

# Bristol Law Society's In-house Lawyers Conference



**Wednesday 29 September**  
**9.45am-1.00pm**  
**via Zoom**



## INTRODUCTION

*We are delighted to bring you our 2021 conference designed exclusively for In-house lawyers in the Commercial and Public Sectors in Bristol and the West of England.*

*Our speakers include I. Stephanie Boyce, President of The Law Society who will chair the event and a number of hugely experienced lawyers from a variety of practice areas. We are particularly delighted to welcome the internet sensation Jackie Weaver from Cheshire Association of Local Councils who will be talking about good governance and resilience.*

*The programme will cover (amongst other things):*

- ▲ *Wellbeing in a challenging environment;*
- ▲ *Public -v- Private Sector Law – what's the difference?;*
- ▲ *LegalTech cluster – a Regional update;*
- ▲ *Decarbonisation and the Route to Net Zero for legal teams;*  
*and*
- ▲ *Legal ethics and in-house solicitors: supplementing the StaRs*

*The event provides an opportunity to virtually meet fellow In-house lawyers with the aim to create more opportunities for local In-house lawyers to come together to share best practice, training and networking opportunities.*



*Helen Read*  
**Helen Read**  
Head of Operations



*Shahzia Daya*  
**Shahzia Daya**  
Head of Organising  
Committee



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# AGENDA/PROGRAMME

- 9.45am**      **Registration/doors open**
- 10.00am**      **Welcome by Shahzia Daya, Head of Organising Committee**
- 10.05am**      **Introduction by Chair of Conference and Address on Diversity in the Profession**  
*I. Stephanie Boyce, President of The Law Society*
- 10.20am**      **Harriet Chapman, Senior Manager, Hays Recruiting**
- 10.25am**      **Public -v- Private Sector Law**  
*James Cassidy, Partner & Head of Information Law & Privacy; and Victoria Barman, Senior Associate, Bevan Brittan*  
An insight into different experiences between working as an in-house lawyer, and moving to private practice. Focussing on lessons learned, different skillsets required and different expectations. You will hear the individual journeys of 2 lawyers who have experienced both in-house and private practice roles.
- 10.55am**      **Legal ethics and in-house solicitors: supplementing the StaRs**  
*Omar Madhloom, Senior Lecturer/Solicitor, University of Bristol Law School & Co-Chair of the Bristol Pro Bono Group*  
This presentation focuses on SRA's Principles 3, 6, and 7. Little or no guidance is provided on how solicitors should apply these principles. Moreover, the Code for law firms does not address organisational ethics. To supplement the StaRs, it is necessary to draw on business ethics such as client autonomy, addressing cultural competence, and promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion within one's organisation.
- 11.10am**      **LegalTech Cluster Bristol+Bath – a Regional Update**  
*Dagmar Steffens & Chris Bull, Co-Chairs of Bristol+Bath LegalTech*  
What does it mean, to be a cluster: how is it determined? What is the impact now, what could it be in the future? Who is involved in supporting cluster growth, what should be the priorities? How can in-house teams get involved? Should I care? In this session, Dagmar and Chris will discuss their respective approaches to these questions, and also strive to take additional ones from the floor.

# AGENDA/PROGRAMME

**11.30am**      **Comfort Break**

**11.40am**      **Good Governance and Resilience**

*Jackie Weaver, Chief Officer, Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC)*

Exploring governance and accountability in local councils in the face of an increasingly hostile environment and looking at what key skills and strategies we might need to help us to deliver and also protect our mental health and well-being.

**12.10pm**      **Decarbonisation and the Route to Net Zero**

*Dipika Keen, Head of Business Transactions Knowledge, Co-Lead of Tackling the Carbon Challenge, UK & Caroline Bush, Senior Associate, Co-Lead of Tackling the Carbon Challenge, UK, Osborne Clarke*

It is now a business imperative to engage with and respond positively to the global challenge of decarbonisation. To achieve that, businesses need to understand and navigate regulatory and policy frameworks that govern the emission, capture, reporting and taxation of carbon. The session will provide a brief introduction to the evolving decarbonisation regulatory landscape as climate change continues to move up the corporate agenda.

**12.35pm**      **Wellbeing and the future legal landscape**

*Mary Jackson, Director Education & Training, LawCare*

Mary will outline the importance of looking after yourself and your health particularly with the added stressor of the global pandemic. She will talk about various aspects of health with an emphasis on maintaining good mental health and give an overview of the typical thinking patterns involved in legal work, finishing with a quick look at resources including how LawCare can help provide emotional support.

**12.50pm**      **Closing Remarks of Chair**

**1.00pm**      **Close**

# SPEAKERS

## I. Stephanie Boyce, President, The Law Society (Chair)



Stephanie was admitted as a solicitor in 2002 and has a wealth of experience in corporate governance, regulatory frameworks and professional regulation. Stephanie holds a Master of Laws in public law and global governance from King's College and is a Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute. Stephanie is a Council member of the Law Society of England and Wales representing the Women Lawyers Division and Board member of the of the Law Society, a solicitor member of the Joint Tribunal Service and holds a number of statutory appointments with her local authority. Stephanie has recently been appointed to the HM Treasury and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy commission - an independent taskforce boosting socio-economic diversity at senior levels in financial and professional services. In 2020 Stephanie was voted on to the Governance Hot 100 - Board Influencer and made the Power List 100 Most Influential Black People in the UK in 2021.

## James Cassidy, Partner & Head of Information Law & Privacy, Bevan Brittan

James is a Partner at Bevan Brittan, and was previously the Head of Legal at a NHS Foundation Trust. He is an information law specialist with particular expertise in advising clients on the Data Protection regime including compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. His work also covers all aspects of information law and privacy including the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Environmental Information Regulations 2004, Access to Health Records Act 1990 and the Common Law Duty of Confidence. James also has experience of regulatory law including acting for and on behalf of regulators in professional discipline matters alongside advising on compliance with a number of compliance regimes including the CQC.



## Victoria Barman, Senior Associate, Bevan Brittan



Victoria is a Senior Associate at Bevan Brittan, and prior to joining Bevan Brittan she worked for the London Borough of Haringey for almost 10 years. Victoria specialises in local authority corporate governance and has extensive experience providing strategic legal advice and support on sensitive and technical areas of administrative and public law. Her practice includes advising on vires and constitutional issues, governance and the democratic process, policy development, the financial framework, partnership and collaborative working and major projects. Victoria says her in-house experience means that she is able to give practical, solution-focused advice reflecting the political and economic challenges, and the day to day issues, experienced in the public sector.

## SPEAKERS (cont)

### **Omar Madhloom, Senior Lecturer & Solicitor, University of Bristol Law School & Co-Chair of the Bristol Pro Bono Group**

Omar is a Senior Lecturer and Solicitor at the University of Bristol. He is also Chair of the Bristol Pro Bono Group. Omar's specialism is commercial contracts in the oil and gas industry. Prior to joining the University of Bristol, Omar was an analyst at the Ministry of Defence. Omar is a trustee of CLEO (Clinical Legal Education Organisation), a UK-based charity which promotes and develops clinical legal education. His research focuses on professional legal ethics and the ethics of pro bono. He has published in international journals and has presented his work at various academic and professional conferences.



### **Dagmar Steffens, Head of Innovation & Sector Development, West of England Combined Authority and Co-Chair of Bristol+Bath LegalTech**



Dagmar leads WECA's innovation programmes for the region. The Team delivers a multi million cross-sectoral portfolio of innovation programmes, funded through a mix of European, Governmental and private sector money. It covers missions aimed at clean and inclusive growth in challenge areas including digital transformation, decarbonisation, healthy living, connectivity, as well as supports cluster development, diversification and growth in areas of FinTech/LawTech, digital engineering, technology, creative industries and aerospace. Having worked at the intersection of strategy development and operational delivery for more than two decades, Dagmar is passionate about innovation with purpose and measurable impact, and interested in continuing to contribute to it in a variety of settings. A founder and co-chair Bristol+Bath LegalTech, an initiative designed to develop and grow an open, collaborative and innovative LegalTech community in Bristol, Bath and their region. "A local legal tech hero", Joanna Goodman/Law Society Gazette Feb 2020.

### **Chris Bull, Managing Director, Edge International & Co-Chair of Bristol+Bath LegalTech**

Chris is Principal & Executive Member at legal services consultancy Edge International advising on strategy, operations and innovation via a portfolio of retained, interim and NED roles. An alternative legal services pioneer, he worked at Integreon as COO for Europe & the Americas and advised a string of high-profile early stage Alternative Business Structures post the Legal Services Act. One of the busiest speakers/writers on the business of law Chris is in demand as a regular keynote presenter, producer, chair and panellist at major conferences in Europe/overseas and is the author of multiple reports including being a co-author and researcher for 2021's Whitecap report into the Bristol and Bath legaltech sector. He is co-Chair of Bristol+Bath LegalTech (BBLT) and Network Director of the Legal COO Network. Chris is an author of the 2021 book 'The Agile Law Firm'. He shares Dagmar's enthusiasm for developing the region as a legaltech hub.



## SPEAKERS (cont)

### Jackie Weaver, Chief Officer of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) and advocate for the Town and Parish Council Sector



Jackie has worked with local councils for 25 years providing guidance, training and support and (through ChALC) developing vital links with the principal authorities, the voluntary sector and other important partners. Thrust into the media eye when the video of the Handforth Parish Council Meeting went viral, Jackie has used the media attention to focus attention onto the work and achievements of the sector and to encourage a younger and more diverse interest in Local Government generally. In addition to tv and radio appearances Jackie makes regular appearances at University and Colleges; all party political youth groups and other gatherings promoting and supporting diversity in local government. Other fun ventures include a lively, humorous podcast (@jackiweaverpod) and a book entitled 'You do have the authority here' offering common sense advice and support for work and life generally.

### Dipika Keen, Head of Business Transactions Knowledge, Co-Lead of Tackling the Carbon Challenge, UK, Osborne Clarke

Dipika is Head of Knowledge for the Business Transactions Group comprising the Corporate, Commercial & Financial Institutions Group. She is also a core member of the Decarbonisation team and co-leads the Tackling the Carbon Challenge stream which focuses on decarbonisation regulation and policy. Dipika has extensive experience of corporate law practice and regulation and has a particular interest in sustainable business practices and ESG (environmental, social & governance) considerations. She keeps the business and clients up to date on key developments in corporate law and net zero policy and regulation. She is also responsible for knowledge management at Osborne Clarke including creating and embedding standard form documents and processes in order to maximise efficiencies and minimise risk, designing and delivering training programmes, producing practical updates and briefing notes and implementing technology to assist in service delivery.



### Caroline Bush, Senior Associate, Co-Lead of Tackling the Carbon Challenge, UK, Osborne Clarke



Caroline is a core member of the Decarbonisation team and co-leads the Tackling the Carbon Challenge stream which focuses on decarbonisation regulation and policy. She is also a Senior Associate in the Environment team and works for clients across a number of sectors, including renewables, energy, commercial, retail, residential and industrial developments. Caroline's principle area of expertise includes all environmental aspects of complex corporate and real estate transactions, waste and bioenergy projects, infrastructure projects, climate change and sustainability regulation and waste producer responsibility law. Her typical work includes environmental due diligence and providing other specialist environmental input in relation to corporate and real estate transactions. As part of the Decarbonisation team she works with clients to help them tackle the carbon challenge, for example by discussing their approach to ESG or by considering the impact of net zero targets on their business.

## SPEAKERS (cont)

### Mary Jackson, Director Education & Training, LawCare

Mary joined LawCare in 2008. LawCare is the charity that promotes and supports good mental health and wellbeing in the legal community throughout the UK. Mary formerly worked as a corporate lawyer until 2000, when she changed career to work as a Regional Manager for the Law Society of England & Wales. Prior to working in law, Mary was an inner-city secondary school teacher in London of English, French & Drama. She has also worked as a lecturer at St Mary's College, University of Surrey. She moved to the South West of England in 1996 where she lives in a cottage surrounded by woodland in North Devon. In 2017, she qualified as a BACP registered Therapeutic Counsellor inspired by her LawCare helpline work and desire to understand the particular value of the one-to-one relationship. She has a particular interest in trauma work, namely Vicarious Trauma and how it affects lawyers. In her spare time Mary enjoys walking, writing poetry, being a trustee for Beaford Arts and doing voluntary counselling work at Young Devon.



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