

Dear Member,

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to the June edition of the Sussex Law Society newsletter.

We are now only a matter of days away from our Summer Charity Ball. We are completely sold out and I look forward to seeing those of you who are attending on Friday evening at the Grand Hotel in Brighton. It will be nice to see the result of so many months of planning, and I thank you in advance for your generous support of my chosen charity for the year; Rockinghorse.

If you missed out on tickets for the Ball; we have confirmed the date of our Autumn Quiz for 23rd October and further details will follow shortly.

As many of you will know, this year is the 200th anniversary of the Law Society. This is a historic milestone and the Law Society is hosting a number of events across the South Coast as well as online. If you are interested in attending one of their celebratory events, further details can be found [here](#)

I am also really pleased to note that the Sussex Junior Lawyers Division continues to grow their network and have a number of events planned over the Summer. Further details can be found [here](#) but please do get in touch with their Committee if you'd like to get involved further.

Wishing all of you well as we move towards the Summer months and hopefully a well-deserved holiday or two!

Daniel Dickson

NEWS

- **Rix & Kay Solicitors** is pleased to announce the appointment of Sally Mouhim as Partner and Head of the firm's Dispute Resolution practice. Sally brings a wealth of expertise in handling high-value, complex commercial disputes. Since joining Rix & Kay, she has already played a significant role in strengthening the practice and is now set to further expand its presence across Sussex and Kent. To learn more click [here](#)
- **E J Moyle LLP** are very pleased to announce that Bart Hunter is now our Trainee Solicitor and has started his Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) training within the Property Department at E J Moyle LLP. To read more click [here](#)
- **Renaissance Legal finalists in the 2025 Modern Law Private Client Awards:** [Renaissance Legal](#) has been shortlisted in no less than three categories at the 2025 Modern Law Private Client Awards - *Private Client Team – Tax & Trusts*, *Outstanding Client Care* and *Managing Partner of the Year* for Philip Warford. The award ceremony takes place in Liverpool on 2nd July, where the winners will be announced. The full shortlist is here: <https://www.privateclientawards.co.uk/2025shortlist>
- Joining the [reclAW](#) team is Specialist Litigation Solicitor [Peter Gwillam](#), bringing with him over 30 years of successful dispute resolution in the recruitment sector!
- [Lewis Denley](#) is pleased to welcome Erin Fisher as a Solicitor in the Residential Property team. Erin brings experience across both residential and commercial property and is

known for her proactive approach and clear communication. Her appointment forms part of the firm's continued growth in the property sector.

- [Sarah Mynard](#), Claimant dental specialist at Scott-Moncrieff (Wisdom Law), recently took part in the East Grinstead triathlon event. Not wanting to miss a marketing opportunity she even found time to sport a toothbrush costume and to remind children (and adults!) of the importance of good oral hygiene! See [here](#).

SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY BALL 2025 – SOLD OUT

Thank you to all who have bought tickets to our annual Sussex Law Society Ball which will be held this Friday at The Grand Hotel in Brighton.

We sold out this year almost a **month** before the event so if you're interested in coming next year, please do buy early to avoid disappointment.

LAA DATA HACK

Legal Aid Practitioners continue to experience problems with the Legal Aid Agency Online system currently being offline. At the time of writing there is no date for this coming back online and this will be causing both Solicitors and clients some problems.

Updates can be found at [Legal Aid Agency cyber security incident: frequently asked questions - GOV.UK](#)

One concern expressed was whether firms need to inform past and present clients of the data breach. The LAA has taken ownership of this as below:

Do legal aid providers need to contact clients?

There is no contractual obligation on providers to report this incident to the ICO or to inform clients. The data impacted by this incident is either owned by the LAA or is considered Shared Data within the definition of the contract. The contract at clause 16.3 of the standard terms sets out that the responsibilities of the data controller will be exercised by the party in possession of the data – in this case by MoJ as the data controller for LAA. MoJ has notified the ICO of the incident, and has notified data subjects through the public announcement on GOV.UK on 19 May.

SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY WEBINARS

Click on the links below for more details about these webinars and how to apply to attend:

- [‘The Employment Rights Bill and how you can plan ahead’](#) 10th June 2025. Live webinar. 12.30pm-13.30pm. £30 + VAT (£36) members £40 + VAT (£48) non members
- [Conveyancing Law Update](#) 11th June 2025. Live Webinar 9.30am-12.30pm £110 + VAT for members / £125 + VAT for non-members
- [‘Compliance Update’](#) 17th June 2025. live Webinar. 12pm-1pm £30+ VAT for members. £45+ VAT for non-members
- [Climate Change Practice Note Update & The Future of Commercial Environmental Searches](#) 21st May 2025. live webinar. 1pm-2pm FREE FOR MEMBERS

For more details of any upcoming courses check our [website](#) or email [Alice Wylie](#).

SUSSEX JUNIOR LAWYERS DIVISION

It is a busy time at Sussex JLD. SJLD has recently launched its monthly newsletter (subscribe by signing up for membership if you haven't already) alongside their **Mentorship Programme** for junior and aspiring lawyers.

Join Sussex JLD at its June events:

12 June 2025, Crawley – join SJLD for a networking event in the northern reaches of Sussex at the Old Punch Bowl in Crawley. Drinks and champagne raffle are kindly sponsored by [Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP](#). Expand your network and RSVP through our website [here](#).

19 June 2025, Brighton – step outside the law and expand your professional network with SJLD and [Quantuma Advisory](#) at OhSo Social Brighton. This “Bridging the Fields” event connects young professionals from all sectors. [Secure your ticket here](#) and enjoy a generous tab sponsored by Quantuma Advisory. Limited spaces available!

Stay tuned for more exciting updates from SJLD, including a special **collaboration with Sussex Law Society on 4 July 2025**. Details coming soon. Cricket fans, make sure to keep this evening free!

COMPLIANCE AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Fresh guidance, its second under LeO's recent “spotlights” series has been issued. With nearly a half of Complaints currently about poor communication and delay, it highlights with the aid of case studies the common and much debated topical feature of delay where the service provider may be deemed responsible for, or could have influenced a delay caused by a third party or an event outside their control. One obviously thinks of legal matters which involve The Land Registry, Probate, Court, Home Office, expert and other professional Reports. What are deemed to be “reasonable” (sigh) steps which LeO seems to expect? Effective communication throughout might save you time, the fee and the Client. The key seems to be managing expectation from the outset and sharing information and measures being taken on progress throughout. Failure could influence the Decision. The full Guideline and two case studies can be found [here](#).

Patrick Richards

PROCUREMENT LAWYERS ASSOCIATION – LAST CALL!!

On behalf of the Public Sector Sub-group of the [Procurement Lawyers' Association](#) (PLA) Executive Committee, please can any public sector procurement members message [Manjinder Nagra](#) directly if the following proposed PLA initiative may be helpful:

*We all appreciate the financial pressures many local authorities are facing, so Kieran McGaughey and I are looking to set up a **Public Sector Procurement Forum** for our public sector members. The idea is to hold short, informal sessions — initially quarterly and lasting no more than an hour — where public sector practitioners can get together to share good practice, discuss templates, terms and conditions, common issues and approaches and hear how other authorities are tackling similar challenges. You'll be welcome to send in questions in advance,*

or just join and contribute on the day. If this sounds of interest, please email Manjinder.nagra@brighton-hove.gov.uk with a simple “yes” (or feel free to send a more detailed response if you have time)? If there’s anything else you’d like to see from the PLA to support your work, I’d really appreciate your thoughts too in the next couple of weeks. Please do feel free to forward this email to any other legal procurement colleagues who might be interested.

UK’S NATIONAL SECURITY AND INVESTMENT ACT (NSIA) - A REFRESHER WITH FAEGRE DRINKER

Since coming into force at the start of 2022, the UK’s National Security and Investment Act (NSIA) has significantly reshaped the regulatory landscape for corporate transactions. However, despite its far-reaching scope, clients and practitioners can easily overlook the importance of giving due consideration to its potential application on their transactions. This note provides a brief refresher on what the NSIA framework covers and why it may apply more often than assumed. To find out more click [here](#)

REMOTE DESKTOP REACHING END OF LIFE: WHAT LAW FIRMS NEED TO KNOW WITH EXTECH CLOUD (Advertisement)

Remote Desktop has been a key tool for law firms, providing secure remote access to case files, legal software, and sensitive client data. As hybrid working becomes standard in the legal sector, it has supported both productivity and compliance.

However, Microsoft will retire Remote Desktop on 27 May 2025, ending support and updates. For firms relying on it, this raises concerns around security, continuity, and compliance—but there is a clear path forward.

To find out more about what the transition means for the legal industry, how the Windows App fits in, and how your firm can prepare for a smooth migration click [here](#).

STUDENT SURVEY NEEDS YOUR INPUT!

A group of researchers at the University of Sussex are interested in understanding legally trained perspectives on sentencing. They would like to invite you to take part in a short (less than 20-minute) [study](#) to advance their understanding of sentencing decision-making. This will involve reading scenarios about hypothetical offences and making decisions about appropriate sentencing outcomes. They will also ask about your judgement of the culpability and responsibility of the offender involved, and about your broader opinions regarding legal issues surrounding mental disorder and criminal responsibility.

Your participation may influence future legal policies and will contribute to our understanding of sentencing decision-making. It will also contribute towards the completion of a PhD thesis. To link to the Survey, please click [here](#). There is also a chance to win a £50 National Book Token to participants who complete the survey.

PLAY A KEY ROLE CREATING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE PROFESSION THROUGH THE SOLICITORS’ CHARITY

The Solicitors’ Charity is seeking a new Chair for its Board of Trustees and also has several exciting new Trustee roles, offering legal professionals, other specialists and experienced charity leaders the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the lives of solicitors facing hardship.

The Chair role is specifically for current or former solicitors, but trustee applicants can come from a variety of disciplines. The charity is particularly keen to hear from Trustee applicants who have expertise in employment law/HR, are financially qualified or are medical professionals.

The deadline for applications is Friday 20 June 2025.

Full details on the roles and how to apply for the Trustee position:

<https://starfishsearch.com/jobs/trus-the-sol-cha-trustees>

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

There was a special council meeting on 7th May at Chancery lane consisting of a special session on the rule of law and hustings involving 5 candidates to be the next deputy vice president of the Law Society. The DVP is elected by the 97 Council members and I cast a vote on behalf of Sussex.

DVP election: The result was announced last Friday and Dana Dennis-Smith, OBE, has been elected as the new DVP. She will become President in 2027. Dana holds one of 5 seats representing women solicitors on Council. She founded the First 100 Years campaign to celebrate 100 years of women solicitors and received her OBE for services to women in the law. I look forward to supporting her and the other officers in the coming years. More detail is at [Dana Denis-Smith OBE elected as our next deputy vice president | The Law Society](#) There is also an interview with her in The Times on 2nd June if you can get behind the paywall or, like me, prefer ink and paper.

Rule of law: The Law Society sees as one of its most important functions the protection of the Rule of Law in England and Wales and abroad. Important enough to devote a Council meeting to the topic to help guide its thinking in coming years. The meeting involved presentations and breakout sessions looking at what the Rule of Law means both nationally and internationally, threats to it and how TLS can continue to promote understanding of it. I have always found "Rule of Law" a tricky phrase to understand. At first blush it seems tautologous. The words Rule and Law can mean almost the same thing.

In (Lord) Tom Bingham's book entitled The Rule of Law he says "...the expression was constantly on people's lips [but] I was not quite sure what it meant, and I was not sure that all those who used the expression knew what they meant either, or meant the same thing." At a breakout session on 7th May I expressed my concern that this widely used phrase was not well understood. The proverbial "person on the Clapham omnibus" might regard the rule of law as having to stick to the speed limit or not stealing from Sainsbury's (other supermarkets are available). This may in part be accurate but cannot be the whole concept.

Dicey formulated the Rule of Law as:

1. Supremacy of regular law (the Clapham Omnibus understanding, that is you are subject to known laws and punishments, not the arbitrary use of power)
2. Equality before the law – yes you too, Boris.
3. Constitutional principles arise from judicial decisions – the power of case law within our unwritten constitution. The post Dicey case of *Associated Provincial Picture Houses v Wednesbury Corporation, 1948*, laid the ground for the recent evolution of Judicial Review. This case law based doctrine has become an important check on executive power.

Since the 1940s the Rule of Law has also taken on an International dimension with Human Rights obligations.

On 7th May I spoke with one of the international team at TLS who told me of visits she had made to imprisoned lawyers in Turkey. TLS has mounted a campaign advocating for their release. They are imprisoned for doing their job as lawyers in a way the Government doesn't like. This is a tactic designed to suppress the rule of law. As Shakespeare says (though in a different context), "First let's kill all the lawyers", or at least imprison them. Bill Browder's book *Red Notice* is an example of a state, Russia, killing a lawyer for political purposes.

So, whilst we may find the principle difficult to define we know it when we see it, as I hope three contemporary examples illustrate:

1. In September 2019, a slight, grey haired woman, wearing a distinctive spider broach (Lady Hale) gave the judgment of the Supreme Court that ruled that Boris Johnson's decision to prorogue Parliament in September of that year was unlawful. Law 1, PM 0.
2. On 29th May 2025 a trade court in the US blocked some US tariffs, on the basis that they should not have fallen within an executive order signed by the President. That battle is headed for the Supreme Court that will give Judgment on the scope of those powers. As an aside, it seems to me that the US separation of powers is weakened because Supreme Court Judges are themselves political appointees – mitigated, perhaps, by the slow turnover.
3. Finally, Vladimir Putin's Russia. A state where there is no Rule of Law.

Thank you if you have got this far. This short piece only scratches the surface of the topic but I hope shows why the concept is so important to The Law Society.

Andrew Bishop

Law Society Council Member for Sussex

THE CIVIL JUSTICE COUNCIL'S FUTURES GROUP

The Civil Justice Council's Futures Group, co-chaired by Professor Elizabeth Smart and Professor Sue Prince, has recently published a report on digital disadvantage.

The report's principal recommendation is the creation of a central hub for the development of a strategy for digital inclusion in the justice system.

[The report can be found on the CJC's webpage.](#)

OTHER USEFUL WEBINARS/COURSES/ARTICLES/RESOURCES

The future of work is decentralised, is your organisation ready? Generational change and hybrid working are not just trends, they're redefining how we work, lead, and grow. Join **Loch Associates Group** for their upcoming Level Up webinar, exploring what these seismic shifts mean for the world of employment, and what your organisation needs to do now to stay ahead. 19th June 2025 12pm – 1pm. REGISTER: <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/0cd7c7e1/fFQy3aNvnkmFleoKKvS57A?u=https://lochassociates.co.uk/level-up/>

From 7 – 12 July 2025, **Martin Searle Solicitors** will be holding an exhibition of paintings by artist [Derek Ogbourne](#) to celebrate 21 years in business. The exhibition will be at the Brighton Fishing Quarter Gallery on Brighton Seafront and will be open from 2pm – 7pm on Monday 7 July, and 11am – 7pm on Tuesday 8 – Saturday 12 July. They are also fundraising for **Medical Aid for Palestinians** – you can donate [here](#).

Throughout June 2025, Martin Searle Solicitors are running their campaign, **Social Care Funding Matters** to raise awareness about the current problems with social care funding. They are offering a free 30-minute telephone advice consultations regarding planning and paying for care and hosting a virtual seminar on **'What Happens When P's Money Runs Out'**. The webinar is aimed at Professional Deputies, private client lawyers, and other professionals who advise clients about social care, and takes place on **Thursday 26 June, from 12pm – 1pm**. For more information, [click here](#).

Paying for Care & Securing Funding Masterclass - Cate Searle, Head of Community Care Law at Martin Searle Solicitors is hosting a live seminar in London in partnership with MBL Seminars. This practical and tactical session is designed for professional deputy and private client law teams who have a working knowledge of the health and social care funding systems and want to know how to run successful public law challenges that make a difference for their clients. This full-day interactive workshop will run from **9.30am – 5.15pm** on **Thursday 17 July 2025**. For more information and to book your place, [click here](#).

In this article, Clive Styles explores the Cafcass Planning Together for Children course, now widely recommended in private law proceedings. Its aim is to reduce conflict and support co-parenting. This course replaces the previous SPIP programme. Read the full article here: <https://becket-chambers.co.uk/articles/cafcass-planning-together-for-children-course/>

Lavinia Glover's latest article discusses the Family Justice Council's new guidance on alienating behaviours in private law proceedings. It highlights the shift in terminology and focus on child welfare and early identification. Read the full article here: <https://becket-chambers.co.uk/articles/clarity-and-guidance-on-parental-alienation-alienating-behaviours/>

Louisa Adamson's latest article explores the latest Family Justice Council guidance on the increasing use of secret recordings in private law cases and how courts are expected to handle them. Read more here: <https://becket-chambers.co.uk/articles/covert-recordings-in-family-law-proceedings-concerning-children/>

In Emily Jennet's recent article, she breaks down what SGOs are, who can apply, and why they can offer a more stable alternative to care orders, while keeping vital family ties intact. Learn more: <https://becket-chambers.co.uk/articles/a-beginners-guide-to-special-guardianship-orders-in-care-proceedings/>

BOOK YOUR ADMISSION CEREMONY AT THE LAW SOCIETY IN ITS BICENTENNIAL YEAR

Celebrate your success on qualifying to become a solicitor and mark the occasion with friends and family. Whether you qualified recently or are already established, it's never too late to celebrate your success at an admissions ceremony. Mark 200 years of the Law Society and attend an admission ceremony in 2025, its bicentenary year. As part of the celebrations, you will receive a bespoke bicentenary themed admission certificate and will have access to exclusive bicentennial merchandise. [See here](#) for more information and to book a ceremony.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Listing job vacancies in the Newsletter & putting more detailed vacancies on the [jobs page of the website](#) is FREE for Sussex Law Society member firms and individual members and £100 + VAT for other contributors. Contact alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk to place an advert. More details about each vacancy and how to apply can be found by following the highlighted links.

Mayo Wynne Baxter are growing their Private Client team in Brighton! Find out more and apply below.

Private Client Solicitor/Legal Adviser (1-4 PQE) [Apply](#)

Private Client Solicitor/Legal Adviser (4-8 PQE) [Apply](#)

Solicitor/Legal Adviser, Conveyancing, Storrington - **Mayo Wynne Baxter** are seeking an experienced Conveyancing Solicitor or Legal Adviser to join our West Sussex team at our Storrington hub. To find out more and to apply click [here](#)

Solicitor/Legal Adviser, Conveyancing, Crawley - **Mayo Wynne Baxter** are looking to speak with driven Conveyancing Solicitors or Legal Advisers to join our thriving, fast-paced Crawley hub. To find out more and to apply click [here](#)

SITUATIONS WANTED

I am often emailed my hopeful students who will be the next generation of solicitors for advice on who to contact for work experience. **If you or your firm are in the position to offer work experience, please contact alice.wylie@susex-law.co.uk**

LOCUMS

If you would like to be added to the list of locums published monthly in this Newsletter, please email your details to alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk . Listing your details here is free of charge for members:

- Margaret Dowdles 07947 771593 - experienced property locum used to hitting the ground running to get things done. Realistic rates charged for noticeable results.
- Patrick Richards- Un-Notarised legal translations, office and Court interpreter services offered by fluent French and Italian speaking local [Solicitor. Contactpatrickrichards27@hotmail.com](mailto:Solicitor.Contactpatrickrichards27@hotmail.com)
- Manjinder Nagra – Legal Support and Speaking Availability - 20 + years experience specialising in property and contracts & procurement. Available 1-2 days p/wk for legal support. Also available for key note speaking on her unique journey into law and sport. Get in touch: m74nagra@gmail.com

MEMBERS - ARE YOU LISTED ON THE SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY WEBSITE?

One of the benefits of being a member of the Sussex Law Society is that you can be listed on our [website](#) which is often visited by members of the public looking for lawyers in Sussex. If your firm is a corporate member and is not already [listed here](#), you can send us a description (up to 500 characters not including spaces) which can include the services you offer and a link to your website. There is also a page for Individual Members – [see here](#) – where you can list your area of law, contact details and website.

Please contact alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk with your entries.

LOST AND MISSING WILLS

- COLETTE LOUISE O'REGAN D.O.B. 15/4/1969
- GARY DAVID BATES D.O.B 14/7/1965
- TERENCE BARBER 30/01/1937

Please contact alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk if you are looking for a will, know the location of any of the above wills or if you want to be part of our lost/missing wills scheme (free of charge for members)

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.

OUR PRESIDENT'S CHOSEN CHARITY

To help keep our seafront as beautiful as possible, why not get a team together and come along to our 'Big Brighton Beach Clean' on **Wednesday 25 June 2025**.

Just get a team from your workplace or office together for a fun hour in the sunshine (fingers crossed!), helping to support your local children's charity, keep our beautiful seafront clean and tidy and network with other local businesses.

Date: Wednesday 25 June 2025

Location: Outside the entrance to the Palace Pier

Time: 12 - 2pm

Price: £70 donation for a team of 5 or £130 for a team of 10

Please email Amanda@Rockinghorse.org.uk, if you would like to take part

SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY GOLF SOCIETY

The Sussex Law Society Golf Society is open to anyone with connections with the legal profession, whether you are in practice or retired, whatever your standard of play. There is no joining fee. If you have not played with us before, why not give us a try.

Bob Mayfield - Secretary, SLSGS

Bobmayfield111@gmail.com

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 Solicitors Network](#), [In House Lawyers](#), [Junior Solicitors Network](#), [Disabled Solicitors Network](#), [LGBT+ Solicitors Network](#), [Small Firms Network](#), [Solicitor Judges Network](#), [Women Solicitors Network](#).
Institute of Risk Management Awards.

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 [Alice Wylie](#).

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 [Alice Wylie](#) if you no longer wish to receive the monthly Newsletter and put **UNSUBSCRIBE** in the subject heading