



# SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

### PRESIDENTS REPORT

It has been a privilege to serve as your President during one of the most consequential periods for our profession. My sincere thanks go to our new sponsors; in particular, Geodesys, our lead sponsor for May's newsletter.



Your generous support keeps the Society strong and active for members across the region.

### Key Legal Updates

- The Renters' Rights Act 2025 came into force on 1 May 2026, abolishing Section 21 "no fault" evictions and replacing assured shorthold tenancies with periodic tenancies; the most significant reform to residential lettings since 1988.

The Employment Rights Act 2025 became law in December 2025 and is rolling out in phases across 2026–27, significantly strengthening employee rights and placing wide-ranging new obligations on employers.

- Major immigration reforms continue to be implemented throughout 2026 following the May 2025 White Paper, affecting visa routes, asylum processes and employer sponsorship obligations.

### FCA – What It Means for Your Firm

The FCA will become the single AML supervisor for law firms, taking over from the SRA in one of the most significant changes to anti-money laundering regulation in years. Firms should expect a more data-intensive approach, greater emphasis on senior management responsibility, and scrutiny of whether controls are genuinely effective, not simply well-documented.

The AML compliance burden, already significant for law firms, is widely expected to increase under FCA oversight. Now is the time to audit your policies and procedures. We will be hosting a 3hr AML course with Jo Morris for firms to join in late June, keep an eye out for news on this.

### 🎉 Annual Ball – 40 tickets remaining!

There are just 40 tickets left for our the Sussex Law Society Annual Ball. This promises to be a landmark evening for our legal community. For more information on how to book, see [page 6](#).

Thank you for your continued membership and support. Sussex Law Society remains your professional home through all that lies ahead.

Angela Arnold | President, Sussex Law Society

## CONTENTS

- [1. President's report](#)
- [2. Contents/ Why the CON29DW still matters in modern conveyancing](#)
- [3. Local News](#)
- [4. Local News](#)
- [5. Local News / Attackers Don't Sleep: Why A Cyber Attack Monitors 24/7](#)
- [6. Sussex Law Society 2026 Ball Tickets - only 40 tickets remaining!](#)
- [7. Sussex Socials: Padel Tournament/ Brighton Pride Parade](#)
- [8. Sussex JLD X SLS Summer picnic/ Mentoring Scheme Update](#)
- [9. An insight into pupillage selection at Becket Chambers/ Prescription Medication - A Forensic Perspective](#)
- [10. Upcoming Webinars](#)
- [11. Upcoming Webinars](#)
- [12. Upcoming Webinars / Navigating the Party Wall etc. Act 1996: Practical Support from Sussex Surveyors](#)
- [13. Upcoming Webinars / Mazur / SLS EDI Policy](#)
- [14. Law Society update](#)
- [15. Council Members Report / IgnitED Law Summer Programme](#)
- [16. OTHER USEFUL WEBINARS/ ARTICLES/ RESOURCES](#)
- [17. OTHER USEFUL WEBINARS/ ARTICLES/ RESOURCES](#)
- [18. Situations Vacant](#)
- [19. Charity Spotlight](#)
- [20. SLSGS / Law Society Divisions and Networks / Locums/ Finding a Notary Public](#)
- [21. Lost and Missing Wills / Admissions Ceremony](#)



**GEODESYS**  
Conveyancing covered

**Why the CON29DW still matters  
in modern conveyancing**

For most conveyancers, the CON29DW is a familiar part of every transaction. It is ordered routinely, reviewed quickly, and often revisited only when something unexpected arises. Yet it remains one of the key reports underpinning informed advice to clients, confirming whether a property is properly connected to public water and sewerage infrastructure and highlighting risks that could affect value, use or future development.

What is often less visible is how the consistency of these reports can vary depending on how they are produced and delivered. Differences in format, turnaround times and support models have historically made it harder for conveyancers working across regions to identify key points or resolve queries quickly. In a high-pressure environment, even small inefficiencies add up.

In the Southern Water region, changes introduced in 2025 have focused on addressing those practical challenges. The CON29DW for Southern Water is now delivered in a consistent, familiar format that aligns with reports used by other major water companies. For conveyancers, that means less time re-orientating yourself within a document and more confidence that you are reading and interpreting information in a familiar way.

[Click here to read the full article](#)

## LOCAL NEWS

Welcome to our 2 new sponsors, [Nova Care](#) and [Geodesys](#). Thank you both for your support of the Sussex Law Society.



[Geodesys](#) is a specialist provider of property search intelligence, with nearly 30 years of industry-leading expertise in drainage and water.

[Nova Care Consultants Ltd](#) is the leading multi-award-winning private social work, care and capacity assessment service, based in neighbouring Hampshire and trusted by private clients, families and solicitors since 2017.



**CARE & CAPACITY EXPERTS**

**Congratulations** to all those ranked in the Family section of the internationally respected *Doyles Guide 2026* - Edward Cooke, Lauren Guy, Jo O'Sullivan, Lynn Passmore, Gilva Tisshaw, Richard Adams, Lisa Burton-Durham, Julia Dyson, Kate Elliott, Verity Eunson-Hickey, Gemma Garrett, Gemma Hope and Lucy Naish.



**Hart Reade** are bidding farewell to their Partner and Head of Property Department, Andrew Pluck, who retired at the end of April.

Andrew has been a practising solicitor for almost 37 years. He graduated from Nottingham University with a BA Honours in Law, finalising his qualification at what is now Nottingham Trent University. He began his training contract in 1987 and joined Hart Reade in 1990.

[Click here to read full article](#)

*Last months newsletter incorrectly quoted recLAW's brilliant achievement, updated below.*

£13.3M recovered | **recLAW's** 5-year track record in recruitment disputes  
Having handled over 3,400 recruitment disputes and counting, recLAW's focus remains the same: applying specialist insight to the realities of the recruitment sector, particularly where others may have already written matters off.

**£13,324,852**

**Recovered  
for Recruiters**

**recLAW**

[Click here to find out more](#)

## LOCAL NEWS

**GWCA** Partner, Christine Nestor will be taking on the highest marathon in the world, and joining the start line of the Tenzing-Hillary 2026 Everest Marathon at the end of May in Nepal. Christine will be running in memory of our Late Partner Tony Lewis and raising funds for the firm's nominated charity The Sussex Snowdrop Trust.

[Click here to read full article](#)

**Tisshaws** are delighted to announce that Hana Khodabocus has achieved the status of Accredited Family Mediator, while Richard Adams is now a trained Hybrid Mediator. We are also happy to share that Gilva Tisshaw achieved Highly Commended as Managing Partner of the Year at the Clio Modern Law Awards 2026.

**JE Bennett Law** will be joining Fletchers Group , alongside EMG Solicitors, creating a dedicated Court of Protection and private client division under the EMG brand. Jane Bennett said: "Both Fletchers and EMG share our passion for helping vulnerable people, and the new expanded business will provide us with the opportunity to reach far more clients across the country needing our specialist help."

[Click here to find out more](#)



Coole Bevis is pleased to announce that Marianne Trott has joined the firm as a Partner in our Residential Property team. Marianne is a Licensed Conveyancer with over 20 years' experience, who has built up strong relationships with local agents and valuable knowledge of the mid Sussex property market.

Congratulations to Nicole Jennings of Becket Chambers, who has been shortlisted as a finalist in the Kent Law Society Awards 2026 in the category of Legal Hero, which honours "Exceptional legal professionals who demonstrate an unwavering commitment to justice, ethics and the betterment of the legal community by advocating for meaningful change, mentoring others and having a positive impact".



## LOCAL NEWS

**Barwells Solicitors** is proud to celebrate 130 years of providing trusted legal services across East Sussex. Since 1896, the firm has supported generations of individuals, families, and businesses, combining long-standing expertise with a modern, client-focused approach. Today, Barwells offers a full range of services including Wills, LPAs and Probate, Residential and Commercial Property, Family Law, Litigation and Dispute Resolution, Personal Injury, and Commercial matters, alongside its dedicated HR advisory service, BarwellsHR. With offices across the region, the firm remains committed to delivering clear, practical advice and building lasting relationships, while continuing to evolve to meet the needs of today's clients"

Former **Sussex Law Society** President and **BHCC** Lawyer Manjinder Nagra has earned a place to represent England at the European Sumo Championships 25 to 28 June in Scotland. To find out more or support the event, please click the link below.

[Click here to find out more](#)

### CALLING FAMILY LAW PRACTITIONERS!

The biggest gathering of family justice professionals on Thursday 21 - Friday 22 May, in Brighton.

[Click here to find out more](#)

# extech cloud

## Attackers Don't Sleep: Why A Cyber Attack Monitors 24/7

Cyber attacks don't wait for someone to be at their desk. Yet many firms still protect their systems as if threats only appear between nine and five. It's easy to picture a cyber incident happening during the working day, someone clicks a bad link or opens the wrong attachment.



In reality, most attackers prefer the opposite. They target evenings, weekends, and holidays, when offices are quiet and response times are slower.

That's exactly why round the clock monitoring matters.

The difference between spotting an attack early and discovering it hours later can be the difference between a minor issue and a major disruption.

[Click here to read full article](#)

## LESS THAN 40 TICKETS REMAINING! BOOK NOW!

**SUSSEX  
LAW  
BALL  
2026**

SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June**  
The Grand Hotel  
Brighton

19.00 Reception  
20.00 Dinner  
01.00 Carriages

Black tie/ your brightest,  
most colourful formal wear

**LEGACY  
OF  
COLOUR**

X-Press Legal Services  
Your professional property partner

COR  
1 CROWN OFFICE ROW  
BRIGHTON

**SUSSEX  
SURVEYORS**

Join us on Friday 5th June 2026 for The Sussex Law Society's Annual Summer Ball. The evening's theme 'Legacy of Colour' will honour our first Black President in the 166 years since the Sussex Law Society began, Angela Arnold's Jamaican heritage. Come in black tie or, to honor the theme, dressed in your brightest, most colourful formal wear as we celebrate an exceptional year for our local law community. The evening is kindly sponsored by [1 Crown Office Row](#), [X-Press Legal Services](#) and [Sussex Surveyors](#).

### **Book [here](#) (Less than 40 tickets remaining!)**

Tickets are £99+VAT (£95 including vat for trainees and individual members who are not VAT registered).

The ball is open to both members and non-members and is the perfect opportunity to entertain partners, colleagues, staff, clients and business connections all in one evening and raise funds the President's Charity [The Rockinghorse Children's Charity](#).

With a three course meal and live music from the unforgettable **Ray Lewis** - former lead singer of **The Drifters(!)**, it's set to be a brilliant evening so, if you have never been before, why not come along! Exclusive tables seat a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 12 but if you are a smaller group or wish to come alone that is no problem at all, we will accommodate you on a mixed table.



## SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY SOCIALS!



**PADEL**  
**TOURNAMENT**  
1ST JULY

REGISTER NOW

ALICE.WYLIE@SUSSEX-LAW.CO.UK

£50PP

- TRAINING FOR BEGINNERS
- TOURNAMENT
- PIZZA AND DRINKS AT ROCKATWATER

HOVE BEACH PARK TENNIS AND PADEL  
Beach Park, Brighton and Hove, Hove BN3 4FA

X-Press Legal Services  
Your professional property partner

extech cloud

Join us on 1<sup>st</sup> July from 5.30pm onwards for a summers evening Padel Tournament on Hove beach kindly sponsored by [X-Press Legal Services](#) and [Extech Cloud](#)

Evening includes 3 hours court time including 2 coaches to teach beginners and run the tournament.

After the tournament we'll all move next door to Rockwater for Pizza and 2 drinks (soft drink, wine, beer or spirit and mixer) all included in the price of **£50pp** inclusive of VAT.

If you've never played, there's coaches to show you how, if you're a pro, there's opportunity for lots of games and networking.

With only **24 spaces available**, please act fast and email [Alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk](mailto:Alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk) to attend.



**PRIDE**  
**BRIGHTON + HOVE**

The **Sussex Law Society** is thrilled to announce that we have secured 25 places for members to walk in the Pride Parade on Saturday 1st August.

Following last year's Brighton Pride, a member reached out to highlight the importance of visible representation from our local legal community, so this year, we're proud to be taking that step.

Being part of the parade is an opportunity to celebrate and support with LGBTQ+ members and communities, demonstrate our commitment to fairness, and show that the legal sector is actively working to be a space where everyone feels respected and supported.

With the recent publication of our EDI Policy (more information on [page 13](#)), we are especially keen to back up our words with action.

If you would like to walk in the parade, please email [Alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk](mailto:Alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk) soon as there are only 25 spaces available.

# SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY SOCIALS!



## Sussex Junior Lawyers Division X Sussex Law Society Summer Picnic

02 Jul 2026, 17:00pm onwards

Join us on Hove Lawns after work on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July for a summer picnic and games.

Come alone or with your firm to play rounders, share a drink with colleagues and soak up (hopefully!) some lovely seaside sunshine.

To attend, please register [here](#)



Congratulations to all those participating in the 2026 Mentor Scheme! You should have received an email last week introducing you to your mentee.

This is a brilliant opportunity for the next generation of solicitors to make the most of a new professional connection. We encourage mentees to ask questions, be open-minded and inquisitive, find out for themselves whether their "dream" practice area or chosen route to qualification is what they are expecting. The scheme is designed to run for six months, and we recommend that pairs aim to meet at least three times during this period to ensure a consistent and fruitful dialogue.

Thank you to solicitors from **Knights, Goodlaw Solicitors, Brighton and Hove City Council, Midsussex District Council, Coole Bevis, DMH Stallard, Martin Cray, Scott-Moncrieff Solicitors, Old Bailey Law, Dawson Hart, Mayo Wynne Baxter, Dean Wilson, Study Group, Helix Law, Lewis Denley Solicitors and GWCA** for generously donating their time to the scheme.

Lastly, we would also like to express our sincere gratitude for the [Sussex Junior Lawyers Division](#) for their hard work on this scheme!

## An insight into pupillage selection at Becket Chambers

In this recent article, Melanie Andrews of Becket Chambers offers an insight into pupillage selection at Becket Chambers. She explains what we look for in prospective pupils, why personality and long-term commitment matter, and how we support pupils throughout the process.



[Click here to read full article](#)

## Prescription Medication - A Forensic Perspective By [Dr Malcolm VandenBurg BSc MB BS FFPM FRCP](#)

Prescription medication is an increasingly relevant, yet often under-recognised, factor in medico-legal cases, particularly where behaviour, memory, or decision-making are in issue.

While attention is often directed towards sedatives, hypnotics, opioids, and benzodiazepines, a much wider range of medications may produce significant neuropsychiatric effects.

These can include alterations in mood, disinhibition, confusion, impaired judgement, and in some cases automatisms (actions carried out without conscious awareness or control), with clear implications for issues such as intent (mens rea), reliability of evidence, and witness credibility.

Importantly, such effects are not confined to drugs primarily acting on the central nervous system. A substantial number of medications - including those prescribed for cardiovascular conditions, inflammation, and infection may produce psychological or behavioural disturbance. Well-recognised examples include the antibiotic metronidazole and the anti-malarial mefloquine, though many other commonly prescribed agents, and even over-the-counter preparations, may have similar potential.

Individual variability, drug interactions (including alcohol), and underlying health all further complicate interpretation. Early consideration of medication effects is therefore essential to ensure that medico-legal evidence is appropriately framed and that relevant clinical context is not overlooked.

Dr Malcolm VandenBurg BSc MB BS FFPM FRCP

Consulting Physician in Pharmaceutical Medicine and Forensic Clinical Pharmacologist  
Medico-legal Expert Witness (civil and criminal matters).

Registered with the GMC as a Specialist in General Internal Medicine.

Tel: 07850 049134 Email: [Katie.Vallance@proton.me](mailto:Katie.Vallance@proton.me)



## UPCOMING WEBINARS

To attend any of the below, please email [Alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk](mailto:Alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk)

### Law Firm Growth, Profit And Client Development Strategies For Legal Professionals With Jay Sahota

5th May 2026 | Live Webinar | 13.30pm - 14.30pm

£30 + VAT (£36) members £40 + VAT (£48) non members

This webinar will cover:

- Better billing – strategies to increase revenue efficiently
- Better conversion – turning more enquiries into paying clients
- Getting more work from existing clients – maximizing client value
- Winning work through networking – practical tips to grow your client base

[Click here for Law Firm Growth, Profit...](#)

### Restrictive Covenants, Positive Covenants and Commonhold

6th May 2026 | Live Webinar | 10am-11am

£30 + VAT (£36) members £40 + VAT (£48) non members

Sponsored by [Groundsure](#)

Richard Snape's 1hr course will look at some of the issues relating to the enforceability of restrictive and positive covenants in freehold land. In addition, the draft Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Bill has now been published and the course will also look at an overview of Commonhold.



[Click here for Restrictive Covenants](#)

### Preparing Aspiring Partners for Leadership Success with Professional Training

6th May 2026 | Live Webinar | 1pm-2pm

**FREE** for Members, £10+VAT for non members

Becoming a partner is a big step up. Lawyers at this stage of their careers have already demonstrated a sincere commitment both to the firm and the legal profession. However, the increased emotional, financial and moral responsibilities when becoming a partner are not to be underestimated. Join this webinar to find out what these skills are and how you and your firm can instil them in your future leaders.



[Click here for Preparing Aspiring Partners](#)

### SRA AML Annual Report 24-25 – where we can improve and lessons to be learnt!

13th May 2026 | Live Webinar | 14.30pm - 15.30pm

£30 + VAT (£36) members £40 + VAT (£48) non members

The fantastic Jo Morris is back! The SRA AML Annual Report 24-25 was released at the end of October 2025. In a year where we have seen so many law firms fined for AML failings this report makes for some interesting reading. In this session we will look at the facts, figures and findings from the report and ways in which we can improve.

[Click here for SRA AML Annual Report](#)

## UPCOMING WEBINARS

### AI in Law Updates and discussions

13th May 2026 | Live Webinar | 13.00 - 14.00pm

**FREE** for Members, £10+VAT for non members

Geoff Davis is BACK with his hugely popular AI working group for the Sussex Law Society. There has been massive change in the world of AI and Law since we last met with Geoff and I'm sure our members will have lots of questions. Join us for an open discussion and update session; please come along with any questions you may have. Also joining us this session is Amber Foster!

[Click here for AI in Law](#)

### Empowering Junior Lawyers: Strategies for Success and Resilience

19th May 2026 | Live Webinar | 13.00-14.00

**FREE** for Members, £10+VAT for non members

This webinar will explore how you can support the 'lifeblood of the firm' by focusing on six key areas that will ensure junior lawyers thrive, not just survive.

Research has shown that lawyers with 0-3 years post-qualification experience (PQE) represent the most vulnerable group for employee attrition in law firms. The transition from trainee to qualified lawyer can be challenging, as the support provided during training often fades, leaving a gap between expectations and reality.



[Click here for Empowering Junior Lawyers](#)

### Jo Morris Compliance Course - topic TBC

19th May 2026 | Live Webinar | 3pm-4pm

£30 + VAT (£36) members £40 + VAT (£48) non members

[Click here for Compliance Course](#)

### Conveyancing Law Update

6th May 2026 | Live Webinar | 13.30-16.30pm

£110 + VAT for members / £125 + VAT for non-members

Sponsored by [Groundsure](#)

Conveyancing continues to undergo major changes. Richard Snape is back with a 3hr course that aims to keep the busy practitioner up to date with these changes.



[Click here for Conveyancing Law Update](#)

### Statutory Wills

2nd June 2026 | Live Webinar | 1.30pm - 2.30pm

£30 + VAT (£36) members £40 + VAT (£48) non members

Sponsored by [Clive Emson Auctioneers](#)

Holly Mieville-Hawkins, a Partner in the Court of Protection team at Anthony Gold is back with us to update us on all things SW. When are they needed? Tests for capacity, changes on the horizon. Not one to miss for Private Client practitioners!



[Click here for Statutory Wills](#)

## **An Introduction to the Party Wall etc. Act 1996**

3rd June 2026 | Live Webinar | 9am-10am

**FREE** for Members, £30+VAT for non members

Sponsored by Sussex Surveyors

The Party Wall etc. Act 1996 is a law designed to facilitate building works near, or on, shared boundaries while protecting the rights of neighbours. It provides a framework for preventing and resolving disputes through a formal notification and surveyor-led resolution process. Tony Pearson, a Partner, at Sussex Surveyors will give an introduction to the Act tailored for solicitors.

### **Navigating the Party Wall etc. Act 1996: Practical Support from Sussex Surveyors**



The Party Wall etc. Act 1996 is a crucial consideration for anyone undertaking building works that may affect neighbouring properties,

and ensuring compliance from the outset can prevent unnecessary delays and disputes.

At Sussex Surveyors, we regularly support clients, solicitors and conveyancers in navigating the practical application of the Act. Whether acting for a Building Owner (BO) planning works, or an Adjoining Owner (AO) seeking to protect their property, understanding when the Act applies is key.

In particular, Sections 1, 2 and 6 set out what constitutes “notifiable works.” These can include building along the line of junction, carrying out alterations to a party wall, or excavating within three or six metres of a neighbouring structure. In each case, serving the correct notice is essential - without it, the Act cannot be relied upon.

At our upcoming webinar, taking place online from 9–10am on 3rd June, I will explore Sections 1, 2 and 6 in more detail, as well as outline the typical responses you can expect once notices have been served, helping attendees better understand the process from start to finish.

We work closely with clients to ensure notices are properly prepared and served, and to guide them through the process should a dispute arise. Where required, we act as appointed surveyors, preparing Party Wall Awards and detailed Schedules of Condition to safeguard all parties involved.

Early advice is invaluable. Engaging with adjoining owners before formal notices are served can often avoid conflict and keep projects on track. For legal professionals, having a trusted surveying partner ensures clients receive clear, practical guidance alongside legal support.

If you or your clients are planning works that may fall within the scope of the Act, Sussex Surveyors are here to help, providing expert advice, clarity, and reassurance at every stage of the process.

Sussex Surveyors have an upcoming **FREE** webinar with the Sussex Law Society on this topic or email [Alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk](mailto:Alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk) to attend.

[\*\*Click here for ‘An Introduction to the Party Wall’\*\*](#)

## IHT Planning and estate administration after the big IHT changes

16th June 2026 | Live Webinar | 10am-1pm

£110 + VAT for members / £125 + VAT for non-members

Sponsored by [Clive Emson Auctioneers](#)

What the business, farm and pensions changes means for wills, variations of estates and lifetime planning and how might probate work need to change? This webinar with John Bunker takes stock of these major development.



[Click here for IHT](#)

## MAZUR

Following the Court of Appeal's judgment in The Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEX) -v- Mazur & others, the Law Society of England and Wales has published (13 April) a new practice note for solicitors practising litigation.

The Court of Appeal considered the meaning of the words to 'carry on the conduct of litigation', following the High Court's ruling in 2025, which held that only authorised individuals can 'conduct' litigation.

We would urge all litigation solicitors and firm managers where the firm conducts litigation to read the guidance.

[Click here to read the press release](#)

[Click here to read the Mazur practice note 130426](#)

## Sussex Law Society EDI Policy

Sussex Law Society is pleased to share that it has recently drafted and formally adopted its own Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Policy, reflecting our commitment to fostering a professional community in which everyone is valued and respected.

As a local law society, we have a vital role to play in promoting equal opportunities across the legal profession. SLS is committed to creating a professional culture in which diversity and inclusion are valued, and in which everyone is treated with dignity and respect. The adoption of a dedicated EDI Policy reflects our commitment to turning these shared values into clear principles and practical standards to guide the Society's work and activities. The policy sets out the Society's commitment to protecting the character, status, rights, and interests of its members and the profession more broadly.

Importantly, by adopting this EDI Policy, SLS has become one of the law societies in the country to have its own standalone EDI policy, tailored specifically to the needs and realities of our local membership.

All SLS members are invited to review the EDI Policy and engage with its principles. By working together, we can continue to build an inclusive, professional, and supportive community that reflects the best values of the legal profession.

[Click here to read the EDI Policy](#)

# LAW SOCIETY UPDATE

## Anti-Money Laundering/ Counter-Terrorist Financing Supervision Reform



The Forum provided the opportunity for the Law Society to share a clear update on the Government's proposed reforms to the UK's

anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing supervisory regime, and to consider what these changes may mean in practice for solicitors and law firms across England and Wales.

This represents a significant and evolving programme of reform led by HM Treasury, with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) assuming a central supervisory role. While implementation remains some way off, the overall direction is now clear, and early engagement is already taking place. The Law Society continues to work closely with policymakers and regulators to ensure the profession's voice is heard, particularly on issues such as proportionality, cost, and the protection of legal professional privilege.

### The role of the Law Society

As a named regulator, the Law Society holds statutory obligations under [Schedule 1 of the Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds \(Information on the Payer\) Regulations 2017](#) (MLRs). Although regulatory and enforcement powers have been delegated to the SRA, the Law Society retains an essential non-regulatory supervisory role, which includes: providing information, guidance and education on AML and economic crime compliance; supporting best practice within the legal profession and; contributing to policy development, sector engagement, and strategic reform.

### Background

In June 2023, HM Treasury consulted on [four potential models](#) for reform of the UK's AML and CTF supervisory regime: a strengthened Office for Professional Body Anti-Money Laundering Supervision (OPBAS+); consolidation of Professional Body Supervisors (PBSs); a Single Professional Services Supervisor (SPSS), and a Single AML Supervisor (SAS).

In its [October 2023 response](#), the Law Society of England and Wales supported the consolidation of professional body supervisors, while highlighting the risk that sector-specific legal expertise could be lost under more centralised models. After announcing its [reforms to the supervision regime](#) in October 2025, HMCTS confirmed the adoption of the SPSS model.

Under this approach, the FCA will supervise firms that carry out [activities within the scope of the MLRs](#) as legal service providers, accountancy service providers, and trust and company service providers. This represents a move away from the current system of 23 professional body supervisors. The FCA's role will be limited to supervision of AML compliance and will not extend to the regulation of professional conduct.

[Click here to read full article from The Law Society.](#)

## COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT

April is the quietest month, it seems, in Law Society terms. No meetings to report on.

The LS President, Mark Evans, ran the London Marathon and raised sponsorship money for Law Care – the mental health charity for lawyers. A reminder that Law Care’s website is [LawCare - The mental health charity for the legal sector](#)

I can share a one hour video talk given by a fellow Council Member, David Keighley, on SDLT Registration - an important issue, I understand, for Conveyancers in particular.

He is happy for this to be shared with local Law Societies and the web link is at [Webinar: SDLT Registration - Key Issues for Conveyancers - 28th April 2026 | Videos & Movies on Vimeo](#)

May is busier with hustings on 6<sup>th</sup> May for the position of Deputy Vice President of TLS and a Local Law Societies Town Hall meeting at Chancery Lane on 7<sup>th</sup> May. I shall cast a DVP vote on behalf of Sussex and Angela, Alice and myself shall be attending the Town Hall meeting, either in person or online.

Andrew Bishop,  
Bishop and Light Solicitors



**IgnitED Law Summer Programme: Industry Involvement Opportunity (Brighton, August 2026)**

IgnitED is a mission-led education provider delivering high-quality, real-world career learning for young people. Our Law Summer Programme in Brighton gives students meaningful insight into the legal profession through practical experiences and direct engagement with professionals across the sector.

We are inviting members of Sussex Law Society to get involved by delivering a 90-minute workshop or masterclass. This is an opportunity to share your expertise, demystify legal careers, and help students understand how the law operates in practice. Sessions are flexible and interactive. They might include exploring real-world legal scenarios, hosting a visit to your workplace, sharing your career journey, or discussing how the law shapes everyday life. Our team can support you in developing a session or adapt an existing format you already use.

Time commitment: one 60-90 minute session, with minimal preparation required. Key dates: the programme runs 10-14 August 2026 in Brighton with priority sessions on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August (11:30-13:00 or 14:00-15:30). We can be flexible to suit availability.

This is an opportunity to support local young people, broaden access to the profession, and showcase the range of careers within law. We will also highlight your involvement across our channels and provide impact data for ESG and CSR reporting.

If you are interested in getting involved, we would love to hear from you. Please email: [Hannah.Capstick@ignitededucation.uk](mailto:Hannah.Capstick@ignitededucation.uk)

## OTHER USEFUL WEBINARS/ COURSES/ ARTICLES/ RESOURCES

SAVE THE DATE: Civil Justice Council National Forum  
Friday 27 November 2026  
The Tower Hotel, St Katharine's Way, London E1W 1LD  
Full details and registration link to follow. Please share!

The University of Chichester is launching a suite of vocational, practice-focused legal courses that offer an exceptional opportunity for professionals aiming to strengthen their expertise and progress confidently within the legal services sector. Designed with the needs of junior and early-career practitioners in mind, these short courses blend practical skills, contemporary industry insight, and expert-led teaching to support real professional growth. At the heart of the offer is the Introduction to Professional Legal Practice, an intensive two-day programme exploring client care, professional ethics, business awareness, and the realities of working within today's evolving legal services landscape. For aspiring solicitors, the SQE 1 Preparation Course provides a focused four-month pathway to success in the first Solicitors' Qualifying Examination for LLB graduates. The face-to-face format of these courses also provides valuable networking opportunities.

Flexible delivery options are also available –including bespoke in-house courses and consultancy. Please see our [Legal Futures](#) website for more information.

### **When politics becomes a workplace issue**

As political debate becomes more visible in the run up to the 7 May 2026 local elections, [this article](#) from [Amy White](#) - Head of Training and Wellbeing at [Loch](#) - considers what employers should do when disagreement starts to affect working relationships.

### **From values on the wall to values in the work**

[Kate Rigby](#), HR Director at [Loch](#) recently explored the gap between having values and genuinely living them in practice in [this article](#), looking at how SMEs can build values into leadership, recruitment, feedback and day to day decision making, so that culture becomes something people experience rather than something simply written down.

### **The ERA is underway – what next?**

With the first Employment Rights Act 2025 changes in force from 6 April, employers need to be thinking not only about what has changed already, but what still lies ahead. [Loch](#) is supporting organisations through the process with practical tools and resources, including an [on-demand webinar](#), [downloadable Q and A](#), [an ebook](#) and [an ERA Audit](#) for tailored advice.

Multi-Generational Living – From a Paying for Care Perspective - Victoria Crick at [Martin Searle Solicitors](#) is running a virtual live webinar, in partnership with MBL Seminars, which is suitable for people who are already advising clients about the paying for care rules and have some background knowledge of multi-generational living, as well as professional attorneys and deputies who might need to consider the implications where their clients are involved in multi-generational living. This live and interactive session runs from 2pm – 4pm on Friday 22 May. For more information and to book your place, [click here](#).

## **OTHER USEFUL WEBINARS/ COURSES/ ARTICLES/ RESOURCES**

Sophie Gray of **Becket Chambers** wrote an article which looks at whether a fact-finding hearing is still needed when contact has continued after allegations of domestic abuse. The key message: continued contact does not automatically mean a fact-finding hearing should be skipped. Read more [here](#).

In her latest article, Lavinia Glover from **Becket Chambers** looks at the new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) and what they could mean for victims seeking protection. She explains how DAPOs work, who can apply for them, and the key differences between DAPOs and current injunctions such as non-molestation and occupation orders. Read more [here](#)

### **Title: The emerging PFAS landscape in commercial property transactions with Groundsure**

Guest speaker: Claire Petricca-Riding, Head of Planning & Environment Team at Irwin Mitchell

Date: 12th May 2026

Description: In this new Groundsure webinar, guest speaker Claire will equip solicitors with essential insight into the current PFAS landscape, the Government's new plan and how to prepare for the changes. Don't miss this exclusive session and book your free place today.

To attend, please click [here](#).

### **LEGAL GEEK GROWTH 2026 - Thurs, 11 June 2026 - London**

2000 attendees! Where small and medium-sized law firms come together to learn, connect, and grow. A practical legal tech event for regional, boutique, and independent firms, delivered in association with The Law Society of England and Wales. To find out more or attend, click [here](#).

## SITUATIONS VACANT

For all our job listings, please visit <https://www.sussex-law.co.uk/sussex-law-society-jobs/> Posting jobs is FREE for member firms. Non members will be charged £100 + VAT per vacancy for 2 month's advertising. An invoice for payment will be sent on receipt of the advertisement.

Property Dispute Resolution Solicitor (1+ PQE)

**Bate & Albon** are seeking a motivated Solicitor or Chartered Legal Executive to join our Property Dispute Resolution team in our Brighton office. You will assist on a varied caseload of property matters in a supportive and collaborative environment. The ideal candidate will demonstrate attention to detail and a keen interest in property litigation. We are open to flexible working arrangements, including hybrid working and part-time hours. Please send your CV to Debbie Knight, Office Manager at Bate & Albon Solicitors, 23-24 Marlborough Place, Brighton, BN1 1UB, [debbie.knight@batealbonsolicitors.co.uk](mailto:debbie.knight@batealbonsolicitors.co.uk).

Commercial Property Solicitor/CILEX (c. 3+ PQE)

**Bate & Albon** are seeking a motivated Solicitor or Chartered Legal Executive to join the Commercial Property team in our Brighton office. We are open to flexible working arrangements, including hybrid working. Competitive salary, dependent on skills and experience. Please send your CV to Debbie Knight, Office Manager at Bate & Albon Solicitors, 23-24 Marlborough Place, Brighton, BN1 1UB, [debbie.knight@batealbonsolicitors.co.uk](mailto:debbie.knight@batealbonsolicitors.co.uk).

### **Assistant Coroner for East Sussex**

Salary – fee paid, £472 per day (pay award pending).

Closing date: Midnight on 19 May 2026

East Sussex County Council is seeking to appoint a new Assistant Coroner to support the Senior Coroner across the full range of Coroner duties in order to deliver a high-quality Coroner service to the people of East Sussex.

Successful candidates will be required to attend a mandatory Assistant Coroner Induction training course on 1-2 December 2026 and a follow up course in June 2027 (date to be confirmed).

[Click here to apply](#)

If you wish to have an informal discussion or arrange a visit, please contact Karen Brown, on 01424 723030.

## CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

### The Solicitors' Charity Supports Lawsight's Call for Action on Wellbeing in the Law



As the May Mental Health Awareness Week approaches, The Solicitors' Charity partner, Lawsight, is supporting the call for more tangible action on wellbeing in the law. It is recommending practical steps that can be implemented to help protect people's wellbeing at work.

Satpal Kaur-Thompson, Co-Founder of Lawsight (pictured left) says: "The impact isn't just personal. Long-term pressure reshapes the brain and nervous system, affecting concentration, decision-making and emotional regulation.

In other words, sustained pressure affects the very skills the profession depends on. So, this isn't just a wellbeing issue – it's also a performance and risk issue for firms and other types of organisations employing legal professionals."

Claire Jacques, Co-Founder of Lawsight (pictured right), is urging employers and leaders to take action and personal responsibility for their own and others' wellbeing by implementing these four simple actions: "Pause before sending a late-night email and think about the disruption that might cause to someone's personal space or sleep routine.

Model realistic expectations and boundaries as a leader, particularly on working hours and preserving a work-life balance.

Spot the signs of when stress (in yourself and others) and when it has become chronic over a long time period, and not just a one-off occurrence.

Create small moments of psychological safety in conversations (e.g. making time for open communication and framing of disappointments at work as learning opportunities)."

Nick Gallgher, CEO, The Solicitors' Charity reflects: "We fully support Lawsight's call for more individuals and leaders to look at behaviours which may affect wellbeing at work and take steps to make small changes that could make a big difference.

For those who need emotional support, we can offer funded assessments and, where recommended, therapy, for those who are eligible. We also work closely with LawCare who provide more immediate support via a helpline, live online chat, and email to all roles working in the law.

[Click here to find out more](#)

## SLSGS

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. Golfing events every summer!

Bob Mayfield - Secretary, SLSGS  
[Bobmayfield111@googlemail.com](mailto:Bobmayfield111@googlemail.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.

---

## 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](mailto: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.Contact patrichards27@hotmail.com](mailto:patrichards27@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](mailto:m74nagra@gmail.com)

---

## Finding a Notary Public

This Society and its Members often receive enquiries from the public. Whilst we try to assist, the specific information available to us is both limited and somewhat outdated . Enquiries have been made of The Notarial Society and The Faculty Office and their responses have been extremely helpful by suggesting that the necessary contact be easily made through each of their “Find a Notary Public” pages.

[Click here for The Notarial Society](#)

## LOST AND MISSING WILLS

- RUBY MACKENZIE D.O.B 29/5/1934
- JENNIFER ELAINE WARD DOB 04/06/1940
- MICHAEL DOUGLAS SMITH D.O.B 15TH JULY 1949
- NIGEL GEOFFREY ROY KNIGHT DOB: 15/02/1950
- HEATHER ANN COX 18/11/1963

Please contact [alice.wylie@sussex-law.co.uk](mailto: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.

---

## 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.

---

## 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. If you are unsure about whether you are/are not a member, please contact [Alice Wylie](#).

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