

Modern Lawyer

Ideas for Legal Leaders

Editor: Alex Davies

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Featured in this issue

Modern justice – at what cost?

*The people's law crisis
and the case for MSO models*

The long game of networking

*Beyond retirement – how law
firms can unlock partner
potential*

A wide-angle photograph of a city skyline at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The city lights are visible, and several glowing blue lines with circular nodes at their intersections are overlaid on the image, creating a network-like pattern that suggests global connectivity and digital technology.

Networking – a skill for life



I write this editorial on so-called ‘Blue Monday’ – the most dismal day of the year. Yet the sun is shining and I’m feeling optimistic – the fabulous contributors to this edition of *Modern Lawyer* are giving me reasons to be cheerful even if the wider world is not.

For this issue I’ve spoken to two extremely inspiring leaders. First is Jodie Hill, who reframed a breakdown as a mental breakthrough – and created a law firm in its wake, aptly described as a place to ‘Thrive’. Jodie talks about her journey on p42 and what she hopes her legacy might be.

Next is Michelle Elstein (p12), a truly courageous leader who turned around a life-changing accident into a career-defining pivot, making it her life’s work to help others at Courageous Co. Both women explain how adversity helped define what was important to them, and both, tellingly, highlight the importance of the people around them – their network.

This issue focuses in on the importance of networking for lawyers in general. Perhaps it’s the start of a new year and we’re busy feathering our nests, but the issue of finding your tribe, collecting likeminded people, and rising with them, has become a bit of a theme. I’m not a massive fan of walking into a room and trying to strike up a conversation, but I’ve seen firsthand how being in the right place at the right time can pay dividends. As Rebecca Overend points out in her article on p2, networking isn’t just a one-off event your boss sends you to, it’s a ‘career-long discipline’ that can make or break where you end up. Why not give it a try?

Elsewhere in this issue the wonderful Anna Marra (p25) dons her big hair and takes us back to the 1980s and ‘the greatest night in pop’ – when 40+ world-famous artists joined forces to create the record-busting charity single “We are the world” to raise money for Africa. Anna describes how the instigators behind this movement – Quincy Jones and Stevie Wonder – applied legal project management across the board, not least with their advice to “check your ego at the door”. One can only wonder at the networking Quincy and Stevie must have done in their careers to get such famous names to join their initiative with such little notice – and I daren’t even imagine what their contracts looked like...

Back in the present, Scott Primmer (p38) talks us through what a legal system without juries might look like, and Victoria Tomlinson (p8) explains the realities of life after legal.

For those still feeling blue, why not reach out to your network? Arrange a coffee, phone a friend – you never know where it might lead.

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