



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2018

Social mobility

[New Law Journal](#) – Further coverage that the social mobility Twitter campaign #IamtheBar has been extended to the judiciary, profiling judges: [#IamtheBench](#).

The Bar Council's social media campaign to make careers at the Bar appear more accessible, launched in the summer when 11 barristers turned 'social mobility advocates' shared their personal and professional stories with the public, resulting in thousands of retweets. Now the Bar Council has launched a spin-off series for judges.

#IamtheBench profiles three judges, Circuit Judges HHJ Avik Mukherjee and HHJ Sandy Canavan, and Tribunal Chamber President Judge John Aitken. All three have non-traditional backgrounds.

Judge Aitken, in his profile, explains he was given time and encouragement by every judge he asked for advice and says he is 'surprised by how little I am approached for advice'. HHJ Canavan says 'I believe it is crucial to explain to kids from a background like mine that there is no reason that they cannot be anything they want to be.'

Brexit

[Legal Futures](#) - Brexit will not change London and the UK's position as a global leader in legal services, a City lobby group has predicted. Launching a report yesterday highlighting the international nature of London's commercial courts and its attraction for foreign law firms, TheCityUK said revenue at the top 100 firms grew by 10% last year to reach £24.2bn.

Meanwhile the Bar Council has been briefing barristers to prepare for the "genuine risk" of a no-deal Brexit.

Even if the Prime Minister's withdrawal agreement is backed by Parliament next month, barristers were reminded that the shape of any agreement on professional services was "extremely uncertain".

The Bar Council said in [new guidance](#) that barristers specialising in traditional EU or international practice areas – such as competition, state aid, public procurement, migration, intellectual property and insolvency – "were likely already to be well informed".

The [Law Gazette](#) reports that despite the encouraging figures, TheCityUK's report calls on the UK to ensure it secures a 'bespoke future relationship' with continued cross-border recognition and enforcement of judgments in the EU after Brexit. Similar calls have been made by both the Law Society and **Bar Council** amid the present Brexit impasse.

[The Gazette](#) also separately reports that the House of Commons Justice Select Committee has asked the Ministry of Justice to answer several questions about the implications of Brexit on the justice system before MPs vote on the deal Theresa May has agreed with EU leaders. Fundamental questions raised by the Law Society, **Bar Council** and an expert in finance and capital markets at magic circle firm Clifford Chance remain: 'Will submission to the jurisdiction of the English courts and enforceability of judgments remain the same before and after Brexit (including the implementation period)? What will be the impact on contractual continuity?'

[PoliticsHome](#) – Bar leaders warn that Government backing and tough negotiation will be needed to help maintain a truly 'Global Britain' post-Brexit.

The value and volume of the Bar's international work continue to show year on year growth, according to figures released by the Bar Council yesterday.

Chair of the Bar Andrew Walker QC said: "The international work of the Bar provides much-needed fuel for the British economy and legal sector, but if the UK is to fulfil its post-Brexit trade ambitions, legal professionals must be able to deliver their international services effectively and competitively both in new markets and in the EU. Not only does the legal services sector earn significant revenues of its own, the cluster of professional services that it supports and the trade they attract makes a huge contribution to UK GDP.

"But a successful Brexit is about much more than that. Our future health and prosperity as a nation depends on a host of other measures too. Our businesses must have confidence that their suppliers and customers will honour their contractual obligations, or face effective legal action. Our citizens must have ready access to courts and compensation, and to help from our own lawyers, when goods

they buy from Europe go wrong or they fall ill or are injured anywhere in Europe. We also need courts in the UK and Europe to be able to cooperate in protecting children when families fall apart.

“We must also not forget that, if we are to continue to maintain our reputation for the quality of our justice and rule of law, we must be able to be proud of our whole system. We cannot afford half measures: the Government must be willing to invest in justice, to stand up for the rule of law, and to be seen as world leader in both respects.”

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



The image shows a screenshot of two tweets from the Bar Council's Twitter account. The top tweet is from the Law Commission (@Law_Commission) and is a retweet. It features a circular badge for the 13th anniversary of the Law Commission. The text of the tweet asks for input from people interested in becoming future Commissioners and includes a link to a page. The bottom tweet is from Counsel Magazine (@CounselMagazine) and is also a retweet. It features a photograph of Andrew Walker QC, the former Chair of the Bar, standing in a library. The text of the tweet discusses his recent column in Counsel Magazine and includes a link to the full article.

You Retweeted

Law Commission @Law_Commission · 23h

13th Anniversary

We want to hear from people from all backgrounds and careers who are interested in being a future Commissioner at the Law Commission. Find out more here: bit.ly/2FUGf1C

Please RT and share with anyone who might be interested.

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You Retweeted

Counsel Magazine @CounselMagazine · 21h

THE FUTURE OF OUR INHERITANCE: In his last column as Chair of the Bar, Andrew Walker QC laments the consequences of fading memories and political expediences. Read his column in full at bit.ly/2SiQdEN @thebarcouncil



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The Bar Council @thebarcouncil · Nov 28

HHJ Sandy Canavan: "I think that the Bar and the judiciary need to get out, meet ordinary kids and let them know that we're not all posh middle class white boys." Read her full story: bit.ly/2DMmMqK #IAmTheBench



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You Retweeted



Young Legal Aid Lawyers @YLALawyers · Nov 27

Great to see HHJ Mukherjee feature in the #IAmTheBench campaign by @thebarcouncil - he very kindly gave up his time to speak at a YLAL Midlands event in Nottingham this March on careers in the judiciary, and left our members feeling informed and inspired in equal measure.



The Bar Council @thebarcouncil

JUDGES OF THE PEOPLE: today we release a social mobility spin-off series: #IAmTheBench. More info here: barcouncil.org.uk/careers/i-am-t...

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7 13