

LOOKING BACK ON 2009

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# Ellisons SOLICITORS



October 2009 - merger with  
Marshall Legal



New Partners



It's art at the Tendring Show



Round we go again!



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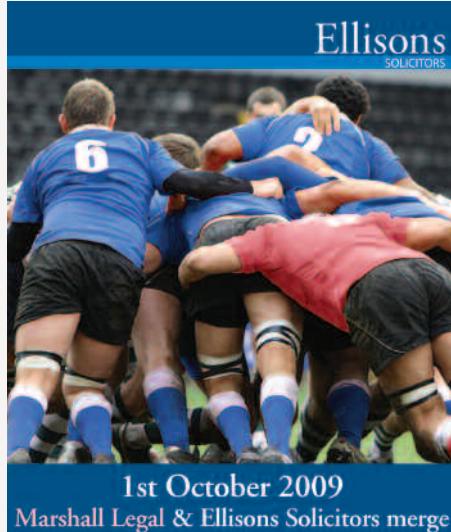
# Firm News

## Marshall Merger

**ON THE 1ST OCTOBER 2009**, Ellisons merged with Marshall Legal in Colchester, reinforcing the position of Ellisons as one of the most prominent providers of legal services in the region. The merger decision came just a year after the firm attracted PTL Solicitors to unite their respective practices. The combined firm, which is known as Ellisons, has 23 partners and approximately 25 other lawyers. It now offers greater strength across all practice areas but in particular: Property, Civil Litigation, Private Client and Family

Ellisons' Senior Partner, Peter Powell, is delighted that Marshall Legal, which has a history almost as long as that of Ellisons, has joined forces: "Marshall Legal has roots in Colchester going back to 1829 and Ellisons has evidence of beginning at least sixty years earlier. Such a solid historic foundation is important but much more pertinent is the fact that we believe we have a strong future together.

Marshall's former Senior Partner Charles Penfold is equally positive. "*Choosing the right partners is always important but must be more so when we were making such a significant move. This merger reflects our mutual confidence that the Marshall practice fits well with Ellisons' plans for the future and the new combined firm will provide a strong platform from which to further develop our business and service the needs of our clients*"



1st October 2009  
Marshall Legal & Ellisons Solicitors merge

This merger reflects the commitment of both firms to growth, achieved through a combination of organic development and



L to R Peter Powell, Keith List; Guy Longhurst; Seamus Clifford, Charles Penfold

strategic mergers. The vision of the newly merged firm reflects the desire of each merger partner to focus on commercial work, particularly through the Colchester office but still maintain a strong private client base. The combined firm will offer greater strength across all practice areas but in particular: Property, Civil Litigation, Private Client and Family.

## New Partners

**Thanks to the Legal Services Act recognising alternative business structures**  
**Robert Jones and Lee Pearce are now fully recognised as partners within the Firm. Lee Pearce's appointment came into effect on the 1st July 2009; Robert Jones, who has enjoyed partner status for several years, was welcomed to the equity partnership on 1st September 2009.**

Senior Partner Peter Powell, is delighted with these recent developments:

*"Both Robert and Lee have been star performers and key contributors to the firm's strong reputation in their respective areas of property and insurance. I am delighted that the alternative business structures and in particular, the Multidisciplinary Practices (MDP), now sanctioned by the Legal Services Act, allows lawyers trained via the Legal Executive route to become partners. It is a status that both have enjoyed and deserved in all but name but we are pleased to now be able to officially call them "partners"."*

Lee, who has been with Ellisons Solicitors since 1994, is Head of Property Litigation and a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives. Robert, who heads up the Insurance Litigation practice, has been with the firm since 1973. He leads a large and expanding team of experienced lawyers, instructed predominantly by insurers. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives.



L to R: Lee Pearce, Peter Powell, Robert Jones

# Firm News

## And the survey says....

There are two established pieces of annual market research on the legal sector – The Legal 500 and Chambers UK, a Client's Guide to the Legal Profession.



L to R: Lee Pearce, Jayne Scott, Graeme Wallington and Andrew Tilsley

Ellisons Solicitors is consistently ranked in The Legal 500 for the key practice areas of Commercial Property; Corporate and Commercial; Commercial Litigation; Private Client; Family;



Employment; Property Litigation, Planning and Insurance/Personal Injury.

Individuals and practices particularly highlighted this year:

- **Graeme Wallington** is “noted for his civil litigation expertise, particularly in relation to employment and property-related disputes.”
- **Jayne Scott** ‘is highly committed and has proved invaluable in resolving employment issues’.

- Property Litigation Head and partner **Lee Pearce** is praised for being ‘tenacious and practical’
- Commercial Property – ‘efficient, accurate and helpful’ real estate team, which was strengthened by the arrival of **Andrew Tilsley**
- Corporate and Commercial – Ellisons is ‘A friendly firm with experts in key aspects of law’
- Family, which is ranked in the top tier again this year, received praise for its ‘wide breadth of knowledge’.

In the Chambers and Partners research the Firm is recommended under “East Anglia” for **Family; Licensing; Real Estate and Real Estate Litigation**. Special mention is made of **Patsy Phillips, Guy Longhurst and Louise Bland**.

## A Qualified's Success

We are pleased to announce that both Robert John and Zeenat Pasha have completed their training periods and are now qualified solicitors with the Firm.



L to R: Natalie Andrews, Robert John, Zeenat Pasha

Robert John, who joined Ellisons in 2007, qualified on the 1st November. For the final part of his training period he has specialised in Personal Injury and is now a permanent member of the growing Insurance Litigation team.

Zeenat Pasha started her training contract with Marshall Legal in September 2007, qualifying in September 2009. She joined Ellisons as part of a merger on 1st October 2009 and is now part of the Private Client team specialising in Wills & Probate.

Also in September 2009, Natalie Andrews started her training contract with Ellisons as a member of the Insurance Litigation team.

## Clacton Means Business

The Firm has relocated two partners to Clacton in a move which gives the office more strategic direction and expands the range of services on offer.

Stephen Lansley, Head of Residential Property, will manage the Clacton office whilst still leading the practice team across all four offices:

*“Buying and selling property, even in today’s economic climate, remains a staple legal service requirement for our Private Client base. My relocation emphasises the Firm’s commitment to the Tendring peninsula, ensuring that the key private client services are accessible from the local offices. The partner in charge of the Dovercourt office is a Wills & Probate specialist; in Frinton we have a partner with years of Family experience and so to complete the set, I will be spending the majority of my time in Clacton whilst retaining my clients and contacts in Colchester.”*



Stephen Lansley



Stuart Connal

Joining Stephen in Clacton is Partner, Stuart Connal, who advises primarily on Family Law but also on Employment matters. Stuart was formerly a partner with Marshall Legal, joining Ellisons as part of the October merger.

# Ellisons in the Community



## Love me Tendring

The annual Tendring Show is marketed as the "County's Premier Agricultural Event". 2009 proved another huge success with almost perfect show weather. A packed showground with visitors, exhibitors and entertainment throughout the day provided a great atmosphere, at what is now one of the most popular local events on the calendar.

Ellisons has been a long-term supporter of the annual Tendring Hundred Show but this year, with the launch of its specialist team focussing on rural issues, (see below), it increased its support to sponsor the Art Show.

Sponsorship included hosting a preview party for about 500 guests on the evening of Friday 10th July and having a presence in the art marquee throughout the show, which took place at Lawford House Park, Nr Manningtree, Essex. Sadly the rules

are that this opportunity rotates amongst the regular sponsors and so Ellisons cannot repeat next year but we are sure we will find some way to continue to show Tendring and its community just how important they are to us.

# Ellisons in the Community

# Round we go again!

**Ellisons Solicitors sponsored West Mersea Yacht Club's annual 'Round the Island' Race, for the third year running.**



Many hands help Sebastian Struth cross the Strood in his Laser Radial



John Ready of Dabchicks Sailing Club (holds the record for the race, which he set in 2002!) and his crew is Alan Morgan. John and Alan finished in second place this year

On 19th August approximately 140 boats took part in this West Mersea Yacht Club organised race, which took place this year on Wednesday the 19th August, mid-way through Mersea Week.

Ellisons partner Seamus Clifford did not race this year, having being "persuaded" into acting as one of the race officials, but others competing from the firm included Tim Logan, Louise Bland and Ceri Rogers.

Competitors are required to nominate their start time when they submit their entry forms one week in advance of the event. On the day the sailors must then decide whether to circumnavigate the island to port or to starboard.

The day of the race saw temperatures nearing thirty degrees celsius. During the morning the wind was very light however the sea breeze soon kicked in making for good race for all abilities.

The south-easterly wind favoured the later starting starboard bound competitors whose

dinghies approached the Strood quickly. On arriving at the Strood competitors boats were lifted out of the water, carried over and re-launched by an army of willing volunteers.

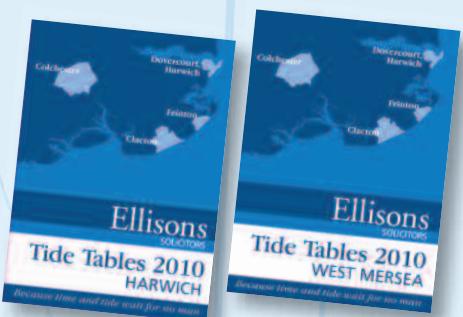
The winners of the event were Henry Wells and his crew Angus Pickles who rounded the island in 1 hour 24 minutes in their B14 dinghy.

For all competitors, including serious amateurs of all ages, the Mersea Round the Island Race proved to be a great day of sailing. The event was finished off by post race family fun at the West Mersea Yacht Club including a BBQ and live music.

Seamus explains why Ellisons are more than happy to continue with their support of this annual event:

*"Many of our Firm, including myself, live on the island, as do a number of our clients. The island community is important to us and how better to demonstrate our commitment than to continue with the sponsorship of this unique event. It is a wonderful family occasion and an opportunity to celebrate how very privileged we are to live and work in this very beautiful coastal location."*

## Time and Tide...



Continuing with our nautical theme, this year we have produced pocket-size Tide Tables for both Harwich and Mersea. The idea was introduced to us by our colleagues who have joined as result of the merger with Marshall Legal in October. So if you are a keen sailor or just want to know when you can cross the Strood on Mersea Island and you haven't received a copy of your Tide Tables, please request a copy from any of our offices or by emailing [marketing@ellisonslegal.com](mailto:marketing@ellisonslegal.com)



L to R: Lee Pearce, Ceri Rogers, Louise Bland, Tim Logan, Tom McPhie

The merger with PTL in May 2008 made Ellisons the law firm with the greatest spread of offices on the Tendring peninsula. The merger prompted a more focused approach to serving the rural community as Tim Logan, Head of Private Client and leading the Rural Affairs Team explains:

*"Clients in the rural community have always been important to us and so this is not so much about a new service but an opportunity to improve our focus. Looking more strategically at what more we can offer our rural based clients was a logical step".*

The core Rural Affairs team is made up of lawyers from Private Client, Corporate, Litigation, Property and Planning. Other members of the Firm will also be involved.

**The Rural Affairs team provides a comprehensive range of legal services to farmers, landowners, food producers, stud and livery businesses and others involved in living and doing business in the rural communities.**

# It's a Rural Affair



Colchester v Mersea September 2009



## Rugby First

Ellisons renewed its sponsorship of Colchester Rugby Club 1st XV for the 2009/10 season for the fourth year running. Club Chairman, John Powell said 'We are very grateful to Ellisons for their continuing sponsorship. Links between local businesses and Community Sports Clubs are vital to the sustainability of sport and we freely acknowledge that without such support from Ellisons and others, our task would be very difficult'.



Andrew Crayston, Fenn Wright; Peter Harrup, PKF; Guy Longhurst, Ellisons.

# Positively Property

**On Thursday 30 April, over 160 delegates with a professional interest in the property sector attended a breakfast seminar at the Weston Homes Community Stadium. Jointly organised by a trio of local advisers - Ellisons Solicitors, Fenn Wright Estate Agents and PKF Accountants & Business Advisers – the guest speaker was Phil Eckersley, Agent for the Bank of England in the Bank's South East & East Anglia region.**

Phil Eckersley acknowledged that many in the room would be hoping for some “shreds of comfort” in his presentation but tempered any excessive optimism by balancing the fact that while there had been some credit easing, the overall view of City commentators on the economic outlook was still fairly gloomy. Acknowledging some positive signs such as the modest improvement in the housing market, the bottoming out of the mortgage products sector and the opportunities for other lenders to plug the gap now that 30% of the secured lending market

had withdrawn, Mr Eckersley warned that synchronised downturn in GDP was still happening. With some commentators now predicting a pick up by 2010, he cautioned that whilst things were negative, there had been a substantial monetary policy response by the Bank of England through interest rate cuts and Quantitative Easing and there were now some signs that the economy was no longer deteriorating.

Delegates were asked to complete a feedback form which included a mini survey on issues

touched on in the seminar. From a sample of 55 delegates:

- 48% felt “more positive about the property sector now than in six months ago”
- 31% “expect the property market to return to growth within the next 12 months”; 34.5% were undecided and another 34.5% thought “no”
- 53% thought the Government should be doing more to stimulate the property sector

Ellisons Solicitors is involved in and supports a number of other community initiatives: COLBEA, Colchester 2020, Colchester Choral Society, Colchester Rugby Club, Essex University, Essex Wildlife Trust, firstsite, Frinton Golf Club, Harwich Sea Festival, Race for Life, St Helena Hospice, The Mercury Theatre, The Tendring Show and more... Individual members of the Firm are even further involved in local charities and community projects on a personal level. However, we hope that the initiatives and events highlighted in these pages give a flavour of how Ellisons take its role in the local community very seriously indeed.

# Christmas 2009

# Staged Support

Ellisons showed its support for the Mercury Theatre by continuing with what appears to be an annual fixture and handing over its Head Street windows to pantomime promotion. The posters depicting this year's production of Cinderella give the Colchester office a festive air and underline the Firm's continued role as a Corporate Community Sponsor.

The Frinton office has also done its bit to encourage local theatre with its continued sponsorship of the Box Office for the Frinton Summer Theatre.



## Wild for Essex

On an annual basis, Ellisons nominates a local charity to support. For 2009/10 members of the firm are encouraged to focus fundraising efforts on the Essex Wildlife Trust, the county's leading conservation charity.

Essex Wildlife Trust is a charity that exists to secure a better future for the wildlife and people of Essex. Established in 1959, it depends on membership subscriptions, donations and legacies to fund the majority of its work.



### Key Services

- Commercial Property
- Corporate Commercial
- Employment and HR Support
- Family
- Licensing
- Litigation
- Personal Injury
- Planning
- Private Client
- Residential Property

**Ellisons**  
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