



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 12 JULY 2019

125 years of the Bar Council

[The Times](#) (print and online), [Law Society Gazette](#), [The Barrister](#) – The legal media reports on the Bar Council's 125 years anniversary event, which took place on Tuesday.

The Gazette focuses its reporting on the event's keynote speaker, Lady Justice Hallett, Vice President of the Court of Appeal Criminal Division, who warned that London's overseas competitors are ready to exploit the impact of public funding cuts which have sullied the reputation of England and Wales as a pre-eminent global jurisdiction.

Lady Justice Hallett also urged lawyers to defend both their professional independence and the public interest. She also condemned repeated media attacks on the profession, warning that their 'drip-drip' effect on public confidence erodes trust in the legal system.

The Times chose to use the celebrations to ask: "Is the profession thriving or flailing?" looking at the current state of different parts of the Bar.

The Times reports that Chair of the Bar, Richard Atkins, QC said: "We have been pushing the 'one Bar' message for a long time," and that he points out that all areas of the Bar are open to fluctuations in "supply and demand" and that the profession has grown consistently even after its monopoly on higher court advocacy was swept away by the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990.

The article also quotes Chris Henley QC, Chair of the Criminal Bar Association (CBA), who said: "The Bar Council fights the corner of the publicly funded Bar in different ways to the CBA, but no less vigorously."

The Times also gives its readers a history of the Legal Services Act in the article.

Diversity in the judiciary

The Times – The Times reports on yesterday’s publication of judiciary’s diversity statistics. The Times reports that: “More than half of younger judges are now women, as efforts to improve gender diversity on the bench appear to have paid off. The number of female court judges increased across all levels last year by three per cent to nearly a third of the total. However, the proportion of female tribunal judges remained unchanged at 46 per cent.”

The Times adds: “Despite the increasing presence of women on the bench in England and Wales, senior judges and justice ministers will be disappointed that the number of judges from ethnic minority backgrounds has remained flat over the past 12 months.

“The proportion of ethnicity minority court judges remained seven per cent, while the proportion of non-white tribunal judges was unchanged at 17 per cent. Figures from the latest national census in 2011 showed that 14 per cent of the population in England and Wales was of non-white or mixed ethnicity.”

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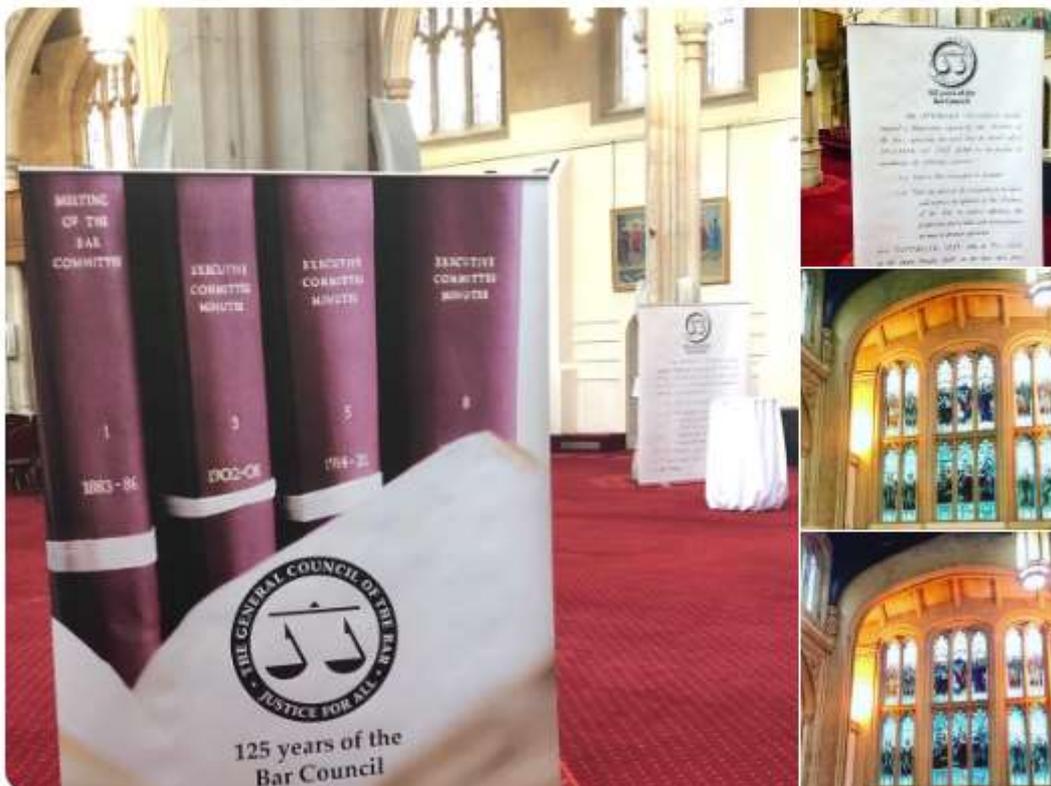


The Bar Council ✓

@thebarcouncil



Last night we marked #125years of the Bar Council & 100 years of women in law with @cityoflondon. Speeches from 2019 Chair of the Bar @AtkinsQC as well as the first female Chair of the Bar, Lady Justice Hallett @JudiciaryUK - thanks to everyone that came and celebrated with us



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