

**Minutes of CLLS Training Committee Meeting
Wednesday 7 October 2020, 16:30-18:00, by Webex**

Present (Committee members):

Edward Brown (EB)
Peter Carrick (PC)
Greg Lascelles (GL)
Patrick McCann (chair) (PM)
Louisa Mendes Da Costa (LMDC)
Frances Moore (FM)
Julia Robinson (JR) – from agenda item 4
Sabina Clark (SC) (clerk to committee)

Apologies:

Lindsay Gerrard
Caroline Janes
Catherine Moss
Ben Perry (BP)
Stephanie Tidball

In attendance:

Victoria Pearson (VP), Herbert Smith Freehills – in Caroline Janes's absence

The chairman opened the meeting.

1. Minutes of 15 June 2020 meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved subject to one correction to paragraph 4(d) as follows:

“SQE transitional arrangements for non-law graduates

BP referred to an email from one of the training providers which he had previously circulated to Committee members. This indicates that the SRA has changed its stance on the transitional rules which will apply to non-law graduates. It had been understood that non-law graduates could qualify under the existing (pre-SQE) route to qualification provided they had, before 1 September 2021, accepted a training contract offer or had accepted a place to study the GDL. ~~Now it appears that accepting a place to study the GDL will not suffice.~~ *The SRA has now confirmed that the transitional arrangements will apply to anyone who, before 1 September 2021, has completed, started, accepted an offer of a place or paid a non-refundable deposit for a qualifying law degree, the CPE/ GDL, exempting law degree, LPC or a period of recognised training (training contract). Anyone who falls within this group ('transitional cohort') will have until 31 December 2022 to qualify as a solicitor under the existing routes. Transitional cohort candidates who accepted an offer of a training contract by 1st September 2021 may start a CPE/ GDL programme on or before 31 August 2022. Transitional cohort candidates who have accepted an offer of a place on the CPE / GDL before 1st September 2021 must otherwise start the programme on or before 31 December 2021.* Committee members did not believe that this change would have a significant practical impact for their firms.”

2. New appointments to committee

PM tabled the applications that had been received for the vacancy (which had been endorsed) and the Committee resolved to appoint both Julia Robinson (Ropes & Gray) and Richard Album (Watson Farley & Williams) to the committee with immediate effect.

3. How are we all – check in

PM led a check-in with committee members in the current circumstances. It was agreed this agenda item would be carried over to the next meetings also. JR joined the meeting.

4. CLLS Lifetime Achievement award nomination – update

PM updated the Committee's nomination of Jo Gubbay had been submitted and that the award recipient would be announced next month.

5. Change of SRA's process to admit trainee solicitors

The Committee discussed the change to the online application process as part of which training principals must log on to sign-off trainees in the last month before the end of their training contract. LMDC agreed to take forward feedback for the SRA around the new process and tracking with the CLLS Professional Rules and Regulation Committee.

6. Referral to CLLS Professional Rules and Regulation Committee - question and SRA position about whether paralegals and those working in provision of legal services (not as solicitor) may be on the roll and may hold a practising certificate

PM confirmed the referral had been received. FM volunteered to join PM and Herbert Smith Freehill's Regulatory Committee Co-Chair in speaking with the chair of the CLLS Professional Rules and Regulatory Committee on this question.

7. Legal Services Board decision on SRA's SQE proposal

LMDC reported that the decision had been deferred to 28 October 2020. No committee members anticipated any challenge from the Legal Services Board.

8. Collaboration with the Law Society

PM noted he would be asking for a volunteer from the Committee to join him in meeting with the Law Society who expressed an interest in collaborating with this Committee in due course.

9. Co-ordination with the Legal Education and Training Group (LETG) and LETG annual conference

LMDC reported that she was waiting to hear back from the LETG's representative soon. PM added that he envisaged the LETG could publicise the Committee's events (as with the summer workshop) and open speaking slots on workshops to the Committee.

10. Year planner 2020 – review of where we are

It was noted the planner needed to be updated. PM reported back on the summer workshop attendances and publication of the thought leadership piece which linked results from the summer workshop survey.

11. Thought leadership piece 2 – review of ideas previously suggested and temperature-take to do this piece of work

FM, GL and JR volunteered to develop ideas for a second thought leadership piece.

12. November workshop – lawyer learning when co-located – a question re whether we run a workshop on that

PM suggested, and it was agreed, that the second thought leadership piece might instead be delivered in webinar format to maximise impact to take place early December or January. PM envisaged a panel Q&A format with some interactive polls could work well. FM added that Project Associates might capture poll results in an infographic to be published. Karen Seward at Allen &

Overy was mentioned as a potential panellist. It was agreed that FM, GL, JR and PM will discuss this further.

13. On the horizon: any SRA (not SQE-related) and L&D items

The Committee members shared areas to consider for forward planning: training contracts being reduced/ cancelled (GL), mental health in the context of continued home working (FM), D&I on law firm agendas to ensure the biggest talent pool and as a client concern (PM), the skills leaders will need to engage their remote teams (PM), and law schools to showcase their 2021 hybrid / blended curricula (PM).

14. Year planner 2021 – what's the best process to agree that

PC, LMDC, PM and SC will discuss and meet to put together a draft 2021 year planner to be tabled at the next meeting.

There being no AOB items, the chairman closed the meeting.