ASSOCIATION OF PENSION LAWYERS
Professional not for profit organisation for those practising pension law throughout the UK

APL ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

The Hilton Antwerp | Wednesday 25th - Friday 27th November

Wednesday 25 November	
18:00 - 20:00	**Registration and welcome reception**
20:00	**Junior Networking Dinner to be confirmed**

Thursday 26 November		
Time	**Session Title**	**Speakers**
08:30 - 09:00	**Welcome Tea & Coffee**	
Session chaired by Jonathan Gilmour (Travers Smith)		
09:00 - 09:10	**Welcome Address**	Matthew Swynnerton *(APL Chair)*
09:10 - 09:50	**Signed, Sealed, Delivered: Issues with the proper execution of pension scheme documentation**	Wendy Mathers *(Radcliffe Chambers)* Tom Robinson, KC *(Wilberforce Chambers)*
09:50 - 10:30	**DC reforms – guided retirement, CDC and regulatory challenges**	Mark Baker (Pinsent Masons) Paul Armitage (Muse Advisory)
10:30 - 11:00	**Tea and Coffee**	
Session chaired by Neil Bowden (A&O Shearman)		
11:00 - 11:40	**We Are Diamonds Taking Shape – How Pension Lawyers Can Add Cut, Clarity and Polish to Pensions Legislation**	Isobel Carruthers *(Eversheds Sutherland)* Katy Marcus *(Eversheds Sutherland)*
11:40 – 12:20	**AI in Pensions: Where are we now?**	Chris Edwards-Earl *(Stephenson-Harwood)* Naomi L'Estrange *(Isio)*
12:20 – 13:40	**Lunch**	
12:30 – 13:30	**Regional Chairs Meeting - KOH-I-NOOR Room**	
Session chaired by Claire Carroll (Eversheds Sutherland)		
13:40 – 14:50	**Issues arising from Verity Trustees**	Andrew Spink, KC *(Outer Temple Chambers)* Nicholas Stallworthy, KC *(Outer Temple Chambers)*
14:50 – 15:15	**Tea and Coffee**	
Session chaired by Patrick Kennedy (Gateley Legal)		
15:15 – 17:00	**Investment Fiduciary Duty Debate:** This house believes pension trustee investment duties require improvement by legislative change	**For:** Simon Evans *(CMS)* Stuart O'Brien *(Sackers)* **Against:** Jane Kola *(Arc Pensions Law)* Hywel Robinson *(Temple Bright)*
17:00	**Close day 1**	
19:15	The **Gala Dinner** will be held at the Botanic Sanctuary 19:15: Drinks Reception 20:00: Call for Dinner Dress Code: Black Tie	

Friday 27 November		
Time	**Session Title**	**Speakers**
09:15 – 09:30	**Tea and Coffee**	
09:30 – 10:00	**Annual General Meeting**	
Session chaired by Sarah Phillips (Burness Phillips)		
10:00 – 10:40	**And who shall guard the guards themselves? Can/should trustee members profit from a windfall (and other scenarios)?**	David E Grant, KC *(Outer Temple Chambers)*
10:40 – 11:20	**Amendment powers: some recent cases and old chestnuts**	Edward Sawyer *(Wilberforce Chambers)*
11:20 – 11:45	**Tea and Coffee**	
Session chaired by Philip Stear (Outer Temple)		
11:45 – 12:25	**IHT on pensions: where are we now?**	Jill Clucas *(Hogan Lovells)* Susie Daykin *(Pinsent Masons)*
12:25 – 13:05	**UK Buy-Outs and Irish Members: Navigating the Cross-Border Challenge**	Daniel Watters *(Arthur Cox LLP)*
13:05 – 14:05	**Lunch**	
Session chaired by Claire Carey (Sackers)		
14:05 – 14:45	**Pensions issues in restructuring and insolvency in today's funding environment**	Charles Magoffin *(Slaughter and May)*
14:45 –15:25	**Potential Future Sources of Litigation: 2016 revisited and 2036 predicted**	Suzanne Burrell *(Shoosmiths)* Lynette Lewis *(Shoosmiths)*
15:25 –15:30	**Closing Remarks**	Matthew Swynnerton (APL Chair)