

Maitland Walker Solicitors  
Alcohol & Entertainment Licensing  
Betting & Gaming Licensing



Flexible, dedicated and offers a personal touch that  
larger firms can't provide

“Lisa Croft is *‘a safe pair of hands’* with a track record that means peers are happy to refer work to her”.

Chambers & Partners Legal Directory 2009

“Sharon McCann is renowned nationwide for her impressive practice. Clients note her *‘insightful and helpful approach’*, commending her efforts to *‘always be on hand for clients and resolve issues quickly and efficiently’*. Peers who have worked against her in difficult court cases describe her as *‘never fazed - she’s always prepared for anything’*”.

Chambers & Partners Legal Directory 2009

Michael Parrott is *“friendly, intelligent and approachable”* (Chambers & Partners Legal Directory 2009) and *“well-respected”*. (UK Legal 500 Directory 2009)

“Rob Westwood-Payne maintains his strong reputation for licensing work and advises on general regulatory matters”.

Chambers & Partners Legal Directory 2009

# services to the licensed trade

Maitland Walker's specialist licensing department has one of the largest teams of ranked licensing lawyers in the UK. It has a national reputation and attracts a broad mix of clients ranging from large companies to individual entrepreneurs, all of whom recognise the team's dedication and energy.

Both the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005 have changed the face of licensing law in the UK. Maitland Walker's licensing lawyers have met that challenge and continue to use their understanding of the licensed trade to exploit the possibilities under the new legislation on behalf of their clients to encourage the continuity, flexibility and profitability of their clients.

## What we offer

Advice and assistance on all aspects of the following:

- ◆ Personal and Premises Licences
- ◆ Temporary Event Notices
- ◆ Licensing Appeals
- ◆ Licence Reviews
- ◆ Personal, Premises and Operating Licences under the Gambling Act 2005
- ◆ Judicial Reviews in the High Court
- ◆ Investigating and defending regulatory matters
- ◆ Consultancy advice on all alcohol and entertainment licensing, betting and gaming related activities and regulatory law
- ◆ Advocacy
- ◆ Due diligence on property and corporate transactions

## About the department

The three partners are all ranked individuals in the current *Chambers and Partners* and *Legal 500* directories. The team has extensive experience of all forms of alcohol, entertainment, betting and gaming licensing, and through its relationships with local authorities across England and Wales and its membership of trade associations, continues to play an active role in shaping the future policy in the sector.

**Partner / Lisa Croft****T:** 01242 225585 (Cheltenham Office)**E:** Lisa.Croft@maitlandwalker.com

Lisa Croft has practised exclusively in the licensing field for over 15 years, dealing with a full range of licensing, betting and gaming applications. Lisa and the licensing team advise a variety of clients from PLCs to individual traders including national pub companies, Cheltenham Racecourse, hotels, colleges, clubs and public houses. Lisa is recognised as a leader in liquor licensing in the Legal 500 and Chambers legal directories in which she is described as “*a safe pair of hands*” with a track record that means peers are happy to refer work to her”. She is regularly invited to speak at conferences on licensing issues.

Lisa lived and studied in Malawi, South Africa and the West Indies, and is now married with two children. In her spare time, she enjoys English literature, sport and gardening.

**Partner / Sharon McCann****T:** 01242 225582 (Cheltenham Office)**E:** Sharon.Mccann@maitlandwalker.com

Sharon is listed in Chambers and Partners 2009 Guide (Band 1) and is described as “renowned nationwide for her impressive practice. Clients note her *‘insightful and helpful approach’*, commending her efforts to *‘always be on hand for clients and resolve issues quickly and efficiently’*. Peers who have worked against her in difficult court cases describe her as *‘never fazed - she’s always prepared for anything’*”. The UK Legal 500 2008 Directory praises Sharon for her “excellent response times, knowledge and availability”. Sharon has advised on all aspects of licensing, betting and gaming for over 13 years. She is an experienced advocate and continues to be involved in a number of contested applications throughout England and Wales. Sharon has advised clients from nationally recognised licensed multiple retailers to individual entrepreneurs. She also has experience in licensing major developments and events.

Sharon is married and lives in South Birmingham. In her spare time she enjoys travelling, attempting to learn Italian and DIY.

**Partner / Michael Parrott****T:** 01242 246006 (Cheltenham Office)**E:** Michael.Parrott@maitlandwalker.com

Michael has practised in licensing and regulatory work for over 20 years and has acted for major supermarket chains, pub and restaurant groups, nightclubs, motorway service operators, as well as bingo, betting shops and amusement centres. He has also acted for major cinema operators. He is an experienced advocate and presents contested applications before licensing committees throughout England and Wales as well as advising on and defending prosecutions under diverse regulatory legislation such as the Food Safety Act and the Weights and Measures Act. He also has experience of applications for Judicial Review. He is described in Chambers and Partners Legal Directory 2009 as “friendly, intelligent and approachable”.

Michael lives with his partner in Bristol and in his spare time enjoys playing golf, skiing and an unhealthy interest in obscure music from the 60's and 70's.

**Associate Solicitor / Rob Westwood-Payne**

**T:** 01242 225589 (Cheltenham Office)  
**E:** Rob.Westwood-Payne@maitlandwalker.com

Rob is a licensing, betting and gaming specialist with over 10 years experience of acting for the trade. Rob has acted for a wide range of high profile public companies and individuals and regularly appears before local authorities and Magistrates' Courts across the country on a variety of applications and appeals. He is listed in Chambers and Partners 2009 Guide (Band 2) and is praised for maintaining "his strong reputation for licensing work" and for his advice on "general regulatory matters".

Rob is married and lives in Dudley in the West Midlands. He enjoys listening to, playing and conducting music, and if that leaves him with any spare time, reading.

**Assistant Solicitor / Laura Smith**

**T:** 01242 225583 (Cheltenham Office)  
**E:** Laura.Smith@maitlandwalker.com

Laura graduated from King's College London with a 2:1 in law before undertaking the Legal Practice Course at BPP Law School, London gaining commendation. Notably, Laura achieved the highest grade in her law school year in one of her final papers. Laura joined Maitland Walker in September 2006 to undertake her training contract. She qualified in September 2008 and specialises in licensing, already carving out her career with a number of successful highly fought hearings.

Laura is not only passionate about the law; travel, shopping and pink champagne are her three other favourite things. In her spare time, Laura loves spinning in the gym, karate and socialising with friends.

**Licensing Consultant / Ian Webb**

**T:** 01242 225584 (Cheltenham office)  
**E:** Ian.Webb@maitlandwalker.com

Ian Webb joined Lisa Croft as a Licensing Consultant in 2002. Prior to that, he spent 25 years in the police force, the last 10 years of which as a Licensing Officer, often acting opposite Lisa Croft in court! He has extensive knowledge of the UK's licensing legislation and regulations and holds a personal licence having successfully taken the National Certificate for Personal Licence Holders.

Ian is married with two children and two grandchildren who occupy many hours of his spare time. Ian practices Aikido and enjoys motorcycling.

## Administrators

### Denise Kerridge

E: [Denise.Kerridge@maitlandwalker.com](mailto:Denise.Kerridge@maitlandwalker.com)

Denise Kerridge joined Maitland Walker in July 2004, having worked within the legal profession for many years.

In her spare time, Denise enjoys walking her two dogs, even in horrible weather! Denise also enjoys reading, classical music and socialising with her extensive family and friends.



### Nichola Vaughan

E: [Nichola.Vaughan@maitlandwalker.com](mailto:Nichola.Vaughan@maitlandwalker.com)

Nichola joined Maitland Walker in February 2008 having worked as a legal secretary for over fifteen years in Cheltenham.

Out of office hours finds Nichola concentrating on her first love - writing and performing comic verse in her one-woman show "A Life of Rhyme" (which was described by Barry Cryer as "fantastic" and by Melvyn Bragg as "impressive").



### Tina Edwards

E: [Tina.Edwards@maitlandwalker.com](mailto:Tina.Edwards@maitlandwalker.com)

Tina rejoined Lisa Croft at Maitland Walker in September 2008 after an eight-year break to bring up her young family. Tina started her career as a legal secretary in London and later relocated to Cheltenham where she spent eight years in Licensing with Lisa Croft.

Away from the office, Tina spends her time looking after her three children. When time allows, Tina enjoys entertaining and theatre trips.



### Amanda Sawyer

E: [Amanda.Sawyer@maitlandwalker.com](mailto:Amanda.Sawyer@maitlandwalker.com)

Amanda joined Maitland Walker's Cheltenham office in August 2008. Having provided cover in all of the departments, Amanda now assists the Licensing Team.

Outside of work Amanda enjoys spending time with her partner and four year old daughter, socialising with friends, walking in the countryside with the family dog and has an interest in holistic therapies.



# the issues you face

## Smoking Ban

All pubs and bars became smoke free on 1 July 2007. This created several problems, particularly for those premises landlocked on all sides. Premises have had to spend a significant amount to gain planning permission and bring outside areas up to scratch for those who wish to continue smoking, and in some cases the ban has brought associated problems of noise and litter. The ban appears to have contributed greatly to the loss of large numbers of pubs from the trade.

## Noise

The Noise Act makes it more difficult for pub and late night venue operators to successfully balance the needs of their customers for a lively venue with their responsibilities to employees and local residents. This has undoubtedly been compounded by the smoking ban. Local residents now have several effective ways of complaining about excessive noise, and several residents' groups have shown they are not afraid to use them.

## Age

Recruitment now has a number of new potential pitfalls. In particular, the issue of employing workers from overseas has placed a new and significant burden on the licensed trade.

## Licensing

Pub companies are continuing to struggle with the massive financial and bureaucratic burden placed on them by the Licensing Act 2003. The repercussions are felt in the paperwork that must be completed and the different ways Licensing Authorities interpret parts of the legislation. Similarly, years after the commencement of the new regime, Licensing Authorities battle to keep up with the pace of change. It is also likely any new Guidelines for Licensing Authorities will lead to a more restrictive licensing regime.

## Our response

We highlight the issues you must plan for. We produce email updates on issues affecting the trade and produce regular in-depth legal briefings and conduct frequent seminars.

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