

Modern Lawyer

Ideas for Legal Leaders

Editor: Alex Davies

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Featured in this issue

Law departments must become more discerning purchasers of legal tech

New for 2024 – the things lawyers need to know

Data bites back

Growing and deepening your network



Time for a
change?



New year, new start – and by now most people’s resolutions will have already fallen by the wayside. Whilst many eschew the idea of change for such an arbitrary reason as the beginning of a new calendar year, there is a good reason to reflect and take stock – because other people will be doing so. This means changes to working practices, trends and fads, and inevitable price increases, or cost-cutting measures. What are you doing to ensure you stay on people’s Christmas

card lists in a mere ten months’ time?

January heralds new beginnings and the promise of more to come. Our opening article from Pam Loch looks at the new employment law on the horizon for 2024 and what that will mean for both lawyers and clients. Richard Brzakala’s insightful article (giving one tip for every year of his extensive career in legal operations) looks at how corporate law departments can protect themselves from law firm price increases, whilst David Freeman’s BD column looks at the things the modern lawyer can be doing to grow and deepen their network in 2024.

David’s column will be the last for *Modern Lawyer*, and we also conclude Donna McGrath’s excellent series on maintaining career success, with a look at how in-house lawyers can make 2024 the best year yet for their career.

Taking their place, Claire Rason and Oliver Hansard begin a new series on legal leadership, exploring some of the challenges they regularly experience when coaching lawyers. Exploring the issues of emotional intelligence and empathy, our coaches echo the views of Naïs Mouret who explains how “EQ” can contribute to success in a lawyer’s career.

The themes of technology and data are undoubtedly going to resonate throughout 2024. Joanne Frears takes an in-depth look at the impact of data in law and how perceptions of ownership and privacy are changing. “As lawyers”, she says, “we know that all the legal knowledge in the world is useless without application. Big Data is not about the data – it is about how it is used.”

This thought is echoed in Nate Cemenska and Stephanie Corey’s article on legal tech, which notes the recent scramble for proprietary LLMs and argues that tech for tech’s sake will not help the average lawyer – or law firm – unless the business and the individual understand the need for it. So whilst everyone else might be making resolutions and trying new things, it’s not always the early adopters who get it right. Watching how others get on first might be the safer bet.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Davies".

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