

Philip Stott

Self-employed junior over 7 years in practice

About Me, My Practice and Professional Activities

In the 22 years since I started my first day of pupillage, I have specialised in crime and professional disciplinary work and have been fortunate enough to act for both the prosecution and the defence in cases of the highest seriousness, including terrorism, homicide, fraud and rape and other serious sexual offences.

Outside of court, I was my Chambers' first ever Equality and Diversity Officer, and then was Treasurer of my Chambers for seven years before joining Bar Council. During my time on the Council I have served as one of the Co-Chairs of the Legal Services Committee for the last four years, liaising with government and Parliament on matters such as prisoner delivery to court, improvements to IT systems and disabled access to the Court estate, and pressing for reform in areas such as court listing, interpreter services and support for jurors. Some of my proudest moments have been participating in the Bar Council's successful intervention in defence of advocates' immunity at the Court of Appeal in XGY, helping draft the Bar Council's responses to matters such as reform to criminal fraud law, and, crucially, opposing the current threats to jury trial.

What I Can Offer the Bar Council

Having been a member of the Bar Council for six years, I have real insight into the challenges facing the Bar, and how to overcome them. I have seen how powerful, effective communications can have a real impact on politicians, civil servants and media just as they can in court. It is hard work, just as our 'day job' is hard work, but I believe that I have the determination and understanding of the issues to help the Council press for better support for us in our key task: helping the public get access to justice.

Motivation for Standing

Although I am ending my time as Chair of the Legal Services Committee, I wish to continue to offer my time to support the Bar Council. There is still vital work to be done on issues such as much-needed reform of legal education, retention of capable people at the Bar, fair and efficient professional regulation, and the never-ending fight for sufficient governmental resources to protect our justice system generally. The Bar Council has an incredibly important voice, and it is crucial that we continue to make it listened to and respected in the corridors of power.