



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – MONDAY 21 MAY 2018

Small Claims Limit

[Legal Futures](#) reports on a range of reactions to the Justice Select Committee report, published last week, which was critical of moves to increase the small claims limit to £5,000 for road traffic accidents and to £2,000 for personal injury cases.

A Bar Council spokeswoman said: “There is insufficient evidence to suggest that these reforms are a proportionate response to the issue of fraudulent claims.

“A small claims limit of this size offends the principle of equal treatment under the law as it creates a different system of justice for a particular category of victim.

“An increase in the small claims limit for personal injury to £1,500 in line with inflation would be a more reasonable and proportionate measure.”

The Association of British Insurers, meanwhile, said the report “read like a shopping list of asks from the claimant lawyers”.

James Dalton, the ABI’s director of general insurance policy, said: “If accepted, these recommendations would achieve absolutely nothing in terms of reducing the number and cost of whiplash-style claims, would allow lawyers to continue to line their pockets and honest motorists would continue to pay higher car insurance premiums as a result.

Public Legal Education

In a letter to **The Times**, Judge Christopher Kinch QC responds to Edward Fennell’s article [‘How to remove the class barrier’](#) on measures to improve social mobility in the legal profession.

He writes:

“Sir, I am sure Edward Fennell (“How to remove the class barrier”, Law, May 17) would not want to overlook the work of the Citizenship Foundation and its offshoot, Young Citizens, in promoting awareness of the justice system in state schools through its mock trial competitions and programmes such as Smart Law.

“The Bar Mock Trial Competition, supported by the Bar Council, has for 26 years provided a vehicle for state school students to take on the roles of barristers, witnesses, clerks, ushers and jury members. Barrister volunteers help them to prepare to try structured cases in crown courts in front of real judges in regional heats all over the UK. More than 200 schools enter each year.”

Equality and Diversity

[Legal Futures](#) reports that among the BSB’s 10 action points published last week to work towards eliminating the discrimination, harassment and other unfair treatment of female barristers, is a commitment to working with others, including the Bar Council, the Institute of Barristers’ Clerks and the Legal Practice Management Association, “to address cultural issues at the Bar which may be contributing to various types of unfair treatment for women, and to consider future training needs”.

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





The Bar Council @thebarcouncil · May 18
 APPLICATIONS CLOSING SOON - Opportunity for professional development for Junior #barristers, click here for more information: bit.ly/2JF6AXM

CONSIDERING DEVELOPING AN INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE?

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

APPLICATION DEADLINES
 Monday 21 May 2018
 Monday 17 September 2018

The International Professional and Legal Development Grant Programme

"Without [YBC's] support I would not have been able to have achieved something that I have always wanted to so thank you again. The scheme...is one of the truly wonderful aspects to the Bar"

Jack Henry, 2017 recipient of the International Grant, at the International Law Weekend in New York, 2017.

LCLCBA, The CBA, FLBA and 3 others

16 replies 9 likes



The Bar Council @thebarcouncil · May 18
 "I also read about the "Five Drivers of Personal Wellbeing" and signed up for an art class. I am not Turner; but I do relax and enjoy trying to paint." - Grant Warnsby, Employed Bar representative on the WATB Working Group #MHAW18 #WellbeingMatters #PersonalStories

1 like

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The Bar Council @thebarcouncil · May 18
 "I was asked to open a workshop with a conversation on safety, so I introduced delegates to the WATB site. This sparked a lively discussion on the wellbeing issues within the team and where they can find support."- Grant Warnsby, WATB Working Group wellbeingatthebar.org.uk/staying-well/ #MHAW18



1 reply 1 like