



BAR COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE – WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2016

International Bar Association – Chairman’s speech

[Counsel Magazine](#) - Lawyers need to “re-double” their efforts to encourage professional standards and conduct in the digital age that values economic success, the Chairman of the Bar told the International Bar Association.

Speaking at its annual conference in Washington in September, Chantal-Aimée Doerries QC said: “An increasing focus in society on economic success and on taking a commercial approach, I believe, threatens professionalism.” She insisted: “The Bar is a profession. It is not simply a job.”

“The more we act, or are encouraged by society to act, as purely businesses or are treated simply as part of a market of legal services...the more we attenuate the idea of being a professional lawyer, and ultimately undermine the special and fundamental role.”

Use of “lawyer”

[Counsel Magazine](#) - Restricting use of the term ‘lawyer’ is unnecessary and against the trend towards deregulation, according to the Bar Council.

Responding to the Competition and Markets Authority’s (CMA) *Legal Services Market Study Interim Report*, the Bar Council said there is no need to formally restrict the use of the title ‘lawyer’.

The Law Society told the CMA that it was in the public interest for the use of the title ‘lawyer’ to be restricted to those who are ‘suitably qualified and regulated’.

Wellbeing at the BAR

[Counsel Magazine](#) - A new portal giving barristers, clerks and chambers staff access to guidance, tips, support and contacts for help on all matters concerning wellbeing was launched on 15 October at the Annual Bar Conference.

Chairman of the Bar, Chantal-Aimee Doerries QC, said: “Every piece of content on the Wellbeing at the Bar portal is about sharing best practice for dealing with the stresses and strains of practice and ensuring that support is available to all to meet the challenges of life at the Bar. The website provides information and skills to help barristers and those they work with to stay well.”

Also in Counsel Magazine this month . . .

[Plans to protect vulnerable victims and witnesses at heart of justice reforms](#)

[Great Repeal Bill and Brexit challenge ahead](#)

[Halsbury winners](#)

[Bar training review](#)

[Unrepresented parties](#)

Human Rights and legal aid

[Legal Action](#) – Tribunal fees and charges are undermining the UK’s ability to meet its obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, according to barrister Jan Doerfel writing in Legal Action to explain how he drew the attention of a UN committee to the impact of the fees.

In a recent report, the Committee confirmed its concern “that the reforms to the legal aid system and the introduction of employment tribunal fees have restricted access to justice in areas such as employment, housing, education and social welfare benefits” and called on the UK government to abolish employment tribunal fees and to 'review the impact of the reforms to the legal aid system with a view to ensuring access to justice and the provision of free legal aid services, in particular for disadvantaged and marginalised individuals and groups.

Online Court

[Legal Action](#) – Director of the student law clinic at Westminster University, Diane Astin, writes on the Briggs proposals:

“If these proposals are implemented in good faith, with this commitment in mind, there is a real opportunity to improve the current situation. Briggs LJ recognises the valuable role the voluntary sector could play in both helping to design the system and providing ongoing help to court users.

“We must hope that the government accepts his exhortation to undertake the 'intensive search' for funding he identifies as necessary to ensure that an adequate level of assistance is available and that the systems procured are properly resourced and maintained.”

Young Offenders

[The Daily Mail](#), [The Daily Telegraph](#) have both reported on the Justice Select Committee report published today: [The treatment of young adults in the criminal justice system](#).

The Telegraph writes: More victims will suffer crime unless the regime for dealing with young adult criminals is overhauled, a Commons report has said.

MPs criticised the Ministry of Justice and National Offender Management Service for a “lack of action” and “tinkering around the edges”. The justice committee said chances to cut crime would be missed if the approach to offenders aged between 18 and 25 continues to fail.

Annual Bar and Young Bar Conference

[The Gazette](#) - The young bar is debt-ridden and stressed out while senior barristers are nervously contemplating digital justice. Max Walters reports from the Bar Conference.

The Bar Conference on 15 October took place in the long shadow cast by the £1bn Transforming Justice initiative unveiled last month – and proselytisers from the senior judiciary were on hand to spread the word.

Online dispute resolution will ‘become the norm’ in less complex civil, family and tribunals cases, senior president of tribunals Sir Ernest Ryder said in a plenary address.

[Ryder] denied the government’s austerity agenda was the driver of reform, arguing that this approach ‘runs the risk of price rationing, the antithesis of equal or fair access to justice’. However, he did concede austerity has ‘forced us to face up to the system’s limitations’.

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



The Bar Council @thebarcouncil · 23h

Can't sleep because you are wondering what the Bar Council does? Here's a glimpse of some of what we've done in 2016 [barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/1 ...](http://barcouncil.org.uk/media-centre/1...)



Retweets: 5, Likes: 7

The Bar Council @thebarcouncil

Just 10 days after going live, the #Wellbeing at the Bar Portal has already had 15,000 visits wellbeingatthebar.org.uk



RETWEETS: 2, LIKES: 5

4:38 PM - 25 Oct 2016

Retweets: 2, Likes: 5

The Bar Council @thebarcouncil

Quick exchange on LASPO in @UKHouseofLords today: bit.ly/2eFTL2E from 14:52. Peers ask, when will Government start LASPO review?

parliamentlive.tv

HOUSE OF LORDS
Tuesday 25 October 2016 (Meeting started at 2:30pm)

PLAYER



AGENDA

- 14:52: Lord Marks of the Bar, Lord Spence (Secretary of State for Justice)
- 14:53: Lord Mordaunt (Secretary of State for Justice)
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RETWEETS: 4, LIKES: 1

4:22 PM - 25 Oct 2016

Retweets: 4, Likes: 1