

Bournemouth & District Lawyer



**Rob Rinder MBE
with
BDLS President,
Joanne Clarke**

**INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE:
BDLS Annual Dinner
BDLS Lecture Programme
The Importance of Being a First Aider**



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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
Summer	June 2025	25th APRIL 2025
Autumn	September 2025	
Winter	December 2025	
Spring	March 2025	

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

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



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COVER INFORMATION

Rob Rinder MBE with BDLS President, Joanne Clarke

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BDLS DIARY 2025

Fri 25 April	BDLS Annual Dinner at The Highcliff Marriott, Bournemouth
Mon 16 June	BDLS Annual General Meeting at Captains Club Hotel, Christchurch
Thurs 10 July	The Law Society Bicentenary Drinks Reception at Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth
Thurs 23 Oct	BDLS Wine Tasting Evening at Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth SAVE THE DATE

The President's Column

Joanne Clarke



As Spring approaches, it is a pleasure to reflect on recent events and look ahead at an exciting few months in the BDLs calendar.

It was fantastic to see such a large turnout at our Trainee and Newly Qualified Drinks reception in November. As a Society, we recognise the challenges and opportunities that come with the early stages of a legal career. Events like these play a vital role in fostering a sense of community. BDLs is committed to supporting our junior members and we look forward to hosting more events tailored to trainees and newly qualifieds.

The Christmas wine tasting evening was the perfect way to round off our social events for the year. Held in a festive setting, members of the Society celebrated the Christmas season with fine wines and good company.

Our Annual Lunch was a resounding success, bringing together members of the legal profession and their guests. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and to welcome new members to our growing society. A particular highlight was our guest speaker, Rob Rinder. My sincere thanks to all who attended as well as our sponsors for making the event such an enjoyable, memorable occasion. Please see full report on page 10 of this Magazine.

Another key event in the BDLs calendar is the Annual Dinner. We are delighted to confirm our speaker will be Clive Coleman. If you haven't already purchased your tickets, I would encourage you to do so as soon as possible as demand is high. This is always a fabulous event!

Beyond our social activities, BDLs continues to support its members with a range of lectures, webinars, conferences and networking opportunities. Please see full details of our forthcoming training events on page 18 of this Magazine.

As always, if any members require assistance or would like to give feedback on any aspect of the Society's activities and support, please email me or Mandy Heath at office@bournemouthlaw.com ■

Joanne Clarke
BDLS President

“Our Annual Lunch was a resounding success, bringing together members of the legal profession and their guests. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and to welcome new members to our growing society.”

Newly Qualified/Trainee Drinks Reception

Marsham Court Hotel – 13 November 2024



Maddy Cormell, Rebekah Taylor and Ezgi Almali



Alex Phillips, Kyle Muspratt and Gavin Fernandes



Emma Lester (Chadwick Nott), Finola Whelan and Olivia Singer



Ivy Magnetico, Tino Gundu, Katie Gale, Peter Watson-Lee, Megan Jones, Charlotte Grant, Ruby Forster

Our BDLs Newly Qualified Drinks Reception, in conjunction with Bournemouth & District JLD, was a successful event at the Marsham Court Hotel where we celebrated the achievements of newly qualified solicitors/CILEX and welcome new trainees.

There was a buzz and excitement in the room as attendees socialised and formed new connections. It was a positive step in fostering a sense of community among the next generation of legal professionals. ■

MANDY HEATH
BDLS Office Manager

A huge thank you to our sponsors - 3PB Barristers and Chadwick Nott Legal Recruitment.



Leah Sharman, James Hunter, Sasha Chubb, Charlotte Quenault, Rob Leonard (3PB)



Newly Qualified/Trainee Drinks Reception

Marsham Court Hotel – 13 November 2024



Jacob Emery, Jennifer Randall and Hannah Somers (Chadwick Nott)



Jonathan Wilson, Sarah Bourgoïn and Abi Griffin (3PB)



Merrin Kitcher, Emily Green, Isobel Leigh-Warren, Topaz Baird and Annie Lee



Mark Proctor, Matt Rushent and Conor Maher



Cameron Hill, Spike Western, Jack Felvus, Aiden Barman, Antoni Dembski



Arya Koohgilani, Ryhs Saidi, Tomas Baker



Mia Abel and Fern Atherton



Howard Hassan and Georgie Standhaft

BDLS Wine Tasting

Marsham Court Hotel - Thursday 28 November 2024

We were delighted to welcome back wine expert, Gemma Withenshaw, for our highly anticipated Christmas wine tasting evening. Gemma shared with us her passion for wine, guiding us through a tasting of six wines, including champagne and port, perfect for the Christmas season.

The Marsham Court Hotel's seasonal decorations and warm hospitality created a welcoming atmosphere, setting the tone for the night. Special thanks to the hotel for their exceptional service.

It was great to see such a large turnout from both experienced wine tasters and those attending for the first time. The evening proved to be a resounding success showcasing BDLS's commitment to hosting engaging and meaningful events for its members.

A huge thank you to our sponsors – Saffery, 3PB and Iceberg - whose representatives also came along to mingle and enjoy the evening. ■

MANDY HEATH
BDLS Office Manager

A huge thank you to our sponsors Saffery, 3PB and Iceberg



L:R Julian Heath, Ethan French, Mel Soto, Helen Clement, Karen Watts, Skeet Northfield, Chiara Parrella and Amy Lindley



L:R Bryan Scant, Edward Adamson, Joanne Clarke, Tara Jones, Aneta Zaitlikova, Carrie Butterworth, Emma Ritchie and Ben Cobb

BDLS Wine Tasting

Marsham Court Hotel – Thursday 28 November 2024



L:R Suzanne Kadziola, Mandy Heath, Gemma Withenshaw and Ana Dilling



L:R Andrew Higgs, Anna Curtis, Rhiannon Stevinson, Stephen Bowden, Suzanne Kadziola and Emma Hamilton Cole



L:R Annie Rollinson, Natasha Boyland, Kirsty Jocham, Sherrie-Ann Chappell, Jean Cross, Carla Streeter, Daisy Blair, Isabella Zhan and Olivia Rose



L:R Rudy Andrews, Nicola Wilson, Kerry Houston-Kypta, Marie Harder, Alice Toop, Betty Clarke and Matt Parker



L:R Alex Pappin, Rachel Tombs, Gary Spencer-Humphrey, Imogen Pawley, Samuel Harley and Sidra Cowell



L:R Hugo Haub, Mark Lello, Dan Francis, Bradley Cooper, Natalie French and Dan Stanton



L:R David McWilliam, Kate Brooks, Katie Taft, Carla Brown, Ethan Stoneham, Suzy Martin, Hannah Earle and Chris Pemberton



Kerry Houston-Kypta, Marie Harder and Alice Toop

BDLS Annual Lunch

The Pavilion, Bournemouth - Wednesday 5 February 2025

On 5 February, The Pavilion in Westover Road, Bournemouth was abuzz with nearly 600 guests as they gathered together for the BDLS Annual Lunch. This was the highest number of tickets sold for this prestigious event! The rapid sell out of places suggest that this event continues to be the most highly anticipated and well-attended event within the legal community locally.

After a fabulous lunch, BDLS President, Joanne Clarke, welcomed the top table guests including the guest speaker, Rob Rinder, and the sponsors, thanking them for their continued support.

The highlight was an engaging address by esteemed barrister and television personality, Rob Rinder MBE. This year's format was a fireside chat with our President followed by a Q&A from the guests.

Rob Rinder's talk switched seemingly effortlessly from amusing anecdotes of his showbiz experiences to serious issues facing the modern world and struck a well-received balance between the two. We learned that Rob feels fortunate to have been able to experience a diverse career, as a criminal barrister and later a broadcaster. Rob shared his gratitude at the opportunities the latter had given him to explore diverse topics.

Rob's work in presenting documentaries looking into the holocaust is a subject very close to home, as his grandfather is a survivor of this unconscionable episode. In an emotional moment, Rob discussed his experiences while visiting the sites of former concentration camps. For many of the recent generations, this issue may be viewed as an ancient piece of history. However, Rob poignantly pointed out that, prior to the wars, Germany had been seen as a shining, rock solid example of western democracy and that the circumstances leading to disaster – economic

instability, populists rising to power – are once again all too familiar. This conversation struck home how fragile democracy, tolerance and peace can be.

*Our sponsors were Paragon, Wilson & Roe, PKF Francis Clark, Finders, Search Acumen, Barclays and Review Solicitors
A huge thank you to them for supporting this event.*



In discussing lawyers' roles in a democracy, Rob strongly showed his support of all kinds of legal practitioners, be they barristers, solicitors, legal executives, conveyancers or any other of the diverse group that makes up today's legal professionals. Rob passionately believes that, as officers of the court, we all have a duty to uphold in preserving the rule of law. In particular, Rob made a point of showing support for everyday lawyers – people who may be working on residential property transactions, or dealing with divorce proceedings, and ultimately upholding the values of law on a daily basis with members of the local community.

Regarding our community, Rob was vocal in his love for Bournemouth, where we are told he spent many happy holidays as a child, with his family.

Finally, as much as many people would like it, we were assured that, though they appear to have kindled a wonderful friendship, that is definitely the limit of Rob's relationship with Rylan!

After lunch, Rob generously dedicated time to interact with the guests, signing copies of his books and posing for photographs. This personal engagement provided a unique opportunity for the attendees to connect with him behind his public persona, adding a memorable touch to the afternoon.

The BDLS Annual Lunch has long been a cornerstone event for the local legal community, offering a platform for lawyers to network, make new friends and catch up with colleagues in their fields. This year's gathering at the Pavilion not only continued this tradition but was further elevated by Rob Rinder's compelling presence and contributions. ■

MANDY HEATH
BDLS Office Manager



Charlotte Dollimore, Kate Mansfield and Laura Edwards



Jean Cross and Amy Langlois

BDLS ANNUAL LUNCH

The Pavilion, Bournemouth - Wednesday 5 February 2025



Kelvin Mugariri, Nicola Bennetts, Lynne Barton, Sarah Jenking and Karen Pritchard



Suzanne Kadziola, Mandy Heath, Byron Sims, Neil White, Mark Proctor and Mark Kiteley



Zoe Dobson and Wilfred Gomez (Search Acumen)



Marion and Graham Rose, Joanne Clarke and Neville Benbow (CEO, Jersey Law Society)



Michael Munns and Ryan Senior (Paragon)



Ashley Hinwood and Dan Tout (PKF Francis Clark)



Georgina Baverstock, Mark Benham, Kirsty Adamson, Ashleigh Lydford and Tom Alder



Alastair McCall, Amanda Bartlett and Jess Lyons

BDLS ANNUAL LUNCH

The Pavilion, Bournemouth - Wednesday 5 February 2025



James Burford and Richard Brixey



Maria Evans, Mia Abel, Kathryn Evans, Mark Daniels, Lucy Spollin and Taylor Anderson



Chris Reeves, Rob Nickless, Andrew Goss, Tom Killick and Burcu Bulbul



Neil Cook, Diane Pearce, Lauren Harley, Clementine Saulnier and Wayne Spolander



Caroline Nobbs, Keith Lomas, Sandra Graham and Rob Rinder



Amy Cousineau Massey, Anna Curtis and Ellena James



Evie Price, Ceri Onraet and Sue Hillier



Julie Pick, Adrian Falck and Katie Bickerstaff

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 Highcliff Marriott Hotel.

We are delighted to have secured CLIVE COLEMAN. As the BBC's Legal Correspondent, Clive was the face and voice of legal coverage and analysis across the BBC news output on radio, television and the website.

Please click here for further details: www.bournemouthlaw.com/res/Annual%20Dinner%20Flyer%202027.pdf

Contact Mandy Heath at mandy@bournemouthlaw.com to reserve your places.

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BDLS EUROPEAN CONFERENCE TO DUBLIN

Thursday 9 October – Sunday 12 October 2025



Our next Conference will be a trip to Dublin from Thursday 9 October - Sunday 12 October.

We are working on the itinerary and costings. In the meantime, please email the BDLS Office office@bournemouthlaw.com if this is of interest to you. Further details will be sent to members soon.



Embracing Digital Pioneers: A Crucial Shift for Law Firms in the Age of Gen Z and Millennials

As Millennials and Gen Z rise to prominence in both the workplace and marketplace, their expectations for digital fluency are reshaping professional landscapes, especially within the legal sector.

According to the recently published *“Digital Pioneers: Leading the Tech Revolution”* report from Dye & Durham, these generations prioritise technology as integral to quality of life, workplace preference, and efficiency.

For legal professionals, understanding and meeting these digital expectations isn't optional but essential for long-term relevance and appeal.

Generational Drive for Technology in Legal Settings

The new report sheds light on the growing influence of Millennials and Gen Z, who view technology not as an addition but as a necessary fabric in daily and professional life in the UK.

The survey underscores this tech-centric mentality: 75% of Millennials and 55% of Gen Z believe that technology improves life quality, with the majority in both groups also expressing a desire for continued digital integration in their professional environments.

The legal industry has historically operated with more conservative approaches to change; however, the mounting influence of Digital Pioneers demands a shift. Millennials and Gen Z overwhelmingly favour organisations that embrace digital transformation.

According to the report, over 69% of Millennials say they prefer to work for firms that incorporate new digital tools and systems, highlighting a clear preference for progressive, tech-friendly workplaces.

Legal Professionals' Technology Outlook: Key Insights

In collaboration with the Junior Solicitors Network of The Law Society of England and Wales, Dye & Durham's survey included insights from young UK legal professionals, providing an inside look into the digital priorities shaping today's law practices. These early-career lawyers from the Gen Z and Millennial cohorts emphasized the essential role technology plays in improving case management, client engagement, and operational efficiency.

A failure to address these generational expectations could lead to missed recruitment and retention opportunities, diminished client satisfaction, and a stalled competitive edge.

So, how can law firms embrace the priorities of Digital Pioneers?

1. Invest in Digital-First Infrastructure: Millennial and Gen Z legal professionals prefer firms that support their tech-driven lifestyles. Investing in digital and AI-enabled document management, virtual case tracking, and secure cloud storage can improve service speed, accuracy, and client satisfaction. Further, as remote work becomes a mainstay, digital platforms enabling collaboration, research, and compliance from anywhere will appeal to these tech-native lawyers.

2. Leverage AI for Efficiency and Insight: Among the survey's findings, an impressive 74% of Millennials and 71% of Gen Z respondents reported willingness to adopt AI in the workplace. For legal firms, AI presents a dual advantage: increasing speed in case analysis, document review, and

predictive analytics, while allowing young professionals to engage with forward-looking technology. By integrating AI tools, firms can demonstrate commitment to technological advancement, which resonates with tech-savvy employees and clients alike.

3. Prioritise Client and Employee Experience with Technology: Digital Pioneers place significant value on seamless digital interactions. This generation's propensity for self-service and efficient virtual engagement should inform how firms handle client communications, billing, and legal consultations. Digital client portals, AI-powered chatbots, and automated updates are no longer innovative extras but essential services that law firms should consider as core offerings.

Adapting to the Future: A Strategic Imperative for Law Firms

For law firms, staying competitive in an era defined by digital expectations will require more than updating office software; it involves a comprehensive approach to technology as a business strategy. Millennials and Gen Z are not simply adapting to technology but demanding environments that embrace it. As these Digital Pioneers move into leadership roles, their tech-driven philosophies will continue to shape business standards, especially in sectors like law, where technology adoption has traditionally lagged.

Embracing these digital shifts is not only about maintaining relevance for clients and employees but about positioning the firm as an attractive employer and a forward-thinking practice. The ongoing transformation presents law firms with a unique opportunity to redefine their services, amplify operational efficiencies, and secure a generationally diverse workforce for the future.

So, how can a firm be better equipped to meet the needs of the next generation of clients and solicitors?

- 1. Build a Digital-First Legal Practice:** Gen Z and Millennials seek workplaces where technology is central to daily operations. Implementing secure, scalable digital infrastructure is critical to attracting top talent and modernising client services.
- 2. Adopt AI for Streamlined Workflows and Client Engagement:** With Millennials and Gen Z open to AI integration, law firms can leverage it to improve accuracy and speed while enhancing employee experience and client satisfaction.
- 3. Focus on Enhanced Client Experience:** Digital-savvy clients expect self-service options, virtual consultations, and seamless interactions, all of which are achievable through thoughtfully integrated technology.

As the legal industry encounters new generational expectations, firms willing to adapt will see tangible benefits in employee satisfaction, client loyalty, and competitive positioning.

Law firms that embrace the transformative power of technology can not only meet the expectations of Millennials and Gen Z but can also set a standard for modern legal practice. ■



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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. TUR0031
- TEST MATTER
STONE Roys Mr (Search-Update) STO0051

Sales Actual Vs Budget

£1,200,000
£1,000,000
£800,000
£600,000
£400,000
£200,000
£0

Budget (£1,500,408) Actual (£200,000)





Bournemouth & District Junior Lawyers Division

It has been a busy start to the year for the BDJLD.

Events Update

Since our last update, we have hosted some fantastic events and have planned many more.

Our first event as a new committee was our Christmas Quiz in aid of Hope for Food, a wonderful local charity providing assistance to the homeless and to families in need. I am pleased to confirm that we raised £511.95 at what was a very important time of year for the charity. Thanks to all who took part and also to firms and chambers who, very generously, donated raffle prizes.

In January, we hosted a coaster painting event which sold out and was enjoyed by all in attendance.

We have also had February's Cheese & Wine Networking Event at Renoufs – this gave our members and others an opportunity to network in an informal setting, as well as enjoying lots of the cheese and wine that Renoufs had to offer.

Moving into March, we have the inaugural BDJLD Darts Championship (which was at least in part inspired by Luke Littler's historic success earlier this year). Trophy pictures to follow!

Looking forward, we have the Summer Ball and the Day at the Races to look forward to in the Summer as our flagship events, but we will also have a host of monthly social and networking events as always. On the education and development front, I am pleased to confirm that the BDLS and BDJLD will be co-hosting two webinars, one with a focus on burnout in the profession, and the other introducing Excel for Lawyers.

Charity Update

In 2024, BDJLD supported Hope for Food and an impressive amount of money was raised for them over a number of events. As a committee, we are very proud of what we were able to raise for a truly deserving charity.

At our committee meeting in January, we selected our charity for the year ending 31 January 2026 – I am pleased to confirm that we will be working with the Water Lily Project, who are a Christchurch based charity helping and supporting women in BCP, with a particular focus on those escaping domestic abuse and suffering with their mental health. This is a truly worthwhile cause, and we look forward to working with them over the coming year. Look out for ways to support them at upcoming events!

Other Business

It will have been communicated to our contacts at Bournemouth and District-based firms that we have reviewed the renewal date for BDJLD members. A decision has been taken to move the renewal date to September, which we feel will encourage membership at the point of onboarding new employees in line with the academic year. To facilitate this, we have a longer BDJLD 'year', lasting from the current renewal (April 2025) to 30 September 2026. This has been reflected in the membership fees for this year, which are 1.5 times larger to account for the extended period. To mitigate the exposure for firms, however, we are pleased to confirm that memberships will be transferable between leavers and joiners.

As a committee, we are proud of the events that we have held and have planned, and we hope that all those eligible to be members can get involved with events in the future. ■

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



Quiz winners – 3PB



(L-R) Emily Shepard, Poppy (the dog!), Daisy Kershaw, Outi Kallunki-Stevens, Jonathan Wilson, Alexander Chance and Claire Wilson



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. ■

BDSL Lecture Programme 2025

KEY:
LIVE WEBINARS
FACE TO FACE LECTURES

Kindly sponsored by


DATE AND TIME	LECTURE	FORMAT	LECTURER	VENUE
12 March 2025 10:00 – 12:00	Lifetime IHT Planning	Live Webinar	John Bunker	Zoom
13 March 2025 11:00 – 12:00	Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024	Live Webinar	Richard Snape	Zoom
18 March 2025 09:00 – 16:00	Emergency First Aid at Work	Face to Face	Green Cross Global	Green Cross Hotel SOLD OUT
27 March 2025 12:30 – 17:00	Civil Litigation Conference	Face to Face	Various	Carlton Hotel
1 April 2025 14:00 – 17:15	Stamp Duty Land Tax Review 2025: a 3 hour update	Face to Face	Paul Clark	Marsham Court Hotel
23 April 2025 10:00 – 10:45	An Overview of the Worker Protection Act	Live Webinar	David Green	Zoom
29 and 30 April 2025 09:30 – 17:00	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
21 May 2025 14:00 – 17:15	Civil Procedure and Practice – Spring 2025	Face to Face	Andrew McLoughlin	Marsham Court Hotel
25 June 2025 10:00 – 16:30	Family Law Conference	Face to Face	Various	Marsham Court Hotel
2 July 2025 14:00 – 17:15	Reviewing Wills and Trusts in the light of the IHT changes in the 30 Oct Budget	Face to Face	John Bunker	Marsham Court Hotel
10 July 2025 09:15 – 16:45	Compliance Conference (followed by The Law Society Bicentenary Drinks Reception)	Face to Face	Various	Marsham Court Hotel
15 July 2025 13:30 – 16:45	Conveyancing Hot Issues	Face to Face	Richard Snape	Marsham Court Hotel

BDLS Lecture Programme 2025 (cont.)

DATE AND TIME	LECTURE	FORMAT	LECTURER	VENUE
4 September 2025 11:00 – 12:00	Deliberate Deprivation for Social Care	Live Webinar	Caroline Bielanska	Zoom
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 Court Hotel
22 October 2025 09:15 – 12:15	Emergency remedies: ICOs, EPOs, and PPOs	Face to Face	Safda Mahmood	Marsham Court Hotel
22 October 2025 13:15 – 16:15	Advocacy Training in Family Law	Face to Face	Safda Mahmood	Marsham Court Hotel
26 November 2025 Times to be confirmed	Property Conference	Face to Face	Various – TBC	Marsham Court Hotel

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 Wednesday 12 March 2025 – 10:00 – 12:00

Topic **LIFETIME IHT PLANNING**

Lecturer **John Bunker**

Cost **£70 – Solicitor Member; Associate Member; Trainees** (Solicitors; Cilex; Apprentices) **and £100 Non Member of BDLS**

■ The huge IHT changes in the Oct 30th Budget greatly increase the need for lifetime planning. The controversial change in IHT on farms and businesses, with the new cap on 100% relief, and pensions being taxed for IHT, means a big increase in the number of estates paying IHT, so what advice can we offer clients?

- Some key elements of effective use of exemptions;
- Re-thinking the use of assets now pensions will (from 2027) no longer be exempt from IHT;
- Planning to secure RNRB when pensions will be included in the £2m threshold calculation;
- The revised place of life assurance in planning;
- Some lifetime succession planning for farms and businesses;
- Gifts of property interests without a reservation of benefit or POAT charge?

WEBINAR Thursday 13 March 2025 – 11:00 – 12:00

Topic **THE LEASEHOLD AND FREEHOLD REFORM ACT 2024**

Lecturer **Richard Snape**

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

■ The Act received the Royal Assent in May 2024 and is a highly significant piece of legislation.

Topics covered include:

- Banning of new leasehold houses and permitted leases;
- Changes to the Building Safety Act 2022;
- Changes to Lease extensions and enfranchisement;
- Sales information requests;
- Changes to service charges and administration charges;
- Changes to rent charges.

Summary of Upcoming Live Time Lectures and Webinars

LECTURE Thursday 27 March 2025 – 12:30 – 17:15 followed by networking drinks

Topic	CIVIL LITIGATION CONFERENCE
Lecturer	Alexander Whatley, Eric Roe, Conor Maher, DJ Judge Ashby
Venue	Carlton Hotel,
Cost	£110 – Member and Associate Members of BDLS/Trainees (Solicitors; Cilex; Apprentices) includes lunch £150 – Non Member of BDLS includes lunch

Alexander Whatley, 3PB - **Alternative Dispute Resolution**

Eric Roe, Wilson & Roe - **High Court Enforcement Training for Litigation Professionals**

Conor Maher, Ellis Jones - **Preparing for the Renters' Rights Bill - an Update for Litigators**

DJ Judge Ashby - **A View from the Bench: Case preparation, advocacy and current trends in civil litigation**

Please click here for full details: [www.bournemouthlaw.com/res/Civil Litigation Conference flyer 27.3.25.pdf](http://www.bournemouthlaw.com/res/Civil%20Litigation%20Conference%20flyer%2027.3.25.pdf)

LECTURE Tuesday 1 April 2025 – 14:00 – 17:15

Topic	STAMP DUTY LAND TAX REVIEW – A THREE HOUR UPDATE
Lecturer	Paul Clark
Venue	Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth
Cost	£95 – Member and Associate Members of BDLS/Trainees (Solicitors; Cilex; Apprentices) £145 – Non Member of BDLS

SDLT has now been around for 21 years. Paul's last 3-hour event (in 2022) was designed for those new to the tax, or who needed a refresher. This time the notes will include some of the more tricky SDLT provisions for residential practitioners (like the various surcharges and first-time buyers' relief) and for commercial practitioners (dealing with leases) but in the context of applying those provisions to actual cases that have come way way. We will probably have time for a dozen residential cases and a dozen commercial cases.

However, we will begin with recent developments. Perhaps the most significant is the treatment of mixed-use acquisitions, which is of interest to all practitioners and on which there has been considerable case-law. The abolition in March 2024 of multiple dwellings relief also raises issues - because the purchase of multiple dwellings still takes place, and some savings may still be available. There are also changes to residential rates as from 1 April 2025, and to the treatment of chattels and goodwill. There may also be time to talk about "overlap relief" which is not well understood. And, who knows what further changes may be introduced between now and 1 April 2025!

Those who attend this event will also receive two SDLT calculators and instructions for their use. One is for calculating SDLT on the price, premium or other consideration of a capital nature, updated to include the rate changes on and from 1 April 2025. Simply enter one figure, and you will get the non-residential SDLT and the following residential rates, with and without NRS: normal, FTBR, HRAD and Higher Rate. The other is a manual NPV calculator for use when working out overlap relief.



The Council Member's Report

PETER WATSON-LEE

Law Society Council Member for Dorset

CLIENT ACCOUNT UNDER THREAT

Thank you to all who responded to the SRA's latest – and most chilling – consultation. The consultation was 'to explore an ambition, for the longer term, to move away from the model of firms holding client money at all.' It questioned 'whether it is ever right for firms to retain any of the interest earned on money held for clients'. It even wanted to look at asking for money on account and 'the circumstances in which requesting an advance fee may be appropriate'.

Reading the consultation leaves one questioning whether the SRA understands how the profession they regulate actually works. Certainly the Law Society has responded in strong terms. It is hoped many other local Law Society and firms have done so as well.

In fairness, when the SRA looked at abolishing the insurance run off fund (SIF) a few years ago, strong responses by the profession persuaded them to back down. One can only hope that will be repeated here.

Of course, a cynic might suggest that the whole consultation has been produced to divert attention from the administrative failures of the SRA in failing to spot and intervene in the Axiom Ince collapse that has resulted in a £60million client account being stolen. Whilst you may think that, I could not possibly comment.

Client Account - Where do you sit?

Around 7,000 firms (around 75% of all the firms regulated by the SRA) declared that they held client money:

- Around 4,500 firms held an average amount of less than £100,000
- Around 3,500 firms held more than £1m at some point during the year with around 80 holding more than £100m at some point during the year
- a small number of firms each held more than £1bn at some point during the year.

LAW SOCIETY STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

By the time you read this, I will have attended a two day Council session in Chancery Lane to thrash out the Society's Strategic Plan for the next three years.

As the profession:

- continues to grow (there are now 167,603 solicitors with practicing certificates and over 200,000 solicitors on the roll);
- becomes ever more diverse in the work it does (27% now work in-house)
- and as the news cycle and new legislation churns out at ever greater speed,

we have to recognise we cannot do everything.

We need to prioritise and decide where we will (and will not) concentrate our resources. Internally, this is likely to result in some changes in the way we work. It may mean losing some of our long

standing committees in favour of new ways of working. Never an easy change to implement. One thing that will remain a priority is improving our engagement with the solicitors we represent. Improving our communications and social media will continue, as will our work with local Law Societies. We will also be rolling out our new 'Get Involved' programme to enable all solicitors to register if they are interested in getting involved in the Society's work. We are keen to involve many more to ensure we have the benefit of contributions from our increasingly diverse membership.

You will be hearing more about this as the year goes by – a launch of the proposed 'Membership Advisory Forum' is anticipated in October.

200 YEARS OF SUPPORTING SOLICITORS

The Law Society was founded in 1825, so this year is its Bicentenary. Go and look at the Law Society's website for some interesting articles on the development of the Society over the last two centuries. And keep 10th July 2025 in your diaries for the President's visit to Bournemouth to celebrate the Bicentenary. ■

Peter Watson-Lee

Law Society Council Member for Dorset



PRACTICE MANAGERS/MANAGING PARTNERS/ HR MANAGERS/COLPS/COFAS – WHATSAPP FORUM

A platform for discussing best practices, share information and seek advice on issues specific to these roles.

If you would like to join this group, please email mandy@bournemouthlaw.com with your mobile number



Ethical Marketing: Building Trust in the Legal Industry

'Ethical Marketing' is defined as the practice of promoting services or brands in a way that aligns with ethical standards.

This involves creating marketing strategies and campaigns that are honest, transparent, respectful, and socially responsible.

ReviewSolicitors has explained that this also applies to collecting client reviews.

There are 4 ways that ethical marketing can increase trust for your firm:

1. Adherence to Regulations.

Using regulated platforms ensure that reviews are collected, monitored, and displayed according to specific guidelines. These systems are designed to prevent fake reviews, the manipulation of ratings, or the attempt to incentivise clients unfairly. A prospective client would recognise a regulated review platform as a valid method to assist in their decision-making process.

2. No Manipulation.

Ethical marketing is strictly against fabricating or altering information. Client feedback must be authentic - it cannot be influenced by the firm. Trustworthy client reviews should reflect real interactions, as this helps potential clients to make well-informed decisions based on authentic feedback.

3. Transparency.

Reviews represent genuine experiences from clients who have chosen to share their honest opinions. Therefore, all verified reviews must be displayed, or the firm could be accused of attempting to hide certain reviews. To attain the trust of a new client, a law firm should demonstrate complete transparency.

4. Trust-Building.

By showcasing outstanding client service and positive experiences, a law firm is offering social proof of their competency and service quality. If a prospective client can see that many others have had successful interactions, this will foster trust and establish the firm's credibility.

To learn more, contact Adam, Head of Partnerships at ReviewSolicitors. adam.hall@reviewsolicitors.com ■

In Memoriam



RICHARD WHITHAM

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of Richard Whitham, a popular and respected solicitor who passed away in November.

Richard joined Aldridge Brownlee Solicitors (at that time G A Mooring Aldridge and Brownlee) in 1965 as an articled clerk to Peter Mellows and remained with the firm throughout his long career.

Richard qualified in 1971 and became a Partner on 1 January 1973 on the same date as fellow solicitors Robert Chappell and Tony Parkinson.

Richard spent his long career with Aldridge Brownlee in their Winton and Moordown offices, primarily practising in conveyancing, wills and probate, and some matrimonial and criminal work. In later years, he specialised in conveyancing until he retired in 2010.

Richard was BDLS President in 1994/95 and served for many years on the General Committee. He was also secretary of the BDLS

Golf Section and played for many seasons as a full back in the Young Solicitors Football team, from the late 1960s.

He was also a member of Bournemouth Rotary Club for over 40 years, and held the position of President, Treasurer, and later Chair of the Foundation Committee.

Outside of his office life, Richard was a lifelong Saints Football Club supporter and a highly talented guitarist and singer, playing regularly with the "Rick Rock and the Rowdies". Richard's last public performance, singing and playing bass with Rick Rock and the Rowdies, was a sell-out charity event in November 2023.

This year he and Vicki would have celebrated 45 years of marriage together with their daughters Rebecca and Georgina, their grandchildren and extended family. He will be greatly missed by all his family, friends and colleagues. ■



NICK HANNING - 2.10.1964 – 31.12.2024

Nick Hanning sadly passed away on New Year's Eve at the age of 60. He touched the lives of so many with his warmth, kindness, determination and unwavering strength, leaving an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Nick worked in the local area at Farnfields and Nicholls (which became Farnfields) where he was Head of the PI Department, on the management board and responsible for IT.

In 2000, Reynolds Williams opened its doors in Parkstone Road, Poole. The firm was established by Nick, David Williams and Paul Reynolds. The firm grew quickly and in 2006 merged with the well-established Poole firm, Perrins Stevenson, becoming RWPS Law.

In 2014 RWPS merged with Dutton Gregory where Nick continued to work until he moved to London.

Nick was always a very a humble man but it is not an over-statement to say that he was a role model and a trailblazer! He had many 'firsts' in his illustrious legal career and paved the way for other lawyers to follow. Nick was admitted as a Fellow of what became the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEX) in 1990.

In 2000, when rights of audience were extended to Legal Executives, Nick was one of the first to qualify as an Advocate in Civil Proceedings. He was also recognised as one of the first Legal Executives to become a partner in a solicitors' practice.

Nick was President of CILEX between 2012 and 2013 and was then appointed to the Board of CILEX Regulation. He then became a Deputy District Judge and an Employment Tribunal Judge. Last year, he became the very first CILEX lawyer to be appointed as a Recorder, sworn in by the Lady Chief Justice in November.

At his swearing in, Nick said:

"When I began my legal career, the legal executive route was all that was available to me to progress in a structured way combining formal learning with on-the-job practical experience. My appointments to previous judicial roles, and now recorder, are evidence of the excellent work that is being done to increase diversity by ensuring that appointment is not about background and qualifications but about demonstrating the required competencies — however they have been acquired"

Our thoughts remain with his wife, Martha, his son, Sam, father and step-mother, Jack and Fernanda, and sister, Rachel, and all his family and friends. ■

In Memoriam



LIONEL FYNN - 1940 – 2025

It is with great sadness that I advise of the passing of Lionel Fynn, a well-known and much-admired local solicitor and specialist advocate in licensing and planning law.

I am reflecting on his professional career, after nearly 40 years of working alongside him, and it is nigh on impossible to commemorate his life in a short epitaph. Lionel originally aspired to be a professional cricketer (as his father before him) and played to county standard but life had a different calling and Lionel entered articles at a local solicitors' firm, Philip Evans and Co., whose offices comprised the building which now houses the chambers of 3 PB, Bournemouth. From what I can gather, the articles were tough, expectations high and after 5 years Lionel qualified and proceeded to set up a firm called McInerney Fynn with a fellow solicitor, the late Colin McInerney, in Old Christchurch Road. The firm subsequently merged with Ward Bowie, having 7 offices from London, across Hampshire and to Bournemouth, with the head office at 99 Aldwych (now part of LSE) which was immediately next to the Royal Courts of Justice and benefitted hugely from agency instructions from other firms of solicitors for litigation matters listed in the RCJ. The senior partner of Ward Bowie then was Michael Cook, famously known not only for his appearances on the BBC but also as author of 'Cook on Costs' or colloquially as

the 'Cook Book' which still survives as a most popular reference on costs. The firm then merged with Penningtons and saw Lionel as the senior partner of the Bournemouth office. Subsequently, the Bournemouth office broke away from Penningtons and Lionel headed the new firm of Fynn & Partners based at the top of Richmond Hill, where there now stands a tower block of flats! A subsequent merger with the firm of another ex-Ward Bowie partner resulted in Horsey Lightly Fynn (or HLF) which continued to practice until the merger with Lacey's in 2015.

Lionel was an incredibly well-known and popular licensing solicitor, acting for many major corporate entities for alcohol licensing, betting and gaming nationally. His client list included many household names. Originally, few lawyers were experts in such matters as licensing and Lionel vied with the late John Littler to be the best licensing solicitor in the country. Lionel had an acute mind and a terrific attention to detail and recall of facts. On one occasion in the Magistrates' Courts an argument on a legal issue resulted in Lionel totally off the cuff reciting in detail an authority which he said had appeared in the Justice of the Peace Magazine in 1933, some 50 plus years earlier to the astonishment of the magistrates before him.... and no one could contradict it! Lionel was a tenacious advocate and, unusually, would always insist on undertaking his own advocacy in the Crown Court on appeals from the magistrates.

In Memoriam

LIONEL FYNN (CONTINUED)

In latter years, following the shift of licensing practice from magistrates to local authorities as the first tier for applications, Lionel concentrated far more on his expertise in planning law. He built up his planning practice to the extent that at one time he had 10 planning consultants and several planning solicitors working in the planning department of the firm with him. He would spend incredibly long hours preparing for planning appeals and conducting his own advocacy in public inquiries. He never balked at challenging decisions which he thought were legally incorrect to the point where a well-known planning law King's Counsel advised that outside London Lionel provided him with more High Court challenges and Judicial Reviews than all other instructions together that he received from outside London!

Lionel was recognised by Chambers and Partners as a leading individual in his field and in the Legal 500 as a Legal Expert. He was nominated by Planning Magazine as one of the top 50 planning solicitors in the country and has been referred to as "a wonderfully eloquent advocate". Lionel loved his work, so much so he continued to practice with his planning expertise caseload until his death, which sadly came all too soon.

Outside the law, Lionel had a great number of interests and was always quick to assist anyone seeking his help on any issue. How he found time for all he did is hard to imagine. He had a great sense of humour and a caring and compassionate temperament. Lionel had an avid passion for all things aeronautical. He arranged many events for friends and clients involving gliders, hot air balloons, numerous aircraft including a prototype Tiger

Moth, and even travelled to Canada to film a flight from inside a Lancaster Bomber. Many great times were spent on airfields with recording equipment and in unusual aircraft, not forgetting the stunt shots including him filming loop the loops in the air from within an acrobatic aircraft! Indeed, on one occasion I recall being in the Magistrates' Court with Lionel on a Monday morning when another solicitor, having informed those present he had been on the golf course all weekend, turned to Lionel and enquired if he had done anything over the weekend. Lionel's retort left him speechless: 'I flew Concorde to Sydney and back!' As usual, his quick retorts would often amaze. To add to his interests, Lionel even made time to run his own video company making many recordings and documentaries relating to his great interests including specialist aircraft, all kinds of transport including ships and trains, together with a number of educational recordings on legal matters, particularly relating to licensing law, all of which sold many copies. Lionel's recording company survives today, thanks to his sons' involvement, and continues from strength to strength.

Lionel will be sadly missed by all his family and friends and particularly Kathy, sons Charles and Harry, daughter Natalie, daughter-in-law Christina, son-in-law Francis and new arrival, grandson Theodore. ■

BY **Sandra Graham**
BDLS PAST PRESIDENT

Wellbeing & Diversity

LEGAL
RUNNER

LEGALRUNNER

Promoting mental health & wellbeing

Mark Evans, Senior Vice President of The Law Society has recently launched LegalRunner, a running club for the legal community. The group was originally formed on LinkedIn but they now have an Instagram, Facebook, Strava group and a website - <https://legalrunner.co.uk>. Their membership now exceeds 400 members and they have various regional contacts based across England & Wales. Running tops are available, with all donations going to LawCare, the mental health charity for the legal community. They still have areas without a regional contact. If anyone is interested in becoming involved please contact Mark at admin@legalrunner.co.uk

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@rawlinsdavvreeves.com
Tel: 01202 558844



Nicola Lowe
Nicolalowe@hgwalker.co.uk
Tel: 01202 881454 or 07854 787358
(outside office hours)



Edward Holmes
egholmes@meesons-spurlings.co.uk
Tel: 01425 484420



Sally Crawford
Sallycrawf@gmail.com
Tel: 07973 148264



Mandy Heath
mandyjheath@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 07763 833256



Maddy Longland
ml@mjplaw.co.uk
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Tel: 01202 338580



Sarah Unsworth
Bacchante2012@gmail.com
Tel: 01590 676933



Liam Fennessey
lf@prestonredman.co.uk
Tel: 07776 653645



Marie Harder
mharder@coles-miller.co.uk
Tel: 01202 338885

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!



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The Importance of Being a Mental Health First Aider



As we start 2025, now more than ever, we need to focus on looking after our mental health. Life is fast paced, demanding and stressful and it is key that we make a resolution to look after ourselves as a whole.

We all have times where we feel down, stressed, tired - it is a part of life. Luckily for a lot of us, things pick up and we resume good mental health. However, there will be times where our feelings develop into mental health problems such as anxiety or depression, and it can start to impact our daily lives.

We spend a lot of time at work or involved with work. It is therefore important to know that, as well as your usual First Aiders, many employers have designated Mental Health First Aiders/ Responders. It may seem daunting to talk about your mental health but they are there for you to approach if you want a listening ear, to offload or want some direction as to where to seek help.

Mental Health First Aiders act with integrity and confidentiality. They have an understanding of mental health issues and the skills to support their own and others' wellbeing in the workplace. They aim to promote positive mental health in the workplace. They won't be able to treat you/solve all your problems but can help guide you to sources of treatment and support.

Having qualified in 2024 as a Mental Health Workplace Responder myself, through St John's Ambulance, I can thoroughly recommend completing the course. My skills have already assisted someone in serious need and I feel that my training helped me know what to do and how to deal with the situation. It is beneficial to employers to have a Mental Health Workplace Responders to help improve employee wellbeing and productivity, reduce employee absenteeism and staff turnover, create a positive workplace culture and of course ensure compliance with legal requirements.

If you need immediate support with your Mental Health please call the Samaritans on 116 123 or NHS 111. ■

Marie Harder
Associate Solicitor, Coles Miller Solicitors

BDLS is running their next Mental Health First Aid Certification Course as a series of online sessions on 6, 8, 13, 15 May 2025 from 09:30 – 13:30. At the time of writing this article, there are a few places left so hurry to book your places! Further details can be found here: <https://www.bournemouthlaw.com/res/06%2008%2013%2015%20May%202025%20MHFA%20flyer.pdf>

Firms' News

New commercial property partner joins Steele Raymond

Steele Raymond is pleased to welcome Luc Algar as a partner and head of the firm's expanding Commercial Property team. Luc brings nearly 20 years' experience in all aspects of commercial property, having advised and assisted a diverse range of clients including property investors, lenders, developers and occupiers across various sectors. Luc joins from regional firm Moore Barlow, where he led the Real Estate division.

Luc joins a commercial property team of twelve which includes fellow partners Chris Twaits, Carol Elliott and Martin Logan, and Managing Partner, Jennifer Rogerson. ■



Luc Algar with Jennifer Rogerson

SteeleRaymond

Forest Holme Hospice's Strictly Extravaganza raises a glittering £80,000

Forest Holme Hospice Charity's second Strictly Extravaganza dazzled audiences at the Poole Lighthouse on Saturday 25th January. Bringing together ten brave contestants paired with professional dancers for a night of unforgettable performances, the event was a resounding success, both on the dance floor and in fundraising efforts.

The competition saw incredible performances from all participants, including Kerry Hay, Associate Solicitor at Coles Miller for Wills and Probate. She took to the stage to perform a Viennese Waltz with professional dance partner, Adam Parry.

The event's success extended beyond the dance floor, raising a staggering £80,387 - with more donations still rolling in. Kerry, who personally raised £2,525 for the charity herself, expressed her gratitude, saying:

"I wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported me in my Strictly journey! I had a fabulous night on Saturday, and I'm thrilled to see such an incredible amount raised for Forest Holme." ■



Situations Vacant



is looking for a QUALIFIED SOLICITOR

In order to meet our exciting growth plans we are seeking a qualified solicitor up to 3 years PQE, preferably with experience in Construction Law in the UK.

Based out of our Dorchester office you will be working with the business owner and will be responsible for your own caseload of good quality contentious and non-contentious matters, of varying size and complexity, to provide appropriate, insightful and commercially relevant advice to meet clients' specific needs and interests.

If you are interested, please find further details about the position and how to apply on our website, via the following link:

<https://www.reevesjames.com/careers/> ■

LACEYS SOLICITORS

is looking for a SENIOR ASSOCIATE / PARTNER – PRIVATE CLIENT

Are you a passionate legal professional seeking to make a significant impact in Private Client Law? Laceys invites you to become an integral part of our well-established Legal 500 Private Client team – a dynamic and supportive environment where your expertise will flourish, known for expertise in Personal Tax, Trusts, and Probate. Ideal candidates will have 8+ years of experience advising high-net-worth clients, STEP accreditation, and strong technical, client care, and communication skills. We offer diverse casework, career development opportunities, and a supportive culture with comprehensive benefits.

Key Highlights of The Role:

- Join as an experienced member, advising on all areas of private client law, including drafting Wills, probate matters including administration of complex estates, tax and lifetime planning, trust administration, and more.
- Engage in a fee-earning role that brings versatility through a broad array of matters, ensuring professional growth and direct impact.
- Opportunity to contribute to business development and to cultivate your own client base while supporting the firm's long-standing clients.
- Qualified Solicitors or Chartered Legal Executives with 8+ years' PQE in a reputable Private Client department.
- Individuals with exceptional knowledge in private client law and a desire to stay ahead of legal trends.
- STEP accreditation is advantageous, demonstrating a commitment to excellence in our field.
- Resilient, well-organised professionals able to manage diverse caseloads and excel in client relationships.

Benefits include:

If this sounds like you, and you are looking to work within an established team where you can provide support and supervision to more junior team members, we look forward to hearing from you.

In addition to annual leave, occupational sick pay and pension scheme membership, Laceys provides a range of benefits to support your health and wellbeing including our EAP scheme, a healthcare cash plan and bike2work scheme among others. Being based in Bournemouth for a lunchtime walk to the beach also helps. The role is available on a hybrid basis.

To find out more about the role, please visit our website or contact our HR Manager at t.clayton@laceyssolicitors.co.uk ■

Situations Wanted

EMILY WHITE

EMILY WHITE is looking for a one week voluntary work experience placement in a local law firm as part of her Criminology A Level studies. This would be for the week of 23 June 2025.

Please contact Emily by email
em.white2008@outlook.com

MATTHEW BROOKS

MATTHEW BROOKS is looking for a training contract within a local law firm. He has completed his LPC, choosing advanced criminal litigation, private client and employment law as electives. He currently runs his own estate management and will writing practice.

Please contact Matthew at
director@brookslaw.co.uk

MADISON CARSWELL

MADISON CARSWELL is looking for a one-week work experience placement in a local law firm, preferably in May 2025 but is flexible on this. She will be commencing her law degree in September 2025.

Please contact Madison by email is
madisongcarswell@icloud.com

Bournemouth & District Law Society

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EMAIL:
office@bournemouthlaw.com



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

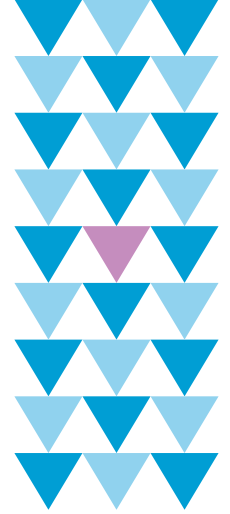
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Dedicated to delivering cutting-edge and intelligent legal software solutions, LEAP's team of specialist developers present innovative AI solutions that automate routine tasks, simplify document management, and enhance decision-making, allowing lawyers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

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By Gareth Walker
CEO, Leap UK



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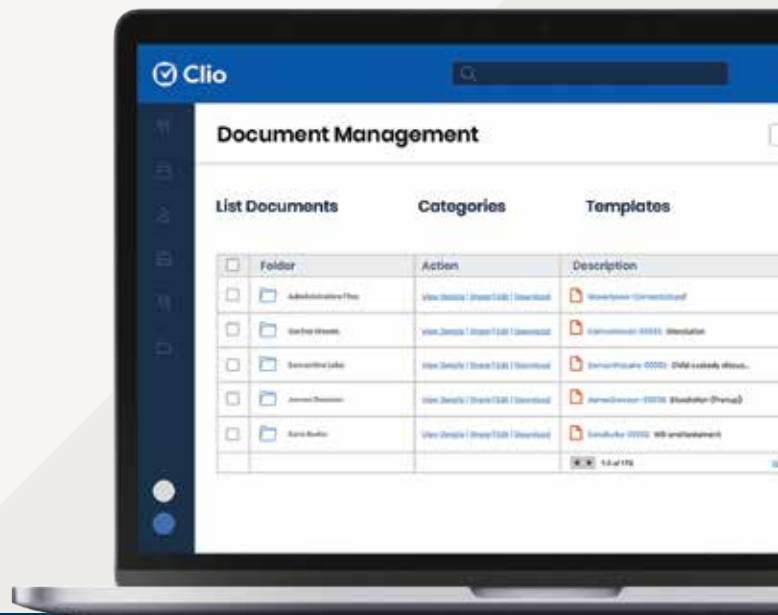
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