

CITY OF LONDON LAW SOCIETY COMMERCIAL LAW COMMITTEE (THE “COMMITTEE”)

MINUTES of the Committee meeting held at 3.45pm on 2 May 2019 at the offices of HFW, Friary Court, 65 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AE

- Present:** Mr Oliver Bray, RPC (Chairman)
Mr Andrew Crawford, Devonshires
Mr Richard Marke, Bates Wells Braithwaite (“**RM**”)
Mr Anthony Woolich, HFW
Mr Kevin Hart, City of London Law Society
Mr Andrew Shindler, Locke Lord
Mr Mark Dewar, DLA Piper
- Apologies:** Mr Rohan Massey, Ropes & Gray (Secretary) (“**RoM**”)
Mr Stephen Sidkin, Fox Williams
Mr Tom Purton, Travers Smith
Mr Jonathan Davey, Addleshaw Goddard
Mr Duncan Reid-Thomas, Baker & McKenzie
Mr Richard Shaw, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
Mr Jeremy Sivyver, Bishop & Sewell
- In attendance:** Mr Michael Maccabe, Ropes & Gray (Minutes)
-

1. **Minutes of last meeting**
- 1.1 It was reported that the minutes of the last meeting had not been prepared.
2. **Apologies**
- 2.1 Apologies from the individuals identified above had been received.
3. **Recruitment Plans for the Committee**
- 3.1 It was reported that SS had prepared a list of potential partners to be recruited for to the Committee.
- 3.2 KH noted that target partners would typically join on an individual basis. It would also be desirable for such individual’s firm to also become a member.
- 3.3 OB proposed that existing members reach out to individual target partners.
- 3.4 RM commented that previous discussions had revolved around increasing the Committee’s diversity, as a matter of priority.
- 3.5 KH proposed that the Committee approach the women identified on the list prepared by SS. Initial contact could be made via a phone call from OB, or any members with prior connection to any such person. David Hobart could then approach senior members of such individuals firms, to persuade them to join the City of London Law Society (“**CLLS**”) on a firm basis.

- 3.6 *OB to make the approach and CLLS to follow up.*
- 3.7 Members agreed that new members should be invited to the next meeting.
- 3.8 *KH confirmed that he would seek to expedite the approval process.*

4. **Brexit Law Committee Customs Union Paper**

- 4.1 OB reported an email from David Hobart and Charles Clark of Linklaters, requesting assistance on a paper being prepared by the CLLS Brexit Law Committee. The paper will be a guide to the potential impact of the United Kingdom joining the EU Customs Union following its departure from the EU, and previously unconsidered issues.
- 4.2 AW explained that the Committee was asked to contribute a chapter on the commercial impact on manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and agriculture if the UK were no longer a part of the EU Customs Union. He noted the importance of the paper to the Committee as it will be shared with UK Government ministers.
- 4.3 KH noted the timing issues, given that the Brexit Law Committee requested that the chapter be delivered on 1 May 2019. He proposed that the Committee members deliver comments no later than 3 May 2019.
- 4.4 AW noted that the section being prepared by SS was outstanding. *AW agreed to circulate his chapter to the Committee on 3 May 2019, together with Charles Clark's skeleton structure.*
- 4.5 KH confirmed that the final version of the paper could go on the CLLS website, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

5. **CLLS Chairs meeting: Recap**

- 5.1 KH reported that he attended a meeting with all CLLS Chairs at the beginning of April. The following feedback was reported to the meeting:
- (a) *Brexit:* Failure of the UK Government to connect with advisers and the continued concerns of the legal industry – continuing issue with obtaining Irish practising certificate – considered structure of UK / EU relationship post-Brexit;
 - (b) *Social Mobility:* CLLS City Horizons – contacting & nurturing young talent, soft skills training – launched for second cycle of three years;
 - (c) *Access to justice:* continuing cuts to legal aid and courts service, solicitor judges (difficult to get appointed), any contacts potentially considering, speak to Ed Sparrow, set up LinkedIn page;
 - (d) *Training:* Hannah Lindsay Kovloski - SQE issue of imbalance for City firms – City to set up own exempt systems;
 - (e) *Construction Law Committee:* to host annual training in November, with a focus on trainees and newly-qualified solicitors without limited experience - free – to be advertised; and
 - (f) *Membership:* Resident of CLLS expressed desire to increase membership amongst younger generation.

6. **Adidas Event**

- 6.1 OB turned discussion towards the Committee event with members of the Adidas legal team being held after the meeting. He noted that a large turnout was expected, which should help raise the profile of the Committee. OB stated that the Committee should organise events of this kind on a more frequent basis.

- 6.2 MD observed that it could the Committee could serve as a forum for commercial lawyers, and in particular, help junior lawyers to delineate career paths.
- 6.3 KH confirmed that he would introduce the event and note the Committee's organising role. *KH to send a follow-up email to event attendees thanking them for their attendance and polling them on their desired speakers for the next event.*

7. **AOB**

7.1 **Next meeting**

On 4 July 2019 at 1pm at the offices of DLA Piper UK LLP, 160 Aldersgate Street, London, EC1A 4HT (hosted by MD).

