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12/08/24

## LAPG Member Update

Issue 25 of 2024

Welcome to the latest LAPG Member Update.

This update is all about our Annual Conference!



The LAPG Annual Conference will take place on Friday 8th November 2024 at Herbert Smith Freehills offices in London. Full details are on the LAPG website – see here.

There will also be a dinner on 7th November at the [Folly](#), a restaurant near Cannon Street. The dinner is open to everyone, not just conference delegates. We are still finalising details so will publicise details of how to book in the next few weeks. Come along and bring colleagues, friends and family. It will, as always, be a joyful event. There may well be a raffle.

Why come to the conference? As always we have included a mixture of

workshops covering issues relevant to legal aid lawyers in their daily practice as well as management sessions for all levels of manager. Students and junior lawyers are also catered for. And there are some sessions that will be of general interest.

The plenary sessions are still being finalised as we wait to hear from senior politicians if they are able to attend. However we will certainly have a plenary session on the future of civil and family legal aid. On the panel will be Chris Minnoch, Julie Bishop of the Law Centres Network, Richard Miller of The Law Society, a speaker from YLAL and we have invited a senior civil servant from the Ministry of Justice to attend this session. We have no concrete information on what the Labour government will do about the Review of Civil Legal Aid (RoCLA) but whether the response is out or not, we will be pulling together what we do know and putting forward proposals to ensure the survival of legal aid and reforms to meet the needs of clients and to make the legal aid system a viable service for practitioners.

And of course the conference is an opportunity to meet colleagues and share experiences, stories and concerns.

The programme is set out below. You can book [here](#). The early bird offer together with support and sponsorship from John M Hayes and Herbert Smith Freehills means that the prices are very competitive. We hope to see you there.

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## Conference Programme

**9.15 Registration, Coffee/Tea and Sponsors' Exhibitions.** Throughout the day John M Hayes costs lawyers will be available to delegates to discuss costs issues

10.00 Plenary session: Welcome and Keynote Speech

- **Welcome:** Nicola Mackintosh KC (Hon), Director and Founder of Mackintosh Law, Co-chair LAPG
- **Keynote Speech:** to be confirmed
  - We have invited the MOJ to attend and set out the new government's vision for legal aid and access to justice.

**10.45 Workshop Session 1**

- **1.1 – Risk, regulation and remediation** Vicky and Matt use UK GDPR and a recent Cyber Breach ICO decision to discuss risk management, policies, and procedures, dealing with regulators and fixing things when something has gone wrong. Helen Fanning provides her firm's perspective on data protection and cyber security. This is a must do session for all managers. *Speakers: Matthew Howgate, Consultant; Vicky Ling, Consultant; and Helen Fanning, Practice Manager, MJC Law*
- **1.2 – Current trends in family law (private)** This workshop will cover live issues including the FJC Guidelines on Alienating Behaviours; working with neuro diverse clients and recent research into survivors of domestic abuse and their treatment in family courts. The speakers may adapt this to add in more relevant issues closer to the conference. *Speakers: Jenny Beck KC (Hon), Solicitor and Co-Founder, Beck Fitzgerald and co-chair of LAPG; Lisa Phillips, Barrister, Park Square Barristers*

- **1.3 – Public law** This workshop will consider how JR challenges in some policy areas might be affected by the new government's approach and priorities (perhaps particularly immigration, asylum, social care, benefits). The workshop will also cover developments in running strategic litigation and costs implications, cost capping and interventions especially securing funding under *Reg. 6 of the Civil Legal Aid (Merits) Criteria 2013* and the wider public interests test. *Speakers: Oliver Carter, Solicitor, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors; Tim Baldwin, Solicitor, Garden Court Chambers*
- **1.4 – YLAL session** Run by Young Legal Aid Lawyers.

**12.05 Plenary: The future of civil and family legal aid** Many areas of civil and family legal aid are in crisis, a point made consistently by respondents to RoCLA earlier this year. We await word from the MoJ about next steps for RoCLA and for future legal aid policy. This panel will explore what needs to happen to ensure that civil and family legal aid not only survives, but is reformed to meet the needs of clients and create a viable service for practitioners. *Speakers: Chris Minnoch CEO, LAPG; Richard Miller, Head of Justice, The Law Society; Julie Bishop, Director, Law Centres Network; speakers from YLAL and MoJ invited*

### 12.50 Lunch / Sponsors' Exhibitions\*

### 13.45 Workshops Session 2

- **2.1 – How well do you know your legal aid contract?** The best way to manage your relationship with the LAA to increase income and mitigate risk is to know the contract as well or better than the LAA does. How well do you know the contract? Matt and Vicky use the latest contracts to highlight key terms and also to discuss how to approach KPI's. *Speakers: Matthew Howgate, Consultant; and Vicky Ling, Consultant*
- **2.2 – Current trends in family law (public)** This workshop will cover pre proceedings meetings (PLO) as well as what every care lawyer needs to know about education law when dealing with children who have disabilities and Special Educational Needs. *Speakers: Lucy Verity, Solicitor and Director, Philcox Gray; and Beverley Watkins, Solicitor and Partner, Watkins Solicitors*
- **2.3 – Immigration and asylum law** Broken down, Out of date, Not fit for purpose ...come and hear our immigration practitioners What is on our wish list for change of achievable objectives that don't involve cost politically or economically? What's on yours? **WARNING** Audience participation is unavoidable *Speakers: Jawaid Luqmani, Partner, Luqmani Thompson; Matthew Davies, Deputy Managing Partner, Wilson Solicitors LLP*
- **2.4 – Issues around vulnerability and capability** Diane Astin co-chair of the Civil Justice Council Working Group on Capacity in the Civil Courts will summarise the CJC recommendations on capacity, and facilitate a discussion about the need for a wider debate about: vulnerability; how the new Practice Direction PD 1A is operating; how the civil justice system can be made more accessible for vulnerable litigants; and, how the adversarial culture impacts on lawyers' conduct when dealing with unrepresented litigants. *Speaker: Diane Astin, Solicitor and Senior Lecturer in Legal Practice at Brunel University*

### 14.45 Tea Break\*

### 15.15 Workshop Session 3

- **3.1 – Billing and efficiencies** Civil Legal Aid Top tips on how providers can work in such a way that they are paid quickly to avoid cash flow issues and

minimise loss. This session will be focused on process and practicalities but will also look at how to maximise providers' costs and what fee earners need to keep in mind when running cases in busy practices. *Speakers from John M Hayes Costs Lawyers*

- **3.2 – Self-Care and managing trauma in the legal profession** Workshop co-run with YLAL Being a legal aid lawyer has many pressures and practitioners are routinely exposed to high levels of trauma in their daily work. This workshop will consider what steps can be taken to make legal aid work manageable, prevent burnout and support individuals to protect their health. *Speakers: Dr. Laura Janes, Consultant Solicitor, GT Stewart and Scott-Moncrieff; and Merry Varney, Partner, Leigh Day; Speaker from YLAL*
- **3.3 – Current trends in housing law and legal aid** This workshop will cover a number of live issues including:
  - what is happening with s.21 proceedings,
  - homeless issues including the use of bed and breakfast and applicants having to wait for eviction before being accommodated,
  - the digital possession process,
  - how best to tackle local authorities (collaborative approach or litigation every time),
  - disrepair cases and local authority tactics.

*Speakers: Rosaleen Kilbane, Partner, Community Law Partnership; Kate Pasfield, Director of Legal Aid Policy, LAPG; Laura Coyle, Partner and Housing Solicitor, Turpin Miller, Co-chair HLP*

- **3.4 – Crime and prison law update** *Speakers from LAPG Advisory Committee, LCCSA and CLSA (invited)*

## 16.10 Final Plenary

17.00 – 18.00 Drinks

## Get your tickets

Ticket Type	Early Bird (Until 4th October)	Standard (From 5th October)
LAPG member	£80 (plus VAT)	£110 (plus VAT)
Non-LAPG member	£110 (plus VAT)	£150 (plus VAT)
YLAL, JFFs, SWSQFs	£20 (plus VAT)	£30 (plus VAT)

There is a 10% discount if you purchase multiple tickets. Just add 'multiple' on the discount box before payment on the Eventbrite page. It will get automatically applied.

[Get your tickets here](#)

# Terms and conditions

A full refund will be given if a place is cancelled up to 7 days before the conference and no refunds in the last 7 days before the conference. A substitute delegate from your or another organisation will be accepted at any time before the event.

Please note, we reserve the right to change the running order and we may need to make changes to the final programme.

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Do let us know if you have any questions or special requests.

We hope to see you there!

Take care one and all,

Chris Minnoch, CEO [@ChrisLAPG](#)

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Thank you for being brave enough to be part of the LAPG community!



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