

City of London Law Society

Corporate Crime Committee

Minutes of Meeting 27 June 2023

(Held as a hybrid meeting)

Attendees (in-person):

Louise Hodges (Chair)

Pamela Reddy

Judith Seddon

Nick Benwell

Kevin Hart (CLLS)

Julia Bateman (Guest, Kingsley Napley LLP)

Attendees (online):

Alistair Graham

Rosanne Kay

Elly Proudlock

Jeremy Summers

Hannah Laming

Tom Epps

Sarah Wallace

Matthew Getz

Susannah Cogman

Michelle de Kluuver

Phil Taylor (Secretary to the Committee)

1. **The Chair** welcomed the members and noted her thanks for her election. The Secretary and the Guest briefly introduced themselves.
2. **Apologies** were received from Jonathan Pickworth, Darren Allen, Matthew Rous, Rita Mitchell, Neill Blundell and David Corker.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** were circulated, and amendments invited within 24 hours.
4. **CLLS business**

- The Chair and Kevin Hart led on the following points:
 - The Chair noted a message sent by Colin Passmore (CLLS Chair) to the chairs of the specialist committees requesting that committees should ‘turn the volume up’ in terms of the work being carried out, focusing on members’ roles as advocates for the City of London. This is both within members’ own firms and beyond. An example included the Committee’s recent paper on the SFO. The CLLS is keen to promote London as a global law centre and the specialist committees have a key role in this.
 - The Members were informed that the CLLS retains a PR company, a representative of which will be invited to a future Committee meeting to explain how they can support the Committee.
 - Another focus of the CLLS is how to engage more junior lawyers; suggestions included encouraging Members to nominate a junior colleague to deputise at occasional Committee meetings where appropriate, inviting colleagues to sub-committees for responses to consultations and inviting junior colleagues to CLLS events.
 - Members supported a proposal to organise an event with high-profile guest speakers, e.g. a politician, Law Lord or prosecutor. Kevin Hart noted that the CLLS relies on the generosity of member firms to support events financially, although the CLLS Chair is considering whether some central budget may be provided in future. The Chair encouraged Members to volunteer their firms’ facilities and resources where possible. Members in principle supported organising an event in Autumn followed by an event during London International Disputes Week in May 2024. Nick Benwell, Pamela Reddy and Judith Seddon offered the use of their firms’ facilities in the future.

- *Members to volunteer hosting an event and/or join a sub-committee to organise these events.*

- The Chair outlined the background to and objectives for a meeting to be held shortly with the Shadow Attorney General and Shadow Solicitor-General.
 - *The Chair to report back at the next Committee meeting.*

- Kevin Hart noted that there will soon be a public and open call for new Committee members; membership is limited to one member per firm with an initial three-year term. As well as partners, the CLLS encourages applications from more junior members on the cusp of partnership. There was discussion among Members of the potential of including in-house and

prosecuting lawyers as individual members. Members are invited to consider if they wish to remain on the committee.

The Chair understands that it is good practice to have a Vice Chair; this is an elected role, and the Chair will be inviting expressions of interest.

The Chair will also be consulting with Members as to the start time, frequency and location of Committee meetings, and as to standing items on the agenda.

- *Members to consider their continuing membership of the committee*
- *Members to respond to the survey to be sent on the conduct of future meetings and expression of interest to stand for Vice Chair*

5. Practice / Legal Updates:

- a. The Secretary provided a short overview of the tracker document circulated with the meeting papers. Members are encouraged to submit comments and suggestions as to the content of the document. The Members suggested adding coverage of privilege in investigations and anti-money laundering. It was agreed that a subcommittee should be formed to monitor legal updates and to identify where the committee should be responding or commenting.
 - *Members to contact the Secretary regarding content of the tracker document.*
 - *A shared online file to be created to share Committee resources, potentially in a form to allow collaborative editing.*
 - *Members to confirm their interest in joining the Legal Practice subcommittee*
- Kevin Hart noted the CLLS's plan to establish an AI specialist committee but emphasised the importance of each existing specialist committee identifying its own pool of AI expertise. It was suggested liaising with Thomson Reuters or a similar company due to their level of AI resource; a representative of that company or similar to be invited a committee meeting.
 - *Chair/Secretary to liaise with AI based company and invite to a committee meeting*
- The Chair noted the agenda point on 'liaison and collaboration with other legal representative groups and associations', and exhorted the Members to consider suitable options.
 - *Committee members to notify the Secretary where they can liaise with other groups and associations*

Due to the limitations of time, the Chair moved to the final agenda point here.

8. Any other business:

- a. An additional meeting to be held in July.
 - *The Chair and Secretary to finalise and communicate a suitable date and time (18th July in the late afternoon/early evening proposed for a meeting and social).*

- b. Current Future Committee meeting dates were noted as: 19th September; 31st October; 12th December – these are subject to the survey to be circulated

The Chair called a close to the meeting with thanks to the Members for their contributions.