



17 April 2020

Dear Member,

I thought I would wait just a little time before contacting you so that the YFLA's message about what we are doing in the context of the coronavirus crisis was not lost in the deluge of emails and information being constantly generated. These are obviously difficult and testing times. The first concern of everyone on the Committee is that all members of the YFLA and their families are well, healthy and safe. I have the strongest hope that all of you fall into that category.

We are all still adjusting to the sudden change in working environment. Unbelievably, work can still present difficulties even when your commute has gone from 40 minutes to a short walk from bed to desk. Our twin professions have always prided ourselves on adaptability and resilience and, no doubt, we will continue to thrive given the circumstances.

However, I can appreciate there might be some members of this association whose employment has been affected more fundamentally than simply as a result of an edict to remain at home. Those whose careers have been more severely affected should not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the committee if you feel you would benefit from a (virtual) chat and some emotional support. As a member of this association, you should feel comfortable turning to other members for support. It is there if you need it.

Now to the burning issues. The YFLA's twin objects are:

- (1) To advance its members' education and training in all matters relating to their practice as fraud lawyers; and
- (2) To encourage social interaction amongst its members.

With respect to education and training, we are going to continue to run our highly regarded YFLA educationals but will run these online. We are in the course of arranging some really impressive speakers and look forward to providing you with more detail, including sign-up details, soon.

With respect to social interaction, regrettably we have had to cancel the summer social. It is just not possible to run the event in the circumstances. We still hold out hope for an epic annual dinner/AGM but we will have to keep this under review. Preliminary preparations are continuing for an event in September and it may be that that is far enough away that an event can be held then. You will understand however that we cannot make any assurances. In short, we will meet again. I am just not entirely sure when. When we do it will make for one hell of an evening.

In the circumstances, we have decided to put on regular YFLA virtual forums. These will be hosted by at least two or three YFLA committee members. They will involve a mix of educational and social topics. The forums will provide a really great opportunity to catch up with friends and stay connected with others in the profession. They will also be an opportunity for people to share stories and information about the current crisis. Please send an email to Gareth Hall (hallg@gtlaw.com) if you would like to be involved. We will send out one more specific email about it. The first forum will be on Wednesday 22 April 2020. The relevant software will be Zoom.

We look forward to seeing you over the next few months. We particularly look forward to seeing you face-to-face.

Please do not hesitate to contact me personally (jgn@5pb.co.uk) if you would like to propose some other activities for us to consider during the lockdown.

Yours Sincerely

**Josh Normanton
Chair of the YFLA**