

## **City of London Law Society – Corporate Crime and Corruption Committee**

Minutes of a meeting of the 10 December 2019 at Reed Smith, The Broadgate Tower, 20  
Primrose Street, London, EC2A 2RS  
8:30 – 9:30

### **Present:**

Eoin O’Shea (Chair): *Reed Smith LLP*

Sacha Harber-Kelly: *Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP*

Davina Given: *RPC*

Eve Giles: *Allen & Overy*

Neill Blundell: *Macfarlanes*

Rodney Warren: *Warren’s Law and Advocacy*

Roger Best: *Clifford Chance*

Sam Eastwood: *Mayer Brown LLP*

Sara Teasdale: *Byrne and Partners*

Michelle de Kluyver: *Addleshaw Goddard LLP*

Louise Hodges: *Kingsley Napley (on the telephone)*

Omar Quereshi: *CMS (on the telephone)*

Simon Joyston-Bechal: *Turnstone Law (on the telephone)*

### **In attendance:**

David Hobart: *CLLS*

Emma Shafton: *Reed Smith LLP*

### **Apologies:**

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

The Chair mentioned apologies received for non-attendance from several members.

#### **2. Minutes of last meeting**

No amendments proposed to the minutes of the last meeting (29 October 2019) by those in attendance. The Chair directed that the approved minutes be filed on the CLLS website 24 hours after the meeting, subject to Committee members sending any final comments on the draft.

### **3. Pre-Interview Disclosure and Interview Practices**

The Chair reported that, as discussed previously, the meeting in July 2019 with the SFO was disappointing in that little progress was made.

The committee have established contact with the Fraud Lawyers Association (“FLA”). There will be a meeting with them in the next few weeks. It was agreed that it is best to find a common position and show a united front. The Chair invited interested committee members to join that meeting.

### **4. Practice/Legal updates**

The Conservative Party manifesto states they will look at the constitution, apparently in the wake of the second Miller case. It was agreed that any matters relating to the rule of law or access to justice were matters of considerable interest to the CLLS and this committee. The Chair suggested the committee might wish to be involved in any future consultation.

### **5. Law Society, Criminal Law Committee Liaison**

Committee members discussed liaison with the Law Society’s Criminal Law Committee, given the overlap of many concerns. The current crisis that exists in the criminal justice system is apparent to all.

The general consensus was that it is in the interest of all lawyers (including those working in the City) that the UK has a functioning and respected legal system. We are all part of the same legal eco-system and clients of members may well be adversely affected by long delays and lack of resources within prosecutorial agencies and the court system.

There is a long-term concern that England and Wales’ leading reputation as a centre for disputes resolution will decay.

The CLLS are currently working with the Law Society to see what active support it can provide. Chair of the Bar Amanda Pinto QC is believed to be keen to collaborate with city firms.

The Chair suggested we might invite the chair of the criminal law committee to a future meeting.

### **6. Upcoming consultations/legislation**

Nothing of note due to General Election.

## **7. External Guest Speakers**

Debbie Price of NECC is keen to speak to the Committee re the SARS regime. She may also invite Graham Bigger the Director General of the NCA.

The committee agreed it would be beneficial to hear from Lisa Osofsky again. There may be a number of new potential speakers to invite when a new Government is formed (i.e. the new Solicitor General).

Committee members are welcome to suggest other speakers.

## **8. Membership**

Membership is reviewed and opened once a year via the approved CLLS procedure (advertised on website and CVs submitted). The application window remains open until the end of the year. Three applications received so far which will be reviewed at the next meeting in January 2020. The Chair noted that candidates must be suitably experienced and well-known to have a strong practice in corporate crime and corruption.

The Chair requested nominations/ CVs by next meeting.

## **9. Proposed 2020 dates**

The Committee agreed to stick to the same format for 2020 i.e. meeting early on a Tuesday morning and having meetings roughly every 6 weeks (with a break over summer).

## **10. AOB**

Kevin Hart (CLLS) asked that all committee members be invited to the annual dinner for members of the CLLS Specialist Committees. It is being held at Cutlers Hall, on Tuesday 4 February 2020. Further details will be given closer to the date and put on the CLLS website.

**10 December 2019**