



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2020

Reshuffle

[Politics Home](#), [Evening Standard](#), [Dudley News](#), [New Law Journal](#), [Press Association](#), [MSN](#), [Yahoo News](#), [Wandsworth Guardian](#), [Thisismoney.co.uk](#), [Bucks Free Press](#), [Swindon Advertiser](#), [Somerset County Gazette](#), [York Press](#), [The London Economic](#), [Windsor Observer](#) + 98 local media outlets report that Amanda Pinto QC, Chair of the Bar, has commented on the Prime Minister's Government reshuffle.

She said: "The role of Attorney General, as the chief legal adviser to the government, is hugely important. We are grateful to Geoffrey Cox QC MP for his work whilst Attorney General. He has been a staunch supporter of the rule of law, including encouraging an integrated approach across government to the justice system, recognising the value of those working in criminal justice and conducting vital work on disclosure. He has been a great supporter of the Bar. We congratulate Suella Braverman MP and look forward to working with her and the Lord Chancellor, Robert Buckland QC MP on ensuring access to justice and protecting the rule of law."

Television cameras in court

[Medway Messenger](#), [East Kent Mercury](#), [Folkstone & Hythe Express](#) –Kent's media outlets report on **Chair of the Bar, Amanda Pinto QC's** cautious response to plans to televise sentencing in the Crown Courts. Former Canterbury Crown Court judge, Andrew Prentice, also urged caution.

Judicial review

[New Law Journal](#) – NLJ reports that the Prime Minister is planning to accelerate moves to limit the powers of campaign groups and individuals to use the judicial review process to challenge ministers.

Amanda Pinto QC, Chair of the Bar, said: “Judicial review is a hugely important tool in a democratic society by which decisions of public authorities, including government, are subject to legal scrutiny. Far from being a mark of dysfunction, judicial review is an appropriate check on decision-making, of which a nation should be proud.

“Contrary to some perceptions, the government’s own figures show that applications for judicial review have fallen significantly over recent years – by 44% from 2015 to [the end of September] 2019. Cuts to legal aid have also affected individuals’ ability to bring judicial review proceedings.

“We have not yet seen details of what a ‘review’ of the judicial review process might look like, but anything that seeks to limit the ability of ordinary citizens to challenge decisions of those with power is a red flag.”

Wellbeing & bullying

Law Society Gazette – The Gazette looks at uptake at the Bar of Bar Council efforts to tackle bullying and sexual harassment in the profession, as well as the popularity of the Bar Council’s Employee Assistance Programme, which is available to the Bar.

BAR COUNCIL TWEETS <https://twitter.com/thebarcouncil>



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Replying to @TheLawSociety @adam79t and 2 others

3,101 barristers have activated their digital court ID cards so far, 94 courts already participating in the scheme with more to come. @HMCTsgovuk & @CEOofHMCTS listened to our concerns and acted. Our members are worth the investment. #JustSaying



Professional users' court and tribunal access scheme
Access to HMCTS buildings via a smartphone identity application (ID app) or ID card for professional court and ...
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Adam @adam79t · 16h



Replying to @thebarcouncil @TheLawSociety and 3 others

But yet @TheLawSociety finds its members not worth it. @LawSocPresident can this be a priority.



1

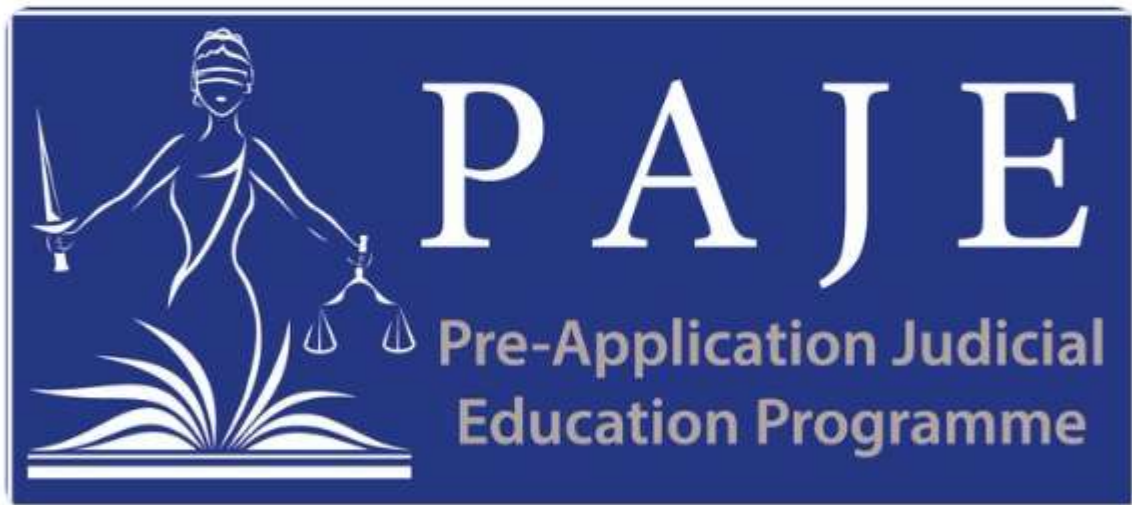




The Bar Council ✓
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Considering applying to become a judge? PAJE programme resources are available to support you, and judge-led workshop places are open to applicants from groups under-represented in the judiciary. Find out more and apply: barcouncil.org.uk/support-for-ba...



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