



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – FRIDAY 28 JULY 2017

Employment tribunal fees

[Legal Business](#), [The Guardian](#), [Politics Home](#), [The Brief](#), [Press Association](#), [Lawyer Monthly](#) – The media reports on the Bar Council's reaction to the decision earlier this week by the Supreme Court that employment tribunal fees are unlawful.

A Bar Council spokesperson is quoted in press reports: "This decision from the Supreme Court is welcome to all who believe in the fundamental importance of the rule of law. There are broad and encouraging implications for those of us that believe in the case for increasing access to justice in our society. The decision makes it clear that in order for the Courts to perform their role of ensuring the law is applied and enforced, people must have unimpeded access to the them. Charging fees which deter or prevent access is unlawful, and undermines the government of society by the rule of law.

"In addition, and specifically, we welcome the fact that in relation to issues that arise in the work place, the Supreme Court has ruled in favour of giving people who face age, sex or race discrimination the right to challenge their employer without being deterred by high tribunal fees."

Employed Bar awards

Billericay & Wickford Gazette, Brentwood Gazette - Yet more coverage of the winners from this year's Bar Council Employed Bar Awards appears in the local media.

The local press report that Matthew Gowen, a barrister within the Birketts' Corporate Criminal Defence Team, was named Employed Advocate of the Year at the inaugural Bar Council Employed Bar Awards. Laura Thomas, who is the head of the Corporate Criminal Defence Team at Birketts, commented: "The Bar Council represents barristers throughout England and Wales and it is testament to Matthew's high quality specialist advocacy and advisory services in the criminal courts that he has been recognised in this way. It is an exceptional achievement."

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