



Spring 2011

The Bill of

Middlesex

Official magazine of Middlesex Law Society



**Young Members' Group
Inaugural Inter-University Quiz
Page 18-25**

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FUNCTIONS

16 April
5-a-side Football, Goals, Hayes
26 June
Middlesex CCC vs Gloucester CCC, Uxbridge CCC
June
5-a-side Football, Goals, Hayes
September
Charity Quiz Night, Drayton Court Hotel, W13
October
House of Parliament Event
11 November
Annual Dinner, Holiday Inn, Brentford
18 November
Supreme Court Visit

See Newsletter for ongoing events
Lunches for specialised interest groups will be
ongoing throughout the year. Contact our
Administrator or Hon. Social Secretary for details or
visit our website.

EDUCATION & TRAINING
PROGRAMME 2010-2011

11 May Insolvency Update, Grange Tavern
18 May Conveyancing Update, UWL
25 May Crime Update, UWL
21 Sept Employment Update, UWL
TBA Alcohol & Drug Testing, UWL
TBA Family Law Update, UWL

Visit our website for details. UWL is University of
West London (formerly TVU) - St Marys Road, Ealing
Campus. MU is Middlesex University - Hendon
Campus.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2011
18 April
16 May
20 June
18 July
19 September
17 October
21 November

2012
16 January
20 February

AGM
14 March 2012 - Middlesex University

Parliamentary Liaison
Robert Drepaul



www.middlesex-law.co.uk



It is my privilege to have been
elected as the President of
MLS for the 52nd year of the
society's service. This position
has been held by very
experienced senior and high
calibre Lawyers, including an
academic like Professor
Malcolm Davies. I will try my
very best to live and serve to
their standards and to the
satisfaction of the members
at large.

For those who have not heard about
me, I am the Partner of Sriharans
Solicitors and we are based in
Southall, Middlesex. I am a third
generation lawyer. I am familiar with
the traditions and the service of the
society because my husband Mr A
Sriharan has served in the committee
since 1987 and also as a President of
the society. I too have served in the
committee and also had the privilege
of serving as the Vice President to
Malcolm Davies and Simon Hobbs.
They were excellent Presidents and it
will be a hard act to follow. I will do
my best to lift the profile of the
society.

I have always held the view that The
Law Society in Chancery lane should
play a role as a trade union to defend
and look after the best interest of the
profession. The recent changes
appear to have brought The Law
Society nearly to that dream. I was
proud to see The Law Society
applying for Judicial Review to
protect the interest of the solicitors.
Mr Hudson and Miss Linda Lee are
passionately looking into the interest
of the Solicitors.

President's Page



Our MLS is blessed with an excellent Council member Mr Michael Garson who
is very forthright and makes an impact in the council not only as the member
of our Constituency but also for the benefit of all Solicitors in England and
Wales. He is not only a vociferous council member but also an academic. I am
proud to say that the TVU has recently awarded him with the Honorary
Professorship.

The Solicitors are facing hard time due to the stagnant market in the
Conveyancing field and the constant reduction in legal aid funds. I will urge the
members of the profession not to give up hope.

When I became a lawyer my father gave me some advice that 'If we can't
defend ourselves we are not fit to defend our clients'. Furthermore he added
that we should not be "undergoers" but we should be "overcomers". I request all
the members, to keep the hope alive and expect good times to come. We belong
to a profession which by nature a very definition may call itself 'the noblest
profession in the world' and in today's world lawyers not only contribute but are
in fact fundamental for the survival of democratic & civil society.

It is a pleasure to note that our committee has a young, hardworking solicitor
Darell Webb who has come forward to be my junior Vice President while holding
the responsibility of the Treasurer. The committee is also enriched with new
members and also a few past presidents who have joined the committee.

We have planned an extensive training programme for members. We have also
planned social events to have fun and to raise funds in the coming years. Last
year's annual dinner dance hosted by my Predecessor Simon Hobbs was an
enjoyable and successful event. The people who attended are still relishing the
enjoyment they had. I am keen to repeat the annual dinner dance and expect
all members and their friends not to miss out.

I am grateful to the committee who have given me authority to seek the
services of our Administrators Mr Peter Heasom whenever required.

I would like all the members to seek out your solicitor friends who have not yet
joined the society to become members. They can attend courses at a subsidised
cost and also can take part in many social events.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any of your concerns or for
information.

Renuka Sriharan
info@sriharanssolicitors.co.uk

Copy Deadlines 2010

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Winter Issue 18th November
Spring Issue 18th February

Anyone wishing to advertise or submit editorial for publication in the
Bill of Middlesex please contact Roger Swift, before copy deadline.

Email: rogerswift@benhampublishing.com
Tel: 0151 236 4141



Council Member's Report

Whilst the current recession continues SRA have published the new handbook which will replace the 2007 Code of Conduct from October of this year and is designed to transform the way legal services are delivered in England & Wales. Whether the rest of the world will follow is an open question but it would not be the first time that this country has lead the world to change its prevailing view.

There are three elements to the reforms. The Code of Conduct affects the ways in firms deliver services to clients and the way that SRA will supervise registered firms and those that work in them in relation to their conduct. Secondly the new authorisation rules will enable the licensing of alternative business structures with outside shareholders, and carrying on other types of services alongside legal services. The third element is the new three year plan and arrangements for professional indemnity insurance.

The publication Code of Conduct, with its ten principles and chapters containing outcomes and indicative behaviours, has changed a good deal over the course of the last twelve months. The final wording will need detailed consideration because it demands a new approach to the way in which work is approached, undertaken and done. Whilst it may be true to say, that there is little required by the Code which is alien to the way in which work is carried out now, it does through its phraseology and omission give a good deal more flexibility as to how necessary objectives are accomplished.

The final version as published contains some changes from the previous draft and improvements. A considerable amount of work and then revision has taken place in relation to Chapter 3 which relates to conflicts of interest. The familiar and detailed rules concerning conveyancing give way to what might at first appear to be a more permissive regime. However, each firm will have to make its own assessments as to whether its system and methods of carrying out business can be justified and relied upon to safely deliver the necessary outcomes.

The authorisation rules for alternative business structures introduce a rigorous application process which should mean that entry into the market will be strictly monitored. That should avoid the obvious threat from unsuitable investors in legal firms who cannot establish credentials that offer probity and history that provides some assurance of an understanding of the requirements of a regulated firm. The tests to enquire into the integrity of applicants was high on the agenda of matters considered and scrutinised by the Council when considering the SRA proposals.

There are a considerable number of organisations including claims management companies who provide services adjacent to reserved legal services and the integration of those organisations with legal firms including cross investment seems likely along with other more established supporters of the multi disciplinary model of practice such as Co-Op services. They will establish new competition in the market affecting some more than others in the short and medium term.

The Council debated over two meetings the basis on which it would approve the SRA's application to the Legal Services Board to be come a licensing authority. The application was ultimately approved and is now going through a further process where it will be scrutinised by advisers to the LSB with input from the OFT, the Judiciary and the Ministry of Justice, before the Lord Chancellor gives his approval, and deals with various pieces of enabling legislation.

This year's insurance renewal will soon be upon us and the shadow over the process was that cast by the SRA proposal for change to the terms of cover of the standard solicitors PII policy. The announcement by the SRA of the result of their consultation on professional indemnity arrangements came as a welcome surprise. A great deal of lobbying was carried out during the consultation period, and this included an alternative plan devised by the Law Society. This has been broadly adopted by the SRA and has enabled them to drop, at least for the next three years, its proposal whereby cover for financial institutions was to be excluded from the standard solicitors professional indemnity policy scheme. That change would have been a devastating blow for the many firms, who act for Banks and lending institutions in the ordinary course of transactions for private individuals and businesses, and for the reputation and image of solicitors generally.

The Conveyancing Quality Scheme, is progressing, but still at an early stage, and it is hoped that within the next few years, its membership will have grown sufficiently, to ensure that the SRA should not again feel the need to radically alter the minimum terms of cover. It is an essential part of the services provided by solicitors that all clients should be able to rely upon protection where

mistakes are made. One of the principle objections of the insurers, has been met, with the proposal to reduce the assigned risk pool, from twelve months to six months, and then to eliminate it completely from 2013. The staged plan appears to be a compromise which is acceptable to the insurers, and is a very welcome change so far as lenders are concerned. The CQS scheme is now open to applications, and hopefully will win the confidence of lenders and insurers alike over the next few years.

The challenges over the next six months are many. Alongside adapting current systems to risk manage against the outcomes of the Code of Conduct, firms will need to carefully consider new forms of competition that may either quickly, or over time, erode the loyalty of clients and encroach into particular areas of work.

In some ways, the challenge for newcomers, who originally saw legal services as a lucrative honeypot, may be rather greater than was anticipated. After all, margins are fine in most fields of work, and solicitors are as astute as anyone,

to searching out efficiencies and innovation that works. The revolution that started with the OFT investigation into legal services in 2001, has now completed its legislative cycle, and it will be the vision that has been created, that will be tested over the next few years. There may be no radical or further changes in prospect, but I would not rule out, an early set of amendments to the Code of Conduct.

Michael Garson
michael.garson@kaganmoss.co.uk

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Editorial



Young Members' Group

The Middlesex Law Society's Young Members' Group came of age with its very successful inaugural Inter University Quiz night between Middlesex University and the University of West London on the 6th April. It continues to hold its regular five-a-side football competition.

The Society decided a few years ago to open its membership to law students and paralegals. Whilst some of the committee had reservations at the time, this was an inspired change in our constitution. Whilst they are not eligible to sit on the main committee, these students, under the guidance of our Membership Secretary and Treasurer, formed the Young Members' Group. Students eligible for membership of the YMG are from the three main universities in Middlesex County namely, Middlesex University, University of West London (formerly Thames Valley University) and also if they decide to come on board, Brunel University.

So whilst the monarchy appears to have finally open its doors to 'middle England' with the marriage of Kate Middleton to William Windsor, the MLS also appears to have secured its future with the YMG. Well done to all involved with the YMG. Hope you enjoyed this edition of the Bill of Middlesex which is dedicated to the youth of today.

Jack Henry Vaisey Hobbs
born 2 April 2011 at 2.32am
at Stoke Mandeville Hospital,
weighing 7lb
to Simon and Clare Hobbs
with siblings Tom (7) and Martha (4).

Jasraj Singer
son of Manjit and Kamal Singer
born 28 March 2011
weighing 6.8 lbs
at Hillingdon Hospital.



Congratulations!
from the
Middlesex Law Society
Committee and Members



Reduce, reuse & recycle!

Reducing waste and using materials more efficiently could make your company more profitable. Have a look at your balance sheet to see what rubbish is costing you. Not only is reducing your rubbish good for your bank balance, it's good for your image as well.

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For more information about our organisation and some tips to help you reduce, reuse and recycle check out our website:
www.westlondonwaste.gov.uk



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Forenames _____

Name of Firm or Organisation _____

Postal Address or DX no: _____

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Email _____

Status & Area of Work _____ Date of Admission _____

Would you be interested in joining the Committee? Yes/No

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I enclose herewith my cheque for £ _____ for the current year, made payable to "Middlesex Law Society"

Signature _____ Date _____

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- Firm Full Membership: Partners/Solicitors 2-5 £125 per annum 6-10 £250 per annum 11 or more £500 per annum

Please return completed form and remittance to: The Membership Secretary, Middlesex Law Society,
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Covenants, Confidentiality, and Garden Leave
2nd edition



Edited by Paul Goulding QC and a team of specialist contributors

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WHEN EMPLOYEES SET UP COMPETITION WITH THEIR EMPLOYER – WHAT TO DO?

An Appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green Chambers

Under the editorship of Paul Goulding QC, this erudite and authoritative volume from the Oxford University Press on employee competition is a collaborative work.

Presenting the collective knowledge and expertise of twenty-three learned contributors mainly from Blackstone Chambers and Olswang, it offers a dual perspective: that of both barristers and solicitors – plus the two contributions from Strotz Friedberg, formerly DGI Forensics. Lord Justice Elias, who has contributed so much to the law of employee competition, has written a new Foreword to this edition, stressing in particular the eminently useful, practical and ‘user friendly’ approach taken by this book.

Since the first edition of ‘Employee Competition’ was published four years ago, this new second edition, aims to help practitioners meet the emerging challenges inherent in employee competition, particularly those emanating from cross border litigation. In so doing the book responds to the increasingly important international dimension within employee competition, namely – to quote the editor – ‘litigation to enforce restrictive covenants and protect trade secrets’.

As Elias has said, the book addresses, in addition to a multiplicity of other matters, the increasingly common problem of, for example, an employer who ‘suffers the loss of a team of employees who move en bloc to a rival or to set up in competition’.

In the words of Elias, this is a work which in ‘providing solutions to everyday problems’, and is of value to academic and practitioner alike. Equally valuable are the extensive tables of cases and legislation and the no less than twelve appendices which include sample clauses for every foreseeable contingency you will encounter, from Confidential Information Clauses and Garden Leave Clauses to sample Pre-action letters, sample Restrictive Covenants (employment) and of course, more.

As ‘Employee Competition’ covers the major developments in law and practice in this field in 12 main chapter headings and 12 excellent appendices to the beginning of October 2010, you can keep even more up to date and certainly up to the minute in this area via the Internet. Occasional new papers can, additionally, be accessed via the Blackstone Chambers Website.

That’s what we would call an exemplary service, and is definitely a ‘what to do’ book!

Discover the value of a Brunel student placement

With their up-to-date knowledge, strong research skills and expert support network, Brunel Law School Undergraduates have a lot to offer organisations that host them on placements or internships.

The School currently has 46 Undergraduates on placement, with law firms, in the public sector, with charities and not-for-profit organisations. Placements are typically a year long, although students also complete shorter internships.

Valuable additions

As Alison Taylor from Brunel’s Placement & Careers Centre points out, by the end of year two, when sandwich placements typically begin, students will have begun to develop excellent knowledge and skills. They’re well-equipped to take on new challenges and with support and training can make a significant contribution to the team.

Teaching at the school is research-driven. There are internationally renowned research centres in International Law and Public Law; and in Security, Human Rights & the Media.

Additionally 5 research groups operate in Consumer and Commercial; Criminal Justice; Intellectual Property; Internet & Media; Family; and Law & Religion.

Students are exposed to these research activities, so by the time of their sandwich placement they’ve an expert network which they can access. Indeed, work placement partners are eligible to attend seminars and events, many of which are free.

Head of School, Professor Javaid Rehman points out it’s a win-win situation: “The work placement provides our students with the opportunity to get real experience of law in practice, and for employers to benefit from having keen, motivated students in the workplace”.

What employers think

Celia Clarke from Bail for Immigration Detainees is no stranger to Brunel Law School. “We are about to receive our third cohort of students on work placement. We are delighted with the calibre of the students and in the progress each of them has made since starting their placements.

“They have received both practical and academic training, in asylum and immigration law, and it has been inspiring to see the students’ abilities and commitment to human rights grow as the placements progressed. Studying for qualifications in asylum and immigration law has been carried out alongside the vital work they have done in advising, under supervision, people held indefinitely in immigration detention in the UK.”

Organising a placement

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Time to shed light on rights of light insurance



The Heaney judgment has raised questions for developers about how to mitigate risks if their proposed scheme would block out neighbours' light.

We do insist on living on top of each other. Whether it's the allure of an inner city designer flat or the simple necessity of living where the work is, there is no escaping the fact that it is getting a bit crowded round here.

And while construction methods now allow incredible heights to be scaled, neither the engineers nor the architects have managed to build a skyscraper that does not cast a shadow.

It is established law that we all have a right to receive daylight through the windows of our homes and offices. A right accrues in a number of ways, either by express grant or accumulated over time. Interference with a right of light entitles the injured party to compensation or, in certain circumstances, a court injunction prohibiting (or requiring demolition of) the offending part of a building that interferes with another's right of light.

So are the court lists full of applications for injunctions? Seemingly not, except the recent High Court decision in the dispute between Highcross subsidiary HKRUK and neighbouring property owner Marcus Heaney.

And if you speak to the expert surveyors operating in this field, their response is typically robust: rights of light are either overlooked by neighbours or else addressed by way negotiation between developer and injured party long before building work gets underway.

The principal remedy for interference with rights of light is an injunction or compensation. But since the first instance decision in Heaney, the perceived threat of an injunction is such that rights of light appear to be hampering ambitious and well intended regeneration schemes otherwise capable of contributing much needed accommodation and employment in the construction section.

That said, we probably ought to take account of the fact that Heaney is only one of several recent decisions and, by and large, the courts have now distilled their position - unless a developer has acted reasonably throughout the course of their building project, they will be held accountable. It appears that developers should not assume they can ignore individuals' rights of light and expect a court to sanction interference with such rights at a later date by the award of compensation (as opposed to an injunction).

So can insurance help?

Much like the spectre of village greens, the threat of legal action to preserve a right of light is not a defect in title in the traditional sense. But like village greens, an application by a neighbour to prevent interference with their right of light is capable of sterilising a construction project, or rendering it uneconomical to complete. While it is a commonly held perception that title insurance shies away from risk, some insurers have worked hard to adapt their

risk assessment techniques in order to be able to offer insurance for rights of light-related risks.

The methods employed by an insurer should be considered carefully as they vary. Traditionally, title insurers will accept risks on the basis of a conclusion that the prospect of a claim is remote. Typically, this decision is heavily reliant on the planning process - if the application for planning consent is successful and does not elicit any material objection on its way through, the question of remoteness is seemingly resolved. But in the context of rights of light, this approach fails to acknowledge the fact that a potential victim is unlikely to appreciate the degree of interference until construction is underway.

Insurance predicated on an assessment of the representations made to a planning application alone could well create issues later in a project. Absent insurance, severe interferences to neighbour's rights of light are normally addressed by developer through negotiation with the injured party *before* work starts on site.

However, insurance that permits a developer push ahead on a project without due regard to the rights of light issue at the early stages of a project could store up problems for insured and insurer later down the line. When the girders are up, neighbours are far more likely to become entrenched as a point of principle and, if case law is anything to go by, so is the Court. And if a Court awards an injunction, rather than damages, the developer would recover its abortive costs under a typical policy but not the anticipated profit from the project.

So if it is the latter that a developer wishes to protect, insurance does have a genuine role to play in helping to plot a course, but it is a role defined through collaboration between developer, surveyor, lawyer and underwriter to determine a course of action for each project that has the best chances of satisfying the court's requirements for transparent and conscionable behaviour while still protecting developers from the ransom value fast becoming attributable to rights of light.

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Annual General Meeting

Renuka Sriharan elected President for 2011/2012
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FILM AND THE LAW No 11

The Law and the Western: The slip of a girl & the dead red head

Do you need a good lawyer? I need a good judge - TRUE GRIT
They each knew that he didn't do it.
They each thought that the other did it
- YOUNG Mr LINCOLN



By Vincent McGrath
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TRUE GRIT (2011), a re-make of Henry Hathaway's 1969 Western, is distinguished not just by the determined presence of a 14 year old young woman Mattie Ross, but rather it's her quaint Biblical speech patterns which constantly refer to the law and its due processes that catches the ear. Whilst the said genre is by definition reactionary, Mattie's endless attempts to bring to justice her father's killer, by employing a couple of true grit bounty hunters gives us the opportunity to reflect upon the respective merits of the law of the gun and the law of the book together with the way women are represented in such films.



TRUE GRIT: Rooster Cockburn (Jeff Bridges) with his feisty employer Mattie Ross (Hailee Steinfeld).



YOUNG Mr LINCOLN: Two of Abe's 3 great loves: Red head Ann Rutledge (Pauleen Moore) & the Sacramento river.

Whilst YOUNG Mr LINCOLN (1939) cannot by any stretch of the imagination be called a Western, its director John Aloysius I-make-Westerns Ford produced a luminous treatise on how the law established its ascendancy with the help of one of its most famous sons, at a time when the newly independent USA was on the cusp of tearing itself apart in a Civil War. We first encounter young Abe Lincoln running a store in 1832 Illinois. Penniless settlers heading

west, pass by, needing supplies. The heart of gold future president offers to barter and in exchange, he gets a barrel load of books. He opens the first tome with wonderment in his eyes, and exclaims, "Blackstone's Commentaries! That's Law!" To which a settler's voice is heard to shout, "Law! I knew that book was about something".

So at this early stage of the film, a book on the law is given the same iconic status as a religious text, and Abe can't wait to get engrossed in its mystical gobbledegook. We next see Abe buried in the great man's Commentaries, head on ground and legs up a tree "The right to Life, Reputation and Liberty. Wrongs are violations of those Rights. That's all there is to it! Maybe I should take this up serious."

The intellectual French film critics of the 1960's were so impressed with YOUNG Mr LINCOLN, that they produced a lengthy dossier on the film analysing it from every possible perspective. For example they compared the 19th century political situation in the US with that pertaining in the 1930's, and found distinct similarities, such as the need for national unity given the impending catastrophic events. Further they attempted a psycho-analysis of the young Abe, and the women in his life together with many other interesting approaches too numerous to elucidate here.

To return to the film.

We are next introduced to Ann Rutledge on a casual stroll along the river bank with her beau. She is probably the only love in Abe's life apart from his deceased mum and the local river itself. "You're mighty pretty Ann". "Some folks I know, don't like red hair." "I do". "Do you Abe?" "I love red hair." Ann briefly passes into a deep shadow at the left edge of the frame, before exiting the shot - a subtle foreshadowing of her premature death. She re-appears in the next scene at the same spot but six feet under - her presence marked by a headstone. Abe brushes away the snow, and asks his dearly, albeit recently departed Ann to decide whether he should continue to kick his heels in the family store or take his chances with the law. "Let the stick decide" he says, as he holds a stick over the grave. "If it falls towards me, I stay. If it falls towards you Ann, well it's the law" The stick falls, and from beyond the grave, Ann changes the whole history of the United States in the blink of an eye. Abe becomes a lawyer, gets elected president, wins the Civil War and, is finally assassinated only to be then venerated for ever and a day. And all of this down to the fall of a stick and one dead red head.

Abe rides into town on a donkey (a donkey I hear you say), his long legs trailing in the dust. "What are you doing in Springfield Abe?" "Setting myself up as a lawyer." "What do you know about the law, Abe?" "Not enough to hurt me."

Most scenes from now on, have a binary structure. Abe is asked to judge two pies in a pie contest but can't decide, having devoured both. His first two clients are in dispute over money, so he splits the difference, having first deducted his fee, and finally he is defending two brothers accused of murder. The chief prosecution witness says he saw them both and for sure one of them did the dirty deed, but he can't decide which. The boys' mother who was close to the killing is asked to choose between her loved ones on the basis of plea whereby one dies whilst the other lives. But she steadfastly refuses to testify against either son. Remember the pies? So either both clients get off or both die. Abe indeed has a trial and a half on his hands.



YOUNG Mr LINCOLN: Abe seeking counsel from dead red head Ann, by the river.

"So it was moon bright?" "Sure moon bright." "Cos if it wasn't moon bright, you couldn't have seen it over 100 yards? You did see it?" "I told you I saw it" "What have you against my client? What did you kill him for? Look at this farmer's almanac. Look at page 12. The moon set at 10.21, 40 minutes before the killing took place. So you see, it couldn't have been moon bright. You lied. No more questions your honour. Your witness."

The bemused lads go free as the sheriff moves in on the lying cayote, and we criminal advocates check to see that we have an up to date farmer's almanac tucked away in our back pocket together with the current edition of Blackstone's Magistrates' Court Handbook.

The binary structure subliminally works on our subconscious foreshadowing the way the little bit older Mr Lincoln will defeat the South and re-establish the Union.

So young Mattie thanks to her knowledge of the law is able to persuade threaten and control a couple of cussing bounty hunters. The threesome cross over into the lawless territory that is beyond the pale and eventually her quarry is cornered and executed by the law of the gun - albeit not by the law of the book, as she had hoped. On the other hand Annie RIP achieves her end game by working through another who would have still been running the penny-pinching family store had she not gifted him his true destiny to re-unite what was to become the most powerful nation on the earth. For a genre famous for its oppressive representations of women (saintly mothers, eastern ladies or bar-room prostitutes), these two films seem to have given us two of the more interesting characters of the Western, namely slip of a girl paralegal Mattie and dead red head Annie.

Not since JOHNNY GUITAR (1953), where Joan Crawford and Mercedes McCambridge face off in real scary fashion, has there been such a feminised Western as TRUE GRIT. Perhaps the Coens who are avid readers of this column may like to consider putting their inimitable stamp on a re-make of Ford's haunting YOUNG Mr LINCOLN and call it EVEN YOUNGER Mr LINCOLN (aka Teenage Abe), whereby the feisty Annie would get a longer life and hence a bigger role? Sadly the young Henry Fonda (Jane's dad) who looks more like Abraham Lincoln than Abraham Lincoln, ever could, is no longer around to play the eponymous role of the man with the castrating stare, though if Joel and Ethan were to hold a stick over the doppelganger's grave, then who knows, the rest could well be history. For my part, I never visit friends in the local cemetery without a stick tucked up my sleeve.



JOHNNY GUITAR: Vienna (Joan Crawford) ready for Emma



YOUNG MR LINCOLN: Well Ann. You win. It's the Law.



JOHNNY GUITAR: Emma (Mercedes McCambridge) cocking her 6-shooter.

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Middlesex University and the University of West London compete for the YMG Inaugural Inter-University Quiz Cup

On the 6th April 2011 the first Inter-university YMG Quiz Night took place at the Middlesex University.

The YMG stands for the Young Members Group, a sub committee of the Middlesex Law Society. The aim of the YMG is to organise activities to provide opportunities for students to showcase themselves and to gain where possible work experience and also to interact with lawyers within their local area. The YMG is headed by myself and ran together with students from Middlesex University namely Laura, Pete and Jackie from Middlesex University and Rick, Kelvin and George from the University of West London (formerly Thames Valley University).

The evening was fun but competitive as you can see from these photographs on pages 20-25. The winning table was Team Narusso from Middlesex University, second place was earned by Team Highlands from Middlesex University and third place victory went to The Experts from the University of West London.

A mini competition was also held between the non students comprising of lecturers, staff and committee members and the winner in this respect was MTG Solicitors who won vouchers from John Lewis.

During the evening monies were also collected for the British Red Cross Charity to Support Japan Tsunami and the sum of £52.33 was raised for this cause.

This evening would not have been possible without the hard work of the YMG Committee and the immense support of the Middlesex University in particular Susan Scott Hunt and Christiana Frandzis. Thanks to MTG Solicitors and QEB Chambers who provided a wonderful opportunity of work experience to two candidates who were randomly selected from the table that came first and second from the Quiz Night. Thanks also to the MLS's Social Secretary, Robert Drepaul for his support on the night.

Everyone can't wait for the next YMG quiz Night!

If you would like to join the Middlesex Law Society YMG, please e-mail me hardeep@desorandco.co.uk

Hardeep Dhillon, Membership Secretary

Young Members' Group 5-a-side Football at Goals, Hayes, 16th April 2011

For details of the next competition in June, contact Alan Williams, email: creativewit@tiscali.co.uk



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6th April 2011, Middlesex University



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**More pictures from Middlesex University
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YMG Inaugural Inter-University Quiz**
6th April 2011, Middlesex University



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Finding people: that's Hoopers' business

By Michael Tringham, Chairman, Hoopers

Foremost among probate research genealogists, Hoopers are best known for solving the problems of intestacy – when somebody has died leaving valuable assets but no will. Founded almost 90 years ago, we work with solicitors, helping beneficiaries by proving their entitlements. We also trace missing beneficiaries named in wills, pension fund beneficiaries and owners of land, shares and other assets.

£200,000 Shoreditch baron

In the hustle of a big city families easily drift apart. So it is hardly surprising that some of Hoopers most memorable heir tracing cases involve London families.

That is how nine members of an East London family came to share the £200,000 estate of their long-lost Uncle Charlie: born Charles Edward Cullum in 1926 in far-from aristocratic Hare Walk, Shoreditch – but who spent half his life as Baron Carl Franz Eduard Von Eudeni before dying in 1994 in a south-London hospice, apparently without family.

Hoopers investigators expected the trail to lead to Austria. Then documents found in his Nunhead home showed that in 1956 he had changed his name by deed poll to Von Eudeni. We discovered that Mr Cullum developed multiple personalities after contracting meningitis during his National Service, then came out of hospital a brilliant musician – like his street entertainer dad. Dr David Hiles of De Montford University's Psychology Department explained that while Mr Cullum's illness "gave him the extraordinary ability to hear a tune once – and play it on virtually any instrument. It turned him into a Musical Savant."

It is also thought that the illness affected his speech, and adopting a foreign-sounding name would have helped him adjust to something he could not do anything about.

After 1957 Uncle Charlie had lost contact with his family. But he enjoyed a colourful life as a holiday camp entertainer, rubbing shoulders with greats such as band leader Billy Cotton and comic Norman Wisdom. Later, as Baron Von Eudeni, he worked for 14 years as a senior civil servant in the Lord Chancellor's Office (then the department responsible for the administration of justice), until ill health forced him to retire in 1988.

Islington family's windfall

Johnny Hubbard's story was similar – but sadder. He died aged 74, having spent the last 40 years of his life living on London's streets. Now his brothers Peter and William and sisters Elizabeth and Winifred are sharing in a windfall from his £35,000 estate – money left to him years earlier by a relative.

Johnny's brother William describes the children's "turbulent childhood" with their father John, who ran a fish stall in Chapel Market, Islington. "Dad was a pretty violent person. He drank brandy most of the day to keep warm. As a result he was always drunk. If you asked for school dinner money, you got a clump. If you stole it, you got a clump."

All the children escaped from the family home in Grant Street, Islington, as soon they could. Johnny became a porter in Smithfield meat market. The heavy manual work kept him in fighting shape and, like many other young men at the time, he took up boxing as a way of letting off steam.

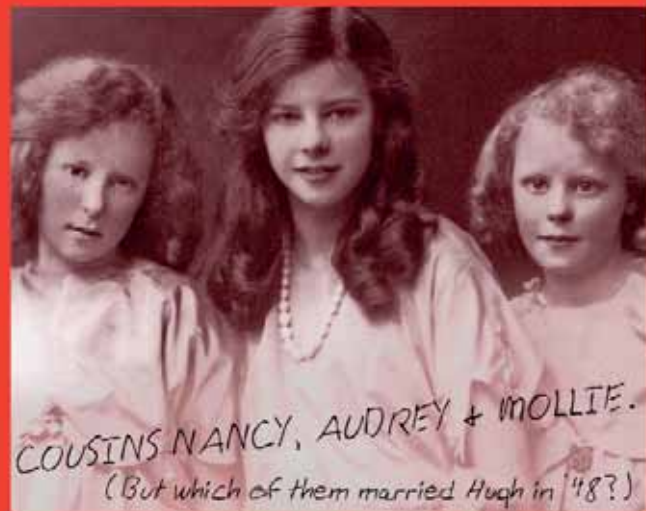
Unfortunately a confrontation with another Smithfield porter changed Johnny's life for ever. During a fight he was struck over the head – after which he became increasingly unstable. Despite brain surgery he never fully recovered.

"He was pretty violent, all of us were scared of him," says William, who built up his own successful central London furniture business.

The result for Johnny was 40 years of living on the streets around the Square Mile and East End. William remembers meeting him and giving him money – "but I don't think he recognised me."

When we discover a little piece of information that unlocks the pathway to our research, it is a eureka moment. We're especially glad when our work also produces a result for the deceased's family.

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