

Welcome to this fortnight's
BTSS Newsletter

www.btss.org



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NEW PHILOSOPHUS

We welcome our new Philosophus Adam Maguire!

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BTSS CHRISTMAS PARTY

There better be some mince pies and Christmas pudding

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TOP TIPS FOR JUNIOR LAWYERS

There were no shortcuts to being awesome, until now.

6

ST BASIL'S SLEEPOUT

'Roughing it' for a night to prevent homelessness

7

YOUR BOARD

An exceptional opportunity to become a Director!

KEY DATES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 December 2011
6:00pm | BTSS Christmas Party
Free, Vodka Revolution, Broad Street |
| 2 December 2011
6:00pm to 6:00am | St Basil's Big Sleepout
Free, St Basils car park, Allcock Street, B9 4DY |
| 6 December 2011
6:00pm | Top Tips for Junior Lawyers
Free, Gateley LLP offices |

A word from our Chair

btss Birmingham Trainee Solicitors' Society
btss



Alex Wild
Chair

As the festive season approaches, this is our penultimate newsletter before the inevitable Christmas lull. However, the BTSS isn't finished!

This Thursday, 1 December 2011, I hope you'll join us for an evening of Christmas cheer and entertainment at Vodka Revolution, the perfect way to kick start December before your calendars are filled with Christmas invitations and events. We look forward to seeing you there.

On Tuesday 6 December 2011 we also have a fantastic evening's tutelage from some highly skilled sources. Sponsored by BCL Legal, Head of Legal James Brewster will kick off proceedings with a discussion of the opportunities available during your junior legal career to make yourself more attractive to firms and recruiters upon qualification. Iwan Thomas, Career Coach and Management Consultant, will be discussing career progression and planning in a changing legal environment. The evening will then be rounded off by the Deputy Legal Ombudsman, Gary Garland, who will be talking to us about the Ombudsman service and how to avoid and manage complaints effectively. We are very grateful for them for making their time available and hope you'll join us for what promises to be a very useful introduction to your legal careers.

Finally it is my pleasure to introduce Adam Maguire, a first year trainee solicitor with Higgs & Sons, who was recently appointed to the position of Philosophus. He has kindly prepared a brief introduction and we all look forward to working with him to provide a range of cultural events over the remaining term of our office.

CONTACT US

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW BTSS PHILOSOPHUS!



Adam Maguire
Philosophus

Hello all!

I'm Adam Maguire and I am currently a first year trainee at Higgs & Sons.

I am originally from Northampton and ventured up to the West Midlands in 2005 to study Law at the University of Birmingham.

I took a year out afterwards during which time I spent a few months teaching English to foreign students and then worked full time for Shoosmiths in Northampton.

I returned to Birmingham after this to complete the LPC at the College of Law (and because I missed the city!) and then had another year out before joining Higgs & Sons to start my Training Contract during which I worked as a Paralegal at Shakespeares.

I am a big fan of travelling and so I am joining the Committee as Philosophus at a very exciting time with the cultural trip abroad only a few months away. I am really looking forward to taking on the role and helping the Committee to continue to provide entertaining and, of course, cultural activities throughout the rest of the year!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at upcoming events and on the trip. Details will be available soon so watch this space!



BTSS CHRISTMAS PARTY

*Join the BTSS to celebrate the festive season
with fun and frolics from 6pm until late at*

*Vodka Revolution, Broad Street
on Thursday 1 December*

*Santa has worked exclusively with the BTSS
to bring tasty fodder and refreshing beverages
to be supplied on the night for your enjoyment!*

*So come along and join in
with the Christmas spirit!*



Top Tips For Junior Lawyers

The BTSS presents a free evening of advice and top tips for junior legal professionals. Including:

James Brewster

Director of Legal, BCL Legal

Discussing how to maximise the opportunities available during your training contract to enhance your marketability

Iwan Thomas

Career Coach, Iwan Thomas Associates

Discussing career planning in a changing law firm environment, how to climb the ladder and how to be more effective in making transitions

Gary Garland

Deputy Legal Ombudsman

Discussing how to avoid complaints in the first instance and manage complaints effectively

**Tuesday
6th December**

Gateley LLP

**One Eleven
Edmund Street
Birmingham**

6pm - 6.30pm

**Reception
Refreshments**

6.30pm onwards

**Top Tips
Presentation**

**In Association
With...**

BCL Legal



Please RSVP to jane.stimson@martineau-uk.com

St Basils Big SleepOut

Friday 2nd December 2011



Come and join us!

http://www.stbasils.org.uk/Fundraising/fundraising_news/sleepout/The+Big+SleepOut.htm



your board

Speed Networking Event Thank You!



The College of Law would like to say thank you to all members of the BTSS who took part in the College's Speed Networking event on Monday 21 November.

The event was a great success with representation from a variety of firms in the area and your support is much appreciated.

Jane Stimson would also like to say, on behalf of the BTSS, thank you very much to all those who gave up part of their evening to come along and show their support.

VOLUNTEER AS A TRUSTEE DIRECTOR FOR AN INSPIRING YOUTH LED CHARITY!



Looking for the opportunity to build on your leadership skills at the heart of a vibrant, youth-focused and entirely volunteer-run charity?

A small youth based charity called Tenteleni is looking to recruit TWO highly motivated and talented individuals as Tenteleni's new **Executive Director** and **Board Director (Trustee)**.

The closing deadline is Friday, 25th November 2011 but **late applications are being accepted** - so please mention that you saw the advertisement in the BTSS news board. Board Director (Trustee) applicants should have experience in finance or legal but no prior experience as a Trustee is required. Geographical location is not a problem, as much of the work can be done remotely.

Check out the vacancies at the link below and learn more about the work of the charity.

<http://www.tenteleni.org//vacancies> or email **sarah.waymouth@tenteleni.org.uk** for more information.