

LSLA NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2022

Welcome to this month's newsletter.

Membership renewals have gone out recently so don't forget to renew your membership and if your firm is not already a corporate member you can find out more details about applying on our website or by contacting our membership secretary: Ceri Morgan at ceri.morgan@hsf.com.

EVENTS and INITIATIVES

Annual General Meeting – 29 March 2022

AGM Dinner – 5 April 2022

Our AGM shall be held on Tuesday 29 March 2022 at 6pm via Zoom.

This year the AGM Dinner will take place a few days later on 5 April 2022 at Hogan Lovells.

Our guest speaker is Gina Miller, the leading businesswoman and Brexit legal campaigner, who rose to prominence when she brought a judicial review challenging the Government over its authority to trigger Article 50 without Parliament's approval.

The speech is under the Chatham House rule so affords our speaker an opportunity to talk more frankly and openly than may be customary.

Further details are in the attached flyer.

Please apply for tickets for the dinner online.

Autumn/Winter Lecture Series

Thursday 3 March, saw the "last" scheduled lecture of the current series: "Competition Litigation: a panel discussion" with Victoria Wakefield QC of Brick Court Chambers, Luke Streatfeild of Hausfeld LLP, Nicholas Frey of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP and Elizabeth Jordan of Slaughter and May. The discussion was an informative look at the key tactical battlegrounds for claimants and defendants in group actions, and our thanks are due to Hogan Lovells for hosting, and for then facilitating a lively post-lecture drinks event.

We have re-arranged the postponed talk from the Autumn/Winter Lecture Series on "*Material Adverse Effect in a post-pandemic age*" which is now to be presented by Sa'ad Hossain QC and James MacDonald of One Essex Court, as an "in person" event at Hogan Lovells on **Tuesday 5 July at 6pm**.

Also, we are happy to announce an additional FREE event to be added to the LSLA calendar to be hosted by Freshfields on **Wednesday 4 May at 6pm**, when Mr Justice Baker and Ms Justice Cockerill have very kindly agreed to talk to us about the updated Commercial Court Guide which was published on 3 February this year. We are hoping to be able to make the necessary arrangements for attendees to join remotely, but we are also hoping that to encourage "in person" attendance Freshfields will be hosting drinks after the lecture.

Recordings and information from the lectures will be made available if possible on our website at <https://www.lsla.co.uk/events>. Just scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Previous Events".

The JLSLA is planning future "in person" seminars on important topics such as wellbeing and witness statements (the latter of which shall be co-hosted with the Junior COMBAR), as well as the return of the infamous summer party which we hope will take place towards the end of June or early July. Further details will be released when available.

Pre-Action Protocols

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we submitted a response to the Civil Justice Council's consultation on the proposed changes to the pre-action protocols. Following that response the LSLA was invited, by the Civil Justice Council, along with other groups of practitioners, to attend a round-table meeting to discuss the proposed changes and responses submitted.

The LSLA is taking the lead in working with the Civil Justice Council in relation to these important reforms and shall be seeking further input from members in the next few months.

New LSLA Website

The LSLA continues to work with 18a Productions to update its website, which will have a brand new look and new functionality to make it even easier for our members to find out what is happening at the LSLA and to sign up for our lectures and events. We hope to go live shortly.

London International Disputes Week – 9 – 13 May 2022

We are pleased to say that the LSLA is an institutional supporter of this year's London International Disputes Week (**LIDW**).

LIDW is a hybrid conference taking place between 9 and 13 May in Central Hall, Westminster. The event provides an opportunity for dispute resolution professionals from around the world to debate the current landscape and the future of dispute resolution with a focus on London as a centre for determining international disputes.

The theme of this year's conference is "*Dispute Resolution – Global, Sustainable, Ethical?*". The conference shall open with a day dedicated to international dispute resolution with a "*follow the sun*" model for different jurisdictions globally and the programme features a range of speakers debating topics which span these issues.

The core conference will also feature keynote speeches from leaders in the sector (including Lord Reed and Judge Loretta Preska) and various LSLA committee members past and present.

LIDW will then close with two days of member events focussing on specific areas of expertise.

To purchase tickets for the event go to [London Disputes Week - Event 2022 | Register \(lidw.co.uk\)](#). Tickets start at £100 and can be purchased for the virtual or in-person conference. In-person tickets include access to the entire programme, including networking and drinks.

We would also encourage you to promote LIDW to your colleagues in other jurisdictions using your firm's digital channels and directly with close personal connections.

London Legal Walk - 28 June 2022

The LSLA pro bono subcommittee is putting together an LSLA team for this year's London Legal Walk.

The event will be an opportunity for the LSLA to once again support a cause which fundraises for several pro bono organisations in London and the South East and to raise the profile of the LSLA's efforts to support pro bono causes.

If you would like to join the team, please email Natalie Osafo on NOsafo@stewartslaw.com, or register for the team directly at <https://www.tfaforms.com/4945460> and select "London Solicitors Litigation Association" in the firm/chambers/organisation section of the form.

Alternatively or in addition please donate on the LSLA's Virgin Money Giving page at <https://londonlegalsupporttrust.enthuse.com/pf/london-solicitors-litigation-association>

You can find out more about the LLST / London Legal Walk 2022 at <https://londonlegalsupporttrust.org.uk/our-events/london-legal-walk-2022/>

INITIATIVES

Mentoring Programme

Thank you to everyone who has contacted us to take part in the proposed mentoring programme. We are working on developing this to begin early next year and to provide our members with an opportunity to connect and learn from the expertise and experiences of someone outside their firm.

If you would be liked to be involved in the programme, either as a mentor, a mentee or both, please email Isla@Isla.co.uk to register your interest.

Pro Bono Initiative

Over the years the LSLA has made donations to many charitable organisations including those providing pro bono advice and assistance so we may seek to give back to the profession and encourage engagement.

We are seeking to increase our involvement in this area and promoting opportunities to all our members such as by providing solicitor support for advocates offering pro bono representation, offering legal advice on matters involving human rights, assisting litigants in person and providing advisory work in fields such as corporate governance, intellectual property and employment. To facilitate members' involvement, we have published a list of organisations with which we already have links and which offer pro bono advice and assistance so members may contact them, if they wish, to assist with their work. The list and further details on our pro bono initiative are available on our website www.Isla.co.uk.

The list is not exhaustive. If you have any suggestions for organisations you think should be included on the list please email Isla@Isla.co.uk so our committee may consider including it.

To mark the 20th anniversary of National Pro Bono Week in the UK the LSLA has published details on the National Pro Bono initiatives and its portal of opportunities on the LSLA LinkedIn page. The National Pro Bono Centre Portal can be accessed using the link below and includes opportunities seeking solicitors with commercial / civil litigation experience in particular, as well as remote assignments.

<http://www.nationalprobonocentre.org.uk/pro-bono-week/volunteer-opportunities/>

Witness Statements

As many of our members shall be aware the new Practice Direction on the preparation of witness statements for use at trials in the Business and Property Courts, came into effect earlier this year. Our President Chris Bushell sat on the working group which spent nigh on 3 years reviewing the old rules and seeking to put in place and foster a culture of best practice to the benefit of witnesses and judges alike.

If you have any feedback to share on the new rules please contact Chris Bushell at Chris.Bushell@hsf.com.

Feedback for Court User Groups

The LSLA sends representatives to both the Chancery and Commercial Court User Groups. Both groups are keen to receive feedback on all aspects of the operation of the relevant courts. If members have comments or concerns they are encouraged to pass them on to the LSLA representatives so that they can be raised at the next user group meeting. This is an opportunity to raise issues directly with the judiciary and court administrator.

At the last Chancery Users' meeting reference was made to the recent court of appeal ruling emphasising that the provisions of Practice Direction 40E are mandatory and that *'It is the personal responsibility of counsel and solicitors instructed in a case in which an embargoed draft judgment is provided to ensure they are complied with.'*

We should be particularly interested in members' views on whether the LSLA should endorse [Working towards Greener Litigation, one case at a time](#). Please email Nicholas Heaton or Chis Bushell (details below) with your comments.

For feedback on:

- the Chancery Division Courts please contact: nicholas.heaton@hoganlovells.com or patrick.wheeler@collyerbristow.com
- the Commercial Court please contact: Ed.crosse@simmons-simmons.com
- the Financial List please contact: Chris.Bushell@hsf.com

Feedback for the Law Society

If members have comments or concerns they are encouraged to pass them to Charlotte Hill (Charlotte.Hill@penningtonslaw.com) so that she can raise them at the appropriate time with the relevant Council or Committee.

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSIONS

Applications for the Chancery Master competition will open on 10 May 2022.

We are keen to encourage applicants from a wide range of backgrounds. Potential applicants should not be deterred by specialising in a particular area of law only. The range of work that Masters undertake is so broad that none of us start with expertise in all areas, and the expectation is that the successful candidate will acquire this in the course of their work.

A number of outreach events will be taking place over the course of the next two months. An event is being organised at the Rolls Building on 27 April 2022 at 5.30pm. Further details will be available in due course.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the role can speak to or email any of the Masters on a confidential basis.

Details about the competition can be found below. Those interested can contact any of the Masters on a confidential basis to discuss the role and or to arrange to sit in.

Chancery Master

Launch Date: 10 May 2022

Location: London (High Court – Rolls Building)

Salary: £143,095.00

The JAC has been asked to identify two candidates to recommend for the post of Chancery Master.

Masters of the Chancery Division are part of the second tier judiciary in the High Court. They are responsible for exercising the jurisdiction of the Chancery Division where that jurisdiction is not

exercised by a High Court Judge, other than where the jurisdiction is reserved (such as the Financial List and the Patents Court).

<https://apply.judicialappointments.digital/vacancy/e9F2sYm4WBE6vaZko7dG/>

LINKEDIN AND WEBSITE

You can find out more about the association on our website at <https://www.lsla.co.uk/> and our LinkedIn page at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/london-solicitors-litigation-association/>

THE JUNIOR LSLA

The JLSLA provides:

- Webinars/Seminars designed to offer practical tips on procedural and substantive legal issues commonly faced by junior civil litigators in an interactive and relaxed atmosphere;
- Networking events for members to meet and form contacts in their peer group; and
- E-news on recent and future activity and key developments with the aim of ensuring that the junior perspective is reflected in the LSLA's responses to consultation papers.

The JLSLA is aimed at solicitors of 8 years' PQE and less. Members of the LSLA will automatically become members of the JLSLA if they qualify by year of admission and complete the relevant section of the membership form.

The JLSLA also has firm Champions, who act as the point of contact between the JLSLA committee and their firm.

If you are interested in joining the JLSLA or being the JLSLA Champion for your firm, please contact the JLSLA President, Charlotte Hill at charlotte.hill@penningtonslaw.com.

Join the JLSLA LinkedIn page to receive updates on JLSLA events and initiatives:
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/66587315/>

MEMBERSHIP

The LSLA membership continues to grow and we now have over 3,500 members with in excess of 1,400 members of the JLSLA and 47 corporate members.

EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

Some of our members say that they are, on occasion, not receiving email notifications for LSLA and Junior LSLA events. We have been advised that such notifications may sometimes be blocked by our members' firm's IT servers, which automatically quarantine emails received from, for example, "donotreply" email addresses.

Should you not be receiving our email notifications, we would advise you to contact your firm's IT team and request that they "whitelist" both donotreply@lsla.co.uk and lsla@lsla.co.uk.

ONLINE PAYMENTS FOR LSLA EVENTS

When making payments for membership and our events we would kindly request that you quote the correct data to identify the matter to which the payment relates. Incorrect identification often occurs where a firm's accounts team makes a payment to the LSLA as an existing payee, using old order data rather than updating the payment instruction to include the new order number.

Updating payment data to correctly reference the event to which a payment relates would significantly ease the LSLA's administrative burden. Thank you for your continued support and assistance.

LSLA WEBSITE

Our website at <https://www.lsla.co.uk/> includes: details of our forthcoming events, copies of the responses we have filed to recent consultations, recent articles and press citing members of the association, and past editions of the newsletter.

You can also join the LSLA via our website as well as sign up for future events on it.

We hope that our website will prove a source of information for members.

We are currently reviewing our website and hope the new website shall go live in Spring.

LIST OF SUPERVISING SOLICITORS

The White Book refers to the LSLA maintaining details of individuals who might be able to act as supervising solicitors for the execution of Search Orders. Our list continues to grow and is updated quarterly. We invite those suitably qualified to provide us with their details, including relevant experience, for inclusion on the list.