Dear Member,

The London & South East Relationship Management team are keen to ensure that key updates and information of relevance are communicated to you, and your local law society, periodically.

Please feel free to share the information below more widely with your committees and your membership.

**New report: Contribution of the UK legal services sector to the UK economy**

Our new report reveals that legal services contributed nearly £60bn total gross value added to the UK economy in 2018, while in 2017 legal services exports hit approximately £5bn.

Law Society president Simon Davis said: “This report shows the value of our sector to UK PLC – that is why we think it is vital our trade negotiators put legal and other professional services at the heart of forthcoming talks on a new deal with Europe.

Click for our [press release](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=jRYOrR8N39QkUfN5quI6wqbyToD7Efecqxz0XE/YakfmUEYwxHe7Qvpgy9uR0QEMGvl1AP4f0bWGb33odHgFdYlhk21Ezm8SHhFVUiToIWc=&rh=ff0058cd2107d081e210559145499b5f08c0d203) or see the report in full attached.

**Legally Disabled Report Launch**

Today sees the launch of a new research report by Legally Disabled. This shares the career experiences of, and barriers faced by, disabled people within the legal profession; from discrimination and lack of understanding to outdated practices and environments.

The report, and Legally Disabled generally, wish to use the information in this report to offer recommendations to the profession on how it might start to change the culture and improve inclusivity.

Please see the report attached to read in full.

**Calling time on booze culture**

Earlier this month the Junior Lawyers Division launched a best practice guidance for employers on how to approach alcohol in the workplace: Creating a Healthy Alcohol Culture in the Legal Profession: Guidance for Firms and Individuals. Please see attached for the full guidance.

They have also created a series of podcasts and written articles to raise awareness of this important issue, which you can read below:

Podcasts

* [Episode one: Calling time on booze culture with Laura Willoughby MBE (Club Soda) and Kieran Pender (IBA)](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=jRYOrR8N39QkUfN5quI6wqbyToD7Efecqxz0XE/YakeY2D8Cd6bEOTz9mEaE4Htg1mhiTVrYPyQu37FqxAcq0nMP6B1/Jl5wjlUf846OUuw=&rh=ff0058cd2107d081e210559145499b5f08c0d203)
* [Episode two: Modern approaches to alcohol at work with Zoe Swan (Brighton University) and Rui Liu (Grass People Tree)](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=jRYOrR8N39QkUfN5quI6wqbyToD7Efecqxz0XE/YakciPIvdztwd8ck31zoq73b/L2WSt5pD+xCTofexT+j0pZKHn5w2rCOMRkKqN5/WElE=&rh=ff0058cd2107d081e210559145499b5f08c0d203)

Articles

* [Calling time on our booze culture– Law Society Gazette (May 2019)](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=jRYOrR8N39QkUfN5quI6wqbyToD7Efecqxz0XE/YakcSyQqEqOj7FWx5is6a2o6hxK/OiIFLld45sFsg8hG494qYVfuxpf4hSGad+NTNNpg=&rh=ff0058cd2107d081e210559145499b5f08c0d203)
* How are we calling time on booze culture? – Solicitors Journal (November 2019)

**Closure of the Solicitors Indemnity Fund (SIF)- how will this affect you?**

Linda Lee, Council Member for Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland since 2003 and a past President of the Law Society of England and Wales discusses the closure of the Solicitors Indemnity Fund and what this may mean for you.

[Read the article](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=jRYOrR8N39QkUfN5quI6wqbyToD7Efecqxz0XE/Yakf69iJPJA3xMTD08ul9jgV/yZaqjhcfhU6Snb1EuYcSN9KboscO/CUD2lNQ8HwGmWE=&rh=ff0058cd2107d081e210559145499b5f08c0d203)

 

**Event: Junior Lawyers Division annual conference and ball (Saturday 16 May, London)**

Join the Junior Lawyers Division (JLD) at their 13th annual conference and ball being held on 16 May at the Law Society in London. Offering a mix of keynote speakers, practical breakout sessions and networking opportunities, the JLD annual conference and ball provides invaluable guidance on taking control of your career.

For more information and to book a ticket please click [here](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=jRYOrR8N39QkUfN5quI6wqbyToD7Efecqxz0XE/Yakf+sMeSqUdnTTa8BK3wLcXV8UY4tK5JkcH+OS8C6H/dsOiw8BdAuytKZFoftPHhgDc=&rh=ff0058cd2107d081e210559145499b5f08c0d203)

**Consultation Summary**

Transparency and Reporting Impact - closing date 31 January 2020 - [Link to discussion paper](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=jRYOrR8N39TPyEBVtpORAJ6mBFHsN8TxRFPRRPNxL2Xd6AAMzG6KgkaMdBWB05Sb7aYjK9bttdloG8o8Jeg2nFMUObYC1DClCfVR8cOgVymwNbjsaDLW511U/F+ps1GY+vd5fxs8bP0B87KQdOBPeA==&rh=ff0058cd2107d081e210559145499b5f08c0d203)
Policy advisor: Anjali.Mouelhi@lawsociety.org.uk

The Legal Ombudsman has issued a discussion paper considering the range of information it could provide in the future and thereby support greater transparency.

The President of the Family Division Working Group on Medical Experts in the Family Courts Draft report - closing date 31 January 2020 - [Link to consultation](https://emailcc.com/collect/click.aspx?u=dhiHS5xN0KPDlnZrbOJ1qJWpcj/TnUvyAsACqpEumhShkJB4LFRW2J9WVeGk9975n0YzI/KjpwnRwVRyXv/6fRumFyqyaFumZXQ9iSUMMvi47tCa2CZhlzWp1eTd981b8YN3r6bMMOlGPcxfFLn5tw==&rh=ff0058cd2107d081e210559145499b5f08c0d203)
Policy advisor: Jessica.Mearns@lawsociety.org.uk & Sarah.Richardson@lawsociety.org.uk

A working group was set up to look into the paucity of medical experts in the Family Courts. It has made 22 recommendations and those that are relevant to our members are those on payments and court process.

The Family Law Committee, Children Law Subcommittee and Access to Justice Committee are considering the response.

The Domestic Abuse Working Group of the Family Justice Council has produced draft Best Practice Guidance on Domestic Abuse, with the aim of promoting consistency of approach in family courts to cases raising issues of domestic abuse and to help to achieve a supportive environment at court for the parties to such cases and any children involved.

The Guidance is addressed to all professionals working in family courts, with a focus on proceedings for domestic abuse injunctions, child arrangements orders and financial remedies.

If you have any questions in relation to any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact us at London&SouthEastTeam@lawsociety.org.uk

Best wishes,

Beth, Bhavni and Stuart.