

Dinner to His Majesty's Judges

Egyptian Hall, Mansion House

Wednesday 1st July 2026

The Rt Hon The Lady Mayor of London

Aldерwoman Dame Susan Langley DBE

My Lord Chancellor, My Lady Chief Justice, President of the Supreme Court,
My Lords, Master of the Rolls, Ministers, Fellow Aldermen, Mr Recorder,
Sheriff, Chief Commoner, ladies and gentlemen...

A very warm welcome to Mansion House.

It is a great pleasure to welcome back the Lord Chancellor and the Lady
Chief Justice. Thank you both for joining us.

And to all of His Majesty's Judges—welcome to your City.

This evening provides an opportunity to express our thanks for the work you
do every single day in upholding the rule of law.

It's a responsibility of immense importance, and one that has never been
more demanding.

The volume and complexity of cases continue to grow.

Public scrutiny is more immediate and intense than ever before.

Judgments are dissected not only in courtrooms and the press, but almost
instantaneously across social media platforms.

Yet despite these pressures, our courts continue to do what they always have
done: administer justice fairly, impartially and independently – according to
law, not according to power.

That is something of which this country should be immensely proud.

We also recognise the contribution of barristers, solicitors, magistrates, court staff, government and everyone who works tirelessly in the very heart of our justice system.

Together, you support one of the greatest institutions of our national life.

The City of London has enjoyed a close relationship with justice for centuries. That relationship matters more today than ever.

When we think about the foundations that underpin our national prosperity, we naturally think of roads, railways, ports, energy networks and digital connectivity.

But there is another kind of infrastructure that is equally as important.

The infrastructure of confidence.

Confidence that the rule of law will be applied.

That contracts will be honoured.

That disputes will be resolved fairly and independently.

And that everyone is equal before the law.

That confidence is fundamental to investment, innovation, economic growth and social cohesion.

It has been built over centuries and, every day, through the work of the judges, it is strengthened and renewed.

Businesses invest here because they trust our legal system.

International parties choose English law because they know it provides certainty, fairness and predictability.

That is one of the United Kingdom's greatest competitive advantages.

Indeed, the influence of our legal system extends far beyond our shores. As nations like Vietnam launch new international financial centres, they are adopting elements of common law for specialist courts and new legal structures.

It is a powerful reminder of how the reputation of English law continues to create opportunities for British professional services around the world.

And it has never mattered more.

We are living through a period of profound geopolitical uncertainty.

Conflict is reshaping international relationships.

Economic alliances are shifting and the old world order is gone.

Technology is racing ahead, transforming every aspect of our societies.

And hostile actors increasingly seek not only to attack physical structures but - backed by an AI army – to undermine confidence itself; to weaken trust in democratic institutions through disinformation and misinformation.

In such an environment, confidence in our legal system is a strategic asset.

Countries that can offer stability, certainty and trust become the places where business flows, companies invest, innovators build and people choose to work.

That is why our legal system is far more than a framework of rules.

It is a pillar of our national resilience.

On my international visits as Lady Mayor, I am reminded time and again that our legal system is among Britain's most admired strengths.

Indeed, 40% of the world's business and financial contracts are governed by English law.

This is not simply a legal success story.

It is an economic success story, a diplomatic success story and a powerful expression of the values for which this country is respected around the world.

But reputations can never be taken for granted.

They must be maintained, invested in and - increasingly - defended.

Many of you may have noticed the colourful banners outside Mansion House as part of our Team UK campaign, supported by City institutions and more than 200 businesses.

Their purpose is simple: to challenge disinformation, to tell the positive story of London and the United Kingdom with confidence, and to remind the world—and sometimes ourselves—of the extraordinary strengths this country continues to possess.

Generations who've upheld our legal system have helped build that reputation through integrity, independence and excellence.

And that's why the City continues to invest in our justice system.

Working with the Ministry of Justice and HM Courts & Tribunals Service, we have invested £600 million in the Salisbury Square development.

At its heart, a state-of-the-art courthouse, bringing together the City's civil and magistrates' courts alongside the new headquarters of the City of London Police.

Situated between the Old Bailey, the Royal Courts of Justice and the Inns of Court, it is a true Law Mile.

At a time when the future structure of policing is being considered nationally, businesses in the Square Mile consistently tell us how much they value the specialist expertise of the City of London Police.

Their work helps protect not only the City, but the wider UK economy on which jobs, investment and public services depend.

But the City's investment is not simply in buildings.

Because justice ultimately depends on so much more than bricks and mortar.

It depends on public trust.

It depends on people of integrity.

It depends on you.

I am so very proud to say that our legal system—and those who uphold it—really are one of Britain's greatest strengths.

So, to the Lord Chancellor, the Lady Chief Justice, all of His Majesty's Judges and to all those working so hard in the legal system:

On behalf of the City of London, thank you.

Thank you for the work you deliver.

Thank you for the confidence you inspire.

And thank you for ensuring that, in an increasingly uncertain world, our steadfast legal system remains the bedrock upon which confidence, prosperity and our democracy continue to rest.

Finally, may I propose a toast:

“HIS MAJESTY’S JUDGES”