



BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY
one profession · one region · one voice

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Linden Thomas, President

Welcome to the Birmingham Law Society AGM 2020. We find ourselves holding this year's meeting in unprecedented circumstances and I hope that as you read this, you, your loved ones and your colleagues are in good health and in good spirits.

When I took over from my predecessor, James Turner, at last year's AGM, I said that what I enjoy most about working with Birmingham Law Society is being part of a community of lawyers. As I approach the end of my year as President, that continues to be the case. Over the last 12 months, I have had the privilege of working alongside countless lawyers who volunteer their time for the benefit of others in our profession and the wider community in which live and work. This spirit of collaboration is the Society's greatest asset. Never more so than in these difficult days where many of us are encountering personal and professional challenges of a kind we have never experienced before.

I am grateful to our staff team, Board members, my fellow Officers and our committee chairs for all they are doing during this period to support our legal community. From providing free online wellbeing workshops for our members, to circulating regular discipline-specific updates that keep our members informed of the latest developments in their areas of law, to lobbying The Law Society of England & Wales to ensure that any issues or uncertainties encountered by our members are addressed at national level where appropriate, that guidance is issued where it is needed and concerns are raised with Government, the regulators and other professional bodies as necessary - Birmingham Law Society has pulled together as a community to address many and varied challenges posed by this pandemic. This work will continue for as long as it is needed over the coming weeks and months. Notwithstanding the situation we now find ourselves in, there has been much to celebrate for Birmingham Law Society over the last year and the AGM is a chance to reflect on what has been achieved.

Despite the cancellations of many events scheduled for March and April, it has certainly been a busy 12 months. Looking back over my diary, I can tell you that, as at the time of writing, my year as President has consisted of: participation in 105 meetings; enjoying 31 lunches/dinners; attendance at 56 other events; and delivery of 25 formal speeches/presentations.

Of course, numbers only reveal so much and I have been reflecting on the many personal highlights I have been privileged to enjoy over the year. A particularly memorable evening for me was our sell-out celebration of 100 years of women in law, held at Marco Pierre White's in June 2019, at which we launched a number of exciting initiatives aimed at addressing the gender imbalance that persists at senior levels of the profession. Those initiatives included our #ThankYou100 video campaign, which produced a piece of living history that has now been added to Birmingham Law Society's archive at the Library of Birmingham; the launch of our mentoring scheme for women which has attracted over 50 mentors and mentees from our membership and the 'Lost to Law' research project launched in conjunction with The University of Birmingham, which explores the reasons why women leave the legal profession.

I have also very much enjoyed the opportunities to promote the Birmingham legal community and the legal excellence we boast in this city, both at home and abroad. As well as being quite possibly the most spectacular party I have ever attended, the Opening of the Paris Bar in December 2019 gave me the occasion to sing the praises of Birmingham lawyers to my counterparts from across the globe. We have



PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

also been flying the flag for the local legal profession closer to home, through renewed links with the West Midlands Growth Company and other professional networking bodies and our continued membership of the Joint V largest regional law societies.

I have been proud to see the Society's work on social mobility go from strength to strength this year, with greater collaboration between members of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion committee, Education and Training committee and Student committee on a number of events and initiatives aimed at opening up the profession in the region to all those with the necessary skill and talent.

Birmingham Law Society has also made great strides over the last 12 months to support our legal community by providing more opportunities to discuss mental health and wellbeing and to challenge the stigma around doing so. In May last year, our staff, Board, Council members and Officers supported the green ribbon campaign to demonstrate the Society's commitment to good mental health. During Mental Health Awareness Week we hosted a thought provoking and informative event, at which members of the legal profession discussed their personal experiences of mental health and experts shared insights into how we can better look after ourselves and one another. There have been regular features in the Bulletin exploring different aspects of managing one's mental health and I am delighted that our lunchtime mindfulness sessions are now a regular feature in the Society's programme of events.

I am also extremely grateful to all those who came together to support this year's chosen charities: Central England Law Centre and Citizens Advice Birmingham. Not only have we raised several thousand pounds for these essential organisations, that work to assist some of the most vulnerable in our community, but through events such as our Stand up for Justice Comedy night, our abseil and Birmingham Law Society's inaugural Hackathon, we have also increased awareness of the work that they do and the challenges they face.

I wish to end by expressing my personal thanks to all those who make this Society what it is. Becky, Denise, Johanna and Natasha in our staff team, thank you for your constant enthusiasm and professionalism. Our Board of Directors, led this year by Regan Peggs, thank you for the time you volunteer and the commitment you each make to ensure the Society functions as smoothly and efficiently as possible. My fellow Officers, Inez Brown, Stephanie Perraton, Chaitali Desai and Sophie Samani, thank you for your support, wise counsel and friendship. Last but not to least, to the many, many other Birmingham Law Society members who have supported me personally and to those have supported the Society in countless ways over the last year, thank you. You make this Society, and our legal community, what it is.

Despite these difficult times, I have no doubt that Birmingham Law Society and the community it represents will endure and, wherever we can, thrive. I look forward to meeting with you all in person again as soon as it is safe for us to do so.

Linden Thomas

President

April 2020



Regan Peggs, Chairman

I am pleased to present the Board's report for the year to 31st December 2019. I took over as Chair from Eileen Schofield in April 2019, and thank her for leaving things in such good shape. For personal reasons, I must resign from the Board, with effect from April 2020. Mine has been a relatively short stint, but very enjoyable. I am pleased to report that Dee Kundi has agreed to take over; she will make an excellent Chair.

At the start of my term, I met with many of our members in order to seek frank assessments of the Society, and the way in which it operates. My thanks to those individuals for their candour; many of their suggestions have been incorporated.

A project begun this year is to begin the process of BLS becoming a charity, if not wholly, then at least part of its operations. Once our profit increases, along with our rental income, this will become more important.

The Society has a number of items of historical and sentimental interest in storage. The Board resolved to allow members to loan items, and some of those are now (at the time of writing) to be distributed. If any members are interested in displaying items in their offices, please do contact the BLS office.

Eileen has been good enough to remain on the Board, and retained responsibility for supervising the property. The property continues to be occupied by Revolución de Cuba. Our relationship remains a good one. We will soon begin to enjoy a full rental income from our tenant. Having seen this through, Eileen has taken the decision to retire from the Board. It would be impossible to overstate the contribution that Eileen has made to BLS over many years, most notably as President and Chair, but also in many other roles. I have seen Eileen put the interests of BLS before those of her own business on many occasions. We all owe her a great deal.

Prof. Bernardette Griffin remained as Vice Chair, and has been invaluable. Bernadette insists on resigning in April 2020, having stayed a year longer than she might otherwise have done. I would like to thank her for her assistance. I know we would all like to thank Bernadette for her extremely long service to the Society. Ben Henry has agreed to become Vice Chair, as well as retaining his current responsibility.

Karen Bailey joined us as our HR and Equality and Diversity director in April 2019. It will surprise no one that Karen has been every bit as forthright as I had hoped. Karen soon found herself having to recruit a replacement for Liz Dziergas, who moved on. We now have Denise Harnett in that position, and a new recruit Natasha Keen in Denise's old role. Karen has been keen to ensure that E&D are taken into account in everything we do. Those of us who have been present at Board Meetings (and indeed at Council) will know that she has been fearless in pursuing this. At the same time, our EDI committee has been extremely energetic; there have been a number of successful and well attended events organised by the sub-committees this year.

Caroline Coates remained in post as our Membership Director. She and her sub-committee conducted a thorough review of our membership structure and rates. This review was extremely delicate. It is to Caroline's considerable credit that the integrity of the new system is such that we have received no murmurs of discontent. The review of the



REPORT FROM THE BOARD

subscription levels concluded that a wholesale change of the basis for subscription rates was not appropriate at this time but that a small rate rise was necessary as there had been no increase for several years. Some additional smaller changes were introduced to bring consistency to the charging rates, receiving unanimous approval from Council and Board. Membership has continued to increase, including new members from the bar and universities.

Laura Daly, Dee Kundi and Tony McDaid remained in post as Sponsorship and Marketing Directors. Theirs is a particularly demanding role, to which they have both brought real determination. PJ Ellis joined as an additional Sponsorship and Marketing Director in April 2019. PJ's many contacts were introduced to the Society, to its benefit as well as theirs. Unfortunately, PJ is unable to remain in post, and resigns with effect from April 2020. Together, this crack team, and of course the formidable Becky, raised £95,986.

Catherine Edwards continued to steer Learning and Development. Catherine has taken the decision to step down from the Board, following her move to Keele University. I know she will remain committed to BLS. Her time as a director has been challenging, and Catherine's stewardship has secured a future for this important aspect of the Society's role. Catherine is to be replaced by Luke Mason, of Birmingham City University. Luke has a number of exciting ideas, which we will all look forward to seeing.

Ben Henry has continued in post as Finance Director. Ben's report is separate to this one; it is merely necessary to thank him here for his hard work and patience.

As ever, the Board has been ably supported by the office team, headed by Becky Lynch. It has, at times, been a difficult year for the team. I would like to thank them for their forbearance and professionalism. Becky, Denise, Johanna, Nigel – and now Natasha – are a credit to the Society. We are lucky to have them.

I am sad to be leaving the Board, but do so knowing that it is in good shape. I look forward to remaining on Council, and hearing about future successes..

Regan Peggs

Chair

April 2020



Ben Henry, Finance Director

Despite these uncertain times we all face at present, I am pleased to present the Society's audited accounts for the year ending 31/12/19, which should give reassurance to members about our financial position last year and going forward.

Due to the way that the AGM is being held this year, I thought it would be helpful to issue this report together with the accounts by way of introduction to that document, and to provide a short executive summary of the figures appearing therein and as to the present position.

The Annual Accounts

There are a number of aspects of the accounts which deserve greater explanation than appear in that document, and I do so below:

1. The core income to the Society (principally subscriptions and training course fees) has increased to **£134,887** (2018: £120,471) this year. This is a tribute to all that has been done by many individuals and committees to increase membership and exposure of BLS during 2019.
2. We remain in our phase of discounted rental receipts from our tenants at Temple Street, and this year received rental income of **£50,443** (2018: £99,329).
3. Our operating costs reduced from last year to **£197,402** (2018: £237,607). (It should be noted that last year was a more expensive year than usual, due to all that was involved in the Bicentenary celebrations; that said, we budget carefully each year to try to keep expenditure as low as possible.)

4. We made an operating loss of **£7,887** in 2019 (2018: loss of £12,675). When we factor in the rent reduction of almost £50,000 on the year before was actually a satisfactory result, and indicates that provided expenditure remains stable, profits should be far more substantial when the rental income increases to £86,000 p.a. in 2021 and £150,000 p.a. in 2022. Moreover, but for the effect of a payment in respect of irrecoverable VAT¹ being required, there would have been an operating profit of over £1,000.
5. The valuation of the premises at Temple Street has fallen (of which, more below) to **£1,760,000** from £2,580,000.
6. Investments rose in value to **£252,080** (2018: £220,481).

The Temple Street premises

It will be seen that the Temple Street premises has shown a reduction in value in these latest accounts, which is disappointing, but we do not consider should be cause for particular concern.

¹ This payment does not arise every year, can only be performed retrospectively, and depends upon a detailed analysis of each year's VATable income and expenses, meaning it cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty. In 2019 it was £9,243 (2018: £12,224). Two important points arise: one, we now factor the potential for irrecoverable VAT payments into our budget given that it has arisen in the last two years in a row; and two, we have just confirmed that no such payment is required in 2020.



In 2018 we commissioned a full detailed valuation of Temple Street which provided a valuation figure of £2,580,000 (itself a reduction on the 2017 figure which had not been based on a full valuation at that time). The current valuation of £1,760,000 is a desktop valuation. It is worth setting out the comments of our valuers and property managers, Bruton Knowles, who provided the most recent valuation to the auditors, and which gives greater insight into the figure arrived at:

We fully appreciate that this figure is notably lower than that reported in April 2019. The market has changed in the intervening period with retail property suffering significant falls in average value. Whilst licensed property investments have not suffered as badly as other high street investments, investor sentiment has seen a softening of yields, with the commensurate reductions in value which result.

In addition, we note that the onset of Covid-19 has apparently exacerbated this trend in Q1 of 2020, specifically as venues have had to close, putting rental income at immediate risk. It is too early to determine what the medium- to long-term effects of the current restrictions will be and we would recommend a further review approximately 3-months after the premises have reopened for trading

The economic outlook is uncertain generally, and this has necessarily had an effect on the value even though the valuation date is as at 31/12/19. Set against that, it should be remembered that the premises was valued in 2016 at £800,000 before the decision to let it commercially, and the current value is still more than double that. We are also contracted to receive £3.1 million in rental income as a minimum during the remainder of the lease. I would therefore suggest that whilst the carrying value of the building in the accounts will rise and fall from time to time, it remains a solid investment with good returns, and the

decision to let the premises and all the hard work associated with it remains an astute one, and one which will enable us to maintain a position of financial strength for many years to come.

Outlook

Despite the difficult times we are in, we remain positive about our finances in the short-and medium-term. As with all businesses at this time, our auditors were required to consider carefully our ability to continue as a going concern in light of present unprecedented conditions. The auditors agreed that we remained a going concern, and no qualification was required to the accounts.

In updating the auditors on our views on viability we confirmed that much of our subscription income had already been collected, we still hoped to host our flagship legal awards later this year, we would access all available government support and funding, and we were keeping a careful eye on our expenditure. We are pleased that the auditors agreed we remained a going concern in these difficult times.

Ben Henry
Finance Director
20 April 2020

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SOPHIE SAMANI - Henderson & Jones, 0121 312 0571

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

Sponsorship & Marketing Director - PJ Ellis - Lightbox, 0121 630 2750

Membership Director - Caroline Coates

Learning & Development Director - Catherine Edwards - Keele University, 01782 732 000

HR / Equality & Diversity Director - Karen Bailey - Bailey Wright & Co, 0121 270 1566

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

Board Director - Eileen Schofield - Schofield & Associates - 01564 739 103

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Ex Officio as President - Linden Thomas - University of Birmingham, 0121 414 5780

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Ravinder Hothi, The Law Society of England & Wales

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Lisa Jones, Arden Chambers

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Pardeep Lagha, Gateley

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Priya Tromans, St Ivs Chambers

James Turner, Tuckers Solicitors LLP

Denise Watkins, Gordon Jones & Co

Poppy Wilkinson, Gateley

Joe Wilson, St Philips Chambers

Peter Wiseman

Birmingham Law Society Staff

Head of Operations: Rebecca Lynch, Tel: 0121 227 8704 / 07554 007347

Training & Events Executive: Denise Harnett, Tel: 0121 227 8703

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

Administrator & Events Assistant: Natasha Keen, Tel: 0121 227 8701

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Stephanie Perraton, Deputy Vice President
Chaitali Desai, Joint Honorary Secretary
Sophie Samani, Joint Honorary Secretary

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Laura Daly, Sponsorship & Marketing Director
P J Ellis, Sponsorship & Marketing Director
Caroline Coates, Membership Director
Catherine Edwards, Learning & Development Director
Karein Bailey, HR / Equality & Diversity Director
Tony McDaid, Board Director
Eileen Schofield, Board Director

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District Judge Richard Lumb
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Simon Thomas, The Wilkes Partnership LLP
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Mandy Haque, Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce
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Michael Li, DWF Law LLP
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Johanna Sahi-Proto, Birmingham Law Society
Bernard Shepherd, BES Shepherds
Linden Thomas, University of Birmingham Law School

Sophie Kernthaler, Barclaycard
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Katie Fennel, Central England Law Centre
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Louise Foy, Hughes Paddison
Imogen Francis – Shoosmiths
Lorna Gavin, Gowling WLG
Laura Golightly, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
Cheryl Green, University of Law
Abigail Halcarz, Shakespeare Martineau LLP
Julia Jones, Bevan Brittan

Student Committee

Chair:

James Farmer, Cornwall Street Barristers



REPORT OF THE JOINT HONORARY SECRETARIES

It has been yet another memorable year for the Birmingham Law Society as we continue to grow from strength to strength. Hot off the back of the Society's bicentenary celebrations, the year began with energy and momentum with Linden Thomas taking up the role as President for our Society, supported by Inez Brown as Vice President, and Stephanie Perraton as Deputy Vice President.

We have arranged a number of successful events this year that are too many to list here, some that a regular feature in the Society's calendar, and some new and exciting additions. The key highlights have included the "Stand up for Justice" comedy night at the Birmingham Rep, the Annual Dinner at the Birmingham University Great Hall, the BLS Hackathon, and what has now become an annual sporting event - "It's A Knock Out". The Society team, being the winners of last year's competition, returned in an effort to retain their championship title, however it was not meant to be and the crown was passed to worthy opponents Citizens Advice Birmingham (also one of the President's charities for the year).

These events are run in addition to the many excellent training courses for professionals, lunchtime seminars and breakfast networking events throughout the year, which would not have been possible without the support and hard work of the Society's office team.

The Society's regular monthly council meetings continue to be regularly attended, with many guest speakers also joining in discussion throughout the year, such as Simon Davis, President of The Law Society, and John Crabtree, Chair of the 2022 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee. These meetings remain a forum for lively debate and discussion about those issues directly affecting the Society and its members.

The Society and its committees have been active in responding to a number of consultation papers produced by the SRA and Government including matters relating to assuring advocacy standards, flexible working and family-related leave and pay policies, proposals to reduce ill health-related job loss, sentencing for offenders with mental health conditions or disorders, fixed recoverable costs in civil litigation and leasehold

home ownership exercising the right to manage. These and many more are a testament to the hard work invested by the Society and its committees to ensuring the city's professionals are heard at the highest level.

Revolution De Cuba's tenancy of the Society's premises on Temple Street has been going well and the business has been a valuable addition to Birmingham's local bars and restaurants. The Society's former premises was also awarded a History Plaque by the Birmingham Civic Society.

Whilst we do not wish to dwell on the Covid-19 pandemic, this unprecedented event has led to our Society coming together to support our members, colleagues and friends during this difficult time. Whilst we write this report we are still in the early stages of the lockdown, however it is clear that this has forced us to make significant adaptations and changes to our ways of working. The Society is keen to ensure that the work that we do in the profession continues. To that end, for the first time, the President successfully chaired the March 2020 Council meeting remotely by Zoom, including an electronic vote for the contested positions for Deputy Vice President.

All in all it has been another exceptional and busy year for the President, Joint Honorary Secretaries and Officers of the Society. Our membership base continues to increase and Birmingham Law Society remains the largest regional Law Society in the country. The Society's Officers, Council and Office team continue to ensure we remain in a strong position to build upon the successes of this year and meet the challenges that the changing legal climate may present.

Finally, this report is the last one for Sophie Samani and Chaitali Desai as Joint Honorary Secretaries as we hand over the reins to Pardeep Lagha and Stephanie Brownlees to continue to support the President, Board and the Office team. It has been a pleasure and an honour to represent the Society in our role, and we have no doubt that Pardeep Lagha and Stephanie Brownlees will continue to ably support the Society as it goes forward into the future. We wish them all the best in their new role.

April 2020

Chaitali Desai,
Joint Honorary Secretary



Sophie Samani,
Joint Honorary Secretary





Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 30 April 2019

The Council has pleasure in presenting the 200th Annual Report of the proceeding of the Society.

Officers

At the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 30th April 2019, Ms Linden Thomas was installed as President of the Society, Mrs Inez Brown as Vice President and Ms Stephanie Perraton as Deputy Vice President. Ms Chaitali Desai and Ms Sophie Samani were installed as Joint Honorary Secretaries.

Board

Mr Regan Peggs was installed as the Chair of the Board of the Society.

Council

The retiring ordinary members of the Council were:
Martin Allsopp, Steven Jonas, Dee Kundi and Elaine Mitchell.

The ordinary members of Council who were nominated for re-election pursuant to Article (62) were:
Lubna Shuja

There ex officio members retiring were:
John Hughes

The following members of the Society were duly nominated for election to the Council pursuant to Article (61):
Stephanie Brownlees, Claire Crawford, Mariyam Harunah, Ben James, Pardeep Lagha, Greg Lawson, Alice Kinder, Steven Reed, Lubna Shuja, Zoe Smith and Poppy Wilkinson.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consultation Committee

This is my first report as Chair of the Consultation Committee, Peter Wiseman having retired during 2019 as Chair after many years of invaluable service – thank you Peter. We have persuaded Peter to remain as a Committee member so we can continue to tap into his inexhaustible seam of knowledge and professional judgment.

This year we welcome to the Committee three new members - Stephanie Brownlees of Eden Legal Services, John Whitehouse of Gowling WLG and Philip Steel, Past President of BLS in addition to our Deputy Vice President Stephanie Perraton.

The Committee is responsible both for responding directly to professional regulation consultations – from the SRA, LSB, LeO, SDT and, occasionally, the Ministry of Justice – and for assisting with specialist consultation responses by the Society's other professional committees. Copies of all responses are published on the BLS website.

In 2019, BLS submitted responses to 25 consultation papers. I single out Mike Hibbs and the Employment Committee for particular praise. They responded to five Government consultation papers over the summer holidays. As a result, my knowledge of sexual harassment, flexible working and neo-natal rights has increased exponentially.

Special mention must also be made of the Criminal Law Committee. As a result of their response to the Government proposals for court reforms, the Chair of the Committee was invited to give oral evidence to the Justice Select Committee, yet again demonstrating the value of responding to consultation papers and ensuring that the voice of the Birmingham legal community is heard.

Criminal Law Committee

As my first year as chair of the Criminal Law Committee draws to a close, it is good to reflect on the Committee's achievements during the period. I am conscious of the fact that I stand on the shoulders of giants: previous committee

chairs Regan Peggs, James Turner and Steven Jonas continue to play an active role in the Committee and they have made it easy to step into the role and to build upon their many successes. The Committee boasts a strong core membership who contribute to its work: I thank them for their time and hard work over the past year.

I experienced something of a baptism of fire as Committee chair, being invited to give evidence to the Commons Justice Select Committee in May 2019, a few weeks after succeeding my predecessor, Regan Peggs. I gave oral evidence on the topic of HMCTS reform, speaking to the Committee's excellent written consultation response (for which other Committee members deserve full credit). It was a testament to the influence of Birmingham Law Society on the national stage.

Through the year, the Committee has gone on to respond insightfully to other consultations issued by the Ministry of Justice, SRA and the Sentencing Council. It is currently engaging with the Ministry of Justice in its multifarious legal aid consultation, which we hope marks a watershed after decades of underfunding criminal legal aid. Time will tell.

The Committee has also benefited from the revival of the Local Criminal Justice Board and the energy brought to it by the Police and Crime Commissioner's office. The Committee has a place on the LCJB to speak on behalf of BLS's criminal law practitioners. This has strengthened and built upon the Committee's long tradition of inter-agency collaboration, as it gives the Committee access to senior decision-makers within the local criminal justice system. In practical terms, this collaboration has seen improvements in the triage court system in the Birmingham Magistrates' Court, and increased uptake of Mental Health Treatment Requirements to assist our most vulnerable clients in the criminal courts.

Dispute Resolution Committee

The Dispute Resolution Committee ("DRC") has had a busy and productive year. I took over the position of chair from Dean Parnell, who had stepped down after being chair for the DRC for many years. Dean has been instrumental in introducing a number of events and initiatives for dispute resolution lawyers in Birmingham and the surrounding areas. It has been hard to follow in his accomplished footsteps for 2019/2020.

Jayne Willets, Chair,
Consultation Paper Committee



Matt O'Brien, Chair,
Criminal Law Committee



Sophie Samani, Chair,
Dispute Resolution Committee





COMMITTEE REPORTS

For 2019/2020 the DRC has gone through a period of change, with many new committee members joining and other long-standing members moving on. The DRC is supported with a broad spectrum of committee members from lawyers to the bar all coming with varying degrees of experience and ideas. I would like to thank our members for their dedication and commitment for 2019/2020 and for their commitment for all that 2020/2021 will bring.

I would also like to thank Tobias Haynes, who has ably supported me in his role as Deputy Chair for the DRC. His passion and commitment for the DRC and its initiatives has been a significant contributor to the energy the DRC possesses.

I have actively encouraged our DRC members to bring issues and items for discussion and action. This has led to DRC members implementing their own initiatives, such as contacting the CPR committee to propose changes and revisions to a couple of rules.

In terms of initiatives that the DRC have been involved in:-

- We have invested considerable time in analysing the fixed cost proposal consultation in detail and in responding to the same. We recognised the potential risks that the introduction of fixed recoverable costs could bring, not just to the profession but to access to justice for our clients as well.
- We have also been working with Mazars (which is an initiative brought to the DRC by Dean Parnell), who have put on a series of accountancy seminars which is specifically targeted at issues and areas that commercial lawyers will often come across in practice. Mazars have an excellent forensic accountancy team, as such it has been a pleasure to work with them to bring their knowledge and expertise to Birmingham Law Society members.
- Raising the profile in respect of alternative options to ADR. As a committee we feel that mediation is not always the right choice for litigants (especially for lower value claims) and we have been discussing, exploring and promoting ADR options such as early neutral evaluations and expert determinations. This is an ongoing project and one where we have been liaising with members of the judiciary to garner support.

For 2020/2021, we will expect to hear more feedback from the disclosure pilot and also a response in respect of the

fixed costs consultation. Aside from issues affecting procedure and practice, the DRC is also looking to put on an event in the later part of this year with the Business and Property Courts.

Employment Law Committee

The Employment Law Committee met monthly during 2019 to consider changes and proposed changes to the law and to liaise with interested organisations.

Throughout the year many new members joined us, namely Neelam Afzal (Wildings), Kam Bains (Make UK, formerly EEF, as a replacement for Ian Wilson), Sophie Garner (St Phillips Chambers), David Sykes (Averta, to replace Rachel Broughton), James Tait (Browne Jacobson) and Jennifer Wright (University of Law). Members who retired were Rachel Broughton to take up an appointment as an Employment Judge, Sarah George (St Phillips Chambers) and Ian Wilson (Make UK).

2019 saw a substantial number of Government consultations on employment law. The Committee considered and responded to almost all of them, being ones where we could provide relevant views and opinions. We spent many hours discussing and debating the consultation papers and preparing, refining and submitting 10 separate responses, most of which were detailed and lengthy.

We also welcomed as guests Regional Employment Judge Monk and the Regional Director of ACAS, Malcolm Boswell plus others with an involvement in employment law. All guests provided informative insights and updates in their respective areas.

In November we organised and hosted a panel discussion involving three Employment Judges from the West Midlands Region. The event was popular with BLS members and feedback was excellent. We plan to host this again in 2020 together with a Question Time style event in conjunction with the Employment Lawyers Association.

Our meetings have been well attended throughout the year and I would like to thank our members for their enthusiasm and hard work. Our number of new members is perhaps testament to the interest shown in our Committee.

Catherine Edwards, Chair
Education & Training Committee



Charlie Rae, Chair
Employment Law Committee





COMMITTEE REPORTS

I take this opportunity to single out, for thanks, Michael Hibbs and Mugni Islam-Choudhury. In January this year they stood down as Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, having undertaken those roles for 9 and 6 years respectively. We are very grateful to their hard work and are delighted that both will remain actively involved as Committee members. Victoria Duddles and I have taken on the roles and we look forward to continuing the good work of the Committee going forwards.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

The role of the EDI committee is to increase the understanding and awareness of the issues affecting those groups with characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010 and developing practical ways of addressing those issues.

The committee is divided into the following sub-committees:

Disability
Gender
LGBT+
Race/ethnicity
Religion
Social mobility

Age, being something that everyone shares, is considered across all groups.

Many events and activities that took place in 2019 – 2020, some of which are as follows:

- BLS's first official contingent at Birmingham Pride. We look forward to even greater participation whenever the 2020 event takes place.
- The Gender sub-committee organised the 100 years of Women in Law event at Marco Pierre Whites, which was very extremely well attended and informative. It was a real celebration of the achievements of women in the legal profession over the last 100 years as well as an inspiration for what can be achieved in the future.
- The Disability sub-committee co-ordinated an insightful and thought-provoking panel discussion on the issues facing those working in the profession with disabilities or being a carer for someone while working in the legal profession. The evening was most enlightening and a great success.

Karen Bailey, Chair
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee



- Extensive use was made of social media to celebrate Black History Month with daily postings of celebrated and inspirational black lawyers throughout the month.
- The Raising Aspirations in Law event (RAIL – putting young lawyers on the right track) was held at Aston University. Organised by the Social Mobility Committee this enabled law students from various institutions to network with employed lawyers to learn more about the practice of law and gather tips for entering the profession.

The nature of the committee means that there are always a number of issues that need to be considered, but it was good to see that a large part of the year was celebrating the centenary of women's entry into the legal profession.

The committee and subcommittees are blessed with energetic and enthusiastic members who are committed to improving EDI within the profession through events and other methods of information sharing, collaborating with each other and other committees of BLS as necessary. Therefore, expect more interesting, innovative, uplifting, thought-provoking and inspiring events in 2020/2021.

Family Law Committee

A highlight over the last 12 months was the Family Law Conference on the 18 October 2019 held at 3PB Chambers. We had a record number of delegates attending the conference. We were joined by Sir Andrew McFarlane, the President of the Family Division. We had an excellent line-up of speakers to include Sir Michael Keehan, the Family Division Liaison Judge for the Midlands, Vanessa Meachin QC, Nicholas Allen QC, Richard Hadley, Barrister at Law No.5 Chambers, and Professor Lisa Webley of the University of Birmingham.

The conference was chaired by His Honour Judge Robin Rowland, Circuit Judge and Deputy High Court Judge and the lead Judge for the Financial Remedies Court for the West Midlands. The President highlighted the theme of the well-being of the profession and all those working in the family justice system.

In January's meeting, we focused on the "Well-being Protocol" Judge Thomas had introduced at the Court User's Group Meeting shortly beforehand. The key points of Judge Thomas' report related to safeguarding the wellbeing of parties in court proceedings in Birmingham. The main guidelines that have been introduced to improve

Claire Darley
Chair, Family Law Committee





COMMITTEE REPORTS

the working practices for all professionals have included the following. For court hearings to take place between 10am and 4:30pm with an absolute cut off at 5pm, unless agreed beforehand; an expectation that there will not be a reliance of a lack of response to emails outside of working hours; in terms of court bundles, only materials that are relevant to that specific hearing should be included and documents kept concise and short as possible; new templates for social workers and court advisors are to be implemented and draft orders should be agreed and sent to the court at the hearing where ever possible to improve efficiency and accuracy and promote good planning and organisation.

We are planning a seminar in the autumn on the topic of “Well-being” to see we are 9-12 months on from the Conference – albeit the focus will inevitably now be the remoteworking practices we have had to develop apace, following the onset of covid-19 over the last three weeks. Following the Prime Minister’s announcement on the 16 March 2020, almost all court hearings have taken place remotely. There has been an urgency for the advancement of IT in our processes. According to the “Remote Access Family Court” document issued by Mr Justice McDonald - over the last three weeks, 86% of cases have taken place by telephone and other hearings taking place by Skype for Business, Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Lifesize. This must-read document can be accessed from the following hyperlink:

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/The-Remote-Access-Family-Court-Version3-Final-03.04.20.pdf>

Another “must-read” is the document the court service have produced known as “Family Business Priorities” outlining the court’s priorities in terms of work the court will do during the current pandemic which can be accessed from the following link, along with guidance for online applications that can be made.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878144/Ops_update_-_family_court_business_priorities_6_April_2020_FINAL.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=

International Committee

The role of the BLS International Committee is to promote BLS to a global audience and where able to do so encourage relevant overseas visitors to visit Birmingham rather than the historical bias of London only. This last year

in terms of visitors has been a little bit stop start with delegations from Latin American , China and Japan pulling back from visits or informing us too late in the day of their visit to the UK.

We have had continued to keep a watchful eye on Brexit where we had for the last few years held lively debates on the topic and we expect to hold more going forward now we know the direction of travel.

Most of our efforts over the last 12 months have been centred around the once in a lifetime opportunity that the Commonwealth Games will bring to the region. I am pleased to report that The Commonwealth Lawyers Association have agreed in principle to hold a legal conference in Birmingham immediately prior to the commencement of the games. Our committee are working with a number of parties including the Commonwealth Games Committee to make sure this happens and late last year John Crabtree former Senior Partner of Wragges and now Chair of CWG Organising Committee addressed Council on the opportunities for BLS members.

We will be updating the membership as things progress.

Membership Committee

The membership committee aims to ensure that the Society delivers on the objectives of being a members’ organisation by retaining existing members, targeting new members and considering the criteria for membership and subscription rates.

During 2019/20 a review of the subscription levels concluded that significant changes to the subscription model was not appropriate at this time but that a small rate rise was necessary as there had been no increase for several years. Some additional smaller changes were introduced to bring consistency to the charging rates, as approved by Council and Board. Membership has continued to increase including new members from the bar and universities.

For the next 12 months, the committee will continue to focus on subscription rates and delivering value for money for the Society’s members.

Tony McDaid
Chair, International Committee



Caroline Coates, Chair,
Membership Committee





COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 Birmingham Law Society members and the local community.

Our highlights of the year include:

- Sharing information about the pro bono projects in Birmingham to assist members to understand Birmingham's existing pro bono initiatives and to help all members identify opportunities for collaboration and cooperation.
- Maintaining a database of local advice agencies and pro bono services, providing signposting for members of the public.
- Expanding the committee to welcome more lawyers.
- Hosting an event during National Pro Bono Week 2019 with the theme "Breaking down the myths of pro bono". The evening included a keynote speech from Birmingham City Councillor Sharon Thompson.
- Welcoming a range of guest speakers to committee meetings to share pro bono opportunities and good practice.
- Teaming up with the Birmingham Pro Bono Network, an online platform set up with the aim of getting lawyers and professionals in Birmingham talking about pro bono.
- Working with LawWorks to provide training to lawyers around the city on a range of pro bono topics.

If you would like to know more about pro bono in Birmingham, or if you have any pro bono stories to share please contact the committee at:
probono@birminghamlawsociety.co.uk

Property & Development Committee

I accepted the role of Chair of the BLS Property and Development Committee last year following in the footsteps of Clive Read which was a hard act to follow as Clive had been an excellent Chair for 5 years. In his last

12 months there had been a plethora of Consultation papers that Clive and the Committee had been involved in. The Government decided they would continue with the theme in my year and more Consultations were presented to the Committee.

Our first consultation of the year was on Reinvigorating Commonhold property as an alternative to Leasehold. Commonhold was introduced some years ago but was not favoured by the Mortgage institutions. A lively discussion was held concerning the Law Commission's consultation paper on Commonhold. Some members of the Committee felt the paper was 'pro Commonhold' and 'anti-leasehold' and there was a general consensus that Commonhold should not replace the leasehold system entirely, or, at least that it should be phased in. There was unanimous agreement that the current leasehold system should be improved and some of the proposals in one of the Law Commission's other recent paper on improving the process for lease extensions and enfranchisement will go some way towards that, albeit with caveats. The Law Commission have now acknowledged in their Consultation Paper the difficulties faced in converting to Commonhold. Following the Consultation on Commonhold the Committee were presented with a further Consultation from the Law Commission in respect of Right to Manage in an effort to simplify the process for owners of Leasehold properties to exercise their own Management Company and manage their own properties. The Consultation looked at areas of uncertainty and costs to be incurred as well as many other pros and cons.

The Committee were pleased to be able to assist Birmingham City council with a more local consultation on a Statement of Community involvement which aids with the decision making in Planning and minimum standards for consultation on new policies and planning applications within the City.

In May 2019 the National Law Society in conjunction with BLS held a Property Conference for the second year. I had the privilege of representing the BLS Property Committee. Topics discussed included Land Registry delays and inconsistency, continuing problems with Japanese Knotweed and updates on new regulations from the SRA and proposed Third Party accounts. The Conference was a success and National Law Society is hoping to make this an annual event. I also attended a Conference held at The Vox to report back to the Committee on topical Property issues.



Mark Taylor, Chair,
Pro Bono Committee



Denise Watkins, Chair,
Property & Development Committee



COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committee have received regular updates from experts on the Property Committee including Case Law, Construction Law and Planning.

We have encouraged speakers from businesses that assist property such as Landmark search reports and other areas of risk and Thirdfort a company who help with Anti Money Laundering checks.

One of the big issues that the Committee have been discussing recently is the proposal of Reservations Agreements for property transactions. A meeting was arranged with National Law Society to obtain the views of National and what action has been taken to involve BLS with the progress of the Agreement and shaping future policies in this area. The Agreements are still being considered.

There have been many changes in procedures, Regulations and Law Society forms throughout the year all of which the Committee have digested, discussed and acted upon.

At the beginning of my year results of Consultations becoming law were delayed with Government focusing on Brexit. The end of my year is dominated by Coronavirus and unprecedented changes in all aspects of life including the workplace, one affecting Property being what happens where contracts are exchanged for specific dates, then no longer happen. The biggest challenge for us all however, is that we act sensibly on Government restrictions and come through the other side of the virus safely.

Student Committee

Over the last few months, with huge thanks to Linden for her lead, we have been looking at how best to restructure the Student Committee so as to ensure that our corporate university members get the most of their membership with BLS. We have agreed to move towards a model where each university is allocated a key contact within the society so that BLS can provide them with more tailored membership support. I am the key contact for the University of Law and I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Regan Peggs for agreeing to be the key contact for Birmingham City University, to Dee Kundi to be the key contact for Aston University and to Linden Thomas to be the key contact for University of Birmingham. It is our aim to meet with the appropriate person within the university about three times a year which is roughly once a term to review the opportunities BLS has extended to their institution over recent months, highlight events we have coming up that may be of interest to their students and staff and to discuss ways in which we may be able to assist the university going forward. In this way, we hope to offer a more tailored approach to supporting each of our university members in areas that are priorities for them.

Although we intend to move away from hosting career events that replicate those commonly run in house by universities for many reasons, our student members will continue to be eligible to attend most of BLS's normal networking and social events and we will of course continue to put on events aimed specifically at our student members where universities tell us they would like us to do so.

Our revamped Student Committee will be on hand to support the key contacts in putting into action the initiatives they need assistance with and will meet once a quarter to discuss the various initiatives and review the support being given to the universities so that we can feed it back to Council.

Johanna is very kindly keeping a record of events our university members have attended which will assist our key contacts reporting to their respective universities on their engagement with BLS and will give them an opportunity to provide feedback to us on the events. She will produce updated reports for when we meet with them for our termly update meetings.

Our Social Mobility Committee are also working on a collection of videos aimed at students to break barriers in accessing the profession. They are aiming on seeking up to 15 legal professionals across the various branches of the profession and from varying backgrounds to answer questions describing what their current role is, why they wanted to become a lawyer, what was their biggest challenge in getting to where they are and what advice they would give their past self and others.

The BAME sub-committee of the Equality and Diversity Committee are also running a competition for student members headed up by Shaid Parveen at University of Law. This competition invites student members to "speak it, rap it or just say it aloud" and answer "If you had the power, what law would you make and why?". The prize is work experience at Gowlings WLG.

In addition to the all of the above "B-Law" will soon be launched. This is a competition aimed specifically at student members who come from disadvantaged backgrounds (measured using widening participation statistics) offering them the opportunity to obtain insight and experience in the Birmingham Legal Community for their career development. The successful applicant(s) will receive a weeks' work experience in a participating firm/chambers, a period of mentoring from a junior lawyer, networking opportunities and a grant to support their career development. An online application form is in the process of being created and I will be drumming up support from potential participating firms shortly.



James Farmer, Chair,
Student Committee



COMMITTEE REPORTS

I want to express my gratitude once again to Linden, Dee and Regan for agreeing to be key contacts. They are fantastic ambassador's for BLS and will do a fantastic job in managing the relationship BLS has with them.

I also want to thank my committee for their patience in us reorganising the Student Committee. I am confident that through the new structure of the Student Committee will be able to provide a more tailored membership service to each of our corporate university members to ensure they see and feel the benefit of membership with us.:



DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2019.

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:

B Griffin
B Henry
D Kundi
T McDaid
E Schofield
L Daly
R Peggs
C Edwards
C Coates
K Bailey (Appointed 30 April 2019)
P Ellis (Appointed 30 April 2019)

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 auditor is 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 is 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

B Henry
Director

8 April 2020



DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

(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;
- 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)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Birmingham Law Society ('the company') for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, the balance sheet, the statement of changes in equity and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of its deficit 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.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters 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



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

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

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

- 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.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at:

<http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>.

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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.

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

8 April 2020


STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 £	2018 £
INCOME		134,887	120,471
Administrative expenses		(197,402)	(237,607)
Other operating income		54,628	104,461
OPERATING DEFICIT		(7,887)	(12,675)
Interest receivable and similar income	4	5,549	4,947
Interest payable and similar charges		(949)	—
Change in fair value of investments	5	(793,201)	(105,751)
DEFICIT BEFORE TAXATION		(796,488)	(113,479)
Taxation	6	155,800	19,950
DEFICIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	18	(640,688)	(93,529)

**BALANCE SHEET**

31 December 2019

	Notes	£	2019 £	£	2018 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		18,584		13,435
Investment properties	8		1,760,000		2,580,000
Investments	9		<u>264,580</u>		<u>232,981</u>
			2,043,164		2,826,416
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	121,321		105,212	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>30,622</u>		<u>3,319</u>	
			151,943		108,531
CREDITORS: AMOUNT FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	11	<u>(248,452)</u>		<u>(181,386)</u>	
Net current liabilities			<u>(96,509)</u>		<u>(72,855)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			1,946,655		2,753,561
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	12		(632)		(11,050)
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	15		<u>(168,103)</u>		<u>(323,903)</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>1,777,920</u>		<u>2,418,608</u>
RESERVES					
Non-distributable reserve			1,568,854		2,233,054
Income and expenditure account	18		<u>209,066</u>		<u>185,554</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			<u>1,777,920</u>		<u>2,418,608</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 8 April 2020 and are signed on its behalf by:

B Henry
Director

R Peggs
Director

COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. 00005188

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2019

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**Company information**

The Birmingham Law Society is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The company's 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, lectures and courses and rental income 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.

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

Assets in the course of construction or development are not depreciated.

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 2019

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

1.4 Investment properties

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. Changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.

1.5 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 investments are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

1.6 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.

1.7 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.

1.8 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.



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

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

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.

1.9 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 2019

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

1.10 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.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.12 Leases

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.

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged to profit or loss on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease except where another more systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the leases asset are consumed.

2. JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

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. EMPLOYEES

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

	2019 Number	2018 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 2019 (2018: £nil).



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

4. INTEREST RECEIVABLE AND SIMILAR INCOME

	2019	2018
	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income includes the following:		
Income from other fixed asset investments	<u>5,547</u>	<u>4,945</u>

5. AMOUNTS WRITTEN OFF INVESTMENTS

	2019	2018
	£	£
FAIR VALUE GAINS/(LOSSES)		
Change in value of financial assets held at fair value through income or expenditure	26,799	(751)
Changes in the fair value of investment properties	<u>(820,000)</u>	<u>(105,000)</u>

6. TAXATION

	2019	2018
	£	£
DEFERRED TAX		
Movements on revaluation of investment property	<u>(155,800)</u>	<u>(19,950)</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2019

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture, computers and equipment
	£
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1 January 2019	24,429
Additions	8,404
Disposals	(2,897)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2019	<hr/> 29,936 <hr/>
DEPRECIATION AND IMPAIRMENT	
At 1 January 2019	10,995
Depreciation charged in the year	1,924
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(1,567)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2019	<hr/> 11,352 <hr/>
CARRYING AMOUNT	
At 31 December 2019	<hr/> 18,584 <hr/>
At 31 December 2018	<hr/> 13,435 <hr/>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

8. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2019 £
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 January 2019	2,580,000
Revaluations	<u>(820,000)</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u><u>1,760,000</u></u>

Investment property with a carrying value of £1,760,000 as at 31 December 2019 (2018: £2,580,000) was revalued on 31 March 2020 by Bruton Knowles Surveyors who are RICS Registered Valuers.

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2019 £	2018 £
Investments	252,080	220,481
Other investments	<u>12,500</u>	<u>12,500</u>
	<u>264,580</u>	<u>232,981</u>

Investments with a carrying value of £252,080 as at December 2019 form 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	Other	Total £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1 January 2019	220,481	12,500	232,981
Valuation changes	26,799	—	26,799
Movement in uninvested cash	4,800	—	4,800
	<u>220,481</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>232,981</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>252,080</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>264,580</u>
CARRYING AMOUNT			
At 31 December 2019	<u>252,080</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>264,580</u>
At 31 December 2018	<u>220,481</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>232,981</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2019

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2019	2018
	£	£
Trade debtors	93,807	75,442
Other debtors	1,976	15,948
Prepayments and accrued income	25,538	13,822
	<u>121,321</u>	<u>105,212</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Notes	2019	2018
		£	£
Loans and overdrafts	13	–	11,214
Trade creditors		49,587	23,734
Other taxation and social security		2,919	2,439
Deferred income	14	174,535	120,936
Other creditors		10,671	15,589
Accruals		10,740	7,474
		<u>248,452</u>	<u>181,386</u>

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

	Notes	2019	2018
		£	£
Deferred income	14	<u>632</u>	<u>11,050</u>

13. LOANS AND OVERDRAFTS

	2019	2018
	£	£
Bank overdrafts	<u>–</u>	<u>11,214</u>
Payable within one year	<u>–</u>	<u>11,214</u>

As per a debenture dated 1 July 2019 all of the Society's property, equipment and book debts and other debts are secured by fixed and floating charges.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

14. DEFERRED INCOME

	2019 £	2018 £
Arising from Deferred income	<u>175,167</u>	<u>131,986</u>
Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:		
Current liabilities	174,535	120,936
Non-current Liabilities	<u>632</u>	<u>11,050</u>
	<u>175,167</u>	<u>131,986</u>

15. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES

	2019 £	2018 £
Deferred tax liabilities	<u>168,103</u>	<u>323,903</u>

16. DEFERRED TAXATION

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset where the company has a legally enforceable right to do so. The following is the analysis of the deferred tax balances (after offset) for financial reporting purposes:

	Liabilities 2019 £	Liabilities 2018 £
BALANCES:		
Investment property	<u>168,103</u>	<u>323,903</u>

	2019 £
MOVEMENTS IN THE YEAR:	
Liability at 1 January 2019	323,903
Charge to profit or loss	<u>(155,800)</u>
Liability at 31 December 2019	<u>168,103</u>

17. 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.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2019

18. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

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 Association.

19. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Society contributes to the individual pension plans of certain employees. The assets of this schemes are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds.

The total contributions for the year amounted to £1,909 (2018: £1,311) and outstanding contributions as at 31 December 2019 amounted to £365 (2018: £299).

20. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS**LESSEE**

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 as follows:

	2019 £	2018 £
Total outstanding commitments	<u>64,921</u>	<u>21,933</u>

LESSOR

At the reporting end date the company had contracted with tenants for the following minimum lease payments:

	2019 £	2018 £
Total outstanding commitments	<u>3,135,763</u>	<u>3,186,206</u>

21. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING DATE

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, the validity of which is dependent upon the Society being able to continue to operate and come to terms with the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. At the present time, there are many unknown variables which makes forecasting the future results and impact on the Society very difficult. The directors recognise that the current situation is uncertain, but they have considered the position of the Society both at present and for the future, given the current information available. The directors have considered the various income streams of the Society, anticipated costs, future cash flows and the various options available to them. There is no intention for the Society to cease activity.

Based on the above, the directors believe that it remains appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements do not include any adjustments which would result from the basis of preparation being inappropriate.

DETAILED TRADING AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December 2019

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions		106,454		97,929
Lectures and courses		28,433		22,542
		<u>134,887</u>		<u>120,471</u>
 OTHER OPERATING INCOME				
Rents receivable	50,443		99,329	
Insurance recharges	4,185		5,132	
	<u>54,628</u>		<u>104,461</u>	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		(197,402)		(237,607)
 OPERATING DEFICIT		<u>(7,887)</u>		<u>(12,675)</u>
 INVESTMENT REVENUES				
Bank interest receivable	2		2	
Income from Stock Exchange listed investments	<u>5,547</u>		<u>4,945</u>	
		5,549		4,947
 INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR EXPENSES				
Bank interest on loans and overdrafts		(949)		—
 OTHER GAINS AND LOSSES				
Increase or decrease in fair value of investment property	(820,000)		(105,000)	
Change in fair value of financial assets measured at fair value through income or expenditure	<u>26,799</u>		<u>(751)</u>	
		<u>(793,201)</u>		<u>(105,751)</u>
 DEFICIT BEFORE TAXATION		<u>(796,488)</u>		<u>(113,479)</u>

**SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

For the year ended 31 December 2019

	2019	2018
	£	£
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Wages and salaries	103,334	100,516
Social Security costs	5,364	5,999
Staff training	750	4,204
Staff pension costs	1,909	1,311
Lectures and courses	5,647	5,040
Grants and prizes	600	600
Annual Dinner	(5,976)	—
Bicentenary Dinner	—	13,626
Public Relations	2,708	12,560
Legal Awards	(21,993)	(24,203)
Computer expenses	6,785	12,526
Premises expenses	46,846	48,409
Equipment hire	4,021	2,572
Other events, travel and associated expenses	1,070	5,255
Professional charges	15,650	15,281
Audit fees	1,200	1,200
Bank Charges	2,469	2,015
Printing and stationery	2,015	2,614
Telephone and postages	14,215	14,102
Newly Qualified event	(1,503)	(1,178)
Incidentals	789	150
Depreciation	1,924	2,073
(Profit) or loss on sale of tangible assets	335	711
Irrecoverable VAT	9,243	12,224
	197,402	237,607



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

PRIZE FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The additional information relation 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.

	2019 £	2018 £
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	144	141
Less: Gold Medal Prize	<u>(250)</u>	<u>(250)</u>
Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account	<u>(106)</u>	<u>(109)</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	2,704	2,634
Interest received during year	<u>122</u>	<u>120</u>
	2,826	2,754
Less: Book Prize	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>2,776</u>	<u>2,704</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

8 April 2020





PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY 1818 - 2019

THOMAS LEE	1818	CYRIL HIGHWAY	1950
JOHN MEREDITH	1825	GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	1952
JOHN SIMCOX	1832	CECIL HAMMOND COX	1953
ROGER WILLIAM GEM	1833	THOMAS BERNARD SMITH	1954
THOMAS EYRE LEE	1848	JOHN ALBERT CALTHROP TAYLOR	1955
CLEMENT INGLEBY	1852	PHILIP HORTON VERNON	1956
JOHN WELCHMAN WHATELEY	1855	GEOFFREY MARTEN KING	1957
ARTHUR RYLAND	1873	GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	1958
GEORGE JAMES JOHNSON	1874	JOSEPH KENNETH WALKER	1959
ARTHUR RYLAND	1876	RODERICK SYDNEY KING-FARLOW	1960
WILLIAM EVANS	1877	WILLIAM HENRY TILLEY	1960
JAMES MARIGOLD	1879	JOHN SHUFFLEBOTHAM	1962
THOMAS HORTON	1882	FREDERICK WILLIAM WHITALL OAKLEY	1963
CHARLES EDWARD MATTHEWS	1885	CHARLES THOMAS WINTERTON	1964
CORNELIUS THOMAS SAUNDERS	1888	RICHARD LAURENCE EGIN	1965
SIR THOMAS MARTINEAU	1888	GEOFFREY HORACE PIDDOCK	1966
LAURISTON WINTERBOTHAM LEWIS	1891	HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS	1967
JOSEPH BENNETT CLARKE	1893	CHRISTOPHER HEDLEY HARMER	1968
ARTHUR GODLEE	1895	THOMAS HARRY PARKINSON	1969
THOMAS HAWKES RUSSELL	1897	CHARLES HERBERT LEA	1970
JOSEPH ANSELL	1899	JOHN ATKINSON RUTLEDGE	1970
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1901	SYDNEY SOLOMON JACOBS	1972
JOHN BARHAM CARSLAKE	1903	JOHN TIMOTHY ARTHUR SMITH	1973
ALFRED POINTON	1906	JOHN ANTONY ALDERSON	1974
WALTER BARROW	1908	DAVID LIDDELL	1975
JOHN GILBERT BRADBURY	1910	WALTER WOOD	1976
ALFRED HENRY COLEY	1912	DAVID STANLEY ADAMS	1977
JAMES HARGREAVE	1914	ROBERT JOSEPH GARRATT	1978
ARTHUR LABRON LOWE	1916	GEORGE SIEGFRIED JONAS	1979
FRANCIS AUGUST CHATWIN	1918	DENYS ERIC FORDHAM	1980
ARCHIBALD SOMERVILLE BENNETT	1919	ROGER HORTON VERNON	1980
JAMES ARTHUR MARIGOLD	1920	ARNOLD MAURICE PUTSMAN	1982
EDWARD EVERSLED	1921	CHRISTOPHER JOHN JAMES	1983
THOMAS COOKSEY	1922	FREDERICK HAROLD TURNER	1984
CHARLES EGIN	1923	PETER LESLIE TAYLOR	1985
JOSEPH JAMES	1924	BRIAN EDWARD GLYNN WILLIAMS	1986
FRANCIS HENRY PEPPER	1925	JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON	1987
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1926	DAVID HOWARD HIGGS	1988
CORNELIUS HALE SAUNDERS	1927	CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES	1989
HUGH BARHAM CARSLAKE	1928	PHILIP EDWARD RICHARDSON	1990
GEORGE HUGGINS	1929	CHARLES RODERICK KING-FARLOW	1991
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1930	JOHN ADRIAN JAMES AUCOTT	1992
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1931	STANLEY BERNARD SHORTT	1993
SYDNEY VERNON	1932	JOHN MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM	1994
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1933	ALBERT WILLIAM HEASELGRAVE	1995
WILFRED CLARKSON MATTHEWS	1934	RICHARD DUDLEY CHAPMAN	1996
FRANK HENRY CUFAUDE WILTSHIRE	1935	MICHAEL DAVID HUMPHREY SHEPHERD	1997
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1937	MALCOLM GASKELL FOWLER	1998
HERBERT WILLIAM LYDE	1938	TREVOR ARTHUR LEE	1999
JOSEPH THOMAS HIGGS	1939	JAYNE BELINDA WILLETTS	2000
GEORGE HAROLD WILLCOX	1941	MICHAEL JAMES WARD	2001
ARTHUR JOHN GATELEY	1943	ANTHONY RALPH COLLINS	2002
JOHN FREDERICK WEST	1945	DIANE PATRICIA BENUSSI	2003
WILLIAM CHARLES COLEMAN GELL	1946	STEVEN MICHAEL JONAS	2004
CHARLES ADRIAN ASHFORD ELTON	1947	RICHARD THOMAS FOLLIS	2005
JOHN FAIRFAX CROWDER	1948	PHILIP DUNKLEY STEEL	2006
JOHN HENRY SQUIRE ADDISON	1949	SUKHDEV SINGH BHOMRA	2007
GEORGE ARTHUR LYON HATTON	1950	CAROLINE AMANDA COATES	2008



PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY 1818 - 2019

BERNARD ROBERT MCWALTER SHEPHERD	2009
DEAN CURTIS PARNELL	2010
ANDREW JOHN LANCASTER	2011
MARY DYMPHNA KAYE	2012
EDWARD THOMAS MARTIN ALLSOPP	2013
EILEEN FRANCES MARY SCHOFIELD	2014
MUSHTAQ AHMED KHAN	2015
JOHN BAILEY HUGHES	2016
ANDREW JOHN BEEDHAM	2017
JAMES ALAN TURNER	2018
LINDEN JAYNE THOMAS	2019



OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 1818 - 2019

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	2008
HELEN JANE ARNOLD		2008
JONATHAN STUART LLOYD	Joint	2009
KEITH BROWNE	Joint	2010
BERNARDETTE GRIFFIN	Joint	2010
ANN MARY HOUGHTON	Joint	Feb 2011
INEZ MAY BROWN	Joint	2016
CHAITALI DESAI	Joint	2016
SOPHIE MARGARET LOUISE SAMANI	Joint	2018

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
BERNARD ROBERT MCWALTER SHEPHERD	2011
CHRISTOPHER OWEN	2012
EILEEN FRANCES MARY SCHOFIELD	2016
REGAN PEGGS	2019



MISSION STATEMENT

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Birmingham Law Society was established in 1818 and is now the largest local law society in the country, representing over 5000 solicitors, barristers, legal executives, trainee solicitors, paralegals and law students in around 80 practices and five universities in Birmingham and the Greater Midlands area.

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;
- by encouraging links between the Society and our local politicians.

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

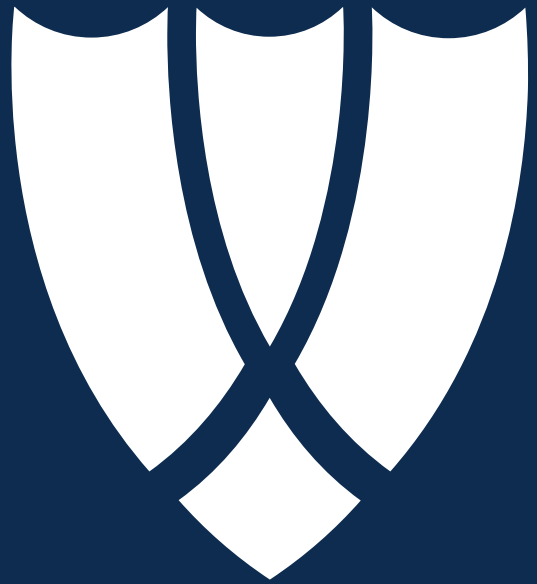
- by promoting the rule of law and access to justice;
- by raising issues relevant to the provision of legal services such as Alternative Business Structures, cuts in legal aid, diversity issues in respect of access to the legal profession etc.

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 Solicitor Society and Birmingham Solicitors Group;
- e. Pro bono groups and charities.

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

January 2020



Birmingham Law Society

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Birmingham B2 5BG

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General Enquiries: 0121 227 8700

email: info@birminghamlawsociety.co.uk

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