



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – WEDNESDAY 2 JANUARY 2019

Women at the Bar – The next 100 years

[Sky News \(broadcast and online\)](#), Eagle Radio, Pirate FM, Mix 96, Stray FM, 2br.co.uk, KLFM, Vibe1076, BobFM, WessexFM, IslandFM, [Heart Radio](#), [Yahoo UK](#), Planet Rock, KCFM, Minster FM, My Gold Music, Pulse 1, Revolution962, Smooth Radio, Spirit FM, Spire FM, Manx Radio, Yorkshire Radio, Star Radio, [LBC](#), Jazz FM – Sky News reports that a campaign is being launched this year by the Bar Council to mark 100 years since women were legally allowed to practise as lawyers.

Sky News reports that the Bar Council wants to promote "meaningful discussion" around the future of women at the Bar.

In a broadcast interview, new **Vice Chair of the Bar, Amanda Pinto QC**, says: "One of the main things is that people get to a particular point in their career and they think it's too difficult or it's not working out well.

"For women in particular, we have discovered that the problem really is with retention at about the time that women have children. The Bar is a difficult profession because you don't necessarily know if you're going to be working a very long day or get home to pick up your children. It's that uncertainty that makes it hard. We at the Bar Council are trying to put things in place to make it more simple."

Sky News reports that the latest statistics show that while there is an almost equal split of male and female pupils studying to be barristers, just 14.8 per cent of QCs were female as of December 2017. That figure shows a rise of just over one per cent compared to the previous year.

The story is also covered by many other national and local broadcasters and media outlets.

Bullying and harassment

[The Times \(print and online\)](#) – The Times reports that judges are one of the main sources of bullying in the legal profession, according to a survey for The Times which also suggests that lawyers are being harassed and propositioned by senior colleagues.

Despite action taken over bullying and sexual harassment over the past year, more than half of the 1,500 barristers questioned believe the problem has not gone away. The Times reports that bullying is rife among the judiciary, they say, while older male barristers are the main cause of sexual harassment.

The Times reports that the survey by the Bar Council during October and November echoes its research earlier last year, which showed a marked increase in reports of harassment, bullying and discrimination over the previous four years. About 55 per cent of respondents said harassment was still a problem at the Bar.

A new guide being drawn up is expected to advise barristers on how to complain about bullying, either informally through the Bar Council or formally to the Judicial Conduct and Investigations office, says The Times.

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