



# Meet John Ballam

## Liverpool Law Society's New President for 2016-2017

John Ballam was elected President of Liverpool Law Society in December. John is a consultant Solicitor Advocate (Crime) at FPH Law Solicitors of Birkenhead. John works in the field of criminal law defence. His work takes him to all courts but particularly Liverpool Crown Court and many others including Mold, Chester, Manchester, and Carlisle.

More recently John has appeared at Southwark Crown Court and The Old Bailey. John has been practising in Hamilton Square Birkenhead for over 48 years having walked into the Square in October 1968 on leaving school and being offered a job as junior clerk with the late great Arthur Russell who had a small general practise.

He soon took a liking to the cut and thrust of civil and family litigation and would also instruct Counsel in the Assize Courts - which became Crown Courts in 1974. It was on the recommendation of Arthur Russell that he took up articles and eventually qualified in 1978 with the assistance of the expert tutelage of John and Mary Conkerton.

John set up his own firm in 1983 specialising in crime, family and care work and eventually merged with DP Roberts Hughes & Denye again remaining in Hamilton Square. It was during this time that he was

instructed by one of the leaders of the Strangeways Prison Riots in 1990. From a professional perspective, this was an exciting and challenging time involving working with leading Counsel and considerable exposure to press and media for approximately two years.

With the onset of legal aid restrictions, John eventually returned to become a sole practitioner specialising in crime. He set up Ballam Solicitors and obtained rights to operate in the Higher Courts. Ballam Solicitors operated for several years and in 2015 John "retired". This meant that he would remain busy and would be working only 5 days instead of 7 per week as a consultant with FPH Law Solicitors!

He still attends Police stations and conducts cases as an advocate in all courts. He remains based at Hamilton Square.

John has been associated with the Liverpool Law Society for 18 years

and is very proud to have been elected President. He hopes that he can emulate his predecessors particularly Alison Lobb from whom he takes over.

During his year as President, John will endeavour to keep Liverpool Law Society at the forefront of the legal Profession and promote Liverpool itself as a leading professional city.

Outside of work, John is a born and bred Scouser who lives on the Wirral with his wife Brenda. He has three adult children and a granddaughter.

John has many varied interests including following Liverpool FC. He enjoys spending time with his family, travelling, walking and swimming.

In more recent times he has taken up bee keeping and has around 50,000 bees which produce 20 pound weight of local honey every year - most of which is distributed for his fortunate family and friends.



## Your Society Needs a New Council Member

**Our very well regarded and long standing Council member John Tiernay has decided that his long standing term as our valued representative on the ICAEW Council has ran its course.**

### ICAEW COUNCIL ELECTIONS

John has been a staunch representative for your Society for many years and was also Chair of Council for two years.

There now opens a vacancy for this very important role, and if you are interested in standing, and certainly casting your vote, please go to:

[www.icaew.com/en/about-icaew/who-we-are/governance/council-elections](http://www.icaew.com/en/about-icaew/who-we-are/governance/council-elections)