

City of London Law Society

Corporate Crime Committee

Minutes of Meeting 4 February 2025

(Held via MS Teams only)

Attendees:

Louise Hodges (Chair)	Laura Ford
Neill Blundell (Vice-Chair)	Nick Barnard
Phil Taylor (Secretary to the Committee)	Matthew Getz
Ali Sallaway	Rosanne Kay
Camilla da Silva	Sam Tate
Daren Allen	Sarah Wallace
Jonathan Cotton	Satnam Tumani
Jeremy Summers	Shruti Chandhok
Justin McClelland	Susannah Cogman

1. The Chair **welcomed** the attendees, in particular new Committee members.
2. **Apologies** were received from Kevin Hart, Eoin O'Shea, Andrew Katzen, Christopher David, Michelle de Kluyver and Hannah Laming. **Minutes of the previous meeting** had been circulated and amendments were invited within 24 hours.
3. **CLLS / Committee business**
 - a. A Member provided an update on the recent networking/knowledge-sharing **event aimed at corporate crime senior associates**. Attendees were engaged and well-informed, and the event was successful. Associates fed back that the event provided a very good opportunity for networking with peers. Further events will be organised in future, and the Events subcommittee have begun planning accordingly. The consensus was that a future event should potentially include a guest speaker, with the former Lord Chancellor Alex Chalk KC the preferred choice.
 - b. A Member of the Law Reform subcommittee provided an update on the SFO's project to revise and consolidate the **SFO's guidance for corporates**, published online. One impetus for the project may be the integration of the SFO's website into the gov.uk structure. A draft of the updated guidance has been seen by the subcommittee, although comments have been fed back since then. Issues discussed with the SFO during the informal consultation process have included speed, reduction in fines for cooperation, transparency of profit calculations, compliance and victim compensation. The updated guidance is expected to be published by the end of February.

- *The Secretary to circulate a link to the archived SFO guidance online.*
 - c. The Vice-Chair raised a point relating to **in-person Committee meetings/events**, noting that although the meetings in 2024 had been successful and productive, attendance at in-person events with networking time had been lower than hoped. Timings for future meetings was discussed and will be considered further by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. It was suggested that the Winter social could be moved forward to avoid the busy Christmas season.
 - d. The Chair canvassed the Members' views on potential **guests for Committee meetings** during 2025.
- *The Secretary to liaise with Members with regard to taking forward the suggestions made.*
 - e. The Secretary drew the Members' attention to the previously-circulated invitation for the CLLS Annual Banquet; this will be held on 25th February, with guests warmly welcomed. The Secretary then provided an update on the mental health workstream. The CLLS has conducted a survey along with Roll On Friday and will be producing a response, but in the meantime would welcome further feedback from its specialist committees. The Vice-Chair noted the Committee working group's work on this point, and confirmed this will remain on the agenda in the coming year.

4. **Legal / Case updates**

- a. The Chair canvassed Members' views on any recent legal or regulatory updates of note, and potential trends for 2025. Members discussed their experiences in relation to the SFO's Autonomy review; the impact of the new US administration; and the change of General Counsel of the SFO.
- b. The Secretary briefly noted some further items of relevance, namely the SFO's first Unexplained Wealth Order and a recent DPA enforcement case.

5. **Subcommittee business**

- a. **AML / Sanctions:** A member of the subcommittee provided an update on the implications of the Court of Appeal's decision in the *R (on the application of World Uyghur Congress) v NCA* case, including the work that the Law Society is carrying out to feed into the LSAG. The Chair noted that the CLLS's Professional Rules & Regulation Committee is also examining the issue.
- b. **Law Reform / Legal Practice:** A Member briefly updated on the consultation on the duty of regulators regarding economic crime; this is an area for the Committee to monitor but likely without direct input.

- c. **Disclosure:** There were no updates.
 - d. **Events:** There were no updates beyond those noted previously during the meeting.
6. There were no points raised by Members under the standing item of **Investigation and & Interview Practices (including tech)**.
 7. The Chair having left the meeting to attend to other matters, and there being **no further business**, the Vice-Chair called a close to the meeting with thanks to the Members for their contributions.