



Hello and welcome to the Relationship Management monthly report for June 2017 for the Midlands.

We hope you find the report useful and encourage you to share it with your members and colleagues.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the future development of our monthly report, please let us know.

Thank you for reading.

### The Midlands & Southwest team:

**Rav Hothi** - Head of Relationship Management  
Midlands and Southwest  
07816929749  
[Ravinder.hothi@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:Ravinder.hothi@lawsociety.org.uk)

**Sarah Richards** - Relationship Manager  
Midlands and Southwest  
07875579012  
[Sarah.richards@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.richards@lawsociety.org.uk)

**James Shepherd** - Relationship Management  
Executive  
Midlands and Southwest  
07580977099  
[James.shepherd@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:James.shepherd@lawsociety.org.uk)

### News

- Events and training
- Presidents and Secretaries Conference 2017
- The latest on the Governance Review
- The latest news on Brexit
- Pride in the Profession
- Cyber Security concerns? How we can help
- Our priorities for law and justice - what you can do locally
- Accessing Practice Notes through My Law Society

### Out and about in the Midlands

#### Practice notes

- Acting in the absence of a children's guardian

#### Consultation responses

- Housing white paper consultation
- Proposed changes to the attorney general's civil panels
- The personal injury discount rate: how it should be set in future
- Rapid resolution and redress scheme consultation

#### Open Consultations

- SRA: A new route to qualification: New regulations
- Consultations for Government that you may be interested in responding to...



### Judicial appointments: interview training for solicitors

**The Law Society, London** 23 June, 09:00 - 17:00

In view of increasing competition for judicial appointments, this course will equip you with the skills to help enhance your application and interview performance. The course has been developed specifically for solicitor applicants.

This intensive training will focus on tailoring your submission to make a positive impact in the competency based application and selection process. You will receive practical advice on completing the application, incorporating your experiences and invaluable interview practice.

[Find out more and book your place](#)

## The President and a RCJ Judge celebrate Trinity at the Law Society

**The Law Society, London** 28 June, 17:00 - 19:30

This is an opportunity to hear the new vision for increasing the number of solicitors appointed to the judiciary direct from the President before his term of office draws to an end in July 2017. In addition Solicitor Judge HHJ Baucher will speak on the particular skills solicitors bring to sitting and the inside track to being appointed to the judiciary.

[Find out more and book your place](#)

## Leadership roles for women: breaking down the barriers in the judiciary

**The Law Society, London** 6 July, 18:00 - 21:30

Join the African Women's Lawyers Association for an evening at the Law Society where we will address diversity and leadership in the legal profession with Dame Linda Dobbs, England and Wales' first BAME High Court judge, who will talk about her years of experience at the bar and in the judiciary.

The event will include a panel discussion followed by an opportunity to network and meet other like-minded and ambitious individuals.

[Find out more and book your place](#)

## AML Update - the new Money Laundering Regulations 2017

**Webinar** 11 July, 12:00 - 13:00

The new 2017 Money Laundering Regulations means fundamental changes to the anti-money laundering procedures at law firms, including changes to customer due diligence (CDD), a central register for beneficial owners, changes in the rules for PEPs and a focus on risk

assessments. Jonathan Fisher, QC takes you through the key changes.

[Find out more and book your place](#)

For a full list of events, further detail and to book, please visit our [events page](#).



The Relationship Management team hope you enjoyed this year's prestigious Presidents and Secretaries Conference at Chancery Lane. We were delighted to host over fifty local law societies (LLS) from across England and Wales, all of whom participated in a programme designed to address the changes, challenges and opportunities facing LLS today.

This year's conference combined a mix of useful and informative workshops with top tips to take back to your society, as well as panel sessions with expert external speakers from public and private sectors, and similar local membership associations. The workshops and plenaries covered the following:

- media training and how to raise the profile of the profession at a local level;
- understanding in house solicitors and advice to increase integration in your society;

- how to retain and boost membership and generate income;
- tech tools for running your society;
- Brexit and twinning;
- lobbying at a local level;
- how other professions operate local membership bodies; and
- how to manage a consultation process.

The conference also saw Law Society president, Robert Bourns, provide a timely launch of our [vision for law and justice](#), outlining our priorities for the incoming government.

In addition to the busy programme of sessions, many societies attended the black tie dinner on the Friday evening. This was a fantastic opportunity to network and socialise in the alluring surroundings of the Common Room at Chancery Lane HQ complemented by the surprise yet welcome addition of the excellent Singing Waiters who entertained guests with a mix of ballads from famous West End shows.

As part of collating post event feedback post conference, we have been asking LLS what they valued most. Below is some of the feedback:

- Operating your online resources (website and social media channels) to improve engagement and communications with your local membership;
- engage with junior lawyers and offering a membership package and benefits which appeals;
- developing and retaining strong relationships with sponsors for events and courses;
- developing a strategy for your society - planning ahead and having reviewing presidential timescales to maximise office holder plans;
- making your society relevant for members - making them feel part of a community
- using videos on websites to make it more engaging and interesting;
- recognise the importance of getting in house solicitors involved in your society;
- TLS to provide further resources, such as the potentially proposed handbook by vice president, Joe Egan, for Local Law Societies;

- give committee members defined roles so that they feel involved; and
- recognise the importance of engaging with the local media to raise profile of Local Law Societies and the profession.

Just as a reminder the links to conference photos and the post conference website are [here](#).

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to all speakers who participated across the two days and, of course, all delegates in attendance for your active participation in the conference and continued support.

Finally, thank you to those of you that completed the feedback survey. The findings of which will be shared with you in the July edition of the newsletter



## The latest on the Governance Review

Read the latest on our Governance arrangements following the Council meeting in Cardiff on 17 May [here](#).

## The latest news on Brexit

We thought it would be useful to see the latest articles around Brexit:

[Upholding the rule of law post Brexit](#)

[Leaving in an orderly fashion - our approach to leaving the EU](#)

[Read our blog on making the law accessible to all post Brexit](#)

[Read our blog on four reasons why law firms need to comply with Data Protection regulations](#)

[or GDPR after Brexit](#)

## Pride in the Profession

In 2016, president of the Law Society, Robert Bourns launched the Pride in the Profession campaign. Its aim is to promote the vital role that solicitors of England and Wales play in the economy, justice system, and communities. As part of the campaign, we published the [Pride in the Profession report](#).

It showcases the outstanding work that the profession is doing and looks at how the Law Society is promoting and supporting solicitors. It also includes models of pro bono delivery to help practitioners and firms develop their own pro bono work.

Find out more [here](#).

## Cyber Security concerns? How we can help

Cyber-attacks and scams are a threat to all businesses today and law firms are particularly attractive sources of information. Firms of all sizes are vulnerable but there are measures you can take to protect your firm and your clients.

Our guidance can help you understand and reduce the risks, stay ahead of the scammers and give you help on what to do if your firms is hacked.

Take a look at our [web page](#).

Our Risk and Compliance Advisory Service offers training forums and a bespoke advisory advice for COLPs and COFAs to assist them in preparing for a potential cyber attack. We can help you understand:

- What is best practice for a COLP in the face of a breach?
- Where does the ultimate responsibility lie—with the COLP, the Management, IT?
- How do you share that responsibility with stakeholders?

- Who do you need to report an attack to (the relevant authorities)?
- What does the SRA expect from the COLP if there is a breach?
- What are the best policies and procedures to help you and your staff to avoid cyber attacks?

Our Risk and Compliance Advisory Service specialises in creating tailored compliance solutions and interventions to help firms and in-house legal teams. We offer a highly trusted source of information and expertise.

For more information on how we can support you please visit our website [here](#), e-mail us at [riskandcompliance@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:riskandcompliance@lawsociety.org.uk) or call us on 0207 316 5655.



Our priorities for law and justice - what you can do locally

Ahead of the General Election on 8 June The Law Society has put together a vision for law and justice which outlines our priorities for the next government.

We are calling on the new government to ensure:

- legal certainty is maintained in light of Brexit
- every individual has effective access to justice
- human rights are safeguarded in business and modern slavery is combated

Read more about our priorities [here](#).

Read about what you can do to support the society's vision at a local level [here](#).



Accessing Practice Notes through My Law Society

Practice notes are a valuable way of

understanding best practice in many areas of law. From 1 June 2017, you will have to use your My Law Society account to access all practice notes in detail.

Over 10,000 people have already signed up. As well as registering your basic contact information, you can also choose to give information about your areas of practice, special interests and your career. The more you give, the better we can tailor the information we provide to you.

Sign-up is free and simple, it only takes a few minutes [My Law Society](#)



### Acting in the absence of a children's guardian

This practice note clarifies what you should do if a court appoints you to represent children in proceedings where there are delays between the order appointing a children's guardian in specified proceedings and the allocation of a children's guardian.

This practice note does not address situations in which a children's guardian has been appointed but is not immediately available to provide instructions, or where the children's guardian's physical attendance at court may not be possible.

[Read more](#)



### Housing white paper consultation

The Law Society's Planning and Environmental Law Committee recently responded to a Department for Communities and Local Government consultation on the recent housing white paper 'Fixing our broken housing market'.

The consultation posed a large number of questions across a wide span of housing-related topics. The Committee agreed with many of the ideas proposed, although with concern over the details in some cases.

Conversely, in several areas - including proposals for small sites, green belts, housing requirements and assessing applicants' track record of delivery - Committee was less convinced by the white paper's ideas.

More broadly, the Committee expressed concern that the concise and comprehensible nature of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) might be undermined by excessive additional detail, some of which might be better captured in planning guidance.

Read the full response [here](#).

### Proposed changes to the attorney general's civil panels

The Law Society has responded to a government Legal Department consultation on proposed changes to the attorney general's panels of junior counsel who undertake civil, EU and international work for all government departments, arguing that panel membership should be opened up more effectively to solicitors with higher rights.

There are three London panels, a regional panel and a Public International Panel (PIL). Only the PIL has any solicitor members. The consultation indicates that there are frequently availability and capacity issues across the regional panel, with not enough counsel to take on work.

The Society says that these problems could be alleviated if the panels were opened up to solicitors with higher rights.

Read the full response [here](#).

### The personal injury discount rate: how it should be set in future

The Law Society has responded to the Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) consultation on the future of the personal injury discount rate.

The Law Society put forward a number of points in its response, including:

- The longstanding legal principle of 100 per cent compensation should not be undermined by any change to the methodology for setting the discount rate.
- The MoJ should commission further and more in-depth research into claimant investment behaviour before changing the methodology for setting the discount rate.
- The lord chancellor should no longer have a role in the setting of the discount rate.
- PPOs should not be forced upon claimants; claimants should always have a choice between a lump sum and a PPO.
- Regular review of the discount rate will be of benefit to both claimants and defendants.

Read the full response [here](#).

### Rapid resolution and redress scheme consultation

The Law Society has responded to the Department of Health's consultation on the introduction of a rapid resolution and redress (RRR) scheme for severe avoidable birth injury.

In our response, we welcome a voluntary scheme that allows families to obtain the compensation they deserve, so long as a formal litigation path can be taken if they wish to.

It is important that this system is capable of adequately and efficiently compensating families for often life-changing injuries, which would be akin to going through a court. We also argue that an RRR scheme should be transparent and independent, and must preserve access to justice, ensuring claimants have appropriate access to specialist legal advice throughout the process.

Read the full response [here](#).



### SRA Open Consultations

#### A new route to qualification: New regulations

The SRA is consulting on its proposed regulations to provide the regulatory framework for qualification as a solicitor via the Solicitors Qualifying Examination, and on its proposals for recognition of the knowledge and competences of qualified lawyers which will form part of the new regulatory framework. These will come into effect no earlier than September 2020.

**Closing date for responses** 26 July 2017

[Find out more](#)

#### Consultations for Government that you may be interested in responding to...

#### National standards and outcomes framework for children and young people

The Welsh Government is consulting on the National standards and outcomes framework for children and young people which will:

- identify the outcomes children and young people can expect in relation to children and young people's advocacy
- ensure that advocacy service providers and those commissioning them can be sure those standards are being achieved

- enable local authorities to evidence the support children and young people will receive
- provide children with care and support needs with information about what they are entitled to.

**Closing date for responses** 23 June 2017

[Find out more](#)

## Draft sentencing guidelines: Intimidatory and domestic abuse offences

The Sentencing Council seeks views on the draft sentencing guidelines for intimidatory and domestic abuse offences.

Currently the Magistrates' Court Sentencing Guidelines (MCSG) contains limited guidance for the sentencing of harassment and racially or religiously aggravated harassment, and threats to kill offences. There are no sentencing guidelines for stalking, disclosing private sexual images and controlling or coercive behaviour offences. As there are certain similarities between these offences, the Council decided to group them together under the title 'Intimidatory' offences.

**Closing date for responses** 30 June 2017

[Find out more](#)

## Regulatory reform of registered social landlords

The Welsh Government is consulting on reforms that will enable the Office for National Statistics to reclassify RSLs back to the private sector for accounting purposes, including:

- disposal consents
- power to direct the permitted use of disposals proceeds
- restructuring and dissolution
- regulatory powers
- local government controls.

**Closing date for responses**

3 July 2017

[Find out more](#)