

The Fineprint*

A note from the editors

Welcome to the very first edition of The Fineprint. Our brand-new newsletter dedicated to unpacking the legal, commercial and cultural shifts shaping the world of founder-led and owner-managed businesses.

At Lawrence Stephens, as an owner-managed firm ourselves, we understand the realities our clients face – the highs and lows of building something from the ground up, the weight of every decision, and the connection founders feel to their businesses. That's why we've launched The Fineprint: to help you navigate complexity, challenge convention, and spot opportunity in unlikely places.

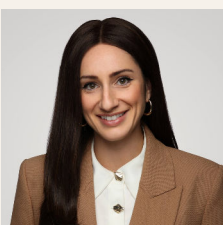
This edition reflects the kinds of conversations we have with our clients every day. Whether you're thinking of selling your business, navigating director responsibilities, or hiring for your next big event we've covered it. We also dive into topics that don't often make the legal headlines: the emotional side of exits, how socialist principles can work in capitalist ventures, and what we need to do to secure the UK's Crypto future.

We're also proud to feature our conversation with John Maffioli, co-founder of FEBE (For Entrepreneurs, By Entrepreneurs). As a longstanding partner of the FEBE network, we share a deep admiration for the tenacity and impact of founder-led businesses across the UK. In this piece, we explore how FEBE is shining a light on the entrepreneurs shaping tomorrow's economy and why their stories matter.

Our aim is to equip you with clarity and confidence in a fast-changing world. We hope this first issue offers both practical guidance and food for thought. And if it sparks a conversation, even better. If you have any feedback, good or bad, or would like to discuss any of the topics in this newsletter or beyond, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for reading and watch this space.

Warm wishes,



Charlotte Hamilton,
Associate,
Corporate and
Commercial



Alanah Lenten,
Senior Business
Development and
Marketing Executive

Click any of the below articles to read.

How to Structure Your Business Like a Socialist

How to Structure Your Business Like a Socialist

Inspired by the upcoming 'Marxism 2025: a festival of socialist ideas' we put our lawyers through a thought experiment: we explore how to build a business on socialist values – without sacrificing entrepreneurial ambition. From share schemes to employee ownership, [Leigh Sayliss](#) and [Oliver Corbally](#) explain how you can be Capitalist with a conscience.

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Leigh Sayliss,
Director,
Tax



Oliver Corbally,
Trainee Solicitor,
Private Wealth and
Succession planning



Beyond the Crowd: The People Powering Events

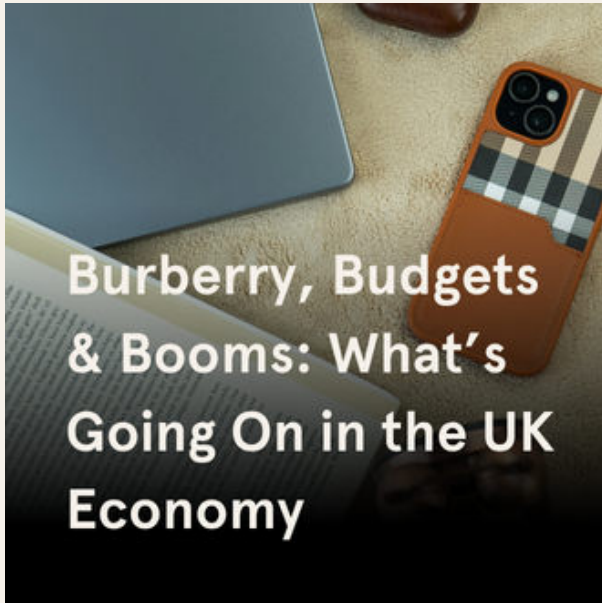
Whether you're running Glastonbury or Wimbledon, successful events are powered by a complex team. Therefore, getting employment contracts right is no longer optional. Each status comes with different rights, responsibilities, and risks. [Becci Collins](#) breaks down what organisers need to know about worker classification and the key risks.

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Becci Collins,
Associate,
Employment

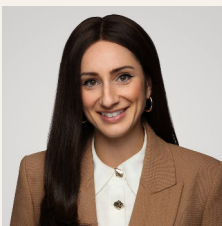
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Burberry, Budgets & Booms: What's Really Going On in the UK Economy

Retail's recovering. Luxury's wobbling. Growth is peaking. What does it all mean for your business? [Charlotte Hamilton](#) breaks down the headlines into real-world signals and how to respond.

[Read this Article >](#)



Charlotte Hamilton,
Associate,
Corporate and
Commercial



How to Get Disqualified as a Director

Ever wondered what gets directors banned for up to 15 years? From misusing Bounce Back Loans to dodging tax, [Lefteris Kallou](#) outlines the most common (and costly) mistakes directors make and how to avoid them.

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Lefteris Kallou,
Associate,
Restructuring and
Insolvency

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How the UK can back Crypto innovation with action

The UK has an incredible opportunity to lead the world in digital assets and blockchain innovation, so why are we still stuck in first gear? [Matt Green](#) explores the steps that could help the UK move from ambition to action, from appointing a blockchain envoy to launching a coordinated digital asset strategy.

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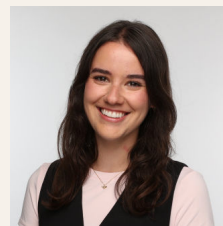
Matt Green,
Director,
Head of Blockchain
and Digital Assets and
Technology Disputes



Why Founder-Led Businesses Are Reshaping the UK Economy

From gritty growth stories to game-changing innovation, founder-led businesses are rewriting the rules. [Alanah Lenten](#) sat down with John Maffioli to understand why he started FEBE and what FEBE's Growth 100 tells us about the future of UK business.

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Alanah Lenten,
Senior Business
Development and
Marketing Executive

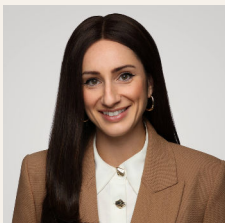
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Thinking of Selling Your Business? Why the Exit Isn't Always the Fairytale Ending

We teamed up with coach and founder Lucy Scarlett to explore the emotional reality of business exits – from loss of identity to post-sale guilt – and what you can do to navigate it with clarity.

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Charlotte Hamilton,
Associate,
Corporate and
Commercial



Alanah Lenten,
Senior Business
Development and
Marketing Executive

Our Headlines

What we've been up to around the firm this quarter.

Lawrence Stephens advises Kaleidex Group on its acquisition of OxDevice Limited, Denis Limited and Oracle Precision Limited

Lawrence Stephens advises on the acquisition of historic Cotswolds pub for redevelopment

Lawrence Stephens advises Salomon on third UK store

Lawrence Stephens successfully acts for Respondent parent in reported case of M v F

Lawrence Stephens advises Fidelius on its investment in Vobis

Lawrence Stephens advises Arc'teryx on Manchester store

Lawrence Stephens completed Cambridge & Counties Bank's biggest ever loan

Lawrence Stephens launches pro-bono Boxing Law Clinic in collaboration with Churchill's Boxing Gym

Lawrence Stephens provided training to Southeby's on UK residential property and tax

Lawrence Stephens was featured in PM Forum in a piece highlighting the firm's growth and culture