



November 2025

# the Messenger

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## Honouring Legacy and Leadership: Manchester Law Society Past Officers Dinner 2025



On Thursday, 9th October 2025, the distinguished setting of Manchester Hall provided the perfect backdrop for one of the most esteemed traditions in the local legal calendar — the Manchester Law Society Past Officers Dinner. This annual gathering welcomed former presidents, officers, and notable members of the Society to celebrate its proud history and the enduring bonds within Manchester's legal community.

Guests were greeted with a drinks reception, where longstanding friendships were rekindled and new connections forged. The atmosphere was one of warmth and mutual respect, as attendees reflected on the Society's evolution and the influential roles they have played in its journey.

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# From the President

**Fiona Ledden, President**

**This month, my thoughts are a mixture of pride, inspiration, and deep sorrow.**

October began on a high note as I attended the Opening of the Legal Year in London, coinciding with the 200th anniversary of the Law Society. It was a truly memorable occasion. As someone with a deep appreciation for historic architecture, standing in the magnificent Great Hall of the Palace of Westminster was awe-inspiring.

What made the event even more enriching was the opportunity to engage with legal professionals from around the world. I had a fascinating conversation with a colleague from Canada, and at the dinner, I was seated alongside the President of the Law Society of Belgium. Listening to him, as well as the Leaders for the Midlands and Wales, offered valuable insights into the shared challenges and aspirations across our jurisdictions.

However, the joy of that experience was soon overshadowed by the devastating news from Manchester on 2nd October—the attack on the synagogue. While I had cherished every moment in London, I felt an urgent need to return home and stand in solidarity with our Jewish community during such a painful time.

I knew my teams would already be mobilising to organise a vigil and offer support. As an Authority, we have worked closely with Greater Manchester Police and faith leaders from across the city to show unity and compassion. My role spans several services, including the Coroners and Civic teams, who worked tirelessly to ensure the vigil was respectful, meaningful, and dignified.



Opening of the Legal Year - Manchester Chief Legal Officers

The road to recovery—both within our legal community and across the city—will be ongoing. But we will walk it together, supporting one another every step of the way.

On the Sunday following the attack, we marked the Opening of the Legal Year in Manchester. Representatives from across Greater Manchester's legal profession and civic life came together in reflection and prayer. We honoured those who lost their lives, those who lost loved ones, and those whose work was so deeply affected—especially on what was the holiest day of the year for many.

We are Manchester. We stand together. We care for one another. And even in the face of such tragedy, this city—and our legal community—remains the best place to be.

**Fiona Ledden**  
**President & City Solicitor**

*You can find all of Fiona's photos from the Opening of the Legal Year in London [here](#) @.*

# the Messenger



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4th Floor, Arkwright House, Parsonage Gardens,  
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The Society welcomes articles and letters from members on any topic and items should be sent to [messenger@manchesterlawsociety.org.uk](mailto:messenger@manchesterlawsociety.org.uk)

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**Dear Manchester Law Society Members,**

Your attendance is requested at the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Manchester Law Society, to be held at the offices of Eversheds Sutherland, Two New Bailey, 6 Stanley St, Salford M3 5GX on Tuesday 2nd December 2025 at 5.00pm PROMPT.

## **AGENDA**

- Apologies
- Minutes – Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd December, 2024
- Auditors Report
- To pass the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account for the past year ended 31 December 2024
- To report the Officers chosen by the Council for the ensuing year
- Attendance of Council Members
- To elect Members of Council  
(Nomination Sheet has been posted in the Society's offices, 4th Floor, Arkwright House, Parsonage Gardens, Manchester, M3 2LF)
- To elect Auditors
- Any other Business
- Vote of thanks.

A copy of the Society's draft accounts can be obtained in advance at the Society's office.

If you wish to attend, please email [ChandreMay@manchesterlawsociety.org.uk](mailto:ChandreMay@manchesterlawsociety.org.uk) for the joining instructions.

Under [S324 of the Companies Act 2006](#) you are able to send a proxy in your place if you are not able to attend.

Yours faithfully

**Fiona Ledden**  
**President**  
**Manchester Law Society**

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# Family Law Conference 2025

On Wednesday 8th October, we held our annual Family Law Conference at Manchester Hall, allowing those in the sector to gather and get the latest advice and information on key issues facing family law.

We are also delighted that the conference was sponsored by [Lextox](#) , who were there on the day to speak to attendees, deliver an informative session on drug and alcohol testing (more on that later!) and, very kindly, give us all some goody bags!

The morning sessions covered children's matters, and we were honoured to start this off with a presentation on the Pathfinder model delivered by Her Honour Judge Gaynor Lloyd, Designated Family Judge for North Wales. Judge Lloyd, who is a leading voice in the implementation of this scheme and its success in Wales, spoke on how the model can reduce delays for families by gathering information as quickly as possible.

Natalia Levine, Barrister at St John's Buildings, then discussed alienating behaviours in child law proceedings, highlighting the focus on the '3 R's' and referring to key CAFCASS guidance to help attendees better understand these attitudes and behaviours. Natalia also provided attendees with important questions and consequences to consider when faced with these behaviours, as well as case law examples.

Following this was Jonathan Jackson's session 'Children's Matters and Perspectives: The Child's Voice.' Jonathan, Barrister at 18 St John Street Chambers, reminded us of the importance of hearing the child's perspective during private




Jonathan Jackson's session

“

The morning sessions covered children's matters, with a presentation by Her Honour Judge Gaynor Lloyd

proceedings. Jonathan also provided information on new initiatives (such as the Young People Participation Pathway) that aim to increase participation of children in proceedings.

We also heard from Donna Muldoon, Reporting Manager at [Lextox](#) , who highlighted the significance of analytical cut-offs in drug and alcohol testing, explained the intricacies of the testing process, and underlined how testing can be used within the family courts to support proceedings.

After an always-delicious lunch (shout out to the Manchester Hall team!), the afternoon then focused on the financial side of family law. We started this off with Samantha Hillas KC, Barrister at St John's Buildings, who delivered her crowd-favourite financial



Jeannette Jackson's session



Matthew Leopold's session

remedy update. Samantha, who had provided attendees with an extensive handout detailing a number of relevant cases prior to the conference, referred to a number of these cases in her update and discussed them further with our attendees.

We also were delighted to be joined by Jeannette Jackson, Director of Manchester Stress Institute, who delivered a wellbeing session on stress management and how to 'beat the burnout.' We had an exciting start to the session when Jeannette told attendees that someone had been randomly chosen to perform some karaoke! Thankfully, this was just a playful exercise to get our hearts racing and recognise the physical impact stress can have on the body.


“

We were so happy with the turnout and for the positive feedback we received following the conference

Matthew Leopold, Head of Brand, Marketing and PR at LexisNexis (against all the odds after his train was delayed!) then delivered an animated session on the use of AI in legal services. Matthew addressed the often-understandable fearful attitude towards change, but used analogies of everyday technology, such as a calculator, that have become integrated into our professional and personal lives to highlight the potential AI has in becoming a companion, not a replacement.

Closing the conference was Edward Boydell KC, Barrister & Door Tenant at Deans Court Chambers, on coercive control in divorce cases. Edward first considered how coercive and controlling behaviour is defined in financial remedies law, before delving into some recent cases that involved these issues and offering some useful advice on the common consequences of coercive behaviour and how to practically address them.

We were so happy with the turnout and for the positive feedback we received following the conference. A massive thank you goes to our Family Law Committee, who help to organise the event, and to Iwona Durlak, Chair of the Family Law Committee, who chaired the conference.

If you are interested in becoming a MLS member and joining the Family Law Committee for regular opportunities to discuss, educate and network within the sector, please email: [enquiries@manchesterlawsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@manchesterlawsociety.org.uk) 



# Why TCLP Now Has Marni's Clause for Commercial and Isabella's Clause for Residential Properties

Following the publication of the Law Society's [Climate Change and Property Practice Note](#) <sup>Ⓔ</sup> in May 2025, The [Chancery Lane Project](#) <sup>Ⓔ</sup> (TCLP) updated its existing Marni's Clause to reflect the terminology and guidance in the new Practice Note. In addition, TCLP introduced a new clause, Isabella's Clause, specifically for residential properties. Marni's Clause now focuses exclusively on commercial transactions.

## The Need for Two Clauses

Originally, Marni's Clause was designed to support both commercial and residential property transactions. However, the release of the Practice Note highlighted the distinct

legal, practical, and client communication needs of these two sectors. TCLP recognised that separating the clauses would simplify the drafting process for property lawyers and allow for more tailored, sector-specific language.

As a result, two clauses were developed:

- **Marni's Clause** – for commercial properties.
- **Isabella's Clause** – for residential properties.

Robert Lee, Professor of Environmental Law at the University of Birmingham and Simon Boyle, Environmental Law Director at

## Comparison of Marni's Clause and Isabella's Clause

Feature	Marni's Clause (Commercial)	Isabella's Clause (Residential)
Property Type	Commercial properties	Residential properties
Original Purpose	To reference climate risk searches in reports on title for commercial transactions	To provide a tailored equivalent for residential conveyancing, aligned with the Law Society's Practice Note
Trigger for Use	When a climate risk search has been conducted or is unavailable, to ensure climate risks are properly referenced in the report on title	Same trigger, adapted for residential property context and client communication needs
Risk Categories Addressed	Physical, transition, and liability risks (aligned with TCFD and PRA SS3/19 guidance)	Same categories, with simplified language and examples relevant to residential buyers
Alignment with Law Society Practice Note	Updated to ensure consistency with the Practice Note's guidance and sample wording	Developed concurrently to complement the Practice Note's residential guidance
Level of Detail	More technical and detailed, suitable for commercial clients and institutional investors	More accessible language, designed for individual homeowners and residential buyers
Drafting Contributors	Updated by TCLP with input from Professor Robert Lee and Simon Boyle	Created as a new clause by the same team to address residential-specific needs

# Why TCLP now has **Marni's Clause** for commercial and **Isabella's Clause** for residential properties.



Landmark Information were invited to assist with the drafting of both clauses, having previously contributed to the development of the Law Society's Practice Note.

## Summary

Climate risks, both physical and transitional, are already affecting UK properties. As global temperatures continue to rise, the impacts of climate change will become more severe and widespread. Property lawyers have a responsibility to report on these risks clearly and effectively. Marni's and Isabella's Clauses are designed to support that responsibility, helping lawyers communicate climate risks to clients with precision and confidence.

## Landmark's role in shaping the Law Society's guidance

Members of Landmark's Sustainability Team played a key role in the development of the Practice Note. Robert Lee, Professor

of Environmental Law at the University of Birmingham and Simon Boyle, Environmental Law Director at Landmark Information were both contributors to the Practice Note and co-authors of the accompanying Technical Note. Their insights helped ensure the Practice Note guidance is both practical and proportionate. For further guidance, explore Landmarks essential resource on navigating the practice note [here](#) <sup>Ⓞ</sup>.

Landmark's reports are backed by in-house expertise, and their dedicated sustainability team is always on hand to help interpret findings and support your conversations with clients.

Alternatively, find out more about their market-leading [Climate Change Risk Management Services](#) <sup>Ⓞ</sup>, [Climate Change Reports](#) <sup>Ⓞ</sup> and [Sustainability Training Services](#) <sup>Ⓞ</sup>. Or, if you have any climate change queries, please contact their customer service team on 0330 036 6619.



# Applications for 2026 Future Stars cohort close

**Our Future Stars Programme continues to support aspiring lawyers secure their careers in the legal sector, and we are delighted to have had an increase in applications this year.**

The applications are now being reviewed by the committee, and the successful candidates will be selected at the Future Stars Committee meeting on 6th November. The 2026 cohort will be invited to attend the Manchester Law Society AGM on 2nd December and will officially start in the programme from 1st January 2026.

This programme was created to provide a network of aspiring individuals working their way towards qualifying as a solicitor or barrister. Up to 10 people will be invited to join each year and they will remain part of the scheme until qualification. Our hope is that they will remain to be involved in the programme, supporting those not yet qualified.

The Future Stars Programme will enable participants to network with each other and with law firms/barrister chambers across the region; obtain mentoring and coaching; and receive additional practical support such as job interview training.

Separately, utilising the funds in the Manchester Law Society Educational Foundation, those who are admitted to the Future Stars Programme will be entitled to apply for financial support which can be simply to help support an individual financially or to help directly with their education/qualification – for example, it could include money to purchase a suit for

an interview, a contribution to a laptop or money for text books.

In our view, it is a critical part of the profession's responsibility to ensure that it provides opportunities to people from all parts of society to enter the profession and to support the delivery of legal services to society as a whole.

With this in mind, and true to Manchester Law Society's founding roots, the Future Stars Programme is designed to support either people from the Manchester and Salford region or people wanting to qualify into the profession in order to work in Manchester or Salford – whether that be as a solicitor or a barrister. What we now need is the support of the profession with developing our Future Stars.

## Ways we are already supporting those in the inaugural cohort

All of our initial participants in the programme were matched with a mentor to support them. We have awarded funding for a range of requests from bus passes and books to suits and training.

Three of our Future Stars graduated from university this summer with firsts. You can see how the programme has supported them in these articles by Future Stars [Louis](#) and [Luke](#).

Participants have also attended events including our conference The Next Generation of Legal Professionals, the Manchester Legal Awards and events specifically related to the programme.

Although the funding is clearly a welcome support, it is definitely the access to the MLS network, and the window it provides into the profession, that is the key driver for the participants.

### How you can support the programme

We would ask everyone associated with Manchester Law Society to consider how they could support the Future Stars Programme. Any support, no matter how much or how little, will make a difference. There is no fixed way in which that support can be provided and we would welcome any suggestions or offers people have. There are multiple ways you can help support the Programme:

- Law firm/barristers chambers, could you provide space for meetings or access to some of your people/events? Could you provide financial support with modest contributions to the Manchester Law Society Educational Foundation?

“

Any support, no matter how much or how little, will make a difference

- As an individual, could you offer a few hours a year to mentor or coach an individual through the early stages of their career, could you speak at an event, or even just write a short practical article about your own route into the profession?

To register your interest in supporting this programme please complete the form [here](#) <sup>Ⓔ</sup>. If you have any queries about it please email [enquiries@manchesterlawsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@manchesterlawsociety.org.uk) <sup>Ⓔ</sup>

Please do get in touch about how you can support the Future Stars Programme. Together we can make a real difference.



HM Courts &  
Tribunals Service

## Employment Tribunal Service Notice: Planned System Outage

Please note that the Employment Tribunal online service (affecting submission of ET1s, ET3s and digital applications) will be subject to a planned upgrade on Tuesday 11 November between 20.30 and 22.30. The usual 'this service is temporarily unavailable' message will appear for anyone trying to submit via the digital portals during this period. Any party with a time limit expiring in this period should plan accordingly.

Please pass this message as appropriate to any colleague/team that this may affect.



# Join the Manchester Law Society Practice Management Forum

Are you a Practice Manager, Chambers Manager, Office Manager, or someone who wears multiple hats in your legal organisation? If so, the Manchester Law Society's new Practice Management Forum is designed with you in mind.

While national associations like the **LPMA**, **ILFM**, and **PDA Legal** offer valuable resources, they often lack a local focus, social engagement, or cover only niche areas. That's where our Forum steps in — bringing together professionals from across Greater Manchester to share knowledge, support one another, and stay ahead of the curve in legal practice management.

## Why Join?

- **Local Networking**  
Meet like-minded professionals in your area, build lasting relationships, and benefit from ongoing peer support.
- **Knowledge Sharing**  
Learn from experts and peers about best practices, emerging trends, and practical solutions to everyday challenges.
- **Professional Development**  
Access training, events, and resources tailored to the needs of legal practice managers in Manchester.
- **Business Support**  
Get guidance on managing your practice effectively, from compliance to client care.
- **Stay Current**  
Keep up with the latest developments in regulation, technology, and law firm operations.

## Forum Topics Include:

- Compliance & Regulatory Management (AML, GDPR, Lexcel, SRA, HMRC, ICO)

- Financial Management (profitability, budgeting, SAR breaches)
- Legal Technology & AI
- Cybersecurity & Data Protection
- Remote & Hybrid Working
- People Management & Employment Law
- Professional Indemnity Insurance
- Marketing & Business Development
- Local Market Trends & Opportunities

## What We Offer:

- Short, focused events/webinars every 2–3 months
- Occasional guest speakers on hot topics
- Social networking opportunities
- A friendly, professional environment under Chatham House Rules
- Open to both law firms and barristers' chambers
- Potential for an annual conference, regular bulletins, and a dedicated section on the MLS app

**Let's build a supportive, forward-thinking community for legal practice professionals in Manchester.**

Interested in joining or learning more? Email [enquiries@manchesterlawsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@manchesterlawsociety.org.uk) to be added to the Forum and invited to the next meeting.



**By Forum Founder Members**  
**Deborah Jackson,**  
**Burton Copeland Ltd**  
**Vicky Griffin, Hugh James**



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# LegalEx is coming to town

Manchester Law Society are delighted to be supporting the first ever [LegalEx in Manchester](#) on 5th February 2026 at etc. venues, 11 Portland St, Manchester, M1 3HU.

Moving on from the traditional exhibition model, LegalEx is now focused on providing relevant content tailored sessions and speakers who are shaping the future of legal work – not just talking about it.

Networking lies at the core of LegalEx Manchester 2026. The event will provide opportunities to connect and collaborate throughout the day, with an exciting free drinks reception in the evening.

When asked why LegalEx chose to bring the event to Manchester for the first time, Marcus Alakiu, Director of LegalEx, said “Manchester’s legal and tech communities are evolving fast. Bringing LegalEx to the North allows us to reach a wider audience and ensure the event reflects the diversity, ambition, and innovation of the entire UK legal sector.”

We are thrilled to have you in town, LegalEx, and we appreciate you recognising the amazing legal community we have here!

As part of our partnership, we have secured a limited number of free and discounted tickets for MLS members so make sure you keep your eyes peeled for them!

## What’s included in the tickets?

- Unlimited access to seminars ran by innovative legal experts.

- Unrivalled networking throughout the day (and into the evening).
- Complimentary breakfast and lunch

## Who’s It For?

### Law Firms

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### In House

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### Alternative Legal Service Providers

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## Meet the New MTSG Committee and Upcoming Events

The [Manchester Trainee Solicitors Group \(MTSG\)](#) is delighted to introduce its newly appointed committee for 2025. This dynamic team is committed to supporting trainee solicitors, paralegals, legal apprentices, students, pupil barristers and aspiring lawyers across Greater Manchester by fostering professional development, networking opportunities, and a strong sense of community.

The committee represents a broad spectrum of the legal profession, including trainee solicitors, paralegals, and solicitor apprentices, with members from firms of all sizes. This diversity brings a wealth of perspectives and ideas, creating a truly dynamic and inclusive team.

Full details and introductions of the newly appointed committee can be found on the MTSG website [here](#).

### Who We Are

The new committee brings together enthusiastic junior lawyers from diverse firms and backgrounds, united by a shared goal: to make your training contract and early legal career experience as rewarding as possible. Expect fresh ideas, engaging events, and initiatives designed to help you thrive both professionally and socially.

### Launch Event – 6 November 2025

Join us for the official **MTSG Launch Event** on **Thursday, 6 November at Diecast from 6:00PM onwards**, where you'll meet the committee, connect with peers, and hear about what's in store for the year ahead. This is the perfect opportunity to expand your network and get involved in shaping

the future of MTSG. **Tickets are £16 plus a booking fee** and include drinks and food. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

### Winter Ball – 28 November 2025 – Save the Date!

Our flagship **Winter Ball** returns this November with a spectacular **Great Gatsby theme**, promising an evening of elegance, entertainment, and celebration. The event will take place at **The Lowry**, offering a stunning backdrop for one of the most anticipated nights of the year. Further details will follow soon - keep your eye on the Law Society newsletter for updates, as well as our LinkedIn, socials, and website for ticket information and announcements.


### Membership Benefits

As an MTSG member, you'll enjoy a wide range of benefits, including:

- **Exclusive Events:** From socials and networking evenings to skills workshops and panel discussions.
- **Professional Development:** Access to mentoring schemes, career insights, and training resources.
- **Discounts and Perks:** Reduced rates for major events such as the Winter Ball and priority booking for popular sessions.
- **Community Support:** A platform to share experiences, seek advice, and build lasting connections within the legal profession.

Whether you're looking to enhance your skills, meet like-minded aspiring lawyers, or simply make the most of your time in Manchester, MTSG membership offers something for everyone.

## New TA6 and TA7 forms released

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



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


Both have been redesigned to make them easier for sellers to complete and for buyers to understand.

For the TA6, this involved listening to industry feedback, working closely with conveyancing experts and testing the form with real users. To ensure a smooth transition, firms accredited by our Conveyancing Quality Scheme (CQS) will have until **30 March 2026** before the forms

become mandatory. All previous editions will be withdrawn after this date.

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

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

There will also be a [free online event on 13 January](#) , where Law Society members can ask questions and hear more about what's changed and why.

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# Life in the Law 2025

## Act now and lead the way to a sustainable future

By Trish McLellan and Niamh Warnock

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

### What the research tells us

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

The research showed that there has been progress in some areas:

*"More openness to talking about mental health. More access to counselling, wellbeing coaching and therapy services. More senior people being open about their own mental ill-health."*

A senior solicitor also reflected:

*"Working from home has been a game changer in terms of managing childcare and managing my disability. I love it and it has prolonged my career by 10 years."*

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

- 56% said they could see themselves leaving their current workplace within the next five years, with 32% saying they could leave the sector entirely.
- Nearly 60% reported poor mental wellbeing.
- Almost 79% said they regularly work beyond their contracted hours.
- Only 31% of people who managed others

said that their targets or billable hours were adjusted to take into account the time they need to spend managing others or undertaking appropriate training.

The quotes behind these statistics speak volumes. A licensed conveyancer told us: *"I would like to leave but couldn't afford to and don't know what else to do."*

A senior solicitor in England said simply: *"More work, shorter deadlines, fewer lawyers, higher pressure, more greed."*

Others pointed to long hours. One junior solicitor said:

*"Monday to Friday my days are filled with work from getting up to going to bed after midnight, so there is no time for any other activity."*

The need for stronger people management came through strongly in comments. One person said:

*"People management is a special skill... it does not follow that because someone is a good lawyer, they are a good manager."*

### Why mental health and wellbeing matters

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



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

### What can help

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

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

### Leadership is key

As LawCare CEO Elizabeth Rimmer says: *“We have it in our hands to transform the way we work and build a future where people are supported to perform at their best and build sustainable careers. The path to prioritising mental health and wellbeing before us is clear. Now is the time for leaders to act with*

*courage: move away from practices that normalise overwork, which risk driving people out of the sector, and take the path to a better future by valuing people management.”*

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



### A shared responsibility for the future

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

Read the full *Life in the Law 2025* report [here](#) <sup>Ⓔ</sup>

In 2026 LawCare will start a programme of engagement to develop resources and training to support leaders and organisations to put these recommendations into practice.

Follow [LawCare on LinkedIn](#) <sup>Ⓔ</sup> or visit [www.lawcare.org.uk](http://www.lawcare.org.uk) <sup>Ⓔ</sup> to see what is coming up.

## Quick fire way to create a presentation

We've all been there. You've been asked to deliver a presentation to your team in 2 days' time. The topic is vague, and you don't know where to start. You stare at your screen for 15 minutes, but nothing appears. You start putting some slides together, but you don't know what to type. Before you know it, the presentation is hours away and you end up throwing some slides together and deliver that.

I get asked to present a lot and here's what I do to help get the cogs turning in my head.

- 1) I write the topic in the centre of the page
- 2) I come up with 5 potential angles that I could talk about

For example, if my presentation was on Manchester, I would write that in the centre of the page and off that I would write 5 potential angles e.g. Music, Sport, Culture, Weather, Nightlife. I would then decide which one to choose based on who will be in my audience. If the audience was full of people who had never been to Manchester and they were aged 18-40, I might choose nightlife as my angle. I might also pick music. I would then disregard the others. I would then create a mind map with nightlife written in the middle of the page.

- 1) I would write down everything that pops into my head that links to nightlife e.g. bars, restaurants, clubs, music, northern quarter etc.
- 2) If I only have 15 minutes to present, I couldn't talk about all of my ideas so I would then prioritise into essential, desirable and nice to haves. The length is important. You don't want to cram too much in if it's only 15 minutes. If it's 40 minutes, you could be more adventurous



Mike Ode

- 3) I would then work out a structure and a natural flow to the presentation. E.g., I might start with the Northern Quarter before moving onto talk about the different bars, then clubs then the music scene

That's my presentation structure. I would then start to write it.

Doing this method saves so much time and you can do this in about 15 minutes.

To speed things up further, ask someone else to do the activity with you as they might come up with some ideas you hadn't thought of.

Even if you don't have an upcoming presentation, try the activity out today on a work-based presentation. You'll be surprised what you come up with.

Do you need help developing your presentation skills?  
 Contact Mike direct for a chat at  
[mike@potentialunearthed.co.uk](mailto:mike@potentialunearthed.co.uk) ☎



MENOPAUSE THE  
WRIGHT WAY



# VIRTUAL MENOPAUSE CAFE

## LIFESTYLE MEDICINE

THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
10:30 – 11:30

Online  
via  
Teams

Register  
for free  
HERE



# Regulation Update & News


By **Andrea Cohen**, Compli, Weightmans



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

## AML


### Change of AML regulator

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

### SRA AML report 2024-25

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

### AML information for clients

The SRA has published a client information sheet, referred to in the section 'Your AML obligations', updated 17 October to help explain why identity and financial checks are required which it says can be shared with clients, but which can be found in the 'For the public' section' [here](#) . As far as we can see, that is the only update to the 'Your AML obligations' section

### SRA next thematic review

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



## SRA AML data collection exercise

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

## SSB Law report

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

of work carried out, reliance on certain practice areas and arrangements with funders. Paul Philip, Chief Executive said that the SRA needs to be proactive and carry out more inspections to deal with the risks before they happen, referring to high risk areas including conveyancing, immigration and high-volume consumer claims.

## FCA consultation on motor finance claims

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

## New practice notes and guidance

### SRA guidance

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

- [Firm authorisation](#)

### Law Society practice notes

- [Mazur and the conduct of litigation](#)
- [Providing services and taking on roles outside your practice as a solicitor](#)
- [In-house practice: regulatory requirements](#)

Continued on page 26



- [Setting up a practice: regulatory requirements](#) ⓘ
- [Supervision](#) ⓘ
- [Alternative business structures](#) ⓘ
- [Information on letterheads, emails and websites](#) ⓘ

## Disciplinary and regulatory decisions

### Struck off for serious misconduct

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

### Senior partner fined for inadequate property sale supervision

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

### Solicitor suspended for poor supervision in immigration sting

A solicitor was suspended for failing to provide supervision in an office where a caseworker allegedly encouraged falsified asylum claims. Suspending the solicitor for a period of nine months with indefinite practice conditions on his practice for an indefinite period to commence at the end of the suspension, the SDT said: 'The respondent's supervision, as described in his evidence, was woeful and lacked substance and structure. There were no spot checks, no reviews of file volumes, no

monitoring of invoices or billing practices, and no evidence of compliance oversight in areas such as client care, money laundering, or scope of work.' He was ordered to pay £35,000 costs.

### Struck off for concealing case failure

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

### Partner cleared of misconduct despite misleading emails

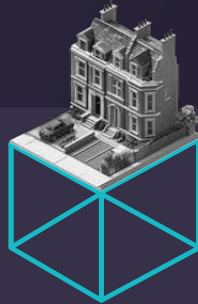
The SDT dismissed allegations against a litigation partner, finding that emails, while carelessly worded and misleading to the client, did not amount to misconduct and there was no lack of integrity or dishonesty. The solicitor was ordered to pay a third of the costs sought by the SRA as he said the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

### How Compli can help...

The Compli Solicitor Regulatory and Professional Discipline Team can provide expertise and advice in with risk and compliance, AML, disciplinary assistance etc. If we can help in any way, please get in touch at [compli@weightmans.com](mailto:compli@weightmans.com) ⓘ

# MORE THAN SEARCH

# SEARCHFLOW



## NEW PRODUCT /// CONTRACT PACK VAULT

Contract Pack Vault is an altogether better way to accurately prepare and securely share your conveyancing contract packs – automating and simplifying the process so you can ensure quality and completeness every time.

- Put an end to unnecessary enquiries
- Made to fit with the way you work
- Resilient and secure for peace of mind
- Enabling faster property transactions

## NEW PRODUCT /// RISKVIEW PROFESSIONAL

RiskView Professional is an intelligent AI-driven title-screening solution designed to give legal professionals and panel managers a clear understanding of title complexity in just moments.

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## NEW FEATURES /// POST COMPLETION SERVICE

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- Real-time status tracking and more!



## CONCIERGE PORTFOLIO SERVICE

Our Concierge Portfolio Service is trusted by leading Real Estate departments to simplify and deliver large, multi-site, and complex projects through dependable infrastructure, specialist knowledge and expertise; plus innovative data-driven solutions.

- More than 200 property law departments regularly trust us with their complex or multiple instructions
- We have delivered over 68,000 property instructions, as part of 3,308 projects.



From p.1

## Manchester Law Society Past Officers Dinner 2025

Dinner was served in the elegant Library Suite, with beautifully arranged tables setting the scene for an evening of fine dining and engaging conversation. Manchester Hall was praised for its exquisite menu and, as ever, its impeccable service.

President Fiona Ledden delivered a heartfelt address, expressing sincere appreciation to the Past Officers for their unwavering commitment and leadership. Her speech highlighted key milestones in the Society's development and acknowledged the collective efforts that have shaped it into one of the UK's most vibrant and respected local law societies.

The evening also featured a thoughtful toast from Guy Robson, President in 1993 and Honorary Treasurer in 1998. His reflections on the challenges and opportunities faced by the legal profession – past, present, and future – served as a poignant reminder of

the value of mentorship, continuity, and community in navigating change.

As the evening drew to a close, guests lingered over coffee, sharing stories that spanned decades – a testament to the deep connections formed through service and shared purpose.

The Past Officers Dinner remains a cornerstone of Manchester Law Society's social calendar, celebrating those who have led with distinction and ensuring their legacy continues to inspire future generations.

“

Manchester Hall was praised for its exquisite menu and, as ever, its impeccable service.



ON THE MENU: (L-R) Starter, main and dessert



## Past Officers Dinner 2025 attendees

<b>Day, Nigel</b>	Law Society Council Member 2000 – 2016 President – 1998
<b>Devlin, Mike</b>	President – 2018
<b>Eccles-Bech, Fran</b>	Chief Executive
<b>Fitzgibbon, Mark</b>	Honorary Treasurer 2019
<b>Garlick, Michelle</b>	President – 2019 Joint Honorary Secretary – 2022
<b>Healey, Tony</b>	Honorary Secretary – 1991 President – 1999
<b>Ince, Robin</b>	President – 1997 Honorary Treasurer – 2000
<b>Johnson, Nick</b>	President – 2023
<b>Jones, Carla</b>	Operations Manager
<b>Joseph, David</b>	President – 2014
<b>Kershaw, Anne</b>	President – 1995
<b>Ledden, Fiona</b>	President – 2025
<b>Lewis, Jeff</b>	President – 2012 National Law Society Council Member – 2016
<b>Mattison, Mark</b>	President – 1992
<b>Parkinson, Tony</b>	President – 1986
<b>Robson, Guy</b>	Honorary Treasurer – 1998 President – 1993
<b>Straw, Louise</b>	President – 2015

This month, we're shining a light on World Kindness Day 2025, taking place on Monday, 13th November. This global observance is all about celebrating and encouraging acts of kindness – reminding us of the powerful impact compassion and generosity can have on individuals, communities, and the world around us. To mark the occasion, we asked some of our members, partners, and friends:

## What act of kindness has stayed with you?

Whether it was something they gave, received, or simply witnessed – in their personal or professional life – we asked to hear about the moments, big or small, that made a lasting impression. A thoughtful gesture, a helping hand, or something that restored their faith in humanity.

**Helen Graham**  
**Director**  
**The Art of Privacy**

"It had been one of those days! I'd just come out of a call with a potential client that went completely off track! I'd forgotten most of the things I wanted to say and was left feeling deflated. I thought I'll just take a minute - have a walk; grab a coffee and shake it off! Unfortunately, when I got to the counter in the coffee shop, my bank card



decided to stop working. I stood there feeling super awkward and could feel my cheeks burning (and hear the queue shuffling!) as I repeatedly tapped the card to no avail!

Then, the elderly gentleman behind me simply reached forward, tapped his card, and paid for my drink without a second thought. "I hope that brightens your day," he said with a really kind smile. I was honestly lost for words. It was such a small

gesture, yet it felt huge in that moment. Sitting there with my coffee, I realised how powerful kindness can be, sometimes the smallest things really do make the biggest difference."

“

Sometimes the smallest things really do make the biggest difference



**Rebecca Ranson**  
**Senior Associate**  
**Nicholls Solicitors**

“In terms of acts of kindness, I had a very recent one on World Kindness Day which was small but heartwarming at the same time. I was in Costa in Timperley and the lady in front of me ordered her drinks then went to the ladies. The staff member realised that her card had declined so was waiting for the lady to return so she could try again. I



paid for the lady's drink and asked the staff member not to mention it.

The staff member did, however, tell the lady and she welled up saying it was such a lovely thing to do. I just smiled and said she was very welcome, and the staff member then said it's World Kindness Day today and I will be filling up your Costa card with enough stamps

for you to get a free coffee next time you come in, too.

It was only a small gesture, but I liked the example because such a small thing made all 3 of us really happy.”

“  
In terms of acts of kindness, I had a very recent one on World Kindness Day

**Lorraine Harvey**  
**Partner**  
**Keystone Law**

“Last week I walked into a Costa Coffee shop, at my local train station about to start the journey from my home to London Euston expecting nothing more than my usual coffee and pastry.



As I went to pay for my order, the barista smiled and said, “It's already been taken care of.” Confused, I asked who had paid, and she nodded toward

a woman just leaving the coffee shop. She caught my eye, smiled moving to the train platform to board her train. I didn't know her, just a simple, generous gesture.

Feeling a little embarrassed I simply raised my coffee cup as a thank you gesture.

That moment made my day! It wasn't just about the free breakfast, it was about the reminder that kindness still exists often when you least expect it.”

“  
It was the reminder that kindness still exists often when you least expect it



## JMW to move to 125 Deansgate

**Workforce to be together in same premises for first time in 11 years**

**JMW** has signed a 15-year lease with Worthington Mancap LLP, to take up floors 8-11 of the Grade A landmark Manchester building 125 Deansgate.

The move represents a significant investment for JMW and is reflective of the firm's continued growth.

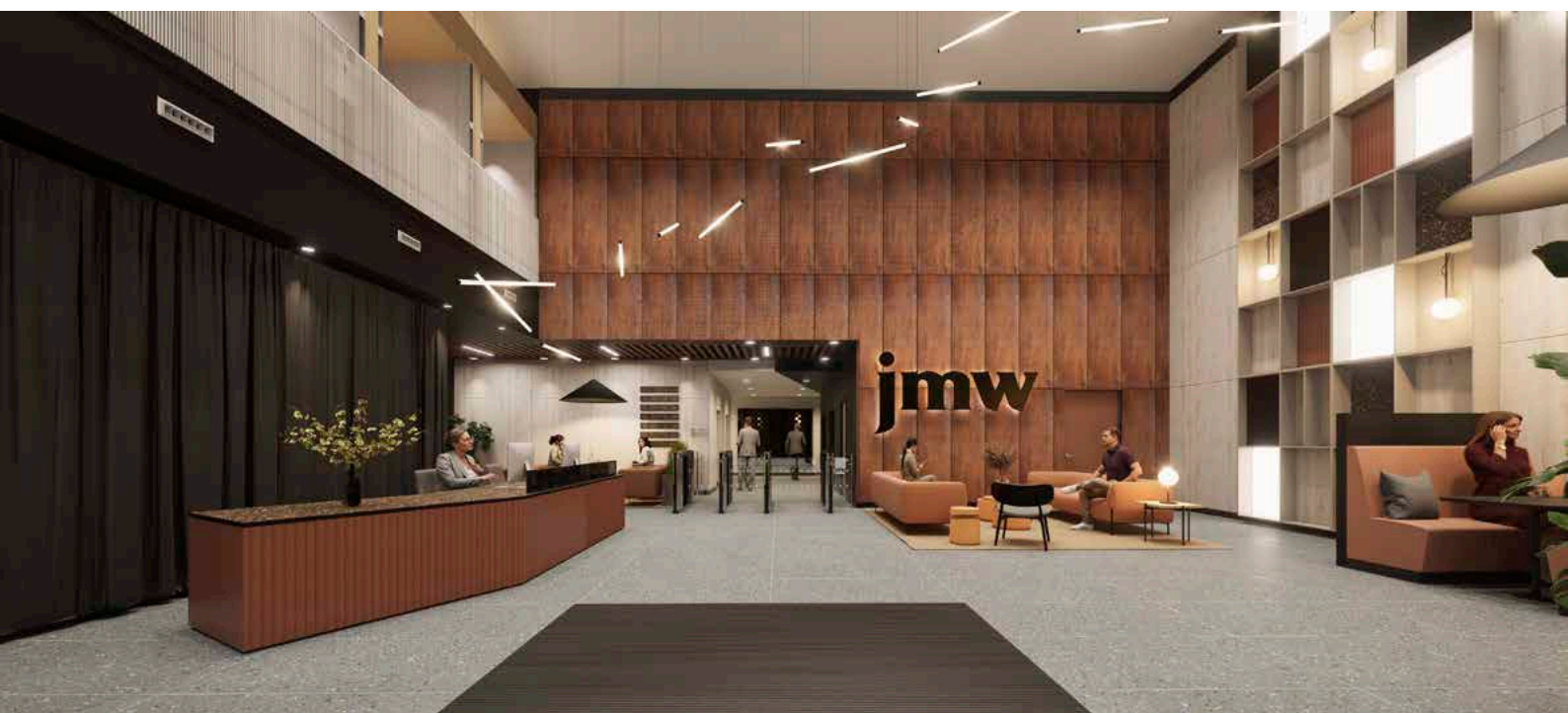
Currently based in both Byrom Place and Hardman Street in Spinningfields, the region's largest Manchester-headquartered independent law firm is to unite its workforce in the 42,260 sq. ft. Category A fit-out offices, with the move scheduled to take place in Spring/Summer 2026.

The contemporary office building, with a terracotta facade inspired by the city's industrial heritage and its neighbour the John Rylands Library, is rated EPC A and BREEAM Excellent (WiredScore platinum) and

features full height floor to ceiling glazing, as well as a private terrace on the 10th floor, shower facilities, EV charging points, a cycle hub and a cycle repair station.

"This is a seminal move for JMW," said the firm's Managing Partner Chris Sutton, "and one which Warren Martin and I, together with the wider Board, have been considering for some time, as the firm has grown to more than 800 people, 614 of them based in Manchester. Deansgate is the main artery in the city and to have our new entrance looking out at the iconic John Rylands library is something I am sure all our people will appreciate.

"We knew we needed a new home that would accommodate, and showcase, our growth and continued success, and 125 Deansgate offers us exactly that. As a leading national law firm, we are delighted to invest in this new office space for our people as we look towards the next chapter for JMW."



The interiors are to be designed by John Williams, founder of the Manchester-based SpacInvader, an award-winning workplace design specialist, and will reflect JMW's aim to create an agile workplace that will rationalise the best use of space for the firm. The space will be a modern, functional and collaborative working space for all at JMW to enjoy.

Oliver Thomas of CBRE will project manage the redesign.

In the past 12 months JMW has redesigned its City of London offices, Kings House, to better accommodate its now 158 members of staff.

JMW was advised on the lease by Andrew Timms, Head of Office Agency at Edwards Property Consultants, and the landlord was represented by Dominic Pozzoni of Colliers. The landlord has recently seen BT move from floors 7-11 at 125 Deansgate and is using Claremont to undertake works on those floors and redesign the ground floor reception space.

Andrew Timms said: "In what is one of the largest and most complex transactions within the Manchester office market this year, this landmark acquisition marks a bold move by JMW as it secures the long-term future of its workplace.

"Having built a strong and trusted relationship over the years, Edwards worked collaboratively with JMW to undertake a comprehensive review of the city centre's most high-profile office opportunities to find a workplace solution that aligns with the firm's long-term ambitions."

Dominic Pozzoni, Head of National Offices for Colliers and acting for the landlord



(L-R) Chris Sutton JMW Managing Partner Warren Martin JMW Senior Partner at 125 Deansgate

“

We knew we needed a new home that would accommodate, and showcase, our growth and continued success, and 125 Deansgate offers us exactly that.”

Revcap, added: "We are delighted to have agreed a new long-term lease with JMW, at 125 Deansgate. The landlord has worked in partnership with the JMW team to close the transaction and very much looks forward to welcoming them to their newly refurbished home. 125 Deansgate provides phenomenal office workspace in a prime and highly sought-after city centre location."



# CRIMINAL LAW UPDATE

*joined by*

His Honour  
Judge Dean KC

HONORARY RECORDER OF MANCHESTER

13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER | 17:00 - 20:00

An evening of timely legal updates, insightful exchanges, and meaningful connections with your peers

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# EVENT PROGRAMME

5.00 PM REGISTRATION

5.30 PM WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Daniel Weed, Chair, MLS Crown & Magistrates  
Court Committee

5.35 PM CRIMINAL LAW UPDATE: A VIEW FROM THE BENCH

His Honour Judge Dean KC, Honorary Recorder  
of Manchester

6.30 PM STRESS MANAGEMENT & RESILIENCE FOR CRIMINAL  
LAWYERS

Jeannette Jackson and Dr Ram, Manchester  
Stress Institute

7.00 PM Q&A

7.15 PM NETWORKING & REFRESHMENTS

8.00 PM CLOSE



Hosted by





## Mann Roberts expands national footprint with new Manchester office and senior appointment

**Mann Roberts Solicitors** is proud to announce the opening of its new office in Manchester. This is a significant milestone in the firm's strategic growth and ongoing commitment to serving clients across the UK's key commercial hubs.

The Manchester office, located in the heart of the city's legal and financial district, will enhance Mann Roberts' ability to support its growing client base in the North West and further strengthen its reputation as a go-to litigation firm for complex and high-value disputes.

As part of the expansion, Mann Roberts is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Wilson as Legal Director. Michael brings over 10 years of litigation experience in the Manchester market and has a strong track record of successfully advising clients on shareholder and partnership disputes, often involving closely held businesses and professional services firms.

Prior to joining Mann Roberts, Michael held a senior position at a well-regarded and Legal 500 ranked regional firm. His practical, commercially astute approach to dispute resolution and his deep understanding of the local business landscape make him an ideal addition to the team.

Commenting on the expansion, David Mann, Managing Director of Mann Roberts, said: "Opening in Manchester marks an exciting new chapter for the firm. The city has a thriving business community, and we're thrilled to establish a presence here. Michael's appointment signals our commitment to building a top-tier disputes team in the region. His expertise in shareholder and partnership disputes



perfectly aligns with our core specialisms and the needs of our clients."

Michael Wilson added: "I'm delighted to be joining Mann Roberts at such a dynamic time in its growth journey. There's a clear appetite in the Manchester market for specialist litigation advice, and I look forward to working with colleagues to deliver excellent outcomes for clients."

The Manchester office will offer the full range of Mann Roberts' dispute resolution services, including contract disputes, shareholder and partnership disputes, corporate transaction disputes, professional negligence, and urgent interim relief, with a focus on tailoring solutions to the commercial realities of each client.

This move cements Mann Roberts' position as one of the North West's leading boutique litigation firms and underscores its long-term commitment to strategic regional investment.

## Myerson named Best Contentious Probate Team at the British Wills and Probate Awards 2025

**Myerson Solicitors** is proud to announce that its **Contentious Probate Team** has been named Best Contentious Wills & Probate Team (Large) at the 8th British Wills and Probate Awards, organised by Today's Media, publishers of the leading industry news title Today's Wills and Probate.

The national awards took place on 9th October at the Kimpton Clocktower in Manchester, bringing together firms from the wills, probate, tax, trusts and estate planning sectors to celebrate excellence and innovation across the profession.

Myerson's entry showcased the calibre and complexity of the team's caseload, including high-value disputes, rural property and trust matters, and cross-border estates. The team, 18-strong and the largest of its kind in the North West, has developed a solid reputation for its expertise in alternative

dispute resolution and trials, as well as its client-focused culture and commitment to supporting its people as the department continues to grow.

Helen Thompson, Partner and Head of Contentious Probate at Myerson, commented: "It's fantastic for the team to receive this national accolade and recognition. The evening was a great opportunity to celebrate with colleagues across the profession, catching up with familiar faces, making new connections, and reflecting on how far the sector has come.

"I'm incredibly proud of our team. This award is a testament to their expertise, dedication and hard work, and to the supportive, client-focused culture we've built together. Well done, everyone."

You can view the full list of winners [here](#)



(L-R) Eleonor Clarke Partner, Jennifer McGuinness Partner, Helen Thompson Partner and Head of, Contentious Probate, Myerson

[Click for more info](#)

Manchester  
— HALL —

£48pp

# Festive Party Nights

*Viva*  
**LAS VEGAS**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November

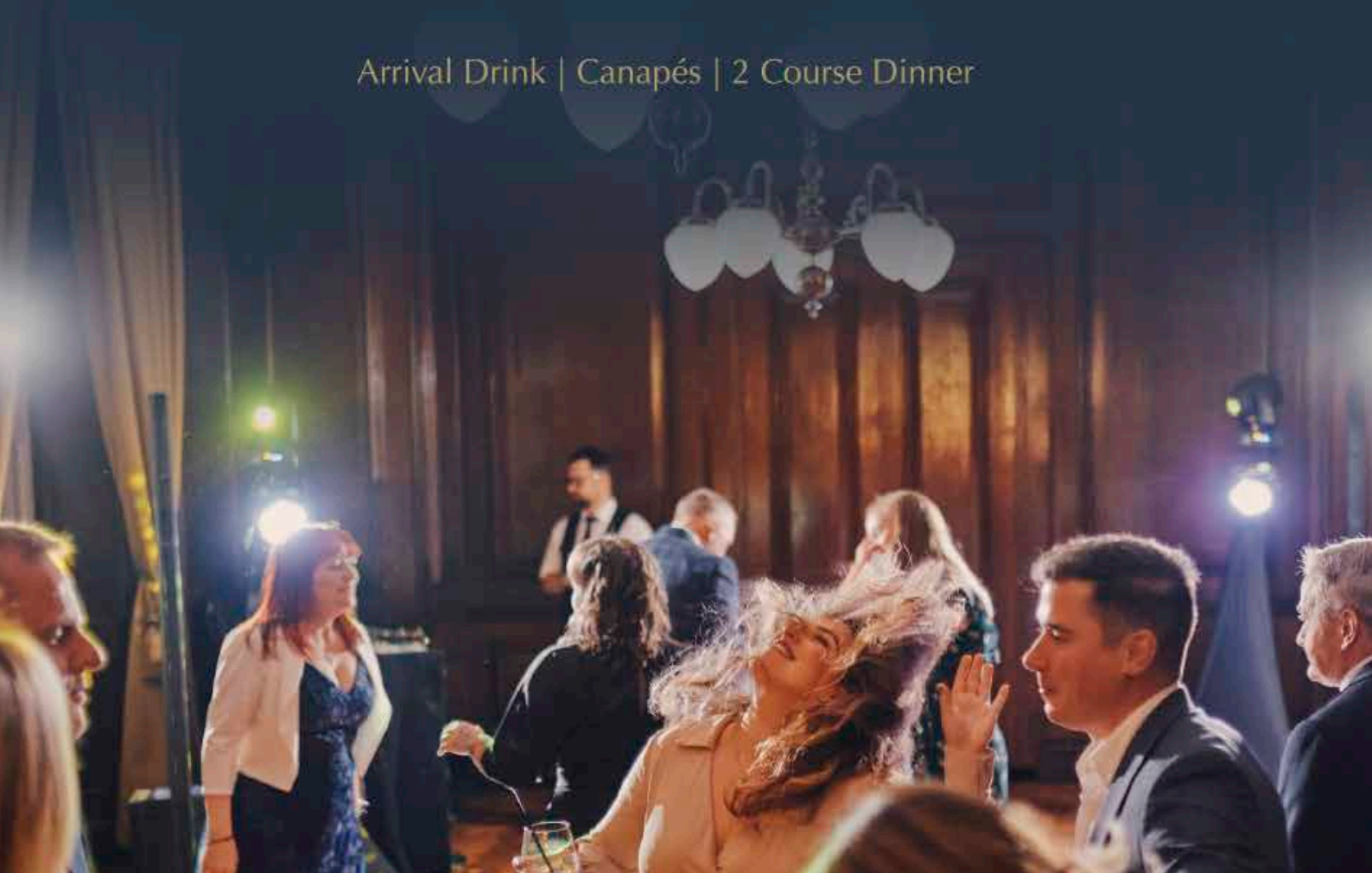
*A Gatsby*  
**Christmas**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December

**A NIGHT ON  
BROADWAY**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Arrival Drink | Canapés | 2 Course Dinner





## Manchester lawyer representing more than a thousand Liverpool fans against UEFA receives international recognition

**Leigh Day** partner Clare Campbell was recognised as Personal Injury Lawyer of the Year at the Pan-European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers (PEOPIL) Annual Conference in Brussels last month.

Clare, who leads the firm's international travel litigation team, picked up the award for her tireless work in attempting to secure justice for those fans affected by the chaos that unfolded during the 2022 UEFA Champions League final at the Stade de France in Paris.

Around 1400 represented by Leigh Day allege UEFA failed to ensure a safe and secure environment for those attending the football match and are legally liable to those who suffered physical and/or psychological injuries.

Earlier this year Clare and her team were successful in defeating a jurisdiction challenge made by UEFA at the Liverpool High Court. UEFA's application for the order disputing the jurisdiction of the English Courts was heard in Liverpool in July 2024, with the decision handed down in March.

Clare was also recently appointed as Co-Chair of the International Practice group of the American Association of Justice (AAJ). In her role, she is dedicated to enhancing client service and promoting excellence in advocacy for international legal matters by advancing education and sharing specialised technical skills and resources.

Clare specialises in acting for claimants involved in accidents abroad including road traffic accidents with complex jurisdiction



Clare Campbell

and applicable law issues, claims under the Package Travel Regulations, workplace accidents abroad, maritime and aviation cases, accidents in America and large group illness litigation.

Clare said: "It's an honour to receive this recognition from PEOPIL. I am incredibly proud of the work our team continues to do on behalf of the supporters who went through such a distressing experience. Every single member of the team gives their absolute all for our clients and I am constantly inspired by their dedication and determination. We will continue to fight for accountability and justice for those affected and I am grateful for the trust our clients have placed in us."



## DWF's Nicola Critchley appointed to Law Society Council

**DWF** is proud to announce that Nicola Critchley, a partner in its Insurance Services division, has been appointed as the Defendant Personal Injury constituent on the Law Society Council.

Nicola joins a distinguished group of 97 members representing various work practice areas on the Council, which advocates for the diverse needs of solicitors across England and Wales, helping to shape the Law Society's strategic direction and supporting the future of the profession.

With over 30 years' experience in civil procedure and costs litigation, Nicola brings a wealth of expertise and insight to the Council. Her career includes three terms on the Civil Justice Council, where she contributed to numerous reform-focused working groups aimed at improving the justice system.

A former President of the Forum of Insurance Lawyers (FOIL), Nicola remains an active member of its Executive Board and sector focus groups. She is widely recognised for her collaborative approach, regularly engaging with the legal industry through working groups, roundtables and consultations, and working closely with stakeholders across the sector.

At DWF, Nicola holds a senior leadership role, overseeing client strategy within the Insurance division. In addition, she is a committed advocate for diversity and inclusion, serving on DWF's Diversity and Inclusion Committee and mentoring the next generation of legal professionals.



Nicola Critchley

Nicola Critchley commented: "I am honoured to accept the role of Defendant Personal Injury representative on the Law Society Council. It is a privilege to represent colleagues across the profession and contribute to the important work of the Council. I would also like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Nichola Evans, whose outstanding contributions have set a high standard and paved the way for continued progress in this area."

Matthew Doughty, CEO of DWF, added: "We are delighted to see Nicola appointed to the Law Society Council. This is a well-deserved recognition of her expertise, leadership and commitment to the legal profession. It is a positive reflection not only for Nicola's personal expertise and dedication, but also for DWF's insurance business more broadly."

Nicola's appointment to the Law Society Council became effective on 8th October 2025 and she will serve for an initial period of 4 years.

## New cohort joins Fletchers' 12-month legal training programme

**Fletchers Group** @ has launched the latest intake of its Fletchers Academy — a structured 12-month training programme aimed at supporting people starting their careers in law.

The Academy is designed to provide practical experience, legal knowledge, and support for individuals who may not have had traditional access to opportunities in the legal profession.

This year, seven new trainees have joined the programme and will spend the coming months building their legal and professional skills before potentially moving into permanent roles within the firm.

Andrew Clark, Director of Learning and Development at Fletchers, said: "Of all the things we do in the Learning & Development team throughout the year, hosting our Academy is one that I always find particularly enjoyable and rewarding.

"It's a brilliant way to support aspiring young lawyers—especially those who might have faced challenges breaking into the profession.

"The Academy helps open doors and show that a legal career can be within reach, regardless of background. I'll be spending the next few weeks working closely with our seven enthusiastic new Academy trainees before they join our legal teams and take a major step in their careers. On a personal level, I'm very excited to be a part of their journey!"

The Academy combines on-the-job experience with structured learning, including an introduction to civil litigation,



personal injury and clinical negligence law, legal business skills, and mentoring from experienced lawyers. Much of the programme is delivered through virtual modules, with opportunities to shadow working teams across the business.

Trainees completing the programme can pursue a range of development pathways, including solicitor apprenticeships, graduate routes to qualification, or the CILEX and costs lawyer training programmes.

One of this year's new trainees, Shannen Millar, said: "After struggling for years to gain legal work experience, the opportunity to learn and grow within the supportive environment of the Fletchers Academy seemed too good to be true — but it isn't.

"Fletchers' commitment to supporting early careers is clear, and I feel fortunate to have a place where I can develop and contribute. The welcome I've received has been incredibly reassuring, and I'm looking forward to building my career here and working with clients who are going through difficult times."

The Academy launches once per year and is open to candidates from a wide range of backgrounds and academic routes. In its fourth year, it is part of Fletchers' broader efforts to improve access to the legal profession and offer long-term development within the firm.



## Gateley partners with pioneering Embassy Village to break homelessness cycle

**Gateley** <sup>®</sup> has announced a partnership with **Embassy Village** <sup>®</sup>, a pioneering homeless project that will see 40 high-quality homes delivered under 20 railway arches in Castlefield, Manchester.

Led by the Embassy charity, the project aims to break the cycle of homelessness through long-term support for vulnerable residents looking to get back in to work. Built along the Bridgewater Canal in Manchester city centre, the purpose-built homes feature top-of-the-range interiors and fittings to give people a sense of home and self-worth. The village, which also features communal gardens, sports facilities and a village hall which will foster community as well as teach residents critical life skills, is set to open by the end of the year.

Gateley has become the latest business to support the mission, with the partnership directly funding the installation of signage across the main entrance, village hall, archway blocks and front doors of the completed homes as the site comes together.

In addition, colleagues in Gateley's Manchester office will have the opportunity to volunteer at the site upon completion, supporting the company's responsible business objectives.

Sid Williams, co-founder and director at Embassy, said: "Thank you to Gateley for their generosity in supporting Embassy Village. We've been incredibly fortunate to work with a plethora of brilliant companies to get the project to this stage and it is fantastic to have another business with strong Manchester links supporting us. Their support will play a big part in helping people to rebuild their lives at a time when



(L-R) David Mann, Founder and Managing Director, and Michael Wilson, Legal Director

they are at their most vulnerable and ultimately reintegrate in society and break the homelessness cycle."

Hayley Sullivan and Stuart Evans, co-heads of office for Gateley in Manchester, said: "From the moment we first heard about Embassy Village, we were blown away by the whole project and we are incredibly proud to be supporting Sid and the team. Embassy Village is the embodiment of everything that is good about Manchester and demonstrates the can-do attitude, kindness and forward thinking that the city shows on a daily basis."

The partnership with Embassy Village is the latest show of support for good causes in the North West by Gateley's Manchester office, which this year celebrated its 15-year anniversary in the city. In addition, Gateley also supports Regeneration Brainery, a not-for-profit organisation which helps to inspire young people of all backgrounds to kickstart a career in property and regeneration, and is an official partner of The Lowry, supporting the cultural institution's outreach programme for communities in Salford and Greater Manchester.

To learn more about Embassy Village, visit [here](#) <sup>®</sup>.



Manchester Law Society

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# PROPERTY LAW CONFERENCE



**THURSDAY 29TH  
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Information



## Brabners & We Love MCR extend Maurice Watkins Social Mobility Bursary

**Brabners** <sup>®</sup> has renewed its commitment to the Maurice Watkins Bursary, pledging £45,000 over the next three years to help young people pursue a career in law.

Originally launched in 2022 in memory of former Manchester United director and Brabners partner Maurice Watkins CBE, Brabners has already provided £30,000 through the bursary scheme, with the latest funding bringing its total commitment to £75,000.

The scheme has supported 11 young people to date, with awards covering tuition fees and essential equipment to support their studies.

With annual support now increased from £10,000 to £15,000, the next phase of the bursary will run until at least August 2028 as part of We Love MCR's Rising Stars Fund.

The bursary is open to young people aged 15-22 who are from, or live in, Greater Manchester and aim to enter the legal



profession. Applicants can apply for funding to help cover the cost of essential items such as laptops and study materials, travel and clothing for internships or interviews, in addition to tuition fees. Applications are assessed by We Love MCR Trustees.

The bursary scheme honours Brabners' former head of sport Maurice Watkins CBE, who passed away in 2021. Watkins served on Manchester United's board for 28 years and as a partner at Brabners for 15 years.

Watkins' lifetime of charitable service saw him awarded a CBE in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours list, having raised more than £68 million for local hospitals as chairman of the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital charity appeals board.

The Maurice Watkins Bursary is part of a range of initiatives supported by Brabners' Social Mobility Affinity Group to improve diversity in the legal profession. The firm's broader commitment to strengthening the legal community was recognised when Brabners was named Law Firm of the Year at the Manchester Legal Awards earlier this year. Brabners also supports local charities through its independent grant-making charity, The Brabners Foundation.

Social impact is also a key focus of the firm's True North network, which has quickly grown to become an almost 500-strong collective of purpose-led organisations working to unlock the economic potential of the North.

Nik White, managing partner at Brabners, said: "Maurice's commitment to giving back to the community continues to inspire us, and is a constant reminder of our purpose: to demonstrate that business can bring about positive and lasting change. By recommitting to the bursary and increasing its funding to £15,000 per year, we can

“

We're proud to play our part in promoting social mobility, as we look to ensure that the legal sector better reflects the diversity of the communities we serve.”

better support young people not only with the obvious costs of studying, but also with the less visible barriers – like the expense of travel, laptops or professional clothing – that can quietly serve to exclude them from our profession.

“Our partnership with We Love MCR reflects our long-term commitment, and it's been a pleasure to see the impact it has had to date. We're proud to play our part in promoting social mobility, as we look to ensure that the legal sector better reflects the diversity of the communities we serve.”

Simon Wright Head of Charity at We Love MCR, said: “We are pleased to continue our work with Brabners in supporting Manchester's Rising Stars. The Maurice Watkins Bursary has already had a life-changing impact for its recipients, and this renewal, together with the increased funding, means we can provide even more opportunities for talented young people from diverse backgrounds to succeed in law.”

**For more information visit:**

[welovemcrcharity.org/rising-stars-fund](https://welovemcrcharity.org/rising-stars-fund) @



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## Hillsborough Law takes centre stage at INQUEST Northern conference

**Leigh Day** [@](#), Garden Court North and Ison Harrison hosted a northern conference for charity INQUEST on Thursday, 18 September.

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

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

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

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

Pete said Hillsborough Law will empower public servants to be truthful and will

prevent the security services and military from lying.

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

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



Leanne Devine



Stephanie Hill

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

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

Leigh Day partner **Stephanie Hill** [@](#) who attended the event said: “INQUEST provides invaluable support to bereaved families and Leigh Day was delighted to sponsor this fantastic event. It was great to meet with other claimant lawyers based across the north, to share knowledge and experiences and learn about all the work that has been going into developing Hillsborough Law. A particular highlight was watching the very moving INQUEST documentary, surrounded by so many dedicated colleagues.”

# The Legal 500 2026

A massive congratulations to all of our members, member firms and chambers who made the Legal 500 this year!

You can find a list of the member firms and chambers recognised in the rankings below:

[18 St John Street Chambers](#) ⓘ  
[23 Essex Street Chambers](#) ⓘ  
[Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP](#) ⓘ  
[AGI Criminal Solicitors](#) ⓘ  
[Bermans](#) ⓘ  
[Bexley Beaumont](#) ⓘ  
[Bromleys Solicitors LLP](#) ⓘ  
[Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner](#) ⓘ  
[Burton Copeland](#) ⓘ  
[Central Chambers Law](#) ⓘ  
[Centrefield](#) ⓘ  
[CFG Law](#) ⓘ  
[Clarke Willmott LLP](#) ⓘ  
[Clyde and Co](#) ⓘ  
[DAC Beachcroft LLP](#) ⓘ  
[Davis Blank Furniss](#) ⓘ  
[Deans Court Chambers](#) ⓘ  
[DWF](#) ⓘ  
[e3 employment law LLP](#) ⓘ  
[Eversheds Sutherland \(International\) LLP](#) ⓘ  
[Excello Law](#) ⓘ  
[Exchange Chambers](#) ⓘ  
[Farleys Solicitors LLP](#) ⓘ  
[Fieldfisher](#) ⓘ  
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[Foot Anstey](#) ⓘ  
[Forbes Solicitors](#) ⓘ  
[Freshfields](#) ⓘ  
[Gateley Legal](#) ⓘ  
[Glaisyers ETL](#) ⓘ  
[gunnercooke LLP](#) ⓘ  
[Hall Brown Family Law](#) ⓘ  
[Hill Dickinson LLP](#) ⓘ  
[Hudgell Solicitors](#) ⓘ  
[Hugh James](#) ⓘ  
[Hugh Jones Solicitors](#) ⓘ  
[IMD Solicitors](#) ⓘ  
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[JMW Solicitors LLP](#) ⓘ  
[Keystone Law](#) ⓘ  
[Kings Chambers](#) ⓘ  
[Kuit Steinart Levy LLP](#) ⓘ  
[Latitude Law](#) ⓘ  
[Leigh Day](#) ⓘ  
[Lewis Silkin LLP](#) ⓘ  
[Lowry Legal](#) ⓘ  
[McAlister Family Law](#) ⓘ  
[Maguire Family Law](#) ⓘ  
[Markel Law LLP](#) ⓘ  
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[Myerson Solicitors](#) ⓘ  
[Naphens LLP](#) ⓘ  
[Olliers](#) ⓘ  
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[Private Client Solicitors](#) ⓘ  
[Serious Injury Law Limited](#) ⓘ  
[Shoosmiths LLP](#) ⓘ  
[Slater and Gordon](#) ⓘ  
[Slater Heelis](#) ⓘ  
[Squire Patton Boggs](#) ⓘ  
[St John's Buildings](#) ⓘ  
[Stephensons Solicitors LLP](#) ⓘ  
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[Weightmans LLP](#) ⓘ

Information obtained from [legal500.com/rankings](https://legal500.com/rankings) ⓘ - North West/Manchester area



# Manchester Young Lawyers – November Updates!

It has been a busy and rewarding month for the Manchester Young Lawyers (MYL)!

On 7 October 2025, we were proud to help organise the Manchester Legal Walk, which saw around 300 attendees come together in support of the Access to Justice Foundation. It was fantastic to see so many members of the local legal community take part and show their support for this important cause. We're thrilled to share that we raised an amazing £2,776 to help improve access to justice. The evening concluded with a drinks reception at Manchester Hall, providing the perfect opportunity to celebrate our collective efforts and connect with colleagues.

On 22 October 2025, we hosted a fun-filled evening at PacMan Live in Manchester, kindly sponsored by MJN Legal. The event was a huge success and a great way for members to unwind, socialise, and network with fellow young professionals in a relaxed setting. A big thank you to everyone who joined us, we hope you had as much fun as we did!

Looking ahead, we're delighted to announce the return of our MYL Mentoring Scheme in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). Running from November



2025 to June 2026, the scheme pairs practicing lawyers with MMU students who are keen to pursue a career in law. Mentors and mentees will meet at least once a month, either in person or virtually, with structured support provided through a mentoring handbook.

One of our previous mentors reflected on the experience:

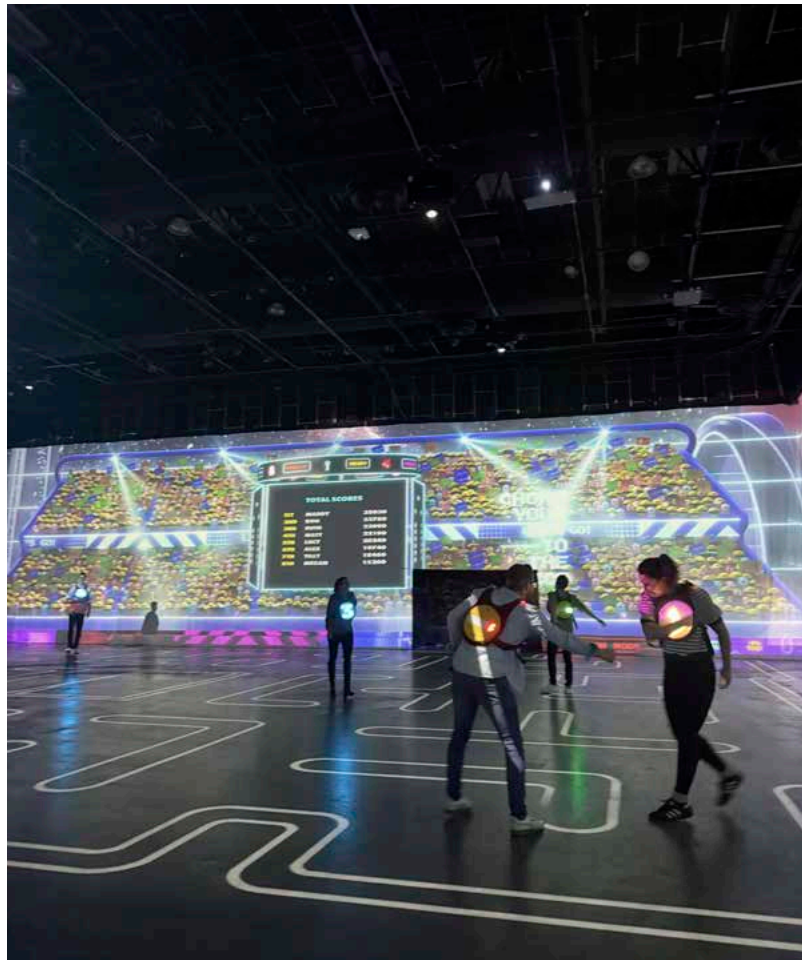
“The suggestions in the MLS Mentor Handbook were really useful to have a focus for each session. I personally found the sessions to be very rewarding and it was a pleasure to be able to share my experience with [the student] who is at the start of [their] journey. [The student] really engaged with the sessions and often prepared in advance and I therefore felt each session was productive.”

“

The suggestions in the MLS Mentor Handbook were really useful to have a focus for each session.”

If you're interested in taking part in this rewarding initiative, please contact Sam Bumby ([sambumby@eversheds-sutherland.com](mailto:sambumby@eversheds-sutherland.com)) and Kennedy Kay ([kkay@dacbeachcroft.com](mailto:kkay@dacbeachcroft.com)) to express your interest.

We'll also be holding a launch event on Thursday 13 November (5–7pm) at Eversheds Sutherland, where mentors and mentees can meet and hear more about the scheme.





# A Day in the Life

**Asif Ibrahim** shares some insight into his role as Deputy City Solicitor at Manchester City Council, from how the role found him (and not the other way round!) to the pride he feels seeing his Teams' growth and success.

## What first attracted you to a career in law?

Honestly? I suspect it was less a lightning bolt moment and more a slow burn of realising I had a knack for making sense of complex things and helping others do the same. Law offered structure, purpose, and a way to make a difference without needing to shout about it.

## How did you end up working in your particular role/specialism?

Bit of a winding path, really. I didn't set out to be Deputy City Solicitor, but I've always leaned into opportunities where I could add value. Over time, that meant more strategic work, more leadership, and inevitably, more meetings. The role found me, not the other way round.

## How do you start your day after getting to your desk?

*Caffeine? Casework? Colleague catch-up?*

Usually a quick scan of the inbox to see what's on fire. Then it's caffeine (essential), followed by a mix of casework support and catching up with colleagues - often via Teams, sometimes in person. If I'm lucky, I get five minutes to think before the day really takes off.

## What are you finding to be the current hot topic of the office?

*This can be anything from legal updates to Love Island (or both!)*

The Mazur judgement has certainly

got people talking - legal implications, webinars, the lot. That, and the usual mix of employment matters, recruitment approvals, and the occasional panic over meetings and agendas. Love Island? Not so much. Though I did hear our very own Miguel Orta Galindo won a Manchester City Council Award for Excellence, so that's our version of celebrity gossip.

## Though no two days are the same in the legal sector, what are some regular tasks/responsibilities in your role?

*What a typical day for you looks like*

There's a rhythm to it: strategic oversight, staff support, legal sign-offs, and making sure things don't fall through the cracks. I'm often the one people come to when something's unclear or needs a steer. And yes, there's a fair bit of firefighting. However, it's fast paced, exciting, and vastly rewarding.

## What do you find the most rewarding about your line of work?

Seeing the team grow and succeed. When someone nails a complex case or steps up unexpectedly, that's the good stuff. Also, knowing that the work we do genuinely impacts people's lives - even if they never know our names. Also, the opportunities I get to support, mentor, and guide those who will hopefully be the future of the profession.

## ... And what is the most challenging?

A bit of a contradiction, as the challenge is also what makes it the most rewarding,



Asif Ibrahim (furthest right)

but perhaps the volume, the pace, the fact that legal doesn't always get the airtime it deserves until something goes wrong. Balancing strategic priorities with day-to-day demands can be like juggling flaming torches while walking a tightrope.

### **What is something people may not expect to be a part of your role?**

IT troubleshooting. Facilities queries. Being the unofficial fixer of things that technically aren't legal but somehow end up on my desk. Also, writing comms pieces and blogs about law fairs – not my natural go to space, but part of the course.

### **What is your proudest achievement in your career to date? Or perhaps a recent 'win' that stands out to you.**

I wouldn't say one particular thing. I find that my Team and their growth, development, and success brings me more joy than any individual achievement. For example, getting our LEXCEL accreditation over the line was a quite a team triumph. Also proud of how the team handled a recent Greater Manchester wide statutory challenge - solid work, good collaboration, and no drama.

“

Balancing strategic priorities with day-to-day demands can be like juggling flaming torches while walking a tightrope

**We all know that working in law can be demanding at times - deadlines, difficult cases, demanding hours. What is your advice for achieving a good work/life balance in the legal sector? What does this look like for you?**

Be realistic. You won't always get it right, but you can set boundaries. I try to keep evenings clear when possible, and I'm not above saying "leave this with me" and then actually doing so. Also, humour helps. A dry comment here and there keeps things human.

# Your Monthly High Five from **TheBusinessDesk.com**



By **Michael Taylor**, Editor of  
TheBusinessDesk.com

**We started this month with an absolute barnstormer of a conference on the Business of Greater Manchester.**

Our most senior civil servant in the city Caroline Simpson mapped out the region's economic vision, while Mike Emmerich, top economist of this parish gave a wonderful summary of the contribution to Manchester of the late great Sir Howard Bernstein, whose family had built a life in Manchester after escaping pogroms in Russia.

Howard's legacy was felt in the energetic discussions that coursed through the day.

And then we learned that while our event was underway, a horrific terrorist attack on the Heaton Park Synagogue was taking place.

Since then everyone has spoken proudly of an inclusive, dynamic and welcoming city. One that opened its arms to businesses looking to locate here, and to attract the talent to come and work for them. For the most part this is right. The best of our city coming together in adversity.

“

I've been staggered this month at the number of people who keep on coming to me with more details and experiences that they have suffered at the hands of bad actors.

And yet when Gary Neville pushed back on tatty flags and racist graffiti which seek to intimidate communities made up of people who don't look like me, he got a volley of abuse from so-called patriots who also seek to divide.

I'm sick of them. They can get in the sea as far as I'm concerned.

This month I've also published a jaw-dropper of a story when I interviewed one of the former directors of Inc&Co who is now on the lam in Spain. He said his former business partner groomed him, and he in turn then responded, saying a year in prison has given him time to reflect, approach his bankruptcy hearing and plan, bizarrely, a multi-million investment fund. It kept everyone entertained and I'm convinced there's a book in this tale.

I've been staggered this month at the number of people who keep on coming to me with more details and experiences that they have suffered at the hands of bad actors.



Sometimes they want their money back, other times they just want to be heard. The creaking justice system denies them a voice, because there isn't always that shared objective.

Amplifying these stories, campaigning for tighter controls, and the closing of loopholes, gives good people the comfort that they can carry on doing great things without fear of being ripped off.

Telling the truth about Manchester and the North West is my job. For good and ill. It was people peddling fantasies and telling absolute whoppers and getting away with it that drew me back to the fold.

We also had a national scoop this month with the breaking news that Pizza Hut was shrinking its UK business and closing restaurants.

But I don't just report bad news. Like our conference, we've also held our Business

of the Year Awards which hailed amazing businesses and leaders. Many of them are mavericks and heretics who broke the mold.

I too have a particular fondness for those mavericks, the people like Brandon Leigh of Seashell Trust, Leah McGimpsey of APEM and Gareth Ainsworth from Godel Technologies, who ended up in extraordinary positions almost by accident, that often modestly say - how did I get here? There was a lot of that at our event, but hopefully any niggling doubt was answered, and quashed.

That maverick spirit runs through so many of our interesting stories. Roy Ellis leading Mission Mars on their next exciting phase, Howard Lord's remarkable story since he stumbled into the property world, and Collette Roche's exciting plans for Manchester United.

Months like this give me the energy to carry on.

## Messenger deadlines for 2026



Don't miss your chance to promote your news to the Manchester legal community. You can submit your news any time to [Messenger@manchesterlawsociety.org.uk](mailto:Messenger@manchesterlawsociety.org.uk) but if you have something time sensitive you want to get in a particular issue here are the deadline dates for 2026.

<b>December 2025</b>	<b>21/11/2025</b>	<b>July 2026</b>	<b>19/06/2026</b>
<b>January 2026</b>	<b>12/12/2025</b>	<b>August 2026</b>	<b>24/07/2026</b>
<b>February 2026</b>	<b>23/01/2026</b>	<b>September 2026</b>	<b>21/08/2026</b>
<b>March 2026</b>	<b>20/02/2026</b>	<b>October 2026</b>	<b>18/09/2026</b>
<b>April 2026</b>	<b>20/03/2026</b>	<b>November 2026</b>	<b>23/10/2026</b>
<b>May 2026</b>	<b>24/04/2026</b>	<b>December 2026</b>	<b>20/11/2026</b>
<b>June 2026</b>	<b>22/05/2026</b>		



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## Compli


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## Farleys Solicitors achieves 100% trainee retention as new intake welcomed

**Farleys Solicitors** @ has announced a 100% retention rate of its latest cohort of qualifying trainees.

All four of its second-year trainee solicitors, Megan Billington, Finn Hubble, Stevie Kelly, and Bob Worsley, have qualified as solicitors and secured permanent roles within the firm, in private client, family law, actions against detaining authorities, and employment law respectively. This retention rate underlines the firm's dedication to fostering and retaining the next generation of legal professionals.

Their successful qualification this month is both a personal and collective triumph, and the firm is immensely proud to retain

all four as newly qualified solicitors in its growing team.

Alongside the graduates from Farleys' training programme, the firm has also welcomed three graduates from Alker Ball Healds, the Wigan-based firm Farleys acquired in March. Emily Mosedale, Joe Swift, and Erica Tollitt have also all retained permanent roles across the firm in conveyancing, private client, and commercial property respectively.

People and Culture Advisor, Libby Carter, commented, "We're pleased to see Megan, Finn, Stevie, and Bob graduate from our training programme and embark on the next chapter of their legal careers with



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The fact that we are able to retain 100% of our qualifying trainees is a testament to the vibrant, supportive culture we have cultivated at Farleys

us. Their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to our clients have been evident throughout their training. We're equally pleased to retain Joe, Erica, and Emily, and to be able to offer them access to a wider group of colleagues and facilities as they continue their legal careers with Farleys.

The fact that we are able to retain 100% of our qualifying trainees is a testament not only to their hard work but also to the vibrant, supportive culture we have cultivated at Farleys. We are committed to nurturing talent at every level and to providing an environment where people can thrive.”

As Farleys celebrates the achievements of its newly qualified solicitors, the firm is equally excited to welcome its latest intake of trainee solicitors: Harry Bridge, Cliona Carey, Hannah Mayle, Katie McAllister, and Paige Taylor. The new cohort will commence their training contracts this month, embarking on a structured and rewarding journey designed to challenge, inspire, and prepare them for successful legal careers.

Nick Molyneux, Training Principal at Farleys, commented, “The arrival of Katie, Cliona, Hannah, Harry, and Paige as trainee solicitors marks an exciting new chapter for the firm. We are proud of our reputation as a firm that invests in people, and our trainee solicitors are central to our future.



It's inspiring to witness their enthusiasm and willingness to learn, and I have every confidence that they will make a significant contribution to the firm and our clients. Our culture is built on collaboration, mutual respect, and a commitment to excellence; values that our trainees embody from day one.”

The ongoing success of the trainee solicitor programme is a direct result of the firm's investment in professional development, inclusive workplace culture, and robust mentorship opportunities.

The application window for the next cohort onto Farleys training programme will open in January 2026. In the meantime, details of career opportunities at the firm can be found [here](#) <sup>Ⓞ</sup>.



## Ward Hadaway welcomes new trainees as part of 2025 intake

Two new trainee solicitors have joined [Ward Hadaway's](#) Manchester office as part of the firm's 2025 intake, marking another step in the firm's continued investment in developing home-grown legal talent across the North West.

The new Manchester-based trainees, Abby Chan and Georgia Buchanan, are among 14 graduates who have joined the firm across its offices in Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle and, for the first time following the merger with The Endeavour Partnership, in Teesside.

Caroline Jones, Head of Emerging Talent at Ward Hadaway, said: "Our trainee programme continues to be one of the most important ways we invest in the

firm's future. This year's group represents a diverse mix of skills and backgrounds and we're especially pleased to welcome our first Teesside-based trainees onto our programme since The Endeavour Partnership merger. Each of our trainees brings something unique and we look forward to supporting them as they build their careers."

Ward Hadaway's Manchester office continues to go from strength to strength, with growing teams across corporate, commercial, real estate, employment and healthcare. The arrival of new trainees reflects the firm's long-term commitment to investing in its people and supporting the next generation of lawyers in the region. Looking ahead, Ward Hadaway



will also open trainee opportunities in its Birmingham office for the first time, with applications for 2027 and 2028 training contracts opening on 1 November 2025.

Liz Bottrill, Executive Partner in Ward Hadaway's Manchester office, said: "Manchester has an incredible pool of legal talent and it's fantastic to see that reflected in this year's intake. Our trainees play a really important role in the office - they bring enthusiasm, new ideas and energy to our teams and to our clients. Supporting and developing people early in their careers is something we're genuinely passionate about and it's a big part of what makes Ward Hadaway such a rewarding place to work."

The Manchester trainees are settling into their first seats across a range of departments including corporate, litigation, real estate and employment. Each will work

“

Manchester has an incredible pool of legal talent and it's fantastic to see that reflected in this year's intake

closely with senior lawyers, gaining practical experience on live client projects and contributing to the firm's continued regional growth.

Abby Chan, one of the new Manchester-based trainees, said: "Starting my training contract in Manchester has been such a positive experience. The office has a great atmosphere and I've already been involved in some really interesting work. It's exciting to be part of a firm that values trainees and gives us real responsibility and support from the start."





## Jill Heywood joins leading national Birth Injury Team at Fletchers Solicitors

**Fletchers Solicitors** is delighted to announce the appointment of Jill Heywood to its nationally renowned Birth Injury Team.

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

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

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

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

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



Jill Heywood

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

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

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

# Cartwright King Solicitors welcomes Children Law Specialist Rachel Jones

**Cartwright King Solicitors** is delighted to announce that Rachel Jones has joined the firm as a Children Law Solicitor, based in our Manchester office.

Rachel has a strong focus on children matters, including both public and private law proceedings. She is particularly passionate about supporting clients who have experienced domestic abuse, ensuring that every client feels heard, supported, and guided through the court process with clarity and compassion.

After graduating from Keele University with a BA in English and American Literatures, Rachel completed her Graduate Diploma in Law at the University of Law in 2018 before going on to achieve her LLM LPC. She was offered a training contract in 2020 and qualified as a solicitor in January 2022.

Since qualification, Rachel has earned a reputation for her down-to-earth approach, her commitment to client care, and her robust advocacy in court. She is known for going above and beyond to achieve the best outcomes for her clients, approaching every case with empathy and determination.

Rachel is an active member of the Manchester Law Society, where she sits on the Family Law Committee, contributing to the ongoing development of family law practice in the region.

Outside of her legal work, Rachel is passionate about empowering women in the legal profession. She runs a successful

blog focused on law, lifestyle, and feminism, as well as a social group for young women in Manchester to connect, collaborate, and support one another. Rachel also volunteers with Manchester Young Professionals and St John Ambulance, reflecting her dedication to community and wellbeing.



Rachel Jones

Her contributions to the profession have already been recognised: Rachel was shortlisted for the Kindness & Wellbeing Champion Award by Resolution Manchester in 2024, and again in 2025 for her outstanding work championing wellbeing in the family justice sector.

Rachel's appointment reflects Cartwright King's ongoing commitment to nurturing talented, passionate professionals who share our values of excellence, integrity, and care. Her energy, expertise, and advocacy will further strengthen our growing family law team in Manchester and beyond.

Emma Cordock, Director of the North Region at Cartwright King Solicitors, said: "I'm absolutely delighted to be working with Rachel again. Her dedication to children law and her compassionate approach to representing clients perfectly align with Cartwright King's values. I'm excited to see the positive impact she'll continue to have on the families and children we represent."

We are thrilled to welcome Rachel Jones to Cartwright King Solicitors and look forward to the insight, enthusiasm, and dedication she brings to both our clients and our colleagues.



## Leigh Day continues Manchester medical negligence expansion

**Leigh Day** ☞ partner **Anna Brothers** ☞ has joined the firm's medical negligence team in Manchester, bolstering the team's legal offering to potential clients in the north of England.

The announcement comes after Leigh Day's **medical negligence** ☞ team in Manchester team expanded earlier this year, when solicitors Bryony Doyle and Zoe Donohue **joined** ☞ the firm.

Anna joins the team in Manchester having made the move up north from the firm's London office.

Originally from Derry in Ireland, Anna completed her law degree at Queen's University Belfast before training in London in mental health and public law. In 2008, Anna joined Leigh Day working as an assistant solicitor to the head of the medical negligence legal team.

Anna has represented individuals in cases against NHS trusts, private hospitals and clinics, GPs and doctors working in the private sector. She is an experienced clinical negligence lawyer and acts for clients in a wide of variety claims including child and adult brain and spinal injuries, orthopaedic injuries, ophthalmic (eye injuries), delays in cancer diagnosis and fatal accidents claims.

Anna's special interests and notable successes are in claims involving neurological issues such as schwannomas, craniotomies, mismanaged CSF leaks, brachial plexus injuries and chronic pain.

Recently, Anna secured more than £1.5 million in compensation on behalf of a woman who suffered neurological injuries from a brain infection after she was fitted with a **HALO fixation** ☞ device she did not need.

## Hat trick of appointments at Johnson Law Group's Manchester office

**Johnson Law Group** ☞ has welcomed three new hires to its rapidly expanding Manchester office.

Rabia Munir joins as a Chartered Legal Executive, Freddie Briggs joins as a Litigation Paralegal and Usman Ahmed has been appointed as the firm's new HR & Office Manager.

Qualifying as a Fellow Chartered Legal Executive in 2020, Rabia has both claimant and defendant experience, predominantly in

Civil Litigation including both the Consumer Credit Act and EL-PL Noise Induced Hearing Loss claims. She has also assisted in statutory nuisance complaints under the Environmental Protection Act in Criminal Litigation matters.

With over 20 years' experience, Usman will oversee JLG's HR, Recruitment, Staff Development, and Operational Management. He will also focus on the firm's growth, improved staff engagement, and streamlined internal processes.



Anna Brothers

Anna also represents several women who have sadly suffered maternal injuries at birth such as avoidable perianal tearing and organ injuries and during IVF. Anna also acts for a number of clients who have come forward with injuries caused by laser eye treatment.

Anna is interested in cases involving issues of consent, discrimination, and health inequalities. With her background in mental health law, Anna is a mental health and men's health champion and has headed up Leigh Day's men's health awareness campaigns.

Partner Anna Brothers said: "I am excited to join our Manchester team and to further expand our offering of legal support to those who have suffered negligent care across the UK.

"We endeavour to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our clients by providing expert guidance, and compassionate support in their pursuit of accountability."

Partner and head of the medical negligence team in Manchester [Stephen Jones](#) <sup>Ⓔ</sup> said:

"I am delighted to have Anna joining our Manchester team. Anna has a wealth of experience in negligence in neurological care, maternal injuries, injuries sustained from laser eye treatment, as well as injuries as a result of poor surgical care.

"With Anna joining our northern team, we can continue to provide exemplary legal support for our clients."

After graduating with a BA in History from the University of Sheffield, Freddie is working towards an MA in Law (conversion).

Jamie Patton, Managing Director at Johnson Law Group said: "We're delighted to welcome Rabia, Usman and Freddie to the team. Each brings a different skill set and perspective that will help us strengthen our expertise and continue building momentum in Manchester. These appointments reflect our commitment not only to delivering first-class legal support for claimants nationwide, but also to investing in the people who make that possible."



# Management Matters

By **Bill Kirby**, director of Professional Choice Consultancy



## This Month

### Some fundamental management essentials

- Essential considerations by firms
- Some potential considerations for value, clients and image
- Essential conference for a managing partner

The feedback from last month's article has been fascinating, with many law firms not recognising the multiple areas of responsibility to needing the essential assistance.

Prime issues recording were in [October](#) , but seriously making the point about the commercial status of the firm – recognising – three main priorities including the short and medium long term engagement with the team, The actions and in hand and by who for every function within the firm – revenue, gross profit, client satisfaction and the most effective return. Thirdly where were the skills and advice for support activities – accounting, HR. and client interface – going to come from.

Too many firms are just not facing up to the realities of these key issues and, like it or not, they have to.

Revenue and Gross Profit – Net profit – client relationships (repeat and additional services), image and client satisfaction, more services to the client base, ensuring profitability and working capital management from performance and bank relationships, compliance and regulation achievement saving image, PI

“

Over the last few months I have raised some serious issue with current PMS/CMS suppliers

insurance availability and costs. Security and availability of IT is essential and basic. Many added value solutions like MI/BI, client on boarding, client communications are essential with market demands plus of course making clients and potential clients aware of changes in market situations and things to consider – as a basic LPA for private clients.

There are so many firms not recognising the essential – a reminder again from [October](#) .

Over the last few months I have raised some serious issue with current PMS/ CMS suppliers – just missing out and with the needs to provide forms with a clear added value and systems development opportunity. Generally it is a major shortfall at the moment – variable responses by the businesses dependent on ownership and key management. Every one of them has the opportunity to explain to their clients what they are doing overall, but more realistic workflow solutions for client communications, on boarding data and success, business file status and next actions, secure online communications. Unfortunately, many of the main suppliers are not up to this so people are considering changes, but there are some added value opportunities that are essential.



In the last couple of months I have had dialogue with the main PMS/CMs suppliers but also readily available added value solutions.

Much more to follow in the next month or so and any input would be welcome. I am investigating the added value opportunities.

### WBT [🔗](#)

Clients, and many potential clients, of law firms are being let down by the Private Client Team. Here is an opportunity to get a 20% update my will revenue, plus additional/activities, referrals, plus of course, the true value of the will bank if I want to sell it.

### MagnifyB [🔗](#)

Been a supplier to many business but currently working with interfaces with legal solutions to demonstrate products that can demonstrate the benefits of a 19% GP on family issue – let alone new business. Getting clear law firm data is high on their priority list.

### Forsyte [🔗](#)

A new business within the sector but incredibly aware of the risks associated with compliance, regulations and available to provide detail analysis of those to save the firm credibility, cost insurance and image.

### Qanooni Legal Software [🔗](#)

The utilisation of AI to enhance the knowledge of law firm management.

### Not one to miss

This is due in Manchester on 10th November and certainly not one to miss.

[Managing Partner Forum Manchester Tickets, Mon 10 Nov 2025 at 09:30 | Eventbrite \[🔗\]\(#\)](#)

This is a specific invitation for just managing partners/directors to attend for no cost but participate in an all-day event with very open conversations around. Organised by the special Viv Williams Consultancy and supported by Manchester Law Society. Being allowed in is an honor. Discussions are about.

- Regulation management
- Future financing
- Outsourcing
- Technical essential
- Brand of the firm
- Valuation of the firm
- How to handle change

Bill Kirby is a director of [professionalchoiceconsultancy.com \[🔗\]\(#\)](#) offering advice to firms on business issue from strategy, planning, business development, the effective use of IT applications and IT hosting for compliance, business continuity and DR. He can be contacted at [\*billkirby@professionalchoiceconsultancy.com\*](mailto:billkirby@professionalchoiceconsultancy.com) [🔗](#) and [LinkedIn \[🔗\]\(#\)](#)

# Legal Costs Update

By **Nick McDonnell** (left) and **Colin Campbell** (right)



Here, in **Kain Knight Costs Lawyers'** regular monthly legal costs update, we focus on those cases which we believe are likely to have a practical relevance for its members. We welcome feedback and if there is an area, topic or case you would like us to address, please let us know.

With the High Court sitting again following the end of the Long Vacation, there are a good number of cases this month. Without doubt the most important, and the judgment that has generated thousands of legal inches in the legal press, is **Mazur v Charles Russell Speechlys LLP** [2025] EWHC 2341 (KB). It also means that due to copy space, the remaining summaries are necessarily short.

In *Mazur*, and in a sentence, Sheldon J considered who is authorised to conduct litigation in the civil courts in England and Wales, and the extent to which unqualified staff (those not being a solicitor, or barrister or "exempt person") are permitted to do so. His decision was that there is a distinction to be drawn between (a) supporting and assisting an authorised person in conducting litigation and (b) conducting litigation under the supervision of an authorised person. Activities falling within (a) are permitted, but those falling within (b) are prohibited by the statutory regime under the Legal Services Act 2007: moreover, under s14, a criminal offence is committed under (b) even if the work is being supervised. It followed that mere employment by a person who is authorised to conduct litigation, is not sufficient for an employee to conduct litigation themselves, even under supervision. In *Mazur*, that meant that the Head of litigation who did not have a practising certificate at the solicitors who had been instructed to recover a debt from Mrs Mazur, had not been permitted to conduct the litigation

(although there was no finding whether he was, in fact conducting litigation), contrary to the decision below. Accordingly, the court had been wrong to order Mrs Mazur to pay the costs of lifting a stay of proceedings, and that decision was quashed. However, it is Sheldon J's ruling that non-qualifieds having conduct of litigation under the *supervision* of qualifieds, is impermissible, which has driven the profession into turmoil. This is because for many years firms have been handling cases in exactly the way which Sheldon J has held to be a criminal offence under the LSA: the delegating of cases to staff such as very experienced legal executives and the like even under full supervision. Watch this space!

Back to less controversial stuff: in **AstraZeneca v Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Europe** [2025] EWHC 2406 (Pat) HHJ Hacon dealt with "consequential" in five combined proceedings involving patents. They included the costs of interim injunctions and whether costs reserved on such interim applications should follow the ultimate outcome of the proceedings. Having given judgment in favour of the manufacturers with costs of the proceedings to be assessed by detailed assessment, that left four interim reserved costs orders and a consent order. The judge held that retrospective identification of the successful and unsuccessful parties once the trial outcome was known, was permissible and that reserved costs should ordinarily follow that event. Following decisions on each,

interim payments on account of costs were ordered as to 65% of the sums sought in favour of the manufacturers.

Next more consequential: [Clarke v Guardian News & Media Ltd](#) <sup>o</sup> [2025] EWHC 2575 (KB). In a failed defamation action, the newspaper was awarded its costs of the action, including any reserved costs, Steyn J noting that under CPR 44 PD 4.2, they would thus be “costs in the case”. They were ordered on the indemnity basis because a party’s means was not a matter that fell for consideration when determining the basis for assessment, but rather, a party’s ability to pay became relevant at the stage of enforcement. The pleaded case and his evidence at trial on the defence of truth contained many statements that were untrue and dishonest. In addition, he had maintained and very publicly aired wholly unfounded allegations of dishonesty against three professional journalists. As to a payment on account, the newspaper’s costs were £6m and 50% of that was sought and allowed, on the basis that this was substantially lower than the likely level of recovery on detailed assessment and allowed for a suitably wide margin of error.

Still with consequential, in [Pharos Offshore Group Ltd v Keyvor Morlift Ltd](#) <sup>o</sup> [2025] EWHC 2496 (TCC) Constable J held that the claimant was entitled to the benefits of CPR 36.17(4). A Part 36 offer of £550,000 (inclusive of VAT and interest) was more advantageous than the judgment obtained. Interest at 10 % above base rate applied to the principal sum (including VAT) from the expiry of the relevant period to judgment. Interest on costs was fixed at 5 % above base rate, reflecting the timing of the offer and the reasonableness of the defendant’s decision to proceed to trial. Costs without

any percentage reduction were allowed because although the defendant achieved some reduction in the claim and limited success on its counterclaim, those matters did not justify any departure from the general rule that costs follow the event.

**Potanina v Potanin** [2025] EWCA Civ 1233 concerns family law costs. The husband had succeeded in the Supreme Court but on different grounds to those argued below. The Court of Appeal refused to revisit its own order in the light of that success, holding that overall the wife had been the successful. Moreover there was to be no set-off of costs and the husband was ordered to pay £350,000 on account within 60 days, being 70% of the amount sought in the wife’s costs schedule.

Next two more consequential cases, but as they do not create any new law, we mention these to draw attention to two different approaches to mediation (both were long and discursive judgments and space does not permit any further analysis). In **Fernandez v Fernandez** [2025] EWHC 2530 (Ch), the judge dismissed an appeal against an order removing the appellant as executor to his parents’ estate and ordered him to pay the costs on the indemnity basis owing his failure to respond to 26 suggested dates for a mediation. By contrast, in *Ellis v Ellis & Ors* [2025] EWHC 2609 (Ch), HHJ Berkley held that delay in agreeing to mediate had to be seen in the light of another party’s refusal to offer disclosure, meaning that a CCMC was essential before any mediation could proceed. It followed that no departure was made from the usual standard basis costs order.

Continued on page 74



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Still with consequentials, in **Learning Curve (NE) Group v Lewis** [2025] EWHC 2491 (Comm), there had been judgment for the claimant in respect of the defendant's breach of warranty for £5,211,625 which had been reduced by a prior payment of £783,325 resulting in a net judgment of £4,428,300 against a Part 36 offer of £5,211,625. That offer was valid and the CPR 36.17(4) benefits were all payable, in addition to which, HHJ Russen ordered a payment on account of 100% of the budgeted costs (£1,257,382) which must be a first!

Finally with consequentials, to be recommended as essential reading is the costs judgment about the aircraft stranded in Moscow following Russia's invasion of Ukraine – **Aercap Ireland v AIG Europe SA** [2025] EWHC 2529. Aercap recovered \$1 billion but just 65% of its costs. Having dealt with interest, Butcher J addressed the division of costs in circumstances where AEG had brought alternative claims against different insurers and succeeded against some but not others, and the extent to which and the principles to apply where the court makes a Sanderson order, that an unsuccessful defendant is ordered to pay a successful defendant's costs.

Next a very important decision on criminal procedure. In **R. (on the application of Bates) v Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court** [2025] EWHC 2532 (Admin), the

Divisional Court held that the High Court had jurisdiction under the s.51 Senior Courts Act 1981 to order that an interested party should pay the successful claimant's costs in judicial review proceedings, where the judicial review concerned a criminal matter. Here that criminal matter had been a summons based on allegations of fraud made by a shareholder and director of a company that had been vexatious and an abuse of process. To the extent that *Murphy v Media Protection Services Ltd* [2013] Costs LR 16 had held that the High Court should only make costs orders under s.51 in criminal cases in exceptional cases, it had been wrongly decided. It followed that the interested party would pay the costs claimed at £235,922.11 subject to detailed assessment

Finally, security for costs under CPR r.25.29(1). In **Qatar Investment and Projects Development Holding Co v Phoenix Ancient Art SA** [2025] EWCA Civ 1300, the Court of Appeal granted security in favour of the claimants as respondents to the appeal where it was a factor relevant to the exercise of discretion that there was a risk of the first to third defendants dissipating their assets to avoid paying a judgment against them. However, it was not all good news for the claimants: their costs were £225,000 which the court considered to be disproportionality high for a one day appeal and allowed "just" £70,000 as security!

As always, these are a selection of the principal recent cases which are likely to be of use to practitioners and if any further information is required, please contact either Nick McDonnell or Colin Campbell at [Nick.McDonnell@kain-knight.co.uk](mailto:Nick.McDonnell@kain-knight.co.uk) or [Colin.Campbell@kain-knight.co.uk](mailto:Colin.Campbell@kain-knight.co.uk)

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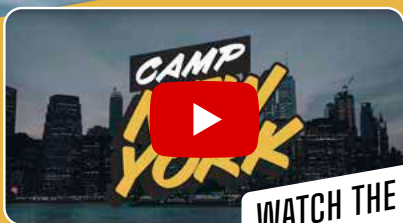
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# Pet of the Month

**Name:** Erica Pina

**Organisation:** Orega

**Pet Name:** Loki

**Pet Nickname:** Pookie

**What kind of pet do you have?** Bengal

**What gender is your pet?** Male

**How old is your pet?** 6yrs old

**Favourite Toy:** Spring toys

**Favourite Activity:** Causing chaos, of course! Whether it's racing around the house or knocking things off shelves! My absolute favourite pastime, though, is playing hide and seek with my big brother — whether he's in the mood to play or not!

**Favourite Treat:** Chicken dreamies

**What would your pet say, if they could speak, to the following:**

*My perfect day would be...* starting with breakfast exactly when I demand it (none of this "wait a minute" nonsense), followed by some quality time zooming around the house just to remind everyone who's boss. Then I'd climb my cat tree like the majestic jungle cat I am, nap in the sun, and wake up ready for round two of chaos. And of course, the grand finale — cuddle time with mum!

*My favourite thing my parents do...* I love when my humans give me all the attention — especially when they think they're in charge! I adore when they wave those feathery toys just right so I can show off my lightning-fast pounce.



## Is your pet the perfect poser?

Whether you have a cute cat, delightful dog, fabulous fish, gorgeous guinea pig, happy horse, brilliant bird, smart spider, luscious lizard – you get the picture – whatever animal you own we want to see and hear about them!

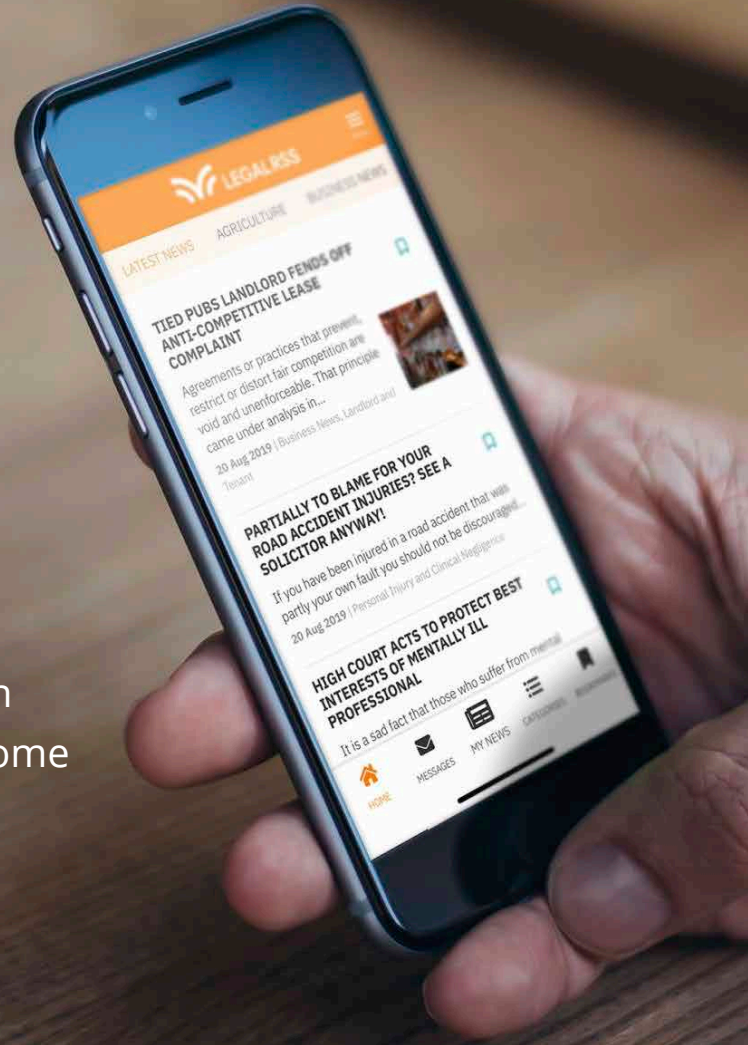
Each month we'll pick a couple of 'Pets of the Month' for the next edition so keep a look out to see if your pet has made it, modelling in *The Messenger* magazine!

You can download a copy of the questions [here](#) then send your answers and photo to [Messenger@manchesterlawsociety.org.uk](mailto:Messenger@manchesterlawsociety.org.uk)



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