

**CITY OF LONDON LAW SOCIETY – CONSTRUCTION LAW COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2023 via Teams**

<b>Attendees</b> Matthew Jones (Chair) Francis Ho (Vice-Chair) Eleanor Milne (Secretary) Paul Cowan Richard Hill Gareth Stringer David Metzger Richard Ceeney Victoria Peckett Alistair McGrigor John Woolley Louise Mercer Marc Hanson	<b>Apologies/unable to attend</b> Kevin Hart (CLLS) Drew Norman James Pratt (resigned) Alex Cunliffe Gillian Thomas Angus Dawson Stephanie Canham Julia Court Nicholas Downing Ryan Fordham Ben Patton
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### **Membership**

The Chair confirmed that James Pratt had resigned from the Committee and the Chair thanked him for his service. Members were asked to consider nominating a replacement member from another consultancy company.

### **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed approved.

### **Update on CLLS activities**

K Hart was unable to attend so the Chair updated the Committee in respect of the CLLS initiatives. The CLLS Chair, Colin Passmore, will be invited to attend the Committee's meetings going forward. A new AI Committee is being established and the IP Committee is being refreshed so the Chair asked members to consider potential nominees. The CLLS is also keen to promote its Committees' activities and is considering allowing non-partner level lawyers to attend some committee meetings to give a wider reach and actively engage with younger members of the profession. The CLLS continues to be supportive of the Committee's training event and will publicise this on its website.

Upcoming events include the Grey's Inn Lecture on the Rule of Law on 8 November, the CLSC event 'Food for Thought' considering ethical issues is on 21 November and the Livery Dinner is on 2 November.

### **Associate Committee**

Francis Ho and Alistair McGrigor have had preliminary discussions for the formation of the Associate Construction Law Committee, but they have not yet reached out to Julia and Stephanie. Membership should be open to CLLS firms and the starting point is nomination of an associate by each Committee member that is a law firm. The associate should be prepared to serve a defined term and the governance of the Associate Committee would largely be determined by the associates under the supervision of the Committee.

Coordination and liaison between the Associate Committee and the Committee will need to be given further thought and a paper will be circulated to members for their consideration in the coming months. The aim is for the first Associate Committee meeting to be early in the new year.

### **Insurance market update**

The general construction market continues to be hard. The PI insurance market has settled with cover being obtained by most large contractors but there are still issues for smaller contractors. It is still difficult to obtain cover for projects involving laminated timber.

The increased activity on the refurbishment market has resulted in the opening of the latent defect insurance market and insurers are providing coverage to both new and old parts of refurbished buildings. The recent RAAC concrete issue has also been confirmed as uninsurable.

### **Adjudication Bonds**

The bond market continues to be complex and obtaining the required values from acceptable providers remains challenging.

### **Committee Training Series**

Final details of the 2023 programme were confirmed and the agenda will be published on the CLLS website. Members can pass on the details of the training to their teams (the training is aimed at trainees, junior and mid-level associates) and the first sessions will be on 5 October.

### **Other Current Committee activities**

- (a) Novation Agreement and guidance: The Committee has reviewed the current working draft and various issues were discussed. The work stream continues to be progressed.
- (b) TPR's and CIGA: Angus is to lead progressing this.
- (c) Letter of Intent and guidance: This is final form and, subject to proofing of final edits, ready to be distributed for publication.

### **AOB**

Plans for the Christmas lunch will get underway and members should look out for a communication on this.

**Date of next meeting – 17 January 2024**