

Dear Member,

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the May Newsletter, and welcome to Spring! It finally feels like it has sprung, doesn't it! Not that there seems to be much respite from work at the moment, as everyone I speak to seems to be head down and getting on with it. For our part at the SLS we have been continuing with our efforts to enter into a dialogue with the courts, to see if there is anything we can do to help them to help us. We have been focusing on the Court of Protection and the local County Courts in particular and will let you know as soon as we have anything to report.

In the meantime we are still running lots of courses (still virtually for the moment) and publishing weekly Court updates on the website. There is a wealth of information on the [SLS website](#), including our jobs board, which you can obviously visit at any time. Happy reading!

NEWS

- **Housing Law Services LLP** are delighted to announce that they have been acquired by Knights PLC. Read about it [here](#).
- **Nick Evans**, a past president of this Society, retires from **Griffith Smith** after 29 years with firm: "I have very much enjoyed my career with the firm but now is the right time for me to move on. I don't regard it as retiring at all. Quite the opposite – a new freedom and a new chapter in life's journey". www.griffithsmith.co.uk/nick-evans-29-years-at-griffith-smith
- **Francis Lacy Scott** is retiring on 6 May after 40 years of working as a solicitor, predominantly in Sussex. He was senior partner of Claremont Haynes in Brighton, then a partner at Burstow's, followed by ASB law and finally as a partner in Clmedilaw. Among a number of awards, he was named in last year's legal 500 as UK (outside London) insurance lawyer of the year. He made many friends in the profession locally and more widely and was for a long while chair of brain injury charity Headway Hurstwood Park (now Headway Sussex) and director of training of the National Brain Injury Group. He is now looking forward to putting his feet up but we hear that his wife, our COO Jeanette, may have other plans for him!
- **Dean Wilson** are very pleased to announce that **Duncan Wilks** has become an Equity Partner in the firm with effect from 1 April 2021. Andrew MacFadyen said "Duncan is not only an exceptionally able lawyer but also a prolific client generator and source of unfailing common sense. And bad jokes."

ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIRED FOR ATTENDANCE AT PRE & POST COURT CONSULTATIONS VIA PVL

In an effort to make pre and post court consultations run more efficiently (i.e. on time!), HMPPS is currently running a three-week pilot scheme (since 19 April) requiring defence practitioners intending to take part in pre/post court consultations, to provide the relevant Magistrates' or crown court with their name and CJSM email address at least 24 hours before the hearing. The court is then required to pass the information on to the relevant prison, who in turn will require photo ID and proof of their profession (e.g. an introductory letter on headed paper or a photo identity card issued by HMPPS or the Bar Council) from the defence practitioner attending the pre/post court consultation, similar to attending a legal visit. The prisons and courts taking part in the pilot are:

- HMPs Elmley & Lewes

- Brighton, Medway & Folkestone Magistrates' Courts
- Lewes, Maidstone & Canterbury Crown Courts

Clearly, it is not always possible to identify who will be attending a particular hearing 24 hours before-hand. In an effort to ensure compliance with the process, courts will populate the pre-hearing consultation booking form with up to three previously associated defence practitioners' names, which will assist in some, but by no means all, cases.

Following the pilot, results will be analysed "to determine how feasible and sustainable this process is before considering next steps". Any queries can be sent to the following email address:

ReconfigurationPMO@digital.justice.gov.uk

ISSUES WITH THE COURT OF PROTECTION UPDATE

In the April Newsletter we highlighted a concern that some members were experiencing problems in their dealings with the Court of Protection and requested feedback. Thank you to those who took the time to respond – these issues are clearly widespread with communication being a central issue. We are most grateful to HHJ Simon Thorp, Nominated Judge of the Court of Protection, Worthing County and Family Court and HHJ Eleanor Owens, SE Region Lead Court of Protection Judge, who became aware of these issue via our newsletter and who have both tried to help. Unfortunately, it seems that the issues raised relate to either COP cases being dealt with at First Avenue House in London or the Senior Courts Costs Office. Neither of these are within Judge Owens' remit as they are not part of the geographical area covered by the SE Region or its administrative Hub at Reading. First Avenue House has its own administration covering the London Boroughs for COP work, and the SCCO is also a separate entity. HHJ Owens forwarded our complaints to First Avenue House for them to investigate and respond to us direct but to date there has been neither an acknowledgement nor any response. We have also contacted the SCCO. We will keep members updated on any progress with this via this newsletter. It is frustrating to say the least!!

THE RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC LAW WORKING GROUP

This report makes recommendations to achieve the best practice in the child protection and family justice system.

HHJ Bedford provided very helpful feedback at a meeting on 16th April and explained what the approach of the working group was, what we can do and what we can do better. He explained the format of each case will take into account what the parties want and what the Judges think. We will have bespoke hearings. For example, remote hearings are advantageous for case management hearings. It is an opportunity to recalibrate and a reminder to deal with matters proportionately. Information was given on the following:-

- Case management and use of experts.
- Limiting the number of hearings.
- The way we conduct final hearings.
- The pressures in the system.
- New forms need to be adopted and will be reviewed in the autumn.
- Minutes of advocates meeting.
- Training and implementation – FLBA/Resolution.
- Wellbeing.
- HMCTS portal system.

BECOMING A JUDGE – FREE WORKSHOPS FOR ETHNIC MONORITY LAWYERS

In May and June 2021, The Law Society are running free workshops to support ethnic minority solicitors, who are currently under-represented in the judiciary. The closing date to apply is Friday 7 May 2021. Find out more [here](#).

FREE WELLBEING WEBINAR FOR LAWYERS IN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Along with our friends in Kent, Surrey and Devon & Somerset law societies we are hosting a free webinar aimed at lawyers 'Leaving lockdown: What we've learnt about wellbeing and how to harness it for a better future'. An all star panel of experts will be discussing how we can use the lessons learnt in lockdown to continue looking after the wellbeing of ourselves, our colleagues and employees during this time. The panel are: James Pereira QC – Practising barrister and coach; Lubna Shuja – Vice President of the Law Society; Elizabeth Rimmer – CEO of LawCare and Helen Lawson – Workplace wellbeing specialist

The webinar will be held on 13th May from 1pm – 2.30pm. To register to attend click [here](#)

EFFECTIVE CONSUMER CHOICE OF THE QUALITY OFFERED IN THE LEGAL SERVICES MARKET

Continuing the Competition and Markets Authority's progress review into improving the transparency of information on service quality for consumers last year, the Legal Services Board launched a discussion paper this February inviting views on a potential framework of possible measures to improve choice. The Law Society and SRA have recently responded with their views and proposals, agreeing that such a properly evidenced based exercise is very much in the public interest and for it to be for front line regulators themselves to be setting out the standards associated with eventual quality indicators to the consumer. The LSB plans to consult on a final draft policy statement this summer. Fuller overview is available on the [MyLS](#) and [LSB](#) sites.

PRACTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR LEGAL FIRMS AND SOLE PRACTITIONERS ON RETURN TO THE OFFICE

The Law Society has updated its framework for a practical return to the office following the latest Government 's COVID-19 guidance. Although this guidance has not changed significantly from autumn 2020, it does include new provisions on ventilation of spaces and non-mandatory lateral flow tests. A review of risk assessments is encouraged. In the meantime Government is committed to publishing new social distancing, face mask and other measures ahead of pencilled in step road map 4 for 21st June. The Updated guide can be found [here](#).

WEBINAR 'SHARED OWNERSHIP, RIGHT TO BUY & HELP TO BUY: NEW DEVELOPMENTS'

April 2021 is due to see the introduction of the New Model Shared Ownership Lease. In addition, Help to Buy in England is undergoing major changes as of 1 April 2021 and Right to Buy, including voluntary Right to Buy is an expanding but dangerous area. In this webinar Richard Snape aims to look at the existing law and new developments. Topics covered include:

- Shared Ownership Leases and the pitfalls
- The New Model Shared Ownership
- SDLT and Shared Ownership Leases
- The Help to Buy Scheme
- Council House Right to Buy and some of the pitfalls

- Voluntary Right to Buy
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The webinar is £100 + VAT for members and takes place from 2pm - 5pm on Thursday, 13th May. Full details of the content and the application form can be downloaded [here](#).

OUR CPD COURSES & WEBINARS

Click on the links below for full details of each course and application forms:

- **13th May, 2021** – [‘Shared Ownership, Right to Buy & Help to Buy: New Developments’](#) LIVE Webinar. 2pm – 5pm. Speaker: Richard Snape
- **10th June, 2021** – [‘Elderly Client Update’](#) LIVE Webinar. 11am – 12 pm. Speaker: Caroline Bielanska
- **22nd September, 2021** – [‘The CQS – Compliance & The New Assessment Regime’](#) LIVE Webinar. 9.30am – 1pm. Speaker: Tracy Thompson

OTHER WEBINARS/ARTICLES/RESOURCES

Loch Lowdown: Loch Associate Group’s Podcast Series - Loch Associates Group have just launched a brand-new podcast series to help employers get the best out of their workforce. In the series, the employment law solicitors, HR consultants and HR Medical Specialists at Loch Associates Group discuss the whole range of issues an employer may face with staff. There are 6 episodes and you can find out more details of their content and listen to all available episodes on their website here. <https://lochassociates.co.uk/loch-podcast/>

1 May 2021, Martin Searle Solicitors are launching their new employment law campaign to stamp out disability discrimination in the workplace : ‘Disability Matters – Working Towards a Level Playing Field’. They are offering a free 30-minute telephone advice line for employers and employees concerned about disability discrimination and disability rights at work. They are also running a free virtual seminar on ‘Managing Ill Health and Disability – Best Practice for Employers’ at 1pm on Thursday 20 May. For more details [click here](#).

20 & 27 May, 2021 ‘Paying for Care & Securing Funding Masterclass’ - Cate Searle at Martin Searle Solicitors is hosting a practical virtual seminar in partnership with MBL Seminars. This live and interactive session is designed for Professional Deputies and private client legal teams who have a working knowledge of the health and social care funding system. This will cover how to run successful public law challenges. This two-part session will run on 20 May and 27 May from 1.30pm – 4.30pm. For more information and to book your place, [click here](#).

25 May, 2021 ‘Ask The Experts – Martin Searle’s Community Care Law Q&A’s’. Cate Searle, Head of the Community Care Law team, and Paula Jones are running free monthly Community Care Law Q&A’s focusing on topical issues in community care law and mental capacity law. Their next session is on 25 May from 1 - 2pm and deals with "Securing adequate funding for care at home for clients with complex needs". For more information and to book your place [click here](#).

SITUATIONS VACANT

Listing job vacancies in the Newsletter & putting more detailed vacancies on the [website](#) is **FREE** for Sussex Law Society member firms and individual members and £50 + VAT for other contributors. Contact [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#) to place an advert. More details about each vacancy and how to apply can be found by following the highlighted links.

- **Highways and Planning Lawyer** - Brighton & Hove City Council are looking for a qualified solicitor, barrister or Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives. The role on advising the Council as Highway Authority, including the drafting and negotiating of s278 and s38 agreements, advising on traffic orders and rights of way. There will also be opportunities to undertake planning-related work and to advise on nominations for assets of community value. Please contact Hilary Woodward on (01273) 291514 or hilary.woodward@brighton-hove.gov.uk. £32,910-43,875. Closing date: 23rd May 2021. See [here](#) for job details.
- **Commercial Property Lawyer – 3 years PQE +** - Based at Anderson Rowntree's Chichester Office supporting the Senior Associate on the Team, you will be responsible for handling a mixed caseload. We are particularly keen to hear from candidates with experience in agricultural and/or development work although this is not essential. For further information please contact Amanda Hayward a.hayward@ar-law.co.uk
- **Conveyancing Paralegal** – A new opportunity has arisen at Anderson Rowntree for an experienced conveyancing paralegal to join our Chichester Team. For further information please contact Amanda Hayward a.hayward@ar-law.co.uk
- **Family Lawyer 1-5 years PQE** - Edward Cooke Family Law are looking to recruit someone to join their specialist team Chichester. More details can be found [here](#).
- **Family Paralegal** – Anderson Rowntree have a new opportunity for an experienced family paralegal to join our team based at our Petworth Office. For further information please contact Amanda Hayward a.hayward@ar-law.co.uk
- **Litigation Assistant** – Bennett Griffin in Worthing are seeking an assistant for their Dispute Resolution Department assisting 3 litigation specialists. Full details and how to apply can be found [here](#).
- **Litigation Solicitor** – So Legal are looking for a litigator with at least 2 years PQE to join their successful litigation team. The role would suit a solicitor who is keen to play a key role in a growing company with the ability to work independently and as part of a wider team. More details and how to apply can be found [here](#).
- **Private Client Assistant** – Bennett Griffin in Worthing are recruiting for an assistant within their Private Client Department assisting one of their Estate Administration specialists. Full details and how to apply can be found [here](#).
- **Private Client Lawyer – 5 Years PQE +** - Based at Anderson Rowntree's Petworth Office covering a broad range of private client work. STEP membership or someone working towards this would be a bonus but not essential. For further information please contact Amanda Hayward a.hayward@ar-law.co.uk
- **Private Client Solicitor** - Renaissance Legal are looking for a flexible, adaptable and client focused (full-time) NQ – 3 PQE Solicitor to join its award-winning team. The role is perfect for a talented individual looking to specialise in a unique and highly rewarding area where you will work with families and carers of disabled and vulnerable individuals, grow organically with the business and develop your own caseload. Further information, including how to apply, can be found [here](#).

- **Residential Conveyancer** – So Legal are looking for an experienced residential conveyancer or residential property solicitor for their Hastings office. More details and how to apply can be found [here](#).
- **Residential Conveyancer** - GWCA have a vacancy in their Worthing office for a full time qualified residential conveyancer – either Solicitor, Licensed Conveyancer or FILEX. Someone with a following would be preferable but it is very much a position for someone to hit the ground running and take on an existing case load and due to a reorganisation it might suit someone that wants to move with their own support. Please contact emma.chatwell@gwca.co.uk for further details.
- **Senior Associate Commercial Property** – So Legal are seeking an experienced solicitor with at least 6 years PQE. You will be required to deal with a wide range of commercial property matters, including sales and purchases, lease negotiation, licences and landlord & tenant matters. See [here](#) for more details and how to apply.
- **Senior Residential Property Solicitor** – So Legal are looking for someone able to run their own matters from start to finish and able to manage a mixed caseload of freehold and leasehold transactions. The role is full time and based in their Brighton office. Full details and how to apply can be found [here](#).

LOCUMS

If you would like to be added to the a list of locums published monthly in this Update please email your details to [Jeanette Lacy Scott](mailto:Jeanette.Lacy.Scott) Listing your details here is free of charge for members:

- Margaret Dowdles - commercial/residential property. Happy to discuss how firms can practically work together so she can innovate on pricing and still deliver real value at this challenging time and going forwards -. Contact mgtldles@gmail.com 07947-771593. Call to check availability.
- Robin Bates - family and civil dispute resolution. contact mob 07710 202422 ; e-mail robin-bates@sky.com
- Elin Dukes - private client/court of protection - contact: elindukeslaw@gmail.com / 07384 401083
- Patrick Richards- Un-Notarised legal translations, office and Court interpreter services offered by fluent French and Italian speaking local Solicitor. Contact patrichards27@hotmail.com 07715928563.

KEEPING CLOSE: SUPERVISING & MENTORING TRAINEES REMOTELY

A useful article from the Law Society website about remote supervision and mentoring of trainees can be found [here](#).

CAN YOU OFFER THESE LAW BOOKS A GOOD HOME?

Following the death of a retired solicitor, we have been offered a set of Current Law Statutes Annotated by Year (1978 - 1984) and the Current Law Book (1977 – 1994) (Sweet & Maxwell) in pristine condition by a relative. The relative, his sister, is not looking for money for these books but would like to carry out her brother's wishes and find them a good home! In addition to the Law

Statutes there are other law books, all in good condition, although not necessarily the most up-to-date editions.

If you are interested please contact Anne Green anneandgeoffg@btinternet.com

LOST & MISSING WILLS

All wills previously held by Howlett Clarke are now safely held with the Right Legal Group, Wyvern Business Park, 16 Stanier Way, Derby, DE21 6BF. Telephone number 01332 424511.

Please contact jeanettelacyscott@btinternet.com if you are looking for a will or if you want to be part of our lost/missing wills scheme (free of charge)

LAW SOCIETY DIVISIONS/NETWORKS

The Law Society has some really useful divisions/networks full of information and resources which are worth exploring. The links are here: [Ethnic Minority Lawyers](#); [In-house Lawyers](#); [Junior Lawyers](#); [Lawyers with Disabilities](#); [LGBT+ Lawyers](#); [Small Firms](#); [Solicitor Judges](#); [Women Lawyers](#)

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE

Following the introduction of the new GDPR laws on 25th May 2018, if you are not an individual or corporate member of the Sussex Law Society and wish to continue to receive this monthly newsletter you will need to [opt in here](#). If you are unsure about whether you are/are not a member please contact [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#)

If you would like to receive information about courses and events in any of the following areas of law please sign up to one of the following lists:

[Litigators List](#)

[Private Client Practitioners List](#)

[Property Practitioners List](#)

[Family Practitioners List](#)

[Criminal Law Practitioners List](#)

Contact [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#) if you no longer wish to receive the monthly Newsletter and put **UNSUBSCRIBE** in the subject heading.