

LSLA NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2020

Is it already February?

Welcome to this month's newsletter reporting on some of the events we have planned for 2020 and letting you know about those which have already taken place.

Following the success of our former president, Francesca Kaye, we also share the Judicial Appointments Committee's invitation for applications to be appointed as a Deputy Chancery Master. Further details are below.

Memberships were due to be renewed last month, so, if you have not already, please complete the online form at <https://www.lsla.co.uk/membership> or download the paper form and send it to Chris Bushell at Herbert Smith Freehills on chris.bushell@hsf.com.

FUTURE EVENTS

AGM and Dinner – 11 March 2020

Our annual general meeting will take place on 11 March at 6.30pm at Herbert Smith Freehills.

Attached are the AGM Notice and agenda along with some proposed amendments to the constitution.

After the AGM there will be an informal Dinner. Our guest speaker this year is Lord Daniel Finkelstein OBE the award-winning journalist and a former executive editor of The Times, for which he continues to work as both an associate editor and weekly political columnist. Lord Finkelstein was granted a peerage in 2013 and sits in the House of Lords as a Conservative peer. Further details are in the attached flyer.

You can order and pay for tickets for the dinner [online](#) or by completing the attached form and sending it to us with a cheque.

2020 Winter/Spring Lecture Series

Our latest series continues following the success of our first two lectures.

On 15 January we held a joint LSLA/JLSLA Panel Discussion focusing on "Diversity in the litigation sector" which marked 10 years since the Equality Act 2010 was passed. The discussion began with opening remarks from David Owen (Director – Litigation, Investigations & Enforcement EME, Barclays) and featured contributions from panellists Sarah Lee (Partner and Head of the Dispute Resolution Group, Slaughter and May); Vicky Wickremaratne (Partner, Allen & Overy LLP); George Lubega (Partner, CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP); and Nina Best (Data Protection Officer and Data Privacy Counsel, Capital One). The event which was chaired by Nikki Edwards (Partner, Temple Bright) explored some of the current challenges and opportunities as well as the future for reflecting on greater diversity within London's litigation sector.

11 February 2020 saw Edmund Nourse QC of One Essex Court deliver a lecture at Slaughter and May entitled "*A 'simplistic' guide to attribution in companies*". Not only was it well received but many people stayed behind afterwards for "mocktails".

The remaining lectures are:

- 12 March 2020 at Herbert Smith Freehills LLP "*Conflict and confidentiality: disclosure following Bank Mellat*" to be delivered by Philippa Hopkins QC and Helen Morton of Essex Court Chambers

- 24 March 2020 at Slaughter and May “*Why do fraud lawyers dislike arbitration?*” by Richard Gillis QC of One Essex Court
- 21 April 2020 at Hogan Lovells International LLP “*Joint venture disputes – the corporate perspective*” from Andrew Thompson QC of Erskine Chambers
- 21 May 2020 at Herbert Smith Freehills LLP “*Arbitration enforcement – torn between two treaties?*” by Marie Demetriou QC and Gerard Rothschild of Brick Court Chambers

Further information about the lectures and an application form for tickets are attached. You can also apply on-line at <http://www.lsla.co.uk>.

Attendance is not limited to LSLA members. An email will be sent confirming your place a few days before the event. The cost is £20 per event for member and £25 for non-members. Our events usually sell out, so please apply early.

JLSLA & Junior COMBAR Wine Tasting evening – 29 February 2020

The event, to be held at the offices of Fox Williams, aims to provide junior solicitors and barristers with the opportunity to develop their professional network in a relaxed environment. The evening will include a fun, quiz-based element to test attendees’ knowledge (or lack of knowledge!) of the wines on offer, with prizes to be awarded.

Further details are on the attached flyer.

Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis and can be purchased online on our website or using the attached application form.

RECENT EVENTS

LSLA/NLJ Survey

In the Autumn of last year we invited members to participate in our survey conducted in association with the NLJ covering topics as broad as diversity and inclusion and litigation post-Brexit.

The results were published at the end of last month and revealed that the vast majority of respondents believe the profession is lagging behind others on diversity and inclusion and encouraged more work to be done to remedy the position.

You can find out more about the survey on our website at <https://www.lsla.co.uk/node/902>

MASTERS’ APPOINTMENTS

The Judicial Appointments Commission has been asked to identify 8 candidates suitable to be appointed as Deputy Chancery Masters and 1 candidate suitable to be appointed as a Chancery Master. Application are welcome from solicitors with relevant knowledge and experience of Chancery work and the Commission encourages and welcomes applications from groups currently under represented in the judiciary. The launch date for application is 13 February at 13:00 and closing date is 27 February 2020 at 13:00. You can find out more at <https://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/vacancies/182> and <https://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/vacancies/181>

If you are considering a career in the judiciary you may be interested in the Judicial Work Shadowing Scheme - see <https://www.judiciary.uk/about-the-judiciary/judges-career-paths/information-about-shadowing-a-judge/>

PRO BONO INITIATIVE

Our pro-bono initiative continues. 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 Isa.co.uk.

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

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

For feedback on the Commercial Court please contact: Ed.crosse@simmons-simmons.com

RECENT PRESS AND PUBLICITY

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

- 18 December 2019, CDR, "*Witness Statement Review takes balanced approach to Reform*" included comments from John Bramhall (see <https://www.cdr-news.com/categories/litigation/featured/10607-witness-statement-review-takes-balanced-approach-to-reform>)
- 20 December 2019, CDR "*Goodbye to all that*" 2019 review mentioned Chris Bushell and Ed Crosse (see <https://www.cdr-news.com/categories/arbitration/10614-goodbye-to-all-that>)
- 30 January 2020, New Law Journal, "*A President's Charter for Change*" by Julian Acratopulo (see <https://www.newlawjournal.co.uk/content/a-president-s-charter-for-change>)
- 31 January 2020, New Law Journal reported on the result of the survey it had undertaken in association with the LSLA (see [https://www.newLawjournal.co.uk/content/litigation-trends-technology-diversity-and-brexite](https://www.newlawjournal.co.uk/content/litigation-trends-technology-diversity-and-brexite) and <https://www.newLawjournal.co.uk/content/litigation-futures-strong-stable-despite-the-brexite-effect>)
- 31 January 2020, "*The Brexit Countdown begins*" by David Greene

- 3 February 2020, Law Society Gazette, “*How wary Employers are Embracing New Technology*” by Sophia Purkis and Nadia Osborne (see <https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/practice-points/how-wary-lawyers-are-embracing-new-tech/5102906.article>)

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

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.

Join the JLSLA LinkedIn page to receive updates on JLSLA events and initiatives:
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4438638/>

MEMBERSHIP

The LSLA is delighted to announce that the Association’s membership has passed 3,000 members with well over 1,250 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 Chris Bushell at 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 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. 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.