

**Minutes of CLLS Training Committee Meeting
Monday 4 October 2021, 16:30-18:00, by Webex**

Present (Committee members):

Richard Album (RA)	Louisa Mendes Da Costa (LMDC)
Edward Brown (EB)	Ben Perry
Peter Carrick	Dominic Sedghi (joining a bit late)
Lindsay Gerrand	Rosie Warren-Cafferty (joining a bit late)
James Harvey	Rachel Wevill
Greg Lascelles	Kirsty Wilkins
Patrick McCann (chair)	Sabina Clark (clerk to committee)

Apologies:

Frances Moore
Catherine Moss
Julia Robinson

Guest (for item 7)

Paulo Karat (**PK**)

The chairman opened the meeting.

1. Minutes of 25 May 2021

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. Committee membership- further appointments and welcome

The chairman confirmed the resignations of Caroline Janes (Herbert Smith Freehills) and Stephanie Tidball (Macfarlanes) from the committee, having thanked them for their work and contributions.

The chairman welcomed new members Rosie Warren-Cafferty (Dechert) and Kirsty Wilkins (Shearman & Sterling) to the committee, as well as further new appointees Rachel Wevill (Travers Smith), Dominic Sedghi (Macfarlanes) and James Harvey (Weil, Gotschal and Manges).

Introductions from committee members followed.

3. Year planner 2021 – how are we tracking

The chairman noted that the committee had had a busy year. There were two outstanding items (Partner development thought leadership piece; Inclusion and diversity to build the right skills force workshop) that had been included for autumn/winter in the year planned.

ACTION: The chairman invited volunteers to take on these items in 2022, if they are to be carried over, as well as suggestions for items the committee would like included in the draft 2022 year planner to be tabled at the next meeting.

4. Committee's 'Emerging trends in the New World' webinar event, 27 September

RA outlined highlights from the event which included a panel discussion on hybrid working with trainee and newly qualified solicitors, and session on meaningful connections in learning from anthropological and behavioural science perspective. One learning point had been reserving at least 25 mins for breakout group discussions.

ACTION: RA will arrange for a feedback questionnaire and the event slides to be circulated to delegates through Liz Thomas at CLLS.

5. and 8. Collaboration with the Law Society- SQE qualifying work experience guidance / Collaboration with CLLS Professional Rules and Regulations Committee on QWE

LMDC had circulated a QWE issues list to the Committee on which the CLLS Rules and Regulations Committee would like SRA guidance. Examples included discretion around how much of time claimed counts and can be signed off as QWE, the definition of 'legal services' and what SRA competences must be developed in order to claim QWE.

ACTION: LMDC would like comments from the committee on this issues list by close of business 5 October 2021.

ACTION: It was agreed the next committee meeting should include this agenda item with the meeting invitation being extended to Julie Brannan of the SRA as well as members of the CLLS Professional Rules and Regulations Committee. EB suggested sending discussion items to Julie Brannan in advance of the meeting to ensure SRA guidance on them could then be discussed.

6. CLLS/Law Society Social Welfare Solicitors Qualification Fund Initiative

The chairman shared slides and an update on the initiative enabling investment into social welfare legal services and access to justice and the legal profession, by enabling ca. 20 selected, committed social welfare solicitors to qualify each year nationally (from year two). It is estimated 200 legal workers in social welfare could be eligible to benefit from the fund, so the reduced SQE course fees and online and part-time delivery.

ACTION: The chairman confirmed there were currently eight participating law firms including five with representatives on the training committee. Funding commitments of up to £10,000 from other firms would be welcomed up to March 2022 for the initiative to launch in April 2022. The chairman would contact relevant committee members with a request for them to "push" within their firms.

7. Research study on mindfulness in the legal sector - March 2022 focus groups

PK joined the meeting and outlined his legal sector research considering the following questions:

- How is 'mindfulness' understood and perceived by lawyers, other law firm staff and those who procure well-being training and support interventions for them?
- Are there any barriers to engagement with Mindfulness-Based Interventions (MBIs) in this sector? Could MBIs be better designed for this sector?

PK is looking for law firms who would like to participate in 1-2 central London focus group meetings up to 90 mins long and have some lawyers and/or business team colleagues answer an online questionnaire on the above research questions. Email communications, guidance and questions being asked can be made available to participating firms in advance. PK plans to present his results around November 2022 and is also happy to speak with participating firms on this.

In response to questions from the committee, PK noted that law firms do not need to be delivering mindfulness sessions to participate and lawyer perceptions could reveal a tension with the duration of mindfulness courses/sessions designed by experts.

ACTION: Committee members to please contact PK direct (email contact details will be circulated) if their firm would like to participate in the research.

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