



## BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 25 OCTOBER 2019

### Consultation response

[Solicitors Journal](#) – It should be an option for intended parents to compensate a surrogate for career interruption, according to the Bar Council.

In response to a Law Commission consultation on the topic, which asked what payments intended parents should be able to make to surrogates, the Law Reform Committee of the Bar Council stated: “It should be open to intended parents to compensate a surrogate for career interruption, disruption to career progression and loss of earnings or bonus or other remuneration by reason of the pregnancy, childbirth or the post-partum recovery.”

It added that it would be beneficial for the surrogate to know from the outset in this arrangement that she is not going to be the legal parent of the child to whom she gives birth.

“By following this pathway, the law will in fact honour the intentions of all concerned and respect the right of the child to his or her personal identity on birth...The current law does not give effect to any of the intentions of the parties who enter into surrogacy arrangements in a timely or effective way. “

It is the intended parents alone who should have parental responsibility for the child – particularly in circumstances where the surrogate has not raised an objection or desire/intention to object, the response said.

### Gender imbalance at Supreme Court

[The Times](#) – Barristers appearing in cases at the Supreme Court are overwhelmingly men, research has revealed, with a prominent QC blaming “prejudice and stereotyping” for the imbalance.

Eight of the 48 barristers who have most frequently addressed Britain’s highest court since its inception ten years ago were women. Only two of the top ten were women.

The Supreme Court figures were compiled by Mikolaj Barczentewicz, a public law lecturer at the University of Surrey. He designed an algorithm that analysed all of the cases heard by the Supreme Court and generated a database of the barristers who have appeared before it.

Amanda Pinto, QC, chairwoman-elect of the Bar Council, described the low number of women barristers appearing at the Supreme Court as “disappointing”.

Ms Pinto added that the council had “championed issues of equality and diversity in the profession for many years and we currently have several initiatives aimed at ensuring everyone’s career progresses as best it can, regardless of gender, race or background. We hope to see many more women briefed to appear in the Supreme Court in the future.”

## Harassment

[Times2](#) – Amanda Pinto QC, Chair-Elect of the Bar Council, gives an interview to The Times’ main supplement, Times2, the wake of a report by the Association of Women Barristers on harassment and discrimination.

The report by the Association of Women Barristers found that inappropriate behaviour was still common and that there was still a perception that “reporting incidents would be career-ending”. Women at the Bar, it claimed, were required to be “charming, funny and feminine”. On the plus side, Pinto is adamant that things are changing, that young men face problems with bullying and harassment too, and the Me Too movement has had a positive effect.

Pinto has combined her career in fraud, corporate crime, corruption and money laundering with bringing up three children. Her husband also worked full-time, but his job was more 9-5 than hers, with its unpredictable hours in court, so he tried his best to get to the sports days and school stuff that she couldn’t. She once booked a whole week off work so that she could go to a sports day, after one of her children threatened to divorce her, only for it to be cancelled twice because of rain. She jokes that she still doesn’t know if she was divorced or not.

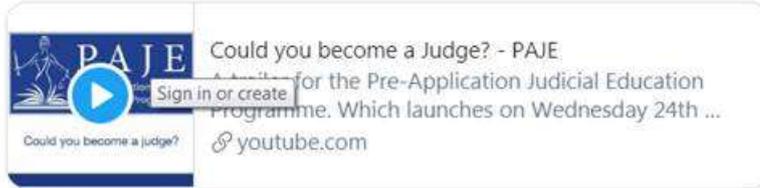
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Few places still available for the Pre-Application Judicial Education Programme (PAJE) in Cardiff [bit.ly/2Wad7S9](https://bit.ly/2Wad7S9)

To apply please follow the link above, complete the application form & email it to PAJE@judiciary.uk - deadline Friday 25 Oct 2019.



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As well as the Canadian election results, the Bar Council 2020 #ElectionResults are out today - find out who was elected here: [barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/n...](https://barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/n...)

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**The Bar Council** @thebarcouncil · 19h

#PupillageFair19: Come and spend 10 minutes getting feedback on your pupillage application or CV from practising barristers. Sign up here: [bit.ly/PF19S](https://bit.ly/PF19S)

If you've already signed up – don't forget to bring a printed copy!



The Bar Council Pupillage Fair 2019

Event programme: [Click here](#) Enquiries: [pupillagefair@barcouncil.org.uk](mailto:pupillagefair@barcouncil.org.uk)  
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