



Civil Litigation Section Engagement Programme 2018-2019



Foreword

Welcome to the Law Society's Civil Litigation Section 2018-2019 engagement programme.



Dear Colleague

It is an honour and pleasure to be writing to you as Chair of the Law Society's Civil Litigation Section.

The Section offers members accessibly presented updates on law and procedure, together with information and ideas concerning the many issues which currently face practitioners in the field of litigation and dispute resolution. For a modest subscription, we are able to provide you with a package of conferences, workshops, emailed updates, dedicated webpages, webinars and - a new development - podcasts.

We are one of the Law Society's 'Communities'. Our committee, being comprised of solicitors working in different areas of litigation and dispute resolution and in different parts of the country, reflects the broad nature of our community. In the coming year, we are aiming to reinforce that geographical spread by holding workshops in Manchester and Cardiff in addition to our London events. We will also be placing a stronger focus on the needs of those in the NQ to 5 year bracket, with assistance from solicitors at that stage of their career.

Being part of the Law Society means that the Section has the invaluable support of Law Society staff, in particular our ever-efficient Product Manager, Caitlin Padmore, with whom the Committee, the Vice Chairs and I work on a collaborative basis. It also means that we can convey views to the Policy side of the Law Society, which represents solicitors' interests in relation to issues such as legislative reform in areas such as costs.

I would like to build on the community nature of the Section by facilitating communication between members, for instance to enable technical queries or ideas to be posted on-line and answers suggested or comments made. We all know how useful it can be to pop down the corridor and ask a colleague's view: perhaps that can be extended to popping up on other members' screens? But that's a 'work in progress'.

Our programme for 2018-19 is set out below. I hope that you find it meets your needs and expectations. If you have any comments on it or any other matter, Caitlin and I would be delighted to hear from you at msadmin@lawsociety.org.uk.

To join, please visit our [website](#).

Jonathan Haydn-Williams, Law Society Civil Litigation Section Chair



Our vision

To provide best practice guidance to the Civil Litigation profession 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.

Please find below the details of our 2018-2019 programme of member benefits.

This programme is updated throughout the year. Please continue to check our [website](#) and newsletter for announcements and updates.

Our reactive and proactive programme will address the following key areas:

- *Updates on the Civil Procedure Rules & procedural case law*
- *Advancing technologies, including artificial intelligence*
- *Mediation and other forms of alternative dispute resolution*
- *Litigants in Person*
- *LASPO Part Two review*
- *Changing fee structures, including unbundling and damage based agreements.*
- *Risk and compliance - avoiding professional negligence claims and other problems*
- *Holiday sickness claims*
- *Brexit*



Events - included in the cost of your membership

Due to the success of our conferences in previous years, we will continue to hold a Spring and Autumn Conference.

As always, the conferences promise to put you in front of experts who will provide you with practical advice and technical know-how. The speakers will be on hand to answer your questions, ensuring that you leave the conference with expert insight that you can apply to your practice.

The conferences, concluding with a drinks reception, will provide you with plenty of opportunities to network with your peers, the speakers and the Civil Litigation Section Committee.

Spring Half-Day Conference

When: 1 May 2019, 14:00 - 18:30
Venue: Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London. WC2A 1PL
Cost: Included in cost of Section membership

14:00 - 14:30 Registration and refreshments

14:30 - 14:35 Chair's welcome

14:35 - 15:05 Brexit: What the Civil Litigator needs to know.

Speaker questions

15:10 - 15:15 Brexit: Service of documents / other topical issues

15:15 - 15:40 The Disclosure Pilot

Speaker questions

15:45 - 16:00 Refreshments and networking

16:00 - 17:00 Practice Symposium: Costs

17:00 - 17:05 Chair's closing remarks

17:05 - 18:30 Networking drinks reception

For info: *The 2018 Spring conference was split into two parts. The first, focused on civil procedure rules and proving your case, with a keynote speech from Senior Master Fontaine. In the second half, a panel of practitioners discussed diversifying to meet future market challenges, focusing on areas not covered by Lord Justice Jackson's reforms.*

Autumn Half-Day Conference

When: 9 October 2019, 14:30 - 18:30
Venue: Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London. WC2A 1PL
Cost: Included in cost of membership

For info: The 2018 Autumn conference focused on risks for the litigation practitioner – how to identify and manage them. After speeches about the concept of risk and costs, a symposium of experts discussed professional negligence and what claims are covered by professional indemnity insurance, compliance with professional obligations and avoiding reputational damage.

Programme to follow.

For updates, please keep an eye out on our [events page](#) and follow us on [Twitter @LSCivLit](#) for special announcements!

We will also be holding **two regional workshops**. These workshops will provide you with technical know-how and guidance to react to ongoing market changes.

Workshop:

Venue: Manchester
Cost: Included in cost of Section membership

Programmes to follow. Please keep checking our [events page](#) for updates and follow us on [Twitter @LSCivLit](#) for special announcements.

For info: Our 2018 workshop covered advancing technologies, including artificial intelligence.

After the events, you will gain access to speaker presentations and notes, providing you with readily accessible information and guidance meaning that that you have access to the content even if you are not able to join us on the day.



2019 Webinars - Included in the cost of membership

As part of your membership, you will be entitled to four inclusive webinars.

Our agile platform for delivering up-to-the-minute digital content allows you to either listen on the webinar on the day or download to watch later. When listening live, you can submit your questions to our expert speakers.

You will also have access to our entire back catalogue of webinar content.

Arbitration and Adjudication – an introduction

When: 13 March
Speaker: John Wright

Disclosure Pilot Scheme – an update

When: 30 April
Speaker: Ed Crosse, Natalie Osafo and Adam Brown

Recent changes to the Financial Ombudsman Service

When: 03 July 2019
Speaker: James Hall

Commercial Litigation Update 2019

When: 16 October 2019
Speaker: Maura McIntosh

Keep checking our [webinar page](#) for updates

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 - 2019 Additional Benefits

Podcasts

A newly introduced benefit, civil litigation section podcasts will keep you up-to-date with recent developments through short discussions with expert speakers. These bitesize podcasts can be downloaded for you to listen when on the move, making them a convenient way to stay informed of legal changes.

[Listen here.](#)

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*.



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 five times a year to discuss key issues and topics facing the litigation community and work with the Law Society Product Manager in between meetings. Committee members co-ordinate a programme of events and commentary for the exclusive benefit of Section members.

Committee Member	Organisation	Role
Stephen Mason	TravLaw LLP	Senior Counsel
Deborah Burke	Attain Legal Costs Management	Director
Gareth Raisbeck	Cook & Co Solicitors	Head of Dispute Resolution
Alastair Shaw	William Grace Law	Partner
Jonathan Haydn-Williams	Goodman Derrick LLP	Senior Counsel and Mediator
James Perry	DWF	Director Technical - Co-Manager of the Recoveries Team
Rajinder Rai	Jarmans Solicitors	Civil and Property Litigation Solicitor
Peter Causton	ProMediate	Mediator, Deputy District Judge
David Stevens	South Eastern Circuit / Self Employed	Deputy District Judge & Legal Consultant

Jennifer Morrissey	Partner	Harcus Parker
John Cuss	Solicitor	Minster Law Solicitors
Kate Emore	Senior Lawyer	London Borough of Southwark
Katherine Harper	Professional Support Lawyer	Baker & Mckenzie LLP



Relationship Management Team

The work of the committee is supported by the relationship management teams.

The relationship management teams work with individual members and firms to represent their views, increase awareness of Law Society services and activities, and add value to members' businesses. As part of this, the relationship management team work with Sections and various committees to raise membership awareness of the benefits of our products and services.

The mission of the team is to build a strong relationship between the Society and its members, including those in private practice and in-house roles. This is achieved through an account management approach for larger organisations and collaboration with local representative groups and stakeholders.

The Law Society has a network of representatives in the English regions and an office in Wales. Our regions are divided between three teams:

- The City, London, South East and East
- Midlands and South West
- The North

Further details can be found on our [relationship management webpages](#).

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

113 Chancery Lane London WC2A 1PL Dx 56 Lon/ChanceryLn
t: 020 7242 1222 f: 020 7831 0344 www.lawsociety.org.uk