



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – WEDNESDAY 26 JULY 2017

Anti-money laundering

[Mondaq News](#), [FCA](#) – The UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has launched a consultation over the supervisory approach to be adopted by the new Office for Professional Body Anti-Money Laundering Supervision (OPBAS).

In March 2017, the government announced its intention to create Office for Professional Body AML Supervision (OPBAS) as a new function within the FCA. The government has proposed that OPBAS oversees the adequacy of the anti-money laundering supervisory arrangements of 22 professional bodies. On 20 July 2017, the government published draft regulations that will give powers and responsibilities to OPBAS.

Some of the professional bodies includes Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, the Law Society of England and Wales and the Solicitors Regulation Authority, the Bar Council and the Bar Standards Board.

Read more [here](#) about OPBA's approach.

Public Legal Education

[Legal futures](#) - The profession should play an active role in certifying the quality of public legal information (PLE) so as to help people identify whether they have legal problems, according to the head of an access to justice charity.

Giving evidence recently to Lord Bach's commission on access to justice – Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn's review of the legal aid system – Lisa Wintersteiger, chief executive of Law for Life, warned that public legal education should be given a higher priority.

Wintersteiger told the commission that Brexit and the forthcoming Online Court, combined with reduced spending on legal aid, required a “co-ordinated response” from government, the profession and civil society to help people understand their rights and access services.

She added that 90% or so of the general population, the problem was not so much digital exclusion as a lack of reliable information with which to characterise the problems they faced as having a legal dimension.

“They might go online looking for help, with assistance, but actually they’ll find themselves looking in all the wrong places, even in the wrong jurisdiction.”

“What hasn’t really happened is a solid investment in information technologies that start where people are and where the problems emerge.”

Law for Life is one of the bodies on the new PLE panel established by the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC, which held its first meeting last week with the aim of driving forward legal education initiatives.

The panel will promote the importance of teaching people about the law and their basic civil and criminal rights.

The panel will meet bi-annually, and is comprised of representative of: Citizenship Foundation, Legal Education Foundation, the Law Society, Bar Council, Chartered Institute of Legal Executives, Magistrates’ Association, Ministry of Justice, Judicial Office, Solicitors Regulation Authority, Citizens Advice, Law for Life, Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, Youth Access and Law Centres Federation.

Read more [here](#).

Pupillage

[Counsel Magazine](#) - Guy Fetherstonhaugh QC and Simon O’Toole assess the Pupillage Supervisor Network one year on and offer a view on pupillage regulation.

In 2010, after a two-year gestation, a detailed review of pupillage led by Derek Wood QC made a number of recommendations to the Bar Standards Board (BSB) about the infrastructure of pupillage and recruitment in a 190 page report. Only three years later, the Legal Education and Training Review (LETR) Research Team published its 350 page review of the future of legal education and training, and made further recommendations concerning pupillage.

And in its report into the Future of Bar Training published in March this year, the BSB announced that it was looking to introduce new flexibility in work-based training, while reviewing quality assurance. More recently, the BSB has indicated its intention to launch a pilot in relation to improvements in pupillage supervision, alongside the 2017-18 intake of pupils, with a yet further consultation to take place later this year.

Read the full article [here](#).

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