



Association of Women  
Solicitors London  
*Newsletter*



DIARY DATES

*See page 13 for all of our  
upcoming events*

July 2018

*Issue 12*



ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS

Upcoming Events – Save the Dates

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July*  
AWS Summer Party

*Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September*  
Transparency in the Family Courts

*Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019*  
Sadlers Wells Ballet – Swan Lake

*Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019*  
AGM and Annual Dinner

*For details and booking please visit  
[www.awslondon.co.uk](http://www.awslondon.co.uk)*

*Have you seen our website  
lately?*

Keep up to date with all the latest AWSL news,  
events and opportunities at our website:

[www.awslondon.co.uk](http://www.awslondon.co.uk)

*If you would like to write an article for the next  
edition of our newsletter, please email your  
suggestion to our Editor-in-Chief Eunice Shang-  
Simpson on [awslondon1@gmail.com](mailto:awslondon1@gmail.com) and she  
will be delighted to consider your proposal.*

**How to contact us**

Please email us on: [AWSLondon1@gmail.com](mailto:AWSLondon1@gmail.com)

Don't forget that you can also keep up with our  
activities by joining our [LinkedIn](#) group, or by following  
us on [Twitter](#)



# Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to our summer Newsletter and a big thank you to our Committee working together to support AWSL - do come and meet us all at our summer party on 26th July, at Radcliffe Chambers on their wonderful roof terrace overlooking Lincoln's Inn in the heart of legal London.

I have been busy in my first months as Chair promoting opportunities, diversity and inclusion for women in law, our mission at AWSL!

I was delighted to meet so many of you at our House of Lords Reception kindly hosted by Baroness Ruth Henig. This was AWSL at its best when members at all stages of careers listened to inspiring Baronesses sharing their experiences as working peers; chatted about workplace challenges, gave supportive encouragement to be resilient and enjoy opportunities as they present themselves. Read more about the six baronesses we met in Margaret's article on page 10. Baroness Usha Prashar, inaugural chair of the Judicial Appointments Commission, was particularly keen for us to apply for judicial appointments. Do see our website for current opportunities.

More women are needed in legal professional leadership roles. I went along to the IBA's launch of their [Women in Commercial Legal Practice](#) Report which highlighted the need for role models and mentorship opportunities. One of the Report's findings was "Overall, men were more satisfied with how their career had progressed, its trajectory versus expectations, and the opportunities for professional career development and promotion available to them ...". The report urges law firms to identify discriminatory barriers and revisit their diversity policies.

Women are now the majority of practising solicitors in England and Wales but improving gender balance is still a work in progress, with less than a third of partners being women. Supporting women in leadership roles is part of the Law Society's Women in Leadership project. Insights will help identify key trends in the legal workplace and be fed back to form a major report next year marking 100 years of Women in Law. Taking part in one of Christina Blacklaws's Roundtables was really motivating - do get involved by hosting your own roundtables. We will post more details on our website soon.

Sharing good practice on diversity policies is a focus of the Law Society's Diversity and Inclusion Forum London, South East and East Region. The Forum provides an opportunity to learn from other law firms what works and encourage discussion about equality in the workplace. If your firm is not already a member do join the Forum. I was especially interested to learn about [National Inclusion](#) Week (24-30 September), an excellent time to launch any inclusion initiatives you may be considering.

A recent new initiative is the new Law Society's Recharger Course. I was particularly pleased to be involved in the redesign of the returner course now relaunched with a broader remit and flexible support. Women returners bring motivation, enthusiasm and are ready to contribute. Read more about Returning in Kate's article on page 3. If supported hire positions are offered, returners can help bridge the current gap of women in leadership roles and improve diversity. If you wish to reignite your career do check out the new career skills webinars. Details can be found on our [website](#).

The recent Gender Pay reporting clearly illustrates the absence of women in senior roles. At the time of writing, I am looking forward to our Gender Pay discussion event with Leigh Day which will give opportunity to learn more about past present and future gender pay issues

Women have been sitting in House of Lords (established 14<sup>th</sup> century) for sixty years but only this year did the first statue of a woman arrive in Parliament Square. Walking past the statue en route to our House of Lords Reception made me think about the lack of women in leadership roles and the importance of working together to ensure Millicent Fawcett will not stand alone in Parliament Square for long.

Have a wonderful summer and I hope you enjoy reading our Newsletter.

Best,

*Gillian*



*AWSL Chair, Gillian Fielden*

## Women Returners

By Kate Mansfield, Relationship Director at Women Returners

*Kate Mansfield, Relationship Director at Women Returners, discusses the benefits of hiring senior professional women back into the workforce following a career break.*

*What are the economic benefits of hiring professionals back into the workplace following a career break?*



*Kate Mansfield*

*“Addressing the career break penalty for women could boost the UK economy by £1.7 billion”. (2016 research by PwC & Women Returners).*

In 2016, research by PwC and Women Returners confirmed the potential economic benefits of addressing the career break penalty for women returning to work after a career break. It noted significantly that there are 427,000 female professionals currently on career break who wish to return to work at some point in the future. This could increase female earnings by £1.1 billion annually which when combined with their increased spending power equates to the increased GDP figure quoted above.

Government research also supports this, reinforced by the 2017 budget announcement that £5m would go towards developing the number of returnships in the UK (high-level, paid, usually project-based internships designed specifically for women returning to work).

### *What are the benefits to employers?*

From an employer perspective, hiring returning professionals back into the workplace has significant benefits. Many organisations struggle to attract and retain senior female talent and this is a way in which they can be more creative and open-minded through broadening how they look to resource key skill-sets.

Our clients, who engage with us to run returner programmes or to support returning individuals they are directly hiring into posts, repeatedly tell us of the multiple benefits of improving gender diversity and having been able to attract strong female role models into key positions.

Additionally, these individuals are very experienced and highly skilled professionals. They have often brought a huge amount of value from their experience both pre- and during their career breaks, which may have broadened their perspective and focus. This can lead to valuable and diverse perspectives when it comes to decision-making, problem solving and leading others in organisations.

They are also likely to be highly motivated and be very clear on their reasons for wishing to work. Whilst there may be a multitude of reasons as to why they took a career break, from parental reasons to elder care or relocation, many of these professionals have kept up their skills during their break through a variety of activities including paid and non-paid roles, studying, and maintaining and expanding their professional qualifications.

### *What are the risks?*

Some of the key barriers to women returning to work historically have been due to negative perceptions by employers and recruiters of a CV gap. Highly skilled and highly experienced senior women have often been written off because of a perception around loss of skills and lack of perceived value. Employers have an expectation that new hires need to 'hit the ground running' and can be very risk averse to anyone who they believe may require additional support.

### *How can employers reduce this risk?*

Since 2014, we have been supporting organisations to tackle both these negative perceptions internally and to demonstrate the benefits that returning professionals can bring. Through our bespoke return to work consultancy and coaching programmes, we have helped employers to reduce risk by providing a supported route back in for these women allowing them to demonstrate the value they can add, and to fully realise their potential and to reconnect with their professional identities.

We have seen significant growth in the last 3 years in the number of employers offering returnship opportunities and in proactively promoting roles to the returner community. Having taken root originally in financial services, we are now working with organisations across multiple sectors including telecoms, construction, professional services, law & central and local government.

### *Who are Women Returners?*

Women Returners is a consulting, coaching and network organisation specialising in enabling the return to work of professional women after an extended career break. We have led the introduction of returnship programmes into the UK since 2014, partnering with leading organisations including 02, EY, Skanska & Balfour Beatty to launch returnships and direct hire returner programmes, which create a bridge back to work for this untapped talent pool. Our corporate services include consulting on best practice returner programme development, providing returner coaching support and enabling access to the hard-to-reach group of high-calibre women. We are a social business: alongside our commercial activities, we run a free network community providing advice and support to returning professionals with over 3,000 subscribed members. We also act as a voice and advocate for the returner community in national media and Government forums.

For more information, please see [here](#).



## Women in the Courtroom



On 13 April 2018, the International Bar Association held its Women's Conference at the Royal Horseguards Hotel, London. One of the sessions, 'Women in the Courtroom', (as pictured) was a session organised by the AWSL. The panel were an eminent and diverse group of legal professionals including lawyers and members of the judiciary from Brazil, the US and the UK (one of whom and the only man on the panel, Jonathan Ball, was a partner at Norton Rose Fulbright in London). We were also fortunate to have one of the Directors from the Judicial Appointments Commission in London on the panel, Lori Frecker.

### United States

There were common themes as each panel member described the low levels of senior appointments to the judiciary of women in their jurisdictions. Angelika Hunnefeld of the New York bar cited a study from the New York Bar Association ('If Not Now, When? Achieving Equality for Women Attorneys in the Courtroom and in ADR' by the NY State Bar Association Task Force on Women's Initiatives in 2017) that found that notwithstanding that women have been graduating from law school and entering the legal profession in substantial numbers for the past 30 years, women have not advanced to the highest levels of private practice or corporate law departments at the same rate as men. The gender gap remains wide in the courtroom with a small percentage of women as lead counsel or trial

attorneys – the Florida Bar has 1,042 lawyers who are board certified as Civil Trial Specialists, 46 of whom are women which is less than 5%. In order to become a Civil Trial Specialist, in addition to a number of other requirements, a lawyer must have handled at least 15 contested civil cases as lead counsel. There was a low percentage of women attorneys appearing in a speaking role in courts at every level and in every type of court. Only 26.7% of women appeared in NY State Courts and only 24.4% of women in NY Federal Courts. In public interest matters, mainly criminal matters, there were only 30.9% of women appearing as counsel.

Female attorneys comprise about 25% of attorneys in lead counsel roles in courtrooms state wide. The results were strikingly similar in commercial and criminal cases within the private sector. Overall, women attorneys in the public sector, however, fared far better than their counterparts in the private sector. The low percentage of women attorneys appearing in a speaking role in courts was found at every level and in every type of court upstate and downstate, federal and state, trial and appellate, criminal and civil, ex parte applications and multi-party matters. The study is due to be repeated in 2019 by which time it is hope that the situation will have improved significantly.

The causes of the gender gap were implicit bias and social factors. Senior lawyers tend to be overwhelmingly male, and they may tend to choose male trial partners. Women are viewed as too emotional or overly aggressive or unreliable due to family obligations. There were social factors as well, such as the fact that starting a family and having to achieve a work life balance tends to disadvantage women.

One step which may improve the position of female attorneys in NY is a proposal to change the Rules of Judicial Administration to allow litigation to be suspended for 3 months where one of the advocates requires parental leave because they are pregnant. This is similar to a procedural rule in the Italian Courts which enables a judge to direct that a trial is listed outside of the period of an advocate's pregnancy and confinement. The Florida Bar Association asked the The Rules of Judicial Administration Committee to reconsider the proposal and their decision is awaited. Other possible steps to improve the position of female advocates were mentioned by Angelika, such as more support from the judiciary, law school guidance and

training to women (in law centres), client support, law firm initiatives (giving young lawyers experience through pro bono work) and greater awareness and support of the position of female attorneys amongst the legal community.

### England

Helen Mountfield QC gave a powerful account of women members of the profession in England. She said it started with the case against the Law Society brought by Gwyneth Bebb in 1913 who, despite having achieved first class marks in jurisprudence from Oxford, had her application to the Law Society to sit the preliminary examinations with a view to qualifying as a Solicitor returned because she was a woman. Bebb was unsuccessful in her challenge as the Court dismissed her claim but in 1919 the Sex Discrimination (Removal) Act was passed which removed the bar. In the intervening years, the position of women is still problematic. Helen said that when the stakes are high, it is men who tend to be instructed over and over again rather than women. Strikingly, no senior counsel appointed in the Brexit case in 2017 ((R on the application of Miller) v The Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union) were women – each of the 7 lawyers instructed by the government were men. The only women to speak at all during the hearing before the Supreme Court were Helen herself who spoke for a mere 30 minutes and Lady Hale who made up one of the Supreme Court. Helen said that there was a lot of hostility to women in the courtroom in her experience. So what should women do to address the problem?

Helen said there were 4 things – (1) recognise the gender pay gap (2) complain when judges like Lord Sumption made unacceptable statements about the dangers of rushing, as he sees it, towards gender equality (3) 'bigging up' women's achievements and (4) seek a critical mass of women wherever possible to improve their reach and influence.

The only mention of the introduction of quotas came from Jonathan Ball who thought that there was a strong case for quotas given the lack of progress in women achieving senior positions in the judiciary in recent years and the prospect of slow, if any improvement, in the future in the absence of quotas.

*By Angela Hogan  
AWS London Committee Member*



*AWSL Committee Member,  
Angela Hogan*



## AWS London Role Models

There are so many excellent role models in our profession and we want to increase the visibility of women lawyers. So, we welcome members sending us details of someone who has perhaps inspired them from afar or helped them through a particular case or given encouraging advice. Feel free to send suggestions to [awslondon1@gmail.com](mailto:awslondon1@gmail.com)

### Rajka Vlahovic

*Solicitor & Accredited Justice Expert*



Rajka Vlahovic qualified as a solicitor in 1986 having taken the post graduate conversion course at Nottingham Trent University. Initially specialising in criminal defence litigation in private practice, she joined the Crown Prosecution Service as a Crown Prosecutor at Central Branch in London in 1990. She went on to work at London Area Headquarters and CPS National Headquarters where she was responsible for prosecuting the most serious cases in London and nationally.

After leaving the Crown Prosecution Service in 2000, she went on to hold a number of legal advisory and policy positions in other government departments including HM Customs and Excise, the Home Office and Attorney General's Office where she specialised in international cooperation in criminal matters. She also represented the UK at Eurojust (the EU's judicial cooperation office) as the UK's deputy national member and later worked as senior legal adviser at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

After leaving the civil service in 2011 she went on to complete an LLM with distinction in international law and criminal justice at the University of East London and additionally was awarded the Liechtenstein prize for the best LLM results.

Currently she is an accredited justice expert with governmental, inter-governmental and international organisations working on capacity building projects in fragile and conflict affected jurisdictions most recently in East Africa, eastern Europe, the Caucasus and western Balkans.



## Past AWS Events

### Law Reporting and Open Justice in a Digital World

17<sup>th</sup> April 2018



On the 17th April, AWS hosted an exciting talk with Paul Magrath (@maggotlaw), Head of Product Development and Online Content at the Incorporated Council of Legal Research (the ICLR). The ICLR is the leading supplier of law reports for England and Wales and the talk covered law reporting and open justice in the legal world. The audience was given a sweeping history of law reporting, from thick books used in the 1200's to documents available electronically, online today.

Reporting of cases started in the 1200-1500's, where reports were written up in Anglo Normal (or 'Law French'), and these were known as 'year books'. The complexity of the archaic French-Latin language used for these reports, as seen in this part

of the famous 'Brickbat quote' showed how much change was needed, especially for the current law students, who found it difficult to understand the texts. An example is:

*"Richardson Chief Justice de Common Banc al assises al Salisbury in Summer 1631 fuit assault per prisoner la condemne pur felony, que puis son condemnation ject an brickbat a le dit justice, que narrowly mist, et pur ceo immediatly fuit indictment drawn per Noy envers le prisoner, et son dexter manus ampute et fix al gibbet, sur que luy mesme immediatement hange in presence de court."*

Suffice it to say, an English commentary was developed soon after by James Dyer, which proved useful for the students at the time. Reporting slowly grew and the legal world saw the introduction of the Headnote by Sir James Burrow, and Campbell eventually included solicitors alongside barristers.

However, at the time incompetent reporting became a problem and gradually led to a costly and convoluted system. The ICLR was therefore formed in London in 1865 to combat this. The objectives of the institution were, and still are, to be convenient, reasonably priced and professionally controlled.

The ICLR publishes the four central volumes of law reports (AC, QB, Ch and Fam) collectively known as the 'rainbow series'. Magrath stated that out of 10,000 judgments a year, a good filtering process is paramount so that only the ones which have the four key principles present to report a judgment are publicly available. Others may still be accessible online through BAILII, but still not all judgments are made available to the public.

In the 1990's the UK and rest of the world underwent major digitalisation which impacted the legal industry. This meant reports were being produced in digital formats, and eventually in 2011 the ICLR launched a website, making reports accessible to the public online. However, it has been evident that online reporting has issues with keeping statutes up to date.

Magrath stated that the ability for judgments to be interpreted correctly and relayed in a way which is understandable for the public is an extremely important area, and good reporting to keep the judiciary accountable has been on an apparent decline in recent years. This area used to largely be covered by the press, but journalism tends to cover the theatrics of high-profile celebrity cases, which get the most reader attention. However, this does not mean to say that there aren't journalists who do not give an accurate and interesting account today; especially with the rise



of social media platforms such as Twitter where legal bloggers are given freedom to discuss and debate their own opinions and ideas from what has been reported. Of course, these forums can have issues of their own. A change for more transparency may be on the horizon, as an evident push has been seen by Sir James Munby, President of the Family Division 2013. He expressed that all cases should be reported, but with suitable redactions.

The talk concluded with insights of incorporating AI into the future of law reporting and revealed some of the exciting but perhaps impractical possibilities being put forward in the legal world today. These ideas for the future ranged from laptops replacing books in the courtroom, to being able to plead guilty electronically.

Although the UK has seen some newer, modern court buildings constructed. Such as Manchester Civil Justice Centre (charmingly named 'the filing cabinet'). The most desperate need of modernisation is the internal workings of the justice system.



The Ministry of Justice has been recently involved in consultations for a £1bn modernisation project of the courts. Digitalisation of court data has been seen to be successful in Turkey with reports that the service has become faster, more transparent, less costly and greener.

However, there are arguments against hearings being conducted remotely, and implications with a defendant having the ability to plead guilty online. There have been worries that this may lead to a rise in the amount of criminal convictions and the defendant not fully taking into account the consequences of pressing a 'guilty' button.

Additionally, a virtual courtroom where parties and witnesses would log in remotely may pose the same problems. The process would not be subject to the same scrutiny by the public and the press which they are today. This creates a transparency issue for the justice system because somehow the information of the case will still need to be relayed to the public, and there is a lack of face-to-face accountability. There may also be other issues such as technology failing and poor-quality interactions through a digital medium. Benefits however are the cost of travel will be cut and generally more convenient for all parties involved.

In conclusion, the UK needs a compromise to modernise the traditional system. Phases have currently been rolled out, which include a 'decision tree' chat bot, a case officer to provide case management and attempt mediation and judiciary to determine on documents or via video conference of the hearing. Additionally, online access to audio-visual publications and hearings, but not confidential documents, may in the future be made available. The most important issue is for the process to be scrutinised. Proposals have been put forward for viewing booths, which are terminals a person can enter and see a virtual courtroom, or a live courtroom with the parties actually present. This could increase public access if they can log on in a quick and easy way.

*By Eleanor May  
AWS London Committee Member*



*AWSL Committee Member,  
Eleanor May*

## House of Lords Reception AWSL: How to be a Baroness

Kindly hosted by Baroness Ruth Henig, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018



On 5 June the AWSL members were invited as guests of Baroness Ruth Henig to attend the House of Lords (HL) to hear about her work as a peer and to meet other peers, some with a legal background. What became clear very quickly is that routes to being a life peer are diverse. All the peers were very modest about their achievements and their routes to peerage. Some of the information below has been gleaned from Wikipedia and the appointments mentioned are just a brief resume of these distinguished Baronesses' careers.

Ruth's path to HL was perhaps a more traditional route. Her background was as an historian at Lancaster University and as a political activist. She was a member of Lancashire County Council for 24 years. She became a specialist in policing and was made a life peer in 2004. She has continued to focus on policing. After warmly welcoming us, Ruth quickly opened the floor to the other Baronesses.

The first was Usha Prasher. Usha is a cross bench member of House of Lords having been made a Life Peer in 1999. Usha's experience is diverse. After a degree in politics and later studies in Social Administration, she became executive chairman of the Parole Board. Usha was Inaugural Chairman of the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) and stressed that the JAC would welcome more women applicants for judicial appointments. Usha has served on the Iraq Enquiry since 2009 and was sworn into the Privy Council the same year.

The next peer to address us was Dianne Hayter. Dianne studied Social and Public Administration. She was General Secretary of the Fabian Society, and then Chief Executive of the European Parliamentary Labour party. She was chair of the Legal Services Consumer Panel is now shadow Brexit Minister in HL and is taking the government to task on many Brexit issues.

Gloria Hooper qualified as a solicitor and held several distinguished appointments including editor in current law at Sweet & Maxwell and a partner at Taylor Wessing. She is also an Honorary Member of AWSL. Gloria was a conservative candidate who was successful in winning the Liverpool seat, (which had been considered a safe labour seat), in the European Parliament in 1979. Gloria joined HL in 1985 and is currently Deputy Speaker and Deputy chairman of Committees in the Lords.

Jean Corston joined the Lords in 2005. She obtained an LLB at the London School of Economics (LSE) and qualified as a barrister. She was a Labour Member of Parliament for Bristol East from 1995 to 2005 and was the

first woman to hold a position as chair of the Parliamentary Labour Party. She was commissioned by the Home office to conduct a report into vulnerable women in the criminal justice system. The report outlines “the need for a distinct radically different, visibly-led, strategic, proportionate, holistic, women centred, integrated approach.” The report has largely informed government policy in that arena.

Jean told us that she joined the bar at a time when the profession was still male dominated in the early 1980s. Jean was candid about the likely challenges post Brexit, in areas as varied as Criminal Justice and Family Law, but was hopeful that solutions would be found. She is funny and self-deprecating, recalling some delightful anecdotes about life as a Baroness.

Jean’s route to the Lords sounds conventional, but actually it wasn’t. She came from a modest background and grew up on a council estate. She married at 19 and accompanied her husband to Kenya where he worked in radio. She began an Open University degree at 28, qualified as a barrister at 40 and became an MP at 50.

Last but certainly not least, we met Llin Golding. Llin qualified as a radiographer and currently serves as a Patron of the Society of Radiographers. She was an MP from 1986 to 2001 and became a life peer in 2001.

We were reminded that although women were given the right to stand for Parliament in 1918, it was not until 1958 that they were allowed to become Life Peers of the House of Lords. We heard the moving story of Margaret Thomas Viscountess Rhondda who succeeded in taking her father’s title after he died, but who was not able to take his seat in the Upper House. Lady Rhondda was a militant suffragette who had spent time in prison for setting fire to a post-box. She was determined to take her father’s seat in the Lords and based her claim on the Sex Discrimination Act 1919. Her case was referred to a House of Lords Committee for Privileges. Initially the committee found in her favour, but the decision was reversed by the Lord Chancellor. Despite private members bills and the intervention of Nancy Astor women life peers could only sit in the Lords following the Life Peerages Act in 1958.

We were impressed by how well the peers got on despite political differences. We learned that there was a collegiate relationship between the women peers who all had a lot in common fighting for better outcomes for women, less discrimination and Bills in gender neutral language. They stressed that women lawyers with our particular skills could be worthy members of the peerage and have a role in shaping the future laws of this country.

We are very grateful to all the Baronesses for their time and we are particularly grateful to Ruth not only for pulling this together, but also for generously conducting guided tours for several groups, so AWSL members could see the HL at close quarters. It was a wonderful evening and a great example of some of the unique “members only” events organised by AWSL.

*By Margaret Hatwood  
AWSL London Committee Member*



*AWSL Committee Member,  
Margaret Hatwood*

## Holland Park Opera: La Traviata

21<sup>st</sup> June 2018

What better way to celebrate the longest day of the year than an evening at Holland Park Opera? A walk through a beautiful park, maybe a picnic in the grounds followed by a glass of fizz with old friends and a chance to meet new ones. And then there is the opera. This year it was Verdi's La Traviata. For many it is their favourite opera, with very familiar arias. A tale of the doomed lovers Violetta and Alfredo. Violetta is a courtesan and based on Marie Duplessis with whom the writer Alexandre Dumas fell in love. We know things are not going to end well at an early stage with the opera starting with laboured breathing, then Violetta coughing up blood in the first act.



As ever the path of true love does not go smoothly, with Violetta sending Alfredo away at the behest of his father. However, the lovers are re-united before the end. Violetta's excellent performance and the sublime music moved at least one member of my party to tears. The sets and costumes were exquisite.

I am no opera buff, but it seems to me that the role of Violetta must be one of the most demanding. Scarcely a moment passes without her beautiful voice being heard.

This production was given a glowing review by the Times, the Guardian and others. So, if you have time to catch it before the end of the season do. If you find the idea of opera a challenge, cast your

fears to one side. This opera company produces user friendly operas with surtitles, so you can keep up with the story. The opera is under cover, in an elaborate tent like structure, so performances take place rain or shine. This allows you to hear the park around you, notably the evocative calls of the peacocks who add to the drama.

If you were not able to make the opera this year then do try and go next year; it is a very special evening.

*By Margaret Hatwood  
AWS London Committee Member*



*AWSL Committee Member,  
Margaret Hatwood*



# Association of Women Solicitors London Newsletter

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## Editor:

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018

#### AWS Summer Drinks

– Join us for a drink or two on the beautiful terrace at Radcliffe Chambers.



### Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018

#### Transparency in the Family Courts -

Paul Magrath, Julie Doughty and Lucy Reed have all kindly agreed to speak to AWSL about their book - and the issues surrounding transparency in the family courts.

### Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 - Early Bird Tickets

#### Sadlers Wells Ballet – Swan Lake

- Next year's ballet trip will be to see the absolutely stunning Swan Lake. We have limited tickets available which will be released very soon – keep an eye on your emails and get yours early as numbers are limited.

### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019 - Save the Date

**AGM & Annual Dinner 2019** - Put the date in your diary early to avoid missing out on what is always a wonderful evening.

Remember.... AWS London members obtain discounts for most events plus priority booking for our special events such as the opera in the summer and the ballet in January. If you would like to join, download and complete the application form at [www.awslondon.co.uk](http://www.awslondon.co.uk) or contact us by email at [AWSLondon1@gmail.com](mailto:AWSLondon1@gmail.com)

Further details of all our events [www.awslondon.co.uk](http://www.awslondon.co.uk)



# Association of Women Solicitors

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