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Hello and welcome to the Relationship Management London, South East & East (LSEE) team December 2017 monthly report.

We hope you find the report useful and encourage you to share it with your committee members and colleagues.

We are always looking for news stories from your regions to feature in our monthly report, so if you would like us to include any updates in the future, please send them to:



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Thank you for reading.



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Our newsletters are changing

In 2018 we are changing the way we present our Relationship Management newsletters to you. The Law Society is streamlining all its newsletters and is moving to an electronic template to make it easier for members to read newsletters on their mobile phones.

From January you will receive an email newsletter, it will include the same topical news stories, a list of the latest practice notes and a link to SRA and government consultations which you can respond to. There will also be a link to our regional pages so that you can view your regional events and access key information about your area.

We look forward to working to improve the newsletters with you and as always, welcome your comments and questions.

Read the latest on Brexit

Catch up with the latest on Brexit as it continues through Parliament. Read more [here](#).

Read the latest Law Society Parliamentary briefing for MPs [here](#).

Campaign for legal aid early advice gets underway

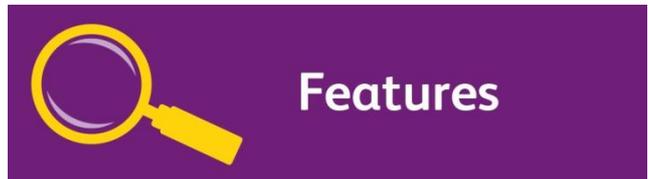
The Law Society is campaigning for legal aid to be re-introduced for early legal advice, particularly in family and housing law.

Watch our video and download our report on the benefits of early advice [here](#).

Government is to relax legal aid restrictions for domestic violence victims

This positive decision is the result of work the Law Society and other organisations have been doing with the Ministry of Justice for many months.

Read the article in full [here](#) and our article in the Gazette [here](#).



Social Mobility Ambassadors 2017

We launched our 2017 intake of social mobility ambassadors. If you are considering delivering something in your region on diversity and inclusion and would like us to contribute please contact us and see [here](#) for more information.

Women in leadership in the law

We are launching a programme of work in 2018 which aims to achieve equality for women in leadership roles within the legal profession. We need to collect vital data from the membership before the end of the calendar year. We would be delighted if you could promote our [survey](#) with your members. We are casting our net far and wide, so all men and women in legal businesses are invited to respond.



Accredited Legal Representatives in the Court of Protection

For further information: [Read more](#)



Individual Accountability: Extending the Senior Managers & Certification Regime to all FCA firms

The Law Society remains strongly of the view that the legal function should be excluded from the scope of the SM&CR. [Read our full response](#)

Law Commission consultation on making a will

The consultation explores several issues, including aligning the test for testamentary capacity with that in the Mental Capacity Act 2005, empowering courts to give legal effect to wills where formality rules have not been strictly followed, and the role of electronic wills. [Read our full response](#)

DCLG consultation on planning for housing

The consultation sought views on a range of proposals, including on a standard method for calculating local authorities' housing need, a statement of common ground (to work alongside

the Duty to Co-operate), and improving the use of viability assessments. [Read more](#)

ESMA draft technical advice consultation

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) published a consultation seeking views on its draft technical advice in relation to the format and content of the prospectus, base prospectus and final terms. [Read more](#)

Flexible operating hours pilot – The Law Society's response

Read the Law Society's full response [here](#)



SRA: Looking to the future - phase two of our Handbook reforms

Following the first looking to the future consultation in summer 2016, the SRA are now consulting on further changes to their Handbook and their proposed revised Enforcement Strategy. This consultation also includes the transitional arrangements for the introduction of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE). [Read more](#)

Submission deadline 20 December 2017

SRA: Looking to the future - better information, more choice

The SRA are now consulting on publishing more of the regulatory data they hold about solicitors and firms they regulate. They are also consulting on asking these solicitors and firms to publish more information on the legal services they provide. [Read more](#)

Submission deadline 20 December 2017

ADR and Civil Justice

Civil Justice Council is now seeking written submissions on the findings and recommendations of the report, ahead of organising a seminar at which the proposals can be discussed, and a final report prepared and submitted to the Government for consideration.

[Find out more](#)

Submission deadline 15 December 2017

Department for Communities and Local Government: Improving the home buying and selling process - call for evidence

The Government is committed to improving the existing home buying and selling process to make it cheaper, faster and less stressful.

[Find out more](#)

Submission deadline 17 December 2017

Financial Conduct Authority: Recovering the costs of the Office for Professional Body Anti-Money Laundering Supervision (OPBAS) fees proposals

In March 2017 the Government announced its intention to create OPBAS within the FCA.

This consultation sets out the FCA's proposals for recovering the costs of running OPBAS from the bodies it will supervise. [Find out more](#)

Submission deadline 8 January 2018

Law Commission: Sentencing Code

The Law Commission is consulting on the introduction of a single sentencing statute that will act as the comprehensive source of sentencing law – the “Sentencing Code”.

Submission deadline 26 January 2018

[Find out more](#)

For further information regarding any of the consultations please contact Catherine O’Gallachoir, Legal and Regulatory Policy – Catherine.O’Gallachoir@lawsociety.org.uk



Money Laundering Reporting Officer Events - January 2018

Develop a better understanding of the Money Laundering Regulations 2017 and how to stay compliant. These seminars are designed to keep MLROs up to date with the latest trends and developments whilst facilitating discussions between local law practices about the challenges of anti-money laundering (AML) compliance and enabling the sharing of good practice. You will find further information on our website for events we are running:

Southampton: [Weds 10 Jan 2018](#)

Norwich: [Tues 16 Jan 2018](#)

Maidstone: [Wed 17 Jan 2018](#)

London: [Thurs 18 Jan 2018](#)

Guildford: [Tues 23 Jan 2018](#)

Cambridge: [Thurs 25 Jan 2018](#)

Presidents and Secretaries Conference – save the date and link to registration

Join us for the 2018 annual Presidents and Secretaries Conference on 11 and 12 May 2018 at the Law Society, Chancery Lane. For 2018 we have a varied mix of plenary and breakout sessions to give you the opportunity to discuss common challenges, share experiences and hear practical tips from your peers and expert speakers.

For a full list of Law Society events, further details and to book, please visit our [events page](#).