

## **LSLA NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2019**

Happy New Year to all our members!

Our first newsletter of 2019 provides information about future events and lets you know what has been happening recently.

### **JUNIOR LSLA COMMITTEE POSITIONS**

Elaina Bailes, Richard Byam-Cook and Nii Anteson retired from the Junior LSLA Committee at the end of 2018. We thank them for their commitment and contributions to the continued success of the JLSLA. In their place, Avneet Baryan (Rosling King LLP), Nadya Rouben (Debevoise LLP) and Ra'eesa Mehta (Herbert Smith Freehills LLP) have been elected to the JLSLA Committee.

### **WITNESS EVIDENCE SURVEY**

In March 2018, a working group was convened to review the current rules and practice for factual witness evidence in commercial court trials.

We recently circulated a survey to our members to ask as many court users as possible for their views about the current rules and practice on factual witness evidence in the business and property courts, as well as potential alternatives. Views are sought on whether the current rules (used in a broad sense) on witness statements ought to remain in their present form and be enforced more rigorously or whether the rules themselves need to be changed and, if so, how.

Please do take time to complete the [survey](#); it is short and should not take more than **10 minutes**.

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

#### **LSLA Autumn / Winter Lectures**

There are still a few tickets left for our future lectures:

- 24 January 2019 at Hogan Lovells International LLP “*Securing Funding; Securing Costs: recent developments in litigation funding, DBAs, security for costs and non-party costs orders*”. Benjamin Williams QC, Stephen Innes and Ben Smiley of 4 New Square will review the changing landscape of litigation funding and will address the questions which commercial litigators need to consider concerning the nature of such funding and the protections which should be sought.
- 13 February 2019 at Slaughter and May “*Financial Litigation Review*” Sonia Tolaney QC of One Essex Court will examine recent banking and insolvency decisions and litigation trends in the financial sector.

Attendance is not limited to LSLA members. Anyone can apply for tickets via the website – <http://www.lsla.co.uk> – or via the attached form – an email will be sent confirming your place a few days before the lecture. The cost is £20 per event.

The events will start at 6pm and will last approximately one hour, to include a period for questions at the end, and will be followed by drinks.

#### **JLSLA January Seminar – ‘Technology and AI for litigators: What you need to know and why?’**

We are pleased to announce the details of the first Junior LSLA Seminar of 2019, as part of our series of events aimed at junior members of the profession.

Kindly hosted by Reed Smith LLP, on 30 January 2019, we will be hearing from expert panellists about current and future uses of technology in the dispute resolution sector and how litigators can navigate technological developments to prepare their practices and clients, for the changes they may bring to conducting litigation.

The panel will comprise:

**Stuart Whittle** – Partner at Weightmans

**Gary McRitchie** – EMEA Technology Disputes Coordinator at White & Case LLP

**Elizabeth Mason** – Associate at Reed Smith LLP and JLSLA Committee Member

**Matthew Lavy** – Barrister at 4 Pump Court

Attendance is not limited to LSLA members. Anyone can apply for tickets via the website – <http://www.lsla.co.uk> – or via the attached form. The cost is £10 for members and £15 for non-members.

The event will start at 7pm and will last approximately one hour, including a period for questions at the end, followed by networking drinks.

## **PAST EVENTS**

### **LSLA Autumn/Winter Lecture series**

With the forthcoming changes to the disclosure regime fast approaching, our lecture on 5 December 2018 on this topic at Simmons & Simmons LLP was very well attended.

“*The Disclosure Pilot Scheme*” presented by The Rt Hon Dame Elizabeth Gloster DBE, PC, The Hon Mr Justice Knowles CBE, Chief Master Matthew Marsh, Ed Crosse (Simmons & Simmons LLP) and Natalie Osafo (Slaughter and May) involved members of the working group explain the thinking behind the new rules and what they will mean in practice for clients and their advisers.

### **JLSLA Autumn Bash 2018 - ‘Banquet at The Crypt’**

The JLSLA ‘Banquet at The Crypt’ was another huge success. The JLSLA Autumn Bash is always popular and guests enjoyed drinks, food and service from the [Bleeding Heart Restaurant at The Crypt](#) and live music from the [Nathan Hassall Music](#) jazz trio. JLSLA events offer a fantastic opportunity for London’s junior litigators to network with colleagues across the legal professions. We thank the evening’s sponsors Wilberforce Chambers and Augusta – and our members – for their support.

## **RECENT PRESS AND PUBLICITY**

The LSLA and members of its committee has recently received the following press coverage:

- 12 November, “*Reforming the courts: A half-time report*” by Roger Franklin (<https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/practice-points/reforming-the-courts-a-half-time-report/5068244.article>)
- 20 November, David Greene comments in the CDR article “City lawyers react to Brexit agreement” (<https://www.cdr-news.com/categories/politics/8792-city-lawyers-react-to-brex-it-agreement>)
- 21 November, David Greene comments in the New Law Journal article “*Brexit gets closer*” (<https://www.newlawjournal.co.uk/content/brexit-gets-closer>)
- 22 November, the Law Society Gazette article “*UK’s Luxembourg judge warns of ‘unpatriotic’ slurs*” reported on Ian Forrester QC’s speech at the LSLA annual dinner. (<https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/news/uks-luxembourg-judge-warns-of-unpatriotic-slurs-/5068415.article>)
- 23 November, “*President’s comment article: is the pre-eminence of the London courts being disrupted?*” by Julian Acrapulo ([https://www.newLawjournal.co.uk/content/uneasy-lies-head-wears-crown](https://www.newlawjournal.co.uk/content/uneasy-lies-head-wears-crown))

- 28 November, CDR reported on Julian Acrapulo's speech at the annual dinner in its article entitled "London litigators urged to embrace change" (<https://www.cdr-news.com/categories/litigation/8822-london-s-litigators-urged-to-embrace-change>)

## **THE JUNIOR LSLA**

The JLSLA provides:

- 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, Natalie Osafo at [Natalie.Osafo@SlaughterandMay.com](mailto:Natalie.Osafo@SlaughterandMay.com).

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The LSLA is delighted to announce that the Association now has over 2,700 members, including 1,182 members of the JLSLA and 38 corporate member firms.

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 Chris Bushell at [Chris.Bushell@hsf.com](mailto:Chris.Bushell@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.

Members are also welcome to join the LSLA LinkedIn group at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4545696>.

## **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](mailto:donotreply@lsla.co.uk) and [lsla@lsla.co.uk](mailto: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. 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.