

Executive Chair's Report

Dated: 16 October 2023

For the past 12 months, the Exec Board has been made up of the following members:

Chair/Deputy Vice President:	Greg Hollingsworth
President:	Gina Samuel-Richards
Vice President:	Bhumika Parmar
Treasurer:	Chimdinma Nwaigwe
Immediate Past President:	Matthew Olnier

Number of Meetings

Over the past 12 months, the Exec Board has met six times.

The Work of the Executive

During the year, the Exec Board has work hard to manage the day-to-day business during a seven-month period when the LLS was without a manager. This role has recently been filled by Charlotte Anderson-Dilkes. We have looked to sub-contract certain parts of the administration of the society to ensure continuity, and also to future proof the LLS.

The Exec Board remains committed to keep the LLS at the forefront of both the legal and business community within Leicestershire and Rutland, and to make it a well-managed society so allowing our President to focus on the external business of LLS, and not its internal business.

We have made strides this year, but I recognise that work remains, and I will continue to work with the Exec Board and Charlotte to make further progress in the coming 12 months.

Membership

During the past 12 months, the Exec Board has continued to focus on trying to increase engagement with the members and the wider business community.

Patronage

With the assistance of the Patrons Sub Board, the Exec Board has also focused on engagement with the Patrons. The Patrons are an essential part of LLS and an important part of the funding of our activities. The Exec Board thanks our patrons for their continued support.

The Patrons as of October 2023 are:

Seven Trent

University of Leicester

De Montfort University

DG Legal

Marsh JLT

Mattioli Woods

Paradigm Wills and Legal

Bear Earth

Synergy Personnel Services

Zinthyia's Trust

The Parmar Collection

The business partners as of October 2023 are:

Soar Valley Press

Open Mind Training and Development

Kazzoo IT Services

Hitz Photography
Cross Productions
Schwartz Ecclestone
JSP

Finances

The LLS Treasurer, Chimdinma Nwaigwe, has worked to maintain a strong financial position for the LLS. The Exec Board regularly monitors the finances of the LLS, including reviewing the financial position on a monthly basis to ensure financial stability. As it stands, the society does appear to be on a sound financial footing, but it is important to remain vigilant in ever changing times.

We have appointed Legal Accounts to outsource our daily bookkeeping. This will be reviewed to ensure that we receive value for money.

Events and Courses

The last 12 months has seen some excellent events, including our Awards Dinner, Civic Dinner and Summer Garden Party.

Led by our President, Gina Samuel-Richards, the LLS has had many successful events, and a big thank you to Gina for her hard work in organising those events.

University and School Engagement

During the past 12 months, Gina Samuel-Richards has worked hard at continuing engagement with university students and school children, following on the efforts of Matthew Olnier. This recently saw a visit by Lady Hale (for which I would like to thank David Gilmore for arranging).

The Society remains committed to engaging with our two Universities and their students to promote the profession as a whole.

Our President – Mrs Gina Samuel-Richards

A special word of thanks to our President, Gina.

Gina has worked extremely hard during the past 12 months to deliver an exceptional presidential year. Gina has reported regularly to the Exec Board on her engagements which have been extremely extensive. Gina has had to manage without a Society Manager alongside her for many months yet has continued to approach the role with real purpose and a big smile. Her Awards Event was truly magical, and her presidential year will be remembered for years to come.

Gina has been a real credit to the LLS, and the Exec Board extends its thanks to Gina, and to our Vice President, Bhumika Parmar, who has supported Gina throughout the period.

I would also add my personal thanks to all the Exec Board who have had to “step up to the plate” on a number of occasions to manage challenges along the way. To all the members, if we all “do our bit” we can help the LLS achieve even more in the coming year.

Summary

Overall, the 2022-2023 year has a positive year, including two very special evenings, the Awards Dinner and the Civic Dinner.

I would like to thank my fellow Exec Board members for their hard work. I will be sorry to step down from the role as Exec Chair at this year’s AGM. There is still much work that I plan to do in modernising our society and futureproofing it for the generations ahead, which I hope to do whilst VP next year (if elected).

Greg Hollingsworth (Executive Chair of the LLS)

16 October 2023

Date of Report **Tuesday 25 July 2023**

Name of Sub Board **Education & Training**

Members of the Sub Board are:

- **Parvien Akhtar (Chair)**
- **Zainab Zaeem**
- **Kye Herbert**

Number of Meetings

Over the past 12 months the sub board has met 4 times

5 bullet points on work carried out Sept 2022 - September 2023

- Organised a seminar in collaboration with JLT group
- Contributed to article to Magazine
- Attended careers events
- Made contact with DG Legal & Mary Prior QC

3 bullet points on ideas for the next 12 months include.

- We would like to raise the profile of our sub -board and attract new members
- Organise careers events at Schools in conjunction with the President
- Encourage firms to share news with us for example to celebrate lawyers who have achieved success/ milestones so we can put post this on our LinkedIn/ Website/ Mag
- Establish a help -line for distressed solicitors to call for help in confidence or we could reach out if we hear they need help. Promote this to members
- Work in conjunction with the 2 universities and arrange a work experience scheme for undergraduates
- LLS website should include profiles of members and photos

New members of the sub board (who do not need to be members of Main Committee) are always welcome. If you are interested, please have a word at the AGM.

Chairperson name : Parvien Akhtar

Leicestershire Law Society - Report for AGM September 2023

Date of Report 30th July 2023

Name of Sub Board County Societies

Members of the Sub Board are:

- Cheshire & North Wales Law Society
- Devon & Somerset Law Society
- Kent Law Society
- Leicestershire Law Society
- Newcastle Law Society
- Surrey Law Society

Number of Meetings

Over the past 12 months the sub board has met 5 times

5 bullet points on work carried out Sept 2022 - September 2023

- National Law Society liaison
- Practice Area sub boards
- JLD input
- Reciprocal social events
- Local Law Societies Town hall

3 bullet points on ideas for the next 12 months include.

- Consultation Responses
- MP's Event at Westminster?
- Ongoing general issues e.g. IT

New members of the sub board (who do not need to be members of Main Committee) are always welcome. If you are interested, please have a word at the AGM.

Chairperson name : Christl Hughes Leicestershire Law Society Representative

Leicestershire Law Society - Report for AGM September 2023

Date of Report: 31 July 2023

Sub Board: Equality & Diversity

Members of the Sub Board are: Zainab Zaeem (ZZ) (Chair) | Chimdinma Nwaigwe (CN)

New Member of the sub-group: Amir Ahmed (AN) | Ammaarah Hassam (AH)

Number of Meetings

Over the past 12 months the sub board has met four times:

- 3 meetings with CN
- 1 recent meeting with the full sub group

Further, and prior to AN and AH joining the sub-group, ZZ and CN regularly communicated via emails.

Work Done from since September 2022 to current

- Both ZZ and CN drafted an article for Black History month for publishing in the LLS magazine
- New members for the sub group recruited
- Most recent meeting held in February - discussions took place within the sub board as to the types of events the sub group should hold
- Actions agreed

Ideas for the next 12 months include

- We intend to recruit more sub-members
- To write articles for the LLS magazine
- To record and release 1 to 1.5 minute short burst videos before and after the release of LLS magazine
- To organise and hold face to face events in 2023
- Team to review The Law Society's ("TLS") E&D framework guidance to be implemented for LLS

New members of the sub board (who do not need to be members of Main Committee) are always welcome. If you are interested please have a word at the AGM.

Chairwoman

Leicestershire Law Society - Report for AGM September 2023

Date of Report 05.09.23

Name of Sub Board Family

Members of the Sub Board are:

- **Gayle Rowley**
- **Gina Samuel Richards**
- **Kathryn Reeves**
- **Gemma Cole**
- **Rita Rathod**

Number of Meetings

Over the past 12 months the sub board has met twice

bullet points on work carried out Sept 2022 - September 2023

- Responded to MOJ consultation “Supporting earlier resolution of private family law arrangements” on behalf of LLS
- Email to membership regarding financial help needed for local contact centres whilst they await MOJ funding

bullet points on ideas for the next 12 months include.

- Awareness and ongoing consideration around alternative methods of family dispute resolution for all types of private family law disputes
- Raising awareness of private FDRs in finance cases
- Participate in family law consultations on behalf of LLS.
- Increase membership of board

New members of the sub board (who do not need to be members of Main Committee) are always welcome. If you are interested, please have a word at the AGM.

Gayle Rowley

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Chairperson name

Leicestershire Law Society - Report for AGM September 2023

Date of Report: 31 July 2023

Sub Board: Membership

Members of the Sub Board are: Zainab Zaeem (ZZ) (Chair)

Number of Meetings

As ZZ was the only member of this sub-group - no meetings can be held, however a new member, Kye Herbert (KH) has been recruited in the past year and a meeting is yet to be held with KH.

Members last 12 months

We have seen an uptake in membership applications since 2022 with several individuals and corporate members join in the last 12 months.

Work Done from since September 2022 to current | Work to be carried out

- ZZ drafted the membership page for the LLS magazine
- ZZ reviewed membership applications and made notes of whom to contact once payment of membership fees is confirmed - waiting for update from CN
- Aged debtor list - ZZ made a note of whom to contact and requires an updated list to chase, if any - waiting for update from CN
- ZZ needs access again to Dropbox to work on creating a central database of members and/or update existing database of members
- ZZ needs access to members' specific email address to access applications

Ideas for the next 12 months include

- We intend to recruit more sub-members
- To discuss the benefits of membership and possibly changes being made to fees and structure
- To try and have more corporate/individual members join
- For all sub board members to assist in obtaining benefits for members such as food and shopping discounts

New members of the sub board (who do not need to be members of Main Committee) are always welcome. If you are interested please have a word at the AGM.

Chairwoman

Leicestershire Law Society - Report for AGM September 2023

Date of Report 28 July 2023

Name of Sub Board Non Contentious Business and Regulatory Sub Board

Members of the Sub Board are:

- Neal Patterson
- Christl Hughes
- Jessica Bishop
- Chimdinma Nwaigwe
- Linda Lee
- Amir Ahmed

Number of Meetings

Over the past 12 months the sub board has met 2 Number of times

5 bullet points on work carried out Sept 2022 - September 2023

The sub board meets as and when necessary to discuss any issues relating to non contentious business and regulatory law. This year the board has met to discuss issues relating to Solicitors Indemnity Fund and have submitted matters to consultation in respect of the same.

3 bullet points on ideas for the next 12 months include.

The sub board will continue to meet on an ad hoc basis as and when required in order to further the aims of both the Leicestershire Law Society and the National Law Society.

New members of the sub board (who do not need to be members of Main Committee) are always welcome. If you are interested, please have a word at the AGM.

Neal Patterson

Chairperson name