

Issuing unspecified claims during COVID and the future of unspecified claims in the County Court

Thursday, 28 May

13:00 - 14:00

The large majority of unspecified claims in the County Court are for personal injury. Issuing proceedings for these types of claims in the County Court during the COVID-19 pandemic, was a significant problem.

HMCTS and the Civil Procedure Rule Committee have worked together to extend a pilot scheme in PD51S to enable practitioners to issue proceedings via an online system and receive a sealed claim form back electronically.

In this free webinar, you will hear from members of HMCTS and the CPRC sub-committee about:

- The system extended in response to COVID-19 to enable online issuing of county court claims
- The future developments planned for the county court unspecified claims system

There will be an opportunity to submit questions about both topics before the webinar for the panel to consider and during the webinar.

To submit your question, please contact anthony.lord@apil.org.uk.



Justice Colin Birss is a judge of the High Court of England and Wales. He was called to the English Bar in 1990 and practiced in intellectual property law. He was appointed Standing Counsel for the Comptroller General of Patents, Trade Marks and Designs 2003-2008 and took silk in 2008.

In 2010 he left the Bar to become the new judge of the Patents County Court and Chairman of the UK Copyright Tribunal. His appointment to the Patents County Court (now Intellectual Property Enterprise Court (IPEC)) coincided with the introduction of major procedural reforms.



Brett Dixon is a senior fellow, honorary life member and current vice president of APIL. He works as a personal injury solicitor in Lancashire dealing primarily with employers' liability matters and catastrophic injuries. Appointed in 2015 as a solicitor member of the Civil Procedure Rule Committee and a member of their sub-committee tasked with rewriting the disease and illness pre-action protocol.

Brett is an active member of the APIL executive committee and was elected by the membership of APIL to be the vice president 2016-2017 and re-elected to become vice president again, in May 2020.



Darren Rooke joined HMCTS in December 2007 and spent the first seven years of his career working in the Civil and Family Courts. Within this period, he held various operational roles including leading a County Court administration team and covering the role of County Court listing officer. In 2014 he was released on a six months secondment to work on a project within HMCTS HQ. Darren returned to the County Court for a short six-month spell before making the permanent move back to HMCTS HQ in 2015. Since his return, Darren has worked on the Civil Team and has been involved in various projects such as the Legal Advisers within the Civil Jurisdiction pilot and the centralisation of Attachment of Earnings and Charging Orders within the County Court Money Claim Centre. He is currently the Product Owner for the Part 7 Unspecified Civil Money Claims project which forms part of the wider HMCTS Reform Programme.



Emily Wickens joined HMCTS in 2010 and started her career issuing civil money claims at Haywards Heath Business Centre before its closure and the expansion of the County Court Money Claim Centre (CCMCC). She has completed various operational leadership roles in both the county courts and family courts providing front-line services to users.

Emily has spent the last four years on the civil team in HQ responsible for national operational policy and modernisation of the court service. She is currently a service manager for civil and head of civil enforcement.

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