

# International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation London Network Newsletter Spring 2019



IWIRC ♦ LONDON NETWORK

## Welcome to the Spring edition of the IWIRC London Network newsletter

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

- Successful events held in this newsletter period
- Upcoming events
- Articles written by our members

Happy reading.

The IWIRC London Network Communications Team,  
**Katharina Crinson** (Freshfields) Communications Co-Chair  
**Kat Burke** (Skadden), Communications Co-Chair  
**Lois Wyatt** (Deloitte), **Olivia Bushell** (Skadden) and **Samantha Dinnan** (GLAS),  
Communications Committee Members

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### Update from Helen Sevenoaks, IWIRC European Networks Director and Strategic Advisor to the IWIRC London Network

As we approach spring, it is an exciting time for both IWIRC and the IWIRC London Network.

IWIRC is celebrating its 25th year, which now has over 45 networks and 1500+ members worldwide. IWIRC is a thriving and well recognised organisation, well focused on the connection and promotion of women in the restructuring and insolvency profession.

The IWIRC London Network is celebrating its first year anniversary in June 2019. Already with 100+ members and significant support from major industry firms and organisations, there is a lot to celebrate in such a short period of time! Thanks to everyone for making

the IWIRC London Network a successful anchored organisation in the London market. To celebrate, I would like to invite you and your colleagues / clients to join us at our anniversary celebration event on 27 June 2019.

The IWIRC London Network Events Committee continue to roll out fantastic networking events such as Thursday Fizz, a regular free event for members, great educational events such as the recent Brexit Breakfast, and truly inspiring events such as the recent International Women's Day joint event with R3 which saw over 100 attendees! There are great events planned for H2 2019 so watch out for the email invitations!

As we move forward into 2019, the IWIRC London Network Steering Committee will be exploring exciting ideas as to how best to grow the network and return best value to members. If you would like to get involved at the local or international level, or have any ideas, there are always opportunities! Please feel free to reach out to me, or the IWIRC London Network Chairs, Jo Hewitt and Sonya Van de Graaff.

**Helen Sevenoaks**  
IWIRC European Networks Director

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## Save the Date!

# IWIRC London Annual Celebration

The IWIRC London Chapter will be celebrating their one year anniversary on **27 June 2019** at the rooftop bar at Weil Gotshal on Fetter Lane. We look forward to seeing you there! Click [here](#) to sign up.

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## Recent Events



IWIRC London network held its first BE INSPIRED event on 22 January 2019 kindly hosted by Grant Thornton. The network welcomed **Raluca Graebner, Ph.D.** Leadership Consultant and Coach as guest speaker.

Raluca Graebner, Ph.D. is a Consultant affiliated with the Leadership Research Institute (LRI), specialising in leadership development and organisational assessment.

Raluca presented an interactive workshop asking participants to focus and express what it really means to have leadership (or executive) presence. Attendees were fully engaged and soon the whiteboard was full of characteristics that make and shape a leader. Following



IWIRC London network held its second BE INFORMED event on 26 February 2019 kindly hosted by Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. The session was a breakfast with a Brexit focus and involved a panel session discussion on what Brexit means for insolvency professionals.

**Catherine Balmond**, Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP moderated a panel consisting of:

- **Rosalind Champion**, Director for EU Exit Implementation, Cabinet Office
- **Mark Phillips QC**, South Square
- **Laura Kimmel**, IWIRC member, Director, Houlihan Lokey.

the event, there was a chance to mingle with IWIRC members (including an IWIRC guest from the China network!) over drinks and canapes.

The network is certainly looking forward to the second of the masterclass session to build on Raluca's work.

The session had a fantastic turnout and members actively engaged in a lively discussion.

Since our launch, we have run a number of successful Be Informed Events featuring both IWIRC members and external speakers. As we plan our events programme, we would encourage those members who would like to speak at a future event and share their views on topics of current interest to our community to come forward and make contact with the Be Informed Events Subcommittee:

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### International Women's Day Breakfast Briefing

The IWIRC London Network and R3 celebrated International Women's Day by hosting an inspirational breakfast briefing. **Kristina Kicks**, IWIRC London Network Co-chair of Sponsorship and Director at Grant Thornton, welcomed a packed room of over 100 guests and explained that International Women's day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. She stressed that the day is all about unity, celebration, reflection, advocacy and action and urged us to continue to work to promote dignity and collaboration, tenacity, respect and empathy. Read more [here](#).



### INSOL Conference with IWIRC Singapore

**Mia Drennan** was fortunate enough to attend INSOL in Singapore and be a guest of honour at the IWIRC Singapore lunch (left) for over 50 IWIRC members. Mia says, "It was a great opportunity to meet and develop relationships with new contacts who I would have not met if I hadn't been part of IWIRC".

IWIRC also provided the fabulous opportunity for one of our members to speak at the annual INSOL International conference, held in Singapore in April this year. **Sonya Van de Graaff**, partner at Morrison & Foerster (London) and co-chair of the IWIRC London Network, spoke on bank resolutions on a panel comprising another IWIRC member, Pooja Sinha of GLS Singapore, along with IMF director, Alessandro Gullo and Lars Westphal of Freshfields.

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## Upcoming Events in 2019

**9 May 2019:** IWIRC London and Singapore Network: **Cross-border insolvency update from Asia**. The event is kindly sponsored by and taking place at 9.30am London time at the offices of Stephenson Harwood.

IWIRC London Network and IWIRC Singapore invite you to join our speakers, Eloise Fardon (Stephenson Harwood) from Hong Kong and from Singapore, Lauren Tang (Stephenson Harwood), Mei Yen Tan (Oon & Bazul) and Sheila Ng (Rajah & Tann) for a

Be Informed Breakfast event.

Eloise will join us in person and the Singapore IWIRC team will join us by video-conference to provide briefings on recent developments in cross-border insolvency in Asia. This will include recent cases on recognition and assistance to foreign liquidators in Hong Kong; and recent developments in Singapore focusing on the use of the scheme moratorium, DIP finance and the first use of the Model Law. Click [here](#) to sign up.

**27 June 2019:** Save the Date! **IWIRC London Annual Celebration** - celebrated at the rooftop bar at Weil Gotshal on Fetter Lane. Click [here](#) to sign up.

**7 November 2019:** Save the Date! Global Restructuring Review / IWIRC London Network joint **Women in Restructuring Conference**. Please contact [Mia Drennan](#) or [Sheena Frazer](#) for more information.

**Don't forget our regular Thursday Fizz events!** The next event will be on 30 May 2019. Click [here](#) to sign up.

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## Member News

### Women of the Year in Restructuring Award

Each year, IWIRC honours a woman for her recent contributions to or lifetime achievements as part of the insolvency and restructuring industry with the Woman of the Year in Restructuring (WOYR) award. She may be an attorney, judge, banker, turnaround manager, academic or other restructuring industry professional.

The IWIRC London Network submitted a nomination for **Mia Drennan**, President of GLAS, and Strategic Advisor to the IWIRC London Network. Mia has been instrumental in the strategic development of the IWIRC London Network. Mia was the runner up, however, we would like to acknowledge her contributions to the network. The 2019 WOYR Award went to **Dr. Janis Sarra** of University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. For more information visit [here](#).

### Promotions

Congratulations to **Katharina Crinson**, Senior Knowledge lawyer at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and Communications Co-Chair of IWIRC London, who has been promoted to Counsel, effective from 1 May.

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## Articles

**Juliet Schalker** of our founding sponsor Debenhams Ottaway has written an article on the much anticipated judgment in *Perry v Raleys Solicitors*, which considers loss of a chance in a professional negligence case. Click [here](#) to read Juliet's article.

**Gemma Kaplan**, Senior Associate at Pinsent Masons has written an article on the high court judgment in *Islandsbanki HF v Stanford* [2019] EWHC 307 (Ch). Click [here](#) to read Gemma's article. First published on [out-law.com](#).

**Panayiota Ioannou** of our founding sponsor Debenhams Ottaway has written an article on the recent High Court decision regarding the insolvency of MF Global UK Limited. Click [here](#) to read Panayiota's article.

**Katharina Crinson**, Senior Knowledge lawyer at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, has written a blog article on the new EU restructuring directive on insolvency, restructuring and second chance. Click [here](#) to read the article.

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# IWIRC Conferences and Membership Benefits

**IWIRC's 16th Annual Spring Conference, April 10-11, 2019, Washington DC** - IWIRC's Programs Committee planned another fantastic Spring Conference in the heart of beautiful Washington, D.C. with two educational panels and an interactive discussion session. IWIRC also recognised the recipient of our 2019 Woman of the Year in Restructuring (WOYR) Award.

**IWIRC's 2019 Leadership Summit, July 24-26, 2019, New Orleans** - IWIRC's Louisiana Network will be hosting the 2019 Leadership Summit. If you are interested in attending, please contact Helen Sevenoaks, IWIRC European Networks Director.

## IWIRC Speakers Bureau

**The IWIRC Speakers Bureau** is provided as an educational and informational resource for connecting insolvency and restructuring professionals with potential speakers willing to make presentations on restructuring, insolvency, and bankruptcy related topics. Additionally, the IWIRC Speakers Bureau will maintain a list of speakers that are qualified to make presentations on mentoring, professional development and work/family balance. To be included in the Speakers Bureau, you must complete the application form [here](#).

## IWIRC has travel stipends available!

Did you know that IWIRC has travel stipends to attend events? Travel stipends are available to IWIRC board of directors, network chairs and other IWIRC members who are materially participating in an IWIRC official event, including but not limited to the Spring Conference, the Fall Conference, and the Leadership Summit and can demonstrate need. Materially participating means among other things, being a moderator or member of a panel, or attending a meeting of the board of directors or a meeting of the network chairs. If you are interested in attending a key IWIRC conference and would like to explore the travel stipends available, please contact, Helen Sevenoaks, the IWIRC European Networks Director.

## Diversity Say Gap

### Diversity is...

...being asked to the party, inclusion is being asked to dance. So said one of the guests at the 'Diversity Say Gap' event hosted by AlixPartners on 14 March at the iconic BAFTA. IWIRC steering committee members **Kat Burke** (Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom), **Stephanie Clarke** and **Thiveni Samaraweera** (AlixPartners) were in attendance, along with eighty guests of varying levels of seniority. The attendees, from a range of law firms, private equity, financial services and corporates, were keen to hear the words of guest speakers Meera Syal CBE and Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE and to share their own thoughts on diversity and inclusion. Read more [here](#).



## New Members Wanted!

While we have over 100 members, we are still looking to grow. The IWIRC London Network will provide our member who has referred the most new members with a shopping voucher worth £250 at our annual celebration party in June 2019 (see above). If you refer a friend, colleague or fellow professional as a 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.

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**Debbie King**

**Restructuring  
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## 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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