



BIRMINGHAM
LAW SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2026



A year as President of this Society is spent, more than anything else, speaking on behalf of other people. As a criminal law advocate in my day job, it is perhaps the part of the year I have most enjoyed. When I have spoken at a meeting of local law societies in Manchester, or a breakfast in Birmingham, at the Rentrée Solenelle in Paris, or in a room full of students at Birmingham Newman University, I have not been speaking for myself. I have been speaking for thousands of lawyers whose work I mostly do not see, in firms and chambers I mostly do not visit, across a region that is far larger than Birmingham itself.

That aspect of the Presidential role brings with it a strange cocktail of pride and humility. It requires a good deal of pride, because the standard of practice in this region bears comparison with anywhere, and I have welcomed the opportunity to champion it: in law, as in many other areas, Birmingham is a city second to none. There is pride, too, in the role itself: I have had the privilege this year of people listening when I speak, because the Society remains incredibly well-respected locally, nationally and internationally.

The humility comes because I have spent the year watching other people do the work. Among the things I took on was the scrutiny of our consultation responses before submission, which has meant reading closely almost all of the output of the Society and its professional committees: responses to the SRA, to the Government's consultations on employment rights, to the Legal Ombudsman's consultation on the complaints scheme, and our sustained engagement with the Crown Court backlog and the reforms proposed in response to it. That work is done by practitioners, unpaid, in the hours around their practices, and to a standard that in many cases

would equal that of a specialist policy unit. It is among the least visible things the Society does and among the most valuable. The credit for all of it belongs elsewhere; I have spent the year taking bows for other people's work.

The Society has changed in other ways too. The Junior Lawyers Division was formed in January, ending a long period in which the organisations for junior lawyers in this city operated entirely outside the Society. Council has widened the criteria for membership, and the legal business support professionals now eligible under those criteria are forming a professional committee of their own, which will be in place by this meeting – a committee made up of, and chaired by, people who could not have joined this Society a year ago.

If there is a thread running through all of that, it is the question of who this Society lets in. It is a question I have some personal interest in, being the first professional in my family, and it is one this Society has taken strides to address in recent years.

The year has not been without difficulty. We have operated for most of it without a permanent Chief Executive. There has been a real cost to that, and it has been felt in the office: work absorbed by people already fully occupied, decisions taken more slowly than they should have been, and corporate memory lost that will take time to rebuild. I am grateful to Guy Barnett, who has carried the interim role alongside the Vice Presidency, and to the operational team, who have held things together in circumstances that would have defeated a less committed group. I am delighted that Calum Nisbet has now taken up the post. The Society he joins is in good order and has a great deal of ground it can now make up.

Members will have noticed a theme in my Bulletin letters this year: a recommendation of somewhere in this city worth an afternoon of your time. That was not filler. A city that undersells itself is a city whose lawyers get undersold with it, and the habit of noticing what is good and saying so out loud seems to me a reasonable thing for a President to model.

A few days before this meeting I will be walking thirty-two kilometres across the Peak District for Birmingham Mind, a charity whose work most of us will recognise the value of immediately. I would be grateful for your support, as I have been to those who have donated so generously to our fundraising initiatives throughout the year.

Being President of this Society has been the honour of my professional life. Thanks to those of you with whom I have had the pleasure of working this year, and apologies to those whom I have not yet met. The worst part of this job is that the time passes too quickly to do everything that one wants to do.

I wish our incoming President, Guy Barnett, a very good year.

Matt O'Brien
President, Birmingham Law Society

Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 25th September 2025

Officers: Matt O'Brien was installed as President, Guy Barnett as Vice President and Sabina Kauser as Deputy Vice President. **Appointed Board Members :** Dipika Mistry was appointed as a Board Member. **Retiring Board Members :** Richard Port MBE retired as a director, Retiring Ordinary Council Members Neena Janda. **Elected Ordinary Council Members:** Samantha Ingram, Davison's Law.

CHAIR REPORT



Following the departure of our previous permanent Chief Executive the board was delighted to appoint Calum Nisbet as the Society's CEO moving forward.

Calum is well known in the West Midlands professional community, having previously led the local branch of the Institute of Directors and the Black County Chamber of Commerce. Calum has excellent connections and a deep knowledge of running membership organisations, and the board very much looks forward to working with him.

Prior to Calum's recruitment, Board took a more active role in the day-to-day management of the Society. Guy Barnett is to be thanked for stepping up and into a more operational role in this period. It has been agreed that Guy will exit this role in good

time to give Calum an effective handover, but in advance of the commencement of his own term of presidency.

It became apparent that the Society's office space on Bull Street was not fit for purpose. Guy Barnett assisted Board in locating a new office, and the Society now occupies an excellent new office on the intersection of Bennetts Hill and Colmore Row and so in the heart of the city's professional community. The Society's office sits within a serviced facility, which the Society hopes to utilise going forwards.

A major event in the course of the year was the insolvency of our tenant at the former Birmingham Law Society Building on Temple Row. Board had been monitoring the position for some time, and directors Guy Barnett and Will Lodder are to be thanked for their hard work in negotiating and then agreeing (with Board approval and oversight) the terms of an assignment of the lease. This provides some

stability in the medium term and preserves the rental income that the Society generates from this asset. Board does acknowledge that there remains some vulnerability within the leisure sector, and so will keep the property under close review, with the new CEO.

Matt O'Brien has been a highly effective president, and Board wishes him all the best as his presidential year comes to an end. Board welcomes our new president Guy Barnett, and the directors look forward to working with him over his presidential year. We have an excellent line of presidential succession in the forms of Sabina Kauser (VP) and Samantha Ingram (DVP).

As the financial report shows, the Society is in rude health, showing increases in both our income and our year end financial surplus.

Peter Brewer, Chair

FINANCE REPORT



A copy of the financial statements for the society covering the financial year ending March 2026 is attached. Here is a summary of the content.

Total income for the year was £522,743 (income: £269,697 + other operating income £253,046) (2025 comparison: £509,575).

The overall surplus before taxation for 2025 was £51,239 (2025: £44,612).

Subscriptions income was £133,367 (2025: £129,328).

Wages and salaries were £190,361 (2025: £184,868).

Annual rental income remained at £245,000.

The investment portfolio at year end stood at £261,601 (2025: £239,428).

Ben Henry, Finance Director

INTERIM CEO REPORT



Following Nigel Hollett's departure, the Board asked me to lead Birmingham Law Society's operations until a permanent Chief Executive

arrived. My priorities were to maintain stability, support staff and prepare the Society for its new CEO while continuing our membership activities, events and governance during significant organisational change.

We strengthened day-to-day operations, reviewed membership and administrative processes, supported committees and representative groups, and improved communication between the operational team, Council and Board. We also developed the membership offering by establishing the Junior Lawyers Division, engaging with professional committees and strengthening relationships with member firms and organisations.

I particularly thank Oksana Davydova, Interim Head of Operations, and Jess Uppal, Events

and Marketing Manager, for their commitment throughout this demanding transition.

Following the insolvency of the tenant of our former Birmingham Law Society Building, I worked with Finance Director Will Lodder and the Board to secure a lease assignment and protect an important income source. We also relocated to modern serviced offices at 6 Bennetts Hill, which we hope will become a focal point for members and activities.

I am delighted that Calum Nisbet has joined as Chief Executive Officer. Calum brings substantial leadership and membership-organisation experience, strong West Midlands connections, and fresh energy and direction. I wish him every success as he takes forward the operational leadership of Birmingham Law Society.

My operational responsibility will end before the AGM, clearly separating the Chief Executive's role from my forthcoming presidency.

Serving as Interim Chief Executive has been a privilege and has given me valuable insight into the Society's

operational challenges. I thank the Board, Council, Officers and especially our staff for their support and commitment.

It has also reinforced for me the importance of clear governance, an engaged Council, effective Professional Committees and a strong connection between the Society and the members it exists to represent.

As the incoming President, I look forward to applying this experience positively in a very different capacity: supporting Calum and the team, leading Council, representing our membership and working to ensure that Birmingham Law Society continues to develop its ability to represent, support, connect and promote its members.

Guy Barnett
Interim Chief Executive Officer

December 2025–September 2026

Minutes of the 206th Annual General Meeting of the Birmingham Law Society

Date/Time: 25 September 2025 at 5pm

Location: No5 Barristers Chamber, 103 Colmore Row, Birmingham

Attendees: Kikun Alo, Helen Jane Arnold, Guy Barnett, Andrew Beedham, Peter Brewer, Hamid Bukhari, Kristian Campbell-Drummond, Philip Chapman, Charlotte Clode, Patrice Coughlin, John Deeley, Sindy Deeley, Michael Deeley, Trish Deeley, William Douglas-Jones, Dennis Dudley, William Dudley, Catherine Edwards, David Graham, Nigel Hollett, John Hughes, Jane Hughes, Leonard Jacobs, Saira Jamshaid, Steven Jonas, Sadie Jones, Ian Jones, Ruth Jones, Iram Kassam, Sabina Kauser, Mary Kaye, Alice Kinder, Nisha Leel, Sara Lehtonen, Will Lodder, Shona Matson-Betts, Dipika Mistry, Safwaan Mukti, Christie Nelson, Matt O'Brien, Vicki O'Brien, Eleanor O'Brien, Henry O'Brien, Daniel O'scroft, Shaid Parveen, Robert Plane, Asma Plane, Richard Port MBE, Misbah Rahman, Simon Rollason, Sana Saddique, Eileen Schofield, Marilyn Selwood, Ifrah Shah, Lubna Shuja, Dee Smyth, Adam Stinchcombe, Christine Stober, Vinh An Tran, Arooj Tussadiq, Jessica Uppal, Tom Walking KC, Alexander Walsh Atkins, Cary Whitmarsh, Jayne Willetts, Joe Wilson, Peter Wiseman

Apologies: Andy Dawson, Bernard Shepherd, Daniel Skermer, Grace Mullis, Neena Janda, Samantha Ingram, Simon Harris, Stephanie Perraton

Minutes: Mel Bates (MB)

Notes: All written reports circulated prior to the meeting to be noted and taken as read

Agenda Item & Minutes

1. President to Declare Meeting Open

The President, Richard Port MBE, declared the 206th Annual General Meeting open and welcomed those present.

The Company Secretary, Andrew Beedham, read out the list of apologies, which included Stephanie Perraton, Andy Dawson, Samantha Ingram, Daniel Skermer, Simon Harris, Neena Janda, Grace Mullis and Bernard Shepherd. **RP**

2. Approval of Minutes of 2024 AGM

The President requested that the notice convening the AGM and minutes of the 205th AGM be taken as read. On a show of hands, the resolution was carried unanimously and the President was authorised to sign the minutes. **RP**

3. Report of the Council and Accounts

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts, including the independent auditor's report, had been circulated.

The President introduced Hamid Bukhari of JW Hinks, the Society's auditors. Mr Bukhari advised the meeting to exercise caution when comparing the 2025 Accounts with those of 2024, as the respective financial periods covered differing periods of 12 and 15 months, respectively. He highlighted the strong balance sheet position, noting net assets of £2.755 million. The floor was opened for questions, however, none were raised. The President then proposed that the Report and Accounts be taken as read and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Hamid left the meeting at 5.06pm. **RP**

4. 50 Years in Legal Practice Presentation

The President congratulated the following members in achieving this milestone and presented awards to:
John Deeley (admitted 15 December 1973)
Michael Deeley (admitted 1 May 1974)
Dennis Dudley (admitted 1 February 1974)
John Hughes (admitted 15 June 1974)
John Bennett (admitted 15 June 1974)
Robert Plane (admitted 1 February 1975)

RP



5. Award of Trainee Prizes

The President announced Adam Stinchcombe from the University of Law as the winner of the Herbert Wilson Award, who received the highest grade of 87.9% on his Criminal Law module. **RP**

6. Election of Council Members

The President announced there was only one vacancy on Council, with ordinary member, Neena Janda, retiring. The President also announced ex officio member Alice Kinder would also be retiring from Council.

The President advised that there was only one candidate, Samantha Ingram, who is the current Chair of the Property Committee. Guy Barnett, speaking on behalf of Samantha, addressed members to provide some background on her career, experience and how she has engaged with the Society, including being co-opted onto Council seven months prior and playing a significant part in the organisation of a recent property event at the ICC for the Law Society and gave his assurances that she would represented members.

The President explained that due to the unopposed election, a formal vote was not required and the election was carried by a show of hands. **RP**

7. Appointment of Board of Directors

The President confirmed that no Directors had retired from Board, with the exception of himself due to the end of his presidential year.

The President confirmed that Andy Dawson, a Board Observer, had retired from Board.

The President explained that Dipika Mistry, currently a Board Observer, was seeking appointment as a Board Director for the next three years, which (not being contested) was approved by a show of hands. **RP**

8. Vote of Thanks to Retiring Council and Board Members

The President gave a vote of thanks to all Council and Board members and especially to those retiring members of Council and Board, Neena Janda and Alice Kinder, and Board Observer, Andy Dawson. **RP**

The President expressed a vote of thanks to Past President Jane Willetts, who was retiring from her role of Chair of the Professional Regulatory Committee, handing this over to Kerry Whitmarsh.

The President also extended a vote of thanks to Peter Wiseman, an active member of the Society in various roles for many years, who was retiring from his active role on the Professional Regulatory Committee, serving as Chair prior to Jane Willetts, and Council. **RP**

9. Presidential Address

In opening, the President reflected on the past year, describing his presidency as the greatest highlight of his professional career. He expressed his hope that his chosen theme of "Voices", centred around the concept that every voice matters and contributes to the fabric of who we are, had helped to highlight and celebrate those who may not always have the opportunity or platform to showcase their achievements.

The President went on to note the Society's key events throughout the year, including the Legal Awards, Alternative Dinner and President's Dinner, and expressed his hope that members had enjoyed these occasions and recognised his efforts to bring a fresh approach to the Society's calendar.

The President extended his gratitude to his fellow Officers, Council members, Committee Chairs and the wider membership for their continued support over the year. He also offered particular thanks to Matt O'Brien, Guy Barnett and the office team, namely Nigel Hollett, Jessica Uppal, Shona Matson-Betts and Sara Lehtonen, acknowledging that the Society's achievements would not be possible without their hard work and dedication.

The President announced that £9,000 had been raised during his presidential year for his chosen charities, She Beasts and ManKind, and invited the representatives from each charity to accept the contributions raised by the Society and say a few words.

The President finished by thanking everyone for their support and highlighting the growth of the Society and how it continues to go from strength to strength. **RP**

10. Installation of Officers 2024/2025

The President announced that Matt O'Brien had been appointed by Council as President of the Society for the coming year and installed him in office by transferring the



chain of office to him. In his first official duty as President, Matt O'Brien presented Richard Port MBE with the Past President's medal.

The President, Matt O'Brien, expressed his great pleasure and privilege in being appointed and standing before members as President and his sense of pride and excitement for the year ahead.

The President gave thanks to his wife and children for attending the AGM but also for their patience, encouragement and support over the last two years. The President noted the struggle for many to balance the work of the legal profession but highlighted his family's support has been fundamental.

The President thanked his firm, Jonas Roy Bloom, where he has practice criminal law for 22 years, and with particular thanks to Past President Steven Jonas and Ben Henry, current Finance Director of Birmingham Law Society.

The President also thanked his fellow officers and soon to be Vice President, Guy Barnett, for his support and friendship throughout the past year, as well as the office staff, Jessica Uppal, Sara Lehtonen, Nigel Hollett and Shona Matson-Betts, and the many mentors who have encouraged him over the years. The also President recognised Richard Port MBE for leading with authenticity and his gratitude for the strong foundations Richard has laid.

The President reflected that having spent nearly all of his career working in the criminal justice system it taught him about fairness and, with Birmingham Law Society being one of the oldest bodies in the country and being led by some of Birmingham's finest lawyers, it is humbling to follow in such footsteps, seeing himself not only as an ambassador and advocate but a steward of the Society,

here to strengthen it in readiness to pass the baton onto his successors.

The President announced his theme for the year as "Birmingham - a city of hidden gems". He explained that, upon arriving in Birmingham over twenty years ago, he was struck by the many hidden treasures within the city, from individuals carrying out remarkable work to its historic buildings. His intention for the year is to shine a light on what makes Birmingham's legal community so exceptional with its abundance of talent, creativity and excellence that often goes unrecognised.

The President confirmed the 3 items he will focus on during his year, including: a family fun day in Summer 2026 which will be a unique event for all members and their families and friends; creating a sense of community among senior lawyers, by launching a CEO & Managing Partner event and updating the Legal Leaders lunches; and relaunching the ambassador scheme which will give members a forum and strengthen connections with the Society, ultimately enabling it to deliver the right benefits to members at the right time.

The President announced his chosen charity as Birmingham Mind, which many will be familiar with and is a cause close to his heart having, like many in the profession, seen the toll that the work can take with many struggling in silence. He hopes that by giving the charity a platform throughout the year, it will help the charity continue to support Birmingham.

The President emphasised that his role is to listen to and represent members, ensuring the Society continues to thrive and provide every lawyer with a sense of value and connection. He encouraged members to support by contributing their energy, ideas and time and that by working together, the Society can continue to succeed and build strong foundations for future generations of lawyers.

In closing, the President expressed his pride in representing the membership and in joining a distinguished line of Presidents spanning more than two centuries. He invited everyone to make the coming year one that celebrates the city's hidden gems, unlocks potential and showcases the very best of Birmingham's legal community.

The President proceeded to report that Guy Barnett had been appointed as Vice President for the ensuing year and presented him with the chain of office. The Vice President gave a short address.

The Vice President, Guy Barnett, opened by expressing his gratitude to the President and to Richard Port MBE for their guidance, support and patience throughout the past year and acknowledged the many valuable lessons Richard had shared with him during that time. He also thanked Board and Council members, who he has thoroughly enjoyed working alongside, as well as the excellent office team consisting of Nigel Hollett, Jessica Uppal, Shona Matson-Betts and Sara Lehtonen, and the Society's professional minute taker.

The Vice President reflected on his involvement with Board, Council, HR Sub-Committee and Sponsorship Committee, noting that this work has allowed him to connect more closely with the membership and the wider Birmingham network, which aligns with the President's focus on member engagement. He confirmed that he will continue to liaise with and support the Society's sponsors, working to maintain their commitment and ensure the Society upholds its partnership agreements.

The Vice President highlighted his intention to interact



with Managing Partners to improve engagement and membership, as well as engaging with junior lawyers through Birmingham Trainee Solicitors Group and Birmingham Young Lawyers. He also hopes to resurrect and rename the historic networking group "Advise Birmingham" as the city continues to grow.

The Vice President finished by expressing his honour to have served as Deputy Vice President last year and be named Vice President this year.

The Vice President announced with great honour that Sabina Kauser had been appointed as Deputy Vice President for the ensuing year and presented her with the chain of office. The Deputy Vice President gave a short address.

The Deputy Vice President, Sabina Kauser, began by expressing her deep honour at stepping into the role, noting with pride that she is the first Asian female in the Society's presidential history. She extended her gratitude to her family, friends and colleagues, as well as to the Board, Council, the President, Vice President and Richard Port MBE for their ongoing support. She reflected that, since her admission to the profession two decades ago, her diverse experience across various areas of law has shaped her journey and led her to this moment in her career.

The Deputy Vice President expressed her enthusiasm for working alongside the President and Vice President to uphold and strengthen the Society's legacy through mentoring, supporting new initiatives and engaging in discussions about the future of the legal profession. She reaffirmed her commitment to ensuring that members feel heard and represented, viewing this as an opportunity to enhance inclusivity, maintain relevance and respond to the evolving needs of members. She also emphasised the importance of supporting those at the beginning of their careers and creating a platform that enables everyone to feel part of something greater. **MOB / GB / SK**

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business. **MOB**

12. Closure of the AGM

The President thanked No.5 Chambers for hosting the meeting and everyone for their attendance, which shows the support of members and that Birmingham Law Society is on the right track.

The President declared the 206th Annual General Meeting closed. **MOB** Meeting concluded at 6.19pm

President

Matt O'Brien, Jonas Roy Bloom

Vice President

Guy Barnett, Perception Solutions Limited

Deputy Vice President

Sabina Kauser, Ward Hadaway LLP

Board

Chair: Peter Brewer, HCR Law

Vice Chair: Will Lodder, Non-Exec Director

Finance Director: Ben Henry, Jonas Roy Bloom

President: Matt O'Brien, Jonas Roy Bloom

Vice-President: Guy Barnett, Perception Solutions Limited

Deputy Vice President: Sabina Kauser, Ward Hadaway

Director: Alice Kinder, Bexley Beaumont

Director: Stephanie Perraton, Squire Patton Boggs

Director: Ian Jones, Spencer Shaw Solicitors

Director: Dipika Mistry, Weightmans LLP

Director: Sana Saddique, Collective Law Solicitors LTD

Director: Joe Wilson, St Philips Chambers

Company Secretary: Andrew Beedham, for Birmingham Law Society

Council

President: Matt O'Brien, Jonas Roy Bloom

Vice President: Guy Barnett, Perception Solutions Limited

Deputy Vice President: Sabina Kauser, Ward Hadaway LLP

Elected Council Members

Catherine Edwards, Arden University

Samantha Ingram, Davisons Law

Grace Mullis, Irwin Mitchell LLP

Victoria Zinzan, Irwin Mitchell LLP

Lubna Shuja, Legal Swan Solicitors

Co-opted Members

Philip Chapman, MFG Solicitors

Lisa Watts, 3PB Barristers

Alexander Pritchard Jones, No 5 Barristers Chambers

Mary Kaye, The Law Society

Dee Smythe, Midland Circuit

Janai Parker, Birmingham Black Lawyers

Gabriella Mathews, Birmingham Trainee Solicitors

Daniel Skermer, PA Forum

Kristian Campbell-Drummond, Birmingham Junior Lawyers Division

Christie Nelson, Birmingham Junior Lawyers Division

Immediate Past President

Richard Port MBE, MFG Solicitors

Honorary Members

Bernard Shepherd, BES Legal Solicitors

Peter Wiseman MBE

Birmingham Law Society Staff

Chief Executive Officer: Calum Nisbet

Interim Head of Operations: Oksana Davydova

Head of Marketing and Events: Jessica Uppal

PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY

THOMAS LEE	1818
JOHN MEREDITH	1825
JOHN SIMCOX	1832
ROGER WILLIAM GEM	1833
THOMAS EYRE LEE	1848
CLEMENT INGLEBY	1852
JOHN WELCHMAN WHATELEY	1855
ARTHUR RYLAND	1873
GEORGE JAMES JOHNSON	1874
ARTHUR RYLAND	1876
WILLIAM EVANS	1877
JAMES MARIGOLD	1879
THOMAS HORTON	1882
CHARLES EDWARD MATTHEWS	1885
CORNELIUS THOMAS SAUNDERS	1888
SIR THOMAS MARTINEAU	1888
LAURISTON WINTERBOTHAM LEWIS	1891
JOSEPH BENNETT CLARKE	1893
ARTHUR GODLEE	1895
THOMAS HAWKES RUSSELL	1897
JOSEPH ANSELL	1899
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1901
JOHN BARHAM CARSLAKE	1903
ALFRED POINTON	1906
WALTER BARROW	1908
JOHN GILBERT BRADBURY	1910
ALFRED HENRY COLEY	1912
JAMES HARGREAVE	1914
ARTHUR LABRON LOWE	1916
FRANCIS AUGUST CHATWIN	1918
ARCHIBALD SOMERVILLE BENNETT	1919
JAMES ARTHUR MARIGOLD	1920
EDWARD EVERSHED	1921
THOMAS COOKSEY	1922
CHARLES EKin	1923
JOSEPH JAMES	1924
FRANCIS HENRY PEPPER	1925
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1926
CORNELIUS HALE SAUNDERS	1927
HUGH BARHAM CARSLAKE	1928
GEORGE HUGGINS	1929
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1930
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1931
SYDNEY VERNON	1932
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1933
WILFRED CLARKSON MATTHEWS	1934
FRANK HENRY CUFAUDE WILTSHIRE	1935
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1937
HERBERT WILLIAM LYDE	1938
JOSEPH THOMAS HIGGS	1939
GEORGE HAROLD WILLCOX	1941
ARTHUR JOHN GATELEY	1943
JOHN FREDERICK WEST	1945
WILLIAM CHARLES COLEMAN GELL	1946
CHARLES ADRIAN ASHFORD ELTON	1947
JOHN FAIRFAX CROWDER	1948
JOHN HENRY SQUIRE ADDISON	1949
GEORGE ARTHUR LYON HATTON	1950
CYRIL HIGHWAY	1950
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	1952
CECIL HAMMOND COX	1953
THOMAS BERNARD SMITH	1954
JOHN ALBERT CALTHROP TAYLOR	1955
PHILIP HORTON VERNON	1956
GEOFFREY MARTEN KING	1957
GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	1958
JOSEPH KENNETH WALKER	1959
RODERICK SYDNEY KING-FARLOW	1960

WILLIAM HENRY TILLEY	1960
JOHN SHUFFLEBOTHAM	1962
FREDERICK WILLIAM WHITALL OAKLEY	1963
CHARLES THOMAS WINTERTON	1964
RICHARD LAURENCE EKin	1965
GEOFFREY HORACE PIDDOCK	1966
HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS	1967
CHRISTOPHER HEDLEY HARMER	1968
THOMAS HARRY PARKINSON	1969
CHARLES HERBERT LEA	1970
JOHN ATKINSON RUTLEDGE	1970
SYDNEY SOLOMON JACOBS	1972
JOHN TIMOTHY ARTHUR SMITH	1973
JOHN ANTONY ALDERSON	1974
DAVID LIDDELL	1975
WALTER WOOD	1976
DAVID STANLEY ADAMS	1977
ROBERT JOSEPH GARRATT	1978
GEORGE SIEGFRIED JONAS	1979
DENYS ERIC FORDHAM	1980
ROGER HORTON VERNON	1980
ARNOLD MAURICE PUTSMAN	1982
CHRISTOPHER JOHN JAMES	1983
FREDERICK HAROLD TURNER	1984
PETER LESLIE TAYLOR	1985
BRIAN EDWARD GLYNN WILLIAMS	1986
JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON	1987
DAVID HOWARD HIGGS	1988
CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES	1989
PHILIP EDWARD RICHARDSON	1990
CHARLES RODERICK KING-FARLOW	1991
JOHN ADRIAN JAMES AUCOTT	1992
STANLEY BERNARD SHORTT	1993
JOHN MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM	1994
ALBERT WILLIAM HEASELGRAVE	1995
RICHARD DUDLEY CHAPMAN	1996
MICHAEL DAVID HUMPHREY SHEPHERD	1997
MALCOLM GASKELL FOWLER	1998
TREVOR ARTHUR LEE	1999
JAYNE BELINDA WILLETTS	2000
MICHAEL JAMES WARD	2001
ANTHONY RALPH COLLINS	2002
DIANE PATRICIA BENUSSI	2003
STEVEN MICHAEL JONAS	2004
RICHARD THOMAS FOLLIS	2005
PHILIP DUNKLEY STEEL	2006
SUKHDEV SINGH BHOMRA	2007
CAROLINE AMANDA COATES	2008
BERNARD ROBERT MCWALTER SHEPHERD	2009
DEAN CURTIS PARNELL	2010
ANDREW JOHN LANCASTER	2011
MARY DYMPhNA KAYE	2012
EDWARD THOMAS MARTIN ALLSOPP	2013
EILEEN FRANCES MARY SCHOFIELD	2014
MUSHTAQ AHMED KHAN	2015
JOHN BAILEY HUGHES	2016
ANDREW JOHN BEEDHAM	2017
JAMES ALAN TURNER	2018
LINDEN JAYNE THOMAS	2019
INEZ MAY BROWN	2020
STEPHANIE LOUISE PERRATON	2021
TONY McDAID	2022
ALICE ELIZABETH KINDER	2023
RICHARD DAVID PORT MBE	2024
MATT O'BRIEN	2025

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

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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
JAMES FARMER		2023
SAMANTHA ROSS		2023
ANDREW BEEDHAM		2024

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Leenamari Aantaa-Collier, The Wilkes Partnership LLP
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Misbah Rahman, Royal College of Nursing
Safwaan Mukith, Birmingham City University
Sara Hadi, Aston University Business School
Sarah Curtis, Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP
Sonya Smith, Birmingham City University
Surjit Deuer, Mills & Reeve LLP
Zanib Bibi, Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP

Criminal Law Committee**Matt O'Brien, Chair.**

As Chair of the Criminal Law Committee, I am pleased to present this report summarising the Committee's work during the 2025–2026 legal year.

Our Committee brings together practitioners from across the criminal justice system, including defence solicitors, prosecutors, the independent Bar and academic colleagues. The

familiar pressures of underfunding and operational strain have persisted, but this has above all been the year in which the right to trial by jury came into question.

The Committee took an early position on court reform. A draft response on the proposed restriction of jury trial was discussed in December and formally adopted in January; it was published on the Society's website and social media and circulated to our Joint V counterparts. The Courts and Tribunals Bill followed in February, giving effect to much of Sir Brian Leveson's review; it has been carried over into the current session and awaits Report stage. Members' concerns have centred on allocation—a pressure we had identified independently, with either-way cases increasingly retained in the magistrates' court even where the likely sentence exceeds its powers.

Legal aid demanded sustained attention. The autumn was dominated by the Legal Aid Agency's system outage and the difficult transition to its replacement. Our focus then turned to the contract notices issued over Cyber Essentials accreditation, pursued through a Freedom of Information request and correspondence with the Law Society's Head of Justice. The figures showed nearly a quarter of 1,044 new contracts unaccredited, yet only a third of those affected issued with a notice—an inconsistency we brought to light.

We responded to the Office for Legal Complaints' review of the Legal Ombudsman's Scheme Rules. We alerted members to the substantial changes to magistrates' court sentencing under the Sentencing Act 2026, and have kept the implications of Mazur under review as firms revisit their supervision policies.

Locally, we have engaged closely with HMCTS through the court user groups at Victoria Law Courts and Birmingham Crown Court, and the Midland Circuit's senior leadership meetings. Recurring themes have included the late production of prisoners and conditions within the court estate. The local courts have also continued to involve the Committee in operational matters at its own invitation.

We were pleased to welcome Dr Samantha Fairclough of the University of Birmingham, and Julie Maguire of Greens Solicitors, to the Committee. A happier occasion was the coffee afternoon hosted by the Recorder of Birmingham, His Honour Judge Andrew Smith KC, in May; such gatherings between bench and defence community are valuable and too rare.

Looking ahead, we will continue to advocate on behalf of our members, and strengthen our links across the system. I am looking forward to the Committee putting on more events to engage with the criminal law community in the next legal year.

My thanks go to all Committee members for their time, insight, and dedication over the past year.

Dispute Resolution Committee**Andrew Herring, Chair**

During the past 12 months, the Dispute Resolution Committee ("DRC") has undertaken a significant programme of renewal and development. The Committee's membership has been refreshed to ensure active participation and broad representation from solicitors, barristers, the judiciary and academia, strengthening the Committee's ability

to represent the interests of Birmingham Law Society members involved in commercial and civil dispute resolution. Committee meetings are attended by District Judge Andrew McLoughlin, providing an important judicial perspective and a valuable channel for feedback on local court operations and user experience.

The Committee has reviewed and updated its purpose and objectives. The DRC's role is to support practitioners working in commercial and civil litigation, promote high standards of dispute resolution practice in the Midlands, provide networking and professional development opportunities, and act as a voice for local practitioners in consultations affecting the civil justice system. Key objectives include promoting Birmingham as a centre of excellence for commercial dispute resolution, supporting accessibility and diversity within the profession, and strengthening relationships with courts, tribunals and other professional organisations.

The Committee has met on several occasions throughout the year to discuss developments affecting commercial dispute resolution, identify issues affecting members, consider national litigation consultation responses and explore opportunities for educational and networking events. Particular attention has been given to ensuring that the Committee remains relevant to practitioners and responsive to developments within the courts and wider dispute resolution community.

A key area of activity has been engagement with consultations affecting civil justice. The Committee submitted a detailed response to the Civil Procedure Rules Committee's consultation on electronic service. The response welcomed proposals to modernise the rules whilst advocating further reforms to reflect contemporary litigation practice, including wider use of email as the default method of service for represented parties. This work demonstrates the Committee's continuing role in providing informed feedback on behalf of local practitioners and ensuring that members' views contribute to the development of procedural reform.

The Committee continues to represent members' interests through participation in Midlands Chancery and Circuit Commercial Court Users' Meetings and through ongoing engagement with the judiciary, HM Courts & Tribunals Service and other stakeholders. This provides an important mechanism for raising issues encountered by practitioners and contributing to improvements in the operation of the courts.

The DRC has continued to support and facilitate professional education and networking opportunities within the region. The Committee works closely with the Midlands Chancery & Commercial Bar Association (MCCBA) and the Birmingham Business & Property Courts Forum (BBPC Forum) to promote events which bring together solicitors, barristers, judges, academics and other professionals involved in dispute resolution. Recent events supported by the Committee have featured senior members of the judiciary, including Court of Appeal judges, the Judge in Charge of the Commercial Court and the Master of the Rolls.

During the year the Committee also established a dedicated LinkedIn presence to improve communication with practitioners, promote events, share legal developments and strengthen engagement across the commercial dispute resolution community. The platform provides an additional means by which members can access information and connect with colleagues across the region.

Looking ahead, the Committee intends to continue its programme of engagement and development. Its priorities for the next 12 months include delivering at least two high-quality events for members, responding to relevant Ministry of Justice, Civil Justice Council and Civil Procedure Rules Committee consultations, maintaining active engagement with the courts and judiciary, and further raising the profile of Birmingham and the Midlands as a centre of excellence for commercial and chancery dispute resolution.

The Committee remains committed to providing a valuable link between Birmingham Law Society members, the judiciary, HM Courts & Tribunals Service and the Bar. It continues to perform an important representative function in a key area of legal practice and looks forward to expanding its activities and member engagement over the coming year.

Employment Law Committee**Charlie Rae, Chair.**

The Employment Law Committee has continued to meet on a monthly basis throughout 2025 and 2026, with strong and consistent attendance at each meeting. As Chair, I consider myself fortunate to lead such an enthusiastic and engaged committee. There has never been a shortage of members willing to play an active role in our work and to represent the views of the local employment law community, and that is something I do not take for granted.

This past year has undoubtedly been one of the busiest in recent memory. The Government has pressed ahead with an ambitious programme of employment law reform under its "Making Work Pay" agenda. The passage of the new Employment Rights Act through Parliament has generated an unprecedented volume of consultation activity, much of it within tight timeframes.

Against that backdrop, the Committee has considered and submitted responses to consultations on a wide range of significant topics, including: thresholds for collective consultation obligations; ethnicity, disability and gender pay gap reporting; reform of the TUPE Regulations; the use of non-disclosure agreements in workplace harassment and discrimination cases; flexible working reform; changes to "fire and rehire" practices; trade union rights of access; dismissal protections for pregnant women and new mothers; and bereavement leave - and even that list does not capture everything.

I cannot recall a previous year in which the Committee has been quite so active in responding to consultations. The discussions and debates we have had about the positions we should adopt have been of an exceptionally high quality, and the responses we have submitted on behalf of the Society have been thoughtful, well-reasoned and, I believe, genuinely impactful.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member of the Committee for their continued willingness to volunteer, to engage with complex issues and to produce detailed and considered responses. Never having to press for volunteers and indeed experiencing quite the

opposite, has made my role considerably easier, and reflects very well on the calibre of those around the table.

I also wish to extend my sincere thanks to the team at Birmingham Law Society and to the serving President throughout this year, Matt O'Brien. Matt deserves particular recognition for consistently making time to review and comment upon our proposed consultation responses, often at very short notice and, given the volume of consultations this year, that has been no small commitment. The BLS team has also been invaluable in helping us to finalise and submit responses, and we are enormously grateful for their continued and reliable support.

This year we said farewell to some of our long-standing committee members who have chosen to step down. Their collective contribution to the Committee over the years has been immense, and they leave with our warmest thanks and very best wishes. In particular, I would like to thank Jonathan Coley (Pinsent Masons), Tim Jones (Higgs) and Tracey Worthington (FBC Manby Bowdler), each of whom gave many years of dedicated service to the Committee, and Jayne Holliday (Higgs), who contributed during a shorter but no less valued period of membership.

Special mention must also go to Edmund Beever (St Philips Chambers), who retires from the Committee after many years to take up an appointment as an Employment Judge, a well-deserved recognition of his expertise and standing, and one to which the whole Committee extends its congratulations.

Whilst we will miss those who have departed, we were equally delighted to welcome four new members to the Committee: Merran Sewell (Gateley), James Tait (Chamberlain Hamnett), Liz Burley (Burley Law) and Sam Harris (Pinsent Masons). We look forward very much to working with them and are confident that each will make a strong and lasting contribution in the years ahead.

The past year also brought some excellent events. Our in-person panel discussion on the (then) Employment Rights Bill drew a large and engaged audience and prompted a great deal of lively debate about the breadth and significance of the proposed changes. My thanks go to Charles Crow (No. 5 Chambers), Mugni Islam-Choudhury (No. 5 Chambers), Sophie Garner (St Philips Chambers) and Karen Moss (3PB Chambers) for their excellent contributions to that event.

We were also pleased to host our online Employment Judges Forum, which attracted an audience of 70 practitioners and provided a valuable opportunity to hear insights and guidance from regional Employment Judges, led by Regional Employment Judge Jennifer Jones. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, and the event demonstrated clearly the appetite within our local employment law community for direct engagement with the judiciary. It was a unique and genuinely valuable occasion for practitioners across the region.

Looking back, this has been one of the most active and productive years the Committee has known for a very long time. We have achieved a great deal, and that is a testament to the commitment and enthusiasm of every member. The pace of change in employment law shows no sign of slowing, if anything, it continues to accelerate, and we fully expect the year ahead to be every bit as busy.

We face it with confidence and, I hope, with the same energy and collegiality that has defined our work this past year.

Family Law Committee

Richard Port MBE, Chair.



The Family Law Committee has continued to support family law practitioners across Birmingham by providing opportunities for professional development, networking and engagement with developments across the family justice system.

As we look ahead to the coming year, the Committee would like to take this opportunity to express its sincere thanks to Claire Darley, who has stepped down as Chair, and Mark Hands, who has stepped down as Vice Chair. Claire and Mark have given generously of their time to support Birmingham Law Society and its members. Their hard work has helped strengthen the Committee and leave it in an excellent position for the future. On behalf of the Committee, we thank them both for their outstanding contribution.

At the AGM, Richard Port MBE, was elected as Chair, with Sana Siddique elected as Vice Chair. Together with the Committee, they look forward to building on the strong foundations established by their predecessors and continuing to support family law practitioners across the region.

The Committee has an exciting programme planned for the year ahead. A key highlight will be the Birmingham Law Society Family Law Conference on 12 November 2026, where we are delighted to welcome Sir Stephen Cobb, President of the Family Division, as our keynote speaker, alongside leading counsel from our local chambers. The conference will bring together experts from across the profession to discuss the latest developments in family law, while providing an excellent opportunity for members to network, exchange ideas and reconnect with colleagues.

Alongside the conference, the Committee will continue to deliver a programme of seminars, training events and networking opportunities, with a focus on providing practical, relevant and engaging content for practitioners at every stage of their careers. To support this, the Committee has established a dedicated Events Subgroup, which will focus on developing an even broader programme of educational, social and networking events for members throughout the year.

The Committee also remains committed to strengthening relationships with the judiciary and the wider family justice community, while reaffirming the strength, expertise and reputation of Birmingham Law Society's family lawyer members. Birmingham is home to some of the country's leading family law practitioners, and one of our key priorities is to continue championing our members, supporting their professional development and showcasing the outstanding work they undertake on behalf of families across the region.

As we begin this new chapter, we want the Committee to be visible, approachable and relevant to every family law practitioner. We encourage members to engage with the Committee, attend our events and share their ideas as we continue to build a thriving and supportive family law community.

The Committee looks forward to another successful year and thanks Birmingham Law Society and its members for their continued support

Junior Lawyers Division Committee

Christie Nelson & Kristian Campbell-Drummond, Co Chairs.



The JLD was formally launched in February 2026 as the BLS's dedicated network for junior legal professionals. The committee's primary objective during its inaugural year was to establish a vibrant,

inclusive and sustainable network supporting trainees, newly qualified solicitors, paralegals, apprentices, law students and other junior lawyers across Birmingham and the wider region.

The committee of the JLD is led by former Co-Chairs of the Birmingham Solicitors Group (BSG), Kristian Campbell-Drummond and Christie Nelson. The JLD committee was formed by former members of the BSG, BTSS and individual representatives of the legal community in Birmingham such as solicitors, trainees, paralegals, apprentices and barristers.

Since February, the JLD has successfully delivered 10 events. The committee established a strong profile within the local, national and international legal community, secured sponsorship from leading legal and recruitment organisations and created valuable opportunities for networking, professional development and wellbeing.

The JLD have also sought to expand Birmingham Law Society's reputation on the global stage, with its Co-Chairs attending the judicial openings of both the Luxembourg and Montreal Bar's. Such opportunities have allowed the JLD to develop overseas partnerships and promote its activities, which they hope will serve as the foundation to which future members of Birmingham Law Society will benefit.

The Committee's priorities for 2026/27 are to:

- Expand the committee's reach by way of an ambassador programme, with a representative in each organisation that is a stakeholder of Birmingham Law Society.
- Enhance its existing programme of professional development, networking and wellbeing events.
- Strengthen relationships with local firms, chambers and legal education providers.
- Enhance collaboration between the JLD and BLS sub-committees, external societies and international peers.
- Increase the visibility of Birmingham Law Society amongst junior lawyers and aspiring legal professionals.

Legal Tech Committee

Dr Alan Ma, Chair.



The past year has been one of significant progress for the Birmingham Law Society Legal Tech Committee. Having completed the first phase of its revival, the Committee has moved from rebuilding to delivery, establishing itself as a recognised forum for discussion, collaboration and policy engagement on legal technology and artificial intelligence. Committee membership has almost doubled during the year, increasing from eight to fifteen members drawn from private practice, academia, the Bar and the legal technology sector, creating a diverse and multidisciplinary community.

The Committee delivered a series of well-attended public events examining the opportunities and challenges presented by AI in legal practice. Highlights included AI in

Dispute Resolution at Birmingham City University, bringing together practitioners, academics and technology specialists to explore the impact of AI on arbitration, mediation and litigation; AI in Litigation: Practical Workflows, Governance and Professional Accountability, hosted by Fieldfisher, featuring practical demonstrations and discussion of professional responsibility; and The Law Society in Birmingham: Legal Tech, AI and the Road Ahead, hosted by Gateley, where representatives from The Law Society's Technology Policy team engaged directly with the Birmingham legal community on AI policy, regulation and the future of legal services. Collectively, the Committee's events attracted more than 170 registrations across the year, reflecting growing interest in AI and legal technology among practitioners, academics and students.

Beyond events, the Committee has strengthened Birmingham Law Society's contribution to national policy discussions. During the year, the Committee prepared the Society's response to the Civil Justice Council consultation on AI and the preparation of court documents, ensuring that the views of practitioners from the Birmingham region contributed to the development of national policy.

The Committee has also continued to strengthen partnerships across the legal and technology sectors. Members have contributed to regional initiatives with organisations including SuperTech WM, universities and professional bodies, promoting legal technology education, innovation and collaboration between academia and practice. These activities have helped raise the profile of Birmingham Law Society within the wider legal technology community.

Looking ahead, the Committee has already secured an exciting programme of future activities. These include hosting the first UK Jurisdiction Taskforce launch event outside London, welcoming members of the drafting team to Birmingham following publication of the UKJT Legal Statement, alongside discussions with the Solicitors Regulation Authority on a future event focusing on AI governance and professional responsibility. The Committee is also developing an international collaboration with ILTA Europe, while continuing to expand its membership and strengthen Birmingham's position as a leading regional centre for legal technology and responsible AI.

The Committee is grateful to Birmingham Law Society, its members, speakers and partner organisations for their continued support and looks forward to building on this momentum during the coming year.

Immigration Committee

Sabina Kauser, Chair



The Immigration Committee has undergone a period of review and renewal during 2026, with a clear focus on strengthening its role within Birmingham Law Society and ensuring that it reflects the breadth and diversity of the immigration law profession across the region.

While the Committee met less frequently this year than in previous years, this has been a deliberate period of planning and restructuring aimed at creating a more representative, dynamic and outward-facing committee. The Committee has been reviewing its composition and objectives, with the intention of inviting new members and broadening participation from across the immigration sector.

A key priority is to ensure that the Committee reflects the full spectrum of immigration practice. We are therefore seeking greater representation from solicitors, barristers

and members of the judiciary, as well as practitioners working in both privately funded and publicly funded immigration matters, and those specialising in both personal and business immigration. By doing so, we aim to create a Committee that genuinely represents the interests, experiences and perspectives of the wider Birmingham Law Society membership.

Looking ahead, the Committee has developed an ambitious programme designed to increase engagement and provide greater value to members. Plans for the coming year include:

- Monthly Committee meetings to encourage regular collaboration and discussion of developments within immigration law.
- A dedicated Immigration Committee newsletter to keep members informed of key legal, procedural and policy developments.
- Increased face-to-face networking events to strengthen professional connections within the sector.
- A programme of training and educational events to support the professional development of members.
- Greater engagement with the wider membership to ensure that the Committee remains responsive to the issues affecting immigration practitioners across the region.

Although progress has necessarily been measured during this period of transition, the Committee has established a clear vision for the future. The foundations are now in place for a relaunch of the Immigration Committee that will foster greater member engagement, enhance representation across the profession, and strengthen the Committee's contribution to Birmingham Law Society and the wider legal community.

The Committee is excited about the opportunities ahead and looks forward to welcoming new members and delivering a more active, inclusive and influential programme of work in 2027.

In-House Committee

Waseem Ahmed, Chair



The In-House Committee serves its purpose by raising the profile of in-house lawyers across the West Midlands, hosting sector-focused legal update events, making recommendations to Birmingham Law Society on the strategies and policies to develop the Society's offering to the in-house legal community within the region served by the Society, progressing diversity and inclusion of the in-house legal community, and being the specialist advisory group for Birmingham Law Society in respect of the in-house legal community within the region served by the Society.

The In-House Committee and its' respective In-House community have shown continued growth across the region, with noticeable growth in engagement and participation. Attendance at our events has increased, and there has been a clear rise in regional initiatives for the in-house legal community.

2026 Overview

For H1 2026 the Committee welcomed two new members from a range of organisations and sectors, while two long-standing members stepped down. During the first quarter of the year, we delivered two in-person events. We have organised three additional networking events in Q4 of the year and will be supporting the University of Birmingham with a student/in-house lawyer initiative to increase social mobility and pathways into Law.

Committee Development in 2026

COMMITTEE UPDATE

During 2026, the committee had grown to 8 members, each bringing experience from a different sector or industry. One new member joined at the start of the year and one during early H2 of this year, reflecting the increasing strength and visibility of the in-house community. Our current membership spans from emergency services, local government, professional services, insurance, manufacturing, charities, financial services and education - making this one of the most diverse and sizeable committees we have had.

2026 Events Programme

This year, the committee will deliver at least five in-person events, including the below two events which have already taken place:

- Planning Law updates and Communications Skills Update with Anthony Collins (March); and
- Networking social with Gleeson Recruitment Group (May).

These events remain central to how we connect and support in-house lawyers. We are broadening our programme to include both networking-focused sessions and seminar-style events.

Digital Engagement & Online Content

Alongside our in-person activity, we continue to publish online content created by committee members, shared through the BLS website and social media channels. This initiative was introduced to maintain engagement during months without events, and it has significantly increased our online reach. It also provides committee members with a valuable platform to raise their professional profiles.

Community Platforms

To support ongoing communication, we have established dedicated digital spaces for in-house lawyers:

- A private WhatsApp group with around 105 members; and
- A LinkedIn group with roughly 210 members.

Both platforms have become effective hubs for sharing updates, opportunities and relevant content.

Training Hub

A major enhancement this year is the introduction of a training hub on our website. This resource brings together upcoming internal events and external training opportunities for in-house lawyers across the region. It offers a centralised place to find relevant development opportunities particularly helpful for those with limited time or resources to search for training themselves.

We are excited to continue building and strengthening the in-house community across the region throughout the year.

International Committee

Eileen Schofield, Co Chair.



The International Committee has continued to strengthen Birmingham's international legal and business connections, building on a year of active engagement, new relationships and forward planning.

Under the continued stewardship of Eileen Schofield as Interim Chair, in Tony McDaid's ongoing absence, the Committee has maintained close collaboration with the Department for Business and Trade (DBT), whose support has been exceptional throughout the year.

Notable progress has been made in strengthening ties with Spain: following a visit from the Consul General

of Spain, meetings were arranged with the Mayor of Birmingham, the West Midlands Growth Company and the Chamber of Commerce, exploring opportunities linked to major infrastructure projects including HS2. The Committee also identified a rising trend of German private equity investment into the UK, which will continue to be monitored and reported to the Law Society.

Raj Padhiar's engagement in Vietnam identified strong potential for a trade mission, supported by the DBT and welcomed by the Committee. Mandy Haque has represented the Committee's interests in the defence and nuclear sectors, including her appointment as Chair of the Midlands Nuclear Skills Hub, and engagement with Birmingham City Council leadership.

The Committee has progressed plans for an International Trade conference, securing prospective speakers from BAE Systems and British American Business, and continues to support work experience opportunities for students entering the profession.

The Committee looks forward to consolidating these relationships and delivering its planned conference in the year ahead.

PERSONAL INJURY COMMITTEE

The Personal Injury Committee has not met during the past 12 months, reflecting a continuing decline in engagement and participation within this area.

The Committee had previously been relaunched with a small but committed group of members. However, attendance subsequently declined, and the move to remote meetings did not result in increased participation.

It is intended to make a renewed effort during the coming year to re-establish interest in the Committee and to encourage greater involvement from practitioners working within the personal injury sector. A fresh call for members will be made, with consideration given to holding meetings at the Birmingham Law Society offices, with remote attendance available where appropriate. The timing and format of meetings will also be reviewed, including the possibility of lunchtime rather than evening meetings.

The future of the Committee will, however, depend upon there being sufficient interest and engagement from members to make it viable. If the proposed relaunch does not generate a sustainable level of participation, the Society will consider closing the Committee and identifying alternative ways of representing the interests of members practising in this area.

PRISM Committee

Marc Forrest-Thomas (he/him), Chair



The LGBTQ+ committee has had a productive 12 months. We hosted a crafting evening to mark Trans Awareness Week last November, our biggest ever Birmingham Pride event including a brunch at No5 Barristers Chambers in May this year and most recently our annual summer social. Each event brought together those within the LGBTQ+ legal community and its' allies and each received positive feedback.

We have always been able to secure our own sponsorship and support for events and that has continued throughout the last year. We meet regularly in person and on teams to discuss upcoming events, ideas and issues. We have recently rebranded the committee and are now known as Prism.

Private Client Committee

Jessica Beddows, Chair



Jessica Beddows continued as Chair of the Committee, with Michelle Chapman as the Vice Chair.

The Private Client Committee's objectives and aims continue to be:-

1. To pro-actively represent private client practitioners in Birmingham and the surrounding areas;
2. To work with like-minded private client organisations on areas of common interest; and
3. To develop up to date professional advice on selected private client matters that may be of interest to practitioners in Birmingham and surrounding areas.

In the last 12 months the Private Client Committee has worked towards these objectives by:

- Working with Birmingham Law Society to maintain and increase membership;

- The Committee held an informal networking event for Private Client practitioners at the offices of Irwin Mitchell on 13th May 2026;

- The Committee worked with Birmingham Law Society to host its first Private Client Conference in partnership with Datalaw on 17th June 2026 at IET Birmingham. We had a wide range of excellent speakers who provided attendees with updates on tax, contentious probate, the upcoming changes to inheritance tax and, processes relating to vulnerable clients.

- Met 4 times as a whole Committee in order to discuss objectives and upcoming events, liaised on email throughout the year in respect of the events and Committee matters in general;

- We have supported various Birmingham Law Society events;

- We have assisted the President by providing options for independent legal representatives, when requested of him by the Birmingham Probate Registry.

The Committee are meeting in late August to discuss plans for the remainder of the year and, plans into 2027. We have also received interest from several local private client practitioners who would like to join the Committee which, we are keen to grow further.

If you would like to know more about the Private Client Committee, please contact the Committee Chair at: jessica.beddows@outlook.com

Pro Bono Committee

Elena Goodfellow, Chair.



In 2026, Elena Goodfellow continued as chair of the committee, with Amy Tabari as the vice chair and Isha Kumar as the secretary.

The pro bono committee's objectives continue to be to support; promote; • signpost; and raise the profile of pro bono work amongst Birmingham Law Society members and the local community.

In the last 12 months, the committee has worked towards these objectives through:

- Maintaining and updating the database of local advice

agencies and pro bono services, providing signposting for members of the public.

- Answering any enquiry emails sent by members of the public.

- Meeting 8 times as a whole committee in order to update and share projects and ideas with other members.

- Hosting an event for Pro Bono Week in November (more below).

- Sending a representative to two meetings of the Attorney General's Pro Bono Committee in Parliament, and the Attorney General's regional subcommittee, which aims to facilitate coordination between regional committees in the UK to share ideas and improve pro bono provision.

- Helping in promoting the Legal Walk in June 2026.

In November 2025 the Committee created informational videos for Pro Bono Week 2025 and rounded the week off with a drop in Q&A session with the various pro bono clinics across Birmingham. The videos focussed on: Pro bono: stories of impact, Pro bono: win-win for professional & business development, and Pro bono: getting involved.

The Committee is currently planning to create a second set of informational videos for Pro Bono Week 2026, focussing on how law firms are involved in pro bono. This year's theme is "Celebrate a tradition. Inspire action. Shape the future" with the following sub themes:

1. Celebrate the legal profession's long tradition of pro bono, and reflect on 25 years of sector progress in supporting access to justice.
2. Inspire lawyers to action pro bono going forward, by showcasing both how pro bono impacts lives and has professional benefits.
3. Discuss how pro bono should be delivered over the next 25 years to address unmet needs in a changing legal landscape.

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

Professional Regulation Committee

Cary Whitmarsh, Chair.



The Professional Regulation 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 is to share knowledge, skills and experience with the profession. Members of the Committee organise the quarterly COLP/COFA Forum.

Activities and achievements

The Committee meets quarterly to coincide with the COLP/COFA Forum organised by members of the Committee.

COMMITTEE UPDATE

COLP/COFA Forum

These events are primarily of benefit to those working in legal service compliance teams (even if that is a team of one!). The events are well attended with capacity (c.25 delegates) being reached on most occasions. These events often include external speakers covering topics such as professional indemnity, AML requirements and reporting to the SRA.

The Committee is grateful to Jayne Willetts and Rebecca Atkinson for their efforts in organising these events. The Committee is also grateful to the law firms that generously host these events. Without their support these events would not take place.

Committee meetings

The Committee consists of nine members all with expertise in professional regulation. The Committee meets quarterly on a formal bases, but of necessity the members have been in almost constant communication to address the volume of consultations in the last 12 months

Key tasks undertaken

The Professional Regulation 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 is to share knowledge, skills and experience with the profession. Members of the Committee organise the quarterly COLP/COFA Forum. Cary Whitmarsh, the Chair of the Committee, and Rebecca Atkinson share responsibility for writing articles for the Birmingham Law Society magazine to share knowledge more widely with the Birmingham community.

Outcomes, successes and challenges

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.

The Committee has responded to consultations from the government and SRA in respect of:

- i) Changing the process by which the National Crime Agency can obtain a disclosure order;
 - ii) The proposals to transfer the regulation of money laundering and terrorist financing from the SRA to the Financial Conduct Authority;
 - iii) The proposals for the Ministry of Justice to be paid interest earned on client accounts to fund the activities of the Ministry;
 - iv) Protection of client money (x 2 consultations)
 - v) The SRA's Business Plan;
 - vi) Continuing competence.
- Items ii) to vi) above were widely covered in the legal media and there was positive reaction from the legal community.

There was some negative reaction from some parts of the regulated community in respect of the Committee's views of the SRA's Business Plan.

The Chair of the Committee, together with the President of the Birmingham Law Society, met with policy officers of the SRA to discuss professional ethics from the perspective of legal service providers. In addition, the Committee wrote an open letter to the new CEO of the SRA setting out the views of the Committee as to where her priorities should lie. Objectives, priorities and activities for next 12 months. The Committee will continue to engage with the government and SRA in relation to consultations

that affect professional regulation. There are three consultations under active consideration:

- i) Notifying the SRA of changes to the firm's risk profile;
- ii) First tier complaints; and
- iii) Third party litigation funding.

The Chair of the Committee continues to engage with policy officers of the SRA. A meeting is scheduled to discuss the SRA's fining powers under the Economic Crime & Corporate Transparency Act.

We will continue to hold the quarterly COLP/COFA Forums. Whilst Jayne and Rebecca plan to step back from organising these events at the end of 2026, the Chair has lined up volunteers to assist with this program going forward.

Council support

The Committee is nothing without the support of the Council and the wider legal community. The Council can play an important role in understanding the work of the various committees and promoting cross-committee interaction where appropriate.

The Committee has received welcome support and insight from the President and we are grateful for this. We encourage other Council members and office holders to continue to take an interest in the work of the committee so that it better serves the interests of the members of the Birmingham Law Society.

Property & Development Committee

Samantha Ingram, Chair.



The BLS Property and Development Committee have really been involved in some major changes during the last 12 months in respect of the Property and Legal Industry.

As with the previous years the Committee have been involved in discussions and consultations surrounding the proposed changes with many areas of legal practice, in particular:

- Home Buying and Selling Process which the Government had released the latter end of last year;
- Changes to the holding of client account interest as proposed by the Department of Justice;
- The SRA's proposal for annual mandatory Ethics training; and
- How LeO reviews and handles complaints.

We hosted a Property Conference in Birmingham on the 4th September in conjunction with The Law Society which was very successful and we had good feedback. It was a fabulous and informative event for its Birmingham members.

For the next 12 months we are shall be working with Landmark to release Blogs, Social Media Articles and host Round Tables.

Its also the Committee's intention to host in October a half day seminar on the aforementioned Home Buying and Selling Process for the property legal community of Birmingham.

A member of our committee has also been providing feedback to a plethora of subjects as a volunteer of the 'Get Involved Scheme' of The Law Society. Recent discussions that have taken place has been around the importance of ethics within the industry and how a Firm's working environment can influence junior lawyers growth.

We still have a very good cross section of Property Lawyers

within the Committee including a Barrister who gives significant updates regarding action in Court that covers a variety of Property issues.

The members who are experts in Leasehold, Commercial and Planning keeps the Committee updated on changes in the Law as well as any changes in practice. A recent new addition to our Committee is that of a Social Housing Solicitor who keeps us abreast of the changes within this area of law.

Anyone who is interested in the work of the Committee is welcome to attend one of bi-monthly meetings by prior arrangement (often additional meetings are held when a consultation has arisen which needs more dedication and thinking). We meet at 1.00pm on the second Tuesday of every other month and try to have a social occasion at least twice a year.

Please contact me for more information on attending or becoming a member at S.Ingram@davisons.law

REACH Committee

Shaïd Parveen, Chair.



The REACH subcommittee was established in 2019. Whilst the committee aims to meet every 2-3 months, due to the workload of members this has not always been possible and much of the discussion and planning of events takes place via email.

The members of the committee reflect the diversity of Birmingham and bring their lived experiences and insight of working in private practice, in-house, and Higher Education.

Committee Aims and Strategy

Our mission is to promote:

- Representation within the legal profession.
- Provide inclusive opportunities for networking.
- Inform policy and practice, where we can.

Activities and Engagement

The subcommittee activities have included the following:

- The Chair of the committee was invited by Warwick University to deliver a talk on entry to the profession, which is reflective of the outreach work undertaken by the committee. This took place in January 2026.

- On the 13th of February 2026 the committee supported a powerful event which was led by Mills and Reeve and MALA with senior representatives from the profession. The panel highlighted their individual lived experiences and why equality in the law truly mattered. There was also an opportunity to network for members across the profession.

- The committee held its 4th Spoken Word Competition, with the theme "What does Justice mean to me." The winner Adam Fawaz will undertake a paid placement which is supported by Browne Jacobson Solicitors. There was a follow up article in the Birmingham Law Society Bulletin where Adam stated: "When first writing 'Dear Justice', I wanted it to reflect my own personal experiences with justice and its misuse, but also the wider public sentiment towards the state of the world at the moment. I believe at the start, it was coming from a bitter, angry and frustrated place. Yet, as it went along, it brought up a lot of emotions thinking about the people and places in my life that showed me what justice can be and what it deserves to be. Through that, the poem ended up being a tribute to the human spirit and the importance of hope. I dedicate this award to my family, the people of Lebanon and all those in the oppressive

struggle. I am truly honoured to the Birmingham Law Society for this award and pushing the boundaries on what it means to be a lawyer."

Looking Ahead to 2026/27

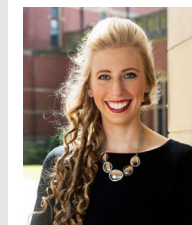
The Committee's focus for the coming year includes:

- Continuing to create inclusive networking opportunities for colleagues and students across the profession.
- Support BLS where it can.
- Look to hold a Cultural Heritage Dinner subject to sponsorship.

Acknowledgements My thanks to Jess and the team for their support behind the scenes.

Social Mobility Committee

Alice Kinder, Co Chair.



The Social Mobility Committee continues to work to promote the importance of social mobility amongst employers and to provide opportunities for aspiring lawyers from lower socio-economic backgrounds to access and progress in the legal profession. The Committee has members from a range of professional backgrounds in legal practice and

academia. Having now been established as a standalone Birmingham Law Society Committee, our key focus this year has been on expanding our membership base to broaden and strengthen our impact. We are delighted to have welcomed 11 new committee members, significantly increasing the capacity and diversity of our network. We are also pleased that longstanding Committee members Sharon Thandi and Oliver Ward-Jones have taken on the role of Co-Chairs to work alongside me. This combined leadership will enable us to coordinate multiple project workstreams more effectively and support our ambitions for growth and impact in the years ahead.

The Committee has continued to support law graduates from disadvantaged backgrounds and underrepresented groups to pursue their career aspirations through the Birmingham Law Society Diversity and Inclusion Scheme. This year's successful candidates were Hasan Ahmed and Korya Xhignesse, who have received financial support towards the Legal Practice Course (LPC) or Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE), alongside mentoring, work experience and career development opportunities. We would like to thank the University of Law, the College of Legal Practice, Higgs LLP and Devonshires for their support with this year's scheme.

As a Committee we are committed to doing more to support legal professionals from lower socio-economic backgrounds. To help inform this work, Misbah Rahman and I recently attended an event hosted by the 93% Club Professionals Network, which provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing those entering and progressing within the profession. We are now exploring how we can build on these connections and develop closer collaboration with the network.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee for giving up their time to make a difference in such an important area, and the law firms and universities who have supported us in achieving our goals. Following a successful year of growth and consolidation, our focus will now be on developing our programme of events and initiatives in line with our strategic priorities. Further information about opportunities for involvement next year will be circulated in due course.

COUNCIL ELECTION

There are six vacancies on Council and twelve candidates, so a contested election is required at the AGM. Candidate profiles were sent to Members in advance of the AGM and also appear in the AGM pack. Each eligible voting member may vote for up to six candidates but do not have to use all six of their votes. A ballot paper will be invalid if more than six candidates have been voted for.

Members are entitled to appoint a proxy to exercise all or any of their rights and have received a proxy form with the Notice of the AGM. A proxy can only be appointed using the procedures set out in the notes to the proxy form and must have been received by the Society no later than 5.00pm on 23rd September 2026.

KRISTIAN CAMPBELL DRUMMOND



"I am an Associate in the Employment HR Rely team at Weightmans LLP, born and raised in Birmingham. A key requisite of my role is the ability to communicate and collaborate with people, whether it is within my job or my external commitments. Over the last 9 months I have benefited from being co-opted onto Council where I was able observe firsthand the important role council members of the society must fulfil and how their work helps to shape the wider legal community.

I currently serve as Co-Chair of Birmingham Law Society's newly formed Junior Lawyers Division (JLD), alongside Christie Nelson. Previously, we successfully led the Birmingham Solicitors' Group for two years, which means across our leadership roles we have met junior lawyers and understand what they require from their law society and representation. In my opinion it is crucial that where decisions are being made for the future of the Birmingham Law Society, the concerns and desires of its future talent are well represented.

In order for Council to best meet the needs of junior lawyers, it is imperative that junior lawyers are well represented within the environments where those with power make key decisions about our future. If I am voted onto Council, I will continue my efforts to be a voice for all juniors across the region. This will be done through ensuring that the needs, experiences and many challenges of our membership are advocated for in an authentic, genuine and meaningful way, directly with BLS leadership."



PRAGYA CHADHA

I am a Commercial Solicitor in the Harper James commercial team, advising on a broad range of matters, including technology and intellectual property. Having grown up in Dubai before building my legal career in Birmingham, I understand the opportunities and challenges that can come with establishing yourself in a new city and profession. This has shaped my commitment to ensuring that

a broad range of perspectives are represented within our legal community.

I currently serve as Deputy Vice Chair of the Birmingham Law Society's Junior Lawyers Division and previously chaired the Birmingham Trainee Solicitors' Society. These roles have allowed me to engage with junior lawyers across Birmingham, giving me valuable insight into the issues that matter most to those entering and developing within the profession today.

Alongside my legal practice, I co-host the I'm Working Late podcast, where we explore career development, wellbeing and the realities of modern legal practice. Through these conversations, I have gained an even

deeper appreciation of the experiences, ambitions and challenges facing junior lawyers from a wide variety of backgrounds.

I would welcome the opportunity to serve on Council and contribute these perspectives to its discussions and decision-making. I am passionate about supporting the next generation of lawyers and helping to ensure Birmingham's legal community remains inclusive, connected and representative of those it serves.



PHILIP CHAPMAN

I am proud to stand for election to the Council of Birmingham Law Society, having already had the privilege of serving as a co-opted Council member. Since joining Council, I have attended every meeting and contributed actively to discussions and initiatives. This experience has enabled me to stay informed about the interests and concerns of members, engage with committees and working groups,

help promote the Society's activities, and contribute to the development of policy positions that support our profession.

As a Corporate Partner at MFG Solicitors LLP, based in Victoria Square, and having practised in Birmingham for over twenty years, I bring extensive experience of both the legal profession and the wider business community. My career has been firmly rooted in Birmingham since attending the College of Law in the Jewellery Quarter. As a former shareholder of Thursfields Solicitors, I played a key role in its strategic development and subsequent acquisition by Knights plc, providing leadership experience, governance and organisational change.

Alongside my corporate practice, I have served as a Notary Public for fourteen years and am a CEDR-accredited mediator, bringing a pragmatic approach to problem solving and consensus building. Beyond legal practice, I am a Board Member of Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Chair of its Enterprise Committee, contributing to strategic decision-making and governance.

I am passionate about supporting our legal community and ensuring the Birmingham Law Society remains an influential voice. I would be honoured to continue serving and representing members as an elected Council member.



CHRISTY DAVIES

Birmingham is a city that never stands still, and neither should its legal community. As a Housing Solicitor my work shapes the city's physical growth through development and regeneration projects. However, Birmingham's success is about far more than bricks and mortar. It is the people, professionals and networks around us that transform developments into communities and a city into a

place where people flourish. Birmingham has a proud history of innovators, pioneers and changemakers, and what excites me most is that the next generation is already amongst us. I am passionate about championing that talent and creating opportunities for people to connect, develop and succeed.

Over the last few years, I have served on the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce Future Faces Committee, helping to shape one of the region's largest young professional networks. My primary focus has been organising the annual GBYPY Awards, a flagship event celebrating Birmingham's rising stars. This has given me valuable experience in building sponsorship partnerships, liaising with charities, coordinating a competitive awards process and running a successful large scale event.

I have also enjoyed serving on the BLS Property and Development Committee, connecting with fellow professionals and contributing to discussions affecting the sector, whilst proving that conversations about land registration can be surprisingly engaging when you're in the right company!

I would be honoured to bring this experience to the BLS Council and help ensure our legal community remains connected, supported, representative and ambitious for the future.



REBECCA DAVIES

I am a Solicitor at Irwin Mitchell in Birmingham, specialising in abuse litigation. My work involves supporting vulnerable individuals through what can often be a very difficult and emotional process, helping them seek answers, accountability and redress following experiences of abuse. Outside of my day-to-day role, I enjoy getting involved in initiatives that bring people together. I am a member of Irwin

Mitchell's Birmingham Charity Committee and previously set up a running club in our Birmingham office. Both have given me the opportunity to connect with colleagues across the business and create opportunities for people to get to know each other outside of work.

I have also volunteered with the Envision programme, mentoring young people across Birmingham to help develop their confidence and essential skills. This was a hugely rewarding experience and our mentoring team was proud to receive the Envision Team of the Year Award.

Having made Birmingham my home and now living in the Jewellery Quarter, I am keen to play an active role in the city's legal community. One of the things that appeals most about Birmingham Law Society is the opportunity to meet people from different areas of the profession, learn from their experiences and contribute ideas of my own.

As a junior solicitor, I would bring enthusiasm, a fresh perspective and a genuine willingness to get involved. I would welcome the opportunity to represent fellow members and contribute to the continued success of Birmingham Law Society.



KATE HATTON

I am seeking a position with Birmingham Law Society because I believe strongly in the value of our profession and the important role the Society plays in supporting, connecting and championing legal professionals across the region.

I currently work as a Senior Crown Prosecutor with CPS Direct,

having previously practised in criminal defence. These experiences have given me a balanced perspective of the justice system and a deep appreciation of the dedication shown by lawyers working in a wide range of roles. Earlier in my career, I also served a Short Service Commission in the Army Legal Service, where I developed the values of public service, leadership and teamwork that continue to guide me today.

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to work alongside talented and committed professionals who are passionate about the law and the communities they serve. I recognise that the legal profession faces significant challenges, but also exciting opportunities for growth, innovation and development.

If elected, I would be committed to serving Birmingham Law Society thoughtfully and effectively, helping to ensure that it remains a strong and inclusive voice for its members. I am particularly keen to support professional development, encourage engagement across all stages of practice and help foster a profession in which people can thrive.

It would be a privilege to contribute my experience and enthusiasm to the Society and to play a part in supporting the continued success and prosperity of the legal profession in Birmingham.



VINEY JHALLEY

I am a Senior Associate in the Commercial team at Browne Jacobson, with a specialism in the Health and Life Sciences sector. I work with several public and private sector clients, including various Midlands based clients. Alongside my fee-earning role, I am also the Co-Chair for our REACH Network and am directly responsible for strategy overview, DEI related objectives and budget oversight for REACH related events.

In addition to this, I have been in an events role with the Junior Lawyer's Division for the last year and previously with the Birmingham Solicitors Group for 2 years. During that period, I have arranged, attended and facilitated a wide array of events across the Birmingham legal and professional market.

As a group, we have managed to grow our junior division and representation over that period to incorporate a wider range of people interested in the legal sector e.g barristers, students and legal recruiters. This has allowed me to widen my network within the Birmingham market, and I believe that I will be able to share these insights with the Council. I wish to serve on the Council as I have a vested interest in the law and believe that we share the same goals and objectives within the Birmingham legal community.



ALAN MA

Dr Alan Ma is a Lecturer in Law at Birmingham City University and Chair of Birmingham Law Society's Legal Tech Committee, with more than 20 years' experience in legal practice as a solicitor.

Since taking the Chair in early 2025, Alan has worked with colleagues to develop the Committee's activities, external engagement and contribution to

wider professional debate, including events, consultation work and collaboration with professional and regulatory bodies.

Alan believes that legal technology should not be viewed as a separate area of practice. Technology, and increasingly AI, is becoming pervasive across the profession, affecting areas as diverse as litigation, property, family law and dispute resolution. If elected to Council, he would particularly like to encourage greater collaboration between BLS committees through joint events and initiatives, bringing technological perspectives together with the specialist knowledge of practitioners in different fields.

He is also keen to strengthen connections between legal education and practice, helping to bridge the developing AI literacy gap between future lawyers and those already in the profession. Alan hopes to bring to Council the same practical and collaborative approach he has taken as Committee Chair, contributing to BLS's wider work in professional engagement, consultation and responsible innovation.



CHRISTIE NELSON

I am a Senior Associate in the Birmingham Corporate team at Freeths LLP. I trained and qualified in Birmingham and now work and live here too. Having been co-opted onto Council last year, I have had the opportunity of observing Council members in their role and would welcome the opportunity to become a full member and represent the junior lawyers who form such an important part of Birmingham's legal community.

Alongside my colleague, Kristian Campbell-Drummond, I serve as Co-Chair of the BLS's Junior Lawyers Division (JLD), which was established in February 2026. Leading the JLD in its current form and having previously chaired the Birmingham Solicitors Group (BSG), has given me a strong understanding of the needs, priorities and aspirations of junior lawyers across the region. I am keen to ensure those voices continue to be heard and represented at Council level.

The JLD has been extremely successful in its first 6 months, hosting 2 events per month which have been profitable and well attended. As the JLD continues to grow and support the next generation of Birmingham's lawyers, it is important that its leadership has a direct voice within Council. The junior legal community represents the future of our profession, and there is obvious benefit in ensuring that its perspectives and experiences are reflected in Council discussions and decision-making. Kristian and I are well placed to provide insight into the challenges and opportunities facing junior lawyers and to strengthen the connection between the BLS's leadership and its emerging professionals.



RAJPREET SANGHA

I am currently a Partner within the Family Law Team at FBC Manby Bowdler (Midlands) Limited, having recently been promoted in February 2026. In terms of relevant experience, I have been an active member of the Birmingham Law Society having started out in my career as a Paralegal in 2014 at a niche matrimonial law firm located in Birmingham City Centre.

I have attended many of the Birmingham Law Society events, which have allowed me to network and to grow personally and professionally. I wish to serve on Council as, not to state the obvious but places were available – but also to shape and build on what the Council already stands for. I believe that I have strong connections within the legal community in Birmingham and hope that I am

able to fulfil the requirements of what the Council requires from its members.



SUKIE SHEMAR

I would bring to Council senior legal experience, regional commitment and practical governance insight, with a clear understanding of the opportunities and pressures facing the local profession. I am a Partner in the Corporate department at Enoch Evans LLP, where I lead the Transactional Services Team and serve as Staff Partner and Training Partner, with

responsibility for trainee recruitment and development. I also sit on the firm's Finance and Management Committee, which acts as its board and oversees day-to-day management. These roles have developed my skills in strategic decision-making, risk awareness, mentoring and commercial judgment, which I would bring to Council discussions.

After approximately 24 years in the profession, I remain committed to the law, to those who practise and rely on it, and to its continuing evolution. As a corporate lawyer with an MBA from the University of Birmingham, I would bring practical experience, leadership and strategic focus to the role. My perspective is grounded in regional practice at Enoch Evans, a Legal 500, medium-sized, full-service firm with offices in Walsall, Sutton Coldfield and Cannock, a broad client base and strong professional connections across the Birmingham region.

Having been born in Birmingham, I have a longstanding personal connection to the region and would welcome the opportunity to support Council's work in representing, promoting and strengthening the local legal profession. I would approach the role with energy, integrity and a genuine commitment to supporting current and future members of the profession.



DEIRDRE SMYTHE

Dear Members, I would like to be considered for a full membership on the Birmingham Law Society (BLS) Council. My name is Deirdre (Deirdra in Irish) but call me Dee-easy to say and spell. I live in Birmingham and I am a practising barrister in family and criminal law. I attend all courts in Birmingham and travel by train to courts outside the midlands too.

I am very fortunate my Chambers allows me to have control of my diary, to attend Birmingham Law Society events and committee meetings. I have been a member of the Family and Criminal committees for some years. As a member of the (BLS) I enjoy socialising in the evening at events sponsored by the BLS and The Junior Lawyers Division including mentoring/giving advice to law students about the fantasy and the reality of being a barrister.

I was one of the first barristers to be a BLS member and the membership has grown with an increase in Barristers becoming members. I was one of the first barristers to attend Birmingham Pride along with members of the BLS. This has grown and I will continue to support diversity and social mobility events.

I was delighted to accept the invitation by former President Alice Kinder and Midland Circuit Leader Michelle Healey to be co-opted member of the Council representing the link between Solicitor and Barristers. Each year I have renewed my co-opted membership and I will continue to participate in Council decisions/governance.



BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT & UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY

COMPANY INFORMATION

DIRECTORS	G Barnett P Brewer B J Henry I S Jones A E Kinder R Lodder D Mistry M O'Brien S L Perraton S Saddique P J Wilson S Kauser (Appointed 19 October 2025)
SECRETARY	A J Beedham
COMPANY NUMBER	00005188
REGISTERED OFFICE	6 Bennetts Hill Birmingham B2 5ST
ACCOUNTANTS	JW Hinks LLP 19 Highfield Road Edgbaston Birmingham B15 3BH

THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

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:

G Barnett	
P Brewer	
J G Farmer	(Resigned 7 October 2025)
B J Henry	
N Hollett	(Resigned 16 October 2025)
I S Jones	
A E Kinder	
R Lodder	
A J McDaid	(Resigned 21 January 2026)
D Mistry	
M O'Brien	
S L Perraton	
R D Port MBE	(Resigned 25 September 2025)
S Saddique	
P J Wilson	
S Kauser	(Appointed 19 October 2025)

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

P Brewer	B J Henry
DIRECTOR	DIRECTOR
24 September 2026	

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 MARCH 2026

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 March 2026 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 the 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 surplus 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

Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 3BH
24 September 2026

THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

		2026	2025 as restated
	Notes	£	£
INCOME		269,697	256,324
Operating expenses		(495,924)	(472,824)
Other operating income		253,046	253,251
OPERATING SURPLUS		26,819	36,751
Interest receivable and similar income	3	7,926	7,176
Interest payable and similar expenses		-	(452)
Change in value of investments	5	16,494	1,137
SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION		51,239	44,612
Taxation	6	(5,362)	(15,208)
SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	15	45,877	29,404

THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

		2026	2025
	Notes	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	7	1,979	1,442
Investment property	8	3,000,000	3,000,000
Investments	9	274,101	251,928
		3,276,080	3,253,370
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	10	67,115	103,937
Cash at bank and in hand		168,067	149,815
		235,182	253,752
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	11	(178,365)	(220,102)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		56,817	33,650
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		3,332,897	3,287,020
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	12	(531,188)	(531,188)
NET ASSETS		2,801,709	2,755,832
RESERVES			
Other reserves		2,445,769	2,445,769
Income and expenditure account	15	355,940	310,063
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		2,801,709	2,755,832

For the financial year ended 31 March 2026 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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.

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).

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 24 September 2026 and are signed on its behalf by:

P Brewer
DIRECTOR

B J Henry
DIRECTOR

Company registration number 00005188 (England and Wales)

THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Income and expenditure		Total
	£	£	£
BALANCE AT 1 APRIL 2024	2,445,769	280,659	2,726,428
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025:			
Surplus and total comprehensive income	-	29,404	29,404
BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2025	2,445,769	310,063	2,755,832
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026:			
Surplus and total comprehensive income	-	45,877	45,877
BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2026	2,445,769	355,940	2,801,709

THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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 6 Bennetts Hill, Birmingham, B2 5ST.

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.

Income arising from events during the year is included within the Income heading in the Income and Expenditure account. The related expenditure for specific events is shown within Administrative expenses as a cost.

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend income is recognised as the company's right to receive payment is established. Income includes subscription income and the event income. Other operating income includes rental income receivable.

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, 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

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, 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.

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

	2026	2025
	£	£
INTEREST INCOME		
Interest on bank deposits	479	37
INCOME FROM FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS		
Income from other fixed asset investments	7,447	7,139
	<u>7,926</u>	<u>7,176</u>
Total income		

4 EMPLOYEES

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

	2026	2025
	Number	Number
Total	3	5

A director of the Society (the chief executive) received remuneration of £75,059 up to his resignation date of 16th October 25 during the period ended 31 March 2026 (2025: £58,300). From October 2025, the CEO role was undertaken by a company that was controlled by a director. This company received £32,550 on an invoice basis. A company controlled by another director of the Society received £2,752 during the year for consultancy services provided to the Society under a separate invoicing arrangement. In the prior year a company controlled by a director received £7,228 during the year for HR consultancy services provided to the Society under a separate invoicing agreement. None of the other directors received any remuneration during the year or in the prior year.

5 CHANGE IN VALUE OF INVESTMENTS

	2026	2025
	£	£
FAIR VALUE GAINS/(LOSSES) ON FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS		
Change in value of financial assets held at fair value through income or expenditure	14,564	(4,732)
OTHER GAINS/(LOSSES)		
Gain on disposal of investments held at fair value	1,930	5,869
	<u>16,494</u>	<u>1,137</u>

6 TAXATION

	2026	2025
	£	£
CURRENT TAX		
UK corporation tax on profits for the current period	5,362	15,208

7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Furniture, computers and
equipment
£

COST

At 1 April 2025	18,057
Additions	1,958

At 31 March 2026	20,015
------------------	--------

DEPRECIATION AND IMPAIRMENT

At 1 April 2025	16,615
Depreciation charged in the year	1,421

At 31 March 2026	18,036
------------------	--------

CARRYING AMOUNT

At 31 March 2026	1,979
At 31 March 2025	1,442

8 INVESTMENT PROPERTY

2026
£

FAIR VALUE

At 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026	3,000,000
-----------------------------------	-----------

Investment property with a carrying value of £3,000,000 as at 31 March 2026 (2025: £3,000,000) was revalued by the directors during the period ending 31 March 2024.

9 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

2026
£

2025
£

Other investments other than loans	274,101	251,928
------------------------------------	---------	---------

MOVEMENTS IN FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Investments
£

Other
£

Total
£

COST OR VALUATION

At 1 April 2025	239,428	12,500	251,928
Net movement in additions, disposals and valuation	22,173	-	22,173

At 31 March 2026	261,601	12,500	274,101
------------------	---------	--------	---------

CARRYING AMOUNT

At 31 March 2026	261,601	12,500	274,101
At 31 March 2025	239,428	12,500	251,928

10 DEBTORS

2026
£

2025
£

AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR:

Trade debtors	35,226	38,553
Other debtors	6,351	7,277
Prepayments and accrued income	25,538	58,107

	67,115	103,937
--	--------	---------

11 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Notes

2026
£

2025
£

Trade creditors	15,478	13,591
Corporation tax	5,362	15,208
Other taxation and social security	14,664	18,437
Deferred income	122,131	138,611
Other creditors	2,584	5,119
Accruals	18,146	29,136

	178,365	220,102
--	---------	---------

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.

12 PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES

2026
£

2025
£

Deferred tax liabilities	13	531,188	531,188
--------------------------	----	---------	---------

13 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
2026
£

Liabilities
2025
£

BALANCES:

Investment property	531,188	531,188
---------------------	---------	---------

14 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.

15 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.

16 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 £3,578 (2025: £4,253) and outstanding contributions as at 31 March 2026 amounted to £671 (2025: £750).

17 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:

	2026 £	2025 £
Total outstanding commitments	38,919	14,247

LESSOR

	2026 £	2025 £
Total future amounts receivable	1,561,875	1,806,875

ADOPTION OF NEW ARTICLES

The Board have identified a series of minor amendments to our articles of association, which are set out as follows:-

The primary change is in the amended articles 8.4 and 8.8 which removes the right of the CEO to be an ex officio director, whilst maintaining the current maximum number of directors for the Board at 17;

A definition has been added for "Finance Director", given that the role is referred to in the amended Article 8.4, but had not previously been defined;

Article 4.4.2 has a consequential amendment to remove reference to the CEO and extends permission to pay reasonable remuneration to any director who is also an employee of the Society;

The current clause 8.4 has been deleted in its entirety, as it was specific to the adoption of the current articles in 2022.

These amendments have been approved by the Board, were sent to Members in advance of the AGM and are presented for adoption. The Articles of Association can be found [here](#).

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Established in 1818, Birmingham Law Society predates the National Law Society is one of the country's largest regional law societies, representing more than 9,000 members across the legal profession, including solicitors, barristers, legal executives, trainees, paralegals and law students.

As a member of the Joint V, we also work with other leading regional law societies on issues of national importance. Our mission is to **represent, support, connect and promote our members**, providing a strong, collective voice for the legal community across Birmingham and the West Midlands.

1. STRENGTHENING OUR LEGAL COMMUNITY

We bring our members together through professional, networking and social events, forums for discussion and debate, effective communication and opportunities to build relationships and collaborate across the profession.

2. SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION

In 2026, we established our Junior Lawyers Division (JLD), providing junior legal professionals with a dedicated community and voice through networking, professional development, mentoring, knowledge sharing and social opportunities.

3. REPRESENTING OUR MEMBERS

We represent our members through engagement with Government, regulators, The Law Society and other organisations, responding to consultations and contributing to debates and decisions affecting the profession.

4. PROMOTING OUR MEMBERS AND OUR REGION

We showcase the achievements and expertise of our members and promote Birmingham and the West Midlands as a leading centre for legal and professional services, nationally and internationally.

5. INFORMING AND DEVELOPING OUR MEMBERS

Through communications, seminars, events, training and professional development, we keep members informed and help them respond to changes in law, regulation, technology and legal practice.

6. PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

We promote the rule of law, access to justice, equality, diversity, inclusion and social mobility, and raise awareness of issues affecting the profession, legal services and the communities we serve.

7. PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN OUR REGION

We work closely with The Law Society, universities, the judiciary, courts and tribunals, business and professional organisations, legal groups, charities and pro bono organisations, promoting the contribution of the profession to Birmingham and the wider West Midlands.

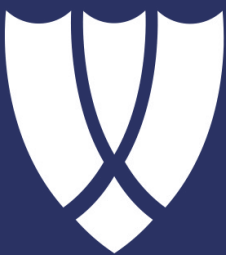
8. OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

We are extremely grateful to our sponsors and partners, whose support helps us deliver our programme of events, initiatives, professional development, networking and member engagement.

9. DELIVERING VALUE TO OUR MEMBERS

Everything we do is focused on providing relevant and valuable membership and supporting our members throughout their careers. For more than two centuries, Birmingham Law Society has represented and strengthened our regional legal community. We remain committed to ensuring that our members have opportunities to connect, develop, contribute, influence and succeed.

ONE PROFESSION. ONE REGION. ONE VOICE.



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