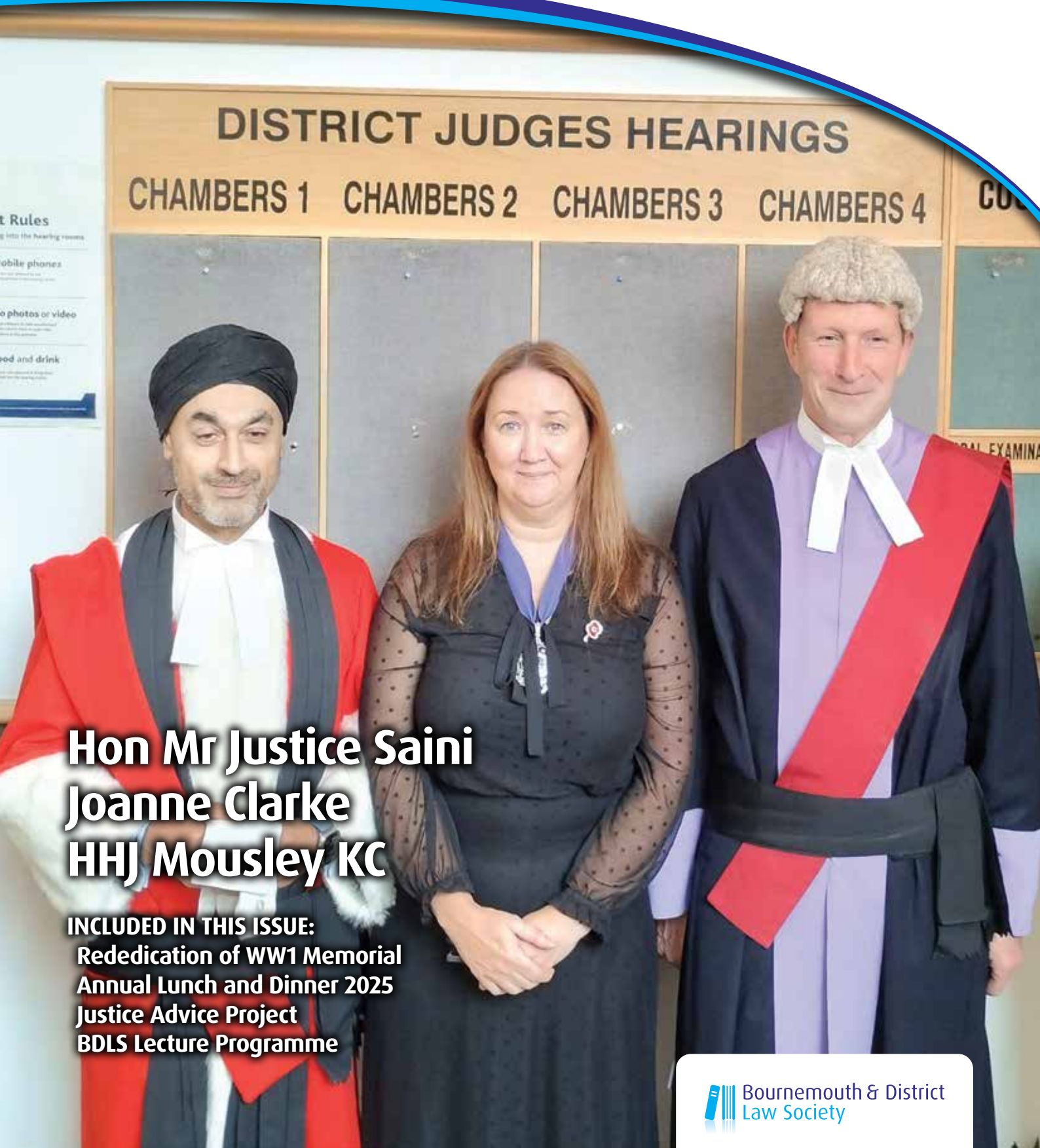


Bournemouth & District Lawyer



Hon Mr Justice Saini
Joanne Clarke
HHJ Mousley KC

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE:
Rededication of WW1 Memorial
Annual Lunch and Dinner 2025
Justice Advice Project
BDLS Lecture Programme



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The Law Society

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Winter 2024 | Issue 211

Please Note

that the BDLS office will close midday on Friday 19 December and reopen on Thursday 2 January 2025
Wishing all our members a joyful and restful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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BOURNEMOUTH & DISTRICT LAWYER

Bournemouth & District Law Society Magazine

Members will receive our 'Bournemouth Lawyer' by email, including the flyers for events, webinars and lectures.

Our Magazines are sent out quarterly as follows:

EDITION	MONTH	COPY DEADLINE
Spring	March 2025	25 January 2025
Summer	June 2025	
Autumn	September 2025	
Winter	December 2025	

The copy deadline for receipt at the BDLS office for the next edition – the Spring issue – will be **25 January 2025**.

We welcome your firms' news and any advertisements. Please send to office@bournemouthlaw.com.



Follow us on LinkedIn

COVER INFORMATION

WW1 Rededication Memorial: Hon Mr Justice Saini, Joanne Clarke (BDLS President) and HHJ Mousley KC

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BDLS DIARY 2024/25

Thurs 12 Dec	BDLS Christmas Drinks at The Alpine Bar in The Square, Bournemouth
2025	
Wed 5 Feb	BDLS Annual Lunch at The Pavilion, Bournemouth
Fri 25 April	BDLS Annual Dinner at The Highcliff Marriott, Bournemouth
Thurs 10 July	The Law Society Bicentenary Drinks Reception at Marsham Court Hotel – Save the date

The President's Column

Joanne Clarke



Welcome to the winter magazine – and my second column. I am writing this following the election of the Labour Party in July and, more recently, the first Labour budget in 15 years which was characterised by record tax hikes, substantially increased borrowing and significant spending plans for public services.

I am sure that many of you will have been assisting your clients in preparation for the budget and will continue to assist them in the months and years to come. We have also seen Trump elected once more in the US and await the time his term of office commences with whatever that may bring.

Whatever happens, your Society continues to serve you well and with many lectures and events having taken place and planned in the coming months.

In early October, I attended the Society's Annual Conference in Jersey. It was a super weekend, and we were able to enjoy the company of the Deputy Bailiff, the Bâtonnier (or Head of the Jersey Bar), the President and the CEO of the Jersey Law Society. More details on the weekend follow later in the Magazine.

On 11 November, I attended the Bournemouth Combined Courts for a Rededication of the WW1 memorial which was previously housed at the old Law Courts in Stafford Road (now the Livingstone academy). I am very proud that we were able to rehome the memorial and ensure that it remains visible to all those using the Courts for the foreseeable future.

Over the next few months, there are several events taking place. I will be attending the Newly Qualified and Trainee Solicitor reception later in November. With a record number of attendees, what more evidence do we need that the legal community in Bournemouth and the surrounding areas continues to thrive.

We also have the Christmas Wine Tasting evening on 28 November which is always a fun event.

To round off the year, we have an informal Christmas drinks event on 12 December at the Alpine Bar in the Square from 17:30 – 19:30. Please do join us if you can.

In the New Year, we have the Lunch and Dinner to look forward to. I am thrilled to confirm that the Annual Lunch on 5 February sold out within a few days and am looking forward to seeing many of you there. If you would like to be added to the waiting list, then do please contact Mandy in the BDLS office mandy@bournemouthlaw.com

The Annual Dinner has been arranged for 25 April, with details to be sent out imminently. In the meantime, please save the date!

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and with best wishes for the New Year. ■

Joanne Clarke
BDLS President

*“I wish you all a very happy
Christmas and with best wishes
for the New Year.”*

Rededication Of World War 1 Memorial

Monday 11 November 2024



L-R Conor Maher, Hon Mr Justice Saini, Joanne Clarke, HHJ Mousley KC, Lt Col Ant Sharman

At 11 am on the 11 November, Armistice Day, members of the Judiciary, committee members and past presidents of BDLS and various other dignitaries, including the High Sheriff of Dorset, attended the Bournemouth Combined Court Centre for the service of rededication of the First World War memorial and laid wreaths in memory of the fallen.

The First World War memorial, dedicated to fallen solicitors and articled clerks of Bournemouth, was originally placed in the former Bournemouth Law Courts at Stafford Road and

has a significant history. This memorial commemorates the members of the legal profession who lost their lives in the Great War. Erected on 28th July 1925, it features a plaque with names inscribed in gold, honouring those who died.

After the former courts' repurposing as Livingstone Academy, there were concerns about the preservation of the memorial. However, it was confirmed that the memorial was safely still in situ and was subsequently moved to the courts at Deansleigh Road, through no small effort by BDLS past-president, Tim O'Sullivan, to whom the BDLS is extremely grateful. ■

Rededication Of World War 1 Memorial

Monday 11 November 2024

THE COMMEMORATION

Private Guy Joseph Basil Bishop, Royal Fusiliers. Solicitors' articulated clerk of Malmesbury Park, Bournemouth. Died of wounds in Boscombe aged 26 in December 1915.

Lieutenant William Guy Fawcett Challis, 3rd Bn the Hampshire Regiment. Solicitor of Knole Road, Bournemouth. Killed in action in Belgium aged 25 on 13 July 1916.

Captain Percy Mellows Cook, 18th Bn the King's Royal Rifle Corps. Solicitor of Bournemouth. Killed in action in France aged 29 on 04 October 1916.

Private Reginald Alfred Dean, 6th Bn the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Solicitor of Bournemouth. Killed in action in France aged 20 on 12 October 1916.

Private Alfred Duell, 1st / 4th Bn Hampshire Regiment. Clerk of the Municipal Offices. Died of wounds in Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) aged 26 on 02 April 1917.

Captain Robert Mason Jackson French, 3rd Bn Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Solicitor of Boscombe, and son of I.M. French, also a solicitor of Boscombe. Died in London at age 23 on 19 February 1916 of wounds received at the battle of Loos on 25 September 1915.

2nd Lieutenant George Douglas Hazard, 3rd Bn the King's Shropshire Light Infantry. Solicitor of Walpole Road, Boscombe. Killed in action at Ypres on 25 May 2015.

2nd Lieutenant George Douglas Hazard (PIC)

Sergeant Albert James Houston, 1st Hampshire Yeomanry. Solicitor's clerk of Branksome, Poole. Killed in action at Loos aged 31 on 12 September 1918.

2nd Lieutenant Hugh Penrose Cardozo Rawlins, 10th Bn the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Solicitor of Hinton Chambers, Bournemouth. Killed in action in Flanders aged 37 on 04 October 1917.

Sergeant Henry Brinmore Raymond DCM, Royal Horse Artillery. Solicitor's clerk of Winton, Bournemouth. Awarded the DCM in January 2017 for gallantry in the field, with the citation:

'For conspicuous devotion to duty. He has rendered very valuable services throughout, and by his devotion to duty has shown a fine example to all ranks.'

Died of influenza on 28 October 1918 at Cambrai, aged 32.

Lieutenant John Reginald Turner, 3rd Bn the Dorsetshire Regiment. Solicitor of Wimborne Road, Bournemouth, and Honorary Secretary of the Bournemouth and District Law Students' Society (now the BDJLD). Killed in action at the Marne aged 22 on 13 October 1914. PIC)

May they all rest in peace. ■

CONOR MAHER
BDLS Treasurer and Captain (ACF)



2nd Lieutenant George Douglas Hazard

TURNER, JOHN REGINALD, Lieut., 3rd (Reserve), attd. 1st, Battn. Dorsetshire Regt., s. of John Mayer Burrow Turner, of Hartshill, Bournemouth, Solicitor; b. Stoke-on-Trent, co. Stafford, 20 Nov. 1892; educ. Bournemouth School, and on leaving there was articled to his father and had passed the Intermediate Law Examination when war broke out. He was given a commission as 2nd Lieut. in the 3rd Dorset Special Reserve Batta. 12 Dec. 1911, and became Lieut. 1 May 1913, and on the declaration of war volunteered for foreign service. He was attd. to the 1st Dorsets (15th Brigade, 5th Division) and went to France with the Expeditionary Force in Aug. 1914; took part in the Retreat from Mons, the Battles of the Marne and the Aisne, and was killed in action near Festubert, on the Pont Fixe Road, 13 Oct. 1914, on which day the 1st Dorsets sustained 400 casualties, 130 of them being killed. Buried in an orchard west of the Post Office of Pont Fixe; *unm.* Lieut.-Col. Bols, C.B., D.S.O., commanding 1st Dorsets, wrote: "Practically the whole of B Coy. was destroyed on that awful 13th. We were all so very fond of him; he was always cheery and such an excellent soldier, qualities which he displayed to the full on the days following the 9th Sept. when he was left as senior officer in his company." Capt. A. L. Ransome, 1st Dorsets, wrote: "Your son was one of our most promising young officers. His two previous Coy. Commanders were loud in his praises. He showed a power of command and common sense far above the average of his age and service." Lieut. Turner held the office of Hon. Sec. to the Bournemouth and District Law Students' Society, and had each year since its inception won the prize awarded to the best speaker amongst its members.



John Reginald Turner.

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Lieutenant John Reginald Turner

Rededication Of World War 1 Memorial

Monday 11 November 2024



L-R HHJ Mousley KC, Joanne Clarke, Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, Anthony Woodhouse, and Hon Mr Justice Saini



L-R Conor Maher, Mandy Heath, Tim O'Sullivan and Joanne Clarke



L-R Matt Rushent, Byron Sims, Alice Toop, Joanne Clarke, Anna Curtis, Marie Harder and Conor Maher



Jason Hayter playing The Last Post



BDLS European Conference To Jersey

Fri-Sun 4-6 October 2024

Following a smooth sea crossing we arrived in Jersey for the Annual European Conference. We had a packed weekend starting with dinner at Mark Jordan on the beach. The next morning we visited the Royal Court and The States Chambers and the tour guide was amazing. This was followed by a quick picnic on the beach and then off to the vineyard for a tour.

In the evening the Gala dinner took place when we were lucky to have a number of distinguished guests including the Deputy Bailiff of Jersey, the Crown Advocate and Head of Jersey Bar and the President of Jersey Law Society. We chatted into the early hours with our guests and we have now forged strong links with Jersey Law society going forward.

Strangely enough, the next day we had a slightly late start and a visit to the German underground hospital which was incredibly interesting. This was followed by a pub lunch and a tour around the island and then back to catch the ferry home.

I am pleased to say we didn't lose anyone although a couple of our party did make valiant attempts. Everyone had a great time and now we cannot wait for the next European Conference to Dublin in October 2025. ■

EDWARD HOLMES

BDLS Past President and Conference Organiser



Robert McCrae (Jersey Deputy Bailiff), Jo Clarke (BDLS President), Nigel Sanders (President, Jersey Law Society), Neville Benbow (CEO, Jersey Law Society)



Jo and Paul Clarke



The Jersey Conference Group



Sue and Mark Kiteley, Jean Cross and Neil White



Mark Proctor, Edward Holmes and Sian Smith



Sally and John Crawford



BDLS Annual Lunch

Wednesday 5 February 2025
The Pavilion, Bournemouth



Guest Speaker
Rob Rinder

We are delighted to have secured Rob Rinder to speak at our Annual Lunch.

We were blown away by the response with this event being sold out within just a few days of advertising to members! If you would like to be added to the waiting list, please email mandy@bournemouthlaw.com

Kindly sponsored by:



BDLS Annual Dinner

Friday 25 April 2025
Highcliff Marriott, Bournemouth



Guest Speaker
Clive Coleman

Our Annual Dinner is on Friday 25 April 2025 at the Bournemouth Marriott Hotel.

Our guest speaker will be CLIVE COLEMAN, Barrister, legal broadcaster and writer

Further details will be emailed to members shortly. In the meantime, please save the date.

Kindly sponsored by:



Let's Get Festive! Christmas Drinks At The Alpine Bar

Thursday 12 December 2024

The Alpine Bar, The Square, Bournemouth between 17:30 – 19:30.



It is that time of year! Christmas is approaching and we would love members to join us for a festive drinks at the Alpine Bar, The Square, Bournemouth on Thursday 12 December between 17:30 – 19:30.

The chance to unwind, raise a glass and celebrate the Christmas season. Come by yourself or bring a friend. We hope to see you there!

A quick note: Drinks will be available to purchase from the bar so feel free to grab your favourite cocktail or seasonal drink when you arrive.

Please email mandy@bournemouthlaw.com if you would like to come along so we know to look out for you!

BDLS Annual Membership Subscriptions 2025

Membership Annual Subscriptions are due on the 1 January 2025 for the period 01.01.25 – 31.12.25. The BDLS Office will be contacting all firms individually to update their membership details and request payment. The fees are as follows:

Type of Membership	£
Standard Membership	£95
Associate Membership	£70
Concessions:	
Member qualified for less than 5 years	£60
Member employed in a judicial or quasi-judicial position	£53
Fully retired member	£45
Member not in employment	£15
Public Sector Member	£0
Honorary Life Member	£0
Trainee Solicitor or CILEX	£0

Membership discounts are applicable as follows:

Fewer than 10 paying members	No discount
Between 10 and 15 paying members	12.5% discount for Standard and Associate Members
16 or more paying members	17.5% discount for Standard and Associate Members with a maximum payable of £2,500

If you are a Solicitor and are not already a member, you can apply for Standard membership.

Applications for Associate membership are welcome from Legal Executives, Notaries, Barristers, Fee Earners, Licensed Conveyancers and anyone else who is an authorised person under the Legal Services Act.

We have a new category – public sector member. Members will need to be employed by a public body (Local Authority, HMCTS, CPS, Dorset Police, etc.). Membership is free of charge and public sector members will be entered on the BDLS membership database and can attend members only events and training. The only caveat is that for any events and courses attended, public sector members would need to pay the non-member rate.

If you would like to join, please contact the BDLS office at office@bournemouthlaw.com to request a membership application form.



Why is legal practice management important, what impact does it have on risk and compliance, and how can your law firm drive efficiency and maximise revenue?

WHAT IS PRACTICE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE?

Practice management for law firms is essentially the art of keeping all the moving parts of a legal practice working seamlessly.

It's the combination of strategic, administrative, and operational processes that optimise the day-to-day operations of a legal practice.

We're talking about:

- Client, case, and document management
- Automatic time capture
- Know your client (KYC) checks
- Ensuring compliance and addressing risk management
- Managing legal accounts
- Customisable reporting suite

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

It's not an overstatement to say that practice management software is essential for law firms striving to succeed in today's competitive legal market.

A well-managed law firm delivers exceptional client service, consistently meets deadlines and maintains clear communication. These advantages lead to higher client satisfaction and retention.

THE BENEFITS OF PRACTICE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE FOR LAW FIRMS

There's a whole host of benefits to implementing a solid practice management system.

Increased productivity: Simplifying tasks like document management, client communication, and scheduling gives you more time to focus on core legal work.

Enhanced client satisfaction: This, in turn, leads to better client service with quick response times, accurate billing and transparent communication boosting client loyalty.

Complete practice oversight: Track performance at practice, department and individual level to monitor billable work and revenue.

Secure management of client money: Easily facilitate monetary transfers, post bills, pay disbursements and other ledger transactions.

Improved efficiency: Streamline administrative tasks, automate processes, centralise information and ensure nothing is overlooked, saving time and costs.

Know your legal clients: Conduct and record due diligence checks to verify identities before engagement.

Secure client information: Store all client, contact and case information securely, making it easily accessible.

Reduced risk: Robust compliance features help your firm meet regulations and ethical standards, reducing the risk of malpractice and legal disputes.

Financial control: Ensure accurate financial records with general and trust accounting, and straightforward billing to help you stay in control of your firm's finances.

Reporting and analytics: Gain valuable insights through reporting tools that enable you to make data-driven decisions for growth.

WHY CHOOSE UNITY® PRACTICE MANAGEMENT?

Dye & Durham delivers a flexible, friendly and scalable solution – taking the stress out of running your law firm while remaining fully compliant. Cloud-based and robust, and delivered by a Law Society Strategic Partner, Unity® Practice Management offers a comprehensive dashboard overview of your practice so that you can focus on what matters most – building a more efficient, profitable, competitive and successful law firm.

Our software is trusted by over 750 small to medium-sized law firms in the UK and meets all rigorous regulatory requirements to ensure that you're managing cases and monies correctly.

And now, Unity® Practice Management includes new features to make your practice even more efficient, including:

- DeeDee, your legal information AI assistant, that can help research, draft, and answer legal questions and streamlines tedious tasks so that you can compete better and maximise fee-earning time.
- Easy-to-order residential conveyancing searches that meet independent compliance standards, follow a standardised format that makes it easy to quickly share key insights with your clients, and simplify accounting and cost management with national pricing.
- Instant AML checks including PEP, Sanction, Adverse Media, Law Enforcement, and Disqualified Director checks for improved risk management

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT TOP FOUR TIPS

If you remember anything from this article. Let it be these key points:

Tip 1: Actively encourage everyone in your firm to use the practice management system as their primary tool.

Tip 2: Use the data insights from your practice management system to make informed decisions, monitor performance and identify areas for improvement.

Tip 3: Allow the practice management software to handle tedious admin tasks, freeing your team to focus on practising law and impressing clients.

Tip 4: Ensure client information is securely stored. Protecting your firm's data not only meets ethical and legal standards but also reaps benefits for your firm with clients by building client trust and enhancing your reputation as a trustworthy and reliable practice.

FURTHER READING

The Complete Legal Practice Management Playbook: Your Roadmap to Law Firm Success is available in full as our latest eBook, covering everything from the evolution of cloud-based practice management systems to potential pitfalls of software selection, to glossary of practice management terms, and more. Download our eBook at dyedurham.co.uk



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Dashboard

Demonstration System > Dashboard

Welcome Back, Ellen
Today is Wednesday 10th July, 2024.
You have 0 milestones, 0 events, 0 tasks and 0 reminders coming up today.

Showing stats for All Fee Earners

Active Cases 5831 Active Cases	Unbilled Time 953h 56m Time Pending £296,223.29 Work In Progress	Compliance 30 Client Breaches 43 office breaches	Debtors £654,326.44 Unpaid Bills £64,429.41 Unbilled Disbs
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Recent Cases

- Purchase - 7 Elm Grove, Rhyl
Turner India Mrs. TUR0631
- TEST MATTER
STONE Roys Mr (Search-Update) STO0061

Sales Actual Vs Budget

Bar chart showing Budget (€1,586,468) and Actual (€2,000,000) sales performance over time.

Quick Links

Ellen Brown
Demonstration System

In Memorium

Ian Miller

13th May 1938 - 9th September 2024

Tribute by Jon Miller, Ian's son



Reminiscent of the dissonant harmonies from melodies created by the first and second strings of a grand symphony orchestra, so my father lived his life.

Always striving for judicial greatness, of which he achieved in the early days via the family law firm J W Miller & Sons, and his professionalism, during which he met Prime Minister, Ted Heath and the then governor and latterly US President, Jimmy Carter.

It is no coincidence that I choose Sir John Barbirolli and Evelyn Rothwell's 1969 Adagio oboe concerto in D minor, for his swansong; a moving and fitting dedication from myself, reflective of my upbringing.

Seen as a professional, analytical, and well-dressed gentleman, Ian always strove for the truth in law and worked diligently with regional household names such as Harry J Palmer. He was proud man, proud of his time as Deputy Coroner, proud of his chosen profession and his life in Dorset, especially of his time as Chairman of the Young Solicitors Law Society and latterly President of the Bournemouth and District Law Society.

May he rest in peace, close to his beloved Rachel, overlooking the panoramic views of Poole harbour and the wondrous Purbeck Hills. ■

BDLS Property Group Committee:

BDLS Restrictive Covenants Register And Conveyancing Protocol

Please note that you can find both the Register of Local Restrictive Covenants, and now the BDLS Local Conveyancing Protocol, on our website www.bournemouthlaw.com/restrictivecovenants

The Property Group Committee would encourage all firms engaged in the conveyancing market locally, to commit to using the Protocol for all of their conveyancing fee earners.

Suggestions for variations, or additional items for this Protocol, would be welcomed by the Committee, so that it continues to evolve and meets the needs of local conveyancers. Please address any such suggestions through the BDLS office office@bournemouthlaw.com

■

Martyn Hudson
Property Group Chair

Bournemouth & District Junior Lawyers Division



Since the last magazine, I am pleased to announce that the BDJLD has held its annual AGM and with it, elections for the 2024/25 committee. There is an exciting mix within the year's committee of brand new faces, those that have retained their roles or those moving to a new role for the year ahead. Congratulations to all of those elected or re-elected.

Your BDJLD committee for the year ahead is as follows:

President:	Matt Rushent – Ellis Jones Solicitors
Vice President:	Howard Hasan – Ellis Jones Solicitors
Secretary:	Imogen-Leigh Thomas – Ellis Jones Solicitors
Educational Events Officer:	Paige Abbott – Trethowans
Publications and Communications Officer:	James Privett – Frettons Solicitors
Content Officer:	Georgie Standhaft – Ellis Jones Solicitors
Charities Officer:	Outi Kallunki-Stevens – Meesons & Spurlings
Social Events Officer:	Daisy Kershaw – Ellis Jones Solicitors
Bar Liaison Officer:	Abi Griffin – 3PB
Sports Officer:	Jenny Sanderson – Ellis Jones Solicitors
Student Representative:	Jasmine White – Ellis Jones Solicitors
General Committee Members:	Emily Shepard – Ellis Jones Solicitors
	Abba Atkin – Steele Raymond
	Charlotte Eden – Steele Raymond
	Joe Hammond - Student

As the newly elected President for 2024/25 and coming to the committee for the first time, I had set out some priorities for the year ahead. These include ensuring that the BDJLD caters for all of its members, including those up to 5 years PQE and developing an ever-closer relationship with the BDLS. The committee is very much looking forward to working on these objectives in the year ahead.

Members will also be pleased to learn that I campaigned to see the return of BDJLD's 'Day at the Races' – a hugely popular event in previous years that had been kindly sponsored by 3PB. We anticipate this to be in the Spring of next year, so watch this space for your 'save the date'.

In terms of upcoming events in the more immediate term, members have the following to look forward to:

10 December – Christmas Quiz at Koh Lounge – Hope For Food;
2025 Event schedule to be released in the New Year.

I look forward to seeing as many of you at our upcoming events as possible. The BDLS Newly Qualified and Trainee Drinks Reception at the Marsham Court Hotel was a great opportunity to meet fellow professionals at a similar stage in their career and to network informally, and I thank everyone who was in attendance and who assisted in organising the event.

Tickets for the Christmas Quiz will be released imminently and promises to be a hugely successful event. The Christmas Quiz is in aid of 'Hope For Food' – a wonderful local charity who help the homeless and families in need.

The BDJLD website is also due for a revamp and we look forward to getting fresh content published regularly. As always, we would be keen to hear from members as to any content, events or resources that they would like to see from their JLD. As a committee, we are focussed on improving engagement with the BDJLD and in turn, improving our offering to members.

I know that I speak for all the committee in saying that we are excited to get started and hope to see as many members as possible at our upcoming events for the year. ■

Matt Rushent
President for the BDJLD
<https://www.bdjld.co.uk/>



Justice Advice Project

Citizens Advice Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole

The Justice Advice Project is a specialist project within Citizens Advice BCP which supports litigants in person who are facing civil and family county court case.

The Justice Advice Project (JA) is based at Bournemouth County Court and can support people who either live in or have a case in Dorset. It works to support people who have civil or family County Court cases and no legal representation.

We provide non-legal, practical and procedural support – via telephone or in person - with the aim of informing and empowering clients to represent themselves as best as they can. Clients can access our service as many times as they need, and it is always **free of charge**.

Our staff and volunteers can help clients complete court application forms, write statements, organise their paperwork and explain and answer questions about court processes. Our team are also able to provide emotional support and informal note taking during hearings listed in Bournemouth County Court.

Some of the most common issues we support with are:

- access to children
- non-molestation and occupation orders
- divorce
- transfer of tenancy
- money claims
- possession proceedings.

We receive referrals from many different sources. Some people find out about us when they attend court, some are referred by local charities or organisations, while others are referred by mediators. We also receive referrals from local solicitors, either if their client needs support with a form and has limited funds which could be better utilised, or when their client is no longer able to afford representation but needs further support.

The Justice Advice Project is unable to offer any legal advice, representation or casework and we will always recommend clients seek legal advice where possible. Our clients remain responsible for their case and their deadlines throughout.

Clients can contact the project for support either by filling out our online form:

citizensadvicebcp.org.uk/projects/justice-advice-project

Or calling our project phonenumber: 01202 081733 (please advise people to leave a message for a callback).

The Project is managed by Amy Metters. Amy previously ran the Bournemouth branch of Support Through Court (formerly PSU). In 2020 Support Through Court underwent a national restructuring and closed some of their offices, including the Bournemouth branch. Following successful conversations, Citizens Advice BCP agreed to take the service and the existing team on in order to be able to keep the vital work going.

For any queries from BDLs members, Amy can be contacted at: amy.matters@citizensadvicebcp.org.uk

Who Owns and Controls Your Law Firm's Data?



Law firms increasingly rely on technology to streamline their operations in the modern digital age. Legal software solutions have become indispensable, from case management to billing and time tracking. However, a fundamental question often needs to be addressed: **who owns the data entered into these systems, and how easily can it be moved elsewhere?**

Understanding the Data Ownership

Data ownership refers to legal rights and control over digital datasets. For law firms, this includes client information, case notes, billing records, and confidential strategies. Clear data ownership is essential due to ethical obligations. However, third-party legal software can complicate this, risking data loss, breaches, or legal disputes. Transparent contracts defining data ownership are crucial to protect the firm's interests and client confidentiality.

Significance of Data Portability

Data portability—seamlessly transferring data from one system to another—intersects with data ownership. For law firms, data portability holds immense value due to various reasons:

- **Flexibility:** As law firms evolve or their needs change, switching to a more suitable software solution should be effortless, and data portability ensures just that.
- **Security and Backups:** Exporting data empowers firms to create independent backups, enhancing data security and protecting against potential loss or breaches.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** In certain jurisdictions, individuals can access or transfer personal data between service providers. Law firms must ensure their software providers facilitate compliance with such regulations.

Bigger Picture: Asking the Right Questions

When engaging software providers in discussions about data management, law firms must scrutinise responses diligently. Law firms can effectively safeguard their interests and client confidentiality by understanding the subtleties within the provider's answers. Here are the key queries to pose regarding data ownership and portability:

- **Ownership of Data:** Providers must acknowledge that the law firm retains ownership of all data entered.
- **Data Retrieval Upon Termination:** Ensure contracts guarantee a simple and complete data retrieval process post-termination. Data Export Options: Seek responses offering standard, open-format data export options for system compatibility.
- **Export Costs:** Watch for high fees or complex pricing hindering data portability rights.
- **Data Transfer Security:** Providers should show data protection measures, encryption, and secure transfer protocols.

Take control of your law firm's data with Clio, the #1 choice for honest, transparent legal tech. Book a personalised product walkthrough with our Clio experts and see how Clio can improve your data management. Visit Clio.com/uk to learn more. ■

BDLS Lecture Programme 2024/25

KEY:
LIVE WEBINARS
FACE TO FACE LECTURES

Kindly sponsored by


DATE AND TIME	LECTURE	FORMAT	LECTURER	VENUE
3 December 2024 10:00 – 11:30	LinkedIn for Lawyers	Live Webinar	Amy Cousineau	Zoom
9 January 2025 09:30 – 12:45	Managing a professional deputyship in property and financial affairs	Face to Face	Helen Forster	Carlton Hotel
9 January 2025 14:00 – 17:15	Making an application in the Court of Protection	Face to Face	Helen Forster	Carlton Hotel
14 January 2025 10:00 – 11:00	Enduring Powers of Attorney and Lasting Powers of Attorney - Issues for Conveyancers	Live Webinar	Ian Quayle	Zoom
22 January 2025 10:00 – 12:00	Employment Law Update	Live Webinar	Owen Warnock	Zoom
11 February 2025 13:30 – 16:45	Property Development – Practical Problems	Face to Face	Hannah MacKinlay	Marsham Court Hotel
13 February 2025 11:00 – 12:00	10 Top Tips to Expertly Manage Client Expectations	Live Webinar	Jess Wiggins	Zoom
13 March 2025 11:00 – 12:00	Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act	Live Webinar	Richard Snape	Zoom
18 March 2025 09:00 – 16:00	Emergency First Aid at Work	Face to Face	Green Cross Global	Queens Hotel
25 March 2025 10:00 – 12:00	Topic to be confirmed	Live Webinar	John Bunker	Zoom
27 March 2025 12:30 – 17:00	Civil Litigation Conference	Face to Face	Various	TBC
29 and 30 April 2025 Time TBC	Commercial Property for Support Staff	Face to Face	Ian Quayle	TBC
1 May 2025 09:30 – 12:45	Residential Conveyancing Update	Face to Face	Ian Quayle	TBC
1 May 2025 14:00 – 17:15	Commercial Property Update	Face to Face	Ian Quayle	TBC
6, 8, 13, 15 May 2025 09:30 – 13:30	Mental Health First Aider Certification Course	Live Webinar	Louise Larkum, Mindcare Training	Online
25 June 2025 TBC	Family Law Conference	Face to Face	Various	Marsham Court Hotel

BDLS Lecture Programme 2024/25 (cont.)

DATE AND TIME	LECTURE	FORMAT	LECTURER	VENUE
3 July 2025 14:00 – 17:15	Topic to be confirmed	Face to Face	John Bunker	TBC
10 July 2025 TBC	Compliance Conference	Face to Face	Various	Marsham
15 July 2025 13:30 – 16:45	Topic to be confirmed	Face to Face	Richard Snape	TBC
2 October 2025 11:00 – 12:00	Topic to be confirmed	Live Webinar	Richard Snape	Zoom
8 October 2025 TBC	Private Client Conference	Face to Face	Various – TBC	Marsham

All lectures are to be booked online. For further details please visit Bournemouth and District Law Society Website.

www.bournemouthlaw.com/lectures or scan here: ■



Course Notes

For environmental reasons, BDLS will no longer be providing printed course notes at lectures. Lecture notes will be emailed to delegates in advance for either printing or accessing via their laptop or alternative device on the day.

Payment for lectures

Please note: Payment must be received at the office before the lecture takes place. All payments are to be paid by BACS. Course bookings will only be confirmed upon payment. Webinars are charged per person and not for group bookings.

Cancellation Policy

No refunds will be given for any booking cancelled within two days of the lecture/webinar taking place.

We strive to offer our members a range of lectures not just covering competency “B” – Technical Legal Practice but also to meet the wider competencies which all solicitors need to state annually they are meeting. The 4 competencies are:

A – Ethics, Professionalism and Judgement

B – Technical Legal Practice

C – Working with other people

D – Managing yourself and your own work

For further information:

<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/cpd/competence-statement/>. ■

Summary of Upcoming Live Time Lectures and Webinars

WEBINAR Tuesday 3 December 2024 – 10:00 – 11:30

Topic **LINKEDIN FOR LAWYERS**

Lecturer **Amy Cousineau Massey**

Cost **£35 – Solicitor Member; Associate Member; Trainees** (Solicitors; Cilex; Apprentices) **and £55 Non Member of BDLS**

■ **Many legal professionals harbour a fear of posting on LinkedIn due to concerns about potential repercussions.** However, in 2024, being active on LinkedIn is increasingly essential for staying relevant, competitive and winning the best work. Welcome to “LinkedIn for Lawyers: Elevating your Professional Profile” a course which has been specially designed with lawyers in mind taking into account our reservations and offering practical guidance, expert advice, and hand-on exercises designed to build confidence and competence.

It is not all selfies and smiles – as lawyers we have a wealth of incredible information that LinkedIn users crave to know. In this course you'll be shown how to cast away fear and doubt and become a successful and popular voice on the platform by sharing your everyday expertise.

Join your mentor Amy Cousineau Massey as she takes you on a comprehensive journey that begins with how to get started and finishes by showing you how to win clients on repeat. From optimising your profile to crafting compelling content, dealing with trolls and more. This course will empower you to navigate LinkedIn's features with confidence and finesse!

LECTURE Thursday 9 January 2025 – 09:15 – 12:45

Topic **MANAGING A PROFESSIONAL DEPUTYSHIP IN PROPERTY AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

Lecturer **Helen Forster**

Venue **Carlton Hotel,**

Cost **£95 – Member and Associate Members of BDLS/Trainees** (Solicitors; Cilex; Apprentices) **£145 – Non Member of BDLS**

Many firms take on the daily affairs of clients that lack capacity as a professional deputy. However, this area of law is fraught with pitfalls, and it is imperative that all practitioners are aware of the standards, rules, and regulations in this area. The new deputy standards have been introduced that now apply to all deputies, and in addition the fixed costs structure has been updated. Many practitioners are now being faced with day-to-day management of P's affairs. Failing to account for these correctly could result in the firm being removed as deputy. This seminar will cover the routine practice and procedure for a deputy managing the property and financial affairs of 'P'. It will provide private client practitioners with practical management tips as well as up to date case law and advice on how to prepare your file for costing and billing. What You Will Learn:

- A reminder of the rules in the Court of Protection, including the new OPG deputy standards
- Court visitors
- Day to day management - what should you be looking out for?
- How to prepare your file for costing and billing at the SCCO
- Up to date case law

LECTURE Thursday 9 January 2025 – 13:45 – 17:15

Topic	MAKING AN APPLICATION IN THE COURT OF PROTECTION
Lecturer	Helen Forster
Venue	Carlton Hotel,
Cost	£95 – Member and Associate Members of BDLS/Trainees (Solicitors; Cilex; Apprentices) £145 – Non Member of BDLS

This last year has seen some significant changes within the realm of Court of Protection, not only in recent case law but also in the practice and procedure. Whilst these changes are designed to make processes smoother, this update will focus on the numerous changes that have come in and the practical application of each. We will cover important changes such as:

- The new online application system- pros and cons
- The New professional deputy standards and what they mean for deputyship practice
- DOLS
- Litigation friend vs Official Solicitor appointments
- Personal budgets and Direct payment accounts and the management of P's affairs
- Recent Case Law and its impact
- Costs assessments- issues and how to make the process "smoother"

WEBINAR Tuesday 14 January 2025 – 10:00 – 11:00

Topic	ENDURING POWERS OF ATTORNEY AND LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY - ISSUES FOR CONVEYANCERS
Lecturer	Ian Quayle
Cost	£35 – Solicitor Member; Associate Member; Trainees (Solicitors; Cilex; Apprentices) and £55 Non Member of BDLS

■ This sixty-minute webinar is suitable for residential conveyancers of all levels and experience and will explore:

- The basics what is an enduring power of attorney, a health and welfare lasting power of attorney and a property and financial affairs power of attorney.
- Compliance issues - verifying identity, checking the documentation and other issues
- Compliance with Practice Guide 9
- Acting for the attorney on sale
- Acting for a buyer where the seller is acting as attorney
- Land Registration requirements

WEBINAR Wednesday 22 January 2025 – 10:00 – 12:00

Topic	EMPLOYMENT LAW UPDATE
Lecturer	Owen Warnock
Cost	£65 – Solicitor Member; Associate Member; Trainees (Solicitors; Cilex; Apprentices) and £95 Non Member of BDLS

■ This webinar will cover:

- The latest case law on unfair dismissal, discrimination, harassment, TUPE, working time and wages
- Recent statutory changes including the duty to protect from sexual harassment and rules on allocation of tips
- The new code of practice on fire and rehire
- The forthcoming Employment Rights Act – day one unfair dismissal, sick pay and parental leave, 'banning' zero-hour contracts, making flexible working the day one default, a national collective agreement on pay in the care sector, creating a right to union access at work, amending the union recognition regime, easing restrictions on industrial action, replacing the fire and rehire code with hard law, creating a single enforcement agency – the Fair Work Agency



The Council Member's Report

PETER WATSON-LEE

Law Society Council Member for Dorset

DAMNING REPORT ON THE SRA

After lengthy delays, the independent report on the Axiom Ince disaster has finally been published and it is highly critical of the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). Axiom Ince is the small firm that took over two much larger firms in financial difficulties and as a result accumulated a client account of some £64 million – and then absconded. Leaving us solicitors to pick up much of the loss via the compensation fund.

How did our regulator allow that to happen? The report shows that the fraud took place over a couple of years and there were, in fact, a number of missed opportunities when the theft could – and indeed should – have been picked up. If they had been then the losses would have been fewer. In the words of our new Law Society President:

'The independent review paints a vivid picture of the SRA's inadequate and ineffective handling of Axiom. As a result of the SRA's failure to take all the steps it could or should have taken, Axiom was able to act without intervention, leading to money going missing and huge distress to their clients. Ultimately, it has fallen to the profession as a whole – solicitors and law firms – to shoulder the cost through a substantial increase in contributions to the Compensation Fund, which is a vital protection for clients and consumers.'

So far, and surprisingly, the SRA's response has been less than accepting of the report's findings. It suggests that it was 'a complex and well-hidden fraud by a solicitor' and it was the SRA who, in the end, picked it up. Their acceptance that 'there are things we might, in retrospect, have done differently' is an astounding understatement. Even more worrying is their suggestion that the answer is to consider 'solutions such as considering stopping law firms holding clients' money'.

The Law Society's response, with which I fully agree, is that part of the solution is for the SRA's management and governance to concentrate on its core responsibilities rather than spending its energies, as it has been, on increasing its fining powers and proposing regulatory expansion.

One of the great difficulties is that it is we Solicitors who fund the SRA. So, for example, fining the SRA for its failures would achieve little.

The debate over the next steps has still a long way to go. As I type this, a Law Society Council meeting has been fixed to discuss our approach. Meanwhile, there is justified anger at the damage caused to the clients who have suffered, to the reputation of the profession and to our pockets as our compensation contributions increase.

THREATS AGAINST SOLICITORS FROM FAR-RIGHT GROUPS

You will recall the shocking riots over the summer. Weymouth was affected and there were even demonstrations in Bournemouth. One of the unpleasant aspects was the targeting of solicitors' firms and advice centres providing advice and representation to clients on asylum and immigration law.

A list of 39 named firms was being circulated and included threats and calls to 'mask up'. In addition, prominent immigration practitioners were singled out for death threats on social media.

The Law Society formed a crisis team and liaised with the police and politicians with the information available. They also reached out to support the firms and individuals named to ensure that they had the protection needed.

Fortunately, with the effective police response and the impressive community-based counter-protests, there were no reports of members suffering harm. At the same time, the Society engaged in strong national media coverage in defence of members and received coverage in every national newspaper, including a number of front-page lead stories, as well as coverage on many TV and radio channels.

One hopes the situation has subsided for now. Although one issue it brought to the fore is the major problems with the underfunding of the criminal justice system and prisons – matters upon which the Law Society will continue to campaign.

NEW LAW SOCIETY PRESIDENT

October brings the annual changeover of the Society's President. We bid farewell to Nick Emmerson, a solicitor with an international practice in Leeds. He travelled widely and helped in the opening of the legal markets for English & Welsh Solicitors in places as far apart as Japan, India and Greece.

Our new President is Richard Atkinson. He is a criminal law solicitor from Kent and a former President of the Kent Law Society. His knowledge of the difficulties facing criminal law solicitors (and indeed civil law practitioners) is going to be very valuable to the society's work – especially as the Society looks to influence the new government on these important areas.

200 YEARS OF SUPPORTING SOLICITORS

Plans are building for the Society's Bicentenary in 2025. In addition to representing the profession abroad (he has already been to Malaysia and Singapore), our new President, Richard Atkinson, has an ambitious plan to visit nearly all areas of the country as part of the celebrations. 10th July 2025 is pencilled in for Bournemouth – keep an eye on BDLs emails for further details. ■

Peter Watson-Lee

Law Society Council Member for Dorset



Navigating The Christmas Season With Health In Mind... Difficult But Not Impossible!

The Christmas season could well be a big challenge for many of us. Over-indulgence, taking a detour from the healthier track or losing any progress we have recently made to our wellbeing could easily happen. The UK food and drink environment is unhealthy at the best of times but, leading into Christmas, things really do crank up.

With this in mind, here are a few strategies that may help you going into the festive season:

1. Reflection

If you want to have a healthier festive season than last year, simply reflect on what you did last year. To get a better result, what could you do differently this year? Why would having a healthier Christmas this year be important to you?

2. Planning for office parties

Fail to plan, plan to fail. Showing up at an office party starving hungry is a recipe for overindulgence. It is very easy to overeat on the sugary or savoury snacks if you have not had a nutritious meal earlier in the day. So how could you go into an evening meal or a party not ravenously hungry? Could you bring some whole food snacks with you that day to curb your appetite thus avoiding those moments of being too hungry?

3. Reading labels - what are you really eating?

You are free to eat and drink whatever you please but beware of misleading food advertising. Words like luxury, finest, indulgent, all-butter are all meaningless phrases that are tools from food companies to lure you into buying their 'food-type' products. For example, a mince pie from a mainstream supermarket's list of ingredients...what are your thoughts on this? Watch out for those ingredients you wouldn't usually find in your cupboard at home!

INGREDIENTS: Mincemeat (47%) [Sugar, Sultanas, Apple Purée, Currants, Rum, Glucose Syrup, Orange Peel, Glucose-Fructose Syrup, Vegetable Oils (Sunflower Oil, Rapeseed Oil), Maize Starch, Ginger, Lemon Peel, Water, Preservatives (Acetic Acid, Potassium Sorbate), Coriander, Flavouring, Cinnamon, Colour (Plain Caramel), Orange Oil, Caraway, Nutmeg, Acidity Regulator (Citric Acid), Clove], Wheat Flour [Wheat Flour, Calcium Carbonate, Iron, Niacin, Thiamin], Butter (Milk) (15%), Sugar, Dextrose, Salt, Raising Agents (Disodium Diphosphate, Sodium Carbonate), Palm Oil, Cornflour.

4. Alcohol...and food choices

I speak to many people about alcohol consumption and I am certainly not telling you to drink or not to drink. However, reminding ourselves that alcohol is a toxin to the body could be useful. If fat loss is a personal goal of yours, please remember that your body will put on hold all ability to lose fat when alcohol is in your body. The other issue for many is that more alcohol will lead to poorer food choices. Do you over-consume food when drinking? If this is the case, how many times in the next month would you be comfortable doing this?

5. House parties

A tactic to try when invited to a Christmas party is to bring a dish or two that you know you like and is also healthy (homemade and/or real food) Everyone's different, but my favourite healthy items to bring to a house party are cheeses, sliced meats, vegetable crudites and homemade dips.

If you are keen to find out more practical health tips or are interested in personalised 1:1 health coaching, do please get in touch at healthcoacholly@gmail.com. I run an 8 week chronic-disease dodging course. Find out more at <https://www.ollyleicester.co.uk/> ■

Olly Leicester
Health Coach



Did you know that The Solicitors' Charity is there to help with the wellbeing of solicitors including emotional support?



They offer therapy sessions through one of their partners for up to 12 sessions (after an initial assessment to ascertain whether a course of treatment would be beneficial). This is for all current and former solicitors (on the roll of England and Wales) and their dependants and is not subject to any financial eligibility checks.

To enquire further, please do email them via their website <https://thesolicitorscharity.org/contact/>



LawCare is the mental wellbeing charity for the legal community. They offer free, confidential, emotional support to anyone working in the law.

**Call their helpline: 0800 279 6888
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm***

Online chat is available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm whenever you see the red 'Chat Online' button on their website <https://www.lawcare.org.uk/>

***If you can't call during these hours, please email their support team support@lawcare.org.uk and they will do our best to make alternative arrangements for you. ■**

Free, confidential, non-judgemental emotional support for anyone working in a legal environment. We provide a space for you to talk through whatever is on your mind. We can also signpost you to other support agencies. Please contact any of the following:



Mark Kiteley
mkiteley@rawlinsdavvyreeves.com
Tel: 01202 558844



Nicola Lowe
Nicolalowe@hgwalker.co.uk
Tel: 01202 881454 or 07854 787358
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BDLS MEMBERS' BENEFITS

Did you know as a member of BDLS, you can take advantage of the corporate rate with BH Live leisure centres? The monthly cost is £36, as opposed to the usual fee of £42. This includes use of the gym, swimming pool, spa and classes across all their sites in Bournemouth and Poole. Please visit their website for full details <https://bhliveactive.org.uk/join>

If you would like to join, please email me at mandy@bournemouthlaw.com and I will provide you with an email to confirm your membership with BDLS.

We hope to soon be able to offer further membership benefits so watch this space!

Trapped?



There is a way out



0800 917 7650

www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

ALL ENQUIRIES ARE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE
PUBLISHED BY THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE A.A. 40171018

Further information is available for BDLS members through the local AA Liaison Officer who can support members and clients personally or professionally.

This includes documents accepted by courts and tribunals through attendance chits.

The AA brochure A Message to Professionals can be downloaded here: <https://www.bournemouthlaw.com/res/AA%20A%20Message%20to%20Professionals.pdf>

Please contact probation.bd@aamail.org or telephone the local AA hotline 01202 296000.

Paul, the local liaison rep, can be contacted during office hours on 07368 300614

All communication can be anonymous.



Legal Education At Bournemouth University

Bournemouth University has always sat at the centre of the legal profession in Bournemouth and Dorset. Our mission has been to provide a platform for our students to start their careers through a solid legal education that balances intellectual and practical skills. With recent reforms to how individuals qualify into the solicitor's profession, we have sought to reform our provision whilst keeping our longstanding mission in mind.

We offer the following three provisions for those wishing to become solicitors:

The traditional LLB continues at BU. The LLB provides students with A levels or equivalent the opportunity to learn the law through a three/four-year full-time programme of study. We offer several versions of the LLB, the most important change for the solicitor's profession is the creation of our new LLB Law with Legal Practice degree option, which aims to prepare our LLB students specifically for passing SQE 1. Our LLB's maintain the option for our students to undertake a year-long placement within the legal industry. Many of your firms host these placement students. If your firm doesn't, and you'd like to learn more about the benefits and opportunities that placement students offer your firm, please contact our Placement Coordinator, Andy Guard (guarda@bournemouth.ac.uk).

The LLM Legal Practice is a programme now in its second year and it aims to replace the GDL/LPC. This one year postgraduate degree teaches non-law graduates, or law graduates requiring SQE 1 top-up, the core knowledge necessary for SQE 1. This LLM can be taken full time, with classes on Thursdays and Fridays, or

part time, with only classes occurring on Fridays. It is perfect for individuals working within a law firm who have yet to have any formal education within the law but already have qualifying work experience for the SQE.

A new Graduate Solicitor Apprenticeship is being launched in September 2025. The G.S.A is a 30 month postgraduate programme that combines legal education to pass SQE 1 and 2 (20% of an apprentice's time) with the qualifying work experience in your firm necessary for qualifying as a solicitor (80% of an apprentice's time). This programme is either, depending upon a firm's payroll, fully funded by the apprenticeship levy, or 95% funded by the apprenticeship levy. We are currently developing the provision in collaboration with law firms from Dorset and surrounding area.

July saw the launch of the BU Law Engagement and Advisory Panel (LEAP) in an event attended by firms from across Dorset. LEAP's mission is to enhance the sharing of knowledge between BU's law teaching team and the regional legal sector, with a focus on educational collaboration, knowledge exchange and research and consultancy. We had many kind offers of support for the Panel following the event and more meetings will follow as we establish the Panel to help guide and support the strategic direction, actions and initiatives of law at BU. LEAP will be integral to ensuring that we continue to create the law graduates and opportunities needed by the regional profession.

For more information on any of our academic courses, the Apprenticeship, or to join the panel, please contact Sarah McKeown (smckeown@bournemouth.ac.uk) and Jamie Fletcher (fletcherj@bournemouth.ac.uk). ■

Firms' News

Coles Miller: Hidden Disability Friendly Solicitors

Leading Dorset law firm Coles Miller has been recognised as the first Hidden Disability Friendly business by the charity Growing Compassionate Communities. It means people with hidden disabilities can be sure that Coles Miller staff will have a greater understanding of their needs.

Hidden disabilities are non-visible conditions that can be temporary, situational or permanent. There are more than 900 hidden disabilities, including autism, brain injuries, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, partial sight or hearing loss, mental health and sensory processing conditions. Coles Miller played a key role in setting up Growing Compassionate Communities, which is chaired by Peter Jones, Pioneer Minister.

Coles Miller Partner, Anthony Weber, and Associate Solicitor, Kerry Hay, of the firm's Wills & Probate Department are both trustees of the charity. Kerry is the Treasurer. "Being a Hidden Disability Friendly firm shows that we're compassionate towards people with a wide range of non-visible conditions," said Kerry. "Our staff have undergone special training to help them understand the needs of people with hidden disabilities." ■



Kerry Hay

Lester Aldridge Welcomes Senior Associate Zara Goh

Lester Aldridge is thrilled to announce the appointment of Zara Goh as a Senior Associate in the firm's Real Estate team. Zara has over a decade of experience, specialising in commercial real estate, real estate finance, and residential property.

A multi-lingual solicitor fluent in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Malay, Zara has a wealth of experience advising national and international corporate clients, developers, investors, and financial institutions on portfolio financing, sales, and acquisitions across a range of asset classes, including retail, office, industrial, and mixed-use developments.

Before joining Lester Aldridge, Zara worked at a prominent London city law firm, where she established and led the firm's Asia Desk, followed by a position at a regional firm. She is known for her technical expertise, commercial insight, and pragmatic approach, offering clients tailored, commercially focused solutions.

Zara joins the specialised Borrower Real Estate Finance team, led by Partner David Fanchi, which advises a wide range of borrowers, including developers, contractors, and investors, on refinancings, buy-to-let acquisitions, bridging, and portfolio properties. ■



Zara Goh

Firms' News

Ellis Jones awarded Gold Award in Defence Employer Recognition Scheme

**ELLIS
JONES**
SOLICITORS



Signing Ceremony for the Armed Forces Covenant in 2022. (L-R) Lt Col Ant Sharman (Commanding Officer Royal Wessex Yeomanry) and Nigel Smith (Managing Partner, Ellis Jones)



Silver Armed Forces Covenant Award presented at Kingston Maurward in October 2023. (L-R) Angus Campbell (His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset), Conor Maher (Senior Associate, Ellis Jones), Florence Newton (Associate, Ellis Jones), and Lauren Day (Partner, Ellis Jones).

Ellis Jones Solicitors LLP has received a gold award in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme for its forces-friendly credentials. They are one of just two law firms in the Wessex region (covering Dorset, Bristol, Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Devon, and Cornwall) to be bestowed the honour through the Armed Forces Covenant. Representing the highest badge of honour for civilian organisations, the award goes to companies and organisations that employ and support veterans and their families, as well as those in active service as regulars, reservists, or in the cadet forces.

The firm is a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant, a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly.

There are three tiers of award – Bronze, Silver and Gold – recognising employers who first pledge, then demonstrate, then advocate support to the Armed Forces community in alignment with the Covenant. Ellis Jones has been awarded the Gold Award having previously held both Bronze and Silver.

Nigel Smith, Ellis Jones' Managing Partner, said: "At Ellis Jones Solicitors LLP, we are deeply honoured to receive the Gold Employer Recognition Scheme Award. Our unwavering support for the defence community stems from a profound respect for the dedication, sacrifice and professionalism demonstrated by service personnel and their families. We believe it is our duty to create an inclusive workplace that values the unique skills and experiences they bring. By providing tailored support, and fostering an environment where veterans, reservists and military families can

thrive, we aim to give back to those who have given so much. This recognition reinforces our commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of those who serve our country, and we will continue to champion initiatives that support their integration and wellbeing within our community."

Senior Associate Solicitor Conor Maher, Ellis Jones' Armed Forces champion and himself a commissioned officer in the Army Cadet Force with the rank of Captain, said: "We at Ellis Jones recognise the huge benefit that the defence community brings both to the civilian workplace and to their communities. We are committed to working with regular service personnel, reservists, Cadet Force Adult Volunteers, veterans, military spouses, partners and the wider defence community to bring about positive change."

Ellis Jones co-ordinates a number of initiatives to support the military. The firm provides discounted services for forces personnel and veterans and actively welcomes applications from members of these groups these under its recruitment, selection and career development policies. It also offers work experience opportunities to local cadet units, sponsors kit and equipment, and provides an additional ten days' paid leave each year for staff carrying out reserve and cadet activities.

For more information on Ellis Jones' support for the Armed Forces Covenant, visit <https://www.ellisjones.co.uk/about/armed-forces-covenant-2/> ■

Firms' News

Steele Raymond boosts Child Inclusive Mediation

Lindsay Halliwell, Partner in Steele Raymond's Family team, has become the second member of the team to offer Child Inclusive Mediation.

Already a Family Mediator since 2011, becoming Accredited in 2016, Lindsay has recently gained an additional accreditation enabling her to lead Child Inclusive Mediation sessions.

Child Inclusive Mediation offers children a voice and an important opportunity to share their worries and thoughts about how life looks for them from their own perspective without the pressure of feeling responsible for making decisions, or that they have to take sides.

Lindsay explains: "When parents separate, their first concern is almost always to consider the needs and feelings of their children. Communication issues between parents can naturally impact children too. Many children like to be involved in the mediation process because they will often have a view about arrangements that are being decided for them by their parents, and that their views should be considered.

"Child Inclusive Mediation can help parents listen to their children, and to each other, in a different way and to make good decisions for all that have the children's best interests at heart."

With the family courts at capacity – and an increasing backlog – separating parents are being encouraged to use mediation to try to reach an agreement between themselves when dealing with arrangements for their children and financial affairs.

"We see first-hand the incredible difference that mediation can make," continues Lindsay. "As mediators, we will never ask children to make decisions, but their input can be very valuable when it comes to decision-making by their parents within the mediation process." ■



Lindsay Halliwell

SteeleRaymond

Lester Aldridge Welcomes Senior Associate Sabah Siddiq to Planning and Environment Team

Lester Aldridge is pleased to announce that Sabah Siddiq has joined the firm's Planning and Environment team as a Senior Associate. Sabah brings extensive experience in planning and environmental law, advising on both contentious and non-contentious matters.

With over fifteen years of experience working for both local planning authorities across the south and private practice, Sabah's expertise spans a broad range of issues. She advises and negotiates on complex s106 agreements, nutrient mitigation agreements, highway agreements, and Biodiversity Net Gain, as well as matters involving the Community Infrastructure Levy, judicial reviews, planning statutory appeals, listed buildings and planning enforcement.



Sabah Siddiq



Firms' News

Lester Aldridge Celebrates the Qualification of Six Solicitors



LA Newly Qualified Solicitors 2024 left to right: Chengcheng Zheng, Alice Robertson, Grace Long, Chanjot Sandhi, George Robinson, Megan Martin and Mark Benham.

Lester Aldridge is delighted to announce six trainee solicitors have completed their two-year training contracts and are now fully qualified. They are proud to congratulate Alice Robertson, Chanjot Sandhi, Chengcheng Zheng, George Robinson, Grace Long, and Megan Martin on their successful qualification as solicitors.

- **Alice Robertson** joins the **Family** team. Alice will focus on various aspects of family law, including divorce, financial claims for married and cohabitating couples, and children matters. She also has experience in advising on pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements.

- **Chanjot Sandhi** joins the **Corporate, Commercial & Charities** team. She will advise business, charity and not-for-profit clients on corporate and commercial matters, including mergers and charity incorporations, share or asset purchases and disposals, company and charity governance, finance, and commercial agreements.

- **Chengcheng Zheng** joins the **Dispute Resolution** team. Chengcheng will handle disputes for a diverse range of clients, from individuals to large corporations across various sectors.

- **George Robinson** joins the **Real Estate** team. George will advise clients on property acquisitions and disposals, landlord and tenant matters, and other commercial property matters.

- **Grace Long** joins the **Litigation & Recoveries** team. Grace will manage a wide range of contentious asset finance and consumer credit matters for various captive and non-captive finance companies, banks, and other lenders.

- **Megan Martin** joins the **International Private Client** team. Megan will specialise in international probate, assisting clients worldwide with the administration of cross-border estates and international wills. ■



Firms' News

Steele Raymond has strengthened its property litigation team

SteeleRaymond



Steele Raymond's Property Litigation team left to right: Laura Offer (Associate), Hannah Dare (Partner), David Crockford (Partner and Head of Property Litigation team), Lauren Meade (Senior Associate), Farouk Vahdati (Solicitor)

Steele Raymond has strengthened its property litigation team with two key appointments. Farouk Vahdati joins as a Solicitor, following the addition of Lauren Meade as Senior Associate earlier this year.

Steele Raymond's property litigation team covers high-end residential property disputes and general commercial property issues between tenants and landlords and works with developers and housebuilders to resolve disputes. They also help with property insolvency work.

Farouk, a Bournemouth and Solent University alumnus is recently qualified and joins Steele Raymond from Warner Goodman LLP. He advises landlords and tenants on a range of residential and

commercial property matters, specialising in lease extensions, boundary disputes and adverse possession.

Lauren, who came to Steele Raymond from Wombles Bond Dickinson, is an experienced and highly skilled litigator across all aspects of property litigation, with significant expertise in asset management work. She specialises in commercial landlord and tenant disputes, focusing on lease renewals, dilapidations, and forfeiture and possession proceedings. As a member of both the Property Litigation Association and the Bournemouth Property Association, Lauren's appointment further strengthens the property litigation practice and the expertise Steele Raymond offers its clients. ■

Hookings Crofts Solicitors Opens New Office in Christchurch

Hookings Crofts Solicitors, a family-run law firm, is thrilled to announce the opening of its new office at 71C High Street, Christchurch, BH23 1AS.

Founded by George Crofts in 2021 and later joined by Samantha Hookings in 2022, the firm has quickly established a reputation for its client-focused approach in Landlord & Tenant Law, Property, and Private Client matters. Known for their expertise and dedication, George and Samantha have built a practice committed to providing tailored solutions and compassionate care, consistently earning 5-star reviews.

The new Christchurch office is a direct response to the firm's rapid growth and increased demand for its services. "We are excited to bring our expertise closer to the community and expand our ability to serve clients, both locally and nationally," says George. This new location not only provides a welcoming space but also allows the firm to strengthen its connections within the community, supporting individuals, businesses, and fellow professionals.

Hookings Crofts Solicitors extends heartfelt gratitude to their friends, colleagues, and clients for their continued support, which has been invaluable to the firm's success. ■



Samantha Hookings and George Crofts

HOOKINGS CROFTS SOLICITORS

Firms' News



Frettens Solicitors complete Charity Walk for MYTIME



In September, Frettens Solicitors completed a 20 (nearly 25) mile walk from their office in Christchurch all the way to MYTIME Young Carers' retreat in Worth Matravers, all with the aim of raising funds and awareness for the charity.

MYTIME, who have been Frettens' chosen 'Charity of the Year' since 2022, are a fantastic local charity who provide support for young carers wherever there is a need. MYTIME offer a range of programmes designed to address a different area of a child's needs and provide a 'different kind of support'. Their 'Making Memories Programme', for example, creates vital opportunities for young carers to meet each other and make friends, and the 'School Support Programme' raises awareness of young carers and their circumstances amongst teachers and staff, so they can provide the right amount of support in school.

MYTIME's location in Worth Matravers is used to host the charity's activity and retreat days, which made it a fitting location for Frettens to finish their walk. In total, twenty or so people from the firm took part in the gruelling journey, enduring tough terrain and unpredictable weather, but spurred on by the prospect of raising money for MYTIME. After a long old trot, the Frettens team indulged in a well-earned meal on the coast, having raised a fantastic £1,400 for MYTIME in total. The firm extended its thanks to those who donated, including their staff members, business partners, friends and family, on social media the following week.

However, Frettens' collaborative efforts with MYTIME Young Carers extends far beyond this most recent jaunt, as they have held plenty of events together in the past. Over the last few years, Frettens have supported MYTIME in their annual 'Operation Christmas', where the charity provides young carers with festive goody bags, the 'MARCH4MYTIME', another fundraising walk, and taken part in their 'Corporate Championships', the sporting event to beat all other sporting events!

In addition to events and fundraisers, all Frettens staff members are entitled to one day per year to spend volunteering for MYTIME, where they can assist the charity in one of its many programmes. For example, Lewis Barr, Marketing & Commercial Partner at Frettens, and Michelle Petersen, Conveyancing Partner, have previously helped out in MYTIME's zorbing-themed activity day, Rhiannon Stevinson and Sevil Yildirim have been elves for a day, delivering Christmas gifts, and Hannah Martin has shown her creative side in arts and crafts. In fact, Jenny Williams, Marketing & Events Executive, even won 'Volunteer of the Year' at the charity's first annual 'Community Hero Awards'!

But by far the biggest event between the two organisations, with the most spectacle and 'pizazz', is the glamorous MYTIME Ball which, in 2023 alone, raised an amazing £20,000 for the charity! ■

Legal Jobs



Aldridge Brownlee Solicitors
is looking for a

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We are looking to recruit a Wills, Trusts and Probate lawyer for our Private Client team to take over an existing caseload consisting mainly of estate administration, with some Wills and LPAs etc. Our ideal candidate will be at least two years PQE or more experienced. We are looking for someone who is client focussed, hardworking and self-motivated. Experience of Trust/ COP work and STEP or ALL qualification an advantage but not essential.

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Book Review

THE DRINK- AND DRUG-DRIVE OFFENCES -

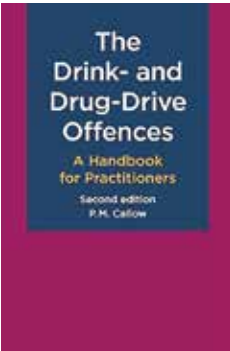
A Handbook for Practitioners Third Edition

WILDY, SIMMONDS & HILL PUBLISHING

By P M Callow

AN IMPORTANT UPDATED STATEMENT FOR CRIMINAL PRACTITIONERS IN THIS DEVELOPING AREA OF OFFENDING IN 2024

An appreciation by Elizabeth Robson Taylor MA of Richmond Green Chambers and Phillip Taylor MBE, Head of Chambers, Reviews Editor, "The Barrister", and Mediator



The purpose of this book is to bring together the statutory provisions and the case law on the drink- and drug-drive offences. Wildy, Simmonds and Hill offer us advice in an accessible, practical way which author P M Callow describes as "elucidating issues which are often surprisingly difficult".

The second edition of this handbook was published and updated in 2018 and has been further updated for 2024. The drug-driving offences have come into their own at this time, with the book adopting "a neutral standpoint" between the various interests of the police, prosecution or defence. These offences,

originally introduced in 2015, now account for almost as many convictions as excess alcohol offences do. The conviction rate for both groups of offences continues to be extremely high, at approximately 95%.

The new third edition "takes account of some forty judgments of the appellate courts since the publication of the second edition". As the author says, "the recent challenges to the drink- and drug- driving regimes have taken on a

somewhat different character from before". So, whilst the interpretation of the statutory road traffic provisions continues to be developed in our case law, other issues are coming to the fore with new cases.

Precedent on the circumstances in which judicial review is appropriate has also been drawn together. The line of developing cases often features contested decisions on adjournments which can be crucial for the development of a case. Common issues reviewed are lack of diligence in preparation for trial and/or failure by the court below properly to scrutinise the application for adjournment. In fact, all the usual problems practitioners face are covered here.

"Appeal courts", says Callow, "have remained constant in insisting on "rigorous scrutiny" of requests for adjournments and have robustly applied the Criminal Procedure Rules (Crim PR) aimed at avoiding delay". Delay being one of the biggest difficulties the court system currently faces in the middle of 2024.

In addition, judicial review has been increasingly used to challenge decisions of the lower courts; the case law on the circumstances in which this route is appropriate has been drawn together. The third edition offers commentary on the difficult cases of DPP v Carless [2005] and R v Coe [2009]. Both have been reviewed to emphasise that neither case sets a precedent for the admission in evidence of the analysis of blood specimens taken outside the regime of the 1988 Act.

It is right to say that this work remains a practical and accessible book. The author is always glad to hear from readers who have any comments to make or suggestions to offer concerning the content of the book. As with all Wildy books, this one goes to the heart of our practice is an invaluable addition to your law library. ■



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Optimising Law Firm Efficiency and Profitability with AI and Automated time recording

The legal industry has traditionally been resistant to change, but the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) presents an undeniable opportunity to enhance efficiency and profitability for law firms. At a time when competition is fierce, the ability to deliver high-quality services while controlling costs is key. AI, when integrated effectively, allows law firms to meet these challenges head-on, offering tools that streamline operations and provide more value to both lawyers and their clients.

AI has a profound impact on staff productivity. Human resources are the most expensive and vital asset in any law firm. By taking over repetitive, low-value tasks like legal research, document drafting, and even matter analysis, AI allows lawyers to focus on higher-value activities that require human expertise. AI-driven research tools, for instance, sift through vast legal databases in a fraction of the time it would take a lawyer, offering comprehensive insights while reducing possible errors from lapses in human concentration.

This shift not only improves operational efficiency but also provides an opportunity for legal professionals to enhance their skill sets. Lawyers can now focus on strategic, high-level work, thereby creating more value for clients while increasing their own billing potential. However, AI is not a replacement for human judgment. It acts as a powerful complement, augmenting the lawyer's role rather than diminishing it. To this end, law firms must embrace the idea that AI will redefine—not replace—how legal services are delivered.

Driving Efficiency Through Cloud Technology

To fully leverage AI, law firms must ensure that their internal infrastructure can support these innovations. Many law firms have already migrated their practice management systems to the cloud, where centralised data storage offers a perfect environment for AI applications to thrive. With access to a vast array of client information, case documents, and workflow data, AI can efficiently analyse and process large volumes of information, driving both innovation and operational improvements.

For those law firms that continue to rely on disconnected databases or outdated systems, the potential for AI-driven efficiencies is significantly reduced. If client and matter information is not organised and centralised, AI tools struggle to function effectively. The solution is to create cloud based practice management systems, ensuring that data is accessible, secure, and can be utilised effectively to improve both firm efficiency and client outcomes.

Increasing Billable Hours with Automated time recording

Another important technological development available to law firms is the ability to improve billing accuracy through automated time recording. Traditionally, time recording has been a manual process which can be prone to human error, leading to under-billing and revenue loss. Now, lawyers can track their billable hours more precisely. With powerful tools that automatically record and assign time to specific legal tasks, ensuring that no billable work goes

unrecorded. This improved accuracy not only enhances profitability but also alleviates the administrative burden on fee earners, allowing them to focus on more meaningful client interactions.

Such leading-edge technology provides a game-changing opportunity for law firms to optimise staff output, streamline operations, and drive profitability. Those firms that have put themselves in a place whereby they can embrace such technology, particularly by ensuring their data infrastructure is AI-ready, will be well-positioned to lead the way in the evolving legal landscape.

About LEAP

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

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

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

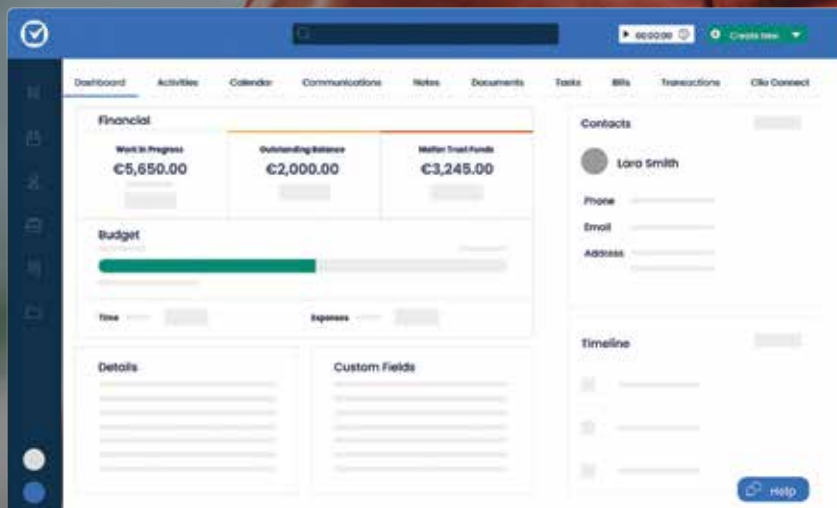


By Gareth Walker
CEO, Leap UK

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