

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY
one profession · one region · one voice



President's Foreword

Welcome to the Birmingham Law Society AGM 2021. Once again, we find ourselves holding this year's meeting in unprecedented circumstances. Many have lost loved ones to Covid-19 or continue to suffer with long Covid, but the good news is that vaccine rollout has been a success and we are looking forward to returning to some sort of normality.

Last year's AGM felt strange because only 12 people could attend in person due to lockdown restrictions. When I took over from my predecessor, Linden Thomas, I said that Covid-19 had had a devastating economic impact on the legal profession. I commented that my term would be unusual both for me as President but also for our members, as we have been unable to hold the usual events due to the restrictions of social distancing. However, I am pleased to report that BLS rose to the challenge by coming up with imaginative ways to turn this disaster into new opportunities.

I am extremely grateful to the Society's volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure that membership engagement has remained high during lockdown with regular discipline-specific updates, seminars, webinars, and wellbeing workshops. Several consultations have been submitted on behalf of the legal community and we have continued to lobby The Law Society of England & Wales to ensure that member concerns are addressed appropriately.

The Society has been very busy during lockdown. Since April 2020, we have organised 59 virtual events, which is a major achievement. Please reflect on the events below:

DATE	TITLE		
6 April 2020	Coaching Forward during Setback - Webinar with Rebecca Mander	12 August 2020	Law Care: Wellbeing
15 April 2020	Coronavirus Crisis Compliance Clinic	3 September 2020	Stamp Duty Land Tax
20 April 2020	Coronavirus and residential conveyancing with Hannah McKinley	15 September 2020	A Guide to Mental Health Peer Review with DG Legal
24 April 2020	St Philips Employment Webinar	22 September 2020	A Guide to Immigration Peer Review with DG Legal
1 May 2020	Covid-19 Employment Q&A Session	23 September 2020	Disability Committee event - British Sign Language demo
2 July 2020	St Philips Employment Webinar July Series	29 September 2020	Anti-Money Laundering Overview Webinar
8 July 2020	Cyber Security Webinar	1 October 2020	Charity Virtual Quiz
16 July 2020	St Philips Employment Webinar July Series	1 October 2020	Introduction to Accounts with Mazars
23 July 2020	St Philips Employment Webinar July Series	6 - 8 October 2020	Oosha: Legal Tech Conference
28 July 2020	Annual General Meeting	8 October 2020	Mazars: Introduction to financial statements
		8 October 2020	Virtual Panel Event and Networking: Raising Awareness of World Mental Health Day
		13 October 2020	DG Legal: A Guide to Housing Peer Review
		14 October 2020	Taylor Root: Career counselling for the legal sector - specialist advice to help you take the next step in your legal career webinar
		20 October 2020	Financial Planning for Junior Lawyers with Wesleyan
		22 October 2020	Mazars: Introduction to business valuation
		22 October 2020	DG Legal: A Guide to Housing Peer Review
		27 October 2020	DG Legal: A Guide to Family Peer Review
		2 November 2020	Pro Bono week: Launch of Trainee Hackathon with Birmingham Trainee Solicitors' Society
		2 November 2020	Pro Bono week: A year of Pro Bono in Brum
		4 November 2020	Virtual Roundtable discussion: Students: the vanguard of pro bono
		5 November 2020	Mazars: Advanced accountancy information
		6 November 2020	Pro Bono week: Hackathon - Hackathon with Birmingham Trainee Solicitors' Society final
		10 November 2020	PEPs, Simplified CDD & Enhanced CDD Webinar with DG Legal
		10 November 2020	Virtual RAIL event
		12 November 2020	Wellbeing in the family courts - the future of working with Covid?
		19 November 2020	Mazars: Fraud and professional negligence, presented in conjunction with Andrew Charman of St Philips Chambers
		19 November 2020	Lunch Club with Andy Street
		23 November 2020	Coronavirus and Commercial Leases with Hannah MacKinlay
		26 November 2020	Climate Change Webinar with Landmark
		26 November 2020	Inhouse Committee event with the Law Society
		1 December 2020	Eliminate the 'He Said/She Said' – Improve communication and keep parents accountable in moderate and high conflict cases, with Our Family Wizard
		2 December 2020	Employment Judges Forum
		3 December 2020	Wine Tasting event
		4 December 2020	Wesleyan: Building financial resilience
		10 December 2020	Deal or no deal Brexit - family law committee event
		11 December 2020	Moving on from Covid – The big debate



DATE	TITLE
20 January 2021	An Evening with Cherie Blair QC
25 January 2021	Commercial Property Update Part One
28 January 2021	The Future Delivery of Legal Services Conference
1 February 2021	Commercial Property Update Part Two
23 February 2021	How to Burn Bright, not out! The Fundamental Principles Masterclass
26 February 2021	Lunch Club with Stuart Cain - Warwickshire County Cricket Club Chief Executive Officer
03 March 2021	Advocacy training with No5 Chambers
10 March 2021	Tilney's financial planning and investment webinar: Post Budget Financial Planning and Investment Insights
29 March 2021	PD 57AC Online Workshop
29 March 2021	Women in Law and Wellbeing
15 April 2021	Virtual Legal Awards 2020/21
22 April 2021	Protecting your people and your firm in the new normal
27 April 2021	Virtual Membership Networking
06 May 2021	Cyber Security Webinar with WMP
10 May 2021	Rebecca Mander and Stephanie Perraton In conversation
11 May 2021	Advocacy Training
12 May 2021	Mindfulness Session run by Zach Fairbanks (Wellbeing at Work)
12 May 2021	An evening with The Right Honourable Stuart Lawrence (brother of Stephen Lawrence Deceased)
14 May 2021	Yoga with Simone Gannon
27 May 2021	Joint Employment Committee and Employment Lawyers' Association event
01 June 2021	Sir Christopher Bellamy QC Roundtable
15 June 2021	Virtual Charity Quiz
16 June 2021	BLS Legal Tech Community Meet Ups: Hybrid & remote-working
18 June 2021	Managing and Senior Partners Virtual meeting

I would like to thank the membership for continuing to support our events and remaining engaged with the Society during lockdown.

Initiatives

At my inauguration in July 2020 I was given the opportunity to share three initiatives that I planned to run during my term and I am pleased to report that all three initiatives are now up and running.

1. Promoting flexible working within the legal sector

Prior to Covid-19, several law firms were not ready to embrace the idea of flexible working for all staff. I therefore wanted to start a campaign to increase flexible working opportunities for employees and to provide solutions for employers. However, Covid-19 has forced everyone to adapt

to working remotely. I am pleased to report that many law firms have surveyed their employees and will introduce a flexible working policy post-pandemic for all staff.

2. Raising awareness around law & technology

For some time, I have been concerned that the legal sector is not fully equipped to adapt to the changes that technology will introduce. In 2020, Matthew Newton of Oosha said: "The legal sector is in the middle of a major shift, as digital transformation has taken centre stage and finally become a priority for most firms. Innovations and transformation programmes are well underway, undoubtedly accelerated by the current pandemic and driven by the need to enable remote working, as well as serve customers in an increasingly digital legal marketplace". I could not agree more and was pleased that Oosha agreed to partner with Birmingham Law Society to hold its very first LawTech Forum on 6th October 2020 with over 350 delegates. I am also pleased to announce that the LawTech Committee was set up in November 2020 with over 20 members.

3. Diversity Inclusion Scheme (DIS)

Birmingham Law Society is committed to social mobility together with supporting greater diversity within the legal profession. Due to my socio-economic background I did not enter law through the conventional route. As a result, I decided to set up a diversity inclusion scheme partnering with The University of Law, University of Wolverhampton, Harrison Clark Rickerbys and Gateley Legal. The scheme was launched in August 2020 and 2 successful candidates have been offered scholarships on post graduate courses. In addition, they will be offered mentoring, work experience and a place at Trainee Solicitor Assessment Centres by the legal partners. I am pleased to announce that we launched the scheme for a second year in June 2021.

Social mobility continues to remain high on the Society's agenda. Our Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) committee help to raise awareness on inclusion and access into the profession for all with the necessary skill and talent. I



am pleased to report that following the tragic death of George Floyd in May 2020, several law firms set up EDI groups.

In addition, the Society has provided numerous opportunities to discuss health and wellbeing throughout the year via workshops and ran a series of programs during Mental Health Awareness Week. Sadly, the pandemic has helped to increase numbers in staff suffering from mental health, but we are here to help.

Historically, the Society has been a benevolent organisation by helping our legal community to collaborate with the charitable sector to raise well needed funds for worthy causes. However, due to the pandemic there was a danger that we would have been unable to raise well needed funds for this year's chosen charity, The Child Brain Injury Trust who provide an invaluable service to children and young people with an acquired brain injury. I am extremely grateful to all those who have come together to support our charitable events including The Evenings with the President and Cherie Blair QC and Stuart Lawrence, brother of Stephen Lawrence Deceased. The interviews were well received by attendees and helped to raise significant funds for the charity.

The Society also held its first virtual Legal Awards with host Phil Upton (BBCCWR Radio presenter) and Richard Cole (Vicar and TV personality) in April 2021. Over 600 persons attended the live virtual event. The event has since been streamed 2000 times. We could not have done this without your support!

In conclusion it would be remiss of me not to express personal thanks to all those who continue to make the Society a success. Becky, Denise, Johanna and Natasha in our staff team. Our Board of Directors led by Dee Kundi. All those who volunteer on our committees to ensure that the Society continues to remain professional and efficient. My fellow Officers, Stephanie Perraton, Tony McDaid, Stephanie Brownlees, Mariyam Harunah and Becky Lynch who have

been my rock! Last but not least to all the Council and Birmingham Law Society members who have continued to support me personally and who have kept us going by supporting our events. I echo Linden Thomas' words: "you make this Society, and our legal community, what it is".

Finally, despite the pandemic and despite the recession, we, the legal community have proved our resilience and we will bounce back! Thank you all and I look forward to meeting you all in person once lockdown restrictions are removed.

Inez Brown
President



Report from the Board

I am pleased to present the Board's report for the year April 2020 to July 2021. I took over as Chair from Regan Peggs at the April AGM and thank him for his contribution.

It was strange uncharted waters as the global Covid -19 pandemic had recently lockdown the whole country as well as much of the world. We were forced to work and stay at home. The words furlough, zoom, teams, national emergency, PPE, death toll, social distancing, self-isolation, draconian became common as the world stood still for the first time, in our lifetime.

As terrifying as it was, my first board meeting was conducted completely remotely online, which has today become the new normal. At the start of my term, I spoke with many of our directors in order to understand what worked well for the Society historically and where we needed to make changes. It was clear that a number of changes were needed for the Society to continue to be relevant for its members. Therefore, I decided to arrange a strategic away day with the office, the board and the officers. This took place in October 2020 following a difficult decision to furlough the staff in the office during the summer as all in person events were cancelled, including our Legal Awards 2020.

A number of challenges and risks were identified as the Covid-19 pandemic has affected many members resulting in furlough leave, redundancies as well as long delays in court proceedings. This will have lasting effects on the profession, and many will need to address how a future pandemic could affect their businesses. The society should review this and look at ways it can help members going forward as well as being prepared for future pandemics and have a good remote working system in place.

There was a concern that small firm members may struggle to survive and consequently there was a risk that there may be a drop out in membership, which needed to be addressed. Membership engagement continues to be

also be a risk, as the Society needs to remain relevant and in touch with its members.

The property continues to be occupied by Revolucion de Cuba, but due to the pandemic was forced to close its doors as the hospitality sector took a huge hit and was unable to pay the rent. What once was a secured financial position for the Society, matters took a turn for the worse and payment of rent was now uncertain. If the Society did not work alongside them, we risked Revolucion de Cuba going into a CVA.

The strategic away day was a great success with a session on corporate governance, followed by a review into different areas for change and improvement and a full review of the business plan for 2020-2023. I am pleased to state a number of changes have already been implemented over past 12 months including a number of new roles. The Society, is now more than ever, much more outward looking. Partnerships and collaboration have evolved to be a primary source of revenue enhancing the Society's profile and income and providing a tangible benefit to the membership.

Sponsorship packages have been reviewed to reflect the current circumstances of the pandemic to offer attractive benefits to sponsors as well as securing income generation for BLS with a focus on media packages and webinars.



Membership has been faced with challenges due to the pandemic, however, the Society has adapted and continues to be relevant by offering an excellent programme of virtual events including debates, webinars, round table discussions and social online events. We have successfully increased the membership rates slightly and discontinued the Country membership rate that was no longer relevant. Caroline Coates, the Membership Director has revised the student membership offering, making student membership more attractive to universities to ensure we can continue to offer this type of membership and involve the students in the Society. It is with great sadness that Caroline stepped down as Membership Director from April 2021 but we thank her for all her hard work and this position on board remains vacant.

Learning and Development has been a challenge since the SRA removed the requirement for CPD hours in 2016. As hard as the Society has tried, the number of attendees for L&D events has been diminishing over the years. This has been a challenge and a complete review in terms of its future offering in order to remain relevant and provide benefit to our members was required. Luke Mason, the L&D Director stepped down in February 2021 and a lot of work has gone into a new specification for the role. We have made the decision to completely rebrand the role to Professional Development Director and welcome Nisha Panchal in June 2021 as well as rebranding the education and training committee alongside the student committee as the Professional Development Committee. We also welcome members of BTSS, BSG, Black Lawyers Group, Law and Broader and TAG onto the committee demonstrating collaboration within the Midlands legal community.

We now have an Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Committee in place and Karen Bailey as both HR and EDI Director has been keen to ensure that E&D are taken into account in everything we do. The EDI committee has been

extremely energetic and Karen is working hard to make sure this a standing item for all our sub-committees.

The Society has successfully launched another 4 new committees: In-House, Private Client, Legal Tech and the Professional Services committee alongside: Consultation; Criminal; Dispute Resolution; Employment; Equality and Diversity; Family; International; Membership; Property & Development; Pro Bono; Personal Injury and Sponsorship committee. It has been challenging for these committees to meet during the pandemic and whilst some have adapted to online platforms for monthly meetings others needed more support.

In light of this, the Board created a new role, and welcome Rav Hothi as Committee Director in January 2021. The Committee Director is responsible for ensuring that all the committees under BLS are conducted in a way that benefits the Society. Rav will conduct at least 2 bi-annual committee chairs' meeting and will be the conduit between committees, board and council. Rav will also report to board on matters arising from the committees to ensure communication, EDI, news, events and professional development is captured and dealt with in an effective way.

The board also identified in order for the Society to be more relevant to its members and to have a more prominent status in the media that one of the Events and Sponsorship Directors should be more focused on PR and media and therefore we have changed Laura Daly's role to become the new PR and Media Director. Laura has a natural talent for this role and she has successfully implemented a new PR strategy significantly enhancing the presence of the Society and its members locally and nationally today and for the future. The Society now has a social media strategy in place that is managed by the social media Lead, Natasha in the office.



Ben Henry as the Finance Director became the Vice Chair, and he has been invaluable, controlling the Society's purse strings managing cashflow to meet essential expenditure. I would like to thank him for his assistance. Ben has performed an excellent role, to ensure that BLS remains in a healthy position during the pandemic. In particular, he has worked very hard alongside myself to find a practical solution for both the Society and with Revolucion de Cuba. I am pleased to confirm that after months of long deliberation, we have finally worked a solution where the rent payment is now paid directly to the Society. We have taken the time to review the investments of the Society with external agents in order to increase the Society's capital. We asked a shortlist of excellent and reputable investment companies in and around Birmingham to present to the Board in order to manage our portfolio as we found the current company had become complacent over the years. After reviewing these presentations, I am pleased that Quilter Cheviot will now be managing the Society investment portfolio.

Many other projects are currently been undertaken such as a full review of the current articles and roles of officers by a separate working group so that we can update these according to current practice and amend where articles and roles which are outdated, unclear or woolly in nature.

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

Becky Lynch, with 15 years of experience is the backbone of the Society. She has implemented a new membership CRM that is now integrated with the new website and offers a new online booking system. We will be recruiting an apprentice who she will train and fit into the team on a long-term basis. As always, Becky has done a superb job by raising just over £75,000 in sponsorship which is a great result and takes a lot of work and skill.

I would like to personally thank everyone on Board: Ben Henry; Karen Bailey, Laura Daly; Tony McDaid; Inez Brown; Linden Thomas; Rav Hothi and Nisha Panchal who have volunteered their time, experience, wisdom and contribution to the Society.

The Board is confident that, despite the pandemic, the Society retains its strong base. We are in a strong position – particularly as we have implemented so many changes. I hope to raise the Society's business to a new level for 2021 and beyond, leaving a platform for financial stability for years to come..

Dee Kundi

Chairwoman of the Board
June 2021



Ben Henry, Finance Director

Report from the Finance Director

Birmingham Law Society proved to be resilient in 2020 in the face of very difficult circumstances. Our results for the year should give comfort to members that we can adapt to challenging conditions and that the Society remains financially robust.

I highlight below some of the key features of the figures for the year that are presented in the financial statements.

Firstly, subscriptions rose significantly to £117,216 (2019: £106,454). This increase, which principally arose pre-pandemic but is hoped to stay at a similar level during 2021, shows the tremendous work of the office, officers and board in growing our membership base.

Secondly, learning and development income was down but still generated £7,151 (2019: £28,433). This income was generated during periods of almost entirely online presentation, at times of reduced staffing of the office, and with our members themselves facing financial pressures.

Thirdly, our rent from the Temple Street premises was only £24,168 (2019: £50,443). This was in part because we were in the concessionary rent period of the fourth year of the lease, where headline rent was only due to be £50,000pa. But also, our tenant Revolucion de Cuba faced substantial closed periods and restrictions during the year, and on advice from the Society's lawyers we agreed a rent reduction for part of the year. In respect of the very end of 2020, with effect from the December quarter date, we have negotiated a restructure of the rent with monthly rather than quarterly payments, and to smooth the effect of the remaining concessionary period in the year to follow. I remind members that in 2022 we are due to return to our headline rent of £150,000pa.

Fourthly, a number of events could not be held in 2020. Our flagship legal awards and annual dinner were

postponed, and these two events alone usually provide significant income to the society (2019: c.£27,000).

Against that background, in terms of our assets, the Society's investments are up again, at £270,552 (2018: £252,080).

An adjustment has also been made to the value of the Temple Street Building, which is down as a result of a number of factors in the market, but still holds substantial value at £1.6 million (2018: £1.76 million).

Drawing these points together, the society made an operating loss of £29,987 in 2020. Three of the factors discussed above which contributed to the loss of income (learning and development, rent and events), together felt a loss of £74,000 in 2020. That this only translated to a loss to the society of less than half of that is testament to the work of all who run the Society who were able to cut costs and increase revenues in other areas.

I close by thanking the Officers and Board for their dedication and assistance in difficult times, and the work behind the scenes in the office to keep the wheels turning.

Ben Henry
Finance Director

9 July 2021

President

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

Vice President

STEPHANIE PERRATON - Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP, 0121 222 3559

Deputy Vice President

TONY MCDAID - No5 Barristers' Chambers, 0845 210 5555

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STEPHANIE BROWNLEES - Eden Legal Services Ltd, 01902 275 042

MARIYAM HARUNAH - Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP, 0121 222 3559

Board

Chairwoman - Dee Kundi - Knights PLC, 0121 314 0000

Vice Chair and Finance Director - Ben Henry - Jonas Roy Bloom, 0121 212 4111

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

Membership Director - Caroline Coates

PR & Media Director - Laura Daly - Irwin Mitchell LLP, 0370 150 0100

Committee Director - Rav Hothi

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

Professional Development Director - Nisha Panchal - Harrison Clark Rickerbys, 01905 744 823

Ex Officio as Past President - Linden Thomas - University of Birmingham,

Ex Officio as President - Inez Brown - Harrison Clark Rickerbys, 01905 744 823

Council

Karen Bailey, Bailey Wright & Co
Kishma Bolaji, Shoosmiths LLP
Inez Brown, Harrison Clark Rickerbys Ltd
Stephanie Brownlees, Eden Legal Services Ltd
Ravinder Singh Chumber, Rashid & Co
Laura Daly, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Claire Darley, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
James Farmer, Cornwall Street Barristers
Mariyam Harunah, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP
Tobias Haynes, M J Darby & Co
Ben Henry, Jonas Roy Bloom
Michael Hibbs, Shakespeare Martineau
Ravinder Hothi, The Law Society of England & Wales
Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom
Mary Kaye, Shakespeare Martineau
Alice Kinder, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
Dee Kundi, Knights PLC
Greg Lowson, Pinsent Masons LLP
Tony McDaid, No5 Barristers' Chambers

Edward Morris
Clare Murphy, Harrison Clark Rickerbys Limited
Stephanie Perraton, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP
Richard Port, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
Clive Read, Shakespeare Martineau
Andrew Rourke, St Ives Chambers
Sophie Samani, Hendeson & Jones
Rajveena Sangha, Trowers & Hamlin LLP
Eileen Schofield, Schofield & Associates
Bernard Shepherd, BES Shepherds
Ian Shovlin, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
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Linden Thomas, University of Birmingham Law School
Priya Tromans, St Ives 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

Administrator, Marketing & PR Lead: Natasha Keen, Tel: 0121 227 8701

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

The Officers (The Executive Committee)

Inez Brown, President
Stephanie Perraton, Vice President
Tony McDaid, Deputy Vice President
Stephanie Brownlees, Joint Honorary Secretary
Pardeep Lagha, Joint Honorary Secretary (until October 2020)
Mariyam Harunah, Joint Honorary Secretary (from November 2020)

The Board

Dee Kundi, Chairwoman
Ben Henry, Vice Chair & Finance Director
Karen Bailey, HR / Equality & Diversity Director
Inez Brown, Ex Officio as President
Caroline Coates, Membership Director
Laura Daly, PR & Media Director
Rav Hothi, Committee Director
Tony McDaid, Board Director
Nisha Panchal, Professional Development Director
Linden Thomas, Ex Officio as Past President

The Committees

Consultation Paper Committee

Chair:

Jayne Willetts, Jayne Willetts & Co

Committee members:

Stephanie Brownlees, Eden Legal Services Ltd
Stephanie Perraton, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP
Philip Steel
John Whitehouse, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
Peter Wiseman

Criminal Law Committee

Chair:

Matt O'Brien, Jonas Roy Bloom

Committee members:

Mahmood Abdi, Hasan Solicitors
Chloe Ashley, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Keith Astbury, Glaisyers LLP
Satwinder Bains, Vienna Kang Advocates
Inderdeep Bhomra, Tuckers Solicitors LLP
Sukhdev Singh Bhomra, Mandla Bhomra & Co
Stephanie Brownlees, Eden Legal Services Ltd
William Douglas-Jones, St Ives Chambers
Chris Grainger, Gateley
Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom
Regan Peggs, Regan Peggs Solicitors
Alex Pritchard-Jones, St Ives Chambers
Harjit Rashoda-Chauhan, Criminal Cases Review Commission
Charmaine Robinson, Purcell Parker
Andrew Rourke, St Ives Chambers
Kate Seal, Crown Prosecution Service
Spencer Stephens, Purcell Parker
James Turner, Tuckers Solicitors LLP
Ian Vesey, EP Legal incorp. Warwick Vesey

Dispute Resolution Committee

Chair:

Tobias Haynes, Martin Kaye Solicitors

Committee members:

Sundeep Bilkhu, Sydney Mitchell LLP
Simon Bradshaw, Cornwall Street Barristers
Amy Callahn-Page, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
Andrew Charman, St Philips Chambers
Mariyam Harunah, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP
Gurmeet Jakhu, Excello Limited
Dee Kundi, Knights PLC
District Judge Richard Lumb
Philip Mantle, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Paul Nicholls, Nicholls Brimble Bhol
Steven Reed, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Sophie Samani, Henderson & Jones
Simon Thomas, The Wilkes Partnership LLP
Priya Tromans, St Ives Chambers
Kirsty White, St Philips Chambers

Employment Law Committee

Chair:

Charles Rae, Shoosmiths LLP

Committee members:

Neelam Afzal, Wildings Solicitors LLP
Kamaljit Bains, EEF Ltd.
Ed Beever, St Philips Chambers
Samantha Burns, UK Research and Innovation
Martin Chitty, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
Jon Coley, Pinsent Masons LLP
Charles Crow, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Victoria Duddles, Weightmans LLP
Sophie Garner, St Philips Chambers
Christina Georgiou, Fieldfisher LLP
Ben Gorner, Gateley Legal
Michael Hibbs, Shakespeare Martineau
Jogvinder Kaur Hundle, Mills & Reeve LLP
Mugni Islam-Choudhury, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Alan Jones, Averta Employment Lawyers LLP
Tim Jones, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
Emma Neate, Neate & Pugh Solicitors Limited
Ann-Marie Pugh, Neate & Pugh Solicitors Limited
Richard Santy, Mills & Reeve LLP
Eileen Schofield, Schofield & Associates
David Sykes, Averta Employment Lawyers LLP
James Tait, Browne Jacobson
Tracy Worthington, FBC Manby Bowdler LLP
Jennifer Wright, The University of Law

Equality & Diversity Committee

Chair:

Karen Bailey, Bailey Wright & Co

Co-Chairs (Disability sub-committee):

Sophie Henwood, Irwin Mitchell LL

Iyanu Onalaja, Shoosmiths LLP

Chair (Gender sub-committee):

Julia Jones, Bevan Brittan LLP

Chair (LGBT+ sub-committee):

Timothy Evans, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP

Chair (REACH - race, ethnicity and cultural heritage sub-committee):

Shaid Parveen, The University of Law

Chair (Social mobility sub-committee):

Alice Kinder, Anthony Collins Solicitors

Committee members:

Kisham Bolaji, Shoosmiths LLP
Harriet Bowley, Shakespeare Martineau
Kiran Butoy
Catherine Edwards, Keele University
Mariyam Harunah, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP
Karl Hirst, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Michaela Hunt, VWV
Odette Hutchinson, Aston University
Marissa Jacquet, Grove Tompkins Bosworth
Paige Langford, Bevan Brittan LLP
Pardeep Lagha, Gateley Legal
Melanie Lothbrok, Bevan Brittan LLP
Nabila Mallick, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Nwabueze Nwokolo

Dinah Patel

Emily Rust, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP

Harpreet Singh Sandhu, No5 Barristers' Chambers

Frances Seabridge, Aston University

Sanjay Solanki, Penmans

Bridget Tatham, Browne Jacobson LLP

Linden Thomas, University of Birmingham Law School

James Turner, Tuckers Solicitors

Family Law Committee

Chair:

Claire Darley, Higgs & Sons Solicitors

Committee members:

Ian Charlton, 3PB Barristers
Mark Hands, Irwin Mitchell LLP
Carolyn Jones, St Philips Chambers
Huw Jones, St Philips Chambers
Mary Kaye, Shakespeare Martineau
Katie Langdon, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Mark Mansell, St Philips Chambers
Vanessa Meachin QC, 3PB Barristers
Karen Morris, Sydney Mitchell LLP
Hannah Nicholls, Thursfields Legal Limited
Richard Port, George Green LLP
Cathy Price, Glaisyers
HHJ Rowland, Birmingham Civil Justice Centre and
Birmingham Family Court
Deirdre Smyth

In-house Committee

Chair:

Grace Ononiwu CBE, Crime Prosecution Service

Committee members:

Cleo Diedrick, Midland Heart
Anna Lee, High Speed Two (HS2) Limited
Michael Morgan-Bullock, Birmingham Community Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust
Stephanie Perraton, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP
Heidi Salter, Housing 21
James Turner, Tuckers Solicitors LLP

International Law Committee

Chair:

Tony McDaid, No5 Barristers' Chambers

Committee members:

Sandra Astbury, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Cindy Boateng, VWV
Jonathan Coutts, John Venn and Sons Scrivener Notaries
James Farmer, Cornwall Street Barristers
Anton Fischer
Mandy Haque, Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce
and Industry
John Hughes, Shakespeare Martineau
Paul McConnell, University of Birmingham Law School
Raj Padhiar, Carltons Solicitors
Eileen Schofield, Schofield & Associates
Bernard Shepherd, BES Shepherds

Nilay Shastry - Kings Chambers

Legal Tech Committee

Co-Chairs:

Jas Bassi, Gateley Legal
Nicola Jones, Athena Professional

Committee members:

Zaheer Afazal, St Philips Chambers
Inez Brown, Harrison Clark Rickerbys
Marc Brown, St Philips Chambers
Vin Chauhan, SimKay IT Consulting Ltd
Bal Forwell, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
Emma Jackson, Mills & Reeve LLP
Grace MacWilliam, Mills & Reeve LLP
Clare Murphy, Harrison Clark Rickerbys
Matthew Newton, Oosha Ltd
Tony Randle, Shoosmiths LLP
Jane Sarginson, St Philips Chambers
Eileen Schofield, Schofield & Associates
Bilal Syed
Mohammed Toqeer, Harrison Clark Rickerbys

Membership Committee

Chair:

Caroline Coates

Committee members:

James Farmer, Cornwall Street Barristers
Matt Hartas, The Wilkes Partnership
Johanna Sahi-Proto, Birmingham Law Society
Linden Thomas, University of Birmingham Law School

Private Client Committee

Chair:

Ian Bond, Thursfields legal Limited

Committee members:

Rachael Armstrong, VWV
Amanda Elwell, The University of Law
Gavin Faber, Gateley Legal
Matthew Hansell, Mills & Reeve LLP
Beth King-Smith, Harrison Clark Rickerbys Limited
Richard Neea, Enoch Evans LLP
Bernard Shepherd, BES Shepherds
Anne Tromans, Shakespeare Martineau

Pro Bono Committee

Chair:

Mark Taylor, Eversheds Sutherland International (UK) LLP

Committee members:

Peter Adkins, Knights PLC
Shaun Bailey, Barclays Bank
Nicky Bancroft, Support Through Court
Rosie Banks, Irwin Mitchell LLP
Michael Bates, Birmingham Community Law Centre
Laure Bee

Emma Birch

Sophie Brambley, Linklaters LLP
Harriet Burford, Gateley Legal
Sam Burns, UK Research & Innovation
Lucy Burrows, BPP University Limited
Timothy Connal, HSBC Bank
Anne-Marie Dhillon, Law Works
Nicola Ellen, Shoosmiths
Katie Fennell, Central England Law Centre
Jonathan Fortnam, Pinsent Masons LLP
Lorna Gavin, Gowling WLG
Laura Golightly, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
Elena Goodfellow, Bevan Brittan
Joanne Gray, HSBC Bank
Cheryl Green, The University of Law
Laura Hyde, Aston University
Johal Inderpreet, DAC Beachcroft
Julia Jones, Bevan Brittan
Sophie Kernthaler, Barclays Bank
Chris King, Birmingham City University
Jack Morley, The University of Law
Louise Morran, Hughes Paddison Limited
Amber Nixon, DLA Piper UK LLP
Alex Pleydell, Mills & Reeve LLP
Katie Rothwell
Rachel Sutcliffe, Anthony Collins Solicitors
Amy Tabari, University of Birmingham Law School
Linden Thomas, University of Birmingham Law School
Alex Tolcher
Amy-Rose Warman, Eversheds Sutherland International (UK) LLP
Jennifer Wright, The University of Law

Property & Development Committee

Chair:

Denise Watkins, Gordon Jones & Co

Committee members:

David Brammer, Lanyon Bowdler LLP
Sarah Dwight, Sarah Dwight Solicitor
Simon Hayden, Shakespeare Martineau
Samantha Ingram, QualitySolicitors Davisons
Ben James, Blackhams inc. Allsopp & Co
Steve Kelway
Roger Lloyd
Clive Read, Shakespeare Martineau
Bernard Shepherd, BES Shepherds
Anthony Verduyn, St Philips Chambers
Geoff Wood, The Wilkes Partnership



Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 28 July 2020

The Council has pleasure in presenting the 201st Annual Report of the proceeding of the Society.

Officers

At the reconvened Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 28 July 2020, Mrs Inez Brown was installed as President of the Society, Ms Stephanie Perraton as Vice President and Mr Tony McDaid as Deputy Vice President. Ms Stephanie Brownlees and Ms Pardeep Lagha were installed as Joint Honorary Secretaries.

Board

Ms Dee Kundi was installed as the Chair of the Board of the Society.

Council

The retiring ordinary members of the Council were:
Dean Parnell
Regan Peggs
Bhavesh Prajapati

The ordinary members of Council who were nominated for re-election pursuant to Article (62) were:
N/A

There ex officio members retiring were:
Andrew Beedham
Chaitali Desai
Sophe Samani

The following members of the Society were duly nominated for election to the Council pursuant to Article (61):
Steven Jonas
Dee Kundi
Clare Murphy
Richard David Port
Andrew Rourke

Obituary

Christopher James (1932-2020)



Former Birmingham Law Society President Christopher James was born on 20 March 1932, to John Thomas Walters James, MC and Cicely Hilda James. He married Elizabeth Marion Cicely Thomson in 1958, and they had one son and one daughter.

Christopher was educated at Clifton College in Bristol, and later went on to study at Magdalene College, Cambridge. He served in the Royal Air force as a Lieutenant from 1951 to 1952, and in the TA from 1952-1960.

He was admitted as a solicitor in 1958, and worked as a Partner at Johnson & Co, Birmingham, and a senior partner from 1985-1987. He then became a Deputy Senior Partner at Martineau Johnson from 1987-89, before becoming Senior Partner from 1989-94. Christopher was a director of the Birmingham Building Society, then the Birmingham Midshires building from 1980-96, and was Chairman from 1990 to 1996.

He was the General Commissioner for Income Tax from 1974-1982, before becoming President of Birmingham Law Society from 1983-1984. He was chairman of the Kalamazoo Trust from 1997 to 2001, and was a council member at Edgbaston High School for Girls, and was Chairman from 1987-1990. He was a governor at Clifton College from 1980-1999.

In his spare time, he enjoyed photography, railways, trying to get the better of his computer and water colour painting.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consultation Paper Committee

The Consultation Committee has two roles. It is firstly responsible for responding directly to professional regulation consultations – from the SRA, LSB, LeO, SDT and, occasionally, the Ministry of Justice. The members of the Committee therefore tend to be drawn from those with professional regulation expertise.

The second role, and this usually falls to the Chair, is to assist the Society's specialist Committees with their responses to consultation papers. This involves standing back and checking the responses from the Society's viewpoint before they are submitted to the President for final approval. Copies of all responses are published on the BLS website and on social media with a short press release.

Even though we have been in lockdown, the work of the Consultation Committee and the Society's professional committees has continued apace. On a topical note, the Property & Development Committee commented in July 2020 on the Land Registry draft guidance on electronic signatures which had been hastily prepared to cope with the challenges of the pandemic. We did not escape from Brexit as the Dispute Resolution Committee responded to a Ministry of Justice consultation on post EU reforms for British courts.

The Criminal Law Committee was as busy as ever with responses to consultations on legal aid, sentencing for assault and Saturday bail courts. In 2020, the Government began its important constitutional review of judicial review. The Dispute Resolution Committee provided a response and continues to respond as the debate continues.

My thanks to the hard-working members of the Consultation Committee and to all the members of the specialist Committees. Responding to consultation papers is possibly the most important work undertaken by the Society and ensures that the voice of the Birmingham legal community is heard in all the right places.

On a final note, we are always looking for new Committee members. The Consultation Committee provides an ideal opportunity to develop your professional regulation knowledge so please volunteer if you are interested.

Jayne Willets, Chair,
Consultation Paper Committee



Criminal Law Committee

I write this report just a few months into my third year as chair of the Criminal Law Committee. Refreshing my memory of that report, the absence of any reference to the events of the last 15 months is striking. During the pandemic, the Committee has worked harder than ever for the benefit of the BLS membership and criminal law practitioners.

During last year, much of my time as chair, and that of the Committee, was taken up by engaging with other criminal justice stakeholders to develop models of best practice in a rapidly changing criminal justice environment. Court closures and reduced sitting hours during the pandemic have significantly exacerbated the backlog of work to be dealt with by the courts.

In addition to the Local Criminal Justice Board, the Committee represented members' interests on regular stakeholder meetings with the police, HMCTS and the senior judiciary. We fed back members' concerns effectively and in some areas, including the expansion of Saturday courts and members' attendance at police stations during the pandemic, were able to meaningfully contribute to policy change.

We have continued to respond to consultations on wider topics in the criminal justice system, including the Justice Select Committee and the Independent Criminal Legal Aid Review, both on the important topic of criminal legal aid reform. This remains a vital area of reform, if there is to be a viable model for the provision of criminal law advice and representation in the future. The Committee will play its part in contributing to that important work as it progresses this year.

Matt O'Brien, Chair,
Criminal Law Committee





COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dispute Resolution Committee

During 20/21, the Dispute Resolution Committee ('DRC') has gone from strength to strength. I have recently taken up the post of Chair of the DRC and have my work cut out in trying to follow in the footsteps of my predecessor Sophie Samani. I must express my utmost thanks to Sophie, on behalf of the DRC and Birmingham Law Society, for working tirelessly in reinvigorating and re-establishing our committee. The DRC now meets regularly, partakes in consultations and enjoys an enthusiastic and growing membership – Sophie has been an integral part of that success.

With the advent of Covid-19 turning our world upside down, the dispute resolution sector can fairly be said to have faced significant challenges. It has been no secret for many years that litigation has remained archaic in its processes and largely paper-based. Efforts have been made in the past to modernise the court system and progress has been slow; the Government has recently pushed for modernisation, but Covid-19 has truly forced us into the 21st century with many hearings now being routinely undertaken remotely by way of telephone and video conferences.

This brings us neatly into the focus of the DRC's meetings during 20/21, which has largely focused on reacting to the Covid-19 crisis. The DRC is extremely grateful to Birmingham Civil Justice Centre which has worked hard to maintain communication with practitioners and keep them updated. I also give particular thanks to DRC member District Judge Lumb who has been an invaluable means of communication between Birmingham Civil Justice Centre and the DRC; he regularly attends our meetings despite a busy schedule and is always willing to provide helpful information and updates – we are indebted to him for his hard work and assistance.

As we hopefully move out of lockdown, the DRC is keen to see that the progress that has been made in terms of modernisation does not unravel, and as such we look forward to seeing more permanent and positive change in the civil justice system – and we will push for that. To that end the DRC will be holding an event in November to discuss what has been learnt from the pandemic and how we go forward – Sophie will be leading this initiative, having conceived it.

Tobias Haynes, Chair
Dispute Resolution Committee



Finally, I give my sincerest thanks to all of the DRC members who volunteer their valuable time despite very busy lives and careers, particularly during these difficult times; they are the heart and soul of the DRC, which could not exist without them..

Employment Law Committee

The period covering the pandemic has been especially challenging yet relatively interesting for employment lawyers, for instance when dealing with fast developing new legal areas (especially what was a new concept of furlough leave); clients who often required urgent or strategic advice; and a drop then resurgence in employment tribunal claims at the same time requiring new ways of engaging in Tribunal hearings remotely.

The Employment Law Committee quickly adapted to the restrictions upon us all and has remained very active, continuing to meet monthly by video conference, with consistently strong attendance at meetings.

The Committee considered proposed changes to the law and liaised with parties and organisations connected with employment law, for example preparing a wide ranging survey on ET delays and cancellations which we presented to the Midlands Regional Employment Judge.

This past year saw fewer Government consultations on employment law than usual, yet the Committee still considered and responded to four separate consultations where we provided relevant views and opinions drawing on the wide ranging experience and representative interests of our Committee. We discussed and debated the consultations and prepared, refined and submitted responses, all of which were detailed and lengthy. Two consultations stood out as being particularly relevant to the practices of BLS members, concerning Carer's Leave, and significant proposed reform about the use of non-compete covenants in employment contracts.

We welcomed as guests to our meetings (then) Regional Employment Judge Monk; Regional Director of ACAS Malcolm Boswell; and the newly elected Chair of the Employment Lawyers Association, Marian Bloodworth. All guests provided informative insights and updates in their respective areas.

In November we organised and hosted a panel discussion involving four Employment Judges from the

Charlie Rae, Chair
Employment Law Committee





COMMITTEE REPORTS

West Midlands Region. The event proved very popular with BLS members and the format worked very well. We also, in May 2021, co-hosted a “Question Time” in conjunction with the Employment Lawyers

Association on the topic of Covid recovery. It was extremely well attended and raised a number of interesting and thought provoking employment law issues.

I have been greatly encouraged by the positivity and enthusiasm shown by our Committee during a very challenging period. We all look forward to the opportunity for to meet again in person, albeit our success in holding our meetings and events virtually suggests there is likely to be a role for that 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 which, with the exception of age, mirror the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010:

Disability
Gender
LGBT+
REACH (Race, Ethnicity & Cultural Heritage)
Religion
Social Mobility

As age is considered to be a characteristic that affects everyone, the expectation is that this will be considered across groups, as is well-being (which is not a protected characteristic in itself).

The structure of the committee is flexible, meaning that people can sit on more than one sub-committee or swap about. Further, sub-committees can collaborate on issues that affect more than one group.

The widening impact of the pandemic did not dent the committee members' commitment to ensuring that EDI remained high on the BLS engender. The importance of the

issue was emphasised by the global reaction to the death of George Floyd, which led us to take a serious look at what was being done to improve equality, diversity, and inclusion both within BLS and its member firms.

The REACH committee organised 3 round tables with senior managers and leaders of member firms, providing an opportunity for them to share practical ideas of the steps that they were taking to attract more black recruits, encourage opportunities for black staff members to progress within firms and to retain staff members. In addition to the opportunity for the discussion, the members received information from experts in the field of recruitment and employment as well as hearing some more personal stories of aspiring and actual black lawyers' experiences in the legal profession.

Those roundtables marked only the beginning of what will be a continuing process to support firms in effecting real and positive change. Part of the thinking is that if ideas and action can tackle the particularly intransigent issue of discrimination against black lawyers, the resulting successful strategies should (with adaptations as necessary) encompass all underrepresented groups in all strata of the profession.

The sub-committees are making increasingly imaginative use of social media with the Disability sub-committee sending out a series of tweets for Disability Awareness Day in July 2020 and the Social Mobility sub-committee organising a Twitter Takeover with Birmingham University, answering questions from students.

Undeterred by the inability for face-to-face networking, the Social Mobility sub-committee organised a virtual RAIL (Raising Aspirations in Law) event, which was well attended and received, despite some technical difficulties which led to some students being imprisoned in the same breakout room for longer than expected. However, positively, this led to them being able to obtain more detailed information from the professionals that they were with than might otherwise have been the case. This sub-committee also aimed to dispel the stereotypical impression that many people have of lawyers (posh, white, male) which may prevent them from either seeking to join the profession or seeking legal advice. The innovative aural piece – “This is What a Lawyer Sounds Like” should be circulating soon, no doubt to be followed by “This is What a Lawyer Looks Like” at some point next year. Just to make sure that every base was covered, members of the sub-committee also published Top Tips for Junior Lawyers, using each letter of the word Covid to form the basis of advice for coming successfully through the pandemic.

The women's mentoring project launched by the Gender sub-committee continues. We are currently in the process of collecting data from participants for evaluation. The sub-committee also produced an extremely well-received virtual session about menopause, packed with lots of interesting and practical information from a range of

Karen Bailey, Chair
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee





COMMITTEE REPORTS

speakers about symptoms, the impact on work, self-care, and tips for employers in terms of how best to create a supportive culture and environment, as well as their duties to do so. It was pleasing to note that men also attended the event, which is what EDI is all about.

The Gender sub-committee leads on BLS support for the Equal to Everything Project, aiming to get the story about Baroness Brenda Hale into as many schools as possible. They are aiming for a target of 260 books; are more than halfway there and edging closure so donations for the purchase of books are still welcome.

The Disability sub-committee hosted a panel event in October 2020 to raise awareness of World Mental Health Day in which legal professionals on the panel shared their own experience of mental ill-health, providing practical advice for improving your own. Again, that combination of personal experience and practical solutions was very well received, augmented by the presence of a member of LawCare who was able to provide an overview of the impact of the pandemic in terms of the increase in the calls that they were receiving and also providing useful advice.

These are not all of the events that the committee has produced in the last year but give a good indication of the energy and commitment of the group and what it has to offer. The only disappointment is that the Forum on the BLS website is not yet sufficiently used as a vehicle for members to share their views on anything, from any EDI concerns to issues affecting the legal profession generally.

We are now becoming more strategic in our thinking which should enable us to become even more effective both as a committee and a society. Individual committees have been encouraged to prepare EDI plans based on their areas of responsibility, considering the impact of the issues both on the lawyers in those areas, as well as clients.

The President, Inez Brown, an ex officio member of the committee, spearheaded the introduction of an EDI category for the Legal Awards and EDI will now become a standing item on the agenda for Council meetings. There is a recognition that we have to embed the principles of EDI within the culture and structure of the society if we are to offer proper support to our members. We look forward to an exciting year ahead as we hope and prepare for more opportunities to meet face to face and begin preparing in earnest to ensure that BLS has the opportunity to shine as part of the Commonwealth Games.

Family Law Committee

This year more than ever we have found the Committee has provided a much-needed support network for those working on the Committee.

We have shared notes on practice and procedure and have found, the West Midlands Family Law Bar

Association Website, a particularly helpful source of information!

“The Road Ahead” by Sir Andrew McFarlane has been a must-read and “go to” document of the year.

We started the year, last year, with Judge Thomas’ “Wellbeing Protocol”. On this theme we organised an event last autumn, with Mark Cooper, Barrister at law, (who has been part of the court’s Covid-Plan Group), Lawcare and the lead finance judge at Birmingham Family Court, His Honour Judge Rowland.

We have covered the topic of case management, which has been an ongoing theme at committee meetings. A particular example, is the Consultation paper, prepared by District Judge McCabe. This relates to how the Financial Remedy Court will operate when social distancing measures are reduced.

The consensus of the Committee was that hearings should be attended where possible (when measures are reduced). The exception may be hearings which are administrative in nature – such as First Directions Appointments in finance cases.

We have considered there may be a need for court hearings to be attended, for formality and solemnity to be restored, because there was some anecdotal evidence that this may not always be the case when hearings take place remotely. Our thoughts in general, were that remote hearings should be the exception, rather than the rule.

The greater time that Practitioners have been spending to organise remote hearings, to ensure the smooth running of court hearings, may not be sustainable.

Ahead of the departure of Family Law from EU Law on New Year’s Eve, we held an event towards the end of the year, with local and London-based barristers, which approached the subject in a light-hearted way, which was very well received.

We are planning a “Meet the Committee Event” in the autumn. The purpose is to engage with BLS members/family practitioners. The principle aims are to further our Equality Diversity and Inclusion plan and our “mission statement” to ensure we are inclusive to all. We wish to engage with members and non-members and in particular the younger practitioners to ensure our future.



Claire Darley
Chair, Family Law Committee



COMMITTEE REPORTS

In-house Committee

This is my first report as Chair of the In-House Lawyers Committee, and indeed our first report as a Committee to be included in the BLS Annual Report.

We appointed our first chair, Davinder Rana, and vice chair, Lauren Sharkey, in May 2019. Our initial focus was to stabilise our committee membership and the development of our Terms of Reference. As a newly formed committee with a relatively small executive membership, we were hit hard by the pandemic and did not meet as a committee between March 2020 and July 2020. Lauren Sharkey resigned in July 2020 and was succeeded by Michael Morgan-Bullock as Vice-Chair. Davinder Rana resigned in August 2020 and I was then appointed Chair in her place in September 2020.

Our immediate focus as a freshly constituted committee was to begin the process of identifying our in-house constituency. To that end, we arranged an online event for in-house lawyers in the region which we held in November 2020. We were fortunate to have BLS President Inez Brown and I. Stephanie Boyce, then Vice-President of The Law Society and now currently President of The Law Society as our keynote speakers. The event was well received and we plan to host many more such events to ensure we are truly representative of our constituency.

Given that in-house lawyers comprise 25% of the profession and it is anticipated will rise to 33% of the profession, our focus as a committee will continue to be in understanding our constituency and establishing innovative ways of engaging with in-house lawyers in the region and listening to their priorities, in order to best advise BLS on meeting their needs.

As a committee we are particularly conscious of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI). It is the golden thread that runs through all our considerations, it is on our agenda at every committee meeting and we are particularly keen on ensuring that EDI is considered whenever we seek the views of the in-house lawyers in the region.

I am grateful to the In-house Committee members for all of their hard work, commitment and support and look forward to the great work we will do in the coming year.

Grace Ononwu CBE, Chair
In-house Committee



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 and to instruct members of the BLS legal community.

The impact of Covid on our plans and aspirations should not be underestimated and whilst we have kept in touch with contacts far and wide it has not been possible to progress matters as we would have hoped.

2022 promises to be a better year with the Commonwealth Games taking place in Birmingham and BLS organising a legal conference entitled "Race to the Commonwealth" to coincide with the Games.

At the time of writing we are putting together sponsorship packages and applying the final touches to what we believe will be a thought provoking and inspiring conference that will shine the spotlight on Birmingham and its legal community.

I, along with a small number of other members of the International Committee, have joined the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and Covid restrictions permitting will be attending the CLA conference in the Bahamas 4th to 9th September where BLS will be taking a stand and engaging with CLA members in the hope we can attract them to our event in July 2022. Like all of you we are hoping Covid will have done its worst by then and we will have returned to some sort of normality but in the event that we haven't then we are looking at virtual options. Please do feel free to get in touch if you would like further information including information on sponsorship opportunities.

Tony McDaid
Chair, International Committee





COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legal Tech Committee

The committee is working hard to realise our President's commitment to the role of legal technology in the future of the legal sector. Our thanks to Denise Harnett & Natasha Keen for their support, and to Rav Hothi for his help. We partner with Hilary Smyth-Allen from SuperTech and are grateful for her support.

Formally established in January 2021, we meet monthly, have weekly officers' meetings and an events team.

To-date

- Co-Chairs attended a Managing Partners meeting and gathered views on priorities
- DEI principles
- Talked to Andrew McWhir Tech & Law Committee, at the national Law Society
- Talked to Chris Bull, Co-Chair of Bristol & Bath Legal Tech Committee
- Met with Karen Bailey & look forward meeting other Chairs
- Partnering with "The Ahead Partnership", a not for profit organisation which facilitates professionals sharing information and learning about their work with State school children. Mills & Reeve and Herbert Smith Freehills will be supporting an initiative on ProfTech through two of our committee members, Emma Jackson and Bilal Syed.
- Attended various events including Legal Tech Innovation Institute webinar leading to an offer to members re qualification and events focussing on EDI.

Events

On 22/4/21 Jas Basi, Co-Chair of the Committee hosted a **Wine and Learn - Security demands for a different future** evening sponsored by NetMotion and an excellent panel of experts.

Planned

- Establishing regular Legal Tech Meet Ups, first one 16th June 1-2 pm on hybrid working. Speakers from Oosha.
- In-person conference, 10th Sept 2021 12.30 – 4.30 pm, venue tbc, Covid restrictions permitting. "The Art of the Possible; what can be achieved using legal technology". Numbers are likely to be limited. Mills &

Reeve will be one of the four expected sponsors of the event.

- Virtual conference 24th Sept 2021

Ongoing work

- Through Eileen Schofield, stronger links with sole practitioner committee & planned meeting with In-House committee.
- Eileen Schofield & Inez Brown forging links on behalf of committee with Goldman Sachs
- Vin Chauhun is leading development of a legal tech landscape for West Mids.
- Autumn '21 SuperTech will run workshops on AI in legal practice for member firms
- Plan to meet Western Union re event sponsorship of future events
- Connecting to Birmingham Tech Week organisers

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 2020, the Society was focused on remaining connected to its membership through virtual events and providing a hub of information supporting lawyers as we all worked through the various lockdowns and the impacts these had on our businesses, people and clients. Birmingham Law Society provided a community and a central point as remote working became the norm, with excellent attendance at panel events, quizzes and media engagement that has been very well received.

We were able to review and agree that there would be no increase in the subscription rates given the financial pressure that member firms, chambers and individual members have been under during the year. I am pleased to report that renewals of membership were the strongest they have been for some time, clearly demonstrating the value that the Society has delivered to its members throughout the pandemic. In fact, membership has continued to increase and over the next 12 months, I am sure that the committee will continue to focus on delivering value for money for the Society's members.

Jas Basi
Chair, Legal Tech Committee



Nicola Jones
Chair, Legal Tech Committee



Caroline Coates, Chair,
Membership Committee





COMMITTEE REPORTS

Private Client Committee

It gives me great pleasure to write the first committee report the newly (re)formed private client committee. We formed a year ago in the middle of a global pandemic and what a first year it has been.

It has been a busy year for private client practitioners with ongoing changes to the probate registry, changes to the witnessing of wills to deal with pandemic situations and new challenges in carrying out our role brought by the pandemic and adapting to a changed world. The demand for the work we do has increased as well as the challenges in providing a professional service.

In these difficult times the committee will focus on the law and the legislative process relating to non-contentious private client work through meaningfully and pro-actively represent non-contentious private client practitioners; seeking to pursue the best interests of non-contentious private client practitioners in the Birmingham and surrounding areas.

This will include engaging with relevant consultations and in our first year we engaged and responded to the HMCTS consultation on the mandating of all professionals grant applications to be made online. We continue to engage with HMCTS on improving the probate service which is based at the Courts and Tribunals Service Centre here in Birmingham. Although, like the rest of us, the reality is that their staff are working from home throughout the pandemic.

We look forward to the coming year where we will develop up-to-date professional training on various private client matters that will be of interest to practitioners. Focusing on the practicalities of performing the job rather than the technicalities of the law itself. Please keep a look out for more news on this and we would welcome suggestions on topics that practitioners may find helpful as we develop the training schedule. As a committee we will work with like-minded private client organisations (for example STEP, SFE, CIOT, ICAEW) in the Birmingham and surrounding areas.

I am really grateful to Matthew Hansell for taking the role as Deputy Chair, Amanda Elwell in becoming the committee's Secretary and Bernard Shepherd for bringing his years of experience at BLS to our novice committee. I also thank other committee members Anne Tromans,

Rachel Armstrong, Richard Neea, Beth King-Smith and Gavin Faber for joining and contributing to the committee in this first year.

All our meetings have been held via Zoom due to the pandemic, but with the end of the pandemic restrictions we are looking forward to our first 'in person' committee meeting; hopefully to take place in the pub. If anyone would like to join the committee or would like to raise any points of concern which the committee can assist then please do get in touch with me through BLS.

Pro Bono Committee

In 2020 the pro bono committee has continued with its objectives to support, promote, signpost and raise the profile of pro bono work amongst both Birmingham Law Society members and the wider local community. The committee responded quickly to government restrictions, holding additional (virtual) meetings in the early months of the pandemic to support the continuing provision of pro bono services. Highlights of the year include:

- Hosting a series of online events during Pro Bono Week in November 2020. These included events addressing the use of technology in the provision of pro bono services; the success and failures of remote provision of legal advice; and a hackathon event to establish ways in which trainees can assist with pro bono projects. The hackathon led to several actions which are being followed up on.
- Welcoming student members to the committee.
- Continuing to work with online platform, the Birmingham Pro Bono Network, to engage lawyers, students and legal professionals in the pro bono conversation.
- Working on the creation of a comprehensive database of pro bono services available in the Birmingham area and how the public can access them.
- 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.

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

Ian Bond, Chair,
Private Client Committee



Mark Taylor, Chair
Pro Bono Committee





COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property & Development Committee

The Property and Development Committee year certainly has been a year to remember. We were all thrust into a lockdown period early in 2020 due to the Covid-19 virus that affected everyone and everything around the Country including all areas of the law. The housing market was closed completely with no completions being allowed to take place for some time unless scrupulous sanctions were adhered to and even then only those that had already contractually committed to complete. A meeting was held with the Vice President of the The Law Society and discussions were held as to the way forward with many firms in the Birmingham area requesting guidance as to how to deal with completions of properties and the Covid restrictions.

A decision was made to insert a Covid clause in all contracts, and also The Law Society were working on a Toolkit to assist the legal profession and in particular the Property Section.

Information from the discussion with The Law Society were discussed with the Property Committee and transmitted to other property solicitors where needed.

Electronic/mercury signatures were also discussed at the Property Committee meetings as a way forward to deal with signing deeds where lawyers were not seeing clients in person. Also, there was a discussion surrounding adapting The Law Society Code for Completion where deeds were no longer able to be sent out the same night as completion.

Our Committee meetings changed to virtual meetings. I am sure like so many other people, Zoom, Teams and other virtual platforms had not been greatly used, but we all very quickly adapted.

Our meetings in the Property and Development Committee were well attended but due to Government being tied up with all the problems that Covid brought with it there were not as many proposals up for discussion as would normally be. For example, the proposals on Leasehold Reform were delayed as were discussions surrounding planning changes.

Some of the matters discussed at our meetings were:

- a) legal action was being considered against developers including Barratt Homes, Persimmon and Taylor Wimpey in respect of onerous leases and ground rent terms. The Law Commission found bad practice by some of the national builders including misselling. The builders have since confirmed they were rectifying consumers issues.
- b) there was a discussion regarding The Building Safety Bill to be introduced following the Grenfell Tower tragedy with developers being required to join the scheme. Tenants were being presented with increased service charges in order to cover for landlords making improvements to cladding. Some changes have been made but this is still a controversial issue.

There were also discussions on impact of Covid on Construction sites around the City. Originally it was assumed it would not affect construction, but it became clear that construction workers could not work safely without being in close proximity to each other. It had a great impact on the constructions work and developments slowed or even came to a full stop.

Court work was affected and court cases in respect of Residential and Commercial matters were not being heard but we still managed as a Committee to have regular updates all the way through the Covid sanctions on those cases that had been heard or on topical matters that would be going through the Courts when the Covid sanctions were eventually eased.

We have had regular updates on Construction and Commercial matters and discussions amongst the Committee on topical issues and how the Coronavirus was impacting on this area of the law.

Updates on Planning law has also been a topic for discussion but the changes that were to be made were delayed.

I am pleased to say that as the months have gone by, the virtual meetings have become easier and we have managed to continue with monthly meetings, but it is noticeable to everyone on the Committee how the work has increased now that sanctions have started to lift. The construction industry is exceptionally buoyant as can be seen by the amount of building work being carried on around the City, the Courts have started to hear cases and the residential market work has increased greatly due to the Government's stamp duty holiday which was due to end in March but was extended to the end of June on most properties and some relief until September.

It has certainly been an unusual year for everyone on the Property and Development Committee beginning with great uncertainty as to what the future held and finishing with everyone being extremely busy.

Denise Watkins, Chair,
Property & Development Committee



**DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the Society 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	(Resigned 28 April 2020)
B Henry	
D Kundi	
T McDaid	
E Schofield	(Resigned 28 April 2020)
L Daly	
R Peggs	(Resigned 31 July 2020)
C Edwards	(Resigned 28 April 2020)
C Coates	(Resigned 8 April 2021)
K Bailey	
P Ellis	(Resigned 28 April 2020)
L Mason	(Appointed 28 April 2020 and resigned 12 January 2021)

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

June 2021

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.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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 2020 which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, the balance sheet, the statement of changes in equity and notes to the financial statements, including 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 2020 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at:
<https://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

June 2021

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
INCOME		124,367	134,887
Administrative expenses		(208,867)	(197,402)
Other operating income		<u>54,513</u>	<u>54,628</u>
OPERATING DEFICIT		(29,987)	(7,887)
Interest receivable and similar income	4	4,631	5,549
Interest payable and similar charges		(4)	(949)
Change in fair value of investments	5	<u>(145,407)</u>	<u>(793,201)</u>
DEFICIT BEFORE TAXATION		(170,767)	(796,488)
Taxation	6	<u>30,400</u>	<u>155,800</u>
DEFICIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	18	<u>(140,367)</u>	<u>(640,688)</u>

**BALANCE SHEET**

As at 31 December 2020

	Notes	£	2020 £	£	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		13,814		18,584
Investment properties	8		1,600,000		1,760,000
Investments	9		<u>283,052</u>		<u>264,580</u>
			1,896,866		2,043,164
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	146,844		121,321	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>60,965</u>		<u>30,622</u>	
			207,809		151,943
CREDITORS: AMOUNT FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	11	<u>(284,319)</u>		<u>(248,452)</u>	
Net current liabilities			<u>(76,510)</u>		<u>(96,509)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			1,820,356		1,946,655
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	12		(45,100)		(632)
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	15		<u>(137,703)</u>		<u>(168,103)</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>1,637,553</u>		<u>1,777,920</u>
RESERVES					
Non-distributable reserve			1,439,254		1,568,854
Income and expenditure account	18		<u>198,299</u>		<u>209,066</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			<u>1,637,553</u>		<u>1,777,920</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 ... and are signed on its behalf by:

B Henry
Director

D Kundi
Director

COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. 00005188


STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Non-distributable reserves £	Income and expenditure account £	Total £
BALANCE AT 1 JANUARY 2019	2,233,054	185,554	2,418,608
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019:			
Loss and total comprehensive income for the year	–	(640,688)	(640,688)
Transfers	(664,200)	664,200	–
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2019	1,568,854	209,066	1,777,920
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020:			
Loss and total comprehensive income for the year	–	(140,367)	(140,367)
Transfers	(129,600)	129,600	–
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2020	1,439,254	198,299	1,637,553

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2020

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 investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

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.

1.3 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, 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

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.

1.5 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.

1.6 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. Otherwise investments are measured at cost less impairment.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible 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.

1.8 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.

1.9 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.

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued***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.

1.10 Taxation

The tax currently payable is based on taxable surplus for the year. Taxable surplus differs from net surplus 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.

1.11 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

1.12 Retirement benefits

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

1.13 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.

1.14 Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

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 other 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:

	2020 Number	2019 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 2020 (2019: £nil).



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

4. INTEREST RECEIVABLE AND SIMILAR INCOME

	2020	2019
	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income includes the following:		
Income from other fixed asset investments	<u>4,631</u>	<u>5,549</u>

5. AMOUNTS WRITTEN OFF INVESTMENTS

	2020	2019
	£	£
FAIR VALUE GAINS/(LOSSES)		
Change in value of financial assets held at fair value through income or expenditure	14,593	26,799
Changes in the fair value of investment properties	<u>(160,000)</u>	<u>(820,000)</u>

6. TAXATION

	2020	2019
	£	£
DEFERRED TAX		
Movements on revaluation of investment property	<u>(30,400)</u>	<u>(155,800)</u>



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture, computers and equipment
	£
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1 January 2020	29,936
Disposals	(4,059)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2020	<hr/> 25,877 <hr/>
DEPRECIATION AND IMPAIRMENT	
At 1 January 2020	11,352
Depreciation charged in the year	4,770
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(4,059)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2020	<hr/> 12,063 <hr/>
CARRYING AMOUNT	
At 31 December 2020	<hr/> 13,814 <hr/>
At 31 December 2019	<hr/> 18,584 <hr/>

8. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2020 £
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 January 2020	1,760,000
Revaluations	(160,000)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2020	<hr/> 1,600,000 <hr/>

Investment property with a carrying value of £1,600,000 as at 31 December 2020 (2019: £1,760,000) was revalued on 18 June 2021 by Bruton Knowles Surveyors who are RICS Registered Valuers.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Investments	270,552	252,080
Other investments	12,500	12,500
	<u>283,052</u>	<u>264,580</u>

Investments with a carrying value of £270,552 as at December 2020 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 2020	252,080	12,500	264,580
Valuation changes	18,472	—	18,472
	<u>270,552</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>283,052</u>
At 31 December 2020	270,552	12,500	283,052
CARRYING AMOUNT			
At 31 December 2020	<u>270,552</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>283,052</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>252,080</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>264,580</u>

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade debtors	83,647	93,807
Other debtors	13,226	1,976
Prepayments and accrued income	49,971	25,538
	<u>146,844</u>	<u>121,321</u>



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

		2020	2019
	Notes	£	£
Loans and overdrafts	13	5,000	–
Trade creditors		26,987	49,587
Other taxation and social security		14,383	2,919
Deferred income	14	224,507	174,535
Other creditors		2,980	10,671
Accruals		10,462	10,740
		<u>284,319</u>	<u>248,452</u>

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

		2020	2019
	Notes	£	£
Loans and overdrafts	13	45,000	–
Deferred income	14	100	632
		<u>45,100</u>	<u>632</u>

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

Amounts included above which fall due after five years are as follows:

Payable by instalments	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>–</u>
------------------------	----------------	----------

13. LOANS AND OVERDRAFTS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Bank loans	50,000	–
Payable within one year	5,000	–
Payable after one year	<u>45,000</u>	<u>–</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.

During the year ended 31 December 2020 the Society received a HM Government-backed Coronavirus bank loan totalling £50,000. Under the terms of this lending HM Government has guaranteed 100% of the amount borrowed by the Society as at 31 December 2020.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

14 DEFERRED INCOME

	2020 £	2019 £
Arising from Deferred income	<u>224,607</u>	<u>175,167</u>
Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:		
Current liabilities	224,507	174,535
Non-current Liabilities	<u>100</u>	<u>632</u>
	<u>224,607</u>	<u>175,167</u>

15. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES

	2020 £	2019 £
Deferred tax liabilities	16 <u>137,703</u>	<u>168,103</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 2020 £	Liabilities 2019 £
BALANCES:		
Investment property	<u>137,703</u>	<u>168,103</u>
MOVEMENTS IN THE YEAR:		2020 £
Liability at 1 January 2020		168,103
Charge to profit or loss		<u>(30,400)</u>
Liability at 31 December 2020		<u>137,703</u>

17. MEMBERS' LIABILITY

The company is limited by guarantee, not having any 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 2020

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 these schemes are held separately from those of the Society in independently administered funds.

The total contributions for the year amounted to £2,227 (2019: £1,909) and outstanding contributions as at 31 December 2020 amounted to £nil (2019: £365).

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:

	2020 £	2019 £
Total outstanding commitments	<u>50,371</u>	<u>64,921</u>

LESSOR

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

	2020 £	2019 £
Total outstanding commitments	<u>3,111,595</u>	<u>3,135,763</u>

**DETAILED TRADING AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

For the year ended 31 December 2020

		2020		2019
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions		117,216		106,454
Lectures and courses		7,151		28,433
		<u>124,367</u>		<u>134,887</u>
OTHER OPERATING INCOME				
Rents receivable	24,168		50,443	
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	15,130		—	
Other Coronavirus funding	10,000		—	
Insurance recharges	5,215		4,185	
	<u>54,513</u>		<u>54,628</u>	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		(208,867)		(197,402)
OPERATING DEFICIT		<u>(29,987)</u>		<u>(7,887)</u>
INVESTMENT REVENUES				
Bank interest receivable	1		2	
Income from Stock Exchange listed investments	<u>4,630</u>		<u>5,547</u>	
		4,631		5,549
INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR EXPENSES				
Bank interest on loans and overdrafts		(4)		(949)
OTHER GAINS AND LOSSES				
Increase or decrease in fair value of investment property	(160,000)		(820,000)	
Change in fair value of financial assets measured at fair value through income or expenditure	<u>14,593</u>		<u>26,799</u>	
		(145,407)		(793,201)
DEFICIT BEFORE TAXATION		<u>(170,767)</u>		<u>(796,488)</u>

**SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Wages and salaries	99,961	103,334
Social Security costs	4,766	5,364
Staff training	845	750
Staff pension costs	2,227	1,909
Lectures and courses	3,315	5,647
Grants and prizes	250	600
Annual Dinner	—	(5,976)
Public Relations	2,858	2,708
Legal Awards	1,306	(21,993)
Computer expenses	8,118	6,785
Premises expenses	36,523	46,846
Equipment hire	4,300	4,021
Other events, travel and associated expenses	(1,663)	1,070
Professional charges	15,200	15,650
Audit fees	1,200	1,200
Bank Charges	1,788	2,469
Printing and stationery	1,236	2,015
Telephone and postages	7,015	14,215
Newly qualified event	—	(1,503)
Incidentals	3,292	789
Depreciation	4,770	1,924
(Profit) or loss on sale of tangible assets	—	335
Irrecoverable VAT	11,560	9,243
	208,867	197,402

PRIZE FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**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.

	2020 £	2019 £
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	147	141
Less: Gold Medal Prize	<u>(250)</u>	<u>(250)</u>
Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account	<u>(103)</u>	<u>(109)</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	2,776	2,704
Interest received during year	<u>125</u>	<u>122</u>
	2,901	2,826
Less: Book Prize	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>2,851</u>	<u>2,776</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
 23 June 2021



PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY 1818 - 2020

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 EVERSHERD	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 - 2020

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
INEZ MAY BROWN	2020



OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 1818 - 2020

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 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

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	2011
INEZ MAY BROWN	Joint	2016
CHAITALI DESAI	Joint	2016
SOPHIE MARGARET LOUISE SAMANI	Joint	2018
STEPHANIE MAY BROWNLEES	Joint	2020
PARDEEP LAGHA		April - Oct 2020
MARIYAM BANDEBA HARUNAH		Nov 2020

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
DEE HARJIT KAUR KUNDI	2020



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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email: info@birminghamlawsociety.co.uk

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