SCL In-house Lawyers’ Group Launch
Tuesday 19 January 2021

Meeting Report

On Tuesday 19 January, over 40 SCL members met to discuss plans for the new SCL In-House Group, being set up by SCL Trustee Trish Shaw and SCL Fellow Chris James. The meeting was chaired by Clive Davies, former SCL Chair.

In this article, Trish, Clive and Chris bring us up to speed.

What is all this about?

We’re setting up the SCL In-House Group.

Over the years several SCL members have highlighted that in-house lawyers have slightly different requirements to private practitioners. We (Trish, Clive and Chris) are experienced in-house lawyers ourselves, and recognise this.

Some of the challenges SCL has faced in the past when trying to foster a closer in-house community, such as the wider geographic spread of in-house members, and the difficulties finding time to travel to events, are being mitigated by the wider adoption of technology like Zoom and Teams.

We think now is a good time to bring everyone together.

What will the Group do?

We will tackle legal content through the lens of an in-house lawyer: what do you need to know to be effective? We will major on the practical rather than the academic.

We will look at technology as well as law: how does it work, how do I separate fact from fiction?

We will also focus on improving the practice of technology law in-house. How do we use technology to improve how the legal function works? How can be better manage legal risk?

We will support our members in the development of their soft skills.

What about lawtech?

Did you know that SCL began life as a place for lawtech pioneers to congregate, almost half a century ago? Our Society has plenty of members who are passionate about this subject.

We want to bring this expertise together for the benefit of those of us working on transformation of our own in-house legal functions.
Is this separate from the main Society?

No, SCL has several special interest groups, which are an essential part of the Society’s activities. We aim for the In-House Group to be the focal point for our in-house members, adding to the wider SCL experience. Members must be (or become) members of the Society.

How will it work?

We have a mailing list for members to join (see below). We will use this to discuss our agenda, event calendar and other activities. We can also use it for discussion between members.

We are investigating the best tools to use to hold meetings, events, share know-how and encourage members to get to know each other. SCL is a registered charity with its own IT infrastructure which (as a Group) we can leverage.

I’d like more detail please.

Here are a few video clips from our inaugural meeting:

- An introduction - Clive
- Challenges (1) and opportunities (2) – Trish
- A brief backdrop, and our Manifesto – Trish
- A summary of our breakout discussion groups – Trish, Chris and Clive

And here is a mind map summarising the content of that meeting (also sent as separate attachment):
Isn’t it risky to encourage sharing between peers?

We need to practice what we preach to our business stakeholders: no swapping confidential information or trade secrets. If in doubt, please check first. If you see anything of concern, please flag it to us. Our draft Terms of Reference will be circulated to the mailing list shortly.

I’m in – how do I sign up?

If you would like to join, please start by joining our mailing list.

Instructions

1. Click Sign Up,
2. On the next screen click “Request to Join”,
3. Enter your email address.

You can use your corporate or personal email address, as best suits you.

Sign-ups are manually approved so please give us a day or two. Drop us a line if you have any issues.

The list is currently open to all members, to both send and receive (like an Outlook group). You can switch to receiving a daily digest, or engage via a website only if you prefer to keep the email traffic down.