



Civil Litigation Section Engagement Programme 2017-2018



Foreword



Welcome to the Law Society's Civil Litigation Section 2017 / 2018 engagement programme.

I strongly believe that the benefits of the Civil Litigation Section must reach all practitioners across England and Wales. Since joining the committee, I have seen real positive change. One such success story, for example, has been the regional workshops that we hold several times a year in the provinces. They are a chance to listen to your experiences of working on the frontline of civil litigation, and help to discuss practical issues based around the topics covered in our conferences.

I am committed to offering relevant, ongoing training to all civil practitioners across the legal spectrum, including for example the Junior Lawyers, Women Lawyers, Ethnic Minority Lawyers, Lawyers with Disabilities and LGBT Divisions.

I hope that the Section continues to develop innovative ways of delivering content. As Chair of the Section committee, I continue to encourage the further use of IT in our training programme to enable members throughout England and Wales to attend and participate in Section events. It is through innovation and communication that the Section will continue to transform.

The Section must always ensure that we focus on our members' needs. To this end, communication between the Committee and Section members, and between the various Sections of the Law Society, is vitally important to guarantee the delivery of relevant content. Similarly, the Section committee must be accessible and approachable to members.

I encourage you as members to give feedback on the Section's offering – be that an event, a webinar or an online article – as this will help us to best support you. I am committed to working with the committee to deliver a programme that continuously evolves to meet the needs of its members.

To join, please [visit our website](#) and follow our [Twitter](#) page for Section announcements.

Matthew Cotton
Chair of the Civil Litigation Committee



Our vision

To provide best practice guidance to the Civil Litigation profession, take the lead on matters affecting practitioners and develop content for continuing professional development.

Terms of Reference

To promote and develop the work of civil and commercial litigators, litigation support professionals and dispute resolvers across England & Wales.

To provide an annual programme of best practice guidance, services and events to supplement and enhance your continuing professional competence. Our programme will include workshops, conferences, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, best practice guidance, legal updates and know-how, case reports and access to discounts across a range of Law Society products.

We will also provide a medium for the views of our members to be expressed within the Law Society to influence change and policy.

Events

Our 2018 programme of Events, networking opportunities and workshops including two flagship half-day conferences - all included in the cost of membership.

[Book Your Places Now](#)

Spring Half-Day Conference *Changing for the better*

When: 25 April 2018, 14:00 – 18:30, London
Venues: Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London. WC2A 1PL
Cost: Included in cost of Section membership

The first of our flagship conferences has been split into two parts. The first part will see Senior Master Fontaine outline updates to the Civil Procedure Rules and discuss proving your case from a Judge's perspective. This will be followed by a speech from Alexander Kingston-Splatt on proving your case from a practitioner's perspective.

In the second part of the conference, a panel of practitioners from a range of practice areas will take to the stage to discuss their specialisms and how to diversify to meet future market challenges. The session will focus on those areas that are not covered by Lord Justice Jackson's reforms.

As always, the spring conference which concludes with a drinks reception will provide you with plenty of opportunities to network with your colleagues, key industry experts and the Civil Litigating Section Committee.

[Find out more and book](#)

Keep checking our [website](#) for updates and follow us on [Twitter](#) @LSCivLit for special announcements!

Autumn Half-Day Conference

When: 27 September 2018, 14:30
Venues: TBC
Cost: Included in cost of membership

The second of our inclusive, flagship conferences will provide a year-end focus on what promises to be one of the most legally challenging and exciting years of recent history.

This event has sold out in the past and is not to be missed for its analysis of what's happened and what's coming up.

Followed by a networking drinks reception.

Programme to follow, keep checking our [events page](#) for updates and follows us on [Twitter](#) @LSCivLit for special announcements!



Seminars -

- LOCATIONS -

After a successful series of similar events in 2018 we will be taking our workshops to different locations in 2018, hosting key litigators and firms from your area in a peer-to-peer learning environment.

These workshops will provide you with an opportunity to network with your peers and shape our strategy and the wider strategy of the Law Society.

The workshops will be chaired by members of the Civil Litigation Committee and will provide an opportunity to hear, discuss and develop initiatives based on topical legal issues.

Programme of workshops to follow, keep checking our [website](#) for updates and follows us on [Twitter](#) @LSCivLit for special announcements!

2018 Webinars - Included in the cost of membership

Part 36 Masterclass

When: TBC, Digital Platform
Duration: TBC
Cost: Included in cost of membership

Commercial Litigation in 2018

When: TBC, Digital Platform
Duration: TBC
Cost: Included in cost of membership

Drafting witness statements (Solicitor)

When: Day, Month, Year, Time HH:MM, Location
Duration: TBC
Cost: Included in cost of membership

(TBC)

When: TBC, Digital Platform
Duration: TBC
Cost: Included in cost of membership

Webinar programme to follow, for announcements and further details follow our [Twitter](#) account @LSCivLit or visit our [website](#).

Discounted Webinars

As well as our programme of inclusive webinars, we also offer a 20% discount on a range of webinars drawn from across the breadth of Law Society practice areas.

Stay **tuned** for our full webinar lineup and follow our [Twitter](#) account @LSCivLit for announcements.



2018 Additional Benefits

E-newsletter

Keep up-to-date with legal developments with our newsletters. Each mailing contains news and best practice guidance, details of policy updates and analysis, case reports and forthcoming events and webinars.

Use to keep up-to-date with legal developments and Law Society activities.

Spotlights, Features and News

Visit our [website](#) for best practice and guidance written by experts in their field drawn from across a number of disciplines including:

- Personal Injury
- Commercial
- ADR and Arbitration
- Clinical Negligence
- Costs and practice strategy
- General practice updates

Your one-stop-shop for keeping on top of developments.

Twitter

Follow our [Twitter](#) page @LSCivLit for details of forthcoming events and webinars, special offers and news from the Ministry of Justice, HMCTS, Supreme Court and Civil Procedure Rules Committee.

Your first port of call for news.

Website

As well as recent news, articles and features, we also have a searchable bank of content and guidance, webinars, practice notes you can use.

It also contains details of future events and webinars drawn from across the Law Society's supported practice areas.

Visit the [website](#) to stay up-to-date and brief yourself on past developments.

Litigation Funding Subscription Discount

Membership of the Section entitles you to 40% off a subscription to the Law Society's flagship magazine for litigation and costs specialists, *Litigation Funding*.

For full details of the publication schedule and, to download a recent copy, please visit our [website](#).

Committee

Thank you to our committee members

The programme of activities was created in close consultation with the Civil Litigation Committee to ensure it is both relevant and timely.

Committee members meet six times a year to discuss key issues and topics facing the litigation community. Committee members help formulate Law Society policy and co-ordinate a programme of events and commentary for the exclusive benefit of Section members.

We would like to thank all our committee members for their time, commitment and contribution.

| Committee Member | Organisation | Role |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Stephen Mason | TravLaw LLP | Senior Partner |
| Deborah Burke | Attain Legal Costs Management | Director |
| Gareth Raisbeck | Cook & Co Solicitors | Solicitor |
| Mark Field | Mark Field Mediation | Mediator |
| Matthew Cotton | Humfrys & Symonds | Solicitor |
| Jonathan Haydn-Williams | Goodman Derrick LLP | Senior Counsel |
| James Perry | DWF | Director Technical - Co-Manager of the Recoveries Team |
| Rajinder Rai | MK Gill | Head of Litigation |
| Alison Kirby | Howes Percival LLP | Head of Litigation and Dispute Resolution |



About the Law Society

The Law Society exists to represent, promote and support all solicitors, so they in turn can help their clients.

We also work to ensure that no-one is above the law and to protect everyone's right to have access to justice. We promote England and Wales as the jurisdiction of choice and the vital role legal services play in our economy. We work internationally to open up markets to our members and to defend human rights while supporting our members with opportunities in the domestic market.

The Law Society helps members by:

- representing solicitors by speaking out for justice and on legal issues
- promoting solicitors through publicising the value of using a solicitor at home and abroad
- supporting solicitors by helping them develop their expertise and their business, irrespective of whether they work for themselves, in-house or for a law firm

The Law Society represents the profession by:



- campaigning on the rule of law, human rights, access to justice and regulation. This includes lobbying in Brussels, Westminster and Cardiff and in the media.
- working with international legal bodies to position the Law Society as a thought-leader on global issues
- intervening in cases where solicitors and the law are under threat in the UK and abroad
- helping our members to represent key issues impacting the profession to their MP, AM or MEP
- using the law to challenge changes which will impact negatively on the profession and society
- championing and facilitating pro bono work

The Law Society promotes the profession by:



- internationally working to open and grow markets for English and Welsh law such as inward visits of foreign lawyers and trade missions
- providing and increasing awareness of Find a Solicitor – our website enabling consumers and businesses to find a solicitor who can meet their needs
- hosting our annual Excellence Awards which highlight and celebrate outstanding contributions across the profession
- recognising the contribution solicitors make to civil society and communities
- publicising the value of legal services to the UK economy

The Law Society supports the profession by:



- identifying issues and market trends affecting solicitors to help prepare for the future
- developing a comprehensive and cohesive education and training offer
- providing practice notes and guidance on issues important to members
- giving advice through our library and helplines
- running accreditation schemes to support and demonstrate effective practice
- creating communities of members based on who you are and what you do
- supporting those who find it difficult to enter the profession through our Diversity Access Scheme
- offering consultancy services for members who want more detailed help
- assisting members who wish to practice abroad

How the Law Society works

Solicitors pay their annual practising certificate fee to the Solicitors Regulation Authority. The Law Society receives around 30 per cent of this fee to support, represent and promote the profession. Our other funding comes from commercial activities.

The Law Society Council governs our work, with Council members elected to represent members from England and Wales, including different demographic groups and parts of the profession.

We harness the knowledge of our Council members and around 300 volunteer board and committee members to deliver the advice, support and services our members want.

And we continually listen and respond to our members, so we can be sure we are meeting their needs.

For more information please visit
www.lawsociety.org.uk

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