



## News archive

### June

[SRA appoints Sarah Rapson as new Chief Executive Officer, 26 June 2025](#)

[We have today appointed Sarah Rapson as our new Chief Executive Officer. She will succeed Paul Philip who is retiring later this year after more than a decade in the role.](#)

[\[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/new-chief-executive-named-june-2025/\]](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/new-chief-executive-named-june-2025/)  
[Report shows small firms keen to adopt technology but barriers still exist, 19 June 2025](#)

[We have published research looking at sole practitioners and small firms when using new technology and promoting innovation. It found that while firms were keen to embrace new technology, they still faced barriers to adoption.](#)

[\[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/small-firms-tech-adoption-research/\]](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/small-firms-tech-adoption-research/)

### May

[First-tier complaints rule changes should help everyone improve, 30 May 2025](#)

[We have launched a consultation on proposed changes to our rules that should help law firms further improve how they define and deal with complaints about their service.](#)

[\[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/first-tier-complaints-consultation/\]](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/first-tier-complaints-consultation/) [SRA issues record-breaking fine to Kingly Solicitors owner, 15 May 2025](#)

[We have imposed our largest-ever fine, nearly £4 million, on Nurul Miah, the former non-solicitor owner of Kingly Solicitors. The firm, originally RH Legal \(Bristol\) Ltd, was shut down by us in 2020 following serious concerns about the misuse of client funds.](#)

[\[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/record-breaking-fine/\]](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/record-breaking-fine/) [SRA sets out expanded 2025/26 business plan to address rising risks in legal services, 08 May 2025](#)

[We are consulting on our 2025/26 Business Plan, which outlines an increased programme of work to respond to a rapidly changing legal sector. The business plan covers the final year \(November 2025 – October 2026\) of our current Corporate Strategy, a period during which the operating environment has continued to evolve at pace.](#)

[\[https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/business-plan-consultation-2025-2026/\]](https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/business-plan-consultation-2025-2026/)



### [SRA approves first AI-driven law firm, 06 May 2025](#)

[We have authorised the first law firm providing legal services through artificial intelligence \(AI\). While many firms are already using AI to support and deliver a range of back-office and public-facing services, Garfield Law Ltd is the first purely AI-based firm we have authorised to provide regulated legal services in England and Wales.](#)

[<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/garfield-ai-authorised/>]

## **April**

### [Annual conference gives SQE updates, 11 April 2025](#)

[More than 900 delegates joined this year's SQE Virtual Conference live online. Many more are expected to catch up with the three sessions on YouTube over the coming weeks.](#)

[<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/sqe-annual-conference/>]

## **March**

### [Our approach to SLAPPs cases, 24 March 2025](#)

[Concerns remain about solicitors getting involved in abusive litigation aimed at silencing legitimate criticism – known as SLAPPs \(strategic litigation against public participation\).](#)

[<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/approach-slapps/>] [Third year review of SQE shows continued improvements, 11 March 2025](#)

[The Solicitors Qualifying Examination \(SQE\) Independent Reviewer has confirmed the assessment is robust and the outcomes are fair.](#)

[<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/sqe-annual-report-24-25/>] [SRA launches fund to support disadvantaged candidates sit the SQE, 11 March 2025](#)

[Organisations supporting aspiring solicitors from disadvantaged backgrounds are invited to apply for funding to cover candidates' costs of sitting the Solicitors Qualifying Examination \(SQE\).](#)

[<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/fund-disadvantaged-candidates/>]

## **February**

### [SRA Chief Executive to retire, 27 February 2025](#)

[After nearly 12 years as Chief Executive, Paul Philip will be retiring from the Solicitors Regulation Authority \(SRA\) towards the end of 2025, once a](#)



[suitable replacement has been found.](#)

<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/sra-chief-executive-retire/> [Study shows a universal approach could help consumer vulnerability in the legal market, 05 February 2025](#)

[We have published an independent study into consumer vulnerability in the legal market, as part of our ongoing commitment to improving access to legal services.](#)

<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/client-vulnerability-research/>

## **January**

[SRA Board welcomes new members, 09 January 2025](#)

[Our Board has welcomed two new lay members, Simon Millhouse and Claudio Pollack. Simon and Claudio joined the Board this January following the departure of Selina Ullah and Paul Loft, who completed six and seven years respectively at the end of 2024.](#)

<https://higher-rights.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/new-board-members-2025/>