

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Welcome to the May edition of the SLS newsletter!

We are only a month away from the Society's Bollywood Ball on Friday 7th June at the Grand Hotel Brighton so don't miss out on booking your place as it is sure to be a fantastic evening! You can take a whole table but if you want to come on your own or in a small group we can accommodate you with other small groups. For more details and ticket purchases [see here](#). And for those interested in embracing the Bollywood theme optional dress, we've compiled a selection of inspiring ideas for you to peruse [here](#).

In other news, the Society's Spring Quiz held on April 18th was a resounding success. It was a pleasure to meet some of our members in person and my sincere thanks to Crown Office Row for generously sponsoring this event and to Groundsure for donating a prize. We raised just under £450 from the raffle for the President's Charity the [BME Young Peoples' Project](#) which is no mean feat without a card reader in an almost cashless society!

Also, special thanks to Lou Earp of Dutton Gregory Solicitors for hosting a well-attended LinkedIn webinar for our members in April. Additionally, our second virtual "President's Surgery" was successfully held on April 22nd, and I aim to host another session before the summer break.

Accompanied by Council Member Andrew Bishop, I had the pleasure of attending the Worthing Law Society Ball on May 3rd (photo below) and would like to thank President Gabrielle Wagstaffe for her kind invitation. Looking ahead, I'm eagerly anticipating representing the Society at the Kent Law Society's dinner this Friday, May 10th.

Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who shared positive feedback on our last newsletter. Your input is truly appreciated and valued – please continue to share it with us.

Wishing you good health and resilience.



*Manjinder Nagra*

## NEWS

- Congratulations to 'Californian Dream' the winning team from **Old Bailey Solicitors** at the Sussex Law Society Quiz on 18<sup>th</sup> April. Their combined wit and wisdom warded off their 134 competitors from **BrightLaw, Colemans, Coole Bevis, 1 Crown Office Row, Dean Wilson LLP, Fitzhugh Gates, Gaby Hardwick, GoodLaw, Helix Law, J E Bennett Law, The Jonathan Lea Network, Lamb Building, Martin Searle, Search Legal and Taylor Rose MW**. It was, as always, a great night in the Palm Court restaurant on Brighton Palace Pier where we enjoyed delicious fish and chips and a lovely sunset. Many thanks once again to **David Bingham** and **1 Crown Office Row** for generously sponsoring this event and to **Groundsure** for donating a raffle prize. We raised over £400 for the President's charity.
- **Dawson Hart** is delighted to announce the appointment of **Jamie Wood** and **Hayley Banks** as Directors. Jamie joined as a trainee 12 years ago and is now a highly respected Family solicitor. Hayley joined in 2022 bringing a wealth of experience in dispute resolution and heads our litigation team. Their dedication to the firm's values and our clients' success makes them ideal additions to the board.
- **Westgate Chambers** - Specialist Civil Barristers, [Andrew Judge](#) and [Kyle Fournillier](#) provided a comprehensive legal update on The Building Safety Act 2022, focusing on Landlord and Tenant issues, as well as an overview of the Fixed Recoverable Costs Regime. Andrew discussed The Grenfell Disaster, offering an analysis of building and safety defects, insights from the independent Hackett review, developer responsibilities, available funding opportunities, building safety regulatory matters, including fire safety, duty holders' obligations, remediation and redress considerations (including who bears the costs), remediation orders, gateways, and changes to limitation periods. Kyle's presentation covered cases, subject to and exempt from FRC, litigation tracks and provided a detailed examination of the FRC under the CPR, which included key aspects of the litigation process affected by the FRC regime.

## INCREASES TO SELECTED COURT &amp; TRIBUNAL FEES

On 1<sup>st</sup> May the Government implemented its proposals for an increase in selected court and tribunal fees by up to 10%. You can find out more [here](#).

## FREE WEBINAR FOR MEMBERS ON CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS IN SUSSEX

Join us from 11am – 11.45am on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May and discover the climate change risks that may affect properties and your clients in Sussex.

In this session, hear from Groundsure's Strategic Account Manager, Danielle Orosa, who will touch on the following points: - Cause and Effect; - Case Studies; - Law Society Guidance; - Discharge of Duty; - Transactional Risk Advise

The webinar will be 30-40 minutes long with time for questions. It is free for Sussex Law Society members and £15 + VAT for non-members. You can download the application form [here](#).



**A REMINDER OF THE IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE FAMILY PROCEDURE RULES**

Please see below important updates relating to MIAMs and non-court dispute resolution:

On 29 April 2024, further changes to the Family Procedure Rules came into effect. Family Practitioners are directed to the *Practice Direction Update No 1 of 2024* and the *Family Procedure (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2023*.

Two amendments are being made to PD3A in relation to MIAMs. The first corrects a minor numbering error. The second relates to a new form which parties will be required to complete, setting out their views on engaging with non-court dispute resolution (see new rule under amended FPR 3.3(1A)). This form must be filed with the court, served on all parties, and verified by a statement of truth.

On 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024, provisions under “Amendment No.2” came into force relating to the power to make a Practice Direction relating to court staff undertaking court functions. On 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the remainder of the provisions of “Amendment No.2” take effect. These include:

- That the definition of “non-court dispute resolution” in FPR 2.3(1)(b) will be expanded to mean ‘methods of resolving a dispute other than through the court process, including but not limited to mediation, arbitration, evaluation by a neutral third party (such as a private Financial Dispute Resolution process) and collaborative law’. The definition will therefore go beyond just mediation.
- That MIAM providers will be required to inform attendees about which form(s) of non-court dispute resolution may be most suitable and why, as well as provide guidance on how to proceed with those methods – FPR 3.9(2) amended.
- That it will no longer be required to have the agreement of the parties when adjourning the proceedings in order to encourage parties to undertake non-court dispute resolution. Instead, where the timetabling of proceedings allows sufficient time for these steps to be taken, the court may adjourn the proceedings – FPR 3.4(1A) amended.
- Amendments across the FPR and PDs to reflect the change of terminology and definitions from “domestic violence” to “domestic abuse”, in line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- FPR 3.8(1)(c)(ii)(ad) will be changed from “unreasonable hardship” to “significant financial hardship”. This will tighten the provision.

All practitioners should be alerted to the amended rule 28.3(7) as the court may now consider, when determining whether to make an order for costs, any failure by a party, without good reason, to attend a MIAM or non-court dispute resolution. These changes are intended to promote the early resolution of private family law arrangements outside of court.

For reference, please refer to the following links:

- The Family Procedure (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2023  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2023/1324/contents/made>
- Practice Direction 3A – Family Mediation Information and Assessment Meetings (MIAMs)  
[https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/family/practice\\_directions/pd\\_part\\_03a](https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/family/practice_directions/pd_part_03a)
- The Family Procedure Rules Updates  
<https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/family>

### ADR FAMILY FINANCE & CHILDREN ACT WEBINAR

Pallant Chambers are presenting this interesting webinar at 1pm on 15th May 2024. Presented by [Nadia Tawfik](#) and [Oliver Peirson](#) it will cover:

- An update on the new Family Procedure Rules and relevant case law surrounding out of court forms of dispute resolution.
- A segment on the benefits of arbitration, private FDRs/Early Neutral Evaluation in Children Act and Financial Remedy proceedings.
- Q&A

Contact Alister Williams [awilliams@pallantchambers.co.uk](mailto:awilliams@pallantchambers.co.uk) if you would like to attend.

### CAN YOU HELP THE CLOCKTOWER SANCTUARY TO HELP HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE IN BRIGHTON?

[The Clock Tower Sanctuary](#) are looking for kind solicitors who can offer **one free will** to our supporters. Could that be you?

Based in central Brighton, Clock Tower Sanctuary is a place where young people who have nowhere to call home can feel safe and 'just be', whilst getting the practical and emotional support they need to transform their lives. As a small local charity, even one legacy will make a huge difference to us and the young people that we support. No young person chooses to be homeless and together we can make a lasting change for future generations.

Please email [info@thects.org.uk](mailto:info@thects.org.uk) if you can help!

Also, if any firms are looking for a team building activity the CTS are currently organising their annual half-marathon hike from Lewes to Brighton on Sunday 7th July, 2024, offering another breathtaking hike along the scenic South Downs. You can sign up at half price (£10) for the next 2 weeks. [Details here](#)

### COURT OF PROTECTION UPDATE

Court of Protection update – Re PW/ Case reference – Re PW [2024] EWCOP 16

The much-awaited decision of the Court of Protection concerning the appointment of an investment manager by a Deputy, where there is a financial relationship between the Deputy and that investment manager.

The judgment will be of particular interest to professional Deputies with an in-house (or otherwise associated, such as a joint venture) financial management offering. It provides a clear summary of the position of a Deputy in relation to the rules against self-dealing and conflicts of interests.

The judgment confirms there is a clear conflict of interest in the appointment of an in-house investment manager by the Deputy in this case, and that the processes the Deputy took in the investment manager's appointment – although thorough – simply could not overcome that conflict. Further evidence is required as to whether the appointment in this instance can, and should, be ratified by the Court of Protection or if a new investment manager must be appointed. There is even potential for a claim on PW's behalf for investment management fees paid to date.

It is therefore vital that professional Deputies are aware that:

- Appointing an investment manager where there is a financial relationship between the Deputy (and/or their firm) is a clear conflict of interests.
- The conflict of interests cannot be overcome by internal processes such as a 'beauty parade' or 'scorecard'. Court approval of the appointment is required and should be applied for proactively rather than retrospectively.
- The judgment extends to joint ventures and beneficial referral relationships, so Deputies should consider these wider connections too.

There may be a further judgment in this case, and indeed others – watch this space!

### BEYOND WORDS: THE TRUE POWER OF AUTHENTIC CLIENT REVIEWS IN THE LEGAL MARKET

Every UK law firm has a website, but why is it important? - A website can inform potential clients about your firm and how to contact you. It can also help you showcase your expertise in your particular field. However, with so many websites out there, how can you make your firm stand out and attract new clients? Genuine client reviews are the answer. However, not all reviews are created equal. Hand-picked testimonials with all 5-star reviews may not be believed by potential clients. To convince clients, you must show transparency, integrity, and reassurance.

Find Reassurance with Online Reviews - Most everyone wants to be assured that their chosen solicitor will represent them successfully. There was a time when this assurance was accomplished solely via the power of word of mouth and through personal recommendations. But the digital age has spawned a generation of highly savvy consumers who often operate from a default setting of scepticism. So, while they may have a recommendation from someone they trust, they also want to validate it for themselves. This is where online reviews play a vital role. Reviews provide the reassurance consumers are looking for before they settle on and make their final choice.

[Read more of this article from our sponsors Review Solicitors.....](#)

### COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT

There has not been a Council meeting since the last newsletter. The next meeting is on Wednesday 8th May. That meeting will be followed by hustings for the post of Deputy Vice President (DVP) of the Society. The DVP drops letters over the coming years, becoming VP and ultimately P so it is an important election. The 97 Council members vote. There are 5 candidates. I have read the candidate statements and will listen carefully to the hustings before casting a vote on behalf of Sussex.

The Government continues to drag its feet after losing the Judicial Review brought by The Law Society into its failure to implement the Bellamy recommendation (from November 2021) of an immediate 15% increase in criminal legal aid fees. Its latest proposal is a 6-month consultation into reform of Crown Court litigator fees. That will take us close to November 2024. That will be three years and much inflation since Bellamy's recommendation. Perhaps the Government doesn't understand the meaning of the word "immediate". Needless to say the Law Society is not happy, met with Alex Chalk the Minister of Justice on 29th April and is considering its next steps.

Finally, I am grateful to Worthing Law Society for inviting me to their annual dinner which I attended with Manjinder. A lovely event.

*Andrew Bishop. Law Society Council Member for Sussex/ [Andrew.bishop@bishopandlight.co.uk](mailto:Andrew.bishop@bishopandlight.co.uk)*

## A GREAT DEAL IF YOU BOOK THE REMAINING 4 LUNCHTIME COMPLIANCE COURSES IN THE SPRING SERIES

We are now already halfway through our Spring series of fortnightly 1 hour lunchtime compliance webinars presented by Joanna Morris, but it isn't too late to book on to any of the remaining 4 webinars and we have a special deal if you purchase all 4!

The sessions so far have been overwhelmingly well received and those attending have found them a fantastic way to keep on top of compliance matters. The cost of an individual session is £30 + VAT but we are offering all 4 for £100 + VAT.

Tuesday 21st May 2024 – 'SRA Accounts Rules – Rule 12 The Accountants Report – avoiding a qualified report'

Tuesday 4th June 2024 – 'What's in your AML policy – is it compliant?'

Tuesday 18th June 2024 – 'Anti Bribery Compliance – as easy as ABC'

Tuesday 2nd July 2024 – 'Quarterly Compliance Update for Law Firms'

Email [Jeanette Lacy Scott](mailto:Jeanette.Lacy.Scott@sussexlaw.com) to book.

## SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY WEBINARS AND COURSES

Click on the links below for more details about these webinars and the application forms:

20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – ['How to Respond to the New Residential Enquiries'](#) 11am – 12 noon. Live webinar by Richard Snape

21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 – ['Key Issues affecting Easements' 9.30am – 12.30 pm.](#) Live webinar by Richard Snape.

21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 – 'SRA Accounts Rules – Rule 12 The Accountants' Report – avoiding a qualified report' 12 noon – 1pm. Live webinar by Joanna Morris

30<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – ['Climate Change Risks in Sussex'](#) 11am – 11.45 am. Live webinar by Danielle Orosa, Groundsure

4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – 'What's in your AML Policy?' 12 noon – 1pm. Live webinar by Joanna Morris

18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – 'Anti Bribery Compliance – as easy as ABC' 12 noon – 1pm. Live webinar by Joanna Morris

2nd July 2024 – 'Quarterly Compliance Update for Law Firm'. 12 noon – 1pm. Live webinar by Joanna Morris.

14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – 'The Civil Litigation Developments of 2024'. 9.30am – 12.30pm. Live webinar by Dominic Regan.

## OTHER COURSES/WEBINARS/ARTICLES/RESOURCES

**Sexual Harassment in the Workplace – Prevention, Conducting Investigations & More** – Laura Donnelly, Associate Employment Law Solicitor at Martin Searle Solicitors, is running a virtual classroom seminar in association with MBL on **Wednesday 15 May 2024**. The virtual classroom seminar will provide employers and HR with guidance on how to deal fairly with allegations of sexual harassment in the workplace, including running a fair and thorough investigation and reducing the risk of sexual harassment taking place in a workplace. For more information, [click here](#).

**The Association of Lifetime Lawyers National Conference** – Cate Searle from Martin Searle Solicitors will speak at the Association of Lifetime Lawyers National Conference on **Thursday 20 June 2024**. The speakers will all contribute to one case study which covers a number of legal issues including

surrogacy, wills, lasting powers of attorney, adult safeguarding, family estrangement and the Inheritance Act. Cate will focus on adult safeguarding, including mental capacity issues relevant to end of life care decisions and securing statutory funding for a relative to be cared for at home. For more information and to book, [click here](#).

Articles:

<https://becket-chambers.co.uk/articles/quantifying-whiplash-and-non-whiplash-injuries-in-rta-claims/>

<https://orionlegalmarketing.co.uk/the-essential-checklist-for-starting-up-your-own-small-law-firm-in-the-uk/>

## SUSSEX LAW SOCIETY GOLF SOCIETY

Please note the following dates in your diaries for our three matches this year. Further details of each match will follow in due course.

**Captains Day - 4 June 2024 at Seaford Head Golf Club** - Our Captain, Michael Harris is the match manager. We will meet at 12.30 for an early lunch followed by 18 holes of stableford competition on this superb golf course. There will be some modest prizes at the end!

**Necessity Bowl - 23 July 2024 (current holder: Geoffrey Longfield) at Mid-Sussex Golf Club** - The match manager is Paul Drake. We will meet for lunch at 12.30. Paul has arranged a fixed lunch: Sausage and Mash followed by fruit salad. Once again, this is a super course to play and well worth the visit.

**Cassels Cup - 15 August 2024 (current holder: Mick Barry) at West Hove Golf Club** - The match manager is Mick Barry. We will meet for lunch at 12.30 for lunch followed by 18-hole stableford competition.

Please let me know if you will be able to play in any of these matches. Also, if you will require a buggy or have special dietary needs.

The Sussex Law Society Golf Society is open to anyone with connections with the legal profession, whether you are in practice or retired, whatever your standard of play. There is no joining fee. If you have not played with us before, why not give us a try.

Paul Sagoo - Secretary, SLSGS  
[rps.sagoo@googlemail.com](mailto:rps.sagoo@googlemail.com)

*Paul Sagoo*  
*Secretary, SLSGS*

## SITUATIONS VACANT

Listing job vacancies in the Newsletter & putting more detailed vacancies on the [website](#) is FREE for Sussex Law Society member firms and individual members and £100 + VAT for other contributors. Contact [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#) to place an advert. More details about each vacancy and how to apply can be found by following the highlighted links.

- **Court of Protection Health & Welfare / Mental Capacity Lawyer** - Martin Searle Solicitors are looking for an experienced person to join their Community Care Law team. For a full job description and to apply, please [click here](#).
- **Employment Lawyer (0 – 5 years PQE)** - Martin Searle Solicitors are looking to recruit someone to join their Employment Law team. For a full job description and to apply, please [click here](#).
- **Housing & Litigation Lawyers** – Brighton & Hove City Council are looking for litigation and housing lawyers to join our friendly and experienced Litigation & Housing Team and help us build an excellent responsive service for our internal and external clients. You can find more details and how to apply [here](#). Closing date 8<sup>th</sup> May
- **Legal Assistant** - Are you an aspiring paralegal looking for your first role in a legal environment? GoodLaw Solicitors LLP is looking for the best talent to join our growing firm. We now have four vacancies in our Clinical Negligence/ Injury department. These roles will be based across our offices in the South, one in our Hove office, two in our Brighton office and one in our Farnham office. We anticipate these roles will begin in summer 2024, following the end of the academic year. These roles will be entry-level, and full training will be provided, though ideally you will hold a LLB Law degree or equivalent experience. You may be seeking a long-term paralegal role, or a role which pushes you towards qualification, and we can support either of these ambitions. We have a good track record in supporting our internal talent to qualify, on many different routes. For more details see [here](#).
- **Private Client Assistant** - Christmas Ogden Solicitors in Lewes are currently looking for an experienced Private Client Assistant to join us on a full/part time basis. You must be experienced in the preparation/drafting of Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Estate Administration including completion of IHT forms. For more information about the role see [here](#).
- **Private Client Solicitor** – AR Brown & Co in Goring by Sea are looking for a Private Client Solicitor to join their expanding team. Reporting to the Head of Private Client, the role will require you to hit the ground running and will involve managing a full range of private client matters. For full details and how to apply see [here](#).
- **Private Client Solicitor** - Dutton Gregory Solicitors is a national law firm with offices across Dorset, Hampshire, Surrey and Liverpool. We are currently seeking a Private Client Solicitor to join our Wills, Trusts and Estate planning team based in Woking. There is a caseload of work ready to work on as we have a team member going on maternity leave. This is a permanent role as our Wills Trusts and Estate Planning team continues to grow as per its strategy and vision. We are seeking a lawyer who has a proven track record working on the whole range of Private Client matters and ideally you will have some experience of more complex matters. See [here](#) for more details.
- **Private Client Solicitor/Practitioner** - Christmas Ogden Solicitors are currently looking for an experienced Private Client Solicitor/Probate Practitioner to join us on a Consultancy / Part Time basis. We are looking to grow our current existing caseload so this position may become full-time in the future. We run a small and very friendly office in Lewes and are looking for someone to join us who is experienced in the preparation of Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Estate Administration. If interested, please send your CV and covering email to [Sonia@christmasogden.co.uk](mailto:Sonia@christmasogden.co.uk)



- **Property Lawyer** – Lewes District & Eastbourne Borough Councils are recruiting for permanent solicitor in its busy legal team. Applicants with experience in property matters and transactions are welcome. Flexible working (hours and location) available. Find more info on our website [here](#). Closing date 27th May.

## LOCUMS

If you would like to be added to the list of locums published monthly in this Newsletter, please email your details to [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#). Listing your details here is free of charge for members:

- Margaret Dowdles - commercial/residential property. Happy to discuss how firms can practically work together so she can innovate on pricing and still deliver real value at this challenging time and going forwards -Contact [mgtdles@gmail.com](mailto:mgtdles@gmail.com) 07947-771593. Charges realistic rates.
- Patrick Richards- Un-Notarised legal translations, office and Court interpreter services offered by fluent French and Italian speaking local Solicitor. Contact [patrickrichards27@hotmail.com](mailto:patrickrichards27@hotmail.com) 07715928563.
- Patrick Rusk – Patrick Rusk – Legal Translation Services – Trainee Solicitor and Member of Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL no. 55485) offering legal translation services from German, French and Spanish into English. For all enquiries, please email [patrick.rusk@hotmail.com](mailto:patrick.rusk@hotmail.com) or text +44 7534 747667.

## LOST & MISSING WILLS

All wills previously held by Howlett Clarke are now safely held with the Right Legal Group, Wyvern Business Park, 16 Stanier Way, Derby, DE21 6BF. Telephone number 01332 424511.

Please contact [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#) if you are looking for a will or if you want to be part of our lost/missing wills scheme (free of charge for members)

## LAW SOCIETY DIVISIONS/NETWORKS

The Law Society has some really useful divisions/networks full of information and resources which are worth exploring. The links are here: [Ethnic Minority Lawyers](#); [In-house Lawyers](#); [Junior Lawyers](#); [Lawyers with Disabilities](#); [LGBT+ Lawyers](#); [Small Firms](#); [Solicitor Judges](#); [Women Lawyers](#)

## SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE

Following the introduction of the new GDPR laws on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018, if you are not an individual or corporate member of the Sussex Law Society and wish to continue to receive this monthly newsletter you will need to [opt in here](#). If you are unsure about whether you are/are not a member, please contact [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#)

If you would like to receive information about courses and events in any of the following areas of law, please sign up to one of the following lists:

[Litigators List](#)

[Private Client Practitioners List](#)

[Property Practitioners List](#)

[Family Practitioners List](#)

[Criminal Law Practitioners List](#)

Contact [Jeanette Lacy Scott](#) if you no longer wish to receive the monthly Newsletter and put **UNSUBSCRIBE** in the subject heading.