# Welcome

# Directors' duties and obligations in challenging times

**Covid-19 Webinar** 

9<sup>th</sup> April 2020









# **Maxine Todd Akerman**

# **Membership Executive**

Buckinghamshire Business First









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# Support for business and essential services during the covid-19 crisis

Any business that is being affected by COVID-19 (coronavirus) or has concerns about its future impact on business can call 01494 927130 or email BusinessSupport@bbf.uk.com

Or visit the website where the most up-to-date advice and support is being collated at <a href="bbf.uk.com/covid-19">bbf.uk.com/covid-19</a>







# Support for business and essential services during the covid-19 crisis











# Support for business and essential services during the covid-19 crisis

# Can your business divert staff, machinery or facilities to support local or national need?

If you can divert resources of any kind to support a need, fill out a quick online form: <a href="mailto:bbf.uk.com/support-offers">bbf.uk.com/support-offers</a> with details of what you can offer and we will post it to our offers page.

#TeamBucks

To speak to a member of the Business Support Team call 01494 927130, email BusinessSupport@bbf.uk.com or feedback any business concerns via a survey online at bbf.uk.com/covid-19-survey









# **Member Directory**

- Your shop window to our community of 12,000 members
- Where we refer enquiries
- Is yours up to date?

















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- Access expert support from:
  - ✓ Our team of experienced Growth Advisers
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  - ✓ Peer-to-peer group sessions















Don't miss out on this time-limited opportunity to boost your sales, profitability & productivity!

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- SEO and marketing activity
- ISO accreditation
- CRM and accounting software
- Specialist consultancy e.g. Environmental

Call us on 01494 927137 or email us Growth@bbf.uk.com











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visitbuckinghamshire.org



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# Get in touch

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### **Online**

Extensive information links to a vast arrange of business support, tools and templates



## **Face to face**

benefit from our team's expert knowledge



## **Hotline**

For all business enquiries















### **About us**

#### **David Smellie**

A corporate and environmental partner with 20+ years transactional expertise (incl. M&A, finance, fundraising and venture cap), David regularly advises boards, directors and owners on complex structuring, and is recognised in Chambers & Partners for his "sensible and pragmatic" solutions.

#### **Simon Carroll**

A specialist commercial and regulatory litigator, winner of the 2019 BB&O's Solicitor Advocate of the Year, regularly ranked in Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500. Simon advises on commercial law, insolvency, and asset recovery, often in connection with recoveries by liquidators and director disqualification.

### **Overview**

- The rule book: director duties
- Insolvency & liquidator powers: what to know
- Disqualification: thinking ahead
- Practical guidance
- Q&A



### **Directors duties**

- CA 2006, s 171 177
  - Act within powers
  - Promote success of the company
  - Exercise independent judgment
  - Exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence
  - Avoid conflicts of interest
  - Not to accept benefits from third parties
  - Declare an interest in a proposed transaction



## **Directors duties: cont.**

- Why is this important?
  - Action by the company
  - Limited remedy
  - Mitigating risk



# The switch up: insolvency risk

- Trading in financial difficulty vs. insolvency
- Issues for directors: what changes?
  - Duty owed to creditors
  - Risk of personal liability
    - Existing director / Common law duties
    - Wrongful / fraudulent trading
    - Misfeasance
    - PGs



# Reviewable transactions & disqualification risk

- Powers of liquidators / administrators
  - Transactions at undervalue
  - Preferences
  - Invalid floating charges
  - Loans & dividends
  - s.127 (void dispositions)
- CDDA 1986



# Practical guidance: the world today

- D&OL insurance
- Evidence decisions
- Rectify obvious issues (security etc)
- Be aware of duty to creditors
- Take advice before injecting funds. Do so early.
- Assume you will be challenged. Prepare for it.
- If presented with a WUP, don't ignore it. Validate.



# Q&A



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- Over 100 staff with 15 Partners.
- Lexcel accredited.
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