

## Election 2023

There is an election for board members through September. Members will receive an invitation to vote. To assist members decide who to vote for, here are CVs and election statements from the various candidates.

<p><b>John Sayer</b> <i>MRICS ACI Arb</i> Head of Regeneration Ardent: Infrastructure and Regeneration</p> 	<p>During my current term on the CPA board I have supported key activities by undertaking the role of Honorary Secretary. It has been a pleasure to serve the board and CPA members in this role. I have also led the CPA's communication activities resulting in the CPA receiving media coverage and enhancements to the CPA website. This is a vital part of raising the profile of both the CPA and our industry.</p> <p>I have 20 years of real estate advisory experience across a broad range of major projects and asset classes. I advise developers and public sector clients on securing land and achieving vacant possession to deliver transformational regeneration projects. I have also advised a range of landowners, from private individuals to PLC's, on the potential disposal of their assets and the impact of major new schemes. I am an elected national board member and Honorary Secretary of the Compulsory Purchase Association and regularly lecture and speak at conferences relating to land assembly and major projects. Prior to joining Ardent I spent 15 years at CBRE and 5 years in an estate management role responsible for the management of a diverse estate of land and property.</p> <p>As we emerge from the pandemic the CPA board will continue to have a packed agenda including organising training events, flying the flag for best practice, and shaping law reform. I hope you will support my efforts for re-election to support these initiatives.</p>
<p><b>Raj Gupta</b> Partner, Town Legal LLP</p> 	<p>I'm a partner at Town Legal a specialist planning and CPO law firm. I have specialised in compulsory purchase and am particularly well known for my expertise in land compensation disputes, having acted for the successful parties in a number of well-known cases including Spierose, Urban Edge and Curzon Park. For much of my career I acted for promoters of large schemes including the East London Line extension, the London Olympics and Crossrail in helping secure and implement powers and then dealing with compensation claims arising. I now act primarily for land owners and occupiers affected by compulsory purchase and for private sector developers working in partnership with local authorities to assemble land for major regeneration projects.</p> <p>I have been an active CPA Board member for the last 6 years, having been involved in the drafting of the Land Compensation Claims Protocol, reform proposals for the temporary possession regime and the CPA's response to the Tribunal's revised practice directions. Most recently I have led the CPAs working group on the Government's proposed reforms to the CPO process and the compensation code including co-ordinating the CPA's formal response to the latest consultation. I hope to be able to continue to represent the CPA's membership in challenging the proposed reforms.</p>

**David Baker** *FRICS FCILT*  
*MCI Arb*  
Partner,  
Baker Rose Consulting LLP



As many of you will know, I take a serious interest in the way the use of compulsory purchase powers could be improved for all concerned, in terms of both behaviours and process. The recent consultation on whether a Minister should have the authority to unilaterally determine that some affected parties could be paid less than market value, if the public benefits were worth it, is to CPA members obviously difficult to countenance. However not necessarily so to those in power or to the general public, particularly given the specified target.

As a country we are heading into turbulent times. Policy agendas expressed during the hustings for the new PM might become even more challenging than the above. The removal of access to the ECHR protections, which forms the backbone to much of the attitude to fairness, is one. At the time of writing, another is the publicly unclear definition, remit and governance of Special Economic Zones aka 'Charter Cities' aka 'Full Fat Freeports'. They could have CPO powers bestowed upon them or used to enable them; and appear to be planned for very significant as well as sensitive areas of the country.

I specialise in major projects, commercial negotiations and conflict resolution. I am a Fellow of the RICS and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport. I am also a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Mediator) - I am an RICS Accredited Mediator. I understand many of the underlying drivers to current change through this wide range of professional interests; and thanks to the range of sectors that form my client base.

My experience with CPO's includes schemes promoted under DCO, the Planning & Highway Acts, TWAOs, Harbour Empowerment Order (London Gateway), Crossrail and HS2. I act for both acquiring authorities and claimants, primarily aimed at avoiding problems in complex cases, mitigating claims and securing fair settlements.

The CPA has been working hard to develop and promote better ways to resolve claims fairly, reasonably, and quicker; as well as rightly developing an inclusive agenda. I have been on the CPA's Mental Health and ADR working groups and would like to support this work at Board level; as well as providing independent thought and insight into the wider issues of emerging government policy, that may well be coming at us fast. I am up for the challenge; I hope you will support me. Thank you

**Simon Harth**

Technical Director,  
Technical Principal,  
Mott MacDonald



The CPA membership is multi-disciplinary by nature and I would love to formally represent land referencing within the Association.

I am particularly passionate about the benefits of professional collaboration, both within the niche land referencing industry and across the diverse range of disciplines which form the CPA membership.

I would like to raise the profile of land referencers as well as the benefits our services bring to scheme promoters and projects, and open up opportunities for continuous professional development and shared best practice and operational standards.

How I'd like to be involved:

A seat on the CPA board will allow me to support the CPA's aims and objectives:

- Increase representation of land referencers and related roles within the CPA
- Connect two communities to actively collaborate, share knowledge and CPD
- Coordinate thought leadership and share news and views
- Clearly demonstrate the important role land referencers play as part of a multi-disciplinary consents delivery team
- Consider alternative routes to roles within CPO and boost pride values within careers
- Share information on our role with the public

About me:

I am a chartered Geographer and land referencer with over 18 years' experience supporting land consents and statutory processes for infrastructure and regeneration projects across the UK and Ireland. I have held various technical and operational leadership roles and both assisted and witnessed significant growth of the land referencing and land assembly industry.

I am an advocate for future careers and as trailblazer chairperson, I have played a leading role in developing the Level 4 Land Referencer Apprenticeship (the only formal qualification in our field) with the first cohort of apprentices starting this October.

I co-founded the Society of Land Referencers in 2021 with the core objectives of forming a community, promoting our industry and boosting careers. I have already seen a marked improvement in collaboration across our niche industry, as well as significantly improved representation of our professional capability and I would like to form a link between these two communities.

**Oliver Spencer**  
Solicitor,  
BDB Pitmans LLP



I am a solicitor in the planning, infrastructure and public law team at BDB Pitmans LLP and am standing for election to represent the emerging generation of professionals involved in compulsory purchase work on the CPA board.

I have been a member of the CPA since qualifying and have always sought to get involved with the CPA's work and activities, including the CPA Future events which are an excellent way of bringing junior practitioners together. Participation in the CPA's working groups is a valuable way of contributing to the CPA's work and I have been involved with the blight and affected parties working groups.

My day-to-day work as an infrastructure planning lawyer involves dealing with compulsory purchase in all its forms, including compulsory purchase orders, development consent orders, Transport and Works Act orders and hybrid bills. I am involved at all stages of the process from making or opposing the case for compulsory purchase powers to enable a development to come forward, through to challenging or defending compulsory purchase decisions in the courts and acting on references to the Upper Tribunal concerning disputed questions of blight and compensation.

Acting for both promoters/acquiring authorities and affected landowners ranging from private individuals to large commercial organisations and charities has given me a rounded understanding of how the compulsory purchase system currently operates. In common with many other practitioners and fellow CPA members that my work brings me into regular contact with, there are a number of areas where reform of both law and procedure would be desirable, both to facilitate the greater use of compulsory acquisition powers as a useful planning tool where appropriate and to ensure that affected parties are afforded appropriate protections, including fair compensation.

I hope that my experience stands me in good stead to represent the views of the CPA membership on the board and to continue to contribute to the important role that the CPA plays as a respected and authoritative voice in the sector.

**Tom Aslin**  
Partner,  
Moore Kingston Smith LLP



I am a Chartered Accountant, and a partner in and head of the forensic accounting team at the accountancy firm Moore Kingston Smith.

I qualified with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW) in 2002, since which time I have specialised in forensic accounting. Much of my work involves business/share valuations and the quantification of loss of profits, in a wide range of contentious settings, including in particular disturbance claims by businesses following the compulsory acquisition of their premises.

I have extensive experience of acting for both claimants and acquiring authorities, in cases where the disturbance compensation being claimed has ranged from a few tens of thousands of pounds to £100m+. I have given evidence in the Lands Tribunal, as well as in the High Court, Family Court and Crown Court on non-CPO matters. In addition to being a Fellow of the ICAEW, I am also a full member of the Academy of Experts and the Expert Witness Institute.

As a multi-disciplinary organisation, I believe that the Board of the CPA should have representation from all of the professions which make up its membership. As an accountant I will be able to bring a perspective which will be different to its members from the legal and property professions.

I have experience of Board membership and governance at a senior level in my role as a department head and equity partner at Moore Kingston Smith, from my position as a committee member of the Forensic Special Interest Group at the ICAEW, and my experience as a school governor and head of the finance committee at my local school.

Having acted for both acquiring authorities and claimants over the years, one of the areas in which I am keen to make a difference is the time it can often take for claims to be resolved, whether resolution comes by negotiated settlement or a hearing in the Lands Tribunal. In my experience the causes of the time such claims can take are many and varied, but often relate to insufficient information being provided by claimants in support of their claims at an early enough stage, budgetary or other internal constraints which prevent acquiring authorities from making realistic offers, and unrealistic expectations of the outcome (which can be an issue on both sides). I have been involved in many cases which have reached a successful conclusion without the need to refer the case to the Tribunal, and in my view the use of mediation in its different forms can be a highly successful way of achieving such a result.

<p><b>Natasha Lamptey</b> <i>MRICS</i> Compensation Surveyor, CBRE</p> 	<p>My career began in 2015 at Sawyer Fielding, whilst experiencing first-hand the process of living through compulsory purchase, which piqued my interest in the field. This personal exposure was invaluable in my role at Sawyer Fielding, where for almost 4 years I was an advisor to residential claimants on numerous regeneration schemes throughout London.</p> <p>Over the last 3 years, I have been part of the CBRE compulsory purchase team where I have primarily been providing advice to acquiring authorities such as HS2 and Heathrow, which has offered an alternative insight into the CPO process.</p> <p>I have been a member of the CPA Future for the last year, which has been instrumental in shaping my understanding of the Association and its various roles, such as advising on key legislation and reforms which are at the core of our industry. I have also had the opportunity to work with the other Members to focus on areas of improvement within the CPA, such as initiatives for attracting more young and diverse professionals.</p> <p>In the last year, I have enjoyed being a member the CPA's Diversity and Inclusion Working Group and was honoured to be given the opportunity to present at the CPA National Conference about our work to increase Equity, Diversity &amp; Inclusion for our members, organisation, and the overall industry. Although we have been successful in tackling some of the issues faced by the CPA and have been able to recommend some changes which are to be implemented (such as reviewing the CPA Board's membership and governance), we can see that there is plenty more that can be achieved.</p> <p>I would therefore be very grateful for your support in electing me to the CPA Board, where I hope to be able to contribute to future law reform reviews and offer other ideas for attracting more diverse and young professionals into Compulsory Purchase careers.</p>
<p><b>Caroline Daly</b> Barrister, Francis Taylor Building</p> 	<p>I am a barrister at Francis Taylor Building, specialising in planning, compulsory purchase and compensation work. I have been a member of the CPA Board since 2020 and would be grateful for your support so that I can represent the membership for a further two years.</p> <p>Before becoming a Board member, I was a member of the CPA Future committee, acting as its chair in 2019/2020.</p> <p>During my time on the Board, I have been a founding member of the CPA's Diversity and Inclusion Working Group. The Working Group is taking a range of steps to promote and encourage a more diverse Board and membership, as well as seeking to encourage new recruits to CPO-related professions. In my view, there is plenty more that the CPA can do in this area and my intention would be to continue in this role if I am re-elected. I have also been an active member of the CPA's CAAD reform working group over the last two years and given the scope of the Government's CPO reform agenda, would also wish to continue in this role in the years ahead.</p> <p>Through re-election to the Board, I want to continue to represent the interests of more junior CPO practitioners and ensure that the interests of the Bar, and the wider legal profession, are well represented.</p>

**James Maurici QC**  
Barrister,  
Landmark Chambers



I am a barrister at Landmark Chambers. I was called to the Bar of England & Wales in 1996. I was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2013.

I became a CPA Board member in 2020. I have in the last two years been involved in setting up the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group of the CPA and have been its chair since it was formed. I am keen to carry on this work.

My practice has encompassed all aspects of compulsory purchase for 25 years. I am currently involved in multi-billion pound litigation in the High Court (combined judicial reviews and Chancery actions) raising novel compulsory acquisition issues. Other examples include acting for Highways England and Walsall Borough Council on the inquiry into the Highways England Company Limited (M6 Junction 10) (Slip Roads, Special Roads) Scheme 2018 and related orders all concerned with highway alterations and improvements at Junction 10 of the M6. I have defended a number of High Court challenges to compulsory purchase orders including the Olympic CPO challenges. I also regularly act in compulsory purchase compensation matters. In addition, I have written and lectured widely on State aid issues in relation to compulsory purchase (see e.g. State aid in planning and compulsory purchase order cases J.P.L. 2015, 6, 621-643) and I regularly advise on these issues.

I was until 2020 the chair of the Planning Practice Group in Landmark Chambers. Between 2008 and 2016 I was on the Council of United Kingdom Environmental Law Association ("UKELA") and was also on the Executive Committee of UKELA for much of that time. I chaired the organizing committee for the annual UKELA conference for 3 years. I thus have considerable experience on working as a board member for professional organisations similar to the CPA. I am currently a member of the NIPA Council.