

Local Law Society Bulletin

3 November 2021

Dear Local Law Society Stakeholders

I hope you find the second edition of the local law society bulletin useful – we have prepared it exclusively for you. The bulletin includes information on the latest practical resources available to you and on key policy issues. Please feel free to share the contents more widely within your local law society's committee and with members. If you'd like to discuss any matter in more detail or you'd like to see coverage of particular topics, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your main contact at the national Law Society (every local law society in England & Wales has one) or write me directly at valeria.mancheva@lawsociety.org.uk. Our goal for the local law society strategy is to positively and proactively engage with local law societies to the benefit of our common members, delivering on our 7 commitments.

Our next virtual townhall meeting with local law societies' office holders, hosted by our President and Vice President, will take place in December via MS Teams. Details will be circulated under separate cover. We'll be delighted to see you again. In the interim, we have prepared an update for you on a topic which you previously identified is of high priority, the future of SIF, which you can read [here](#). We outline our position formulated on the basis of engagement with local law societies and with members more widely.



I'd like to use this opportunity to publicly offer my thanks to Paul Davies who steps down at the end of October 2021 as chair of our Membership and Communications Committee (oversees engagement and communications with the membership). As council and committee member, for many years, Paul championed the interests of members, offered valuable insight and advice, oversaw and collaborated to deliver excellent service to members, including the latest Presidents' and Secretaries' conference. We'll miss him and hope to continue working closely with him in the future via his involvement with the Hertfordshire Local Law Society and with SAALS, a regional grouping of law societies covering the central southern area in England.

Many thanks

Valeria Mancheva
Head of Member Engagement and Services

Topical Updates and News

Council statement on the Solicitors Indemnity Fund

The Law Society Council has issued a statement on the closure of the Solicitors Indemnity Fund (SIF), expressing our ongoing commitment to working with the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) to facilitate an extension.

Read the update from the Member Engagement and Services team [here](#).

Government acts on our calls for crucial investment in the justice system

Chancellor Rishi Sunak MP's autumn budget has delivered a shot in the arm for the justice system. We're pleased that the UK government has heard our calls for much-needed investment to address the courts backlog, invest in a sustainable civil legal aid market and help the justice system recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

What the chancellor's autumn budget means for your business and practice

In the chancellor's autumn budget announcement, the UK government took a step in the right direction by reinvesting in the justice system. But what do the budget's tax changes mean for solicitors and their businesses?

Civil legal aid: a review of its sustainability and the challenges to its viability

The Law Society of England and Wales has undertaken a review of the civil legal aid system.

Download the report [here](#).

Creating a climate-conscious approach to legal practice

As all eyes are on COP26 in Glasgow, there's never been a better time for the legal profession to take the lead in the race to net zero. We've published a climate change resolution outlining the role solicitors can play in addressing the climate crisis.

Read the resolution [here](#).

Read what solicitors can do to help reach net zero [here](#).

Nightingale courts status interactive map

In July 2020, the government announced that it would be opening 'Nightingale courts' as part of its court recovery plan to address the impact of coronavirus on the justice system.

We've created an interactive map which shows the location of open and proposed Nightingale courts, as well as the type of work being heard in these venues and the number of court rooms at each site.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion



"It's not just a moral necessity, it's fundamental to how solicitors serve society"

Law Society president I. Stephanie Boyce joined Hillary Rodham Clinton, Microsoft UK's Clare Barclay and McKinsey & Company's Virginia Simmons to discuss women in leadership.

Good progress on LGBT+ equality and visibility but still much more to do

A landmark survey into the experiences of LGBT+ lawyers and LGBT+ equality in the profession, conducted by the Law Society of England and Wales, has identified significant progress – but more is needed. Download the survey [here](#).

New guidance seeks to improve disability inclusion in the legal profession

Employers in the legal sector have today been provided with guidance by the Law Society and Cardiff University, outlining the reasonable adjustments firms and organisations could make to help them recruit and employ disabled staff. Download the guidance [here](#).

Get involved

The In-House Annual Conference

Submit your ideas and expertise as a speaker to reach the wider in-house membership!

In 2022, we're holding a one-day in-person annual conference (11 May 2022) during our online In-house Week (7-13 May 2022). The conference is for all in-house counsel from private, public and non-profit sectors.

We are looking for speakers and content that focusses on developing skills according to sector-specific issues as well as broader shared themes. This is your chance to share innovative ways you and your team have been working and highlighting the challenges and issues in-house counsel face.

Don't miss your chance to contribute! Deadline to submit is Friday 19 November. Find out more [here](#).

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MY LS

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Events

Please find below a list of upcoming events:

17 November - Legal Professional Privilege: developing law and practice

22 November - Legal Aid Crime Contract 2022 Tender - all you need to know

23 November - Embracing Disruption - The Future of Work

7 December - Judicial appointments interview training for solicitors - webinar

14 July 2022 - Save the date - Presidents' and Secretaries' Conference 2022

Resources

Practice Notes

[File closure management](#) - sets out good practice for managing file closure at the termination of a matter and the need to manage risks inherent in the mismanagement of file administration.

[Making gifts of assets](#) - on transferring property or investments to next of kin, family members or friends before death, as a means of planning for future care or to reduce liability to tax.

[Conflicts of interest](#) - This practice note sets out guidance on identifying and managing situations where a conflict of interests arises, or there is a significant risk of a conflict of interests occurring.

[Closing down your practice: regulatory requirements](#) - outlines the regulatory requirements to consider when closing down your practice.

Recorded Events

Junior Lawyers' Division Forum - Helping you to secure a training or newly qualified position - 11 September

- [Part 1](#)
- [Part 2](#)
- [Part 3](#)
- [Slides](#)

Further recorded events can be found [here](#).

Sections

- [Business management](#)
- [Regulation](#)
- [Property](#)
- [Private Client](#)

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