



CAMBRIDGESHIRE
LAW SOCIETY

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Issue 96 Summer 2022

The Cambridgeshire Law Society Newsletter



**PRESIDENT OF THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE LAW SOCIETY
AND GUESTS CELEBRATE THE SUCCESSES OF OUR
MEMBERS AT THE LEGAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

See pages 16 - 17

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CONTENTS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">5 President's Page5 Information & Events6 Unbundling might just be the answer7 An update from Mickaël Laurans, The Law Society's Head of International8 The View from Chancery Lane9 Is my AI invention patentable?10 Movers and Shakers10 Deals of the Quarter11 Diversity Matters – An Update from our Social Mobility Roundtable12 Queen's Speech Bill – Update for CLS Members13 CJLD Update | <ul style="list-style-type: none">14 What I wish I had known....Colin Jones15 CYPG Update16 Cambridgeshire Law Society Legal Excellence Awards 202218 Rallying cry for wider adoption of UPRN20 Expert Witness Institute Online Conference 202222 Reducing the cyber risk exposure of legal practices25 Social Care in the UK before and since Lockdown26 Remember A Charity appoints Lucinda Frostick as new director28 Ground Hazards: Due Diligence for Today and the Future30 New guide tackles lack of empathy in law32 A streamlined costs system would benefit all34 12,000 Solicitors 'spin to win' at London Legal Walk |
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Published by:
EAST PARK COMMUNICATIONS Ltd.
Unit 27a, Price St. Business Centre,
Price St, Birkenhead, Wirral,
Merseyside CH41 4JQ
Tel: 0151 651 2776
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Accounts
Tony Kay
Published
Summer 2022
© East Park
Communications Ltd.

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Michael Frape
President of the
Cambridgeshire Law Society

The values and rights we have become accustomed to enjoy under the western liberal democratic order are now under clear and present danger both from within and without.

Putin is challenging the rules-based international order in the most egregious way by waging aggressive war against Ukraine, the first time that there has been a war between European states since the Second World War. But it is also the case that, shamefully and outrageously, the UK government is also actively and intentionally undermining the rules-based international order by seeking to break the Northern Ireland Protocol by presenting the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill rather than by proceeding under Article 16. How many of us are comfortable with our own government seeking to authorise a serious breach of international law rather than follow the correct legal procedure?

All should be shocked by the US Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, both by setting back human rights by 50 years,

but also by presaging legal restrictions to contraception, marriage equality and LGBTQ+ rights. Women and minorities are under attack by the US state. Such appalling reverses to human rights may be unlikely in the UK, but we face our own threats to liberal democratic values, not least in respect of the obvious threats to the UK criminal justice system. Access to justice has been severely compromised by the spread of legal aid deserts, which is the result of chronic underfunding of Legal Aid lawyers causing them to leave the profession in droves. The endemic law-breaking culture in No. 10 and serious questions over whether the PM intentionally misled Parliament make it quite plain that the rule of law is under threat within the UK.

Michael.

INFORMATION & EVENTS

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EVENTS 2022

Social

Wednesday 20th July

Garden Party

Trinity Hall, Trinity Lane, Cambridge, CB2 1TJ

6.00pm – 8.30pm

L & D

Thursday 8th September

What Clients Want – In-House Lawyers of Cambridge answer your questions followed by networking

Mills & Reeve, Botanic House, 100 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1PH

4.30pm – 6.30pm

UNBUNDLING MIGHT JUST BE THE ANSWER



Anna Bradley
Chair of the
SRA Board

Hello again, Cambridgeshire Law Society, it has been a while. Last year, you might remember that we ran a pilot exercise on customer reviews as part of our drive to improve access to justice, which involved Ashtons Legal as well as 70 other firms.

The vast majority of those with a legal need do not currently use a regulated professional and research shows that people think law firms will be too expensive, and they don't know enough about what going to a law firm will entail.

Putting more information out there challenges misconceptions about costs and helps people make the choice that's right for them. For some firms, using comparison websites might seem like a good next step, helping them to find new clients.

For others though, they remain too expensive. Unbundling could just be the answer, allowing them to seek your help. But we know that some people – both solicitors and consumers – just don't understand what unbundling entails.

Think of it this way. The cost-of-living crisis is very real, affecting households across the country. Budgets are being tightened, leaving less room for things like home improvements. But if a family still wants a job done, like a new bathroom, they could do some of the less skilled work themselves, such as removing the existing furnishings. That saves on labour costs, bringing the price down to something affordable. The family gets the bathroom they want, and a local plumber still gets some business carrying out the more skilled work. At the other end of the scale, you might have seen similar on Channel 4's *Grand Designs*, slashing tens of thousands off the final cost.

That is the principle behind unbundling.

Making unbundling work in legal services

Of course, legal services are much more complicated – and more critical – than that, but the aim remains the same. There are parts of the legal process that your customer base could do for themselves and for some this will make the difference between accessing regulated legal services or trying to deal with a legal issue alone. Unbundling could be an important tool in increasing access to justice, especially during the current cost of living crisis.

We know there are those with massive misgivings about unbundling, but the fact is that there are a lot of solicitor firms that are making it work for them. We've carried out our own research into the attitudes of law firms and consumers towards unbundling. More than a quarter of firms had offered at least one of their services on an unbundled basis. Those who hadn't, recognised the cost benefits it would bring and therefore the potential to attract new clients. Of past and potential clients, four fifths had never heard of unbundling, but 37 per cent said they would ask a law firm in the future if it could be done.

Pilot scheme will help

That's why we have been running an unbundling pilot scheme, to help firms explore this area in a safe environment.

The pilot explores the potential to offer their clients an

unbundled service based on their individual needs and budget. We'll be looking at the potential benefits and drawbacks for both sides when working in this way, as well as seeking to understand any practical, regulatory or legal issues that might arise and how these might be addressed. The pilot is a collaboration with The Law Society and the Legal Services Consumer Panel, and supported by the Bar Standards Board, Chartered Institute of Legal Executives and the Cost Lawyers Standards Board, and further information is on our website.

There will be more information as we go through the summer, including a webinar, before we report back on our findings. We have already run a pilot on customer review sites which has yielded great initial results.

Ultimately, exploring unbundling might not just be something you do to open yourself up to new markets. The cost-of-living crisis might mean you need to do it just to hold on to your current clients.



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AN UPDATE FROM MICKAËL LAURANS, THE LAW SOCIETY'S HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL

Why we engage in international work?

There are many reasons why we, as Law Society of England and Wales, engage in international work but, first and foremost, it is because of the importance of international work and international legal practice to our profession and to our jurisdiction. Eleven thousand solicitors are established outside of England and Wales; many more in England and Wales engage in cross-border legal work; 200 foreign law firms have offices in our jurisdictions; between 10 and 15% of newly qualified solicitors every year are foreign lawyers requalifying into our profession. These facts and figures, and many others, underline the importance of the international dimension.

What we are currently focussing on:

1. International market access

Our objective here is to increase (or maintain) market access for solicitors and law firms in key jurisdictions. We do so within a particular context: Brexit has meant the loss of access to the EU internal market but also the development of a newly independent UK trade policy. The UK government is involved in a number of Free Trade Agreement negotiations and bilateral trade dialogues with key jurisdictions for trade in legal services. Many of these constitute windows of opportunity for us to make the case for increased market access.

Recent successes have included:

- The grandfathering of UK LLPs already present in France and access to the French Foreign Legal Consultant scheme.
- The confirmation that UK LLPs can continue practising and that FIFO is authorised in Germany.
- The roll-over of the EU-Korea agreement into a UK-Korea FTA enabling 4 city firms to continue operating in Seoul.
- The establishment of a professional bodies' dialogue on legal services in the recent UK-Australia FTA.
- The inclusion of legal services as a

priority sector in three bilateral trade dialogues (India, Nigeria, Malaysia).

2. Global legal centre

Our objective here is to promote (and maintain) the position of England and Wales as a truly global legal centre. This includes how we promote English law as governing law of choice in international contracts; England and Wales as a jurisdiction of choice for dispute resolution (litigation and ADR); the qualification of solicitors of England and Wales as a passport for furthering their international practice; and more generally the legal (and non-legal) expertise of our members.

Our current workstreams include:

- Further research on the determinants of choice of governing law and jurisdictions.
- Increased linkage with our policy work to influence the domestic factors impacting our international standing (e.g. business immigration rules, the judiciary)
- Competitive watch on what the competition is doing (NY; Singapore; International Commercial courts in Western Europe, Middle East, Africa and Central Asia)
- Influencing the Private International Law landscape post-Brexit (e.g. our work on the Lugano Convention; Singapore Convention on Mediation)

3. Promoting the rule of law and standing for lawyers at risk internationally

Thirdly, we stand for the rule of law and for lawyers at risk internationally. This goes to the core of what being a lawyer is and members expect us to have a strong public interest element to our international work beyond international practice of law. This is structured through two programmes.

Our first rule of law programme concerns "Lawyers at risk", i.e. legal professionals who are threatened, sometimes in their lives, for doing their work in representing and defending clients.

Our second programme concerns capacity-building where, subject to external funding, we support international stakeholders (e.g. a foreign bar or the judiciary) in meeting a particular development request or objective (e.g. training of judges or bar officials; setting up a new bar association in a newly democratising jurisdiction; raising awareness on rule of law issues).

Next Year

We intend to continue and to strengthen the work I have mentioned above, but we are also currently considering our business plan for the next three years and we intend to particularly review and focus on how we support members to make the most of international opportunities.

Our international workstreams are not just about the largest firms, based in the City, but also about the smaller firms throughout England & Wales that provide cross-border legal services, and we want to ensure that they can make the most of international opportunities; networking opportunities, connecting people globally, and bringing delegations to not just London but to the rest of the UK. It isn't that we haven't done this before - We already collaborate with law societies around England & Wales and many attendees of today's Forum have all worked with our International team in the past - but that we want to review how we have engaged previously, provide renewed focus, and deliver more value.

In the meantime please do not hesitate to reach out to our International team should you want to discuss any international issues that are affecting your society or your members and we will endeavour to do the same where our work concerns your society.



Mickaël Laurans
Head of International
The Law Society

THE VIEW FROM CHANCERY LANE



Michael Frape
Law Society
Council Member for
Cambridgeshire &
Peterborough

What's the point of Cambridgeshire Law Society?

This question has been put to me in different guises by colleagues in other law firms over the last few years. And it is a question which I have given some thought to myself given that I am President of CLS and Council Member for Cambridgeshire. If there is little or no point to CLS, I am wasting my time.

The principal offer of what was previously known as the Cambridgeshire and District Law Society appeared to be good quality and good value training courses provided locally, an annual dinner together with a few awards, an occasional networking event in the summer and this magazine. At some point in the distant past, jobs were advertised. But with the ending of compulsory CPD in 2016 and the arrival of webinars, a vital income stream and a very significant part of our *raison d'être* was removed at a stroke and our mission became uncertain.

Through a rebranding process in 2019, we were able to identify our purpose known as a 'mission statement', which is this:

Connecting members and driving excellence throughout the legal community in Cambridgeshire.

We realised that, although the legal community in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire was developing strongly, we could see that there was a clear role for a local law society to play. We thought that the law firms couldn't do it all themselves. Our role should be to help connect individual members with each other and to celebrate our colleagues when they achieved professional excellence.

Developing your professional network is a self-evident good both for the individual involved and for the wider legal community. Lawyers refer work to colleagues they know and trust in

other firms. By facilitating connections between member firms, we hoped that more work would be referred to lawyers in the region. And in an increasingly complex legal world, having an extensive professional network can help unlock the answer to a thorny legal question or help one develop your legal and professional knowledge and expertise. For member firms, having a stronger and better connected legal community in Cambridgeshire may help attract and retain legal talent to and in the region.

CLS is all about lawyers being part of a wider legal community. Having lived through the pandemic, we have all recognised the importance and relevance of being part of a 'community'. Challenges are always better met when one is part of a greater whole and thereby able to seek the support and help (whether moral or physical) from others. Many firms are of course large enough to provide their own self-contained community. But you would have to be short-sighted not to see the value of being part of a larger, broader and more diverse community than that solely provided by your own firm. There are obvious positives of having a well-developed professional network (such as in aiding the development of your career) and there can be disadvantages in the silo-effect, which can easily exist within a firm. Diversity is well-acknowledged as an obvious 'good'.

But the importance of lawyers and the legal profession is not only in serving our clients well and providing first-rate advice, but it is also in wider-ranging matters. We are, after all, a profession and therefore are an important stakeholder in a well-functioning, democratic and rules-based society. It is also the case that we will get the society we deserve. For example, who would have thought that the US Supreme Court would abolish an established constitutional right, viz. the woman's right to determine what happens in her own body? Not only does the *Roe v. Wade* decision remove one of the established legal norms of a liberal democratic society, but it also marks the beginning of a jurisprudential change in direction, not a one-off decision which can blithely be ignored as normal service will be resumed shortly. Such rights have to be fought for continually, otherwise they will be lost.

I believe that civil society is under threat in the UK in a new age of populist politics. Some examples of those government-led challenges to civil society and its institutions (among others) have been the unlawful prorogation of Parliament, the attacks on the legal profession, the undermining of the judiciary, the imposition of excessively restrictive new laws on the right to protest, the attempt to emasculate the Electoral Commission, the abortive attempt to change retrospectively the Parliamentary lobbying rules, as well as the endemic law-breaking in No. 10 during the Covid pandemic known as 'Partygate' amongst other enormities committed by the PM. Leaving aside whether the PM deliberately misled Parliament over Partygate, public trust in our civil institutions is being eroded, belief in a civil society is being undermined and the rule of law is under threat.

This assault on the rule of law is infecting other parts of the UK state. For example, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary has put six of the UK's 48 police forces into 'special measures', most notably the Metropolitan Police Force. The scandals enveloping the Met have included the murder of Sarah Everard, the murders of Mina Smallman's daughters Bibaa and Nicole, the botched investigation of serial killer and rapist Stephen Port, and the unlawful strip-searching of Child Q. What further misconduct and outright crimes will emerge in the coming months? Note please that the victims of these crimes were members of minority communities, not white heterosexual men.

I would suggest that the legal profession must play its part in seeking to support civil society and upholding the established legal values and norms of a progressive liberal democracy. CLS and other local law societies can and should play a small, but important, part in facilitating, fostering and encouraging their legal community to pay an integral role in our society. And if you do not engage in society and seek to uphold the rule of law, you will get the society that you deserve. And you may not like it very much.

IS MY AI INVENTION PATENTABLE?



In this article from the Society's patent attorney members, **ROBERT SACKIN** of Reddie & Grose LLP, looks at how patenting in the software space has changed in Cambridge.

I moved from London to Cambridge back in 2006 to grow our Cambridge team of patent attorneys, focussing on patents for software inventions. At my earliest networking events in Cambridge, the people I spoke to tended to be hostile towards the idea of patents for software inventions. Over the years, fortunately, that hostility has gone. Soon, I was being asked whether software inventions were patentable, then the language changed and I started to be asked whether apps were patentable. Today, I'm more likely to be asked whether an AI invention is patentable.

The short answer to all these questions is that the software invention, the app or the AI might be patentable.

The rules vary in the details from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but the biggest tech economies at the moment (Europe, the US, China, Japan and Korea) follow broadly the same approach. Here, I'm paraphrasing the approach of the European Patent Office.

To be patentable, an AI (or indeed software or an app) must have either a technical application (a real world application, if you like) or be adapted to a specific technical implementation.

A technical application might be that the AI controls a specific technical system or process, such as an X-ray machine; the AI carries out digital audio, image or video enhancement or analysis, such as to detect people in a digital image; or the AI provides a medical diagnosis by an automated system processing physiological

measurements. A generic purpose such as "controlling a technical system" is not sufficient; the technical purpose must be specific.

A specific technical implementation is where design is motivated by technical considerations of the internal functioning of a computer or a computer system as a whole. For example, assigning the execution of data-intensive training steps of the AI to a graphical processing unit and preparatory steps to a standard central processing unit to take advantage of the parallel architecture of the computing platform.

The rules around Europe have been fairly stable for many, many years. In the US, often the key market for Cambridge's tech companies, where every aspect of patents is philosophically different to everywhere else in the world, the law has been much more changeable. Before 2014, US law was favourable to software patenting. A significant Supreme Court case, decided in 2014, changed that and the approach there became not dissimilar to the more restrictive European approach set out above. However, since 2014, the position in the US has gradually become a little more lenient again and there is the possibility (or not) of another Supreme Court decision in the next year or so.

Prospective clients are sometimes concerned that patent applications for complex AI inventions will be expensive. Patent applications filed in many jurisdictions, including in the

Far East where translations into the local language are required, can be expensive, but one doesn't have to go to that extreme. Your patent attorney should be able to tailor their approach to draft a "good enough" patent application with the inventor's help at fairly low cost and if the number of jurisdictions is low, perhaps covering the US and UK only, the prosecution costs may not be out of reach. Furthermore, the patent process usually takes several years, and a company may exit in that period, shifting costs to the new (hopefully well-funded) owner.

A better reason not to file a patent application for an AI invention is to keep it secret. This is because patent applications usually publish around 18 months after they have been filed, unless they are withdrawn in the meantime. This is all part of the arrangement with the state to be given the privilege of patent protection. In return for a potential 20 year monopoly on the technology, the public is given enough information so that they can make the invention. For example, a pharma company might want to keep its in-house developed AI used for drug discovery secret. Instead, the pharma company might file patent applications for the discovered drugs instead as they would with their human-discovered drugs. AI inventions can theoretically be fairly easily kept secret as they can be contained within a secure computer environment with hidden algorithms where the AI can't be reverse engineered. However, inventors like to talk about their inventions publicly and that can be a deal-breaker for this approach.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS



Kate Harris
Senior Associate
Birketts

Here is a round-up of the latest moves, promotions and achievements of Cambridgeshire Law Society's members...



Pathfinder Legal Services expands its team

Pathfinder Legal Services is pleased to have welcomed **Butta Singh** as Head of Service (Governance) to support its ever growing governance team and to join its Leadership Team.



Two of the firm's second year trainees will shortly be qualifying and remaining with the firm. **Darcy Taylor** started with the firm in July 2019 and **Kealey Hopper** in November 2018 both as Childcare Paralegals and moved

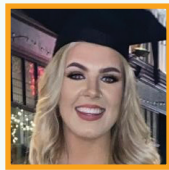


to trainee solicitor posts in 2020. Having had a far more challenging training contract than ever anticipated (with the difficulties the pandemic set us) both will qualify into the Childcare and Safeguarding team as newly qualified lawyers.

The firm will also be welcoming three of their current paralegals to start training



contracts in September 2022. **Charlotte Epstein** has been with the firm as a Childcare Paralegal since August 2021, **Leonie Allen**



started with the firm as a Legal Assistant and progressed to a Paralegal role within the SEN team in



October 2021 and **Paisley Corley** joined the firm in May 2021 as a Paralegal in the Adult Social Care team.

Relocation strengthens the Appleyard Lees IP LLP Cambridge patent team



Previously based in Manchester, Appleyard Lees partner and patent attorney **Howard Read** has relocated to the firm's Cambridge office. Howard, who has a PhD in metallurgy and an MSc in computing, adds his expertise in the fields of computing, engineering and electronics to the growing patents team.

Howard says, "Previously a frequent visitor, I am delighted to return to the city where I completed my undergraduate and PhD degrees, to join our established team of IP professionals. Cambridge nurtures globally recognised innovators, at leading research and development institutes – truly invigorating".

DEALS OF THE QUARTER

We are continuing to celebrate the successes of our member firms and to bring you news of the biggest deals and wins from across the County. Here's what's been going on this quarter...

Ashtons Legal's Corporate team celebrate success

It has been a busy few months for Ashtons' Corporate lawyers with a number of deals completing including advising *ubisend*, a conversational AI company, on their sale to *Soprano Design*, an international communications platform supplier. Additionally, a multidisciplinary team assisted the shareholders of renowned marine engineering specialist *AR Peachment* in the sale of the company to a member of the *Alliance Marine Group*, a French recreational boating and marine equipment distributor plus.

The team also advised on the sale of ordnance risk management and geoscience company *Ordtek* to *Venterra Group*. Examples of more specialist work

was the help given to a group of real estate companies owned and operated by *Witnesham Ventures Limited* on their capital reduction demerger and Ashtons' franchising team leading on advising a US investor on their purchase of 32 *Papa John's* stores in the UK.

We would love to hear from you if you know of any moves, promotions or

achievements which should be featured in our next edition. Please let us know by emailing admin@cambslaw.com.



DIVERSITY MATTERS – AN UPDATE FROM OUR SOCIAL MOBILITY ROUNDTABLE



Scott Smith
Senior Associate,
Howes Percival LLP

Research from the Bridge Group shows that on average people from lower socio-economic backgrounds take a year and a half longer to reach partner than their colleagues from higher socioeconomic backgrounds. This is the case regardless of their job performance. Whilst the profession is keen to promote diversity, statistics like this make it clear that social mobility is still a barrier to the profession for some and that was the focus of our jointly held roundtable with The Law Society on 4 May.

Playing our part in the bigger picture

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy commissioned an independent taskforce aiming to improve socioeconomic diversity at senior levels across professional services in the UK, and this taskforce has been seeking the views of different professions on the action that needs to be taken to address the imbalance. The taskforce itself is made up of representatives of various professions including Law Society President I. Stephanie Boyce.

The inequality between London and the rural North is often reported, but socioeconomic inequalities are often much more nuanced than this. In a 2018 report by the Centre for Cities, Cambridge was found to be the UK's most unequal city, and so Cambridgeshire Law Society were keen to ensure that the views and experiences of its members were heard as part of the taskforce consultation.

Some good progress, but more action needed

Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Scott Smith co-hosted a lively discussion with Lubna Shuja, future President of The Law Society and Bruce Kellaway, part of the Taskforce Working

Group, touching on the current state of play, collection of data, the use of targets and government action.

The introduction of less traditional routes into the profession such as legal apprenticeships and legal executive qualifications were generally seen as a positive step towards improving social mobility, although they come with their own challenges. Some felt that the traditional route still held some sort of prestige and that alternative qualifications were not always seen as an equal alternative to a solicitor qualification. One contributor also noted that those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds may seek a legal apprenticeship path out of necessity but as a result will miss out on a university experience which they may have preferred.

There was also a mixture of opinions when the discussion moved to data and the use of targets. The use of data was seen as a useful way to assess the status quo as well as measure positive change, although concerns were raised as to how data was collected. Participants felt that it was important to carefully consider the language used in surveys, as well as clearly communicate the reason for data collection. Where data collection felt arbitrary or appeared to serve no wider purpose, engagement was often low and the results unhelpful. There was also a need to supplement data collection and target setting with a more personal touch. Several participants commented that personal stories and real life examples could sometimes hold more weight than statistics, and would often be better at driving employee engagement.

Many at the roundtable were sceptical of the use of targets, with

some feeling that this would reduce people to a statistic, and others saying this would single those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds out from their contemporaries. However, most acknowledged that the use of targets was a "necessary evil" to motivate company-wide action.

Shaping the future

Cambridgeshire Law Society wants to extend a huge thank you to all those who attended for an engaging and interesting discussion. It is clear that there is not a "one size fits all" solution. It seems likely that a range of initiatives and programs will be needed to address the complexities that poor social mobility presents.

The comments and experiences that were shared at the roundtable will be anonymised and fed into The Law Society's response to the taskforce consultation and could help shape future legislation. The Law Society will be publishing its response and the taskforce will be reporting back on its findings once the consultation closes, so keep your eyes peeled for further updates.

If you have a story or opinion to share about your experience of EDI within the Cambridgeshire legal community, or want to get involved with our Diversity Matters initiative please get in touch with Scott Smith our EDI officer (scott.smith@howespercival.com) or Penelope Harrington our administrator (admin@cambslaw.com)



**The Law
Society**

QUEEN'S SPEECH BILL

– UPDATE FOR CLS MEMBERS

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, Parliamentary Liaison Officer at the Cambridge Law Society provides an update on the Queen's Speech, summarising key provisions to be legislated by the Government in 2022.

The Parliamentary Liaison Officer role aims to keep CLS lawyers apprised of new legislation and to provide you with an opportunity to provide your comments, so CLS can feedback on your behalf to the Law Society and the Ministry of Justice. If you would like to comment please contact CLS on admin@cambslaw.com.

■ Bill of Rights (UK)

- Removing requirement for UK courts to follow Strasbourg case law and constraining ability of UK courts to impose positive obligations on public services
- Onus on claimant to demonstrate a significant disadvantage. Behaviour of claimant to be a factor when making an award of damages

■ Brexit Freedoms Bill (UK)

- Reducing need to use primary legislation to amend/repeal EU law. Removing supremacy of retained EU law /clarifying its status

■ Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (E&W/E)

- Duty on government to set Levelling Up missions and produce an annual progress report
- New planning powers to force landlords to let out empty shops

■ Schools Bill (E&W)

- New statutory standards for academies, with intervention powers to tackle failures and removing barriers to conversion to academies. National Funding Formula for mainstream schools

■ Higher Education Bill (E&W)

- Minimum qualification requirements for financial support. Powers to control numbers of students to tackle low-quality courses

■ Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill (E&W)

- Freedom of speech duty on higher education providers and student unions. New complaints scheme run

Office for Students with power to impose penalties for breaches

■ Social Housing Regulation Bill (E&W/E)

- Regulator to inspect quality of accommodation and to arrange emergency repairs where systemic failure by landlord. Tenants of housing associations to be able to access information from landlords

■ Renters Reform Bill (E&W)

- Abolishing no fault section 21 evictions and reforming possession grounds. Applying Decent Homes Standard in private rented sector. New Ombudsman for private landlords and new property portal

■ Transport Bill (UK)

- State-run Great British Railways to regulate railway services with contracting powers for passenger services

■ High Speed Rail (Crewe to Manchester) Bill (E&S)

- Powers to compulsorily purchase land and secure outline planning permission

■ Draft Mental Health Act Reform Bill (E&W)

- Criteria to detain people only where there is a genuine risk to their own safety or others and a clear therapeutic benefit. New supervised community discharge for restricted patients. Statutory care and treatment plan for all patients in detention

■ Social Security (Special Rules for End of Life) Bill (GB)

- Individuals with 12 months or less to live to access disability benefits

■ Energy Security Bill (GB & UK)

- Extended energy price cap and appointment of Ofgem as regulator for heat networks. Future System Operator to oversee electricity and gas systems to deliver net zero

■ Procurement Bill (E&W&NI)

- Measures for contracting authorities to buy at pace to protect health, public order or safety

■ Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Bill (UK)

- Ban on public procurement bodies conducting their own boycott campaigns or taking a different approach to government on sanctions

■ Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill (UK)

- Change to procurement to implement Australia and New Zealand Free Trade Agreements

■ Harbours (Seafarers' Remuneration) Bill (UK)

- Powers to surcharge ferry operators and suspend access to port if they do not pay National Minimum Wage whilst in UK waters

■ Draft Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer Bill (GB/UK)

- Consumer protection: reminders before a contract auto-renews; prohibition on fake reviews. Regulation for Christmas savings clubs and non-flight package travel. Competition and Markets Authority to oversee and issue penalties
- Digital Markets Unit to enforce abuses of dominant position by social media companies

■ Online Safety Bill (UK)

- Duty of care on online companies to protect users. Mechanisms for reporting harmful content and challenging wrongful takedowns. Ofcom with power to fine £18 million or 10% annual global turnover

■ Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill (UK)

- Smart devices to comply with minimum security standards
- Reforming Electronic Communications Code to enable deployment of telecommunications networks

■ Data Reform Bill (UK/ E&W)

- Public bodies to share data to deliver services

■ Media Bill (UK)

- Planned privatisation of Channel 4
- Ofcom new regulatory powers over on-demand streaming

■ Electronic Trade Documents Bill (UK)

- Modernisation to Bills of Exchange Act 1882 and Carriage of Goods by Sea Act 1924. Removing legal obstacles to use of trade documents in digital form

■ Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill (UK)

- Company Registrar to gatekeep company creation and ensure more reliable company data
- Identity verification for people who manage and control companies and limited partnerships

■ Modern Slavery Bill (E&W)

- Businesses with a turnover of £36 million to publish an annual modern slavery statement. Prevention orders to prevent and disrupt modern slavery crimes

■ Financial Services and Markets Bill (UK)

- Revoking retained EU law on financial services and reforming rules to promote investment

■ Non-Domestic Rating Bill (E&W)

- Shortening business rates revaluation cycle from 5 years to 3 years. Valuation Office Agency to provide information on calculation of rateable value. Relief for improvements to property and low-carbon heat networks

■ Draft Audit Reform Bill (UK)

- Audit Reporting and Governance Authority to regulate accountancy and actuarial professions. Regulation of Insolvency Practitioners to tackle asset stripping

■ UK Infrastructure Bank Bill (UK)

- Reporting and board requirements for Bank of England. Power to lend to local authorities to deliver infrastructure projects

■ Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill (GB)

- Ban on exports of livestock for slaughter/fattening; strengthened powers for livestock worrying
- New pet abduction offence

■ Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill (E&W/ E)

- Simpler regulatory regime for precision bred plants and animals through traditional breeding or natural processes

■ Conversion Therapy Bill (E&W)

- Criminal offence banning non-physical conversion therapies for

under 18s, and over 18s who do not consent. Protection orders to protect persons at risk

■ Public Order Bill (E&W)

- Criminalising protest tactics of "locking-on" and interfering with national infrastructure
- Extending stop and search powers for protest offences. Prevention orders for repeat offenders

■ Draft Victims Bill (E&W)

- Enshrining Victim's Code in law. Police and Crime Commissioners to assess services

■ National Security Bill (UK)

- New offences to tackle state-backed sabotage and theft of trade secrets. Foreign Influence Registration Scheme requiring individuals to register arrangements with foreign governments

■ Draft Protect Duty Bill (UK)

- New requirements for those in control of public locations to assess threat from terrorism

Additional measures to address Troubles-related deaths and prosecutions and cultural expression in Northern Ireland.

Chris Thomas

IP Solicitor,
Appleyard Lees



CJLD UPDATE



Alexandra Illingworth

Vice President of Cambridgeshire Junior Lawyers Division

The Cambridgeshire Junior Lawyers Division has made the most of the sunshine with activities such as our recent Pizza in the Park event, providing an opportunity for juniors in the legal profession to catch up and connect with others in the local area. Members enjoyed pizzas, outdoor games, and most of all getting to chat with each other face to face.

We have also recently hosted an

Escape Room event, a great night of teamwork, adrenaline and brain teasers with all proceeds raised from tickets going to our chosen charity CRCC. Later in the summer, we are planning to put our punting skills to the test in a classic Cambridge evening of 'Punting and Prosecco' in July.

In August, we will also be hosting an event with our wonderful sponsors, Errington Legal – more exciting details

to come soon! Finally, to round off the summer we will be co-hosting the Cambridge Young Professionals' Group summer ball on 3 September 2022, which promises to be a very fun night.

As always, we are delighted to welcome new members to the CJLD – please email Alexandra.illingworth@mills-reeve.com if you would like to join our mailing list and get involved.

What I wish I had known....



Colin Jones receives his Lifetime Achievement Award at the Legal Excellence Awards in April

We caught up with **Colin Jones**, Partner with HCR Hewitsons and a recent winner of the CLS Lifetime Achievement Award. What lessons from his 30 year career would he pass on to others?

What made you take up Law?

I started my first proper job as a filing clerk at Daynes Hill and Perks (became part of Eversheds) in Norwich. Some of the partners there suggested I think about going into law.

The reception team had two sets of Yellow Pages, one for Norwich and the other for Cambridge. From those, at random I picked some law firms to apply to. My career planning was not much more than that and shortly after applying, I started work as an Articled Clerk with Taylor Vinters in 1993.

My first seat was with Edward Perrott. Christine Berry (later to be TV's Managing Partner) had just finished her six months training stint with Edward; her star dust was still very evident in the room when I arrived.

Edward was a great litigator, with a broad practice. I got hands on experience of disputes covering property, personal injury and even matrimonial, and a long running case of Edward's which took me into what turned into a 10-month training seat which, without revealing details, related

to the foundation of one of the region's major technology companies. It involved lots of late nights and drawn out hearings at the Central High Court, lots of involvement in working on witness statements and pleadings and putting together trial bundles with the support team; the stresses and strains of major litigation. A great experience.

LESSON 1

Getting trainees stuck in, plenty of face time with clients, other lawyers, counsel, experts, attending every possible meeting, is just so valuable to those starting out.

In another training seat, one day the Partner directed me to drive his family down to Heathrow, which I compliantly did. The Partner did though say that in compensation I could take his smart Mercedes 'home'. So, I put a couple of hundred miles on the clock by driving a bunch of others up to the Peak District for the weekend. I had never actually lived in the Peaks, but I had always had a mind to have a home somewhere like that, so it was as good as.

LESSON 2

Trainees should get experience of office life and about more than just legal practice, but mutual respect is fundamental.

At TV's, as with the rest of my career at Hewitsons, I have been very fortunate to work alongside some great people, some excellent lawyers prepared to invest some of their time in a new generation and who were supportive to someone like me working his way up the ladder. A very lucky start to my career.

LESSON 3

With the universal challenge all firms are having with recruitment right now (and every firm I speak to says the same), investing properly in trainees and juniors, including allowing alternative routes into law beyond graduates, is essential to create the next generation.

What do you do in your spare time?

In my non office time, I like to spend time with my family. We go out for country walks and visit the Norfolk and Suffolk coast. And go out to lunch – we go out to lunch a lot! Cambridge being very flat, allows me to cycle everywhere. Every Saturday I do a 5k park run with my neighbours. We go to the Arts Theatre and local festivals.

LESSON 4

Make time for life outside of the office.

Merger of Hewitsons with HCR

It was a rite of passage for any Hewitsons' Managing Partner (I took on the role in 2014) that partnership business strategy discussions lead to considering merger options. Firms chat all the time about tie ups, but most don't get far. The origin of Hewitsons was a combination of Cambridge and Northampton practices, so mergers were a known path to us.

The legal business today is just so transformed from when I started out nearly 30 years ago. The expectations of juniors are much greater, and why should they not be; good lawyers have plenty of other firms to pick from. There is a critical need to be able to invest sufficiently in IT, training, premises and on building relationships with clients. My fellow partners and I loved Hewitsons, but we knew we needed greater substance, to be better placed to provide the best possible environment to recruit and retain the quality talent needed. Merger is not the only answer to these needs, but it can be, if played right.

Successful mergers are about more than getting the financial model right. It's also important that the cultures fit.

Hewitsons' culture was of providing high quality, partner led services, and having great respect for our people and an absolute focus on our clients. We knew we would need to find a good match to carry that on.

If you get the choice in these matters get yourself into the right shape, be very defined as to your strategy, and be the party which takes the initiative. We identified HCR – a growing and successful firm with a similar outlook on life. Although bigger than Hewitsons, culturally we connected with HCR's 'Passion for People' values. It was a busy time for sure but while keeping the firm ticking on during the 2020 Covid-19 period, with a great deal of commitment on both sides we completed the deal in 6 months to create an 800 strong firm stretching from Cambridge in the East over to Cardiff and with bases in Birmingham and the City of London.

■ LESSON 5

Strong locations such as Cambridge can sustain a broad tier of solicitor practices. But firms need to be continuously looking ahead, planning for how to be attractive to the next generation beyond the partnership group, recognising what our ever more demanding clients will want. If that cannot be catered for by organic growth, merger can work.

And now what for you?

I knew that once I had finished messing around with management it would be time to get back to fee earning and paying the mortgage. I am pleased to say that I have not forgotten how to be a good solicitor. With an office move over to Station Road, a year into the merger to create HCR Hewitsons I am delighted to see the opportunities we wanted out of the merger for each and every member of Hewitsons have been provided in spades.

Above all, we haven't lost clients. We worked hard to deliver the merger to our long standing practice, to introduce them to a wider range of specialists and ultimately the two firms are not wholly dissimilar.

We have the same fundamentally important values – respect your people, ensure diversity, support for juniors and a need for continuous quality support and education.

Ultimately, both firms – now one firm – just love doing the best possible job for our clients. Cannot fault that business ethos.

CYPG UPDATE



Melissa Barker

PR Manager, Cambridgeshire Young Professionals Division

We are delighted to confirm the Charity Ball will take place on Saturday, 3 September 2022 at Murray Edwards so put the date in your diary and retrieve your dusty black tie attire or, even better, use the excuse to buy something new, in anticipation of enjoying an evening once more with old friends, colleagues, contacts and making new ones.

Thirsty Thursdays continue to be popular events and the next one will be

on 14th July. If there is a particular venue you would like to see appear as a Thirsty Thursdays venue, do let us know.

The second half of the year will see favourites, such as punting, return and new venues, such as the Tivoli, be arranged. Picnic and Games took place on Jesus Green on Wednesday, 29th June and fun was had by all.

The half year membership runs from July to December and membership can

still be purchased for £30. Please get in touch by email to sign up or for further information using cyspg.org@gmail.com. We also have a new instagram account ([cambridgeyoungprofessionals](https://www.instagram.com/cambridgeyoungprofessionals/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=) - www.instagram.com/cambridgeyoungprofessionals/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=) on which we post information together with our existing Facebook page (Cambridge Young Professionals).

We look forward to seeing you at an event soon.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE LAW SOCIETY LEGAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2022

Cambridgeshire Law Society celebrates 150 years of legal excellence in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire.

Our annual Gala Dinner and Legal Excellence Awards took place on Friday, 22 April 2022 at King's College, Cambridge.

This year, the event was extra special as it coincided with celebrations for our 150th anniversary. We were also delighted to be able to hold the event in person for the first time in two years; with the 2020 and 2021 legal excellence awards being held virtually as a consequence of Covid lockdown restrictions.

Over 200 guests attended the dinner to celebrate legal excellence in Cambridgeshire, including the guest of honour, **Simon Davis**, former President of the Law Society of England and Wales, who presented the awards. **Michael Frappe**, President of CLS hosted the event, which included a raffle in aid of the charity LawWorks.

A special mention goes to **Colin Jones** (pictured right) of HCR Hewitsons LLP, who was presented with one of the most prestigious awards of the night, the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Michael Frappe said: "We were delighted to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of CLS in person by holding our annual dinner and Legal Excellence Awards at King's College, Cambridge. Given that we have all endured over the last two years, it was a hugely special occasion for all involved. I am particularly grateful to all our generous sponsors and all those who applied for an award."

For details of next year's Legal Excellence Awards please contact admin@cambslaw.com, or follow CLS on LinkedIn, Twitter @cambslaw, or on Facebook and Instagram @cambslawsoc.



This year we had large numbers of nominations for the awards and there were many possible winners in a number of categories. It speaks volumes about the high level of legal services that are available across Cambridgeshire.

IAN MATHER

CHAIR OF THE JUDGING PANEL, CAMBRIDGE UNITED CEO
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Astrazeneca - In House Team of the Year



HCR Hewitsons - Business Law Team of the Year



Birketts - Property Team of the Year



Howes Percival - Dispute Resolution Team of the Year



Irwin Mitchell - Injury Litigation Team of the Year



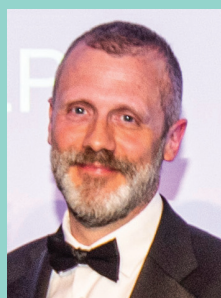
HCR Hewitsons - Private Client Services Team of the Year



J A Kemp
- Intellectual Property/IT Team of the Year



Christine Baer
- Outstanding Support
Staff Member



Michael Green
- Senior Lawyer
of the Year



Parminder Lally
- Rising Star of the Year



Jessica Dent
- Trainee Lawyer
of the Year

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AND JOSEPH SIMON-BROWN, J A KEMP LLP

★ SENIOR LAWYER OF THE YEAR

sponsored by Quiss

MICHAEL GREEN, HOWES PERCIVAL LLP

HIGHLY COMMENDED: ALISTAIR COTTON, TEES LAW
AND INGER ANSON, HCR HEWITSONS

Rallying cry for wider adoption of UPRN

The adoption of Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRN) presents an opportunity to simplify and speed up the conveyancing process, according to Geodesys.

Momentum is steadily growing behind the wider adoption of UPRN across the property industry. Currently, the main barriers to adoption are awareness and the availability of using the UPRN through a transaction with all parties.

But a Today's Conveyancer survey of conveyancing practitioners at the end of 2021 identified that awareness across the conveyancing sector was growing with 65% of respondents suggesting they understood what UPRN are, and of those 85% suggested they would be "useful in providing a single point of focus for data on property."

However only 11% of respondents suggested they used UPRN "Every time" or "Often" in the course of a transaction.

In April UPRNs were included in the Buying and Selling Property Information (BASPI) protocol, developed by trade bodies from across the home buying sector to support the digitisation of property information and enable the collation of up front information from consumers. A "single source of truth," the BASPI has been designed to reduce the huge duplication of information collected in the course of a conveyance and bring it into a single space.

"The idea behind UPRN is to provide greater certainty around the location of property and uniformity of addressing" says **Ellie Player**, Head of Geodesys.

"We have incorporated UPRN search into the Geodesys platform for a number of years, alongside postcode and address look up. The Geodesys system works by linking a UPRN to a title number so you have the benefit of either because of how we match them up.

"It's another step in supporting the industry wide adoption of UPRN which we believe will bring huge benefit throughout the conveyancing process".

Property portal Zoopla has announced it is heavily investing in UPRN at a recent conference. It believes that by improving data quality around the home buying process, it is possible to reduce fall-throughs and speed up conveyancing.

Ellie adds that from a search point of view UPRN will also provide greater surety of location.

"How many times have you had to provide more information about a parcel of land or check the plan to ensure you've included the full boundary of the property?"

"UPRN will map out property locations, including any additional parcels, and ensure the search covers the full outline of the property."

There is a risk that wider adoption will become a catch-22 situation. The results of the Today's Conveyancer survey show that wider adoption amongst property lawyers will be dependent on a demonstrable improvement in the conveyancing process, something only achievable if each side of the transaction is using UPRN.

Indeed a number of comments from the survey indicate that UPRN confuses the issue, with some respondents indicating that title numbers are, in effect, unique.

"Title numbers are unique to the conveyancing process. UPRN are designed to help capture data beyond the home moving process, such as emergency response, HMRC and other govt departments, and have the potential to build a "property passport" or "property logbook" as an immutable single source of truth to tie property data to" says Ellie.

"We must, as an industry, embrace adoption to be an enabler in the digitisation of property data, rather than risk holding back progress and missing this critical opportunity to improve home ownership."

For more information, please visit: www.geodesys.com

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EXPERT WITNESS INSTITUTE ONLINE CONFERENCE 2022 *FRIDAY 20TH MAY 2022*

An appreciation by Elizabeth Robson Taylor MA and Phillip Taylor MBE of Richmond Green Chambers.

We know the Expert Witness Institute (EWI) is the true voice of the expert witness community. Its aim is to champion experts from all professional disciplines and the lawyers who use their services.

So, this annual conference was an excellent way to network even virtually. EWI's mission supports the proper administration of justice plus early resolution of disputes through high-quality expert evidence from specialists. And this year, we were very fortunate to hear from Lord Hamblen from the Supreme Court. He gave an absorbing, erudite, informative, and positively compelling keynote speech, excellently chaired throughout by Saba Naqshbandi, whom we welcome to the role.

It remains a somewhat surreal experience for 2022 without the face-to-face chats, the nattering, and meeting up with old colleagues: Coronavirus still hung around our thoughts.

Hamblen's Keynote Speech

Of great interest to the attendees, the Conference really began with Lord Hamblen offering up a summary of his professional background, and what a background. This included the various kinds of expert evidence which he had encountered, both as a barrister and judge. He described how he used to work with experts as counsel, what he had found particularly useful in terms of expert assistance, and how he would seek best to deploy that assistance.

When discussing his experience as a judge, he suggested how an expert can best assist judges, including some key 'do's and don'ts' based on his general experience. And then he raised current issues relating to expert evidence from recent cases which can be seen in the recording of the speech from EWI.

Over his career, Lord Hamblen has encountered a great variety of different areas of expertise and experts. And his distinguished career surprised some of us!

The Do'S: Understanding

Working with experts as counsel, Hamblen suggested the key issue was "understanding". "To think on their feet in cross examining an expert a barrister needed to be able to think like an expert", he said. Other key "Do's"

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ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER ZOOM CONFERENCE –

BUT SEE YOU NEXT YEAR IN PERSON FOR A PROPER CONFERENCE!



included clarity, structure, reasoning, building trust and confidence.

The Number One Don't

Number one "Don't" was to ensure that the expert is avoiding anything which might compromise their independence and impartiality. Secondly, avoid being an advocate. "It is counsel's job to argue the case", he said, and we are sure all advocates attending would agree. "It was not the role of the expert", in his view, "because they make points, explain points, but do not argue them." Sound advice, we think, and probably one of the most important messages we took away from the day.

The third, related "Don't", according to Lord Hamblen was: "know the limits of your expertise". Which we are sure, everyone does.

Hamblen illustrated the importance of all these "Don'ts" from recent cases regarding his view of the proper approach to expert evidence. "Despite the basic rules regarding expert evidence being well known, and the applicable principles changing little in recent times", he noted that "there has been a notable recent uptick in cases expressing concerns about inadequate expert evidence". And, he said, he "lamented the fact that recent case law suggests that the principles set out in the 'Ikarian Reefer' (now summarised in CPR 35) are frequently not being adhered to". Ruefully adding, "the principles are being duly recited, but not acted upon".

Lord Hamblen also referred to Mr Justice Fraser's list of points to

be considered by experts and those instructing them, taken from the ICC case. His discussion of cases was always going to be another main point for those watching when he referring to these specific areas: partiality, relevant expertise, conflicts of interest, and failure to comply with expert duties highlighted relevant quotes from the judgements.

Hamblen concluded with the hope "that the personal insights he had provided", plus recent cases "offered a helpful basis for thought and discussion at the conference". Indeed, it did! And such insights would provide some guidance to those in the important role that they perform as experts before the courts. He commented that "more and more cases seem to involve experts of one kind or another and that they play a very important role in dispute resolution, whether that be through settlement, mediation, arbitration, or litigation".

As always, it is a pleasure to hear from the EWI Chair, Martin Spencer, concluding proceedings. We all welcome the launch of the EWI's Core Competency Framework for Expert Witnesses as the final plans for the re-launch of Certification is awaited. It has been a long time as we have reported on the need for certification for some years. Sage advice as always from Martin ending the virtual performance on a high note. So, another virtual "au revoir" until 2023. Perhaps we can all meet up together in person once more to enhance the detailed panel discussions and future breakout sessions!

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EXPERT WITNESS

Expert witness reports can be provided by surveyors on a variety of issues. They are normally required in connection with disputes for use as evidence to identify the facts of the case. Matters covered by the reports could include value, building defects or boundary matters.

Often the report will be confined to the provision of a written statement or report but in some cases could include giving oral evidence in a court. In most cases the report will be prepared in accordance with Part 35 of the Civil Procedure Rules and for the benefit of the Court. It can be provided for either party to a dispute but sometimes the surveyor will be appointed jointly by the parties.

The surveyor will take a completely independent view as his duty is to the Court rather than either party. The report will follow the RICS Practice Statement & Guidance Note "Surveyors Acting as Expert Witness".

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REDUCING THE CYBER RISK EXPOSURE OF LEGAL PRACTICES

The professional indemnity market continues to be challenging but there are signs that the steep increases legal practices have experienced during their professional indemnity renewal will not be felt quite so widely across the marketplace.

Whilst potentially welcoming news, it does not mean that premiums will lower. Instead there is an expectation that a much more stable rating environment is on the horizon. Unfortunately, this is not the case for the cyber insurance market, which is currently experiencing an unprecedented claims environment across all sectors.

The Claims Environment

A dramatic rise in both frequency and severity of loss has been experienced across the cyber market, which has curtailed the appetite of insurers significantly. Numerous insurers previously active in this space are now exiting from underwriting the class entirely, making the availability of coverage quite scarce. Those insurers that remain active are increasing premiums and policy excesses as a result, whilst sometimes also reducing limits of indemnity, and sub-limiting and/or restricting coverage.

Given the vast sums of money that pass through the legal professions' client accounts, along with the volume of data typically held, the legal profession continues to be an attractive target for criminals. The scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated and even the most diligent and careful business can find itself a victim to attack.

Recent examples include Simplify Group's cyber-attack in November of 2021 which caused significant disruption in the property market with many transactions being delayed significantly as a result, causing huge stress on impacted clients. In April of this year the Bar Council advised that it was a victim of a malicious cyber-attack.

These are just two examples affecting the legal profession that have hit the headlines recently but there are hundreds of incidents that do not

Given the vast sums of money that pass through the legal professions' client accounts ... the legal profession continues to be an attractive target for criminals.

make the headlines, notwithstanding the considerable cost and significant distress to impacted businesses and their clientele.

Looking more broadly across all industries, our Cyber Claims Team has reviewed data from the last 5 years of claims that show:

- claims frequency increasing at an average of 13% year-on-year BUT
- Severity, (the total loss amount) has increased at an average of 80% over this same period.

As a proportion of all claims that our Cyber team has witnessed, those arising from external factors, such as data theft, malware, and social engineering have increased 59% between 2019 and 2020.

Ransomware-specific claims were the cause of about 5% of claims notified to Lockton in 2018, accounting for 10% of the total incurred. By contrast, in 2020, ransomware claims accounted for 17% of all claims, and for more than 80% of the total incurred.

Expected Standards and Underwriting Approach

The barrier to obtaining cyber coverages has historically been quite low, with some insurers offering coverage without the requirement to provide any

specific risk related information. These practices are now obsolete with insurers undertaking a more comprehensive risk assessment. As a result they are requesting much more detail about the specific risks associated with businesses before they will even entertain providing any cover, however restricted this coverage may be.

The appearance of zero-day vulnerabilities in the last 12 months (e.g. the log4j/log4shell zero-day vulnerability identified in November 2021) reminded the insurance market of how cyber risks do not always come in the form of targeted attack and can arise from what many would have considered to be simple, non-risk software.

What would constitute a vulnerability? A vulnerability is a weakness or flaw in computer software that could allow an attacker to use the software in a way not intended by its creator. Usually, the attacker exploits the flaw to perform malicious and unauthorised actions within the computer system. When vulnerabilities are discovered, they are generally added to a public list of Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) and given a CVE ID or number, in the format CVE-2021-12345.

Regardless of the industry, sector or profession, there is an expectation from insurers that their insureds will continually improve all their risk procedures over time; the speed of evolution is expected to be much quicker for cyber-related risks, and what was acceptable in 2020 may no longer be so. It is not that these measures implemented are no longer "en vogue", but unfortunately these alone offer little defence to the criminals of today.

What Should You Do?

Whilst many practices may outsource their IT function(s) and infrastructure to third parties in full or part, it is likely that

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REDUCING THE CYBER RISK EXPOSURE OF LEGAL PRACTICE

continued from page 22

the burden of responsibility remains with the law firm. The regulators, whether that be the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) or Solicitors Regulatory Authority (SRA) may well come knocking.

Recent history has shown us that no practice is too big or too small to be a target for these criminals; it is therefore incredibly important that practices take stock and address cyber risk fully and in a timely manner, to avoid becoming an unfortunate statistic.

Whilst we advocate the transfer of risk and therefore encourage firms to investigate obtaining appropriate cyber coverage if they do have this already, a cyber policy should only complement strong business resilience measures that are in place. Once implemented, it is important to evolve and upgrade these measures regularly.

The disruption caused by experiencing a cyber event is one thing, but the reputational harm to your business should not be underestimated.

The minimum cyber requirements of a law firm today include:

- **MFA (Multi Factor Authentication):** Required for ALL remote access, administrator/privileged account access, Remote Desktop Protocol, third party access (e.g. vendors) and online backups. Ticket-based MFA is becoming the market minimum standard and requires a randomly generated code to be inputted into the application before access is granted. This code is either sent to a user's phone or generated by an application, removing the sole reliability on a username and password.
- **Backups:** Data must be backed up at least weekly and stored offsite/offline/in the cloud and protected via MFA, encryption and separate credentials. If backups are not adequately segmented and protected, they could potentially be encrypted during a cyber-attack making them useless for restoring encrypted/lost systems.
- **Training:** All employees must undergo

annual cyber security training including phishing. People are still considered the weakest link in cyber security and regular training helps keep this matter at the forefront of their minds and is proven to reduce the rate at which phishing links are clicked on.

- **Email filtering tools:** Required to be implemented on any form of email and is used to pre-screen emails for potentially malicious attachments and links. This helps reduce the number of malicious emails that are sent to employees, further reducing the likelihood of a successful phishing attempt.
- **Anti-Virus / Firewalls:** In place and updated on at least a quarterly basis. Anti-virus software constantly scans to detect and record any malware whilst a firewall filters incoming and outgoing information by creating 'blocks' which filter the data.
- **Patching:** Critical patches must be implemented within 30 days; however, many insurers are now requiring this within 7 days. If a software provider releases a patch, which looks to remove a potentially exploitable vulnerability, then insurers require their clients to install this quickly to reduce their potential exposure to this vulnerability. This includes handheld devices too such as an iPhone it would be using the latest iOS (which is version 15.5 at the time of writing this).
- **End of Life:** End of Life Systems, where no further software updates are being released, must be segregated to prevent full network spread of malware.
- **Business Continuity plans and Incident Response plans:** These plans are required to be reviewed and updated regularly and reassure insurers that the insured knows how to react if they are a victim of a cyber-attack.
- **Endpoint Protection for all servers and workstations:** This software examines files, processes and system activity and provides a centralised management console for administrators to monitor and investigate potential incidents.
- **Removal of local administrator rights from staff and separate credentials for**

domain administrators: Administrator rights can allow users to change vital computer settings, therefore, if one of these accounts were compromised a threat actor would be able to change security settings which allowing them potentially to move undetected.

- **Network segmentation:** Segmentation implementation, with a special focus on protecting critical information and services. Segmentation helps prevent a threat actor moving laterally across a network, reducing the likelihood they can access sensitive data.

Gold Standards

In addition to all of the above being implemented, the following are currently recognised as the "Gold Standards":

- **Privileged access management tooling:** This software is the gold standard for protecting privileged accounts. Locks access to administrator accounts behind MFA, only releasing their use for a short period of time (e.g. 30 minutes).
- **SIEM (security information and event management) monitored 24x7 by a SOC (Security Operations Centre):** The SIEM software collects and analyses aggregated log data, whilst the SOC operator looks at the aggregated data to spot any potential anomalies.
- **Intrusion Detection and Prevention systems (IDS/IPS):** Devices which can detect and prevent intrusions into the network.
- **Secured PC and server builds:** Computer/Server builds which only allow specific services which are required on the devices to run and do its particular job.
- **Security policies and procedures:** Policies and procedures which explain an insured's baseline security controls, and which must be adhered to. These can provide insurers further comfort that the insured has as strong understanding of the potential cyber risks.

If you have any questions relating to cyber or your professional insurances, please do not hesitate to contact myself or a member of the **Lockton Solicitors Team**.

SOCIAL CARE IN THE UK BEFORE AND SINCE LOCKDOWN



State funded individuals, the economic backbone of the care sector, living in their own homes were being allocated funds which were not covering the cost of their home care.

People who needed a residential care setting but were reliant on the State for their fees were rarely given a choice of care home but offered one that could provide the care at the price offered.

State funding throughout the UK, administered by councils, were offering different hourly/residential care rates to care providers A post code lottery.

Varying reports had been done on the sector, including the Dilnot Report commissioned by Government, but in essence nothing was in place to improve the situation of an aging population, numbers of which were rising exponentially.

In 2019, for care providers across the sector and for many hundreds of thousands of individuals needing care support, the reality could be grim.

Then Lockdown. The Lockdown re-enforced the problems and added more problems to the mix.

The position in the UK care sector pre pandemic was that of a failing system. Simply put, demand was exceeding the services that were available related in the main, to the economic cost of providing these services and the consequences of poor recruitment and care worker, retention levels.

Individuals needing care support in care homes, a person in their own home needing to see a GP or an inpatient in hospital, were all denied visits or visitors.

Social Services Staff, Health Commissioning Staff, GP Surgery staff, voluntary bodies, support groups, all were working from home or ceased operating. The Care Quality Commission (the UK's regulatory inspection organisation) stopped onsite inspections, and the care sector sunk into levels exacerbated by the number of care staff going down with the virus and self-isolating.

Mandatory specifications that from November 2021 all care home staff had to be vaccinated, reduced by thousands those who worked in care homes as they exercised their right not to be vaccinated.

Home care workers were specified as having a similar short-term date for their immunisation; however, this was cancelled before it could take place.

Social Service staff across all areas of care support, during lock down, were working from home or were on furlough. In 2022, many have not returned to workplace settings or have left the care sector. This is due to stress levels and higher wage opportunities elsewhere.

Recruitment to address the shortage of front-line care workers has not been successful mainly due to no nationwide, training schemes in place or career structure. Currently it is estimated that there are 238,000 social care vacancies.

Home care providers as a result are desperately short of staff and care

workers themselves are 'selling' their skills to the highest bidder especially in the 24/7 care support arena.

For care providers who have State funded clients, the Minimum Wage Rate is all they are able to pay to their front-line workers and therefore care workers will prefer to work with fee paying clients for a higher wage. As a result, many care providers have and are handing back State contracts as not financially viable.

Free personal protective equipment and lateral flow tests which had been free, are now not available, apart from some specific situations and have to be purchased.

Hospitals are discharging older people without support care in place, there is also a shortage, in all disciplines of nursing and the deficit gets worse each day.

Until the UK Government gets hold of the problem with a plan that can be funded and rolled out in the coming months, the tipping point for care support will be passed and the sector will descend into a catastrophe.

Angela Gifford

Owner of Able Community Care Ltd.

www.ablecommunitycare.com



REMEMBER A CHARITY APPOINTS LUCINDA FROSTICK AS NEW DIRECTOR



Remember A Charity has today announced the appointment of **Lucinda Frostick** as its new director, to lead the 200-strong charity consortium in its aim to grow the legacy market and normalise gifts in Wills.

truly transformed it into what it is today with the support of 200 charity members and almost one in five people in the UK are leaving a gift to charity in their Will. We thank him sincerely and wish him the best in his new role.

"As we enter a new strategic phase, Remember A Charity is stepping up in terms of how we reach consumers all-year-round, working closely with financial advisers and on Will-writing guidance. We're at the cusp of the biggest intergenerational wealth transfer of all time, which will provide a golden opportunity for legacy giving, so it was vital that we appointed

someone with strong communications experience as well as a robust understanding of the legacy field, who can build on our existing work."

Rob Cope said: "Lucinda brings with her a huge amount of communications, PR, campaign and legacy sector experience, which will be invaluable in growing legacy giving further and leading Remember A Charity's new strategic plan. I'm so pleased to be passing the baton to someone who is so passionate about legacies and the massive impact this type of giving can have for charities."

Since 2008, Lucinda has been an Associate Director at Turner

PR, a specialist trade PR and communications agency for the charity sector, where she managed accounts for several sector bodies and campaigns, including; Remember A Charity and the European Fundraising Association. Leading both strategic communications and key collaborative research projects, Lucinda has built significant specialist knowledge of the legacy giving market.

Prior to this, Lucinda was Head of Communications at CIOF (which at the time was the Institute of Fundraising) and Communications Manager at The Giving Campaign.

Lucinda said: "For more than 20 years, charities have worked together – through Remember A Charity – to protect and grow legacy giving. The dial has shifted hugely over that time with more dialogue around legacies, greater understanding of their importance and, critically, more gifts reaching more good causes.

"The campaign really is a fantastic example of what can be achieved through sector collaboration and I can't wait to join the team, working with members and partners in our shared mission of normalising such a vital form of giving."

I'M SO PLEASED TO BE PASSING THE BATON TO SOMEONE WHO IS SO PASSIONATE ABOUT LEGACIES AND THE MASSIVE IMPACT THIS TYPE OF GIVING CAN HAVE FOR CHARITIES.

ROB COPE

Since its inception Remember A Charity has lobbied government and the legal sector, and communicated with the Will-writing public through a mix of consumer advertising, marketing, public affairs and strategic partnerships.

Lucinda will pick up the reins from director Rob Cope, who is stepping down after leading the organisation for the last 12 years and moving to a new role within the Chartered Institute of Fundraising, as Executive Director of Membership and Charitable Giving.

Allan Freeman, chair of Remember A Charity stated: "Rob has been instrumental in the campaign, he has



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IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE, PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT IN YOUR WILL TO ARTHRITIS ACTION TODAY.

GROUND HAZARDS: DUE DILIGENCE FOR TODAY AND THE FUTURE



Dr. Tim Farewell
Head of Science
Dye & Durham

A contaminated land or flood search are often routinely undertaken by many, regardless of location, property type, size, proposed use or client.

Yet, other well-known environmental issues such as subsidence, which has the potential to create a problem with lending and insurability if identified, are not always a go-to search. While this hazard may not be an issue everywhere in the UK today, we do believe it is an issue that should be taken seriously, particularly as we look into the future.

We know that subsidence can be caused by a number of issues, including the shrinkage and swelling of soils in response to changing moisture conditions, the impact of trees, aging infrastructure or man-made disturbances. To date, subsidence searches have looked at historic data to understand if such risks pose a threat to a property address, however with the changing climate, we believe it is vital to instead look forward to model future hazards.

Modelling Future Hazards for Homebuyers

We have undertaken some analysis of our National Ground Risk Model (NGRM): Climate™, which models future climate-related environmental hazards, and identified that more than 7.65 million properties in Great Britain could be exposed to medium or high risk of soil subsidence by the 2080s. This is an increase of over 1.89 million individual properties, and is as a result of climate change¹.

With all climate models projecting hotter, drier summers in the future, there is increasing likelihood of soil shrinkage, which can create downward movement in buildings located on vulnerable soils. This shrinkage is worse in clay soils, which are commonly found across the south east of England, and has the potential to move foundations, cracking walls and ceilings, resulting in expensive insurance claims and repair bills.

Our data suggests that more than 5.76 million properties in Great Britain are today exposed

To ensure that home buyers have a clear understanding of possible hazards or restrictions that have the potential to affect their future home, a diligent property professional will always recommend undertaking a variety of searches for every residential transaction.

to medium or high subsidence risk. This increases to approximately 6.64 million in the 2030s. Specifically, just over half a million more properties (547,317) could be at high exposure in the next 60 years, compared to today's figures.

Looking at Cambridgeshire, our data shows that 25% of the total county area could be exposed to high soil subsidence hazard in the 2050s, compared to today's baseline data which shows it is currently at 8%.

In fact by the 2050s, our data shows us that over 80 counties across the UK are likely to experience an increased risk of soil subsidence hazard to some degree, moving from low to moderate, moderate to high, or high to very high, as a result of our changing climate. In particular, additional parts of Middlesex, Hampshire, Berkshire, Hertfordshire and Surrey could move to the highest subsidence hazard classes by the 2050s².

Future Insights from the Climate Report

Last October, the Law Society published a Climate Change Resolution³ that outlined the role solicitors can play in addressing the climate crisis, which included a call to action to develop a climate-conscious approach to legal practice.

But what does this mean for property lawyers and conveyancers? We believe there is the potential to help clients understand climate change impacts by providing data insights as part of the conveyancing due diligence process.

Dye & Durham's market leading Climate Report launched to help property lawyers and conveyancers protect homebuyers' best interests and make informed, future-facing decisions.

In addition to subsidence, the Climate Report models a range of hazards for

individual properties, including coastal erosion, flood risk exposure and extreme winds, over the next 60 years.

The report has been designed to cover both physical hazards and delve into how extreme climate conditions could affect properties over time.

Ultimately, robust climate science indicates that we will see more hotter, drier summers and wetter winters as a result of our changing climate. These conditions are of real concern as they are likely to result in an increase in both the severity and frequency of climate-related impacts to our homes, infrastructure and, more worryingly, the health of vulnerable members of our communities.

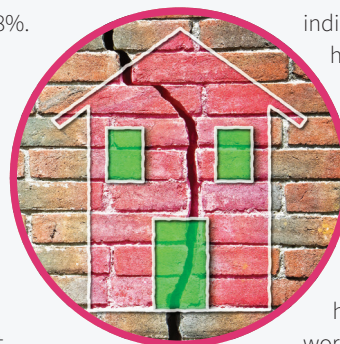
In conveyancing, there is a tendency to look backwards to determine risk levels, however it is time to start using insight and data to look forward:

If we, as an industry, can increase awareness of climate change and its potential impact on our homes and communities, more people will become engaged and want understand how this may affect their property in the future and take steps to help mitigate risks posed by the changing climate.

To learn more about the Climate Report or to obtain a free sample, email Insight-sales@dyedurham.com or visit www.dyedurham.com/insight-data-risks/

REFERENCES:

- 1 Climate change data has been calculated for Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRNs) in Great Britain, based on a Medium Emissions Scenario (RCP4.5 Equivalent to 2.4°C global warming by 2100s)
- 2 Climate change data has been calculated based on a High Emission Scenario (RCP 8.5, Equivalent to 4.3°C global warming by 2100s)
- 3 www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/climate-change/creating-a-climate-conscious-approach-to-legal-practice





The Climate Report

Communicating properties' changing hazard exposure due to climate change.

Report Summary

Our climate is already changing and it will continue to change over the coming decades. Even under the most optimistic climate scenarios, our summers could become hotter and drier, and our winters could become warmer and wetter. In addition, more frequent and severe extreme weather events are expected, and sea levels could continue to rise. These climatic changes could increase the level of threat from many physical hazards to properties across the UK.

This report provides a summary of how physical hazards affecting this property could change over the coming decades. The report covers soil subsidence, coastal erosion, wind speed and storms, as well as flooding. Information on how the local climate is predicted to change is also included. Because different rates of change are expected depending on how quickly we reduce greenhouse gas emissions, this reports the expected changes to hazards for both medium* and high** emission scenarios.

Site Details

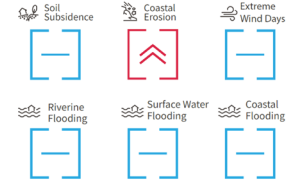
Report address:
Sample

Report details:
Sample

Date: 24/03/2022



Changing Hazard Exposure Dashboard (High Emission**)



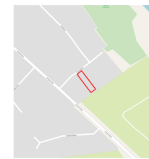
Chosen Shape: Change in hazard exposure from Present-2050s (average UK mortgage length), High Emissions Scenario**

High decrease Low decrease No change Low increase High increase

Chosen Colour: Hazard exposure by the 2050s (average UK mortgage length), High Emissions Scenario**

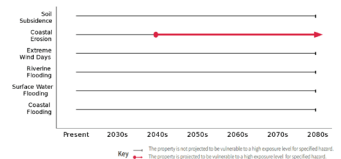
Very Low Low Medium High

Site Location



Hazard Exposure Timeline (High Emission**)

The hazard exposure timeline identifies when each hazard at the property location will reach the **high exposure level** under a High Emissions Scenario**.



*Medium Emissions Scenario: Equivalent to a 2.4°C global warming by 2050s. **High Emissions Scenario: Equivalent to a 4.2°C global warming by 2050s.



For further information or queries on any of the information provided in this report, head to The Climate Risk website or get into contact with the climate specialists team at Terraforma.

Call 0200 990 7000
Email: insight@terraforma.com

1 of 7

The Climate Report

HELP YOUR CLIENT TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

Informing homebuyers of the hazards arising from climate change that could affect their future property.



dyedurham.com/insight-data-risks/climate-report

New guide tackles lack of empathy in law

As data reveals UK legal firms often fail to deliver the personal touch¹ – a new guide has been launched to help improve client care and service delivery with empathy.

Leading outsourced communications provider Moneypenny has compiled the free guide to help lawyers improve their reputation for client care, build more valuable relationships with clients, reduce client churn and maximise profits.

Calling on its experience handling 2 million customer interactions for more than 1,000 UK legal firms each year, Moneypenny's guide includes include practical tips to improve empathy in legal practice and ensure employees' use of language hits the mark. It also addresses the importance of active listening and the need for empathetic leadership, plus it also includes a short quiz to help firms ascertain just how empathetic they are.

Joanna Swash, CEO of Moneypenny said: "This guide reminds lawyers of the commercial necessity for empathy and shows how they can engrain it into their practices and service delivery – reassuring clients that they're not only being heard but also listened to and understood."

"The pandemic has changed the relationships we have with each other – our peers, colleagues, and clients – and it's made human connection more appreciated than ever. The legal business winners of the last two years prioritised empathy and have reaped the financial

rewards for doing so. But as the world returns to normal we have to make sure we don't forget the importance of these behaviours."

Bernadette Bennett, head of the legal sector at Moneypenny said: "As a business that handles inbound and outbound communication around the clock, we know first-hand that empathy shapes client experience. It underpins how we connect with others and has the power to transform reputation. Actively listening and displaying empathy not only puts nervous and vulnerable clients at ease but offers valuable insights that can shape service delivery, and put you at the forefront of your market."

The guide was developed with insight from emotional intelligence expert and founder of the EI Evolution, Sandra Thompson. Sandra is the first Goleman emotional intelligence coach in the UK and an experienced customer experience management consultant.

Sandra Thompson said: "Neuroscience tells us that it's impossible to know exactly how someone else is feeling, yet the value of demonstrating that you're doing your best to understand is huge – particularly when it comes to business. Brilliant client service experiences are

built on empathetic interactions. That's how you keep your clients loyal and make your employees feel empowered."

The guide is available to download for free on Moneypenny's website, at www.moneypenny.com/uk/resources/blog/free-resource-putting-empathy-at-the-heart-of-customer-care/

Moneypenny's 95-strong team of dedicated legal receptionists provide firms with outsourced switchboard, managed live chat and outbound calling support – delivering scalable solutions that help legal practices remain agile, protect reputation and deliver a first-class client experience.

Established in 2000, Moneypenny is the world's market leader for telephone answering, live chat, outsourced switchboard and customer contact solutions. In total, more than 21,000 businesses across the UK benefit from Moneypenny's mix of extraordinary people and ground-breaking technology.

For more information about Moneypenny's work with the legal sector, visit www.moneypenny.com

¹ Research from Insight 6's Professional Services Client Journey Report 2021



Free resource:
Putting empathy at the heart of customer care



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our online portal here:



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A STREAMLINED COSTS SYSTEM WOULD BENEFIT ALL

It is striking how often the *Gazette* now runs stories about costs rulings from the courts. Of course, its journalists are living by the oldest newspaper maxim of them all – ‘follow the money’ – and know all too well that its readers, unsurprisingly, want to know any risks to them being paid. And, let’s be honest, they probably rather enjoy it when someone else messes up and doesn’t get paid.

But it is also a feature of an increasingly complex system where at times it appears that costs have become the tail wagging the litigation dog.

I look at the most recent issue of the Association of Costs Lawyers’ member magazine and see articles about cases on the never-ending saga that is part 36, the pitfalls of detailed and summary assessments, and various other aspects of costs recovery. There are rulings coming out at a pace that would amaze those who founded the ACL 45 years ago.

So perhaps it wasn’t a surprise to hear His Honour Judge Paul Matthews, sitting as a High Court judge, recently **bemoan satellite costs disputes** as “a recurring, but highly undesirable, feature of modern litigation”.

The judge said: “I am sorry to be old-fashioned, but, when I started in practice, this kind of thing just did not happen. The losing party accepted liability for the costs, and the receiving party only rarely argued for indemnity costs. (Summary assessment had not then been introduced.)

“Nowadays, it seems, losing parties nearly always argue that they should not pay the costs at all (I do not know when was the last time I heard counsel use the phrase ‘I cannot resist that’), and winning parties nearly always argue that costs should be on the indemnity basis.

“This modern kind of satellite litigation is pernicious. In my view it has the effect of diminishing overall justice, and thus gives English civil procedure a bad name.”

It is no revelation to discover that most judges do not like dealing with

costs – our regular member surveys still evidence judicial reluctance to budget, nine years on from the start of the costs management regime introduced by the Jackson reforms.

Indeed, last year, Master Davison **said in a ruling**: “QB masters, Chancery masters and costs judges do not necessarily share this defendant’s expressed confidence that costs budgeting controls costs better, or more effectively, than detailed assessment.”

If we’re having this debate more than a decade on from Sir Rupert Jackson’s report on costs, it could be said that he did not ultimately achieve his aims. Arguably his subsequent 2017 report on fixed recoverable costs (FRC) may make more impact because **the government is now looking** to implement it for most money claims worth up to £100,000. Long-awaited fixed costs in clinical negligence cases are also finally **on the horizon**.

We all know what a blunt instrument fixed costs are and the ACL has expressed concerns about the lack of statistical rigour behind the figures put forward for FRC. But this is not stopping their expansion and perhaps expresses frustration in government and the judiciary that so much time is being spent on costs.

So, what can be done? Undoubtedly there is a sense that costs law is simply too complicated. It’s probably why the Senior Costs Judge, Andrew Gordon-Saker, has urged a review of the Solicitors Act 1974. We fully back this. Too much time is spent simply working out what type of bill one is (statute, interim statute, Chamberlain, etc) before actually looking at what it contains. As in all aspects of life, the costs world has moved on a lot from 1974 and these types of tripwires are unnecessary.

Similarly, we are keen to engage with the Civil Justice Council working party set up by the Master of the Rolls in the wake of **his decision last August** to increase the guideline hourly rates. This will review the rates more deeply to reflect issues such as greater use of technology and more home-working, which make the location of the lawyer undertaking the work less important.

Some might wonder what all this means for our profession of costs lawyers. While you may expect that we would welcome ever greater complexity, because it might drive more solicitors to our doors, actually we don’t.

Recovering a fair level of costs for the work they have done will, of course, always be vital to solicitors. A group of properly trained and regulated specialists who can do this effectively and efficiently – whether working independently or within law firms, as plenty of our members (myself included) do – will be in demand. Frankly, most fee-earners will always see costs as a hassle.

Costs should not be some backwater insulated from the wider trends in the market. A streamlined costs system that works more smoothly, while identifying and dealing with the genuine issues of contention, will benefit all. As costs lawyers, we are committed to doing our bit to make it happen.

This article, written by *Jack Ridgway* first appeared in the *Law Society Gazette* on 18 March 2022.

Jack Ridgway is chair-elect of the Association of Costs Lawyers and is a Senior Costs Lawyer at Bolt Burdon Kemp.

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12,000 Solicitors 'spin to win' at London Legal Walk

More than 12,000 legal colleagues got together and picked up the pace to support The London Legal Support Trust at the London Legal Walk on June 28th 2022 and raised more than £550,000 for legal support services.

The walk, now in its 18th year, was organised by the London Legal Support Trust and brought together the legal community supporting access to justice.

Sponsored by The Solicitors' Charity, participants were invited to stop at its stand en route to find out more about how it helps solicitors who are going through difficult times.

There was also a fun 'Wheel of Fortune' on the charity stand

- giving walkers the opportunity to win big, which proved a huge hit! It was a brilliant opportunity for The Solicitors' Charity to engage with solicitors from across the UK, and visitors loved taking part in the fun and games on the interactive stand.

After crossing the finish line, the walkers celebrated at an evening street party featuring food vendors, fire jugglers and musicians.

The Solicitors' Charity Chief Executive Nick Gallagher said:

"This year's London Legal Walk had a great atmosphere created by all those taking part - including 10

★ Prizes a plenty with the spin to win game

★ 12,000 solicitors out in force to show support for charity

★ The Solicitors' Charity sponsors event to raise awareness of the support it gives solicitors



of the charity's volunteers and staff. A huge amount has been raised to help provide more free and pro bono advice to solicitors in London and the South East.

"As a sponsor of The London Legal Walk again this year, we were delighted to chat to participants at our information stand and spread the word about the work we do and how it makes a positive difference to many lives in England and Wales.

"The Wheel of Fortune proved popular too - it was lovely to see so many legal professionals having a fantastic time!"



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THE LONDON LEGAL WALK

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In 2021, our key statistics for the local team were:

Recent assignments:

- Appointed as Single Joint Expert or Party Expert to provide a business valuation or CGT calculations in over 50 matrimonial cases
- Appointed as Party Expert on behalf of the defendants in a number of substantial professional negligence cases.
- Appointed as Party Expert on a commercial dispute regarding breach of contract.
- Appointed as Party Expert in relation to a number of family disputes regarding alleged misappropriation of funds.

Getting in touch:

FIONA HOTSTON MOORE is a partner of FRP's Forensic Services practice in East Anglia.

Fiona specialises in share and business valuation cases and has experience in the Family Court as well as commercial dispute, tax disputes and professional negligence matters including giving evidence in the High Court and Tax Tribunal.

She has been instructed as an expert in approximately 300 cases in her career to date. In addition to her valuation expertise, Fiona is also often instructed to provide expert opinion on a range of matters including tax disputes (including EBTs, film schemes, entrepreneurs' relief and Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), officer and employee fraud, auditor and tax adviser professional negligence claims, shareholder disputes, agency disputes and insurance claims.

Professional qualifications

*Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (FCA)
Chartered Tax Adviser (CTA)
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