



## **PRESS RELEASE**

16 March 2016

### **LSLA ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT**

The London Solicitors Litigation Association (LSLA) has elected Ed Crosse as its new President.

Ed, a financial markets disputes Partner at Simmons & Simmons LLP, takes over from John Bramhall of DAC Beachcroft LLP and will serve for two years as President of one of the country's leading representative groups for litigation lawyers.

As President, Ed, who has been practising as a banking and commercial disputes lawyer since 1997, will represent the opinions of the London litigation community at a time of substantial and ongoing reform for the courts. Ed, a committee member of the LSLA since 2008, was recently appointed as solicitor representative on the Shorter and Flexible Trials Committee, a committee which introduced two radical new trial procedures for business cases proceeding in the Rolls Building Courts.

"The LSLA has a critical role to play in representing the interests of civil court users in London and I look forward to it doing so as we move into a challenging new period of change", Ed commented, on taking up his new role.

"We have just emerged from the upheaval of the Jackson reforms, and now there is the prospect of further substantial change. The proposals in Lord Justice Briggs' review of the Civil Courts Structure could, if implemented, introduce some significant reforms to our courts, for example by creating an Online Court for lower value claims, streamlining the current appeals process, removing divisional barriers and reallocating business between the High Court and County Courts, and between London and the regions.

"Separately, there are initiatives from the MOJ and senior judiciary which are of concern for court users and our members, such as the significant rise in court fees last year, and the suggestion of a tenfold increase to the current ceiling for the fixed costs regime. These proposals have the potential to damage London's status as the forum of choice for resolving disputes.

"I am grateful to retiring LSLA President John Bramhall for overseeing some excellent initiatives taken by the LSLA and for championing the interests of our members. I hope to build on his work and the LSLA's success as we meet the challenges that lie ahead."

Julian Acratopulo, a commercial and banking litigation partner at Clifford Chance LLP, has been also elected as the Vice President of the Association.

Ends

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**Note to Editors:**

The LSLA was formed in 1952 and currently represents the interests of a wide range of civil litigators in London. It has over 2000 members throughout London among all the major litigation practices, ranging from the sole practitioner to major international firms.

Members of the LSLA Committee sit on the Civil Justice Council, the Civil Rule Committee, The Law Society Civil Litigation Committee, the Commercial Court Users Committee, the Shorter and Earlier Trials Committee, Financial List Users Committee and the Supreme Court Costs Group, to name but a few.