



## BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2019

### Anti-bullying and harassment app

[The Times](#), [Law Gazette](#), [Scottish Legal News](#), [Legal Cheek](#), [Legal Futures](#), [PoliticsHome](#), [Australasian Lawyer](#), [Yorkshire Post \(print\)](#), [PA News Wire](#)

The Bar Council, which represents 16,500 barristers in England and Wales, has teamed up with Stop, a Silicon Valley technology company, to create a chat tool for anonymously reporting inappropriate behaviour.

Using Talk to Spot, barristers will be able to make a contemporaneous record of bullying or harassment and save it or send it on to their employment or the council.

It is the latest technical innovation by the Bar Council, which introduced an ID card mobile app to allow barristers to gain easier entry to courts last year and will this introduce electronic voting this month.

Richard Atkins, QC, Chair, said: “Although barristers wear wigs and gowns in court, it should not for a moment be thought that the Bar does not embrace technology.”

### Court sitting days

**BBC Radio 4, Southern Daily Echo (print, page 6), Bolton News (print, page 8)** - Further reports to the letter sent by the Senior Presiding Judge in response to the letter from Bar Council chair Richard Atkins QC

Radio 4 reports that the Bar Council which represents barristers has expressed concern that many crown courts often sit idle. Legal correspondent Clive Coleman reports the number of days crown courts in England and Wales will be allowed to sit has fallen by 15000 in a year.

Lady Justice Macur was responding to a letter from the chairman of the bar Richard Atkins QC in which he said he heard sitting days were being cut for part-time judges

and some full-time judges were being encouraged to remain in chambers or stay at home in effect being paid to do nothing.

### New Appointment

**The Times**, [PoliticsHome](#) – The Bar Council has appointed Piran Dhillon-Starkings as Advisor to the Chair of the Bar, following Mark Hatcher’s decision to leave the Bar Council to devote more time to his role as Reader of the Temple.

Ms Dhillon-Starkings, who went to Wolverhampton Grammar School and Bridgnorth Endowed School, before studying English and American literature at the University of Kent, has also worked with the Labour MP Pat McFadden.

### Justice Week 2020

[Legal Futures](#), [PoliticsHome](#) - Improving people’s knowledge of the justice system in England and Wales will be at the heart of next year’s “Justice Week”, which will run from 24 February 2020.

The three main legal professional bodies – the Bar Council, the Law Society of England and Wales, and the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx) – will use the week to encourage public discussion about the legal rights and obligations of citizens.

Between now and 24 February 2020, legal professionals and third sector organisations, are invited to make contact with the Bar Council, the Law Society of England and Wales or CILEx with proposals for initiatives to strengthen the public’s understanding of the justice system.

### Lady Justice Hallett

**The Times** – Lady Hallett acted as coroner at the inquest for the 52 victims of the July 7 bombings in London. In 1998 she became the first woman to lead the Bar Council, the body that represents barristers in England and Wales, and in 2005 became the fifth woman to sit on the Court of Appeal.

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**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · Sep 9

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International Weekend on Strikingly  
[internationalweekend.mystrikingly.com](http://internationalweekend.mystrikingly.com)

11 replies, 1 retweet, 3 likes

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**Coram Chambers** @CoramFamilyLaw · 20h

We are delighted to announce that Coram has been awarded a Certificate of Recognition for Wellbeing at the Bar by the @thebarcouncil. Our approach to developing a wellbeing policy has been included as a case study in the programme. More: [bit.ly/2kcZqTO](http://bit.ly/2kcZqTO)



2 replies, 3 retweets, 16 likes

You Retweeted



**Sarah Vine** @SarahVAIDSC · 18h

Today a woman in the robing room told me that the work of @WellbeingCBA and @thebarcouncil had really helped her when she was struggling last year, because it made her feel less alone. Share your struggles; you don't know whose life you are touching. #WorldSuicidePreventionDay 🧡

1 reply, 21 retweets, 86 likes



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

Criminal, Family and Immigration barristers: want to put your billing questions directly to Senior Case Officers from the Legal Aid Agency? Book your place at one of our Legal Aid Billing Seminars for just £15: [barcouncil.org.uk/supporting-the...](http://barcouncil.org.uk/supporting-the...)

3 retweets, 1 like