



 **SHAKESPEARE
MARTINEAU**
Legal advice for life and business

In-house Counsel Training Programme

Birmingham

04 March 2025
09:30 – 14:00



In-house Counsel Training Programme

This training programme is specifically designed for in-house counsel with topics carefully chosen to keep you updated on current legal developments and trends.

Along with soft skills training to support your career and personal development, there are opportunities to meet and share ideas with other in-house counsel working in the UK.

Agenda

- 09:30 Registration and refreshments
- 09:45 Welcome and introduction
- 09:50 Commercial law update
- 10:30 The Procurement Act
- 11:20 Break
- 11:40 Data (Use and Access) Bill
- 12:00 Transforming your team - tips and tricks
- 12:45 Questions and Answers
- 13:00 Networking lunch
- 14:00 Close



Commercial law update

Meticulously crafted commercial contracts are crucial to ensure they provide the framework within which parties collaborate, exchange goods and services, and navigate the complexities of trading.

At the same time, in-house counsel need to take a vigilant approach to ensure that their organisation remains compliant, adequately protected, and well-positioned to seize opportunities whilst mitigating risks.

We will look at the latest developments in commercial law, as well as case law that shapes the interpretation and enforcement of commercial contracts.

In this session, we will discuss:

- Spotlight on recent key commercial law cases.
- Recent commercial law trends and developments.
- What to expect - coming up in 2025.

Carys is Head of Commercial Contracts within our Commercial Services team. She advises regional, national and international businesses on the preparation, negotiation and conclusion of all types of commercial transactions, arrangements and contracts. Carys has a particular passion for supporting in house counsel having held the position of Head of Legal herself for an international manufacturing and engineering business.



Carys Thompson
Partner – Commercial
Shakespeare Martineau



The Procurement Act 2023

Post-Brexit, the government criticised the EU-based existing procurement regime as too restrictive and complex, out of it was born the Procurement Act 2023 and it was hailed as “one of the largest shake-ups to procurement rules in this country’s history.”

After almost five years in the making the Procurement Act 2023 will go live on the 24 February 2025.

Just under a month into its implementation this session will explore:

- An overview of the Procurement Act 2023.
- The flexibility and the key changes.
- The commercial lifecycle.



Bhikhu Samat
Legal Director – Energy
Shakespeare Martineau

Bhikhu is a Legal Director in our Energy Team and has considerable experience advising clients in the private and public sector on commercial contracts, IT, data protection and procurement law. Bhikhu also has a particular focus on supporting clients through procurement challenges, providing pragmatic dispute resolution advice on procurement and commercial disputes and is a member of the Procurement Lawyers’ Association



The Data (Use and Access) Bill

When the UK left the EU, it brought the GDPR along with few changes for private sector controllers. Five years later, Parliament is weighing up bigger changes to data protection and privacy legislation in the Data (Use and Access) Bill.

The DUA Bill replaces the previous government's Data Protection and Digital Information Bill, which fell when the 2024 recent general election was called before it became law. The DUA Bill preserves much of the DPDI, adds some new ideas, and leaves some of its more controversial proposals aside.

Join us as we look at what organisations can expect when DUA becomes law, probably sometime in the spring of 2025.

In this session we will discuss how the DUA Bill is expected to change the law around:

- The lawful bases for processing personal data.
- E-privacy rules on direct marketing, cookies and other online tracking technologies.
- The use of personal data in automated decision-making.

Trevor Fenton is Head of our Data Protection and Privacy practice. With his previous background as Head of Legal, GC and Company Secretary at a UK multinational, Trevor understands the practical trade-offs faced daily by in-house legal teams.



Trevor Fenton
Partner – Head of Data Protection
Shakespeare Martineau



Tricks of the trade

John Skelton
Deputy General Counsel
Smart DCC Limited

John Skelton is Deputy General Counsel for Smart DCC Limited. He has over 20 years' private practice and in house experience dealing with a wide variety of legal issues in the UK and worldwide. John is also a member of the O Shaped's leadership team.

John will draw from his own experience, offering valuable insights and a first-hand perspective on the challenges and the pinch points that often arise in the professional journey of an in-house counsel.

He will delve into how he has innovated, transformed and reshaped the Legal team at Smart DCC to amplify the efficiency and effectiveness of their legal operations. John will also share his experience of running law panel reviews and adding value as a Legal Team.



| How to book

Who should attend

In-house counsel who wish to develop their technical legal knowledge and personal career development.

Venue

Shakespeare Martineau, No.1 Colmore Square, Birmingham B4 6AA

[Click here for directions](#)

Date and time

04 March 2025

09:30 – 14:00

Cost

There is no cost for attending this event, but places are limited to two attendees from each organisation and advance booking is required.

Sustainability

We work with venues and suppliers that help us lower the environmental impact of our events.

For more information about our In-house Counsel Training Programme, please email us at events@shma.co.uk or contact:

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