

LSLA NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2021

Hopefully things are getting back to (the new) normal; our offices are re-opening and there is an end in sight to restrictions. As we look forward to seeing more of our friends and colleagues the LSLA has planned some in person events so we can catch up with those we may not have seen for a while.

There is still just enough time to book tickets for our late summer party on 7 September ... read on for details.

EVENTS and INITIATIVES

Events

Summer Party – 7 September 2021

Our last summer party, back in 2019, was a huge success, so to welcome us all back to the office we are holding our 2021 summer Party at the same venue, Radio Rooftop, ME London, 336-337 Strand, London WC2R 1HA between 6.30pm and 11pm

All LSLA members and their guests are invited. The cost of the tickets is £60 per person for LSLA members and £70 for non-members.

Kindly sponsored by Consilio, Assurety, Alaco and Augusta, the ticket cost includes a great selection of drinks and canapés.

Please apply for tickets online on our website.

Annual Dinner – 25 November 2021

Following tradition, our Annual Dinner shall take place at the Law Society in November. Please keep the date free and we shall circulate details in due course.

JLSLA

The JLSLA is in the final stages of arranging a mixture of in-person social events, including the infamous Autumn Bash (which is likely to take place on 13 or 14 October so keep those dates free) and a series of autumn seminars / webinars focused on career progression and pro bono opportunities. Details shall be announced soon.

Lecture Series

We are beginning to put together our next series,

The final (re-scheduled) lecture in our Spring Summer series took place on 29 June and was presented by Anthony de Garr Robinson QC of One Essex Court on reflective loss: *“Problem solved or problems created? The new rule against reflective loss in Sevilleja v Marex Financial Limited”*

If you missed our last lectures or should like a refresher, you can see all the available recordings of the webinars on our website at <https://www.lsla.co.uk/events>. Just scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on “Previous Events”.

Initiatives

Mentoring Programme

Thank you to everyone who has contacted us to take part in the proposed mentoring programme. We are working on developing this to begin later this year and to provide our members with an opportunity to connect and learn from the expertise and experiences of someone outside their firm.

If you would be liked to be involved in the programme, either as a mentor, a mentee or both, please email Isla@Isla.co.uk to register your interest.

Pro Bono Initiative

Over the years the LSLA has made donations to many charitable organisations including those providing pro bono advice and assistance so we may seek to give back to the profession and encourage engagement.

We are seeking to increase our involvement in this area and promoting opportunities to all our members such as by providing solicitor support for advocates offering pro bono representation, offering legal advice on matters involving human rights, assisting litigants in person and providing advisory work in fields such as corporate governance, intellectual property and employment. To facilitate members' involvement we have published a list of organisations with which we already have links and which offer pro bono advice and assistance so members may contact them, if they wish, to assist with their work. The list and further details on our pro bono initiative are available on our website Isla.co.uk.

The list is not exhaustive. If you have any suggestions for organisations you think should be included on the list please email Isla@Isla.co.uk so our committee may consider including it.

Disclosure Working Pilot Scheme

The DWP has been extended until 31 December 2021 and amendments are planned to take into consideration the feedback which has been received. We shall keep you apprised.

Witness Statements

As many of our members shall be aware the new Practice Direction on the preparation of witness statements for use at trials in the Business and Property Courts, came into effect earlier this year. Our President Chris Bushell sat on the working group which spent nigh on 3 years reviewing the old rules and seeking to put in place and foster a culture of best practice to the benefit of witnesses and judges alike.

If you have any feedback to share on the new rules please contact Chris at Chris.Bushell@hsf.com.

Feedback for Court User Groups

The LSLA sends representatives to both the Chancery and Commercial Court User Groups. Both groups are keen to receive feedback on all aspects of the operation of the relevant courts. If members have comments or concerns they are encouraged to pass them on to the LSLA representatives so that they can be raised at the next user group meeting. This is an opportunity to raise issues directly with the judiciary and court administrator.

For feedback on:

- the Chancery Division Courts please contact: nicholas.heaton@hoganlovells.com or patrick.wheeler@collyerbristow.com
- the Commercial Court please contact: Ed.crosse@simmons-simmons.com

- the Financial List contact Chris.Bushell@hsf.com

PRESS AND PUBLICITY

Some of the LSLA and JLSLA committee members' recent publicity includes:

- 14 June 2021, Law Society Gazette, "A helpful hat-trick on DBAs" by Gavin Foggo and Andrew Hill (see <https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/practice-points/a-helpful-hat-trick-on-dbas/5108809.article>)
- 6 July 2021, Accountancy Daily, "Protecting your business from financial failure" by Natalie Todd (see <https://www.accountancydaily.co/protecting-your-business-financial-failure-tips-and-advice>)
- 9 July 2021, New Law Journal, "Limitation: know your limits" by Chris Bushell and Ceri Morgan (see <https://www.newlawjournal.co.uk/content/know-your-limits-52434>)
- 12 July 2021, Law Society Gazette, "When does a surety not have to pick up the tab?" by John McElroy and Duran Ross (see <https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/practice-points/when-does-a-surety-not-have-to-pick-up-the-tab/5109159.article>)
- 17 August 2021, Legal Futures, "Witness evidence reforms significant but not extreme" by Chris Bushell (see <https://www.legalfutures.co.uk/blog/witness-evidence-reforms-significant-but-not-extreme>)

Please remember to respect the publisher's and writer's copyright in the above articles.

LINKEDIN AND WEBSITE

You can find out more about the association on our website at <https://www.lsla.co.uk/> and our LinkedIn page at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/london-solicitors-litigation-association/>

THE JUNIOR LSLA

The JLSLA provides:

- Webinars/Seminars designed to offer practical tips on procedural and substantive legal issues commonly faced by junior civil litigators in an interactive and relaxed atmosphere;
- Networking events for members to meet and form contacts in their peer group; and
- E-news on recent and future activity and key developments with the aim of ensuring that the junior perspective is reflected in the LSLA's responses to consultation papers.

The JLSLA is aimed at solicitors of 8 years' PQE and less. Members of the LSLA will automatically become members of the JLSLA if they qualify by year of admission and complete the relevant section of the membership form.

The JLSLA also has firm Champions, who act as the point of contact between the JLSLA committee and their firm.

If you are interested in joining the JLSLA or being the JLSLA Champion for your firm, please contact the JLSLA President, Charlotte Hill at charlotte.hill@penningtonslaw.com.

Join the JLSLA LinkedIn page to receive updates on JLSLA events and initiatives:
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/66587315/>

MEMBERSHIP

The LSLA membership continues to grow and we now have over 3,500 members with in excess of 1,400 members of the JLSLA and 40 corporate members.

Corporate membership can offer a real saving to firms. Essentially, for £500 a firm with corporate membership can register an unlimited number of litigation solicitors working for it in London as members. Please contact Ceri Morgan at ceri.morgan@hsf.com if you would like further information or to take out corporate membership.

Otherwise, you can join the LSLA by visiting our website at <https://www.lsla.co.uk>. If you are 8 years PQE or less you will automatically become a member of the JLSLA if you input your year of admission when completing your online membership application.

EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

Some of our members say that they are, on occasion, not receiving email notifications for LSLA and Junior LSLA events. We have been advised that such notifications may sometimes be blocked by our members' firm's IT servers, which automatically quarantine emails received from, for example, "donotreply" email addresses.

Should you not be receiving our email notifications, we would advise you to contact your firm's IT team and request that they "whitelist" both donotreply@lsla.co.uk and lsla@lsla.co.uk.

ONLINE PAYMENTS FOR LSLA EVENTS

When making payments for membership and our events we would kindly request that you quote the correct data to identify the matter to which the payment relates. Incorrect identification often occurs where a firm's accounts team makes a payment to the LSLA as an existing payee, using old order data rather than updating the payment instruction to include the new order number.

Updating payment data to correctly reference the event to which a payment relates would significantly ease the LSLA's administrative burden. Thank you for your continued support and assistance.

LSLA WEBSITE

Our website at <https://www.lsla.co.uk/> includes: details of our forthcoming events, copies of the responses we have filed to recent consultations, recent articles and press citing members of the association, and past editions of the newsletter.

You can also join the LSLA via our website as well as sign up for future events on it.

We hope that our website will prove a source of information for members.

We are currently reviewing our website and plan to update it, so please let us know if you have any comments on it.

LIST OF SUPERVISING SOLICITORS

The White Book refers to the LSLA maintaining details of individuals who might be able to act as supervising solicitors for the execution of Search Orders. Our list continues to grow and is updated quarterly. We invite those suitably qualified to provide us with their details, including relevant experience, for inclusion on the list.