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About the authors

Stuart Whittle is chief innovation and technology officer at Weightmans LLP. Stuart is a true legal innovator, recently described as ‘a living Action Man of legal innovation’ by industry peers.

Having qualified as a lawyer in 1995, he specialised in professional indemnity until he became the head of Weightmans’ IT department ten years later. Stuart’s interest in technology and innovation manifested itself early on in his career when, as part of the last seat of his training contract, he was assigned to work with the then IT partner. During that time, he built a database to help deal with claims relating to a major piece of litigation and also created Weightmans’ first intranet.

In 2002, he was promoted to partner. From 2003 onwards, Stuart became involved in Weightmans’ IT, designing, developing, and rolling out case management systems across the firm. In 2005, he took on responsibility for Weightmans’ IT department and in 2010 was promoted to IS and operations director and became a member of Weightmans’ board.

Following Weightmans’ strategic review in 2017, Stuart was appointed business services and innovation director with responsibility for facilities, people and knowledge, business change, information management and technology, innovation and risk and compliance. His current role as chief technology and innovation officer dates from 2023, having been tasked to set up a new product and innovation department to systematise Weightmans’ approach to developing products that help meet currently unmet client needs.

Stuart regularly presents at events with special areas of interest being around business process redesign – helping lawyers to work smartly in an uncertain market where prices are being squeezed and the quality of the service that is delivered to the client needs to be continually improved.

He has a Masters in Information Technology, is a qualified coach, a Chartered IT Professional and a certified Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt.

Stuart is a director of the Legal IT Innovators Group, a not for profit organisation run by and for its members. Stuart also chairs the MatterSphere User Group. In 2013, Stuart was named one of Legal Business’s CIO Powerlist. He

was nominated for the Lawyer's Business Leader of the Year in 2015 and 2016 saw *Legal Week* rank him as one of its top 20 Innovators. He won the Innovation Trailblazer Award at the Legal Innovation Awards 2022.

Dr Catriona Wolfenden is director of product and innovation at Weightmans LLP. Catriona leads innovation and product initiatives across Weightmans, ensuring that delivery is aligned to the firm's overall strategy. She works closely with the innovation and product teams, clients, suppliers, and legal teams to ensure that Weightmans continues to evolve and offers real market-leading solutions.

Catriona joined Weightmans in September 2007 following completion of a PhD in medical law and the Bar Vocational Course. She was admitted as a solicitor in October 2011 and promoted to partner in 2019. Catriona has plenty of first-hand experience of civil litigation as she was a team leader in the costs department and as a professional support lawyer frequently provided strategic know how updates, training, and technical support internally and externally for clients.

Catriona is regularly interviewed for articles and research projects and frequently presents at legal/innovation conferences on topics related to innovation and future skills. She was shortlisted for 'rising star' at the Legal Week Innovation Awards 2019. Catriona's team have been shortlisted finalists in 20 National Innovation awards since 2018, winning the Modern Law Awards 2019 for the 'best use of technology' as a result of a collaborative project with Kira Systems (AI software provider) and the Computer Science Department at the University of Liverpool. They were runner up at the British Legal Tech Awards 2020 for 'Technology Venture of the Year' for an RPA Email filing assistant (EFA) and runner up for 'Most Innovative Firm' at the British Legal Tech Awards 2022.

Catriona has been a director of UKLTA (The Legal Tech Association for the UK) and completed a three-year term on the Liverpool Enterprise Partnership Professional and Business Services Board. Catriona is a member of UK Research and Innovation Future Leaders Fellowship Panel College.