



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2017

Youth Courts / BSB

[Legal Futures](#) - The Bar Council has strongly attacked a plan by the Bar Standards Board (BSB) for the compulsory registration of youth court advocates, the first scheme of its type.

It said the move did not address the “underlying issues of low pay and status” in the youth courts and risked deterring barristers from undertaking the work.

“Though the position varies from court to court, we understand that it is mainly solicitor-advocates rather than barristers that undertake the majority of youth court cases.

“Of these barristers, the majority are junior – typically pupils – and those who have recently completed pupillage. We accept that this is a potential problem.

“We suggest that this is principally due to the low levels of remuneration. Our view is that the pay frequently does not reflect the seriousness of the work nor the skill and experience required to do it well.”

The move is part of the BSB’s plan to improve standards of advocacy within youth courts, which led to a consultation.

GREAT

[The Gazette](#) - The next event in the ‘GREAT’ campaign to promote the UK’s legal services internationally will be hosted by the lord chancellor in London next month, justice minister Lord Keen of Elie QC has told the *Gazette*. Keen, advocate general for Scotland and Ministry of Justice spokesperson in the Lords, attended last week’s annual conference of the International Bar Association in Sydney, Australia, to promote UK jurisdictions in the face of mounting international competition.

He told the Gazette the campaign would succeed only with the 'co-operation and considerable experience of the professional bodies such as the Law Society and Bar Council', as well as strong local law societies including the City of London Law Society.

CBA - Equality & Diversity

[Legal Futures](#), [The Gazette](#) - "Concerned words" about diversity and social mobility need to be turned into action through changes to the way the criminal courts operate if junior barristers are to be retained, the Criminal Bar Association has warned.

The association's vice-chair, Chris Henley QC, said it had recently received "a surge" of complaints of bad listing practices.

Examples he cited included 25 cases all being listed at 10am; a two-hour part-heard multi-handed sentence hearing listed at 9.15am behind a part-heard trial – with the court cells not even being open until 9.30am – which wasn't reached until mid-afternoon; and three different trials listed in the same court on the same day.

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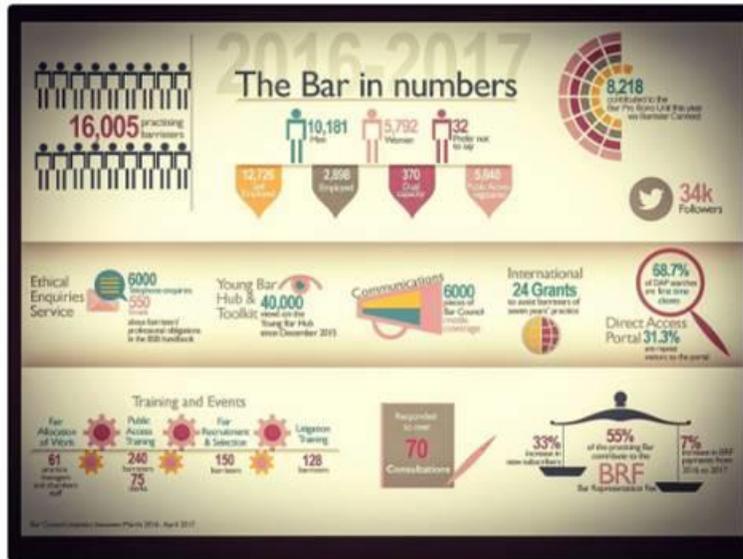
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