

Close of Conference

In 2003, Huw Williams set out for the Western Mail newspaper his vision of a Legal Wales Conference which would deliver first-class specialist workshops, and speakers of international status and expertise, with the aim of highlighting the impact of, what the Western Mail called, 'the phenomenon known as Legal Wales'.

Well, I want to pay tribute one final time today to 'the phenomenon known as Huw Williams'.

The fact that this year's Conference programme yet again delivers upon that vision is largely down to Huw's continued enthusiasm and dynamism on behalf of the Legal Wales Foundation.

I want to thank again the Conference Director, Emma Waddingham, for displaying the most amazing organisational and technical skills. As well as being able to be in numerous places at the same time, Emma has, via our media partner, Legal News, been live-streaming the Conference to our online delegates around the country.

Conference, there is another very special guest here with us today that I want to thank. Winston Roddick KC, as the very first Counsel General of Wales, was there behind the very formation of the concept which went on to become the Legal Wales Conference and he has given his support unfailingly every year since. Please can I invite you to give Winston a huge and very special round of applause – his impact and contribution to Legal Wales for more than 20 years, simply cannot be overstated.

I repeat my sincere thanks to our exhibitors, Watkins & Gunn, the Wales Restorative Action Partnership, the University of Wales Trinity St David's, the Pro-Bono Committee for Wales and Griffin Books. Our lunch sponsor, 11 KBW, who provided a fantastic lunch for us and our Conference Dinner sponsor, 30 Park Place, who we have

to thank for the celebration that will follow very shortly. I give very special thanks to our headline Sponsor, Browne Jacobson. Your support has been the foundation stone upon which the entire event has been built.

Thank you again to our keynote speakers, Mick Antoniw MS, Mr Justice Francis, Her Honour Judge Joanna Korner and Dame Sue Carr, the Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales, and to all our contributors as chairs or panellists.

I would also like to thank each of you who bought a ticket to attend the Conference today. I appreciate that the cost, particularly for younger colleagues, is not insignificant, but your support is greatly valued. I hope that you have enjoyed the day, that you have found it stimulating and inspiring. If you do have any constructive feedback, positive or negative, please do pass your thoughts on. We want the Conference experience to be the very best it can.

Next year's Conference will be in another beautiful part of Wales on Friday 11 October 2024. Please put the date in your diary now.

Please also feel free to contact myself, Hannah or Elisabeth if you would be interested in contributing to the programme in 2024 or volunteering in some other way. In particular we will be looking for new volunteers to assist on the Conference Organising Committee for 2024 so please bear that in mind.