

MOVERS & SHAKERS



[NLJ PROFILE]

Stephanie Boyce, recently elected deputy vice-president of the Law Society of England & Wales, discusses the realities of representing more than one first

What was your route into the profession?

My journey into the profession was far from seamless. In 1985, my family relocated to the US. Even though I lived there for the next six years, I always knew I would return to the UK to study law. So, in 1991, the day after finishing high school, I returned to the UK—and so began my legal career.

I stumbled on my first barrier upon discovering my US qualifications would not be recognised in the UK. However, thanks to the access to qualification route, I was able to enter London Guildhall University in 1996, where I graduated with an LLB (Hons) in politics. After that, I progressed to the LPC at the College of Law in Guildford.

Disaster however—almost—struck: I was unable to secure a training contract. However, thanks to the steadfast encouragement of my father, Melvin, I secured a placement with local Aylesbury firm, Horwood & James. I qualified in 2002 and joined my first in-house team a year later. In 2010 I completed a master's degree in public law and global governance at King's College, University of London.

What has been your biggest career challenge so far?

It has probably been to establish myself in the legal profession as a credible candidate to be an elected office holder of the Law Society of England & Wales. In doing so, I represent a couple of firsts. I will be the first black woman to hold the position of president, and the first in-house solicitor to be an elected office holder.

I hope to bring a fresh perspective—an understanding of the experiences of these under-represented groups, and what we must do to support them. In doing so, I am proof that no matter what the challenge, or how insurmountable the odds appear

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A new career pathway at national firm Weightmans has seen 96 associates promoted: read more at [www.newLawjournal.com](http://www.newlawjournal.com).



Handing over the reins

International arbitration expert John Beechey CBE has stepped down from his role of chair of the International Chamber of Commerce's (ICC's) arbitration programme. He hands over the reins to Ania Farren, managing director of Vannin Capital.

John, the former president of the ICC International Court of Arbitration, has chaired the ICC's UK arbitration programme since 2015. Ania, previously the programme's vice chair, will now take on the position of chair as the first woman in the role. Now managing director of legal finance firm Vannin Capital, Ania has more than 15 years of experience in international arbitration, with particular expertise in energy disputes.

Freeze frame

International firm Crowell & Moring has strengthened the London office with the appointment of Laurence Winston as a partner and co-head of the international dispute resolution group.

Laurence has spent the last 18 years with Squire Patton Boggs, where he served as head of litigation. He is highly experienced in commercial litigation and arbitration, advising banks and other financial institutions on domestic and cross-border disputes. His areas of expertise include obtaining freezing injunctions and other forms of emergency relief; he also specialises in data and cyber security, and handles banking and investment disputes and employee fraud cases.

International relations

Family boutique Expatriate Law has expanded the team with the appointment of senior associate Melanie Bataillard-Samuel.

Melanie comes on board from the London office of Gregg Latchams, and has also previously worked at Hodge Jones & Allen and Clarke & Son LLP. She offers particular expertise in French and European law, and is highly experienced advising on international family law disputes involving French nationals.

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