Welcome to the second edition of London Exchange, Mayer Brown’s alumni update.

We were delighted to see so many of you at the practice group alumni events that were held last year.

Through this update, we would like to encourage you to keep up to date with what’s going on at the firm, but, most importantly, we want to continue to provide opportunities for you to reconnect with former colleagues and friends. Over the past 12 months, Mayer Brown’s London alumni network has grown and now has more than 500 members. As it continues to develop, we are keen to embrace your ideas on the events and activities that you would like to attend, so do get in touch in Gary Bownes, who heads our London alumni programme.

A London-wide annual alumni reception will be held in October, and we look forward to meeting with even more of you at this reunion event.

I hope you all have a good summer, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sean Connolly
Senior Partner
Mayer Brown alumnus Andrew Copley says being a lawyer has been both a help and a hindrance since leaving the profession.

Having worked as a lawyer for more than 20 years, Andrew Copley now works in a variety of non-legal roles. Today the former corporate partner is a property investor, commercial beekeeper and secretary of homeless charity Centre 33, but the transition into this new phase of his career wasn’t without its challenges.

"Initially, the biggest challenge for me was organising my days working from home across a variety of different activities and trying to fit that into being more involved in family life. When you work in an office, your day is much more structured, and you also have people to support you. I have had to learn how to adapt the fluidity of my day in order to manage the things I am working on."

As a lawyer at the firm, Andrew’s practice focused on corporate and commercial work, particularly in the chemical and pharma industries, and he has fond memories of the firm he joined as a summer student – especially the people he worked closely with. However, with a family of three at the time (now four) growing up quickly and a desire to try his hand at something else, he decided to leave the profession in 2007. Whilst property investment and beekeeping may seem a world apart from life as a partner at Mayer Brown, Andrew reflects on how valuable his legal career has been since leaving the firm.

“My legal career helps me enormously on a daily basis. Whilst I do as little legal work as I can (in my capacity as secretary for Centre 33 and assisting people with legal disputes or court processes), in the main, I think working as a lawyer disciplines you to be accurate and do things properly. It also gives you the ability to work with a range of people, understand documents, and express yourself clearly.”

On the flip side, Andrew recognises that there are downsides to thinking as a lawyer when you are working for yourself or starting new ventures. “We are taught to be sceptical, question everything, be cautious and to make sure things are right, and that approach can be an absolute anathema for entrepreneurs and for getting things done! To stop himself from falling into this trap, Andrew frequently ignores his “lawyer head”, which on a practical level, means sometimes telling himself to just get on with things, knowing he only has himself to blame if things go wrong!

As well as generating a property-based income, Andrew started beekeeping in 2006. This was an unlikely venture for Andrew, given that he was badly stung when walking through woods at the age of eight, having disturbed several wasp nests hidden in the bracken, and had been terrified of wasps and bees ever since. However, after a casual conversation about bees with a friend, the duo agreed to take a course in beekeeping.

“After the course, we decided to give keeping bees a go,” said Andrew. “We began in spring 2006 with one hive each and subsequently lost one which died over the following winter. The second year, we decided to increase the amount of hives we kept, and we have been able to build the business from there.”

Andrew and his colleague now have 19 hives, which house around 50,000 bees each - around a million bees – and produce 1,000 jars of honey a year. Their beekeeping skills have also improved as they rarely lose a hive over winter and the honey produced by the hives is sold in three outlets in St Albans.

Talking passionately about this endeavour, Andrew said, “I find beekeeping fascinating, and I love working outdoors — it’s something I always wanted to do. The honey we produce is quite different from what you can get in the shops as we don’t heat or filter it. Any stray bits of wax from extraction are strained out, and the honey is then jarred up immediately. Because it is not heated, it will then crystallise to form set honey. It is as close to what you would get straight from the hive, which means you retain all the honey’s many natural properties.”

Looking to the future, Andrew has plans to expand the beekeeping in a few years once his children are older, and, despite having left the profession he credits his current success to his legal career. “I had a great career at Mayer Brown, and, if I was leaving school again, I would still choose to be a lawyer. These days people take a much more flexible approach to their careers, so there are many more options for a lawyer than simply aiming to be partner in the firm you join. Whilst I don’t have a mantra in life, I do think you should do whatever you enjoy — if you don’t, change what you do.”
As a Finance lawyer in Mayer Brown’s London office, Ginni Batra perfected the client management skills that are now so essential for the business she created for herself as a merchandising specialist and consultant to music artists and brands.

Whilst she always knew she had an entrepreneurial side, when Ginni embarked on a legal career in 2004, she never imagined that she would eventually set up her own business. In fact, she initially studied medicine after she was nervous about making such a bold move.

Ginni responded, “I had been working in the merchandising division creating collections and securing a range of commercial deals for artists, and I knew it was something that I really enjoyed doing. So I added, “It was a big step, and, of course, there were moments of anxiety as I had no idea how things would turn out.”

Out of one come many, as Ginni now represents several clients, including the likes of Fat Boy Slim, The Who, Calvin Harris, Paris Hilton and deadmau5 negotiating merchandising deals internationally. She cites being able to do things her own way as one of the many benefits of being her own boss. “I work wherever and whenever I need to, and sometimes that is at home or the members club Soho House, but equally it could be a beach or a bar.”

Six months after her chat with Dominic, Ginni left EMI, opened a bank account, registered her business and already had her first client. Asked if she was nervous about this bold move, Ginni noted, “I had been doing things my own way for a while, and was drawn to doing something more commercial. Law just felt more natural for me,” she added.

Ginni has relied on that same instinct throughout her career, which has taken her from Mayer Brown, to EMI and now Illumina Creations, the merchandising company she established. “I feel very lucky to be doing what I am doing. I enjoyed working as a lawyer but have always wanted to find an outlet for my creative and entrepreneurial side – and this is it,” she said. As a trainee at Mayer Brown in 2006, Ginni was seconded to EMI’s legal team. Two years later, Ginni left the firm to take up a role in EMI’s Merchandise division, although she admits that setting up her own business was never part of the plan.

“Five years ago, I never imagined that I would be helping music artists and brands develop their merchandising businesses.” In fact, she gives all the credit to Mayer Brown London Head of Banking & Finance, Dominic Griffiths, who suggested the idea over coffee whilst she was working at EMI.

Reflecting on what the next five years might look like, Ginni notes, “My current focus is the music industry, and I would like to scale networking opportunities in these music industry hot spots, and this year alone she has been to Ibiza, New York and Las Vegas. “Because of how the music industry operates and the clients and contacts that I meet, I am not stuck behind a desk, which is very liberating”, she said.

“Some people are surprised when they learn that I was a lawyer, but I still feel very connected to that chapter of my life as I frequently draw on the skills that I developed.”

Despite the pressures of running her own business, Ginni finds time to support Mayer Brown with its CSR initiatives. The London office works with pupils at Morpeth Secondary School in East London on a legal literacy scheme, and Ginni has arranged for DJs to give talks on their experiences of getting into the music industry and life as a DJ. “I hope the talks are inspiring, and, as the DJs are from a range of cultural and economic backgrounds, pupils get to see that success doesn’t depend on where you come from.” Ginni added, “The most important learning outcome that I think we can all relate to is, if you follow your passions, and work hard, anything is possible.”

Former Mayer Brown Finance lawyer Ginni Batra now runs her own merchandising company. She talks about the perks of working in the music industry, being her own boss and her future plans.
The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity - Mayer Brown’s new charity partner

Most of us will know someone whose life has been touched by cancer, so it won’t be a huge surprise to learn that The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity (RMCC) was chosen as the firm’s new charity partner by everyone in the London office. The Royal Marsden was the first hospital in the world dedicated to the study and treatment of cancer when it was established by Dr William Marsden in 1851. Today, it is a world-leading cancer centre, providing treatment for over 50,000 cancer patients from around the world each year, and it is also at the forefront of cancer research.

Amanda Heaton, who heads the Charity’s Community and Corporate Fundraising team, said “Thanks to our supporters, we are able to help The Royal Marsden to continue to push boundaries and raise standards of excellence.” She continued, “When people support us, they help everyone who benefits from the work of The Royal Marsden. Scientists searching for cures. Doctors who depend on the latest cancer treatments and technologies. And, of course, cancer patients and their families.”

The Charity raises a considerable amount of money each year to fund pioneering new equipment, and it is currently trying to raise £6.95 million to buy two new MRI scanners. Amanda highlights how important these new scanners are. “To meet increased demand and to continue to lead the way in diagnostic imaging, we are planning to purchase the latest 1.5T and 3.0T MRI scanners. Together, they will provide our patients with increased comfort and broaden the range of scans we can produce.” Amanda added, “Clinical access to both a 1.5T and 3.0T MRI scanner is very unusual in the NHS and will only be possible with the support of The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.”

In addition to its campaign for two new scanners, the RMCC has a £1.1 million fundraising campaign for a new Translational Genetics Laboratory that will allow patients to benefit from the latest genetic tests, which will aid diagnosis and support more effective treatment plans. These are just a few of the projects for which the RMCC is currently raising funds.

Over the course of its two-year partnership with the Charity, Mayer Brown plans to exceed previous fundraising efforts with the help of a team of “charity champions” across the office who organise events and encourage support. Senior partner Sean Connolly said, “We have always believed in building close long-term relationships with our charity partners. In doing this, we are able to tailor the support that we provide to ensure that we add value in the areas that are important to them. In return, our people really get to know what the charity is raising money for.”

Fundraising toward the much-needed MRI scanners is off to a good start. A range of events, including skydiving, a football match, a quiz night, The Marsden March and a partner auction, have generated widespread support from staff, family and friends, and clients.

If you would like to support Mayer Brown’s fundraising efforts for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, please visit http://www.justgiving.com/Mayer-Brown2.
Working with Starehe to realise a dream...

In memory of John Rushton, our former London Construction partner, Mayer Brown is sponsoring a 14 year-old school girl studying at the Starehe Girl’s Centre and School for disadvantaged children in Kenya.

In May 2013, John sadly died at the age of 63. John, who worked at Mayer Brown for 29 years before retiring in 2009, was instrumental in orchestrating our move to 201 Bishopsgate in 2007. In addition to being an outstanding construction lawyer, he did a huge amount of work for charity and supported the Kenyan school, Starehe, throughout his life.

Mayer Brown began sponsoring Yvonne, a new form one student at Starehe Girls’ School, in January 2014. Yvonne is from a town in the western province of Kenya called Mumias. She is the first of six children, and, despite coming from a family of limited means - her father is an agricultural worker and her mother is a casual labourer - Yvonne attended primary school and did well in her Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCE), scoring 399 out of 500, which is an exceptional achievement. She was recommended to the Starehe Girl’s school by her head teacher, the local chief and the pastor.

Mayer Brown’s sponsorship will provide Yvonne with all the financial support that she needs for her four years of education at Starehe, until her expected graduation in early 2018. Yvonne, who wants to be a civil engineer, said “I feel privileged and blessed to be in such a great school and to be sponsored by Mayer Brown. Through their support, I will realise my dream of becoming a civil engineer. After achieving my dream, I promise to give back to the community, and support my entire family.”

Established in 2005, Starehe Girl’s is a national boarding school in Nairobi that provides disadvantaged girls with an excellent education, free of charge. Only primary school education is free in Kenya, and, whilst 93 percent of children in the country enrol in primary schools, fewer than half finish, mainly because ‘extras’, such as text books and uniforms, put financial pressure on many families.

As a consequence, a mere one in five children progress to secondary school. Recognising how limited some children’s access to education is, the Starehe Girl’s School builds strong relationships with primary schools, as well as ethnic, community and religious leaders throughout Kenya to identify potential students.

Today, the school has 480 students between the ages of 14 and 19, representing every ethnic group and religion in Kenya. All the students are from low-income backgrounds and many are orphans or from single parent families. In Kenya, it is commonplace for the education of boys to be more valued than that of girls, particularly amongst low-income families, where girls can fetch a bride-price (money or property paid by the groom or his family to the parents of a woman who is to marry the groom). As a result, having access to good, free secondary education is the only way that many young women will have an opportunity to improve their employment prospects and escape poverty. In a country where at least one-quarter of the population is unemployed, the work of the Starehe Girl’s School is critical to the future prospects of its students.

Upon completion of the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE), many of Starehe’s alumni get jobs immediately in order to earn a living and support their families. Having the KCSE greatly enhances their employment opportunities, and some pupils continue their education at university.

“Given how important Starehe was to John, we really wanted to honour his memory by continuing the support that he gave to the school during his lifetime,” said senior partner Sean Connolly.

“Sponsoring Yvonne has given us a very unique way to provide a lasting legacy. The school has been described as a beacon of education and promise in Kenya because of its reputation for providing a first-rate education for bright children without means. We look forward watching Yvonne’s progress as she strives to realise her ambition to be a civil engineer.”

“Mayer Brown began sponsoring Yvonne, a new form one student at Starehe Girls’ School, in January 2014.”
You can now access thought leadership, legal updates, podcasts and much more from our new global Employment and Benefits app. Download the app free from the iTunes App Store by searching Mayer Brown or use the QR code below.
This year’s long service milestones include:

20 years
Kirsty Payne, Corporate & Securities professional support lawyer

25 years
Kevin Hawken, Banking & Finance partner

25 years
Anita Jones, Real Estate partner

25 years
Edward Jewitt, Employment & Benefits - Pensions partner

30 years
Mark Prinsley, Intellectual Property partner

Changes
After 27 years at the firm, Sarah Byrt retired from the partnership in January 2014 and became a consultant as part of her transition out of private practice to a role in the charity and social enterprise sector. Sarah joined Rowe & Maw as a trainee in 1986 and subsequently qualified into the Intellectual Property/IT practice, where she established a reputation for advising clients across the business spectrum on IP matters.

Mandy Warnford-Davis retired from the firm in May 2014. Having joined Rowe & Maw as a lawyer in 1982, Mandy established a long career as partner in our Corporate practice prior to her appointment as Head of Professional Standards in 2003. She has played a central role in our Risk and Compliance team, where, following her retirement, she continues to provide support as a Professional Risk and Compliance Consultant.

Promotion
Susan Rosser in Commercial Dispute Resolution was promoted to partner in 2014.
Mayer Brown and TheCityUK

TheCityUK promotes UK financial services, both within the country and internationally, and plays an active role in regulatory and trade policy debate. This year, Mayer Brown will once again sponsor TheCityUK’s annual dinner at The Mansion House, which was held in 2013, was attended by more than 250 leaders from financial and related professional services companies.

Last year’s keynote speech by UK Business Secretary Vince Cable MP addressed UK growth and the financing of small to mid-size enterprises. Other speakers included:

• Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, Alderman Sir David Wootton, who spoke about the work being done by TheCityUK and the City of London to promote businesses in the City and in Britain as a whole;

• Sir Win Bischoff, chairman of TheCityUK’s Advisory Council, who discussed how London benefits from being Europe’s financial center; and

• TheCityUK Chairman Gerry Grimstone, who commented on the importance of the UK remaining part of the EU’s “Single Market” in order to protect London’s position as the financial capital of Europe, to secure jobs and to promote economic growth.
It is easy to stay in touch with former colleagues and friends at Mayer Brown through the alumni network.

- Join the Mayer Brown LinkedIn group
- Register to join the alumni on our website: http://www.mayerbrown.com/alumni
- Attend a Mayer Brown alumni event
- Organise your own alumni event (we’d also love to hear about it)

For more information, please contact Gary Bownes:
E: gbownes@mayerbrown.com    T: +44 20 3130 3890

Mayer Brown’s annual alumni reception will take place on Wednesday 8 October at Grocers’ Hall, home to one of the original Great Twelve City Livery Companies.

Contact lon-events@mayerbrown.com for more details

Tributes to Dennis

Dennis was, without doubt, one of the most important figures in my professional career. He was head of the Litigation department at our legacy firm, Rowe & Maw, for many years, and I started working with him as a newly qualified solicitor in 1984. I subsequently worked closely with him for the next six years, and he encouraged my career every step of the way. Dennis was amazingly generous and helpful with his advice and business opportunities, and I was delighted when he asked me to assist him and Michael Regan in the founding of the firm’s Insurance and Reinsurance practice. Dennis was a man with many friends at the firm, and he was widely admired, particularly by the younger lawyers who worked with him. He will be remembered as a key architect of our contentious group, a much-valued partner and a trusted adviser to many clients.

Sean Connolly, senior partner

Dennis was an excellent leader, who taught us all a great deal. I still remember the first case I did with him as a recently qualified solicitor. He asked me to explain every core document in a large lever arch file, going through the whole file page by page. I thought it would take about a week, but that was before I realised that he brought the exercise to a close the first time you could not fully explain the content and context of a document, at which point you were despatched to review the file again. I didn’t even make it to lunchtime on day one.

Though steely and determined as a litigator, he was always kind and considerate to his team, and the apparently hard-nosed, focussed look always eventually yielded to a twinkle in the eye and laughter. I don’t think a day went by without Dennis asking or telling me something about cricket. He was a good man and a good boss.

David Allen, Head of Litigation

Dennis Goodwin joined Mayer Brown’s London office as a partner in 1977. He spent 13 years at the firm and was instrumental in the foundation of the Commercial Disputes and Insurance & Reinsurance departments before his departure in 1990. Dennis died on 26 June 2014 at the age of 89.