

# lccsa

London Criminal Courts Solicitors' Association

CELEBRATING

70

YEARS

# PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE LCCSA

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SAMUEL COLEMAN  
LANCE BARKER  
SIR DAVID NAPLEY  
ARTHUR PROTHERO  
HIS HONOUR JUDGE COX  
T V EDWARDS  
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SIR JOHN WICKERSON  
MONTY RAPHAEL  
HIS HONOUR TIMOTHY  
LAWRENCE  
ANDREW KEENAN OBE  
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JONATHAN BLACK  
GREG FOXSMITH  
GREG POWELL

# THE 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOREWORD

## THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY IS INEVITABLY AN OCCASION MIXING NOSTALGIA AND HOPE.

My own first experiences of the LCCSA committee were meetings chaired by Presidents June Venters QC and Mark Haslam. Robert Brown was Secretary and he and June in particular became immersed in the all-consuming embrace of the Carter “reforms” devoting hundreds of hours trying to ameliorate and temper the unhinged and ideological proposals to introduce competition, markets and tendered fees. This grand scheme was a fig leaf for cuts and more cuts in a period marked by an apparently endless stream of ministers and bureaucrats parroting that the legal aid budget was “out of control” when the evidence showed that it was demand led.

A decade of trips up blind alleys followed. Price competitive tendering, best value tendering, (in parallel the judicially reviewed and abandoned family tendering scheme) and ultimately the debacle of two-tier tendering. Along the way we had to fight for the right of clients to choose their solicitor which the Lord Chancellor wished to abolish and had to witness Lord Justice Thomas thumping the table and declaring that we could not expect to be paid by the time we actually spent on cases; we appear to have almost come full circle as the MOJ in the AGFS consultation suggest that they require a scheme “that more accurately rewards work done” without actually restoring payment by time.

What we have also witnessed in the last 20+ years has been an amazing proliferation of initiatives and groups. We remain the unpaid professional representatives at the table discussing better case management, speedy, swift and summary justice, video enabled

justice, defence engagement, the IDPC, the workings of the LCJB and news that filters down from the NCJB. Is it doubtful that anyone has a grasp of all of these initiatives, particularly those which are the brainchild of those who are spending 1.2 billion on digital transformation.

The LCCSA message has been consistent and based on experience. That the magistrates court is a complex place, that ushers are hugely undervalued as they ensure the fluid flow of cases, that face to face is clearly the most effective form of representation and the physical presence of all the parties is the most efficient way of producing a seamless flow of work.

We remind newcomers of the videolink pilot scheme and its buried final report, of our scepticism that videolinks are the inevitable way forward and we always ask for the economic case. We listen with wonder at the treasure being made available for digitalisation projects and are sceptical of its economic benefit, apparently to be achieved by the removal of 5000 or more HMCTS staff by 2023. Into these conversations we throw our memories of night courts, preferred suppliers, the Auld Report and our hope that similarly destined for oblivion is the flexible operating hours pilot.

Meanwhile we are witness to the asset stripping of the court, prison and police estate. The process of modernisation leaves behind it memories of Mr Badge and Mr Crowther in West London, the legendary St John Harmsworth in Marlborough Street and the dependably irascible Mr Johnson in Hampstead who memorably once dismissed the entire list as the CPS were late. Highgate, Clerkenwell, Old Street and especially Bow Street still linger in the mind. In our paradoxical world, immensely richer than 50 or 60 years ago, we have moved to a position where in the vast conurbation that

is greater London, custody suites and court rooms are becoming as infrequent as Oases. In a parallel process the magistrates' court has been hugely devalued. It used to consider the evidential basis of committal (for entertainment see Anthony Trollope's *The Last Chronicle of Barset*, in which the Reverend Crawley is accused of stealing a cheque), there were two bail applications in every case and even the grant of bail in murder. We are now reduced to the Section 51 sending in custody, for which, incidentally, we don't get paid at all and the "14 hour" debacle, the weekly criminal litigation time required for duty solicitors, which simply reminds us that our travelling and waiting have been rolled up into a much reduced fixed fee.

Civil servants dream of criminal processes liberated from human face to face interaction and are matched only in ambition by senior

judicial figures who would replace jurors and the adversarial based search for truth with the inquisitor judge and cutting edge companies that sell machines to which prisoners released on licence can report wearing satellite monitored tags upon release from the Titan prison. It is an imagined world that the LCCSA will commendably, with spirit and fortitude, resist in the steadfast belief that a significant part of the experience of justice is the quality of the defendant's lawyer within a system that must be seen to reaching its judgement in a recognisably human way.

*Greg Powell*

President  
LCCSA 2017-18

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## THE LCCSA COMMITTEE

The committee comprises of elected members and may also include co-opted members who may be invited as observers but shall not be entitled to vote. The committee is always looking for vibrant new members with a commitment to issues surrounding the criminal justice system. There is no need to be asked to apply to join the committee and members are encouraged to express any interest in joining to any committee member.

All members of the committee are elected at the AGM for three years, and are expected to attend at least 8 of the 11 committee meetings (subject to exceptional circumstances) and actively participate in committee meetings and the work of the Association. Committee meetings are held on the second Monday of the month and are currently held at the offices of Kingsley

Napley (the Association would like to thank Kingsley Napley for this continued support, which includes providing members with vital provisions). The committee meetings can be attended by any member of the LCCSA, not only members of the committee and wider participation is encouraged.

Committee members will usually bring a particular interest or specialisation and are asked to participate on sub committees and assist with issues that pertain to their interests. Within the committee there are a number of elected officers: President, Vice President, Junior Vice President Secretary, Law Reform, Media, Training and Treasurer. There has also, historically, usually been a representative of the Crown Prosecution Service on the committee and has in the past included a representative from the Criminal Law Solicitors' Association.

# POWELL SPENCER

- AND PARTNERS SOLICITORS -

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The lccsa has played an enormously important part in sustaining our profession in the face of the unrelenting hostility of government.

Every good wish for success in the battles to come from

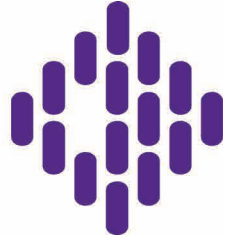
**Powell Spencer & Partners.**

Farringdon Chambers are delighted to help celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the LCCSA.

We commend the organisations excellent work over many years and fully support its continued efforts to ensure fairness and access to justice for all.

# Forensic Equity

Safe in the knowledge



We are thrilled to be supporting the LCCSA in its 70th year. How fitting that it shares its Birthday with the NHS given that it has, as an organisation, worked tirelessly over the years to ensure that everyone has equal access to legal representation and justice.

Let us ensure that together, as Solicitors, Barristers and Defence Scientists, we all continue to work together to ensure that the principals on which our justice system stands are upheld and that the innocent be acquitted, from all the team at Forensic Equity.

# HISTORY OF THE LCCSA

Legal Aid has always worried the LCCSA. Seventy years ago, the founders of the Association, including the imposing figures of Claude Hornby, Arthur Prothero, Samuel Coleman, were alarmed about the looming Legal Aid Act. Legal Aid was seen by the then small number of criminal defence lawyers practising in central London courts as a ghastly threat, both to their income and to standards. Former president Jeffrey Gordon says criminal practitioners were worried that Legal Aid would drive out the paying client and attract “the more doubtful practitioners” in the profession. Another past president of the LCCSA, HHJ Timothy Lawrence, who did his articles at Claude Hornby and Cox, puts it bluntly: “The Association was set up for the elite criminal practitioners and they were very jealous as to who they let in.” There was a concern that criminal law was attracting a sleazier, undesirable side of the profession, an impression not aided by the seedy solicitor caught trying to smuggle a raincoat and a false moustache into the Old Bailey for his client to make good his escape.

The founder members also wanted the Association to confer a hitherto absent status on criminal lawyers. The applications of those who applied to join were analysed thoroughly and undesirable proposed members were routinely blackballed. It was considered a great honour to join. One solicitor who was refused membership began high court proceedings to force the Association to let him join. He remained a non-member. Vivien Symons, the first female member of the LCCSA, said in an interview in the Advocate not long before she died that she had been thrilled to be proposed for membership by Claude Hornby. “You’d only be proposed for it if you were a reasonable advocate,” she recalled.

Criminal law in London was then a much smaller world in which a small group of solicitors’ firms undertook much of the criminal

defence work, and the LCCSA remained an exclusive, largely West End dominated club. Early presidents included celebrated practitioners of the post war period such as Sir David Napley, J B Wheatley, Victor Lissack, and T V Edwards. Typically, solicitors’ offices would be situated right next to court rooms. Claude Hornby and Cox was next to Great Marlborough Street Magistrates Police Court where, long before the Crown Prosecution Service existed, police officers queued up to prosecute their prisoners, giving evidence before a stipendiary magistrate. Timothy Lawrence recalls one such Stipe at Great Marlborough Street who, when called a ‘bald old bastard’ by a departing prisoner, declared to the public gallery, ‘He is quite right on two of those points.’ The charismatic Victor Lissack, known for his love of gold jewellery, had his office next to Bow Street Magistrates’ Court. One-time secretary of the Association HHJ Steven Dawson trained with the firm and, in the days before the duty solicitor scheme, he says, the court would ring the solicitors next door to say there was a prisoner in the cells and could the firm send someone over to represent them. Those were simpler times.

Working dinners dominated the Association’s calendar. Steven Dawson recalls that the annual dinner was initially a chance for solicitors to entertain the grand old stipendiary magistrates, usually barristers some of whom had been sitting since before the war. ‘Solicitors, particularly those in crime, were thought to be a little below stairs, and this was a chance to raise their profile,’ he says. Sandra Dawson, an LCCSA committee member for many years, recalls that when she started there were about three hundred members. In those days before computers, members’ details were kept on index cards and communication with members was a laborious task. She saw enormous changes. “The Association was far more social back then,” she recalls. “There were some working dinners, but there was no training,



and the membership was quite exclusive.” That began to change significantly. The first woman president was District Judge Sue Green followed in the next few years by June Venters QC, Angela Campbell and Linda Woolley. The old boys’ club was coming to an end. Training was begun in earnest by Julia Holman and has expanded enormously – members now routinely click onto the Association’s webinars for their CPD points. Membership grew and became much more diverse, and in time there were more than 1000 members.

As membership grew so did the annual dinner. Held at various swanky hotels including the Savoy and the Dorchester, the annual dinner grew – when one-time president Mark Haslam of Burton Copeland spoke at the dinner there were 1200 people there – and it was on occasion a notoriously noisy and drunken affair. Mark Haslam was also instrumental in establishing the Association’s European Conferences in the 1980s and he holds at least one proud record. “I have the dubious honour of being the only member to have attended each and every one of the trips,” he says. The most interesting trip, he says, was the one to Berlin before the wall came down. The most memorable? “Anyone who went to Dublin will instantly remember a pub called the Johnny Fox; that is if anything remains of their recollection!” European conferences remain an important and much needed opportunity to spend time with fellow professionals to talk about law and much besides.

Communication with members changed too. The dry newsletter sent to members had typically been a densely typed reproduction of the Association’s minutes and responses to new legislation. In 1995 the LCCSA magazine, *The Advocate*, appeared and immediately became an important source of news, views, information and guidance, binding London solicitors in its unflagging spirit of comradeship. Early editions reveal anxiety about some familiar issues. In the very first edition of *The Advocate* the magazine reports on the Lord Chancellor Lord Mackay’s plans for legal aid reforms and competitive tendering. In issue number 3 in March 1996 there was concern about the drop in the amount of work in Magistrates’ courts.

The July 1999 edition carries an article by future president Rob Brown about cuts to legal aid and the importance of retaining ‘solicitor of choice’. The article is headlined ‘The Value of Justice’. Other back copies are a gallop through such reforms as Carter, the Auld report, Narey courts, block contracting and fixed fees, and reveal that even as consultations, Home Secretaries and Lord Chancellors came and went, the *Advocate* remained a reassuring and entertaining constant.

There had been earlier indications of the prominent campaigning role the LCCSA would in time assume. Already by the 1970s the Association was being consulted by the Home Office on legislation and fees, regularly responded to consultations and worked with the Law Society Criminal Law Committee. In 1979 the LCCSA submitted evidence to the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. The Association now wielded some clout with legislators. The LCCSA’s role was changing.

Campaigning became an important part of the work of the LCCSA. The Association responds to the stream of consultations and is represented on significant groups and bodies within the criminal justice system, influencing and shaping policy. Current president Greg Powell says that events forced the LCCSA to change character and become what it is today. “There has been such an enormous change in the last 10 to 15 years,” he says. “There was no longer a convivial inside track in which representatives from the LCCSA could negotiate. The changes have been so large and severe that the government didn’t want to work that way anymore. The LCCSA had to become a more campaigning organisation, with the ability to present evidence and organise mass responses to consultations.” He pays tribute too to past presidents Rob Brown and June Venters who vigorously resisted the Carter reforms, the market and tendering proposals which were the wellspring of consolidation plans that remain today.

Another past president Paul Harris says it was exciting and a great honour to be president. “I think our great achievement has been in becoming an effective campaigning and lobbying organisation and in becoming highly

regarded by other agencies in the criminal justice system," he says. "The trick is to balance the interests of our diverse membership of owners, employees, freelancers, CPS lawyers and the rest. I am proud of our reputation and of remaining important to our membership."

Greg Powell agrees. "The modern LCCSA has succeeded in being thought of as of value to members, resisting cuts, defending collective interests, mobilising members, and being able to help shape events."

The present-day committee is strengthened by the experienced presence of past presidents and benefits too from a new diverse generation of criminal solicitors. In recent years the Association was at the forefront of resistance to Chris Grayling's 'Two Tier' proposals and vigorously defended client choice. LCCSA Secretary Mark Troman says that was an important moment. "Due to the pressure of cuts we have already lost a generation of lawyers with all their experience and knowledge, so to have lost the fight against those proposals would have meant clients losing the quality, dedication and emotional support that emanates from being able to choose their solicitor, that was an incredibly

important battle." Campaigns for proper rates of pay and for the retention of allocation of duty slots to individual experienced solicitors continue.

The exclusive London club doesn't exist anymore. The organisation has evolved and changed out of all recognition. Once the LCCSA was a cosy, closed, inward looking club for respectable, middle-class solicitors worried about the menace of Legal Aid. Now the Association is an effective, inclusive pressure group, campaigning against successive governments' assaults on that same Legal Aid system.

Solicitors and lawyers from scattered parts of London, from big firms and small, sole practitioners, self-employed advocates and prosecutors, associate members and honorary members are united. The LCCSA represents them all. Seventy years on, much done, still much to do.

By *Oliver Lewis*

# Kingsley Napley

It has been our privilege to be members of LCCSA over the past 70 years.

As you reach your 70th year with your campaigning light entirely undimmed, we remain proud to stand with you and to continue the fight to ensure justice is available for all from **Kingsley Napley**

## CHRISTOPHER MURRAY /PAST PRESIDENT SENIOR PARTNER KINGSLEY NAPLEY

“I congratulate the LCCSA on its forthcoming 70th Anniversary. I was President for its 49th year in 1997/98 and was immensely proud to follow in the footsteps of two of my partners at Kingsley Napley - Sir David Napley and John Clitheroe.

As one of its founder members with Claud Hornby, David instilled in all of us as young lawyers, the huge importance and influence of the Association and encouraged us to promote it through our careers. He would be delighted to know that KN has since provided two further Presidents in Linda Woolley and Nicola Hill.”

To LCCSA many happy returns, hope the profession will all be here to celebrate your centenary in 2048 from all the team at **BSB** SOLICITORS

## JONATHAN BLACK /PAST PRESIDENT PARTNER BSB SOLICITORS

“ My term as President between 2013 -14 coincided with an intense period of campaigning against The Government’s attack on legal aid. The push back against government proposals culminated in the second JR against Duty contracts which would have reduced the number of firms conducting criminal legal aid work significantly. The Association was not founded for the purposes of fighting for access to justice, but the membership has evolved to the extent that when there is need to protect publicly funded legal services, the association will always lead the way.

The year also saw seismic changes within The Association as Sandra Dawson our administrator and life blood for 25 years retired and was replaced at the end of the year by Sara Boxer ( the recruitment of whom I cannot take any credit for). We also introduced that year the summer party in place of the annual dinner which The Committee agreed had become a relic of a past age. The new informal formula has now enjoyed four years of success.

Despite the changes , and despite the closures of many of London’s Criminal Courts, The Association remains , as it was 70 years ago, a central focus for London’s criminal solicitors to provide mutual support, social events and training.”

# Birds | Solicitors

Happy 70th Birthday LCCSA.

The association has been so instrumental in battling legal aid cuts in the last 15 years.

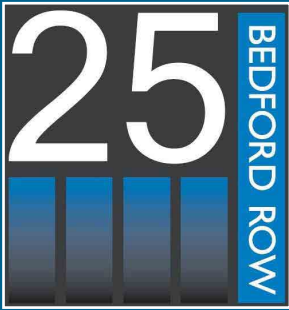
Keep up the fight from all the team at Birds Solicitors

The logo for QEB Hollis Whiteman, featuring the letters 'QEB' in a large, bold, red serif font. The 'Q' is a circle with a tail that crosses the 'E'. The 'E' and 'B' are also in a bold serif font.

HOLLISWHITEMAN

**Everyone at QEB Hollis Whiteman would like to wish the LCCSA a very happy 70th Birthday.**

**Here's to the next 70 years!**



The members and clerks at 25 Bedford Row are proud of our continued association and support of the London Criminal Courts Solicitors Association.

Your contribution as an organisation is invaluable to the profession and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication and hard work. Many congratulations on achieving 70 years. We look forward to many more years of close union.

**Best Regards All at 25 Bedford Row.**

**JIM MEYER** /PAST PRESIDENT  
PARTNER TUCKERS

“ In 1993 I joined Claude Hornby and Cox as a trainee solicitor and I couldn't wait to qualify and join the LCCSA. From 1995 onwards, I would go to the annual dinners and I remember watching the presidents give their speeches and wanting to do more and contribute. I finally plucked up the courage and applied to join the committee in 2005, when Linda Woolley was president and in the midst of the campaign against Best Value Tendering.

By this time I was a solicitor at Tuckers and whilst there was an obvious tension between the Big Firm's Group and the Association (which has always represented individual solicitors) Linda and the committee made me feel welcome and trusted me to put our members' interests above my own. Tuckers always respected that and I remained on the committee until, in 2011, I was asked to stand as the Association's President. I felt honoured and it was a privilege to serve the membership; I can honestly say that the time I spent on the committee were some of the most rewarding years of my practice.

The Association has brought me many friends and taught me a lot and I am sure it will continue its long tradition of serving the interests of London's criminal solicitors for many years to come.”

# LCCSA EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

DIANA PAYNE  
TRAINING OFFICER

**Question:** when is training so enjoyable that you do not even realise that you are training?

**Answer:** when you attend a LCCSA European conference.

Always one of the highlights of the year, the conference has a fine tradition of taking place in an enviable location in October, enjoying the finest that the city has to offer in food and drink, accommodation, sightseeing and culture whilst delivering excellent training that does not disrupt the enjoyment of the weekend.

There is everything to like about the conference.

The weekend commences on the Friday evening with a dinner at a restaurant carefully chosen for its atmosphere and fine dining. These evenings are memorable equally for being so sociable and you will not be surprised to learn that the evening rarely concludes with the dinner.

The Saturday morning lecture commences at a civilised time and you will genuinely want to attend. Over the years they have been led by judges, professors, Law Commissioners, university lecturers and field leaders from both sides of the profession. Outstanding tutorials.

An afternoon at your leisure precedes an informal but another great dinner. Lawyers are always good company and never more so when on a drinks terrace overlooking a spectacular sunset lit cityscape on a balmy European evening. A shorter lecture on the

Sunday morning rounds off the conference.

Come in a group or come alone - you will feel warmly welcomed.

At a time when our job demands that we spend endless time on compliance, managing business and surviving countless audits, why not re-ignite your love of being a lawyer with your fellow professionals at a relaxed, friendly and educative weekend in a stunning location.

And to conclude with a question: when your head feels heavy in the morning lecture, is it because you are so cerebrally stimulated by the quality of the lecture or might it be down to that final cocktail of the previous evening that proved just too irresistible? You decide...

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# DIANA PAYNE PARTNER BLACKFORDS AND THE LCCSA'S TRAINING OFFICER

One of the mainstay purposes of the LCCSA has been to provide high quality and relevant training to members of the profession. The requirements of professional training have evolved over the years and the Association has moved with the times. It has progressed from intimate tutorials, embraced technology in the form of webinars and unfortunately of late, seen the need to accommodate mass gatherings for training upon unwelcome reforms.

Throughout however, it has catered to the needs of criminal defence lawyers whether they be taking their first tentative steps in the profession or they be experienced practitioners seeking advanced tutelage.

That training has supported the many and diverse capabilities already possessed by the profession to ensure that the very highest standards of representation have been

preserved. Yet, on more informal level, it has brought together both members and non members to share knowledge, support one another, make and enjoy friendships and to join together to celebrate with each other all that makes ours a very special profession.

The thanks of the Association goes to all those over the past 70 years who have lectured, to the Training Officers who have facilitated and to the numerous persons who have contributed to making it possible for such training to be offered.

Training is free to members. Whilst educational, you will also find it to be highly convivial. In these demanding times for criminal defence lawyers, why not come along and remind yourself what inspired you to join the profession and at the same time enhance those all important continuing competencies?

**hodge jones & allen**  
solicitors

Happy 70th Birthday LCCSA.

You can always count on  
hodge jones & allen for  
continued support



BLACKFORDS<sup>LLP</sup>

BLACKFORDS LLP IS  
PROUD TO SUPPORT  
THE LCCSA AND  
THANK IT FOR 70  
YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO CRIMINAL  
DEFENCE LAWYERS  
IN LONDON



*F l e e t   S t r e e t*

187 FLEET STREET  
CHAMBERS ARE PROUD TO  
SUPPORT THE LCCSA MANY  
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR  
**70TH ANNIVERSARY**

# Wow! LCCSA IS 70!

BY HH STEPHEN DAWSON

I joined the Association in 1982. No computers, no mobiles, no internet. The most advanced piece of technology was a bleep. This was a device attached to your belt which sent little messages to you if you were on night duty!

LCCSA should never really have existed because criminal defence solicitors are and were the most contentious, competitive, irascible lot one can imagine. The idea that they would get together around a committee table and discuss anything (particularly concerning maintaining high standards) was an amazing concept in itself.

In the 80s there were some big beasts in the criminal defence world. In the north it was Claude Hornby, David Napley and Victor Lissack. In the south Arthur Prothero and the Baldwins. There were others – but these incredibly charismatic forefathers (sorry it was a lot of men at the time) decided that they wanted the public to understand that defending those charged with offences – however obnoxious, serious and unpalatable – was an absolute essential in a free society. The pioneers of LCCSA were concerned mainly about standards. They were fiercely competitive – and they were well aware that in a competitive market there was a danger of compromising standards, particularly ethical standards. So they got together and formed the Association. It was pretty tough at the start – and wouldn't have survived the Human Rights Act as it had a blackballing system (i.e. if you applied and someone thought you were ethically questionable – that was it).

Victor Lissack, my boss when I was an articled clerk and then a young qualified solicitor, was an amazing character. His offices were situated up a winding Dickensian staircase overlooking Bow Street Magistrates Court. He was tall and proudly portly – he wore the amazing suits and watchchains of that era. Advocacy in the magistrate's court at the time

involved lots of characterful showmanship. The clients demanded it – Victor acted for gangsters. I remember at least one of the Kray gang members. David Napley became the 'go to' solicitor of pop stars of the time – notably the Rolling Stones.

Victor was a Past President of LCCSA – other members of the firm were Simon Hammond (a recently retired Circuit Judge) Colin Reynolds and Robert Roscoe, both of whom went on to become Presidents. All of us were pretty well weaned on LCCSA. In the early years we had regular dinners at the Law Society – a great opportunity to meet colleagues.

I was never President of LCCSA. Why you may ask. Some would say that they wouldn't have me (I'm sure that's the truth). However, I think the answer is more mundane than that – in about 1985 I was trogging around Clerkenwell Magistrates Court (Aah me! what a place). The King of Clerkenwell was Jeffrey Bayes. You would step into Court 1 and an enormous pile of files would be prominently set out on the bench, with Jeffrey standing by them (by the by, legal aid was very generously paid then – and there weren't an awful lot of us about – it was a golden era). Jeffrey's files were strange in that every one of them had the single letter 'm' on the front. I never dared ask why – but years later he explained that this was crude form of health and safety warning. The larger the size of the M the more volatile and unpredictable was the client! (or in the politically incorrect language of the time – the madder he or she was).

One day Jeffrey asked if I wanted to take over as Hon. Treasure of LCCSA. I was so flattered – I didn't for a moment ask about the detail. He was far too important to turn down. A few days afterwards a huge brown box, full of totally indecipherable documents arrived – so began my life as Treasure of LCCSA.

It was a dreadful job – defence solicitors may be articulate, charming and skilful advocates – but they HATE paying subs. Jeffrey had failed to impart this basic piece of information.

So back to the question why I was never chosen to be President – the simple answer was probably that no one wanted to be Treasurer, so I had to stick with the job for about 10 years!

I started my life as Hon.Treasurer following the Jeffrey Bayes methodology. Do nothing – and hope at the end of the year everyone will send in their subs., (cheques of course at the time). This brought in a few hundred pounds – and I would present a simple set of figures to the committee at the year end.

One year I suddenly presented a set of accounts which showed about £2500! – the committee were astonished. They wanted to know how I achieved this amazing turnabout. For a couple of years, I merely bathed in the glory of my achievement. Until one day Tony Edwards said 'this isn't you is it? I had to fess up to my secret weapon – a human rottweiler at home who had soon twigged that waiting for whole load of men to pay money without chasing them was never going to work! This was how Sandra arrived on the scene. In fact she became the first remunerated person attached to LCCSA. Once she was fully 'outed' (as the real treasurer ) the fees rolled in and the Association became a formidable organisation which could fund over the years some pretty heavy weight campaigns and initiate some substantial court actions.

So I blame Sandra for holding me back from the Presidency! Because the President had his or her one year of glory and then had to step down. I was firmly told that I had to wait (the committee feared losing Sandra if I drifted off) - and wait I did, until the call of The Lord Chancellor to sit as a Stipe meant I had run out of road. Sandra of course stayed – by then I then I had become a mere piece of decoration on the committee.

The LCCSA committee has had an absolutely key part of building the criminal defence landscape as seen today. Until they were

formed the government had nobody but the Law Society itself to consult (from a solicitor's point of view) on Criminal Justice matters. The Law Society always had a lot on its plate and was never going to be able to campaign.

One individual stands out from my early years as an incredibly influential and hard working founder. Tony Edwards was the Hon. Secretary for a good many of my years. He worked tirelessly to advance the Association and its position in the world. We hear little of him nowadays, but much of his pioneering and assiduous work forms the strength of the current organisation. He was followed by yet another incredibly influential Secretary Mark Haslam. Who had the cool, authoritative presentation which wooed many a minister and civil servant over the many years of negotiations to keep the profession afloat. Mark was followed by Rachel Hubbard, our first woman Secretary, and again a person who gave many hours of unremunerated time to supporting the Association and its members.

In my early years the David Napley of the north was Barrington-Black – he acted for the famous and infamous and went on to become a Judge – crime runs in the Black family and Jon, together with Paul Harris and Avtar were the last committee members with whom I had contact and who again retained the tradition of selfless commitment to our discipline.

Sandra has mentioned training – once again there was no training for criminal lawyers. LCCSA introduced it. It became incredibly popular and important for young solicitors (and not so young) who wanted to extend experience or just reinforce confidence. Members tirelessly prepared and delivered training evenings all through the late 80s and 90s and beyond. LCCSA is an organisation which asked for, and was given, huge amounts of good will and support by its own members – this was, and I hope continues to be its strength.

As I sit and ponder the years – some themes really stand out – Defence solicitors were very white and very male in the 80s – How fantastic that the profile of the organisation

has changed. Every member should be proud of this change – and make sure there are no reversals.

Finally, a few more names – the lovely Jim Meyer. A quiet and most unassuming member – but oh how many hundreds of hours has he given to LCCSA – his technical wizardry lifted the association into a new era – he is a true unsung hero!

In more modern times I have been less connected with the Association – but there are some more amazing unsung heroes – Avtar Bhattoa, Akhtar Ahmad, Frankie Goodman the queen of West London Magistrates Court and Greg Powell (managing to combine poetry with battle plans).

And some of the amazing women – Sue Green who brought some dynamite to meetings, by asking why? And why not? And changing views. What a contribution Kingsley Napley have

made over the years, with a direct connection from the founders down to John Clitheroe, Chris Murray, Linda Wooley and Nicky Hill.

So many names, many more than space allows me to mention. I went on to be Stipendiary Magistrate and then a CJ. I am now semi-retired and releasing people as a Parole Board member – life is strange. The camaraderie and sense of collegiate strength that LCCSA offers is invaluable. Remember that the organisation does stand on the shoulders of giants – but it is also dynamic and forward looking. What LCCSA has achieved is a constant reminder to the public, that the rule of law can only be maintained by a brave, hardworking, honourable and properly remunerated professional body.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LCCSA !

---

## SUSAN GREEN /PAST PRESIDENT DISTRICT JUDGE MAGISTRATES COURTS

“ I was President of the Association from 1998- 1999 when the criminal justice landscape was very different. I had been a member of the Association for many years and understood then, as I do now, its value as a whole and the commitment of its members to the criminal justice system.


My Annual Dinner in the summer of 1999 was the highest attended which was fitting as it was the 50th Dinner. It was, needless to say, a daunting experience giving the after dinner speech to an audience of 1200 but I survived and have the legacy of introducing the first after dinner disco !!!! I know that these events are a past memory which in itself reflects the pressures and challenges facing solicitors.

I had some wonderful times and made some wonderful friends over the years and look forward to celebrating the Associations 70th birthday with many of you tonight and know that the Association's contribution will continue for many years to come.”



**5  
SAH**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
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LONDON CRIMINAL  
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Doughty Street Chambers wishes the LCCSA a very Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday, and we toast many more years of your continued success.

We hope to be even half as vigorous, active, and fresh-faced after 70 years of fighting the good fight!

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2KBW offer our  
congratulations and  
best wishes to the  
LCCSA on their 70th  
birthday.

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the LCCSA



# RAYMOND SHAW /PAST PRESIDENT SHAW GRAHAM KERSH

“

I had the honour of representing the LCCSA as President in its 60th year. Deep in the recesses of a hard drive, I found my speech to the annual dinner which included the following, as relevant now as ever:

*"It is to the immense credit of this Association that throughout the decades whilst we in our firms and as individuals have adapted to each and every change government has thrown at us, the Association has remained focused on maintaining quality in the criminal courts, providing training to our members and ensuring our collective wisdom and expertise feeds into the public debate on issues of law reform and policy".*

Make no mistake. While we all despair at the continual erosion of standards across the CJS, over the course of the last 15 or so years, the Association has been at the forefront of every battle to prevent the government imposing even more madcap ideas that would have destroyed our core ability to represent our clients. Best Value Tendering (2008/9) envisaged handing contracts to literally, the cheapest offer, however low and unrealistic that offer might be. We defeated it. A few years later it was Price Competitive Tendering, a proposal that would have removed the fundamental right of the client to choose their own solicitor. What would our system look like now if that disastrous change had been implemented? After these and other victories, we have rarely had time to enjoy the moment before facing the next onslaught of schemes, programmes, and cuts. So tonight, as we celebrate with old friends, we can thank the Association for informing, teaching and training us as individuals to be better litigators and advocates, and fighting to ensure that we can collectively use our skills in a fair justice system.”

## SHAW • GRAHAM • KERSH

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FROM OUR OFFICE ON  
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ON ITS 70TH BIRTHDAY.

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An incredible achievement to have spent 70 years fighting for criminal solicitors through so many turbulent times.

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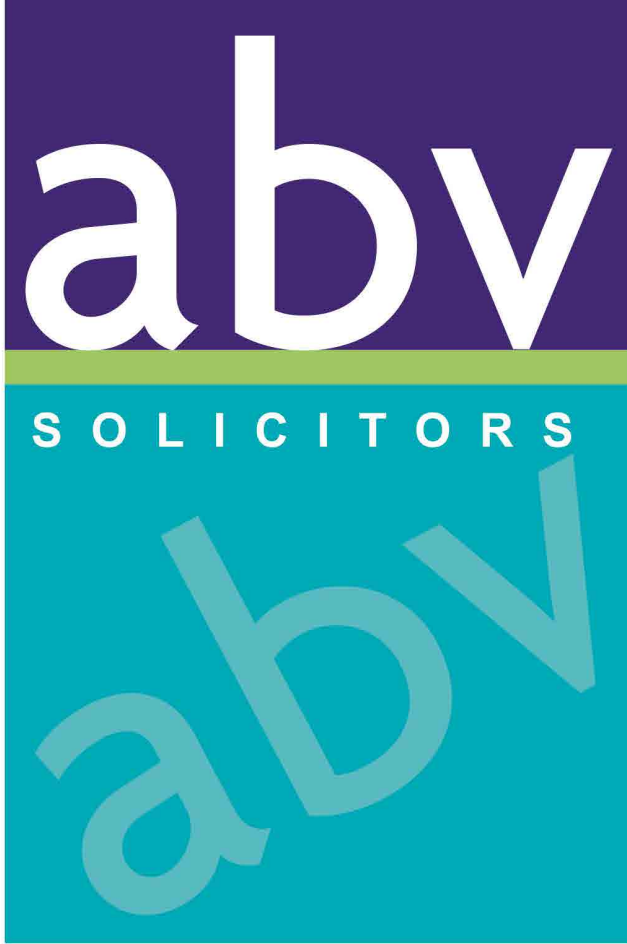


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## AKHTAR AHMAD /PAST PRESIDENT DIRECTOR ABV SOLICITORS

“ It was an absolute privilege to lead the association in 2012/13 although the appointment of Chris Grayling to the post of Lord Chancellor meant it was the start of one of the most turbulent periods for the profession in recent times.

The association proved as always that it could rise to the challenge and it quickly galvanised the profession. Defending the profession was just one aspect of the wide variety of work carried out by the association. I received great support from my Partners at ABV Solicitors and considerable assistance from the amazing Sandra Dawson and a number of Past Presidents and members of the association from a diverse range of firms and practices, all united under a common cause... to fight against the threats to Justice.”



Those who created the LCCSA 70 years ago may not have envisaged the campaigns it would be fighting, the Lord Chancellors and Governments it would defeat and the positive impact it would have upon the lives of criminal lawyers and the criminal justice system over the decades.

**Congratulations and Thank You to the LCCSA from everyone at ABV Solicitors.**



## Congratulations on 70 Years of the LCCSA!

Your support to the profession has been invaluable and the Criminal Justice System is in a better place because of the tireless work of the LCCSA.


The association has our continued support and here's to the next 70 years of seeing the LCCSA go from strength to strength  
- From all of us at **MK Law**.

---

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The members and clerks  
at 23es would like to  
congratulate the LCCSA on  
its 70th Birthday





The LCCSA has been at the vanguard at representing the interests of defence lawyers and promoting the rule of law.

The partners at Berkeley Square Solicitors congratulate the Association on its 70th anniversary and wish it many more years of continued success

*from,*

Roger Sahota,  
Daniel Godden &  
Goran Stojisavljevic



Barbara Hecht, now of Hecht Montgomery Solicitors, has been pleased to be associated with the LCCSA since 1989 and wishes the Association the very best wishes for its 70th Anniversary.

The Association is vital for promoting the interests of its members and their clients in the London Criminal Justice area.

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HAPPY 70<sup>TH</sup>  
BIRTHDAY  
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FROM

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WATERSON

THANKS FOR  
ALL THE  
SUPPORT  
YOU GIVE  
CRIMINAL  
SOLICITORS



# SANDRA DAWSON

**SANDRA DAWSON WAS THE LCCSA ADMINISTRATOR FROM 1987 UNTIL HER RETIREMENT IN 2015. SHE RECOUNTS HOW THE LCCSA HAS CHANGED OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS.**

I think I started 'working' for LCCSA in about 1987. My husband Stephen was the Hon. Treasurer but didn't have the time or the inclination to keep the very muddled accounts up to date – they had been kept over the years in a scrap book. He asked me to help but I had no idea about accounts either. I had spent my early career as a ward sister on a cancer unit at UCH. Once I had mastered the double entry system, I was asked by the committee to organise a dinner with a speaker at The Law Society. I had never done such a thing before, but it was a huge success and Tony Edwards who was then the Hon. Secretary asked me to work as the Association's Administrator. I agreed as it was something I could do from home with 2 small girls. I was given about 300 post cards with members details on! We had no computer. No one had a computer at home in those days! An Amstrad computer was purchased, I think it ran on steam and Stephen and I had a rapid learning curve not only getting the accounts fully automated but also setting up a database for those existing members. Over the next few years membership quickly grew when colleagues at firms became interested in how the Association was developing and what the huge benefits were to individuals and their practices. By the time Rob Brown became President we had over 1000 members.

When Mike Burdett was President he set up the training programme, helped enormously by practitioner and lecturer Tony Edwards. Mike would come to our house late in the evening and he would set out the ideas for a lecture. I then had to sort out venues and

a flyer. It was all very basic, and I would get hundreds of copies made at a local print shop and spend hours folding and putting flyers in envelopes and mailing them out. After a number of years doing this the training became hugely successful and a Training Administrator was appointed to take over sourcing lecturers and venues at no cost to LCCSA. Meanwhile, I started to employ a faxing company to fax out the flyers rather than mail them out. This was huge progress and a saving of hours of my time. Then came the multi-emails I could do from my computer and the rest became history.

The Annual Dinners were legendary, and I took over the organising from Mark Haslam who latterly struggled with literally hundreds of bits of paper with guests' names on being shuffled round on the floor making up pretend tables. Once I showed him that all guests and the whole seating plan could easily be moved around as data the whole thing became much easier and he gladly handed over the reins to me. At its peak we had about 1200 at the dinners at Grosvenor House. Then austerity bit, the glitz was thought to be a bit unseemly, and we transferred back to The Savoy, The Waldorf and latterly to a drinks and buffet do at The Rotunda, making it much more relaxed and inclusive.

The European conferences were also a great success and in the good years there would be about 150 members attending, very few barristers in those days as we had no sponsorship. There were very boozy Friday nights. When it was time for the lecture to begin on Saturday, there was often just me looking anxious, a lecturer looking forlorn and Frankie Goodman and Mark Haslam, the only delegates to turn up. Eventually people arrived, and the day was saved. They were all great fun and a wonderful way for me to get to know the members.

It was Jim Meyer though who took the Association forward technically and built the website which in its turn took LCCSA into a new age. He had a thankless task, spending so much of his free time year after year, helping me and LCCSA to move forward into the 21st century. As a technophobe I resisted change, but he kept pushing and thank goodness he did as it left a legacy of what is now a thoroughly modern thriving organisation.

The best part of my job and I did it for just over 25 years, was meeting and being in touch with so many dedicated and hard-working people. Often members would ring to say how badly things were going or how they feared for their jobs. There were very hard times and redundancies for many with the cuts - it was a huge privilege for me to listen, encourage and befriend. Meeting those people later at dinners or conferences cemented friendships that have lasted. The members who came

to the house for an ID card on their way to Pentonville or Islington police station having realised their card had expired. The last-minute begging for a place overseas in Paris, Lisbon or Stockholm - oh and they may not actually come as there was a sick child at home or a dog to be boarded. The presidents who thought I could work miracles. The presidents who realised I could not work miracles. The members who thought I worked all night as I always answered the phone at whatever time it was. Wonderful times spent with wonderful people. I wish the Association well for the next 70 years.

*Sandra Dawson*

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## MARK HASLAM /PAST PRESIDENT PARTNER BCL SOLICITORS LLP

“ I had always appreciated the benefits of being closely involved with the LCCSA which included, in particular, being able to keep fully up-to-date with matters legal and political within the Criminal Justice System.

My year as President gave me every opportunity, not only to do this, but to meet with leading figures from other criminal justice agencies and discuss issues of mutual co-operation and mutual interest. Needless to say, that also included attending a number of functions hosted by other criminal justice agencies including, in particular, a very memorable day at the opening of the legal year.

My other very clear memories are the opportunities that being President gave me to engage with the national and local press on a regular basis and, of course, the highlight of the year, the opportunity to address the membership at the annual dinner at the Grosvenor House, together with my guest speaker, Robert Marshall Andrews QC when we both spoke to an audience which, in that year, was in excess of 1000 - a once in a lifetime experience!

”

## TAN IKRAM /PAST PRESIDENT DISTRICT JUDGE MAGISTRATES COURT

“The LCCSA remains the most significant organisation representing the views of Solicitors practicing criminal law in London. I am proud to have been associated with them and wish them well in these difficult times.”

## PAUL HARRIS /PAST PRESIDENT PARTNER EDWARD FAIL BRADSHAW & WATERSON

“Being part of the LCCSA for so many years has been both an honour and a privilege. Notwithstanding the systematic attack on our profession for many years membership of this association has enabled me to meet many passionate dynamic solicitors all sharing similar goals in protecting the rights of the accused particularly in the police station and in the courts. I only recently came off the committee after 12 years having made many special and lifelong friends.

I was so proud to be President in 2009-2010. I found the speech that I made at the summer dinner in 2010 and as we seek to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution Solicitors make I was struck by the relevance of this extract from that speech

*“Joking aside prison visits is just one element of the varied workload of the criminal solicitor. Large parts of that work are unglamorous, unnoticed yet crucially important to the Criminal Justice system. For example the attendance of legal representatives at police stations often late at night representing, the vulnerable, disenfranchised and often unpleasant members of society, looking after their interests and assisting the administration of a fair and robust system. The same goes for the many solicitors who turn up every morning including Saturday at the magistrates court dealing with a substantial turnover of work without whom the system would grind to a halt. Is this work properly valued, it should be.”*

Together many of us have fought the cuts, the restrictions on scope, and many other attacks on our capacity to do our job. We have campaigned, we have marched, we organised demonstrations and achieved much.

However this association is so much more than that to me, through the many wonderful and diverse people I have met, I have learnt much about my job, the law and the people I work with and who we act for. Most of all it has been fun.

The LCCSA remains a much respected body within the Criminal Justice System. Happy birthday. Thank you.”



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**ONE PUMP COURT**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE LCCSA ON ITS  
70TH BIRTHDAY**

**FROM ALL AT  
ONE PUMP COURT CHAMBERS**

# THE ADVOCATE

The Advocate is the quarterly (or otherwise) newsletter of the LCCSA. It has taken many guises over the years but it remains a key means by which members are informed and updated whilst hopefully, at times, being instructive and enjoyable.

A fundamental part of the LCCSA is that all members are encouraged to contribute to the committee, either by feeding in their views or attending the monthly meetings. Similarly, the Advocate exists to reflect the association and contributions from the wider membership is encouraged and any member wishing to express views in the newsletter need only contact the media officer or any member of the committee.

Whether it be book reviews, notices or interviews the Advocate has kept members abreast of changes to the law and criminal justice system whilst also providing an insight into the association's campaigning work.

The Advocate also provides a means by which new presidents of the association can introduce themselves whilst former presidents' wave goodbye. A flick through past editions of the Advocate at year start can provide a useful snapshot of the landscape for the year ahead, with some years more challenging than others. What remains a common thread throughout all President's Reports though is an unwavering commitment to campaigning for justice for all and a fair and effective criminal justice system.

Many of you will perhaps share my view that one of the most pleasurable segments of the Advocate has been Bruce Reid's contribution: a topical and amusing skit on the criminal justice system that always elicits a smile and knowing nod from readers. A big thank you to Bruce for his efforts over the years which have been enjoyed by many.

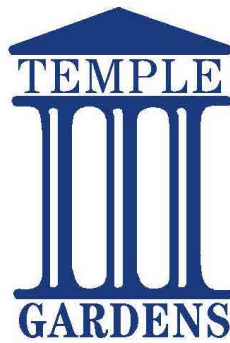
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Matrix's Crime Team offer their warmest wishes and congratulations to the LCCSA on their 70th birthday.

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# THANK YOU

## THE LCCSA WOULD NOT FUNCTION WITHOUT THE PEOPLE THAT WORK DAY TO DAY TO ENSURE OUR VOICE IS HEARD AND MAKE EVENTS LIKE THIS HAPPEN.

Thank you to Sara Boxer, our Administrator, who has worked round the clock to organise tonight's celebration, whilst also dealing with our membership's day to day queries and requirements.

Paul Harris whose embryonic idea of a celebration was hatched and grew to become this event. Paul has been an integral part of the team alongside myself, Ray Shaw, Rhona Friedman and Theresa Hendrickx who have worked with Ed Stradling to create the film you that is shown tonight. Rakesh Bhasin stands down after serving the association for three years as Treasurer has worked tirelessly to ensure the association continues to be sustainable.

The Association is fortunate to have Mark Troman our Secretary and Diana Payne our Training Officer both of whom for the last three years have ensured that the important functions of the association continue and we are fortunate that both will remain as officers to serve the members. Thanks to our Media Officer, Rose Commander, who has worked on this publication, which we hope you will all enjoy reading.

Thanks also to the Committee Members who collectively and individually give up much of their own time for free to attend meetings and represent London's Criminal Solicitors. Thank you to Kingsley Napley, who for many years, have provided us with a Conference Room to hold our monthly Committee Meetings.

No one knows London's Criminal Justice System better than Greg Powell who has now held the post of President for a record three terms and guided us through some turbulent times, setting an example to those that follow on from him in the next few years. The Association owes a huge debt of thanks to Greg.

Thank you to 25 Bedford Row for supporting our domestic training program and also thank you to Hodge Jones & Allen for providing us with the facilities to run many of our training programmes.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and sponsored towards this brochure.

A special thank you goes to Garden Court Chambers, Farringdon Chambers and Forensic Equity for their immense generosity in sponsoring our key annual events.

And finally, thank you to all our LCCSA Members for your continued support and loyalty.

*Jonathan Black*

Incoming LCCSA President  
Partner BSB Solicitors

# PHEW, WHAT A SCORCHER! CAMBERWELL HEATWAVE UPDATE

DJ Honeybun - (addressing the Defence) Felix, in July when the air conditioning doesn't work but the central heating does and the glass frontage promises Marty Mole a fine crop of mangos in the lobby; I am prepared to allow a degree of laxity in court dress, but those Speedos are a bridge too far, and if you must wear a medallion do you think you could do something about the chest hair?

Felix Mansfield - (For Carlos Chinchilla) "But Sir, I am a cat; we are supposed to be furry! I thought it would go better with the Speedos than a Regimental tie.

DJH - "The only Regimental tie you are entitled to is the Legion Of The Lost. Anyway, what's the medal for?"

*Felix looks bashfully at the ground and falls silent.*

Squirrel Nutkin (Defence - for Walfredo Wombat) - "Felix is too shy to say so, Sir, but it's an award from the Police Federation."

DJB - "What? I thought they had a voodoo doll of him in the office they stuck pins into!"

SN - "No, Sir, it was for an arrest in Brixton Market. Constable Rover, a German Shepherd was facing down a drug dealing Rottweiler 3 times his size. It was going to be a massacre. Felix was passing, doing his shopping..."

DJH - "And..."

SN - "Well, the Rottweiler sprang, teeth bared going for Constable Rover's throat when suddenly, Felix, drops his shopping bag of red snapper and ackees and a blazing ball of claws hurled itself at the Rottweiler's undercarriage. It was over in seconds. The dog survived but now barks two octaves higher...."

DJB - "Impressive! Anyway on with the day's work. Mr Badger?"

*Barry Badger (CPS) rises to his feet and opens his case. After ten minutes, he realises that he does not have the Court's full attention. Felix is spread out on the Defence desk, all four paws skywards purring rhythmically. Squirrel's fluffy tail has given up fanning him and now flops over his face as a convenient eye mask, Wanda Rabbit, the Legal Advisor, crouches Sphinx-like, eyes closed, ears flattened, underneath her desk. Above the roar of 3 feeble fans, comes the snoring of DJ Honeybun; chin propped up on 3 artfully piled volumes of 'Stones'.*

BB - "Marty!!! The bucket please!!!"

*Marty Mole (List Caller) grabs the fire bucket and hurls the contents at the Bench.*

DJH (Soggily) - "What the \*\*\*! - 5 months and 1 week consecutive for the Fail to Attend!"

Wanda Rabbit - "You can't do that, Sir, it's just a Case Management hearing. Remember? Carlos Chinchilla and Walfredo Wombat? affray in a chip shop?" - "Where's my f\*\*king vinegar?" , two days set aside? we are dealing with Bad Character. You deemed it suitable for summary trial....." She tails off.

DJH - "Did I? Two days with Carlos Chinchilla?. With the 'Misery Line' suffering from the wrong kind of sunshine? I'll never get home. Don't fancy that, I will have to recuse myself, I have obviously demonstrated bias; prejudged the issue... Send it next door to DJ Cuddles.

Wanda Rabbit - (Sotto voce) "She'll love you..."

*An elegant sari-clad figure enters.*

DJH (Glad of any further distraction) - "Good Morning, Madam, what can we do for you?"

Mangit Mongoose - "May it please the Court, I am the Indian District Court's Liaison Officer assigned to Camberwell."

DJH - "Er, yes... Delighted, but I didn't know we had one?"

MM - "Gary Goblin of MOJ is not sending you the email? You were consulting?" She holds up a laptop.

DJH - "Gary wouldn't consult me about wanting sugar in my tea. Let me see that please"

"...With immediate effect all Court business at Camberwell Green will be outsourced to India. Court staff will receive their tickets on Friday. Defendants will appear by video link and the Court will deal with them from its new premises at Mahabalipuram..."

A week later, the new Khadi deals Justice under the palm tree. Soft breezes blow, crickets chirp and cows murmur. It is noticeably cooler than Camberwell.

DJH - ( Chomping chole bhatura from "Chaat A Manger" and watching a flickering, but blank screen) I could get used to this, better for lunch than a cheese sandwich; I suppose the Virtual is still down at Camberwell, Marty?

MM - "Yes sir, nothing wrong with the Indian technology, no 'load shedding' this end"

FM - (Now dressed in a lunghi, but at Khadi Honeybun's insistence they should keep up appearances; back wearing a tie)" Sluuuurrrp! Pass me another coconut will you, Squirrel? This one's empty..."



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**The Garden Court  
Chambers Crime Team  
congratulates the LCCSA  
on its 70th anniversary.**

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We continue to stand in solidarity with your members and commend your tireless efforts to defend access to justice for all.

