



Law Society Regional Report

November 2013

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Law Society news and events

Law Management Section networking forum

Price: Members - £25 + VAT; non-members - £50 + VAT

Date: 9-12-2013

Time: Registration 16:00, Seminar 16:30 - 18:30

Venue: Clarion Solicitors, Elizabeth House, 13-19 Queen Street, Leeds, LS1 2TW

CPD hours: 2.0

Why attend?

The aim of the Law Management Section networking forums in Yorkshire is to bring together managing partners of firms to discuss issues of mutual interest. They are also open to both LMS members and non-members. The numbers of attendees will be limited to allow delegates to talk informally and freely about problems being faced by most, if not all, law firms in the region and to learn from each other's experiences and ideas.

Topics for discussion

- Financial stability – the balance sheet, cash and key capital/borrowings ratios
- Preparing for 2014 – 5 ideas to help strengthen your firm
- Other issues facing firms

Who should attend?

- Managing Partners
- Chief Executives
- Finance Directors
- Senior Partners
- Sole Practitioners



To book, please e-mail: lawmanagementsection@lawsociety.org.uk

Special general meeting

We have received a requisition for a Special General Meeting (SGM) to discuss a motion of no confidence in the President and the chief executive in relation to the Law Society's negotiations with the Lord Chancellor over criminal legal aid.

The date and time of the SGM are as follows: 10:30 am on Tuesday 17 December 2013 in the Law Society's Hall, 113 Chancery Lane (unless numbers are such that the meeting needs to be moved, in which case the change in venue will be announced on the website).

Our rules provide a window within which the SGM must be held – in this case not before 17 December and no later than 14 January. The Society decided to hold the meeting at the first available date before the Lord Chancellor's decision is announced, if possible.

The formal notice of the SGM, with the text of the motion, list of signatories, and statements (by those calling for the SGM, and by the Society), can be found at:

www.lawsociety.org.uk/about-us/documents/sgm-notice-2013/

Please note that this meeting is for members of the Law Society only. Before being admitted to the meeting, you will be asked to produce your membership card or some other appropriate photographic identification, which will enable us to confirm your membership.

If you have any queries about the SGM process, please feel free to contact Ross Hutchison (Head of Governance: ross.hutchison@lawsociety.org.uk) or David Browning (Governance team leader: david.browning@lawsociety.org.uk).

Practice Advice Service handles over 30,000 calls

So far this year, our Practice Advice Service has dealt with over 30,000 enquiries, offering help and support to thousands of members and their staff with legal practice and procedure.

Call 0870 606 2522 - advice is free and confidential and lines are open from 09:00 to 17:00, Monday to Friday.



www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/practice-advice-service/

Legal Sector Alliance calls for more action on climate change

To coincide with the climate change conference in Warsaw, the Legal Sector Alliance has called on governments to adopt effective regulations to combat climate change, highlighting the business case for adopting greener practices.

www.legalsectoralliance.co.uk/files/warsaw-communique-2013.pdf

Leap in pro bono among newly-qualified solicitors

More assistant and associate solicitors are doing pro bono work than ever before, according to Law Society research. In 2013, 45 per cent of all newly-qualified solicitors are providing pro bono services, up from 36 per cent in 2012.

www.lawsociety.org.uk/News/Press-releases/Leap-in-pro-bono-among-newly-qualified-solicitors/

Mental health and learning disabilities in criminal courts

New guidance has been published to raise awareness and understanding of mental health and learning disabilities in the criminal courts. It includes advice on how to recognise when a client might have a mental health condition or a learning disability and how to support vulnerable defendants in court.

Read the guidance at:

www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/articles/mental-health-and-learning-disabilities-in-the-criminal-courts/

Criminal legal aid practitioners meet with Grayling

On 12 November, the Law Society hosted a meeting between criminal legal aid solicitors and the Lord Chancellor. A Law Society spokesperson said:

‘We arranged this meeting for criminal practitioners from a range of firm sizes, specialist practitioner groups and regions to meet face-to-face with the Lord Chancellor. He promised to consider all the representations which were put to him.’

Learn more about our campaign at:

www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/campaigns/criminal-legal-aid/

£20bn reasons why the government should listen to lawyers

Law Society chief executive Desmond Hudson highlighted the vital contribution that the legal sector makes to Britain's economic growth in a speech to the CBI on 12 November. He also called on the



government to safeguard the UK's competitive edge in the face of growing competition from other jurisdictions.

Read the full speech at:

www.lawsociety.org.uk/news/speeches/20-billion-reasons-why-the-government-should-listen-to-lawyers/

Schedule 7 detainees have right to see solicitor

The High Court has ruled that a person detained for examination under schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 is entitled to consult a solicitor in person at any time. It follows an intervention by the Law Society in a judicial review against the Metropolitan Police.

Law Society chief executive Desmond Hudson commented:

'This is a significant ruling which protects the rights of people being questioned and upholds the importance of advice given by solicitors.'

Full details at:

www.lawsociety.org.uk/news/press-releases/access-to-a-solicitor-during-detention-must-be-available-under-schedule-7-of-the-terrorism-act/

2013 SRA diversity data collection - free online tool



Over 1,100 firms are already using our free diversity module to complete the SRA's mandatory diversity data collection. The Law Society has worked with Riliance to provide this free online tool to help you collect, report on and publish your 2013 diversity data.

www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/articles/collecting-2013-sra-diversity-data/

Excellence Awards: winners and photos

BBC broadcaster Mishal Husain presented 17 awards to teams and individuals at our prestigious awards ceremony in London last month.



Winners included Elkan Abrahamson, who acts for families affected by the 1989 Hillsborough stadium tragedy, and Fiona Woolf CBE who picked up the lifetime achievement award.

See the winners at:

www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/excellence-awards/2013-winners/

Practice notes

Evaluating diversity as part of the tender process

Read the practice note at:

www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/articles/evaluating-diversity-as-part-of-the-tender-process/

Forthcoming JAC Selection Exercises

Visit www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/selection-process/selection-exercises/forthcoming.htm for details of up and coming selection exercises and to subscribe to electronic alerts.

Judicial vacancy: criminal injuries compensation

For the first time, the Judicial Appointments Commission is inviting applications for the position of principal judge (criminal injuries compensation) in the social entitlement chamber of the first-tier tribunal. The role requires a high level of expertise in criminal injuries compensation or personal injury law and practice.

Full details of the vacancy can be found at:

<http://jac.judiciary.gov.uk/selection-process/2549.htm>

Deadline: 5 December



Electronic newsletters and updates – stay up to date

Visit the our newsletters page to subscribe to update bulletins

www.lawsociety.org.uk/news/newsletters/

Professional Update - **top issues from across the profession, every Thursday**

Anti-money Laundering Update - **bi-monthly developments and support for anyone interested in compliance**

International Update - **monthly international legal news and developments**

Legal Aid Update - **regular news and developments in legal aid**

Junior Lawyers Update - **regular updates for students, trainees and junior lawyers**

Gazette Online - **daily updates and breaking news from the Law Society Gazette**

In-house Forum - **latest news and advice for in-house lawyers**

From the President - **weekly updates from the Law Society President**

Sign up to receive Law Society Press releases via e-mail

Stay up to date with what's happening at the Law Society and how this affects our members.

<http://lawsocietymedia.org.uk/maillinglist.aspx>

Report ends. November 2013