

Modern Lawyer

Ideas for Legal Leaders

Editor: Catherine McGregor

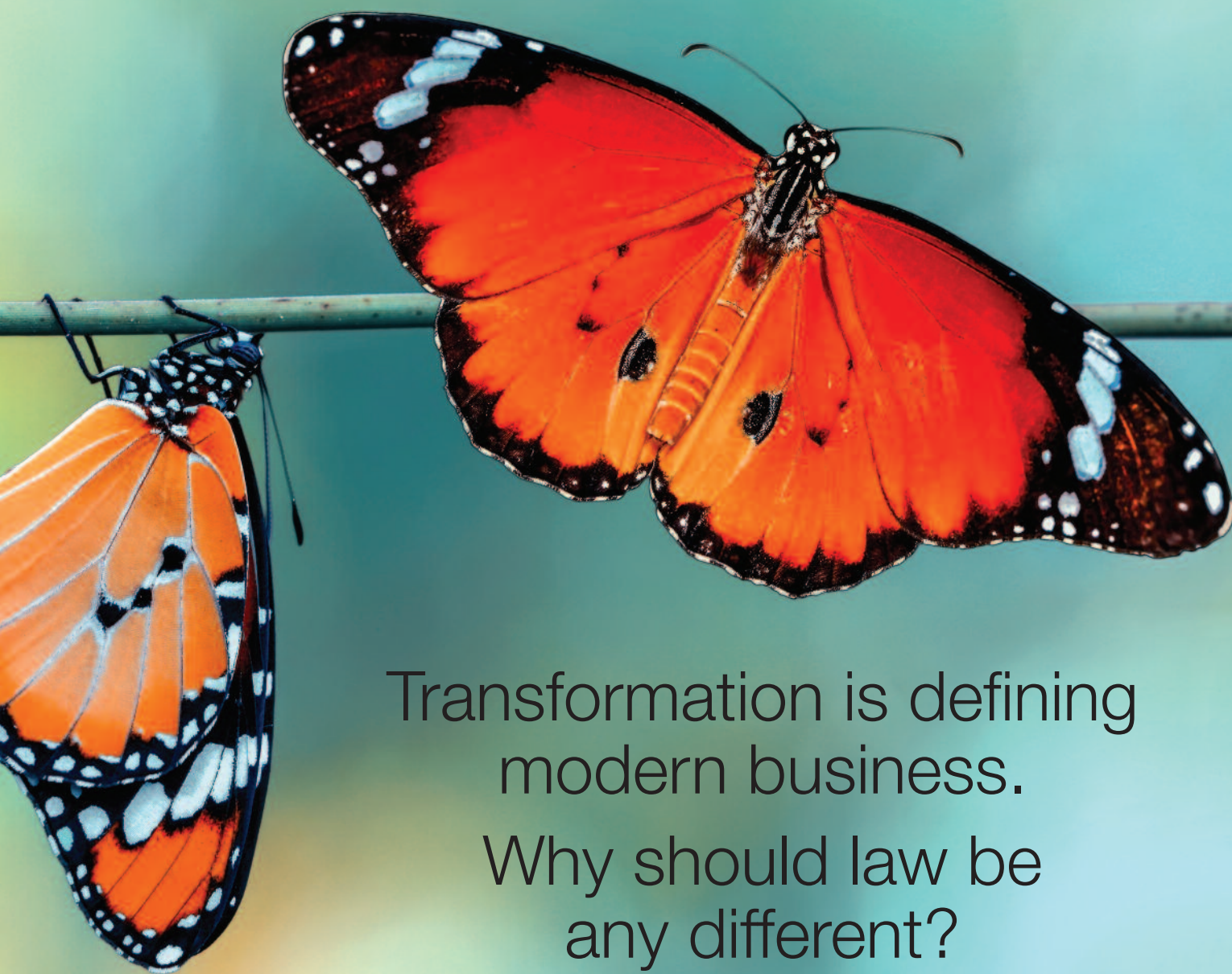
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Featured in this issue

Are you excited by or afraid of what the future holds?

Still so much low-hanging fruit – how to use data and data-analytics

The magic of workflows – empowering your legal projects and processes



Transformation is defining
modern business.
Why should law be
any different?



Welcome to *Modern Lawyer*.

When I became Editor of *Modern Lawyer* two years ago one thing that inspired me was the discussion of the numerous forces shaping the future of law and the various players who would be party to those – many of whom would not be traditional lawyers.

If anything, those changes are even more manifest now as I step down from this role.

The different ways of approaching how we work show that a digital workplace is firmly with us. But that does not mean that the human side of law and business is any less important – in fact it's much more so.

As Paula Gomes Freire writes in her piece on facing the future, it is multidisciplinary, collaboration and diversity that will define the future of work. That collaboration piece is all too often missing in discussion about the digital future as Jaap Bosman adroitly points out in his article on data in law. Too often law firms and even in-house teams get caught up in tech as the answer not as part of the pathway to a solution. Clients point out that despite lots of talk about innovation, most law firms still do not ask clients what they want from new ways of working and what success would look like for them.

Similarly, many law firms are not asking their future talent what they want. Janet Taylor-Hall discusses the disconnect between younger generations in the professions and what is traditionally seen as success. Headlines in the legal press focus on the amount of money being thrown at junior talent but is this an old solution for new challenges?

We hear from one of these – a recently graduated law student – Saffron Stewart. Surveying her peers, Saffron finds a real disconnect between what their education focuses on and how clients are demanding their lawyers work now, let alone in the future.

In her always pertinent column, Bendita Cynthia Malakia discusses the ability of the legal profession to understand intersectionality as an experience.

The Editor who is filling my shoes, Isabel Parker, is an expert in these areas and I know she is keen to continue these discussions and expand them further within these pages.

It's been a delight working with the team here and with all of our contributors. As my career takes me in new and creative directions, I look forward to continuing to read and contribute to the important debates that this Journal gives voice to.

Catherine McGregor

Editor

Editor
Catherine McGregor

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Contents

Volume 5, Issue 4, January 2022

2

**A fond farewell and
a warm welcome**

Catherine McGregor talks
to Isabel Parker

8

Shade(s)

Bendita Cynthia Malakia

14

**Are you excited by or afraid
of what the future holds?**

Paula Gomes Freire

18

**Still so much low-hanging
fruit – how to use data and
data-analytics**

Jaap Bosman

24

**Want to attract the best
and brightest?**

Janet Taylor-Hall

30

**A legal firm's top five finance
challenges – where can
legal firms improve their
financial situation?**

Andrew McKellar

34

**Business agility – everyone
now knows what it means!**

Peter Noyce

38

**Improving results
within lateral partner
hiring – redesigning
integration**

Tom Spence

42

**The magic of workflows –
empowering your legal
projects and processes**

Ignaz Fuesgen

48

**Is your team surviving
or thriving?**

Sally Sanderson

53

**Will Blockchain change
the legal world?**

Joanne Frears

58

**New solutions for
new challenges**

Saffron Stewart

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