

Devon & Somerset Law Society
Family, Criminal & Dispute Resolution Committee
Tuesday 7 January 2025 at 4:00pm via Zoom

1	Apologies & Minutes	Action Point	Actioned/Comments
	a) Attendees: Cara Hough ("CH"), Nicola Hall ("NH"), Ian Brown ("IB"), Liz Kendall ("LK"), Martin Laver ("ML"), Peter Lewis ("PL"), Hannah Pettifer ("HP"), Catherine Reynolds ("CR"), Tony Steiner ("TS") b) Apologies received from: Imran Khodobocus ("IK") and Thomas Glover ("TG")		
	c) Minutes of the last meeting held on 24 September 2024	KB to circulate for comment	Sent 10.01.25
2	Any Other Business		
	a) Rebranding of Sub Committee to "Family & Dispute Resolution" To be rebranded "Family, Criminal & Dispute Resolution"	KB to update website and any associated branding	Complete 10.01.25
	b) Format of meeting moving forward - 4 events / training sessions a year proposed. Free to DASLS members. Hosted by sub committee member / DASLS member firms - Short planning meetings to be scheduled for those agreeable to help organise events - Where necessary, additional short ad hoc committee meetings to be held to discuss pertinent points such as any judiciary feedback, SRA consultations etc - Volunteers to come forward with ideas / agreement to host / sponsorship agreement for upcoming events - o first event at Every's in Exeter and Irwin Mitchell sponsoring - o June event – HP to consider whether North Devon can host & do something with the judiciary - o September – NH to consider Stephen Scown hosting in Exeter (topic tbc) - o December – tbc - Terms of Reference (ToFR) to be reviewed and (where necessary) updated to reflect current committee values and aims	TS to send out ToFR ALL to consider ToFR to discuss at next meeting. KB to send email asking for volunteers to join planning group meetings.	Sent 10.01.25 Sent 10.01.25
	c) Committee Membership Agreed that those not engaged in the meetings / with the committee should be removed. Anyone thereafter wishing to engage can do so.	KB to send email to remove those persons from the committee list. Objections received to be noted with the committee.	KB emailed Kerry Morgan-Gould 10.01.25. TS has emailed Rebecca Wood

			Jane Couch has confirmed she wishes to be removed Kerry Osborne has confirmed she wishes to remain involved
	d) Website "Our Committees and Groups" page – Sub Committee details	ALL – committee members to confirm with KB their agreement to their contact details and photo being included. KB to update website to reflect responses received.	
3	Matters Arising		
	a) Civil Litigation Practice - Bristol Business & Property Court Users Group (Cara Hough) - Users Groups in Somerset - Plymouth and Torquay Civil Court Users' Group - County Societies' Group Civil Litigation Discussion Group (Martin Laver) AOB: - Increased hourly rates https://www.gov.uk/guidance/solicitors-guideline-hourly-rates	KB to add link to increased hourly rates. CH to provide KB with copy Bristol Minutes once approved. CH to email Court Managers to follow up on Court User Group meetings. ML & TS to follow up on CSG Civil Lit meeting and gathering engagement.	Actioned 08.01.25 – NH to attend, date TBC to CH
	b) Family Practice - Family Court User Group (Imran Khodabocus – NOT ATTENDING) - County Societies' Group Family Law Discussion Group (VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED) - LK & PL have volunteered to see whether anyone within their respective firms are willing to attend and report back to the committee / join the committee also.	IK to report back with points of interest following Devon Family Court User meeting on 09.01.2025 PL & LK to enquire with family teams in their respective firms	

		as to whether anyone wishes to volunteer and report	
	c) Mediation Mediation Service Update – Liz Kendall	LK to liaise with TS re: service to be provided	
4	Consultations & Procedural Updates		
	a) Medical Records Update – meeting with Rhianon Platt, Exeter Hospital TBC – Liz Kendall	(see below)	
	a) SRA Consumer Protection Review Update – Martin Laver https://www.sra.org.uk/home/hot-topics/consumer-protection-review/ - TS confirmed Main Committee preparing response to be sent tomorrow - TS has sent a letter the Times newspaper - All firms and individuals encouraged to respond as it affects all in the profession - Everyone is asked to share details so more of the profession are aware of the potential impact - DASLS response to be added to the sub-committee part of the website	KB to add response to website	
5	Future Engagement Events		
	a) Plans for March 2025 meeting to be discussed - Event hosted by Everys, sponsored by Irwin Mitchell LLP - Discussed potential event on Disclosure including use of AI in disclosure - Presenters and ideas welcome	LK/TS to liaise with Rhianon about presenting CH to liaise with other potential presenter All to feedback to Sub Committee if they wish to present KB to arrange next planning meeting with Cara	
6	Learning & Development Opportunities		
	a) 10.03.25 Criminal Law Update with Colin McKeown-Beaumont		
	b) 02 & 03.06.2025 Leadership & Management Training		

	c) <u>17.07.25 Family Law for support staff & paralegals with Kay Harding</u>		
7	Date, Time and Format of Next Meeting		
	- Planning meeting attendees to be agreed and then meeting to be scheduled asap re: first event at Every's - First event date to be confirmed (with presenters as above) and invites sent out - Next main meeting event date to be agreed for short procedural meeting	Action points as per the above to enable dates to be agreed and circulated	

Key – Colour Coded Actions			
Cara Hough	Tony Steiner	Kelly Baker	Sub Committee Members
Cara Hough, Chair	Nicola Hall, Vice Chair	Ian Brown	Thomas Glover
Liz Kendall	Imran Khodabocus	Martin Laver	Peter Lewis – <i>due to retire in April 25</i>
<i>Kerry Morgan-Gould – remove?</i>	Karen Osborne	Hannah Pettifer	Catherine Reynolds
Louise Saxton	<i>Rebecca Wood – remove?</i>		
<i>Justices' Clerk Office Vacant</i>	<i>CPS representative - vacant</i>		