



## BACFI QUARTERLY UPDATE: No 2. June 2010

### NEWS

#### Lord Hoffmann is our new President

We are delighted to announce that Lord (Lennie) Hoffmann has agreed to become our President, in succession to the late Lord Slynn. He retired from the House of Lords in 2009 and now practices from Brick Court Chambers as a Mediator and Arbitrator. He is also Chairman of the Financial Law and Markets Committee of the Bank of England. The Bar Council has issued a formal press release; but here is Lord Hoffmann's acceptance note in full:

*It will not be easy to take the place of so distinguished a lawyer as my late colleague Lord Slynn, but I am honoured to have been asked to assume the presidency of this long-established association of members of the Bar, who play such an important role in providing legal services for financial, commercial and industrial institutions.*

BACFI members and their guests can meet Lord Hoffmann at the Christmas Party after the Denning Lecture on 1st December.

#### Garden Party

At this year's Garden Party we will be welcoming members of the Franco British Lawyers' Society, with whom we enjoyed the well-attended Amity Supper earlier this year. We have invited the Anglo German Jurists' Association, too. We have, as you see, "badged" the party this year for the whole employed Bar, to make it a really inclusive event. But bookings have been poor, despite the early bird discount. If we want to save this flagship event for future years, more members will need to come! **Please give our [poster \(attached\)](#) the widest possible circulation, and bring your friends!**

#### AGM and the Bar Council pension fund

At the AGM on 12<sup>th</sup> June BACFI tabled a resolution designed to secure more transparency about the options for dealing with the current BC staff pension fund. Our resolution was accepted by

the Chairman with some modifications, and thus did not need to be put to the vote. In brief we have obtained BC undertakings that:

- There will be an evaluation of all options for reducing the costs of pension provision, including the option of replacing the DB scheme for future accrual it with a defined contribution scheme
- that the Bluefin advice and report will be made available to all Council members; and
- that these actions will be taken in time to enable proposals for dealing with the DB Scheme both as to the deficit for past service and the liability for future accrual to be debated at the earliest opportunity and no later than the October 2010 meeting of the Council.

We will continue to follow up with the officers of the BC.

### **Bar Council Member Services**

We met the Bar Council on 6 May to discuss introducing EB friendly additional benefits and services under the Member Services Fee. Specifically, we discussed the possibility of a panel of law firms to assist employees in employment issues, something some of you have raised in the past. The BC response was lukewarm, unfortunately. We might consider appointing a panel ourselves, and offering it through our own website. Does anyone feel this would be a good idea? Would anyone be prepared to organise it?

### **PROFESSIONAL ISSUES**

#### **BSB CPD Review & Consultation:**

We will be submitting a paper to the CPD Review team having met with the team on 16<sup>th</sup> June. The Review claims to be starting with a fresh sheet, so everything – procedures, purposes, content and audit mechanisms – will be up for influence. We have had many anecdotal comments on CPD over the years (mostly negative) so we are going in to bat robustly on this one and will probably give them written submissions during the summer. We need your ideas for a workable system that commands public confidence. Please send them to Helen Fletcher Rogers [hfrogers@bacfi.org]

#### **New Practitioners' Programme Advocacy and Ethics Training:**

Further NPP training courses tailored to the needs of the employed bar have been held in June at Middle and Inner Temple. Gray's Inn has a tailored programme but did not get enough EB registrations to run the exercise this time. Lincoln's is still reviewing the position. Please contact the Inn concerned for details of future courses

**NPP sub committee** has been formed from BACFI Inn representatives, BACFI NPs and Inn accredited trainers; to ensure that all the Inns widen their NPP courses and include the BACFI

and GLS materials developed at Middle Temple. Once achieved, we will be pressing for more EB friendly Inn training at all levels and more EB events.

**BSB Consultation on Authorisation to Practise:** BACFI's response to this important (we would even say vital) consultation can be read on the website [www.bacfi.org](http://www.bacfi.org). We are meeting with the BSB to discuss further the issue of npbs.

**Pupillage Report:**

The report of the Wood review of pupillage has now been published see <http://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk> A new Pupillage Handbook has been drafted on which BACFI will be commenting. Please forward any comments to Helen Fletcher Rogers ([hfrogers@bacfi.org](mailto:hfrogers@bacfi.org))

**KEY BACFI & RELATED EVENTS – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- **Garden Party 30<sup>th</sup> June: 6.30 p.m. in Middle Temple Rose Garden**

*Last chance to book will be Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June !*

*This event has been kindly sponsored by Lipson Lloyd Jones.*

In the event of inclement weather, we shall carouse in the Prince's Room instead.

- **27th July Professional Ethics Seminar:** an interactive evening led by Christiane Valansot, Helen Fletcher Rogers and Stuart Bazley
- **21<sup>st</sup> September: Meet the European Circuit and the Bar Council's Brussels Office.**
- **Gray's Inn Dinner for the Employed Bar: 13<sup>th</sup> October**

Once again this popular dinner – all inclusive at only £45 – is open to all BACFI members, whichever their Inn. Book direct with Gray's to avoid disappointment.

- **Denning Lecture 1<sup>st</sup> December: Inner Temple 6pm:**

The Denning this year is being generously **sponsored by Hogan Lovells** and the Lecture will be delivered by **Peter Freeman, CBE, QC, Chairman of the Competition Commission.**

As usual, the Lecture will be followed by the BACFI Christmas drinks party, hosted by our new President Lord Hoffmann.

**BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN ([secretary@bacfi.org](mailto:secretary@bacfi.org)) for these events.**

Date	Event
30 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	BACFI Garden Party at Middle Temple
27 July 2010	Professional Ethics seminar
21 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2010	European Circuit & Brussels office
13 <sup>th</sup> October	Gray's Inn Dinner

For more detail and full year's events, please see [www.bacfi.org/diaryofevents](http://www.bacfi.org/diaryofevents).

### ROUND UP OF LAST QUARTER'S WORK

- **BSB Consultations:** you can see the BACFI responses on the website.
- **Reconnection with the Inns:** the Middle Temple drinks party for the Employed Bar on 28<sup>th</sup> April was extremely well attended. We ended up in the garden as the evening was so warm.

Middle Temple	<a href="mailto:Christiane@valansot.com">Christiane@valansot.com</a>
Gray's Inn	<a href="mailto:Tricia.Howse@hotmail.co.uk">Tricia.Howse@hotmail.co.uk</a> ; <a href="mailto:hfrogers@bacfi.org">hfrogers@bacfi.org</a>
Inner Temple	<a href="mailto:mailto:esmechandler@googlemail.com">mailto:esmechandler@googlemail.com</a>
Lincoln's Inn	Stephen Collier: <a href="mailto:MrBollyLondon@aol.com">MrBollyLondon@aol.com</a>

- **BSB and BC committees:** the following BACFI members sit on Bar Council or Bar Standards Board, committees and sub committees:

Bar Council	Christiane Valansot, Tricia Howse, Esme Chandler, Lucinda Orr
BC Employed Bar Cttee	Christiane Valansot, Tricia Howse, Lucinda Orr, Brian Cahill, Tim Reading, Sara George.
BC Professional Practice Cttee	Tricia Howse
BC General Management Cttee	Christiane Valansot
BSB Qualifications committee and its Pupillage panel	Helen Fletcher Rogers ( <a href="mailto:hfrogers@bacfi.org">hfrogers@bacfi.org</a> )
BSB CPD sub cttee	Tricia Howse
BSB Wood CPD working party	Sue Edwards
Equality and Diversity	Brian Cahill
ADR	Brian Cahill
YBC	Lucinda Orr
Member Services Board	Stephen Collier
Policy Advisory Group	Stephen Collier