

THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NORTHERN IRELAND



Risk Management Webinar: Challenges Facing Law Firms During Unprecedented Times

Date:

Wednesday 5th August 2020

Time:

2:00pm – 3:00pm

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Risk Management Webinar: Challenges Facing Law Firms During Unprecedented Times

As a result of the Coronavirus crisis (Covid-19) we have all had to adapt to new innovative ways of working and this includes how the Law Society provides you with risk management support. As a result of the pandemic the annual Law Society of Northern Ireland Risk Management Seminars for members of the Master Policy have had to be postponed, however in order to ensure that members are fully supported, the Law Society of Northern Ireland in conjunction with Willis Towers Watson and their panel solicitors will be hosting a Risk Management webinar on 5 August 2020 looking at the key risks law firms are facing during the pandemic.

The webinar panel will include: Catherine McKay, Head of Professional Conduct Deputy Registrar/Secretary of the LSNI and members of the Panel Solicitors together with Harry Weir, Head of Belfast Office and Joanne Cracknell, Head of Risk Management at Willis Towers Watson, to discuss the key risks impacting the legal profession and renewal.

Please click on the names below for the speaker profiles:-

Catherine McKay,

Head of Professional Conduct,
Deputy Registrar/Secretary of the Law Society of Northern Ireland

Hugh McGrattan, Partner, Carson McDowell

Shauna McAuley, Senior Associate, Carson McDowell

Tim Cockram, Senior Associate, Carson McDowell

Lester Doake, Partner, DAC Beachcroft

Mark Taggart, Partner, DWF

Stephen Gowdy, Partner, King & Gowdy

Harry Weir, Executive Director, Willis Towers Watson

Joanne Cracknell, Associate Director, Willis Towers Watson

Topics for discussion will include:

- Current risk and compliance landscape
- Key risks facing law firms
- The adjusting PII market and renewal

If you have any questions you wish to raise
please email

jennifer.ferguson@lawsoc-ni.org in advance

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Speaker profiles



Catherine McKay,
Head of Professional Conduct, Deputy Registrar, Deputy Secretary,
Law Society of Northern Ireland

Catherine McKay, a solicitor educated at the Queen's University Belfast, is the Head of Professional Conduct in the Law Society of Northern Ireland, the Deputy Registrar of the Roll of Solicitors and Deputy Secretary to the Council of the Law Society.

Admitted as a solicitor in 1985, Catherine was in private practice for over 28 years before her appointment to the Law Society in 2013.



Hugh McGrattan,
Partner, Carson McDowell

Hugh McGrattan is a Partner in Carson McDowell LLP Solicitors and head of the firm's Professional Indemnity Team. Hugh specialises in professional indemnity and defendant's litigation, acting on behalf of Insurers and a range of professionals including solicitors, accountants, architects, engineers, surveyors, estate agents and brokers. Hugh is ranked Band 1 in the Chambers and Partners UK Guide 2020.



Shauna McAuley,
Senior Associate, Carson McDowell

Shauna McAuley is a Senior Associate within Carson McDowell LLP Solicitors. She works within the Professional Indemnity team advising solicitors, accountants, architects, surveyors, engineers and other professionals in the defence of claims issued against them in both High Court and County Court proceedings.

Shauna is also part of Carson McDowell's information law team.



Tim Cockram,
Senior Associate, Carson McDowell

Timothy Cockram is a Senior Associate within Carson McDowell LLP Solicitors. He works within the Professional Indemnity team advising solicitors, architects, surveyors, accountants, engineers and other professionals in the defence of claims issued against them in both High Court and County Court proceedings.

Timothy has completed the Law Society Advanced Advocacy course.



Lester Doake,
Partner, DAC Beachcroft

Lester has over 35 years' experience advising clients across a range of sectors including personal injury and commercial litigation.

His primary focus is on professional negligence claims under the Solicitors' Master Policy.

Lester is recognised in Chambers for 'his technical skills in professional negligence matters and acts for defendants in claims against a broad range of professional and their insurers'.

Speaker profiles



Mark Taggart,
Partner, DWF

A Partner in DWF (Northern Ireland) LLP, Mark is a commercial disputes specialist with particular experience in professional negligence, insolvency and property cases, and in the Financial Services and Professional Services sectors. Mark is also one of the panel solicitors for the Master Policy insurers.



Stephen Gowdy,
Partner, King & Gowdy

Stephen Gowdy is a senior partner in the firm of King & Gowdy. His main specialities are in the fields of commercial, property, and insolvency law, and, as regards the latter, he is the co-author to the two leading text books, "Individual Insolvency, the Law and Practice in Northern Ireland" and "Corporate Insolvency, the Law and Practice in Northern Ireland", which are used in Northern Ireland. He brings his expertise in these areas to the defence of negligence claims against solicitors as one of the panel solicitors for the Master Policy insurers.



Harry Weir,
Executive Director, Willis Towers Watson

Harry Weir is Head of Office at Willis Towers Watson Belfast. Client Servicing including Belfast City Council, Belfast Harbour Commissioners & Ulster University.

Account Director for collaborative purchase cover for 50+ Northern Ireland Government & Agency entities.

Harry represents Northern Ireland on the UK BIBA National Committee.



Joanne Cracknell,
Associate Director, Willis Towers Watson

Joanne is qualified solicitor (non-practising) and has acted for the Law Society and Solicitors Regulation Authority and other regulators on all aspects of regulatory matters and litigation arising out of disciplinary investigations and interventions.

Joanne now assists law firms to review, implement and test compliance, risk and regulatory systems and processes. She also works on the Law Society of Northern Ireland account, handling claims and assisting law firms with managing risk and compliance.