

Dear Colleague,

**The Ethics of Onshoring – A #FoodForThought Ethics Event
Wednesday 28th October 2020, 6.30pm**

Speakers:

Emily Carroll, Senior Lecturer in the Law School of the University of Birmingham.

Steven Vaughan, Professor of Law and Professional Ethics in the Faculty of Laws at University College London.

Venue:

Bakers' Hall, Harp Lane, EC3R 6DP (it may be possible for us to have a small audience present)

Also via Zoom

I am delighted to invite you to take part in the second of our series of events aimed at providing an environment for discussing some of the difficult issues being faced by our profession within the City environment. This time we will be talking about the ethics of onshoring and examining what the establishment, by large City law firms, of so-called "Matter Mills" and "London-Lite offices" can tell us about what it means to be a professional. Given the pandemic, and increased working for home, the topic will also be of great interest to single office firms who now find themselves with significant numbers of "kitchen table lawyers".

Onshoring is the opening, for the first time, of satellite offices in the UK, outside London, by elite law firms. It may be thought of in purely commercial terms but recent research (abstract attached) by Emily Carroll and Steven Vaughan demonstrates that it can also pose cultural, managerial and ethical questions. Emily and Steven have very kindly agreed to speak with us about their research and to share their insights on professional identity formation, "location agnosticism" and how this year's pandemic and widespread working from home may affect culture, diversity and values too as we each establish satellite offices in our own homes.

The evening will be chaired by our Senior Warden, Tony King, and there will be an opportunity for you to put your questions to the speakers.

In order to reserve your place, please email the Clerk of the Company, Linzi James, on clerk@citysolicitors.org.uk. At present, we are unsure whether the event will be able to go ahead in Bakers' Hall, so, when booking, please indicate whether you wish to attend in person if this is possible.

I look forward to seeing you on 28th October to continue the conversation.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Bell,
Master