



Association
of Costs
Lawyers



PR update report

Monthly report: July/August 2024

Three pages

Summary:

A busy summer period saw Jack Ridgway author a blog for *The Times* calling for a review of the Solicitors Act considering two recent High Court retainer disputes, David Bailey-Vella had a letter published on the same issue in *the Law Society Gazette*. Other coverage from a press release on the same issue appeared in *Legal Futures* and *Solicitors Journal*. Our regular articles also appeared in *New Law Journal*, *Litigation Funding*, *the Association of District Judges' Newsletter* and *Thomson Reuters Dispute Resolution Blog*.

Elsewhere, planning for the remainder of 2024 is underway, with a proposal to host an Annual ACL in Conversation event submitted to Council and a new award category created in the Modern Law Awards for Costs Lawyer of the Year, which ACL will sponsor. Work is ongoing regarding securing other award slots.

For ACLT, two Trainee Costs Lawyer case studies were approved and shared on social media, with strong engagement levels.

Press releases/Comments:

High-value bill disputes highlight urgent need for reform, says ACL, release drafted and distributed on 8/7.

ACL consults on the introduction of 'Costs Paralegal', release drafted and distributed on 26/7.

Coverage:

New Law Journal: (PDF only) (5/7)

New Law Journal: <https://www.newlawjournal.co.uk/content/if-it-ain-t-broke--180609?UID=9ae5246e-09b3-415c-9f72-d16eaccd5f36> (5/7)

Solicitors Journal: <https://www.solicitorsjournal.com/sjarticle/highvalue-bill-disputes-highlight-urgent-need-for-reform-says-acl?pass=308960> (8/7)

Association of District Judges Newsletter: (PDF only) (July/Aug)

Legal Futures: <https://www.legalfutures.co.uk/latest-news/costs-lawyers-call-for-guidelines-rates-and-judiciary-recognition> (9/7)

Solicitors Journal: <https://www.solicitorsjournal.com/sjarticle/highvalue-bill-disputes-highlight-urgent-need-for-reform-says-acl?pass=308960> (8/7)

Legal Futures: <https://www.legalfutures.co.uk/latest-news/what-is-a-bill-costs-lawyers-urge-regime-reform> (10/7)

Thomson Reuters Dispute Resolution Blog: <https://uk.practicallaw.thomsonreuters.com/w-043-7816> (15/7)



Association
of Costs
Lawyers



PR update report

Law Society Gazette:

https://edition.pagesuite.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=6d4d4655-1b80-4f78-8214-702d210e6279&utm_source=gazette_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Gazette+weekly+edition+19+July+2024_07%2f19%2f2024 (page 14) (19/7)

The Times: <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/law/article/billing-rules-are-out-of-date-and-need-overhauling-8gqk9xt8z> (25/7)

Solicitors Journal: <https://www.solicitorsjournal.com/sjarticle/acl-consults-on-the-introduction-of-costs-paralegal?pass=381881> (29/7)

New Law Journal: <https://www.newlawjournal.co.uk/content/further-consultation-ahead-for-costs-lawyers> (31/7)

Legal Futures: <https://www.legalfutures.co.uk/latest-news/green-light-for-billionaire-to-challenge-law-firms-13m-fees> (2/8)

Legal Futures: <https://www.legalfutures.co.uk/latest-news/acl-set-to-introduce-costs-paralegals-to-boost-profession> (8/8)

New Law Journal: PDF only (9/8)

New Law Journal:

<https://lnprodstorage.z35.web.core.windows.net/NLJ/2024/8083/wlyB1I9eSPH9L1LbVvC1iy3WOZONKrxz/html/index.html> (9/8)

Additional activity:

Throughout July/August: Writing up ACL roundtable and obtaining quote approvals. All approvals now received (Birss LJ providing his on 30/8), so will now draft the press release.

1/7: PR meeting.

1/7: Meeting with Irwin Mitchell and DVB to discuss possible costs lawyer awards.

8/7: Edited JC's article for *New Law Journal* and sent to the publication.

8/7: Edited SA's article for *Litigation Funding* and sent to the publication.

8/7: Edited KK's previous article for *Litigation Funding* and sent to the *Association of District Judges Newsletter*.

9/7: Chased award organisers re: possible Costs Lawyers categories. *Legal 500* declined.

10/7: Sent ACLT case studies for publication in *Costs Lawyer*.

11/7: Spoke to editor of *The Times* re: an opinion piece on reform for high-value bills who commissioned 450 words. Copy drafted by KJ and sent to JR for approval.

11/7: KJ drafted a letter to editor on the same issue and sent to the publication in DVB's name on 12/7. See coverage above.

11/7: *The Times* copy signed-off by JR and sent to the publication. See coverage above.



Association
of Costs
Lawyers



PR update report

30/7: NR discussing with DBV about what action to take over involvement of John Hayes, director of Calculus Costs, in Southport attack.

31/7: Social media post about John Hayes agreed and sent out. Story for newsletter sent for approval.

w/c 5/7: Various social posts on behalf of ACLT and ACL profiling the two trainee Costs Lawyer case studies.

12/8: PR meeting.

12/8: Agreed topic with *New Law Journal* for next article. AD drafting.

20/8: Confirmed sponsorship of *Modern Law Awards*' new category for Costs Lawyer of the Year Award.

22/8: Followed-up with above on next steps and sent company bio and social media handles for publicity materials.

22/8: Contacted MR at ACLT to request contacts for further case studies.

28/8: Sent proposal for ACL In Conversation event which will be discussed at Council next week.

30/8: Drafted social media calendar and sent to PRAM.

30/8: Call with LexisNexis re: introduction of a Costs Team of the Year category at their awards. Awaiting further details on 2/9.

30/8: NR sent proposed questions for feature on ethnic minority Costs Lawyers to PRAM and DBV.

Planned activity for September:

- Agree ACL In Conversation event.
- Conduct interviews for feature on ethnic minority Costs Lawyers
- Invite journalists to ACL London conference.
- Obtain final approval for ACL roundtable and draft and distribute press release.
- Confirm topics with *Litigation Funding*, *Thomson Reuters Dispute Resolution Blog* and *New Law Journal* on next articles.
- Finalise and promote Modern Law Awards Costs Lawyer of the Year category.
- Decide on how to proceed with LexisNexis awards.

ENDS