



BACFI QUARTERLY UPDATE: No 17.

January 2015

NEWS UPDATE

50th Anniversary

BACFI is celebrating its half century in 2015! We are delighted to announce that the gala event of the year will be a Black Tie Dinner at the House of Lords on the evening of Friday, 25 September 2015. Please place it in your diaries now!

Tickets will be available for this event from February. Please do book early to avoid disappointment!

Election of New Officers and Committee

BACFI's AGM was held on 3 December 2014. Lord Hoffmann has kindly agreed to remain as our President for 1 more year, and Lucinda Orr was re-elected as Chairman.

The following committee members were elected for a two year term of office on the General Committee: Alex Carr; Sally Bevan, Richard Ryan, Loring Long, Julian Abenbrook, Stephen Potts, Patrick Rappo, and Hussain Khan, Ayah Elmaazi, and Cecilia Xu were all co-opted on to the committee also. Many congratulations to them all. Ian Brookes-Howells, Cariss Hamilton and Hannah Laming continue to serve with another year left to run on their elected positions. Christiane Valansot, previously a Chairman of BACFI, continues to serve on the committee, in her capacity as a Vice-President, as does Tricia Howse C.B.E., as Senior Vice-Chairman.

Short biographies of all Officers and Committee members are available on our website.

Election of Sally Bevan to Middle Temple Hall Committee

We are delighted to announce that Sally Bevan, a member of the BACFI General Committee, has just been elected a member of the Hall Committee of the Middle Temple. She will be representing the interests of BACFI members on that committee and would welcome comments from any Middle Templars amongst the BACFI membership relating to Hall issues. Her email is sally@legalside.co.uk. Please do get in touch.

The BACFI / City Law School Prize

Each year BACFI presents the top student in Commercial Law at City Law School with a prize of £250 and complimentary BACFI membership for a year. On 4 December 2014 Lucinda Orr presented Mr Michael Perkins, a current pupil at South Square, with his cheque and certificate at the awards ceremony. Michael achieved an overall grade of Very Competent whilst on the BPTC course. We congratulated Michael and wish him well in his career.

Practising Certificates

A reminder that from March 2015, the way the PCF is levied is fundamentally altering. It will move away from "year of call" to income based. The income bands for 2015/16 will be:

Income range (£000s)	PCF
£0 - £30,000	£100
£30,001 - £60,000	£200
£60,001 - £90,000	£400
£90,001 - £150,000	£725
£150,001 - £240,000	£1,100
£240,001 and above	£1,500

If needed, please do remember to renew your PC before 6 April 2015!

Chancery Practice Direction

A new practice direction has been published in relation to Orders in the Chancery division, with effect from 4 January 2015. The headline points are that draft Orders should be provided in word so they can be amended easily and back sheets are now to be omitted. Further guidance is available here:

<http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/publications/masters-and-judges-orders-effective-2nd-january-2015/>

Fees Consultation

On 16 January 2015, the Government published their response to proposal to changes to the fees structure for court filings.

Of likely interest to our members is the proposal that the fee for issuing proceedings should increase to 5% of the value of the claim for all claims over £10,000, with a maximum issuing fee of £10,000 (discounted by 10% if paid online). However, following objections that raising the fees would make London a less attractive litigation venue, higher fees will not be charged for commercial proceedings.

Any further comments on the response are requested by 27 February 2015. Further details can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/396220/enhanced-court-fees-consultation-response.pdf

BACFI Website:

BACFI is improving its website. It has initiated a small working group, but as the website is our face to the world – please let us know your thoughts on how its functionality and content could be improved! Please contact Sandra with suggestions at secretary@bacfi.org

CPD seminars: BACFI remains an accredited provider of CPD seminars for 2015.

Our website www.bacfi.org contains details of all our events, Responses to and details of BC and BSB consultation papers and we are also on <http://www.linkedin.com>.

RECRUITMENT

We remain keen to recruit **members for BACFI's own committees**. Please think about contributing to your professional association. Contact secretary@bacfi.org if you are interested.

Corporate Members: This class of membership is non-voting but will entitle employees of the corporate member to ordinary individual membership of BACFI at a reduced rate. Would any member who thinks his/her firm would be interested in Corporate Membership of BACFI, please contact: chairman@bacfi.org

Membership drive: if you know someone in your firm who might like to join BACFI, or if your firm would be interested in corporate membership, do point them to our website where the membership forms can be downloaded: www.bacfi.org.

Reconnection with the Inns: If you are prepared to serve as an Inn representative, please contact Sandra: secretary@bacfi.org. We especially need volunteers for Inner and Middle Temple.

Current BACFI Inn representatives are:

Middle Temple	Christiane@valansot.com ;
Gray's Inn	Tricia.Howse@hotmail.co.uk ; hfrogers@bacfi.org ; lucindaorr@hotmail.co.uk
Inner Temple	Alexandria Carr ACarr@mayerbrown.com
Lincoln's Inn	William.sprigge@orange.net Simon.broomfield@brooksmacdonald.com Hussain Khan hussain@khan.cc

REPRESENTATION

BSB and BC committees 2015: BACFI members sitting on Bar Council or Bar Standards Board committees and subcommittees:

Bar Council	Lucinda Orr, Lorinda Long (Treasurer), James Kitching (elected), Alexandria Carr (ex-officio), Amanda Jane Field (elected)
General Management Committee	Lucinda Orr (ex officio)
Employed Bar Committee	Lucinda Orr, James Kitching, Tim Reading, Sara George, Patrick Rappo, Kevin McGinty
Member Services Board	James Kitching
Professional Practice Committee	Sara George
Finance Committee	Lorinda Long
Audit committee	Lorinda Long
Emoluments committee	Lorinda Long
International Committee	Lucinda Orr
European Committee	Alexandria Carr
Training for the Bar Committee	Sara George

Bar Conference Committee	Lucinda Orr
Social Mobility Committee	Lucinda Orr
Ethics Committee	Amanda-Jane Field
Legal Services Committee	Amanda-Jane Field
BSB Governance, Risk and Audit Committee	Nicholas Dee

EXTRAS

BACFI has a section on its website for appointments – please do take a look! The BACFI office holds further details at: secretary@bacfi.org

BACFI also publicises **events run by other organizations** that might be of interest to members. To attend, you must book direct with the organizer.

If you would like to have something put on our website, contact Sandra: secretary@bacfi.org