

# THE CIRCUITEER

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

03

Leader's Report

10

Florida Advanced Trial Advocacy Programme

12

Keble Advanced Advocacy Course

16

London Legal Walk

18

SEC Autumn Dinner 2023

22

Bar Mess Reports

## INTERVIEW WITH SIR MAX HILL KC



Kevin Molloy speaks to Sir Max Hill KC, outgoing DPP and former Leader of the SEC.

Page 6



Andy Malkinson spent over 17 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. His case was picked up by lawyers at the charity APPEAL.

Page 8

## DEFENDING THE GUILTY?

Any of us who practise in crime will have been asked the inevitable question 'How can you defend someone you know is guilty?'

Page 5



## Let's Get Quizzical

The Circuit's new pupils meeting at Lincoln's Inn's Old Hall for a quiz hosted by Rob Rinder.

Page 15



## Trailblazer mooting competition

Staff at the Royal Courts of Justice stepped in to provide a venue for a social mobility mooting competition after the electrical fire at the Old Bailey.

Page 17





# EDITOR'S COLUMN

## Welcome back to the Circuiteer

Can I thank all the contributors to this edition. The plan had been to get out an edition before the new year but our chambers email server was one of many that fell foul of a cyber-attack that seemed to target many law firms. I have to be honest and say I enjoyed the break from work related emails for as long as it lasted. The new year saw me make a classic novice mistake by agreeing to start a difficult sex case on the first sitting day back in January. As usual such cases ruin the latter part of the Christmas break as you have to spend valuable family time prepping your trial. So I made another fleeting new year resolution not to agree to do trials first day back.

We have all seen the courts try their best to manage the backlog of cases and it's easy to forget the backlog already existed long before Covid or any strikes by this profession. Many courts are adopting a "fixture" system when setting trial dates as they find "floating" trials less helpful. An obvious difficulty with fixing trials is the knock-on effect of overrunning trials, but at least it is an attempt to help us plan our diaries better.

The New Year saw more negative reporting on our prisons. The Chief Inspector of Prisons described Bedford as "filthy" and late last year he felt Wandsworth needed to close down. It does say something that the Victorians built Wandsworth to house 950 men and we, in a supposedly more enlightened era think it is acceptable to cram 1,600 men behind its crumbling walls. Those with challenging mental health issues get dealt with more often than not by being isolated rather than treated, and many prisoners tell stories of being locked in their cells for 23 hours a day. More investment is of course required, but the prison system joins a long list of bodies requiring more investment and so the outlook remains bleak.

If like me you tune in the odd time to watch PMQ's you may wince at what can only be called "cheap shots" aimed at Sir Keir Starmer for carrying out, in a former life his professional obligations as a barrister. It plays on the old question we all get asked "how can you represent someone who has...?" Simon Spence KC writes on this relatively new phenomenon of attacking lawyers and the interaction between the media, Parliament and the legal system.

Talking of those who have been knighted. I interviewed a former Leader of this parish, Max Hill KC as he was then. I spoke to him when he was still in post and he gave an insight into his role as DPP and he even spoke about some of his regrets. I'm grateful to him for making the time to be interviewed and indeed for attending our Circuit Dinner over the summer.

Many will recall the case of Andy Malkinson, a man who was wrongly convicted of rape. He spent a whole 17 years in jail and it is clear the system failed him terribly. But for the tireless work of the charity APPEAL, that wrong may never have been righted. Joe Hingston, Chair of Trustees at APPEAL, has written an article on that case and I hope you make time to read it.

The Circuit continues to strive to encourage the new influx of young barristers and assist those starting out with their advocacy training. With that in mind we have articles from those who participated in the Keble and Florida courses. Can I encourage junior tenants to consider participating in these courses. Nobody to my knowledge ever had a negative experience in attending these courses, all the reports have been positive and our thanks goes out to those who help organise the courses and to those who attend them. To evidence that we are not all about work and endeavour

Colin Witcher has written a piece on the New Pupil evening that included a quiz night hosted by Rob Rinder, a friend of the Circuit and supporter of the Bar. The event was held at Lincoln's Inn's Old Hall and by all accounts it was a huge success. Such events are becoming increasingly important given this new digital age leaves us all more isolated than ever before. It is always good to talk and to mix with fellow practitioners if only to help us process the challenges we face each day.

I have a list of suggested podcasts you may or may not want to follow. I realised after a quick search that there are a few chambers based podcasts which should be supported. So this list is merely a way of making you aware of them and hopefully this year we may see more legal podcast creators take the plunge. There is also the usual mix of popular political commentators given it's election year just about everywhere, with a bit of history thrown in. None reflect any views of the SEC but I do hope you dip into the podcast world as it seems to be taking off.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank Leon for all his efforts for the SEC and of course the incredible team behind him. It is their collective effort that ensures this brilliant Circuit remains relevant and essential to the future of this most learned of professions.

**Kevin Molloy**

- Church Court Chambers
- Editor of *The Circuiteer*

**If you wish to contribute any material to the next issue of *The Circuiteer*, please contact: [K.Molloy@churchcourtchambers.co.uk](mailto:K.Molloy@churchcourtchambers.co.uk)**



# LEADER'S REPORT

**Leon Kazakos KC**  
LEADER OF THE SOUTH EASTERN CIRCUIT

I am very pleased to be able to congratulate Kevin Molloy on what is, on any view, an excellent edition, reflecting the enormous amount of work that is done by members of the bar volunteering their time to ensure that this Circuit functions well.

It is a time of change on the Executive Committee. I am delighted to welcome Rebecca Tuck KC who takes on the important role of Chair of the Circuit EDI Committee. When I stood for election as Leader of the Circuit, one of my main ambitions was to ensure that we made further progress on diversity, inclusion and equality on the SEC. It is a challenging task, one that I know Rebecca will more than meet. Rebecca is particularly interested in considering the work being done across the bar to address the pay gap between men and women, and how the SEC can play an active role in this. Please email Rebecca ([tuck@oldsquare.co.uk](mailto:tuck@oldsquare.co.uk)) if you would like to be involved in this work.

I'm very pleased to announce Beth O'Reilly (shortly to be appointed King's Counsel) as our new Director of Education after the elevation of Allison Hunter KC to the bench. I would like to thank Allison for her enormous contribution to the Circuit's educational provision, not only as Director but also prior to that, as a speaker at many events. I look forward to working with Beth to ensure that our education programme remains as broad, relevant and useful as possible. If you have suggestions of subjects you would like covered or would like to volunteer yourself as a speaker on a particular topic, please make yourself known to Beth, to Fiona McAddy or to Aaron ([aaron.dolan@southeastcircuit.org.uk](mailto:aaron.dolan@southeastcircuit.org.uk))

We also have two new Bar Mess Chairs on Circuit – congratulations to Daren Samat taking over from Adrian Amer at Thames Valley and to Allan Compton KC, taking over from Simon Spence KC at Essex. Both these outgoing Chairs will no doubt be appropriately celebrated by their Messes but in the meantime, I should like to add my own thanks as well as those of

the Circuit for many years of excellent leadership and generosity of time and energy.

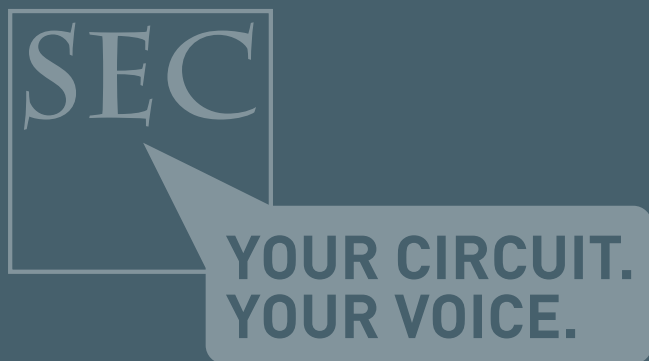
The Bar Messes are an integral part of how the Circuit works and I would strongly recommend that you join your local one and take advantage of what it has to offer. Communication between the Bar and the Bench is often most successful at Mess level, where the Judges and barristers know both each other and local pressures and difficulties. Those pressures on the bar continue. The Criminal Bar is presently depleted in numbers – the consequence of years of underfunding. My hope is that there are brighter days ahead. There should be, this is a profession full of talented, dedicated individuals who know the importance of the work that they do and strive for excellence every day.

The past few years have been very difficult but, notwithstanding that, I know that each of us is, perhaps very privately and modestly, proud to be a member of the Bar.

We all know that, without extra funding and an improvement in the fluency of listing, the current difficulties will not be solved in the short term and we look to the Criminal Legal Aid Advisory Board to continue to make the case for proper investment in an area that is vital for social cohesion and public trust. The solution is not to tinker (still less take radical action) with jury trial or the structure of the professions.

I am delighted to announce that HHJ Tony Baumgartner, the new Resident Judge of Southwark, was formally appointed as the Honorary Recorder of Westminster at a ceremony at Southwark Crown Court on 15 February. HHJ Rosa Dean, Resident Judge at Snaresbrook, was recently, and deservedly, appointed as the Honorary Recorder of Redbridge. The Circuit wishes both Judges well in their new roles, with the various and different pressures at each court centre.

Sam Townend KC took over as Chair of the Bar on 1 January. He, like all of our recent Chairs, is entirely committed to supporting the publicly funded Bar and arguing its case. The term of the Chair is only one year, but Sam is determined to tackle the problems in the Justice System that you and I know only too well. I am grateful for his energy and unstinting support. His success (and that of his predecessor Nick) in arguing the case for an increase in recoverable fees in fast and intermediate



track cases is a testament to his commitment to ensure proper remuneration for work done.

The articles in this edition about the Keble and Florida Advocacy courses should be a good prompt to anyone who can attend these courses to do so. They will enhance your advocacy skills enormously but, importantly, also give you the opportunity to meet people from other areas of practice, chambers and even countries. There are scholarships available from the Inns, and from the Criminal Bar Association. Many sets pay for their junior tenants to go. If you can go, go.

As you will see from the photos, our first Circuit Dinner in several years was a great success, one we hope to repeat this year for those who were unable to secure tickets in 2023. I won't repeat all the thank you's in the article but I must express my gratitude to Aaron Dolan for organising the Dinner so brilliantly; to Mr Justice Soole for agreeing to be our after dinner speaker - addressing, entertainingly, matters of real importance for the constitutional role of barristers; to Alex Chalk KC for making the time to support the Bar; and to all of you who took the time to come.

I hope you will enjoy reading about our event for the 1st 6 pupils. I am very grateful to Lincoln's Inn for hosting us, to the Circuit team (including Rob Rinder) that stepped up to help, and in particular to Harriet Devey for her unstinting support and flawless administration of what was, when it started, an ambitious undertaking. In September, hundreds more brand new barristers will start their life at the Bar and we will be holding an event to welcome them to the Circuit. If you would like to help, please do get in touch at [Harriet.Devey@southeastcircuit.org.uk](mailto:Harriet.Devey@southeastcircuit.org.uk).

I hope that the events we have hosted in the last year have served to strengthen relationships on Circuit. Virtual communication can be a great help in many circumstances but nothing beats meeting in person.

When you renew your practising certificate this year (ATP) there is the option to donate to Advocate. Last year, 43% of barristers generously donated to Advocate when renewing their practising certificates. The funding received was critical and represented 42% of Advocate's annual income. It enabled Advocate to hit

the milestone of having a caseworker based on every Circuit, improving the service nationwide to those desperately in need of the Bar's pro bono help. Can I ask you please to consider donating to Advocate this year.

Last but very much not least, I am delighted that our editor was able to ensnare the outgoing DPP for a very interesting interview. My thanks to Max for taking the time to do this. It is unsurprising given that he has spent much of his professional life giving of his time and energy to the Circuit. The example set by Max and by our editor, Kevin Molloy, to ensure that the Bar is more widely served should be one which we could all try to follow.

Please enjoy this issue of the Circuiteer - and of course if you have an idea for an article you would like to write, or read, do contact the Editor ([k.molloy@churchcourtcourtchambers.co.uk](mailto:k.molloy@churchcourtcourtchambers.co.uk)). He will be delighted to hear from you.

Leon Kazakos KC

- 2 Hare Court
- Leader of the SEC

# DEFENDING THE GUILTY?



It is a truism to say that of all people working in the public sector, lawyers attract the least sympathy and are, perhaps, the least understood. Any of us who practise in crime will have been asked the inevitable 'How can you defend someone you know is guilty?' question, carrying as it does an implication that our personal morality has a part to play in the cases that we take on.

This question demonstrates a lack of understanding on the part of those who ask it as to how we accept instructions and, in my experience, the existence of the 'cab rank' rule is very little known about by the public at large.

A recent, and unwelcome, development has been the frequency with which certain politicians and members of the media have chosen to attack either groups of lawyers or individual lawyers on the basis that they defend people out of step with their way of thinking, whether it be immigrants (legal or illegal), people challenging Brexit, Rwanda or the prorogation of Parliament, all of which have been under the courts' spotlight in recent times.

And so, we have seen both current and former senior Ministers referring to 'lefty lawyers' because they are representing parties seeking to challenge decisions made by government departments.

And as we approach the next General Election, we have seen such comments

focussed on the Leader of the Opposition, based on his track record as a practising barrister and Director of Public Prosecutions.

Two questions arise from this. First, to what extent is his previous career relevant to his ability to hold high political office? Secondly, are these comments made from a true position of ignorance as to how the system works by those who make them or are they a cynical manipulation and exploitation of the fact that there is, as suggested above, a genuine lack of understanding on the part of the public as to how and why we accept the cases we do?

The first question is a political one and beyond the remit of this article. The second question, however, raises important issues. We live under a constitutional monarchy where the King in Parliament is sovereign. This is not to say that the actions of a government are beyond the scrutiny of the courts. This point seems to evade the grasp of the government, whose knee-jerk reaction when decisions of theirs are overturned is to pass legislation overturning the ruling rather than comply with it. Hence, there is currently a Bill before Parliament which requires decision makers in respect of asylum applications to 'conclusively' presume that Rwanda is a safe country and the terrible scandal arising out of hundreds of private prosecutions by the Post Office is to be remedied, not through the courts, but by Act of Parliament.

One would hope that those who enact legislation genuinely understand what they are doing and have some grasp, at least, of how the interaction between Parliament and the legal system works. If they do not, this is a grave cause for concern. However, what is of even graver concern is that they do in fact understand all too well how this interaction works but choose to misrepresent it in the hope of political gain.

Nobody has put this better than the incoming Chairman of the Bar, Sam Townend KC, in his inaugural address on 9 January 2024, listened to (and heeded, one hopes) by both the Justice Secretary and the Attorney General:

'It is not appropriate to trawl through a barrister's case history to pick out unsympathetic clients or causes that they have acted for and to hold them responsible for the outcome of a given case. That is wholly to misunderstand and misrepresent the role of a barrister in our system and is contrary to not just the 'cab rank' rule, of which we have heard much over the last year, but the understanding of the role of a lawyer wherever in the world there is adherence to the Rule of Law as encapsulated in the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers'

Is it too optimistic to hope that, should any politician or media personality indulge in such behaviour, these two Law Officers will remind them of this fact? I for one hope not.



# INTERVIEW WITH SIR MAX HILL KC



I spoke to Max Hill KC shortly after the SEC dinner and when he was still the DPP. Now of course, he is *Sir Max Hill*, so it is clear that attending Circuit events can be good for your career!

Many of you will recall that Sir Max Hill KC was formerly Leader of the Circuit. I have to declare a further interest in that I once co-defended with Sir Max many years ago at the Old Bailey. The case included a stellar cast of silks and Sir Max so impressed my instructing solicitor that he wanted to use him in his next "decent case". A year later I got instructed in such a case, which was more "curious" than decent. I recall having to argue at the PTPH to get a date that suited the then Max Hill KC. After I'd explained the complexity of the case and the issues to be considered the court eventually gave me the dates I wanted. I may have gone as far as saying "I'm sorry your Honour but this case needs this specific silk." That we got out at half time as a result of an impressive half-time submission by MHKC vindicated my determination to secure a trial date that suited. I had thought it was his last trial before he was appointed as DPP, however that proved to be incorrect as I was told he was in fact instructed in a couple of further trials before taking up his new post. At the end of our trial and as a result of talking about many things other than law I gave "Max" (as he was to me) a book on Byzantine history. He recently assured me it prompted him to take two trips to Istanbul, formerly known as Constantinople and if you read the book you'd know before that it was known as Byzantium. Not that what follows will be as informative a read as a history book on Byzantine Emperors, but I hope it will be of interest nonetheless.

## 1. You started in post as DPP in Nov 2018, what attracted you to that role?

Although I became known for my work in terrorism cases, I defended and prosecuted in equal measure. On the prosecution side I had a case work relationship with the CPS that went back to 1988. The opportunity to be head of the CPS struck me as unique, whilst also remaining independent. It came at a time of real challenge for the CPS, there was in my view no better time than that to come and try to make a difference.

On arrival I knew the resources for the CPS had suffered badly as a result of austerity since 2010. Operating budgets had decreased by 44% and the headcount had fallen by 30%. Even in the pre-covid years there was a real challenge with regard to the capability and resilience of the CPS and on top of that there was a huge challenge within the criminal justice system to effectively manage disclosure obligations, so they were the main issues I had to address

## 2. What was it you wanted to achieve, what were your objectives?

My self-declared objectives were firstly, to restore trust and confidence in the CPS, including issues around disclosure. Secondly, to gain a better understanding of the CPS across Whitehall and Westminster, which was lacking. Thirdly, to restore the finances and headcount of the organisation and fourthly to rationalise and strengthen the global and international work the CPS conducts, such as the placement of liaison prosecutors overseas.

My hope is that when I leave the CPS, I will have made a positive contribution to all four of these objectives. I do however acknowledge that trust and confidence is a continuous endeavour.

During my time as DPP there were two main additional issues which arose, firstly the prosecution of rape and the crucial role the CPS plays in dealing with violence against women and girls in our society. The second was covid and how that impacted on working practices and on the backlog of cases.

## 3. What if any targets were set for you? Who do you answer to exactly?

It has always been important to me that the DPP is statutorily independent by virtue of The Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 and although there is a superintendence relationship between the Attorney General and the DPP it does not extend to case work. Therefore, no targets or objectives were set for me or could be set for me as Director, but through the succession of Attorney General's I took every opportunity to use the superintendent's relationship to explain what we do and seek the support of the AG in Parliament. I would add on the issue of the prosecution of rape cases, the government did set a target of returning to 2016 volumes of rape prosecutions by 2024. I never accepted that as a target for the CPS, however recent history has shown that we exceeded that political ambition.

## 4. How would you measure success as DPP?

One aspect of the job I didn't fully understand is that the DPP is the Head of the CPS, who is independent by statute but is also a Permanent Secretary, which is the highest grade within the civil service. I built relationships with other permanent secretaries, the Cabinet Office and the cabinet secretary. I had the opportunity to work on achieving a greater understanding of the role of CPS across Whitehall. What came with that is a light touch, performance management assessment conducted every year by the Cabinet Secretary (Sir Mark Sedwell until 2020 and then Simon Case)

In that limited sense I was "line managed", but it always seemed to me to present a good opportunity to talk up the CPS and explain what we do. That relationship never intruded upon my statutory independence.

## 5. How much work did you do with other agencies in order to ensure that trials, when they reach court were effective?

Pre-covid the national disclosure improvement plan and board, which I co-chaired with Assistant Commissioner Nick Ephgrave (now Director of the SFO) of the Metropolitan Police and working with the National Police Chiefs Council, gave me an opportunity to work in partnership with others in senior leadership positions, across policing and the CPS so as to try and improve what we wanted to do. Over time, all of that work made a difference with regards to our collective disclosure duties. Disclosure is complex and indeed is getting more complex. It requires an intense ongoing focus throughout the life of the case and any system operated by human beings can never be infallible. But since the difficult days of 2017 and 2018 real improvement has been achieved.

During covid, which was an unprecedented emergency, we used the collaboration model on disclosure and expanded that into other important areas of case work, where more than one body and organisation is responsible for input and action. This led to the expansion of the National Disclosure Improvement Board into the Joint Operational Improvement Board, which now superintends improvement across disclosure together with the investigation and prosecution of rape, plus case progression and charging of all crimes.

The other "good outcome" of the covid years is that without impinging on operational independence, there is a command structure which permits officials from the home office, from policing, the CPS and from the prosecution and the MOJ/HMCTS focusing on the progression of cases. So, there is more communication than ever before which must be a good thing.

## 6. How did the strike impact?

There was a backlog before covid and the restrictions imposed by the lockdowns exacerbated that backlog. Inevitably the bar action had a further inflationary impact on the number of cases awaiting trial. But I have always been clear, the backlog is not the fault of any individual component, still less the responsibility of any one player to resolve. The extent of the waiting list or backlog means that only collective efforts will resolve that issue.

In so far as the Bar action was concerned this was exclusively between the Bar and MOJ and the outcome, partly fuelled by the Bellamy report, was an increase in defence fee remuneration. My reaction

to that was that firstly, defence fees increases were long overdue (I spent a substantial part of 2019 driving towards the first increase under the prosecution GFS in 20 years) but secondly, I was very clear the increase in defence fees had to be matched by a similar increase in prosecution fees. I was relieved and grateful when central government agreed in February 2023 to a 15 % increase in prosecution fees and this reintroduction of parity was essential. I should emphasise that any increase, whether for the defence or the prosecution is a collective effort and I pay tribute to the Bar Liaison group comprising senior members of the CPS and the Bar's representative bodies.

## 7. Do you have a view on the seemingly ever-increasing sentences in the past 20 years?

It is a lesser-known fact that the DPP is a member of the Sentencing Council and I also sit on the Criminal Procedure Rule Committee. It was a privilege to belong to both throughout my 5-year tenure. On sentencing, the role of the council is to apply the laws passed in Parliament, whilst also striving to maintain judicial discretion in sentencing individual cases.

Recent legislation has inevitably led to a revision of sentencing guidelines. It would be my hope that within the guidelines there is still room for Judicial discretion and the application of common sense.

From my own involvement in the prosecution of terrorism cases over two decades, it is a fact that indeterminate sentences, which were once a rarity have now become the norm.

## 8. What, if anything, do you miss about being a trial advocate?

From the start of my time as DPP I have taken the few opportunities that time allows to appear in court. I have prosecuted a list in the magistrates court, I have prosecuted a PTPH list in the Crown Court and in 2011 I personally took a double jeopardy murder re-trial case to the Court of Appeal Criminal Division. After 36 years at the Bar it remains and will always be a pleasure to be an advocate in court. However, the role of the DPP and the size of the brief as director means that it can only be on rare occasions when I or any other DPP can drop everything to go to court and conduct an evidential case.

Throughout my time as DPP I've had no hesitation in relying on the thousands of independent members of the Bar who make themselves available to prosecute alongside the Crown Advocates whom the CPS employ. The balance between internal

advocates and the independent Bar is part of the fabric of the Criminal Justice system. To the best of my knowledge the current split of work allocation is 80/20 in favour of the independent Bar

## 9. Do you leave post with any frustrations?

Yes. Although the nature of the job as DPP means that I have limited time to concentrate on individual cases it's only human to reflect on occasions when we have done well and occasions, we have found challenging. The successful prosecution of Anne Sacoolas for causing the death of Harry Dunn is a testament to the tenacity of CPS prosecutors. But that is balanced by frustration that our best efforts did not result on the level of justice which I believe the 97 bereaved Hillsborough families deserved.

There are other individual cases which I will not forget whether or not they resulted in a conviction. We can only do our sincere best in difficult circumstances.

Finally. It is said outgoing US Presidents used to leave a private note in the Oval Office for the next incoming President and notoriously the last outgoing labour administration left a note at the treasury stating "there is no more money left". If you were to leave a note for your successor, what would it say?


When I leave there will be a letter to my successor, Stephen Parkinson, to whom I wish the best. That letter will say that if he looks after the people who work for the CPS, those people will look after him.

It has been a great privilege to lead my 5,600 CPS staff and on my departure that number will have risen to 7,300 staff. When all is said and done my role has been to champion the CPS, the work that we do here and all of the people who do that work. I am confident that my successor will continue that cause and I wish him well.

Can I once again thank Sir Max Hill for making time to talk to the SEC. He remains, as all former Leaders do, a friend of the Bar and friend of the Circuit.

Kevin Molloy

• Church Court Chambers  
• Editor of *The Circuiteer*



**ANDY MALKINSON**  
**Time for  
a Radical  
Rethink**

**Andy Malkinson spent over 17 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. Those years wasted in prison must not result in missed opportunities for reform.**

The circumstances of his case are well versed: Andy Malkinson was wrongly convicted of rape in 2004. He appealed directly to the Court of Appeal and subsequently applied to the Criminal Cases Review Commission – all without success. Although in 2009 the CCRC had been informed that retesting showed another man’s DNA was present on the victim’s clothing in an area described by the CPS as “crime specific”, it declined to send his case for appeal and refused to commission further forensic tests. His case was picked up in 2017 by the small charity law firm, APPEAL, an organisation which aims to overturn miscarriages of justice. It uncovered numerous disclosure issues, including that



the dishonesty convictions of two critical prosecution witnesses had been withheld. APPEAL also arranged new DNA testing, which further substantiated his claims of innocence and persuaded the CCRC to finally refer his case to Court of Appeal, some 13 years after his first application. The Court overturned his conviction in July of this year, ruling that both the new DNA evidence and the disclosure failings rendered his conviction unsafe.

Arguably the most harrowing feature of this case is that this tragedy is not a consequence of one particular reason, but a criminal justice system that failed from beginning to end: From the point of investigation, the disclosure process throughout, access to representation, the approach adopted by the CCRC and the lack of automatic compensation. Each stage of proceedings has failed Andy Malkinson.

These systemic failings have to be examined with a view to ensuring reform. There are numerous reviews being undertaken. The Lord Chancellor announced a public inquiry into Andy Malkinson’s case, to be undertaken by Her Honour Judge Munro KC, which will look at actions of police, prosecutors



and the CCRC. Chris Henley KC has been appointed to conduct an independent review into the CCRC's own investigations. The Independent Office for Police Conduct is investigating the conduct of the Greater Manchester Police.

Further afield, the Law Commission has launched a wide-ranging review of the laws governing appeals for criminal cases. The launch of their review predated the quashing of Andy Malkinson's conviction, but it will no doubt now be a valuable case study.

The Law Commission will be examining the test applied by both the CCRC and the Court of Appeal in reviewing convictions. As it currently stands, the CCRC will only refer a case where there is a "real possibility" that the Court of Appeal will overturn the conviction. This has been roundly criticised as it compels the CCRC to forecast how the Court of Appeal might rule. Since its inception, more than 97% of applications to the CCRC have been refused. The CCRC have endured their own funding problems in recent years, but their faults appear to lie more in their outlook than their resources.

The issue of disclosure, both at trial and on appeal, is at the heart of Andy Malkinson's case. The fact that APPEAL embarked upon the arduous route of taking Greater Manchester Police to the High Court twice in respect of their refusal to turn over material demonstrates that the current regime is not working. Recent steps to clarify disclosure responsibilities have neglected the appeal phase. The system needs to be open and accountable for mistakes to be uncovered. This process must be revisited.

Perhaps one positive to arise from this case is that diligent and specialist representation can achieve results. APPEAL is a unique organisation. Its genesis was the 'Innocence Project' non-profit movement in the United States which set out to uncover miscarriages of justice. APPEAL was launched here in 2014 with a pioneering vision of what law firms should be doing. Its remit extends beyond dogged representation in criminal proceedings, but it aims to provide holistic support for those who have suffered,

directly and indirectly, from the failings of the criminal justice system and to advocate for reform.

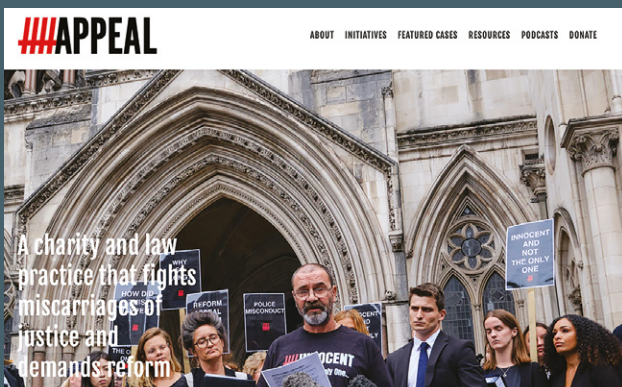
There has arguably been a degree of institutional complacency regarding miscarriages of justice in this country. The various "fixes" over the years – beginning with the enactment of PACE through to the launch of the CCRC – has nurtured a false confidence that the horrors of the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six are merely historical. The stark truth is that mistakes are made, but are now more difficult to expose. Andy Malkinson emerged from the Court of Appeal wearing a t-shirt bearing a slogan "Not the Only One". That must be true.

APPEAL receives in excess of 300 enquiries for legal assistance each year. It represents each of its clients for free, and therefore the issue of funding is a constant challenge. It has a contract with the Legal Aid Agency, but the reality is that only a very small percentage of funding needed to run the organisation comes from legal aid. Despite the strident efforts to improve funding for legal aid practitioners in recent years, funding for criminal appeals has been sorely neglected. The hourly rate is poor, but the central problem lies in an insufficient number of hours being approved by the LAA to adequately examine each case. Andy Malkinson's case required thousands of hours – not just from specialist lawyers, but trained investigators. The LAA were miserly in their allocation of hours given what was required. It follows that the large majority of funding for APPEAL comes from private funders. This inevitably carries its own challenges; after all, the plight of people convicted of horrible crimes does not attract the most sympathy, even from the most generous folk. It's an unpopular cause and there are no quick wins. It requires commitment from its team and their supporters. It is hoped that the government will also look at how such important work can be properly funded in the future.

Andy Malkinson has suffered one of the worst miscarriages of justice in recent memory. He has been betrayed by a system which exists to protect the vulnerable. This is now a vital opportunity for a radical root-and-branch rethink on how the criminal appeals system should work.

Andy Malkinson was a guest editor for BBC Radio 4's Today programme on 29th December 2023. For anyone interested in the state of the criminal justice system from a very unique perspective, it is well worth a listen.

If you would like to know more or donate to APPEAL you can do so at [www.appeal.org.uk](http://www.appeal.org.uk)



Joe Hingston

- Chair of trustees for APPEAL
- Criminal barrister practicing from Mountford Chambers in London

# FLORIDA ADVANCED TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAMME – CIVIL

MAY 2023

## Introduction

Broadening our horizons and collaborating with legal professionals in other jurisdictions is invaluable, especially in our constantly evolving legal landscape. The South Eastern Circuit has a longstanding relationship with the Florida Bar Association, hosting junior civil and criminal lawyers in each jurisdiction. In May 2023, Fatima Bakare (Clerksroom), Fazeela Ishmael and Paige Campbell (Harcourt Chambers), and Serena Crawshay-Williams (Old Square Chambers), secured scholarships from the South Eastern Circuit to attend the Advanced Trial Advocacy Civil Programme in Florida, led by Rebecca Tuck KC (Old Square Chambers). In exchange, trial advocates from Florida will soon be travelling across the pond to attend the Circuit's Advanced Advocacy Course at Keble College, Oxford.

Whilst the rest of the UK had their attention on Liverpool's marvellous hosting of this year's Eurovision competition, we all jumped on a plane and jetted off to Florida. In hindsight, we should have spent more of the flight getting some much-needed rest ahead of what became a fast-paced but invaluable week. We were hosted by former 13th Circuit Judge Claudia Isom and trial lawyer Woody Isom, who treated us to a brilliant whistle-stop tour of Tampa starting the moment we touched down. We enjoyed kayaking on Tampa Bay, dinner at sunset by the beach, and searching for crocodiles at Sawgrass Lake Park.

## Court Visits

Swapping beachwear for black suits, we then visited the State, Federal, Second District Appeal Courts in Tampa. We observed hearings across a range of civil and criminal matters, discussed the issues with the presiding judges, and compared the differences in our respective jurisdictions.

Fatima observed a 'Voir Dire' with the Honorable Judge Huey and we were fascinated by this detailed process of jury selection, compared to our jury service system in the UK. In essence, prospective jurors are questioned by the trial advocates about their backgrounds and potential biases, honing down to form a jury. The purpose of this process is to ensure that a fair and impartial trial takes place as the jury will be the ultimate decision makers. Indeed, the American attorneys were somewhat surprised that there were no juries in civil cases in the UK (with the exception of libel and slander cases).

Members of the Hillsborough Bar Association Young Lawyers Division kindly joined us for lunch and a number of judges welcomed us on a tour of the State and Federal Courts. The day culminated in us taking turns to pose with a giant gavel and having a moment to fan-girl over the first female African-American Federal Court Judge in Tampa, Honorable Judge Scriven, and first female Federal Court Judge in Tampa, Honorable Judge Bucklew.

## Florida Advanced Trial Advocacy Course

Next, we travelled to Gainesville, Florida, for the Advanced Trial Advocacy course where the real work began. The course centred around a mock jury trial of a wrongful death case following a collision between a cyclist and SUV. We attended lectures on the various elements of trial, and observed masterful demonstrations by the experienced faculty, judges, and attorneys. The cross-examination of a pencil and a dollar bill were memorable examples, and our own Rebecca Tuck KC delivered a skilful cross-examination of an accident reconstruction expert. Stepping out of our comfort zones and away from the lectern, we were encouraged to incorporate demonstratives in our cross-examination, and presentation slides in our speeches.

We also had great fun swapping war stories with the other trial attorneys over drinks at the hotel bar, and managed to squeeze in a tour of the University of Florida campus including its impressive football stadium called the 'Swamp'. We rounded off the program with a formal dinner at the University of Florida President's House, where we entertained with our best impressions of the Royal Family in a game of Two Truths and a Lie.



## Diversity at the Bar

One of the highlights of our trip was the focus on diversity amongst lawyers, particularly minority ethnic groups. There is a lot still to work on in fostering a more diverse profession, especially with more open and comfortable discussions with a view to bridging the gap. The South Eastern Circuit is to be commended for the diverse make-up of the delegation. We consider that continued emphasis on developing a more diverse profession both in the US and UK is central to producing a bar and judiciary that represents the communities they serve.

We had a whirlwind experience and are very grateful for the opportunity. As we readjust back to the time zone, and our respective busy practices, we take away the following from our trip:

1. Be Concise. Keep it short, sharp and simple.
2. Be Open, to new techniques, new experiences.
3. Be authentic. Channel that imposter syndrome. You are exactly where you are supposed to be.



### With special thanks to:

- South Eastern Circuit
- Claudia and Woody Isom
- Phillip and Nancy Bauman
- Honorable Judge Peacock and Mike Peacock
- Rebecca Tuck KC
- Honorable Judges of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida
- Honorable Judges of the Middle District of Florida
- Honorable Judges of the Second District Court of Appeal of Florida
- Hillsborough Bar Young Association Lawyers
- Organisers and Members of the Trial Advocacy Association

Fatima Bakare, Fazeela Ishmael, Paige Campbell, Serena Crawshaw-Williams

• Clerksroom, Harcourt Chambers, Old Square Chambers



# KEBLE ADVANCED ADVOCACY COURSE

**When they tell you that the Keble Course is the most demanding of any advocacy course it is no exaggeration.**

The course which is held annually at Keble College Oxford is internationally recognised as the most intensive in the UK if not further afield. It is aimed at members of the Bar who are beyond New Practitioner level and taught by a faculty including members of the Court of Appeal, High Court, as well as Circuit Judges, leading Silks and senior Juniors alike.

Whilst appearing in front of a panel made up of those individuals is undoubtedly daunting and poses an opportunity to embarrass oneself, it seemed that on balance that a learning experience of this kind was unlikely to come around again, and so, despite my initial reservations, I stuck by my plan to attend.

Set over 5 days in late August the Keble Course, which is run with military precision thanks to Aaron Dolan, involves intensive training in trial advocacy. Participants select either the civil or criminal law option in readiness for a mock trial on the final day.

If you do select the criminal option the mock trial includes a panel of real jurors who provide 1-2-1 feedback on your performance. I still await, with baited breath, the individual feedback questionnaire and the filmed deliberations arriving in to my inbox.

There is also a separate component to the course allowing participants the opportunity to deal with complex expert evidence either from medical or financial witnesses. It is safe to say I am now much better versed in the complexities of one aspect of endocrinology than ever before.

Preparation is key, the materials themselves whilst not large do require careful review. Not least because as part of the criminal or civil advocacy you are required to complete skeleton arguments in advance on evidential issues, such as identification. Top tip: when they tell you in the course instructions you will require 4 days to prepare, take it seriously!

If that seems overwhelming, then it is only topped by receiving an email politely letting you know that your mock trial Judge may sit in the Court of Appeal to encourage careful preparation.

Throughout the week I was taught by John Ryder KC who as well as bringing a brilliant sense of humour to the sessions provided immensely valuable comments and critiques throughout. He was ably assisted by Alex Matthews who having been a previous participant was always on hand to provide much needed encouragement. Each day focussed on an individual aspect of court room advocacy: closing speeches, examination-in-chief, legal argument, and so forth.

Each advocacy exercise is filmed following which there is immediate critique- adopting the Hempel method- in the classroom by the group leader and two independent tutors.

The Hempel method is key to the course. This method will be familiar to many having now been adopted in many training schemes. It was developed by advocacy trainer George Hempel KC almost 30 years ago and involves these steps:

- i. The student performs a piece of advocacy.
- ii. The advocacy tutor having observed the performance will then identify a "headline." This involves the tutor identifying one particular aspect of the performance they have seen to be addressed, for example "ask your witness non-leading questions or slow down your speech."
- iii. The tutor will then discuss with the student how to improve this aspect of the performance and demonstrate how to apply the remedy to the specific problem.
- iv. The student then performs again, applying the remedy.

Following that Hempel process each student has a private one-on-one review of the videos of their initial performance. In my case those sessions were often with HHJ Anthony Leonard KC whose tailored advice was always, unsurprisingly, spot on. Having just returned to court, I now find myself adopting those techniques as if they were second nature (well almost)

Whilst watching the videos of your performance feels somewhat painful, they do present an important opportunity to address areas which require improvement. One can observe in painstaking detail all your idiosyncrasies; from the way you stand in court to your facial expressions when a witness doesn't quite answer the question as you might have hoped, to just how intently you look at a Judge when they are providing a ruling. As the week progressed, having taken on board the feedback, it also presented an opportunity to see the improvements I had made.

Towards the end of the week the course re-focuses and time is devoted to working with the experts in a trial setting. In my case, the medical stream of the course concerned a medical negligence case. This aspect of the course allows you an opportunity to conference with the expert, examine them and then cross-examine the opposing side. For me this was by far the most rewarding experience, and I am incredibly grateful to all the medical professionals who gave up their time to assist us.

Although an intensive course, everyone who attends is incredibly sociable. Firm friendships were made within my group which was a spread of criminal advocates, representatives from The Service Prosecuting Authority and the Singaporean Bar. In

fact, we are all due to meet next month for a "case dinner." Other representatives travelled from Ireland, Jamaica, and South Africa. Of course, we domestic practitioners took the opportunity to introduce our colleagues from further afield to the local pub, The Lamb & Flag, and the College bar during the evenings. Faculty members often joined us and it is fair to say we all very much enjoyed swapping "war stories" across the bar.

What did become clear very quickly, and the reason I agreed to write this for the Circuit, was just how few advocates at the publicly funded Bar attend. My primary purpose in writing this article is to encourage others on Circuit to apply- and not to let down Sarah Clarke KC to whom I promised I would try to encourage at least 1 applicant from the Midlands to attend in 2024! In the present climate many are not in a position to give up their time for such a course, balancing a busy practice with personal commitments and then funding the course is another key consideration.

If you can find the time in your diary to block out dates to prepare and attend the course then the Inns of Court offer funding for up to 20 of its members (from any Circuit) to attend the South Eastern Circuit's Keble Advanced Advocacy Course. I was fortunate to gain a scholarship from my Inn which covered the full costs of the course.

For those who are considering applying the deadline for the submission of application forms and references is usually June each year.

If any prospective applicant has questions in advance, I would strongly encourage contacting The South Eastern Circuit's administrator.

In closing I would thoroughly recommend the Keble Advanced Advocacy Course to anyone as an exceptional experience. It provided me with a true perspective of my advocacy and a unique opportunity to learn. Perhaps more importantly though, it provides all attendees with a dedicated time to refocus our minds on the most important aspects of advocacy, the art of persuasion.



Chloe Ashley

• No5 Chambers

## Keble and Florida Advocacy Courses

- ▶ **The South Eastern Circuit, Tim Dutton CBE KC, Advanced International Advocacy Course 2024 - 25 scholarships**  
<https://southeastcircuit.org.uk/events/the-south-eastern-circuit-tim-dutton-cbe-kc-advanced-international-advocacy>
- ▶ **Civil - Florida Course - 4 scholarships**  
<https://southeastcircuit.org.uk/events/florida-civil-course-2024-junior>
- ▶ **Crime - Florida Course - 4 scholarships**  
<https://southeastcircuit.org.uk/events/florida-criminal-course-2024-junior>

# SEC EVENTS



## Mental Health, Diversion and Crime

A view from the bench, liaison and diversion teams, a psychiatric expert and criminal practitioners on the current state of mental health provision within the Criminal Justice System.

**THURSDAY 21ST MARCH FROM 18.00HRS AT INNER TEMPLE IN ROOMS 1&2 ON THE 4TH FLOOR.**

A hybrid event taking place in-person and online.

### Keynote Address:

Mrs Justice Cheema-Grubb DBE

### Introductions:

Alex Matthew – Panel Chair and Recorder of the South East Circuit.

Michael Neofytou – Barrister, 25 Bedford Row

Chantel Gaber – Barrister, 25 Bedford Row

*A drinks reception will follow for those attending in person.*

*The Chatham House Rule will apply to this event, and it will not be recorded.*

Please confirm your place by emailing [admin@southeastcircuit.org.uk](mailto:admin@southeastcircuit.org.uk) stating if you are attending in person or via a remote link.

The access link will be circulated on the day of the event.

### Panel:

- Mrs Justice Cheema-Grubb DBE
- His Honour Judge Geoff Payne
- Katie Harrington – Senior Mental Health Nurse, Isleworth Crown Court Liaison & Diversion Team
- Dr. Sophie Anwar – Forensic Consultant Psychiatrist, also works at Westminster Magistrates' Court in Liaison and Diversion team
- Leon Lynch – Barrister, 25 Bedford Row
- Katerina Tsibouklis – Solicitor, Rustem Guardian
- Anita Arora – District Crown Prosecutor

## The Kalisher Lecture

**19 MARCH**

The Lady Chief Justice has kindly agreed to give the 2024 Kalisher Lecture:

***To know the law and observe it well – Magna Carta and Criminal Justice***

The Bar Mess, Central Criminal Court on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 17:30

Refreshments will be provided. Those wishing to attend are requested to email [administrator@thekalishertrust.co.uk](mailto:administrator@thekalishertrust.co.uk), if possible before 14th March 2024, indicating any access requirements. Photo ID will be required.

## Kindness at the Bar Focus Group Volunteers Needed

Kindness at the Bar has commissioned further research from Professor Banerjee and his team at Sussex University to look at kindness in our workplaces. The research is sponsored by the South Eastern Circuit and Red Lion Chambers.

A series of focus group sessions will take place remotely over Teams, for groups of barristers to speak anonymously about their experiences in court and Chambers.

The session time is 1 hour (either 8.30am – 9.30am or 5pm – 6pm) and groups will be facilitated by researchers from the University of Sussex and Valerie Charbit. Full Ethics approval has been obtained and all participation and answers will be anonymised in the final report.

Would you like to engage in this research? We are seeking a diverse range of participants at all stages of professional life and from a wide range of practice areas.

Please do contact us ASAP if you are able to help or ask others who may be interested.

Thank you, Nicola Shannon KC and Valerie Charbit

### Session dates are as follows:

Silks  
– 8th March 2024 (8.30am – 9.30am only)

Senior Juniors (15 years' call or above)  
– 3rd April 2024

Juniors (Below 15 years' call)  
– 4th April 2024

Higher Court Advocates  
– 5th April 2024

Please respond by email to Valerie Charbit at Red Lion Chambers

[Valerie.Charbit@18rlc.co.uk](mailto:Valerie.Charbit@18rlc.co.uk)

# Let's Get Quizzical

My crowning moment. I had been asked personally by the Leader of the Circuit to discharge our Health and Safety obligations. I would not let Leon down. My voice echoed amongst the historic walls of Lincoln Inn's Old Hall: "the exits are here and here". An assured hand went left. An assured hand went right. Voice and physicality perfectly synchronised. The applause was admittedly a little lacklustre, however, I did not mind. This evening was not about me. It was very much about the new pupils on our Circuit. And now they knew where the fire exits were.

The new pupil evening began with an informal mixer and welcome drinks, with a number of Circuit Members on hand to help break the ice. The brief was clear: encourage pupils to move away from the safety net of their Chambers' co-pupils and to mingle. The noise was reassuringly loud before a typically subtle

gong was used to invite the pupils to take their seats in Hall for a quiz. The tables were generously stocked with cheese and wine (the cheeseboards featured in most of the reviews of those attending), together with answer sheets to a number of quiz rounds written by the stalwart of the Circuit Harriet Devey. Topics ranged from Taylor Swift to capital

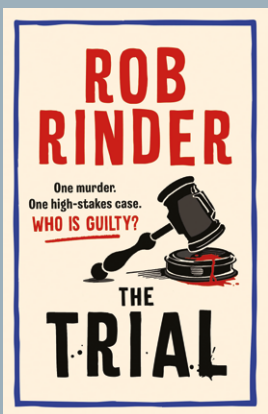
cities. The quiz host needed no introduction for it was the brilliant barrister, TV presenter and author Rob Rinder, who is always a fantastic supporter of the Circuit. Together with Leon he managed to keep the atmosphere electric and up-beat all evening. There were admittedly the occasions heckles from the quiz team of supporting Circuit Members, but such humour was only designed to detract from our inability to correctly answer most of the questions. Rob was the star of the evening for many, with one pupil noting "there was no better way to kick off pupillage than a quiz night hosted by Rob Rinder!". The bar has been set high for next year.

The event provided a relaxed and enjoyable environment for new pupils to meet and to be encouraged to form friendships with those sharing the often difficult and at times lonely path of pupillage. Another critical incentive for the evening was to ensure that pupils understood that the Circuit is there for them to offer support irrespective of their Chambers or practice areas. There has been a tendency at times to believe that the Circuit is designed only for criminal practitioners, however that could not be further from the truth, as Leon

emphasised in his welcome address. Indeed, the winning team was made up of more than six different Chambers and covered nearly all practice areas between them: clear evidence that there is strength in diversity.

Harrison Engler of Field Court Chambers who was one of the pupils on the winning team noted "The SEC Quiz was an opportunity to meet fellow pupils from across different practice areas, Inns, bar courses, and backgrounds. I had gone into the evening expecting to know far more of my fellow pupils, and in that sense, it was the perfect reminder that the Bar is much broader and more diverse than is often thought". That was a sentiment expressed by many others. Rebecca Malczewski, a pupil at 2 Hare Court, commented how she "met people from different specialities and different Inns, many of whom it's possible I would not have crossed paths with during pupillage without events such as this. It was great to hear about people's different experiences of pupillage so far". Tinessa Kaur, a future pupil at 4 Breems Buildings, found it incredibly helpful to meet other pupils before the start of her pupillage in January 2024. Tinessa, in addition to loving having Rob Rinder host the event, found the evening "a great ice-breaker to get pupils talking to one another" and observed that it was a very well organised event which she would definitely recommend to future pupils.

Ultimately, it appears that the quiz evening allowed pupils to feel part of a wider and broader cohort of 2023/4 pupils and to understand the collegiate and supportive atmosphere the SEC promotes. It seems certain that the evening should remain a fixture in our Circuit's diary. However, two conditions appear to be required after intensive review and analysis: first, the cheeseboards must remain and second the health and safety officer needs background music and a costume change.



Colin Witcher

- Church Court Chambers
- Member of the SEC Executive Committee

# LONDON LEGAL WALK

**13 JUNE 2023**

For the first time (in our memory at least), the Circuit put out a team for the London Legal Walk. On one of the hottest days of the summer, a group of Juniors (only slightly slowed down by the Leader and his PA) enjoyed a beautiful walk through London, raising just short of £1000 for frontline legal charities. Refreshments were enjoyed by all.

**If you would like to join us next year, put Tuesday 18 June in your diary and email [Harriet.Devey@southeastcircuit.org.uk](mailto:Harriet.Devey@southeastcircuit.org.uk) to let her know you are interested.**





# Trailblazer mooting competition

Staff at the Royal Courts of Justice stepped in to provide a venue for a social mobility mooting competition after the electrical fire at the Old Bailey left things in limbo last week.

The London Irish Lawyers Association (LILA) was set to host the grand final of its Trailblazer mooting competition, aimed at identifying some of the best and brightest young legal minds across the island of Ireland, in the historic Court One at the Old Bailey on Friday. However, the Old Bailey was evacuated following a major fault at an electrical substation on Wednesday, and remained closed for the rest of the week.

Rallied by Her Honour Judge Rafferty KC, LILA supporter and original Derry Girl, judiciary across London generously offered up their courts for the event. Law firms Pinsent Masons and Kingsley Napley were also ready to provide a venue if no court could be made available. The LILA committee were bowled over, however, to be told on Thursday afternoon that staff at the Royal Courts of Justice were willing to stay late on Friday evening, so Court Five could be used for the moot.

The Trailblazer programme worked alongside the access offices of a number of universities across the four provinces of Ireland to establish a programme of workshops, talks and a mooting competition targeted at pupils with a passion for law and who met a number of socio-economic indicators (or whose school was a DEIS school - <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/the-irish-education-system/measures-to-address-educational-disadvantage>).

The final teams (consisting of one university student and one secondary school pupil) flew in from Cork and Belfast, and were treated to a whirlwind tour of legal London on Friday, as well as a private tour of the Embassy of Ireland, before donning wigs and gowns

to appear before HHJ Rafferty KC and her usher for the evening, the Hon. Mrs Justice McGowan, in a contested a bail application.

Following fantastic advocacy from both teams, the decision was very finely balanced. Ultimately, however, bail was denied and the Cork team, Alyson O'Kelly-Lynch (University College Cork) and Chinedu Okonkwo (Gaelcholáiste Mhuire AG) emerged the winners. Jack Hughes (Ulster University) and Isabella Cox (North Coast Integrated College) were brilliant runners up.

The evening ended with a celebration party at Pinsent Masons offices, where attendees took in views of the London skyline from the 15th floor.

Special permission was given for the event to be photographed by Denis Minihane, staff photographer with the Irish Examiner, whose last London legal assignment was covering the release of the Birmingham Six from the Old Bailey in March 1991. He retires this Thursday.

Both the Access UCC PLUS Programme in University College Cork and the Widening Access Programme in Ulster University were delighted to share and invest in LILA's vision for social mobility supporting and encouraging both secondary and third level students to participate in the exciting inaugural pilot initiative. Representatives of the access programmes were also present at the event. Dr Esther McGuinness, Head of School of Law at Ulster University, said, "We are delighted to have participated in the inaugural LILA Trailblazer Programme and to have undergraduate student and pupil partner from North Coast Integrated College in the mooting final. This exciting initiative has provided a real world connected learning opportunity for students and pupils to explore a future career in a London based Law firm." Maeve Minihane, Schools Outreach Coordinator at University College Cork, said, "This amazing experience will be something that our students will remember all their lives. The LILA team collectively were amazingly generous with their time, advice, encouragement and generosity of spirit."



LILA would like to extend its thanks to everyone who has supported the Trailblazer Programme, and those who offered assistance when it became apparent that the Old Bailey would not reopen in time for the moot on Friday. These include, but are not limited to, the Rt Hon Lord Justice Dingemans, His Honour Judge Reid, Her Honour Judge Karu, Lisa John, Laura Barnard and Jean McGarvey.

[www.londonirishlawyers.co.uk](http://www.londonirishlawyers.co.uk)

**LILA**  
LONDON IRISH LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

**Tomas McGarvey**

- First Assistant Junior of the South Eastern Circuit
- Treasurer of the London Irish Lawyers Association

# SEC Autumn Dinner 2023

The South East Circuit was delighted to hold the first Annual Dinner in some years, following the global pandemic and the unprecedented bar action. What a magnificent evening it was! Inner Temple Hall provided a fitting venue for a dinner that attracted extraordinary numbers of barrister and members of the judiciary; no doubt testament to the excellent work of our current Leader, Leon Kazakos KC. So popular was the event that we filled the hall and the balcony. The food and wine were both excellent and we thank the chef, kitchen and waiting staff for excellent service and a wonderful culinary experience.

We were delighted to have the Lord Chancellor and Justice Minister Alex Chalk KC in attendance, alongside all of the Circuit Leaders: Jamie Hamilton KC, Jason Pitter KC, Caroline Rees KC, Michelle Heeley KC, and Joanna Martin KC. After the difficulties the bar has faced over recent years, it was heart-warming and reassuring to have all those who lead the profession together for a moment of celebration.

Guests were treated to speeches from both our Leader and The Honourable Mr Justice Soole. The Leader's speech thanked our hosts, Inner Temple, for their continued support of the Circuit and gave a special mention to both Christine Agnew KC and Mark Fenhalls KC who led the Circuit through some of the most difficult times it has had. There was also a mention for Alex Chalk KC who himself is "a legal aid barrister doing time as a politician" and a member of the South Eastern Circuit. No Leader's speech would be complete without a thank you to both Harriet Devey and Aaron Dolan who do so much of the work behind the scenes to keep the Circuit juggernaut moving in the right direction.

Our thanks to The Honourable Mr Justice Soole for agreeing to speak and for enthraling guests with a speech that both looked back on his time at the bar, injected humour into the evening, and kept guests entertained; the icing on the cake for what was a memorable evening for all who attended.

Members of the judiciary in attendance: The Hon. Mr Justice Soole, The Hon. Mrs Justice Cheema-Grubb, The Hon. Mr Justice Cavanagh, The Hon. Mr Justice Murray, The Hon. Mrs Justice May, The Hon. Mr Justice Bennathan, Sir Nicholas Hilliard, HHJ Peter Lodder KC, HHJ Katherine Pierpoint, HHJ Nick Rimmer, HHJ Greg Perrins, HHJ Anupana Thompson, HHJ Usha Karu, HHJ Noel Lucas KC, HHJ John Lodge, HHJ Christopher Morgan, HHJ Witold Pawlak, HHJ Adam Hiddleson, HHJ Julian Smith, HHJ Rosa Dean, HHJ Martin Edmunds, HHJ Lana Wood, HHJ Vanessa Francis, HHJ Simon Mayo KC, HHJ Philip Bartle KC, HHJ Rosin Cottage KC, HHJ Michael Hopmeier, HHJ Sally-Ann Hales KC, HHJ Dafna Spiro, HHJ Tony Baumgartner, HHJ Mark Bryant-Heron KC, HHJ Anne Brown, HHJ Kaly Kaul KC, , HHJ Georgina Kent, and HHJ Samantha Leigh.





# Dinner for Christine Agnew KC, former Leader of the SEC

On Friday 23 June 2023, on a glorious sunny evening, an illustrious group of guests of the Circuit thwarted the train strikes to gather at the Swan at the Globe, where they celebrated the Leadership of Christine Agnew KC (2021/22). Former and current Leaders rubbed shoulders with Committee members past and present and we were also delighted to welcome great friends of the Circuit including some senior judiciary. Delicious food and wine were enjoyed in a beautiful setting and much fun was had by all. Gifts were presented, speeches were made and phrases such as “remarkable force of nature”, “outstanding intellect and razor sharp wit”, “classily done”, “highly effective, persuasive and inclusive” and “on my speed dial for life” were heard and applauded. Brava Christine!



# Judicial Drinks Reception

**FRIDAY 16 JUNE**

**NORTH LAWN, LINCOLN'S INN**

The Circuit Summer Drinks Reception for the judiciary is always a highlight and this year was no exception. The beautiful gardens of Lincoln's Inn were a stunning backdrop for this event and it was particularly lovely to see so many people enjoying meeting up in person, seeing old friends and making new ones.

The relationship between the Bench and the Bar is so important and it is a testament to all on the South East Circuit that there is such a good rapport. We are grateful to our judicial friends for their support.



# BAR MESS REPORTS



## CAMBRIDGE & PETERBOROUGH BAR MESS

The members of the Cambridge & Peterborough Bar Mess are pleased to report that our Judges are showing particular regard to the needs of advocates whilst trying to sustain the high pace of case management: remote access is available almost invariably. This is obviously helping everyone with diary management and improves the "case ownership" upon which the goodwill of all involved depends.

Unfortunately, the Listing Office isn't always able to deliver Final Lists in a timely manner, with very late revisions creating problems for diary clerks: we hope that a collaborative approach to this will improve matters.

This summer will see wholesale changes of members on the Bar Mess Committee - anyone who is interested in being on the Committee should be ready to put their name forward ... so look out for news of a new team at the helm: we wish them the very best of luck with all that lies ahead!

Karim Khalil KC  
Bar Mess Chair

## CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT BAR MESS

Since our last report, the CCC has welcomed three new judges: HHJ Tayton KC, HHJ Sarah Whitehouse KC and HHJ Judy Khan KC.

The latest round of the Treasury Counsel recruitment process has seen feverish activity in recent months and is now almost complete. On 1st April 2024, we will formally welcome:

- Tom Little KC as First Senior Treasury Counsel;
- Louise Oakley, Paul Jarvis and Jonathan Polnay as Senior Treasury Counsel;
- Nick Hearn, Ben Holt, Philip McGhee, Alistair Richardson and Fiona Robertson as Junior Treasury Counsel.

We bid farewell to Oliver Glasgow KC, Alison Morgan KC, Julian Evans KC and Joel Smith, with huge thanks for their many years' service to the Room and the Mess. At the time of writing, the Monitree interviews are underway - the results will be published in time for them to start their monitored period on the same date. Thereafter, there will be announcements as to the next Pathway, and on new Mess positions. Membership has dwindled for many years - to give this a boost, an overhaul of the Mess administration is planned to take place soon.

Following on from the success of the WICL "Faces" event for IWD, the Mess intends to hang more portraits to represent a diverse selection Old Bailey regulars who are popularly regarded as worthy of recognition in this way, past and present. Suggestions are welcome.

Plans to build up a library of paperback books for the cells have been approved. There is now a book box in the Bar Mess for suitable donations, with many thanks to Joel for organising this - his parting gift as Junior of the Mess.

Jocelyn Ledward  
Bar Mess Treasurer



## CENTRAL LONDON BAR MESS

The Central London Bar Mess is delighted to announce that our Bar Mess Chair, Allison Hunter KC, has been appointed as one of His Majesty's Circuit Judges. We send her our congratulations and good wishes. A new committee will shortly be in place to support members of the mess. Watch this space!

James Thacker  
Bar Mess Junior

## ESSEX BAR MESS

In November the Essex Bar Mess held its annual dinner at the Mercer. The evening was a great success with excellent speeches from Simon Spence KC, Christopher Martin and His Honour Judge Turner KC. Simon has now come to the end of his term as Essex Bar Mess Chairman. Many thanks for all the work he has put in over the last three years, particularly as we all emerged from lockdowns and the enforced separation that caused for all of us.

At Chelmsford Crown Court a valedictory was held for the retiring HHJ Turner KC. He has spent the best part of two decades dispensing justice at Chelmsford and for a while the Court won't quite seem the same without him. We will all miss his charm, wit and humanity.

Although their stints at Chelmsford have been much shorter HHJ's Godfrey and Walker have moved on to sit closer to home at Wood Green Crown Court. Again, all at the mess thank them for work at Chelmsford and wish them well at Wood Green.

There are three new arrivals at Chelmsford, HHJ Jamie Sawyer, HHJ Alex Mills and HHJ Richard Wilkin. We all welcome them to Essex. We hope they find Chelmsford to be one of the friendliest and most efficient courts to sit in.

Finally, we hope to arrange a Summer Drinks party this year. Suggestions as to date and venue are more than welcome!!

Allan Compton KC  
Bar Mess Chair

## HERTS & BEDS BAR MESS

I am very grateful to Resident Judges (RJ) HHJ Simon at Luton CC and HHJ Lana-Wood at St Albans CC for providing me with the following updates.

Firstly, with Luton CC, There have been a few judicial updates. HHJ Ross Johnson was appointed to Luton as of 9 October and HHJ Allison Hunter KC (a recent and much admired member of the SEC committee) began sitting on the 4th December. HHJ Geoff Payne transferred over from Aylesbury/Amersham at the beginning of November. HHJ Johnson is a further new appointment and I have had the pleasure of appearing before him several times already. That will bring the current total to five. Judges, Herbert, Evans and Blake have moved on to pastures new. The other major staff news is that Anne Morris, the delivery manager for the last two years has now gone to the Luton Civil and Family Justice Centre and her counterpart there, Katie Stevenson has moved across to Luton.

Courtrooms: A trial courtroom in the Magistrates Court has opened to provide a further resource to help address the backlog. As there is no "secure dock" it will only cater for low-risk Class 3 bail cases. This adds to the continued use of the one court at Huntingdon and the court at the Shire Hall in Bedford. On any view that is quite a spread of court room capacity.

Through the leadership of HHJ Simon they continue to address the backlog as best they can. The move towards trial fixtures (as opposed to warned lists) has had a positive impact as has the monthly liaison meetings between listings and counsel's clerks/solicitor firms, particularly highlighting potential problems well in advance, but also identifying legacy warned list cases that could be called in as counsel are available. Custody cases continue to be listed within CTLs, but because of the use of fixtures only, bail cases necessarily have to wait for trial (currently approximately 18 months). There is however a far greater likelihood of the trial actually going ahead on that date and certainly more so than if a warned list date were offered.

The current challenge is reportedly the lack of counsel, more often than not prosecution counsel, and particularly the lateness of notification to the court. Trials seem to overrun their time estimates in other courts with regularity and this causes issues for Luton CC diary. The RJ has been working with the DCCPs to consider how this might best be addressed.

The Luton crown court's guidance document contains a 'generous' CVP protocol and has been warmly welcomed, especially by the CPS, and it is therefore disappointing to learn that despite the efficient and practical approach this court has towards CVP requests, last minute absences continue. Can I urge my fellow practitioners to try and honour listing commitments made by their clerks in their name. Sometimes this is not possible if you are covering different CVP listings in different courts. As defence counsel I know you can't get all your cases for one morning listed in the one court. If cases are over running, it is always better to tell the Judge your continued involvement in their case is time-critical.

Luton has always been a favourite of mine as I spent many a day up there whilst a junior barrister. The atmosphere at court remains very positive. I have especially enjoyed discovering and using the onsite caterers, who are friendly, professional and good value. The staff as ever are, in the words of HHJ Simon, "outstanding".

St Albans was required to lend a court to Harrow CC due to the structural issues that court had with its concrete. Harrow CC



is I'm afraid representative of the consequence of continued underinvestment in court infrastructure. The lack of investment is something which reflects poorly on all those who have been in a power.

Making space for Harrow CC has impacted negatively on St Albans ability to manage their own lists and indeed address their own backlog. HHJ Lana Wood apologises to anyone who was kept waiting longer than they would have liked for a short hearing, or who appeared in a trial which overran as a result. From January 2024 St Albans will be back to operating 7 courts: 6 trial courts and a list court. The objective in having a list court is to ensure that trials are not delayed in starting, and therefore run smoothly and to time.

Judge Bilal Siddique started as a new appointment in October, bringing the total number of resident judges up to 6 (Wood, Sheridan, Wigin, Kainth, Roques and Siddique). As a result of some forced absences there will be a heavy reliance on Recorders at the start of 2024.

Members of the bar who sit as recorders and would like to sit at St Albans are always welcome. It's a mere 15-20 minutes away by train from St Pancras.

Heather Veitch, is now the new list officer. If you need to contact her, email the list office on [stalbanscrown.offersandavoids@Justice.gov.uk](mailto:stalbanscrown.offersandavoids@Justice.gov.uk)

With a new list officer it is hoped final listings can be out by 4 pm. Getting a list out on the Common Platform takes a considerable amount of time. Please ask your clerks to respect a 3 pm deadline for any requests for changes to the list.

St Albans is also moving to a trial fixtures only system. This should assist all in managing one's dairy commitments. which we hope will assist the bar in these stretched times. The list officer Heather will be holding regular dial-ins for the CPS, witness care and the defence community, to discuss availability of advocates and other issues with cases, which are coming up in the list. Defence barristers' clerks are invited to get in contact with the list officer if there may be difficulties in securing representation a couple of weeks before a trial listing. As in most things in life, communication is key.

With seven courts up and running, it is hoped there will be an impact on the backlog of cases. St Albans is following the Better Case Management (Revival) model, and are listing all cases for FCMH (custody cases just after stage 2, and bail cases at stage 3), and for PTR. When time is precious for everyone working in the Criminal Justice System, good communication becomes even more essential: HHJ Lana Wood asks that if you have a FCMH upcoming in a case, and Stage 2 has been complied with, no orders are sought of the court which cannot be dealt with administratively, and the possibility of resolution without trial has been considered and rejected, please do liaise with your opponent and apply jointly to vacate the hearing. Similarly with Pre-Trial Reviews: if the case is ready for trial, no orders are sought of the court which cannot be dealt with administratively, and the possibility of resolution without trial has been considered and rejected, please do tell those instructing you to tick the box on the Certificate of Trial Readiness saying that the PTR can be vacated.

St Albans will continue to try to ensure that the question of whether an advocate can appear at the next hearing via CVP is considered when the hearing is set; if any judge or recorder doesn't specify, please remind them. The general rule remains that if a defendant attends court in person or is produced at court, his advocate will be required to be present at court as well.

Catering has also returned to St Albans. The famous St Albans Curry Thursdays are also back. Any advocate who would like to join the Judges for lunch on a Thursday is warmly invited to do so. Please put your order in with the caterers by 11 am.

One final reminder: St Albans cannot accommodate any defendant who uses a wheelchair. If your client has mobility issues, please ensure that your instructing solicitors provide medical evidence of their disabilities at the earliest opportunity, so that there can be liaison with the Resident Judge at Cambridge, which does have the required facilities, to get the case transferred.

Can I once again thank HHJ Simon and HHJ Lana Wood for their assistance in contributing towards the compilation of this very full report. I hope other Resident Judges will find it of use.

Kevin Molloy  
Bar Mess Chair

## KENT BAR MESS

Since the last edition of the Circuiteer, Maidstone and Canterbury Crown Courts have had the advantage of new appointments to the bench; HHJ Gareth Branston started at Maidstone Crown Court on 18th October and HHJ Alison Russell started on 6th November at Canterbury Crown Court. The Kent Bar Mess wish them both well in their appointments and look forward to working closely with them in the Kent courts.

The Kent Bar Mess dinner took place on Friday 24th November 2023 at Leeds Castle. It was a really enjoyable and well attended evening, and we are grateful to HHJ Simon James - resident at Canterbury Crown Court - who gave a very entertaining guest speech.

A new catering team have recently taken over the canteen at Canterbury Crown Court and continue to provide fresh food for all court users. We would ask that those who attend Canterbury Crown Court continue to support the canteen by using it when they are there.

The Mess looks forward to welcoming Bar Council Chair, Sam Townend KC to Canterbury Crown Court on 29th February. He will be meeting with the Resident Judge and Designated Civil Judge, and practitioners.

Craig Evans  
Bar Mess Junior



## NORTH LONDON BAR MESS

### WOOD GREEN CROWN COURT

HHJ Noel Lucas KC stepped down as Wood Green Resident Judge in December 2023.

The North London Bar Mess held a joint party with the court to both celebrate HHJ Lucas KC's residency and to wish him well for the future. It was a well-attended, fun evening thanks to the efforts of the North London Bar Mess committee and the court staff.

HHJ Dodd KC is now Acting Resident Judge. There is a JAC competition for the Wood Green residency, with the result in May 2024.

Sadly, another judge to leave Wood Green has been HHJ Karim Ezat. Wood Green's loss is Harrow's gain! More of that anon!

In December 2023 Wood Green gained an additional court – court 11. This is for non-defendant in person work.

### HARROW CROWN COURT

As has been made public, further RAAC has been found. A considerable amount of work has been done in the building, but it is not anticipated that there will be a return to the building until April 2025.

Homeless it may be but Harrow continues and now operates courts at Hendon, Willesden and the CCC. HHJ Lodge reports that the staff have been exceptional, and with the considerable assistance that the court has received from all agencies including the Bar, it is performing certainly in accordance with HHJ Lodge's expectations if not beyond.

Harrow is re-opening. HHJ Lodge has been told that there is no question mark at all in that regard.

### SNARESBROOK CROWN COURT

HHJ Dean reports that Snaresbrook is comfortably on its way to reducing its backlog of trials to pre pandemic levels – HHJ Dean thanks everyone for all the hard work this has involved.

The court is working on ensuring that there is best practice for young defendants and is going to see if it is achievable to ensure continuity of the Judge.

The court is trying to get through its backlog of appeals.

Courts 19-20 are now sitting, so Snaresbrook is a very busy place indeed!

Re-catering – There is now a hot breakfast option but no hot lunch yet due to staff shortages with the court's caterers.

The court is hosting a Roundtable on 30th April with the police and the bar on the issue of rape myths- more to follow.

Snaresbrook is going to have a summer party this year – date to follow!

Philip Misner  
Bar Mess Chair

## THAMES VALLEY BAR MESS

Adrian Amer stepped down as Chair of the Mess in late 2023. We would like to register our grateful thanks to him for all he did for the Mess and hope he will remain a valued member and perhaps return to some of our social events in the future – maybe he will sing for us again?

In early 2024 Daren Samat was appointed Chair and promises not to sing at any event – ever!

The committee is now comprised as follows;

Daren Samat, 7BR – Chair (All)  
[dsamat@7br.co.uk](mailto:dsamat@7br.co.uk)

Gavin Holme, 4KBW – Treasurer (Reading)  
[gh@4kbw.co.uk](mailto:gh@4kbw.co.uk)

Adam Williams, 4KBW – Junior (Aylesbury)  
[aw@4kbw.co.uk](mailto:aw@4kbw.co.uk)

Kellie Enever, Cornwall St – SE Circuit Rep (Oxford)  
[kellie.enever@cornwallstreet.co.uk](mailto:kellie.enever@cornwallstreet.co.uk)

Tom Godfrey, 23ES – SE Circuit Rep (Reading)  
[tomgodfrey@23es.com](mailto:tomgodfrey@23es.com)

### READING

There have been some changes at Reading CC with recent appointments and additions to the judiciary there; recently transferred in from Luton CC, HHJ Alan Blake joins HHJ Norton's team of 10 judges (for 8 courts). Newly appointed judges are; HHJ Rachel Drake (many will recall that HHJ Drake regularly practiced at RCC both whilst at the independent bar and whilst she worked at the CPS but before she re-located to the Western Circuit – we welcome her back to RCC); also newly appointed to RCC are HHJs Matthew Turner and Neil Millard – we welcome them all and wish them well.

As there has been an influx of judges at RCC we are planning a drinks reception for the Mess and Judiciary in the next few months (Spring) – more details will follow soon.

There was a recent RCC Court user meeting (31.1.2024) – the first for about 3 years. I suspect covid and more pressing matters led to putting the meetings on hold – nonetheless it was a very useful gathering of a great many of those who work at RCC – HM Prison Service, Police, CPS, Probation, CC Listing, local solicitors, and bar [to name a few]. Sadly the bar and local solicitors were noticeably under-represented and HHJ Norton has expressed that she would like to see greater involvement from the bar – indeed she reminded me that these meetings are more for those involved in the use of the courts with the bar and local solicitors somewhat central to this.

Adam Williams will circulate an email to all TVBM members to update on the key points of the court user meetings but please note we would like to see more of you present – even if you link in on CVP.

The listing of trials remains an issue at RCC due to the backlog – and, despite having 10 judges for 8 courts, RCC continues to provide a judge as a remote back up to assist ACC.

Should you have any issue with or concerning Reading CC, judges or listing etc, the points of contact are Daren Samat; Gavin Holme or Tom Godfrey.

### OXFORD

HHJ Ian Pringle KC retires in October 2024. He tells me this time he really will be leaving. Many of you will recall the excellent dinner held by the mess last year in the expectation that he would have been long gone by now, however we were delighted to keep him for a little over a year longer.

All the Oxford judges remain in post and the only other change is that District Judge Alun Jenkins retired on 31.1.2024 – we wish him well in his retirement.

As it was such fun and such a success we hope to hold another dinner to mark HHJ Ian Pringle KC's retirement from Oxford – again more details to follow and the event/dinner is likely to be held in late Summer or early Autumn 2024.

Should you have any issue with or concerning Oxford CC, judges or listing etc, the points of contact are Daren Samat or Kellie Enever.

### AYLESBURY

Resident Judge HHJ Jonathan Cooper (a comparatively new appointment), there have been some changes and unique challenges at ACC of late.

HHJ Geoffrey Payne has departed and now sits at Luton CC – I am sure he will be missed at the Amersham annexe of ACC and we wish him well at Luton.

HHJ Kate Tulk is sadly unwell and currently signed off, we all wish her a speedy recovery.

That leaves HHJ Cooper as the only full-time judge in a five-court centre. Clearly that is not ideal. To alleviate the pressure RCC provide a judge to deal with ACC's admin/PTPH/Sentence court – the RCC judges are on a rotation for this and appear at ACC via CVP.

There will be a full time (but temporary) Circuit Judge appointed to ACC in the next few days and, when in post, ACC will continue with 2 full time judges and Recorders until HHJ Tulk is able to resume her post.

I recently had a meeting with HHJ Cooper and shared some useful ideas with him – these will be discussed by the TVBM committee and with local solicitors/CPS and other court users – hopefully some of the thoughts, if adopted, will streamline practice at ACC and possibly later across the cluster. Hopefully some news on this will follow in the months to come.

Should you have any issue with or concerning Aylesbury CC, judges or listing etc, the points of contact are Daren Samat or Adam Williams.

#### **Other business:**

In addition to a few TVBM social events in the coming months, the Mess plans to hold some "CPD" style sessions in the months to come. There is no formal plan or agenda and these are intended to be informative and useful for all the members and potential members including Family and civil practitioners as well as local solicitors. The first topic will be a presentation on Advocacy in Inquests and Coronial Law to be given by one of HM Senior Coroners – precise details will be shared with the TVBM membership, local solicitors, and judiciary when a date is fixed.

Finally... if any member of the Mess or visitors to the TV area have any ideas or suggestions on how to improve our experience at any of the three TV court centres please let me or someone on the committee know (see schedule above). Any issues likewise contact us and we will seek to resolve it.

Daren Samat, Bar Mess Chair



SEC

YOUR CIRCUIT.  
YOUR VOICE.



# BAR MESS DINNER

7 JULY 2023



On Friday 7 July, while the sun continued to shine, the Leader of the Circuit hosted a dinner at Bleeding Heart to thank Bar Mess Chairs and Juniors as well as other members of the Circuit Committee who have been instrumental in progressing the work of the Circuit.

It is thanks to those who generously volunteer their time, energy and expertise that the Circuit can provide all the support it does, whether that be educational, social or wellbeing. If you would like to find out more out getting involved, please email [Leader@southeastcircuit.org.uk](mailto:Leader@southeastcircuit.org.uk) for a confidential chat.



# TOP 10 PODCASTS

For some light relief away from work (or on your way to work), why not try one of these recommended podcasts?

1. **The Rest is Politics.** Remains in top spot if their sell-out live shows are anything to go by. Their philosophy of disagreeing agreeably is a lesson to all.
2. **The David McWilliams Podcast.** Based in Ireland this podcast by an economist and historian gives a different perspective on all things economic, political and historical.
3. **The News Agents.** Emily Maitlis, Jon Sopel and Lewis Goodall offering opinions and talking about all things newsworthy.
4. **UK Law Weekly.** A weekly podcast on recent legal decisions and news.
5. **Law Pod.** Covers civil and public law.
6. **Talking Law.** Dr Sally Pennie MBE. Founder and Chair of Women in the Law UK.
7. **Not All Lawyers Have Law Degrees.** BBC law podcast from across the legal profession aimed at diversity and inclusion.
8. **The Last Best Hope.** If you want to understand what makes modern America tick then let Professor Adam Smith be your guide.
9. **John Mortimer Presents.** Sir Edward Marshall Hall. Found on BBC Sounds app.
10. **A Short History Of...** another history podcast that is so easy to listen to.



Scan to download  
The Circuiter as a PDF

