



## BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 21 DECEMBER 2018

### Divorce law consultation

[Law Gazette](#) – Further coverage appears of the Bar Council’s response to the Ministry of Justice’s consultation on reforming the legal requirements for divorce, following a letter from the lord chancellor to MPs.

The consultation attracted nearly 600 responses two weeks before it closed. Respondents include [the Bar Council](#), which has told the ministry that making separating couples wait six months before their divorce is finalised is an 'unacceptable delay' for those who do not have children or who have straightforward financial affairs.

Gauke does not indicate when the ministry will make its decision, just that it will 'carefully consider the feedback received over the entire [consultation] period to further shape and refine our reform proposals'.

### Fair allocation of work

[Law Gazette](#) – The Gazette reports that the Bar Council has said the bar’s rules on fair allocation of work should be tightened to ensure barristers are not picked on the basis of gender or race, following allegations that an Asian barrister was dropped by a solicitor on the instruction of a client.

Responding to the Bar Standards Board (BSB) consultation on its latest strategic plan, the representative body said a ‘reconsideration’ of the regulator’s approach on work allocation might be warranted. ‘Our experience is that these rules are not having the desired effect,’ the council said. The BSB Handbook says chambers have an ‘obligation of fairness’ in presenting names of barristers for consideration by instructing solicitors.

The Bar Council’s consultation response adds: ‘Given that the diversity profile of entrants to the profession is broadly representative of the population arguably the bulk of regulatory attention on diversity should be focussed on progression and reviewing/ensuring existing regulation is fit for purpose in addition to ensuring

compliance with pre-existing regulation. We urge the BSB to consider reviewing the effectiveness of the rules on the fair allocation of work.'

The council added that more work needs to be done to address high levels of bullying, discrimination or harassment.

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



**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · 22h

YOUNG BARRISTERS: Don't miss this opportunity. First deadline (14 Jan) approaching for the International Grant Programme. Details here: [youngbarhub.com/opportunities/...](http://youngbarhub.com/opportunities/...)

### CONSIDERING AN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL EXCHANGE?

Financial assistance is available for young Barristers who are members of supporting Specialist Bar Associations and Circuits.

#### APPLICATION DEADLINES

Monday 14 January 2019

Monday 15 April 2019

Monday 9 September 2019

### The International Professional and Legal Development Grant Programme



"The opportunity offered by the International Professional and Legal Grant Programme motivated me to write, submit and present a paper to an international audience of professionals and academics. I know that the time I have spent researching my paper will pay dividends in future."

Constanze Bell, 2018 recipient of the International Grant (Northern Circuit)

For further information, email the Young Barristers' Committee  
[YBC@BarCouncil.org.uk](mailto:YBC@BarCouncil.org.uk)

YBC, Chancery Bar Assoc, The CBA and 4 others





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

Are you in a management role in chambers? We are offering training at our offices on 9 January on dealing with issues of harassment. Places are free but limited - find more details and register here [barcouncil.org.uk/supporting-the...](http://barcouncil.org.uk/supporting-the...)



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**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · 23h

"We have people turning up at our offices with suitcases packed and children in tow."

@Shelter Hub Manager Ben Tovey on how #LASPO makes it harder to tackle #homelessness and why #legalaid #cuts were not good value for money.

Sign the petition: [bit.ly/2qWnffie](http://bit.ly/2qWnffie)



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