



## BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2019

### Judicial bullying

[The Telegraph](#), [The Times](#), [The Sun](#), [The Independent](#), [The Scottish Sun](#), [Legal Futures](#), [PA News Wire](#), [The Stars Post](#) all cover the Bar Council's guidance issued last week on judicial bullying.

[The Telegraph](#) - Bullying judges are to be taken to task for “degrading” and “demoralising” abuse of barristers in the Bar Council's first-ever national guidance to its 16,000 lawyers on how to deal with it.

The barristers will be advised on the action they can take against bullying judges which it defines as “personal abuse, sarcasm, contemptuousness, unreasonable demands, relentless criticism, intemperate language, demeaning behaviour or comments designed to embarrass or humiliate.”

[The Times](#) - “Whatever action may be taken later, we would urge barristers to address bullying whenever it happens,” the Bar Council told women barristers. “This applies whether you are the target or simply witness it.”

The council, which represents 15,000 barristers in England and Wales, advised that an immediate response “may be more effective both in addressing the incident itself and in helping the judge to understand the impact (and, at times, how the judge's behaviour is coming across more generally)”.

### ID cards

[The Leicester Mercury](#) - A lawyer has called for changes to security checks after a female judge was “left uncomfortable” after a search by a male officer at Leicester Magistrates' Court. Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) has confirmed it is looking into an issue raised in relation to Leicester, as part of a wider response to complaints involving security officers.

Olwen Davies, a solicitor-advocate, wants the agency, which is responsible for the administration of courts in England and Wales, to introduce a number of measures to help women feel more comfortable at security checks.

“As women, we face the daily ordeal of being searched by men, some of whom appear to have a chip on their shoulder over women having professional roles in society,” she said of the current HMTCS approach.

### Social Mobility

**New Law Journal** - The annual Bar Placement Scheme, which aims to give students from non-traditional backgrounds a chance to experience life as a barrister, was taking place this week at chambers in Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester. Chair of the Bar Council, Richard Atkins QC, said: 'I came to the Bar with no connections, was the first in my family to go to university and am now lucky enough to chair the Bar Council.'

“As women, we face the daily ordeal of being searched by men,” she said of the current HMTCS approach. “Women face the daily indignity of having sanitary protection removed from their bags for all to see.

### Women at the Bar

Further coverage on the Bar Council’s follow-up statement to Lord Pannick’s Times article:

**Legal Cheek** - The Bar Council has hit back at mounting criticism of the treatment of female barristers, insisting that it is taking action to support women at the bar — after a piece by influential barrister David Pannick QC called out the bar’s “testosterone overdose”.

The organisation representing wig-wearers in England and Wales pointed to a number of schemes in place to help women get on at the bar, as well as to report incidents of harassment.

**LawCareers.net** - The Bar Council has since responded to Pannick’s calls, insisting that its “Equality & Diversity Committee is supported by a Retention Panel, specifically aimed at assisting women, comprising male and female barristers of a range of levels of seniority and practice areas. The Bar Council has also worked closely with the Bar Standards Board to make it easier for members of the Bar to discuss incidents of harassment through a reporting waiver scheme.” It also announced plans to set up further women’s forums on the regional circuits.

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



The Bar Council  
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With three weeks to go until [#InternationalWomensDay](#) the Bar Council's [#Next100Years](#) campaign is highlighting positive initiatives that are shaping the future for women at the Bar. Find out more here and stay tuned [barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/c](http://barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/c)

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Barristers will be advised on the action they can take against 'personal abuse, sarcasm, contemptuousness, unreasonable demands, relentless criticism, intemperate language, demeaning behaviour or comments designed to embarrass or humiliate' from judges



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Tackling judicial bullying: Chair of the Bar, Richard Atkins QC, Vice-Chair of the Bar, Amanda Pinto QC, and Chair of the Bar Council's Equality, Diversity & Social Mobility Committee @RobinAllenQC issue new guide to the Bar on judicial bullying [barcouncil.org.uk/media/723862/b...](https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/media/723862/b...)

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Thanks to all partners, students & our excellent barrister trainers @Inns\_College in #Manchester today for the final day of Bar Placement Week (North), after our visits to #Leeds & #Liverpool earlier this week #IAmTheBar



Pathways to Law, The SMF, BLDFoundation and 2 others

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