



Celebrating 60 years of education, representation and support for the Employed Bar

Corporate membership of BACFI

BACFI - the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry – was founded in 1965 to promote the interests and professional status of Barristers employed in the fields of commerce, finance and industry. Dedicated to providing education, representation and support to both employed and non-practising barristers including those working in government and in Legal Disciplinary Partnerships. BACFI is a unique forum for barristers not in self-employed practice. Our website www.bacfi.org has more details of our work and activities.

As an organisation, BACFI enables in-house lawyers and specifically the employed bar to benefit from CPD education that is tailored to the needs of their employment and BACFI is uniquely placed to also support the building and fostering of relationships across the self-employed and employed strands of the profession. Many in house departments are themselves the leading centres of excellence in particular areas of substantive law, so “Black letter” law, unless it is new, may be less important to our members than the soft skills of legal and case management. Presentation skills are vital, whereas court-based advocacy may not be.

BACFI’s programme consists of seminars, webinars, lectures and networking events that are closely tailored to the needs of in-house lawyers. They are often held in collaboration with solicitors’ firms or chambers; and are as attractive to in-house solicitors as to barristers.

Corporate membership is available to organisations employing barristers and is exceptionally good value. The current annual membership cost is £300 and will enable your legal department to send up to 10 barristers or solicitors to each of the BACFI seminars / webinars during the year and also entitle them to the discounted members’ price for our social events.

Although corporate member firms will not be able to vote at AGMs or stand for office within BACFI; their names will be prominently displayed on BACFI’s website and quarterly newsletter.

Additionally, corporate membership entitles barristers or solicitors on your staff to join BACFI as full, voting individual ordinary or associate members at a reduced rate. Ordinary members can stand for office in BACFI and join committees. Solicitors can join as Associate members.

Some of the advantages of corporate BACFI membership, for your firm and its barristers:

- Professional support for your firm's barristers, with the Bar Council and the Bar Standards Board.
- Strenuous lobbying for recognition of the diverse needs of the modern Bar and actively contributes to regulatory consultations to improve the professional support given to those practising in employment.
- Updates in professional regulation, which may affect them.
- Representation of their interests with the Government, the Bar Council and the BSB on a variety of professional issues, to ensure that employed barristers get a better deal from their Regulator.
- Past successes include securing rights of audience for employed barristers, the recognition of dual qualifications (as both barrister and solicitor), changes to the Bar's Code of Conduct relating to employed barristers and reforms to the CPD system.
- BACFI continues to lobby to improve the rules applying to firms wishing to become BSB Approved Training Organisations in the hope that many more firms will take on pupils as we believe that the number of employed pupillages available should increase greatly.
- Promotion of the Employed Bar to students through various events such as our annual student evening and attending pupillage fairs and other outreach events.
- An annual programme offering training tailored to in-house lawyers – whether they be barristers or solicitors.
- Continued representation and advocacy with the Bar Council and BSB on Silk and Judicial appointments criteria for those at the Employed Bar.

Please contact Sandra Janes on secretary@bacfi.org if you would like to join, or complete our Corporate application form found on the **Joining BACFI** webpage.

Chairman and General Committee
The Bar Association for Commerce, Finance & Industry