

City of London Law Society
Corporate Crime & Corruption Committee
Minutes of Meeting, 7 July 2026
(Held as a hybrid meeting)

Attendees (in-person):

Louise Hodges (Chair)	Matthew Banham
Neill Blundell (Vice-Chair)	Matt Getz
Phil Taylor (Secretary to the Committee)	Michelle de Kluwer
Emily Agnoli (sub for Camilla da Silva)	Rosanne Kay
Hayley Humphries (sub for Eve Giles)	Ruby Hamid
Ian Redfearn	Ruth Paley
Justin McClelland	Susannah Cogman
Laura Ford	Wayne Barnes (sub for Hannah Laming)

Attendees (online):

Ali Sallaway
Shruti Chandhok

1. The Chair **welcomed** the attendees.
2. Apologies were received from Sam Tate, Elly Proudlock, Nick Barnard, Sarah Wallace, Eve Giles, Pam Reddy, Daren Allen, Simon Joyston Bechal, Jonathan Cotton, Andrew Katzen, Barry Vitou. **Minutes of the previous meeting** had been circulated, and amendments were invited within 24 hours.

As a follow up to previous action points, the Secretary:

- a. reminded attendees that one new Member was approved at the last Committee meeting and confirmed that welcome communications had been sent to them (and that the Member was present at the meeting);
 - b. explained that the government's planned Countering Illicit Finance Summit had been rescheduled to December 2026 although the exact date is not yet confirmed. As the scope of the Summit may increase, it may be possible for the Committee to become involved.
- *The Chair to investigate potential routes to involvement in the Summit in consultation with the CLLS centrally.*

3. **CLLS / Committee business**

- a. The Secretary provided a further update on the progress of the Courts and Tribunals Bill which had been reintroduced into Parliament in May at report stage, although no dates have yet been set. The Secretary further noted that the Commons Justice Committee has published its legislative scrutiny report on the Bill which contained a number of references to evidence submitted by the Committee on behalf of the CLLS. The Secretary summarised the references, which can be found at paragraphs 110, 140 and 149 of the report.

The Secretary noted that a Court Modernisation Bill had been mentioned in the King's Speech but has not yet been introduced to Parliament. This Bill would be likely to include provisions to enable the government's proposed court and jury reforms, such as creating the Crown Court Bench Division. It was further noted that with the imminent change of Prime Minister there may be further opportunities to lobby for amendments to the proposed jury reforms.

The Chair noted that HHJ Geoffrey Rivlin KC has commented on the reforms and appears to be leading on the judiciary's response.

- b. The Chair explained that the Law Reform subcommittee are keen to consider responses to the new corporate liability threshold, and that the Committee as a whole may wish to think about best next steps which could include a roundtable discussion.
- c. There was no further CLLS business to note.

4. Subcommittee business

- a. **AI:** A member of the subcommittee opened a discussion around the questions of how law firms, law enforcement and clients are and should be using AI tools and the issues which are raised as a result – legal professional privilege being a particular concern.

Members discussed questions of disclosability of AI prompts, whether there could be bias in that drafting, orders requiring such disclosure, and regulators' use of AI.

A recent Freedom of Information Act request to the SFO which elicited some details of how that organisation used AI was also noted.

- *The Secretary to collate any further expressions of interest in joining the subcommittee*

- b. **AML / Sanctions:** There were no updates
- c. **Disclosure:** There were no updates.

- d. **Law Reform / Legal Practice:** There were no updates, relevant issues having been covered elsewhere in the meeting.
 - e. **Events:** A member of the subcommittee shared that a meeting had been held to discuss reinvigorating the previous series of events aimed at junior white collar crime lawyers. There was engaging discussion among Committee Members on this topic, with a number of offers to assist with hosting events and to canvass interest among junior lawyers. It was agreed to make events as open as possible in terms of PQE levels and not to attempt to limit attendee numbers.
- *The subcommittee (with assistance from the Secretary) to take forward plans and to collate names of interested junior lawyers to assist with planning.*

5. **Legal / Case updates**

- a. The Secretary raised the question of recruitment of the new SFO Director, it having been several months since the process started. It was agreed that the process appeared quiet currently with little market chatter.
 - b. The Secretary commented that there were a number of relevant updates to share but that given time constraints this would be done by way of a follow-up email to the Committee.
- *The Secretary to circulate relevant update email.*
6. There were no points raised under the **Investigation and Interview Practices (including tech)** standing agenda item.
7. A Member raised a point of **further business** relating to the new ‘senior manager test’ under the Crime and Policing Act 2026 and in particular the lack of guidance from prosecuting authorities. It was agreed to re-open communications with the office of the DPP and to invite the DPP to attend a future Committee meeting.
- *The Chair and Secretary to contact the DPP’s office with a view to inviting him to attend the next Committee meeting.*

The Chair called a close to the meeting with thanks to the Members for their contributions and to the Vice-Chair for hosting and invited the Committee to remain in place for the guest discussion to follow.