

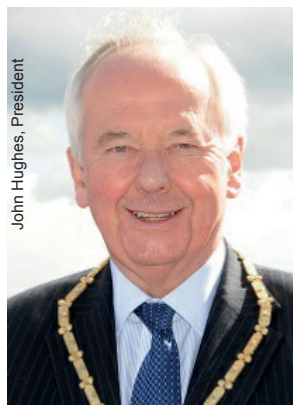


BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY
one profession · one region · one voice

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



John Hughes, President

President's Foreword

It has been a great honour and privilege to have been elected President of the Birmingham Law Society for 2016/2017. I took over the presidency from Mushtaq Khan who had worked tirelessly to raise the profile of the Law Society. When I set out my objectives at last year's AGM I said that I wanted to have closer liaison with local and national politicians.

At the first Council meeting we had John Clancy, Leader of Birmingham City Council, as our guest. As a former solicitor himself, it was a very interesting meeting with lively discussion afterwards. At the next Council meeting the Police and Crime Commissioner, David Jamieson, attended and again we had a very lively debate with him. In April we had a meeting with Sajid Javid, MP, at Bromsgrove School. He was then heavily involved in the negotiations regarding Tata Steel. We had a very interesting lunch with Gisela Stuart, MP, in November. As you can imagine the main topic was Brexit. This was attended by 50 lawyers and we had a fascinating discussion. On 1 March we held a reception at the House of Commons jointly with Coventry, Warwickshire and Worcestershire Law Society. This was attended by over 100 members from the Societies and seven MPs attended. At the Presidents' Dinner in October the Attorney General, Jeremy Wright, QC MP was the guest speaker. He had recently completed the Supreme Court Hearing in the Miller case regarding the triggering of Article 50 and gave a very honest account of the trials and tribulations of being the Attorney General. I was on a Panel to discuss Access to Justice at a Conservative Party Conference jointly with the Chair of the Bar Council and the Solicitor General and the Chair of Justice. Reflecting back over my year, therefore, I do feel some sense of satisfaction that the goals I set myself at the beginning of the presidential year were to a certain extent achieved.

I have often been asked whether the year has been enjoyable. I would emphatically say that it has. It has been extremely rewarding developing links with the other law societies that form the Joint V (Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester). I have also been assisted tremendously by support from the National Law Society and our Regional Manager, Ravinder Hothi. I have also had the fortune of working closely with

Robert Bourns, the President of the Law Society, who has embraced his demanding role with tremendous skill and enthusiasm during what has been at times a difficult period for the Law Society following the resignation of a Chief Executive, Catherine Dixon.

Amongst the highlights of the year was attending the opening of the Legal Year in Westminster Abbey followed by a reception at the House of Lords at the beginning of October. This was followed by being invited to the opening of the Flemish Bar Legal Year and then the opening of the Paris Bar Legal Year in November. It was encouraging to realise how highly regarded Birmingham as a city is and in particular, the legal profession within the city and the region. I developed close ties with members of the Bar in both Antwerp and Paris which I hope we can build on in the future. It was reassuring to realise that notwithstanding the referendum vote, we do have strong and sympathetic friends in Europe.

What I had not fully appreciated when I started my year was how incredibly hard Becky Lynch, Liz Dziergas, Johanna Sahi-Proto and Denise Harnett work and how reliant the President is on their support. Without their help my life would have been made impossible! I have also derived tremendous support from the Chairwoman of the Board, Eileen Schofield, and my fellow officers, Andrew Beedham and James Turner. The hard work of the Board must be commended. Dean Parnell as Finance Director has worked tirelessly to ensure the finances of the Society are sound with the valuable support of Nigel Watson. Also Chris Owen has worked hard on the Property Sub-committee dealing with the granting and lease of the Society's premises at Temple Street. Mention should also be made of Ian Shovlin and Ben Henry who had worked very hard on sponsorship and membership and also



PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

the other Board members, all of whom devote their precious time without remuneration for the benefit of the Society.

The work undertaken by the twelve committees is very impressive. The ability to respond to Government consultation papers (usually in a very short time scale) is quite extraordinary. I am full of admiration for the busy practitioners who are members of the committees who can carefully consider such papers and respond in very thoughtful and thorough ways – it is reassuring to know that our responses are highly regarded and listened to by the national Law Society and Governments departments. Peter Wiseman oversees the responses with skill and dedication and I would like to thank him for his support.

I very much hope that at the end of my presidential year the Society is found to be in good shape. We look forward to the bicentenary celebrations in 2018. Plans for those are now being formulated and it promises to be a very exciting year. We also hope to have some good news with the premises which if the Agreement can be signed it should ensure the future financial stability of the Society for many years to come.

One of the great privileges of being President is being able to sponsor a charity. I chose as my charity the Midlands Air Ambulance. Given the choice of abseiling or sky diving which the charity has suggested as ways for me to raise funds, I chose to walk with my wife from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford upon Avon to the Globe Theatre in Southwark a distance of 146 miles which we did in 10 days. A memorable experience and thanks to the generosity of friends and supporters we raised over £5000. I hope with the efforts being made by other supporters, including the Bear Grylls challenge in the Brecon Beacons, we should raise over £20,000. A tremendous achievement for a wonderful charity.

It is therefore with many fond memories and some relief, that I handover the Presidency to the very capable hands of Andrew Beedham. Thank you for the opportunity of being President, a great honour and great fun in what was a truly memorable year for me.

John Hughes
President



Eileen Schofield, Chairwoman

Report from the Board

It was never my personal objective to take up the role of Chair of the Board and when I was invited to follow the very competent shoes of Chris Owen no-one was more surprised than me. I accepted the position and it is genuinely a privilege and an honour to serve as Chairwoman of the finest Law Society in the country. During my term of office I have taken time to get to the heart of what makes Birmingham Law Society great and to ensure that we have the skills and the vision to ensure that Birmingham continues to thrive and prosper and that we leave a legacy for lawyers for generations to come. A special thank you must go to Chris Owen for his professionalism and expertise in leading the Board and handing over a Board which is in great shape and has achieved so much.

I have the privilege of working with the following inspirational fellow Board Directors:

Ian Shovlin – Higgs and Sons – Deputy Chair and Director of Marketing and Sponsorship
Dean Parnell – Sydney Mitchell – Finance Director
Dee Kundi – Veale Wasborough Vizards – Marketing and Sponsorship Director
Laura Ralfe – Irwin Mitchell – Marketing and Sponsorship Director
Victoria Duddles – Weightmans – Staff Director
Bernardette Griffin – B Griffin Consultancy – Learning and Development / Education and Training Director
Ben Henry – Jonas Roy Bloom – Membership Director
Linden Thomas – CEPLAR Birmingham University – Liaison Director BTSS and BSG
Tony McDaid – No5 Chambers – Special Projects Director

Ex officio and invited to attend:

John Hughes – Shakespeare Martineau – President
Mushtaq Khan – MAK Consultancy – Past President

During the course of the year we have undergone a full review of the objectives of the Society by reference to the three areas of income generation; membership, sponsorship and learning and development. There is much hard work done in these areas by both the team employed by Birmingham Law Society and the Directors in support of the team.

Dean Parnell has produced a report on the finance of the Society which in general terms will show that it has been a challenging year for the Society's finances which has resulted in an arrangement with our bank for a temporary overdraft. This was not unexpected in view of the fact that the property, which I will focus on later, is in transition and costs have been incurred both in terms of the engagement with a company who will take a lease and the ongoing maintenance costs which rest with the Society.

The key focus for the Board during this year has been twofold; 8 Temple Street and the forthcoming bicentenary celebrations for 2018.

As you will be aware Birmingham Law Society owns the property located at 8 Temple Street Birmingham. It was the

home of the Society until it was closed for safety reasons and during the course of the last three years the Board along with Council have been discussing and debating the future of the property to include selling the property or offering it to the market on a lease arrangement. Under the Chairmanship of Chris Owen a subcommittee of the Board was set up to determine the best option and progress that option once determined. Following much debate and with Council's agreement a decision was taken to offer the property out to the market on a lease arrangement. We are currently in discussions with Revolution, a chain of bars, which will take the whole property under a 25 year long lease and are awaiting the outcome of a planning application submitted to Birmingham City Council by Revolution.

The forthcoming year 2018 is a very special year in Birmingham Law Society's calendar as the Society is celebrating 200 years. The Board under the leadership of the special projects Director Tony McDaid has worked closely with the Think Tank committee to agree a programme of events to include the publication of a book commissioned by BLS and reflecting on the last 200 years.

The sponsorship and marketing Directors, Ian Shovlin, Laura Ralph and Dee Kundi together with Rebecca Lynch have done a sterling job this year and have succeeded in securing record sponsorship for the legal awards and a profit made over the year. All the sponsors have had an opportunity to meet our President John Hughes together with one of the sponsorship Directors and Rebecca Lynch. The team have secured new sponsors and retained key sponsors for both the awards and key events throughout the year.

Going forward we plan to extend the remit of the directors to include membership benefits, this is not a new idea but one which we consider is a timely addition to our members' subscription. The marketing team are already in discussion with a range of businesses which are keen to have an association with our members on an ongoing basis by offering discounts for their products and services. There will be more information on this in forthcoming reports.

Our staff Director Victoria Duddles has done an excellent job in her first year of office. Victoria has met with all members of the team and conducted appraisals with them.



Following significant discussions with the sponsorship, membership, learning and development Directors and the Chair of the Board, objectives were set for each of the team which will increase revenue in each of the three revenue generating areas of the membership. The team have embraced the objectives and these have been implemented into the business plan. Each member of the team will be supported throughout the year to ensure that the objectives will be met.

Bernardette Griffin together with Liz Dziergas have organised a varied programme of relevant learning and development events during the last year. Learning and development is facing a challenging time in light of the SRA's decision to withdraw the requirement to undertake a minimum numbers of training hours. This has had a significant impact on the take up of the courses offered by Birmingham Law Society and as a consequence the learning and development Director and the subcommittee decided to alter the emphasis of this membership benefit and have rebranded this as a conference and events benefit. During the course of the year ahead the learning and development Director will ensure that Liz will be given every support to achieve her objectives.

As a purely not for profit membership organisation we strive to engage members and recruit new members by offering a range of benefits to retain our members and secure new members. To that end the membership Director Ben Henry and Johanna Sahi-Proto are in the process of reviewing the range of benefits for members. Both Ben and Johanna have worked hard in ensuring that members have been retained and are facing a number of challenges to encourage corporate members to renew their membership.

Linden Thomas has done a sterling job in not only supporting me as the Chair in organising and facilitating our annual away day but as Liaison Director she has also rekindled the relationship between BLS, BSG and BTSS. We genuinely value and respect the relationship we have with BSG and BTSS and Linden has ensured that our relationship is strong and effective. The three organisations co-host events during the year most notably the quiz evening which is a brilliant event and so often oversubscribed that it has a reserve list for team places on the quiz. This is testament to the bond between the organisations and credit to Linden for taking the lead for BLS.

Sadly as they say some good things must come to an end and unfortunately for BLS and most particularly the Board we say a fond farewell to three of our Directors who have faithfully and fabulously worked in the best interests of BLS at all times: Ian Shovlin who has been my rock during my first year of this Office and frankly has steered me in the right direction on many occasions is stepping down due to his commitments as the Law Society's representative on the Claims Portal Board. He will be greatly missed but I

wish him every success in his challenging role. Linden Thomas who has been a superstar on Board and has supported the President of the day as much as the Chair and who is a valued voice of reason on the Board is also stepping down as her responsibilities and workload at the University increase. Mushtaq Khan is also leaving the Board as his ex officio position comes to an end. Mushtaq has served the Society as President and an active Board member and has brought flair and energy to those roles. Mushtaq will remain on the property subcommittee.

We have exciting times ahead and I on behalf of the Board wish to thank John Hughes who has been an excellent President and ambassador for Birmingham Law Society – he is a true statesman and diplomat and leaves the Society in good shape for Andrew to pick up the mantle and work alongside the Board to make our exciting initiatives, especially for 2018, happen.

Finally I wish to thank our office team without whom Birmingham Law Society would not be the best Society in the country. Becky, Liz, Johanna, Denise and Nigel – a very special thank you for your commitment, enthusiasm and energy you give to Birmingham Law Society

Eileen Schofield
Chairwoman



Dean Parnell, Finance Director

Finance Report

I am pleased to report a modest profit to the 2016 accounts despite our Lectures and courses being hit hard by the changes to the CPD system.

Our investments have performed well and now sit at £226,659. We have also included a more realistic value for our Temple Street property which has taken our fixed assets (Temple Street and the Society's investments) to an amount in excess of £1 million.

The profit from the President's Dinner and Legal Awards demonstrate that these events are still very popular with members and it also shows the great and very strong relationships that the Society has forged with our sponsors. We also saw a very good return for the Society from hosting the National Local Law Societies conference in Birmingham on 26th September 2016. This proved to be a huge success and it left delegates with a memorable and very positive image of both the Society and Birmingham city.

It is pleasing to note that we have been able to deliver a small profit notwithstanding the increased spending in relation to the Society's two main projects: the Society's bicentenary celebrations in 2018 and our Temple Street property. So far as our property is concerned we are very close to finalising a deal with a commercial tenant. Whilst this will result in some very significant associated expenses in 2017, there can be no doubt that the rent generated from having a commercial tenant in Temple

Street will provide financial security for the Society well into the future. It will also be fantastic to see our Temple Street property coming back to life after so many years of being unoccupied. Whilst we still have a little further to go before this deal is finalised I do think it is worth acknowledging the significant contribution provided by Chris Owen as well as the members of the property sub-committee, Ed Jones (Blue Marble Asset Management Limited), Clive Read (Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP) and Adrian Walsh (Bruton Knowles). Without the contribution from this collection of outstanding people the Temple Street project would have never got off the ground.

There is no doubt optimism is running high with everyone associated with the Society; the future is looking very good.

Dean Parnell
Finance Director

President

JOHN HUGHES - Shakespeare Martineau, 0121 214 1223

Vice President

ANDREW BEEDHAM - Clarke Willmott, 0845 209 1040

Deputy Vice President

JAMES TURNER - Tuckers Solicitors LLP, 0121 236 43 24

Joint Honorary Secretaries

INEZ BROWN - Medical Accident Group Ltd (part of Harrison Clark Rickerbys Ltd), 01905 744 823

CHAITALI DESAI - Weightmans LLP, 0121 200 3496

Board

Chairwoman - Eileen Schofield - Schofield & Associates - 01564 739 103

Finance Director - Dean Parnell - Sydney Mitchell, 0121 698 2212

Vice Chairman and Marketing Director - Ian Shovlin - Higgs & Sons, 0845 111 5050

Sponsorship & Marketing Director - Dee Kundi - Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP, 0121 227 3700

Sponsorship & Marketing Director - Laura Ralfe - Irwin Mitchell LLP, 0370 150 0100

Board Director - Tony McDaid - No5 Chambers, 0845 210 5555

Membership Director - Ben Henry - Jonas Roy Bloom, 0121 212 4111

Liaison Director – Linden Thomas – University of Birmingham, 0121 414 5780

Director of Education and Training - Professor Bernardette Griffin

Ex Officio as Past President - Mushtaq Khan - Freeths LLP, 0845 634 2575

Ex Officio as President - John Hughes - Shakespeare Martineau, 0121 214 1223

Council

Astakhar Ahmed, Ahmed Solicitors

Lucie Allen, Blair Allison

Martin Allsopp, Allsopp & Co inc. AJ Salisbury & Co

Helen Jane Arnold, Benussi & Co

Amardeep Bahia, Mills & Reeve LLP

Andrew Beedham, Clarke Willmott LLP

Jon Bew, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors

Inez Brown, Medical Accident Group Ltd (part of Harrison Clark Rickerbys Ltd)

Kate Charlton, Birmingham City Council

Ravinder Singh Chumber, Rashid & Co

Claire Darley, Higgs & Sons Solicitors

Chaitali Desai, Weightmans LLP

Sarah Dwight, Sarah Dwight Solicitor

Stuart Evans, Birmingham City Council

Ben Henry, Jonas Roy Bloom

Michael Hibbs, Shakespeares

Ravinder Hothi, The Law Society of England & Wales

John Hughes, Shakespeare Martineau

Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom

Mary Kaye, Shakespeare Martineau

Mushtaq Khan, Freeths LLP

Dee Kundi, Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP

Jon Lloyd

Tony McDaid, No5 Chambers

Elaine Mitchell, Mills & Reeve LLP

Chris Owen

Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell LLP

Regan Peggs, Regan Peggs Solicitors

Laura Ralfe, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors

Clive Read, Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP

Eileen Schofield, Schofield & Associates

Arvind Sharma, Tuckers Solicitors LLP

Bernard Shepherd,

Ian Shovlin, Higgs & Sons Solicitors

Lubna Shuja, Legal Swan Solicitors

Linden Thomas, University of Birmingham

Simon Thomas, The Wilkes Partnership LLP

James Turner, Tuckers Solicitors LLP

Denise Watkins, Gordon Jones & Co

Birmingham Law Society Staff

Office Manager: Rebecca Lynch, Tel: 0121 227 8704 / 07554 007347

Professional Services Executive: Elizabeth Dziergas, Tel: 0121 227 8701 / 07809 502852

Membership and Events Co-ordinator: Johanna Sahi-Proto, Tel: 0121 227 8702

Administrative Assistant: Denise Harnett, Tel: 0121 227 8703

The Officers (The Executive Committee)

John Hughes, President
Andrew Beedham, Vice President
James Turner, Deputy Vice President
Inez Brown, Joint Honorary Secretary
Chaitali Desai, Joint Honorary Secretary

The Board

Eileen Schofield, Chairwoman
Ian Shovlin, Vice Chairman & Marketing Director
Dean Parnell, Finance Director
Dee Kundi, Sponsorship & Marketing Director
Laura Ralfe, Sponsorship & Marketing Director
Tony McDaid, Board Director
Ben Henry, Membership Director
Linden Thomas, Liaison Director
Prof. Brenardette Griffin, Director of Education and Training
Mushtaq Khan, Ex Officio as Past President
John Hughes, Ex Officio as President

Consultation Paper Committee

Chairman:
Peter Wiseman
Committee members:
Jayne Willetts, Jayne Willetts & Co

Caroline Coates, DWF LLP
Anthony Collins
Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom
Frances Kirkham
Jon Lloyd
Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell LLP
Dawn Roberts, Headline
Eileen Schofield, Schofield & Associates
Bernard Shepherd, TLP Shepherds
James Turner, Tuckers Solicitors
Michael Ward, Gateley Plc
Jayne Willetts, Jayne Willetts & Co
Peter Wiseman

Think Tank

Chairman:
Andrew Beedham, Vice President
Committee members:
Andrew Beedham, Clarke Willmott

Technical Committees:

Criminal Law Committee

Chairman:
James Turner, Tuckers

Committee members:

Astakhar Ahmed, Ahmed Solicitors
Keith Astbury, Glaisyers LLP
Jonathan Barker, St Philips Chambers
Sukhdev Singh Bhomra, Mandla Bhomra & Co
Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom
Manjinder Kang, Kang Defence Limited
Sean Kyne, Crown Prosecution Service
Derek Larkin
Rachel Norton, Legal Aid Agency

Regan Peggs, Regan Peggs Solicitors
Ravinder Rai, National Probation Service
Arvind Sharma, Tuckers
Ibran Shah, HMCTS
Makhan Singh, Murria Solicitors Limited
Spencer Stephens, Purcell Parker
Ian Vesey, Vesey Solicitors
Simon Walton, The Firm Solicitors LLP
Christopher Woodrow, Birmingham Magistrates Court

Dispute Resolution Committee

Chairman:

Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell

Committee members:

Alison Beard, Lewis Onions Solicitors
Parry Chauhan, Solomons Legal
Simon Clegg, St Philips Chambers
Caroline Coates, DWF LLP
Howard Dean, Keoghs Limited
Paul J Dean, St Philips Chambers
Gavin Faber, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
Robin Humphreys, Whatley Weston & Fox
Gurmeet Jakhu, Hamilton Pratt
Sarah Kenyon, Mills & Reeve LLP
Mushtaq Khan, Freeths LLP
Matthew Lake, Weightmans LLP
Karen Levesley, Gateley LLP
James Modley, Shoosmiths LLP
District Judge Musgrave,
Birmingham Civil Justice Centre
and Birmingham Family Court
Simon Thomas, The Wilkes Partnership LLP
James Woolstenhulme, Shakespeare Martineau

Education & Training Committee

Chairman:

Prof. Bernardette Griffin

Committee members:

Chaitali Desai, Weightmans LLP
Elizabeth Dziergas, Birmingham Law Society
Catherine Edwards, BPP University
Stuart Evans, Birmingham City Council
Oliver Geidel, Christine Lee & Co
Jay Lutwyche, Eversheds LLP
Jennifer Nicholson, Shakespeare Martineau
Janet Wright, The University of Law
Paul McConnell, University of Leicester
Alastair Willcox, Solicitors Regulation Authority

Employment Law Committee

Chairman:

Michael Hibbs, Shakespeare Martineau

Committee members:

Ed Beever, St Philips Chambers
James Boyd, Kings Chambers
Kate Charlton, Birmingham City Council
Martin Chitty, Wragge & Co LLP
Jonathan Coley, Pinsent Masons LLP
Charles Crow, No5 Chambers
Ranjit Dhindsa, Hill Hofstetter
Victoria Duddles, Weightmans LLP
Andrew Faux, Cornwall Street Chambers
Victoria Garrad, Gateley LLP
Sarah George, St Philips Chambers
Jog Hundle, Mills & Reeve LLP

Mugni Islam-Choudhry, No5 Chambers
Alan Jones, Averta Employment Lawyers LLP
Tim Jones, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
Patrick Keith, Cornwall Street Chambers
Sarah Pugh, The Employment Solicitor
Richard Santy, Mills & Reeve
Eileen Schofield, Schofield & Associates
Omer Simjee, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Charles Rae, Shoosmiths LLP
Ian Wilson, EEF Ltd.
Tracy Worthington, FBC Manby Bowdler LLP

Family Law Committee

Chairman:

Claire Darley, Shakespeare Martineau

Committee members:

Grant Bird, Blair Allison Family Law Solicitors
Stephanie Brown, No5 Chambers
District Judge Stephen Gailey
Russell Hobbs, No5 Chambers
Mary Kaye, Shakespeare Martineau
Robin Lewis, St Philips Chambers
Mark Mansell, St Philips Chambers
Karen Moores, Sydney Mitchell LLP
Jayne Mullen, St Ives Chambers
Cathy Price, Price Mistry Ltd Solicitors
Allison Roberts, Birmingham Civil Justice Centre and
Birmingham Family Court
Marc Saunderson, Mills & Reeve LLP
Sukhwinder Singh, Birmingham City Council Legal Services
Sally Stephens, Cafcass
Clare Wiseman, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors

International Law Committee

Chairman:

Tony McDaid, No5 Chambers

Committee members:

Sandra Astbury, No5 Chambers
Gavin Byrne, University of Birmingham
Victoria Callicott, Eversheds LLP
Mandy Haque, Birmingham Airport
John Hughes, Shakespeare Martineau
Darren Kenny, DWF LLP
Bernard Shepherd, Clark Brookes Turner Cary



Property & Development Committee

Chairman:

Clive Read, Veale Wasbrough Vizards LLP

Committee members:

Leenamari Aantaa-Collier, Shakespeare Martineau
Martin Allsopp, Allsopp & Co incorporating AJ Salisbury & Co
Victoria Ball, Trowers & Hamlin
Kate Davies, Trowers & Hamlin
Sarah Dwight, Sarah Dwight Solicitors
Simon Hayden, Enoch Evans
Steve Kelway, formerly Coventry District Land Registry
Roger Lloyd, formerly Birmingham City Council
Digby Morgan, Trowers & Hamlin
Bernard Shepherd, TLP Shepherds
Neil Stockall, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
Anthony Verduyn, St Philips Chambers
Denise Watkins, Gordon Jones & Co
Geoffrey Wood, Coley and Tilley

Personal Injury Committee

Chairman:

Inez Brown, Medical Accident Group Ltd (part of Harrison
Clark Rickerbys Ltd)

Committee members:

Sarah Corser, Shoosmiths LLP
Philippa Craven, Kennedys
Philip Edwards, Clarke Willmott
Angela Fitzpatrick
Sarah Kenyon, Mills & Reeve LLP
Peter Mulhern, Thompsons
Paul Nicholls, Nicholls Brimble
Andrew Shaw, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
David Tuck, Weightmans LLP
Chris Wiggin, Berryman's Lace Mawer LLP
Annmarie Wilde, Coley and Tilley
Michael Wingrave, No5 Chambers

Pro Bono Committee

Chairman:

Linden Thomas, University of Birmingham

Committee members:

Michael Bates, Birmingham Community Law Centre
Sophie Brambley, Linklaters
Sam Burns, The University of Law
Lucy Burrows, BPP University
Anne-Marie Dhillon, LawWorks
James Dixon, No5 Chambers
Nicola Ellen, Shoosmiths LLP
Louise Foy, Shakespeare Martineau
Imogen Francis, Shakespeare Martineau LLP
Lorna Gavin, Gowling WLG
Abigail Halcarz, Shakespeare Martineau
Katherine King, Central England Law Centre

Iqbal Mohammed, St Philips Chambers
Amber Nixon, DLA Piper UK LLP
Emma Noble, Mills & Reeve LLP
Alice O'Donoghue, Mills & Reeve LLP
Laura Oseland, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Laura Ralfe, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Katie Rothwell, Gowling WLG
Amy Tabari, Gowling WLG
Mark Taylor, Eversheds Sutherland
Ellie Williams, Higgs & Sons
Michael Young, Shakespeare Martineau

Student Committee

Chairman:

Laura Ralfe, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors

Committee members:

Chaitali Desai, Weightmans LLP
Simon Everington, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Ben Henry, Jonas Roy Bloom
Julie Jenkins, BPP University
Sonya Smith, Birmingham City University
Patrick Wisheu, Mills & Reeve LLP
Janet Wright, The University of Law
Student representatives from BCU, BPP, The University of
Law and University of Birmingham

Report of the Joint Honorary Secretaries

During the past year the Society has addressed a wide range of issues for our members together with a number of projects. The Society and its committees have been active in responding to a number of consultation papers produced by the Government including matters relating to: the Land Registry consultation process on privatisation; proposed small claims court fees; proposed removal of damages for soft tissue injury such as whiplash; MOJ's proposed transformation of the justice system and Lord Jackson's proposed review of extending fixed recoverable costs for civil matters etc.

The national Law Society Council Member Representatives have regularly reported to Council during the year. As a result we have managed to maintain an effective dialogue between the two associations ensuring that effective measures are taken to support and represent the views of the profession. One of the key discussions has been the proposed Governance Review of the National Law Society to which we eagerly anticipate the final decision.

We are proud to have arranged and hosted a variety of events including: the Annual Pro Bono Networking Event; a very successful 'Meet the Judges' event organised by the PI Committee; An afternoon with The Right Honourable Sajid Javid MP; the National Local Law Societies Conference that was held in Birmingham for the first time. The 2017 President's Dinner. The long awaited Brexit Seminar; Lord Jackson's Roadshow on proposed reforms to fixed recoverable costs; The House of Commons Reception and the outstanding Legal Awards Dinner 2017.

Council meetings have continued to be lively with debates/discussions on important topics from key

individuals relevant to the profession, its developing business partnerships and the region. These discussions have continued to encourage and strengthen existing relationships between the legal profession and key organisations. Such speakers at Council have included: John Clancy, Leader of Birmingham City Council; David Jamieson, Police & Crime Commissioner for West Midlands; Darren Cox, Ombudsman and Kathryn Stone, Chief Ombudsman; Julie Brannan, Director of Education & Training at the SRA; Jon Cottrell, Corporate Co-ordinator of Midlands Air Ambulance; Robert Bourns, President of the national Law Society and Robert Khan, Director of Public Affairs of the national Law Society.

After 5 years of investigations and planning, the good news concerning the Society's premises on Temple Street, is that a tenant has been found who will shortly be signed up to a 25 year lease. For the first time in the history of our Society we will be financially sound and in addition own the freehold of a fully refurbished building with a respected tenant in situ and a building valuation many times more than when the sub-committee began their work on this project." Council really appreciate the hard work of the sub-committee together with our advisor, Ed Jones to whom we owe a debt of gratitude.

You will no doubt agree that it has been a busy year for the President; Joint Honorary Secretaries and Officers of the Society. However, it has also been an enjoyable and fruitful year with all Officers providing continued support and commitment. Membership continues to increase and it is currently the largest regional Law Society. It is in a very strong position to meet the challenges and opportunities of the forthcoming year and looks forward to the continuing engagement with members and representing their views in the ever changing regional, national and global legal environment.

Inez Brown,
Joint Honorary Secretary



Chaitali Desai,
Joint Honorary Secretary





Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 26th April 2016

The Council has pleasure in presenting the 197th Annual Report of the proceeding of the Society.

Officers

At the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 26th April 2016, Mr John Hughes was installed as President of the Society, Mr Andrew Beedham as Vice President and Mr James Turner as Deputy Vice President. Mrs Inez Brown and Mrs Chaitali Desai were installed as Joint Honorary Secretaries.

Board

Mrs Eileen Schofield was installed as the Chair of the Board of the Society.

Council

The retiring ordinary members of the Council were:
Olwen Dutton, Monica Kapur, Jon Lloyd, Dean Parnell and Linden Thomas.

The ordinary members of Council who were nominated for re-election pursuant to Article (62) were:
Dean Parnell and Linden Thomas.

Those ex officio members retiring were:
Prof. Bernardette Griffin and Ann Houghton

The following members of the Society were duly nominated for election to the Council pursuant to Article (61):
Regan Peggs



EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consultation Paper Committee

This has been another busy year for consultations across the board with the specialist committees responding with some truly excellent contributions. It is always welcome to mark a success and this year the accolade goes The Land Law Committee who argued convincingly against the privatisation of The Land Registry. The Government's proposals were deeply flawed and have been shelved, at least for the time being. As usual the Criminal Law Committee has been busy on a variety of issues including sentencing guidelines and streamlining the court system whilst the Employment Committee tackled some of the thornier issues surrounding loss of pension rights and the gender pay gap. The Dispute Resolution and the Personal Injuries Committees have been wrestling with the highly contentious problems surrounding the next round of Jackson proposals for extending the fixing of recoverable costs.

The magnum opus for this Committee has been the SRA consultation, 'Looking to the Future' which is an important part of the regulatory reform programme and sets the scene for the Regulator's proposals for the simplification of the practice rules. Under the guise of addressing access to justice issues, should many of the proposals be adopted there would be clear risks associated with enabling lawyers to operate outside a regulated professional framework. If ever there were a recipe for causing confusion in the minds of the public and putting them at risk, this is it. As has been pointed out elsewhere, the SRA is repeatedly confusing the public interest, which always has to be of paramount importance, with consumer interest.

With the proposals for the Solicitors Qualifying Examination with which the Education and Training Committee has taken issue in its critical response and the prospect of the SRA having yet another attempt at reducing the compulsory level of PII, one cannot help but have grave misgivings about where the Regulator seeking to take the profession.

As ever I am indebted to Jayne Willetts for her wisdom and input. The Committees put in a great deal of effort into their responses in order to shape proposals that are all too often ill-judged. It is to the credit of our members that the local profession is engaged in such painstaking work for the public good. It is unheralded. They are truly unsung heroes.

Peter Wiseman, Chair,
Consultation Paper Committee



Think Tank

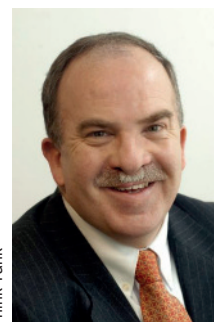
The Society is privileged to have the continued support of its Past Presidents who meet quarterly as our Think Tank under the Chairmanship of the Vice President.

For the last couple of years the Think Tank has focused its efforts on planning the celebrations for the Society's 200th birthday celebrations which start in January 2018 and continue through next year. As a result of their guidance and support we have a really exciting 2018 ahead. The year starts with a service at the Cathedral on 11th January 2018 and the social highlight will be the President's Dinner in the Autumn which will be a suitably grand affair as befits a bicentenary!

But perhaps the centrepiece will be the publication of our BLS 200 book which is being authored by Sally Hoban under the watchful eye of Peter Wiseman and Anthony Collins. That will explore the history of the Society in the context of changes in Birmingham, the professions, the world of office work and in society over the last 200 years. It promises to be of genuine interest to lawyers, social historians and the public. The materials from the book will form an exhibition that will be staged in a number of locations around our patch during the year.

So the Society extends its gratitude to the Think Tank for all their efforts so far and their continued support in the coming year.

Andrew Beedham, Chair,
Think Tank





Criminal Law Committee

Over the past year the Criminal Law Committee has continued to work to build and maintain relationships with all the major stakeholders in the criminal justice system. The last year has seen increased engagement with the Crown Prosecution Service with regular meetings with the Chief Crown Prosecutor and her deputies to resolve issues arising from the implementation of digital working. The watch phrase of the last year has been “Better Case Management” and we have seen the implementation of the Digital Case System in Crown Court proceedings. Digital service of prosecution disclosure and increasing reliance on secure e-mail has brought new challenges for many practitioners, particularly against a backdrop of continuing cuts to public funding.

We reflect on a year in which a vast amount of time, effort and expense was poured into bidding for Duty Provider Contracts. Birmingham Law Society opposed the implementation of those contracts and we were pleased to see them ultimately scrapped. However, we regret the expense of time and effort lost to practitioners which might have been avoided had the Ministry of Justice actively listened to the concerns we raised at an earlier stage.

Birmingham Law Society has supported and complemented the work of other practitioner groups including The Law Society, CLSA and LCCSA. A measure of success was achieved when the Government reversed the second of two 8.75% cuts to public funding. Although the return of that cut has been narrowly avoided there are two consultations afoot which will see cuts imposed by another method.

Over the last twelve months the committee has responded to consultations regarding:

- Litigators Graduated Fee Scheme
- Advocates Graduated Fee Scheme
- Transforming our Justice System: reforms consultation
- Sentencing: reduction in sentence for a guilty plea
- Consultation on preserving and enhancing the quality of criminal advocacy
- Criminal Procedure Rules Committee: Proposal regarding use of live links and telephone conferencing.

We continue to meet the Senior Presiding Judge, Recorder of Birmingham, Chief Crown Prosecutor and Chief Constable to represent the interests of the Society's members.

James Turner, Chair,
Criminal Law Committee



It has been a pleasure to chair the committee and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee members for their hard work and support.

Dispute Resolution Committee

The main focus for the Dispute Resolution Committee has been Lord Justice Jackson's review of extending the present civil fixed recoverable costs regime in England and Wales to more types and areas of litigation. LJ Jackson will be providing a report of this review to the Master of the Rolls by 31st July 2017.

The Dispute Resolution Committee provided a submission to LJ Jackson on behalf of Birmingham Law Society to this proposal. In addition, the Chair of the Committee attended an event with LJ Jackson which was held at St Philips Chambers on 16th March 2017 and he raised some of the concerns outlined within the submission. Whilst the Committee does not have any objection to fixed costs being applied to certain types of litigation it is very concerned about having fixed costs being applied to a wide range of commercial disputes especially in relation to those higher value cases. Without significant investment in the Courts which would include a more streamlined litigation process, specialist judges and more proactive (and constructive) case management (which would all be designed to reduce the amount of work expected of legal practitioners) it is unrealistic to expect legal practitioners to do the same amount of work for less money.

The Committee also feels that any fixed cost regime should have realistic fixed fees (applied at different stages), should allow for costs sanctions to be imposed by any party acting unreasonably or tactically (where it is clear that the intention is to generate more work for the opposing party which will then apply costs pressure to that party as the costs incurred are likely to exceed the recoverable fixed costs) and it should provide a mechanism where one or both of the parties can opt out of the fixed fee regime if it is found that the case is more complex than originally thought to be the case.

Any introduction of a new fixed costs regime should initially be a voluntary process and this voluntary system should operate for a number of years (in order to assess and fine tune the process) prior to making any such system mandatory. The Committee is aware that it is proposed that Manchester Mercantile Court will operate a pilot

Dean Parnell, Chair,
Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)





EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

scheme (believed to be for 2 years) where the fixed costs regime will be a voluntary opt in system. Whilst the Committee welcomes the fact that such a pilot scheme would be voluntary for a 2 year period the Committee is of the view that the majority of commercial disputes that are conducted in the Mercantile Court are unlikely to lend themselves to a fixed costs regime.

If any members would like a copy of the Committee's submission on the Fixed Costs review then please contact Becky at the BLS office.

Education & Training Committee

The Education and Training Committee has been busy this year with various activities. In 2016/17 we welcomed Janet Wright (The University of Law) and Catherine Edwards (BPP University) as new members to the committee.

The Education and Training Committee has been involved with the following this year:

The committee has been busy responding to a number of SRA consultations in relation to the Training for Tomorrow whereby the SRA is reviewing and putting in place changes to the education and training of future solicitors. This has taken up a lot of committee members' time during the year and the committee has concentrated its time, efforts and knowledge in responding to a number of SRA consultations on this area over the last two years. This year the committee has responded strongly to two assessment competence consultation papers. The first consultation paper received over 200 negative responses which is the largest response to a SRA consultation paper, and the majority were negative responses. The SRA, therefore, produced a second consultation paper with amended proposals. The proposals are still not satisfactory as we believe the proposals will affect the standing of the profession nationally and internationally. Whilst we welcome a common approach and diversity of qualification, some of the methods of assessment and the impact on the profession are open to question and BLS feels that the integrity of our profession may be being threatened.

Once again, in March we held our Schools Careers Forum where we provide interactive sessions for Year 12 students from schools within the region to obtain more knowledge of the law and what happens in Birmingham in relation to the legal profession. It was very well received by students and

their teachers. We had a panel of professionals from the wider legal career market, solicitor, trainees, and a barrister, Chambers Chief Clerk, Graduate Recruitment Manager and Legal Executive to discuss their experience and answer questions in a very exciting speed networking part of the programme.

The BLS Debating competition for the regional universities has been underway since October 2016 and the final is at the end of March. This is an exciting event for the students as they are judged by a panel chaired by the President of BLS, a QC from No5 Chambers and a QC from St Philips Chambers, and two Birmingham solicitors.

The committee has also inputted into an Apprenticeship event held to update members on the new apprenticeship schemes and how apprentices can benefit a legal organisation.

The aim of the committee is to ensure we respond to and represent the views of BLS members, keep everyone up-to-date on new education/training initiatives, and input into new developments.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the committee for their support throughout the year.

Employment Law Committee

The Employment Law Committee met monthly throughout 2016 to consider proposed and active changes to the law and to assist the profession with liaison with interested organisations.

We have been joined by James Boyd (Kings Chambers) and Sarah Pugh (The Employment Lawyer) during the year otherwise membership is the same.

We have invited Acting Regional Employment Judge Findlay and the Regional Director of ACAS, Malcolm Boswell, to meetings; they both provided insight and updates in their respective areas.

We planned to hold an event with the Employment Judiciary but for various reasons that did not take place in 2016 and will hopefully do so in 2017.

2016 was a year in which there were further substantial Consultations by the government. The committee has endeavoured to respond to most relevant consultations, sometimes with very short lead times. In total the



Bernardette Ginn, Chair
Education & Training Committee



Michael Hibbs, Chair
Employment Law Committee



EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

committee responded to 12 papers. This was only achieved by input of significant hours by members of the committee outside meetings, and the intelligent and detailed forensic debate by members during meetings.

Debate during the year also has included Tribunal Judgements being delayed and a perceived unwillingness of the Tribunals to provide written reasons.

Meetings have been well attended. The Chair would like to express his thanks for the continued support, enthusiasm and exceptional hard work of the Vice Chair and other committee members.

Family Law Committee

The Committee is a true collaboration of all professionals working in the family justice system in Birmingham and its regions.

The themes of the Committee's focus have been:

- The significant increase in the number of applications relating to children which have been issued at courts across the Midlands Circuit;
- The streamlining of the court's administration in terms of the payment of court fees; the e-filing of applications; and to have all files involving the local authority's cases involving children in a digital format;
- Birmingham Litigants in Person Advice Scheme, providing free legal advice for people involved in a family court case was launched on the 20 September 2016;
- On the introduction of services. For example, DNA testing being offered by Cafcass;
- Further, the streamlining of court documents and new formats being made available for the terms of court for cases involving children;
- Guidance has been produced for the first time by the court to lay persons regarding the court's approach relating to financial claims arising on divorce;
- The response time of the court to applications and court hearings.

Birmingham Family Court is now designated as the Midlands Hub for Court of Protection work. In March this year, Birmingham Family Court was visited by Sir James Munby, the President of the Family Division.

Claire Darley
Chair, Family Law Committee



The Specialist Financial Remedy Unit at Birmingham Family Court, led by District Judge Ingram continues to retain five specialist judges to ensure that judicial time is appropriately allocated according to the complexity of cases.

International Committee

The BLS International committee pressed further ahead with its commitment to provide interesting and thought provoking seminars for BLS members and the wider business community with two standout seminars receiving rave reviews.

The first event was on 25th May 2016 at the offices of KPMG focusing on a possible Brexit entitled "To leave or not to leave... that is the question" where speakers in favour of leaving were John Longworth and James Carver MEP with the case for remaining put forward by Professor Trybus and Malcom Harbour CBE.

The next maximum capacity event was kindly hosted by Birmingham Airport looking at the liberalisation of the legal market in India entitled "is the gateway to India about to open"

The shadow of BREXIT still looms large and in the wake of the Supreme Court case the International committee were pleased to have Manjit Gill QC (No5 Barristers Chambers), who successfully opposed the Governments plans for a swift Brexit without returning to the house, take another full house through the intricacies of the case and the next steps forward. Other speakers included Ramby de Mello (No5 Barristers Chambers), Birmingham Law Society (John Hughes) and University of Birmingham (Professor Robert Lee)

We are actively looking for new members to join our committee who feel they are able to contribute to our efforts and indeed come up with ideas including ideas on new jurisdictions where it is felt there is an opportunity for BLS firms to generate business and further enhance the reputation of our great city.

Tony McDaid
Chair, International Committee





EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personal Injury Committee

The objectives of the personal injury committee are as follows:

- To update Birmingham Law Society's membership on issues connected with personal injury/clinical negligence matters;
- To respond to relevant consultation papers on behalf of BLS;
- To inform the wider legal community and members of the public (as relevant) outside BLS membership;
- Liaison with the local judiciary on substantive and procedural matters connected to personal injury/clinical negligence cases;
- To be a hub for information for the membership

Inez Brown became the new Chair of this committee in April 2016; following in the successful shoes of Caroline Coates. During 2016/2017, the committee met to discuss the ongoing reforms and consultations in relation to personal injury/clinical negligence cases. The Committee submitted Responses to the following consultations: proposed small claims court fees; proposed removal of damages for soft tissue injury such as whiplash; MOJ's proposed transformation of the justice system; Lord Jackson's proposed review of extending fixed recoverable costs for civil matters.

The committee meet bi-monthly and includes a good mix of solicitors representing claimants and defendants ensuring that a balanced view is always taken. It is particularly useful as a forum for practitioners to discuss the practical implications of the changes to these areas of law.

In summer 2016 we hosted a round table discussion with members of the local judiciary. We were particularly delighted to welcome HHJ McKenna, Circuit Judge in addition to 5 fellow Judges. The discussion was wide ranging and an excellent opportunity for both practitioners and judges to exchange views on recent reforms, the way costs budgeting is operating and what practitioners can do to ensure the courts run smoothly. We were pleased that dispute resolution practitioners also attended this event.

Inez Brown, Chair
Personal Injury Committee



Committee members attended Lord Jackson's Roadshow on his Review of the Fixed Recoverable Costs Regime on 16th March. There was a good turnout both from members of the Judiciary, Barristers and solicitors. The seminar concentrated on fixed recoverable costs in the Mercantile Court as 2 Pilot Schemes will commence in London and Manchester in July. Lord Jackson seemed to welcomed discussion and proposals from the floor.

The Committee's goal is to continue to discuss any issues that impact this area of law and to be able continue to inform the wider legal community and members of the public. 2017 promises to be yet another busy year in the personal injury and clinical negligence.

Pro Bono Committee

The Pro Bono Committee's objectives continue to be to: support; promote; signpost; and raise the profile of pro bono work amongst BLS members and the local community.

The Committee hosted and participated in a number of events in 2016, including:

- a roundtable event hosted in conjunction with The Citizenship Foundation to promote opportunities to engage in public legal education;
- Birmingham's first Lawyers against Poverty event with Oxfam;
- a focus group with representatives from the local third sector to consider means of providing employment law pro bono assistance; and
- a meeting with The Law Society to feed into the development of the new Pro Bono Charter.

Throughout the year, several committee members contributed to the Law Society's Pro Bono Manual which was launched during National Pro Bono Week and, in the same week, we welcomed Joss Saunders, General Counsel for Oxfam, to speak about international pro bono work to BLS members.

A particular highlight of the last 12 months has been the committee's work to raise £25,000 of financial support from local law firms to provide funding for two trainee solicitors at Birmingham Community Law Centre (BCLC) under the Legal Education Foundation's Justice First Fellowship scheme. Eversheds Sutherland, Gowling WLG, Hogan

Linden Thomas, Chair
Pro Bono Committee





EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lovells, Mills & Reeve and Shakespeare Martineau – have pledged financial support for the two-year training contract terms, which will help ensure BCLC can continue to provide free legal advice on matters including welfare benefits, immigration, housing, community care and public law. The balance of the training costs will be covered by the Legal Education Foundation.

If you would like to know more about pro bono opportunities in Birmingham, or if you have any pro bono good news stories that you would like to share on our pro bono notice board in the Birmingham Bulletin please do not hesitate to contact the committee at:
probono@birminghamlawsociety.co.uk

Property & Development Committee

Brexit notwithstanding, it was a busy year for the Committee.

Government policy has had an impact on activity levels with the introduction of an additional 3% SDLT levy impacting on residential conveyancing activity for second home owners and the buy to let markets. Commercially, activity around the city has held up, following a slight hiatus leading up to and in the immediate aftermath of Brexit. Business still needs to go on and this is very evident in Birmingham and the region, with cranes across the city in regular attendance from HSBC, to Paradise Circus, via 3 Snow Hill, and at the old Nat West Tower. The city continues to attract developers keen to invest in residential development.

The Committee was kept busy by the continued proliferation of Consultation Papers but the big news was the government's decision not to proceed with the Land Registry privatisation: a victory for our and many others' lobbying against an idea whose rationale was a fund-raising for the government coffers at the expense of due diligence and protection of the best principles of the Land Registry and security of data for all.

Throughout the year we were privileged to be joined by a series of guests who disseminated their collective wisdom for the benefit of the profession. Guests included Lizzie

Cooke, Principal Judge of the First Tier Tribunal, Land Registration division of the Property Chamber; representatives from risk specialists Equilibrium Security, who provided pro-active preventative advice on cyber-security; and BLS sponsors TitleSolv who reported on the benefits of insurance to manage title and other risks.

Student Committee

The committee comprises of:

- Laura Ralfe (Chair / Irwin Mitchell LLP)
- Ben Henry (Jonas Roy Bloom LLP)
- Julie Jenkins (BPP)
- Sonya Smith (BCU)
- Janet Wright (The University of Law)
- Patrick Wisheu (Mills and Reeve LLP)
- Simon Everington (Irwin Mitchell LLP)
- Gavin McLeod (St Philips Chambers)
- Chaitali Desai (Weightmans LLP)
- Plus student representatives from each local university

We are always willing to hear from any BLS members who would like to join our committee and one of the priorities over 2017/18 will be to encourage those practitioners who are enthusiastic about helping students reach their ambition of a career in law, to join the committee.

We continue to enrol new student members to our ranks, with the new student intake of Birmingham City University and the University of Law being automatically subscribed each year, sponsored by their institutions. BPP Law School has signed up their Legal Apprenticeship Students.

During 2016 the Committee participated in the following events:

- Presentations about the benefits of membership of BLS
- Presentations on 'real issues' that affect lawyers within Birmingham
- Provided the 'Suits in Action' talks which comprised of talks from paralegals, solicitors and barristers.
- Student member invite to a special Brexit talk
- Coverage in the BLS Bulletin

We will be continuing the very successful annual football tournament, but this has been pushed back to later in 2017 due to pitch and student availability.

Clive Read, Chair,
Property & Development Committee



Laura Ralfe, Chair,
Student Committee





EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

We continue to raise our profile through social media and in particular, the Birmingham Law Society Twitter account for students.

We intend to (1) appoint a deputy chair and secretary to the committee (2) continue to host relevant and useful events in 2017, to include the football tournament and the tours of firms and chambers.

Learning and Development

The Birmingham Law Society learning and development had another very challenging year in 2016. It proved to be a somewhat difficult year due to the adoption of the Competence Statement by the SRA in early 2015 and its associated outcomes. Our prices have stayed the same for the last six years and some were lowered to encourage attendance. We were faced with continuous steady interest in online bookings suggesting that our marketing is still working as intended. Regardless of the pressures we are facing, learning and development has continued to provide members with a first class CPD training programme which last year included the extremely well-received and ever so popular "National Local Law Societies Conference". This was held at Aston Conference Centre and supported by over 100 attendees from all over the country, a very successful Probono event with Joss Saunders at Gowling WLG.

To maintain a niche in the market and to continue to provide even better value for money, learning and development has worked tirelessly with Professor Bernardette Griffin - Director of Education and Training, the committees, expert speakers, sponsors and corporate partners to research the current needs of our members and to tailor training programmes to a very different market. The abolition of compulsory 16 hours of CPD for solicitors does not mean that there is no need for training and personal development. We continue to offer a wide range of morning and evening seminars, half day workshops, lunch & learn events as well as conferences, debates and symposiums. This past year we tested the new combination courses based on Management Course Stage 1 and additional online benefits to members by working together with Kinch Robinson in providing a selection of introduction webinars available through our website at discounted prices. This progress has strengthened the choice of our offering.

Birmingham Law Society's comprehensive website, after two years of customisation of a new CRM system, is proving to be one of our strongest connections with members allowing further interaction. Learning and development constantly strives to provide high standard quality and value for money. Additionally, our easy and appealing online booking systems for seminars and events has been working well allowing online payments. This, as well as the continuously growing LinkedIn group and Twitter followers, make for very important and stronger social channels and instant communication which is very much welcomed by all members.

Learning and development continues to be actively involved in providing guidance and support for the new incoming generation of lawyers by organising court visits for Newly Qualified members. As a member of the Education and Training Committee I can also confirm that this year's "Apprenticeship event" organised by Catherine Edwards and BPP University, "Careers in Law Forum" and "Debating Competition", kindly hosted respectively by The University of Law and Squire Patton Boggs, are growing from strength to strength.

May I take this opportunity to thank all our members for their continuing generous support by allowing us to use their venues throughout 2016. It has made a tremendous difference to the quality of training we are able to offer.

And last but not least may I extend my thanks to Professor Bernardette Griffin for her always positive and sunny attitude, unconditional love and passion for learning and development and the Society which shone through every project we worked on, and willingness to assist me with invaluable knowledge and experience in providing the best available training to members throughout all the years we worked together. You will be greatly missed.

Elizabeth Dzlergas,
Learning & Development





ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2016.

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the company continues to be the provision of facilities for members in accordance with the purposes as set out in the Memorandum of Association.

Directors

The directors who held office during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

M Allsopp	(Resigned 26 April 2016)
A Beedham	(Resigned 26 April 2016)
D Kundi	(Appointed 28 April 2016)
V Duddles	(Appointed 28 April 2016)
B Griffin	
A Henry	(Resigned 26 April 2016)
B Henry	
J Hughes	(Resigned 26 April 2016)
T McDaid	(Appointed 28 April 2016)
C Owen	(Resigned 26 April 2016)
D Parnell	
L Ralfe	(Appointed 28 April 2016)
E Schofield	(Appointed 28 April 2016)
I Shovlin	
L Thomas	

Shares of the company

The Society is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital divided into shares. Each member guarantees during their membership and for one year after membership ceases, a sum of up to £10 to the Society in the event of a winding up order.

Auditor

In accordance with the Society's articles, a resolution proposing that JW Hinks LLP be reappointed as auditor of the Society will be put at a General Meeting.

Statement of disclosure to Auditor

So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware. Additionally, the directors individually have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor are aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

D Parnell

Director

30 March 2017



DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Directors' responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

We have audited the financial statements of The Birmingham Law Society for the year ended 31 December 2016 set out on pages 6 to 22. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditor

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 3, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the companies circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2016 and of its surplus for the year then ended;

- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit, the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements, and the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the Directors' Report and take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Neal Aston ACA ACCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of JW Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
and Registered Auditors
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 3BH

30 March 2017


INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	Notes	2016 £	2015 £
INCOME		141,191	164,654
Administrative expenses		(173,025)	(216,997)
Other operating income		<u>22,711</u>	<u>22,773</u>
OPERATING DEFICIT	3	(9,123)	(29,570)
Interest receivable and similar income	5	4,122	4,683
Interest payable and similar charges		(297)	(327)
Amounts written off investments	6	<u>7,211</u>	<u>4,657</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION		1,913	(20,557)
Taxation	7	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	16	<u>1,913</u>	<u>(20,557)</u>

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	Notes	2016 £	2015 £
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		1,913	(20,557)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Adjustments to the fair value of freehold property		776,957	—
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		<u>778,870</u>	<u>(20,557)</u>



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

BALANCE SHEET

31 December 2016

Company Registration No 00005188

	Notes	£	2016 £	£	2015 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8		807,229		32,321
Investments	9		226,659		<u>215,807</u>
			1,033,888		248,128
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	101,358		101,120	
Cash at bank and in hand		13,039		<u>35,181</u>	
			114,397		136,301
CREDITORS: AMOUNT FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR					
	11	(155,972)		<u>(176,294)</u>	
Net current liabilities			(41,575)		<u>(39,993)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			992,313		208,135
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR					
	12		(12,515)		<u>(7,207)</u>
NET ASSETS			979,798		<u>200,928</u>
RESERVES					
Revaluation Reserve	14		776,957		—
Income and expenditure account	16		202,841		<u>200,928</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			979,798		<u>200,928</u>

In accordance with section 444 of the Companies Act 2006 all of the members of the company have consented to the preparation of abridged financial statements pursuant to paragraph 1A of Schedule 1 to the Small Companies and Groups (Accounts and Directors' Report) Regulations (S.I. 2008/409)(b).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 30 March 2017 and are signed on its behalf by.

D Parnell
Director

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2016

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**Company information**

The Birmingham Law Society is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Suite 101, Cheltenham House, 14-16 Temple Street, Birmingham, B2 5BG.

1.1 Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 as applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. The disclosure requirements of section 1A of FRS 102 have been applied other than where additional disclosure is required to show a true and fair view.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Income and expenditure

Operating income and other income is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable net of VAT. The policies adopted for the recognition of operating income and other income are as follows.

When the outcome of a transaction can be established reliably, income for the rendering of services such as subscriptions, post boxes rental and lectures and courses is recognised by reference to the stage of completion at the balance sheet date. Stage of completion is measured by reference to the date of supply of the service rendered.

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend income is recognised as the company's right to receive payment is established.

Expenses are included in the financial statements as they become due.

1.3 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Fixed assets donated to the Society are included as income at an estimate of their market value at the time of receipt.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives to the business at the following rates.

Freehold property

Depreciation is not provided in respect of freehold property.

The directors consider that this policy is necessary in order for the accounts to give a true and fair value because current values and changes in current values are of prime importance rather than the calculation of systematic annual depreciation. Depreciation is only one of many factors reflected in the valuation and the amount which might otherwise have been shown cannot be separately identified or quantified.

Furniture and equipment (owned)

15% per annum on reducing basis.

Furniture and equipment (leased)

20% per annum on straight line basis.

Computer equipment

25% per annum on straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is credited or charged to surplus or deficit.



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2016

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

1.4 Fixed asset investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value through income or expenditure if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

1.5 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset (or cash-generating unit) is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Other financial assets

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in surplus or deficit, except that investments in equity instruments that are not publicly traded and whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are measured at cost less impairment.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets, other than those held at fair value through surplus and deficit, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting end date.

Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows have been affected. If an asset is impaired, the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The impairment loss is recognised in surplus or deficit.



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2016

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

If there is a decrease in the impairment loss arising from an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the impairment is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been, had the impairment not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in surplus or deficit.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the company transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Other financial liabilities

Derivatives, including interest rate swaps and forward foreign exchange contracts, are not basic financial instruments. Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at their fair value. Changes in the fair value of derivatives are recognised in surplus or deficit in finance costs or finance income as appropriate, unless hedge accounting is applied and the hedge is a cash flow hedge.

Debt instruments that do not meet the conditions in FRS 102 paragraph 11.9 are subsequently measured at fair value through surplus or deficit. Debt instruments may be designated as being measured at fair value through surplus or deficit to eliminate or reduce an accounting mismatch or if the instruments are measured and their performance evaluated on a fair value basis in accordance with a documented risk management or investment strategy.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.8 Taxation

The tax currently payable is based on taxable surplus for the year. Taxable surplus differs from net profit as reported in the income and expenditure account because it excludes items of income or expense that are taxable or deductible in other years and it further excludes items that are never taxable or deductible. The company's liability for current tax is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting end date.

Deferred tax represents the future tax consequences of transactions and events recognised in the financial statements of current and previous periods. It is recognised in respect of all timing differences, with certain exceptions. Timing differences are differences between taxable surpluses and total comprehensive income as stated in the financial statements that arise from the inclusion of income and expense in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in the financial statements. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable surpluses.

Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date that are expected to apply to the reversal of timing differences. Deferred tax on revalued non-depreciable tangible fixed assets and investment properties is measured using the rates and allowances that apply to the sale of the asset.



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2016

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

1.9 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.10 Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases whenever the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessees. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Assets held under finance leases are recognised as assets at the lower of the assets fair value at the date of inception and the present value of the minimum lease payments. The related liability is included in the balance sheet as a finance lease obligation. Lease payments are treated as consisting of capital and interest elements. The interest is charged to the income and expenditure account so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

Rental income from operating leases is recognised on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease. Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging an operating lease are added to the carrying amount of the leased asset and recognised on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2. OPERATING DEFICIT

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from the sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3. OPERATING DEFICIT

	2016	2015
	£	£
Operating deficit for the year is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's financial statements	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>

4. EMPLOYEES

The average monthly number of persons (excluding directors) employed by the company during the year was:

	2016	2015
	Number	Number
Management and administration	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

None of the directors of the Society have received any remuneration during the year ended 31 December 2016 (2015: £nil).

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2016

5. INTEREST RECEIVABLE AND SIMILAR INCOME

	2016	2015
	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income includes the following:		
Income from other fixed asset investments	<u>4,118</u>	<u>4,508</u>

6. AMOUNTS WRITTEN OFF INVESTMENTS

	2016	2015
	£	£
FAIR VALUE GAINS/(LOSSES)		
Change in value of financial assets held at fair value through income or expenditure	<u>7,211</u>	<u>4,657</u>

7. TAXATION

The Society has taxation losses of approximately £384,000 (2015: £410,000) carried forward and available for set off against any future operating surplus but not against investment income or property income.

A deferred tax asset in respect of the taxation losses carried forward has not been recognised on the grounds that there is insufficient evidence that the losses will be recoverable in the foreseeable future. In the event that it is possible to forecast the availability of sufficient taxable profits, a deferred tax asset will be included in the financial statements. The estimated value of the deferred tax asset recognised, measured at a tax rate of 20% (2015: 20%) is £77,000 (2015: £82,000).



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2016

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Furniture, computers and equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1 January 2016	23,043	18,692	41,735
Revaluation	776,957	–	776,957
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2016	800,000	18,692	818,692
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
DEPRECIATION AND IMPAIRMENT			
At 1 January 2016	–	9,415	9,415
Depreciation charged in the year	–	2,048	2,048
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2016	–	11,463	11,463
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
CARRYING AMOUNT			
At 31 December 2016	800,000	7,229	807,229
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2015	23,043	9,278	32,321
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The net carrying value of tangible fixed assets includes the following in respect of assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts.

	2016 £	2015 £
Furniture, computers and equipment	2,676	3,441
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation charge for the year in respect of leased assets	765	382
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Freehold property with a carrying amount of £800,000 was revalued at 31 December 2016 by the directors on the basis of market value following the receipt of suitably qualified advice from a third party not connected with the Society.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2016

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued

	2016 £	2015 £
Cost	23,043	23,043
Accumulated depreciation	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Carrying value	<u>23,043</u>	<u>23,043</u>

The revaluation surplus is disclosed in note 14.

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2016 £	2015 £
Investments	<u>226,659</u>	<u>215,807</u>

This investment forms part of the proceeds received from the sale of the Society's collection of antiquarian and/or text books. An ordinary resolution passed on 23 November 2000 by the Society provided that the net proceeds (excluding any interest earned thereon) should only be used for capital expenditure purposes.

The authority conferred on the Officers of the Council by the above resolution was subsequently extended to allow the net proceeds to be used for additional purposes provided that such authority is exercised with prior approval of the Council of the Society and such terms are subject to such conditions as the Council may specify.

MOVEMENTS IN FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Investments other than loans £
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1 January 2016	215,807
Valuation changes	7,211
Movement in uninvested cash	3,641
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2016	<u>226,659</u>
CARRYING AMOUNT	
At 31 December 2016	<u>226,659</u>
At 31 December 2015	<u>215,807</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2016

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2016	2015
	£	£
Trade debtors	73,651	74,684
Other debtors	7,984	10,935
Prepayments and accrued income	19,723	15,501
	<u>101,358</u>	<u>101,120</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Notes	2016	2015
		£	£
Obligations under finance leases		1,274	1,274
Trade creditors		16,093	20,405
Other taxation and social security		4,886	3,063
Deferred income	13	124,200	126,143
Other creditors		806	6,339
Accruals		8,713	19,070
		<u>155,972</u>	<u>176,294</u>

Obligations under finance leases are secured against the assets to which they relate.

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	Notes	2016	2015
		£	£
Obligations under finance leases		597	1,519
Deferred income	13	11,918	5,688
		<u>12,515</u>	<u>7,207</u>

Obligations under finance leases are secured against the assets to which they relate.

13. DEFERRED INCOME

	2016	2015
	£	£
Arising from Deferred income	136,118	131,831
Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:		
Current liabilities	124,200	126,143
Non-current Liabilities	11,918	5,688
	<u>136,118</u>	<u>131,831</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2016

14. REVALUATION RESERVE

	2016	2015
	£	£
At beginning of year	–	81,101
Effect of transition to FRS 102	–	(81,101)
As restarted	–	–
Revaluation surplus arising in the year	–	770
Effect of transition to FRS 102	–	(770)
Fair value adjustment - freehold property	776,957	–
At end of year	776,957	–

15. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

The company is limited by guarantee, not having share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding £10.

16. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2016	2015
	£	£
At the beginning of the year	200,928	139,614
Effect of transition to FRS 102	–	81,101
At the beginning of the year	200,928	220,715
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	1,913	(20,557)
Effect of transition to FRS 102	–	770
At the end of the year	202,841	200,928

The income and expenditure account represents an amalgamation of various sundry funds contributed by members over the years together with surpluses and less deficits arising. The distribution of the income and property of the Society is restricted by the Memorandum of Articles.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2016

17. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Operating lease payments represent rentals payable by the Society for the provision of office accommodation. Leases are negotiated for an average of term of 3 years.

At the reporting end date the company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2016	2015
	£	£
Total outstanding commitments	<u><u>27,999</u></u>	<u><u>7,320</u></u>

**DETAILED TRADING AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	£	2016 £	£	2015 £
INCOME				
Subscriptions		110,303		107,768
Post boxes rental (including Birmingham Letter Exchange)		12,984		15,850
Lectures and courses		17,904		41,036
		<u>141,191</u>		<u>164,654</u>
OTHER OPERATING INCOME				
Rents receivable	20,000		20,000	
Insurance recharges	<u>2,711</u>		<u>2,773</u>	
		22,711		22,773
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		<u>(173,025)</u>		<u>(216,997)</u>
OPERATING DEFICIT		(9,123)		(29,570)
INVESTMENT REVENUES				
Bank interest receivable	4		175	
Income from Stock Exchange listed investments	<u>4,118</u>		<u>4,508</u>	
		4,122		4,683
INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR EXPENSES				
Finance lease interest payable		(297)		(327)
OTHER GAINS AND LOSSES				
Change in fair value of financial assets measured at fair value through income or expenditure		<u>7,211</u>		<u>4,657</u>
DEFICIT BEFORE TAXATION		<u><u>1,913</u></u>		<u><u>(20,557)</u></u>

**SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

For the year ended 31 December 2016

	2016	2015
	£	£
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Wages and salaries	90,848	84,482
Social Security costs	5,102	5,228
Lectures and courses	7,721	17,073
Grants and prizes	600	600
President's Dinner	(10,522)	(1,626)
Public Relations	11,160	5,210
Legal Awards	(31,886)	(27,876)
Computer expenses	7,537	7,410
Premises expenses	67,695	83,513
Other events, travel and associated expenses	(6,679)	648
Professional charges	11,071	13,060
Audit fees	1,200	1,200
Bank Charges	1,457	1,347
Sponsors' advertising regarding Legal Awards	–	6,000
Printing and stationery	3,169	4,178
Telephone and postages	13,597	11,792
Newly Qualified	(1,315)	(540)
Incidentals	222	150
Depreciation	2,048	3,518
(Profit) or loss on sale of tangible assets (non-exceptional)	–	1,630
	173,025	216,997



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The additional information relating to the following prize funds has been prepared from the accounting records of the company. While it does not form part of the statutory financial statements, it should be read in conjunction with them and the responsibilities section of the auditors' report thereon.

	2016 £	2015 £
THOMAS HORTON PRIZE FUND CAPITAL		
Charities Official Investment Fund 283 Income shares at cost	<u>271</u>	<u>271</u>
INCOME		
Interest received during year	128	133
Less: Gold Medal Prize	<u>(250)</u>	<u>(250)</u>
Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account	<u>(117)</u>	<u>(118)</u>
T FOSTER DUGGAN STUDENTS' PRIZE CAPITAL		
£520 5½ % Treasury Stock 2009/12 (redeemed on 9th September 2009)		
Redemption value	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
INCOME		
Interest received during year	-	-
Less: Bronze Medal Prize	<u>(100)</u>	<u>(100)</u>
Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account	<u>(100)</u>	<u>(100)</u>
HERBERT WILLISON PRIZE FUND CAPITAL		
Charities Official Investment Fund		
241 Income shares at cost	<u>250</u>	<u>250</u>
Income balance at beginning of year	2,457	2,457
Interest received during year	<u>109</u>	<u>114</u>
	2,566	2,571
Less: Book Prize	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>2,516</u>	<u>2,521</u>
PETER NICHOLLS PRIZE FUND		
Balance at start of year	-	-
Less: Book prize	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>

Accountant's Report to the members of The Birmingham Law Society

In accordance with your instructions we have compiled the unaudited financial statements set out above from the accounting records and explanations supplied to us.

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
Birmingham

22 March 2017



OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 1818 - 2014

PRESIDENTS:

THOMAS LEE	1818
JOHN MEREDITH	1825
JOHN SIMCOX	1832
ROGER WILLIAM GEM	1833
THOMAS EYRE LEE	1848
CLEMENT INGLEBY	1852
JOHN WELCHMAN WHATELEY	1855
ARTHUR RYLAND	1873
GEORGE JAMES JOHNSON	1874
ARTHUR RYLAND	1876
WILLIAM EVANS	1877
JAMES MARIGOLD	1879
THOMAS HORTON	1882
CHARLES EDWARD MATTHEWS	1885
CORNELIUS THOMAS SAUNDERS	1888
SIR THOMAS MARTINEAU	1888
LAURISTON WINTERBOTHAM LEWIS	1891
JOSEPH BENNETT CLARKE	1893
ARTHUR GODLEE	1895
THOMAS HAWKES RUSSELL	1897
JOSEPH ANSELL	1899
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1901
JOHN BARHAM CARSLAKE	1903
ALFRED POINTON	1906
WALTER BARROW	1908
JOHN GILBERT BRADBURY	1910
ALFRED HENRY COLEY	1912
JAMES HARGREAVE	1914
ARTHUR LABRON LOWE	1916
FRANCIS AUGUST CHATWIN	1918
ARCHIBALD SOMERVILLE BENNETT	1919
JAMES ARTHUR MARIGOLD	1920
EDWARD EVERSLED	1921
THOMAS COOKSEY	1922
CHARLES EKIN	1923
JOSEPH JAMES	1924
FRANCIS HENRY PEPPER	1925
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1926
CORNELIUS HALE SAUNDERS	1927
HUGH BARHAM CARSLAKE	1928
GEORGE HUGGINS	1929
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1930
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1931
SYDNEY VERNON	1932
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1933
WILFRED CLARKSON MATTHEWS	1934
FRANK HENRY CUFAUDE WILTSHIRE	1935
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1937
HERBERT WILLIAM LYDE	1938
JOSEPH THOMAS HIGGS	1939
GEORGE HAROLD WILLCOX	1941
ARTHUR JOHN GATELEY	1943
JOHN FREDERICK WEST	1945
WILLIAM CHARLES COLEMAN GELL	1946
CHARLES ADRIAN ASHFORD ELTON	1947
JOHN FAIRFAX CROWDER	1948
JOHN HENRY SQUIRE ADDISON	1949
GEORGE ARTHUR LYON HATTON	1950
CYRIL HIGHWAY	1950
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	1952
CECIL HAMMOND COX	1953

THOMAS BERNARD SMITH	1954
JOHN ALBERT CALTHROP TAYLOR	1955
PHILIP HORTON VERNON	1956
GEOFFREY MARTEN KING	1957
GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	1958
JOSEPH KENNETH WALKER	1959
RODERICK SYDNEY KING-FARLOW	1960
WILLIAM HENRY TILLEY	1960
JOHN SHUFFLEBOTHAM	1962
FREDERICK WILLIAM WHITALL OAKLEY	1963
CHARLES THOMAS WINTERTON	1964
RICHARD LAURENCE EKIN	1965
GEOFFREY HORACE PIDDOCK	1966
HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS	1967
CHRISTOPHER HEDLEY HARMER	1968
THOMAS HARRY PARKINSON	1969
CHARLES HERBERT LEA	1970
JOHN ATKINSON RUTLEDGE	1970
SYDNEY SOLOMON JACOBS	1972
JOHN TIMOTHY ARTHUR SMITH	1973
JOHN ANTONY ALDERSON	1974
DAVID LIDDELL	1975
WALTER WOOD	1976
DAVID STANLEY ADAMS	1977
ROBERT JOSEPH GARRATT	1978
GEORGE SIEGFRIED JONAS	1979
DENYS ERIC FORDHAM	1980
ROGER HORTON VERNON	1980
ARNOLD MAURICE PUTSMAN	1982
CHRISTOPHER JOHN JAMES	1983
FREDERICK HAROLD TURNER	1984
PETER LESLIE TAYLOR	1985
BRIAN EDWARD GLYNN WILLIAMS	1986
JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON	1987
DAVID HOWARD HIGGS	1988
CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES	1989
PHILIP EDWARD RICHARDSON	1990
CHARLES RODERICK KING-FARLOW	1990
JOHN ADRIAN JAMES AUCOTT	1992
STANLEY BERNARD SHORTT	1993
JOHN MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM	1994
ALBERT WILLIAM HEASELGRAVE	1995
RICHARD DUDLEY CHAPMAN	1996
MICHAEL DAVID HUMPHREY SHEPHERD	1997
MALCOLM GASKELL FOWLER	1998
TREVOR ARTHUR LEE	1999
JAYNE BELINDA WILLETTS	2000
MICHAEL JAMES WARD	2001
ANTHONY RALPH COLLINS	2002
DIANE PATRICIA BENUSSI	2003
STEVEN MICHAEL JONAS	2004
RICHARD THOMAS FOLLIS	2005
PHILIP DUNKLEY STEEL	2006
SUKHDEV SINGH BHOMRA	2007
CAROLINE AMANDA COATES	2008
BERNARD ROBERT MCWALTER SHEPHERD	2009
DEAN CURTIS PARNELL	2010
ANDREW JOHN LANCASTER	2011
MARY DYMHPNA KAYE	2012
EDWARD THOMAS MARTIN ALLSOPP	2013
EILEEN FRANCES MARY SCHOFIELD	2014
MUSHTAQ AHMED KHAN	2015



OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 1818 - 2010

HONORARY SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS:

CLEMENT INGLEBY	1818
WILLIAM REDFERN	1829
ARTHUR RYLAND	1832
THOMAS SMITH JAMES	1835
WILLIAM HARE	1852
CLEMENT MANSFIELD INGLEBY	1853
EDWARD SARGANT	1857
GEORGE JAMES JOHNSON	1865
THOMAS HORTON	1872
ARTHUR GODLEE	1882
THOMAS HAWKES RUSSELL	1889
WALTER BARROW	1897
EDWARD EVERSHED	1903
CHARLES EKIN	1909
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1913
ARTHUR MUSGROVE	1916
WILFRED CLARKSON MATTHEWS	1921
WILLIAM CHARLES COLEMAN GELL	1927
JOHN FAIRFAX CROWDER	1932
JOHN FAIRFAX CROWDER	Joint 1936
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	1945
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	Joint 1946
PHILIP HORTON VERNON	
PHILIP HORTON VERNON	1947
PHILIP HORTON VERNON	Joint 1949
GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	
GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	1955
GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	Joint 1955
HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS	
HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS	Joint 1956
DAVID CHARLES STEVENS	
DAVID CHARLES STEVENS	Joint 1958
MICHAEL PAUL CHETWYND HAYES	
MICHAEL PAUL CHETWYND HAYES	1961
MICHAEL PAUL CHETWYND HAYES	Joint 1967
JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON	
JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON	1968

HONORARY SECRETARIES:

JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON	Joint	1970
JOHN MICHAEL JENNINGS		
JOHN MICHAEL JENNINGS	Joint	1971
ANTONY DERBYSHIRE		
ANTONY DERBYSHIRE	Joint	1972
ROGER HORTON VERNON		
ROGER HORTON VERNON		1976
ROGER HORTON VERNON	Joint	1977
CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES		
CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES	Joint	1978
CHRISTOPHER JOHN JAMES		
CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES	Joint	1980
PHILIP EDWARD RICHARDSON		
PHILIP EDWARD RICHARDSON	Joint	1983
PAUL GRENVILLE PHARAOH		
PAUL GRENVILLE PHARAOH	Joint	1987
JOHN ANTHONY JAMES		
JOHN ANTHONY JAMES	Joint	1988
JOHN MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM		
JOHN MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM	Joint	1991
RICHARD DUDLEY CHAPMAN		
RICHARD DUDLEY CHAPMAN	Joint	1992
MALCOLM GASKELL FOWLER		
JUDITH MARGARET BONEGAL	Joint	1994
PETER DAVID WISEMAN		
PETER DAVID WISEMAN	Joint	May - Sept 2002
STEVEN MICHAEL JONAS		
PETER DAVID WISEMAN	Joint	Sept 2002
MARK JONATHAN BEESLEY		
PETER DAVID WISEMAN	Joint	June 2004
ANDREW RICHARD LEWIS BOND		
ANDREW JOHN LANCASTER	Joint	April 2008
HELEN JANE ARNOLD		
JONATHAN STUART LLOYD	Joint	April 2009
KEITH BROWNE	Joint	April 2010
BERNARDETTE GRIFFIN	Joint	April 2010
ANN MARY HOUGHTON	Joint	Feb 2011

HONORARY TREASURERS

JOHN FRANK LESTER	1970
JAMES EDWARD ROWLEY	1973
KENNETH JOHN WERRING	1977
CHARLES RODERICK KING-FARLOW	1979
CHARLES JAMES BRAGG FLINT	1985
GRAHAM RUSSELL RITCHIE	1986
MICHAEL JAMES WARD	1992
MILTON NICHOLAS PSYLLIDES	1999
ANDREW JEFFREY STILTON	2004
RICHARD STEER	2008
EDWARD THOMAS MARTIN ALLSOPP	2009
JOHN BAILEY HUGHES	2010

CHAIRS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JONATHAN STUART LLOYD	2010
CHRISTOPHER OWEN	2012
EILEEN FRANCES MARY SCHOFIELD	2016



MISSION STATEMENT

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

1. WE ENCOURAGE CLOSER CONTACT BETWEEN MEMBERS THEREBY STRENGTHENING THE REGIONAL LEGAL COMMUNITY

- by providing a programme for members including networking and activity based events;
- by holding public debates/discussions which are important to members;
- by establishing and maintaining effective lines of communication with all members.

2. WE REPRESENT THE PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR MEMBERS

- by direct representations and lobbying to Government, the SRA, The Law Society and other organisations;
- by engaging in consultations;
- by making use of the media.

3. WE PROMOTE THE SOCIETY, OUR MEMBERS AND THE REGION ON THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STAGE

- by ensuring members are aware of the work which is undertaken by the Society;
- by ensuring all Officers, Board Members and Council Members promote the Society and its members whenever speaking to national or international organisations, including during international visits;
- by promoting the international relations the Society has and establishing links.

4. WE ENSURE OUR MEMBERS ARE KEPT UP TO DATE WITH ANY IMPORTANT ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

- by using any and all available means (electronic, seminars, newsletters, correspondence etc);
- by engaging in public debates/discussions with people associated with such changes;
- through training and other educational events.

5. WE RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF LEGAL ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE PROFESSION

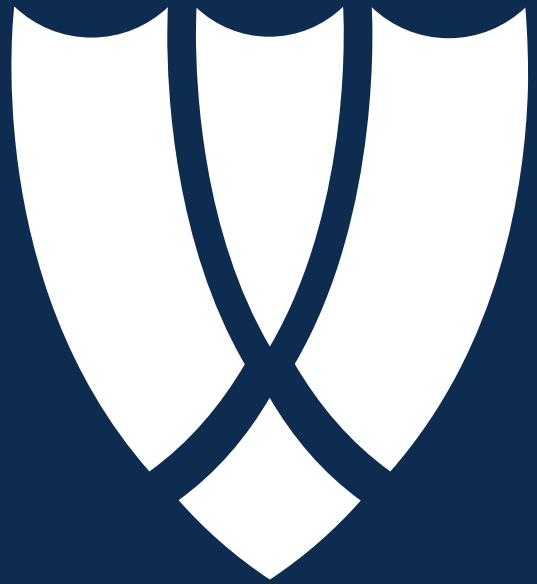
- by promoting the rule of law and access to justice
- by raising issues relevant to the provision of legal services such as Alternative Business Structures, cuts in legal aid, diversity issues in respect of access to the legal profession etc;

6. WE ARE REGARDED AS AN INTEGRAL AND IMPORTANT PART OF BIRMINGHAM AND SURROUNDING REGIONS BY ENSURING CLOSE LINKS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS (BOTH LEGAL AND NON LEGAL) INCLUDING;

- a. national organisations such as The Law Society;
- b. local organisations such as Universities, Chamber of Commerce, Birmingham Forward, Business Voice WM, PINWM etc;
- c. local organisations involved in the administration of justice such as the Judiciary/Tribunals and the Police;
- d. Birmingham Trainee Solicitors Group and Birmingham Solicitors Group;
- e. Pro bono groups and charities.

7. WE CONTINUOUSLY CONSIDER PROVIDING SERVICES THAT BENEFIT OUR MEMBERS.

March 2013



Birmingham Law Society

Suite 101, Cheltenham House
14-16 Temple Street
Birmingham B2 5BG

DX: 13100 Birmingham 1

General Enquiries: 0121 227 8700

email: info@birminghamlawsociety.co.uk

www.birminghamlawsociety.co.uk