



BIRMINGHAM
LAW SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



It has been an honour and a privilege to be President of Birmingham Law Society for the past 12 months. It has at times been difficult, with the ongoing challenges of the pandemic during the first part of my year, and latterly adapting to the "new normal" working environment we all find ourselves facing on a daily basis.

At the start of my year, I set out a number of objectives and initiatives that I wanted to fulfil during my term and, whilst some have been adapted and new initiatives undertaken, we have achieved a great deal.

The Legal Awards in March was the first large, in person, event that the Society had hosted for nearly two years, due to the restrictions placed upon us by the pandemic. It was a great success, gathering everyone together in style to celebrate the achievements of our very talented lawyers and firms that make up the membership of Birmingham Law Society. And you don't need me to remind you what a wealth of talent we have in Birmingham, from Jayne Willetts the winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award, to the first recipient of the In House Award, Cleo Stewart, and to Trowers and Hamlins who successfully picked up

the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Award for the first time. The judges commented on how many difficult decisions they had to make.

One of my initiatives was to promote the importance of wellbeing, both from a physical and mental standpoint. I am delighted, therefore, that we successfully hosted the first Birmingham Law Society Wellbeing Conference in July, supported by the Joint V and attended by over 60 members. We hosted a roundtable looking at wellbeing from both an employer and employee perspective, a masterclass on how to "burn bright" and taster sessions on nutrition, mindfulness and movement. More recently, after many months of planning, we now have a dedicated page on the BLS website supporting wellbeing.

At the start of my year, I wanted to focus on re-engaging and re-connecting the whole of our legal community following the pandemic. At the Newly Qualified (NQ) event in November, I was shocked to discover that many of the NQ's had never met other lawyers, having spent much of their time working from home. I wasn't entirely sure how this would work, but by instigating a series of

networking events, with the support of Chambers, we were able to get lawyers, young and old out and about again, some meeting for the very first time. Thank you to St Philips, No5, Cornwall Street, 3PB and St Ives. The networking events were extremely well attended, growing in popularity during the course of the year, with the last event being attended by over 75 people. We had cocktail bars and crazy golf, but most of all we created an atmosphere where members could meet and get to know each other. The first BLS "Alternative Dinner" took place in June, giving an opportunity for all lawyers, not just senior lawyers, to attend a formal dinner, many for the very first time. It was a great success and one that I know the Officers want to continue next year.

Birmingham was host to the Commonwealth Games in July, it was an event that made me extremely proud to be a Brummie. At Birmingham Law Society, we marked the occasion with a Conference for Commonwealth Lawyers and members entitled "Race to the Commonwealth and Beyond". It covered a vast range of important topics and featured speakers from all over the Commonwealth. Tony McDaid and the International Committee had spent over five years planning the Conference and dinner, which was a resounding success. Birmingham Law Society also hosted a 24/7 legal clinic for athletes and their entourage, and whilst we were not called upon to deal with many issues, I am extremely proud of all of the lawyers who volunteered to be on standby and the volunteers who manned the telephones throughout the games.

I have eaten more lunches with sponsors and attended more dinners during the course of the year than I ever thought possible, attended more meetings and met so many interesting people. For each lunch or dinner there is definitely a story to tell and an experience to remember - maybe I will share those with you another time.

Our Committees continue to work hard on behalf of the Society, in particular the Consultation Committee who have produced some excellent and thought provoking responses to the numerous Consultations throughout the year. I am also pleased to

welcome the new Committee Chairs that have joined us during the year, I know we will be hearing a lot from them in the coming months. To keep members up to date, we have continued with the online version of the Bulletin and produced regular e-newsletters for members.

As we emerged from the pandemic, it was clear that we needed to review the Governance of the Society to ensure that it continued to be fit for purpose in 2022 and beyond. I am extremely grateful to the working party and the implementation Committee for their work to date and, whilst I am disappointed that we are not able to bring the finished articles to the members now, at the AGM, we decided that a little more time was needed to ensure that all of the relevant documentation is correct. As part of the review, the Board and Council identified the need for a CEO, that person has now been appointed and will be starting shortly, with one of their tasks being to review future strategies for the Society.

And finally, my year would not have been the same without the constant support of my Vice President, Tony McDaid, and fellow officers, Alice Kinder, Mariyam Harunah and Peter Wiseman, -thank you. Thank you also to Council for their guidance and support during a challenging year. To the Board, in particular, the Interim Chair, and finance director Ben Henry, Steven Jonas and Andrew Beedham without whose support the "job" would not have been possible. And last, but by no means least, the office staff under the leadership of Becky Lynch. During the year we welcomed three new faces, Jess Uppal, Janet Abe and Shona Betts, all of whom are doing a fantastic job of supporting the Society and the Officers.

As my year draws to a close, I am proud of the achievements and advances we have made as a Society during 2021/2022 and hope that the Society is in a more robust position to face the future. And, of course, I look forward to seeing you all at the President's Dinner in November, when in a break from tradition, Tony McDaid and I will be hosting a joint dinner.

Stephanie Perraton
September 2022

Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 30th September 2022

The Council has pleasure in presenting the 202nd Annual Report of the proceeding of the Society.

Officers

At the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 30th September, Stephanie Perraton was installed as President of the Society, Tony McDaid as Vice President and Alice Kinder as Deputy Vice President. Mariyam Harunah and Clare Murphy were installed as Joint Honorary Secretaries.

Council

The retiring ordinary members of the Council were: Poppy Wilkinson and Greg Lowson.

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

There ex officio members retiring were: Stephanie Brownlees, Pardeep Lagha and James Turner.

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

Neil Fawcett – 3PB Barristers
James Farmer - Cornwall Street Barristers
Aimee Fox – 3PB Barristers
Shaid Parveen – The University of Law
Eileen Schofield – Schofield & Associates
Neena Janda– Trowers & Hamlin
James Turner – Tuckers Solicitors

The President reported at the AGM that the following nominees had been elected as Council Members: Aimee Fox, Eileen Schofield, James Turner, James Farmer and Neena Janda.

Obituaries

Peter Taylor – Past President 1985 sadly passed away 15th Jan 2022
Maurice Putsman – Past President 1982 sadly passed away 23rd July 2022



BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY





It is my pleasure to present the combined Board and finance report in this Annual Report for 2021.

Firstly, the Chair's report on behalf of the Board.

As many members will know, as Finance Director and former Vice Chair, I have fairly recently taken over the chairing of the Board as Acting Chair, and so was not in post during the year

that this report addresses. I have made no secret of the fact that this is a "caretaker" role and I do not have long-term ambitions to remain in post. The next year is a potentially significant one for the Society, which I will touch on further below, and I have said that I will remain in post for as long as needed until a successor can be found to lead the Board in the longer term.

That makes this a slightly unusual report in that I am not using my report to set out either what I have done during the past year or what I intend to do during the next. What I will do is to set out our successes through the finance lens (finance being my area of focus during the last year), and to record my personal thanks to those who have worked tirelessly on the Board for the good of the Society throughout the year.

Any board is only ever as strong as its directors, all of whom act as volunteers, and this year in particular has shown what a robust, industrious and dedicated team we have had the pleasure to be served by, and to work with. Acting together, the whole has also benefitted from being stronger than the sum of its parts.

It is important that we recognise the work of the many who have served on the Board during this last year, and who have since stepped down from their role as directors: Dee Kundi as chair, Karen Bailey, Laura Daly, Rav Hothi, Tony McDaid and Nisha March. I record again the Board's formal thanks to them for their industry and work for the good of the Society, and my personal gratitude for their contributions.

Further, we should recognise those who stepped in during this past year when the Board was in need of directors to remain quorate: Steven Jonas and Andrew Beedham, and without whom we (literally) could not have continued.

My thanks also to those remaining Board members who served during the last year, our ex-officio members Inez Brown and Stephanie Perraton, whose vital contribution, and link to the important role of the president, past and present, has been invaluable.

So, to the future.

Board and Council made two significant decisions in the past year. The first of these was to develop and propose a new governance structure which we hope to implement later in 2022. In this regard, the work of the many who served on the governance and implementation committees to propose and put in train the most significant changes to the Society in living memory, if not for 200 years, cannot be underestimated. Special thanks must also be recorded to Linden Thomas who chaired the governance committee,

and to Clive Read who currently chairs the implementation committee.

The second decision was to appoint a chief executive to act alongside the Board to improve the functioning of the Society and to deliver its strategies and objectives.

These two developments we hope will ensure the Society remains operationally stronger and relevant to its members and viable for a further 200 years.

This year also saw significant developments in the balance sheet of the Society. The investments, now under new management, had risen at the end of 2021 to an all-time high. Further, the renegotiated rent terms for the Temple Street premises maximised the rental income of the Society in turbulent times during 2021, and the lease finally passed its five-year anniversary. The latter meant the Society had made it through the discounted rent period agreed in 2017, and consequently the rental income going forward will be on full commercial terms and delivering an income to the Society many multiples of that which has been received for each of the last three years.

Finance Report

That brings me to the finance report in my role as finance director.

The annual accounts are being shared with this report and so I only need summarise the headline points:

- Turnover remained stable at £123,962 (2020: £124,367)
- Of this, subscription income increased to £118,406 (2020: £117,216)
- Learning and development income, as expected, fell to £5,556 (2020: £7,151)
- Other income was £42,700 (2020: £54,513)
- Rental income was £36,480 (2020: £24,168)
- Two events recorded substantial profits:
 - The legal awards generated a profit £27,867 (2020: nil)
 - The president's dinner generated a profit of £6,273 (2020: nil)
- Investments rose to £317,312 (2020: £283,052)

The Society recorded an overall surplus before tax of £20,544, due to the increase in value of investments offsetting the operating loss. It may be remembered that a deficit before tax was reported in 2020 (£170,767), mainly due to the reduction in value of the Temple Street premises following reassessment.

The Society remains a going concern and the future looks promising in financial terms. Compared to this year, other things being equal, our rental income will deliver additional net income to the Society of approximately £115,000 by this time next year. Our overheads will also increase with the addition of the chief executive, but it can be seen that there is scope for a healthy surplus to be reported in a year's time, and the Society will need to make decisions about how to utilise these additional funds to the benefit of the membership.

Ben Henry, Finance Director and Acting Chair

President

Stephanie Perraton, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP (Birmingham) 0121 222 3000

Vice President

Tony McDaid No5 Barristers' Chambers (Birmingham) 0845 210 5555

Deputy Vice President

Alice Kinder, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP (Birmingham) 0121 200 3242

Joint Honorary Secretaries

Mariyam Harunah Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP (Birmingham) 0121 222 3000

Peter Wiseman, 01543 472667

Board

Andrew Beedham Board Director

Inez Brown Ex-Officio, Past President

Ben Henry Chairman (Interim) and Finance Director

Steven Jonas Board Director

Stephanie Perraton Ex Officio, President

Baljinder Singh Atwal West Midlands Police

Dalya Ben Romdhane Pinsent Masons LLP

Inez Brown Harrison Clark Rickerbys Limited

Michelle Chapman Irwin Mitchell LLP

Ravinder Singh Chumber Rashid & Co Solicitors Ltd

Laura Daly Irwin Mitchell LLP

Claire Darley Higgs LLP

James Farmer Cornwall Street Barristers

Aimee Fox 3PB Barristers

Mariyam Harunah Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP

Ben Henry Jonas Roy Bloom

Neena Janda Trowers & Hamlins LLP

Steven Jonas Jonas Roy Bloom

Mary Kaye Rayden Solicitors

Alice Kinder Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP

Rebecca Lynch Birmingham Law Society

Tony McDaid No5 Barristers' Chambers

Matt O'Brien Jonas Roy Bloom

Shaid Parveen Aston University

Stephanie Perraton Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP

Richard Port MBE George Green LLP

Clive Read Shakespeare Martineau

Eileen Schofield Schofield & Associates

Bernard Shepherd BES Shepherds

Ian Shovlin Higgs LLP

Lubna Shuja Legal Swan Solicitors

Bridget Tatham Browne Jacobson LLP

Linden Thomas University of Birmingham Law School

Zoe Tranter Tranter Mills Solicitors

James Turner Tuckers Solicitors LLP

Denise Watkins Gordon Jones & Co

Joe Wilson St Philips Chambers

Peter Wiseman

Birmingham Law Society Staff

Director of Operations Rebecca Lynch 0121 227 8704

Marketing and Events Manager Jessica Uppal 0121 227 8703

Administrative Assistant Janet Abe 0121 227 8701

Administrative Assistant Shona Betts 0121 227 8702

PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY

THOMAS LEE	1818	WILLIAM HENRY TILLEY	1960
JOHN MEREDITH	1825	JOHN SHUFFLEBOTHAM	1962
JOHN SIMCOX	1832	FREDERICK WILLIAM WHITALL OAKLEY	1963
ROGER WILLIAM GEM	1833	CHARLES THOMAS WINTERTON	1964
THOMAS EYRE LEE	1848	RICHARD LAURENCE EKIN	1965
CLEMENT INGLEBY	1852	GEOFFREY HORACE PIDDOCK	1966
JOHN WELCHMAN WHATELEY	1855	HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS	1967
ARTHUR RYLAND	1873	CHRISTOPHER HEDLEY HARMER	1968
GEORGE JAMES JOHNSON	1874	THOMAS HARRY PARKINSON	1969
ARTHUR RYLAND	1876	CHARLES HERBERT LEA	1970
WILLIAM EVANS	1877	JOHN ATKINSON RUTLEDGE	1970
JAMES MARIGOLD	1879	SYDNEY SOLOMON JACOBS	1972
THOMAS HORTON	1882	JOHN TIMOTHY ARTHUR SMITH	1973
CHARLES EDWARD MATTHEWS	1885	JOHN ANTONY ALDERSON	1974
CORNELIUS THOMAS SAUNDERS	1888	DAVID LIDDELL	1975
SIR THOMAS MARTINEAU	1888	WALTER WOOD	1976
LAURISTON WINTERBOTHAM LEWIS	1891	DAVID STANLEY ADAMS	1977
JOSEPH BENNETT CLARKE	1893	ROBERT JOSEPH GARRATT	1978
ARTHUR GODLEE	1895	GEORGE SIEGFRIED JONAS	1979
THOMAS HAWKES RUSSELL	1897	DENYS ERIC FORDHAM	1980
JOSEPH ANSELL	1899	ROGER HORTON VERNON	1980
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1901	ARNOLD MAURICE PUTSMAN	1982
JOHN BARHAM CARSLAKE	1903	CHRISTOPHER JOHN JAMES	1983
ALFRED POINTON	1906	FREDERICK HAROLD TURNER	1984
WALTER BARROW	1908	PETER LESLIE TAYLOR	1985
JOHN GILBERT BRADBURY	1910	BRIAN EDWARD GLYNN WILLIAMS	1986
ALFRED HENRY COLEY	1912	JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON	1987
JAMES HARGREAVE	1914	DAVID HOWARD HIGGS	1988
ARTHUR LABRON LOWE	1916	CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES	1989
FRANCIS AUGUST CHATWIN	1918	PHILIP EDWARD RICHARDSON	1990
ARCHIBALD SOMERVILLE BENNETT	1919	CHARLES RODERICK KING-FARLOW	1991
JAMES ARTHUR MARIGOLD	1920	JOHN ADRIAN JAMES AUCOTT	1992
EDWARD EVERSLED	1921	STANLEY BERNARD SHORTT	1993
THOMAS COOKSEY	1922	JOHN MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM	1994
CHARLES EKIN	1923	ALBERT WILLIAM HEASELGRAVE	1995
JOSEPH JAMES	1924	RICHARD DUDLEY CHAPMAN	1996
FRANCIS HENRY PEPPER	1925	MICHAEL DAVID HUMPHREY SHEPHERD	1997
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1926	MALCOLM GASKELL FOWLER	1998
CORNELIUS HALE SAUNDERS	1927	TREVOR ARTHUR LEE	1999
HUGH BARHAM CARSLAKE	1928	JAYNE BELINDA WILLETTS	2000
GEORGE HUGGINS	1929	MICHAEL JAMES WARD	2001
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1930	ANTHONY RALPH COLLINS	2002
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1931	DIANE PATRICIA BENUSSI	2003
SYDNEY VERNON	1932	STEVEN MICHAEL JONAS	2004
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1933	RICHARD THOMAS FOLLIS	2005
WILFRED CLARKSON MATTHEWS	1934	PHILIP DUNKLEY STEEL	2006
FRANK HENRY CUFAUDE WILTSHIRE	1935	SUKHDEV SINGH BHOMRA	2007
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1937	CAROLINE AMANDA COATES	2008
HERBERT WILLIAM LYDE	1938	BERNARD ROBERT MCWALTER SHEPHERD	2009
JOSEPH THOMAS HIGGS	1939	DEAN CURTIS PARNELL	2010
GEORGE HAROLD WILLCOX	1941	ANDREW JOHN LANCASTER	2011
ARTHUR JOHN GATELEY	1943	MARY DYMHPNA KAYE	2012
JOHN FREDERICK WEST	1945	EDWARD THOMAS MARTIN ALLSOPP	2013
WILLIAM CHARLES COLEMAN GELL	1946	EILEEN FRANCES MARY SCHOFIELD	2014
CHARLES ADRIAN ASHFORD ELTON	1947	MUSHTAQ AHMED KHAN	2015
JOHN FAIRFAX CROWDER	1948	JOHN BAILEY HUGHES	2016
JOHN HENRY SQUIRE ADDISON	1949	ANDREW JOHN BEEDHAM	2017
GEORGE ARTHUR LYON HATTON	1950	JAMES ALAN TURNER	2018
CYRIL HIGHWAY	1950	LINDEN JAYNE THOMAS	2019
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	1952	INEZ MAY BROWN	2020
CECIL HAMMOND COX	1953	STEPHANIE LOUISE PERRATON	2021
THOMAS BERNARD SMITH	1954		
JOHN ALBERT CALTHROP TAYLOR	1955		
PHILIP HORTON VERNON	1956		
GEOFFREY MARTEN KING	1957		
GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	1958		
JOSEPH KENNETH WALKER	1959		
RODERICK SYDNEY KING-FARLOW	1960		

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

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	2002
STEVEN MICHAEL JONAS		
PETER DAVID WISEMAN	JOINT	2002
MARK JONATHAN BEESLEY		
PETER DAVID WISEMAN	JOINT	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		2020
MARIYAM BANDEBA HARUNAH		2020
CLARE KATHRYN MURPHY	JOINT	2021

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Consultation Committee

Committee Chair - Jayne Willetts,
Jayne Willetts & Co Solicitors Ltd

Committee Members

Tom Ellis Ladders Solicitors LLP (Birmingham)
Philip Steel
John Whitehouse Gowling WLG (UK) LLP (Birmingham)
Peter Wiseman

Criminal Law Committee

Committee Chair - Matt O'Brien, Jonas Roy Bloom

Committee Members

Chloe Ashley, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Keith Astbury, Glaisyers LLP
Alexander Barbour, St Philips Chambers
Inderdeep Singh Bhomra, Tuckers Solicitors LLP
Sukhdev Bhomra, Mandla Bhomra & Co
Stephanie Brownlees, Eden Legal Services Ltd
Matthew Cullen, St Philips Chambers
Christopher Grainger, Gateley Legal
Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom
Alex Pritchard-Jones, St Ives Chambers Ltd
Harjit Rashoda-Chauhan, Criminal Cases Review
Commission (CCRC)
Catherine Ravenscroft, St Philips Chambers
Charmaine Robinson, Purcell Parker
Andrew Rourke, St Ives Chambers Ltd
Deirdre Smythe, Clerksroom
Gemma Tibbatts, Regan Peggs Solicitors
James Turner, Tuckers Solicitors LLP
Ian Vesey, EP Legal incorporating Warwick Vesey

Dispute Resolution Committee

Committee Chair - Tobias Haynes, Martin Kaye Solicitors

Committee Members

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

Employment Law Committee

Committee Chair - Charlie Rae, Shoosmiths LLP

Committee Members

Victoria Duddles, Weightmans LLP
Neelam Afzal, Wildings Solicitors LLP

Kamaljit Bains, Make UK
Edmund Beever, St Philips Chambers
Martin Chitty, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
Jon Coley, Pinsent Masons LLP
Charles Crow, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Sophie Garner, St Philips Chambers
Benedict Gomer, Gateley Legal
Michael Hibbs, Shakespeare Martineau
Jogvinder Kaur Hundle, Mills & Reeve LLP
Christina Hutchinson, Fieldfisher LLP
Mugni Islam-Choudhury, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Alan Jones, Averta Employment Lawyers LLP
Tim Jones, Higgs LLP
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 LLP
Tracy Worthington, FBC Manby Bowdler LLP
Jennifer Wright, The University of Law

Equality & Diversity Committee

Committee Chair - Catherine Edwards

Committee Vice Chair - Suki Chhokar

Family Law Committee

Committee Chair - Claire Darley, FBC Manby Bowdler LLP

Committee Vice Chair - Mark Hands, Irwin Mitchell LLP
(Birmingham)

Committee Members

Aasha Choudhary, Shakespeare Martineau
Adam Wadley, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Aimee Fox, 3PB Barristers
Aliya Yousaf, KJ Conroy & Co Ltd
Cathy Price, Glaisyers LLP
Clare Radburn, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Deirdre Smyth, Clerksroom
Ian Charlton, 3PB Barristers
Juliet Allen, St Philips Chambers
Karen Moores, Sydney Mitchell LLP
Katie Langdon, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Kerry Davies, Adcocks Solicitors
Mark Mansell, St Philips Chambers
Marya Bibi, Davies & Partners
Matthew Saunderson, Anthony Collins Solicitors
Melissa Doherty, Mackrell Solicitors
Monica Ghai, Shakespeare Martineau
Richard Port MBE, George Green LLP
Robin Rowland, HMCTS
Suzanne El-Safty, Mills & Reeve LLP
Tom Gregory, Anthony Collins Solicitors

In House Committee

Committee Chair - Cleo Stewart, Midland Heart Limited

Committee Members

Heidi Salter, Housing 21
 Anna Whittingham, High Speed Two (HS2) Limited
 Stephanie Perraton, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP
 Michael Morgan-Bullock, Birmingham Community
 Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
 Douglas Mackay, Crown Prosecution Service
 Kuldip Kaur, HSBC Bank PLC
 Neena Janda, Zappi
 Siobhan Blake, Crown Prosecution Service
 Baljinder Singh Atwal, West Midlands Police

International Law Committee

Committee Chair - Tony McDaid, No5 Barristers' Chambers

Committee Members

Sandra Astbury, No5 Barristers' Chambers
 Jonathan Coutts, John Venn and Sons Scrivener Notaries
 James Farmer, Cornwall Street Barristers
 Mandy Haque, Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce
 John Hughes, Shakespeare Martineau
 Paul McConnell, University of Birmingham Law School
 Raj Padhiar, Carltons Solicitors Limited
 Eileen Schofield, Schofield & Associates
 Nilay Shastry, Staple Inn Chambers
 Bernard Shepherd, BES Shepherds
 Ian Vesey, EP Legal incorporating Warwick Vesey

Legal Tech Committee

Committee Chair - Nicola Jones, Athena Professional
Committee Vice Chair - Jas Bassi, Gateley Legal

Committee Members

Des Burley, Burley Law Limited
 Monika Gagat, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP
 Emma Jackson, Mills & Reeve LLP
 Grace MacWilliam, Mills & Reeve LLP
 Matthew Newton, Oosha Ltd
 Tony Randle, Shoosmiths LLP
 Mohammed Toqeer, Harrison Clark Rickerbys Limited

Private Client Committee

Committee Chair - Matthew Hansell, Mills & Reeve LLP

Committee Members

Beth King-Smith, Harrison Clark Rickerbys Limited
 Richard Neea, Enoch Evans LLP
 Bernard Shepherd, BES Shepherds
 Rachael Armstrong, VWV
 Lesley Davis, Shakespeare Martineau
 Amanda Elwell, The University of Law (Birmingham)
 Gavin Faber, Gateley Legal

Pro Bono Committee

Committee Chair - Elena Goodfellow, Bevan Brittan LLP
Vice Committee Chair - Amelia Bauer, Bevan Brittan LLP

Committee Members

Laura Hyde, Aston University
 Lana Afenah, Support Through Court
 Michael Bates, Birmingham Community Law Centre
 Amelia Bauer, Bevan Brittan LLP
 Lucy Burrows, BPP University Limited
 Anne-Marie Dhillon, LawWorks
 Katie Fennell, Central England Law Centre
 Cheryl Green, The University of Law
 Catherine Henry, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
 Chris King, Birmingham City University
 Katherine King, Central England Law Centre
 Rachel Sutcliffe, The NEC Group
 Amy Tabari, University of Birmingham Law School
 Mark Taylor, Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP
 Paris Theodorou, Theodorou
 Alexander Tolcher, DWF LLP
 Jennifer Wright, The University of Law (Birmingham)

Professional Development Committee

Committee Chair - Chrissie Wolf

Committee Members

Sonya Smith, Birmingham City University
 Kathryn Salt, Irwin Mitchell LLP
 Sarah Ramsey, The University of Law (Birmingham)
 Shaid Parveen, Aston University
 Paul McConnell, University of Birmingham Law School
 Kate Marrs, DLA Piper UK LLP
 Nisha March, Harrison Clark Rickerbys Limited
 Jay Lutwyche, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
 James Juggapah, BPP University Limited
 Nicola Jones, Athena Professional
 Isabel Griffith, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
 Tamina Greaves, Crown Prosecution Service
 Monika Gagat, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP
 Liz Burley, Burley Law Limited
 Dalya Ben Romdhane, Pinsent Masons LLP

Property & Development Committee

Committee Chair - Denise Watkins, Gordon Jones & Co

Committee Members

Simon Hayden, Shakespeare Martineau
 Ben James
 Geoffrey Wood, The Wilkes Partnership LLP
 Roger Lloyd
 Anthony Verduyn, St Philips Chambers
 Clive Read, Shakespeare Martineau
 Bernard Shepherd, BES Shepherds
 David Brammer
 Samantha Ingram, Davisons Law
 Sarah Dwight, Sarah Dwight Solicitor

CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

Jayne Willetts, Chair.



The Consultation Committee has two roles. It is firstly responsible for responding directly to professional regulation consultations – from the SRA, LSB, Legal Ombudsman, 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 for part of the year, the work of the Consultation Committee and the Society's professional committees has continued apace. The Employment Committee was as busy as ever and responded to Government consultations on exclusivity and non-compete clauses in contracts of employment. The Criminal Law Committee provided detailed submissions to the Ministry of Justice Independent Review of criminal legal aid – which is so critical to the future of our criminal justice system. The Dispute Resolution Committee provided a further response to the Government's important constitutional review of judicial review.

My thanks to the industrious members of the Consultation Committee and to all the members of the specialist Committees. Responding to consultation papers is 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.

CRIMINAL LAW COMMITTEE

Matt O'Brien, Chair.



The Criminal Law Committee remains a vital forum for BLS members practising criminal law, and, more widely, for the criminal justice system in the region. We meet on a monthly basis, with members drawn from a range of criminal justice system stakeholders: criminal and regulatory solicitors; the independent Bar; the Crown Prosecution Service; the Probation Service and Birmingham City Council.

As I complete my third year as Chair, I reflect on the Committee's achievements during the last twelve months. Our record of representing members' interests continues unabated, with our evidence to the Justice Select

Committee on the Future of Legal Aid being quoted extensively in their 2021 final report. During the early part of this year, we worked hard and at pace to produce a full response to the government's controversial consultation on legal aid reform. The outcome of the reform programme remains to be seen, but we will continue to advocate on behalf of the membership and the region as the dialogue with government continues. As Chair, during the last year I addressed the Regional Disclosure Forum to talk about the potential benefits of early engagement in criminal cases, and the challenges faced in doing so. I also addressed the Magistrates' Court Association on the work done by defence solicitors to ensure that trials are fair. Both were great opportunities to promote BLS and our membership, and to engage with other stakeholders in the criminal justice system.

The Committee organised training events on engaging with victims of trafficking within the criminal justice system, and trauma-informed perspectives on representing young people in custody. The focus of both events was, in essence, how we can better serve the most vulnerable people we represent.

My thanks to the members of the Committee for their hard work and dedication during the last year. Some longstanding members stepped down during the course of the year, through retirement, changes of career, or insufficient time to devote to the committee. Looking to 2023, it would be great to see some new members stepping up to take part in the Committee's important work, and who reflect the talent and diversity of the region.

EMPLOYMENT LAW COMMITTEE

Charlie Rae, Chair



The Employment Law Committee continued to meet monthly during 2021 and into 2022, to consider various changes and proposed changes to employment laws, developments in employment law practice and to liaise with interested organisations.

Our meetings have been well attended, though I am sure like many of the Society's committees, these have been conducted mainly via Teams. Whilst recently we are pleased to have been able to reintroduce meetings in person, a development that members of the committee very much look forward to continuing, I am sure that using Teams will be a continued feature of our work for the foreseeable future.

We enjoyed a stable year in terms of our committee membership. We welcomed Christina Hutchison from Fieldfisher LLP and said farewell to Samantha Burns, formerly of Aston University, who took up an appointment as an Employment Judge.

2021/22 has been a relatively quiet year in terms of Government consultations on employment law matters for our committee to consider; although it cannot be said that it has been a quiet year for practitioners, who have generally found it to be a very busy time and we have found much to report, and debate, regards the operations (and often frustrations!) of the Employment Tribunal system.

We reported last year that we had considered and responded to four separate and in-depth Government consultations which we spent many hours discussing and then preparing, refining and submitting into responses, all of which were detailed and lengthy. This year the Committee considered two new consultation papers, which although fewer compared to previous years, nevertheless provided the opportunity for the Committee to provide some insightful input that hopefully will support the development of some key areas of proposed new legislation. In particular, a consultations about whether employers should make flexible working a default position for its employees generated a great deal of debate and presentation of views and ideas. Also, the development of new rules around disability workforce reporting was an interesting and progressive subject. Both papers that we considered and responded to in detail, gave rise to very interesting discussions and submissions. The Committee is pleased that it has been able to add some real value and insight towards the potential development of new employment laws during these past few years.

We also welcomed as guests Regional Employment Judge Findlay and Dave Levene (ACAS Area Director, Individual Dispute Resolution, Wales and West Midlands), plus others with an involvement in employment law practice. Equally, the Committee was delighted to hear from Inez Brown in the closing months of her Presidency as a guest at one of its meetings last year, a well-attended meeting enabling our members to better understand the role that our committee can (and does) play in the work of the Society more broadly. All guests have provided us with informative insights and updates in their respective areas and I am pleased to take this opportunity to publicly thank them for taking the time out of their busy schedules to meet with us and they all provided us with some really valuable insights.

We have continued to consider how we can deliver events for the benefit of our members. In Summer last year we organised and hosted a Teams panel discussion about employers adjusting to Covid, which we co-hosted with the Employment Lawyers' Association. We were delighted that it was a very well attended event with almost 100 attendees joining. Those who attended the event reported that it was a success and Jog Hundle and Kam Bains from our committee were Chair and panellist respectively which provided excellent profile for BLS. We plan to host a further joint event with ELA in the coming months, on the hot topic matter of industrial relations. We also plan to host a separate Employment Judges question and answer panel event in November or December, re-running an event which in the past has proven to be a great success and is always very popular with BLS members.

Our meetings have been productive, enjoyable and well attended throughout the past year. I would like to thank our members for their continued enthusiasm, positivity and hard work, all of which is much appreciated by me in my role as Chair and which helps to make the role that much easier.

EQUALITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Catherine Edwards, Chair.

I was delighted to be elected Chair of this important committee after incredibly well-mannered hustings on 22 June (others could take note from BLS!). Suki Chokkar from Axiom DWFM joins as Vice Chair. The other candidates



Franklyn O'Connor joins the new committee and we are looking forward to all working together. I am grateful to Nwabueze Nwokolo for her work after Karen Bailey's resignation.

Despite the hiatus of being without a Chair for over six months the subcommittees have continued their excellent work promoting diversity and

inclusion and continuing to seek to inspire people at all levels in wider society as well as the legal profession.

The Gender subcommittee led by Julia Jones secured funding after the excellent International Women's Day celebration to be able to give a copy of Equal to Everything children's book about Lady Hale to every primary school in Birmingham. So far 119 of the 260 schools have had a member/supporter deliver or plan to do so. More volunteers are needed. This project was made possible by generous donations from the Midland Circuit, Midland Circuit Women's Forum, Bevan Brittan, Mills and Reeve and an anonymous donor. Those of us who have met with the schools when delivering the books have found the experience uplifting, and we hope to use this as a basis for some outreach work to change perceptions of what lawyers look like and what we do and where we come from.

The Social Mobility Subcommittee (Alice Kinder) ran an excellent conference on 28 June with a wide variety of role models, charities and a policy advisor who made us think about the challenges and the ways in which we can act to change perceptions and help aspiring lawyers, at whatever stage they may be in their education/training/employment. It was kindly hosted by Squire Patton Boggs and we hope this will become an annual event mirroring the very varied audience which attended.

REACH (Chair-Shaid Parveen) ran an event at the Birmingham MAC on 12 May where attendees were able to watch a screening of the powerful 'Just Mercy', network and discuss the powerful themes.

More events are planned by the Social Mobility Committee as well as events by REACH for South Asian Heritage month. Suki and I are taking stock of our terms of reference and attendance policies.

FAMILY LAW COMMITTEE

Claire Darley, Chair

We have achieved our stated aim over the last 12 months, which was to make the membership of the Committee more representative of the members we serve.



In July 2021, Karen Bailey, Chair of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion ("EDI") Committee joined our meeting. We had prepared our EDI strategy. Our main objective was to make the membership

more inclusive by encouraging younger solicitors and professionals to join.

We did this by holding the "Meet the Committee" event in June 2022. The majority of our 12 Committee members attended and it was a huge success.

We also furthered our mission statement, and held L&D talks at the event and enjoyed networking afterwards.

COMMITTEE UPDATE

The event was very well attended, and as a consequence, we have secured a 50% increase in our members. Some members have stepped down and six new members have joined.

We engaged our audience by simply covering who we are, what we do and how we have made a difference to improve efficiency for all. We then extended an open invitation to members to consider how they might like to get involved, whether on the main Committee, or as part of a sub-committee.

In line with our Protocol, we have promoted EDI by:

- having an open forum to provide members with an opportunity to join/express an interest in joining;
- the fact that there are now members of the Committee offering a legal aid service;
- representative membership - members are from small, medium and large firms in the City Centre, and covering a greater region than ever before; and
- we are more inclusive having gained mostly younger members to redress the balance of a maturing Committee.

By holding our event, we have raised awareness of the Committee and the greatness of our unique network, that is the Birmingham Law Society.

There is, of course, more we can do to be more inclusive of all professionals working in the family justice system, and with the assistance of our members and our unique networks we will work to ensure this is the case.

We are holding a further attended event on 13 September at 3PB Chambers. The title is "Dispute Resolution in Family Law in 2022 – with an insight into how the dispute resolution movement has grown in New Zealand." Registration will be from 5pm for a 5.30pm start. Please see the BLS website for further details. This is an essential event for all working in family law or providing dispute resolution services.

IN HOUSE COMMITTEE

Cleo Stewart, Chair.



It is pleasing to report that the In-House Committee since the submission of the last BLS Annual Report has begun the process of identifying our In-House Constituency. We had great success with our online event at which we were honoured to have both Inez Brown and Stephanie Boyce as our keynote speakers. 2022 has, however, brought about the expiration of Grace Ononiwu's term as Chair and

Michael Morgan-Bullock's term as Vice Chair. Grace has been succeeded as Chair by Cleo Stewart, who is the Head of Legal at Midland Heart and also the winner of the Birmingham Law Society 2022 In-House Lawyer of the Year Award. Michael has been succeeded by Heidi Salter, Legal Counsel at Housing 21 as our Vice Chair. Our thanks go to Grace and Michael for all their hard work and exemplary leadership during their term as well as to all the Committee members for their commitment and contribution.

It is still an exciting time for the In-House Committee as we grow to welcome new members with fresh insights

and refocus our objectives. We remain focused on fully identifying our vast In-House constituency and community. In-house lawyers can often feel isolated in their careers where many are sole counsel in their organisations without the camaraderie of lawyers usually found in a traditional law firm. We aim to redesign and upgrade our website and increase our social media presence to create a supportive one stop arena for in house lawyers that is packed with technical resources, pragmatic information, personal development programmes, wellbeing packages and strong networking opportunities.

The In-House Committee is ablaze with excitement following the inclusion of the In-House Lawyer of the Year award category at the Birmingham Society Legal Awards. It is pleasing for in house lawyers, the fastest growing category of lawyers within the profession, to be recognised within the legal community for the hard work, sacrifices and commitment they put into adding substantial value to corporations thereby helping not only to maintain but raise the reputation of the legal profession.

We aim to stand as one inclusive community, that embraces equality and diversity and that positively reaches all members in our constituency. To continue with this celebratory and inclusive spirit, the In-house Committee will be hosting an in-person networking event this year. Next year we intend to host an In-house Conference to further promote the purposes and work of the In-House Community as well as to encourage the spirit of togetherness and support. Indeed, here we will encourage the need to nominate candidates for the 2023 BLS In-House Lawyer of the Year award with the aim of demonstrating the strength in depth of in house lawyers and the superb contribution they make to the profession..

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Tony McDaid, Chair.



The role of the Birmingham Law Society's International Committee is to promote BLS at home and globally. It is our aim to encourage relevant overseas clients, both lay and professional, to instruct members of the BLS legal community.

Over the last year our primary focus has been to prepare for our BLS and Commonwealth lawyers' legal conference entitled "Race to the Commonwealth and Beyond" on 21/22 July 2022. With the continued threat of new covid variants and the ripple effect in many parts of the world with regards to business travel post the earlier outbreaks, it has been challenging to say the least. Nevertheless, in the true BLS spirit, we are pressing on and confident of putting on an event to showcase the talent we have in Birmingham. We hope to forge relationships for the City's lawyers for generations to come.

LEGAL TECH COMMITTEE

Nicola Jones, Chair.



2021/22

• Committee was constituted in Jan '21 and has met monthly online since. Core membership is well established. Attendance is down in 2022 and we are recruiting new members.

• From June – December '21 we ran a

series of Legal Tech Meet Ups monthly with outstanding speakers and content. Attendance was consistently low, @ 15, most of whom were committee members or consultants/ reps of corp entities/sponsors – 2 or 3 BLS members attended routinely.

- Members continue to support the Ahead Partnership, a not for profit organisation which takes professional people into State schools
- We have are working with the national Law Society's Technology and Law Committee (TALC)
- Members have attended "Digital Skills in the WM" events hosted by the University of Birmingham
- We have strong relationships with SuperTech WM and the University of Birmingham and are in communication with LawTechUK, SRA Innovates
- We support legal tech start-ups in the region e.g. Cristian Gheres, Founder & CEO of Lexyfi, presented to the committee in 2022.

2022/23 Strategy:

1. To encourage BLS to put innovation at the heart of its profile
2. To find routes to engagement where we can e.g. through SRA Innovates, TALC and UoB
3. To work with partners in HE on the future skills agenda in collaboration with the Professional Development Committee

Activity:

We will support/partner with the Law Society's TALC committee and the U o B e.g. at Birmingham Tech Week including:

A one day conference

The launch of U of B Research Innovation Fund project being run by U o B Business School in partnership with Athena Professional

We will create podcasts to share intelligence with members

We will continue to support all member firms with an emphasis on targeting SME

PRIVATE CLIENT COMMITTEE

Matthew Hansell, Chair



The Aims of the Private Client Committee
1 The Private Client Committee has an important part to play in ensuring that there is a strong Private Client legal sector in the Midlands. There are three main themes:

a) Training, developing and educating Private Client lawyers;

b) A consultative and representative role;

c) Bringing together Private Client lawyers where they can exchange experiences via a forum, "The Private Client

Club".

2 In expansion of the above:

a) A programme of Training Seminars is being drawn up. These will be hybrid presentations, and cover topics such as: career development; the basics of making wills; advanced will drafting; and an annual update seminar etc.

b) It can be quite a lonely role as a Private Client lawyer, particularly at the start of your career or in a small firm. Our aim would be to give Private Client lawyers a chance to meet in an informal social setting, which could be, say, drinks evenings hosted by some of the larger firms who undertake Private Client work (and at their cost). These evenings would provide opportunities to: get to know other Private Client lawyers; seek mentors; exchange views and experiences; and discuss practical and technical issues.

PRO BONO COMMITTEE

Elena Goodfellow, Chair.



In 2021, the Pro Bono Committee 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 continued to hold virtual meetings monthly.

Highlights of the year include:

- Holding regular meetings with guest speakers and opportunities to share pro bono activities.
- Creating a booklet of pro bono services available in the Birmingham area and how the public can access them.
- Hosting a series of events during Pro Bono Week in November 2021. This included an outreach event each lunchtime during Pro Bono Week, in the grounds of St Philips' Cathedral, where members of the Committee ran a stand to promote pro bono activities in the city of Birmingham. Volunteers engaged with members of the public and legal professionals alike to promote and inform them of the services and opportunities for pro bono work.

They also handed out a booklet that detailed information about all the various pro bono clinics and organisations in Birmingham. The Committee also held a networking / information evening event with guest speakers, Lynne Squires from the Access to Justice Foundation, Lana Afaneh from Birmingham Support Through Court, and Jason Hadden MBE.

- Welcoming new student members to the Committee.

At the end of 2021, Mark Taylor stepped down as Chair after three years in the role, and Elena Goodfellow has taken over for 2022, with Amelia Bauer as Vice-Chair.

If you would like to know more about pro bono in Birmingham, receive an electronic copy of the booklet of pro bono services available in the Birmingham, or if you have any pro bono stories to share please contact the Committee at: probono@birminghamlawsociety.co.uk

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chrissie Wolf, Chair.



As I write this, it's hard to believe that a whole year has passed since I was elected as the first Chair of this brand-new Committee. Amongst the chaos of the pandemic and the massive changes it brought to the world of work, there has never been a more important time to support and develop our legal community and that has been the Committee's primary objective.

The Committee is diverse and includes lawyers and wider professionals from legal practice, education, technology, human resources and business sectors and, together, we have discussed and explored the key challenges facing legal professionals in the modern legal market. We've seen five new members join the Committee and we have hosted three events.

The first centred around "The Great Resignation" and how to attract and retain staff in a volatile market. Kelly Barker of Barker Morris gave her professional insights as a specialist legal recruiter, and data was produced by the Junior Lawyers' Division as to why so many junior members of the profession, in particular, had taken the plunge and changed roles during the pandemic.

The second two events were linked events focussing on the new route to solicitor qualification, the SQE, and what it means for both aspiring lawyers and the businesses who employ them. These were ran as panel events and featured panellists from Barbi, Flex, Ulaw and Severn Trent who gave candid insights into their experience with the SQE so far.

Our role is to cater to the needs of BLS members, so if you have any suggestions for events or are interested in joining the Committee, please email me at lawandbroader@gmail.com.

PROPERTY & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Denise Watkins, Chair.



The Committee has lawyer representatives from Residential and Commercial Property, Construction and Planning Law and a Barrister who updates on current case law dealing with all aspects of property. We respond to government consultations, Law Society procedural changes and implementation. All members of the Committee are actively involved and most give monthly updates

on their areas of Property Law. We seek to address ongoing issues of law and practice for all BLS members, and are available to discuss matters where we can with any members who choose to contact the Committee with any concerns.

The Committee has recently responded to several government consultations. As part of its consultation on, "Making the home buying and selling process quicker, cheaper and less stressful" we arranged a meeting with The Right Hon Sajid Javid MP the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to discuss with him aspects of the consultation before

drafting our formal response. It is testament to the BLS and the Property and Development Committee that he was prepared to make time for such discussions.

The Committee has also responded to a government consultation on Leasehold Reform and Commonhold, which looked at the nature and problems surrounding Leasehold properties and the matters flowing from this including challenges with Managing Agents. Some changes in the Leasehold process have now become law. We have also responded to a consultation for Birmingham City Council on Statement of Community Involvement to give views on different aspect of planning.

As Chair of the Committee, prior to Covid restrictions, I was involved in a Property Convention in conjunction with The Law Society and representatives from the Land Registry to discuss topical issues with BLS members and to give an insight into the meetings of the Property and Development Committee. This was very well attended.

I attended Property Consultations on behalf of the Committee to give feedback on Land Registry updates, changes in practice and other areas of Law and procedures, and have been to London to a round table meeting for discussions on how to progress Anti Money Laundering and Identification via technology.

We have continuing discussions regarding the amount of construction taking place in and around Birmingham which can only be good for the economy. With all the construction and the government's determination to build more than 1m houses within the next 10 years, the Committee's future focus will be on how regeneration and development of brown and green field sites will impact on climate change such as flood risk and contaminated land on Commercial and Residential Conveyancing.

The Committee liaises with The Law Society on topical issues particularly where the BLS has concerns and requires reassurances that The Law Society and the BLS are working together.

The Committee has managed to continue with virtual meetings during the Covid period. Anyone who is interested in contributing to the work of the Committee is welcome to attend one of our monthly meetings by prior arrangement. We meet at 1.00pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Please contact me for more information on attending or becoming a member on dwatkins1@gordonjonessolicitors.co.uk



BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY





BIRMINGHAM
LAW SOCIETY

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

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 Society's 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 Henry	
D Kundi	(Resigned 25 April 2022)
T McDaid	(Resigned 2 November 2021)
L Daly	(Resigned 2 November 2021)
C Coates	(Resigned 8 April 2021)
K Bailey	(Resigned 30 November 2021)
L Mason	(Resigned 12 January 2021)
R Hothi	(Appointed 27 January 2021 and resigned 9 May 2022)
N Panchal	(Appointed 23 June 2021 and resigned 17 August 2022)
S M Jonas	(Appointed 26 January 2022)
A J Beedham	(Appointed 26 January 2022)

SHARES OF THE COMPANY

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

AUDITOR

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

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO AUDITOR

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

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

On behalf of the board

B Henry

DIRECTOR

31 August 2022

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of The Birmingham Law Society (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2021 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 Financial Reporting Standard 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 2021 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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 in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements and discussed the policies and procedures regarding compliance.

Specific areas considered were as follows:

- Enquiring with management and others to gain an understanding of the organisation itself including operations, financial reporting and known fraud or error.
- Evaluating and understanding the internal control system.
- Performing analytical procedures as expected or unexpected variances in account balances or classes of transactions appear.
- Testing documentation supporting account balances or classes of transactions.
- Confirming accounts receivable and other accounts with a third party.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected all irregularities including those leading to material misstatements in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards.

This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

31 August 2022

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
INCOME		123,962	124,367
Administrative expenses		(180,667)	(208,867)
Other operating income		<u>42,700</u>	<u>54,513</u>
OPERATING DEFICIT		(14,005)	(29,987)
Interest receivable and similar income	4	5,318	4,631
Interest payable and similar expenses		(718)	(4)
Change in fair value of investments	5	<u>29,949</u>	<u>(145,407)</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION		20,544	(170,767)
Taxation	6	<u>-</u>	<u>30,400</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	18	<u>20,544</u>	<u>(140,367)</u>

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	7	9,342	13,814
Investment properties	8	1,600,000	1,600,000
Investments	9	317,312	283,052
		<u>1,926,654</u>	<u>1,896,866</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	10	138,839	146,844
Cash at bank and in hand		10,486	60,965
		<u>149,325</u>	<u>207,809</u>
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	11	<u>(241,140)</u>	<u>(284,319)</u>
Net current liabilities		(91,815)	(76,510)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,834,839	1,820,356
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	12	(39,039)	(45,100)
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	15	(137,703)	(137,703)
NET ASSETS		1,658,097	1,637,553
RESERVES			
Non-distributable reserve		1,439,254	1,439,254
Income and expenditure account	18	218,843	198,299
MEMBERS' FUNDS		1,658,097	1,637,553

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 (SI 2008/409)(b).

These 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 31 August 2022 and are signed on its behalf by:

B Henry
DIRECTOR

A J Beedham
DIRECTOR

COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. 00005188

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Non-distributable reserves	Income and expenditure account	Total
	£	£	£
BALANCE AT 1 JANUARY 2020	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
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021:			
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year	-	20,544	20,544
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2021	1,439,254	218,843	1,658,097

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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 located at 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 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.

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.

1.4 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

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

1.5 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

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

1.6 IMPAIRMENT OF FIXED ASSETS

At each reporting period 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.

1.7 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

1.8 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

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

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

Basic financial assets

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

Classification of financial liabilities

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

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments 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. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Other financial liabilities

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

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.9 TAXATION

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

1.10 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

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

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

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

1.11 RETIREMENT BENEFITS

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

1.12 LEASES

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

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

1.13 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:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Management and administration	4	4

None of the directors of the Society have received any remuneration during the year ended 31 December 2021 (2020: £nil).

4 INTEREST RECEIVABLE AND SIMILAR INCOME

	2021 £	2020 £
Interest receivable and similar income includes the following:		
Income from other fixed asset investments	5,318	4,630

5 AMOUNTS WRITTEN OFF INVESTMENTS

	2021 £	2020 £
FAIR VALUE GAINS/(LOSSES)		
Change in value of financial assets held at fair value through income or expenditure	29,417	14,593
Changes in the fair value of investment properties	-	(160,000)

6 TAXATION

	2021 £	2020 £
DEFERRED TAX		
Movements on revaluation of investment property	-	(30,400)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture, computers and equipment £
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1 January 2021	25,877
Additions	232
Disposals	(4,072)
	<u> </u>
At 31 December 2021	22,037
	<u> </u>
DEPRECIATION AND IMPAIRMENT	
At 1 January 2021	12,063
Depreciation charged in the year	4,704
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(4,072)
	<u> </u>
At 31 December 2021	12,695
	<u> </u>
CARRYING AMOUNT	
At 31 December 2021	9,342
	<u> </u>
At 31 December 2020	13,814
	<u> </u>

8 INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2021 £
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021	1,600,000
	<u> </u>

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. The directors are of the opinion that there is no significant change in the value as at 31 December 2021.

9 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Investments	304,812	270,552
Other investments	12,500	12,500
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	317,312	283,052
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Investments with a carrying value of £304,812 as at December 2021 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.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

MOVEMENTS IN FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Investments other than	Other	Total
	£	£	£
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1 January 2021	270,552	12,500	283,052
Valuation changes	34,260	-	34,260
At 31 December 2021	304,812	12,500	317,312
CARRYING AMOUNT			
At 31 December 2021	304,812	12,500	317,312
At 31 December 2020	270,552	12,500	283,052

10 DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR:		
Trade debtors	96,248	83,647
Other debtors	1,976	13,226
Prepayments and accrued income	40,615	49,971
	138,839	146,844

11 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Notes	2021	2020
		£	£
Loans and overdrafts	13	9,295	5,000
Trade creditors		25,498	26,987
Other taxation and social security		13,267	14,383
Deferred income	14	170,217	224,507
Other creditors		13,531	2,980
Accruals		9,332	10,462
		241,140	284,319

12 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	Notes	2021	2020
		£	£
Loans and overdrafts	13	39,039	45,000
Deferred income	14	-	100
		39,039	45,100

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	-	(5,000)
------------------------	---	---------

13 LOANS AND OVERDRAFTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Bank loans	<u>48,334</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Payable within one year	9,295	5,000
Payable after one year	<u>39,039</u>	<u>45,000</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 2021.

14 DEFERRED INCOME

	2021 £	2020 £
Arising from deferred income	<u>170,217</u>	<u>224,607</u>
Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:		
Current liabilities	170,217	224,507
Non-current liabilities	-	100
	<u>170,217</u>	<u>224,607</u>

15 PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES

	2021 £	2020 £
Deferred tax liabilities	<u>137,703</u>	<u>137,703</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 2021 £	Liabilities 2020 £
BALANCES:		
Investment property	<u>137,703</u>	<u>137,703</u>

There were no deferred tax movements in the year.

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.

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 £2,053 (2020: £2,227) and outstanding contributions as at 31 December 2021 amounted to £265 (2020: £nil).

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:

	2021 £	2020 £
Total outstanding commitments	35,820	50,371

LESSOR

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

	2021 £	2020 £
Total outstanding commitments	3,028,056	3,111,595

DETAILED TRADING AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

		2021		2020
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions		118,406		117,216
Lectures and courses		5,556		7,151
		<u>123,962</u>		<u>124,367</u>
OTHER OPERATING INCOME				
Rents receivable	36,480		24,168	
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grant	-		15,130	
Other Coronavirus funding	-		10,000	
Insurance recharges	6,220		5,215	
		<u>42,700</u>		<u>54,513</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		(180,667)		(208,867)
OPERATING DEFICIT		(14,005)		(29,987)
INVESTMENT REVENUES				
Bank interest receivable	-		1	
Income from Stock Exchange listed investments	5,318		4,630	
		<u>5,318</u>		<u>4,631</u>
INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR EXPENSES				
Bank interest on loans and overdrafts		(718)		(4)
OTHER GAINS AND LOSSES				
Increase or decrease in fair value of investment property	-		(160,000)	
Change in fair value of financial assets measured at fair value through income or expenditure	29,417		14,593	
Profit or Loss on disposal of investments measured at fair value	532		-	
		<u>29,949</u>		<u>(145,407)</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION		<u>20,544</u>		<u>(170,767)</u>

SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Wages and salaries	90,512	99,961
Social security costs	3,953	4,766
Staff training	1,292	845
Staff pension costs	2,053	2,227
Lectures and courses	260	3,315
Grants and prizes	-	250
President's Dinner	(6,273)	-
Public relations	16,818	2,858
Legal Awards	(27,867)	1,306
Computer expenses	11,859	8,118
Premises expenses	40,394	36,523
Equipment hire	4,320	4,300
Other events, travel and associated expenses	(1,433)	(1,663)
Professional charges	19,781	15,200
Audit fees	1,250	1,200
Bank charges	1,879	1,788
Printing and stationery	1,042	1,236
Telephone and postages	3,125	7,015
Newly qualified event	(428)	-
Incidentals	2,354	3,292
Depreciation	4,704	4,770
Irrrecoverable VAT	11,072	11,560
	180,667	208,867

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 when-ever 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.



BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY