

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT LAW SOCIETY

SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 FOR DONCASTER AND DISTRICT LAWYERS

MARCH: LAW SOCIETY DINNER DANCE 2019



In March the Society held a fantastic Dinner Dance at The Holiday Inn, Warmsworth. Social Secretary, Racheal Harrison worked tirelessly to organise the event where a three course meal, live music from Alexandra Parker and a disco were enjoyed by all. DDLS President Tony Rawlings wrote: "It's no secret that being rather more at home in a law library than attending a posh "do", the thought of hosting a formal ball filled me with apprehension.

However, due to the organisational efforts of our social secretary Racheal, the attendance of several VIP guests, together with the welcome support and

good wishes from my fellow committee members, I personally had a wonderful time and rather more importantly, the event objectively appears to have been a success which is of course fundamentally what counts. Thankyou all for a wonderful evening!"

District Judge Rogers also thanked DDLS for the "very enjoyable evening". He wrote that "It is very important to maintain a local law society in Doncaster and long may this continue" and these evenings continue to promote a strong law society in Doncaster.

We hope that all of our members had a fantastic night and will join us again next year.

EVENTS COMING UP:

5 June 2019 - SRA Event - 'Innovate: making business ideas a reality'. Register here: <https://events.sra.org.uk/sra/436/home>

10 June 2019 - Sheffield Legal Walk. Help raise money for access to justice and local advice services in South Yorkshire.

21 June 2019 - Join us at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park for a BBQ and Lion Feeding demonstration.

UPCOMING TRAINING

08.05.18: Advocacy Skills and Court Preparation" Megan Rhys Barrister St John's Buildings
Venue: Atherton Godfrey

12.06.19: "Cohabitation Update" Andrew Lord Barrister at St Johns Buildings.
Venue: Keebles

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THE TRAINING UPDATE

Our training has continued to be a success throughout the Spring Months.

“Excellent” was the majority verdict of DJ Rodgers’ delivery of a straight talking update of “trips and tales in family law” in February to a full courtroom, held in the family court in Doncaster. Despite the challenges which lie ahead including “open courts”, it’s still business as usual doing what we can to work constructively together to serve well our local family clients.

Our soft skills were then polished in March when Steve Kitchman at Doncaster Chamber helped us to formulate, improve and practise our elevator pitch so that we are ready to network at any time. “Thought-provoking, helpful and a lot of fun”, this session definitely broke the ice and one not to be missed if repeated.

Alison Kitchman - Training Officer

NEWS FROM THE LAW SOCIETY

POLICY UPDATE

- ‘No Fault’ Reform - Bringing Divorce Law into the 21st Century

The government's planned reforms to remove the blame from the divorce process will allow separating couples to focus on what really matters.

- Fixed Recoverable Costs - Ministry of Justice Consultation Launches

The government has launched a new consultation, closing 6 June, on the level of costs that can be claimed back from a losing party in civil litigation. The Law Society argues that these costs should be fixed at a reasonable rate to reflect the work carried out.

- Criminal Justice – Sign the Petition

Over 3,000 people have signed the Law Society's petition calling for increased funding for the criminal justice system. The system is facing an avalanche of problems, from duty solicitor shortages to issues with disclosure.

- Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Standard of Proof – Rule Changes

The Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal announced it will apply to adopt the civil standard of proof when it hears cases brought by the regulator.



OTHER NEWS

- Recommended Minimum Salary for Trainee Solicitors

The Law Society is recommending, as a matter of good practice, that providers of training contracts should pay their trainees £22,121 in London and £19,619 outside London. The new rate comes into effect on 1 May 2019. For more details: <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/advice/articles/recommended-minimum-salary-for-trainee-solicitors/>

- Online Probate Podcast

The Law Society recorded a podcast with the Chair of their Wills and Equity Committee discussing HMCTS' online probate service and what this means for solicitors. You can access it here: <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/court-reform/online-probate-system-cause-for-grave-concern/>

The Shelter logo is displayed in white text on a solid pink rectangular background.

PRESIDENT'S CHOSEN CHARITY SHELTER - HELP FOR CLIENTS

Lisa Craggs, managing solicitor at Shelter Legal Services came to speak to the Committee to inform us on what the charity can offer to people of Doncaster and ways that we can direct clients in need to their services.

Shelter has a free national helpline which is open 365 days of the year from 8am to 8pm on weekdays and 8am to 5pm on weekends. The number for this is 0808 800 4444.

Their Sheffield Hub service is located on Furnival Gate in Sheffield, just a ten minute walk from the train station and is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Within the Hub people can access support with benefit and housing applications through their Information and Resource Centre.

Shelter's Advice & Legal team delivers advice on a wide range of housing matters and representation at Court through their legal aid contract. Through alternative funding they are able to provide advice on most housing relating issues and are not limited to cases which can only be funded by way of legal aid. They can be contacted on 0344 515 1515 and are able to offer telephone appointments for vulnerable clients and those lacking the means to travel. Legal aid applications can be accepted by post from those who are financially eligible and have a matter which is in scope for this funding.

In addition to the above, Shelter's Advice & Legal team delivers the County Court Duty Scheme at the County Court at Doncaster every Monday. The scheme is funded by way of legal aid and is open to anyone who faces possession / eviction proceedings, regardless of eligibility for legal aid.

Join us at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park on 21 June, 6pm until late for our Summer BBQ and Lion Feeding Experience!

Enjoy entry into the park after close to listen to an interesting talk from the Lion keepers followed by a delicious BBQ.

Tickets are £20 per person and £10 for under 12's. Reserve your place by e-mailing rharrison@malcolmcfoy.co.uk.



COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT: RACHEAL HARRISON

What would you be if you were not a lawyer?

- If I wasn't a lawyer I think that I would have either joined the police or taken up a legal role in the Armed Forces. I have always had an interest in the law, which I think probably escalated from watching Heartbeat on a Sunday evening as a child.

Where do you work and what do you do?

- I work as a litigation and personal injury solicitor at Malcolm C Foy & Co Solicitors who have an office in Doncaster and Rotherham. I mainly specialise in dispute resolution including acting for landlords in possession proceedings, advising in estate disputes, trust of land disputes and debt recovery matters.



What made you want a career in Law?

- I have always had a keen interest in the law generally and as a child thought that I would join the police or work with Crime Scene Investigators. Upon attending sixth form and studying law as an option, my interest grew further in Tort Law and I made the decision to study law at university and progress towards a career as a solicitor.

Tell us about your role on the Committee?

- I am currently the Social Secretary for the Doncaster and District Law Society. This involves organising all social events for the committee throughout my year in position. So far this year I have organised a quiz night to raise funds for the Access to Justice Foundation, arranged the Current and Past President Annual Luncheon and not forgetting most recently the Spring Dinner Dance. I am currently organising a Summer BBQ to take place on Friday 21st June at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. This event is one for all of the family and already looks to be well attended. I am sure that many will enjoy seeing the lions being fed and hearing interesting facts from the keepers about the animals.

A highlight of my year to date has been attending the South Yorkshire County Legal Service at Doncaster Minster on behalf of the Committee. I had the opportunity of meeting The Rt Honourable Lord Justice Males PC and took part in the procession to the Minster as one of only two solicitors from South Yorkshire.

Tell us an interesting fact about you?

- In my spare time I am the Assistant Club Secretary and Welfare Officer at Doncaster Plant Works Amateur Boxing Club in Hexthorpe, which is entirely run by volunteers. The boxing club has been established since around 1931 and is therefore the oldest surviving boxing club in Doncaster. My work on the committee involves working with young people from in or around Doncaster many of which are from deprived areas. I also spend a substantial amount of time helping applying for grants, funding and sponsorship to keep the club in operation.

Why do you think #DoncasterIsGreat?

- I am Doncaster born and bred and believe that the town is currently seeing great development and investment, improving the town vastly. I studied law in Newcastle however I always knew I would move back to Doncaster. The town is going from strength to strength and I expect it will soon acquire city status as a result of these investments. In addition to the commercial investments and new job opportunities there is currently numerous new housing developments being established showing the growing housing need.