



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – MONDAY 3 APRIL 2017

Women in Law

[New Law Journal](#) writes about the poor representation of women in the legal sector. Quoting statistics from PwC, the New Law Journal states that on average just 17% of partners in top 25 law firms are female, and this “is not just women are not being promoted, but leaving the profession altogether”. When relating what is done by the legal profession to ensure gender diversity, the New Law Journal refers to the Bar Council’s initiative to ensure that self-employed barristers can also take shared leave.

[Lawyer Monthly](#) writes on the topic of extended court sittings and how this affects parent barristers, especially women. The Bar Council is quoted stating that the new plans do not take account of rules that self-employed barristers must follow when organising their work. Chairman of the Bar Andrew Langdon QC said: “These arrangements will make it almost impossible for parents with childcare responsibilities to predict if they can make the school run or to know when they will be able to pick children up from the child-minders. The biggest impact will be on women.”

Judiciary recruitment crisis

[The Gazette](#) writes about the selection exercise opened by the Judicial Appointments Commission for “an unprecedented number of vacancies on the circuit bench”, highlighting the challenge of filling those slots, amid evidence that the judiciary has a recruitment crisis on its hands. Arguing for an increase in the numbers of solicitors in the higher judiciary, the article states that solicitors face lack of support from their law firm colleagues. Lady Hale, deputy president of the Supreme Court, said: “if a barrister as a sole practitioner takes time away from his practice to do some part-time judging, no one else in chambers loses money. Whereas if a partner in a big firm of solicitors takes time away from his

practice to do some part-time judging, his partners may very well lose some money. It's a fact of life."

Bar Mock Trial

[Plymouth Daily](#) reports that a team of students from Plymouth High School for Girls have "emerged victorious from the prestigious national final of a legal competition presided over by Sir Brian Leveson, Mrs Justice McGowan and The Honourable Lady Rae at the Royal Courts of Justice in London." Over 2,000 students take part in the competition annually which is organised by the Citizenship Foundation and supported by the Bar Council. The aim is to introduce the legal system to young people in an innovative and exciting way, giving them the opportunity to gain hands-on experience.

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



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Rachel Spearing, Bar wellbeing chief, on why barristers & future barristers need a voice youtu.be/oC6rNBoDrsA #itsabarristerthing

Rachel Spearing barrister and Chair of the Bar Council We...
Rachel Spearing, barrister at Pump Court Chambers, Chair of the Wellbeing at the Bar Programme, explains how the Bar Representation Fee (BRF) supports the ba...
[youtube.com](https://youtu.be/oC6rNBoDrsA)

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Charlotte Hudson



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SAVE THE DATE: 4 November 2017. The
32nd Annual Bar & Young Bar Conference



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8:41 AM - 2 Apr 2017



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We've released tickets for the first-ever
Employed Bar Awards at the Tower of
London in June thebarcouncil.symbols-online.com/registrationfo... #EMPBarAwards



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