

The 6th Annual IFSEA International Conference on Risk, Reward and Reputation Management Issues for Senior Executives & Founders

Tuesday, 17 June 2025, 8.00 am – 6.00 pm (Closing Drinks 6.00-7.30pm)

Welcome Evening Drinks Reception: Monday, 16 June 2025, 6.00 pm – 8.30 pm

Venue: Saddlers' Hall, 40 Gutter Lane, London EC2V 6BR

Registration for the 6th Annual IFSEA Conference is open – register to [secure your place!](#)



Our IFSEA 2025 keynote speaker is best-selling author, award-winning broadcaster and journalist, and international thought leader on leadership, growth mindset and high performance, [Matthew Syed](#). A former top-ranked table tennis player for England and a two-time Olympian, Matthew is celebrated for his insightful perspectives on mindset and cultural change. His bestselling books, including *Bounce*, *Black Box Thinking* and *Rebel Ideas*, explore the critical role of mindset in achieving high performance and innovation.

Monday 16 June 2025	
	Welcome Evening Drinks Reception
18.00-20.30	<p>The Power of Storytelling: Michael Cordy, Author/Screenwriter/Story Consultant (UK)</p> <p>Join us over drinks for this very special discussion with best-selling British author Michael Cordy on how to harness the power of storytelling to develop brands, people and businesses. Michael spent over a decade in advertising and branded marketing before changing career to write novels. His novels, including <i>The Messiah Code</i> (published in the USA under the title <i>The Miracle Strain</i>) and <i>The Source</i>, explore the outer edges of the human experience. Four have sold to Hollywood. His seventh novel <i>Manhattan Down</i> is published in hardback in May 2025. In addition to writing novels and screenplays, Michael helps clients harness the power of storytelling to develop their brands, people and businesses.</p> 
Tuesday 17 June 2025	
08.00-08.30	Registration and Breakfast
	Opening Plenary Session
08.30-09.20	<p>The Investigator's Dilemma: Balancing Complexity, Conflicts, and Human Drama in High-Stakes Cases</p> <p>Emma Bartlett, CM Murray LLP (UK) Denise Drake, Polsinelli (Kansas City, USA) Natacha Lesellier, Flichy (Paris) Emily Kaufer, Air Canada (Canada) Michèle Stutz, MME (Switzerland) Veena Gopalakrishnan, Trilegal (India) (Chair)</p>
09.20-09.30	Welcome – Conference Chair Clare Murray , CM Murray LLP (UK)



09.30-10.20	<p align="center">Plenary Session</p> <p>Who Would Lead? Tackling Burnout, Risk and the Reluctance of Future Leaders in an Era of Disposable Leadership</p> <p>Yulia Fedorenko, CM Murray LLP (UK) James Hockin, Withers (UK) Joydeep Hor, People and Culture Strategies (Australia) David Lowe, Rudy Exelrod Zieff & Lowe (San Francisco, USA) Merrill April, CM Murray LLP (UK) (Chair)</p>
10.25-11.10	<p align="center">Breakout Sessions</p> <p>Navigating Reverse Discrimination: Addressing Concerns of Those Who Feel Diversity Targets are Working Against Them</p> <p>Claire Dawson, BDBF (UK) Regan O'Driscoll, CC Solicitors (Ireland) Camille Olson, Seyfarth Shaw (Chicago & California, USA) Carl-Fredrik Hedenström, CFH Law (Sweden) (Chair)</p> <p>GC Focus: Too Close for Comfort? Balancing Pressures, Expectations, and Ethics for In-House Counsel</p> <p>Alexandra Badel, M Group (UK) Matthew Dineen, LocatED (UK) Elizabeth Delafosse, GB RailFreight (UK) Jenny Hodges, Aureos (UK) Nick Leale, CM Murray LLP (UK) (Chair)</p>
11.10-11.3	<p>Coffee Break</p>
11.30-12.15	<p align="center">Breakout Sessions</p> <p>Breaking the Silence: <i>"Everyone knew but no one did anything"</i> - Tackling Workplace Harassment and Bullying, and Ineffective Regulations</p> <p>Lori L. Deem, Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd (Chicago, USA) Mathilde Houet-Weil, Weil et Associates (France) Andrew Pavlovic, CM Murray LLP (UK) Jessica Rigglin, Rukin, Hyland & Rigglin (San Francisco, USA) Nick Vamos, Peters & Peters (UK) Beth Hale, CM Murray LLP (UK) (Chair)</p> <p>Founder Fallouts: Navigating Board Firings and Crisis Management</p> <p>Elizabeth McEneny, CM Murray LLP (UK) Richard Reice, Sterlington (New York, USA) Martijn van Hall, van Hall Arbeidsrecht (Netherlands) Wendi Lazar, C-Suite Strategies (New York, USA) (Chair)</p>

	Breakout Sessions
12.15-13.00	<p>Handling Scandals Across Borders: Navigating HR Challenges and Crisis Management</p> <p>Persephone Bridgman-Baker, Carter-Ruck (UK) Ming Evans, Smiths Plc (UK) Harry Jones, Polsinelli (Texas, USA) Gus Sellitto, Byfield Reputation Counsel (UK) Lindsey Wagner, Wagner Legal PC (California & Ohio, USA) (Chair)</p> <p>Reevaluating Retirement: The Case For and Against Mandatory Ages in Professional Partnerships</p> <p>Carol Davis KC, Littleton (UK) Amy Shulman, Outten & Golden (New York, USA) (Chair) Daniel Sutherland, Fox Williams (UK) Victoria Tomlinson, Next-Up (UK) Johannes Traut, Seitz (Germany)</p>
13.00-14.00	Lunch Break
13.30-14.00	Lunch & Learn Discussion
	Afternoon Plenary Session
14.00-14.30	<p>PR and the Hidden Circles of Power and Influence: A dynamic and thought-provoking discussion featuring top professionals in PR, coaching, and headhunting which will delve into the fascinating world of direct and soft PR, exploring how these strategies are wielded to influence and secure high-profile positions. Discover the impact on those who are often excluded from these elite circles of power and influence, and learn how professional PR and other tactics can transform outside candidates into serious contenders for the most coveted roles.</p> <p>Katrina Cheverton, Chief Executive, Savannah Group (UK) Jason Nisse, The Nisse Consultancy (UK) Matt Nixon, Stork & May (UK)</p>
	Breakout Sessions
14.35-15.20	<p>Shielding Your Team: Enhancing Safety and Security in the Modern Workplace: what more should you do to shield your people from physical violence and online harm, and how do you prepare for the potential aftermath?</p> <p>Anne Davies, Fisher Broyles (UK) Suzanne McKie KC, Farore Law (UK) Kristen Prinz, The Prinz Law Firm (Chicago, USA) Andre Royer, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (Canada) David Fisher, CM Murray LLP (UK) (Chair)</p> <p>Dad Shift: Global Trends in Parental Leave and Their Impact on Work and Family Life</p> <p>Brian MacDonough, Sherin & Lodgen (Boston, USA) Jef Michielsens, Bellaw, Van Eeckhoutte, Taquet & Clesse (Belgium)</p>

	Emma Sangeelee , Edwin Coe (UK) Clothilde Verdier , Netflix (Netherlands) Atul Gupta , Trilegal (India) (Chair)
	Breakout Sessions
15.20-16.05	Leading Through Strikes: Executive Strategies for Union Engagement Carlos Pareja Frade , Augusta (Spain) Jennifer Platzkere Snyder , Dilworth Paxson (Philadelphia/NY, USA) Jonathan Tuck , Baker McKenzie (UK) Danny Kaufer , Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (Canada) (Chair) Private Equity in Professional Services: Strategic Insights for Firm Owners David Yewdall , Global Employer Services, BDO (UK) (Co-chair) Matthew Doughty , CEO Insurance Services, DWF Group (UK) Ken Fowlie , Stowe Family Law LLP (UK) Corinne Staves , CM Murray LLP (UK) (Co-chair)
16.05-16.25	Coffee & Drinks Break
	Afternoon Plenary Session
16.25-17.15	<p>Keynote Speaker – Matthew Syed</p>  <p>We are delighted to be joined by Matthew Syed, two-time Olympian, award-winning broadcaster and journalist, international thought leader on leadership, growth mindset and high performance, and best-selling author (Bounce – The Myth of Talent & The Power of Practice, Black Box Thinking – The Surprising Truth about Success and Rebel Ideas – The Power of Diverse Thinking). Matthew also hosts the BBC Radio 4 series Sideways, which explores the ideas that shape our lives with stories of seeing the world differently.</p>
	Closing Plenary Session
17.15–18.00	Can Ethical Leadership Survive? Navigating Populist Politics, Geopolitical Upheaval and Economic Crisis (<i>Samoan Circle Debate</i>) Kelly Dermody , Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein (California, USA) Gavin Foggo , Fox Williams (UK) Andrew Frank , KARV (New York, USA) Megan Mathias , Hinshaw (Chicago, USA) Terese Connolly , Taft (Chicago, USA) Linky Trott , Edwin Coe (UK) Facilitators: Mark Risk , Mark Risk PC (New York, USA) Kelsey Murrell , CM Murray LLP (UK)
18.00-19.30	Closing Remarks and Evening Drinks Event

Please note: All timings and speakers are subject to change

Conference Registration

IFSEA Conference Registration fees are as follows:

- Standard Registration Fee for Non-IFSEA Members: £395 plus VAT
- IFSEA Members & Speakers: £295 plus VAT
- In-house Counsel & HR Professionals: registration fee waived

Please register your place for the conference [here](#) or [download the application form](#).

Further Speakers Confirmed (more to follow):

[Alexandra Badel](#), M Group (UK)

[Katrina Cheverton](#), Chief Executive, Savannah (UK)

[Andrew Frank](#), KARV (New York, USA)

[Linky Trott](#), Edwin Coe (UK)

[Michael Cordy](#), Author/Screenwriter/Story Consultant (UK)

[Jason Nisse](#), The Nisse Consultancy (UK)

[Merrill April](#), CM Murray LLP (UK)

[Emma Bartlett](#), CM Murray LLP (UK)

[Persephone Bridgman-Baker](#), Carter-Ruck (UK)

[Terese Connolly](#), Taft (Chicago, USA)

[Claire Dawson](#), BDBF (UK)

[Anne Davies](#), Fisher Broyles (UK)

[Carol Davis KC](#), Littleton (UK)

[Lori L. Deem](#), Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd (Chicago, USA)

[Elizabeth Delafosse](#), GB RailFreight (UK)

[Kelly Dermody](#), Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein (California, USA)

[Matthew Dineen](#), LocatED (UK)

[Matthew Doughty](#), CEO Insurance Services, DWF Group (UK)

[Denise Drake](#), Polsinelli (Kansas City, USA)

[Ming Evans](#), Smiths Plc (UK)

[Yulia Fedorenko](#), CM Murray LLP (UK)

[David Fisher](#), CM Murray LLP (UK)
[Gavin Foggo](#), Fox Williams (UK)
[Ken Fowlie](#), Stowe Family Law LLP (UK)
[Veena Gopalakrishnan](#), Trilegal (India)
[Atul Gupta](#), Trilegal (India)
[Beth Hale](#), CM Murray LLP (UK)
[Carl-Fredrik Hedenström](#), CFH Law (Sweden)
[James Hockin](#), Withers (UK)
[Jenny Hodges](#), Aureos (UK)
[Joydeep Hor](#), People and Culture Strategies (Australia)
[Mathilde Houet-Weil](#), Weil et Associates (France)
[Harry Jones](#), Polsinelli (Texas, USA)
[Danny Kaufer](#), Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (Canada)
[Emily Kaufer](#), Air Canada (Canada)
[Wendi Lazar](#), C-Suite Strategies (New York, USA)
[Nick Leale](#), CM Murray LLP (UK)
[Natacha Lesellier](#), Flichy (Paris)
[David Lowe](#), Rudy Exelrod Zieff & Lowe (San Francisco, USA)
[Brian MacDonough](#), Sherin & Lodgen (Boston, USA)
[Elizabeth McEneny](#), CM Murray LLP (UK)
[Suzanne McKie KC](#), Farore Law (UK)
[Megan Mathias](#), Hinshaw (Chicago, USA)
[Jef Michielsen](#), Bellaw, Van Eeckhoutte, Taquet & Clesse (Belgium)
[Kelsey Murrell](#), CM Murray LLP (UK)
[Matt Nixon](#), Stork & May (UK)
[Regan O'Driscoll](#), CC Solicitors (Ireland)
[Camille Olson](#), Seyfarth Shaw (Chicago & California, USA)
[Carlos Pareja Frade](#), Augusta (Spain)
[Andrew Pavlovic](#), CM Murray LLP (UK)
[Jennifer Platzkere Snyder](#), Dilworth Paxson (Philadelphia/NY, USA)
[Kristen Prinz](#), The Prinz Law Firm (Chicago, USA)

[Richard Reice](#), Sterlington (New York, USA)

[Jessica Rigglin](#), Rukin, Hyland & Rigglin (San Francisco, USA)

[Mark Risk](#), Mark Risk PC (New York, USA)

[Andre Royer](#), Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (Canada)

[Emma Sangeelee](#), Edwin Coe (UK)

[Gus Sellitto](#), Byfield Reputation Counsel (UK)

[Amy Shulman](#), Outten & Golden (New York, USA)

[Corinne Staves](#), CM Murray LLP (UK)

[Michèle Stutz](#), MME (Switzerland)

[Daniel Sutherland](#), Fox Williams (UK)

[Matthew Syed](#), Matthew Syed Consulting (UK)

[Victoria Tomlinson](#), Next-Up (UK)

[Johannes Traut](#), Seitz (Germany)

[Jonathan Tuck](#), Baker McKenzie (UK)

[Nick Vamos](#), Peters & Peters (UK)

[Martijn van Hall](#), van Hall Arbeidsrecht (Netherlands)

[Clothilde Verdier](#), Netflix (Netherlands)

[Lindsey Wagner](#), Wagner Legal PC (California & Ohio, USA)

[David Yewdall](#), Global Employer Services, BDO (UK)