



## BACFI QUARTERLY UPDATE: No 10. September 2012

### NEWS

**Stop press extra seminar on EU LAW, THE IMPACT ON IN HOUSE COUNSEL: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 4.30 – 6.30pm at Hardwicke Chambers, New Square, Lincoln's Inn.** Please book attendance on [events@bacfi.org](mailto:events@bacfi.org).

The Legal Practice Skills seminar on 26<sup>th</sup> September on your 2012 Events card has unfortunately been cancelled.

We are actively seeking sponsorship for the Christmas Party following this year's **Denning Lecture**, which will be given by **Mr Justice Briggs**, a leading member of the Chancery Division, on **Monday November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Inner Temple**.

If your firm would be interested in sponsoring the Denning, please contact the Chairman:

[Tricia.howse@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Tricia.howse@hotmail.co.uk)

The popular **Gray's Inn Dinner for the Employed Bar** will be held on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October**. Cost is £50 per head. The function is black-tie and open to all barristers including those from other Inns. Please book and pay direct with [michelle.clarke@graysinn.org.uk](mailto:michelle.clarke@graysinn.org.uk).

### PROFESSIONAL NEWS

The **Legal Education and Training Review** commissioned by the LSB, is proceeding slowly and BACFI is preparing for a meeting with its researchers on 20th September. We have already held an "awayday" meeting for officers, the general committee and Vice Presidents and have begun to draft a major response which will set out BACFI's stance on the future of the Bar.

**BACFI's vision for the future of the Bar** is likely to be radical. Vice Presidents in particular, who have after all lived through a good many changes to the legal profession, are adamant that we should embrace this opportunity for change wholeheartedly and suggest a blueprint for the 21<sup>st</sup> century Bar. Informed by our members' survey, here are the principal planks emerging from our ongoing discussions:

- The Bar should be setting a gold standard for technical excellence and ethical conduct, and supporting an increase in the global recognition of English legal qualifications.
- There must be fair and open access to the profession, drawing from the widest possible talent pool.
- The Bar must serve the needs of "consumers" (varying from retail to B2B) in imaginative and efficient ways.

- The Bar must remain a leading contributor to the worldwide Rule of Law, and contribute with solicitors to increasing the global footprint of English law as the governing law of choice, internationally.
- Whilst we do not consider that forced fusion of the two principal branches of the legal profession is desirable, BACFI recognises that in time and through common training, solicitors and barristers will become distinguishable solely by their specialisms.
- BACFI favours a common, high quality initial period of professional training that would lead to full, basic legal qualifications; thus ending the misery of Barristers without pupillage.
- A first stage of common academic training, which could be undertaken by undergraduates (law degree), postgraduate (non law degree) or suitably qualified and experienced non graduates (Legal Executives, immigration advisers, probation officers, police officers, court clerks, etc)
- A second stage of common “blended learning for lawyers” which would incorporate technical learning, legal practice and ethics and could be undertaken using part time, shared and day release programmes by accredited firms (solicitors, barristers, ABS, commercial firms, government agencies, etc), leading to full and transferable qualifications as an “English Lawyer”. After completion of this stage, which could last from 2-5 years, Barristers could be called to the Bar and Solicitors admitted to the Roll and could thereafter commence work with PQ status in professional or commercial firms or chambers.
- A lifetime commitment to continuing professional development, either for the maintenance of stage 2 basic training (eg after maternity or other long absences) or for acquired specialisms (at any time in a lawyer’s career), one of which would be trial advocacy - undertaken with the Inns of Court. CPD should also incorporate other forms of accreditation (child case handling, mediation, advanced litigation or anything else currently requiring additional qualification and training such as FSA qualifications or specialist training required by employers.

Members of the Professional Issues sub committee will be meeting Professor Jane Ching, one of the LETR researchers, on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

**If you have a view or a contribution to make to formulating the BACFI position, please contact: [secretary@bacfi.org](mailto:secretary@bacfi.org).**

### **RECENT EVENTS**

The joint **BACFI and Middle Temple Garden Party** on 11<sup>th</sup> June was, sadly, rained indoors until the very last hour or so. Whilst Middle Temple Hall is a venue of beauty and history, it was alarmingly noisy when full and though we were thrilled at the large attendance, the Rose Garden was missed by many !

We managed to squeeze in an extra seminar on the **Solicitor General’s plans for corporate deferred sentences** in corruption and fraud offences on July 10th. This well attended seminar was held jointly with the Law Society’s Commerce & Industry Group (the C&I Group) – a first for both of us. We will certainly hold a repeat event together next year.

### **Bar Council Matters**

Mike Todd QC Chairman of the Bar Council is reviewing not only how the **Practising Certificate fee (PCF)** is calculated and spent but also the whole **administration of the Bar Council**. Stephen Collier, Chief Executive of General Healthcare, Treasurer of the Bar will be reporting to the **Bar Council Annual General Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012** on these matters, and we urge you to attend if you can.

The BC AGM starts at 10.00 am on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept in the BC offices at 296 High Holborn.

## **PROFESSIONAL ISSUES**

### **Representation**

BACFI has put in formal responses to the following consultations recently: Response to the BSB Code of Conduct and Handbook, holding repose to LETR. They can be found on the [website](#).

### **Education**

**CPD seminars:** BACFI remains an accredited provider of CPD seminars and we have ensured that events in our current [2012 programme](#) will qualify for maximum points.

We are currently in talks with the C&I Group (which runs countrywide CPD seminars for its members) to explore **access for BACFI members to C&I Lectures and seminars outside London**.

### **Support**

**Pupillages:** we are still continuing to press for better and more user friendly BSB rules to ATOs, to encourage commercial firms to apply for accreditation or to sponsor pupils in more imaginative ways. A Council of the Inns of Court (COIC) committee is also lobbying the BSB to allow sponsored pupilages and BACFI has indicated its general support for this idea. However, the COIC proposals do not go nearly far enough and will only initially benefit the publicly funded Bar.

We would like to hear from anyone whose firm has applied or is thinking of applying to be an ATO, so that we can continue to monitor the difficulties. Contact [hfrogers@bacfi.org](mailto:hfrogers@bacfi.org).

**Mentoring scheme:** BACFI has joined with the Commerce and Industry Group to provide a mentoring scheme for young in-house barristers and solicitors and those working as sole lawyers. If you are interested in acting as a mentor or wish to be mentored, then please contact [secretary@bacfi.org](mailto:secretary@bacfi.org) to register for the next round of the scheme.

We remain keen to recruit **members for BACFI's own committees**. Please think about contributing to your professional association. Contact the Hon Secretary, Helen Fletcher Rogers for details of how you can help: [hfrogers@bacfi.org](mailto:hfrogers@bacfi.org).

**Corporate Members.** This class of membership will be 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 [tricia.howse@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tricia.howse@hotmail.co.uk)

**Our website** [www.bacfi.org](http://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>.

### **2012 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Thursday October 4th

**EU Law seminar: Impact on in-house counsel.**

**Led by Chris Parker of Microsoft and Christiane Valansot of the IMA.**

This seminar will be held from **4.30 – 6.30** pm at Hardwicke Building, New Square Lincoln's Inn, by kind permission of Hardwicke Chambers.

Monday 19 November

### **2012 Denning Lecture**

**The Hon. Mr Justice Briggs**

At Parliament Chamber, Inner Temple

Followed by the **BACFI Christmas Reception**

Wednesday 5 December

### **Annual General Meeting**

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: [events@bacfi.org](mailto:events@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](http://www.bacfi.org).

**Reconnection with the Inns:** If you are prepared to serve as an Inn representative, please contact Sandra: [secretary@bacfi.org](mailto:secretary@bacfi.org).

Current BACFI Inn representatives are:

Middle Temple	<a href="mailto:Christiane@valansot.com">Christiane@valansot.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:stuart.bazley@mobileemail.vodafone.net">stuart.bazley@mobileemail.vodafone.net</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> ; <a href="mailto:Lucindaorr@hotmail.co.uk">Lucindaorr@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Inner Temple	<a href="mailto:EsmeChandler@googlemail.com">EsmeChandler@googlemail.com</a>
Lincoln's Inn	<a href="mailto:William.sprigge@orange.net">William.sprigge@orange.net</a> Ian Beeby <a href="mailto:ipb@peak-intelligence.com">ipb@peak-intelligence.com</a> <a href="mailto:Simon.broomfield@brooksmacdonald.com">Simon.broomfield@brooksmacdonald.com</a>

**BSB and BC committees: 2012** BACFI members sitting on Bar Council or Bar Standards Board committees and subcommittees:

Bar Council	Tricia Howse & Esme Chandler (ex officio), Lucinda Orr, Kevin McGinty, Stephen Collier (Treasurer) & Lorinda Long (elected)
General Management Committee	Tricia Howse (ex officio)
Employed Bar Committee	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
BSB Qualifications committee and its Pupillage panel	Helen Fletcher Rogers
BSB CPD sub committee	Tricia Howse
BSB Practising Rules Working Group	Helen Fletcher Rogers

**EXTRAS**

BACFI has a section on its website for appointments – including student internships and opportunities in Europe for a *stage*. The BACFI office holds further details: [secretary@bacfi.org](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@bacfi.org).