

LEGAL CORE

Legal Collaboration on Race and Ethnicity

Dear Legal CORE members,

Welcome to our July 2026 newsletter, covering Legal CORE activity from April to June and some plans for the autumn.

Expanding our regional reach

In our March newsletter, we mentioned that we are establishing regional hubs to bring together locally based member firms for more tailored conversations and peer support. These will give D&I leads the opportunity to form local Legal CORE networks, share experiences and collaborate on the challenges most relevant to their region.

Thank you to everyone who got in touch about these. The first three hubs to be established are:

- **North West Hub:** co-chaired by **Lorna Culpin** (Kennedys) and **Dr Carolene Ayaka** (Addleshaw Goddard).
- **Scotland Hub:** currently chaired by **Rupa Mooker** (Ashurst Perkins Coie). If you would like to co-chair this hub, [please get in touch](#).
- **North East Hub:** the first co-chair firm is Womble Bond Dickinson (**Paul Britton** and **Nazmin Akthar**). We are looking for a second co-chair to support this hub. [Please get in touch](#) if you are interested.

More information will follow on how to join these Hubs and in the autumn we are looking to create a South West Hub. If you'd like to help create a local hub in your area, [please do get in touch](#).

Roundup of recent monthly drop-in sessions

Following the publication of our Think Tank report in February, we began our series of drop-in sessions with Julian from extense, who facilitated the Think Tank.

- In April we invited Justine Thompson from InterLaw to run a session on how to get the best from ERGs (internal staff networks). Justine shared ideas around how D&I leads can work with their networks to develop a more strategic and intersectional approach.
- Then Laura Durrant gave an update on the work of the Black Talent Charter, and in particular how to help diversify the judiciary. The discussion highlighted that information on the different judicial roles and entry routes is not always easily accessible. Some ideas came out of this session around raising awareness of judicial career paths which we will be exploring.
- In the June session, we heard from Professor Doyin Atewologun (Delta Leadership & Inclusion Consultancy). Doyin shared the findings of some very interesting research she recently conducted with Queen Mary University and King's College London, on what impacts the effectiveness of sponsorship. Doyin is happy for us to share a [summary of this research](#) with you.

Throughout the drop-ins, member and steering committee firms continued to share examples of those insights in action; what works and what doesn't when it comes to embedding change within organisations.

We are pausing the monthly drop-in calls over the summer. They will restart on **Tuesday 22 September at 2pm**.

Save the Date!

Legal CORE turns **five** this November, and we are planning a Fifth Anniversary event on **Thursday 12 November, 6-8pm**. Please save the date and more details will follow!

Finally, if you have colleagues at your firm who you think would like to receive this newsletter, [please let us know](#) and we can add them to the distribution list.

Thank you for being part of this community.

Have a great summer!

Nina and Louise



Nina Goswami



Louise Zekaria