



BACFI QUARTERLY UPDATE: No 6. May 2011

NEWS

Tickets for the Garden Party are going fast ! Bring your guests to celebrate summer in Middle Temple Gardens on 15th June – tickets only £20 from members@middletemple.org.uk

BACFI now has a **LinkedIN group** which you can join. For those members of BACFI or for anyone interested in what BACFI is doing, joining the LinkedIN group may be useful. Members of LinkedIN should search in 'groups' for 'Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry'. Members who are not already members of LinkedIN can find out more about this (free for what most people want to do) service here: <http://www.linkedin.com>.

BACFI congratulates:

Stephen Collier, on his unopposed election as 2012 Treasurer of the Bar Council. He takes office in troubled times, see below !

The **Seminar and Amity Supper on 30th March** were both oversubscribed and our distinguished speakers Prof. Jan Eijsbouts and Carol Xueref did us proud, fielding a great number of questions on the subject of in house LPP in Europe (there isn't any!) with skill and good humour. Our thanks to Middle Temple which laid on an excellent spread for the Supper.

BACFI's **first out of London seminar** (on the new Bribery Act 2010) was held on Thursday 5th May at St Philips Chambers, Birmingham. Several members of the Midlands C&I committee attended, and we will be discussing future possibilities for seminars with them. Our thanks go to St Philips for their generous hospitality and we hope to see members of chambers at future BACFI events.

In memoriam

We have sent our condolences to the family of **Peter Cottis**, a founder member of BACFI, and one of our honorary members, who died on March 21st.

Bar Council (BC) pension fund

The first proper debate on the 3 options for dealing with the BC pension scheme and fund, identified by Richard Salter QC's group at the end of last year, was held at Bar Council on 14th May. It was lively and lasted about an hour. Bluefin representatives attended the meeting and

answered questions. Most aspects and Qs were covered, including as much about costs as humanly possible.

Unfortunately the vote came late in the morning, after a good hour had been spent on CPS Panel arrangements and many members had left; but 45 members voted to continue the DB scheme, simply *in order to allow negotiations with staff and the Trustees*. Only 12 members voted to close the scheme with immediate effect.

In fact closure will remain on the table throughout negotiations, which will aim to secure a) consent to scheme changes b) higher employee contributions and lower BC ones and c) a more aggressive investment strategy for the fund.

BACFI's hard work over the last year to ensure that a full debate was held and that costed options were thoroughly aired has finally paid off. BACFI will of course continue to lobby for greater transparency in other areas of BC governance.

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

- **Representation**

BSB Consultation on its Review of the Code of Conduct: you can see the BACFI response here http://www.filewiz.co.uk/bacfi/bacfi_bsb_code_response.pdf.

Dr Vanessa Davies, the **new Chief Executive of the Bar Standards Board (BSB)** is keen to see more CFI Barristers on the BSB's committees. Vacancies were advertised earlier this year but the response has been disappointing. If you have thought of applying, and been deterred, please contact: hfrogers@bacfi.org

BACFI met the Chief Counsel and press officer of **Legal Services Board (LSB)** in April. We expressed our concerns about Bar Council transparency, the plight of non-practising barristers and the forthcoming Legal Education Review.

BSB CPD Review & Consultation: The Report of the CPD Review will be published shortly for consultation. We will seek the views of all members once the report is published.

- **Education**

New Practitioners' Programme Advocacy and Ethics Training: BACFI has supplied all four Inns with material tailored to the needs of the employed bar, based on the very successful courses run by Middle Temple. If you are an NP wishing to attend one of the courses, please make sure that you ask for the EB session. If you have any difficulty registering for one of these courses or if you attend one, please give feedback to hfrogers@bacfi.org

BACFI's next **Professional Issues Forum** will be on 30th June at Wragge and Co. We shall also be holding our popular **Ethics Roundtable** again on July 20th at Eversheds

CPD seminars: BACFI remains an accredited provider of CPD seminars and we will be ensuring that each event in our programme (below) carries points. BACFI has been lobbying for a simpler, self-accreditation system for CPD that recognizes the need for soft skills and reflects the requirements of the employed bar.

- **Support**

Pupillages: are down from 460 to 402 this year and there are still very few EB Pupillage Training Organisations (PTOs). The BSB has 3 or 4 applications pending and **we would like to hear from anyone whose firm has applied**, so that we can continue to monitor the difficulties. Contact hfrogers@bacfi.org.

Student Health warnings: BACFI has been lobbying both the BSB and the Inns to ensure that students are kept properly informed of the difficulties of securing pupillage and the consequences of failing to complete their professional training. We do not consider that the current “health warnings” are sufficiently robust when students are incurring such enormous debts during their academic training, and the QLTT fall back has now been closed. BACFI gives annual student talks and is forming a focus group to cover pupillage issues generally.

If you would like to help with this group, contact secretary@bacfi.org

KEY BACFI & RELATED EVENTS – 2011 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15 th June 2011	BACFI Garden Party with Middle Temple: from 6pm in the Rose Garden. Tickets £20 from members@middletemple.org.uk
30 th June 2011	Legal Practice Forum at Wragges 4.30 – 6.30pm . Hear and discuss ABS and the latest arrangements for direct access with experts and Vanessa Davies, Director of the BSB.
20 th July 2011	Ethics Roundtable , with Cass Business School, at Eversheds.
27 th Sept 2011	Practical EU law issues for in house counsel, with the Bar European Circuit, at Brick Court Chambers.
29 th Nov 2011	Denning Lecture (Lord Justice Munby, Chairman of the Law Commission) and BACFI Christmas Party, at Inner Temple

For more details, links to maps and full year’s events, please see [diary](#) on website. Be sure to book your places at events with Sandra: secretary@bacfi.org

Membership drive: if you know someone in your firm who might like to join BACFI, do point them to our website where the brochure and 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 As you can see below, we need more volunteers for Inner Temple !

Current BACFI Inn representatives are:

Middle Temple	Christiane@valansot.com ; stuart.bazley@mobileemail.vodafone.net
Gray's Inn	Tricia.Howse@hotmail.co.uk ; hfrogers@bacfi.org ; Lucindaorr@hotmail.co.uk
Inner Temple	EsmeChandler@googlemail.com
Lincoln's Inn	William.sprigge@orange.net Ian Beeby ipb@peak-intelligence.com Simon.broomfield@brooksmacdonald.com

BSB and BC committees: 2011 BACFI members sitting on Bar Council or Bar Standards Board committees and subcommittees:

Bar Council	Tricia Howse, Esme Chandler, Lucinda Orr, Stephen Collier & Lorinda Long
General Management Committee	Tricia Howse
Employed Bar Committee	Tricia Howse, Lucinda Orr, Tim Reading & Sara George
Professional Practice Committee	Tricia Howse & Sara George
Young Barristers' Committee	Lucinda Orr
Policy Advisory Group	Stephen Collier
Finance & Accounts Committee	Stephen Collier
International Committee	Lucinda Orr & Lorinda Long
European Committee	Lorinda Long
Training for the Bar Committee	Sara George & Tim Reading
Bar Conference Committee	Lucinda Orr
City Working Group	Lorinda Long
Bar Standards Board	Sarah Clarke
BSB Qualifications committee and its Pupillage panel	Helen Fletcher Rogers
BSB CPD sub committee	Tricia Howse
BSB Wood CPD working party	Sue Edwards
BSB Practising Rules Working Group	Helen Fletcher Rogers

EXTRAS

BACFI has a section on its website for appointments - in particular, opportunities in Europe for a *stage*. The BACFI office holds further details. Three post-graduate students are currently seeking placements or internships in London. You can get their CVs from Sandra: secretary@bacfi.org