



Pathway to the Judiciary



THE
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
LAW SOCIETY

On Thursday 12th May, Ropewalk Chambers hosted the 'Pathway to the Judiciary' event, with distinguished judges from the East Midlands.

The event was organised by Nottinghamshire Law Society and the Midland Circuit Women's Forum and kindly sponsored by [KCH Garden Square](#) and [Ropewalk Chambers](#).

The distinguished panellists included, HHJ Nasser Patel, DJ Dewinder Birk, Assistant Coroner Sarah Huntbach, Chief Crown Prosecutor Janine McKinney and Mrs Justice Lieven.

Presenting the evening was Karen Kabweru-Namulemu and Lauren Crow.



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The Panellists



Presenters: Karen Kabweru-Namulemu and Lauren Crow



HHJ Nassera Patel

Her Honour Judge Patel was called to the Bar in 1999. Whilst in practice she specialised in public law children's proceedings, representing local authorities, parents and children. In 2019, Her Honour Judge Patel was appointed as a Fee-paid Judge of the First-Tier Tribunal in the Health, Education and Social Chamber and from 2019 to 2020 she was the legal advisor to Social Work England.

In August 2021 Her Honour Judge Patel was appointed as a Circuit Judge on the Midlands Circuit.

Shortly, thereafter in April 2022 HHJ Patel became the Designated Family Judge for Leicester which means that she has responsibility for ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the judicial family business at Leicester.



DJ Dewinder Birk

DJ Dewinder Birk was called to the Bar in 1988 and whilst in practice she specialised in public law and private law children's proceedings, representing local authorities, parents and children and financial proceedings. Based in chambers in Leicester, Nottingham and Birmingham.

In 2002 she was appointed as fee paid tribunal judge in the immigration tribunal. 2008 appointed as a fee paid tribunal judge in the social security tribunal. In 2020 she was appointed as a full-time district judge and also as a judge of the court of protection.

Finally, with a busy schedule she has found time to write a book which is being published this year by lexis nexis titled, private law children law proceedings: practice and procedure.



Sarah Huntbach Assistant Coroner

Coroner Huntbach qualified as a solicitor via the Institute of Legal Executives route and specialises in clinical negligence and personal injury claims, having experience on both the defendant and claimant side.

In 2019 she was successful in her application to be an Assistant Coroner in the Derby and Derbyshire jurisdiction, which she did alongside her work as a Claimant clinical negligence and personal injury solicitor at Anthony Collins solicitors.

In 2022, Coroner Huntbach accepted a position to join the Team appointed to represent HM Coroner Birmingham & Solihull in the investigation of Inquests of the former patients of Mr Ian Paterson, Consultant Vascular and Breast Surgeon. Mr Paterson was suspended from his NHS and private practice in 2011, and in 2017 was convicted for 17 counts of wounding with intent and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. Following the independent inquiry conducted by The Right Reverend Graham Jones, the names of individuals identified as former patients of Mr Paterson have been referred to HM Coroner Birmingham & Solihull, for investigation into whether his treatment has more than minimally, trivially or negligibly contributed to the cause of death.



Janine McKinney Chief Crown Prosecutor

Janine McKinney qualified as a solicitor in 1989 and joined Nottinghamshire CPS as a Crown Prosecutor in January 1991. In 2003 Janine was promoted to District Crown Prosecutor with responsibility for one of the Magistrates' Court teams and then, in 2009, she took on responsibility for the whole of the Magistrates' Court team.

Janine moved to Derbyshire as a Senior District Crown Prosecutor in 2012 and was appointed Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor in July 2013, In October 2015 Janine was appointed as the East Midlands Chief Crown Prosecutor and is also the national Chief Crown Prosecutor lead for road traffic offences.

Janine is also the 7th female president of Nottinghamshire Law Society, coming into office in May 2022.



Mrs Justice Lieven

Mrs Justice Lieven was called to the Bar in 1989 and took Silk in 2006. She had a predominantly public and administrative law practice whilst at the bar.

Mrs Justice Lieven was appointed a Deputy High Court Judge in 2016 and a High Court Judge in the Family Division in 2019.

In April 2021, Mrs Justice Lieven was appointed as the Family Division Liaison Judge for the Midland Circuit which is an appointment, she will hold for 4 years in total.

Mrs Justice Lieven has a particular interest in widening diversity at the judiciary.





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BARRISTERS

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CHAMBERS

After the presentations and question time, we enjoyed drinks and canapes.

We would like to say thank you sponsors [KCH Garden Square](#) & [Ropewalk Chambers](#) for the evening's hospitality



Event organisers:
Michelle Foster
Lauren Crow
Lee Collishaw



Midland Circuit
Women's Forum



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