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## The City of London Law Society

### Litigation heavyweight Colin Passmore takes over as Chair of the City of London Law Society

Colin Passmore, Client Development Partner at Simmons & Simmons and one of the UK's leading litigation specialists, has taken over as Chair of the City of London Law Society (CLLS). Passmore replaces outgoing Chair and former Head of Litigation of Ashurst Edward Sparrow, who stepped down from the role after more than six years at the end of 2022.

Passmore served as the Senior Partner of Simmons & Simmons for ten years until July 2021. He worked in England, Hong Kong, and the Middle East to develop a varied commercial litigation practice that encompasses both international and domestic disputes. He is currently finalising the fifth edition of *Privilege*, one of the leading textbooks on the subject of legal professional privilege.

In 2021, Passmore was recognised with the City's *Lifetime Achievement Award* for his work growing Simmons & Simmons whilst maintaining its culture of collaboration and diversity. He has been ranked in the FT and HERoes *Champion of Women in Business* list on multiple occasions in recognition of his efforts in driving gender diversity at work, and has been praised for his work on the CLLS Social Mobility Steering Group.

Commenting on his new role at the helm of the CLLS, Colin Passmore said: "I am pleased to have this opportunity to help represent the profession of which I have been a proud member for more than 35 years. The business of law in the City goes from strength to strength, despite prevailing economic and legislative challenges. The CLLS and its Specialist Committees will be vocal in convening and conveying the views of the sector, as well as providing advice to the Government, lawmakers and other stakeholders."

Passmore's appointment comes at a time of significant evolution for the legal profession. In the context of recent debates around the Bill of Rights Bill and the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill, it is vital that the UK maintains its international reputation as a jurisdiction of choice for business. All members of the CLLS play a critical role in driving the UK economy, a position that City law is determined to maintain in the face of challenging economic headwinds.

Outgoing Chair Edward Sparrow said of Passmore's appointment: "I have known Colin for many years, and I know he will fill the role with distinction. It has been a great privilege to act as CLLS Chair and to have met so many interesting and impressive people. I wish Colin, the CLLS and its members every success."

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

The City of London Law Society is the professional representative body for the largest national and international law firms in the City of London. Its membership includes almost 60 firms practising in the City which employ 17,000 solicitors.

The 20 Specialist Committees of the CLLS gather the voices of leading practitioners across the legal sector - from data law, training, and employment to company law, ESG, and arbitration - to provide advice to the Government, lawmakers and other relevant stakeholders.

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