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MANCHESTER LAW & TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

JULY 6 No 1 Circle Square, Manchester

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**0930-
0940**

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF THE MANCHESTER LAW & TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

Professor Orkun Akseli,
Professor of Commercial Law,
The University of Manchester
Law School

**0940-
1010**

KEYNOTE: HOW DIGITAL PLATFORMS AND AI ARE RE-SHAPING THE LEGAL SECTOR

Prof Teresa Rodríguez de las
Heras Ballell, Universidad
Carlos III de Madrid

**1010-
1045**

KEYNOTE: IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING THE BEHAVIOURAL CHALLENGES TO LAWTECH

Professor Gerard Hodgkinson,
Vice Dean for Research, The
University of Manchester

**1045-
1120**

SHAPE & STRUCTURE OF LAW FIRMS OF THE DIGITAL AGE

Importance of culture for legal
innovation, **Professor Gerard
Hodgkinson**, Vice Dean for
Research, The University of
Manchester (Chair) **Jon
Gregson**, Product and
Innovation Partner Weightmans,
**Prof Teresa Rodríguez de las
Heras Ballell**, Universidad Carlos
III de Madrid, **Jonathan
Patterson**, DWF, **Adam Ryan**
Chief Legal Innovation Officer,
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer;
Thomas Hinton, Senior
Manager - Innovation & Legal
Technology, Addleshaw
Goddard LLP

**1140-
1200**

GETTING THE BORING RIGHT TO MAKE THE WHIZZY HAPPEN'

Stuart Whittle, Chief
Technology and Innovation
Officer, Weightmans LLP

1120-1140 COFFEE BREAK

**1200-
1220**

HOW CAN TECH INNOVATIONS SUPPORT ESG AND THE LEGAL DRIVERS BEHIND THE ESG BOOM

Abigail Herron, Global Head of
ESG Strategic Partnerships,
Aviva Investors

**1220-
1255**

NW INPUT TO SHAPING NATIONAL LEGAL INNOVATION: INSIGHT FROM LAWTECH UK

Prof Katie Atkinson, University
of Liverpool, followed by panel:
Deborah Walker, Midas (Chair);
Jay Dunning, Innovation Lead,
DWF; **Joseph Lee**, Reader in
Corporate and Financial Law,
The University of Manchester

**1255-
1315**

DIGITAL TRUST, SECURITY & RESILIENCE, & ONLINE CRIME

Brian Higgins, Security
Consultant at SAS

1315-1400 PM LUNCH BREAK

**1400-
1420**

FUTURE OF DISPUTES: TECH-ENABLED AND HUMAN-CENTRIC

Eimear McCann, Commercial
Director, TrialView

**1420-
1440**

KEEPING ON TOP OF THE TECH LANDSCAPE AND NEW WAYS OF WORKING

**Dan Soderegen & Michal
Wisniewski**, YourFlock

**1440-
1510**

HOW ACADEMIC/ INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS CAN CREATE NEW AND BETTER RECRUITMENT MODELS

Professor Orkun Akseli (Chair)
and **Professor Claire
McGourlay**, The University of
Manchester, **Katy Sidebotham**,
Innovation Manager, DWF,
James Whitaker, Senior
Manager - Innovation & Legal
Technology, Addleshaw
Goddard LLP, **Lewis Bretts**,
Chief Legal Engineer and
COO, SYKE

1120-1140 COFFEE BREAK

**1530-
1550**

LEGALITIES OF DIGITAL ASSETS

**Jemma Fleetwood &
Sam Ballin**, JMW LLP

**1550-
1620**

HOW HACKATHONS CAN FACILITATE INNOVATION SPRINTS

Mike Kennedy Senior Manager,
Innovation and Legal
Technology, Addleshaw
Goddard LLP & **Will Lloyd**, DWF
and Manchester Legal Hackers

1620-1630 WRAP UP & CLOSE

**1645-1900 POST EVENT DRINKS
@ BRICKHOUSE
ROOFTOP GREENHOUSE**

MEET THE SPEAKERS



**PROFESSOR
ORKUN AKSELE**

*Academic Director of
the Manchester Law &
Technology Initiative*

Orkun is Professor of Commercial Law at the University of Manchester. He studied for his LLB and MA in Turkey, LLM in the USA, and PhD at the University of Manchester School of Law. He is absolutely delighted to be back at his alma mater. Since 2022 Orkun is the Academic Director of the Manchester Law & Technology Initiative, a platform bringing together legal industry practitioners and academic researchers from across three discipline areas to investigate the potential for and impact of technology and digitisation within legal services.

His teaching and research interests are in the field of secured transactions, banking and financial law, and arbitration and mediation. He has been involved in law reform initiatives under the auspices of UNCITRAL and Unidroit. Orkun and plans to launch and lead a new Legal Innovation Research Group with the Department of Law which will complement and link in to the activity of MLaTI.



**PROF TERESA
RODRÍGUEZ DE LAS
HERAS BALLELL**

*Professor of Commercial
Law, Universidad Carlos III
de Madrid*

Currently, Sir Roy Goode Scholar at UNIDROIT, Rome, 2021-2022. Chair of Excellence 2017-2018 at University of Oxford (Uc3m-Santander Program), affiliated to Harris Manchester College. Previously, James J. Coleman, Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law at Tulane Law School; Visiting Professor at Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford; Stanford Law School Fellow, TTLF, and Marie Curie Fellow at the ZERP of the University of Bremen, among other visiting professor positions and fellowships, at Columbia Law School, University of Washington, University of Tokyo or University College London.

Arbitrator of Madrid Court of Arbitration. Member of ELI (European Law Institute) Council and Executive Committee. Member of the Expert Group of the European Commission on Liability and New Technologies and member of the Expert Group of the European Observatory of Platform Economy. Member of the International Academy

of Commercial and Consumer Law. Member of the expert group of the Inclusive Global Legal Innovation Platform for Online Dispute Resolution - UNCITRAL and Hong Kong Department of Justice. Expert of the UNIDROIT Study Group on the MAC Protocol of the Cape Town Convention on International Interests. Delegate of Spain to UNIDROIT for the adoption of the Protocol, delegate of Spain in Working Group VI of UNCITRAL on secured transactions and in Working Group IV on Electronic Commerce. Member of UNIDROIT Working Groups on Enforcement and Warehouse Receipts.



**PROF GERARD
P. HODGKINSON**

*Vice Dean for Research of
the Faculty of Humanities
and Professor of Strategic
Management and Behavioural Science at
Alliance Manchester Business School*

Gerard joined The University of Manchester from Warwick Business School where he was Head of the flagship Behavioural Science Group, one of the world's leading academic units in its field. An elected Fellow of the British Academy of Management, British Psychological Society, Chartered Management Institute, Royal Society of Arts, and the Academy of Social Sciences, and an Academic Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, for eight years he was the Editor-in-Chief of the British Journal of Management (1999 - 2006) and for 11 years he co-edited the International Review of Industrial and Organizational Psychology. More recently (2016-2020) he served as an Associate Editor of the Journal of Management and he currently serves on the editorial boards of several major journals including the Academy of Management Review, Journal of Management, and Strategic Management Journal. In recognition of his

sustained contributions to behavioural science and strategic management, in 2021 Professor Hodgkinson was awarded the Research Medal by the British Academy of Management. Registered with the UK Health Professions Council as a Practitioner Occupational Psychologist, over the past 35 years he has carried out numerous consultancy assignments with public and private sector organizations.



**JONATHAN
PATTERSON**

*Managing Director, DWF
Innovation & Ventures*

Jonathan is recognised as a pioneer in the business of law with particular expertise in innovation. At DWF, he leads the Innovation & Ventures unit which is responsible for innovation strategy, management and investment across the Group and works closely with DWF teams and clients to realise the commercial value of new ideas.



THOMAS HINTON

*Senior Manager
(Innovation & Legal
Technology), Addleshaw
Goddard LLP*

Tom is a Senior Manager in the ILT, leading on client projects. He focuses on the intelligent implementation of legal expertise, technology, data and process to pitch for and help deliver projects for clients. This includes engaging internally and externally to find and discuss opportunities, as well as transferring successful ideas to products or internal efficiency. Tom has particular experience in the delivery of high value transactions, and how data can be used to deliver these transactions efficiently.

**ADAM RYAN****Chief Legal Innovation Officer, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP**

Adam Ryan is the Chief Legal Innovation Officer at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and has a proven track record of implementing a global innovation strategy in professional services. Adam has both a computer science and law background and practised as a lawyer in the commercial IP team before heading up the firm's innovation function. Adam leads the firm's client facing product strategy, heading up a team of legal product owners, developers, project managers and data scientists.

**JON GREGSON****Product and Innovation Partner, Weightmans LLP**

Jon joined Weightmans in 2005 and since 2007 has been a solicitor in their Employment Team, specialising in complex, high value respondent employment tribunal litigation. Whilst remaining a Partner in the Employment Team, and playing a key role in client relationship and service delivery, he is also one of 6 new Product and Innovation Partners introduced by Weightmans to sit at the intersection of legal operations, client service delivery and product innovation.

This unique perspective allows Jon to play a key role all stages of the production and innovation lifecycle; from ideation and engagement with clients through to development, testing, solution delivery and presentation.

**STUART WHITTLE****Chief Technology and Innovation Officer, Weightmans LLP**

Stuart is a qualified lawyer by trade, having practiced law as a professional indemnity lawyer from 1995. He has been a partner at Weightmans since 2002. During 2003, Stuart become involved in Weightmans' IT, designing, developing and rolling out case management systems across the firm. In 2005 Stuart took on responsibility for Weightmans' IT department and in 2010 was promoted to IS and Operations Director since when he has been a member of Weightmans' Board and an equity partner.

From 2017 as part of Weightmans' Reorganising for Profit strategic transformation initiative, Stuart took on the role as Business Services and Innovation Director with responsibility for Information Management and Technology, People and Knowledge, Business Process Re-engineering, Risk and Compliance, Facilities and Innovation and most recently is taking on a new role, Chief Technology and Innovation Officer, to enable Weightmans to capitalise on the success they have been having in building products for clients that solve some of their issues, only one part of which might involved any actual legal advice.

Stuart regularly presents at events with special areas of interest being around BPR, technology and helping lawyers to work smartly in an uncertain market where there is continuous downward pressure on price, upwards pressure on costs and the quality of the service that is delivered to the client needs to be continually improved. He has a MSC in IT, is a certified Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt and a qualified coach.

**ABIGAIL HERRON****Global Head of ESG Strategic Partnerships, Aviva Investors**

Described by a previous CIO as a Swiss army knife of ESG, Abigail is a leader and ambassador of sustainable finance within Aviva Investors and externally. Abigail is a well-read, resourceful and relentless champion of sustainability. She is an expert at joining the dots between companies, NGOs, policy makers, investment desks and ESG issues. In her 8 years working with Steve Waygood at Aviva Investors, she has produced an asset bank of award winning collateral spanning every aspect of responsible investment.

During her 16 years in responsible investment she has engaged on the A to Z of ESG topics - from aviation emissions to zero hour contracts. She has deep experience with the creation, launch, management and distribution of funds. From the early pioneers such as the CIS sustainable leaders range, now the Royal London sustainable world funds, and the £2.2Bn Friends Life Stewardship Funds, to contemporary climate, impact and ESG funds. She also has deep, practical knowledge of integration and data, net zero plans, sustainability reporting, TCFD etc and is an experienced public speaker.

**PROF KATIE ATKINSON****Professor of Computer Science and Dean of the School of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Computer Science, University of Liverpool**

Katie is known internationally for her research contributions within the field of AI and Law over the past 19 years. Within this area, her specialism is on computational models of argument for modelling legal reasoning. She has published over one hundred and fifty articles in peer-reviewed conference proceedings and journals, and has also applied her work in a variety of industrial projects with law firms.

Her current research is focussed on explainable AI for legal applications. Katie was Program Chair of the fifteenth edition of the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Law held in San Diego, USA in 2015 and she served as President of the International Association for Artificial Intelligence and Law (IAAIL) in 2016 and 2017. In 2020 Katie was appointed to serve as a member of the Lawtech UK Panel, a government-backed initiative to help transform the UK legal sector through technology. Katie recently served on the Computer Science and Informatics sub-panel in the UK Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021.



DEBORAH WALKER

Head of Business Development for Financial and Business Services at MIDAS

Midas is Manchester's inward Investment agency. Deborah is responsible for securing inward investment into Greater Manchester in this sector and developing the lead generation strategy.

Originally working for the Hong Kong and Shanghai bank specialising in Trade Finance, Deborah Walker has spent more than 20 years in the Financial and Professional sector in Greater Manchester working for some of the UK's largest financial institutions. With a career spanning Trade, Commercial and Private Banking in addition to spending four years as Head of Client Service for DWF, initiating and embedding their client service review programme.

Latterly Deborah spent eight years working alongside professional service businesses as part of a role within Manchester Metropolitan University where she developed and launched the UK's first post graduate programme in Law Firm Management and the largest legal apprenticeship pilot, in addition to working with businesses developing Fintech and LawTech propositions.



JASON DUNNING

Innovation Lead – Creativity & Design, DWF Innovation & Ventures

Jason is a recognised leader in Creativity and Design. He is regarded as a highly effective facilitator of Innovation, Design and Creative Problem Solving Techniques. Jason is currently the global innovation lead for Creativity and Design with DWF's Innovation & Ventures function.



DR JOSEPH LEE

Reader in Corporate and Financial Law, The University of Manchester

Joseph is the author of the book 'Crypto-finance, law and regulation: governing an emerging ecosystem' and the editor of a forthcoming book 'Data Governance in AI, FinTech and LegalTech'. He has written extensively in the area of law and technology, including on the application of blockchain in the energy markets and the deployment of AI/Data analytics to enhance ESG. His current research projects focus on the use of DAOs in Web3 as an innovative form of collaboration and sharing.

He is a member of the LawTech Advisory Council of the Astana International Financial Centre and co-director of the Manchester LawTech Initiative. He is the programme director of University of Manchester Worldwide LLM in International Commercial and Technology Law. He has held a number of visiting positions including at KU Leuven, the Judicial Academy of Thailand, the University of Tokyo, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and National Taiwan University. He is also an attorney of New York State. He speaks Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, French and a little Italian.



BRIAN HIGGINS

Security Consultant, SAS

Brian was first appointed to a Cyber Security role with the Serious Organised Crime Agency in 2012 and has been passionate about the work, the community, and the message ever since. During that time he has worked in Public, Private, Third and Education Sector roles both professionally and voluntarily with a focus on skills, training and awareness throughout.

He has a sound understanding of organisational security vulnerabilities and evolving threat vectors and has developed, managed, and presented award-winning training and awareness programmes for a variety of audiences here in the UK and overseas.



EIMEAR MCCANN

Commercial Director, TrialView

A former lawyer, Eimear is Commercial Director at TrialView, a digital disputes platform. Eimear is a creative and strategic thinker, bringing together knowledge of law with a passion for identifying new and innovative ways of working. She is also a writer and a Visiting Lecturer at The University of Law.



DAN SODERGREN

Co-Founder, YourFLOCK

Ex marketing agency owner, serial tech startup co-founder, Dan Sodergren is a digital marketing and technology expert who works on the BBC Breakfast, BBC new channels, BBC Watchdog, the One Show, RipOffBritain and on countless radio shows. He is a futurist. Who studies and trains companies in how the future of marketing, work and technology will change our world. He is currently co-founder of www.YourFLOCK.co.uk with Michal Wisniewski.



MICHAL WISNIEWSKI

Co-Founder and MD, YourFLOCK

Michal studied organisational culture at The University of Manchester is the Managing Director of Your FLOCK - an HR-tech start-up based in Manchester. Your FLOCK is a SaaS helping busy team leaders flag people who can become more engaged so they can take action now and make sure they stay engaged and retained at your business. Michal specialises in people analytics and is designed to develop, and improve the engagement of employees based on their core values and culture alignment. Michal provided successful culture consultancies to organisations like MEDIACOM, Virgin Money, or Coventry University raising profits by creating more value-driven teams.



**PROF CLAIRE
MCGOURLAY**

*Professor of Legal
Education, The University
of Manchester*

Claire is a Professor of Legal Education at The University of Manchester and a National and Principal Fellow of the HEA. She is the director of external relations in the School of Social Sciences and is also the director of the Miscarriages of Justice Review Centre. Claire is driving forward the integration of legal tech into the curriculum and has created the Manchester Justice Hub in partnership with students.



JAMES WHITAKER

*Senior Manager in the
Innovation & Legal
Technology team,
Addleshaw Goddard LLP*

James leads a team of legal technologists tasked with developing client facing legal products that enable the firm's clients to interact with AG legal services, though the application of legal technology and process redesign.

Through previous roles James has a wealth of experience in the legal services and solutions sector having partnered with law firms and third party tech companies to design and implement innovative solutions in the areas of Case & Matter Management, CRM and Enterprise Resource Planning.



KATY SIDEBOTHAM

*Innovation Manager,
DWF Innovation & Ventures*

Katy is Innovation Manager within the Innovation & Ventures team at DWF. Providing support along the firm's innovation pipeline, with a particular interest in new ideas and concept development within our process. During concept development Katy provides facilitation support on sprints, enabling the development of new ideas into tangible prototypes in a short space of time.

Katy graduated from The University of Manchester Law School Masters course in 2021 Law (General) LLM, and was one of the first cohorts to undertake the new LegalTech Modules developed since the launch of the Manchester Law & Technology Initiative.



LEWIS BRETT

*Chief Legal Engineer
and COO, SYKE*

As Chief Legal Engineer and COO at SYKE, Lewis leads work which helps some of the world's largest organisations and law firms transform their legal operations. SYKE ensure corporate legal teams reduce risk, save costs, and drive growth.

As a Barrister he had a broad commercial practice with a particular focus in the law relating to information, data protection and technology. Lewis advised and represented government departments, local authorities, and major retailers as well as private companies and individuals. He was a member of the Attorney General's regional 'C' panel of counsel.



SAM BALLIN

*Solicitor at JMW
Solicitors LLP*

Sam has experience in obtaining injunctive relief where individuals or companies have been subject to cryptocurrency fraud and was involved in one of the first cases in the country where Disclosure Orders were obtained against a multi-billion pound cryptocurrency exchange and a subsequent Freezing Order was obtained over a significant amount of Bitcoin.



JEMMA FLEETWOOD

*Solicitor at
JMW Solicitors LLP*

Jemma has particular expertise and experience in digital asset disputes, including obtaining urgent injunctive relief where individuals or corporates have been subject to cryptocurrency fraud, misrepresentation claims and contractual disputes over cryptocurrencies and other digital assets.



MICHAEL KENNEDY

*Senior Manager
(Innovation and
Legal Technology),
Addleshaw Goddard LLP*

Mike is a member of Addleshaw Goddard's Innovation and Legal Technology team, where he runs a Research and Development team. Mike has worked across many areas within legal tech, being part of AG's team for a number of years and responsible for a range of key projects, he now focusses on what problems we have within the legal industry and how we can become better equipped to solve them.



WILL LLOYD

*DWF and Manchester
Legal Hackers*

Will is a Trainee Solicitor at a global legal business, where he is putting his previous experience as Legal Technologist to good use whilst completing his training.

Whilst studying towards his Graduate Diploma in Law, Will gained an appetite for legal technology, and soon founded his university's first student Legal Hackers chapter, where he aimed to engage student communities and raise awareness of emerging legal technologies within higher education. He hopes to continue this with Manchester Legal Hackers, and has recently guested on BPP University's 'What the Heck is Legal Tech' podcast series.