



# Professional Deputyship Symposium

Improving Outcomes for Incapacitated People

## Steering Group & Speaker Biographies

### Caroline Bielanska

TEP Solicitor

Caroline is author of and contributor to numerous leading law books including Cretney & Lush on Lasting and Enduring Powers of Attorney (Lexis Nexis), Heywood & Massey's Court of Protection Practice (Sweet & Maxwell) The Practitioners Guide to Court of Protection Practice (Bloomsbury), The Elderly Client Handbook (The Law Society) and Elderly Clients- A Precedent Manual (Jordans).

She sits on the Law Society's Mental Health & Disability Committee and the Court of Protection's Rules Review Committee.

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### Samanth Bossi

CEO, **The Professional Deputies Forum**

Sam joined The PDF as CEO in 2020 and has over 20 years experience of working with membership organisations and charities, notably the military and disability sectors. Her expertise includes business operations and strategic development. She is a lay deputy for her adult son.

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### Joshua Braznell

Appointee & Court Deputy Service, **Birmingham City Council**

Since 2008, Joshua has worked extensively in the field of Appointeeship and Deputyships within Local Authority settings. He currently works for Birmingham City Council as one of the Team Managers, the largest local authority in the country. In 2023, he joined the National

APAD Committee, He is committed to deepening his understanding of how best to safeguard vulnerable citizens in the borough and takes pride in sharing knowledge and building connections with professionals and organisations who share this mission.

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## Holly Chantler

Partner, Head of Department Private Client & Court of Protection, **Morr&Co**

Holly Chantler is the head of Private Client and Court of Protection at Morr & Co. She is a panel deputy, a founding director of the PDF and ALL (Associate of Lifetime Lawyers) and sits on the Court of Protection Rules Committee. She is the author of A Practical Guide to Assessing Mental Capacity and a co-author of Law and Finance for the Older Client and the Law Society's Elderly Client Handbook

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## Kate Edwards

Director of Private Client, **Fletchers**

Kate specialises in deputyship and trusteeship, particularly in high-value litigation, family disputes, and cases involving high net worth individuals. In 2012, Kate founded the Court of Protection Practitioner's Association (CoPPA) and remains on its national executive committee. She contributes to The Court of Protection Handbook and is a member of the ad hoc Rules Committee. In 2020, she joined the 'Hive Committee' to advise on issues facing the Court of Protection during the pandemic.

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## Dr Margaret Flynn

Chair, **National Mental Capacity Forum**

Since 2019, Dr Flynn has served as Trustee of Anheddau Cyf, supporting adults with learning disabilities and mental health challenges in North Wales. She became Director of All Wales People First in 2018 and has led Flynn and Eley Associates Ltd since 2009, alongside editorial work for the Journal of Adult Protection since 1999. Dr Flynn has chaired multiple reviews for vulnerable individuals, including the Winterbourne View Hospital in 2011 and Operation Jasmine in 2013 for the Welsh government. Recently, she chaired Wales' first National Independent Safeguarding Board and wrote the Cawston Park Hospital review.

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## Sheree Green

Director, **Greenchurch Legal**

Sheree qualified as a solicitor in 1993 and has focused on private client work throughout her career. Since the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, Sheree has specialised in Court of Protection property and affairs matters. Sheree is a member of the Office of the Public Guardian's panel of independent deputies.

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## Melinda Giles

Managing Partner, Head of Private Client, **Giles Wilson**

With over 25 years of experience, she specialises in advising families and vulnerable individuals on complex legal issues. As Managing Partner and founding member of Giles Wilson Solicitors, she leads a team providing comprehensive advice on mental incapacity, financial abuse, care funding, Court of Protection applications, Wills, Estate Planning, and Trusts.

Since 2017, she has served as Council Member for Private Client Solicitors at The Law Society and sits on both The Law Society Board and multiple policy committees. She also chairs the Council Membership Committee, overseeing reform and governance.

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## Her Honour Judge Carolyn Hilder

Senior Judge, **Court of Protection**

Carolyn Hilder has served as the Senior Judge of the Court of Protection since April 2017. Called to the Bar in 1991 she was appointed as a fee-paid Tribunal Judge in 2003 and became a District Judge in 2010. In her senior role, she oversees cases involving individuals who lack mental capacity, particularly on matters of welfare, property, and deprivation of liberty. In 2023 she was appointed a Deputy High Court Judge for a six-year term. HHJ Hilder plays a key role in balancing legal safeguards and open justice in vital and emotionally charged areas of law.

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## Holly Miéville-Hawkins

Partner, **Anthony Gold**

Holly Miéville-Hawkins is a non-member Partner in Anthony Gold's Court of Protection team, with nearly 15 years of expertise in COP matters. Nationally recognised, she specialises in complex finance and property issues, deputy and attorney appointments and removals, litigation, and safeguarding vulnerable individuals from financial abuse. Holly holds a full STEP

diploma and the Older Client Care in Practice qualification. She helped launch the Mediation in the Court of Protection pilot scheme and STEP's 'Spot the Signs' campaign. She frequently delivers talks and training and is published in leading professional media, including Legal Futures and The Law Society.

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## Yvonne Mitchell

Yvonne Mitchell holds a BSc (Hons) in Social Policy, and has worked in a public authority setting for over 25 years in the field of client money management services for the City of Westminster Council and Ealing Council, the third biggest public authority in London where she is currently the authorised Property and Affairs Officer. She has been a member of the Association of Public Authority Deputies Group for 12 years, and is currently the holder of the post of National Chair for APAD which she has held for three years.

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## Stephanie Kaye

Partner, **Clarion Solicitors**

Stephanie specialises in Court of Protection Costs and her extensive experience in this niche area is recognised nationally. She has dealt with the costs recovery of several of the highest value COP cases in the UK and regularly deals with all types of COP costs matters, particularly high value general management claims, contentious COP matters and Statutory Wills. Stephanie manages the COP Costs team and works closely with a number of solicitor clients to help them improve their costs recovery by providing tailored training to meet their needs. She also has an excellent working relationship with the Association of Lifetime Lawyers and the Professional Deputies Forum.

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## Lucy Nichol

National Head of Court of Protection, **Irwin Mitchell**

As a Partner in the Court of Protection team and Regional Managing Partner for Newcastle, Lucy is appointed to act as a professional deputy for clients who lack capacity to manage their finances. Much of her work involves supporting clients with multi-million-pound damages by collaborating with Personal Injury and Medical Negligence teams to oversee payments until claims reach settlement. Lucy's expertise in mental capacity issues enables her to regularly support Lay deputies with Court applications and Statutory Wills. In addition, Lucy provides litigation support and serves as an expert witness for both claimants and defendants.

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## Lakshmi Turner

CEO, **Association of Lifetime Lawyers**

Lakshmi, is a marketing specialist with over 30 years' experience across commercial, public, and not-for-profit sectors. Her expertise includes marketing strategy, branding, product and service development, communications, and PR. Lakshmi has collaborated extensively with creative agencies to produce impactful work. After consulting in the legal sector, she joined The Association of Lifetime Lawyers in 2004 as development officer, became COO in 2010, and CEO in 2014.

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