

**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

Keynote Speaker: Matthew Syed - Dynamic Leadership, The Future and How to Shape It




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	
18.00-20.30	<p>Welcome Evening Drinks Reception (Courtyard) <i>Headline sponsor: Innangard</i></p>
	<p>The Power of Storytelling: <u>Michael Cordy</u>, 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 The Messiah Code (published in the USA under the title The Miracle Strain) and The Source, explore the outer edges of the human experience. Four have sold to Hollywood. His seventh novel Manhattan Down 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	<p>Registration and Breakfast (Courtyard / Livery Room) <i>Kindly sponsored by</i> Bell Yard Communications, Sherin & Lodgen LLP and Flichy Grangé Avocats</p>
08.30-09.20	<p>Opening Plenary Session (Great Hall)</p>
	<p>The Investigator's Dilemma: Balancing Complexity, Conflicts, and Human Drama in High-Stakes Cases</p> <p><u>Emma Bartlett</u>, CM Murray LLP (UK) <u>Denise Drake</u>, Polsinelli (Kansas City, USA) <u>Natacha Lesellier</u>, Flichy (France) <u>Emily Kaufer</u>, Air Canada (Canada) <u>Michèle Stutz</u>, MME (Switzerland) <u>Veena Gopalakrishnan</u>, Trilegal (India) (Chair)</p>



09.20-09.30	Welcome – Conference Chair Clare Murray , CM Murray LLP (UK) Headline sponsor: Innangard
09.30-10.20	Plenary Session (Great Hall) Who Would Lead? Tackling Burnout, Risk and the Reluctance of Future Leaders in an Era of Disposable Leadership 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) Nick Read , Experienced CEO (UK) Merrill April , CM Murray LLP (UK) (Chair)
10.25-11.10	Breakout Sessions Navigating Reverse Discrimination: Addressing Concerns of Those Who Feel Diversity Targets are Working Against Them (Court Room) Claire Dawson , BDBF (UK) Regan O'Driscoll , CC Solicitors (Ireland) Camille Olson , Seyfarth Shaw (Chicago & California, USA) Carl-Fredrik Hedenström , CFH Law (Sweden) (Chair) GC Focus: Too Close for Comfort? Balancing Pressures, Expectations, and Ethics for In-House Counsel (Great Hall) Alexandra Badel , M Group (UK) Matthew Dineen , LocatED (UK) Elizabeth Delafosse , GB RailFreight (UK) Jenny Hodges , Aureos (UK) Sarah Lucey , Norton Rose Fulbright (UK) Nick Leale , CM Murray LLP (UK) (Chair)
11.10-11.30	Coffee Break (Livery Room / Courtyard)
11.30-12.15	Breakout Sessions Breaking the Silence: "Everyone knew but no one did anything" - Tackling Workplace Harassment and Bullying, and Ineffective Regulations (Great Hall) Lori L. Deem , Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd (Chicago, USA) Mathilde Houet-Weil , Weil et Associates (France) Andrew Pavlovic , CM Murray LLP (UK) Nick Vamos , Peters & Peters (UK) Beth Hale , CM Murray LLP (UK) (Chair) Founder Fallouts: Navigating Board Firings and Crisis Management (Court Room) Amy Rogers KC , 11KBW (UK) Richard Reice , Sterlington (New York, USA) Martijn van Hall , van Hall Arbeidsrecht (Netherlands) Wendi Lazar , C-Suite Strategies (New York, USA) (Chair)

Breakout Sessions	
12.15-13.00	<p>Handling Scandals Across Borders: Navigating HR Challenges and Crisis Management (Great Hall)</p> <p>Persephone Bridgman-Baker, Carter-Ruck (UK) Ming Evans, Smiths Group Plc (UK) Denise Drake, Polsinelli (Kansas City, USA) Gus Sellitto, Byfield Reputation Counsel (UK) Lindsey Wagner, Wagner Legal PC (California & Ohio, USA) (Chair)</p> <p>Re-evaluating Retirement: The Case For and Against Mandatory Ages in Professional Partnerships (Court Room)</p> <p>Carol Davis KC, Littleton (UK) Amy Shulman, Outten & Golden (New York, USA) (Chair) Daniel Sutherland, Fox Williams (UK) Johannes Traut, Seitz (Germany)</p>
13.00-14.00	<p>Lunch Break (Livery Room / Courtyard) <i>Kindly sponsored by Withers</i></p>
14.00-14.30	<p>Afternoon Plenary Session (Great Hall)</p> <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) Jenny Afia, Schillings (UK) (Chair)</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? (Court Room)</p> <p>Anne Davies, Richardson Lissack (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 (Great Hall)</p> <p>Brian MacDonough, Sherin & Lodgen (Boston, USA) Jef Michielsens, Bellaw, Van Eeckhoutte, Taquet & Clesse (Belgium)</p>

	Emma Sangeelee , CM Murray LLP (UK) Clothilde Verdier , Netflix (Netherlands) Atul Gupta , Trilegal (India) (Chair)
	Breakout Sessions
15.20-16.05	<p>Leading Through Strikes: Executive Strategies for Union Engagement (<i>Court Room</i>)</p> <p> 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) </p> <p>Private Equity in Professional Services: Strategic Insights for Firm Owners (<i>Great Hall</i>)</p> <p> David Yewdall, Global Employer Services, BDO (UK) (Co-chair) Sir Nigel Knowles, CEO, DWF Group (UK) Ken Fowlie, Stowe Family Law LLP (UK) Adil Taha, CEO, Rosenblatt (UK) Corinne Staves, CM Murray LLP (UK) (Co-chair) </p>
16.05-16.25	<p>Coffee & Drinks Break (<i>Livery Room / Courtyard</i>)</p> <p>Afternoon Plenary Session (<i>Great Hall</i>)</p>
16.25-17.15	<p>Keynote Speaker – Matthew Syed Dynamic Leadership, The Future and How to Shape It <i>Kindly sponsored by Byfield</i></p>  <p>Success is no longer just about talent, or knowledge or skill. Today, it is also about freeing ourselves from the blinkers and blind spots that beset us all and harnessing a critical new ingredient: cognitive diversity (diverse thinking). Cognitive diversity can strengthen any institution or team; it challenges hierarchies, encourages constructive dissent and forces us to think again about where the best ideas really come from. Matthew draws on cutting-edge research in psychology, economics and anthropology, and lessons from a dazzling range of case studies. He offers a radical new approach to success and a route map to how we can tackle our most complex challenges.</p> <p>In addition, he will explore how Teams with high levels of psychological safety learn more and collaborate more effectively in an environment of trust and openness. With focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different attitudes to failure and how creating a learning mindset and culture drives continuous improvement; • How leaders' thinking and behaviours can encourage or suppress collaboration, innovation and growth; • The importance of psychological safety in order to increase learning. <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>



17.15–18.00	Closing Plenary Session (Great Hall) <i>Kindly sponsored by Taft</i>
	<p>Can Ethical Leadership Survive? Navigating Populist Politics, Geopolitical Upheaval and Economic Crisis (<i>Samoan Circle Debate</i>)</p> <p>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 LLP (UK)</p> <p>Facilitators: Mark Risk, Mark Risk PC (New York, USA) Kelsey Murrell, CM Murray LLP (UK)</p>
18.00-19.30	Closing Remarks and Evening Drinks Event (Courtyard) <i>Kindly sponsored by Trilegal</i>

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](#).

Full List of Speakers

[Jenny Afia](#), Schillings (UK)
[Merrill April](#), CM Murray LLP (UK)
[Alexandra Badel](#), M Group (UK)
[Emma Bartlett](#), CM Murray LLP (UK)
[Persephone Bridgman-Baker](#), Carter-Ruck (UK)
[Katrina Cheverton](#), Chief Executive, Savannah (UK)
[Terese Connolly](#), Taft (Chicago, USA)
[Michael Cordy](#), Author/Screenwriter/Story Consultant (UK)
[Claire Dawson](#), BDBF (UK)
[Anne Davies](#), Richardson Lissack (UK)
[Carol Davis KC](#), Littleton (UK)



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

[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)

[Danny Kaufer](#), Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (Canada)

[Emily Kaufer](#), Air Canada (Canada)

[Sir Nigel Knowles](#), CEO, DWF Group (UK)

[Wendi Lazar](#), C-Suite Strategies (New York, USA)

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[Jef Michielsen](#), Bellaw, Van Eeckhoutte, Taquet & Clesse (Belgium)

[Kelsey Murrell](#), CM Murray LLP (UK)

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

[Nick Read](#), Experienced CEO (UK)

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