

LEGAL WALES CONFERENCE 2026

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Friday 9 October 2026 - Marriott Hotel, Cardiff

09:00	REGISTRATION	09:30
<u>Morning Plenary Session</u>		
09:30	Opening Address Jonathan Elystan Rees KC Chair of Legal Wales	
09:45	Keynote address Counsel General for Wales – Rt Hon Elfyn Llwyd [Introduction: Mark Evans, President of the Law Society]	10:20
10:20	“What the Hell Just Happened!” Conversation with Prof Laura McAllister on the outcome of the Welsh General Election 2026 <i>Chaired by Huw Williams</i> (Chief Legal Advisor, Senedd Cymru)	11:15

11:15	MORNING COFFEE BREAK	11:45
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<u>Morning Break Out Session</u>				
11:45	Strand A <i>“The Thomas Commission Report Six Years On: where are we now?”</i> A session reflecting on the Thomas Commission Report six years after its publication, considering what progress has been made, what remains unresolved, and what the future may hold for justice in Wales. Bringing together leading voices involved in, and closely engaged with, the Commission’s work, the discussion will examine the continuing constitutional, legal and practical implications of reforming the justice system in Wales. Thomas Commission Research (Dr Robert Jones, February 2026) Chair: John Hyde (Law Society Gazette) Panel Members: • Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd – Chair of Commission on Justice in Wales • Dr Robert Jones – Senior Lecturer, Cardiff University’s School of Law and Politics	Strand B Recent developments in the Court of Protection <i>Introduced by Mrs Justice Morgan</i> A panel discussion on recent developments in the Court of Protection, including the impact of the Supreme Court’s judgment in “<i>A Reference by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland of a devolution issue under paragraph 34 of Schedule 10 to the Northern Ireland Act 1998</i>” and the first Court of Protection judgment given and published entirely in the Welsh language (<i>TIRE v Carmarthenshire County Council [2024] EWCOP 81 (T2)</i>) Chair: Theis J Panel members: • Emma Sutton KC (who appeared for the Official Solicitor in the Supreme Court in AGNI Reference) • Nia Gowman (who appeared for the Applicant in TIRE)	Strand C Equity of income and senior leadership for women in law Chair: Joanne Clement KC More information published shortly.	12:30

	• Professor Richard Wyn Jones – Professor of Welsh Politics Cardiff University’s School of Law and Politics • Dr Nerys Llewelyn Jones - Law Commission Special Counsel for Wales and one of the Commissioner’s of the Thomas Commission report			
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12:30	LUNCH – SPONSORED BY BLAKE MORGAN	13:30
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<u>Afternoon Plenary 1</u>		
13:30	“The One Judiciary Programme and Creating an Inclusive Judiciary” Featuring contributions from senior judicial and judicial appointment commissioners, this high-powered panel will explore the One Judiciary programme and its ambition to bring the courts and tribunals closer together to make better use of resources and to demonstrate that judges, whether they sit in courts or tribunals, are part of a single judicial family and to promote an inclusive and collegiate culture throughout the courts and tribunals. Opening: The Lady Chief Justice, The Right Honourable Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill Chair: Mrs Justice Stacey, Presiding Judge for Wales and Diversity & Inclusion representative in the High Court • Dingemans LJ Senior President of Tribunals • Chief Magistrate – Paul Goldspring • Siwan Davies – Judicial Appointments Commissioner for Wales Close: The Lady Chief Justice, The Right Honourable the Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill	14:30

14:30	Presentation of the Sir Samuel Evans Prize 2026 for the best undergraduate result at a Welsh Law School	14:40
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<u>Afternoon Break Out Session</u>				
14:45	Strand A Transforming Cardiff: transport, infrastructure and the legal profession More information published shortly	Strand B The Law Firm of 2030: Growth, Ambition and the Future of Welsh Law What does the future hold for law firms in Wales – and what will it take to build successful, sustainable legal businesses for the next generation? Drawing on new independent Welsh legal sector research and the experiences of firms pursuing ambitious growth and transformation, this fast-paced panel will take the temperature of the sector today and look ahead to the law firm of 2030. From growth, recruitment and retention to leadership and succession, technology and AI, changing client expectations and evolving business models, the panel will explore the opportunities and pressures facing firms – and ask what Wales needs to create a stronger, more ambitious and resilient legal sector. Chair: Emma Waddingham, Editor, Legal News Wales Panel Members: • Neil Walker, CEO, Redkite Solicitors • Jodi Winter, Managing Partner, CJCH Solicitors	Strand C Experiencing Law Reform in Wales Session hosted by Public Law Wales. Chair: Keith Bush KC (Fellow in Welsh Law, Wales Governance Centre) Panel Members: • Sir Peter Fraser (Chair, Law Commission) • Dr Alison Young (Commissioner for Public Law and the law in Wales, Law Commission) • Laura Jones (Lawyer, Public Law and the law in Wales, Law Commission) • Dr Nerys Llewelyn Jones (Special Counsel for Wales, Law Commission)	15:30

		- Matthew Mills, Sales and Product Manager, Acuity Law - Dr Bronwen Williams, Head of Swansea Law School at University of Wales Trinity Saint David		
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15:30	AFTERNOON TEA BREAK			16:00
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<u>Afternoon Plenary 2</u>				
16:00	Keynote address: The Rt Hon Lord Justice Stephen Cobb - President of the Family Division <i>Introduced by Lord Lloyd-Jones</i>			16:30
16:30	Keynote address: Lord Hermer KC Introduction by Jonathan Elystan Rees KC			17:15
17:15	Close of Conference Jonathan Elystan Rees KC			17:30

<u>Legal Wales drinks reception and Conference Dinner</u>		
19:00	Guest Speaker – Lord Carwyn Jones of Penybont <i>Dress code: Lounge suits</i> <i>19:00: Drinks reception</i> <i>19:45: dinner served</i>	

Fringe Events

	Tuesday 6 October 2026 <u>Resilient Legal Leaders Lunch - Welsh Legal Sector Transformation report.</u> <u>The Ivy (Private Dining Room), tickets £45pp. Hosted by Legal News Wales & Osprey Approach.</u> Legal leaders from across Wales are invited to be among the first to explore the findings of the new Welsh Legal Sector Transformation Report, sharing their own experiences and helping shape the support, collaboration and priorities needed to turn the sector's ambitions into action. Tickets available at https://www.legalnewswales.com/events/resilient-legal-leaders-lunch-shaping-the-future-of-the-welsh-legal-sector/	
	Thursday 8 October 2026 <u>Choosing the seat of arbitration - Control of costs in Arbitration and 3rd party financing. (Central Cardiff) More information coming soon.</u> <u>Franco-British Lawyers Association event (Capital Law, Capital Building, Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4AZ)</u> More information to follow - https://ajfb-fbls.org/index.php/events/choosing-seat-arbitration-control-costs-arbitration-and-3rd-party-financing	

	<u>Legal News Wales event – “An evening with John Hyde: Indefensible – how lawyers failed to stop the Post Office scandal (Cardiff book launch)” (Menzies, Hodge House, 114-116 St Mary St, Cardiff CF10 1DY) – 5:00pm</u> Marking the launch of 'Indefensible: How Lawyers Failed to Stop the Post Office Scandal,' this exclusive Legal Wales Foundation fringe event brings together legal journalist and author, John Hyde, for an evening of conversation exploring the professional, ethical and human lessons of one of the greatest miscarriages of justice in modern British history. Tickets available at https://www.legalnewswales.com/events/an-evening-with-john-hyde-indefensible-how-lawyers-failed-to-stop-the-post-office-scandal-cardiff-book-launch/	
	Saturday 10 October 2026 <u>Parkrun – Cardiff – for 9:00am start</u> The morning after the Legal Wales Conference and dinner there is an opportunity for any Legal Runners to join Mark Evans, the President of the Law Society and Founder of Legal Runner, the social running club for the legal community (Home - Legal Runner) for a 5k ParkRun - at whatever your pace - in the beautiful grounds Bute Park, Cardiff (and, more importantly, a coffee and a cake afterwards!) Where? The Start/Finish area is on the Taff Trail along side the Tesco building on Western Avenue (a 10-minute drive from the Conference venue or a 30 minute walk through Bute Park). Further details at https://www.parkrun.org.uk/cardiff/course/ The route The route consists of an out and back along the River Taff, within Bute park. Refuel at the café Post-run, you can reward yourself in the Tesco Extra café and enjoy coffee and a cake or a bite of breakfast to refuel. Please let Tomos Lewis (tomos.lewis@blakemorgan.co.uk) or Mark Evans (mark.evans@lawsociety.org.uk) know if you intend taking part or require any further information. <u>Tour of the Senedd</u> If you are interested, please contact Huw Williams (Chief Legal Advisor to the Senedd) - huw.williams@senedd.wales	