

Dear Member,

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello & welcome to the June Newsletter. Is anyone else finding that this year is racing forward with inexplicable speed? Whether or not you celebrated the Platinum Jubilee; or like me, found the Queen taking tea with Paddington the most endearing part, I hope you enjoyed a 4-day weekend. With mental health care high on every firm's agenda, I'm sure you will agree that we could do with many more of them! But now it is back to work for what I am anticipating will be a busy couple of months before the summer slowdown begins. So I won't take up any more of your time and will leave you to catch up on the SLS news before getting your head back down again. Take care!

Lucy Tarrant

NEWS

- **Westgate Chambers** are celebrating their 35th Anniversary on 7th July, with a celebratory Party at The Royal Pavilion. Invites will be sent shortly. Westgate Chambers, based in Brighton, are a Common Law independent set that boasts 40 tenants across its practice areas, looks forward to welcoming you all in person. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact, clerks@westgate-chambers.co.uk
- **Sussex Business Awards** - Congratulations to our members **Pam Loch (Loch Associates)**, **Emily Wood (DMH Stallard)** and **Gilva Tisshaw (Tisshaws Solicitors)** who are among 5 finalists for Sussex Female Lawyer of the Year in the [Dynamic Business Awards 2022](#) and to **Loch Associates** who have been shortlisted for the Company of the Year award. The 2022 Dynamic Business Awards celebrate the remarkable achievements of businesswomen across a wide range of sectors in Sussex. The inaugural event is made up of fourteen categories and recognises achievements made across all aspects of life, from personal successes to outstanding contributions. The entry deadline has now closed and the sensational gala event will be held at The Grand Brighton on June 29th 2022 and attended by over the region's leading business leaders.
- **Knights PLC** announced it will acquire **Coffin Mew LLP**, an independent law firm in the South East, from its 12 existing equity partners which is expected to be completed on 8 July 2022.

HMCTS VIDEO HEARINGS SERVICE WEBINAR

[Register here](#) for the HMCTS free webinar on 7th June from 1pm - 2pm to demonstrate the Video Hearings Service for professional court and tribunal users. During the event there will be:

- a demonstration of the service;
- an overview of how HMCTS developed the service using feedback from the judiciary and court users;
- information on how to prepare your organisations to start using the service .

ISSUES CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY WITHIN THE FINANCIAL REMEDIES COURT

HHJ Stuart Farquhar, Lead Judge for the FRC in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, has asked us to share his letter below with readers:

“ I am the Chair of the Financial Remedies sub-group of the Transparency Implementation Group which has been set up by the President of the Family Division, Sir Andrew McFarlane. The group includes Judges of all levels together with Barristers, Solicitors, the press and a legal blogger representative. It has been decided to prepare a survey of all interested parties in order to gather views and ideas.

The group has been set up to consider all issues concerning transparency within the Financial Remedies Court including anonymity, who should be permitted to be present in Court, what documents (if any) should be disclosed to the press/legal bloggers, what may be reported and how should judgments be anonymised (if this is considered appropriate). These issues are most frequently encountered in the High Court, but there are also many cases involving local prominent individuals that do not involve significant assets which could just as easily be heard by a Deputy District Judge. We wish to hear the views of everyone and not just those individuals that are frequently involved in high net worth/High Court cases. This includes those that do not deal with this work at all so that we can discover the views of those ‘from the outside’.

The survey can be found at; <https://forms.office.com/r/qufNyfapYE> . It should take less than 10 minutes to complete. Indeed, if you limit yourself to the ‘multiple-choice’ answers only then it can be completed in 5 minutes but will take longer if you wish to add further thoughts in the ‘free text’ responses. The survey will be open from 1st June 2022 to 31st July 2022. Please respond as soon as you are able as that will give us greater time to analyse the responses.

Thank you for your assistance.”

‘INNOVATION: MAKING BUSINESS IDEAS A REALITY’ CONFERENCE

The SRA are bringing this conference to Brighton on 5th July at the Brighton Dome. The conference is free of charge and takes place from 10 am – 1.30 pm and includes lunch and networking opportunities. Attendees will get insight into the challenges and opportunities innovation and legal technology can bring plus what other law firms are already doing to drive their businesses forward and the chance to put questions to our expert panels. Topics covered include:

- Effective use of both legal and everyday consumer tech.
- How to get the best from existing software and IT.
- The role artificial intelligence or new technologies could have in your business.
- The potential for innovation beyond technology, including hybrid and new ways of working.

Further information on speakers and how to register can be found [here](#).

UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON LEGAL CLINIC

The clinic is a student-led body providing pro bono assistance across a range of legal matters to the public. The students’ work requires professional supervision which is largely provided in-house by appropriately qualified university staff. Whilst family, employment and housing matters benefit from at least two professional supervisors each, there are opportunities for SLS members (including trainee solicitors and pupil barristers) to provide support across the following practice areas:

- tort
- public law
- housing
- commercial and contracts

- employment law
- charity law

The terms of reference for the Clinic's operation are tightly drawn and monitored – so, for example, reserved activities are not undertaken, and nor is litigation support provided. Apart from the Clinic's laudable efforts to extend access to legal advice, the experience for the students of problem-solving and practical casework is invaluable. Working alongside the students is a light but rewarding touch for those members who would like to support this local initiative. Expressions of interest or questions can be directed to Jo Smith, the Clinic's co-ordinator at j.smith12@brighton.ac.uk

DEFENDING CRIMINAL LEGAL AID

The Law Society is calling for your help to support their campaign for the future of criminal legal aid. As you may know, the Government published its response to the Independent Review of Criminal Legal Aid (CLAIR) in March. The proposals fall far short of what is needed to secure the future of our criminal legal aid system, putting forward 40% less investment than CLAIR recommended.

We have included a campaign pack and are encouraging law societies to get in touch with their local MP to urge them to raise this critical issue in Parliament. We have attached a template letter that you can customize and send to your MP and have also included a campaign briefing outlining the issues with the Government's proposals. You can also see how badly affected your area is by the ageing of the solicitor profession [here](#).

The Law Society will be responding to the Government's ongoing consultation and are encouraging all solicitors to put their views forward as well. [You can respond here](#). The consultation will be open until 7 June 2022. After 25 years of cuts, our criminal justice system is in crisis. The Government must not miss this opportunity to put it on a stable footing and secure the future of criminal legal aid. A template letter for the attention of members' local MP. The latest campaign briefing from our Public Affairs team. A collection of region specific images for distribution on social media channels; for Warwickshire, South Wales, Manchester, Lincolnshire, and Essex; and regarding junior lawyers specifically; Lincolnshire, Cornwall, Worcestershire and Wiltshire. Read more about the proposals and our response.


REGULATORY UPDATE

Whilst The Law Society maintains that it is essential to the public interest to have robust and fair regulation, it is "not appropriate" and "disappointed" with the SRA's plans to press ahead with certain proposals put forward within its now completed broad consultation which it launched last November. Of particular concern is the extension of fining powers from a maximum of £2,000 to £25,000. In its response The Law Society proposed a more moderate, proportionate and safeguarded cap of £7,500, arguing that the SRA would become investigator, prosecutor and judge in more serious and significant cases which would otherwise go before the independent SDT, all for the expediency of speed and costs savings. Alongside this announcement was confirmation of the new proposed "fixed penalty" regime for lower-level breaches to be capped at £1,500 and where the SRA will now develop updated guidance and Rules for further consultation, and approval from the Ministry of Justice. A week later, at the end of May, the SRA again received certain misgivings from the Law Society on the consultation which is aiming to clarify the regulatory requirements in the areas of health and fitness to practice and appropriate treatment of colleagues. The Law Society responded that whilst it wholeheartedly supports such issues being addressed, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, it maintains that adequate and transparent requirements in these fields were already in place.

BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN FOR SEPTEMBER QUIZ NIGHT

Book now by clicking [here](#) for the Sussex Law Society Quiz Night 2022 which will be held at 7pm on Thursday, 15th September in the Palm Court Restaurant on Brighton Pier.

Both members and non-members are welcome to enter a team. Your firm/organisation/friends & colleagues can enter a team of up to 6 people at a cost of £20 per person (including VAT) which includes a fish and chip supper (with a vegan fishless and chip supper alternative). There will be a cash bar available all night. This is a very popular event and so places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. There will be a raffle on the night in aid of the President's charities for the year - [The Brighton Yoga Foundation](#) and [The Starr Trust](#)

This event has been kindly sponsored by  DEVASSIST

HAVING DIFFICULTIES WITH THE COURTS?

Thanks to those of you who have sent in your stories to pass to the Law Society as evidence of the real problems solicitors are facing every day in Sussex in their dealings with the courts, which in turn having a severe impact on some of their clients. If this is affecting you and your clients can you please continue to send any examples to [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#) and at the same time encourage your clients to write to their MP.

INSTILLING A CULTURE OF PRODUCTIVITY IN YOUR LEGAL PRACTICE

Covid has had a major impact on legal services. It has seen increased digitalisation across the profession and instilled the need for law firms to be more productive. In just two years there has been twenty years' worth of modernisation. The most important step change for the next ten years will be understanding that a lawyer's skill and knowledge alone is not enough to make a business work well. Read more of this interesting article from LEAP [here](#).

NEWS & UPDATES FROM CHANCERY LANE

The May edition of the Law Society's Local Law Society Bulletin which contains some useful information and articles can be found [here](#).

Law Society Upcoming Events

Tue 7 Jun 2022 - [Judicial appointments interview training for solicitors - webinar](#)

Wed 8 Jun 2022 - [Property Section: MEES and EPCs Webinar](#)

Thu 9 Jun 2022 - [Inheritance Tax Planning Options Masterclass](#)

Tue 14 June 2022 - [ESG: Introductory Overview for Lawyers \(14/06/2022\) | Law Society LMS](#)

Fri 24 Jun 2022 - [Private Client Section Annual Conference 2022](#)

Event Recordings

[Law Society Property Section Convention 2022 - Part 1](#)

[Law Society Property Section Convention 2022 - Part 2](#)

[The CLAIR consultation - Your chance to hear from Minister Cartledge](#)

[Law Management Annual Financial Benchmarking Survey 2022: report launch](#)

[How to progress your in-house career](#)

[CQS Core Practice Management Standards Update](#)

[JLD webinar - Tackling the tricky questions at NQ interviews](#)

Guides[SRA Compensation Fund](#)[Guidance on undertaking advocacy during Criminal Bar Association 'no returns' action](#)[Trust Registration Service \(TRS\) and AML compliance](#)[Doing legal business in the Commonwealth Caribbean](#)**Tools**[Advocacy and the vulnerable training](#)**Sections**[Business management](#)[Regulation](#)[Property](#)[Private Client](#)

Paid subscribers can also access exclusive content and updates on law firms management, risk & compliance, property and private client law.

REPORTING TO THE LENDER & HOT MORTGAGE ISSUES

Reporting to the mortgage company is a perennial problem for the conveyancer. This 1 hour webinar from Richard Snape selects some issues and discusses solutions. Topics covered include: Conflicts of interest and valuation issues; Leasehold issues and lender requirements; Some specific areas: Japanese knotweed; solar panels; planning issues, and flying freeholds.

The webinar takes place from 11am – 12pm on Tuesday, 5th July and is £35 + VAT for members and £45+ VAT for non-members. An application form can be downloaded [here](#).

SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY WEBINARS

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

- **5th July, 2022** – ‘Reporting to the Lender & Hot Mortgage Issues’. LIVE Webinar. 11am – 12pm. £35 + VAT (members), £45 + VAT (non-members)
- **18th October, 2022** – ‘[CPR Update by Dominic Regan](#)’. LIVE Webinar. 9.30am – 12.30pm. £100 + VAT (members), £120+ VAT (non-members)

OTHER WEBINARS/ARTICLES/RESOURCES

- ‘**How to get more positive Google and Facebook reviews for your law firm**’ – an interesting article from Orion Legal Marketing can be accessed [here](#).
- **Martin Searle Solicitors - Ask The Experts - Community Care Law Q&As** - Cate Searle, Head of Community Care Law and Paula Jones, Services for Professional Deputies Lead, are running free Community Care Law Q&As focusing on topical issues in community care law and mental capacity law. Their next virtual session is on **Tuesday 21 June** from **2 - 3pm** and deals with “Securing maximum health or social care funding for your clients who live at home”. For more information and to book your place [click here](#)

- **The £86,000 Care Cap Promise in Practice** – Cate Searle, Head of Community Care Law at Martin Searle Solicitors is running this live virtual workshop in partnership with MBL Seminars. This interactive session is designed for people who are already advising clients about the current paying for care rules and social care means testing. Cate will work through case studies and calculations to analyse how the changes will impact your clients and what advice you need to be giving now. The seminar will run on **Wednesday 6 July** from **2pm – 4pm**. For more information and to book your place, [click here](#).
- **Pregnancy & Maternity Discrimination – A Guide for HR Managers & Employment Lawyers** – Sarah Henderson at Martin Searle Solicitors is running a virtual live webinar, in partnership with MBL Seminars, which offers best practice employment law advice to avoid discriminating against pregnant women and those on maternity leave. This incorporates employment law developments due to Covid-19. This interactive session includes working through practical case studies and runs from **10.30am – 12pm** on **Monday 11 July**. For more information and to book your place, [click here](#).

KEEP INFORMED ON ISSUES RELATING TO PII, RISK & LEGAL PRACTICE

Our main sponsor Howden have shared with us some really interesting and useful articles from their May Newsletter, Premium Matters, which you can access by clicking on the links below:

[My solicitor is doing a terrible job – I want to instruct you ...](#)

[Essential support for solicitors and other law firm employees suffering with work-related stress](#)

[You're a victim of a cyber attack – now what do you do?](#)

[The X-Client's files – who owns a solicitor's file?](#)

[1 April 2022 Solicitors' PII Renewal: Is there a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel?](#)

[Post Six Year Run-Off Cover \(PSYRO\) – an update](#)

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.

- **Client and Office Support (full-time)** - To support the team's ongoing growth, Renaissance Legal is looking for a full-time client and office support professional. Based in the firm's head office in central Brighton, this is a busy role where the right person will be client service orientated and have at least 1 year of previous experience in a Receptionist/Front of House role. More details and how to apply [here](#).
- **Commercial Property Solicitor (3-4 PQE or equivalent)** - Healys are seeking an experienced Commercial Property solicitor, with 3-4 PQE or equivalent, to join our Commercial Property team, based in our centrally-located Brighton office. Supporting our Chairman, John Healy, you will also liaise with our Commercial Property department in London. For more details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Conveyancing Legal Assistant/Secretary** – Thompson Allen LLP are recruiting a full time Secretary and a Paralegal/Legal Assistant to work in their busy Conveyancing Department. For a full job description and to apply please contact mark.allen@thompsonallen.co.uk

- **Conveyancing Legal Secretary/Assistant** - Warwick Barker LLP are looking for an experienced legal secretary/assistant to assist in our conveyancing department. The work will comprise of assisting with all stages of a property transaction and include drafting legal documents such as Land Registry Forms. We offer a competitive salary and are flexible on full or part-time working. Our ideal candidate would have a good working knowledge of all stages of residential property transactions. Excellent secretarial, administrative and IT skills would be a distinct advantage. Please email your CV to oliverkenning@warwickbarker.co.uk
- **Conveyancing Secretary** – Cunningtons Solicitors have a vacancy for a Conveyancing Secretary in their Brighton office. Please send CV and application to Jason Bradshaw – jason.bradshaw@cunningtons.co
- **Employment Lawyer.** Martin Searle Solicitors are looking to employ an experienced litigation Solicitor, In-House Counsel / Barrister, Legal Executive or Case Worker to join their Employment Law team. For a full job description and to apply, [click here](#).
- **Legal Secretary** – Cornfield Law LLP Solicitors are seeking a Legal Secretary to join their Private Client Department in our friendly Eastbourne office. Please send CV to ELake@cornfieldlaw.co.uk
- **Private Client Lawyer** - required to join growing team in Haywards Heath - experience preferred but training offered, so could suit NQ solicitor or someone looking for career change. Full-time or Part-Time. Please send CV with covering letter to rdavage@rohansolicitors.co.uk
- **Private Client Solicitor** – Healys are seeking a full time Private Client solicitor or Legal Executive with three to five years' post qualification experience, or solid relevant paralegal experience to join the friendly Private Client department in our diverse centrally-located Brighton office. For more details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Private Client Solicitor or experienced Legal Executive** – Cornfield Law LLP are looking for someone to assist in our busy private client department. Work includes estate administration, Will drafting, deeds of variation, declarations of trust, LPAs. Please email your CV to ELake@cornfieldlaw.co.uk
- **Private Client Solicitor or experienced Legal Executive** – Warwick Barker LLP Solicitors in Rustington are looking for someone to assist in our busy private client department. The work will comprise estate administration, Will writing, preparing deeds of variation, declaration of trust deeds, LPAs and some Court of Protection Work. We offer a competitive salary and are flexible on full or part-time working. Knowledge of Isokon would be a distinct advantage. Please email your CV to gillcollins@warwickbarker.co.uk
- **Property Assistant/Paralegal** - E J Moyle LLP has a vacancy for a full or part-time Property Assistant/Paralegal to work alongside our Conveyancing Team based at our Littlehampton Office. Competitive salary and benefits. Please send your CV and covering letter to Linda Robinson at lrobinson@moyle.co.uk
- **Property Litigation Assistant/Legal Executive** – Healys in Brighton are expanding our successful Property Litigation practice in our central Brighton office and are seeking a qualified solicitor or legal executive with previous experience. For more details and how to apply see [here](#).

- **Senior Commercial Property Solicitor** – Healys are seeking an experienced senior Commercial Property solicitor or partner to join a friendly and successful legal team, based in our centrally-located Brighton office. This is a newly-created role, due to the high volume of quality work we are receiving. Supporting our Chairman, John Healy, you will also liaise with our Commercial Property department in London. For more details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Senior Residential Property Solicitor/Chartered Legal Executive/Licensed Conveyancer** – Healys in Brighton are seeking an experienced residential property fee-earner for our friendly and successful Real Estate department. For more information and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Solicitor (minimum 3 years PQE) – Landlord & Tenant** - This is an excellent opportunity for a solicitor with experience within Landlord and Tenant to become an integral part of our Landlord and Tenant property litigation team in our Hove office acting for our national client base. You will be responsible for running your own case load and reporting to the partners in the team. The work will include all transactional aspects of Landlord and Tenant work including lease variations, licences to alter, enfranchisement, Right to Manage applications, drafting notices and general lease interpretation. For more details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Solicitor (minimum 3 years PQE) - Property Litigation** – This is an excellent opportunity to become an integral part of the team in our Hove office and acting for our national client base. You will be responsible for running your own case load and reporting to the partners in the team. The work will include being able to advise on long leasehold matters and tenancy issues including residential and business tenancies; drafting notices; conducting possession claims and advising on statutory matters affecting all areas of leasehold law. You will be advising on real estate litigation, professional negligence claims relating to property matters and a general property litigation caseload .For more details and how to apply see [here](#).

LOCUMS

If you would like to be added to the list of locums published monthly in this Newsletter, please email your details to [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. Charges realistic rates.
- 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

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 [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#) 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.