

Women in Criminal Law

Annual General Meeting – 1 May 2018 @ 18:15 at Doughty Street Chambers

Minutes of Meeting

1. Welcome from Katy Thorne. Introductions from all present.

Katie Thorne QC, Doughty Street, Founder of organisation
Perveen Hill, Hodge, Jones & Allen, Treasurer
Chloe Birch, Sonn Macmillan Walker, Communications Secretary responsible for website
Aileen Colhoun, Hickman & Rose, Secretary.
Simone Isaacs, Ewing Law
Teresa Hendrickx, Freelance Advocate, Member of LCCSA Committee and 14 hour subcommittee
Emma Goodall, Doughty Street, Founder Member
Caroline Liggins, Hodge Jones & Allan
Amy Cox, Sonn Macmillan Walker, Events and Mentoring Secretary
Diana Wilson, 9 Bedford Row
Danielle Manson, Floating Pupil and on CBA Executive Committee
Julia Smart, Furnival Chambers
Leona Roberts, Slater & Gordon
Lucinda Nicholls, founding Partner Nicholls & Nicholls
Christina Josephides, 4 Breems Buildings
Rebecca Moss, ex-Paralegal SMW, Now 4BB
Tejal-Roma Williams, CPS
Annabel Timan, Doughty Street Chambers,
Dulcie Piff, Birds solicitors
Emily Shiels, Hickman & Rose
Claire Wallace, Hickman & Rose
Sarra Kerslake, HCA, SMW
Fiona Haddadeen, SMW
HHJ Kaly Kaul, QC
Lucy Tapper, Furnival Chambers

2. Report for the year – Katy Thorne

- Why the organisation was set up. Hard to be a woman in criminal law. This organisation is about getting women to succeed. Important that the organisation represents both prosecution and defence, public and private sector – all about women in work in the criminal law and making sure we get on and succeed.
- How can this be achieved? Events about career development, mentoring, maternity issues, appraisals, running a practice - soft skills. Equally important is getting to know each other. Networking/nurturing part to each event. Supporting each other and sharing experiences.
- What have we been doing? Diverse range of founding members comprising doers and figureheads. Meeting once a month; planning events. Website set up by Chloe Birch. We have a reasonably good spectrum of people as founder members. Hoping to enthuse everyone at the AGM to join in the committee and to take on roles.

- Past events – big launch event - Amy Cox and Jess Dunk instrumental in organising. Mentoring event last week. Amy is running a matchmaking scheme. Mrs Justice Cheema-Grubb has offered a judicial group mentoring scheme. Is keen to hear from people of 10+ call and she and her colleagues will try to help.
 - Events coming up – London Legal Walk 21 May – co-ordinator Emma Goodall.
13 June at CPS HQ, Rose Court, Tim Collins - consultant who advises on such things as QC applications; applications for judicial appointment and interviews generally.
 - We have attracted some media attention with articles in the Times and Law Society Gazette. Journalist keen to talk to women as they don't have such a voice. If anyone is interested in having a voice, let us know.
3. Treasurer's Report - Perveen Hill. See attached accounts Nov 17 – April 18. Sponsorship has gone very well - from chambers, solicitors' firms and an anonymous sponsor. Raised £10,500. Membership fees £4,863.01. Still have healthy balance of £10,138.47 to use towards events, marketing and the website. Still looking for more sponsorship so please pass on my details. (Sponsors introduced on screen.)
4. Election of Officers and Committee Members

Closing date for nominations was 24 April. For the first year at least, want to keep all founder members on the committee as they all fulfil important roles and ensure diversity and continuity. Amongst founder members we have agreed nominations for our officers. Perveen Hill – Treasurer - the only person who can operate the bank account. Katy Thorne - Chair. Aileen Colhoun, Secretary – someone to keep together all the governing documents. Chloe Birch – Communications Secretary, responsible for the website. Amy Cox - events and mentoring.

Committee members and volunteers. Invitation for volunteers to take on roles., Roles which need to be filled are helping with websites, Twitter feed, mentoring – events, talking to the media, helping with policy – duty solicitor 14 hour rule, flexible court hours, maternity leave, flexible working, GDPR and how it impacts upon us –finance - assistance with fundraising; membership – would like to roll out across country to keep the numbers up. Need to liaise with AWB, Association of Women Judges, LCCSA, CLSA, equality officers on the Law Society and Bar Council.

Volunteers.

- Leona Roberts –website.
- Fiona Haddadeen and Lucinda Nicholls - Twitter.
- Diana Wilson and Sarrah Kerslake - mentoring
- Nehal Vasani, Lucinda Nicholls and Christina? –events.
- Julia Smart and Diana Wilson - articles and media interviews.
- Teresa Hendrickx, Caroline Liggins, Amy Cox - policy on 14 hour rule
- Soraya Lawrence and Beth O' Reilly - policy?
- Fiona Haddadeen - membership.

5. Contributions from the floor

Confirmed that there are discounts for membership if under 5 years qualified/not qualified/sponsoring firms but not possible to do retrospective discounts. Not stopping law students from joining but not encouraging as the organisation is about people working in the criminal law.

Suggestions for events – dealing with everyday sexism; keeping ourselves safe; what can be daunting to newly qualified; mentoring events tailored to specific topics - pupils applying for tenancy or applying for training contracts; those crossing practice areas - solicitors to barristers and vice versa and those wishing to practice in different areas of crime. Large swathe of women in the middle, not newly qualified or yet at top of profession - who need support and assistance.