



It's finally Spring – and we're growing too!

Reflecting our continuing expansion and development plans, we are delighted to announce that nine of our highly talented lawyers have received promotions in recent weeks.

We have five new Partners – Sarah-Jane Dunhill (Litigation), Jane Jacques and Amie Pine (Family), Nichola Armstrong (Commercial Property) and Chris Joseph (IT).

We also have promotions to Associate for Criminal Defence Specialist Tim Edgeley, Family Lawyer Sarah Thomas and Luke Pritchard who is a Solicitor in Corporate & Commercial. Read more about them all inside.



David Gaut
Managing Partner

We are very proud to make these appointments which reflect the skills, experience and hard work of these members of our team. We have no doubt that their continuing enthusiasm and commitment will help us in our goal to be the area's leading law firm.



Scott Harding
Deputy Managing Partner

Committed to Excellence Awards

We recently launched a monthly award for members of staff who not only embrace our pledge '**Committed to Excellence**', but go above and beyond.

The award winner for April 2018 was Solicitor – Residential Conveyancing **Stacey Jackson** and in May the winner was **Helen Stoller** a Solicitor in our Divorce & Family Law Team.



Stacey
Jackson



Helen
Stoller

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on 25th May 2018



If you're still not sure how to ensure your business is compliant, call our expert **Eve Lakin** on **01270 619689** for more information.

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New Partners with a wide variety of specialisms

Sarah-Jane Dunhill

Head of Litigation



I came to Poole Alcock because I could see it was a firm that was going places, that was keen to develop and grow. That's exactly what I want in my career and I am delighted to have this opportunity to build our Litigation practice.

I think our offer in this area is particularly strong because of our highly experienced Commercial Law team – there can often be cross over between these two areas of the law and because we work together so closely, we can offer a really comprehensive service.

I have been with Poole Alcock since 2006 and since qualifying have always specialised in Family Law.

As a firm, we have a very strong Family Law practice – it's an area I have always found particularly rewarding as it is one where you are helping people at a time they need it most.

We now have four Partners in the department and I am very much enjoying working with them on plans and ideas for building the department further.

And one of those other Partners is ▶▶▶



Jane Jacques

Divorce & Family Law Team

Amie Pine

Divorce & Family Law Team



Following on from what Jane has said, our aim is to be the biggest Family Law team in Cheshire.

We have already grown significantly in recent years and this is partly due to the number of our Trainees who have gone on to specialise in this area of the Law and to take up posts with us when they have qualified.

I think it says a lot about us as a firm that not only are we attracting young lawyers of this calibre, but that they want to stay and pursue their careers with us.

I left a Partnership in a large London law firm in 2006 and moved to South Africa with my husband. I then acted as a consultant for a few law firms which is how I came to know Poole Alcock.

When I walked into Poole Alcock, I knew it was a firm with potential. It thinks like a large commercial firm but has a desire to get to know each client on a personal level and to best meet all that client's legal needs. It employs incredibly talented people and has a great atmosphere which makes it a pleasure to work here.



Nichola Armstrong

Commercial Property

Chris Joseph

IT Manager



I think Poole Alcock is unusual in that it recognises and allows members of the legal team who have other skills to develop those and work in other areas.

While I enjoy the law (Chris is a qualified Solicitor specialising in Criminal Defence), I feel I can offer a unique perspective in what lawyers need from their IT systems because I am one myself. Over the years I have developed the understanding and experience of how systems work which enables me to see what can be done, and how best to implement changes.

See Chris' special feature on Cyber security – [PAGE 5](#)

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...meet our new **Associates**

As mentioned on page 1, three of our Lawyers have just been promoted to Associate positions

**Tim
Edgeley**

Solicitor –
Criminal
Litigation



Tim is a specialist in all areas of criminal law and an exceptional trial advocate. He has a formidable reputation amongst the Police and is highly respected at the local Courts.

Contact **Tim:**
01270 256665
tim.edgeley@poole.alcock.co.uk

**Sarah
Thomas**

Solicitor –
Divorce &
Family Law
Team



Sarah is highly experienced in all aspects of divorce and family law. With an excellent reputation throughout Cheshire and North Staffordshire, she is an accredited Advanced Family Law practitioner.

Contact **Sarah:**
01270 876550
sarah.thomas@poole.alcock.co.uk

**Luke
Pritchard**

Solicitor –
Corporate &
Commercial



Knowledgeable in corporate and commercial law, Luke's specialisms include share and asset purchases and sales, corporate restructures, lending and finance agreements and commercial contracts.

Contact **Luke:**
01270 613905
luke.pritchard@poole.alcock.co.uk

Congratulations on qualifying

We are delighted to report that four of our Trainee Solicitors have now qualified.



Sarah McCleary
Residential Property
Crewe (Nantwich Road)



Sarah Miller
Divorce & Family Law
Team
Crewe (Edleston Road)



Lisa Ball
Divorce & Family Law
Team
Congleton



Jon Hill
Corporate & Commercial
Nantwich (High Street)

Welcome Aboard

More great people have joined our team –
welcome new members of staff...



Sandbach

Karen Hulme

Secretary to
Andy Roberts,
Private Client



Sandbach

Amber Morgan

Paralegal to
Andy Roberts,
Private Client



The Dowery

Olivia Mitchell

Paralegal to
Nichola Armstrong –
Corporate & Commercial



Sandbach

Lindsey Jones

Assistant to
Kate Heath
Conveyancing



Sandbach

**Georgina
Coppenhall**

Solicitor,
PI Department



Congleton

Suzanne Taylor

Secretary to
Sarah-Jane Dunhill,
Litigation Department

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FREE PASS Scheme legal clinics prove popular staff benefit

As well as savings of up to £1,000 on legal fees, Poole Alcock's exclusive Employee Benefits Scheme includes free 'clinics' at business premises.

And when we say free, that is both for the employee – and the employer.



Prestigious organisations such as Bentley and Culina have already signed up to the Employee PASS (Poole Alcock Select Service) which gives both direct employees and contractors (and their immediate families) a generous 25% discount on any new 'instruction' – such as a house sale or purchase – up to a total of £1,000.00.

And it isn't limited to Conveyancing – the discount applies to our full range of services.

If you are part of a large company or organisation whose staff or members might be interested in joining the Scheme and getting

25% OFF LEGAL FEES

please contact **Dan Brooks** on **01270 256665** who will be delighted to discuss the offer.

One of our lawyers involved in all of our PASS Scheme clinics at client premises is Verity McKay.

She explained: 'I'm part of a team of lawyers which spends a day at the client's site. The first session is on a 'drop in' basis where people can call in and have a chat about any issue and how our services could help.

The second half of the day is divided into half hour appointments which employees have booked in advance to talk through specific issues. There's still no obligation, but if the person then decides to go ahead and engage our services, they will receive the **25% discount on our fees**.

Wills and probate have probably been the most popular topics people have wanted to talk about – but there are no restrictions: the Scheme covers all of our services including Family Law, Conveyancing, Criminal Law etc.'

We arrange our clinics at times to suit the business concerned – if they operate shifts, we can cover evenings as well as the regular 9 to 5.



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Watch out for cyber fraud

Poole Alcock's IT Manager, Partner Chris Joseph answers some of your questions about this growing area of crime...



Who are the fraudsters targeting?

Everyone and anyone. Hackers are always trying to get into email and shopping site accounts as well as services like games or music providers.

What do they do with the information?

The hackers are probably not directly the fraudsters – but they will sell your details (your email address, passwords etc) to the highest bidder.

How might that affect any dealings I have with Poole Alcock?

Like any law firm, we arrange transactions involving large sums of money such as with conveyancing for the buying and selling of property. Someone who has been monitoring your emails might try and send an email purporting to come from us to introduce fake bank details in an attempt to divert money into their own account.

What are the clues that you have been hacked?

The fraudsters are clever at sending emails that appear to be genuine – copying logos and sign off panels etc. Sometimes a fake email address will have just one letter different from the real thing – john.smiths@company.com instead of john.smith@company.com

How can you counteract that?

We stress to our clients that we will never notify them of a change of bank details by email and ask them to verify sort code and account numbers by phone with a staff member they know before transferring any funds. We have a reminder of this on every email we send.

What is the best way to avoid cyber fraud?

Be aware and be vigilant: new scams and frauds are being devised all the time. It always pays to think twice, and if something doesn't seem quite right – check.

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International Women's Day





Our teams around the region joined the rest of the world in celebrating International Women's Day on 8 March.



HR Manager Diane Powell has passed her Certificate in Personnel and Development qualification to become an Associate Member of the CIPD.

We're committed to maintaining the highest standards in HR and this recognition of Di's continued hard work really reflects that. Well done Di!

We're looking for more great people to join our team, including:

-  **Secretary in the Employment/ Family Law Departments**
-  **Compliance Assistant**
-  **Receptionist**
-  **Legal Cashier (part time – afternoons)**

[CLICK HERE](#) for more details

JARGON



In the legal world and conveyancing in particular, there's lots of jargon – **Nicola Fury** helps to shed a little light.

F G H I J K L M N O P Q R



Gazumping: a seller accepts a verbal offer on their property from one buyer, but then accepts a higher offer from another potential buyer. Although inconvenient and frustrating for the first would-be buyer, who thought they had a deal, the seller is within their rights to do this so long as contracts have not been exchanged.

Gazanging: this is where the seller pulls out, deciding not to move, even though they have previously accepted an offer. Again, this is something they are within their rights to do until exchange of contracts.

Gazundering: this is where the Buyer lowers their offer on the property after agreeing a price, threatening to pull out if the lower offer isn't accepted. This can only happen before exchange of contracts.

Ground rent: this is the rent paid to the landlord usually on a leasehold property where there is a long lease and is an additional cost that should be taken into consideration when purchasing a leasehold property. Ground rents are also payable on some freeholds.

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