



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2019

Harassment

[Evening Standard](#) (print and online) – The Evening Standard publishes a letter from Richard Atkins QC, Chair of the Bar Council.

Atkins writes:

“The Bar Council stands with Joanna Hardy in calling for an end to the behaviour she has highlighted. The Bar is a forward-thinking, modern profession and we will not turn a blind eye to harassment and inequality.

“Joanna raises issues which we are addressing through lobbying the Government on how the courts are run, to ensure sitting hours do not disadvantage those court users with caring responsibilities.

“Women at the Bar face unique challenges. We have recently launched a campaign marking 2019 as the centenary of the law that allowed women to practise as lawyers, which draws attention to many of the issues Joanna has raised.

“Progress is being made. However, the more of the profession we represent and the more its leaders acknowledge these concerns, the better we can address them. We are determined to stamp out behaviour that has no place in a modern profession, and to ensure a culture of inclusivity and respect.”

Tristan Kirk, Courts Correspondent, writes in response:

“The Bar Council has a leading role to play in the fight for equality, and the measures you are taking are welcome. But I’d like to see more judges tackle these issues head on. They wield great power over the working lives of lawyers and are regarded as leaders in the legal arena, but will rarely speak out to try to change practices and attitudes.”

Women at the Bar

[The Times](#), [The Brief](#), [Legal Futures](#), [Law Society Gazette](#) - Writing yesterday in The Times, Lord Pannick QC said “this overdose of testosterone is a serious problem” as it deterred women from joining the profession when they heard “allegations of harassment and bullying”.

He added: “It may assist if the Bar Council were to create a mentoring panel of senior women barristers, and if the lord chief justice were to set up a similar panel of senior women judges, to advise aggrieved women counsel.”

In a statement released in the wake of Lord Pannick's comments, the Bar Council – which represents 16,000 barristers in England and Wales – said that providing advice and support for women was one of its major priorities. It also noted Lord Pannick's suggestion that it should create a mentoring panel of senior female barristers, adding that its equality and diversity committee runs a retention panel that is meant to assist women barristers.

It also noted a growing number of regional women’s groups at the Bar, such as a mentoring scheme run by Western Circuit Women’s Forum, as well as the Association of Women Barristers and Women in Criminal Law.

Bar Mock Trials

[Chichester Post](#) - Students from Bishop Luffa Sixth form have reached the national finals of the Bar Mock Trials.

The Bar Mock Trial is a national competition organised by the Bar Council and the charity, Young Citizens, aiming to give young people an insight into the workings of the British legal system, as well as giving students opportunities to gain valuable experiences and a deeper understanding of the individual roles in court.

The trial involves more than 2,000 students, 200 barristers/advocates and around 90 judges from all over England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The students involved in the Bishop Luffa Bar Mock team said they were extremely excited to compete in the national finals, which will take place in Edinburgh in late March. However, the costs of transportation and accommodation make the overall costs of the trip significant.

That means some of the students may not be able to join their team members due to the high costs. Therefore, they are hoping to fundraise the money with the aim of making sure the whole team can compete together at the finals.

To donate to the fundraising for the students, visit the GoFundMe page at: gofundme.com/bar-mock-trial-finals-bishop-luffa

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

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

Following Lord Pannick QC's call in @TimesLaw today for a mentoring panel of senior women barristers, we highlight work being done by our Equality & Diversity Committee, Retention Panel. @WCWF, @WomenBarristers, @mcwomensforum, @WomenInCrimLaw +more:

barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/n...

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 **The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · Feb 21

Chair of the Bar Council, Richard Atkins QC, in @standardnews says "The Bar is a forward-thinking, modern profession and we will not turn a blind eye to harassment and inequality." #next100years But what about the judiciary? See @kirkkornier reply



The Reader: We stand by Joanna Hardy on inequality and harassment
The Bar Council stands with Joanna Hardy in calling for an end to the behaviour she has highlighted ["Don't act like you are on a stag do, QCs"]
standard.co.uk

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The Bar Council  @thebarcouncil · Feb 20



.@AtkinsQC: "I came to the Bar with no connections, first in my family to go to university... It is important students see positive role models... BPW North plays a large part in ensuring we recruit talent from across the country, not just London" #IAmTheBar

Claudine Adeyemi @ClaudineAdeyemi

Important initiative from @thebarcouncil and others! Hope the development of this talent pipeline leads to greater representation 🌟 #socialmobility #Socialimpact shar.es/ampDB5 via @PoliticsHome

