
Key Partners



Supporting Partners



Legal • Tech

in the South West

25 September 2023 - The Watershed, 1 Canon's Rd, Bristol.

What is it.

Legal Tech in the South West '23 brings together all those in the South West England interested in legal tech, operations and design together **to shape the future of law.**

Legal innovation events in the UK tend to be focused around London only. We **want to change that.**

This is our chance to create **an alternative, people-focused, vibrant event**, which celebrates the rich diversity of Bristol together with friends and some special guests from all around the world.

What's in it for you.

Apart from games, awards and great cider, this is going to be a unique opportunity to **connect** with each other, **interact** with top speakers in their field and **attend** engaging workshops as **one community**.

Having fun is allowed too!

Your ideas matter, **we want to hear from you**. We can't wait to see you there to sail to this journey together.

Why we do this?

We want to **explore, discover, and deliver** alternative ways to create professional and students gatherings to break the gaps across different expertise and generations.

We aim to establish **a people centered community culture**, with a proud local mindset, where we can achieve constructive change starting from the place we live with small but concrete steps.

Our Vision.

January 2023

Enough with 'only big' corporate legal innovation events.

April 2024

Feedback - Test - Iterate.

2023

2024

September 2023

Legal Tech in the SW '23 - Beta Test.

September 2024

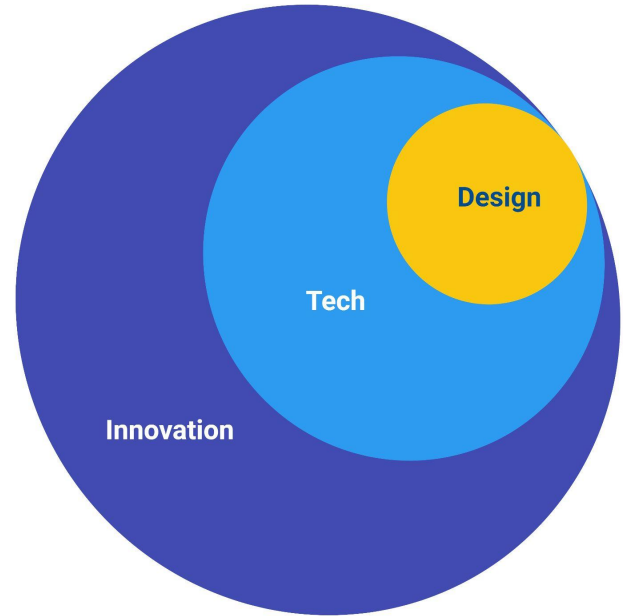
A new format with legal innovation events: people centered, gamified, empowered by the community.

Our Concept.

We believe in the adoption of an **interdisciplinary approach** in legal.

We envision a **more collaborative** legal space where instead of working in separate silos, diverse teams can provide their unique approach to reach common targets together.

To reach this goal we require a practical **user-centric approach** to legal work **supported by technology** (not the other way around) and a shift from a risk-averse mindset to a more innovative one.



About Bristol.

Bristol is a vibrant, diverse and innovative city and has managed to rack up many interesting stories across time. Well known for its diversity and artistic soul, the city shows its best about **culture & innovation**.

Here's more [about the city](#).

The Watershed is our venue.

Find us at [1 Canon's Road Bristol BS1 5TX](#).



Organisers.



Marc May

I am an **Industry Solutions Director** at **M-Files**, as well as **Founder of the Legal Technologist** magazine. I've experienced many facets of legal life from qualifying as a solicitor, carrying out digital transformation at an international law firm, and being a consultancy director implementing CLM tools for in-house legal teams.

My current focus is to bring more visibility to legal ops - both locally and nationally.



Marco Mendola

I am a passionate and creative legal innovator. I use design thinking to simplify contracts and deliver legal services that put clarity, relationships, and accessibility first.

I wear a few hats. I am the **Community & Customer Success Lead at Majoto**, a legal tech startup that automates contracts and makes them easy to understand and manage. Also **Co-host** at **The Law of Tech** podcast and **Legal Innovation Editor** at The Legal Technologist.

Our guests and speakers.

[Table format](#)



Marc May



Legal Tech in the South West '23



Marco Mendola

Guests



Chris Williams
Betty Blocks



Anna Posthumus-
Meyjes
Aclara Legal Design



Manu Kanwar
LexSolutions



Uwais Iqbal
simplexico

Speakers



Emma Sorrell
Borges Salmon



Jay Smith
Osborne Clarke



Sian Ashton
TLT LLP



Rhianne Armstrong
Echo.Legal



Emily Cox
Wombie Bond Dickinson



Mercy Chirau
Wombie Bond Dickinson



Jodie Hosmer
Mills & Reeve



Sophie Thompson
Osborne Clarke



Antonia James
VWV LLP



Gemma Wilson
Simmons & Simmons

Guests.



Manu Kanwar

is **Founder at LexSolutions**. General Counsel and Heads of Legal Ops supports clients with their purpose, people, strategy and culture. Qualified leadership and organisational coach is able to combine his dedication to helping legal teams achieve commercial success with a commitment to driving better ESG, diversity and inclusion in the legal industry.

Manu works with in-house lawyers purpose driven and share values around legal innovation and disruption, combined with a healthier working culture.



**Anna Posthumus
Meyjes**

is **Founder of Aclara Legal Design**. She is a legal designer. She brings creativity, design and a user-centered approach to law. Anna worked as an attorney-at-law in an international litigation practice for over ten years, amongst others at the top-tier Dutch law firm NautaDutilh.

Anna specialised in liability, insurance and financial law. Designing and using clarifying visualisations became an increasingly important part of her communication and inspired her to start Aclara Legal Design.

Guests.



Chris Williams

is **Head of Community at Betty Blocks**, the leading no code/low code platform for citizen development, where he specialises in translating challenges, processes, and ideas into digital solutions and works closely with leading legal service providers to drive innovation in the legal sector.

He loves to share stories and connect with people who have the same passion and vision to make a positive impact within our industry.



Uwais Iqbal

is **Founder at simplexico**. AI practitioner in the legal tech space for 5+ years. He has experience designing and delivering AI, ML and NLP solutions across leading legal tech startups and a corporate innovation lab.

He focuses on how ML and NLP can be used to reduce manual grunt work for legal professionals, create efficiencies and allow people to focus on the work they actually enjoy.

Speakers.



Emma Sorrell

heads the Innovation team at UK law firm **Burges Salmon LLP**. Experienced innovation and change professional, Emma was previously a senior corporate finance lawyer for a number of years before moving into the area of innovation, legal tech and process improvement.

Key aspects of her role include driving use of technology, promoting innovation and change, together with delivering solutions to improve client service delivery.



Siân Ashton

Client Service Transformation Partner at **TLT LLP** is an experienced Legal Transformation specialist providing consultancy services to in-house legal teams. She supports lawyers to deliver more value to their businesses by helping them move away from the ordinary so they have time to focus on the extraordinary.

A qualified lawyer who practised for 15 years as a commercial litigator, she has always wanted to do things differently and now focuses on helping clients understand how they can transform and change the way they deliver legal services.

Speakers.



Emily Cox

is Associate Solicitor & Legal Technologist at **Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP**. She specialises in legal innovation and project management including process design implemented with Employment Law, Litigation, Banking, CDR, Data and Corporate focus, including disclosure, data subject access requests, bundling and subscription services.

Emily is passionate and highly supportive of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and she walks the talk being involved in a number of different projects within the firm.



**Rhianne
Armstrong**

is **Legal Director of Automation at echo legal**, an independent legal tech consultancy helping clients to implement and scale legal operations and automation. She draws from her legal operations experience, technology and document automation skills to deliver client projects for both private practice law firms and in-house legal teams.

Rhianne was a banking lawyer before helping to set up Osborne Clarke's legal tech team, Osborne Clarke Solutions. Previously also Head of Legal Operations at Dyson.

Speakers.



Sophie Thompson

is **Knowledge System Manager at Osborne Clarke**. Over 20 years' experience developing knowledge services in law, with deep experience of managing teams and developing people (recruitment, training, aligning to strategic objectives, developing, coaching, performance management).

She is a strong communicator, skilled at connecting with people and making change happen in a highly collaborative way, focussed on the client / end user experience.



Jodie Hosmer

is **Head of Legal Operations at Mills & Reeve**. A Real Estate lawyer by background with 10 years' experience as a transactional lawyer who moved into management, innovation and legal technology. She is responsible for driving the use of technology and developing solutions combining the right mix of people, processes and technology to deliver a wide range of legal work across the Firm.

Jodie is passionate about ensuring the pathway for early entrants into law is inclusive and spent two years on the Institute of Apprentice's Legal.

Speakers.



Jay Smith

is **Senior Legal Operations Manager at Osborne Clarke**. Based in Bristol, he is a leading Legal Engineer figure in the SW actively exploring the intersection of law and technology.

After a few years working as a lawyer, he taught himself to code and found his purpose: using technology to deliver legal services.

Jay is also founder of **SenseCheck**, a Legal Tech startup, out of his frustration with the lack of innovation in private client law.



Antonia James

is a **Director of Client Relations at VWV Plus Limited**. She applies creative thinking to everything she does and relish the opportunity to work with like-minded people.

Antonia offers strategic guidance and leadership in marketing and business development. Passionate about the creation of legal products and service technology.

A key focus in her role is to listen to clients across sectors and to provide expert advice in a way that exceeds their expectations.

Speakers.



Mercy Chirau

is **Technology Solutions Manager at Womble Bond Dickinson**, where her passion for leveraging technology to drive innovation and efficiency continues to support key pillars of strategy. Having been a front-end developer with a legal background, she implements and adapt practical solutions for clients, as well as in-house teams.

Outside of her role, Mercy is committed to fostering diversity and inclusion within the tech and legal sectors, having been a mentor for those from underrepresented backgrounds and currently residing as a steering lead for WBD's REACH network.



Odin van Eijk

is **the Head of Education at Betty Blocks**. He holds a background mixed in tech and education and is focused on innovation knowledge and low code - no code content applied to the legal industry.

Odin is a smart cookie, and phenomenal educational trainer with a friendly personality. Total natural in front of a camera, he is a great team player.

Speakers.



Gemma Wilson

is **Legal Engineer in the Simmons Wavelength Legal Operations Consulting team**. Based in Bristol, she works with clients in the UK and internationally to help them improve their legal operations by looking at process improvement, data, advising on buying or building technology solutions, and change management.

Gemma is also a disability and neurodiversity advocate, conducting talks and training on this topic to increase understanding and improve access to the legal sector for neurodivergent candidates and employees.



Laura Marinello

is **Legal Engineer at Simmons Wavelength**. She has a strong IT background and training experience to take technical concepts and processes and make them more accessible for non-technical audiences. Bristol based, she has a degree in Psychology from Lancaster University and is a passionate advocate for mental health and professional development in the workplace.

Laura enjoys working with others to design process improvements and always strives to find the most efficient ways of working.

Itinerary 1-5.

Emma Sorrell, Rhianne Armstrong,
Mercy Chirau, with Marc May

Manu Kanwar presents LTSW

Jay Smith presenting



Table format

Itinerary 2-5.

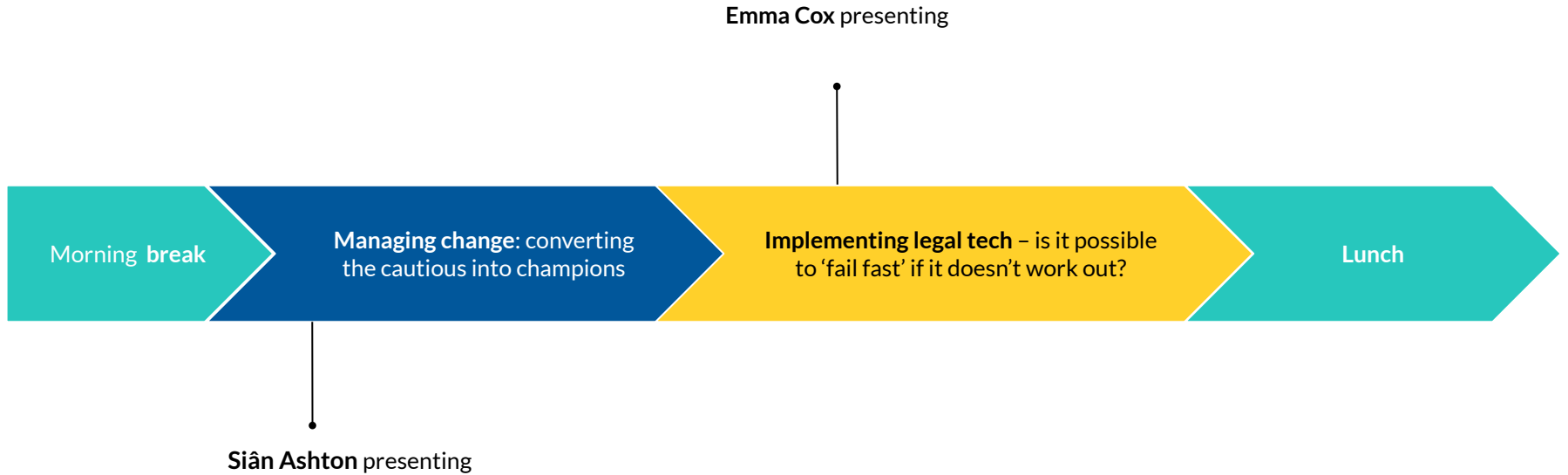


Table format

Itinerary 3-5.

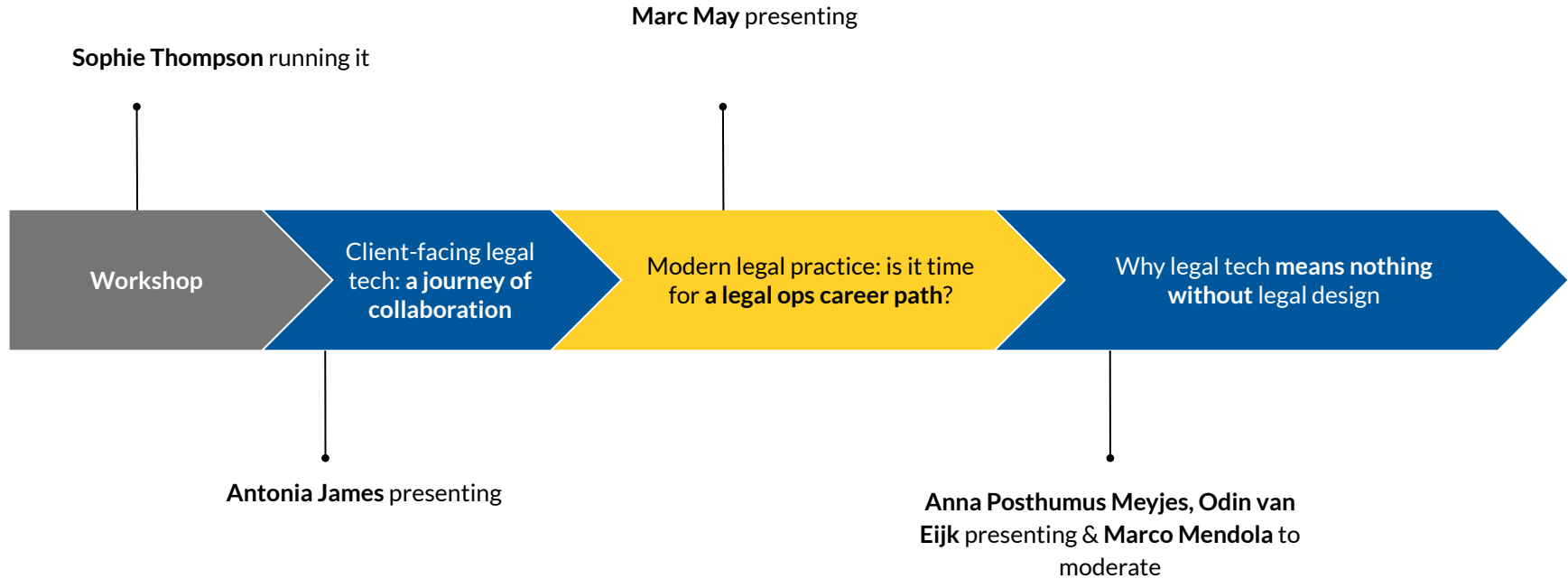


Table format

Itinerary 4-5.

Manu Kanwar, Marco Mendola, Laura Marinello,
Chris Williams with Emily Cox to moderate

Workshop: Contract design
essentials: from text and tech to user
and you

Anna Posthumus Meyjes running it

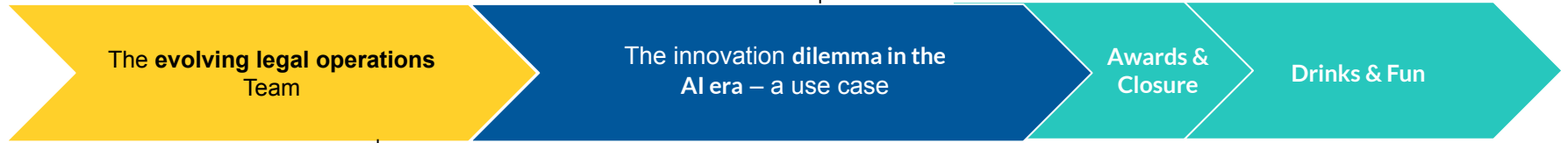
Legal Tech Chat-Roulette -
Networking

The importance of **empathy and well-being
culture** to drive real culture transformation

Table format

Itinerary 5-5.

Uwais Iqbal & Chris Williams
presenting



Jodie Hosmer presenting

Table format

Rules of the House.

- **Be nice or go home :)**
- We come to **share experiences** and challenge our ideas
- We keep a friendly professional format and we **put people first**
- We do our best to **commit to the group activities**
- We **respect** speakers and attendees
- We are here to **be of service** to the community
- We want to **lead by example**
- We **support students** and young professionals approaching us
- We are happy to **push the boundaries** of legal innovation, promoting and testing some gamification techniques
- We **support other speakers** as we would want to be supported ourselves
- **Fun is allowed!**

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Are you up to the challenge?
Join us and **shape the future**
of legal.

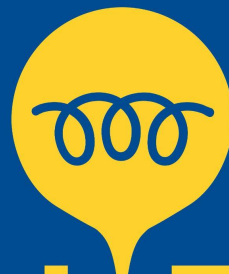
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M-Files



Supporting Partners



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