Annual Bar and Young Bar Conference 2017
Saturday 4 November 2017
Westminster Park Plaza, London

One Bar: Threats, opportunities and strengths in an age of change

#OneBar17
All sessions throughout the day are open to all attendees. Some sessions have been designed to also be specifically aimed at the Young Bar. These have been marked with the below icon.

09:15 - 10:30
One Bar: Threats, opportunities and strengths in an age of change
Bar Conference Opening
Keynote

Welcome
Chairman’s address:
Andrew Langdon QC, Chair of the Bar of England and Wales; Guildhall Chambers

Young Bar Chairman’s address:
Duncan McCombe, Chair of the Young Barristers’ Committee; Maitland Chambers

Rachel Spearing, Annual Bar Conference Chair; Pump Court Chambers

Keynote address: The Rt Hon Lady Justice Hallett, Vice President of the Court of Appeal Criminal Division

Registration, exhibition viewing and refreshments

The opening keynote session will set the tone for the full day. The theme ‘One Bar: Threats, opportunities and strengths in an age of change,’ aims to reflect the strength of the profession when acting together as ‘One Bar’ in facing the current issues challenging the profession. The Conference seeks to present these issues and consider the threats that they may create, as well as opportunities that can be established when all involved with the Bar work together to generate awareness and engagement.

1. A changing landscape: Opportunities and dangers for the Personal Injury Bar
Personal Injury Bar Association

Moderator
Steven Snowden QC, Crown Office Chambers

Speakers
Emma Corkill, 39 Essex Chambers
Martyn McLeish, Cloisters
John-Paul Swoboda, 12 King’s Bench Walk

The session will be an update on the many changes in Personal Injury (PI) and clinical negligence work which will be occurring over the next few months, including changes in respect of fixed fees, the introduction of tariff damages for whiplash claims, changes to the Small Claims and Fast Track and changes to the discount rate used to calculate future losses in larger cases.

The session will be examining recent and ongoing changes, identifying the effect they have and will have on our area of work, and suggesting how we need to respond.

Learning outcome: To increase awareness and technical knowledge of Personal Injury and Clinical negligence law to ensure you can provide a level of advocacy appropriate for your practice.

This workshop will consider the practicalities of public access following expected changes to fixed recoverable costs and the introduction of online courts.

Learning outcome: To maintain key understanding and knowledge in specific areas of Public Access work to ensure the provision of clear and comprehensive advice to professional and lay clients.
3. The Big Debate: Is Pro Bono Always A Force For Good?

Bar Pro Bono Unit

**Moderator**
Richard Atkins QC, St Philips Barristers

**Speaker**
Jessica Campbell, Chief Executive of Bar Pro Bono Unit
Alison Padfield, Chair of the Bar Pro Bono Board; 4 New Square
Max Hardy, 9 Bedford Row
Richard Balchin, Trinity Chambers

How do we ensure access to justice if people cannot afford representation and no legal aid is available? But would any other profession provide their services for free?

A distinguished panel of speakers will debate issues such as these as it considers the potential merits and demerits of working pro bono.

**Learning outcome:** Consider how to work with clients and others through Pro Bono with transparency about the services being offered. Under Core Duty 10, it is a requirement to take reasonable steps to manage your practice competently. This debate will consider how to carry out Pro Bono work while still meeting this requirement.

4. In the middle of our own historical wrong: the plight of refugees

Bar Human Rights Committee (BHRC)

**Moderator**
Kirsty Brimelow QC, Chair of the Bar Human Rights Committee; Doughty Street Chambers

**Speakers**
The Lord Dubs
Mr Justice McCloskey, Immigration & Asylum Chamber President

In August 2013 António Guterres of the UN High Commissioner on Refugees marked the 1 millionth child refugee fleeing Syria by saying: “What is at stake is nothing less than the survival and wellbeing of a generation of innocents”.

Four years since that milestone, the child refugee crisis has deepened rather than abated: children now occupy “the extreme edge of the refugee experience” from Calais to Kurdistan, facing brutality and exploitation at every turn.

Join the Bar Human Rights Committee for a specialist session to discuss the role of barristers in responding to this ongoing disaster, from the Dubs Amendment in the UK, to BHRC’s fact-finding missions to the Jungle camps of Calais, and broader strategies for using international law to pursue justice for some of the world’s most vulnerable and stigmatised people in this age of change.

**Learning outcome:** Increase understanding of how to work effectively with all clients. Develop a better knowledge of procedures necessary to work with vulnerable victims and clients and how this work can fit in with your practice.

5. Top tips and guidance for developing your practice

Institute of Barristers’ Clerks and Young Barristers’ Committee

**Moderator**
Sam Roake, Charter Chambers

**Speakers**
Tony Burgess, Deputy Senior Clerk at Brick Court Chambers
Katherine Duncan, Garden Court Chambers
Nick Hill, Chair of the Institute of Barristers’ Clerks; Three New Square
Annabel Thomas, Partner at Mishcon de Reya
Katie Cromwell, Essex Court

This interactive session will be relevant not only to the Young Bar but also to those looking to keep up to speed in today’s challenging legal landscape. You will have the chance to listen to tips from, as well as put your own questions to, a panel made up of a mix of professionals who have many years’ experience of life at the Bar.

The panel will explore ways of growing your practice, including getting the best from your clerking team as well as promoting and building your practice through the clients you are working with and using new avenues such as public access and social media.

**Learning outcome:** Those who have listed any aspect of practice management in their plan will find this session useful in meeting objectives. Consider financial and risk management and ask the panel questions with your specific learning outcomes in mind.

6. How to be competent at ‘competencies’: Advice and tips on how to improve applications

Employed Barristers’ Committee and Western Circuit Women’s Forum

**Moderator**
Lucinda Orr, Chair of the Employed Barristers’ Committee; Enyo Law

**Speakers**
Kate Brunner QC, Western Circuit Women’s Forum; Albion Chambers
Maggie Semple OBE, QC Appointments
Susanna McGibbon, Government Legal Department

This session will look at competency based applications, including Silk and Judicial applications, as well as others. Advice and tips will be given by the panel about how to improve your applications, the types of examples to use and how to best present them to enhance your success.

**Learning outcome:** How to ensure continual development within your own career and what learning, experience and training to undertake to achieve these goals.
7. A diverse future for all, upholding justice and professional standards in a changing world

Criminal Bar Association

Moderator
Angela Rafferty QC, Chair of the Criminal Bar Association; Red Lion Chambers

Speakers
Eleanor Laws QC, Criminal Bar Association; QEB
HHJ Peter Rook QC
Emma Fenn, Criminal Bar Association; Garden Court Law
Donal Lawler, Criminal Bar Association; 187 Fleet Street
Her Honour Judge Deborah Taylor, Southwark crown court

This presentation by the Criminal Bar Association will focus on building and sustaining a practice in challenging conditions. The session will call on views from past and present as to quality of advocacy, managing a career and judicial aspirations and how to achieve them.

Questions of diversity, recruitment, retention and career progression will be discussed by all panel members who include Silks and junior barristers. The workshop also benefits from the perspective of two senior members of the judiciary.

The session will offer practical suggestions and perspectives on modern practice and advocacy skills as well as career progression for all regardless of background.

Learning outcome: Consider multiple aspects of practice management while maintaining a level of advocacy appropriate for your practice, level of seniority and experience.

8. The Business and Property Courts in a brave new world

Chancery Bar Association, COMBAR and TECBAR

Moderator
The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Vos, The Chancellor of the High Court

Speakers
Mark Cawson QC, Chair of Northern Chancery Bar Association; Three Stone
Alexander Nissen QC, Chair of TECBAR; Keating Chambers
Andrew Spink QC, Chair of COMBAR; Outer Temple Chambers
Rosemary Martin, Chair of GC100 and Group General Counsel of Vodafone Plc

From July 2017, the Business and Property Courts will act as a single umbrella for the business specialist courts across England and Wales. It will encompass the specialist courts and lists of the High Court, namely the Commercial Court, the Technology and Construction Court (TCC) and the courts of the Chancery Division (including those dealing with financial services, intellectual property, competition and insolvency).

Learning outcome: To stay up to date with court development in this specialist practice area. If using the Business and Property Courts, understand how this practical change will effect your practice.

HMCTS and the transformation programme

Speaker
Susan Acland-Hood, Chief Executive, Her Majesty’s Courts and Tribunals

HMCTS and the Transformation Programme Outlining HMCTS's once-in-a-generation £1bn, six-year programme to transform its services, making the administration of justice more efficient and effective for users.

Through transforming the setting of justice and the technology that supports it, HMCTS seeks to deliver its vision of a courts and tribunals system that enables the rule of law to be upheld and provides access to justice for all.

Who cares about Legal Aid?

Speakers
Sir Henry Brooke CMG
Andrew Langdon QC, Chair of the Bar of England and Wales; Guildhall Chambers

This additional main stage session is convened by the Chair of the Bar to address the changes and rising crisis of legal aid. Sir Henry Brooke CMG is a senior judicial figure and a former Vice-President of the Civil Division of the Court of Appeal. He was responsible for the substantial review within the Bach Commission of the legal aid system, published in September 2017. The final report made a number of recommendations each of which is aimed at improving access to justice for our citizens

The session will review the report and recommendations to consider the future of legal aid.

Learning Outcomes: A core understanding of the present legal aid system, the systematic development and changes and the future of the legal market.

Lunch and networking
10. The Sword and the Shield: Cyber-security risks and the GDPR

Information Technology Panel

Moderator
Jacqueline Reid, Chair of IT Panel; 11 South Square

Speakers
Jonathan Polnay, Vice Chair of IT Panel; 5 King’s Bench Walk
Tamara Quinn, Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP Consultant
Jonathan Bamford, Head of Parliament and Government Affairs; Information Commissioner’s Office

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will be directly applicable from May 2018, replacing the current Data Protection Act 1998. The Regulation will apply in full while we remain a member of the EU, and equivalent standards are being set by the Information Commissioner’s Office to continue after we leave.

Included in the GDPR are new requirements for the control and processing of data, which barristers and chambers will need to adhere to. What are these new data protection obligations, and how will they apply to your practice? Come along and find out what you should be doing between now and then to prepare.

Learning outcome: Essential for anyone working with the transfer or holding of data to ensure you are working within the new regulations - crucial for not damaging your practice and for protecting your clients.

11. In conversation with Circuit Leaders: Discussing steps and opportunities to those within and entering the profession

Circuit Leaders Forum

Moderator
Alistair MacDonald QC, New Park Court Chambers, former Chair of the Bar, former Leader of the North Eastern Circuit

Speakers
Kerim Fuad QC, Leader of the South Eastern Circuit
Michael Hayton QC, Leader of the Northern Circuit
Richard Atkins QC, Leader of the Midlands Circuit
Bill Mousley QC, Leader of the Western Circuit
Paul Hopkins QC, Leader of the Wales & Chester Circuit

This session will be an interactive and inspiring session for all those looking to enter the profession, as well as those within their early years of the profession. The workshop will look at opportunities available throughout the journey to and through the Bar and how best to maximise these opportunities.

The panel will welcome questions from the delegates so please come armed with queries or questions about any stage through your career.

Learning outcome: This session will help many set future CPD plans and learning outcomes to ensure the best training and experience is being achieved to aid your journey through the Bar.

12. Practical Ethics at the Young Bar

Ethics Committee

Moderator
Rachel Langdale QC, Chair of the Ethics Committee; 7BR

Speakers
James Hines QC, Vice-Chair of the Ethics Committee; Three Raymond Buildings
Fenner Moeran QC, Vice-Chair of the Ethics Committee; Wilberforce Chambers
Helena Duong, Ethics Committee and Young Barristers’ Committee; 23 Essex Street

This session aims to give practitioners at the junior end of the Bar an overview of the Handbook, before diving into some meaty practical problems from criminal, family and civil practice.

With the exception of the young-at-heart Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Ethics Committee, no senior members will be present, meaning younger counsel can ask the ethical questions they’ve always wanted to in a more relaxed environment.

Lively, discursive and interactive, this session is an opportunity for young barristers to challenge themselves and each other to apply a consistent ethical framework to everyday dilemmas.

Learning outcome: In your CPD plan, it is important to demonstrate a consideration to training requirements with regards to ethics, professionalism and judgement. This session will allow you to pose questions about your specific areas of concern.

Afternoon specialist sessions

13:50 - 15:00

11. In conversation with Circuit Leaders: Discussing steps and opportunities to those within and entering the profession

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13. The Young Bar: Capitalising on and adapting to the changing legal market
Education and Training Committee

Moderator
Guy Fetherstonhaugh QC, Chair of the Bar Council’s Education and Training Committee; Falcon Chambers

Speakers
Simon O’Toole, 5 Pump Court
Simao Paxi-Cato, Invictus Chambers
Will Taborn, Operations Manager, Litigation and Legal Projects for Riverview Law
Danielle Wright, 4 Pump Court
Athena Markides, Crown Office Chambers

A panel of speakers will discuss opportunities for the Bar in tomorrow’s world. The speakers will present their views on direct access, new practising structures and other ways of preparing for the future.

The panel will hear the views of the attendees and discuss any queries raised to allow discussion on how all can be best prepared the changing legal market.

Learning outcome: Come to this session prepared with questions about your particular learning objectives with regards to practice development. This can include specifics in Public Access to ensure knowledge in this area is kept up to date with latest changes.

The Inns of Court College of Advocacy

Moderator
Derek Wood CBE QC, Chair of the ICCA Governors; Falcon Chambers

Speakers
Andrew Hochhauser QC, Essex Court Chambers
Simon Readhead QC, 1 Chancery Lane

This session will address the generic challenges facing advocates in the handling of expert evidence in all fields of work, following recent reforms in criminal and civil practice and procedure.

It will concentrate on the effective management of scientific and statistical evidence. It will also reflect work in progress between the Inns of Court College of Advocacy and the Royal Statistical Society.

The session will be illustrated by case studies and audience participation will be encouraged.

15. Transparency and feedback-the future of legal services
Bar Standards Board (BSB) and Legal Practice Management Association (LPMA)

Moderator
Dr Vanessa Davies, Director General, Bar Standards Board

Speakers
Fiona Fitzgerald, Chief executive of Radcliffe Chambers and committee member of LPMA
Ewen Macleod, Director of Strategy and Policy, Bar Standards Board
Naomi Ellenbogen QC, Vice Chair, The Bar Standards Board

At the end of June the BSB and other legal services regulators published their plans to address the recommendations contained in the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) report into legal services.

The BSB plan focuses on improving standards of consumer transparency regarding the services provided by barristers, their fees and the availability of redress. The aim is to enable consumers to compare legal service providers more easily.

The BSB issued a formal consultation on proposals at the end of September. They will also be piloting some new approaches and are looking for volunteers from the public access Bar and the family law Bar to take part in the pilots.

At this session the BSB will present the consultation headlines and the LPMA will set out some of the opportunities and challenges it sees in the proposals. Both organisations will then respond to questions from conference attendees.

Learning outcome: Develop how you work with clients to ensure transparency about instructions and fees. Understand how these developments will affect your practice.

16. In conversation with Max Hill QC, the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation
Law Reform Committee

Moderator
Peter Carter QC, Law Reform Committee of the Bar Council; Doughty Street Chambers

Speakers
Max Hill QC, the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation; Red Lion Chambers

Attendees at this session will learn more about the role of the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, and the legal, social and political issues raised by anti-terrorism legislation.

Peter Carter QC, a member of the Law Reform Committee of the Bar Council with a particular interest in surveillance and privacy issues will lead a discussion with Max Hill QC, the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, appointed in Spring 2017. There will be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions.

Learning outcome: For those working in the specific area of Terrorism and the Law. Ensure you are able to provide accurate and up to date advocacy services within the fields of terrorism, surveillance and privacy.
17. From Silks Row: The QCs view on Public Access

Public Access Bar Association

Moderator
Andrew Granville Stafford, Chair of the Public Access Bar Association and Head of the Bar Council’s Direct Access Panel; 4 Kings Bench Walk

Speakers
Philip Cayford QC, 29 Bedford Row
Anesta Weekes QC, 33 Bedford Row
Susan Jacklin QC, Joint Chair of the Remuneration Committee, Deputy High Court Judge; 2 Garden Court
Anthony Speaight QC, 4 Pump Court
His Honour Judge Robin Tolson QC, Family Judge at the Central Family Court; St John’s Chambers

Leading QCs from different practice areas will give their thoughts, views and advice on the plusses and minuses of public access work. Includes perspectives from those who have responsibility for managing Chambers, full and part-time members of the judiciary and those who have had key Bar Council roles in developing and marketing public access.

The session will be chaired by one of the leading authorities on public access practise and procedure.

Learning outcome: Take reasonable steps to understand how Public Access can effect your practice. In conjunction with this, take advice on how to effectively develop your Public Access practice and ensure you have the correct procedures in place.

18. Young Bar Keynote and Open Forum

Young Barristers’ Committee

Keynote Speaker
Professor Richard Susskind OBE, Author, speaker, and independent adviser to professional firms and to national governments

Moderator
Richard Hoyle, Vice-Chair of the Young Barristers’ Committee; Essex Court Chambers

Speakers
Richard Atkins QC, Vice-Chair Elect of the General Council of the Bar, Leader of the Midland Circuit; St Philips Chambers
Andrew Langdon QC, Chair of the General Council of the Bar; Guildhall Chambers
Amanda Tipples QC, Chair of the Chancery Bar Association; Maitland Chambers

The Young Bar’s keynote speaker is Professor Richard Susskind, author of ‘The End of Lawyers?’ and ‘Tomorrow’s Lawyers’, co-author of ‘The Future of the Professions’ and IT Advisor to the Lord Chief Justice. Professor Susskind has spent a lifetime assessing the impact of technology on the law and we hope you will join us to hear his insights about what the future holds for the Bar.

The Young Bar Open Forum follows immediately after the keynote address, and is your chance to ask questions of the leaders of the profession, who will include a selection of your representatives on the Bar Council and the Specialist Bar Associations.

Whilst the session is likely to be of most interest to the Young Bar, all delegates are more than welcome to attend.

Learning outcome: This session should be useful for anyone who has ‘Practice Management and working with clients and others’ as a learning objective in their CPD plan. Knowing about what experts from outside the profession, as well as the leaders of the profession, think about our future is vital to understanding what a barrister’s practice will look like in the years to come.

Refreshment break

Afternoon plenary sessions
20. Challenges and opportunities in law reform

Moderator
Robert O'Sullivan QC, Law Reform Committee; 5 Paper Buildings

Speakers
Sir David Bean, Chairman, the Law Commission
Professor David Ormerod QC, Law Commissioner for Criminal Law

With the country departing from the European Union and the digital revolution gaining ever greater pace, there are great challenges and opportunities ahead for law reformers everywhere.

Lord Justice Bean will set out where the Law Commission will focus its work over the next three years to make the law modern, simple and fair. Having whittled down over 1,300 suggestions to put together a 13th programme of Law reform, the Chairman will discuss: how the commission works; and what it needs from barristers everywhere to ensure the law keeps pace with the modern world.

Criminal Law Commissioner Professor David Ormerod QC will discuss a radical new Sentencing Code proposal. Published in the summer, the Code was painstakingly developed over a number of years to help speed up sentencing hearings, bring greater transparency and make serving justice simpler.

Learning outcome: Understand how changes set by the Law Commission may impact how you work. Plan for any forthcoming challenges and opportunities to ensure effective practice management. Understand the proposed new Sentencing Code.