CYMRU'R GYFRAITH LEGAL WALES

Legal Wales Conference & Dinner 2026

Friday 9th October, Cardiff Marriott Hotel



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Welcome to the 24th Legal Wales Conference

Delegate Pack Contents:

- Sponsors / Exhibitors
- Programme in Brief
- Breakout Sessions: Room Allocations
- Full Programme
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- Sir Samuel Evans Prize 2026 Winners
- After Dinner Speaker Biography
- **SAVE THE DATE:** Legal Wales Conference 2027
- **Resources & useful updates from our event partners**

Delegate Feedback Form

We encourage you to share your views on the Conference and Dinner with us.

CLICK HERE to access the feedback form.

#LegalWales

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Programme in Brief

9:00	**Registration**
9:30	**Conference Start**
11:15 - 11:45	**Mid-Morning Break**
12:30 - 13:30	**Lunch** **Kindly Sponsored by Blake Morgan LLP**
15:30 - 16:00	**Afternoon Break**
17:00	**Conference Close**
19:00	**Drinks Reception & Conference Dinner** **Cardiff Suite** (Dress Code: Business Attire)
Midnight	Cardiff Suite Bar Closes - Carriages

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Morning Breakout Rooms

PLEASE NOTE: Each breakout strand is 45 minutes long.
You may choose to attend any of the sessions.
11:45 - 12:30

Strand A -
The Thomas Commission Report Seven Years On: where are we now?
Located in the Main Conference Room ('**Cardiff Suite**')

Strand B -
Recent developments in the Court of Protection
Located in the **'Glamorgan Suite'** (entrance found to the left of Browns Bar & through the Cwtch Suite).

Strand C -
Equity of income and senior leadership for women in law
Located in **'Aneurin Bevan Suite'** (entrance found to the left of Browns Bar & through the Cwtch Suite).

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Afternoon Breakout Rooms

PLEASE NOTE: Each breakout strand is 45 minutes long.
You may choose to attend any of the sessions.

14:45 - 13:30

Strand A -

Transforming Cardiff: transport, infrastructure & the legal profession

Located in the 'Glamorgan Suite' (entrance found to the left of Browns Bar & through the Cwtch Suite).

Strand B -

The Law Firm of 2030: Growth, Ambition & the Future of the Welsh Legal Sector

Located in the Main Conference Room ('Cardiff Suite')

Strand C -

Experiencing Law Reform in Wales

Located in **'Aneurin Bevan Suite'** (entrance found to the left of Browns Bar & through the Cwtch Suite).

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Legal Wales Conference 2026

9 October 2026, Cardiff Marriott Hotel

Conference Programme

09:00	**REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS**	09:30
09:30	**Opening Address** **Jonathan Elystan Rees KC** Chair of Legal Wales	09:45
09:45	**"Should we care about international law?"** **Lord Richard Hermer KC** In conversation with Jonathan Elystan Rees KC	10:20
10:20	**"What the Hell Just Happened!"** Conversation with **Professor Laura McAllister** on the outcome of the Welsh General Election 2026 **Chaired by:** Huw Williams (Chief Legal Advisor, Senedd Cymru)	11:15
11:15	**MORNING REFRESHMENT BREAK**	11:45

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All strands start: 11:45	**MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS**	All strands end: 12:30

Strand A: Main Conference Room (Cardiff Suite)

"The Thomas Commission Report Seven Years On: where are we now?"

A session reflecting on the Thomas Commission Report seven 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.

Chair: John Hyde (Law Society Gazette)

Panel Members:

Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd – Chair of Commission on Justice in Wales

Dr Nerys Llewelyn Jones – one of the Commissioners of the Commission on Justice in Wales

Dr Robert Jones – Senior Lecturer, Cardiff University's School of Law and Politics

Professor Richard Wyn Jones – Professor of Welsh Politics Cardiff University's School of Law and Politics

Strand B: Glamorgan Suite

Recent developments in the Court of Protection Introduced by Mrs Justice Morgan

A panel discussion on recent developments in the Court of Protection, including the impact of the Supreme Court's judgment in "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" and the first Court of Protection judgment given and published entirely in the Welsh language **(TIRE v Carmarthenshire County Council [2024] EWCOP 81 (T2))**

Chair: Mrs Justice Theis

Panel members:

Emma Sutton KC (Serjeants' Inn Chambers) - appeared for the Official Solicitor in the Supreme Court in AGNI Reference

Nia Gowman (30 Park Place) - appeared for the Applicant in TIRE

Strand C: Aneurin Bevan Suite

Equity of income and senior leadership for women in law

Chair: Joanne Clement KC

Panel members:

Nicola Williams – Chief Legal Advisor and Director of Legal Services, Welsh Government

Laura Hughes – Partner, Browne Jacobsen

Rachel Krys - Equality & Diversity Consultant, Bar Council

12:30	**LUNCH** Sponsored by: BLAKE MORGAN	13:30

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Legal Wales 2026 Conference Programme

13:30	**The One Judiciary Programme & 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 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 **Senior District Judge Paul Goldspring -** Chief Magistrate **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 results at a Welsh Law School** **<u>Joint prize Winners:</u>** **Molly Harrison** – Aberystwyth University **Natasha Bolton** - University of South Wales The Prize-winner will be introduced by **Professor Thomas Watkin KC** (representative of Y Werin Legacy Fund) and the Prize Certificate will be presented by **the Lady Chief Justice.**	14:40

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14:45	**AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS**	15:30

Strand A: Aneurin Bevan Suite?	**Strand B: Main Conference Room (Cardiff Suite)**	**Strand C Experiencing Law Reform in Wales**
Transforming Cardiff: transport, infrastructure and the legal profession This session will explore how major transport and infrastructure developments are reshaping Cardiff and Wales more broadly, examining the legal and practical challenges and opportunities these projects present and how legislation plays its part. **Chair:** Tim Edds – Partner, Browne Jacobson **Panel members:** **Mark Barry** – Professor of Practice in Connectivity, Cardiff University and strategic advisor to Transport for Wales. **Gareth Berry** – Inward Investment Senior Manager, Cardiff Capital Region	**The Law Firm of 2030: Growth, Ambition and the Future of the Welsh Legal Sector** 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, this panel will take the temperature of the sector today and frame ambitions for the years ahead. 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 Director, CJCH Solicitors **Matthew Mills** - Business Development & Products Manager, Acuity Law **Dr Bronwen Williams** - Head of Swansea Law School, UWTSD	**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 **Dr Nerys Llewelyn Jones** - Special Counsel for Wales, Law Commission **Laura Jones** - Lawyer, Public Law and the law in Wales, Law Commission

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Drawing on extensive experience of working with Welsh-based organisations, Browne Jacobson supports clients on a wide range of significant issues affecting Wales, including matters across government, health, environment, education, real estate, employment, commercial and regulatory law. Its Cardiff team forms part of the firm's broader full-service national platform, enabling clients to access both deep local insight and specialist expertise across a wide range of legal disciplines.

The firm advises a broad spectrum of organisations operating in Wales, including public bodies, local authorities, health organisations, educational institutions, businesses and insurers. With strong knowledge of the Welsh policy and legislative landscape, Browne Jacobson is well placed to help clients navigate complex legal, regulatory and operational challenges.

Through its Cardiff full-service offering, Browne Jacobson combines national capability with a clear understanding of the needs of organisations operating in Wales, providing practical, commercially focused advice on the issues that matter most to clients and the communities they serve.

Talk to us



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Legal Wales 2026 Conference Programme

13:30	**AFTERNOON REFRESHMENT BREAK**	16:00
16:00	**Keynote address:** **Sir Stephen Cobb** **President of the Family Division** Introduced by Lord Lloyd-Jones	16:30
16:30	**Keynote address:** **Counsel General for Wales** **Rt Hon Elfyn Llwyd** Introduction: Mark Evans, President of the Law Society	17:00
17:00	**Close of Conference** **Jonathan Elystan Rees KC**	

Legal Wales Drinks Reception & Dinner 2026

Guest Speaker - Lord Carwyn Jones of Penybont

19:00: Drinks reception
19:45: Call for Dinner
Midnight: Bar Closes

Dress code: Lounge suits / Business Attire

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Fringe Events 2026

Franco-British Lawyers Association event: Choosing the seat of arbitration - Control of costs in Arbitration & 3rd party financing

Venue: Capital Law, Capital Building, Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4AZ

This event forms part of the FBLS's longstanding series examining the comparative advantages of different arbitral seats across the jurisdictions of England & Wales, France, Scotland, Northern Ireland and beyond.

The discussion will focus on issues including the approach of different seats to arbitration costs, third-party funding, and the particular advantages of smaller jurisdictions as arbitral centres. FBLS are honoured to welcome a distinguished panel of speakers from a range of jurisdictions, including Lord Justice Jackson (England), Charles Marquand (France), and leading practitioners from Wales, Scotland and Switzerland.

Those interested in arbitration, dispute resolution and comparative legal practice to attend what promises to be an engaging and insightful discussion.

More information can be found here: https://ajfb-fbls.org/index.php/events/choosing-seat-arbitration-control-costs-arbitration-and-3rd-party-financing

Legal News Wales presents: An evening with John Hyde: 'Indefensible' – how lawyers failed to stop the Post Office scandal (Cardiff book launch)

Venue: Hodge House (Ground Floor), 114-116 St Mary St, Cardiff CF10 1DY)
5:00pm for a 5:30pm start

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.

Details here: https://www.legalnewswales.com/events/an-evening-with-john-hyde-indefensible-how-lawyers-failed-to-stop-the-post-office-scandal-cardiff-book-launch/

Bookings now closed - those interested in last minute tickets should contact **emma@legalnewswales.com**

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Fringe Events 2026
Saturday 10 October

Parkrun – Cardiff – for 9:00am start

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.

Interested in joining us?

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.

Tour of the Senedd

If you are interested in this tour, please contact Huw Williams (Chief Legal Advisor to the Senedd), via email:

huw.williams@senedd.wales

Atebion cyfreithiol perthnasol a realistig



Mae'n bleser i Blake Morgan noddi Cynhadledd Cymru'r Gyfraith unwaith eto eleni.

Mae Blake Morgan yn falch o fod wrth wraidd cymuned gyfreithiol Cymru. Gyda phresenoldeb cryf ledled Cymru ers dros 150 mlynedd, rydym yn cyfuno gwybodaeth leol drylwyr gydag adnoddau cwmni cyfreithiol gwasanaeth lawn er mwyn cynnig cyngor eithriadol i fusnesau, cyrff cyhoeddus ac unigolion.

Mae ein cyfreithwyr yn gynghorwyr dibynadwy ar rai o'r materion mwyaf cymhleth ac uchel eu proffil yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys materion masnachol, gwaith y sector cyhoeddus, materion rheoleiddiol a gwaith i gleientiaid sector preifat. Rydym yn ymrwymedig i gefnogi datblygiadau cyfreithiol Cymru, gan weithio gyda chyfreithwyr mewnol, Llywodraeth Cymru, llywodraeth leol, rheoleiddwyr a'r proffesiwn ehangach i lunio datrysiadau sy'n gwneud gwahaniaeth gwirioneddol.

Mae nifer o sefydliadau mwyaf blaenllaw Cymru yn ymddiried ynom fel eu cynghorwyr cyfreithiol. Mae hyn yn cynnwys sefydliadau corfforaethol rhyngwladol a chenedlaethol, awdurdodau lleol, Llywodraeth Cymru a'i hadrannau a'i chyrff hyd-braich, rheoleiddwyr, comisiynwyr, banciau stryd fawr, banciau corfforaethol mawr, archfarchnadoedd blaenllaw, ac adeiladwyr tai. Rydym hefyd yn cynghori dros 100 o ysgolion, academïau a phrifysgolion ar ystod eang o faterion cyfreithiol.

Yn Blake Morgan, nid darparu cyngor cyfreithiol yn unig yr ydym yn ei wneud - rydym yn meithrin partneriaethau parhaol. Mae ein hymgysylltiad â Chymru'r Gyfraith yn adlewyrchu ein hymroddiad i gydweithio ac arloesi, a chyfrannu at ddyfodol y proffesiwn yng Nghymru.

Mae ein cleientiaid yn dweud wrthym mai ein dull personol, ynghyd â'n profiad masnachol go iawn, sy'n ein gwneud ni'n wahanol. P'un a ydych yn gleient corfforaethol neu'n chwilio am gyngor ar faterion personol, fel cynghorydd dibynadwy rydym yn canolbwyntio ar yr hyn rydych chi am ei gyflawni i wneud yn siŵr bod gennych chi'r gefnogaeth gyfreithiol gywir ar waith, nawr ac yn y dyfodol.

Rydym yn darparu ystod lawn o wasanaethau cyfreithiol i enwau cyfarwydd yng Nghymru yn ogystal â chorfforaethau byd-eang, gan rymuso busnesau Cymru i dyfu, ehangu'n fyd-eang a llywio fframweithiau cyfreithiol cymhleth er mwyn llwyddiant hirdymor.

Fel cwmni cyfreithiol gwasanaeth llawn, rydym yn cynghori unigolion, busnesau a cyrff y sector cyhoeddus yn y meysydd canlynol:

- Bancio a chyllid
- Masnachol ac elusennol
- Ymgyfreitha masnachol
- Adferiadau masnachol
- Adeiladu
- Corfforaethol
- Cyflogaeth
- Cleient preifat
- Eiddo
- Rheoleiddio

> **Helpu twf Cymru fel cenedl hyderus, deg a chystadleuol.**

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Mae Blake Morgan LLP wedi'i awdurdodi ac yn cael ei reoleiddio gan yr Awdurdod Rheoleiddio Cyfreithwyr.
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Blake Morgan are proud to sponsor the Legal Wales Conference once again this year.

Blake Morgan are proud to be at the heart of the Welsh legal community for over 150 years. With a strong presence across Wales, we combine deep local knowledge with the resources of a full-service law firm to deliver exceptional advice to businesses, public bodies, and individuals.

Our lawyers are trusted advisers on some of the most complex and high-profile matters in Wales, spanning commercial, public sector, regulatory, and private client work. We are committed to supporting the development of the Welsh legal landscape, working with in-house counsel, government, regulators, and the wider profession to shape solutions that make a real difference.

Leading organisations across our specialist sectors trust us to advise them. This includes international and national corporate organisations, local authorities, Welsh Government and its departments and arm's-length bodies, commissioners and regulators, major high street and corporate banks, leading supermarkets and some of the UK's top house builders. We also advise over 100 schools, academies and universities on a wide range of legal issues.

At Blake Morgan, we don't just provide legal advice - we build lasting partnerships. Our involvement in Legal Wales reflects our dedication to collaboration, innovation, and the future of the profession in Wales.

Our clients tell us it's our personalised approach coupled with our real-world commercial experience that sets us apart. Whether you are a corporate client or looking for advice on your personal affairs, as your trusted adviser we'll focus on what you want to achieve to make sure you have the right legal support in place, both now and in the future.

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Speaker Biographies

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Speaker Biographies



Jonathan Elystan Rees KC has been the Chair of Legal Wales since 2022.
Jonathan is a graduate of Jesus College, Cambridge and was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 2000, becoming a Bencher in 2020. Practicing from chambers in Cardiff, Chester, London and Manchester, Jonathan specialises in international criminal law, white collar fraud, serious crime and professional misconduct.
He has recently appeared before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers sitting in The Hague. Jonathan sits as a Recorder in the Crown Court.



Lord Richard Hermer KC, born and raised in Cardiff, was called to the Bar in 1993 and began his career at 30 Park Place. He later moved to London, developing a practice focused on human rights, international law and constitutional law. He became Queen's Counsel in 2009 and was appointed a Deputy High Court Judge in 2019. He is a member of Matrix Chambers. Between July 2024 and July 2026, he served as Attorney General for England and Wales, Advocate General for Northern Ireland and a member of the National Security Council. He is a life peer and member of the Privy Council.



Professor Laura McAllister CBE, BSc, PhD, FRSA, FLSW, is the Professor of Public Policy and the Governance of Wales at Cardiff University's Wales Governance Centre. She is an expert on devolution, Welsh politics and elections, and gender representation in politics. Laura is a prolific author, commentator and keynote speaker. She holds Honorary degrees and Fellowships from the universities of Bangor, Cardiff, Cardiff Metropolitan, South Wales, Swansea, University of Wales Trinity St. David and Bridgend College.
Laura is a former member of Assembly Remuneration Board (2014-15), Independent Panel on AMs Pay and Support (2008-09), the Richard Commission on the Powers and Electoral Arrangements for the National Assembly for Wales (2002-04). Chair of Expert group on Local Government Diversity (2013-14); Chair of Assembly's Expert Panel on Electoral Reform (2017); co-chair of the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales (2021-24).
Laura is the UEFA Vice-President and elected member of its Executive Committee. Chair of UEFA Social and Environmental Sustainability Committee. Deputy Chair of UEFA's Women's Football Committee.
She is a former Wales football international and national team captain with 24 caps, Chair of Sport Wales (2010-16). Until April 2016, she was a Board Member of UK Sport and is a former Director of the Football Association of Wales Trust. Laura chairs the Welsh Sports Hall of Fame.
Laura is the Chair of the Wales Centre for Public Policy Advisory Board, a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts. She was inducted as a member of Gorsedd y Beirdd, Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru, Boduan, in August 2023. She was awarded CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, 2016.

CYMRU'R GYFRAITH LEGAL WALES

Speaker Biographies



Huw Williams originated the idea of a Legal Wales Conference over 20 years ago and is the former chair of the Programme Committee for the Legal Wales Conference. After sending his early career in local government, Huw was a partner in the firm of Geldards LLP for over thirty years, where he was the Lead Partner – Public Law and Senior Partner in the firm's Cardiff office. Since 2019 Huw has been the Chief Legal Adviser to the Senedd. Huw is a past Chair of Legal Wales and of Public Law Wales. He was a longstanding member of the Law Society's Planning and Environment Law Committee and the Wales Committee and was an inaugural member of the Law Society National Board for Wales. Huw's other external roles have included serving as a Trustee of both the National Museum of Wales and of the National Library of Wales and for over 20 years as the Company Secretary of the Wales Millennium Centre.



John Hyde is Deputy News Editor at The Law Society Gazette and one of the UK's most respected legal journalists. His new book, Indefensible, examines the legal profession's role in the Post Office scandal and the enduring lessons it presents for lawyers, regulators and the justice system. John has hosted numerous events and conferences and been a regular contributor on the BBC, as well as writing articles for the Independent and politics.co.uk. In September 2026 he published his first book: 'Indefensible: How Lawyers Failed to Stop the Post Office Scandal' to great acclaim.



The Rt Hon. the Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd was appointed as the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales in 2013 and retired in October 2017. He was called to the Bar in 1969 and became a Queen's Counsel in 1984. He was appointed an Assistant Recorder in 1984, a Recorder in 1987 and a High Court judge in 1996. His other senior judicial leadership roles include Presiding Judge of the Wales and Chester circuit, Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales, Vice-President of the Queen's Bench Division and President of the Queen's Bench Division. He was the Chair of the Commission on Justice in Wales.



Dr Nerys Llewelyn Jones was one of the Commissioners of the Commission on Justice in Wales. Nerys is the founder of Agri Advisor which she founded in 2011 to provide specialist legal and advocacy services to farmers, landowners and people living in rural areas. She has first-hand knowledge of the farming industry and a PhD in Sustainable Agriculture and its Implementation at an International, European and regional level. She is an accredited mediator and a fellow of the Agricultural Law Association.

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Speaker Biographies



Dr Rob Jones is Senior Lecturer in the Welsh Criminal Justice System at Cardiff University's School of Law and Politics. His research focuses on imprisonment, penal policy, prisoners' rights, devolution, and criminal justice in Wales. He is a member of the Wales Governance Centre and serves as Coordinator of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control's Prisons, Punishment and Detention Working Group. Rob has been a visiting researcher at Eastern Michigan University and the University of Helsinki's Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy (Krimo). He is a member of the Editorial Advisory Group of the Howard Journal of Crime and Justice and sits on the Welsh Government's Academic Advisory Group on Criminal Justice in Wales.



Richard Wyn Jones is Director of the Wales Governance Centre and Professor of Welsh Politics in the School of Law and Politics at Cardiff University. His most recent books are Englishness: The political force transforming Britain (2001), co-authored with Ailsa Henderson; The Welsh criminal justice system: On the jagged edge (2022), co-authored with Robert Jones; and Putting Wales first: The political thought of Plaid Cymru, Vol.1 (2024). Volume 2 of his study of Plaid Cymru will be published next year by the University of Wales Press. Richard is a regular commentator on political development in Wales for the Welsh, UK and international media and writes a monthly column on Welsh politics for the Welsh language current affairs magazine Barn.



The Hon Mrs Justice Morgan (Dame Sarah Morgan, DBE) was born in Wales, the daughter of a teacher and a civil engineer. She spent some of her early childhood living in the Caribbean before her family returned to the UK and settled in the Midlands, where she attended state schools. Dame Sarah was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1988 and practised from 1GC Family Law chambers in London where she specialised in Family Law, particularly relating to children. She was appointed a Recorder sitting in the criminal and family courts on the South Eastern circuit in 2009 becoming Queen's Counsel in 2011. In 2019, Dame Sarah was appointed as a deputy High Court Judge and in 2022 she was appointed to the High Court and assigned to the Family Division. In 2023 she became Family Presiding Judge for Wales, in succession to Francis J.

CYMRU'R GYFRAITH LEGAL WALES

Speaker Biographies



Mrs Justice Theis DBE was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1982 and took Silk in 2003. She was appointed a Recorder in 2000 and was approved to sit as a deputy High Court Judge. From 2005 to 2010 she was head of Field Court Chambers and was Chair of the Family Law Bar Association in 2008 and 2009. In 2010 she was appointed to be a High Court Judge. In 2011 the President of the Family Division appointed her a Family Division Liaison Judge on the South Eastern Circuit with responsibility for Kent, Surrey and Sussex and in 2017 for London and Thames Valley. From 2018 - 2023 she chaired the Family Procedure Rules Committee and the Family Justice Council. Mrs Justice Theis was appointed as the Senior Family Liaison Judge for a four-year period from October 2018. In February 2023 she was appointed to be the Vice President of the Court of Protection for a four-year term. She is the lead judge in relation to applications under the HFEA 2008.



Emma Sutton KC is a leading public law silk at Serjeants' Inn, specialising in mental capacity, mental health, health and social care, education, national security and human rights. Called to the Bar in 2006 and appointed King's Counsel in 2023, she is consistently ranked by the legal directories, which describe her as "an exceptional advocate" and "in a class of her own". Recent work includes appearing for the Official Solicitor in A Reference by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland of a devolution issue [2026] UKSC 16; before the Court of Appeal in Re Gardner (Deceased) [2026] EWCA Civ 640; and as Advocate to the Court in In the Matter of the Secretary of State for Defence [2026] EWCA Civ 3. In January 2027, she will appear before the Supreme Court in Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust v Townsend. Emma is appointed to the Welsh Government Panel of King's Counsel, serves as a fee-paid Judge of the Court of Protection and Mental Health Tribunal Judge, and is a Special Advocate.



Nia Gowman is a barrister at 30 Park Place Chambers, Cardiff, specialising in Court of Protection, Inquests and Inquiries, and Public Law. She was recently appointed to the Welsh Government Panel of Junior Counsel and also sits as a Deputy District Judge. Nia is regularly instructed across Wales and England in Court of Protection matters by local authorities, health boards, the Official Solicitor, RPRs and family members. Her practice encompasses capacity and best interests disputes concerning residence, care, contact, medical treatment, marriage and sexual relations, as well as inherent jurisdiction cases. She is highly regarded for her Inquest and Inquiry work, particularly cases involving community care, medical treatment, mental health and Article 2 ECHR. Nia represented Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice Cymru in Modules 1, 2, 2B and 3 of the UK Covid-19 Inquiry. Her growing judicial review practice includes acting as junior counsel in R (Driver) v Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC. She also practises in family law and is a fluent Welsh speaker, conducting cases in Welsh where required.

CYMRU'R GYFRAITH LEGAL WALES

Speaker Biographies



Joanne Clement KC is a Barrister at 11 KBW Chambers. Joanne took silk in 2022, practicing in all areas of public law and human rights law. Her practice extends from commercial judicial review to claims raising significant constitutional and human rights issues. She is also an expert in local government, and health, community care and mental capacity law, as well as in the field of procurement law and education law. Prior to taking silk, Joanne was a highly rated junior, and was top ranked by the legal directories in six practice areas (Administrative & Public Law, Civil Liberties & Human Rights, Local Government, Education, Community Care and Court of Protection). She was the Chambers and Partners Public Law and Human Rights Junior of the Year in 2018/19. Joanne is a member of the Legal Wales Programme Committee.



Nicola Williams has been a qualified solicitor for 28 years and her background is in commercial litigation. She has worked in law firms and inhouse, and her current role is as Chief Legal Advisor and Director of Legal Services for Welsh Government. She is also a Board member of the Solicitors Regulation Authority and Chair of Trustees for Citizens Advice Rhondda Cynon Taf.



Laura Hughes is a Partner at Browne Jacobson. She heads up the public law team, as well as being the head of the insurance and public risk department, and the executive lead for Wales. Laura is an experienced public law expert who advises her clients on their most important and high-profile matters. She acts across the public sector advising clients in government, local government, education, health, audit, sports and natural resources. Laura was named in the Lawyer's Hot 100 for 2025, and was named Law Firm Lead of the Year at a National/Regional Firm at the Women and Diversity in Law Awards 2025. Laura has over 20 years' experience advising public sector clients on the full range of public law matters including devolution, local government reorganisation, consultation, statutory interpretation, statutory and guidance drafting, judicial review, health, education and regulatory matters. Laura's clients include Welsh Government, Defra, Natural Resources Wales, Sports England, Qualification Wales, UK Sport and the Cabinet Office. Laura is happiest when she is sat around a client's Board or Executive table helping them through their trickiest issues to a decision which is defendable, lawful and made in the public interest.

CYMRU'R GYFRAITH LEGAL WALES

Speaker Biographies



Rachel Krys has been a consultant to the Bar Council Equality Diversity and Inclusion team since 2019 supporting projects to improve the retention and progression of women and under-represented groups at the Bar. Rachel delivers equality, fair recruitment, mentoring and harassment training for the Bar Council and bespoke consultancy for chambers. Rachel has been an equality and human rights campaigner for more than two decades and has worked with large and small employers to tackle discrimination, analyse, and improve equality outcomes and promote inclusion.



The Right Honourable the Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales was educated at Wycombe Abbey and Trinity College, Cambridge, where she read Modern Languages and Law. Called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1987, she specialised in professional liability and commercial law, took silk in 2003, and held leadership roles, including head of chambers at Four New Square, Chair of the Professional Negligence Bar Association, Chair of the Bar Standards Board Conduct Committee, and Complaints Commissioner to the International Criminal Court. She became a Governing Bencher of the Inner Temple in 2006.

Her judicial career began in 2009 as a Recorder. Appointed to the High Court (Queen's Bench Division) in 2013, she was the first female High Court Judge to sit in the Technology and Construction Court and the second to sit in the Commercial Court. She served as Presider of the Midland Circuit and on the Investigatory Powers Tribunal. Elevated to the Court of Appeal in 2020, she also served as Senior Judicial Commissioner and Vice-Chair of the Judicial Appointments Commission.

In October 2023, she became the first Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales and was introduced to the House of Lords in November. Baroness Carr has been awarded numerous honorary fellowships, patronages and distinguished appointments.



The Hon Mrs Justice Stacey DBE is the Presiding Judge for Wales and Diversity & Inclusion representative in the High Court. Mary's first judicial appointment was as a fee paid Chairman of Industrial Tribunals (as they were then called) in 1997, then a salaried Employment Judge sitting in Croydon, South London from 2003-2014. She was appointed as a criminal recorder in 2007 then Circuit Judge in 2014, sitting mainly in crime in Birmingham Crown Court and also in civil in the Birmingham Civil and Family Justice Centre and as a visiting judge in the Employment Appeal Tribunal. She was appointed as a s.9(4) Deputy High Court Judge in 2018 and a High Court Judge, King's Bench Division, in 2020. She was appointed as a Presiding Judge of Wales in 2026. She is a member of the board of the Judicial College and a member of the Judges' Council Committee on Wales.

CYMRU'R GYFRAITH LEGAL WALES



Sir Samuel Evans Prize Winner 2026
Molly Harrison LLB
Aberystwth University

Molly recently graduated from Aberystwyth University with a First-Class Law degree.

During her studies, she volunteered with The Veterans Legal Link Charity, supporting veterans with legal issues, which developed her passion for the practical application of the law and the positive impact legal services have on individuals.

She was also awarded the Oxford University Press Law Prize in her final year. Molly is currently undertaking a Masters in Law and Legal Practice course at Liverpool John Moores University and aspires to qualify as a solicitor through the SQE route.

Molly is one of two winners of the 2026 Sir Samuel Evans Prize.

CYMRU'R GYFRAITH LEGAL WALES



Sir Samuel Evans Prize Winner 2026
Natasha Bolton LLB
University of South Wales

Natasha Bolton is a Trainee Solicitor at JNP Legal and has achieved the highest undergraduate result in Wales for her LLB Legal Practice (Exempting) degree at the University of South Wales. Her result stands as a testament to her diligence and work ethic, having studied for her degree alongside a Network75 Apprenticeship. Having built a strong foundation across multiple departments since she started working at JNP Legal in 2021, she now applies her well-rounded expertise in JNP Legal's Civil Litigation and Personal Injury Department, assisting across personal injury, clinical negligence, and civil litigation matters.

Natasha is due to sit her SQE2 assessments in January 2027, with a view to ultimately qualifying as a Solicitor in September 2027 within JNP Legal's Civil Litigation and Personal Injury Department. She looks forward to continuing the development of her skills and knowledge throughout this process.

Natasha is one of two winners of the 2026 Sir Samuel Evans Prize.

CYMRU'R GYFRAITH LEGAL WALES

Speaker Biographies



Lord Justice Dingemans has served as Senior President of Tribunals since August 2025. Called to the Bar in 1987 and appointed a High Court Judge in 2013, he has held a number of senior judicial roles, including Presiding Judge of the Western Circuit, Vice-President of the King's Bench Division, and Lead Judge for International Relations, before his appointment as SPT. As Senior President, he provides leadership to the UK's tribunals judiciary, including the First-tier Tribunal, Upper Tribunal, Employment Tribunals and Employment Appeal Tribunal. He is responsible for around 5,000 judicial office holders and has statutory responsibilities for representing the views of the tribunals judiciary to Ministers, Parliament and the Lord Chancellor. Under the Courts and Tribunals Bill, responsibility for the tribunals judiciary will transfer to the Lady Chief Justice, who will delegate those functions back to the Senior President of Tribunals. The Senior President of Tribunals will also retain responsibility for the reserved tribunals in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Senior District Judge Paul Goldspring (Chief Magistrate) for England and Wales, was admitted to the Roll in 1997. In 2003 he was awarded Higher rights and became a Solicitor- Advocate (HCA). In 2004 Paul took up a position as Joint Head of Criminal Litigation at a medium sized multi-discipline firm in Kent and became a partner a year later. In 2008 he set up my own specialist Criminal Practice. He has been an international expert with the Great Britain China Centre (GBCC) and presented to Chinese prosecutors on reform in Pre-trial detention procedures. He has been a contributing editor to a leading Textbook for Magistrates practice, "Archbold Magistrates' Courts Practice" and is a past Chair of HM Council of District Judges Magistrates' Courts Legal Committee. Paul was appointed a Deputy District Judge (MC) in 2009 and in 2013 appointed a Full Time DJ(MC). On the 1st March 2021 he was appointed as Senior District Judge (Chief Magistrate) for England and Wales. (The 36th person to hold the post which dates back to 1735, one of the oldest judicial posts still in existence in England and Wales).



Siwan Davies, Judicial Appointments Commissioner. Siwan Davies was appointed a Commissioner of the Judicial Appointments Commission in December 2025, with responsibility for Welsh matters and for leading policy, programmes and stakeholder relationships in Wales. A native Welsh speaker, Siwan is an experienced board executive with more than 25 years' experience across constitutional, legislative and public service environments in Wales and internationally. Her career has included senior parliamentary appointments in Australia, including Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms of the Parliament of Australia and Deputy Clerk of the Queensland Parliament. Returning to Wales, Siwan served as Deputy Chief Executive and Clerk of the Senedd, where she helped ensure continuity of parliamentary business during the pandemic and led the Senedd reform programme, delivering significant institutional and electoral change. Siwan now holds a portfolio of roles focused on strategic leadership in political and regulatory environments, with particular interests in good governance, ethical leadership, organisational change and bilingual leadership. She lives in Carmarthenshire where she was raised.

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Speaker Biographies



Tim Edds is a Partner and Head of Cardiff at Browne Jacobson. He specialises in matters involving assessments of public and administrative law risk, particularly those matters with a Welsh devolution focus. He is also an experienced legislative draftsman. Tim advises his clients on the development of various, nationally significant policies. He has advised, and been a member of, Bill teams that have taken primary legislation through Senedd Cymru and regularly drafts secondary legislation. Tim has vast experience advising elected officials (including Ministers and Cabinet Members) and policy officials of all levels of seniority in respect of legal risk based on public law principles. His experience has given him a unique understanding of the considerations entailed in, and a complete appreciation of, the process of policy development from inception through to formal decision and implementation through legislation.



Mark Barry is Professor of Practice in Connectivity, Cardiff University and a strategic advisor to Transport for Wales. Mark has nearly 40 years' international experience in multiple industries including management consultancy, biotech, IT, finance, economic development & transport. Since 2010, Mark has also been working on first conceiving and then developing the South Wales Metro (or Cardiff Capital Region Metro) concept. In February 2011, Mark's report, "A Metro for Wales' Capital City Region – Connecting Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys" was published by The Cardiff Business Partnership in conjunction with The Institute of Welsh Affairs.



Gareth Berry is the Inward Investment Senior Manager for Cardiff Capital Region. Cardiff Capital Region is transforming the economy, business landscape and potential for inclusive prosperity across South East Wales. It aims to make a real difference by nurturing an inclusive economy where no one is left behind; fostering and inspiring innovation across businesses, public services and foundational economies; and matching economic ambitions with progressive social policies. Cardiff Capital Region is a partnership of 10 local authorities, which have worked together since 2017 to improve the lives of the region's 1.5 million residents. In April 2024, Cardiff Capital Region became a Corporate Joint Committee, taking on new responsibilities for regional transport and strategic planning and creating further opportunities to deliver benefits for communities, businesses and the wider South East Wales economy.

CYMRU'R GYFRAITH LEGAL WALES

Speaker Biographies



Emma Waddingham, Founder and Editor, Legal News Wales.
Emma has been a journalist for over two decades, with 18 years' worth of experience as a legal sector journalist. She founded Legal News Wales in 2020 - now the largest independent news, insight, events and cross-sector network for the legal profession in Wales. Emma is currently the first non-lawyer President of Cardiff & District Law Society - the largest regional law society in Wales, and the 9th female leader in its 140-year history. She is a Non-Exec Board member for Chambers South Wales (the chamber of commerce for south, west and mid Wales) and is the chamber's Vice President. In a speech given at the Legal Wales Conference 2023. Emma was dubbed the 'glue that holds the legal sector in Wales together' by the then Counsel General of Wales, Mick Antoniw MS. In June 2025, Emma joined a panel representing the legal profession in Wales at the Global Empowerment and Inclusion Summit, hosted at the United Nations in Geneva. She founded the Legal News Wales Awards celebrating excellence in the business of law in 2025.



Neil Walker is Chief Executive Officer of Redkite Solicitors, leading the firm's continued growth across Wales and the South West of England. A Chartered Accountant, Neil began his career with EY before holding senior leadership roles at the Co-operative Group and later becoming Operations Director of Co-operative Legal Services. There, he was involved in the organisation becoming the first business to receive an Alternative Business Structure licence from the SRA in 2012, and helped grow its Wills and Probate business while leading its Personal Injury division through significant change. As CEO of Redkite, Neil is focused on sustainable growth, strong leadership and creating a culture where people are empowered to succeed, while maintaining excellent client service and strong community connections. In June 2026, Neil won the Leadership Award at the Legal News Wales Awards.



Hefin Archer-Williams is a Partner (FILEx) and Head of the Cardiff Office for HCR Law, specialising in dispute resolution and advising businesses and individuals on complex commercial and professional matters. His practice includes contract negotiations, commercial disputes, energy-related matters, disputes concerning wills and legacies, and professional disciplinary proceedings. Hefin takes a collaborative, pragmatic approach, working closely with clients to understand their personal and commercial objectives, manage risk and, wherever possible, resolve issues without the need for litigation. Born and raised in Wales, Hefin's first language is Welsh. He also has a longstanding involvement in sport, having advised professional sportspeople on contract negotiations and disputes and served on the boards and committees of a number of sporting organisations and charities, including Disability Sport Wales. A keen sportsman himself, Hefin represented Great Britain at the 2019 World Touch Rugby tournament in Malaysia, proudly taking a Welsh flag with him.

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Speaker Biographies



Jodi Elizabeth Winter is Managing Director at CJCH Solicitors - finalists in the Legal News Wales Awards 'Business Growth Award - 51+ Employees - 2026. With over 20 years' experience in her field, Jodi also leads CJCH's Family law Department, is a co-owner of the business, and serves on the firm's Executive Board. She provides expert legal advice and representation to both individual and institutional clients across a range of specialist areas, including family law, matrimonial, childcare proceedings and public sector matters. Jodi is also a member of the Law Society's Children Panel.

Jodi joined CJCH in 2013, after a career in local government that led to a position of Chief Legal Officer and Operational Manager for legal services. Jodi held a senior solicitor role within the public sector at Vale of Glamorgan Council, bringing deep insight into public-sector family law practice.



Matthew Mills is Business Development & Products Manager at Acuity Law, leading business development across the firm's practice areas and its product portfolio, including Acuity Academy, Acuity Reputation Management and Acuity Counsel Service. Working across the firm, Matthew supports growth, develops client propositions and identifies new opportunities, giving him a broad perspective on the commercial drivers shaping today's legal market. Through Acuity Academy, the firm's learning and development offering, he also works with organisations to address the skills and capability challenges facing law firms and their clients. His experience of developing client products, integrating AI and managing business development strategy gives Matthew a distinctive perspective on the future of law firms in Wales and the capabilities they will need to achieve their ambitions. Matthew is looking forward to bringing that perspective to the Legal Wales Conference panel, exploring what a successful Welsh law firm will look like by 2030 and what it will take to build one.



Dr Bronwen Williams is Academic Director of Swansea Law School at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, where she leads the School's academic strategy, curriculum development and delivery across Law, Criminology and the Emergency Services. With 18 years' experience in higher education, Bronwen has a particular interest in legal education, employability and strengthening the relationship between universities and professional practice. She has developed significant partnerships with external organisations to create innovative qualifications and opportunities that equip students with the skills needed for their future careers. Her research into legal education in Wales includes work supporting the case for a Level 7 Legal Apprenticeship, commissioned by the Law Society's Wales office and presented to the Counsel General in 2025. Bronwen is a member of the Law Society's National Board for Wales and a Magistrate and Presiding Justice for the West Glamorgan Bench, where she also chairs the West Glamorgan Magistrates Association.

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Speaker Biographies



Keith Bush KC (Hon) LLM is a Lecturer in Law at Cardiff University, Senior Fellow in Welsh Law at the Wales Governance Centre and former Honorary Professor of Law at Swansea University. A barrister with over 20 years' practice in Cardiff, he later joined the Welsh Government's legal service, where he led the drafting of key Welsh legislation, including the Government of Wales Act 2006. From 2007 to 2012, he served as Chief Legal Adviser to the National Assembly for Wales. Keith has held roles as President of the Welsh Language Tribunal, Recorder in the County Court, and member of the Law Commission's Advisory Committee for Wales, and was a co-founder of the Legal Wales Foundation and conference. A published author and frequent commentator on public law in both English and Welsh, his research focuses on constitutional structures, devolution, and the legal rights of linguistic and cultural groups. In 2014, he was appointed Queen's Counsel (Honoris Causa) for his contribution to advancing public understanding of Welsh law.



The Rt Hon Sir Peter Fraser was appointed as Chair of the Law Commission on 1 December 2023.
Sir Peter was educated at Harrogate Grammar School in Yorkshire and St John's College at the University of Cambridge (where he took both an MA in Law and a LL.M). He was called to the Bar in 1989 by Middle Temple and practised from Atkin Chambers between 1990 and 2015 when he was appointed to the King's Bench Division. As a barrister he specialised in international arbitration, technology, engineering and construction disputes.
He was appointed a Recorder of the Crown Court in 2002 and QC in 2009. He sits both as a judge of the Technology and Construction Court (being judge in Charge from 2017 to 2020) and the Commercial Court.



Professor Alison Young, Commissioner for Public Law and the law in Wales, Law Commission. Alison joined the Law Commission in March 2024. She is Sir David Williams Professor of Public Law at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Robinson College. A leading public law academic, Professor Young specialises in constitutional theory, administrative law and human rights. She is an award-winning author of three monographs and has published extensively across these areas, with particular expertise in dialogue theory and its application to constitutional law. Prior to joining the Law Commission, she served as legal adviser to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution. She is also an Academic Associate at 39 Essex Chambers, an Emeritus Fellow of Hertford College, Oxford, and an Honorary Professor at the Australian National University. Before joining Cambridge, Professor Young held academic positions at the University of Oxford, including Professor of Public Law and Fellow in Law at Hertford College.

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Speaker Biographies

Laura Jones is a public law solicitor currently serving as a Lawyer at the Law Commission for England and Wales. As a key member of the Public Law and Law in Wales team, she leads complex law reform projects aimed at modernizing public services, regulatory frameworks, and devolved Welsh legislation. With a strong foundation in public law litigation, Laura previously spent over five years as a Litigation Solicitor for HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) in Manchester. During her tenure at HMRC, she specialized in intricate tax regimes, handling contentious cases across customs, excise, and environmental tax law. Laura holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Cardiff University and completed her professional legal training at The University of Law. Her unique blend of rigorous litigation experience and deep interest in statutory frameworks drives her work in crafting clear, accessible, and forward-looking legislative reforms.



Lord Lloyd-Jones JSC is the President of the Law Council of Wales.
David Lloyd-Jones was educated at Pontypridd Boys' Grammar School. He was a Fellow of Downing College Cambridge from 1975 to 1991 before entering full time practice at the Bar. He took silk in 1999 and was appointed to the High Court in 2005, serving as a Presiding Judge of the Wales Circuit. Appointed to the Court of Appeal in 2012, also served as Chair of the Law Commission of England and Wales.
His tenure at the Law Commission, saw the publication of an important report on the "The Form and Accessibility of the Law Applicable in Wales" (2017), which pointed the way to subsequent consolidation and codification initiatives. In 2017, he was appointed the first Justice of the Supreme Court of the UK to come from Wales. Lord Lloyd-Jones is currently the Treasurer of the Middle Temple.



The Rt Hon Lord Justice Stephen Cobb is President of the Family Division and Head of Family Justice in England and Wales. Sworn into the role in May 2026, he also serves as President of the Court of Protection and chairs the Family Procedure Rule Committee and Family Justice Council. Lord Justice Cobb was called to the Bar by Inner Temple in 1985 and took Silk in 2003. He began his judicial career as a Recorder in 2004 and was appointed a High Court Judge in 2013, assigned to the Family Division. He also sat in the Administrative Court and served as a nominated judge of the Court of Protection. From 2015 to 2021, he served as a Family Presiding Judge on the North Eastern Circuit. He was appointed to the Court of Appeal in June 2024, taking his place in 2025, before his appointment as President of the Family Division. In his current role, Lord Justice Cobb leads the judges and magistrates of the family courts and has day-to-day responsibility for the Family Division of the High Court and the Family Court.

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Speaker Biographies



Mark Evans is the President of The Law Society for Wales & England. Admitted as a solicitor in 1995, Mark specialised in property and private client work in North Wales and Cheshire. In October 2021 he joined the University of Law, Manchester as a Lecturer and teaches undergraduates and postgraduates real estate, private client and professional skills. Mark has been a Law Society Council Member since 2015 and has been an inaugural member of both the Law Society Board and National Board for Wales. Mark has completed marathons and an ultra marathon and is the founder of a social running group for the legal community - LegalRunner. His presidential year closes at the end of October 2026, when he will hand over to the Vice President, Brett Dixon.



Rt Hon Elfyn Llwyd, Counsel General for Wales is a Welsh barrister and politician. Born in Betws-y-Coed, Gwynedd, Wales, Llwyd was raised in Betws y Coed and later went to University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and Chester Law College. Llwyd worked as a solicitor and subsequently a barrister, being called to the bar in 1997, before election to public office. Between 1990 and 1991 he served as President of the Gwynedd Law Society. Llwyd was the Member of Parliament for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy in the House of Commons from the 1992 general election until its abolition in 2010, and then for its principal successor constituency of Dwyfor Meirionnydd from 2010 until his retirement in 2015. Llwyd was Plaid Cymru's Westminster parliamentary group leader. On 16 May 2011, Llwyd was elected to Privy Council. He was announced in August 2021 as the Pro-Chancellor of Aberystwyth University. In August 2025 Llwyd was appointed Honorary Lawyer to the Gorsedd of bards. On 13 May 2026, Elfyn Llwyd was appointed Counsel General.

CYMRU'R GYFRAITH
LEGAL WALES

Legal Wales Dinner 2026

Drinks Reception: 7:00pm
Call for Dinner: 7:45pm

Cardiff Marriott Hotel - Cardiff Suite

Speaker Biography

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CYMRU'R GYFRAITH LEGAL WALES

Legal Wales After Dinner Speaker 2026



Lord Jones of Penybont

Lord Carwyn Jones is a former First Minister of Wales, a role he held between 2009 and 2018. He left the Welsh Parliament in 2021 after representing the Bridgend constituency for 22 years which included 18 consecutive years in government.

Before politics he practised at the Bar for ten years and was a Professional Tutor on the Bar Vocational Course at Cardiff University. He is now a Professor at Aberystwyth University with a strong interest in constitutional law. He is also Bencher at Gray's Inn.

Since leaving politics he has been involved in broadcasting, business consultancy and presentation skills training and is also works with a number of charities. His autobiography was published in 2020. He is a Lay Member of the Complaints Committee of the Independent Press Standards Organisation and a Council Member of the Advertising Standards Authority.

In January 2025 he entered the House of Lords as Lord Jones of Penybont in January 2025 and is the Leader of the UK Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

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CYMRU'R GYFRAITH LEGAL WALES

Legal Wales Conference 2026 Resources*

*Please note: conference keynote speeches will be added to this pack after the event

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Astudiwch y Gyfraith ac Ymarfer Cyfreithiol, datblygwch eich gyrfa gyfreithiol.

Os ydych chi'n dechrau eich addysg gyfreithiol, yn datblygu eich cymwysterau proffesiynol, neu'n symud ymlaen tuag at yrfa yn y gyfraith, mae ein cyrsiau'n cyfuno astudiaeth academaidd â sgiliau ymarferol a phroffesiynol.

BETH GALLWCH CHI EI DDISGWYL

- Sgiliau cyfreithiol a phroffesiynol ymarferol
- Dosbarthiadau bach, cefnogol
- Paratoi ar gyfer gyrfaoedd yn y proffesiwn cyfreithiol a thu hwnt
- Astudio ar ein campws ar Lannau Abertawe

CYRSIAU

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- Paragyfreithiol | Paragyfreithiol Uwch | Cyfreithiwr

LLB

- Y Gyfraith - Sylfaen a Gradd
- Y Gyfraith ac Ymarfer Cyfreithiol - Sylfaen a Gradd
- Y Gyfraith i Raddedigion
- Y Gyfraith ar Waith - Atodol
- Y Gyfraith a Throseddeg

LLM

- Y Gyfraith ac Ymarfer Cyfreithiol gyda SQE (1 a 2)

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Whether you're starting your legal education, developing your professional qualifications, or progressing towards a career in law, our courses combine academic study with practical and professional skills.

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- Practical legal and professional skills
- Small, supportive classes
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- Graduate Law
- Law in Practice - Top Up
- Law and Criminology

LLM

- Law and Legal Practice with SQE (1 & 2)

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LANDMARK RESEARCH · 2026

What the future holds for the Welsh legal sector

51 Welsh firms. 46 questions. One honest picture of the market – and where the opportunities lie.

Free report – download here →



WHAT 51 WELSH FIRMS TOLD US

How does your firm compare?

Based on research with over 50 Welsh SME law firms and in-house teams, the report gives an evidence-based view of where the sector is today – and where opportunities for transformation lie.

100%

of firm leaders find recruiting qualified solicitors difficult

48%

of Welsh law firms expect to grow next year

14%

of annual billing written off – around £150,000 for a £1m+ firm

42%

have no dedicated technology role



"Traditionally, many Welsh law firms stick their head in the sand about succession... It's just not an attractive deal."

Sarah Charlton · CEO, Eaton-Evans & Morris Solicitors

Get the full picture

Pricing, write-offs, succession, AI and legal aid – free to download.

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Cardiff & District
Law Society

Cymdeithas y Gyfraith
Caerdydd a'r Cylch

ANNUAL DINNER

Friday 6 November 2026

Coal Exchange Hotel, Cardiff



With guest speaker:

Rob Rinder MBE

Barrister turned broadcaster & Sunday Times No.1 bestselling author

The President of Cardiff & District Law Society, Emma Waddingham, invites you to join us for a night of celebration & entertainment, with peers from across the region, alongside colleagues from national and regional law societies & the wider legal sector in Wales

Remaining tickets on sale now, visit:

cardifflaw.org

Click to Book

2026

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Eich Partner Cyfreithiol Dibynadwy ar gyfer Sector Cyhoeddus Cymru

Gyda hanes sydd wedi'i wreiddio'n ddwfn yng Nghymru, mae Geldards wedi sefydlu ei hun fel cynghorydd cyfreithiol blaenllaw i awdurdodau lleol a chyrff cyhoeddus ledled y wlad. Mae ein harbenigedd yn amlwg a ninnau wedi cael ein penodi i holl brif fframweithiau cyfreithiol sector cyhoeddus.

Mae ein hymarfer yn y sector cyhoeddus yn cwmpasu ystod eang o wasanaethau cyfreithiol, gan gynnwys: eiddo ac adfywio, cynllunio ac amgylcheddol, adeiladu, caffael a rheoli cymorthdaliadau, cyfraith gyhoeddus a vires, ymgyfreitha sifil a throseddol, cyflogaeth, contractau masnachol, contractau ac anghydfodau TGCh a data, partneriaethau cyhoeddus-preifat, cwmnïau ac ymddiriedolaethau, elusennau a chwmnïau nid-er-elw, mentrau ar y cyd a chyfraith addysg.

Gyda chyfoeth o brofiad a mewnwelediad i'r heriau cyfreithiol y mae sefydliadau'r sector cyhoeddus yn eu hwynebu, **cysylltwch â ni heddiw i ddysgu mwy am sut y gall Geldards ddiwallu eich anghenion cyfreithiol.**

"Arbenigedd heb ei ail mewn lleoliad rhanbarthol. Yr un mor gymwys yn awdurdodaethau cyfraith gyhoeddus a gweinyddol Cymru a Lloegr, sy'n unigryw. Mae eu hanes o weithio i gleientiaid ledled y sector yn unigryw ac yn drawiadol."

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With a deep-rooted history in Wales, Geldards has established itself as a leading legal advisor to local authorities and public bodies across the country. Our expertise is evident in our appointment to all major public sector legal frameworks.

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With a wealth of experience and insight into the legal challenges public sector organisations face, **contact us today to learn more about how Geldards can address your legal needs.**

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Legal News

LOCKTON

2nd Annual

Regional Risk Conference Wales 2026

Regulation• Compliance• Claims• Insurance• AI• Wellbeing



FREE EVENT

Tuesday 17 November 2026

11:00am - 4:00pm
The Law Society Wales Office, Cardiff

The programme will explore:

- Regulatory change and the future of COLP and COFA roles
- AML, economic crime and recurring compliance weaknesses
- Emerging claims trends and professional indemnity insurance
- AI, litigants in person and changing demands on lawyers
- Practical risk management, resilience and wellbeing

Lunch and refreshments included, with end-of-day drinks and networking.

Bookings will close soon; secure your place today.

Ideal for:

- Compliance & risk managers
- COLPs and COFAs in law firms / legal teams
- Business Services leaders
- Law firm owners & investors
- Regulatory professionals
- Lawyers
- Those supporting the industry

For this & all our events visit:

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The CILEX Professional Qualification (CPQ) combines recognised legal learning with workplace experience, helping your people develop the confidence, skills, and specialist expertise they need to contribute from day one.

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- Build commercial, communication, and people skills
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Whether you're supporting one employee or developing an organisation-wide talent strategy, we'll help you find the right pathway.

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Attract, develop, and retain talented legal professionals while building capability from within.

Why apprenticeships make business sense

Apprentices earn a salary, gain recognised qualifications, and develop practical legal skills in the workplace – creating value for both the individual and your organisation.

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- Build future leaders
- Strengthen succession planning
- Broaden your talent pool

Legal apprenticeships combine employment, structured learning, and recognised qualifications.

Employees develop practical legal skills in the workplace while studying for professional qualifications, allowing them to contribute from the start.

> ***"I didn't feel that the university route would have suited me... The CILEX apprenticeship allowed me to work, study and progress all at the same time."***
>
> **Victoria Holmes, JCP Solitors**



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Helo^ oddi wrth Awdurdod Cyllid Cymr

Os nad ydych yn gyfarwydd â ni, mae hwn yn adeg dda i ddweud helo. Ni yw awdurdod treth Cymru, ac rydym yn gweithio ar ran Llywodraeth Cymru i gasglu trethi, darparu gwasanaethau a chodi refeniw sy'n cael ei ailfuddsoddi yng Nghymru. Rydym yn helpu pobl a sefydliadau i gofrestru, i gyfrifo, ac i dalu treth.

Ers 2018, rydym wedi casglu dros £2.7 biliwn mewn Treth Trafodiadau Tir a Threth Gwarediadau Tirlenwi. Rydym yn tyfu hefyd. Rydym yn cyflwyno'r gofrestr genedlaethol newydd ar gyfer darparwyr llety ymwelwyr yn ogystal â'r Ardoll Ymwelwyr, felly gall llawer o'n gwaith fod yn berthnasol i chi a'ch cleientiaid.

Rydym wedi ymrwymo i ddarparu system dreth deg ac effeithiol i Gymru drwy 'Ein Dull' – ffordd Gymreig o drethu. Mae wedi'i seilio ar dri gair:

- 'Cydweithio' sydd ag ymdeimlad o weithio gyda'n gilydd tuag at nod cyffredin.
- 'Cadarnhau' sy'n awgrymu cadernid grymus y gellir dibynnu arno. Mae hyn yn ymwneud â darparu sicrwydd, bod yn gywir ac atgyfnerthu ymddiriedaeth.
- 'Cywiro' sy'n ymwneud â'r ffordd rydym yn gweithio gyda chi i ddatrys gwallau neu bryderon.

Yn ymarferol, mae hynny'n golygu ein bod yn dechrau o sefyllfa o ymddiriedaeth. Rydym yn gwybod bod y mwyafrif helaeth o bobl a sefydliadau eisiau gwneud y peth iawn, a phan fydd camgymeriadau'n digwydd, rydym yn cydweithio â nhw i'w datrys yn gyflym ac yn deg.

Rydym hefyd yn falch o fod yn sefydliad dwyieithog, sy'n darparu gwasanaethau yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg. Rydym yn buddsoddi'n helaeth mewn gwasanaethau digidol hefyd, er mwyn gwneud y broses gofrestru, cyfrifo a thalu treth mor hwylus â phosibl.

Os hoffech ddysgu mwy am ein gwaith, dewch draw i sgwrsio â'n tîm cyfeillgar neu sganiwch y cod QR am fwy o wybodaeth.

Neil David, Arweinydd Treth Trafodiadau Tir, Awdurdod Cyllid Cymru



Sganiwch i gael ein cylchlythyr misol

Awdurdod Cyllid Cymru
Welsh Revenue Authority



Ydych chi'n cynghori cleientiaid sy'n prynu a gwerthu eiddo yng Nghymru?

O'rholl achosion 'ddim yn addas i'wddefnyddio' y gwnaethom edrycharnyn nhw y llynedd, doedd 9 o bob 10 ddim wedi talu'r swm cywir o Dreth Trafodiadau Tir. Roedd yn rhaid i'r bobl hynny dalu'r gyfradd breswyl uwch. Mae'r trothwy ar gyfer ystyried eiddo yn anaddas yn uchel.

Gall unrhyw un o'r canlynol fod yn wir am eiddo, ond bydd dal yn cael ei ystyried yn addas i'w ddefnyddio:

- Dim cegin nac ystafell ymolchi
- Angen to newydd
- Dim cysylltiad gwres, trydan na dw^r
- Angen preniau, distiau neu loriau newydd
- Difrod tân
- Problemau lleithder a llwydni

Gallai peidio gwneud hyn yn iawn arwain at fil treth annisgwyl, llog, a chosb. Y llynedd, y gosb gyfartalog oedd £1,500. Gallwn godi cosb o hyd at 100% o gyfanswm y dreth sy'n ddyledus, ynghyd â llog.

Darllenwch ein canllawiau ar y we er mwyn helpu eich cleientiaid i ddeall y trothwy ac i wybod pa dystiolaeth sy'n angenrheidiol wrth asesu cyflwr eiddo. Cysylltwch â ni os ydych yn ansicr.



Treth Trafodiadau Tir. Mae sicrwydd yn talu ar ei ganfed.

Awdurdod Cyllid Cymru
Welsh Revenue Authority



Advising clients who buy and sell property in Wales?

Last year, 9 out of 10 ‘not suitable for use’ cases we looked into had not paid the right amount of Land Transaction Tax. Those people had to pay the higher residential rate.

The bar is high for a property to be considered not suitable for use.

A property can have any of the following and still be suitable for use:

- No kitchen or bathroom
- A roof in need of replacement
- No connection to heating, electricity or water
- New timbers, roof joists or flooring required
- Fire damage
- Damp and mould issues

Getting this wrong could mean an unexpected tax bill, interest, and a penalty. Last year, the average penalty was £1,500. We can charge a penalty of up to 100% of the total tax owed, plus interest.

Help your clients understand this threshold and what evidence they need when assessing a property's condition by reading our guidance online. If in doubt, contact us.



Land Transaction Tax. It pays to be sure.

Awdurdod Cyllid Cymru
Welsh Revenue Authority

Hello from the Welsh Revenue Authority

If you haven't come across us before, now is a good time to say hello. We're Wales' tax authority, working on behalf of the Welsh Government to collect taxes, deliver services, and raise revenue that's reinvested in Welsh public services. We help people and organisations to register, pay and calculate tax.

Since 2018, we've collected over £2.7 billion in Land Transaction Tax and Landfill Disposals Tax. We're growing too. We're implementing the new national register for visitor accommodation providers and Visitor Levy, so there's plenty happening at the WRA that may be relevant to you and your clients.

We're committed to delivering a fair and effective tax system for Wales through Our Approach – a Welsh way of doing tax. It's built on three words:

- 'Cydweithio' means 'to work together' and carries a sense of working towards a common goal.
- 'Cadarnhau' suggests a solid, robust quality that can be relied on; this is about providing certainty, being accurate and reinforcing trust.
- 'Cywiro' literally means 'returning to the truth' and is about the way we work with you to resolve errors or concerns.

In practice, that means we start from a position of trust. We know the vast majority of people and organisations want to do the right thing, and when mistakes happen, we work with them to sort it out quickly and fairly.

We're also proud to be a bilingual organisation, delivering services in Welsh and English. We're investing heavily in digital services too, so that registering, calculating and paying tax is as straightforward as possible.

If you'd like to find out more about our work, or you're curious about what we do, we'll be at the conference in Cardiff. Come over and speak to our friendly team.

Neil David, Land Transaction Tax Lead, Welsh Revenue Authority



Scan to subscribe to our monthly newsletter

Awdurdod Cyllid Cymru
Welsh Revenue Authority

Join us

Saturday 14 November







Don't miss our unique event at the prestigious One Great George Street, London.

- Hear from our high-profile speakers, including the Lady Chief Justice, Rob Rinder MBE and Geeta Guru-Murthy.
- Take part in insightful sessions exploring the role of expert witnesses, AI and an ask the judges session.
- Build a programme that works for you: choose from sessions in our streams, from one year on from Baroness Harman's review to hot topics such as openjustice, wellbeing and climatechange.
- Network with colleagues you know and make new connections.
- Meet a range of organisations that support you and the profession in our exhibition.

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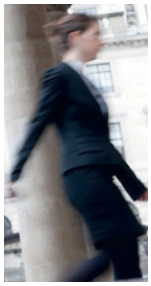
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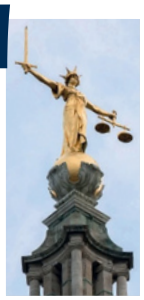
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Free AI & Tech Audit For your Business

Your competitors are already using AI to save time and money. Cardiff App Developers will help you find where it delivers real ROI, for you and your clients.

What we do

Our free AI & Business Technology Audit starts with a simple chat. If any of these sound familiar, we can help:

- Streamline repetitive processes
- Improve operational efficiency
- Identify where AI could support your team
- Explore opportunities for digital automation
- Improve existing systems and workflows
- Understand where improvements could generate measurable ROI
- Build sustainable AI that uses less energy and fewer resources

Our Audit Process

1 **Discover**

We map your workflows and data to spot where AI adds real value & opportunity

2 **Build**

We design and develop around how your team already works, with security and integrations.

3 **Scale**

After launch we monitor, refine and improve. Your team gets training and ongoing support.

Who we are

Cardiff App Developers (CAD) is a friendly, award-winning technology and AI consultancy, proudly based in Cardiff, South Wales. For over 17 years, our talented team of designers and developers has turned ideas into cutting-edge solutions for clients across the UK and around the world.

16+
Years experience

100+
Clients

Book a call

Book your Free AI discovery call with now. Just scan the QR code below.

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CYMRU'R GYFRAITH
LEGAL WALES

SAVE THE DATE

Legal Wales Conference & Dinner 2027

Friday 8th October

Pembrokeshire

(Venues for the Conference & Dinner TBC)

Click here to join the event mailing list

legalwales.org

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