key takeaways should be the importance of expert interpretation in hair strand testing. The results of these tests are not merely black and white; they require careful consideration of all external factors that could influence the levels of biomarkers detected. This includes assessing the individual’s self-declared exposure to factors like hair treatments, pregnancy, and even the use of products containing alcohol, such as hand sanitisers.

FTS prides itself on its thorough forensic investigations, which consider these overlapping factors to form an expert opinion on what the results are likely to represent. This level of expertise is crucial, as providers who apply strict cut-off values without such contextual analysis may miss critical nuances in the data, potentially leading to incorrect conclusions.

Conclusion

Hair strand testing for alcohol use biomarkers is a powerful tool in forensic toxicology, offering a detailed and long-term view of an individual’s alcohol consumption. However, the accuracy and reliability of the results depend heavily on expert interpretation, which accounts for the many variables that can influence the presence of biomarkers in the hair.

At Forensic Testing Service, our commitment to comprehensive analysis and expert reporting ensures that we provide the most accurate and contextually relevant evidence possible. Whether for legal proceedings or clinical assessments, our hair testing for drug and alcohol services are designed to meet the highest standards of forensic science, offering clarity and precision where it matters most.

For more information or to discuss your specific alcohol hair testing needs, please visit www.forensic-testing.co.uk or contact our Expert Support Team on 01924 480272.

RESOLVE LEGAL SOLUTIONS

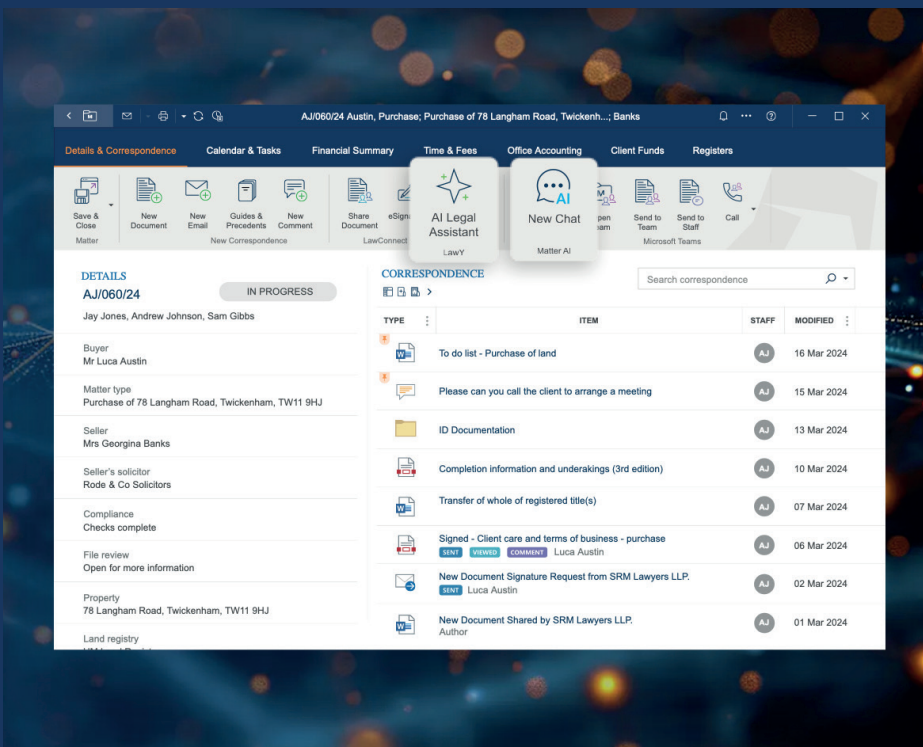
Karl Starkey MCSFS
Investigations Director

Our Services include:

- General Investigations
- Process Serving
- Specialist & Forensic Services
- Surveillance
- Tracing Person & Assets
- Open Source Intelligence
- Criminal Defence • Genealogy
- Interviewing • Legal Aid Work

Tel: 0151 640 0928
Mob: 07775 430 403
info@resolvelegalsolutions.com

LEAP launches AI-powered tool to speed up the identification and creation of legal documents



Generator in LEAP helps law firms:

Reduce wasted time: AI-powered 'similarity searching' enables users to quickly find the document template they need. This reduces time spent searching, allowing lawyers to focus on more critical tasks.

Enhance legal drafting: Leveraging advanced AI, Generator streamlines the drafting of clauses, documents, and correspondence without having an impact on quality of output.

Simplify workflow management: Ensuring consistency of service, law firms can upload their own correspondence and templates into the Generator for future use.

For more information, please visit <https://www.leap.co.uk/ai-solutions-for-law-firms/>



30th July 2024 – London, UK – LEAP, the global provider of legal practice management solutions, announces the launch of Generator, a cutting-edge enhancement that further builds on the software providers suite of AI-powered tools. The latest innovation transforms the document creation process, revolutionising how lawyers interact with templates and drives efficiency across law firms.

Gareth Walker, CEO, LEAP UK, comments "This latest update to LEAP's core product underscores our commitment to empowering lawyers with advanced AI technology. With this

added functionality, LEAP users can produce an initial draft of a document in seconds, they can effortlessly input the type of document they need and specify how they wish to draft it directly within the software."

Thanks to this AI-driven technology within LEAP, lawyers have available to them a variety of drafting options to create legal documents swiftly.

Users can, in a single search, locate a suitable template to support their draft. Whether re-purposed from a previously used document, drafted from scratch using AI via LEAP's integration partner LawY, accessed from LEAP's comprehensive document library, or even from their own firm's uploaded precedent bank, the LEAP Generator streamlines drafting documents without sacrificing quality and merges the current matter details on creation.

About LEAP

LEAP Legal Software has been helping law firms to become more efficient and profitable globally for more than 25 years. LEAP is committed to consistently providing world-class legal practice productivity solutions and has innovation at the heart of its research and development so that users continually have the best possible experience.

Dedicated to delivering cutting-edge and intelligent legal software solutions, LEAP's team of specialist developers present innovative AI solutions that automate routine tasks, simplify document management, and enhance decision-making, allowing lawyers to do what they do best — practise law.

For more information, please visit www.leap.co.uk.

Empowering Diversity: Your Path to Leadership in Law & the Judiciary



In collaboration with Merseyside Women Lawyers' Division
Panel event with Q&A and networking

Unlock your full potential and embrace diversity on the path to becoming a successful leader in today's dynamic world.

Chaired by

Nina Sahu, Legal Director at Hill Dickinson

Panel Members:

- Nina Ferris, Partner, Hill Dickinson
- DJ Sheren Guirguis, Family District Judge, Liverpool County Court
- John Owens, Partner, MSB Solicitors
- Nama Zarroug, Solicitor & Higher Court Advocate at Astraea Linskills

Hear from our speakers about their own experiences



AIMED AT

All members of the legal profession

LLS members FREE

Non-members £10 + vat

[More info](#)

19 September 2024 5pm – 7pm
LJMU Legal Advice Centre
Liverpool city centre



BOOK NOW

Brought to you by Liverpool Law Society's Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

Kindly sponsored by



**LIVERPOOL
JOHN MOORES
UNIVERSITY**

Shape the future of your local Law Society



Become a director of Liverpool Law Society and have an opportunity to influence one of the most active local and prominent local law societies in England and Wales. You will make professional contacts and friends, use and enhance skills in a professional environment and be at the centre of the work and decision-making of a membership organisation with approximately 2,500 members.

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

2024 AGM

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held from **1.00pm – 2.00pm on Thursday, 28th November 2024** at **The Racquet Club**, Liverpool city centre.

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

Every year, nine members of the General Committee retire by rotation at the AGM: up to five of those due to retire may be nominated by the Committee for re-

election, and the others are not eligible for re-election until the next AGM.

How to stand for election

Members of the Society will receive an email in mid-October with details on how to nominate a full member of the Society to become a director. The nomination form must be completed and returned to the Society by **1.00pm on Monday 21st October 2024**. Elections will then take place at the AGM in November.

Please do consider attending the AGM even if you are not standing for election. It would be good to meet you and I am sure that you would find it worthwhile to have a chat with a few of the officers and staff team plus some of members attending.

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

Gaynor Williams
President

**Full member*

The following persons practising or working in the Area (Area means the City of Liverpool, the Metropolitan Boroughs of Wirral, Knowsley, St. Helens and Sefton; and Widnes and Neston in the County of Cheshire;) (with the exception of the persons referred to in Article 27.1.2

who are not required to be practising or working in the Area but shall have been so practising or working immediately prior to his or her retirement) shall be eligible to be Full Members of the Society:

27.1.1 *any solicitor who holds a current practising certificate;*

27.1.2 *any solicitor on the Roll who has retired from practice;*

27.1.3 *any barrister;*

27.1.4 *any Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives;*

27.1.5 *any registered foreign or European lawyer who is regulated by an Approved Regulator;*

27.1.6 *any person holding a judicial appointment or teaching law;*

27.1.7 *any trainee solicitor;*

27.1.8 *any patent attorney;*

27.1.9 *any licensed conveyancer;*

27.1.10 *any notary public;*

27.1.11 *any trade mark attorney;*

27.1.12 *pupil barristers; and*

27.1.13 *subject to Article 29, any person who is in a senior position at an organisation providing legal services which is subject to supervision by an Approved Regulator and who is approved by the Committee.*



**FOR WEALTH MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE THAT WILL
ADD VALUE TO YOUR CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS,
RELY ON RATHBONES.**

**A TRUSTED PARTNER FOR PROFESSIONAL INTERMEDIARIES,
LAWYERS, ACCOUNTANTS AND CONSULTANTS.**

DISCOVER MORE

**The value of investments and the income from them may go down
as well as up and you may not get back what you originally invested.**

Regulation Update

September 2024

The latest Regulation news from Andrea Cohen of Weightmans LLP



Andrea Cohen

As the nights begin to draw in and we bid farewell to the few days of summer that we were treated to this year, we return once again to share our regular updates on risk and compliance, disciplinary decisions, and what's in store in the regulatory world.

SRA AML & financial sanctions activity information questionnaire

The SRA has now emailed all COLPs about the information required regarding AML and sanctions that we referred to last month. The closing date for submitting the form is 23 September and we would advise not leaving it until the last minute as there is data to be provided which, depending on your records, may take time to compile, and the SRA have confirmed that a response is a regulatory requirement and enforcement action may be taken if a firm fails to respond. While the information can be collated by relevant people within the firm, the form must be submitted by the COLP, MLCO, MLRO or Authorised Signatory, through their mySRA. There is a Q & A section on the SRA website.

AML and sanctions guidance

The SRA updated its guidance 'Complying with the UK Sanctions Regime' <https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/financial-sanctions-regime/> on 5 August 2024. Unusually for the SRA, and in

response to feedback and discussion with those involved in regulatory matters, the guidance provides a summary of changes, which includes a restructure to move key information relevant to all firms to the top of the document. It would be helpful if this was included on all SRA guidance, but it does not appear on the 'Guidance for trust and company service providers' <https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/money-laundering/trust-company-service-provider-guidance/> also updated on 5 August, which, at the date of writing, only appears on the Money Laundering section of the SRA website, and not in the Guidance section (either under Money Laundering or All topics).

Continuing competence requirements

The SRA published its annual assessment of continuing competence on 31 July 2024. There has been an increase in reports to the SRA in a number of areas, including Family and Landlord and Tenant law, and the SRA will be looking into if and how solicitors in these areas are maintaining their competence, having carried out thematic inspections and training record reviews into residential conveyancing, probate, and immigration this year, in addition to the rolling programme of AML inspections. It has updated the continuing competence resources <https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/reflect-identify/>. On 9 August 2024 the SRA updated information on 'Understanding your continuing competence requirements' <https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/understanding-continuing-competence/> and on the same date issued information regarding practising certificate and registration renewals 2024/25, with details of the questions in the practising certificate application, including the requirement that solicitors confirm that they have an up to date understanding of the legal, ethical and regulatory obligations relevant to their role; have reflected and addressed any identified learning and development

needs and are competent to perform their role. If a solicitor has not maintained their competence, they should tell the SRA and provide the reason why when making the declaration. The SRA confirms it will monitor the declaration and do spot checks, and reminds solicitors to be satisfied they are acting honestly and with integrity in making the declaration; have addressed any identified learning and development needs, and are competent in all aspects of their role and not just technical legal practice.

As a date for your diaries, practising certificates and registration renewals will take place from 1 to 31 October 2024 (inclusive).

Undertaking claims management activities for financial services or products.

Following the introduction of the SRA Claims Management Fees Rules 2024 in July, reported on previously, on 15 August 2024 the SRA produced guidance 'Representing clients during claims for financial services or products' <https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/representing-clients-during-claims-for-financial-services-or-products/> which sets out the SRA's expectations of those representing clients in those claims, the caps on charges, and examples of cases where charges are exempt from the maximum charges framework.

Changes to Competition Law

The Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024 (DMCC) was passed on 24 May 2024, and will implement wide-ranging changes to competition law, including introducing a new pro-competition digital markets regime for the regulation of businesses which are deemed to have "strategic market status" in respect of a particular digital activity, together with other competition law reforms. While not yet in force, businesses need to be aware of the changes at an early stage so that they can properly prepare, including reviewing business acquisition and merger plans

in light of the increased powers which the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) will have to investigate and block business acquisitions and mergers for their potentially anti-competitive effects. The DMCC will also strengthen the rights of consumers in certain circumstances.

Our Competition Law team can advise on these matters as well as the new subsidy control regime, which has replaced the State aid scheme following Brexit, and the new National Security and Investment Act regime, which may require mandatory pre-clearance by the government of corporate transactions in certain circumstances. Please get in touch if we can assist.

New practice notes and guidance

SRA guidance

In addition to the above, since our previous update, the SRA has published the following updated guidance:

- Use of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs): [SRA | Use of non-disclosure agreements \(NDAs\) | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)

Law Society practice notes

- Supervision: [Supervision | The Law Society](#)
- Supervision: good practice for remote supervision of junior staff and trainee solicitors: <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/hr-and-people-management/supervision-good-practice-for-remote-supervision-of-junior-staff-and-trainee-solicitors>

Disciplinary and regulatory decisions

There have been a number of decisions and judgments reported since our last update, including:

Solicitor struck off for making improper payments from client account

A solicitor has been struck off for dishonesty after 14 improper transfers

were made from the firm's client account, totalling over £2.8 million. The SRA acted after receiving reports concerning the solicitor's conduct, with a number of complaints relating to the mishandling of client funds that were intended to be used for property purchases. In six cases, the property purchases did not complete and the funds were not returned to the clients.

In addition, the solicitor had a conviction for stalking which was not disclosed to the SRA.

The solicitor was ordered to pay over £16,000 costs.

Former partner barred for 5 years

In an agreed outcome accepted by the SDT, which included a section 43 sanction, a registered foreign lawyer who behaved inappropriately to a junior colleague who reported directly to him, including sending almost 1000 WhatsApp messages over a 2 month period most of which were out of hours, has been barred from the profession for 5 years and ordered to pay £36,000 in costs.

Solicitor struck off for misconduct

A solicitor who, whilst working at two different firms, asked clients to pay fees to him personally and used the money to pay for his divorce and medical treatment for his child, has been struck off and ordered to pay over £6,000 costs.

Former partner suspended

A former board-level partner has been suspended for nine months for making inappropriate sexual advances to a colleague during a partners' away weekend in 2012. The SRA only became aware of the event in 2019. His prompt and unreserved apology, resignation from the board, and previously unblemished career were treated as mitigating circumstances in the decision. In addition to the suspension, costs of £11,000 were ordered.

Solicitor reprimanded for offensive comments

A solicitor has been reprimanded for showing an inappropriate photograph and making offensive comments in court, although not while the court was in session. The solicitor admitted the allegations, apologised, and said he was 'beyond embarrassed' to be at the SDT. The Tribunal indicated that equality, diversity and inclusivity training would be beneficial. He must also pay £12,000 costs.

Paralegal barred for dishonesty

A paralegal has been made subject to a section 43 order, barred from legal practice without the SRA's prior approval, for giving false responses on a pre-employment questionnaire which asked if he had been the subject of civil proceedings and whether he had any outstanding judgment debts made under a court order. He answered 'no' when he actually had been found to be fundamentally dishonest in relation to a PI claim which was dismissed and he was ordered to pay defence costs.

Fined for refusing to give breath samples

Two solicitors have been fined by the SRA following convictions for failing to provide a breath sample after a car accident. Using its fining guidance, the fines were calculated at 27% and 24% of income, with a 25% discount for mitigation for self-reporting, pleading guilty and expressing remorse, resulting in fines of £5,569 and £6,345, respectively.

How Compli can help...

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

Andrea Cohen
Compli,
Weightmans LLP

Charity Spotlight: Sefton Women's and Children's Aid (SWACA)



We do what it say's on the tin ... and much more!

50 years ago, two sisters recognised the need to support women and families within their local area. This support was to give those women who were struggling with home life and in most cases, battling with the effects of domestic abuse a 'helping hand' and a source of support and encouragement. 50 years on SWACA are still pushing forward with this agenda and delivering high quality emotional and practical support to all victims of abuse.

Retaining the same core values set out 50 years ago our SWACA provides support to all victims of domestic abuse; women, whole families, male victims and children. The charity has listened and responded to community needs by evolving its services to meet the growing needs of vulnerable people.

Over the last 3 years SWACA have not only developed their offer to Women' and Children but now also have specialist services for male victims, the LGBTQi community and support families through a CoPVA service – this service supports the whole family when there is 'Child on Parent Violence/Abuse' . This is highly specialist area and much growing need across the community. Support is given by working directly with the children involved and as a 'whole family' approach to supporting their needs and motivating change.

The organisation is also running The Iris Programme, which is aimed at general practice and the wider healthcare system. The overall aim is to provide support, training and education to help doctors, and their staff recognise the signs of domestic abuse and to help access better signposting and early help.

SWACA support over 1500 families across Sefton each year, provide education to over 600 children per month on 'healthy relationships' within local schools and deliver a fantastic wrap around service from their new Refuge for fleeing families.

Collaboration with legal partners proves to be so successful and imperative in a number of ways, referrals for representation, Child Protection and other emergency orders as well as sponsorship and educational support. It is essential that SWACA maintains abreast of new/emerging legal issues that can support our Service Users and it is also a great advantage that the organisation often provide educational session to our legal partners, working through case studies and general domestic abuse updates.

How the charity and legal sector can progress together?

- SWACA offer free learning and development training for any professionals working within the Domestic Abuse field
- Supporting students or work placements
- Joint media and community campaigns to help raise awareness of signs and symptoms as well as options for support
- SWACA are looking for their 2024/25 corporate sponsor and would welcome interest from the legal sector.

www.swaca.com



Neil Frackelton - Chief Executive



Lesley Paterson and Helen Goodband, founders of SWACA

Windmills and Practical Wisdom - reflections from the European Network for Clinical Legal Education Conference at the University of Amsterdam 22nd - 24th July 2024



I am often asked by students what employers are looking for in job candidates. Strong academic performance is always a good starting point of course but what kind of lawyer are solicitors firms and barristers chambers looking to recruit and how important are students' ethical perspectives ?

I have recently returned from 3 days at the University of Amsterdam Law School attending the European Network for Clinical Legal Education conference themed “*Clinical Legal Education: the creation of knowledge through transformative experience*”.

The conference brought together almost 250 delegates from Europe and beyond and provided the opportunity to meet and share experience with lawyers, practitioners, students, academics and legal education professionals and to reflect on the role of clinical legal education, experiential learning, and other active teaching methods in shaping the lawyers of tomorrow. **Helenor Birt** from the Law Clinic at the University of Liverpool and I delivered a



workshop entitled “*Building a Sense of Belonging*” in which we looked at how we build a sense of community and belonging amongst the students who work and study in our legal advice centres.

There was much sharing of personal journeys throughout the course of the week. My own journey had brought me from a high street firm in Doncaster in the early 1990s to 17 years in a Local Authority role at Liverpool City Council and, through my role teaching and practising in academia to delivering a workshop attended by many eminent academics from around the globe.

Most of the delegates, at some point in their career, had practiced as lawyers in their own jurisdictions and most of them are now teaching the next generation of lawyers. They were keen to share their knowledge and experience with boundless energy and enthusiasm and were positive about change and the opportunities for the next generation, committed to continuing the hard work they put in to educating the lawyers of the

future. Many of their projects, like ours at the Legal Advice Centre at Liverpool John Moores University addressed issues of unmet legal need from our closest neighbours at the University of Liverpool and their work to support families of children with Special Educational Needs to the support provided for the disabled population of the Kingdom of Bhutan and how the law clinic at their university was helping to empower them.

I learned about the importance of the “AHA” moment - how to understand and create transformative learning experiences for students, how to use our time in the classroom to develop students' critical thinking skills, to challenge their underlying assumptions and beliefs and create opportunities to act on the new perspectives.

Teaching law students is not all about the knowledge we share with them, we need to provide opportunities for them to develop critical thinking skills, empathy, adaptability and resilience. We need to create spaces for them to decide what sort of lawyer they want to be, helping them understand what lawyers do and why it is important and enable them to develop their own practical wisdom by putting their knowledge into practice.

It is about the shift between “thinking like” a lawyer and becoming and being a lawyer and why that matters.

As educators of the next generation, our programmes of clinical legal education, street law and experiential learning at LJMU focus on creating ethical lawyers who are interested in social justice and understanding legal capability. We aim to develop confidence and a sense of professional identity in the decision

makers and lawyers of the future. Our work at the Legal Advice Centre at LJMU offers students, particularly those from non-legal backgrounds the unique opportunity to develop this confidence.

Attending conferences such as the one we enjoyed in Amsterdam last month helps us as educators to learn and reflect on how we develop and nurture those skills in our students. I am excited to share my learning with my Legal Advice Centre colleagues and our students as we welcome our new cohort in September.

LJMU Legal Advice Centre is situated on Hardman Street and provides advice and support to clients in the local community in a number of areas. <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/microsites/legal-advice-centre>

The legal community in Liverpool supports students at the LJMU Legal Advice Centre to gain insight to life as a

lawyer and is invaluable to the student experience. We are always happy to welcome more supervisors and mentors so please do get in touch if it appeals to you or your firm.

We want to celebrate the work of the students and the clinic, our collaborations with other agencies and the contribution from the local legal community. We are hosting an event at the clinic in Pro Bono week 4th- 8th November and invite you all to join us. Preparations are underway and we will confirm the date soon and look forward to catching up and providing the students with a chance to meet you socially.

For any further information please contact us at LAC@ljmu.ac.uk.

Liz Jones, LLB (Hons),
Solicitor and Senior Lecturer in Law
LJMU School of Law



X-Press celebrates milestone by giving back to communities



X-Press Legal Services, the largest independent provider of property searches and reports in England and Wales, is marking its milestone 25th anniversary by donating £25,000 to charitable causes.

Leveraging the firm's network of 28 locally owned offices, X-Press initiated the fund to support charities and grassroots

organisations throughout 2024. X-Press office owners have embraced the charitable opportunity, taking time to visit and better understand the organisations that have chosen to support. Donations so far include musical instruments for a primary school, sports kits for a youth football team, food for a pet sanctuary, and contributions to food banks.

"We are delighted to be celebrating 25 years of X-Press Legal Services and have enjoyed every minute of devising and delivering products to support hardworking conveyancers," commented managing director, **Lynne Lister**.

"We have always championed charities, but this year, to celebrate our quarter-century and recognise the role that local communities have played in helping us grow, we have gone a step further. Our office owners have really got behind the campaign, engaging in extra fundraising activities and

choosing projects where our donations can make real impact. It has been wonderful to see the results of our donations and we hope by the end of the year to have made a lasting impression on countless communities."

The enduring success of the X-Press brand is a testament to the firm's commitment to building long-standing relationships with clients. Its independent local owners are dedicated to exceeding client expectations, becoming trusted and invaluable property partners, which sets them apart from other search companies.

X-Press provides a comprehensive service, including residential and commercial searches, pre- and post-completion services, cyber security, and compliance products.

To find out more about X-Press Legal Services, please visit <https://xpresslegal.co.uk>.

Forthcoming Courses

DATE	EVENT	SPEAKER
11/09/2024	Private Child Law Conference	Various
13/09/2024	Writing for the Press and the Net	John Trimbos
17/09/2024	RegTech, SupTech and LegalTech Explained	Alan Wilkinson
18/09/2024	Residential Property Conference	Various
20/09/2024	Private Child Law Update	Safda Mahmood
20/09/2024	Public Child Law Update	Safda Mahmood
24/09/2024	Introduction to Consumer Credit Act	Alan Wilkinson
25/09/2024	Family Finance Conference	Various
27/09/2024	Diversity – Managing Across Cultures	John Trimbos
01/10/2024	Conveyancing; Recent Statutory Changes	Richard Snape
02/10/2024	Employment Law Conference	Various
04/10/2024	Is it enforceable? - Making Agreements Stick	Chris Beanland
08/10/2024	SRA Accounts Rules Update	Linda Lambert
09/10/2024	Clinical Negligence Conference	Various
11/10/2024	Commerical Property: Essential Update 2024	Hannah MacKinlay
05/10/2024	Personal Branding for Black Lawyers	Jannette Brimm
08/10/2024	A Tricky Business: BPR and APR Explained	Rebecca Roscoe
30/10/2024	Acting as a Professional Deputy- the need to know in practice	Helen Forster
4-5/11/2024	Personal Injury Trusts	Helen Forster
06/11/2024	AI and the provision of Legal Services	Various
08/11/2024	Corporate Update	Chris Beanland
13/11/2024	Domestic Abuse Law – Developments & Updates	Safda Mahmood
19/11/2024	Tax Doesn't Have to be Taxing: A Masterclass	Rebecca Roscoe
20/11/2024	Conference for Legal Cashiers & Managers	Various
25/11/2024	Alternative financing: crowdfunding platforms	Alan Wilkinson
26/11/2024	Stand & Deliver! Conducting Effective Advocacy in Family & Children Cases	Safda Mahmood
27/11/2024	Property Development: Practical Problems	Hannah MacKinlay
04/12/2024	Personal Injury Conference	Various

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

** Training events open to legal professionals nationwide **

For full details or to book any of the above courses (& more!) please visit:

<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/training/>


**RESIDENTIAL
PROPERTY
CONFERENCE 2024**
 WEDNESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER | 9.30AM - 3PM
 HYBRID - ATTEND IN PERSON OR ONLINE
 THIS CONFERENCE IS PACKED WITH INSIGHT AND DISCUSSION COVERING THE
 LATEST TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS & BEST PRACTICE

Chairperson
 Laura Cartwright, Bell Lamb Joynson

Current Contentious Conveyancing Issues
 Siobhan Beattie, DTM Legal

The latest updates from HM Land Registry
 Keith Lloyd & Pam White, HM Land Registry

Digital Solutions for Digital Conveyancing Journeys
 Sam Jordan, InfoTrack

**Building an authentic team culture - how to strike the
right balance for the company and its employees**
 Natalie Moore, AConveyancing

Climate Change 2024 & beyond
 Luke Parsons, Landmark Information

The Renters Reform Bill - Behind the Headlines
 Chris Hall, Dutton Gregory

**What do I care about law? Ain't I got the power? -
Buying & Selling Property using an LPA or Deputy**
 John Jones, Jackson Lees Solicitors

Sponsored by






Autumn Private Child Law Update
 with Safda Mahmood


Live online: Friday 20th September, 10.30am - 1pm

**This online course will equip you with a rounded
up update on key issues surrounding private
children law, with a particular focus on changes
and updates in the area.**

The areas to be covered are:

- Parental Responsibility
- Section 8 orders - Update
- Specific Issue Applications
- Contact (Child Arrangements) and Enforcement - Update
- Child Arrangements Orders
- Domestic Abuse and Child Arrangements
- Leave to Remove Applications
- Special Guardianship Orders
- Key Case law Update

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)


Autumn Public Child Law Update
 with Safda Mahmood


Live online: Friday 20th September, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

**This online course will equip you with a rounded up update on key issues
surrounding public children law, with a particular focus on changes and
updates in the area.**


**It will be of benefit to those acting for parents, children, extended
family, and local authorities.**

The areas to be covered are:

- Separation under Interim Care
- Contact and Children
- Assessments and Timescales
- Public law Outline, Best Practice and Timetables
- DOLS Applications and Secure Accommodation
- Placement Applications and Adoption
- Special Guardianship and Practice
- Key Case Law Update
- Updates on Statutes and Practice Directions



[BOOK HERE](#)


***NEW* INTRODUCTION TO CONSUMER CREDIT ACT**
 with Alan Wilkinson


Tuesday 24th September, 12pm - 2pm


**This online course will provide an introduction to the consumer credit
regime including key provisions under the Consumer Credit Act 1974 for
regulated consumer credit and hire agreements. It will also provide an
update on recent developments in this area.**

The areas covered will include:

- The scope of the CCA
- Determining when an agreement will be regulated by the CCA
- The approach to regulation
- Essentials of regulated credit and hire agreements
- Unfair relationship provisions: What is unfairness?
- Extortionate credit bargains and the need for reform
- S.140: The new test; Extent and exclusions
- How the unfair relationship provisions operate in practice
- Burden of proof
- Limitation
- Overview of recent case law
- Proposals for change

[BOOK HERE](#)




2024 FAMILY FINANCE CONFERENCE
 Wednesday 25th September | 9.30am - 3pm
 HYBRID - Attend in-person or online

A must-attend training event for solicitors, barristers & other practitioners involved with family law. Providing a round-up of key developments in law & practice and an opportunity to hear directly from some first-class speakers

Chairperson
DJ Sheren Guirguis


Prenups and downs: Making and breaking agreements
Max Lewis, 29 Bedford Row


Revisiting conduct in financial remedy proceedings
Tom Hynes, Oriel Chambers

NCDR and Cost Consequences: Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall Avoid Costs Orders
Charles Hale KC, 4PB

A review of disability as a s.25 factor
Naomh Gallagher, St Johns Buildings

Family Finance Round-Up
Alexis Campbell KC, 29 Bedford Row Chambers


[Book Here](#)




DIVERSITY – MANAGING ACROSS CULTURES
 with John Trimbos
 Friday 27th September, 10am - 1pm

This online course will teach delegates the seven building blocks of culture so that they can more effectively interact with people from other cultures.

Covering:

- Benefits of diversity in the workplace
- What constitutes culture?
- Detecting others’ cultural norms
- Flexing to accommodate others’ cultural orientations
- Group discussion – doing business in other countries, especially Switzerland and the Middle East
- Action planning

[BOOK HERE](#)



Conveyancing: Recent Statutory Changes
 with Richard Snape

‘Live’ online Tuesday 1st October, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

The Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024 is an extremely important piece of legislation. In addition, the Building Safety Act 2022 continues to cause problems.

Topics covered include:

- Recent changes in the Planning permission and the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023;
- Recent changes to building regulations;
- The Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024;
- Changes to Leasehold houses;
- Changes to Lease extensions and enfranchisement;
- Changes to service charges and administration charges;
- Changes to rentcharges
- Registration of higher-risk buildings;
- Latest developments on Leaseholder protections;
- Latest caselaw on the Building Safety Act 2022

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)


2024 EMPLOYMENT LAW CONFERENCE
 Wednesday 2nd October | 9.30am - 3pm
 HYBRID - Attend in-person or online

This conference is packed with insight and discussion covering the latest technical developments & best practice.

Chairperson
 John Hyde, Law Society Gazette

Sex, Lies and Employment Law - What the future holds with a new government
 David Jones, St Johns Buildings Chambers

Where rights conflict - a minefield for employers
 Michael Malone, Trinity Chambers

AI for Law Firms: How It’s Reshaping Legal
 Regina O Shaughnessy, Clio

Tribunals Update
 Regional Employment Judge David Franey

Whistleblowing
 David Tinkler, Exchange Chambers

Employment Law Round Up
 Martin Mensah, Nine St John Street Chambers


[Book Here](#)

Sponsored by 


Is it enforceable? – Making Agreements Stick
 with Chris Beanland
 'Live' online Friday 4th October, 2pm - 4pm

It is vital that any agreement that we draft is enforceable. This online course deals with factors practitioners should bear in mind on transactional/contractual work. It should be of interest to anyone whose practice involves drafting or litigating contracts.

The course covers:

- Capacity of companies, individuals, and other contracting parties
- Authority of agents
- What evidence of authority should be obtained in respect of company directors?
- Contracts that require a particular form
- What does 'in writing' and 'under hand' mean?
- When is a deed required?
- The formalities required for a valid deed
- Defective deeds
- Executing documents electronically
- Virtual execution and the Mercury Tax case



[BOOK HERE](#)


SRA Accounts Rules Update
 with Linda Lambert
 'Live' online Tuesday 8th October, 9.30am - 12.30pm

How confident are you in your knowledge of the SRA Accounts Rules and how to apply them? The SRA expect you to have made decisions on how these rules should be applied in your practice and that such decisions are both followed and also reviewed on a regular basis.

Do you want to check in on the areas the SRA are looking at? Are you aware of the new(ish) SRA penalty fines that can be given, and which can still be applied when you self-report?


This online session will look at the current rules and advice from the SRA, and include a few workshop scenarios. Questions from the delegates will also be encouraged!

There is an expectation within the profession and in particular from the SRA that we (solicitors, staff, and consultants) follow and maintain certain professional standards. To maintain these, we also need to undertake some professional training on a regular basis. Why not make it the account rules for this year?

In the training we will look at all the rules, and will highlight areas such as residual balances, use of client funds, acting as a banker, billing and the proposed changes to Rules 4 and 10 that have for now been postponed.

[BOOK HERE](#)




2024 Clinical Negligence Conference
 Wednesday 9th October | 9.30am – 3.30pm
 Hybrid - attend in person or online

Chairperson - HHJ Wood

Supporting your client through an obstetric negligence claim - advice from a Litigation Midwife
 Helen Stanley, Leigh Day

Sepsis, strokes and imaging in the Emergency Department
 Professor Alan Fletcher, Sheffield Hospital

Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injury (OASI): what is the expected standard of care?
 Dr Gillian Fowler, Liverpool Women's NHS Trust Foundation


Understanding the antenatal pathway and pitfalls in care
 Dr Kara Dent, KD Medicolegal Services

Raiders of the Lost Years
 Helen Neville, Bond Turner and DDJ Northern Circuit

Mediating Clinical Negligence Claims
 Elizabeth Francis, Atlantic Chambers

Case Law and General Update
 David Pilling, Liverpool Civil Law

[Book Here](#)




2024 Training Passport
 Save up to 42% on training for ALL staff
 Assisting you with the 'Continuing Competence' requirements

For more information visit:
<https://www.liverpoollawsociety.org.uk/training-passport/>

or scan below



PII- Where are claims emanating from?

For a number of firms you will be in the midst of your PII renewal, there has been much written with regards to improving market conditions, and for a number of practices that will be the case.

For our feature for the readership this year, rather than provide a commentary on what to expect for renewal, we wanted to share with you the current claims environment and the common areas whereby claims are being made against firms.

To start with a positive, the number of claims made against the profession has continued to decline, it must however be commented that the cost of claims has continued to rise, some of which have caused real issues for Insurers.

Wills, Trusts and Probate

The number of matters notified relating to Private Client work: Wills, Trust and Probate work, remains high.

The number of claims relating to the preparation of wills, in particular, emanating from other family members (disappointed beneficiaries) has remained high.

We have also seen an increasing number of claims, targeting law firms, on the basis of an alleged failure to check the capacity of the deceased.

Claims between disputing family members are often difficult to resolve and, as a result, can be very expensive for an affected firm.

Conveyancing

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Conveyancing claims remain high and are still the most significant contributor both in terms of number and cost of claims to Insurers.

The time taken on the part of HMLR in raising requisitions, in response to applications to register title, have further resulted in claims against firms. Clients have complained about the absence of any warning about the time taken by HMLR to respond to issues and, with the rise in interest rates causing clients to pay more in mortgage rates, this has resulted in claims against law firms.

Lastly, we have seen an increase in the success of fraudulent sellers, there has been a clear correlation between this and where the work is emanating from, with particular success for the criminals occurring through panel/referrer work whereby a quick and efficient sale is the nucleus of the referrers business model. These type of claims tend to be expensive, but also difficult to defend as the loss crystallises immediately.

Commercial Real Estate

The number of claims relating to Commercial Real Estate has changed trajectory and have now increased fractionally. The increasing value of property, and number of transaction deals relating to the sale of property, means that the value of these claims have increased.

Cyber Crime (hacking)

We continue to see a number of cyber-attacks suffered by firms. The cost and time to resolve these issues has continued to escalate.

Notification of data breaches may also need to be made to the ICO and to the SRA. Further, law firm clients may also need to be told about a data breach. These issues may impact on the reputation of a firm.

For the avoidance of doubt, cover is provided under the Minimum Terms and Conditions Insurance policy (PII) for claims by third parties. The firm's own internal (first party losses) are not covered under the policy, and this is where Cyber Insurance may be useful for a firm.

Regulatory Issues

The number of regulatory investigations remains high, and is likely to increase furthermore such are the reported outcomes of the Axiom Ince incident towards the end of 2023.

We suspect that the SRA will become even more active in investigating the activity on the part of law firms in dealing with AML, client due diligence and the SRA Accounts Rules. Our view remains that we expect SRA vigilance on dealing with these issues to amplify.

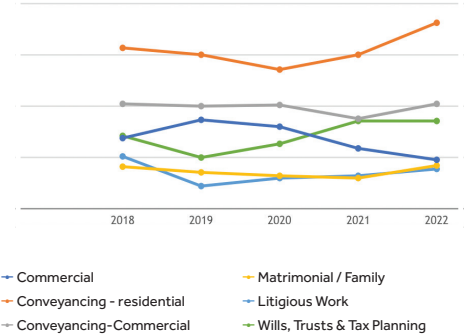
The SRA's increased power to fine firms

will mean that firms may feel greater impact from regulatory investigations. It is possible that the SRA's power to fine firms may increase further. Please note that the Minimum Terms and Conditions Insurance policy does not provide insurance cover for regulatory investigations. If you have queries about your position, please speak to your broker at Lockton at your earliest convenience.

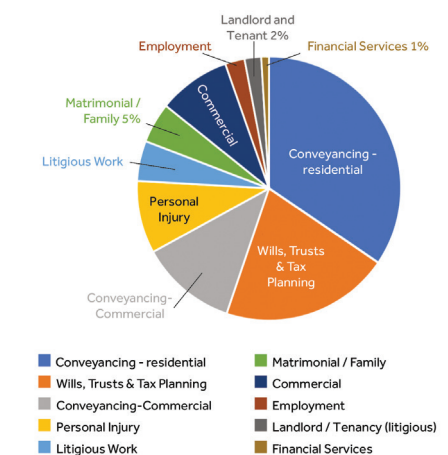
Claims by practice Area

We have seen a consistent pattern in terms of work types that have commonly caused claims. This chart summarises claims frequency against the profession.

Claim Volume Trends - Last 5 Years



Claim Volume Data - Last 5 Years



Should you be in the process of renewing your Insurances and wish to seek a second opinion, myself and the team at Lockton would be more than happy to discuss with your firm.

Marc Rowson, Partner
marc.rowson@lockton.com
 02079332034



W. lockton.com
T. +44 (0)330 123 3870

We look beyond because
your business needs more.

TRANSFORMING YOUR EXPERIENCE OF PII

Lockton. Your partner in Risk, People and Finance. Together, we go beyond.

Lockton Companies LLP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Introducing CaseLoad Notebooks: Every Note You Take Stored In Your Case Management System

Lawyers are simply fed up with emailing themselves file notes from different devices. Users of our software asked for a better solution.

So, we developed [CaseLoad Notebooks](#), our innovative new feature designed to transform how legal professionals like you capture and manage your notes.

Every day, lawyers find themselves buried under a mountain of case files, client notes, and spontaneous ideas that they jot down on various devices. Picture yourself in the middle of a courtroom, fervently scribbling notes on your legal pad. Now, imagine later that day, typing additional thoughts into your smartphone during a quick coffee break, or dictating crucial information as you drive back to the office. Each note is essential but managing them all feels like an endless game of catch-up.

Many solicitors we speak to find themselves in these particularly frustrating situations. They finish client meetings where they take extensive handwritten notes. They then rush to court, quickly dictating some additional observations into their phone. Later, they need to consolidate these notes into their firm's [case management system](#). But as always, the process is cumbersome: typing out handwritten notes, emailing dictations, and trying to piece everything together into a coherent whole.

The Transformation Begins: CaseLoad Notebooks

CaseLoad Notebooks ensures every note you take, no matter the format or device, is seamlessly transferred into your case management system.

For example, we have many clients who use iPads to type notes. With [CaseLoad](#)

Notebooks, you simply share the notes via email to your firm's unique CaseLoad email address. Instantly, your notes are added to your case files, eliminating the need for manual entry.

For those who love the tactile feel of handwritten notes. You can write on your iPad, take a photo or uses the camera icon to capture your handwritten notes, and share them via email to the CaseLoad address. CaseLoad Notebooks seamlessly transfers and stores these notes into your case management system, removing the burden of manual transcription.

For those busy moments on the go, you may be inclined to dictate your notes. Using Microsoft SwiftKey, you can dictate your thoughts, share them via email to the CaseLoad address, and CaseLoad Notebooks automatically organises and stores the notes in her case files. No more juggling apps or manual transfers.

CaseLoad Notebooks makes note-taking effortless and efficient, allowing you to focus on your cases and clients.

The Impact of CaseLoad Notebooks on Legal Practices

Seamless Note Sharing

CaseLoad Notebooks consolidates your firms notes from various devices and platforms directly into your case management system. This means you never have to worry about losing a critical piece of information again.

Enhanced Collaboration

Centralised notes ensure that your entire team has access to up-to-date information in real time. This promotes better collaboration, allowing colleagues to stay informed and work more cohesively on cases.

Increased Efficiency

By eliminating the need for manual data entry and app switching, CaseLoad Notebooks allows you to redistribute your valuable time. You could focus on what truly matters—serving your clients and preparing your cases.

Real-Time Access

Your notes are accessible from any internet-connected device. This flexibility allows you to review and act on information as soon as its recorded, enhancing your ability to make timely decisions.

Secure Storage

CaseLoad Notebooks ensures notes are stored securely and in compliance with data protection regulations. Client confidentiality is paramount, and CaseLoad provides the peace of mind that your sensitive information is safe.

User-Friendly

Designed with the input of working solicitors and ease of use in mind, CaseLoad Notebooks offers step-by-step processes for different note-taking methods. Even the least tech-savvy lawyers in your firm will find it intuitive and straightforward.

Embrace the Future of Legal Note-Taking

The days of scattered notes and fragmented information are over. With CaseLoad Notebooks, every piece of data recorded will be efficiently organised and inserted into your case management system, giving you some time back to focus on simply being a lawyer.

You can experience this transformation. [Contact us today](#) to learn more about CaseLoad Notebooks, within our fully customisable legal Practice Management Software platform, and start making your life easier with Denovo.

Lawyers:

Is your current practice management system hurting your business?

Glitches? Price hikes? Poor support?

We work with you to build and support a fully customised software package that suits your work types .

No surprise costs.

Always connected with **99.99%** Uptime.

CaseLoad. It's Legal Software that simply works.

Let's have a chat



info@denovobi.com

0141 331 5290

denovobi.com

denovo

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.

Unit Chambers @UnitChambers · 5 Aug
 Congratulations to our wonderful barrister, Callum, who is celebrating his wedding this month, we hope you enjoyed your 'almost married' surprise night out 🥳

7 likes, 290 views

Vauxhall Law Centre @VLCLiverpool · 4h
 Candy recently had her last day with us. She's played such a crucial role at the Law Centre, with her dedication to her clients, and all her help in our 50th-anniversary celebrations. Thank you for everything, Candy! We all wish you the best of luck in your career as a solicitor!

8 likes, 143 views

University of Liverpool @LivUni · 23 Aug
 We're excited to kick off the Liverpool Literary Festival with best-selling author Sarah Perry! 📖 Join us on 4 Oct at 7pm as she discusses her latest novel, Enlightenment, longlisted for the 2024 Booker Prize. Don't miss out —book your tickets now! 📍 brw.ch/21wM1NM

3 comments, 4 likes, 1.3K views

Prosperity LLP @ProsperityLLP · 22 Aug
 We've been celebrating a huge win at Prosperity Law HQ! Our team secured a significant settlement for former footballer Craig Cathcart in a complex land dispute case!

Read more about the case here: buff.ly/3XdH303

#legalwin #propertylaw #prosperitylaw

4 likes

ClwydAlyn @ClwydAlyn · 26 Aug
 Basked in sunshine, residents at Merton Place enjoyed a tropical fiesta with their families and friends. From the invigorating beats from Pantastic, a steel drum duo to a grand spread of cakes, snacks and tropical delights, it was a feast for senses. What an event!

2 likes, 50 views

MSB Solicitors @MSBSolicitors · 15 Aug
 For our ongoing celebrations marking South Asian Heritage Month, our teams shared a feast today!

We took the time to show our pride in our diverse workplace, solidarity and appreciation for our South Asian colleagues.

Check our blog to find out more: pulse.ly/tozolykubn

4 likes, 141 views

Morecrofts LLP @Morecrofts · 15 Aug
 Senior Associate Stephanie Davidson has been re-accredited on the #ChildrenPanel - which means she's now been on it for more than 25 yrs! Did you know we have one of the city region's largest teams on the panel too? More here: morecrofts.co.uk/service/childr...

#ChildrenPanelSolicitors

3 likes, 37 views

Donoghue Solicitors @donoghuelaw · 15 Aug
 Recently, our Chloe Cuthbert qualified as a #CILEX Chartered Legal Executive. Read how Kevin Donoghue and his colleagues at Donoghue Solicitors helped her achieve her ambitions in this month's @LpoolLawSociety magazine.

LpoolLawEMag @LpoolLaw · 14 Aug
 Liverpool city centre-based Donoghue Solicitors is proud to announce that another of the firm's lawyers has achieved Fellowship at the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives. Read more here: flickread.com/edition/html/1... @LpoolLawSociety @donoghuelaw @goclio

DONOGHUE SOLICITORS

MORE LEGAL QUALIFICATION SUCCESS AT DONOGHUE SOLICITORS

Liverpool Law Emagazine

1 like, 62 views

7HS Chambers @7HSChambers · 8 Aug
 We are thrilled to share that 7HS' Natasha Johnson, an outstanding barrister & individual, has been featured in this week's Liverpool Echo! 🌟

Read more here:

I was told being a Scouse woman would hold me back but look at me now - Live...

From liverpoolcho.co.uk

1 comment, 6 likes, 25 likes, 745 views

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

If you like our technology, you'll love our people

With 28 offices across England and Wales, X-Press Legal Services is the largest independent property search network and a trusted, friendly partner to hundreds of legal practices since 1998. Our local owners have an in-depth knowledge of their area and we provide a wrap-around service including residential & commercial searches, pre & post completion services, cyber security, compliance products and much more.



Client onboarding and sales progression platform



Pre-post completion conveyancing platform

- ID, AML and Proof of Funds checks
- Legal forms
- Land Registry submission
- SDLT submission



X-Press Legal Services®
Group

- Indemnity insurances
- Home buyer and seller protection
- Property searches and reports
- CPD training and webinar provider



Client direct payment facility

Law Plain and Simple

A little knowledge is a wonderful thing



The latest in legal compliance

To find out more, simply get in touch

T: 01925 393333 | E: hello@xpresslegaluk | xpresslegal.co.uk





Can't sleep?

Talk to us

Get free, confidential emotional support

0800 279 6888

support@lawcare.org.uk

www.lawcare.org.uk

LawCare