



## BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER 2019

### Supreme Court valedictory

[Evening Standard](#), [PA News Wire](#), [Yorkshire Post](#), [Chorley Citizen](#), [Oxford Mail](#), [This is Lancashire](#), [Campaign Series](#), [Dundee Evening Telegraph](#), [Chelmsford & Mid Essex Times](#), [Salisbury Journal](#), [Hampshire Chronicle](#), [Malvern Gazette](#), [Bolton News](#), [The Impartial Reporter](#), [Prestwich and Whitefield Guide](#), [Epping Forest Guardian](#), [BT.com](#), [Yahoo News](#), [Thisismoney](#), [Headlinez Pro](#), [Legal Cheek](#), [Irish Legal News](#) - Local, legal and national media, including the Daily Mail's personal finance supplement, report on the comments made by Chair of the Bar, Richard Atkins QC, at Lady Hale's valedictory at the Supreme Court this week.

Lady Hale's valedictory – the traditional ceremony for judges upon their retirement – was attended by members of the judiciary and the legal profession, who celebrated her “incredible” and “inspiring” career.

The chairman of the Bar, Richard Atkins QC, said Lady Hale had “dynamited her way into the public consciousness” to become a “single name celebrity” widely known simply as “Brenda”.

Hale has often been dubbed “the Beyoncé of the legal profession” but Atkins joked that he for one thinks of Beyoncé as the Brenda of the musical world.

### Queen's Speech

[The Times](#), [Law Society Gazette](#), [PoliticsHome](#), [New Law Journal](#) - The government is to go ahead with a Conservative manifesto promise for a royal commission on criminal justice.

Outlining the government's legislative programme yesterday, the Queen told parliament: “My ministers will establish a royal commission to review and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice process.”

Richard Atkins, QC, chairman of the Bar Council, which represents barristers in England and Wales, said that the organisation supported anything that would deliver a fairer system of justice and would engage with the commission.

However, he said that improving the “broken justice system”, which has suffered years of budget cuts, “comes at a price” and would require significant investment. Mr Atkins said that the Bar Council “will be watching closely to ensure that this is not simply a way of booting what urgently needs doing into the long grass”.

[BBC Radio 4's Six O'clock News](#) also references the concerns of the legal profession around ‘kicking it into the long grass’.

### **125 years of the Bar Council and 100 years of women in law**

[Gov.uk](#) – The Government Legal Department writes an article on Chair-Elect of the Bar Amanda Pinto QC’s speech to Temple Church on 125 years of the Bar Council and 100 years of women in law.

GLD writes:

She recently gave a speech at the Temple Church to mark 125 years of the Bar Council and highlighted the importance of the early pioneers who made her career possible. With 2019 marking 100 years of women in law, there was plentiful mention of the incredible women who have also left their mark on the legal profession. Amanda reiterated that the Bar Council continues to play a crucially important role “in the delivery of justice in our country”, encapsulating the values of integrity, excellence and justice.

Despite the low representation [of women] at senior levels of the Bar, Amanda is encouraged, remarking that “there are grounds for hope that this is changing” and that it is important that the Bar Council takes steps to “support the diversification of the profession, so that the Bar may attract and keep the very best, regardless of race, background or other characteristics, better to reflect the society it serves.”

Amanda reiterated the importance of making sure the Bar is “accessible to those from diverse backgrounds and not just the career of the privileged,” which will consequently make justice more reflective of society. The Bar Council has been an asset to the legal community for 125 years and continues to uphold its values of integrity, excellence and justice. As the legal community continues to grow and the demands placed on it increase, the Bar Council will do more than ever to ensure that these values are put into practice and are strongly adhered to.

### **Budget consultation**

**Legal Futures** - A consultation issued jointly by the BSB and Bar Council has proposed increasing the regulator's budget by 11% in the coming financial year, from £5.7m to £6.3m.

However, the cost of practising will not increase with the Bar Council's accommodation and refurbishment programme about to conclude. "This has enabled the release of budget allocation to support the regulatory programme. The accommodation programme will reduce the space occupied by the GCB and drive efficiency savings," the consultation said.

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**Government Legal Department** @GovernmentLegal · Dec 18

"Let's build on the success of the past #100YearsofWomeninLaw and keep alive the next @100years."

Our Director General @SusannaMcGibbon spoke to @thebarcouncil about what she wants to see for women in law in the next 100 years.

[instagram.com/p/B6LEkFbpCTv/](https://www.instagram.com/p/B6LEkFbpCTv/)



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**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · Dec 18

Chair of the Bar, Richard Atkins QC, delivers speech (and punch lines) at "Brenda's" valedictory today. Watch here [youtu.be/tkuLOTvB4Jc](https://youtu.be/tkuLOTvB4Jc) @AtkinsQC @UKSupremeCourt #ladyhale



Lady Hale's Valedictory Remarks – 18 December 2019  
Lady Hale's valedictory took place in the UK Supreme Court on 18 December 2019. The ceremony included...  
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

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