

Dear Member,

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the July newsletter. Is anyone else struggling to believe it is July already?! This year, despite its challenges, seems to be whizzing by. June was particularly busy for the SLS as we had our first Engagement Planning meeting with The Law Society's Member Engagement and Services team. In an initiative driven by our new President to ensure maximum engagement with local law societies, we discussed the 7 commitments that the Law Society is making to regional members. It's easy for us to overlook or fail to see what the Law Society does for its members, but the lobbying and policy influencing is quite phenomenal. Take the recent 12 month extension of the Solicitors Indemnity Fund for example, brought about by Law Society pressure on the SRA. This may only be a temporary hiatus, but it will give a much needed opportunity to consult on a viable alternative.

So please watch this space as more Law Society activity is published; and if you would like the SLS to take an issue that you have to the Law Society, please do not hesitate to get in touch. In the meantime, have a lovely summer and dare I say enjoy the football?!

Lucy Tarrant

NEWS

- **Mayo Wynne Baxter LLP** is delighted to announce the appointment of Helen Bell as their Board Chair. 'It's a privilege to be elected by my fellow partners as Board Chair and made even more so as I am the first female Chair to be appointed in the firm's 125-year history. I am looking forward to the challenges ahead and to helping steer the firm to even greater success so that we around for at least the next 125 years.'
- **Bennett Griffin** are very happy to announce that Isabel Alderton-Sell has joined our Property Team, and Debbie Francis has joined our Dispute Resolution Team. Isabel has an extensive background in Commercial Property. Debbie is currently completing ACTAPS and specialises in Contentious Probate. They are both already proving to be assets to the teams.
- **GoodLaw Solicitors LLP** are delighted to welcome two new members to their growing family department. Amanda Dodge, Chartered Legal Executive, joins their office in Farnham undertaking private children and matrimonial cases having come from Wheelers Law. Peggy McCoid Davies, Associate Solicitor, joins the care proceedings team in the Hove Office having come from Creighton & Partners Solicitors.
- Congratulations to James O'Connell on making Partner with **Mayo Wynne Baxter**, James works in the Commercial Team and is fantastic with clients, he always receives amazing feedback from our clients. Also, congratulations to Anna Dunn on making Partner. Anna works in our Residential Conveyancing Team and has worked so hard helping many people move smoothly during this very unusual year.
- **Loch Associates Group** were delighted to receive the Professional Services Award at the Brighton & Hove Business Awards 2021 last week. Loch Associates Group have been with clients every step of the way for better or worse during these difficult times over the past year, supporting their clients as best they could. They strive to understand the culture that underpins each client's business to provide the best service and value to help clients operate to the best of their potential and get the most out of their workforce. People are their

business, and winning this award shows their commitment to local businesses beyond doubt.

- **Mayo Wynne Baxter** were very excited to be nominated for Best Legal Services Award in The County Business Clubs Virtual Awards Sussex. We went on to win on the night, this is very exciting as the event had been put on to celebrate and recognise achievements however big or small from businesses across Sussex from one lockdown to another. They are also nominated by the community. No judges. No panels.
- **Griffith Smith's** team completed the 10k Legal Walk on 21 June, the sun wasn't shining and unfortunately they were all soaked by a bus going through a puddle at the start! But just over 80 individuals took part and together raised a fantastic £4,500 > <https://www.griffithsmith.co.uk/legal-walk-2021-completed/>
- **Mayo Wynne Baxter** are very excited to announce the opening of our new Brighton office, we have moved to 44-46 Old Steine. The offices are beautiful, and we are excited to be able to get back out into the Brighton Community.

SOME USEFUL INFORMATION FROM THE LAW SOCIETY

In late May the Law Society held an on-line 'Town Hall' meeting for local law societies which was attended by our President, Lucy Tarrant, and our Council Member, Oliver Maxwell-Jones. The Law Society have recently provided the following update on some of the main areas of concern which were raised at this meeting. It is well worth a read and there are some helpful links!

SIF

Since the May meeting with local law societies, following a concerted campaign by the national Law Society, the SRA has agreed to our request for an extension to SIF, the fund will no longer close in September 2021 subject to an affordability test. We have been raising our concerns with the SRA, the regulator for this issue, for more than three years. We are pleased they are now taking steps to find an effective solution and undertake the detailed analysis required to assess the future of post six-year cover. However, we believe that it is not enough simply to delay closure again and that SRA must move quickly to publish its consultation on future options and put a plan in place. We have urged the SRA to work hand in hand with the Law Society, the insurance industry and others to find a long-term solution to the problem of run-off indemnity cover. We will continue to make the case for solicitors and their clients. Members can register interest in receiving further information by calling our Support Centre on 020 7242 1222 and leaving their contact information or by emailing SIF@lawsociety.org.uk which will record email addresses for inclusion in future updates.

P11

We have published a set of Q&As that are aimed at helping members to renew their professional indemnity insurance (P11). It includes useful information such as:

- how to make proposals more attractive to insurers
- the concerns that the current situation has raised for insurers
- questions that should be asked when making enquiries with brokers
- what to consider if there's more than one P11 contract offer
- spreading or deferring P11 costs

We've also published a list of PII brokers who have indicated that they are willing to help firms that are experiencing difficulties with renewing their PII. For more information, see our guidance on renewing a firm's PII [here](#).

Criminal legal aid

The national law society has done extensive work to support criminal legal aid practitioners and access to justice concerns. For a summary please see [here](#). In 2021 we are also collaborating with local law societies to organise meetings and roundtables held in-person and virtually to bring the concerns of criminal legal aid solicitors from across the country directly to the attention of the MOJ and the chair of the independent review. These have been well-received and useful.

Court Reform

We agree that a modernised court service would benefit all users, but this must not come at the expense of justice. We are engaging with HMCTS to ensure our members' and their clients' needs are considered and we are helping our members to understand and adapt to the changes. You can find a range of guides and useful information [here](#). In relation to concerns expressed by members with the probate service, please review our latest information [here](#).

Members can contact us at a dedicated email address hmctscourtreform@lawsociety.org.uk with questions and concerns in relation to issues with courts and tribunals.

Return to work / well-being

We have set out a practical framework for law firms and sole practitioners on return to the office [here](#) and on how to supervise and support junior staff and trainees via hybrid and flexible working models as firms and organisations look to return to the office [here](#).

You can find wellbeing and mental health resources [here](#), mental health tips for small law firms and sole practitioners [here](#) and guides and advice supporting vulnerable clients [here](#).

THE SRA INVITE YOU TO HAVE YOUR SAY

In November 2019 the SRA launched their new Standards and Regulations. As part of these reforms, they introduced short, simpler rules which place greater trust in your professional judgment and gave you more flexibility about how you work.

They are now asking for feedback on your experiences of their reforms. This will help them to see what changes the reforms are bringing in the legal market for the profession and consumers. The Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services (CSES) have been commissioned to help them do this. Completing the survey should take about 15 minutes. Your response will be anonymous and treated in confidence. Individual responses will not be seen by the SRA. Please complete [the survey](#) by **12 July**.

MISSING DEEDS FOR 'CONISTON', CHURCH LANE, PLUMMERS PLAIN, HORSHAM, RH13 6LU

Please can you/your firm check to see if you are holding the deeds for this property. They have been missing since at least the late 1980s and whilst parts of the property are registered, Land Registry have not retained official copies of any of the title documents referred to in the registers. Any information please contact Laura.prince@coolebevisllp.com

HAS THE PANDEMIC MADE YOU SIT BACK, REFLECT AND RE-EVALUATE YOUR WORK LIFE?

The past 12 months or so hasn't been easy for anyone. However, for some, the pandemic has given them an opportunity to slow down and re-evaluate their lives, something they wouldn't have had the opportunity to do otherwise. In 2020 alone, over 13,000 new businesses were registered. The pandemic pushed people to do what they'd maybe been holding back from doing in previous years. Being brave and branching out? We can help! [Read more](#).

Further to our meeting, I write to provide an update on the remote attendance police station protocol.

JOINT INTERIM INTERVIEW PROTOCOL (JIIP) FOR POLICE STATIONS

At the end of April, the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) started a phased withdrawal from the JIIP, as the national lockdown restrictions eased. The first phase of this withdrawal started when we entered 'step three' of the government's roadmap to ease restrictions in England and has meant that the protocol no longer applies to children and young persons (persons under 18), nor any vulnerable adult (as defined in PACE Code C paragraphs 1.13(d) and 1.4.). For these groups of vulnerable detainees, legal advice has returned to pre-pandemic provision. In these cases detainees requesting legal advice will see a legal advisor in person for interview and will not have the option of remote advice as afforded under the protocol. The protocol remains in place for other detainees. We are awaiting an update in relation to what provisions will follow the 19th July ceasing of restrictions. On 6 July we received correspondence from Crawley Custody, as follows:

Local Firms - Please could you remind all of your Solicitors and Legal representatives that following recent instruction from the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) any detainee that requires an Appropriate Adult due to age or vulnerability then the representing Solicitor / Legal Rep WILL ATTEND IN PERSON. If this can't be achieved please aim to pass the job back to DSCC as soon as possible so it can be reassigned. Over the last week we have had a number of complications arising from Solicitors not wanting to / not being in the position to attend.

TRUSTEE WANTED

Brighton Natural Health Centre is seeking a new charity trustee with legal experience. It is an interesting charity. and rewarding to be a part of. If you would like to know more contact former trustee, Mick Barry (mickrbarry@gmail.com) or apply direct to Robin Bines at rbines@mac.com

YOUR FEEDBACK ON THE POLICE STATION PROTOCOL

Our colleague Richard Atkinson, a Law Society Council Member and Managing Partner of Tuckers Solicitors Kent Branch, has asked us to seek feedback from SLS members who are criminal practitioners in relation to the Police Station Protocol. This is the pandemic led protocol that deals with allowing remote access to representation in police stations (apart from for vulnerable adults). Richard has asked for any feedback on the use and implementation of the protocol, both good and bad, to be sent to him at atkinsonr@tuckerssolicitors.com, mentioning that the SLS has requested it. On behalf of Richard, thank you in advance for any feedback you can provide.

LATEST FROM THE COMPLIANCE & REGULATION COMMITTEE

We were warned and now it has begun! - The SRA has just published details of the first round of now expected further fines to be levied against firms who, upon inspection, have failed to comply with AML obligations within a year of warnings to put in place a satisfactory risk assessment. During the last few years compliance has been extended to identifying and assessing the risk of terrorist financing and transfer of funds.

The (discretionary) fund of last resort - The year end 31st October 2020 Compensation Fund accounts recently released by the SRA indicate that increasing (and controversial) contributions levied against Solicitors over the last few years were necessary to provide for anticipated spikes in high value/exceptional Claims. The majority of these are now expected to be paid from adequate reserves during the current 20/21 year. As the number of Claims increased, payments actually made rose by 37% in value to £10.3million in total. The SRA has suggested that the pandemic has not yet had a significant impact. Readers will recall that it had to abandon its recent Application to the LSB for a cap of £500,000 on single Claims.

The LSB approved less contentious reforms such as a threshold of £2m in charity and trust assets, such structures having “strong governance, likely to be regular users of legal services, make more sophisticated purchasing decisions and understand the risks involved”.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2021/22 ROUND OF QUEEN’S COUNSEL HONORARY SILK AWARDS

The Ministry of Justice has launched the 2021/22 round of Queen’s Counsel honoris causa (honorary silk) awards by inviting nominations. All practitioners and members of the public are free to make nominations (including self-nominations, if they qualify) directly to the Ministry of Justice. As in previous years, the Law Society is participating in this process by making nominations itself of solicitor members of The Law Society. We are publicising the Law Society’s role as a nominating body and inviting nominations through a range of channels, including the Professional Update, local law societies, and the website. We are inviting people to nominate either themselves or others to us. A review panel will then select those who will go forward as nominees of The Law Society. To make a nomination, you will need to provide basic personal details of the nominee (or yourself) and the following:

- Legal qualifications and legal experience to date
- What significant contribution(s) has the nominee made to the law in England and Wales, other than in court
- The major and particular contributions the nominee has made that reinforce the case for awarding the title of QC (honoris causa)
- Why you think this person should be nominated by the Law Society as an Honorary QC

Please download and complete the standard nomination form from the Ministry of Justice web site [here](#). Send your completed form to appointments@lawsociety.org.uk no later than midday on Wednesday 21 July 2021 for consideration. Nomination by the Law Society is subject to our own internal review process and there is no guarantee of success.

IMPROVING HMCTS COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

HMCTS are gathering feedback about how they communicate and engage with professionals who work in their courts and tribunals. If you're a legal professional, a contractor or intermediary, work for the police or work in any other part of the justice system - they want to know how they can improve their communication and engagement with you.

The survey can be found [here](#) and should take around 15 minutes to complete. Responses will be treated anonymously and in the strictest confidence and HMCTS say that they will not be able to identify participants from the information they provide.

SIGN UP FOR THE LONDON LEGAL WALK

This year's [London Legal Walk](#), to raise funds for over 100 organisations in London and the South East helping them provide more free and pro bono legal advice, takes place on 18th October. You can sign up as an individual or a team [here](#). The walk returns in the usual format of a 10k route through central London ending with a street party on Carey Street with street food vendors, fire jugglers and musicians. The organisers (the London Legal Support Trust) are working hard behind the scenes to develop a safe and socially distanced street party and look forward to welcoming participants at the finish line with a drink in the Knights Templar or Law Society bars.

WEBINAR 'COMMERCIAL PROPERTY UPDATE'

Over the last few months there have been several extremely important cases relating to commercial property. In addition, the changes to planning and use classes in England have major implications. This webinar presented by Richard Snape will look at various issues and their significance including: - The significance of Supreme Court Case *Hurtswood v Rossendale* (2021) on business rates and empty properties; - Break clauses and vacant possession after *Capitol Park v Global Radio* (2020); -Renewal terms and rent suspension and *WH Smith v Commerz* (2021); - 1954 Act exclusion notices and *TFS Stores v Designer Retail Outlet Centres* (2021); -Service charge liability and the implications of *Sara v Blacks* (2020) and *Criterion Building v McKinsey* (2021); - Latest on coronavirus provisions; - Changes to planning use in England; - Latest developments on Energy Efficiency; - Recent Supreme Court cases on village greens.

The webinar is £100 + VAT for members and takes place from 2pm - 5pm on Monday, 19th July. 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:

- **8th July, 2021** – [‘Legal Sector Affinity Group Draft AML Guidance for Law Firms – What you should know’](#) LIVE Webinar. 9.30 am – 11.30 am Speaker: Joanna Morris
- **19th July, 2021** – [‘Commercial Property Update’](#) LIVE Webinar. 2pm – 5pm. Speaker: Richard Snape
- **22nd September, 2021** – [‘The CQS – Compliance & The New Assessment Regime’](#) LIVE Webinar. 9.30am – 1pm. Speaker: Tracy Thompson
- **14th October, 2021** – [‘Civil Litigation Reforms 2021’](#). LIVE Webinar. 09.30 am – 11.30 am. Speaker: Professor Dominic Regan.

OTHER WEBINARS/ARTICLES/RESOURCES

- **8th July, 2021** – ‘Solicitors Accounts Rules & Compliance’ Free webinar 12.30 – 13.30. Join Ian Johnson who will talk about all things SRA, Solicitors Accounts Rules & Compliance in this free webinar from Law2Law. More details and to book click [here](#).
- **15th July, 2021** – ‘Hiring Employees & Self-Employed Workers for clients from the charitable and not-for-profit sector’ Martin Searle Solicitors in partnership with Community Works are providing this virtual training which will take place at 10.30am on Thursday 15 July 2021.

This course will cover the pros and cons of taking on employees v self-employed contractors. For full details, visit the [Community Works website](#).

- **20th July, 2021** – ‘Ask The Experts - Community Care Law Q&As’. Cate Searle, Head of the Community Care Law team, and Paula Jones, Services for Professional Deputies Lead, at Martin Searle Solicitors are running free monthly Community Care Law Q&As focusing on topical issues in community care and mental capacity law. The next session is on **Tuesday 20 July** from **1 - 2pm** and deals with " Disabled Facilities Grants and other less common sources of statutory funding ". For more information and to book your place [click here](#).

STUDY LOOKING AT THE SENTENCING OF OFFENDERS WITH MENTAL HEALTH DIFFICULTIES

We have been asked for our readers’ input to this study being conducted for a doctoral research thesis looking at mental health and sentencing. This is an exciting collaboration across University of East Anglia Medical and Law Schools that is looking at how a mental health diagnosis impacts the sentencing outcome of an offender.

About 70% of people in prison might have mental health problems and less than half of these people are getting support for their problems. Also, nine out of ten people with mental health problems experience stigma and discrimination. As a result, it is really important that sentencing is fair, but there’s very little research on this.

To participate in this research click [here](#). You will be asked to watch a short video online of a trial and you will be asked to decide what sentence you think the offender should be given. You will then be asked some questions about people’s attitudes towards mental health problems.

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.

- **Conveyancing Executive** – Dean Wilson are looking for a full time Conveyancing Executive to join our Residential Conveyancing team. You will be responsible for running a small case load and to provide assistance to senior colleagues. The role will report to the head of the departments with day to day support for other colleagues depending on the type and complexity of the work. Previous experience of Residential Conveyancing is ideal. See [here](#) for full details and how to apply.
- **Experienced Childcare Lawyer** required to join friendly team at Brighton and Hove City Council for a period of up to 6 months, starting as soon as possible. Please contact Hilary Priestley on 01273 291521/ hilary.priestley@brighton-hove.gov.uk.
- **Experienced Legal Support Secretary (Property)** – Engleharts in Hove are looking for someone for their very busy Residential Property department. More details and how to apply can be found [here](#).
- **Experienced private client fee earner** required by Fitzhugh Gates for Shoreham /Brighton/hybrid working. The successful candidate will have a minimum 5 years’ private client experience in a fee earning capacity and will be required to take on an existing caseload of Wills, LPAs, probate and estate administration with minimal supervision. A sound knowledge of IHT and CGT and some understanding of trusts is also required. This is a great partnership potential opportunity to join this friendly, long established team. Contact Managing Partner, [Julian Cioffi](#) for more details and/or to apply.

- **Legal Secretary** - Dean Wilson are looking for a Legal Secretary to join our Commercial Property and Development team. See [here](#) for more details and how to apply.
- **Marketing & Admin Assistant** – Martin Searle are recruiting for an organised, pro-active, articulate and highly motivated person, preferably with experience of working in professional services. For a full job description and to apply, [click here](#)
- **NQ Solicitor / Legal Executive (Company Commercial)** - A fantastic opportunity has arisen for either a NQ Solicitor or a Legal Executive to join our leading law firm located in Brighton and Hove. See [here](#) for more information and how to apply.
- **Operations Manager** – Cognitive Law are looking for someone to join the Head Office team in Brighton, to assist and report to the Directors in respect of the firm’s operational matters on a day-to-day basis. The role is full time, 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, and can be carried out in the office and remotely. Please see full [job details here](#).
- **Paralegal/Legal Executive (Commercial Property and Development)**. This is a full time permanent role for someone bright and committed to a career in the law, willing to hit the ground running and to use their initiative. See [here](#) for more information and how to apply.
- **PQE Solicitor – Landlord & Tenant** – An opportunity for a Solicitor or Legal Executive with experience (minimum 1 year PQE) within Landlord and Tenant has arisen to join Dean Wilson’s Landlord and Tenant and property litigation team for this full time role. See [here](#) for more details and how to apply.
- **Private client lawyer (part-time)** – Hobbs Law LLP based in Bognor Regis, are looking for an experienced private client lawyer. Hours flexible. Please contact louisehobbs@hobbslaw.co.uk for further information.
- **Property Litigation Solicitor** – Bennett Griffin are seeking a technically strong lawyer (5 years + PQE) to act as an integral part of their dispute resolution team for this full time role in Worthing. More details and how to apply can be found [here](#).
- **Residential Property Paralegal** – Engleharts in Hove seek an intelligent, dynamic and self motivated Paralegal for the firm’s expanding Residential Property department. More details and how to apply can be found [here](#).
- **Team Assistant / Receptionist** - Martin Searle are recruiting for an organised, pro-active, articulate and highly motivated person, preferably with experience of working in professional services. For a full job description and to apply, [click 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 mgtdles@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 / 07585800258.
- 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.

LOST & MISSING WILLS

Does your firm hold a will for the following:

Frederick William James CANTELLO (R.I.P 23/01/1985) D.O.B. 26/03/1910 Last
Address: 25 Queen Victoria Avenue, Hove, BN3 6WR and 28 Queen Victoria Avenue, Hove,
BN3 6WN. Contact carla@lings-solicitors.co.uk with any information

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.