



It is an honour to add this tribute on behalf of the City of London Law Society to one of our longest-serving and most distinguished members, Dorothy Livingston.

‘Unique’ is a word which tends to get over-used, but I can think of none more apt to characterise Dorothy’s contribution to the development of financial and competition law in the City of London.

Dorothy served on our Financial Law Committee for nearly thirty years, most of them as Chair. She took up that position way back in 1998, a time when women faced much passive and some not-so-passive resistance to their practising in financial law, let alone to their providing dynamic leadership of the kind that Dorothy did. In the true sense of the term, she was a pioneer.

What’s more, the scope of Dorothy’s work and the breadth of her reach were simply astonishing. She advised the Treasury, the Business Department and its predecessors, HMRC, the Bank of England, the Law Commission, and countless other organisations across an incredibly wide range of issues. Her submissions and recommendations impacted directly and substantially to the reform of company law, including notably the crafting of the mammoth Companies Act 2006, and to insolvency law reform including the Enterprise Act 2002. In the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, she spearheaded the CLLS’s work to help shore up protections for investors and to reinforce banking legislation. Brexit was another challenge to which she rose magnificently, developing well targeted advice which has helped the City to manage the shift from EU rules towards a more global market orientation. Dorothy’s more recent work has helped the financial sector to adapt to the impacts of COVID, and to the ramifications of changes in the digital sphere including artificial intelligence.

What a mere recitation of Dorothy’s career highlights leaves out is the energy which she brought to bear in sharing her expertise, her interest in people and her infectious enthusiasm. A couple of years ago I was seated next to Dorothy at a corporate dinner. I took up my place with some trepidation, so great and formidable was the reputation she carried before her. Yet Dorothy could not have been more generous or more patient as

she proceeded to educate me through the course of that evening on the subject of Bitcoin, its potential and pitfalls, and the principles needed to manage its ascendancy from a legal perspective. I fear that my brain has retained almost nothing from what she sought to impart – a deficiency which has everything to do with my feeble understanding and nothing to do with Dorothy's skills as a pedagogue, which were impressive. What I will always remember, however, is the passion in her voice and the twinkle in her eye as she took on the challenge of trying to bring me up to scratch.

I know I speak for successive generations of CLLS leaders in expressing our gratitude to Dorothy for a career of service, representing the legal profession with distinction and leading the charge for the City at the national and indeed international level. She was a truly worthy recipient of the CLLS Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.

Many colleagues have said how cut up they were when they first heard the news of Dorothy's passing. What hits hard is that, after all the achievements of her life, she did not have a long retirement to spend with Katherine, Alice and her wider family and friends in her beloved Cornwall.

We shall all treasure our memories of Dorothy. Please know just how much she was loved, respected and admired, right across our CLLS family, and how greatly she will be missed.