

# International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation London Network Newsletter December 2018



## Welcome to the second IWIRC London Network newsletter.

We are pleased to send the second edition of our IWIRC London Network newsletter. In this edition, we report on:

1. The two events that happened in H2 2018
2. Upcoming exciting events happening in H1 2019 including our new monthly 'Thursday Fizz' drinks events
3. Articles and promotions of our members
4. News of our new mentoring initiative

Happy reading.

The IWIRC London Network Communications Team,

**Kat Burke** (Skadden), Communications Co-Chair

**Katharina Crinson** (Freshfields) Communications Co-Chair

**Lois Wyatt** (Deloitte) and **Olivia Bushell** (Skadden), Communications Committee Members

## Our First Be Informed Breakfast

On 17 September 2018, the IWIRC London Network launched its inaugural **BE INFORMED** campaign with a session on Company Voluntary Arrangements. The event was hosted and sponsored by **K&L Gates**. Special counsel **Clare Tanner** introduced the speakers and reminded attendees of the benefits of joining IWIRC.

**Emma Jackson** and **Luisa Janisch**, both Associate Directors at commercial real estate giant **CBRE** gave an update on the UK property market, particularly looking at office space and retail. **Katharina Crinson** from **Freshfields** stepping in for **Caroline Dodman** at **CMS** presented. Katharina outlined the CVA process and methods to challenge a CVA. She made the point that there is very little case law on CVAs at present and most challenges, if made, are settled out of court.

Click [here](#) for more detail.

## Member Profile



Panayiota Ioannou  
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Panayiota Ioannou is Senior Associate at Debenhams Ottaway. To view her member profile, click [here](#).

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# New Members Wanted!

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While we have almost 100 members, we are still looking to grow. The IWIRC London Network will provide our member who has referred most new members with a shopping voucher worth £250 at our annual celebration party in **June 2019** (see below). If you refer a friend, colleague or fellow professional as new IWIRC London network member, please be sure to email us at [iwirclondon@yahoo.com](mailto:iwirclondon@yahoo.com) to let us know. So keep on spreading the word.

## Member Profile

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Kristina is a Director and Insolvency Practitioner at Grant Thornton. To view her member profile, click [here](#).

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Kevin Hellard

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## Mentoring Opportunities

We are proud to be launching a mentoring initiative. Please get in touch with Helena Giles, Director at TMF Trustee Limited, through [iwirclondon@yahoo.com](mailto:iwirclondon@yahoo.com) to let us know if you would like to become a mentee, mentor or otherwise involved. This is a great opportunity to get stuck in to the IWIRC London network opportunities and be part of the leadership team.

## Member Profile

Clare Kennedy

Turnaround Professional

AlixPartners

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Clare is a Turnaround Professional at AlixPartners. To view her member profile, click [here](#).





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## Our First Be Connected Event

On 28 November the IWIRC London Network held their first ever BE CONNECTED event, hosted and sponsored by White & Case LLP, in conjunction with the charity **Dress for Success**.

The evening was a great success with the chance for IWIRC members to meet, mingle and exchange views while at the same time supporting Dress for Success. IWIRC members learned how Dress for Success helps women to get back into work, prepares women for their upcoming job interview, placement or training programme, by providing professional clothing, interview coaching and career development advice. The charity showed a powerful video clip of one of their clients who had benefited from Dress for

Success and who described that the charity does not just dress women on the outside, but makes them feel good and valued as a person. This was something that resonated with IWIRC members in the room.

As a network we were pleased that we not only raised money for the charity but also that members used the opportunity to donate professional clothing to make a difference.

There was a buzz in the room where members bought fashion and cosmetic products from female-owned small business stalls.

The raffle held many amazing prizes, including amongst others:

- festive hamper (generously donated by Dechert LLP): won by Clara di Tuoro, Alvarez and Marsal (non-member)
- hamper and vouchers for Neal's Yard cheese tasting (generously donated by RSM): won by Emma Keating, Ropes & Gray (member)

# UPCOMING EVENT

## An Evening at the Christmas Markets



On **20th December**, you are invited to join your fellow IWIRC London members beside the River Thames at the enchanting Winter Market at London's Southbank. This is the perfect opportunity for you to eat, drink and be merry with fellow London members as well as browsing the festive market stalls for the perfect Christmas gifts and more.

Alongside the pop-ups, traders from around the world bring to the riverside an array of handmade festive goodies and delicious snacks such as hot filled baguettes, baked Camembert and the more traditional bratwurst. You can also indulge in sweet treats like waffles and pancakes, washed down with spicy mulled cider and wine.

Please join us from **6pm** where an area will be reserved for us for the evening. Remember it will be chilly so why not wrap up in your purple pashminas!

Please email [iwirclondon@yahoo.com](mailto:iwirclondon@yahoo.com) if you can join us.

## Member Profile

Paula Lucescu

Investigator

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Paula is an Investigator at Griffins. To view her member profile, click [here](#).





# GRIFFINS

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**Professional Standards:** Our specialist team works with a number of the industry's regulators in cases where a regulator revokes an office holder's licence.

## ABI Symposium

On 17 - 18 October 2018, the American Bankruptcy Institute held the International Insolvency & Restructuring Symposium.

IWRIC London Network members attended. Read [here](#) for more details from Deirdre MacNamara.



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## Introducing Thursday Fizz

With thanks to our founding sponsors, we will be meeting every last Thursday of the month in the City to get together and network with other IWIRC London Network members.

Do bring a colleague, friend or fellow insolvency professional and introduce them to IWIRC.

This will be a free event for members and one guest. The drinks will be held at Jamies Wine Bar, 47 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7JZ.

The first Thursday Fizz will be on **31 January 2019** and we hope that you can join us from 6pm to 8pm.

## Lead Article

### New UNCITRAL Law for Restructuring and Insolvency

IWIRC London Network co-chair and partner at law firm Morrison and Foerster **Sonya Van de Graaff** and associate Edward Downer have published this article.



The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (“UNCITRAL”) has adopted and published a second model law to promote universalism of restructuring and insolvency. This new model law is now readily available for domestic implementation across the world. The earlier model law has been implemented in only 44 states since its publication in 1997. This article explains the differences between implementation in the UK and the U.S., and highlights barriers to implementation in the UK as well as the lack of an imperative for implementation in the U.S. Click [here](#) to read.

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## Articles

- Debtwire Radio, Law in Motion - Interpreting the UK's new insolvency reforms with **Katharina Crinson** and Lindsay Hingston of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, available at <https://soundcloud.com/user-510253489/law-in-motion-insolvency-reforms-freshfields>
- Rosie Patterson of our founding sponsor Debbenhams Ottaway has written an article on Intellectual Property in Distressed Companies. Click [here](#) to read Rosie's article.
- IWIRC member and co-chair of the membership committee **Tayyibah Arif** has written an article on Changing the Insolvency Waterfall – HMRC to Become a Preferential Creditor Again. Click [here](#) to read it.

## Member Profile

Mia Drennan  
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Mia is Founder and CEO of GLAS. To view her member profile, click [here](#).



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## Contact

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## Members News

**Jennifer Harrison**- Congratulations to Jennifer who has been promoted to Restructuring Advisory Manager at RSM

**Kristina Kicks**- Congratulations to Kristina who has been promoted to Director at Grant Thornton

**Helena Giles** - Congratulations to Helena who has moved to TMF. TMF has 125 offices across 83 jurisdictions and employs over 7000 professionals globally. Helena works for TMF in their Global Capital Markets Team as a Director of TMF Trustee Ltd. She works in Business Development and as a Technical Expert on complex new issuance, restructuring and distressed Loan Agency and Debt transactions.

## IWIRC Conferences and Membership Benefits

Hello, I am Mia Drennan and I am a Strategic Adviser to the IWIRC London Network. I wanted to share with you one of the benefits you can experience of being part of IWIRC.



One of the main reasons I wanted to join the network was because it was truly a global network and as such encourages all IWIRC members to attend networking events around the world. Generally speaking, the IWIRC conferences and events fall imminently before an industry conference.

I first met the lovely ladies from IWIRC New York at lunch at INSOL in April this year. It was a really great opportunity to network and meet other women during INSOL and they were so welcoming.

Following on from that event, I was able to attend the Annual Leadership Summit on the 18 to 20 July in Philadelphia. This was a fantastic two day event, not only did I reconnect with those I had met in April but met and networked with IWIRC members from Canada, all over the USA, Cayman Islands and APAC.

The two events were an opportunity to hear from the international Board what their objectives were and to share the experiences of other networks. The two days consisted of some technical content but also gave the opportunity to network on social events. On the first day we participated in a walking tour around old Philadelphia in small groups of 10 so we really started to develop relationships doing something fun. The evening was memorable as the local IWIRC networked hosted the dinner at a famous restaurant where the waiters were all opera singers and we were treated to bouts of opera between courses which was great fun. On the second day we attended some sessions with inspirational speakers, followed by an afternoon in the botanical gardens and a superb dinner!

I can truly say that I have never felt made to feel so welcome by so many strangers as I have on these events. Following on from this, I was asked if I would like to speak on a panel with other IWIRC members on Navigating Indenture Trustee Issues in the Default World at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference in San Antonio on the 29 and 30 October just before the National Bankruptcy conference! The panel was well received and it was a great time to spend time with some existing connections I had made at the previous events. The afternoon ended up with a Segway tour around San Antonio which was great fun. I am so pleased to be part of this tremendous group and really feel that this network lives up to the hype!

## Upcoming Events in 2019

You'll be excited to hear that we have some amazing events planned for 2019. Please see below our confirmed events as a taster of what's to come - and don't forget to join us every month for Thursday Fizz!

### **22 January 2019 – Be Inspired event: 1 of 3 Executive Development Classes**

This event is the first in a series of Executive Development Masterclasses, this one focusing on how to make a compelling impression and impact on others. The event will be kindly hosted and sponsored by Grant Thornton. Further details on how to sign up will follow shortly.

### **26 February 2019 – Be Informed event: Brexit over Breakfast**

Join us for a breakfast event where the discussion will focus on Brexit. Our panel of distinguished guest speakers will discuss where we are and what it means for insolvency professionals. The event will be kindly hosted and sponsored by Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP.

### **27 June 2019 – Our annual IWIRC London Network party**

We will be having drinks and canapés in the stunning setting of a rooftop bar, celebrating our one year anniversary. This event is kindly hosted and sponsored by Weil, Gotshal & Manges (London) LLP



# How to Get in Touch

We would love to hear from you on how we can grow the IWIRC London Network, what events you would like to attend and any other ideas for our group. Get in touch using any of the following options:



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