



LES B&I 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME (as of 11 August)
THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

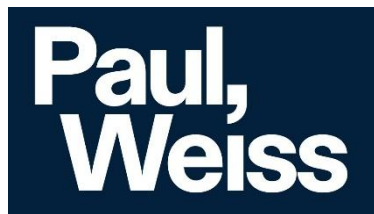
09.00 – 09.20	REGISTRATION WITH TEA/COFFEE
09.20 – 09.30	LES BRITAIN & IRELAND PRESIDENT'S WELCOME Dr Samantha Williams – Senior Licensing Manager, Trinity College Dublin
09.30 – 09.45	LES INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S WELCOME Ningling Wang - Partner, Finnegan
09.45 – 10.05	KEYNOTE: Knowledge Asset Commercialisation – what lies behind the Rose Book <i>This presentation will include an overview of the Government Office for Technology Transfer, including its evolution and strategic direction. The ecosystem in which it operates and its fit with government strategy for innovation and growth will also be discussed.</i> Alison Campbell, OBE PhD RTP – CEO, Government Office for Technology Transfer (GOTT)
10.05 – 10.40	SESSION: Topical Areas of Interest in Commercialising Life Science Technologies Speaker: Mark Wilson - Principal, Strategic Technology Bioconsulting Moderator: Anji Miller - Senior Academic Engagement Partner, LifeArc
10.40 – 11.05	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
11.05 – 11.45	SESSION: Opportunities and Challenges in IP Dispute Resolution – considering the alternatives Speakers: Stephanie Kay - Managing Associate, Lewis Silkin Tom Oliver - Partner, Powell Gilbert
11.45 – 12.25	SESSION: When T-Rex Enters the IP Chess Game: Strategy, Survival and the Next Move <i>In a rapidly fragmenting global economy, innovation and intellectual property are increasingly shaped by regional protectionism, shifting economic alliances, and competing visions of technological sovereignty. As governments and industries around the world prioritise domestic control of key technologies—from AI and cloud computing to green energy and life sciences—traditional “one-size-fits-all” global IP strategies may be reaching their limits.</i> <i>This panel explores whether forward-thinking IP management can still rely on traditional frameworks, or whether the future requires a complete re-engineering of how we predict, structure, and execute IP strategies.</i> Speakers: Cassandra Derham – Head of IP, Amadeus Jenny Epworth – Senior IP Counsel, formerly Farrow & Ball / QinetiQ Roya Ghafele – Managing Director, OxFirst Nikos Minas – Global IP Counsel / Corporate Secretary, Wesco Moderator: Karl Barnfather – Chair, Barnfather IP
12.25 – 13.35	LUNCH

13.35 – 14.10	KEYNOTE: TBC
14.10 – 14.50	SESSION: IP Risk Management in M&A and Transactions - how insurance is a tool for effective risk transfer <i>M&A insurance (called W&I (or reps & warranty in the US)) is now a feature of the majority of M&A transactions which take place each year. Corporate lawyers will be very familiar with these policies; transactional IP lawyers and patent/TM attorneys much less so. The panel will discuss how insurance should become a feature of many more discussions between commercial IP specialists and their clients when approaching transaction risk management across a range of commercial transactions including but not limited to M&A. The panel will evaluate the opportunities for insurance to help unblock 'transaction roadblocks' and the mechanisms that can be employed – including coverage for unknown and undisclosed risks as well as those which are specifically identified, the latter being risks where traditionally policies may not respond.</i> Speakers: Simon Chalkley – Senior Principal, Icen Risk Lewis Parle – SVP Head of IP Risk, Lockton Moderator: Hayley French – CEO, Domainex
14.50 – 15.30	SESSION: Navigating the Opportunities of AI Replicas in Sports and Entertainment <i>As AI-generated digital replicas become increasingly sophisticated, they are reshaping how image and personality rights are protected and monetised. This panel will explore emerging IP protection strategies, proposed UK Government reforms, and the opportunities AI replicas create across sport and entertainment, alongside the key legal and commercial issues involved in licensing and exploiting these assets.</i> Speakers: Tom Collins - Managing Associate, Stevens & Bolton Jules Love – Co-Founder, Sparks AI Moderator: Charlotte Tillet – Partner, Stevens & Bolton
15.30 – 15.55	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
15.55 – 16.35	SESSION: The Challenge of AI to Conventional Contractual Terms in Technology Collaborations and Licensing <i>The advent of AI, particularly Machine Learning and LLMs as part of base technology for commercial enterprise has created significant opportunities for businesses, but has also led to an increased complexity when dealing with important rights and restrictions within technology agreements and licensing in particular. With extensive experience across sectors including DeepTech, Software, Creative, Life Sciences and Advanced Materials, the panel will consider the impact these technologies are having on IP Ownership, (non-personal) Data Rights and accuracy considerations, Field of use restrictions and confidentiality in particular, and broader considerations on warranties and liability for the use of ML and LLMs.</i> Speakers: Roch Glowacki – Partner, Lewis Silkin Dave Holt – Partner, Potter Clarkson Amritjot Jethwa - Partner & Head of IP Transactions, Appleyard Lees
16.35 – 17.00	SESSION: Don't Get Me Started! The Untapped Potential of Licensing in Startups <i>This session will provide insight on Stanley's experience in scaling chemicals/materials innovations through a licensing-based approach to commercialisation. Xampla is a particular success story, which was developed from lab scale to 10,000t/year of production, and he has experience working with European, American, and Asian licensees to support growth.</i> <i>The discussion will include an evaluation of how unfamiliar many startups are with licensing as a business model and how their opportunity for growth can be supported by a trusted legal partner with licensing expertise. Stanley will also evaluate the challenges faced by those startup entities when legal professionals are not adapting their working style to match, and what professionals can do differently to work better with startups compared to other more established clients.</i> Speaker: Stanley Mitchell – Director, Contemporary Futures

17.00 - 17.05	CLOSING ADDRESS
17.05 – 18.00	NETWORKING DRINKS
18.30	DINNER AT BANKSIDE HOTEL (OPTIONAL ADD-ON)

Thank you to our sponsors:

Appleyard Lees[®]
Intellectual property law



STEVENS & BOLTON

Thank you to our hosts:



LEWIS SILKIN