

Leeds & Yorkshire Lawyer

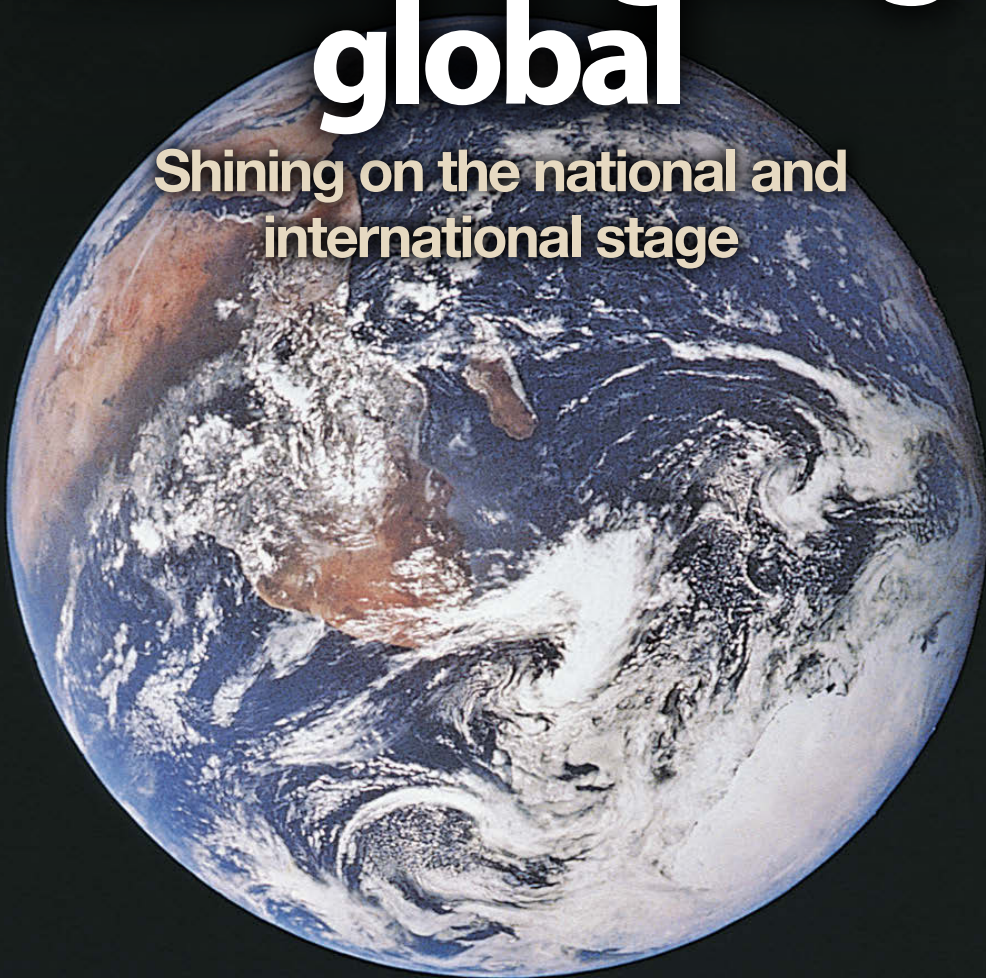
The Official Journal of Leeds Law Society

 Leeds
Law Society

October 2024
Issue 190

Yorkshire going global

Shining on the national and
international stage



Society

President announces
2024/2025 charity

Awards

Yorkshire Legal Awards
finalists announced

Comment

Legal lessons learned
in Venezuela

Community

Are Yorkshire
immigration law firms
at risk of violence?

Leeds JLD

Making national
and international
connections



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Celebrating Leeds' international reach



This issue of Leeds & Yorkshire Lawyer focuses on Leeds' significant and expanding international reach. Leeds has long been recognised as a key player in the UK's legal landscape but has also long made its mark globally.

Earlier this month, I had the distinct privilege of attending events in London to mark the opening of the new legal year, hosted by the Lord Chancellor and invited by the National Law Society and the Bar Council of England and Wales. This included dinner in the stunning Great Hall of Lincoln's Inn, where I joined leaders of other organisations representing legal professionals from 65 jurisdictions, ranging from Poland to Denmark, Texas to New South Wales. It was wonderful to meet such an array of different legal leaders, both to champion the Leeds legal community and to mark what we all shared – a common belief in the importance of the rule of law and proper administration of justice.

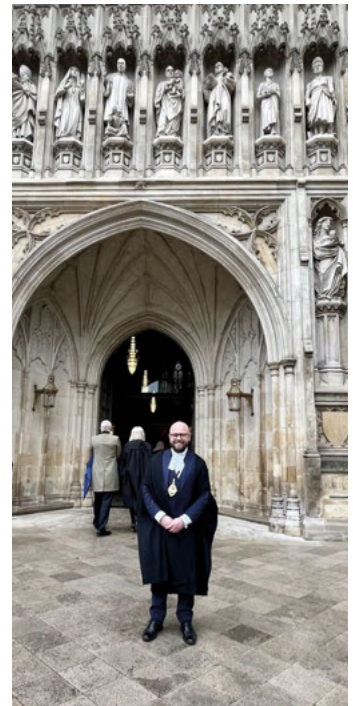
In his remarks at the event, Nick Emmerson, one of my predecessors and the current President of the National Law Society, aptly described law as being "naturally international".

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This reflects that lawyers do not just facilitate global trade; our profession is a substantial industry in its own right, generating c. £60 billion annually and employing c. 550,000 people across the UK.

That international reach takes various forms and spans practice areas. Many Leeds lawyers are engaged in international work, whether that's acting on a cross-border transaction; assisting with an international arbitration; or helping your clients to protect their legal position as they expand into new jurisdictions.

The opening of the legal year also included a service at Westminster Abbey and a procession to the Lord Chancellor's Breakfast at Westminster Hall. The tradition dates to the Middle Ages, back when judges would walk two miles between Westminster Hall and Westminster Abbey for a religious service to pray for wisdom at the beginning of the legal term. Surrounded by beautiful architecture and history, being able to play a small role in this annual custom was genuinely a bit overawing.



Such grand occasions of course have their lighter moments. After leaving Westminster, stepping out into Parliament Square, I found myself amongst a group of bewigged Silks, posing for photographs with Floridian tourists in Parliament Square – a surreal but fun end to the formal parts of the day.

What struck me about my days in London was not only the presence that Leeds can command on the global stage, but also the incredible camaraderie that exists within the legal community.

As we look ahead, it's important that we continue to embrace international opportunities. Leeds is not just a city of legal excellence within the UK – it is a city with a global outlook and ambition. By continuing to foster our connections with our broader legal community, we can continue to ensure that our legal sector thrives, both locally and internationally.



Panel discussion: Impact/potential impact of AI on minority access to and progression within the profession

Wednesday 30 October, 5.30pm to 8pm - Leeds

Leeds Law Society is thrilled to announce the launch of Empower, a networking group for members of the legal sector from minority backgrounds. The purpose of the group is to create a safe space where members can learn from each other, share lived experience, grow together and make new connections in the area. We will also put events on that are open to the entire membership throughout the year.

Sign up on Eventbrite at <https://shorturl.at/GxrHK> or **via the QR code**



President's charity announced

Leeds Law Society is proud to support Children's Heart Surgery Fund as our President's Charity 2024/2025.

President Nigel Brook said, "I am pleased to share that this year Leeds Law Society will be raising funds and trying to boost awareness of the Children's Heart Surgery Fund (CHSF), a local charity doing really important work supporting kids who are undergoing treatment for serious heart issues.

I was recently able to attend the ward at Leeds Children's Hospital and meet staff and patients, to see first-hand the great work being done."

Based in Leeds, Children's Heart Surgery Fund's mission is to support the Leeds Congenital Heart Unit as a world-class centre of excellence – by providing the funding and resources needed to care for a patient's heart, mind, family and future.

Amanda Warrent, corporate partnership manager at the CHSF, said, "We are delighted to welcome Leeds Law Society on board

as a corporate partner to the charity.

"Leeds Law Society help to shape the legal environment nationally and locally. They help to grow one of the most important sectors for our local economy, promote justice and help to attract and retain the talent needed to ensure Leeds continues to be recognised as the biggest legal centre outside of London.

"Their support will have a great impact on our region's young heart patients and their families.

"Our aim is always to make children's experiences of the heart surgery unit a more positive one, helping the whole family to cope and build resilience for the long and emotional journey they face through surgery and treatments.

"We're excited to work on some fundraising endeavours over the next 12 months whilst also raising awareness of our work."



**CHILDREN'S
HEART SURGERY
FUND**

It's trainee season in Yorkshire!

Clarion strengthens its ranks with six newly qualified solicitors

Leeds law firm Clarion has welcomed six newly qualified solicitors into its fold.

The latest cohort includes Charlotte Hudson, who joins the commercial property team, and Emily Prince, who has transitioned into property litigation. Jacob Crooke strengthens the firm's contentious private client practice, while Meg Gartland joins the corporate team. Olivia Storey has qualified into banking, and Sam Atkinson into intellectual

property.

Commenting on the retention of the newly qualified solicitors, Helen Saunders, Clarion's people director, said, "We're excited to retain these six talented individuals as newly qualified solicitors.

"This year's cohort has shown enthusiasm, skill and entrepreneurship, all the key assets we look for in a Clarion team member."

Gordons welcomes new trainee and apprentice solicitors



Leeds and Bradford-based law firm Gordons has bolstered its team with the addition of four new trainee solicitors and two apprentices.

Among the new trainees is Oliver Gillyon, who has already been contributing to the firm as a legal assistant. He is joined by Beth Inman, Dymphna Lewis, and Hafsa Malik, who are all beginning their legal careers with Gordons.

Each of the new trainees has embarked on a two-year training contract, during which they will complete various

seats across the firm's specialisms.

Additionally, Ella Walsh and Kailani Hutchinson have joined the firm as part of its award-winning apprenticeship programme. This pioneering scheme, launched in 2011, was the first of its kind in the UK legal sector, designed to promote greater social mobility by offering hands-on experience alongside academic study. Gordons will fully support both apprentices by covering their salaries and course fees, allowing them to focus on their development.

Commenting on the new appointments, Gordons managing partner, Victoria Davey, said, "We are always very pleased to welcome our new trainee and apprentice solicitors at this time of year. They have already achieved so much to secure their places with the firm as we always have hundreds of quality applicants."

Capsticks celebrates newly qualified solicitors and trainees in Leeds

National firm Capsticks is celebrating the success of its latest group of 11 newly qualified solicitors and trainees. Three are based in its Leeds office.

Among the newly qualified solicitors are Emma Lynch, Lucy Wright, and Sahiba Samra, who completed their two-year training contracts in claims, employment & pensions, and regulatory, respectively.

Capsticks is also welcoming a new group of 13 trainees, including Luke Appleton, who will begin his training contract

in the Leeds advisory team. Many of the trainees have already worked within the firm, gaining valuable experience before beginning their legal training.

Senior partner Rachael Heenan commented, "It's really important to celebrate such important career milestones and give the recognition they deserve.

"I hope to see them continue to thrive at Capsticks for many years to come."

Switalskis' QSP programme welcomes recruits across Yorkshire and London

Yorkshire-based Switalskis, which has a growing presence in London, has welcomed four new aspiring solicitors as part of its qualifying solicitors programme (QSP).

The latest recruits include Emily Bosworth, Sana Mahmood, and Harry Aukett as graduate apprentice solicitors, and Polina Tureac as a trainee solicitor.

Emily, who has worked as a wills advisor in Switalskis' Wakefield office since 2022, begins her training in the wills and probate team. Sana Mahmood, previously a care paralegal at the firm's Bradford office, will start her first seat in the residential conveyancing department. Harry Aukett is the first graduate solicitor apprentice to join Switalskis' London-based clinical negligence team, marking a significant step in the firm's capital expansion. Polina Tureac joins the Clinical

negligence team as a trainee solicitor in the firm's York office.

Switalskis' QSP offers two tailored routes into the legal profession: the graduate solicitor apprenticeship and the traditional training contract. Both options provide a mix of hands-on experience and structured learning, equipping aspiring solicitors with the practical skills required for qualification.



People moves

Wilkin Chapman appoints Chris Crystal as new partner



Wilkin Chapman has appointed Chris Crystal, a specialist commercial property and agricultural lawyer, as its new

partner. Chris Crystal brings over 20 years of experience to the firm, enhancing its real estate capabilities from the Beverley office.

Expressing his enthusiasm for the new role, Chris Crystal said, "It's a pleasure to join the Wilkin Chapman team and I'm looking forward to applying my previous experience to establish new relationships with clients and generate further opportunities for the firm."

Switalskis introduces new role for clinical negligence team

Switalskis has made a key addition to its clinical negligence team. Helen Richardson has joined as the new clinical negligence operations lead. This role was created to support the firm's expanding focus on clinical negligence cases.

Helen, an SRA-qualified solicitor and barrister with Higher Rights of Audience (Civil) qualifications and over 25 years of civil litigation experience, said, "This is an exciting opportunity,

and I'm looking forward to elevating Switalskis' operational focus. I've worked with lawyers at Switalskis in the past, and the company's values align with my own. As clinical negligence operations lead, I'm committed to helping our team provide outstanding service to clients. Everyone has been incredibly supportive and made me feel very welcome."

Brendan Bah joins LCF Law's employment law division

Brendan Bah, a HR professional with nearly 30 years of experience in both public and private sectors, has joined LCF Law's specialist employment law division in Yorkshire.

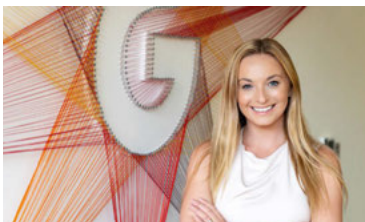
Brendan's extensive background includes roles with prominent organisations such as Leeds Arts University, Fox's Biscuits, Asda, and Leeds and York Partnership NHS Trust.

In his new role at LCF Law's Leeds office, Brendan will serve as an employment law advisor, supporting James Austin, a partner and employment law specialist at LCF Law.

James commented, "Brendan is vastly experienced and will be a great asset to our team."



Gordons appoints first head of privacy and data protection



Gordons has appointed Lauren Wills-Dixon as its first head of privacy and data protection.

Lauren, who joined Gordons four years ago,

will be responsible for ongoing client service delivery and new business generation. Since joining Gordons, Lauren has

specialised in privacy and data protection and commercial contracts across various sectors.

Last year, Lauren passed the Practitioner Certificate in Data Protection (PC.dp) exam, which is the UK's leading practical qualification for data protection professionals. This certification is accredited by the UK Law Society and the Bar Council.

Lauren expressed her excitement about the new role, saying, "It's a privilege to be Gordons' first head of privacy and data protection and to lead an excellent team of practitioners to further enhance this specialist service."

Clarion promotes Stephanie Kaye to partner



Clarion has promoted Stephanie Kaye to partner in the costs and litigation funding team.

Stephanie joined Clarion as a paralegal in 2013. Since then, she has earned a strong reputation for her networking skills and expertise. Chambers and Partners named Stephanie a 'Rising Star' in 2020. For the past three years, she has been recognised as a 'Leading Individual'.

Roger Hutton, joint managing partner at Clarion, commented on the promotion: "Stephanie has gone from strength to strength since joining Clarion 11 years ago. It's no surprise and yet no mean feat that Stephanie has now moved into the role of partner – a role I know she'll thrive in."

Minster Law promotes new director of legal practice

Wakefield-based personal injury firm Minster Law has promoted Stuart Hanley to director of legal practice. Hanley, who joined the firm in 2012, will report directly to CEO Shirley Woolham.

Hanley's extensive background includes membership on the SRA/Law Society personal injury and clinical negligence panels and the AvMA clinical negligence panel. He is also an

SRA-approved training principal, committed to increasing access and diversity within the legal sector.

Hanley, a seasoned solicitor with over 30 years of experience in personal injury and clinical negligence, said, "I'm honoured to take up this role at Minster Law. I'm proud of being a personal injury lawyer and of working for a business dedicated to helping injured people and their families."

Parklane Plowden adds barrister to family team

Leeds-based Parklane Plowden Chambers has welcomed experienced barrister Emma Gough to its family law team. Emma, called to the Bar in 2004, joins from Dere Street Barristers, where she practiced for 19 years across Newcastle and York.

Gough specialises in private children cases and financial remedy proceedings. Her practice includes complex family law matters, such as parental alienation, intractable hostility, and international relocation.

Parklane Plowden senior practice director, Stephen Render, commented, "Emma has a vast amount of experience dealing

with complex, sensitive cases which require unique skills to support clients and ensure successful outcomes.

"We are pleased to have her on the family set which has seen significant expansion over the last 12 months with new door tenants and former pupils accepting tenancy."



Rising stars Bird and Bloom earn promotions at Rollits



Rollits LLP has promoted two trainee solicitors, Millie Bird and Molly Bloom, who followed different paths into law.

Millie joined Rollits as a paralegal in 2021 and began her training contract in 2023. She has now secured a role in the dispute resolution department. Molly first connected with the firm

through a summer work experience programme in 2019, starting her training contract in 2022, and has now joined the employment law team.

Both have strong academic records. Millie, a graduate of the University of Law in Leeds, earned first-class honours in 2019 and completed the LPC with distinction. Molly, an alumnus of the University of Hull, also graduated with first-class honours and later earned an MSc in business management before completing her LPC.

Ralph Gilbert, Rollits' managing partner, said, "As a firm, we're committed to encouraging and facilitating various avenues into the legal profession. It's incredibly satisfying to see people take these opportunities.

"I'm delighted to see both of them progress, and we look forward to helping them achieve success in their chosen profession."



Key risks and practical actions when integrating AI into your legal practice

AI has become the business buzzword of 2024, but it's often misunderstood, with its capabilities sometimes overstated. This article from **Callum MacLean** at **Miller Insurance Services LLP** outlines the key risks and provides practical steps for integrating AI into your legal practice.

Use cases for AI

A recent Lexis Nexis survey identified research, drafting documents, document analysis, and client reporting as top AI use cases in legal practice. But the opportunities extend further: Miller has seen firms using AI for conflict checks, AML processes, and compliance reporting. AI is also transforming support roles, recruitment, marketing, and finance by streamlining resource-heavy functions.

Five key risks

1. Accuracy

Generative AI tools (like ChatGPT) are essentially sophisticated predictive text. They combine data and statistical probabilities and parrot back, with a degree of randomness. Run the same search request on ChatGPT seven times, and you will likely get seven different responses. This engineered 'creativity' means they can 'hallucinate', i.e. give results that sound convincing but are in fact inaccurate. Their lack of access to real-time data can further affect legal research.

2. Bias and data integrity

AI results are only as reliable as the data put in. Algorithms predicting litigation success may replicate biases from historical cases. Recruitment AI has also been found to aggravate inherent (often unconscious) biases. Corrupted data sets pose additional risks, and AI's lack of transparency makes identifying problems difficult. Because AI tools don't 'show their workings', it can be difficult to spot where problematic results are being generated.

3. Over-reliance

AI may be an attractive alternative to senior lawyer time, but it might miss important nuances. For example, an AI-generated Report on Title, while factually correct, failed to adequately flag the significance of a separate title containing the mineral rights, which, in the context of a development site, was all-important.

4. Data breaches

Using AI carelessly can expose confidential data. When input into tools like Chat GPT, data is often 'scraped' and fed to the AI for learning purposes. Use inappropriate tools, or tools inappropriately, and you could face regulatory censure and client claims.

5. Fraud and cyber crime

For every cyber security enhancement AI brings, there will be an AI-enabled cyber threat. Deepfakes (whether emails, calls, or documents) will convince clients and colleagues alike – and take fraud threats to a new level.

Four practical action points

1. Embed an AI strategy

AI should be part of your management agenda. Consider how it aligns with your firm's niche, price-sensitivity, and growth strategy. Update your risk register to include AI risks, and set criteria for selecting AI tools, considering factors like: quality and security accreditations (ISO27001 for example); location of servers for GDPR purposes; use of data; track-record and credentials as a legal services supplier; Service Level Agreement terms, and contractual protections available.

2. Update your policies and procedures

Determine which AI tools are appropriate for your firm and update Acceptable Use, Data Protection, and IT policies accordingly. Ensure staff know which tools are approved and restrict access to unauthorised ones. Review your Terms of Business and Letter of Engagement precedents to reflect AI usage.

3. Training

The quality of output from AI tools is dependent on the quality of the search parameters. Provide training on using AI effectively and securely, and ensure staff are aware of potential fraud and scam threats related to AI.

4. Build in additional checks

AI outputs should be reviewed by experienced fee-earners. If possible, build in a 'second pair of eyes' sign-off on AI outputs within your case management system to ensure an audit trail. This can be achieved manually if required.

Conclusion

AI is here to stay, and the technology is advancing at extraordinary pace. Most firms will have to adopt AI to stay competitive – but it's important to have a structured and planned adoption, supported by regular training.

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Senior solicitor Haroon Qayum joins Roche Legal



York-based firm Roche Legal has announced the appointment of senior solicitor Haroon Qayum. Yorkshire born and bred, Qayum joins from LCF Law in Harrogate, where he was previously a partner. Qayum, a specialist in advising family business owners, commented, "This

is an ideal moment to join Roche Legal. Over 80% of British businesses are family businesses, and these range from small businesses to multi-million-pound operations. I specialise in advice for family business owners."

Gary Lumby MBE, CEO of Roche Legal, added, "I am delighted that Haroon has agreed to join us at an important time in the company as we increase investment in people, marketing and technology to continue our high growth journey."

Gordons strengthens property disputes practice with senior hire

Gordons, which has offices in Leeds and Bradford, has appointed Paul Joyce as the new head of its property disputes practice.

Joyce, an experienced property litigation lawyer, joins the firm from Womble Bond Dickinson's Leeds office, bringing with him 13 years of expertise in the field.

Commercial property partner, Sarah Ratcliffe, noted, "Paul

is a great hire for Gordons and we are delighted to welcome him to the team. He has an ideal combination of technical expertise and sector experience.

"As a firm that focuses on providing excellent client service and building strong and lasting client relationships, Paul and his property disputes team will play a crucial role in making that happen."

Lupton Fawcett expands leadership team with new partner

Lupton Fawcett has appointed Julie Evans as a new partner in its commercial property department. Julie, who joins from Clarion, brings over 20 years of experience in commercial property law, including expertise in landlord and tenant matters. She will also mentor junior team members and collaborate with leadership to grow the department.

Julie said, "I'm looking forward to playing a key role in the supervision of junior members of the department as well as working with the leadership team to grow the commercial property department."

"Prior to joining the firm, I was invited to spend time with the team so that we could get to know each other before my official start date – I think this was such a positive approach and a really warm welcome to Lupton Fawcett."

She will be based in Lupton Fawcett's Leeds office.

James Richardson, managing partner at Lupton Fawcett, said, "[Julie's] no-nonsense approach to serving our clients without compromise perfectly complements the Lupton Fawcett ethos."



Kennedys announces Yorkshire promotions amid global appointments

Kennedys has announced 97 senior promotions globally, with notable advancements in its Yorkshire offices.

In Leeds, Kennedys has promoted several senior figures, including Mark Cordingley, who has been elevated to legal director in the insurance division. Liam Bedford, Emma Cahill, and Susan Tindall have been promoted to senior associates within the liability defence team, alongside Rachel Durant and Robert Blair, who have also been recognised for their

contributions in liability defence and insurance, respectively.

Further down south, Kadie Cooper at the firm's Sheffield office has been promoted to legal director. Simon Allen, Laki Breze, and Hazel Milner in the Sheffield liability defence team were promoted, as well as Charlotte Orchard on the healthcare side of the business.

Georgina Gibbon joins Rollits property department

A solicitor who began her legal career at her grandfather's firm has joined the property department at Rollits LLP.

For nearly a decade, Georgina Gibbon has specialised in property law at BG Solicitors, a firm founded in 1944 by Tom Beetenson and her grandfather Lawrence Gibbon. She has worked across Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire and became partner in charge of the firm's property department in 2022.

Neil Franklin, partner and head of property at Rollits, said, "I am delighted that Georgina has joined our team and I look forward to working alongside her in looking after clients from Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and beyond."



Legal Studio welcomes Dominic Clark as consultant solicitor

Legal Studio has appointed Dominic Clark as a consultant solicitor, bringing expertise in commercial contracts, legal operations, and legal technology. Dominic joined the firm on 2 September 2024 and will help expand its service offerings in these areas.

With extensive experience in negotiating and drafting commercial, corporate, procurement, and other agreements, Dominic has worked across sectors such as retail, finance, technology, healthcare, and property management. His

career includes private practice, in-house roles, and leadership positions, including head of legal and working with an Alternative Legal Service Provider.

Legal Studio, a Leeds-based consultancy-model law firm, founded in 2014, anticipates benefiting from Dominic's established client base and expanding its reach in commercial contracts.

Harrowells Solicitors appoints two new directors



Harrowells Solicitors, which is based in North and East Yorkshire, has announced the promotion of Matthew Hayward and Matt Rowley to the role of directors.

Matthew Hayward, head of commercial property, has been with Harrowells since 2014. With a wealth of expertise in acquisitions, disposals, and property development, Matthew has played a pivotal role in advising both landlords and tenants on complex leasehold issues.

Matt Rowley, head of commercial, joined the firm as a trainee solicitor 12 years ago. Over the years, he has built a reputation for advising national and international clients on corporate matters, including mergers, acquisitions, and disposals. His work also extends to providing legal guidance on partnership agreements, commercial contracts, and franchise arrangements.

The newly appointed directors will now work closely with managing director Robert Onyett to shape the firm's future strategic direction.

Yorkshire immigration law firms threatened during riots

In early October 2024, a list containing the names and addresses of up to 60 immigration solicitors surfaced on the messaging app Telegram, sparking fears of violence against legal professionals in Yorkshire and beyond.

The list, shared with the phrase “no more immigration,” caused significant alarm. This is despite the fact that some addresses were found to be incorrect, including one belonging to an elderly woman.

The Law Society of England and Wales described the list as a “very credible threat” and warned of potential disturbances.

Yorkshire immigration law firms were particularly concerned, as the region experienced far-right unrest targeting mosques and hotels housing asylum seekers.

Police advised lawyers on the list to bolster security, including working remotely and securing office spaces.

No fears of violence against law firms were realised. Yet the threats have left many legal professionals worried for their safety and have, for many, highlighted the ongoing dangers faced by immigration lawyers amid rising anti-immigration sentiment.

Secerna hosts taster day for future patent attorneys

Secerna LLP, an intellectual property firm, hosted its fourth annual taster day in August.

The day aimed to inspire and empower future patent attorneys by offering a glimpse into the work of a patent attorney within a private practice firm.

Five undergraduate students took part in practical exercises that highlighted key skills needed for client projects. They also had the opportunity to interact with and shadow Secerna team members, providing insights into the daily responsibilities of a patent attorney and the path to qualification.

Madeleine Jackson, a natural sciences student at the

University of Leeds, said, “The taster day was an incredible learning experience. Along with other students, I had the opportunity to hear from various Secerna employees who shared their insights on different aspects of a career in intellectual property (IP). The presentations were enlightening, providing a deep dive into what Secerna stands for and some of the exciting hot topics currently shaping the industry.”



Rollits to host free charity and education sector breakfast briefings



Rollits LLP is set to provide valuable insights for leaders in the charity and education sectors through a series of free breakfast briefings.

The sessions, taking place at Rollits’ Hull office on High Street from 9:00 to 10:30 am for charities and 8:00 to 10:00 am for education, will cover a range of pressing issues:

Charity briefings

Wednesday 16 October – Management and prevention of serious incidents

Wednesday 12 February – Trustees’ legal duties regarding data protection

Wednesday 30 April – Practical steps charities can take to mitigate risks to staff and volunteers

Education briefings

Thursday 7 November – Risks posed by social media and smartphone use

Thursday 30 January – Effective governance

Thursday 3 April – ‘A Positive Approach to Menopause’ for schools

Leeds property lawyer Rodney Dalton passes away at 78

The Leeds business community is mourning the loss of renowned property lawyer Rodney Dalton, who passed away peacefully on 9 September following a brief illness.

Known for his expertise in property law and his vibrant personality, Rodney was a well-recognised figure across the city.

Rodney’s legal career began in the late 1960s when he trained as an articled clerk before becoming a solicitor and partner at his uncle’s firm, S R Dalton & Co. In 1995, he made a move to Brooke North, where he led the property department until 2011. His career continued at Lupton Fawcett, where he worked diligently until shortly before his

passing.

Colleagues and friends remember Rodney not only for his legal acumen but also for his charm and larger-than-life presence

“He was a character from the start, always impeccably dressed and a regular at Sous-le-Nez, enjoying fine food and a bottle of red,” recalled Ben Hardy, a former colleague. “His legendary lunches and the laughter that often emerged from his office made him a central figure in the firm.”

Beyond his professional life, Rodney was devoted to his family. He leaves behind his wife, Helen, and their children, Claudia and Henry, of whom he was immensely proud.

Ison Harrison opens new office in Selby

Yorkshire law firm Ison Harrison has launched its 20th office in Selby. The new office, located on Brook Street, will be managed by Daniel Kenwrothy.

The opening is part of the firm's strategy to strengthen its regional presence, following recent openings in Wakefield, Doncaster, and Queensbury.

Jonathan Wearing, managing partner at Ison Harrison, expressed his enthusiasm for the firm's growth: "This is our 20th office and our fourth since becoming employee-owned in just over two years. We're delighted to have opened two new offices in the first half of this year and completed the recent acquisition of established Leeds firm, Cohen Cramer."

He added, "This latest office sees us further strengthening our reputation in Yorkshire, providing an even wider range of legal expertise through our expanding network of offices."



Wake Smith Solicitors launches new mediation service for commercial disputes



Sheffield-based Wake Smith Solicitors has introduced a new mediation service to resolve commercial disputes outside of court. Led by experienced litigator and qualified mediator Mike Doherty, the service aims to offer businesses a less adversarial and more efficient way to settle litigation.

Mike Doherty is now a member of the Associate Member of the Civil Mediation Council. His role as a mediator is to facilitate agreement, not adjudicate, helping parties avoid the cost, time, and emotional strain of litigation.

Truth Legal steps up to aid asylum seekers

Harrogate-based Truth Legal has introduced legal aid services for asylum and immigration cases, starting 1 September. Specialising in immigration, personal injury, and more, the firm's move follows a rise in far-right attacks on migrants and immigration lawyers.

With 63% of the UK lacking access to immigration legal aid, including no provision in Harrogate, Truth Legal aims to fill the gap.

A spokesperson for Truth Legal commented, "Despite the bureaucratic challenges and low remuneration associated

with legal aid work, we are committed to taking on a select number of cases to ensure the highest standards of legal representation. We urge the government to improve legal aid funding, enabling more providers to offer this essential support.

"Truth Legal remains steadfast in our commitment to justice for all. We will not be intimidated by threats and will continue to defend the rights of asylum seekers in the UK."

Lupton Fawcett relocates Sheffield team to city centre hub



Lupton Fawcett has relocated its Sheffield team to a new office space in the heart of the city.

The team is now based in the modern Cubo office building on Carver Street, part of Sheffield's Heart of the City development.

James Richardson, managing partner at Lupton Fawcett, expressed enthusiasm for the move: "Our move to the vibrant and modern Cubo Sheffield marks an exciting new chapter for the firm in the city."

Ancora Law moves into restored Beverley building

East Yorkshire-based Ancora Law, which started as a one-man firm nearly five years ago, has grown to a team of six and moved from a 700 sq ft office to a 3,000 sq ft suite in the newly renovated Minster House.

The firm provides legal services across Yorkshire and beyond, specialising in commercial and residential property law.

Minster House, originally built in 1816 as a warehouse for the Hodgson Tannery, has been transformed into a modern office space.

Founder and managing director Matt Hudson explained that the move reflects the firm's continued success and ambition: "We have grown year on year since our inception at the beginning of 2020. We felt that now was the time to recognise our growth and invest in an office space that is fit for the future."



Sills & Betteridge rebrands and relocates to Sheffield

Sills & Betteridge LLP has strengthened its foothold in Sheffield following a rebrand and relocation. The firm, which merged with Acclaimed Family Law in January 2023, has officially opened its new office in New Oxford House, Barker's Pool, in the city's vibrant 'Heart of the City' Quarter.

To celebrate the occasion, Tigers Rugby Union star James Norman was present at the launch. The firm will now operate under the name Sills & Betteridge Incorporating Acclaimed Family Law in Sheffield.

Speaking about the move, Michelle Cooper, partner and founder of Acclaimed Family Law, expressed her excitement about the transition to the new premises:

"Our relocation to larger, prestigious offices in a prime part of Sheffield is an exciting step for the Acclaimed Family Law team. Now, as part of Sills & Betteridge, our clients will have access to a wider range of complementary legal services under one roof, ensuring all their legal needs are met."

Making national and international connections

Rachael Barthel, Leeds Junior Lawyers Division's Charity and Education Officer, is a trainee solicitor at Clarion in Leeds. Rachael explains the importance of junior networking to make national and international connections.

Leeds Junior Lawyers Division (LJLD), for those who are not familiar, is a non-profit organisation operating on a local and national level. LJLD allows members to develop relationships across the legal community by organising networking, training and educational events for junior lawyers in Leeds and Yorkshire (for members 5 years PQE or less, including paralegals, aspiring barristers, pupils and trainee solicitors).

LJLD at Local and National Level

Whilst LJLD does not operate at an international level, we have hundreds of active members from multiple different firms across Leeds and Yorkshire who are leading in national and international work. Many firms who encourage their junior lawyers to be a part of LJLD have international offerings including Hong Kong, Africa, America and Canada and / or are part of international legal networks including but not limited to Lex Mundi, Meritas or Terralex. Some firms use the 'best friend' law firm approach whereby work is cross-referred back on legal rankings and similarity in values.

Networking Events

LJLD are hosting a number of junior networking events to get our colleagues and peers talking about their international work and outreach. Our events are crucial in creating professional connections at the junior level to foster personal and internal business growth.

Our events coming up in October include a Felt Event for members from firms with fewer than 10 trainees on 2 October 2024. This allows members from our smaller in size firms to network and engage with others and discuss the approach their firms to international strategy.

We also have a Wellness in the Workplace Event on 8 October 2024 at Brabners' Leeds Office. Whilst this is a wellness event, members are encouraged to discuss their national and international work opportunities, connections and approach in Leeds and further afield and share technical knowledge and any lessons relevant to them in their junior roles.

Our events are well attended by members from different sized firms (some with international offices and some not) and members have varying degrees of seniority. Members are therefore encouraged to share wisdom and tips as well as providing an opportunity for business development and networking.

International Networking Event

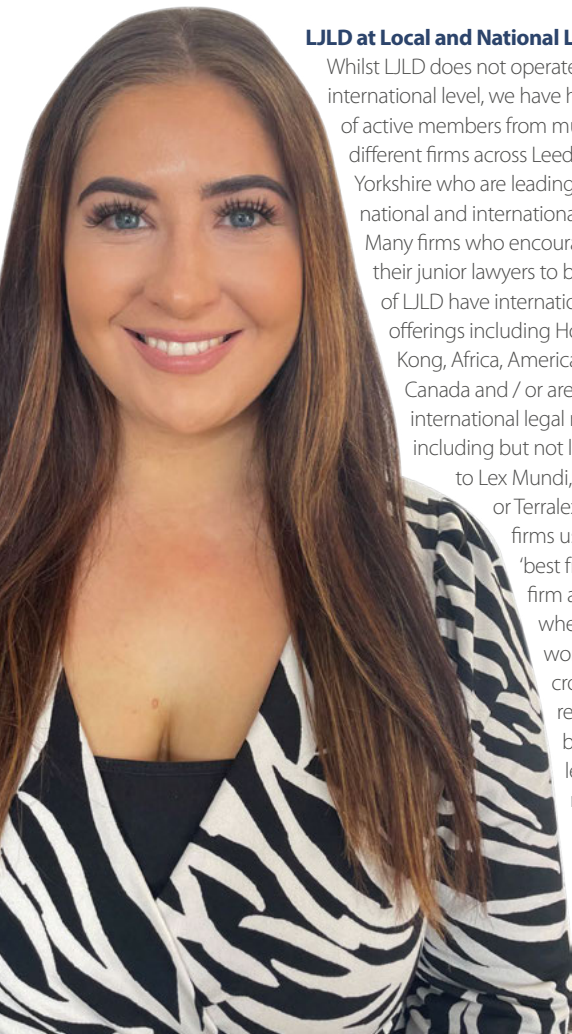
We also have a 'watch this space' for an international arbitration event taking place in the coming months with 33 Bedford Row Chambers exploring the contentious issues in international work, encouraging members to discuss their international network contacts, best friend firms and chambers.

Yorkshire Going Global / More Information

It is now more prevalent than ever that firms can have solid Yorkshire roots, local clients and also be trusted by clients all over the world to provide legal advice on complex legal matters. At LJLD we are a leading platform for networking and building international relationships at the junior level in the legal industry for cross-referral of work and knowledge sharing which members can invest in throughout their legal careers.

If you would like to read more about LJLD or see our networking events please go to leedsjld.com/events

If you are interested in becoming a member of LJLD visit leedsjld.com/membership to check if you are eligible. You can also sign up to our mailing list to be notified of events for non-members too.



Regulatory update

Andrea Cohen, legal director at Weightmans, gives her new regular update.

Welcome to the first Compli update, a round-up of developments in the world of risk and compliance, an overview of recent disciplinary decisions and updates from the regulatory sector.

SRA AML inspections

We are aware from clients that the SRA is making good on its promise to increase the number of AML inspections. Once the responses to the AML and sanctions questionnaire are analysed, there could be a further surge, possibly to include firms outside scope of MLR in relation to compliance with the sanctions regime, in relation to which the SRA has updated its guidance.

Now is the time to check that your firm-wide risk assessment (FWRA) and policies, controls, and procedures (PCPs) are up to date, processes are being followed and recorded, and, if you've not yet had one, arrange an independent AML audit or book your next one.

Continuing competence requirements

Following an increase in reports to the SRA in several areas, including Family and Landlord and Tenant law, the SRA will be looking into if, and how, solicitors in these areas are maintaining their competence, by carrying out thematic inspections and training record reviews, in addition to the rolling programme of AML inspections, forensic investigations, etc. The SRA confirms it will monitor the declaration on the practising certificate application and do spot checks.

Publications/guidance

The SRA and Law Society publish useful information, but a common complaint is that there is often little/no publicity, and they can be difficult to find. Recent publications by The Law Society on the website ([lawsociety.org.uk/topics](https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics)) include:

- Protection for solicitors against targeted attacks
- Money laundering risks and threats
- Professional enablers
- Conflict of interests
- What to do when the law firm you work for is closing down
- Suspicious activity reports

Dates for your diary

- 1 - 31 October - Practising certificates and registration renewals.
- 5 November – SRA Compliance Officers Conference in Birmingham (virtual conference 25 – 28 November).

Disciplinary and regulatory decisions

There have been number of decisions and judgments reported recently, including:

- **Fined for allowing client account to be used as banking facility** - A firm has been fined over £36,000 and its COFA rebuked for allowing its client account to be used as a banking facility, having self-reported that \$4.1 million was paid into and out of its client account on behalf of a corporate client with no underlying transaction.
- **Fined for MLR breaches** - Failure to have a FWRA or PCPs between June 2017 and January 2020, followed by 4 years when they were inadequate and failing to carry out client and matter risk assessments between June 2017 and February 2024, led to resulted in a fine of £3,711 and costs of £600.
- **Suspended for 12 months for misleading court** - A solicitor has been suspended for a year for signing a statement of truth on a witness statement which contained an assertion she knew was misleading, and failing to tell a client, its insurer and her firm that a defence and counterclaim had been struck out and an adverse costs order had been made against the insurer. The SDT said the suspension was 'required... to send a deterrent message to solicitors who found themselves in a similar predicament.'
- **Struck off for misusing client funds** - A solicitor who used monies received for disbursements to pay running costs, breached an undertaking, and moved firms without telling his clients, has been struck off and ordered to pay almost £40,000 costs.

Struck off for dishonesty

A solicitor whose employment was terminated for falsifying emails and then 'falsely represented the reason for her departure' when applying to another firm has been struck off and ordered to pay £5000 costs.

Fined for refusing to give breath samples

Two solicitors have been fined £5,569 and £6,345 respectively by the SRA following convictions for failing to provide a breath sample after a car accident.

How Compli can help...

The Compli Solicitor Regulatory and Professional Discipline Team can provide expertise and advice on risk and compliance, AML, disciplinary assistance etc. If we can help in any way, please get in touch at compl@weightmans.com



COURT ENFORCEMENT SERVICES●

Court Enforcement services achieves outstanding client satisfaction in recent survey

Court Enforcement Services is proud to announce the success of our recent client satisfaction survey, which highlights the dedication and professionalism of our team. In a year marked by continued success, the survey results are a testament to our commitment to providing an ethical, efficient, and client-focused approach to high court enforcement.

Since the end of the pandemic, we have successfully collected over £105 million, a milestone that reflects our operational efficiency and expertise in managing. Having ethically enforced over 100,000 writs of control, we are committed to upholding the highest standards of service and practice within the enforcement industry.

The results of our client satisfaction survey reflect this commitment:

- 100% of clients agreed that Court Enforcement Services is an approachable, client-focused, and professional high court enforcement partner. This recognition underscores the close relationships we build with our clients, ensuring their needs are met through personalised support and clear communication.
- Over 95% of clients agreed that we achieve writs in a quick and timely manner, reinforcing our ability to deliver results swiftly without compromising on the quality or care of our services.
- 100% of clients reported that their client account manager is attentive and knowledgeable, a key factor in the trust our clients place in us. Our account managers are equipped to handle diverse and often complex situations, providing clients with expert advice and continuous support throughout the enforcement process.

- Over 96.5% of clients agreed that we report adequately and promptly on their instructions. This reflects our strong focus on transparency and ensuring clients are kept informed at every stage of the enforcement process, fostering trust and collaboration.

These survey results reinforce the values that have made us a leader in high court enforcement—efficiency, ethical practice, and a deep commitment to our clients' success. We are extremely proud of our team's hard work, dedication, and the trust that our clients have placed in us over the years.

As part of our continued commitment to the legal sector, we are delighted to be sponsoring the Litigation Team of the Year at the upcoming Yorkshire Legal Awards. This prestigious event brings together some of the most influential figures in the legal community, and we look forward to celebrating the achievements of the sector and continuing to strengthen our partnerships.

Court Enforcement Services remains committed to excellence, ensuring that we not only meet but exceed our clients' expectations in the future. We are grateful for the confidence placed in us and are eager to continue delivering outstanding results for our client base in Yorkshire and beyond.

**For further information, please contact:
BD@courtenforcementservices.co.uk**

A Venezuelan snapshot

James Staton is litigation solicitor and partner at Schofield Sweeney, and current president of the Yorkshire Union of Law Societies.



YORKSHIRE
UNION OF
LAW SOCIETIES

When I was asked to contribute an article which fitted in with the theme of Yorkshire Going Global, I instantly thought about Venezuela. I spent a month there in May 2013, and it's very much in the news since the disputed 2024 presidential election.

July 28 this year saw opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrita secure millions of votes, yet the National Electoral Commission (CNE) declared incumbent president Nicolas Maduro the winner. The CNE has published no voter returns as the electoral law says it should. Mr Maduro appealed to the Supreme Tribunal of Justice (STJ) for a ruling on the result and it approved his 'victory'.

I visited Venezuela shortly after Maduro's 2013 election victory, as part of a Rotary-sponsored team aimed at fostering international understanding. As well as giving presentations about Yorkshire, the team members made a number of vocational visits. Being a lawyer, I was able to meet lawyers and judges, visit courts and law schools.

Venezuela is a country with a legal code, not a common law jurisdiction.

I arrived in Maracaibo, the second city and centre of the oil industry, where I visited the local law society, the Colegio de Abogados for the state of Zulia. The Colegio had been founded in 1894 and was the first such professional society in the country. Unlike our Yorkshire local law societies, it offered not just professional support but acted as a disciplinary body, provided professional indemnity insurance, sports facilities and a swimming pool!

I visited the civil tribunals centre, including the equivalent of the Employment Appeal Tribunal. Interestingly, the Venezuelan employment law field had even at that time made mediation a compulsory step in the employment law process so that the parties had to try to settle their dispute. The case would only go to a hearing if that mediation failed - a step ahead of the UK, where only last year the Court of Appeal said that the courts here have the power to force the parties to mediate in appropriate cases, and only recently that mediation has become compulsory in the small claims system.

I visited two law schools, in Valencia and Maracaibo. Their system is different to here, although the differences are narrowing with the coming of the SQE and legal apprenticeships. In Venezuela, students study for four years, but in that time, they must accumulate a significant amount of professional experience by working in legal practices, so they have sufficient experience to come out of university and go straight into practice as a fully-fledged lawyer. Interestingly, students also have to undertake charitable or community work during their course.

I met a number of judges during the month. While UK judges maintain independence, I was told that in Venezuela many judicial appointments are linked to the ruling United Socialist Party (PSUV). I met an employment judge who had been a soldier, but became a judge thanks to his links to the PSUV. Judges were reportedly instructed to appear available during the 2013 election disputes but were not to hear the cases.

That is the most striking difference between here and Venezuela. Our judges are completely independent and often find against the government. In contrast, Transparency International once described Venezuela's judiciary as the most corrupt in the world, and the UN has questioned the impartiality and independence of the STJ. Its head, Carysliia Rodriguez, is a PSUV member who is on the record as saying that she is, "a woman committed to the revolution, loyal to [Chavez and] President Maduro."

At the moment Venezuela is in turmoil with the government adopting more repressive measures, ignoring the rule of law and human rights and using the judicial system to maintain itself in power. I hope that before long real justice will prevail.



Looking for Moore

Fiona Moore of Moore Family Law in Skipton ponders the difficulty in recruiting experienced family law solicitors outside cities in the Yorkshire region.

Founded by Fiona Moore in 2013, Moore Family Law has been busy helping dales families to traverse the difficult terrain of separation and divorce for more than a decade. Highly regarded in the busy market town on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales, the practice values its reputation for providing an efficient and reassuring service for clients who are at their most vulnerable. Yet growing the team has been a perennial challenge over the years.

Fiona explains:

It seems to be a bit of a self-fulfilling prophecy that lawyers train and cut their teeth in the cities, falling into work at large corporate firms without exploring options further afield.

The reality is that working for smaller firms in towns fed by rural areas actually delivers a far better quality of life. As part of a team dedicated to a particular legal sector, it's possible to automatically be a big fish in a small pond, with a much more rewarding and pivotal role in a practice.

Family law is a specialist area of the legal profession requiring a particular blend of empathy paired with professional qualifications. In our case, there is also a difference in the client base due to our location, which is predominantly a blend of farming community, professional services and tourism employees. Our clients live in a beautiful location with generations of families living locally, contrasting with city environments which tend to have a much more transient population.

As a result, we work with many families who genuinely want to resolve matters rather than seeing it as commercially transactional and automatically adversarial situation. They are often going through considerable emotional trauma and it's our job to present them with options and prepare a path for them to make a transition.

It means the work is hugely varied and rewarding, taking in all aspects of family law; finances, children, divorce, separation, pre-nups, post-nups and even grandparents rights. We conduct all the necessary legal steps to disentangling a relationship: divorce and all its ramifications, handling the fair distribution of assets and pensions to ensure short and long term financial stability.



Most importantly we work to minimise the impact of separation on children. Their welfare is paramount and we assist with issues ranging from living and visiting arrangements through to financial maintenance for their upbringing.

Skipton is fast becoming unusual in that it retains its own magistrates' court, where many have closed. The distances required to travel to another court saved Skipton from closure when local MP Julian Smith highlighted that travelling from Bentham to Harrogate or Bradford court appointments was not actually viable in time on public transport. Skipton Court's reprieve represents a huge benefit to solicitors working here in the town and our clients.

Another string to our bow is that we are the only legal practice in the Dales area to offer a mediation service. As an accredited mediator I receive mediation referrals from other professionals as well as direct from new clients. Couples looking for this service are invited to attend joint meetings which are not counselling or marriage guidance, simply impartial help to find workable compromise and solutions objectively without emotional heat or bias. We cannot go onto represent someone if I have acted as their mediator.

Due to a member of our team retiring, we're looking to bring another qualified family lawyer on board at Moore Family Law to join us in our fulfilling and sensitive work. Applicants with all levels of post-qualification experience are welcome for full time roles as we offer a rewarding and nurturing environment for those at the start of their career and a relaxed, friendly team of colleagues for more senior solicitors.

Commuting to – or from – the bright lights is easy as Skipton has a direct line into Leeds taking only 45 minutes. Currently our paralegal, who came from London, commutes daily from Leeds and loves the scenic run as a relaxing chance to ease in and out of the working day.

We offer our clients meetings in person and on online platforms such as Zoom and Teams. The role is office based in a lovely C19th century building on Rectory Lane in the centre of Skipton. It's an attractive and busy market town with plenty to offer as a gateway to the Dales and a springboard for enjoying Wharfedale, which has graced our TV scenes lately as the home of All Creatures Great & Small.



MOORE FAMILY LAW

www.moorefamilylaw.co.uk

28 Rectory Lane, Skipton, BD23 1ER

Yorkshire businesses rally for charity at annual golf day



Businesses from across the Yorkshire region participated in a golf day to support Dove House Hospice and Muscular Dystrophy UK (MDUK). The event, held at Brough Golf Club and organised by Rollits LLP, has been a

staple for nearly four decades.

Pat Coyle, marketing and client relations director at Rollits, commented, "The level of interest from our clients and contacts was enormous and we were actually over-subscribed! But we managed to fit everybody in and the all-round effort from everyone concerned enabled us to raise over £4,500, which will be shared by the charities."

Rollits has now raised nearly £160,000 over the years from 36 golf days and one Covid-enforced virtual event.

Leigh Day tackle 3 Peak challenge to support Day One Trauma

As part of their commitment to supporting those affected by major physical trauma, Leigh Day participated in the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge to raise funds for Day One Trauma.

Day One Trauma is a charitable organisation dedicated to assisting individuals affected by major physical trauma in rebuilding their lives.

As part of its fundraising efforts, Day One Trauma organised a Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge in June. The event involved climbing Pen-y-ghent, Wharfedale, and Ingleborough within 12 hours, covering a 40 km circuit with over 5,000 feet of ascent.

Despite challenging weather conditions, including heavy rain and poor visibility, participants remained committed to completing the challenge. The group faced arduous climbs and treacherous descents, earning their refreshments upon return to Horton-in-Ribblesdale. The Leigh Day team successfully raised

£1,391 for the cause.

Bethany Sanders, head of Leigh Day's Leeds office said, "Taking part in the Yorkshire 3 Peaks



Challenge was an incredible experience for our team. It was not just about reaching the finish line, but about supporting an organisation providing essential services to those who have suffered major trauma. We are proud to support Day One Trauma's mission and to help raise funds for their invaluable work."

Taylor Emmet sponsors new assistance dog from Battersea



South Yorkshire law firm, Taylor Emmet, has sponsored the training of a new assistance dog for Sheffield-based charity, Support Dogs.

The three-month-old labrador, named Emmet, was rescued by Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. Thanks to the firm's financial support, Emmet has now joined Support Dogs,

a charity that trains assistance dogs for children with autism, as well as adults with epilepsy or physical disabilities.

Taylor Emmet has been a long-time supporter of Support Dogs, raising money through skydives, family fundraisers, bake sales, and sponsored walks. The firm's commitment was highlighted at their 2024 Annual Conference, where Emmet's arrival was officially announced.

Josh Proud, marketing manager at Taylor Emmet, said, "Our staff have made a real effort to raise funds over the past two years, and we are honoured that they are naming their latest recruit, 'Emmet'. We look forward to watching his progress."

Ison Harrison launches free legal aid services across Yorkshire

Leeds-based law firm Ison Harrison is expanding its legal aid services to provide vital support to vulnerable individuals across Yorkshire, particularly those affected by domestic abuse, care proceedings, and child arrangement orders.

Starting in September, Ison Harrison is offering free legal clinics and workshops across several Yorkshire locations, including Leeds, York, Doncaster, Wakefield, Barnsley, Castleford, and Huddersfield. These clinics aim to ensure that local communities have access to expert legal advice, especially for complex family law issues.

The firm has partnered with various charities and organisations, including Wren Bakery, a Leeds-based social enterprise that supports disadvantaged women. Free legal advice sessions are being held at Wren Bakery's café and training base in Mabgate, where women can receive guidance in a relaxed setting.

To support the initiative, Ison Harrison has added three

experienced family care solicitors to its team: Damian McDermott in the York office; Prerna Kapoor, specialising in family law; and Kauser Arshid, based in Wakefield.

Clare Sanderson, co-founder of Wren Bakery, praised the collaboration, commenting, "We are really excited to be working with Ison Harrison to host free legal advice sessions in our cafe and training base in Mabgate. We have already seen the benefit that Parveen's advice sessions have had."





Celebrating regional legal excellence

The Yorkshire Legal Awards 2024, in partnership with LexisNexis Enterprise Solutions, will take place in a glitzy ceremony on 10 October at FirstDirect Arena, Leeds.

With 26 awards up for grabs, these are the finalists vying for the top spots:

Best ESG Campaign

Eversheds Sutherland
Ridley and Hall Legal Limited
Thrive Law
Weightmans
Womble Bond Dickinson

Chambers of the Year

39 Essex Chambers
Crown Chambers
Park Square Barristers
Parklane Plowden
Spire Barristers
St John's Buildings Chambers

Commercial Property

Bevan Brittan LLP
Brabners
DAC Beachcroft
Freeths LLP
LCF Law
Mason Thomas Law
Schofield Sweeney

Corporate & Commercial

Brabners
Clarion
CMP Legal Limited
DWF Law LLP
Ison Harrison
Mills & Reeve
Ramsdens Solicitors LLP
Ward Hadaway LLP

Criminal Law

Crown Chambers
GT Stewart Solicitors & Advocates
Howard and Byrne Solicitors
Lupton Fawcett LLP
Switalskis

Debt Recovery

Acclaim Credit Management and Recovery
BW Legal
Clarion
DWF Law LLP
LCF Law
Roberts Law
Weightmans

Employment Law

DAC Beachcroft
Frederick Solicitors
Freeths
Han Law
Lupton Fawcett LLP
Mills & Reeve
Torque Law LLP
Wilford Smith

Family Law

Berwins
Blacks Solicitors' Family Law Team
Broadway House Chambers' Zira Hussain
Eaton Smith LLP
GT Stewart Solicitors & Advocates
Harrogate Family Law
Stewarts
Ward Hadaway LLP

In-House Lawyer of the Year

Winner announced on the evening

In-House Team of the Year

Bupa
Government Legal Department
HSBC
Leeds Bradford Airport Limited
Liberty Global
LSL Property Services plc
WM Morrison Supermarkets Limited

Intellectual Property

Appleyard Lees
Mills & Reeve
Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP

Lawtech Initiative of the Year

IDR Law
rradar
Walker Morris
Winston Solicitors

Law Firm of the Year: Large

Bevan Brittan LLP
Brabners
Mills & Reeve
Slater and Gordon
Switalskis
Ward Hadaway LLP

Law Firm of the Year: Medium

Devonshires
Ison Harrison
Leigh Day
Minton Morrill/Fletchers Group
Ramsdens Solicitors LLP
rradar
Schofield Sweeney
Stowe Family Law

Law Firm of the Year: Small

Grahame Stowe Bateson
Hägen Wolf
Hawkswell Kilvington
Howard and Byrne Solicitors
IDR Law
Levi Solicitors LLP
MJC Law
Roche Legal

Litigation & Dispute Resolution

Eversheds Sutherland
Hägen Wolf
Pepperells
Shared Affairs
Stewarts
Switalskis
Tyr
Weightmans

Managing Partner of the Year

Helen Forster from HTF Legal Ltd
Jodie Hill from Thrive Law
Jonathan Frederick from Frederick
Solicitors
Natalie Foster from Inspire Legal
Group

Niche Law Firm of the Year

Batley Law
Fenchurch Law
Hall Brown Family Law
Han Law
Hawkswell Kilvington
Hägen Wolf
Stowe Family Law
Torque Law LLP

Partner of the Year

Anna Cattee from CMP Legal Limited
Bethany Sanders from Leigh Day
Daniel Robin from Fenchurch Law
Leo Jones-Rowe from Schofield
Sweeney
Oliver Collett from Irwin Mitchell LLP
Rachel Heald from Hawkswell
Kilvington
Sahida Patel from Minton Morrill/
Fletchers Solicitors
Stephanie Thirlwell from rradar

Personal Injury & Clinical

Negligence

DAC Beachcroft
Howells Solicitors
Irwin Mitchell LLP
Ison Harrison
Slater and Gordon's Jodie Cook
Stewarts
Switalskis

Private Client

AWB Charlesworth
Clarion
Greenwoods Solicitors
Irwin Mitchell LLP
Raworths
Ramsdens Solicitors LLP
Schofield Sweeney
Switalskis

Regulatory & Compliance

Brabners
DWF Law LLP's Regulatory
Compliance and Investigations team
Eversheds Sutherland (International)
LLP
Gordons LLP
Karen Eckstein Ltd
Lupton Fawcett LLP's Regulatory &
Corporate Defence Team
Weightmans

Residential Property

Bell & Buxton Solicitors
Greenwoods Solicitors
Ison Harrison
RG Law
Schofield Sweeney
Wilford Smith Solicitors
Winston Solicitors
Woodhall Solicitors Ltd

Rising Star of the Year

Aqeelah Bahadar from AWB
Charlesworth
Bailey Wright from Taylor Emmet
Solicitors
Charley-Travis Brennan from Irwin
Mitchell LLP
Chloe Crooks from rradar
Emily Pimblett from Crockett & Co
Solicitors
Leighan Banks from HTF Legal Ltd
Rakib Uddin from RG Law
Sofia Wyzykiewicz from DLA Piper
UK LLP
Sophie Hudson from Weightmans
Talat Manir from Duncan Lewis
Solicitors
Zoe Murphy from Knights

Yorkshire Lawyer of the Year

Chris Fry from Inspire Legal Group
Colin Byrne from Howard and Byrne
Solicitors
Emma Digby from Ward Hadaway LLP
James Love from Womble Bond
Dickinson (UK) LLP
John McQuater from Switalskis
Lauren Wills-Dixon from Gordons LLP
Paul Verrico from Eversheds
Sutherland (International) LLP
Zira Hussain from Broadway House
Chambers

Trainee Solicitor of the Year

Abbie Brackenbury from HTF Legal
Ltd
Axsa Nazar from Newport Land and
Law Limited
Bailey Wright from Taylor Emmet
Solicitors
Charley-Travis Brennan from Irwin
Mitchell LLP
Chloe Crooks from rradar
Emily Pimblett from Crockett & Co
Solicitors
Maryam Razaq from Fraser Masood
Solicitors
Rakib Uddin from RG Law

Follow Yorkshire Legal on
LinkedIn and Twitter, or check
yorkshirelegalnews.co.uk to see
the full list of winners after the
event.



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