



BIRMINGHAM
LAW SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



As my Presidential year draws to a close I am still pinching myself that Council voted me in as its first non-lawyer President in its 200 years plus history.

The office comes with huge responsibility as it has done since our first President, Thomas Lee, took office in 1818.

I am immensely proud and "relieved" to have survived the course and I believe I have fulfilled my promise to bring energy and enthusiasm to the role.

Our former President, Stephanie Perraton, had been at the helm when we commenced the process of reviewing our governance and the articles. She continued to work with me with the introduction of an Implementation Committee. That work has continued throughout my Presidency during which we appointed Andrew Beedham as our interim CEO. At the point of writing we are about to go to market to attract a CEO whilst at the same time we are looking to appoint a Chair for the newly formed Board. The separation of the new Board and Council has required significant work over the last 12 months and my thanks go to all of those involved in the process including all those who have served during my Presidential year.

As with former Presidents I set out a number of initiatives at the beginning

of my year (28/9/22). The retention of women in law and social mobility were at the very top of my list along with promoting and supporting EDI in all its forms. I also pledged to do what I could to highlight the opportunities for Solicitors to seek both part time and full time judicial appointments where there is a significant gap by comparison to the Bar.

My year commenced with my participation in a webinar examining a research paper by Professor Bob Lee of UoB entitled "Why women leave the profession". As I said in my inaugural address and many times since, the retention of women in law is the most important challenge facing the profession. In addition to raising the matter at many forums, I have participated in numerous events speaking on the topic and its importance. It is my intention to continue to deliver that message going forward whenever I am able to do so.

Being President has given me the ideal platform to push such initiatives to a wider audience including our friends and colleagues at the Joint V. I can honestly tell you that such things lie at the heart of the success of No5 Chambers where we have lived and breathed the ethos of fairness and equality for decades.

Coming from an Irish immigrant background, growing up on a council estate and attending an inner city

school, social mobility was always going to be an initiative I wanted to push. Fate pushed me in the direction of Peter Ward and Debbie Barlow of Leadership Through Sport and Business. We met at a BLS social mobility workshop at SPB last year. It took until January 2023 for Peter and I to get round a table but since then I have been able to give Peter the opportunity to speak to our members about his efforts to get young people from low socio economic backgrounds into the profession. At the point of writing, I have taken on four members of staff via this route and I would recommend all of you to consider LTSB when considering your recruitment options. There are some hungry and talented people in our inner city and its surrounding areas who are just looking for an opportunity that is unlikely to come their way via the "normal" routes.

We have held three judicial appointments events in the last 12 months with the support of the judiciary. The last one targeted Solicitors only and I am grateful to HHJ Jane Ingram, former President Steven Jonas of JRB and Laura Daly, Partner at Irwin Mitchell, for their time and advice in how to navigate the pathway to part time and full time appointments.

Promoting Equality and Diversity in a meaningful and tangible way was a pledge I made back in September of last year. In our former President, Inez Brown, we had the first Black President of BLS. She won't be the last and in the year of my Presidency we also witnessed Lubna Shuja become the first Muslim woman to become President of TLS. It was fitting therefore that we accepted the invitation from Aston University's Shaid Parveen to participate in a "conversation with" event where we openly talked about our own journey to office and the challenges we faced. It is only by talking and being open and inclusive that we learn from each other and make our profession a better place for everyone and for me it was one of the highlights of my year.

We marked the start of South Asian Heritage Month with a networking event coupled with Asian cuisine and dancers. We had a sell out event at The Birmingham Rep "No Ordinary Lawyer" telling the story of Britain's first Black Judge. We also forged closer links with Birmingham Black Lawyers hosting them for an event at No5 in Black history month and recently attending their incredible BBL annual dinner.

We had the first BLS St Patrick's Day Breakfast event celebrating Irish heritage where I discovered the best way to get the staff in the office at 8am came in the shape of a barrel of Guinness!

We have hosted the Attorney General, the Solicitor General, the DPP for the Caymans, the Vietnamese Ambassador, the Mexican Ambassador, and the Joint V. In July we hosted both American and Canadian dignitaries in celebration of American Independence and Canada Day where we agreed plans on collaborations going forward.

As in every President's year a highlight was our amazing BLS Awards Dinner and it was my honour to hand the Lifetime Achievement Award to former President Eileen Schofield.

I have had several lunches with existing and prospective sponsors. Dinners galore, including Law Society Dinners in Liverpool, Leeds, Bristol, Warwickshire and Cornwall. A trip to Dublin to link up with the Bar of The Republic of Ireland is also planned for this month. We have expanded our BLS membership to over 9,000 and through the herculean efforts of our amazing Jess Uppal put on a record number of events.

Jess has been a constant throughout my Presidency in our weekly catch ups and the increased number of events we put on are testimony to her hard work. Happily under the guidance of our Director of Operations Becky Lynch, we now have a team of 4 in the office which is the strongest we have been since Covid. I expect them to go from strength to strength and Becky and the team are to be commended with the way they have recovered from staff losses and setbacks in recent years.

We have over the last year held meetings with our Committee Chairs and introduced a new Committee for Immigration work. We have re-launched the Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence Committee which was one of a small number of Committees that drifted in the Covid interruption.

It will be comforting for you to know that in Alice Kinder we have a talented and committed in-coming President. She is an accomplished public speaker with a wide knowledge base. Her engagement with the younger members of the profession in particular will serve us well. We have been on the same page with regard to social mobility which is one of the initiatives that Alice will continue to run with in her presidential year. Please support her and her fellow Officers, Richard Port and Matt O'Brien.

There are so many people who work tirelessly on behalf of BLS and it has been a great comfort to have had Andrew Beedham as interim CEO and Ben Henry as interim Chair and FD working alongside me in what has been a year in transition for BLS. I have also had the good fortune of having Stephanie Perraton as a friend and confidante further building on the relationship we forged in lockdown.

My final thanks go to my long suffering EA, Sandra Astbury. Also Linden Thomas who convinced me that not being a lawyer should be no bar to me not standing for office. She and others will tell you I had told them I was happy to be on the team bus but not driving it! I will forever be in her debt that she twisted both my arms.

I am so proud to have represented our members and your collective views and ideals. My Mum sadly didn't live to see all of the above but when she spotted a job advert for an office junior in a Barristers Chambers she told me this was my opportunity and I needed to seize it. That it would result in me one day being President of Birmingham Law Society is beyond a dream and I think the pinching will go on for some time!

Thank you for all of your support

Tony McDaid,
President of Birmingham Law Society

Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 28th September 2022

The Council has pleasure in presenting the 203rd Annual Report of the proceeding of the Society.

Officers

At the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 28th September, Tony McDaid was installed as President of the Society, Alice Kinder as Vice President and Richard Port as Deputy Vice President. James Farmer and Peter Wiseman were installed as Joint Honorary Secretaries.

Council

The retiring ordinary members of the Council were: Karen Bailey; Bailey Wright and Co, Tobias Haynes; Martin Kaye Solicitors, Dee Kundi, Clive Read; Shakespeare Martineau, Andrew Rourke; St Philips Chambers, Denise Watkins; Gordon Jones & Co and Ian Shovlin; Higgs & Co.

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

The ex officio members retiring were Inez Brown; Harrison Clark Rickerbys Limited, Mariyam Harunah; Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP, Claire Murphy; Harrison Clark Rickerbys Limited.

The following members of the Society were duly nominated for election to the Council pursuant to Article (61): Guy Barnett, Simon Harris; Gowling WLG (UK) LLP, Mariyam Harunah; Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP, Harriet Muffett; Trowers & Hamlin LLP, Grace Mullis; Irwin Mitchell LLP, Matt O'Brien; Jonas Roy Bloom, Amrik Singh; Greens Solicitors Limited and Zoe Tranter; Tranter Mills Solicitors.

The President reported at the AGM that the following nominees had been elected as Council Members: Guy Barnett, Simon Harris, Mariyam Harunah, Harriet Muffett, Grace Mullis, Matt O'Brien, Amrik Singh, Zoe Tranter



**BIRMINGHAM
LAW SOCIETY**



I noted in my report for 2021 that the Society was on the brink of a period of significant change. The Society fully embraced that change during 2022, and accordingly it emerges from the year stronger, working more efficiently, and being financially more viable than before. As I prepare to hand over the position of Chair to my soon to be appointed successor, this report looks back on the Society's activities from the perspective of the board.

Firstly, in December 2022 the Society adopted new articles of association, which brought significant changes to its governance and structure. The new board and council structure better defines the role of each body, and improves the Society's inward and outward facing communications, working more efficiently to the benefit of the members.

Secondly, the Society has appointed a Chief Executive Officer to manage the operations of the Society and to deliver the strategy set by the board. This new role sits between the board and office team, leading the office team and reporting to the board, improving reporting lines and ensuring efficiencies of time and resources. Andrew Beedham has acted as interim Chief Executive whilst we assess the requirements of the role and the Society's needs, both of which have changed since the role was first envisaged in early 2022. We are now working towards the appointment of a permanent Chief Executive later in 2023. Andrew has been responsible for improving and streamlining our operations and the interaction between the office team and the board, and we are already feeling the benefits of these efficiencies.

Thirdly, building on the changes brought about by the new articles of association, the board resolved to appoint a new team of directors at the end of 2022, and the new, expanded, board includes the officers of the Society, the Chief Executive and a team of dedicated and hard-working individuals who (beyond the scope of a report on the events of 2022) went on to work as a fantastic team into 2023. Further beyond the scope of this report, the board continues to expand further, and we expect to recruit a number of board members later this year to include non-lawyers and individuals from the local business community.

Against that background, the finances of the Society remain in good shape. The Temple Street property has continued to provide a healthy return for the Society. In the final quarter of 2022 we reverted to the full headline rental income of £150,000 per annum.

As I touched on in my report last year, our rental returns had been at a discounted level for the last four years as part of the package agreed at the commencement of the lease. We therefore did not begin to receive the full benefit of the headline rental income until the final months of 2022 (see the separate finance report). We continue to receive the full rent which will be reflected in the final figures for the current year. The lease provides for an upwards only rent review effective from August 2022. Surveyors appointed by the Society

are currently in negotiations with the Tenant's advisers on whether market conditions justify a rental increase.

As I will shortly be stepping down I should record my thanks to those within the Society who have supported me as Acting Chair during the last year. It is because I have been so ably assisted by my colleagues on the board that I have remained as in post for as long as I have, having initially expected to step aside shortly after the last AGM. Instead, I have been able to allow the new structure to "bed in" and to await the right time to step down and to be succeeded, allowing me to focus on my primary role as finance director.

Finance Report

You will see the annual financial statements with the papers for the AGM. The financial position of the Society has improved significantly, and the current financial year is looking better still.

A summary of the financial position is as follows:

- Turnover rose to £125,921 (2021: £123,962).
 - o Of this, subscription income increased to £122,849 (2021: £118,406). Of those subscriptions, £88,450 derived from corporate memberships compared to £83,420 in 2021.
 - o Learning and development income, as expected, fell to £3,072 (2021: £5,556).
- Other income was £95,005 (2021: £42,700). This principally comprised rental income of £87,805 (2021: £36,480).
- The legal awards again delivered a substantial surplus of £23,686 (2021: £27,867).
- The annual dinner generated a profit of £742 this year (2021: £6,273).
- The market value of the Society's investment portfolio fell to £244,834, having been at a peak of £304,812 at the end of 2021. Given market conditions during 2022 this did not come as a surprise. Nevertheless, the Society continues to monitor the investments with the assistance of our advisers, and is actively looking to diversify its investments during the current year.

A summary of the Society's profit and loss position is a little more complicated than in previous years. The Society recorded a deficit before tax in the final accounts of £65,610. This is not a "cash loss", because the deficit takes into account the fall in value of investments noted above which amounted to £62,612. Therefore, but for the impact of the change in value of investments and taxation, the overall loss for the year was just under £3,000. This is a substantial improvement on recent years, and given (i) the professional fees the Society incurred in 2022 for the preparation of and advice on the new articles, and (ii) the reduced rental income in 2022 (compared to what we are now receiving in 2023), we are confident that the figures for the current year will show a healthy surplus for the first time in many years. The question for the Society going forward, which it may not have had to ask itself in living memory, will be how we utilise that surplus to better provide for our members.

Ben Henry
Finance Director and Acting Chair
September 2023

President

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

Vice President

Alice Kinder, Bexley Beaumont 0333 996 0640

Deputy Vice President

Richard Port MBE, George Green LLP Solicitors 01384 410410

Joint Honorary Secretaries

James Farmer, Cornwall Street Barristers (Birmingham) 0121 233 7500

Peter Wiseman

Board

Ben Henry, Chairman and Finance Director

Tony McDaid, Ex-Officio, President of Birmingham Law Society

Alice Kinder, Ex-Officio, Vice-President of Birmingham Law Society, Board Director

Richard Port MBE, Ex-Officio, Deputy Vice-President of Birmingham Law Society, Board Director

Stephanie Perraton, Past President of Birmingham Law Society, Board Director

Steven Jonas, Past President of Birmingham Law Society, Board Director

Andrew Beedham, Past President of Birmingham Law Society, Board Director

Guy Barnett, Board Director

Mariyam Harunah, Board Director

Eileen Schofield, Past President of Birmingham Law Society, Board Director

Zoe Tranter, Board Director

James Turner, Past President of Birmingham Law Society, Board Director

Joe Wilson, Board Director

Council

Michelle Chapman, Irwin Mitchell LLP

Catherine Edwards, Keele University

James Farmer, Ex-Officio, Cornwall Street Barristers

Simon Harris, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP

Neena Janda, Zappi

Mary Kaye, Rayden Solicitors

Alice Kinder, Ex-Officio, Bexley Beaumont

Rebecca Lynch, Birmingham Law Society

Tony McDaid, Ex-Officio, No5 Barristers' Chambers

Harriet Muffett, Trowers & Hamblins LLP

Grace Mullis, Irwin Mitchell LLP

Matt O'Brien, Jonas Roy Bloom

Janai Parker, Gateley Legal

Stephanie Perraton, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP

Richard Port MBE, Ex-Officio, George Green LLP

Samantha Ross, Bevan Brittan LLP

Bernard Shepherd, BES Legal Solicitors

Lubna Shuja, Legal Swan Solicitors

Peter Wiseman, Ex-Officio

Birmingham Law Society Staff

Director of Operations Rebecca Lynch 0121 227 8704

Marketing and Events Manager Jessica Uppal 0121 227 8703

Administrative Assistant Shona Matson-Betts 0121 227 8702

Membership Coordinator Anna Jelinska 0121 227 8701

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 DYMPHNA 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	TONY McDAID	2022
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		

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
PETER WISEMAN		2022

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
BEN HENRY	2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Consultation Committee

Committee Chair - Jayne Willetts, Jayne Willetts & Co Solicitors
John Whitehouse, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
Peter Wiseman
Philip Steel
Samantha Nicholsonm Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
Tom Ellis, Ladders Solicitors LLP

Criminal Law Committee

Committee Chair - Matt O'Brien, Jonas Roy Bloom
Andrew Rourke, St Philips Chambers
Catherine Ravenscroft, St Philips Chambers
Charmaine Robinson, Purcell Parker
Christopher Grainger, Gateley Legal
Daniel Wayne, Crown Prosecution Service
Deirdre Smythe, Clerksroom
Dolores Barrett, Crown Prosecution Service
Gemma Tibbatts, Regan Peggs Solicitors
Inderdeep Singh, Bhomra, Tuckers Solicitors LLP
James Turner, Tuckers Solicitors LLP
Keith Astbury, Jonas Roy Bloom
Matthew Cullen, St Philips Chambers
Rhydian James, Crown Prosecution Service
Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom
Sukhdev Bhomra, Mandla Bhomra & Co
Co-opted Members
Joanna Howell – Legal Aid Agency
Jane Lineker – Birmingham City Council
Suzi Smith – Probation

Dispute Resolution Committee

Committee Chair - Simon Bradshaw, Cornwall Street Barristers
Deputy Chair - Lydia Pemberton, 3PB Barristers
Sundeep Bilkhu, Sydney Mitchell LLP
Amy Callahan-Page, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
Mariyam Harunah, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP
Tobias Haynes, Legal Ombudsman
Gurmeet Jakhu, Excello Law
Paul Nicholls, Nicholls Brimble Bhol
Jonathan Pyke, Starling Bank
Steven Reed, XXIV Old Buildings
Anthony Rich TD, HMCTS
Sophie Samani, Henderson & Jones
Simon Thomas, The Wilkes Partnership
Priya Tromans, St Ives Chambers
Kirsty White, St Philips Chambers

Employment Law Committee

Committee Chair - Charlie Rae, Shoosmiths LLP
Deputy Chair - Victoria Duddles, Weightmans LLP
Neelam Afzal, Wildings Solicitors LLP
Kam Bains, Make UK
Edmund Beever, St Philips Chambers
Sarah Bowen, 3PB Chambers
Izzy Canning, Averta Employment Lawyers LLP
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
Matt McDonald, Shakespeare Martineau
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, Keele University
Monika Bindal, Crown Prosecution Service
Kishma Bolaji, Shoosmiths LLP
Harriet Bowley, Shakespeare Martineau
Ruth Duffy, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
Catherine Edwards, Keele University
Timothy Evans, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
Mariyam Harunah, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP
Karl Hirst, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Marissa Jacquet, Grove Tompkins Bosworth
Shereen Johal, Shoosmiths LLP
Julia Jones, Bevan Brittan LLP
Pardeep Lagha, Gateley Legal
Paige Langford, Bevan Brittan LLP
Melanie Lothbrok, Bevan Brittan LLP
Nabila Mallick, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Nwabueze Nwokolo
Iyanu Onalaja, Shoosmiths LLP
Shaid Parveen, Aston University
Emily Rust, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
Harpreet Singh Sandhu KC, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Frances Seabridge, Aston University
Sanjay Solanki, Penmans (Coventry)
Bridget Tatham, Browne Jacobson LLP
Sharon Thandi, Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP
Linden Thomas, The University of Birmingham Law School
James Turner, Tuckers Solicitors LLP
Oliver Ward-Jones, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP

LGBTQ+ Sub Committee

Chair - Shereen Johal, Shoosmiths LLP
Deputy Chair - Marc Forest-Thomas, No5 Barristers' Chambers
Jamie Adams, Keele University
Stephanie Atkins, Bevan Brittan LLP

Joshua Purser, Cornwall Street Barristers
Lucy Williams, Higgs LLP

Health and Disability Sub Committee

Chair - Ruth Duffy, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
Chair - Iyanu Onalaja, Shoosmiths LLP

Reach Sub Committee

Chair - Shaid Parveen, Aston University
Monika Bindal, Crown Prosecution Service
Shereen Chohan, Harrison Clark Rickerbys Limited
Mariyam Harunah, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP
Marissa Jacquet, Grove Tompkins Bosworth
Zhuo Li, Gateley Legal
Faizan Sadiq, Greens Solicitors Limited
Bridget Tatham, Browne Jacobson LLP
Drew Wilson, Gateley Legal

Social Mobility Sub-Committee

Chair - Alice Kinder, Bexley Beaumont Limited
 Mariyam Harunah, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP
 Karl Hirst, No5 Barristers' Chambers
 Marissa Jacquet, Grove Tompkins Bosworth
 Pardeep Lagha, Gateley Legal
 Paige Langford, Capsticks Solicitors LLP
 Aksa Mir, Irwin Mitchell LLP
 Shaid Parveen, Aston University
 Emily Rust, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
 Sharon Thandi, Devonshires Solicitors LLP
 Oliver Ward-Jones, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP

Family Law Committee

Committee Chair - Claire Darley, FBC Manby Bowdler LLP

Committee Vice Chair - Mark Hands, Irwin Mitchell LLP

Aasha Choudhary, Shakespeare Martineau
 Adam Wadley, No5 Barristers' Chambers
 Aimee Fox, 3PB Barristers
 Aliya Yousaf, K J Conroy & Co Ltd
 Deirdre Smythe, Clerksroom
 HHJ Robin Rowland, HMCTS
 Ian Charlton, 3PB Barristers
 Juliet Allen, St Philips Chambers
 Karen Moores, Sydney Mitchell LLP (Sheldon)
 Katie Langdon, No5 Barristers' Chambers
 Kelly Perks, Talbots (Stourbridge)
 Lauren Parton, Rayden Solicitors
 Mark Mansell, St Philips Chambers
 Mary Kaye, Rayden Solicitors
 Marya Bibi, Keelys Solicitors
 Matthew Saunderson, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
 Monica Ghai, Shakespeare Martineau
 Richard Port MBE, George Green LLP (Cradley Heath)
 Suzanne El-Safty, Loddars Solicitors LLP
 Tom Gregory, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP

Immigration Committee

Committee Chair - Sabina Kauser, Axiom DWFM Limited

Farin Anthony, No5 Barristers' Chambers

Guy Barnett

Tom Brett, Veale Wasbrough Vizards

Javeria Ijaz, Novi Law Limited

Nisha Leel, Cartwright King Solicitors

Danai Papachristopoulou, Refugee Migrant Centre

Adam Pipe, No. 8 Chambers

Emma Rutherford, No. 8 Chambers

Ramzan Sharif, Fountain Solicitors

Sanjeev Sharma, JM Wilson Solicitors

Muhammad Ul Haq, Halcyon Chambers

In House Committee

Committee Chair - Cleo Stewart, Stewart Hill Law Limited

Deputy Chair - Heidi Salter, Housing 21

Baljinder Singh Atwal, West Midlands Police

Caroline Coates

Douglas Mackay, Crown Prosecution Service

Michael Morgan-Bullock, Birmingham Community

Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Neena Janda, Zappi

Siobhan Blake, Crown Prosecution Service

Stephanie Perraton, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP

International Law Committee

Committee Chair - Tony McDaid, No5 Barristers' Chambers

Alexander Pritchard-Jones, No5 Barristers' Chambers

Bernard Shepherd, BES Shepherds

Derek Binns, Department for International Trade
 Eileen Schofield, Schofield & Associates
 Ian Vesey, EP Legal incorporating Warwick Vesey
 James Farmer, Cornwall Street Barristers
 John Hughes, Shakespeare Martineau
 Jonathan Coutts, John Venn and Sons Scrivener Notaries
 Julian Henwood, Gowling WLG (UK) LLP
 Kiran Munawar, The Wilkes Partnership LLP
 Mandy Haque, Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce
 Nilay Shastri, Staple Inn Chambers
 Paul McConnell, The University of Birmingham Law School
 Raj Padhiar, Carltons Solicitors Limited
 Reccy Midigo, Burley Law Limited
 Sandra Astbury, No5 Barristers' Chambers

Personal Injury & Clinical Negligence Committee

Committee Chair - Paul Nicholls, Nicholls Brimble Bhol

Alexander Mellis, No5 Barristers' Chambers

Emma Rush, Irwin Mitchell LLP

Hannah Cons, Bevan Brittan LLP

Laura Daly, Irwin Mitchell LLP

Natasha Alton, Higgs LLP

Samara Hussain, DWF LLP

Samuel Dawber, DWF LLP

Pro Bono Committee

Committee Chair - Elena Goodfellow, Bevan Brittan LLP

Vice Committee Chair - Amelia Bauer, Bevan Brittan LLP

Abigail Macey, Mills and Reeve

Alexander Tolcher, DWF Law

Amy Tabari, University of Birmingham Law School

Anne-Marie Dhillon, LawWorks

Bronwen Webster, Irwin Mitchell

Catherine Henry, Anthony Collins

Cheryl Green, The University of Law

Claire Stern, Central England Law Centre

Craig Wain, No.5 Chambers

Ed Morris, Shoosmiths

Fiona Farrell, Birmingham City University

Georgina Houghton, Gowling

Isha Kumar, Burley Law Limited

Katherine King, Central England Law Centre

Katie Fennell, Central England Law Centre

Louise Soper, Squire Patton Boggs

Manpreet-Kaur Purewal, The University of Law

Mark Taylor

Patrice Coughlin, Rayden Solicitors

Rebecca Craig, Tenet Law

Richard Hartigan, Eversheds Sutherland

Samantha Gargaro, Birmingham City University

Sophie Warren, Shoosmiths

Victoria Dodge, The University of Law

Property & Development Committee

Committee Chair - Denise Watkins, Gordon Jones & Co

Deputy Chair - Ben James, Bray & Bray

Anthony Verduyn, St Philips Chambers

Bernard Shepherd, BES Shepherds

Clive Read, Shakespeare Martineau

David Brammer, Lanyon Bowdler LLP (Telford)

Geoffrey Wood, The Wilkes Partnership LLP

Samantha Ingram, Davisons Law (Edgbaston)

Sarah Dwight, Sarah Dwight Solicitor

Simon Hayden, Shakespeare Martineau

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 with considerable assistance from Peter Wiseman), 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.

The work of the Consultation Committee and the Society's professional committees has continued apace. The Consultation Committee itself responded to eight consultation papers from the SRA. These included the proposed increase in SRA fining powers from £2000 to £25,000; health and well-being rules; and restoring the annual keeping of the Roll. Overshadowing all was the SRA's continuing consultation on the Solicitors Indemnity Fund and post six year run off cover. The Committee responded robustly both on its own behalf and as part of a Joint V response with the other major local law societies which was well covered by the legal media.

The Employment; Dispute Resolution; Property & Development & Criminal Law Committees also contributed to responses on disability workforce reporting; costs & pre-action protocols; leasehold & commonhold systems; and the Government consultation on the future of legal aid.

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 meets monthly, 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.

The last year has seen disruption to the criminal justice system on a local and national level. To list a few major issues: the exit from the sector of many long-established solicitors and law firms; Bar action in the Crown Courts; the controversial implementation of Common Platform; the lengthy closure and ongoing opening restrictions faced by the Victoria Law Courts; changes to the duty solicitor arrangements for local police stations.

Despite these significant challenges, the Committee has remained an important source of information for members and has worked to share information and best practice in these difficult circumstances. We have played an active role in the various stakeholder meetings on these issues to ensure that the voice of BLS members is heard.

One of the most rewarding aspects of chairing the Committee is to inform people about the work of lawyers in the criminal justice system and to promote the work of the Committee to outside agencies, and this year has been no exception. In the last year, I addressed a national forum of NHS Clinical Leads on the use of mental health treatment requirements in the courts, and delivered training to independent custody visitors and appropriate adults on the role of legal advisors in a police custody setting. My thanks go out yet again to the members of the Committee for giving up their valuable time during the last year.

Looking to 2024, I am to recruit new members to the Committee with a focus on reflecting the diversity of the profession within the region. In this way, the Committee can continue to represent BLS members in the face of

new and ongoing challenges to the criminal justice system.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Simon Bradshaw, Chair.



The Dispute Resolution Committee continues to meet regularly to consider matters affecting civil litigation practice and procedure. Our members include representation from

law firms, Chambers and organisations associated with the legal professions, together with a representative of the District Bench. Our remit covers the resolution of disputes outside as well as within the Court system, and the growing importance of Alternative Dispute Resolution has been of particular interest to us. We have also reviewed and where appropriate responded to consultations on matters such as the Civil Justice Council's Costs Working Group consultation on the future of civil costs.

We also arrange training and development regarding practice in the civil courts and look forward in the next few months to running a training seminar with contributions from the local judiciary on best approaches to preparing cases and applications.

This year has marked the completion of Tobias Haynes' term as Chair of the Dispute Resolution Committee and I and the rest of the committee thank him for his hard work. We are not losing the benefit of his experience as he remains an active member of the Committee. My own thanks go to all committee members for their work and to Lydia Pemberton who succeeds me as Deputy Chair.

EMPLOYMENT LAW COMMITTEE

Charlie Rae, Chair.



The Employment Law Committee continued to meet monthly, on the second Tuesday of each month, during 2022 and 2023. Our main work has been to consider various changes and proposed changes to employment

laws, developments in employment law practice and liaising with, and seeking insights from, sector specific bodies such as ACAS and the Employment Tribunals service.

Our meetings have typically been well attended. We now are fully embracing the use of Teams for most of our meetings and have successfully blended having some of our meetings in-person alongside Teams. This has enabled us to maximise attendances, enabling wide participation from our large membership. We introduced quarterly afternoon meetings to allow us to get together as a committee over a post-meeting drink, which has been a popular addition to our meetings roster!

We were delighted to welcome some new members which reflects a pleasing interest in employment practitioners in the region wishing to join us. Izzy Canning from Averta, Sarah Bowen from 3PB and Matt Macdonald from Shakespeare Martineau were our joiners and as we had no leavers from the Committee, we find ourselves an increasingly large cohort!

2022/23 became, in the latter part of the 12-month period especially, a busy year for government consultations on employment law matters. We found the rate at which consultations appeared was a bit like buses!

During the year we considered and responded to six separate and usually in-depth employment consultations, some of which have been on important employment law topics and development areas. Our members spent several hours discussing and then preparing, refining and submitting written responses, most of which were detailed and lengthy. Some highlights were consultations about reforms of holiday entitlements; introduction of a statutory code of practice about "hiring and firing"; repeal of certain EU based rules; and the use of non-disclosure agreements. The Committee is pleased that it has, it is hoped, been able to add some real value and insight towards the potential development of new employment laws during these past few years.

I remain immensely grateful to the Committee's enthusiasm and willingness to volunteer to put in hours of work to consider, prepare and represent the views of BLS in some highly relevant employment consultations.

We also welcomed again as guests Regional Employment Judge Findlay and Dave Levene (ACAS Area Director, Individual Dispute Resolution, Wales and West Midlands). They provided us with informative insights and updates in their respective areas and I take this opportunity to publicly thank them for taking the time out of their busy schedules to meet with us.

We have continued to consider how we can deliver useful events for the

benefit of our members. This year we delivered two fantastically attended training events, focussing on those BLS members who have an interest in employment law issues. Within the 12 months we organised and hosted a Teams panel discussion with three employment law judges, including our Regional Employment Judge, an event that clearly proved popular with our members. Thanks go to our member Sophie Garner for expertly chairing the session and, of course, to the Judges for giving up their valuable time to inform and upskill our members. We also co-hosted a panel discussion with the Employment Lawyers' Association, with a focus on a current hot topic, trade union disputes and industrial relations. We were delighted that it was a very well attended event with a national audience (albeit a strong BLS contingent). Particular thanks to our member Jonathan Coley who took on the unenviable task of being a panellist in a notoriously tricky area. We plan to host a further joint event with ELA in the coming months given the success of our previous collaborations with them.

In summary, it's been a productive and fulfilling year for our Committee. We've achieved a lot. I'd like to thank the Committee members for their constant enthusiasm, positivity and hard work, and for their support of me as their Chair. Thanks also to my vice-Chair, Victoria Duddles, whose constant availability to chat through ideas with me, stepping in to attend events or chair meetings in my absence, has been invaluable.

I close by passing on a few additional words of thanks. Firstly, to the team at BLS who have been encouraging of our training sessions and our consultation responses. It has boosted us and kept us keen to keep exploring new ideas. I also wish to thank Jayne Willetts, whose unfailing support of our written consultation drafts, usually at short notice, has been immensely appreciated. Her reviews of our drafts, suggestions, insights, and eye for detail have undoubtedly improved the quality of the responses we were able to produce.

Here's to what will I think undoubtedly be another busy year ahead for our Committee!

FAMILY LAW COMMITTEE

Claire Darley, Chair.



Following two successful L & D events last year we have increased our membership from 12 to 21 Committee members over the last 12 months.

We have furthered the

aims of our mission statement this year by: having members of our committee who provide a legal aid service; widening the location of our member's firms - across the region and younger members joining the Committee.

Save The Date 5th October 2023!

We are delighted to announce that Mr Justice Peel has agreed to provide a keynote speech at our co-joined forthcoming event in the autumn, with West Midlands Resolution, which will take place on the 5 October 2023.

The focus of Mr Justice Peel's talk is "Developments in the Financial Remedies Court and Transparency". He will be joined by the following speakers and panel for a Q & A:

Aimee Fox - 3PB, Adreeja Chatterjee - No 5, Jonathan Nosworthy of St Philips and Nicholas Allen KC of St Ives.

HHJ Rowland will be chairing the event.

Please look out for more details of the event and to book on from BLS's website.

IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

Sabina Kauser, Chair.



Activities to date:

- Review of the Tribunal Immigration Pilot Scheme- feedback provided to Tribunal on behalf of committee members.
- Representation at the Court Users meeting Groups- committee member attend the Court Users group and provide feedback and obtain information to disseminate to other immigration practitioners.
- Review of the SRA guidelines for Immigration practitioners- SRA released guidance about the tightening of procedure. We have reviewed this as a committee with a view to arranging training on these issues.
- Planned training session for immigration advisor scheduled tentatively for October 2023.

We will be seeking BLS to help promote.

- Planned newsletters to bring updates to immigration practitioners. Content of this will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Vice president to be elected at next meeting now that we have a full committee.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Tony McDaid, Chair.



In July 2022 we successfully showcased our City, BLS and the International Committee with our "Race to the Commonwealth and Beyond" Conference. BLS is a member of the Commonwealth Lawyers

Association and following on from our conference one of our Committee members (Eileen Schofield) was invited to speak at the CLA Conference in Goa.

We have expanded the numbers on our Committee and have a really good diverse mix with insight into different global markets that we are confident will help further promote BLS and its members across the world.

We have in the last 12 months hosted the Vietnamese Ambassador and participated in an event with the Mexican Ambassador and her Chamber of Commerce.

We are currently planning a similar engagement with the Thai Ambassador.

One of our proudest moments was, in collaboration with the University of Birmingham, hosting an event for Ukrainian lawyers and thereby fulfilling a pledge to assist our colleagues and friends from Ukraine to explore contacts and opportunities here in Birmingham.

We also played host to the Canadian and US Embassy staff at an Independence Day seminar in conjunction with the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and have strengthened our links with the Department of Business and Trade (DBT). As I put pen to paper I am this Friday part of a team paying a trip to Dublin to meet Suzanne Martin to explore opportunities for BLS to forge closer links with the Bar in the Irish Republic.

In short it has been a busy, productive and progressive year for the International Committee.

PRO BONO COMMITTEE

Elena Goodfellow, Chair.



The Pro Bono Committees continues to progress 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.

In November 2022, we hosted a National Pro Bono week event, which was due to be held in person but sadly ended up as an online event due to train strikes.

The event focused on the topic "The climate crisis is real, what can lawyers do to help?" Moderated by members of the Pro Bono Committee, four speakers shared their views on how lawyers can help with the climate crisis, followed by a Q&A discussion. Our speakers were from a variety of environmentally-focussed backgrounds and included: Lee McBride, Partner and Head of the Environmental Law team at Lodders; Emma Montlake from the Environmental Law Foundation; Nina Pindham, a barrister at No5 Chambers specialising in Planning and Environmental Law, who spoke all the way from the COP27 summit in Sharm El-Sheikh; and Fiona Nicholls, Gowling WLG's Head of Sustainability and Assurance.

There was a particular focus on what can be done in this area in a pro bono capacity with the Environmental Law Foundation helpfully showcasing some of the impactful projects they are involved in.

The event served as an encouragement that there are plenty of ways in which lawyers, at any stage in their professional journeys, can promote positive environmental changes. For more information about the event or the Pro Bono Committee in general, please contact probono@birminghamlawsociety.co.uk.

PROPERTY & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Denise Watkins, Chair.



The year for 2022/23 had slow progress to start. Whilst Covid was more or less under control the start of 2022 was only starting to get back to some normality. The Committee returned to face to face meetings

rather than virtual meetings that were put in place during the Covid times. This was very challenging but we are now completely face to face again.

As with many areas of law, planned reforms were delayed and are only recently filtering through such as the Building Safety Act following the Grenfell Tower tragedy with developers being required to join the scheme. The Government have implemented changes but it is still a controversial subject and the Property and Development Committee have had many meetings where the Building Safety

Act has been discussed including how it impacts on Mortgage companies and the Tenants of buildings with defective cladding.

There were also discussions on changes regarding Leasehold Properties and proposed changes in the law on Leaseholds. Government proposed quite a broad Leasehold Reform.. Some have been implemented but others not. Michael Gove recently did a U turn on quite a bit of the Leasehold Reform and there are now further discussions to move matters forward with amendments.

There have been updates with Law Society forms and many topical issues discussed surrounding Conveyancing including the Land Registrations taking many, many months longer than before Covid. Land Registry do not appear yet to have reached the point that they have the backlog of registrations under control as registrations are still taking several months unless straightforward despite Land Registry providing digital access which in theory would make matters far quicker.

We have a very good cross section of Property Lawyers within the Committee including a Barrister who gives significant updates regarding action in Court whether it be the High Court or the Court of Appeal that cover a variety of Property issues and a valuable source of information.

There is an update from Members of the Committee regarding Construction, Commercial and Planning at each meeting, including what is to be built around Birmingham and the changes in the City landscape with taller buildings arriving and what planning has been granted to regenerate areas such as the Gun Quarter and Digbeth. The members who are expert in Construction, Commercial and Planning keeps the Committee updated on changes in the Law as well as any changes in Practice process.

Quite often updates regarding fraudulent activities are discussed to ensure that members of the Committee are aware of any fraud that may have come to light so that they can look out for anything out of the norm together with any updates on anti money Laundering, and identification.

Whilst the committee is small, it is certainly busy. Anyone who is interested in 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 and also try to have a social occasion at least once a year. Please contact me for more information on attending or becoming a member on dwatkinsl@gordonjonesolicitors.co.uk



BIRMINGHAM
LAW SOCIETY

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2023

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

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)
R Hothi	(Resigned 9 May 2022)
N Panchal	(Resigned 17 August 2022)
S Jonas	(Appointed 26 January 2022)
A Beedham	(Appointed 26 January 2022)
A Kinder	(Appointed 28 September 2022)
A McDaid	(Appointed 28 September 2022)
S Perraton	(Appointed 1 October 2022)
R Port	(Appointed 28 September 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.

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
.....

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.

THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE PREPARATION OF THE UNAUDITED STATUTORY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the financial statements of The Birmingham Law Society for the year ended 31 December 2022 set out on pages 3 to 14 from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <https://www.icaew.com/regulation>.

This report is made solely to the board of directors of The Birmingham Law Society, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 4 July 2023. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of The Birmingham Law Society and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the board of directors of The Birmingham Law Society, as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16 AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Birmingham Law Society and its board of directors as a body, for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that The Birmingham Law Society has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and deficit of The Birmingham Law Society. You consider that The Birmingham Law Society is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of The Birmingham Law Society. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory financial statements.

JW HINKS LLP

27 September 2023

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 3BH

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
INCOME		125,921	123,962
Administrative expenses		(228,713)	(180,667)
Other operating income		95,005	42,700
OPERATING DEFICIT		(7,787)	(14,005)
Interest receivable and similar income	3	6,254	5,318
Interest payable and similar expenses		(1,465)	(718)
Change in fair value of investments	5	(62,612)	29,949
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION		(65,610)	20,544
Taxation	6	(43,485)	-
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	18	(109,095)	20,544

THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		8,404		9,342
Investment properties	8		1,600,000		1,600,000
Investments	9		257,334		317,312
			<u>1,865,738</u>		<u>1,926,654</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	135,249		138,839	
Cash at bank and in hand		3,445		10,486	
		<u>138,694</u>		<u>149,325</u>	
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	11	(246,357)		(241,140)	
Net current liabilities			<u>(107,663)</u>		<u>(91,815)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>1,758,075</u>		<u>1,834,839</u>
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	12		(27,885)		(39,039)
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	15		(181,188)		(137,703)
NET ASSETS			<u>1,549,002</u>		<u>1,658,097</u>
RESERVES					
Non-distributable reserve			1,439,254		1,439,254
Income and expenditure account	18		109,748		218,843
MEMBERS' FUNDS			<u>1,549,002</u>		<u>1,658,097</u>

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

For the financial year ended 31 December 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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 and are signed on its behalf by:

.....
B Henry
DIRECTOR

.....
A Beedham
DIRECTOR

COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. 00005188

THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Non-distributable reserves £	Income and expenditure account £	Total £
BALANCE AT 1 JANUARY 2021	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
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022:			
Loss and total comprehensive income for the year	-	(109,095)	(109,095)
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022	1,439,254	109,748	1,549,002

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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.

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 INTEREST RECEIVABLE AND SIMILAR INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income includes the following:		
Income from other fixed asset investments	6,252	5,318

4 EMPLOYEES

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

	2022	2021
	Number	Number
Management and administration	4	4

The directors of the Society have received remuneration of £9,000 during the year ended 31 December 2022 (2021: £nil).

5 AMOUNTS WRITTEN OFF INVESTMENTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
FAIR VALUE GAINS/(LOSSES)		
Change in value of financial assets held at fair value through income or expenditure	(62,547)	29,417

6 TAXATION

	2022	2021
	£	£
DEFERRED TAX		
Origination and reversal of timing differences	43,485	-

7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture, computers and equipment £
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1 January 2022	22,037
Additions	4,621
Disposals	(1,355)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2022	25,303
	<hr/>
DEPRECIATION AND IMPAIRMENT	
At 1 January 2022	12,695
Depreciation charged in the year	4,966
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(762)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2022	16,899
	<hr/>
CARRYING AMOUNT	
At 31 December 2022	8,404
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2021	9,342
	<hr/>

8 INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2022 £
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022	1,600,000
	<hr/>

Investment property with a carrying value of £1,600,000 as at 31 December 2022 (2021: £1,600,000) 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 2022.

9 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Investments	244,834	304,812
Other investments	12,500	12,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	257,334	317,312
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Investments with a carrying value of £244,834 as at December 2022 form part of the proceeds received from the sale of the Society's collection of antiquarian and/or text books. An ordinary resolution passed on 23 November 2000 by the Society provided that the net proceeds (excluding any interest earned thereon) should only be used for capital expenditure purposes. The authority conferred on the Officers of the Council by the above resolution was subsequently extended to allow the net proceeds to be used for additional purposes provided that such authority is exercised with prior approval of the Council of the Society and such terms are subject to such conditions as the Council may specify.

MOVEMENTS IN FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Investments other than loans	Other	Total
	£	£	£
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1 January 2022	304,812	12,500	317,312
Valuation changes	(59,978)	-	(59,978)
	<u>244,834</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>257,334</u>
At 31 December 2022	244,834	12,500	257,334
CARRYING AMOUNT			
At 31 December 2022	244,834	12,500	257,334
	<u>244,834</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>257,334</u>
At 31 December 2021	304,812	12,500	317,312
	<u>304,812</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>317,312</u>

10 DEBTORS

	2022	2021
	£	£
AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR:		
Trade debtors	96,630	96,248
Other debtors	1,976	1,976
Prepayments and accrued income	36,643	40,615
	<u>135,249</u>	<u>138,839</u>
	<u>135,249</u>	<u>138,839</u>

11 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Notes	2022	2021
		£	£
Loans and overdrafts	13	23,834	9,295
Trade creditors		25,128	25,498
Other taxation and social security		8,829	13,267
Deferred income	14	168,901	170,217
Other creditors		12,605	13,531
Accruals		7,060	9,332
		<u>246,357</u>	<u>241,140</u>
		<u>246,357</u>	<u>241,140</u>

12 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	Notes	2022	2021
		£	£
Loans and overdrafts	13	27,885	39,039
		<u>27,885</u>	<u>39,039</u>
		<u>27,885</u>	<u>39,039</u>

13 LOANS AND OVERDRAFTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Bank loans	39,039	48,334
Bank overdrafts	12,680	-
	<u>51,719</u>	<u>48,334</u>
Payable within one year	23,834	9,295
Payable after one year	<u>27,885</u>	<u>39,039</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 2022.

14 DEFERRED INCOME

	2022 £	2021 £
Arising from deferred income	<u>168,901</u>	<u>170,217</u>

15 PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES

	2022 £	2021 £
Deferred tax liabilities	<u>181,188</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 2022 £	Liabilities 2021 £
BALANCES:		
Investment property	<u>181,188</u>	<u>137,703</u>
MOVEMENTS IN THE YEAR:		2022 £
Liability at 1 January 2022		137,703
Charge to profit or loss		<u>43,485</u>
Liability at 31 December 2022		<u>181,188</u>

17 MEMBERS' LIABILITY

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

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 £2,029 (2021: £2,053) and outstanding contributions as at 31 December 2022 amounted to £433 (2021: £265).

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:

	2022 £	2021 £
Total outstanding commitments	<u>28,847</u>	<u>35,820</u>

LESSOR

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Total outstanding commitments	<u>2,945,833</u>	<u>3,028,056</u>

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

DETAILED TRADING AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

		2022		2021
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions		122,849		118,406
Lectures and courses		3,072		5,556
		<u>125,921</u>		<u>123,962</u>
OTHER OPERATING INCOME				
Rents receivable	87,805		36,480	
Insurance recharges	7,200		6,220	
	<u></u>	95,005		42,700
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		(228,713)		(180,667)
OPERATING DEFICIT		(7,787)		(14,005)
INVESTMENT REVENUES				
Bank interest receivable	2		-	
Income from Stock Exchange listed investments	6,252		5,318	
	<u></u>	6,254		5,318
INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR EXPENSES				
Bank interest on loans and overdrafts		(1,465)		(718)
OTHER GAINS AND LOSSES				
Change in fair value of financial assets measured at fair value through income or expenditure	(62,547)		29,417	
Profit or Loss on disposal of investments measured at fair value	(65)		532	
	<u></u>	(62,612)		29,949
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION		<u>(65,610)</u>		<u>20,544</u>

SCHEDULES TO THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Wages and salaries	121,600	90,512
Social security costs	5,995	3,953
Staff training	2,296	1,292
Staff pension costs	2,029	2,053
Lectures and courses	-	260
President's Dinner	(2,514)	(6,273)
Public relations	14,695	16,818
Legal Awards	(23,686)	(27,867)
Computer expenses	16,334	11,859
Premises expenses	43,038	40,394
Equipment hire	3,945	4,320
Other events, travel and associated expenses	(804)	(1,433)
Professional charges	14,445	19,781
Audit fees	-	1,250
Bank charges	2,106	1,879
Printing and stationery	3,868	1,042
Telephone and postages	3,455	3,125
Newly qualified event	250	(428)
Incidentals	6,154	2,354
Depreciation	4,966	4,704
(Profit) or loss on sale of tangible assets	593	-
Irrrecoverable VAT	9,948	11,072
	228,713	180,667

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 9000 solicitors, barristers, legal executives, trainee solicitors, paralegals and law students in 111 organisations including 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