



Law Society Regional Report

**September 2013**

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## Law Society news and events

### Legal Aid Road Show

**Price:** Free

**Date:** 26-09-2013

**Time:** 15:30 - 18:00

**Venue:** RSM Tenon, 2 Wellington Place, Leeds, LS1 4AP

**CPD hours:** 2.0

### Overview

In April 2013, the Ministry of Justice presented its proposals for price competitive tendering (PCT) for criminal defence work. In June, the Law Society proposed its alternative approach, which would require that PCT is shelved. Shortly afterwards, the Ministry of Justice announced that it would be revising its approach to allow clients to choose their own solicitor, and that there would be a further consultation in September 2013.

At these road shows, you can hear from Desmond Hudson, Chief Executive, the Law Society, Richard Atkinson, Chair, Criminal Law Committee, the Law Society, Joy Merriam, Chair, Access to Justice Committee, the Law Society and Richard Miller, Head of Legal Aid, the Law Society with the most up to date information on the Ministry of Justice's plans and how the Society is responding to them.

To book, please visit:

<http://bit.ly/1epwHLD>



## **Firm Diversity Forum**

**Price:** Free

**Date:** 08-10-2013

**Time:** 12:00 - 14:30

**Venue:** Eversheds, Bridgewater Place, Water Lane, Leeds LS11 5DR

**CPD hours:** 2.0

The case for diversity is simple. Society is changing fast and with it our clients, from hard done-by citizens who walk in to a high street firm saying 'I think I need a lawyer' to multinationals with multiple Magic Circle firms on their roster. Solicitors must understand their clients. They also need to ensure they've got the best team to serve them. To do this, they need a diverse workforce.

These free events will explore current key diversity and inclusion related topics affecting the profession and provide practical tools to help you achieve best practice. The sessions will also explore compliance issues in relation to principle 9 and chapter 2 of the SRA handbook and an update on the Law Society's work to support the profession in this important area.

To book, please visit:

<http://bit.ly/1epybpc>

## **Free Law Society report on key markets**

The last in our series of market reports provides an assessment of 12 key areas of work covering corporate/commercial, commercial property, intellectual property, alternative dispute resolution, employment, personal injury, legal aid, family, crime, conveyancing, wills and trusts, and probate and estate administration.

These reports are free for Law Society members. To request a copy of this report or others in the series, please send your name and SRA roll number via email to

[MarketAssessment2012@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:MarketAssessment2012@lawsociety.org.uk)

Find out more at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/research-trends/market-assessment-2012-13/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/representation/research-trends/market-assessment-2012-13/)



## **Free Law Society tool for collecting 2013 SRA diversity data**

The SRA requires regulated practices to collect, report and publish data on the diversity of their workforce. Practices are expected to report on diversity data between 15 July 2013 and 31 January 2014. The Law Society has worked with Riliance to provide a free online tool to help you collate your data in a format that the regulator will accept.

You can access the free tool at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/articles/collecting-2013-sra-diversity-data/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/articles/collecting-2013-sra-diversity-data/)

## **Which PII insurers are in or out of the market?**

XL, currently the largest insurer in the solicitors' PII market, is not writing business for law firms with one to three partners. Affected solicitors should conduct a full market assessment and regularly check the Law Society's insurers guide, which will be updated as new insurers enter the market. You can call our PII helpline on 020 7320 9545 or download our advice guide at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/regulation/pii/guides/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/regulation/pii/guides/)

For all our PI advice and support visit:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/regulation/pii/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/regulation/pii/)

## **Free podcast guide to the revised Public Law Outline**

The revised Public Law Outline (PLO) came into effect on 1 July. In this free half-hour podcast, the president of the Family Division provides an overview of the revised PLO and the introduction of the 26-week time limit to care proceedings.

In order to download the podcast, you'll need to register at our free CPD centre:

<http://cpdcentre.lawsociety.org.uk/course/5448/the-revised-public-law-outline-podcast>

## **Free podcast guide to employment tribunal fees**

On Monday 29 July, a new fee system was introduced to the employment tribunals process. In our free podcast, Jason Latham, deputy director of tribunals at HM Courts & Tribunals Service, explains how the new system will work.

In order to download the podcast, you'll need to register at our free CPD centre:

<http://cpdcentre.lawsociety.org.uk/learning/Family-And-Social-Justice/HTML/index.html>



## Practice notes

### Complaints handling: updated advice

Our updated practice note highlights the importance of good complaints handling and includes advice on:

- how you should investigate a complaint
- how you should respond to a complaint
- the role of the Legal Ombudsman

Read the updated practice note at:

[www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/practice-notes/handling-complaints/](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/advice/practice-notes/handling-complaints/)

## Forthcoming JAC Selection Exercises

Visit [www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/selection-process/selection-exercises/forthcoming.htm](http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/selection-process/selection-exercises/forthcoming.htm) for details of up and coming selection exercises and to subscribe to electronic alerts.

## Electronic newsletters and updates – stay up to date

Visit the our newsletters page to subscribe to update bulletins

<http://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. September 2013*