



Welcome to this fortnight's
BTSS Newsletter

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

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SAVE THE DATE

24 – 27 February 2012 Philosopus Cultural Trip ...save the date!



A word from our Chair



Alex Wild
Chair

Merry Christmas one and all! With our final newsletter before Christmas, it leaves it to me to wish you a very happy holidays. If you are one of the fortunate few who have the entire Christmas and New Year break off then well done, and commiserations to the rest who are forced to trudge the cold winter streets to work between Christmas and New Year. Whilst our formal plans for this year have come to an end, I'm sure the BTSS will be finding a small watering hole each day to drown our sorrows and anyone else is welcome to join.

I'd like to thank Iwan Thomas of Iwan Thomas Associates, James Brewster of BCL Legal, and Gary Garland the Deputy Legal Ombudsman for their time and contribution at our recent Top Tips event. I hope those who attended found something of interest or use and, to build upon that advice, we also enclose some bite size morsels from some of the wiser heads in the Birmingham Legal Community for your enjoyment.

I'd also like to thank you all for your contributions and participation during 2011 and look forward to a productive and eventful 2012. Events to look forward to are our usual social and cultural events in January and February, for which plans are already afoot, as well as the Philosophus Cultural Trip Abroad on 24 February (more details to follow). We also welcome a new committee in March and details will be circulated early in the New Year for those interested in stepping into the firing line.

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JLD update from Jane Stimson



As Societies and Education Representative, I recently attended the latest meeting of the Junior Lawyers' Division ("JLD") at the Law Society in Chancery Lane, London on behalf of the BTSS. The JLD is the section of the Law Society which represents the views and concerns of young lawyers to the Law Society as a whole.

One of the agenda items was a presentation from members of the American Bar Association ("ABA"). The ABA has 400,000 members, with strong links in the UK. Some of the lawyers, who were having a meeting at the Law Society on the same day, were invited to come and speak to the JLD about the issues currently facing the American Bar and their experiences of being attorneys in the USA. The ABA made it clear that they welcome members from all over the world. In particular, the Young Lawyers Division of the ABA has links with all of the other sections of the ABA. The Division welcomes applications for membership from lawyers aged 36 or under, or during their first 5 years of practice. There are also many different sections of the ABA that you can get involved in, such as the International Section.

The main issues that the ABA are considering at the moment are:

- human trafficking;
- their ethics 2020 project looking at alternative business structures;
- their rule of law initiative, which is a global project.

To find out more and to get involved with the ABA please consult their website: www.americanbar.org.

As a general update, the JLD were also reminded that the Law Society's webinars are available to all members to watch on the Law Society's website. In particular, there is a recent webinar on 'Women, Feminism and the Law' which may be of interest: <http://juniorlawyers.lawsociety.org.uk/on-demand-webinars>. A webinar on assessment centres is also coming soon, which will be useful for those looking to embark upon a legal career.

In other news, the JLD has sought a legal opinion in Scotland in relation to law firms making trainees redundant. This is being considered further by the JLD but essentially any such actions will have employment consequences that a trainee who is made redundant could pursue. For further information please see the Gazette's article on this: <http://www.lawgazette.co.uk/news/society-probes-039unlawful039-redundancies>

The day involved networking workshops and a discussion of how the training of young lawyers can be improved upon by the Law Society. If you have any views or concerns that you would like raised to the JLD, please contact me ahead of the next JLD meeting in mid January. For the latest news and updates, please refer to the JLD website on <http://juniorlawyers.lawsociety.org.uk/>

Jane Stimson



"If I had to give one piece of advice to a trainee or young lawyer, it would be to adopt a 'can do' attitude and get stuck in."

Mark Wilson,
Partner,
Head of Corporate Recovery,
Gateley LLP.

"Be enthusiastic, personable and a sponge."

Sarah Cairns,
Associate,
Higgs & Sons.

"Treat every piece of work, however small, like a massive, really important piece of work. Every piece of work is a test and supervisors want to know if you can be trusted so treat everyone's work as if they are really important! Don't say no to your friends. Do not assume that you will never be able to socialise, say yes to social invitations – sometimes you will have to cancel because of work commitments but if you turn all your invitations down people will stop inviting you to things! It's all about balance."

Victoria Dearson,
In House Legal Counsel,
Informa Group plc.

Top Tips For Junior Lawyers

Following our successful Top Tips event, we asked for a few 'top tips' from our own firms, and here's what they said...

"Take ownership of work. It is amazing how few trainees go that extra mile to ensure that a task is actually completed. It is refreshing to see those that do."

Jawaid Rehman,
Associate,
Employment Team,
Weightmans.

"Keep your head down and work hard."

James Nicholls,
Principal,
Nicholls & Co.

"Show a genuine interest in the seat you are placed in and the work you are doing. Remember no matter what area of law you are in it is something your supervisor loves and it is noted and appreciated when trainees demonstrate genuine enthusiasm and interest in the work."

Helen Driscoll,
Partner,
Head of Commercial,
SGH Martineau LLP.



FOOTBALL LEAGUE

WEEK 1		10 OCT TO 21 OCT 2011	
Gateley	v	DLA	
Irwin Mitchell	10 v 2	BLM	
Pinsents	2 v 10	Eversheds	
Shakespeares	4 v 10	Martineau	
Shoosmiths	9 v 6	Mills & Reeve	
Wragge & Co	11 v 4	FELT	
WEEK 2		24 OCT TO 4 NOV 2011	
DLA	15 v 6	Shakespeares	
Eversheds	5 v 2	Wragge & Co	
FELT	11 v 12	Irwin Mitchell	
Martineau	7 v 2	BLM	
Mills & Reeve	7 v 9	Pinsents	
Shoosmiths	8 v 5	Gateley	
WEEK 3		7 NOV TO 18 NOV 2011	
BLM	6 v 11	DLA	
FELT	9 v 4	Eversheds	
Irwin Mitchell	17 v 6	Martineau	
Pinsents	17 v 5	Gateley	
Shakespeares	2 v 18	Shoosmiths	
Wragge & Co		Mills & Reeve	
WEEK 4		21 NOV TO 2 DEC 2011	
BLM	6 v 20	Shoosmiths	
DLA	11 v 8	Martineau	
Eversheds	9 v 6	Irwin Mitchell	
Gateley	10 v 13	Wragge & Co	
Pinsents		Shakespeares	
Mills & Reeve		FELT	
WEEK 6		23 JAN TO 3 FEB 2012	
Gateley		Eversheds	
Mills & Reeve		Irwin Mitchell	
Pinsents		Martineau	
Shakespeares		FELT	
Shoosmiths		DLA	
Wragge & Co		BLM	



Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Shoosmiths	4	4	0	0	55	19	36	12
2	Irwin Mitchell	4	3	0	1	45	28	17	9
3	DLA	3	3	0	0	37	20	17	9
4	Eversheds	4	3	0	1	28	19	9	9
5	Wragge & Co	3	2	0	1	26	19	7	6
6	Pinsents	3	2	0	1	28	22	6	6
7	Martineau	4	2	0	2	31	34	-3	6
8	FELT	3	1	0	2	24	27	-3	3
9	Mills & Reeve	2	0	0	2	13	18	-5	0
10	Gateley	3	0	0	3	20	38	-18	0
11	Shakespeares	3	0	0	3	12	43	-31	0
12	BLM	4	0	0	4	16	48	-32	0

WEEK 5		9 JAN TO 20 JAN 2012	
BLM		v	Pinsents
Eversheds		v	Mills & Reeve
FELT		v	Gateley
Irwin Mitchell		v	DLA
Martineau		v	Shoosmiths
Wragge		v	Shakespeares

WEEK 7		6 FEB TO 17 FEB 2012	
DLA		v	Pinsents
Eversheds		v	Shakespeares
FELT		v	BLM
Shoosmiths		v	Irwin Mitchell
Martineau		v	Wragge & Co
Mills & Reeve		v	Gateley
WEEK 8		20 FEB TO 2 MAR 2012	
BLM		v	Eversheds
Gateley		v	Irwin Mitchell
Martineau		v	FELT
Pinsents		v	Shoosmiths
Shakespeares		v	Mills & Reeve
Wragge & Co		v	DLA
WEEK 9		5 MAR TO 16 MAR 2012	
DLA		v	FELT
Eversheds		v	Martineau
Gateley		v	Shakespeares
Irwin Mitchell		v	Pinsents
Mills & Reeve		v	BLM
Shoosmiths		v	Wragge & Co
WEEK 10		19 MAR TO 30 MAR 2012	
BLM		v	Pinsents
Eversheds		v	Mills & Reeve
FELT		v	Gateley
Irwin Mitchell		v	DLA
Martineau		v	Shoosmiths
Wragge & Co		v	Shakespeares
WEEK 11		2 APR TO 13 APR 2012	
Gateley			Martineau
Mills & Reeve			DLA
Pinsents			FELT
Shakespeares			BLM
Shoosmiths			Eversheds
Wragge & Co			Irwin Mitchell



NETBALL LEAGUE



WEEK 1		10 OCT TO 21 OCT 2011	
ACS	v		Shakespeares
BLM	10 v 22		Weightmans
Browne Jacobson	3 v 0		Pinsents
DLA	1 v 14		SSD Hammonds
Eversheds	26 v 8		Gateley
Higgs & Sons	16 v 8		Cobbetts
Martineau	25 v 1		Irwin Mitchell
Wragge	21 v 2		Mills & Reeve
WEEK 2		24 OCT TO 4 NOV 2011	
Cobbetts	10 v 1		Irwin Mitchell
DLA	v		Eversheds
Gateley	2 v 20		Browne Jacobson
Mills & Reeve	v		Martineau
Pinsents	8 v 25		Higgs & Sons
Shakespeares	v		BLM
SSD Hammonds	18 v 9		ACS
Weightmans	8 v 9		Wragge
WEEK 3		7 NOV TO 18 NOV 2011	
ACS	12 v 3		Eversheds
BLM	v		SSD Hammonds
Browne Jacobson	27 v 5		DLA
Higgs & Sons	20 v 3		Gateley
Irwin Mitchell	v		Pinsents
Martineau	3 v 0		Cobbetts
Mills & Reeve	14 v 7		Weightmans
Wragge	v		Shakespeares
WEEK 4		21 NOV TO 2 DEC 2011	
ACS	13 v 12		Browne Jacobson
DLA	7 v 34		Higgs & Sons
Eversheds	25 v 8		BLM
Gateley	v		Irwin Mitchell
Pinsents	0 v 3		Cobbetts
Shakespeares	v		Mills & Reeve
SSD Hammonds	v		Wragge
Weightmans	4 v 13		Martineau
WEEK 6		23 JAN TO 3 FEB 2012	
ACS	v		Irwin Mitchell
BLM	v		Higgs & Sons
Browne Jacobson	v		Wragge
DLA	v		Cobbetts
Eversheds	v		Mills & Reeve
Gateley	v		Pinsents
Shakespeares	v		Martineau
SSD Hammonds	v		Weightmans
WEEK 7		6 FEB TO 17 FEB 2012	
Cobbetts	v		ACS
Irwin Mitchell	v		BLM
Martineau	v		Gateley
Mills & Reeve	v		Browne Jacobson
Pinsents	v		DLA
Shakespeares	v		SSD Hammonds
Weightmans	v		Eversheds
Wragge	v		Higgs & Sons
WEEK 8		20 FEB TO 2 MAR 2012	
ACS	v		Pinsents
BLM	v		Cobbetts
Browne Jacobson	v		Weightmans
DLA	v		Gateley
Eversheds	v		Shakespeares
Higgs & Sons	v		Mills & Reeve
Irwin Mitchell	v		Wragge
SSD Hammonds	v		Martineau

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Higgs & Sons	4	4	0	0	95	26	69	12
2	Browne Jacobson	4	3	0	1	62	20	42	9
3	Martineau	3	3	0	0	41	5	36	9
4	Eversheds	3	2	0	1	54	28	26	6
5	SS Hammonds	2	2	0	0	32	10	22	6
6	Wragge & Co	2	2	0	0	30	10	20	6
7	ACS	3	2	0	1	34	33	1	6
8	Cobbetts	4	2	0	2	21	20	1	6
9	Weightmans	4	1	0	3	41	46	-5	3
10	Mills & Reeve	2	1	0	1	16	28	-12	3
11	Shakespeares	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Pinsents	3	0	0	3	8	31	-23	0
13	BLM	2	0	0	2	18	47	-29	0
14	Irwin Mitchell	2	0	0	2	2	35	-33	0
15	Gateley	3	0	0	3	13	66	-53	0
16	DLA	3	0	0	3	13	75	-62	0

WEEK 5		9 JAN TO 20 JAN 2012	
BLM	v		Browne Jacobson
Cobbetts	v		Gateley
Higgs & Sons	v		ACS
Irwin Mitchell	v		DLA
Martineau	v		Pinsents
Mills & Reeve	v		SSD Hammonds
Weightmans	v		Shakespeares
Wragge	v		Eversheds

WEEK 9		5 MAR TO 16 MAR 2012	
Cobbetts	v		Wragge & Co & Co
Gateley	v		ACS
Martineau	v		DLA
Mills & Reeve	v		Irwin Mitchell
Pinsents	v		BLM
Shakespeares	v		Browne Jacobson
SSD Hammonds	v		Eversheds
Weightmans	v		Higgs & Sons
WEEK 10		19 MAR TO 30 MAR 2012	
ACS	v		DLA
BLM	v		Gateley
Browne Jacobson	v		SSD Hammonds
Cobbetts	v		Mills & Reeve
Eversheds	v		Martineau
Higgs & Sons	v		Shakespeares
Irwin Mitchell	v		Weightmans
Wragge & Co & Co	v		Pinsents
WEEK 11		2 APR TO 13 APR 2012	
DLA	v		BLM
Eversheds	v		Browne Jacobson
Gateley	v		Wragge & Co & Co
Martineau	v		ACS
Pinsents	v		Mills & Reeve
Shakespeares	v		Irwin Mitchell
SSD Hammonds	v		Higgs & Sons
Weightmans	v		Cobbetts
WEEK 12		16 APR TO 27 APR 2012	
BLM	v		ACS
Browne Jacobson	v		Martineau
Cobbetts	v		Shakespeares
Higgs & Sons	v		Eversheds
Irwin Mitchell	v		SSD Hammonds
Mills & Reeve	v		Gateley
Pinsents	v		Weightmans
Wragge & Co & Co	v		DLA
WEEK 13		30 APR TO 11 MAY 2012	
ACS	v		Wragge & Co & Co
Browne Jacobson	v		Higgs & Sons
DLA	v		Mills & Reeve
Eversheds	v		Irwin Mitchell
Gateley	v		Weightmans
Martineau	v		BLM
Shakespeares	v		Pinsents
SSD Hammonds	v		Cobbetts
WEEK 14		14 MAY TO 25 MAY 2012	
Cobbetts	v		Eversheds
Gateley	v		Shakespeares
Higgs & Sons	v		Martineau
Irwin Mitchell	v		Browne Jacobson
Mills & Reeve	v		ACS
Pinsents	v		SSD Hammonds
Weightmans	v		DLA
Wragge & Co & Co	v		BLM
WEEK 15		28 MAY TO 18 JUN 2012	
ACS	v		Weightmans
BLM	v		Mills & Reeve
Browne Jacobson	v		Cobbetts
DLA	v		Shakespeares
Eversheds	v		Pinsents
Higgs & Sons	v		Irwin Mitchell
Martineau	v		Wragge & Co & Co
SSD Hammonds	v		Gateley



Claimant Occupational Disease NQ Solicitor - Birmingham

Leading claimant industrial disease team seek a newly qualified solicitor with experience of handling claimant asbestos/VWF/HAVS, RSI and dermatitis claims.

Commercial NQ Solicitor - Birmingham

The role will include a number of client secondment opportunities with the firm's stellar client list and therefore an opportunity to develop fantastic experience and commerciality. Applications are sought from trainee solicitors who have a commercial seat and a solid academic record.

Construction NQ Solicitor – Birmingham

Leading national commercial practice with an exceptional construction law team is seeking a new NQ construction lawyer to join their Birmingham office. A seat in construction is essential.

Corporate NQ Solicitor - Birmingham

Leading national legal practice is offering a newly qualified corporate solicitor the opportunity to join them. Applications are sought from trainee solicitors who have completed a seat in corporate coupled with a strong academic record.

Defendant PI (Disease claims) NQ Solicitor – Birmingham

Leading defendant occupational disease team seek NQ solicitors with experience of either claimant or defendant noise induced hearing loss and/or hand arm vibration syndrome claims.

Insurance Fraud NQ Solicitor - Birmingham

This is the largest insurance fraud practice in Birmingham and they currently have opportunities for NQ solicitors with a seat in defendant personal injury (fraud experience is not essential) and an interest in specialising in fraud work.

Regulatory NQ Solicitor – Birmingham

This top national law firm seek a regulatory NQ solicitor to join their expanding regulatory Birmingham practice. You will be a newly qualified solicitor with a regulatory seat and preferably handled health and safety investigations.

To find out more about these or other NQ vacancies please contact James Brewster on 0845 241 0933 or email jamesbrewster@bclegal.com or visit our website www.bclegal.com for a full list of all jobs.