

IRLA Link and Learn Session

Introduction to Claims

03 September 2024, 10:00 to 12:30

Your speakers

Liam Bedford, IRLA Director, Kennedys Law LLP

Liam is a senior associate in Kennedy's Leeds office, and a practicing barrister. He was co-opted to the IRLA board of directors in April 2023 and is the Development (Personal) aka Head of Academy.

His case load is primarily asbestos-related claims litigated in the High Court. Liam has a specialism acting for local authorities on strategic points, such as foreseeability of risk to firemen and in respect of emerging diseases. He has experience across a wide range of disease types such as asthma, dermatitis, silicosis, HAVS and NIHL. Liam has won several reported asbestos cases in the High Court on breach of duty such as *McGowan v AMEC [2017]* and on the application of the Limitation Act 1980 in *Fudge v FG Minter [2018]*. He also undertakes all interim Advocacy in the county and high courts and from his pupillage has an active interest in costs litigation.

Liam is a "recommended lawyer" in the 2020/21 edition of The Legal 500. Also in 2021, Liam was named the IRLA Young Professional of the Year.

[Liam Bedford | LinkedIn](#)

Abigail Burgoine – Catalina Re

Abigail is a Claims Liabilities Manager at Catalina Re, Birmingham. She joined Catalina Re in 2022 and specialises in dealing with high value disease claims. Prior to joining Catalina Re she trained and qualified as a Solicitor in 2014 at Plexus Law, primarily acting for legacy insurer clients. During her time at Plexus she worked in the disease team and had a varied case load of asbestos, HAVS, back injury, NIHL and radiation claims.

Abigail became a member of the YPG committee in 2023.

[Abigail Burgoine | LinkedIn](#)

Richard Burrows – IRLA Director, Weightmans LLP

Richard is a Principal Associate at Weightmans LLP, Liverpool. He joined the firm in 2011 and specialises in disease claims, acting for a number of legacy insurers, live insurers and self-insured corporates. He has a particular interest in emerging risks, and regularly writes articles for Weightmans' insights publications and has contributed articles to pharmaceutical journals on topics such as the opioid crisis.

Richard is Chairman of the IRLA Young Professionals Committee, as well as a director of the Association, and as part of this role he is responsible for the learning and mentoring opportunities made available to new to legacy members.

Richard is a keen runner, despite the air pollution issues news of which he shares here.

[Richard Burrows | LinkedIn](#)

Leslie-Ann Giovnilli – IRLA Director, Facilitator and Mentor

Leslie-Ann has been described as the glue that keeps the Association together; as one of the founders in 1998 Leslie-Ann has more detail about IRLA, and legacy in general, running around her head all the time than she would admit. In 2021 she was recognised for her legacy market work, especially during covid, with the Services to Legacy Award.

Leslie-Ann is also the MD of AMS (Outsourcing) Services which is now 25 years old, and she is in her 26th year of managing and creating learning, development and facilitating opportunities for Association members, having spent her first 20 years working in the reinsurance claims market, mainly in companies which formed the legacy market we know today.

As a neurodiverse person Leslie-Ann finds her dog training knowledge as useful as her counselling training in her day time role.

[Leslie-Ann Giovnilli - Facilitator and Mentor | LinkedIn](#)

Claire Hobman – Catalina Re

Claire Hobman is Head of UK Direct Claims for Catalina Re. Claire joined Catalina as UK Direct Claims Manager back in 2021 as Catalina Services UK Ltd prepared to take operational control of a major UKEL legacy portfolio.

In June 2024, Claire moved into the role of Head of UK Direct Claims. Before this, Claire worked as Head of Liability Management, working across multiple portfolios to manage liabilities, spearhead strategic claims initiatives, and maintain positive customer experience .

Prior to Catalina, Claire's insurance industry experience dates back over 25 years during which time she has worked for both live and run-off insurers across various lines of business including motor/EL/PL and Products liability. Since 2005, Claire has specialized in run-off and more specifically long tail disease.

[Claire Hobman | LinkedIn](#)

Rosie Knott – DWF Senior Associate

Rosie is a Senior Associate at DWF, in the Global Risks (Insurance and Reinsurance) Team. Rosie advises on a broad range of business lines and issues including reinsurance, energy and political risk/trade credit. Rosie's work includes advising on policy coverage and acting in complex coverage and other insurance disputes in both litigation and arbitration.

Rosie joined the IRLA YPG Committee in 2023.

[Rosie Knott | LinkedIn](#)

Daniel King – Polo Works

Daniel has been a claims adjuster since September 2016. He joined R&Q after finishing his A-Levels and this job was his first role in paid employment. In eight years at R&Q Daniel dealt with a wide range of claims from various classes of business and jurisdictions. Daniel would say that his main area of focus is within casualty claims – handling Employers liability and Public liability property and personal injury claims. He has also been involved in numerous Due Diligences and Claim Audits when involved in the process of acquiring new books of business. In October 2023 Daniel was promoted to Senior Claims Adjuster at R&Q.. Daniel has participated in IRLA events since joining the market and has formed many working relationships from the excellent networking opportunities IRLA provides. Daniel is now a Senior Claims Adjuster with Polo Works.

[Daniel King | LinkedIn](#)