



## **KENT LAW SOCIETY**

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2025 - 2026

MINUTES OF THE 207th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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### **NOTICE OF THE 208th ANNUAL MEETING**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 3.30pm**

**At Eastwell Manor, Ashford**

**\*\*REFRESHMENTS FROM 3PM\*\***

**OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY  
2025 – 2026**

President:	Dr Eunice Shang-Simpson (Canterbury)
Vice President:	Mrs Mary-Joyce Insaadoo (Birchington)
Deputy Vice President:	Mr Michael Cressey (Welling)
Immediate Past President:	Mr Scott Neilson (Margate)
Hon. Secretary:	Mrs Steevi Henderson (Sandwich)
Hon. Treasurers:	Mr Jon Pitt (Ashford)

**SPECIAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

President:	Dr Eunice Shang-Simpson (Canterbury)
Vice President:	Mrs Mary-Joyce Insaadoo (Birchington)
Immediate Past President:	Mr Scott Neilson (Margate)
Elected Member	Mrs Emma Palmer (Canterbury)
Elected Member	Mrs Deborah Hatton (Walderslade)
Elected Member	Mrs Alexandra Gordon (Canterbury)
Elected Member	Mr Richard Atkinson (Chatham)

Together with the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer.

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Ms Tara Kaby	(Birchington)
Ms Pavandeep Dhillon	(Gravesend)
Mr Peter Donaghey	(Gillingham)
Ms Vivien Gambling	(Canterbury)
Ms Chantal Cohen	(Sevenoaks)
Ms Keeley Lengthorn	(Bexleyheath)
Mr Andrew Johnson	(Canterbury)
Mr Nick Fairweather	(Whitstable)
Ms Ruby Stone	(Sandwich)
Mr Ryan Booth	(Canterbury)
<b>Co-opted</b>	
Ms Paige Hinkins	(Maidstone)
Ms Sasha Austin	(Folkestone)

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mr Richard Atkinson	(Chatham)
Ms Keeley Lengthorn	(Bexleyheath)

Together with the members of the Special Purposes Committee and the Representatives for the time being on the Council of the Law Society.

## Eulogy for Past President Ray Harris

Ray Harris will forever be regarded as one of the true guiding figures of the Kent Law Society—indeed, to many, the *Father* of the Society as it exists today. His decades of selfless dedication helped shape the organisation immeasurably, and his influence continues to be felt in its culture, traditions, and sense of community.

Ray began his legal career when completing his Articles with Day, Rooke & Bradfield in 1966–67. He later moved to Argles & Court, where he quickly became a partner and ultimately managing partner. He was widely respected as both an excellent solicitor and a man of integrity, kindness, and unwavering professionalism.

Within the Kent Law Society, Ray served on the Committees for many years before being elected President. He also acted as liaison officer for Crown Court matters. Upon succeeding Norman Cooper, Ray took on the challenging task of overseeing the Past Presidents—an undertaking he carried out with warmth, humour, and diplomacy. His dedication to keeping Past Presidents connected, through regular lunches and gatherings around the county, was appreciated by all who benefited from his thoughtfulness and commitment.

Ray's service to the wider community was equally significant. He served for many years as Church Warden at All Saints Church in Maidstone and was an active participant in the Senate of the Church of England, where his contributions led to his appointment as a Lay Canon. His leadership extended to education as well: he chaired the governing body of Cornwallis School in Maidstone, later serving on the board of an Academy of three schools. Under his steady guidance and following extensive negotiations with the Government of the day, two of the schools were successfully rebuilt—an achievement that stands as a testament to his vision and perseverance.

Ray Harris was, above all, a humble and compassionate man with a deep sense of community responsibility. Many people across Kent and beyond benefited from his wisdom, his generosity, and his gentle encouragement. His impact was felt not only in legal circles but in schools, churches, and community organisations throughout the county.

Ray's involvement with the Kent Law Society spanned many decades. After his presidency, he continued his service on the Special Purposes Committee, and upon retiring from that role he was appointed an Honorary Member—a distinction he held until his death. To many, he represented the very essence of the Society: dependable, principled, and dedicated to supporting colleagues and preserving the sense of fellowship that makes the Society what it is.

Ray Harris will be greatly missed by colleagues, friends, and community members from all walks of life. Those who had the good fortune to know him were enriched immeasurably by his presence.

**May he rest in peace.**

Written by Frances Pierce, Peter Morgan, Geoffrey Dearing and David Green

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the 208th Annual General Meeting of the Kent Law Society will be held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 3.30pm at Eastwell Manor, Ashford.

### **A G E N D A**

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. To approve the Minutes of the 207<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (printed elsewhere in this booklet).
3. To consider any matters arising from these Minutes.
4. To consider the amendments to the rules pursuant to Rule 6.1 (Original Rules – Appendix 1. Proposed Rules – Appendix 2)
5. To receive the report of the Hon. Treasurer (printed elsewhere in this booklet).
6. To receive and approve the report of the General Purposes Committee (attached elsewhere in this booklet).
7. To hear the President's remarks on vacating office (attached elsewhere in this booklet).
8. To elect for the ensuing year:
  - a. A President
  - b. A Vice President
  - c. A Deputy Vice President
  - d. An Honorary Secretary
  - e. An Honorary Treasurer
  - f. Social Media Officer
  - g. A Special Purposes Committee
  - h. The General Purposes Committee - The above members have all agreed to stand for election. In accordance with Rule 4.5 nominations for candidates for election to the GPC are to be received by the Honorary Secretary by 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026. Those members currently co-opted under Rule 4.6 are eligible for election.
9. To receive a report from Mr Richard Atkinson, as Law Society Council Member (attached elsewhere in this booklet).
10. To consider any matters for discussion notified to the Hon. Secretary at least fourteen days prior to the meeting in accordance with Rule 5.2.4.
11. To consider arrangements for the Annual General Meeting and Dinner for 2027.
12. Any other business
  - a. Ray Harris Eulogy

**Steevi Henderson**  
**Honorary Secretary**  
[steevihenderson@girlingspi.co.uk](mailto:steevihenderson@girlingspi.co.uk)

**Note: the proxy forms for voting on resolutions accompany this booklet**

## HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2025-26

This report accompanies the Kent Law Society Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, reproduced in the middle pages of this e-booklet.

These are bad results for the Society. A net result of minus £21,161 on the Income and Expenditure Account, a net worth falling from £46,175 in 2024 to £25,014 in 2025, will greatly concern members. There are four main causes for these poor figures.

Firstly, the Balance Sheet has been showing a notional valuation of Kent Law Society Services Ltd of £8002 for as many years as I have been involved in the Society. This has become a fiction, and it is clear that, when KLSS Ltd is wound up later this year, it will have no assets. In the circumstances, the whole notional value has had to be written off. This appears as an absence in the Investment section of the Balance Sheet, and as a loss on investment at the bottom of the Income and Expenditure Account.

Minus £8002

Secondly, KLSS has been unable to pay its share of the insurance premium for several years and this debt totalled £2234 at the end of 2024. This debt has had to be written off as well, and again appears as an absence in the Current Assets section of the Balance Sheet, and in the Investment section at the bottom of the Income and Expenditure Account. It should be noted that the insurance premium for 2025 also included £921.61 for KLSS Ltd, which there was no point invoicing, as there were no funds to pay it.

Minus £2234

Minus £921

Thirdly, this was always planned to be a year in which we would incur expenditure on our IT. The old website and database served us well, but they were written in language that is no longer supported by the IT industry and had become unreliable despite the best efforts of the very helpful Jenny Prentice. One off capital expenditure was incurred on these items in the sum of £4990, and while we will have higher running costs than before, this item will not repeat.

Minus £4990

Fourthly, we have for many years managed to recover subscription income in excess of £20,000, but for the second year in a row we have been unable to achieve this, collecting £17,781 thanks to the stalwart efforts of Kelly-Anne Iddenden. There is a principle that the availability of generous sponsorship income in recent years has led us away from: our fixed costs should really be covered by our subscription income. The problem is that generous sponsors want something for their money, over and above their attendance at the dinner, and we have been trying to give each major sponsor an event during the year, often at our cost. In the end we have a kind of Alice in Wonderland situation where we have to run faster and faster to stand still, and the Presidency and other officer roles will become less and less attractive because of the amount of effort put into to keeping sponsors content. At the same time, the membership has not always shown an enthusiasm for multiple events requiring them to shell out, so that attendance can be disappointing for all concerned. We are hopeful that the introduction of corporate membership, together with the adjustments to membership being proposed at the AGM by the Hon Secretary, will in due course allow our membership income to recover. But I don't think this will happen in 2026, simply because our best payers have already rejoined for the year.

Minus £2219

The balance of the deficit is made up of a number of small items: an erroneous payment to Canterbury Pride, which we are trying to recover, extra catering costs at our AI conference in

September due to the large number of student attenders, a loss on the President's wine tasting event, which coincided with atrocious weather, and a much higher demand for travelling expenses from officers and committee members than in previous years. Normally we could have provisioned for these accidental items, but I had drawn a very tight budget after last year's disappointing result.

Minus £2795

Total £21,161

The Officers, SPC and GPC are all alerted to the difficulties we have been having, and there is an added focus on sticking to budget for 2026 which is welcome.

Jon Pitt  
Honorary Treasurer  
08 April 2026

**KENT LAW SOCIETY**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

**ACCOUNT AND BALANCE SHEET**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

**KENT LAW SOCIETY**

**BALANCE SHEET as at 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>		
Premium Bonds	100	100
Shares in KLS Services Limited	-	8,002
	<u>100</u>	<u>8,102</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Due from KLS Services Limited	-	2,234
Other Debtors	720	-
Cash at Bank	26,725	36,019
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Income received in advance	(60)	(180)
Accruals	(174)	-
Third Party Charity collections held as agent	(2,297)	-
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>25,014</u></u>	<u><u>46,175</u></u>
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>		
Balance Brought Forward	46,175	49,080
Balance for the year	(21,161)	(2,905)
	<u><u>25,014</u></u>	<u><u>46,175</u></u>

## KENT LAW SOCIETY

### INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
<b>INCOME</b>		
Annual Dinner	26,660	21,975
Subscriptions	17,781	12,600
Sponsorship	22,000	12,200
Other Income	-	2,305
	<u>66,441</u>	<u>49,080</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b><u>Events and Lectures</u></b>		
Annual Dinner	38,459	23,782
Other Events	1,921	(116)
President Events	1,159	(271)
Junior Events	762	875
Tucker Millward Memorial Lecture	352	-
Donations	-	3,355
Sponsorship	-	610
Education	1,129	-
	<u>2,133</u>	<u>891</u>
<b><u>Committee/President Expenses</u></b>		
	2,133	891
<b><u>General Expenses</u></b>		
Printing, IT and Website	8,665	1,477
Insurance	1,536	688
<b><u>University &amp; Sponsorship Prizes</u></b>		
Prizes	-	225
<b><u>Administration Expenses</u></b>		
Administrator/Chief Operating Officer	16,800	16,019
Hon. Secretary's Honorarium	1,750	1,750
Hon. Treasurer's Honorarium	1,500	1,500
Media Secretary's Honorarium	1,200	1,200
<b>Investments</b>		
Loss on Investment in KLS Services Ltd	8,002	-
Insurance recharges not recovered	2,234	-
	<u>87,602</u>	<u>51,985</u>
<b>NET RESULT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u><u>(21,161)</u></u>	<u><u>(2,905)</u></u>

## REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2025 – 2026

As promised, over the past year a great deal of work has taken place behind the scenes to ensure we continue to evolve alongside the modern, progressive society we are proud to be part of.

The changes we have made include:

- Moving our annual dinner from the Great Danes to Eastwell Manor for a second consecutive year
- A modest increase in membership fees
- The launch of our brand-new website- If you haven't yet seen the website, I encourage you to take a look. We are incredibly proud of it and grateful to Orion Legal Marketing and Justin at Webalogic for bringing it to life.
- The introduction of tiered sponsorship packages

We are now proposing amendments to the rules. We are a diverse, equal, and inclusive community united by our shared commitment to justice and the law. These changes reflect that progress within our legal community. More specifically they:

- Amend the gender clause.
- Redefine full members.
- Allow us to offer corporate membership.
- Redefine meetings to include online formats.
- Include Press Officer and DVP as Officers

I have had the privilege of working closely with Tara, Kelly-Anne and Jon, an exceptional team without whom I could not fulfil this role. Tara is always there not only to promote but to listen, advise and guide. Kelly-Anne answers my questions at all hours, no task is ever too much, and she is my trusted carpool companion whenever logistics allow. Jon is our compass, a wealth of knowledge who always keeps the Society's best interests at heart.

Eunice, you are truly a force of nature. Your work this year has been nothing short of outstanding. From securing and retaining sponsors, to bringing in students in such numbers, to supporting every one of these changes, you have been incredible. More than that, you have become a dear friend. I respect and admire you tremendously.

Mary-Joyce, your dedication, bargaining skills, and organisation are second to none. I have no doubt you will have a fantastic year ahead, one I am very much looking forward to watching unfold.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to Jenny Prentice, who developed and hosted our previous website for many years. Your dedication and support have been invaluable, and we wish you a very happy and well-earned retirement.

We are grateful to continue our partnerships with McBrides (now DJH accountants & business advisors), Konsileo, 42BR, Document Direct and Chadwick Nott, and we are delighted to welcome Evelyn Partners, Clio, and Harari Legal as new sponsors this year.

We have hosted some truly wonderful events, some memorable for unexpected reasons. The charity ball, complete with a fire alarm evacuation in the rain, will certainly not be forgotten. Among my personal highlights are the AI conference, which I found absolutely fascinating, the dinner with our French and Belgian colleagues, complete with surprise magic, and the dip-and-sip networking event, with cocktails, cookies, shopping and hand massages, perfection.

To all members of the SPC and GPC, thank you for your continued hard work and dedication. From awards ceremonies to junior lawyer events and charitable initiatives, your efforts are deeply appreciated.

And finally, to our members, you are the foundation of this Society. Everything we do is for and because of you. Thank you for your support, your engagement, and your commitment.

Steevi Henderson, Honorary Secretary  
On behalf of the GPC – May 2025

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD MAY 2025 TO MAY 2026

It has been a real honour to serve as President of Kent Law Society, (KLS), and I would like to share with you some of the highlights of my Presidency. During my Inaugural Address here at Eastwell Manor a year ago, I set out my priorities for the next 12 months.

1. Firstly, I wanted to elevate KLS to be the membership organisation that every legal professional in Kent would aspire to be a part of, and accomplished this with a variety of events, including shining a light on those of our members who have traditionally not been so well-known, such as those with an International Practice via a Roundtable Event attended by our own Richard Atkinson and sponsored by the International Department of the Law Society and the Dept of Business & Trade at Leeds Castle. I also facilitated increased exposure of the practice of our Dispute Resolvers by arranging a Panel Discussion with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.
2. Secondly, I wanted us to provide improved support to our student members seeking to pursue a career in Law. I have successfully done this with the help of my fellow members of our KLS Education sub-committee, by creating a structured Mentorship programme for our student members, and I am extremely grateful to everyone who has kindly volunteered to be a Mentor. Additionally, the Education sub-committee will shortly be rolling out a work experience programme for our student members, and we will be counting on you to open your doors for this opportunity. I have also secured the attendance of Mark Evans, our current Law Society President, to an Aspiring Solicitors "Meet the President" event being held at CCCU on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. Mark, a fellow Practitioner turned Academic, is the first Academic to be President of the national Law Society and we are both very keen to support the next generation of solicitors. I also want to take this opportunity to say Thank You to our KLS members who give unstintingly of their time to support our students by helping us with the CLOCK training each year at CCCU and by attending our Careers Events in both universities.
3. My third priority was in the area of Mental Health and Wellbeing, as I believe it imperative that we prioritise Mental Health for all levels of the profession - students, Junior Solicitors, mid-career and those nearing retirement. To that end, Simon Dolby the representative of one of my Presidential Charities, East Kent MIND, has delivered several Mental Wellbeing webinars to our members, and I would encourage anyone who feels the need, to proactively seek out the services of East Kent MIND via the resources on their website.
4. My fourth priority was to ensure that we continue to embed Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion in all our activities and I am particularly proud of our new website, which now reflects the diversity of our membership. Additionally, our new Rules are now much more inclusive, including welcoming Law Academics who have never worked in Practice, as full KLS members.

I have had the opportunity to represent KLS beyond Kent and travelled to Exeter for the Devon & Somerset Law Society Awards Dinner for my first official event as President, which was a wonderful evening.

I represented KLS at the Opening of the Legal Year, joining colleagues from over 70 jurisdictions at Westminster Abbey in October, and at a brilliant reception at the top of the Gherkin in London.

I was also privileged to be invited by the Kent High Sheriff, Jonathan Neame, to read a passage from the Magna Carta at the Justice Service at Canterbury Cathedral, and to attend a luncheon with the Judiciary at Canterbury Combined Courts as his guest, representing KLS at both events.

In October last year, to commemorate 25 years of twinning between KLS and the Lille Bar, and to begin a formal relationship with the West Flanders Bar, we signed a Tripartite MOU between our three organisations. The next day, we hosted a Comparative ADR and AI conference, with a great keynote address by the Master of the Rolls, the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Vos, and panel discussions on ADR, AI and the Law, with perspectives from France, Belgium and the UK, culminating with Closing Remarks by my friend Dana Denise-Smith, OBE, Deputy Vice President of the Law Society

A Charity Fundraising Ball was hosted in November to raise funds for my two Presidential Charities, Africa in the Moot and East Kent MIND, and our Christmas Shoebox Appeal resulted in a fantastic 18 boxes and 7 large bags of donations for East Kent MIND. I am so very grateful to you, our members, for helping me raise just under £3,500 in total for my chosen Charities, indeed we could not run any of our fundraising events without your amazing generosity.

I represented Kent Law Society at the Lady Mayor's Dinner in March, at the magnificent Mansion House in London where I was invited by the Worshipful Company of Solicitors, and I also hosted a lovely luncheon for Partners of our top Law Firms in Kent, sponsored by my Platinum Sponsors.

I also regularly participated in our County Societies Group meetings, including one at Chancery Lane where we were joined by Mark Evans, who shared with us his vision for his Presidential Year.

I would like to thank all the members of GPC and the SPC, for your support during my Presidency. Thank you to Richard Atkinson, for brilliantly representing Kent on Council for so many years. Yours will be a hard act to follow. Thank you to our Administrator, Kelly-Anne, for all your hard work behind the scenes, and for your talented creativity in producing our wonderful Newsletters.

I am extremely proud to have been able to attract such sterling luminaries as Barbara Mills KC, Chair of the Bar Council, Stephanie Boyce CBE, Past President of the Law Society, Mickael Laurens, Head of International at TLS, the Master of the Rolls, the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Vos, Dana Denise-Smith, OBE, and Mark Evans, current President of the Law Society, to share their wisdom with our membership, proving once again that Kent Law Society does indeed "punch above its weight".

I am very grateful to all my Sponsors, who altogether sponsored my Presidency to the tune of £22,000, and whose sponsorship was vital in helping us run our events.

As I head towards the League of Past Presidents, I look forward to continuing to serve this amazing organization in whatever way I can, and I'm excited to see what Mary Joyce's Presidency brings.

I will conclude with one of my favourite quotes, from Shakespeare's Hamlet- **This above all: to thine own self be true; and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.** The advice suggests that self-honesty is not merely a personal virtue but a prerequisite for genuine relationships with others. The metaphor of "as the night the day" emphasizes an inevitable connection: if one is true to oneself, then honesty in dealings with others follows as surely as night follows day. Scholars have commented that this notion compels characters throughout the play - and indeed, humanity - to confront the consequences of their choices and the masks they wear. This quote resonates with me because it reminds me to be true to my roots and to who I am at my core, and if I am true to myself, then as night follows day, I can be my authentic self in whatever role I find myself playing in both my Personal and Professional life, which has been my North Star in this Presidency of Historic Firsts. Once again, Thank You all for according to me the Honour of being President of Kent Law Society.

Dr Eunice Shang-Simpson, President of Kent Law Society

May 2026

## COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT

This will be my final report as the Law Society of England & Wales council member for Kent. I have decided not to seek re-election and to step down after ten years. It has been a genuine privilege to represent Kent solicitors at a national level, and I have really enjoyed my time on council, but the time is right for me to pass the baton. I wish my successor the very best and am sure they will enjoy their time on council representing the solicitors of Kent.

The past year has been a very busy one with the first half seeing me complete my presidential year with many highlights including trips to a number of countries, including New Delhi, New York, Toronto, Seoul and Tokyo to represent our members who do business in those jurisdictions many of whom live and work there. In addition to visits abroad I also completed my regional tour here in England & Wales and spoke at the annual opening of the legal year dinner, addressed the new Lord Chancellor and Solicitor General at their swearing in ceremony and then attended the opening of the legal year service at Westminster Abbey.

During the past year council has addressed a number of issues with quite a strong focus on regulatory issues such as:

- Addressing the issues which followed the judgement in the Mazur case, which has now been appealed, the result of which is awaited. Current Law Society guidance can be found at <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/regulation/mazur-faqs> and in the practice note that has been produced.
- Relations with the SRA following the high-profile collapses of Axiom Ince, SSB Law and PM Law and the appointment of a new chief executive, Sarah Rapson, who attended our last council meeting to address and answer questions from council. It is fair to say that the general impression is that she is making a good start and we look forward to a constructive relationship with her.
- Also engaging with the SRA over the ongoing issues of the SQE by feeding into their on-going review and also holding direct meetings with them and Kaplan to raise some specific concerns that our members have raised.
- Responding to the SRA's consultation on client money in legal services (the Law Society's response can be found at <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/campaigns/consultation-responses/sra-further-consultation-on-client-money-in-legal-services>)

Council also held its annual strategic planning event to hone the areas of focus under the three-year 2025 -8 strategic plan for the coming year.

And is currently engaged in responding amongst other things to:

- the Courts and Tribunal Bill which sets out the government's response to part of the Independent Review of the Criminal Courts led by Sir Brian Leveson and presently includes provisions to limit jury trials and increase the workload of the magistrates' court. As part of this I gave evidence to the House of Commons Justice Select Committee. The Society will also be engaging in any additional measures the government proposed when it responds in full to the other recommendations (a total of 180) later in the summer.
- the Ministry of Justice's proposals to divert interest from law firms' client accounts to the MoJ budget. The consultation closed on the 9th March and you can download the Law Society's full response from its page on the topic at [www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/client-care/interest-on-lawyers-trust-accounts](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/topics/client-care/interest-on-lawyers-trust-accounts)

In addition to the above the Law Society has now launched the "get involved" programme the details of which can be found at <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/membership/get-involved/>

It has been a very busy year with a number of challenges along the way, but council has been very engaged and continues to apply itself diligently to achieving the best outcome for the profession and to ensuring the voice of solicitors is heard. In this regard it is worth noting that, for example, in quarter 1 from November 2025 through to January 2026, the Law Society Press office secured; 580 pieces of broadcast coverage (TV and radio), 310 pieces of national coverage, 751 pieces of regional coverage, 523 pieces of trade coverage and 446 pieces of "other" coverage (international) totalling 2,610 pieces of coverage overall, 99.82% of which was positive coverage for the profession.

Finally thank you for all of your support during my tenure as your council member and during my time as President of the Law Society of England & Wales.

Richard Atkinson, Law Society Council Member for Kent

23.03.2026

**MINUTES OF THE 207<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society**  
**Held at Eastwell Manor on Friday 16th May 2025 at 3.30pm.**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been provided from Keeley Lengthorn, Emma Palmer, Paige Hinkins, Louise Duckett, Elizabeth Howe, Peter Morgan, Peter Sherred, Alexandra Gordon and Jonathan Smithers, a former President of Kent and the Law Society, who sent his best wishes from Australia.

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the 206<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Friday 10th May 2024 were proposed by the Vice President, seconded by Andrew Johnson, and approved unanimously.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

The Honorary Secretary confirmed that no matters arising had been raised.

**4. To receive the report of the Hon. Treasurer**

The Honorary Treasurer, Jon Pitt, presented his report, which had been published in the AGM booklet. He reminded the meeting of the overlap between the financial year and the presidential year, the former running with the calendar year and the latter running May to May.

The HT explained that membership remained lower than previous years but was improved on last year; he thanked Kelly-Anne Grosvenor for the hard work that she has done in taking over the membership. He reminded those present that if they / their firms had not renewed that they would need to do so.

It was explained that sponsorship is a big part of what keeps the society afloat; we have great sponsorship this year for which we are very grateful.

The society's finances were noted to be healthy.

No further questions were raised. The approval of the report was proposed, seconded, and duly approved.

**5. To receive and approve the report of the General Purposes Committee**

The Honorary Secretary, Steevi Henderson, presented her report, published in the AGM booklet.

No further questions were raised. The approval of the report was proposed by Deborah Hatton, seconded by Tara Kaby and was duly approved.

**6. REPORT OF KENT LAW SOCIETY SERVICES LIMITED**

The report of the Chairman, Mr Scott Neilson, was published in the AGM booklet.

Scott confirmed that the company is closing and that no further courses will be run.

Emma Hegarty has done a great job of running the courses. A special thanks to Emma for all of her hard work which hasn't gone unnoticed. Emma has done all of the work in her "free" time and for that we are very grateful.

There will not be a report next year as the company will be closed.

The approval of the report was proposed, seconded, and duly approved.

## **7. To hear the President's remarks on vacating office**

The President, Scott Neilson, presented his report, published in the AGM booklet.

He expressed his gratitude to Kelly-Anne Grosvenor for her hard work taking over the Administrator role, Jon Pitt for taking over the Treasurer role (and Andrew Johnson for his sterling work beforehand), Tara Kaby for her efforts as Press Officer and Steevi Henderson for doing a fantastic job juggling the role as a new mum whilst returning to work; she has been fantastic.

Gifts for those mentioned were then given.

## **8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### **a. President**

The President then introduced, Dr Eunice Shang-Simpson, who is the current Vice President and proposed her to be the President for the year 2025/2026. This was seconded by Steevi Henderson. In the absence of any other nominations, Dr Eunice Shang-Simpson was duly elected as President.

The President was then invested with the Jewel of Office and took the President's chair. The President started by thanking the outgoing President. She thanked the society for the honour of selecting her as their next President and committed to continue with the great work undertaken.

The President thanked Kelly-Anne Grosvenor, Steevi Henderson and Tara Kaby for their work in helping organise the dinner which she looked forward to later, and when she would be explaining more about Africa in the Moot and East Kent Mind, her chosen charities.

Again, gifts were given to those mentioned.

### **b. A Vice President**

The President then confirmed it was the recommendation of the Special and General Purposes Committee that Mary-Joyce Insaadoo be elected Vice President for 2025 / 2026 and proposed her for that role. This was seconded by Deborah Hatton. In the absence of any other nominations, Mary-Joyce Insaadoo was duly elected. She was invested with the Vice President's jewel and took her place.

The President also reminded the meeting that it has been the practice of late to consider appointing a Deputy Vice President to ensure more support and continuity. The President

confirmed it was the recommendation of the SPC and GPC that Michael Cressey be nominated which she was delighted to say he had accepted. This role does not require a vote.

**c. Honorary Secretary**

Steevi Henderson has indicated a willingness to remain in the role.

In the absence of other nominees Steevi Henderson remains in position.

**d. Honorary Treasurer**

Andrew Johnson has stepped down; we are very grateful for his hard work.

Jon Pitt has indicated a willingness to step into the role.

He was proposed by Dr Eunice Shang-Simpson and seconded by Steevi Henderson.

**e. Elected members of the SPC**

The President reminded members that the elected members of the SPC are Deborah Hatton, Emma Palmer, Richard Atkinson, and Jon Pitt. The remaining membership of the SPC is made up of the Officers. As Jon Pitt has taken over the role of Honorary Treasurer, Alexandra Gordon has indicated a willingness to step into the role. The GPC and SPC propose that Alexandra Gordon is elected, no seconder is required.

**f. The General Purposes Committee**

In accordance with Rule 4.3.3 the members retiring by rotation were Paige Hinkins nee Harrison and Sasha Austin. They are co-opted for the incoming year.

Alexandra Gordon had been previously co-opted in readiness for her election onto the SPC.

Andrew Johnson, Nick Fairweather and Ruby Stone are currently co-opted and proposed for election.

Ryan Booth expressed a willingness to join and was proposed for election.

The members of the GPC (Andrew Johnson, Nick Fairweather, Ruby Stone, Ryan Booth, Keeley Lengthorn, Chantal Cohen, Michael Cressey, Pavendeep Dhillon, Peter Donaghey and Vivian Gambling were proposed by the President, seconded by Steevi Henderson, and thanked for all their hard work behind the scenes.

Finally, Louise Duckett indicated a desire to step down. She was thanked for everything she has done for and with the Society and it was expressed that she would be welcomed back should she ever wish to re-join.

**9. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM MRS LOUISE DUCKETT, AS LAW SOCIETY COUNCIL MEMBER**

Louise Duckett provided a report, published in the AGM booklet, which was presented by Richard Atkinson.

The society continues to press for investment across the civil legal aid sector following the opening of a consultation by the MOJ in January.

It has responded to the Independent Review of Criminal Courts which was chaired by Sir Brian Leveson.

The Society has been working on recommendations in relation to the SRA public consultation on potential changes to how and when law firms handle client money and how the money can be protected.

Promoting ED&I continues with initiatives such as the Diversity Access Scheme, women in law pledge and the judicial reverse mentoring scheme.

The Society continues to celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> year – of course everybody at KLS will recall our own 200<sup>th</sup> year celebrations a few years ago! Please make sure you keep an eye out for local events as there will be events nationwide.

It is now possible for English and Welsh practitioners to practice in India. Legal services had been excluded from it. Richard had spoken with the Business and Trade Secretary and the Indian Secretary.

It was also highlighted that nominations are now open for joining Council and he encouraged people to complete the annual practising certificate fee consultation. The survey takes around 10 minutes. It is hard to sum up all of the work going on at Chancery Lane in one short report but he was happy to talk and answer any questions should they arise.

No further questions were raised. The report was proposed by Deborah Hatton, seconded by Tara Kaby and was duly approved.

**10. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION NOTIFIED TO THE HON. SECRETARY AT LEAST FOURTEEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 5.2.4.**

There had been nothing notified to the Honorary Secretary prior to the meeting in accordance with Rule 5.24.

**11. TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER FOR 2026**

Arrangements for the AGM – date to be held is 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026. Details of venue / Dinner TBC.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A huge thanks for our sponsors. McBrides have been amazing and continued sponsors.

This year we also have new sponsorship from Konsileo, FAS, 42 BR (thanks to Mary-Joyce), Document Direct, The College of Legal Practice and Chadwick Nott.

**The President formally declared the meeting closed.**

#### LIST OF PRESIDENTS (Since 1931)

1931	William Rutley Mowll	1963	George H. Edwards	1994	Edwina Millward
1932	Walter Hanks Day	1964	Wilfred R. Mowll	1995	Peter Morgan
1933	Guy Tassell	1965	Cyril E. Latter	1996	Graham Kenyon
1934	Alfred Kingsford Mowll	1966	Anthony Harvie	1997	James Rogers
1935	William Hingeston Whitehead	1967	Norman W. S. Franks	1998	Peter W. Sherrad
1936	Robert Henry Arrowsmith	1968	Geoffrey M. Day	1999	Peter N. Gottschalk
1937	John Charles Brookhouse	1969	Tom Hendley	2000	Paul Venton
1938	George Warden Haines	1970	Douglas S. Thomson	2001	Jan Stanton
1939	Sir Robert Vaughan Gower	1971	Arthur W. Gadd	2002	Nick Rennie
1941	Charles John Roberts	1972	Henry J. Dowding	2003	Philip Dimond
1942	Charles Rootes	1973	John P. Medicott	2004	Robert Ryder
1943	William George Weller	1974	Godfrey C. Honnywill	2005	John Holder
1944	John William Gambrell	1975	W. Geoffrey Dakers	2006	Elizabeth Howe
1945	Frank Miskin	1976	Peter A. Alliot	2007	John Pritchard
1946	John Hewitt Mowll	1977	George A. W. Bracher	2008	Jonathan Smithers
1947	Frederick Dunbar Thomas	1978	Norman K. Cooper	2009	Jonathan Simmons
1948	Frank Flower	1979	Maurice G. Sayers	2010	Kerry Waitt
1949	F. Clifford Stigant	1980	Brian Kingsley Smith	2011	Frances Pierce
1950	Bertram H. Boniface	1981	David Griffiths	2012	Jon Pitt
1951	Leslie N. Watts	1982	Anthony Girling	2013	Simon Franklin
1952	G. P. Medicott	1983	Anthony Redfern	2014	Deborah Hatton
1953	H. W. Youden	1984	Anthony L. Martin	2015	Victoria Ansell
1954	J. W. Kennard	1985	John M. Leigh	2016	Vanda James
1955	Philip Bracher	1986	Raymond C. Harris	2017	Edward Lewis
1956	Stanley O. Matthews	1987	Michael Armstrong	2018	Richard Atkinson
1957	Geoffrey M. Day	1988	Jean M. Anderson	2019-20	Emma Palmer
1958	John Williams	1989	David C. Green	2020-21	Alexandra Gordon
1959	J. William Girling	1990	Richard A. Crabb	2022	Nick Fairweather
1960	George H. Youde	1991	Michael Holland	2023	Louise Duckett
1961	Laurence E. Swann	1992	Richard Daniel	2024	Scott Neilson
1962	George H. Edwards	1993	Geoffrey Dearing	2025	Dr Eunice Shang-Simpson

#### LIST OF HON. SECRETARIES

1818	Henry Atkinson Wildes	1932	Geoffrey Maxwell Day	1992	Peter N. Gottschalk
1831	William Beale	1968	Norman Kenneth- Cooper	1998	Andrew Pearson
1845	John Case	1974	Anthony Girling	2005	Frances Pierce
1877	Charles Alfred Case	1981	Keith Tucker	2010	Emma Palmer
1895	Francis Robert Howlett	1983	David Green	2018	Deborah Hatton
1918	Walter Hanks Day	1988	Geoffrey Dearing	2024	Steevi Henderson

#### LIST OF HON. TREASURERS

1818	William Scudamore	1943	Frank Miskin	1997	Nick Rennie
1833	Charles Hoare	1955	Michael Miskin	2002	Jonathan Simmons
1865	Edward Hoare	1962	George A. W. Bracher	2007	Vanda James
1880	Robert Hoare	1976	John Leigh	2015	Janet Goode
1916	Charles Parker Hinds	1984	Bruce Rylands	2020	Andrew Johnson
1922	Charles Edward Roper	1992	John Leigh	2025	Jon Pitt

#### HONORARY MEMBERS 2025

Mr. N. H. Lefort	Mr. G.C. Honnywill	Mr. D. Green	HHJ Richard Polden
Mr. A.R. C. Nicholson	Mr. N. Renie	Mr. T. Girling	HHJ Sandra Andrew
Mr. P. Venton	Mrs. A. B. McFarlane	Mr. P. Sherrad	Mr. P. Morgan
Mr. P. Gottschalk	Mr. J. Smithers	Mr. J. Pritchard	Ms J Goode
Mr. R. Ryder	Ms Vanda James	Mrs E. Howe OBE	Mr R Harris

KENT LAW SOCIETY

AGM

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Sponsors:



# KENT LAW SOCIETY

## Annual General Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> May

### 2026 PROXY FORM

I, ..... being a current member of the Kent Law Society hereby appoint the President of the Society as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and at any adjournment thereof.

Please indicate with an “X” in the spaces below how you wish your votes to be cast.

	For	Against
1 To approve the minutes of the AGM dated 16.05.2025	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 To accept the report of the Hon. Treasurer and the accounts to 31.12.25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 To approve the report of the General Purposes Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 To elect Mary-Joyce Insaadoo as President of the Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 To elect Mr Michael Cressey as Vice President of the Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Note: in the absence of any other nominations, Mrs Steevi Henderson is re-elected Honorary Secretary and Mr Jon Pitt is re-elected Honorary Treasurer		
6 To elect Keeley Lengthorn as Deputy Vice President of the Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 To elect those members currently co-opted set out on page 2 above to serve on the General Purposes Committee.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 To elect Tara Kaby as Social Media Officer of the Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 To approve the amended rules as appended to this AGM Booklet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: ..... Date: .....

**Note.** To be valid, this form must be completed and returned to the Administrator by email to [kentlsmarketing@outlook.com](mailto:kentlsmarketing@outlook.com) not less than 24 hours before the time fixed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting. However, an email from the member to the Administrator received within the same timescale unambiguously stating his or her voting preferences will be accepted in lieu of a completed form.

**APPENDIX 1**

**KENT LAW SOCIETY**

**CURRENT RULES**

KENT LAW SOCIETY  
Founded 1818  
RULES OF THE KENT LAW SOCIETY

**1. Name**

The name of the Society shall be The Kent Law Society.

**2. Objects**

The objects of the Society shall be:-

2.1 to promote and protect the interests of its members, to promote fair practice in the legal profession insofar as it relates to that of its members and to adopt such measures as may best serve these ends

2.2 to own or conduct or both, whether alone or with any other person or legal entity, and whether directly or indirectly through any trustee or separate legal entity, any business or undertaking to be carried on with or without a view to profit which is primarily but not necessarily exclusively for the benefit of members of the Society; and in connection therewith

2.1.1 to acquire any shares, stock, debentures, debenture stock, bonds, notes, obligations, warrants, options or securities by subscription, purchase, exchange, underwriting or otherwise, and whether or not fully paid up, and subject to such terms and conditions (if any) as may be thought fit; and

2.2.2 to exercise and enforce all rights and powers conferred by or incidental to the ownership of any investment of the Society, to dispose of any such investment on such terms as the Special Purposes Committee thinks fit and to provide managerial, administrative, supervisory and consultancy services for or in relation to any legal entity in which the Society is interested on such terms as may be thought fit.

**3. Membership**

3.1 The Society shall consist of: -

3.1.1 Full Members;

3.1.2 Trainee Members, subject to rule 3.6;

3.1.3 Retired Members;

3.1.4 Associate Members;

3.1.5 Student Members;

3.1.6 International Members being full members of foreign Bars or Law Societies (the Foreign Bar) with which the Society has entered into a formal twinning or broadly equivalent arrangement subject to the following: :

3.1.6.1 Any member of the Foreign Bar wishing to become an International Member shall be proposed by the President (or local equivalent) of the Foreign Bar;

3.1.6.2 Such proposals shall be made to the Honorary Secretary who will

refer the application to the General Purposes Committee and whose decision on such application will be final;

3.1.6.3 International Membership shall not grant to any International Member any of the rights granted to Members in any other category of membership;

3.1.6.4 International Membership may be renewed annually by the General Purposes Committee subject to continuing membership by the International Member of the Foreign Bar

subject in each case to the stipulations and restrictions set out in the Appendix hereto (which forms part of the Rules), and, as applicable, to rule 3.10.

3.2 Any person wishing to become a Member of the Society shall, unless otherwise permitted under the Rules, be proposed in writing by a Member such proposal to be sent to the Honorary Secretary (or such other person as the General Purposes Committee shall determine from time to time) and to be in such form and giving such information as the General Purposes Committee shall from time to time determine. The General Purposes Committee shall elect any such applicant to membership as it shall in its absolute discretion think fit.

3.3 Every member shall pay to the Treasurer an annual subscription of such amount as is determined from time to time by the General Purposes Committee. The General Purposes Committee may determine different rates of annual subscription for different categories of members (including but not limited to employees of local authorities or other public bodies) from time to time.

3.4 All members shall remain members subject to the Rules and to payment of their subscription until they give notice of their desire to withdraw their name by letter to the Treasurer.

3.5 All members shall be liable for the full year's subscription for the year of their election and for the year of their withdrawal from membership (for whatever reason).

3.6 Subject always to the rules of the Society, a Trainee Member shall cease to be such at such time as he shall be admitted as a solicitor whereupon he shall be eligible to become a Full Member of the Society if he fulfils the other requirements for membership.

3.7 If any member shall have failed to pay his annual subscription for 3 months after such subscription shall fall due the Honorary Secretary may send such member a notice in writing stating that unless payment of all arrears is made within 21 days of the date of such notice the member will be regarded as having terminated his membership. If payment is not received in such period the member shall then automatically cease to be a member of the Society unless the General Purposes Committee shall otherwise decide.

3.8 Honorary membership may be granted to any member or former member who, in the opinion of the General Purposes Committee, has given distinguished service to the Society. Honorary Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of a Full Member except those of being an officer of the Society or a member of any Committee.

3.9 Every Full, Retired, Trainee and Honorary Member shall be entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Society and such other meetings as the General Purposes Committee or Special Purposes Committee may decide.

3.10 Members shall remain members of the Society until: -

3.10.1 not being Retired Members, they cease to Practise; or

- 3.10.2 being Trainee Members they relinquish their training contracts before qualifying as a solicitor; or
- 3.10.3 being Student Members they complete or relinquish their legal studies, save where they are entitled to become a member of the Society under any other category;
- 3.10.4 they become bankrupt or make an arrangement with creditors; or
- 3.10.5 they cease to be members in accordance with rule 3.7 above; or
- 3.10.6 they are struck off the roll of solicitors or, in the case of members who are not solicitors, they are struck off, disbarred or otherwise prohibited from practise by a regulatory authority or other relevant professional body; or
- 3.10.7 they are expelled.

#### **4. Administration and Management of the Society**

4.1 The officers of the Society shall be the President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer all of whom shall be members elected at the Annual General Meeting

4.2 The Special Purposes Committee of the Society which shall have power to deal with any urgent or special matters referred to it by the President or in his absence the Vice President shall comprise the officers of the Society, together with the immediate past President and four other Full Members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The quorum for Special Purposes Committee Meetings shall be five

4.3 The general management of the Society shall be conducted by the General Purposes Committee which shall consist of: -

4.3.1 the members of the Special Purposes Committee; and

4.3.2 the Kent representatives for the time being on the Council of the Law Society; and

4.3.3 up to twelve further members, each of whom shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting to serve for a term of three years and who shall thereafter be ineligible for re-election for one year.

4.4 The quorum for meetings of the General Purposes Committee shall be a simple majority of the members of the General Purposes Committee as then constituted

4.5 Nominations for candidates for election to the General Purposes Committee shall be submitted to the Secretary not less than seven days before the Annual General Meeting.

4.6 The General Purposes Committee shall have power to co-opt additional members to the General Purposes Committee as they see fit and any member so appointed shall hold office only until the next following Annual General Meeting but shall then remain eligible for election in accordance with rule 4.5

4.7 The General Purposes Committee shall have power to deal with all matters, including fixing the level of honoraria for the officers of the Society, other than those of an urgent or special nature directed to be dealt with by the Special Purposes Committee

4.8 The General Purposes Committee shall have power to expel any member who shall offend against the rules of the Society or whose conduct shall in the opinion of the General Purposes Committee render him unfit for membership. Before any member is expelled, the Secretary shall give him at least twenty-one days written notice to attend a meeting of the General Purposes Committee and shall inform him of the complaint made against him. No

member shall be expelled without first having an opportunity of appearing before the General Purposes Committee and answering the complaint made against him and unless at least three-quarters of the Committee then present vote in favour of his expulsion. This rule 4.8 shall not apply to the automatic cessation of membership under rule 3.7 above.

4.9 At all meetings of the Society, except as otherwise provided herein:

4.9.1 each Member present and paying a full or reduced subscription and each Honorary Member present shall have one vote.

4.9.2 all proceedings shall be brought forward by way of motion and amendment, duly made and seconded or put from the Chair and determined by the votes of the majority of the Members then present and voting and in the case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote

4.9.3 each question shall be decided by a show of hands or in such other manner as the Chairman of the meeting shall determine

4.9.4 the President shall preside at all meetings but, if he shall not be present or has signified his inability to attend, the Vice President or, if he is not available, such other person as the members present and entitled to vote shall choose, shall be Chairman of the meeting

## **5. Annual and Extra-ordinary General Meetings**

5.1 An Annual General Meeting and Dinner shall ordinarily be held in the County in May each year or on such other date and at such time and place as shall be determined at the preceding Annual General Meeting

5.2 The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include: -

5.2.1 election of the officers of the Society

5.2.2 the presentation and (if accepted) the passing of the Accounts for the previous financial year which ended on the 31st December prior to the Meeting

5.2.3 the receiving of a report from the General Purposes Committee

5.2.4 such other business as shall have been communicated to the Secretary and included in the notice of the meeting sent by him to members

5.3 The Secretary shall at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting and any Extra-ordinary General Meeting send to every member at his address as recorded in the Society's membership list notice of the meeting stating the time and place of the meeting and the business to be conducted

5.4 Full Members (save for those Full Members who pay a reduced rate subscription) and Honorary Members attending the Annual General Meeting and signing such register as may be required to confirm their attendances may be entitled to dine thereafter at a reduced rate, such reduced rate to be determined by the General Purposes Committee save that nothing in this rule shall require the General Purposes Committee to determine that any such reduction shall apply.

5.5 An Extra-ordinary General Meeting may be convened at any time by the General Purposes Committee and must be convened within 21 days from receipt of a requisition in writing signed by not less than 20 members specifying the object of the meeting.

- 5.5.1 An Extra-ordinary General Meeting may be convened:
- 5.5.1.1 To consider and, if approved, sanction any duly proposed alteration of the rules;
  - 5.5.1.2 To deal with any special matter which the General Purposes Committee wishes to place before the members;
  - 5.5.1.3 To remove any member or members of the General Purposes Committee from office;
  - 5.5.1.4 To deal with any special matter which the members requiring the meeting wish to place before the Society.

## **6. Modification of the Rules**

6.1 Any amendments to the Rules must be approved by the Annual General Meeting or by an Extra-ordinary General Meeting convened by the Honorary Secretary at the direction of either the Special or the General Purposes Committees.

6.2 Any member intending to propose any amendments to the Rules shall signify the same in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least fourteen days before such Annual or Extra-ordinary General Meeting.

6.3 Any proposal for the amendment of any of the Rules must be approved by a majority of not less than three-quarters of the members present and voting.

## **7. Dissolution**

7.1 The Society shall be dissolved upon the passing of a Resolution to that effect at the Annual General Meeting or at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting convened for that purpose by the Honorary Secretary at the direction of either the Special or the General Purposes Committees.

7.2 Any such resolution shall require to be passed by a majority of not less than three-quarters of the members present and voting.

7.3 After the passing of such a resolution a majority of the members present shall have the power of disposition of the books and property of the Society. After discharge of all liabilities, the Society's property shall be divided among all the then members of the Society rateably in proportion to the amount each one shall have paid in subscription in the year of dissolution and upon completion of such division the Society shall be dissolved.

## **8. Interpretation**

8.1 In the construction of the Rules (unless the contrary intention appears):

8.1.1 words importing the masculine gender include the feminine;

8.1.2 words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural shall include the singular;

8.1.3 "County" means the county of Kent to include those former parts of Kent which have become part of London boroughs and the unitary authority of Medway;

8.1.4 "Full Rights" means the rights of members to:

- 8.1.4.1 attend the Annual General Meeting of the Society and such other meetings as the General Purposes Committee or Special Purposes Committee may decide;
- 8.1.4.2 have one vote at such meetings;
- 8.1.4.3 stand for election as an officer of the Society or be invited to sit on any committee of the Society;
- 8.1.4.4 take advantage of reduced training fees on courses provided by Kent Law Society Services Limited;
- 8.1.5 "In Practice" means
  - 8.1.5.1 to work as a fee earner in, or to participate in the management of, an organisation regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority; or
  - 8.1.5.2 to carry out legal work in-house as a Solicitor, or as a fee earner under the direction or supervision of a Solicitorand "Practising" shall be construed accordingly;
- 8.1.6 "the Rules" means the rules of the Society as amended from time to time;

8.2 The General Purposes Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the Rules and the decision of the General Purposes Committee upon any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the Society and provided for by the Rules shall be final and binding on members.

## **9. Notices**

- 9.1 The Society may give any notice to a member either:
  - 9.1.1 personally; or
  - 9.1.2 by sending it by post; or
  - 9.1.3 by sending it through the document exchange; or
  - 9.1.4 by electronic mail

and in all cases the Society shall use the members' addresses recorded in the Society's records.

## Appendix

Title	Description	Restrictions	Rights/benefits
Full member	Solicitors and any other person who is In Practice, excluding trainees	Must Practise (or have Practised) or live in the County	Full Rights
Trainee member	Trainee solicitors subject to the terms of a current training contract and under the supervision of a Solicitor	Must work as a trainee, or live, in the County	Full Rights subject to Rule 4.9.1
Retired member	A person who has retired and would (before retirement) have qualified as a Full Member	Must have Practised in the County	Entitled to attend and vote at meetings of the Society
Associate member	Those who hold judicial office or are involved in the administration of justice in the County, including barristers, judges, court officials, and magistrates.	May apply to or may be invited by the GPC to become members. Those who apply should have the support of an existing member.	None
Student member	Full or part time student studying for a law degree or the GDL/CPE or LPC, student CILEX or Licensed Conveyancers.	In the opinion of the GPC must have an adequate connection with the County.	None
International member	Full member of foreign Bars or Law Societies with which KLS has entered into an arrangement re reciprocal membership.	Must be proposed by the president (or equivalent) of the foreign bar/ society.	None
Honorary member	Any member or former member who has given distinguished service to KLS.	At the absolute discretion of the GPC.	Full Rights, subject to Rule 3.8

**APPENDIX 2**

**KENT LAW SOCIETY**

**PROPOSED RULES**

KENT LAW SOCIETY  
Founded 1818  
RULES OF THE KENT LAW SOCIETY

**1. Name**

The name of the Society shall be “The Kent Law Society”

**2. Objectives**

The objectives of the Society shall be:-

- 2.1 to promote and protect the interests of its members, to promote fair practice in the legal profession insofar as it relates to that of its members and to adopt such measures as may best serve these ends;
- 2.2 to own and/or conduct, whether alone or with any other person or legal entity, and whether directly or indirectly through any trustee or separate legal entity, any business or undertaking to be carried on with or without a view to profit which is primarily but not necessarily exclusively for the benefit of members of the Society; and in connection therewith:
  - 2.2.1 to acquire any shares, stock, debentures, debenture stock, bonds, notes, obligations, warrants, options or securities by subscription, purchase, exchange, underwriting or otherwise, and whether or not fully paid up, and subject to such terms and conditions (if any) as may be thought fit; and
  - 2.2.2 to exercise and enforce all rights and powers conferred by or incidental to the ownership of any investment of the Society, to dispose of any such investment on such terms as the Special Purposes Committee thinks fit and to provide managerial, administrative, supervisory and consultancy services

for or in relation to any legal entity in which the Society is interested on such terms as may be thought fit.

### **3. Membership**

3.1 The Society shall consist of: -

3.1.1 Corporate Members:

3.1.1.1 A Corporate Member may nominate such number of individuals who are employed by or otherwise engaged in the business of the Corporate Member as the General Purposes Committee may determine from time to time.

3.1.1.2 Each nominated individual shall be treated as a Full Member of the Society.

3.1.1.3 The Corporate Member itself shall not have voting rights separate from those of its nominated individuals.

3.1.1.4 The Corporate Member shall notify the Society of the names and contact details of its nominated individuals and may change such nominations from time to time by notice to the Society.

3.1.1.5 Membership rights of nominated individuals shall commence when their details are recorded in the Society's membership records.

3.1.1.6 The General Purposes Committee may determine the maximum number of individuals who may be nominated by a Corporate Member.

3.1.2 Full Members;

3.1.3 Trainee Members;

3.1.4 Associate / Retired Members;

3.1.5 Student Members;

3.1.6 International Members being full members of foreign Bars or Law Societies (the Foreign Bar) with which the Society has entered into a formal twinning or broadly equivalent arrangement subject to the following:

3.1.6.1 Any member of the Foreign Bar wishing to become an International Member shall be proposed by the President (or local equivalent) of the Foreign Bar;

3.1.6.2 Such proposals shall be made to the Honorary Secretary who will refer the application to the General Purposes Committee and whose decision on such application will be final;

3.1.6.3 International Membership shall not grant to any International Member any of the rights granted to Members in any other category of membership;

3.1.6.4 International Membership may be renewed annually by the General Purposes Committee subject to continuing membership by the International Member of the Foreign Bar

subject in each case to the stipulations and restrictions set out in the Appendix hereto (which forms part of the Rules), and, as applicable, to rule 3.10.

3.2 Any person or 'Body' wishing to become a Member of the Society shall, unless otherwise permitted under the Rules, be proposed in writing by a Member such proposal to be sent to the Administrator (or such other person as the General Purposes Committee shall determine from time to time) and to be in such form and

giving such information as the General Purposes Committee shall from time to time determine. The General Purposes Committee shall elect any such applicant to membership as it shall in its absolute discretion think fit.

3.3 Every member shall pay to the Society an annual subscription of such amount as is determined from time to time by the General Purposes Committee. The General Purposes Committee may determine different rates of annual subscription for different categories of members from time to time.

3.4 All members shall remain members subject to the Rules and to payment of their subscription.

3.5 All members shall be liable for the full year's subscription for the year in which they are elected and for the year of their withdrawal from membership (for whatever reason).

3.6 If any member shall have failed to pay their annual subscription for 3 months after such subscription shall fall due, the Administrator may send such member a notice in writing stating that unless payment of all arrears is made within 21 days of the date of such notice the member will be regarded as having terminated their membership. If payment is not received in such period the member shall then cease to be a member of the Society unless the General Purposes Committee shall otherwise decide.

3.7 Honorary membership may be granted to any member or former member who, in the opinion of the General Purposes Committee, has given distinguished service to the Society. Honorary Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of a Full Member except those of being an officer of the Society or a member of any Committee.

3.8 Every Member as defined by 3.1 shall be entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Society and such other meetings as the General Purposes Committee or Special Purposes Committee may decide.

3.9 Members shall remain members of the Society until: -

3.9.1 being Trainee Members they conclude their training; or

3.9.2 being Student Members they conclude their legal studies;

3.9.3 they become bankrupt or make an arrangement with creditors; or

3.9.4 they cease to be members in accordance with rule 3.6 above; or

3.9.5 they are struck off, disbarred or otherwise prohibited from practice by a regulatory authority or other relevant professional body; or

3.9.6 they are expelled pursuant to rule 4.8.

#### **4. Administration and Management of the Society**

4.1 The Officers of the Society shall be the President, the Vice President, the Deputy Vice President, the Honorary Secretary, the Social Media Officer and the Honorary Treasurer; all of whom shall be members elected at the Annual General Meeting

4.2 The Special Purposes Committee of the Society which shall have power to deal with any urgent or special matters referred to it by the President or in their absence the Vice President shall comprise the Officers of the Society, together with the Immediate Past President and four to five other Full Members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The quorum for Special Purposes Committee Meetings shall be five.

4.3 The general management of the Society shall be conducted by the General Purposes Committee which shall consist of: -

- 4.3.1 the members of the Special Purposes Committee; and
  - 4.3.2 the Kent representatives for the time being on the Council of the Law Society for England and Wales; and
  - 4.3.3 up to fifteen further members, each of whom shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting to serve for a term of three years and who shall thereafter be ineligible for re-election for one year.
- 4.4 The quorum for meetings of the General Purposes Committee shall be a simple majority of the members of the General Purposes Committee as then constituted.
- 4.5 Nominations for candidates for election to the General Purposes Committee shall be submitted to the Honorary Secretary not less than seven days before the Annual General Meeting.
- 4.6 The General Purposes Committee shall have power to co-opt additional members to the General Purposes Committee as they see fit and any member so appointed shall hold office only until the next following Annual General Meeting but shall then remain eligible for election in accordance with rule 4.5
- 4.7 The General Purposes Committee shall have power to deal with all matters, including fixing the level of honoraria for the officers of the Society, other than those of an urgent or special nature directed to be dealt with by the Special Purposes Committee.
- 4.8 A resolution in writing agreed by a majority of the members of the General Purposes Committee shall be as valid and effective as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Committee duly convened and held, and agreement may be signified by electronic communication.

- 4.9 The General Purposes Committee shall have power to expel any member:
- 4.9.1 who shall offend against the rules of the Society;
  - 4.9.2 whose conduct shall in the opinion of the General Purposes Committee render them unfit for membership; and/or
  - 4.9.3 who fails to attend more than three General Purposes Committee meetings within one year without informing the Administrator.
- 4.10 Before any member is expelled, the Honorary Secretary shall give them at least twenty-one days written notice to attend a meeting of the General Purposes Committee and shall inform them of the complaint made against them. No member shall be expelled without first having an opportunity of appearing before the General Purposes Committee and answering the complaint made against them and unless at least three-quarters of the Committee then present vote in favour of their expulsion. This rule 4.8 shall not apply to the cessation of membership under rule 3.6 above.
- 4.11 At all meetings of the Society, except as otherwise provided herein:
- 4.11.1 Each Member present who is entitled to the Full Rights of membership and each Honorary Member present shall have one vote.
  - 4.11.2 All proceedings shall be brought forward by way of motion and amendment, duly made and seconded or put from the Chair and determined by the votes of the majority of the Members then present and voting and in the case of equality of votes the Chair shall have a second or casting vote
  - 4.11.3 Each question shall be decided by a show of hands or in such other manner as the Chair of the meeting shall determine

4.11.4 The President shall preside at all meetings but, if they shall not be present or have signified their inability to attend, the Vice President or, if they are not available, such other person as the members present and entitled to vote shall choose, shall be Chair of the meeting

4.12 The proceedings and decisions of any meeting of the Society or of the General Purposes Committee or Special Purposes Committee shall not be invalidated by any defect in the appointment, election or qualification of any person acting as a member of such body.

## **5. Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings**

5.1 An Annual General Meeting and Dinner shall ordinarily be held in the County in May each year or on such other date and at such time and place as shall be determined at the preceding Annual General Meeting

5.2 The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include: -

5.2.1 election of the officers of the Society

5.2.2 the presentation and (if accepted) the passing of the Accounts for the previous financial year which ended on the 31st December prior to the Meeting

5.2.3 the receiving of a report from the General Purposes Committee

5.2.4 such other business as shall have been communicated to the Honorary Secretary and included in the notice of the meeting sent by them to members

5.3 The Honorary Secretary shall at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting send to every member at their email as recorded in the Society's membership list notice of the meeting stating the

time and place of the meeting and the business to be conducted

5.4 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at any time by the General Purposes Committee who may determine that it be held at a location within the County or wholly virtually or as a hybrid meeting and must be convened within 21 days from receipt of a requisition in writing signed by not less than 20 members specifying the object of the meeting.

5.5 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened:

5.5.1 To consider and, if approved, sanction any duly proposed alteration of the rules;

5.5.2 To deal with any special matter which the General Purposes Committee wishes to place before the members;

5.5.3 To remove any member or members of the General Purposes Committee from office;

5.5.4 To deal with any special matter which the members requiring the meeting wish to place before the Society.

## **6. Modification of the Rules**

6.1 Any amendments to the Rules must be approved by the Annual General Meeting or by an Extra-ordinary General Meeting convened by the Honorary Secretary at the direction of either the Special or the General Purposes Committees.

6.2 Any member intending to propose any amendments to the Rules shall signify the same in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least fourteen days before such Annual or Extra-ordinary General Meeting

6.3 Any proposal for the amendment of any of the Rules must be approved by a majority

of not less than three-quarters of the members present and voting.

## **7. Dissolution**

7.1 The Society shall be dissolved upon the passing of a Resolution to that effect at the Annual General Meeting or at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting convened for that purpose by the Honorary Secretary at the direction of either the Special or the General Purposes Committees.

7.2 Any such resolution shall require to be passed by a majority of not less than three-quarters of the members present and voting.

7.3 After the passing of such a resolution a majority of the members present shall have the power of disposition of the books and property of the Society. After discharge of all liabilities, the Society's property shall be divided among all the then members of the Society rateably in proportion to the amount each one shall have paid in subscription in the year of dissolution and upon completion of such division the Society shall be dissolved.

## **8. Interpretation**

8.1 In the construction of the Rules (unless the contrary intention appears):

8.1.1 whenever words denoting a specific gender are used in this Agreement, they are intended to apply equally to all parties without regard to gender, unless the context otherwise requires;

8.1.2 words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural shall include the singular;

8.1.3 "County" means the county of Kent to include those former parts of Kent which have become part of London boroughs and the unitary authority of

Medway;

8.1.4 “Full Rights” means the rights of members to:

8.1.4.1 attend the Annual General Meeting of the Society and such other meetings as the General Purposes Committee or Special Purposes Committee may decide;

8.1.4.2 have one vote at such meetings;

8.1.4.3 stand for election as an officer of the Society or be invited to sit on any committee of the Society

8.1.5 “In Practice” means to work as a legal professional in, or to participate in the management of, an organisation regulated by an Approved Regulator and / or law academics working in a higher education establishment registered by the Office for Students (or any UK government approved regulatory body that replaces it); and "Practising" shall be construed accordingly.

8.1.6 “the Rules” means the rules of the Society as amended from time to time;

8.1.7 “Present” at meetings is defined as those attending either in person or virtually except where virtual or in-person presence is expressly prohibited, and “Presence” shall be construed accordingly. If in-person or virtual presence is expressly prohibited then those entitled to attend said meeting should be notified 14 days in advance.

8.2 The General Purposes Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the Rules and the decision of the General Purposes Committee upon any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the Society and provided for by the Rules shall be final and binding on members.

## **9. Notices**

9.1 The Society may give any notice to a member either:

9.1.1 personally; or

9.1.2 by sending it by post; or

9.1.3 by electronic mail

and in all cases the Society shall use the member's email address recorded in the Society's records.

## **Appendix 1 – Membership Categories in List Format**

### **Full Member**

**Description:** Legal professionals who do not fall within any other defined membership category.

**Restrictions:** Must practise (or have previously practised) law in the County, or reside within the County.

**Rights / Benefits:** Full rights.

**Subscription Fee:** Full fee.

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### **Trainee Member**

**Description:** Trainee legal professionals undertaking a recognised training scheme and working under the supervision of a legal professional as defined above.

**Restrictions:** Must be employed as a trainee within the County or reside within the County.

**Rights / Benefits:** Full rights, subject to Rule 3.9.1.

**Subscription Fee:** Reduced fee (determined by the Society).

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### **Associate / Retired Member**

**Description:** Retired individuals or individuals who hold judicial office or are involved in the administration of justice within the County, including barristers, judges, court officials, and magistrates.

**Restrictions:** Membership is by application to, or invitation from, the General Purposes Committee (GPC). Applicants should be supported by an existing member.

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**Rights / Benefits:** No voting or governance rights unless otherwise specified.

**Subscription Fee:** Reduced fee (determined by the Society).

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### **Student Member**

**Description:** Full- or part-time students studying for a law degree, SQE, GDL/CPE, LPC, student CILEX, or as Licensed Conveyancers.

**Restrictions:** Must be studying within the County or reside within the County.

**Rights / Benefits:** Full rights, subject to Rule 3.9.2.

**Subscription Fee:** Reduced fee (determined by the Society).

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### **International Member**

**Description:** Full members of foreign Bars or Law Societies with which KLS has reciprocal membership arrangements.

**Restrictions:** Must be proposed by the president (or equivalent) of the foreign Bar or Law Society.

**Rights / Benefits:** International Members shall not have Full Rights as defined in Rule 8.1.4.

**Subscription Fee:** Determined by the Society.

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### **Honorary Member**

**Description:** Any member or former member who has provided distinguished service to KLS.

**Restrictions:** Granted at the absolute discretion of the GPC.

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**Rights / Benefits:** Full rights, subject to Rules 3.7 and 3.9.

**Subscription Fee:** No fee.

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### **Corporate Member**

**Description:** A legal body, organisation, or department within an organisation regulated by an Approved Regulator which pays a corporate subscription entitling nominated individuals connected with that organisation to membership of the Society.

**Restrictions:** Must maintain an office or offices within the County.

**Rights / Benefits:** Individuals nominated under a Corporate Membership shall be treated as Members of the Society and shall have Full Rights in accordance with Rule 8.1.4.

**Subscription Fee:** Determined by the Society.

## Appendix 2 – Membership Categories in Table format

<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Restrictions</b>	<b>Rights / Benefits</b>	<b>Subscription Fees</b>
<b>Full Member</b>	Legal professionals who do not fall within any other defined membership category.	Must practise (or have previously practised) law in the County or reside within the County.	Full rights.	Full fee.
<b>Trainee Member</b>	Trainee legal professionals undertaking a recognised training scheme and working under the supervision of a legal professional as defined above.	Must be employed as a trainee within the County or reside within the County.	Full rights, subject to Rule 3.9.1.	Reduced fee (determined by the Society).
<b>Associate / Retired Member</b>	Retired individuals or individuals who hold judicial office or are involved in the administration of	Membership is by application to, or invitation from, the General Purposes Committee	No voting or governance rights unless	Reduced fee (determined by the Society).

	justice within the County, including barristers, judges, court officials, and magistrates.	(GPC). Applicants should be supported by an existing member.	otherwise specified.	
<b>Student Member</b>	Full- or part-time students studying for a law degree, SQE, GDL/CPE, LPC, student CILEX, or as Licensed Conveyancers.	Must be studying within the County or reside within the County.	Full rights, subject to Rule 3.9.2.	Reduced fee (to be determined by the Society).
<b>International Member</b>	Full members of foreign Bars or Law Societies with which KLS has reciprocal membership arrangements.	Must be proposed by the president (or equivalent) of the foreign Bar or Law Society.	International Members shall not have Full Rights as defined in Rule 8.1.4.	To be determined by the Society.
<b>Honorary Member</b>	Any member or former member who has provided	Granted at the absolute discretion of the GPC.	Full rights, subject to Rules 3.7 and 3.9.	No subscription fee.

	distinguished service to KLS.			
<b>Corporate Member</b>	A legal body, organisation, or department within an organisation regulated by an Approved Regulator which pays a corporate subscription entitling nominated individuals connected with that organisation to membership of the Society.	Must maintain an office or offices within the County.	Individuals nominated under a Corporate Membership shall be treated as Members of the Society and shall have Full Rights in accordance with Rule 8.1.4.	To be determined by the society