



## Candidate Statements for the Bar Council Elections 2024

The candidates who are standing in the election for the 2024 Bar Council have been announced. Two categories are going to ballot:

### [Contents](#)

<b>Self-employed Juniors OVER seven years in practice.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Employed KCs or Juniors OVER seven years in practice .....</b>	<b>13</b>

You are invited to vote regardless of whether you are an employed or self-employed barrister.

Online voting will commence via MyBar on Thursday 5 October 2023 and votes must be cast by 10am on Thursday 19 October 2023.

Candidate statements can be read below.

The election will be conducted by single transferable vote and the results of the election will be announced by listing successful candidates in the order of voter preference.

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## Self-employed Juniors OVER seven years in practice

**Andrew Parsons**

*Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?*

For those who already know me, you'll know that I'm known as "THE QUIET MAN ON THE CORNER" in dispute resolution.

For those who don't yet know me, I'm a barrister, mediator, arbitrator and negotiator, with over 30 years' of experience in business, property, financial and commercial dispute resolution work, domestically and internationally. I have pioneered hybrid dispute resolution processes and conducted them in different cultural contexts, for example resolving tribal water rights.

I'm also a businessman, investor and comic writer, making some "pocket money" sketching cartoons and writing stand-up routines.

I was called to the Bar in 1985. In 1998, I was one of the first English barristers to become an accredited commercial mediator, at a time when mediation was often confused with meditation!

For about 20 years, I've served on the Bar Council ADR Committee, (now Panel). With others, I have tried my best to ensure that the Bar adapts to and prospers in the fast-developing world of dispute resolution.

Recently, I've helped with the Bar Council's response to MoJ's Consultation about Singapore Convention on Mediation and with the Law Commission's Consultations about reforms to the Arbitration Act 1996.

*What can you offer the Bar Council?*

In summary, in the now super-fast changing world of dispute resolution, given my years' of experience, I think I am now one of the few people uniquely placed to help the Bar Council and the Bar.

For example, compulsory mediation now applies to civil cases in England and Wales valued up to £10,000, which will inevitably have an immediate impact upon the young Bar. With others at the Bar Council, I hope to provide my expertise and experience to help young barristers adapt to such changes.

*What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?*

My key motivation is to give something back, volunteering my time, knowledge and expertise to help the Bar Council and other barristers.

I'm not seeking election for any other reason.

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**Anton van Dellen**

***Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?***

I am Vice-Chair of the Bar Council Legal Services Committee. I also sit on the Bar Council Education and Training Committee. My practice includes defamation, public law, inquests and general commercial litigation. Many of my clients in inquests are very vulnerable and I have extensive experience in reasonable adjustments made in Court for my clients. I am also an advocacy trainer for Inner Temple and sit on Inner Temple Executive, Finance, Investment and Bar Liaison Committees. I am also the Bar Council observer on the Civil Justice Council and feed back developments in civil justice to the Bar Council Legal Services Committee. As part of the Bar Council Legal Services Committee, I helped draft the Bar Council submissions on the proposed fee increases for Immigration Tribunals, which would have significantly hindered access to justice and were not implemented by MoJ. A similar increase in fees for Employment Tribunals were thankfully quashed on that basis. I have a long-standing interest in access to justice and am also an assessor for Advocate, the Bar's pro bono charity.

***What can you offer the Bar Council?***

I can offer the Bar Council continued service on the Legal Services and Education and Training Committees. Both Committees do work which ensures the future viability of our profession. There are very significant challenges facing the court system, in terms of resources, very lengthy waits for hearings and continued threats to access to justice. I have experience in raising issues relating to those areas, specifically in relation to the junior bar. The junior bar experiences many of the deficiencies in the court system and my experience in the Bar Council Legal Services Committee that holds HMCTS to account will hopefully provide useful in the future.

***What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?***

My primary motivation is to ensure the junior bar's priorities are heard in the Bar Council. Many County, Family and Coroner's Courts experience problems with listings and short notice adjournments and this is an area which needs to continue to be the focus of the Bar Council.

I also have an interest in HMCTS staff exercising judicial functions. I would like to continue this work to ensure that judicial decisions are made by independent judicial office holders, rather than HMCTS employees. This is an important issue, relevant both the rule of law as well as access to justice.

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***Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?***

I was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in July 2015 as a transferring solicitor advocate, and before becoming a solicitor I was a legal executive. My previous roles, including that of an OISC level 3 advocate for a few years, enabled my transition to the Bar as an established advocate. I have been a sole practitioner for over five years in my multidisciplinary practice based in London, mainly in immigration and family areas. Over the years in addition to my pro bono work as a barrister, I have also had the pleasure of serving as a Trustee of CILEx Pro Bono Trust. I also volunteer as a mentor for a charity supporting aspiring lawyers from disadvantaged backgrounds. Motivating aspiring lawyers from disadvantaged backgrounds is the cause that led me to share my own journey to the Bar in the Counsel magazine in October 2022. I have pursued my professional development interests in the recent years by teaching as a visiting lecturer and through delivering training courses in immigration, family and public law areas in-house and through the lawyers' associations.

***What can you offer the Bar Council?***

My unique background shows my experience of practice under the OISC, CILEx and SRA. As members of the approved regulators are converging in their skill sets and roles, I have a diverse perspective to share with my colleagues on the challenges to the practice. I have also been the Bar's typical client before transferring to it, and I therefore know the expectation from the members of the profession. My non-traditional background and work as a mentor has equipped me with appreciating the actual and potential barriers to the access to the profession, and I can draw upon that experience.

***What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?***

I want to network with other practitioners and learn more about the issues affecting their practice, and offer support drawing upon that collective experience. Whether as: a mentor for aspiring barristers; an advocate for pro bono clients; or a training provider for legal professionals, I want to upscale my efforts to make them more impactful for the profession more widely. By continuing my journey as someone from a non-traditional background, I want to continue to inspire the aspiring barristers and encourage the members of the profession from diverse backgrounds to take part in how the profession is represented.

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## **Daniel Michael Sheridan**

### ***Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?***

I had a non-traditional, non-Oxbridge, state educated pathway to the Bar, which was followed by a self-funded route onto the Bar Vocational Course.

Now, in practice, I conduct private law and public law children cases. I am experienced in cases involving some of the most sensitive and traumatic family law issues. Qualified to take instructions via the Public Access Scheme, the leading legal directory Legal 500 recognises my down to earth approach and ability to achieve an excellent outcome for clients.

For a number of years, in order to give something back, I have delivered advocacy training via my Inn, The Inner Temple, supporting its Education and Training Department with training for New Practitioners and Pupils as an Advocacy Trainer. From 2018 – 2019, I was a Co-Opted Committee Member on FLBA National Committee. I prepared, with others, submission(s) in respect of the consultation: 'Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse Government Consultation (full version)'. From 2015-2016, I served as the President Inner Temple Junior Bar Association. The focus of the JBA was to engage new practitioners in the work of the Inn and to offer accessible CPD opportunities.

### ***What can you offer the Bar Council?***

My professional experiences, at the Bar, and working in Parliament before, as a Parliamentary Researcher, addressing constituency concerns, are not unique, but they may resonate with the experiences of others. Representative role models and advocates, from different backgrounds, can offer a source of support, solidarity and may help others to find acceptance and growth. Informed by my practice, and wider professional activities at the Bar, I would deliver dynamic and effective representation on the Bar Council, in a down to earth and approachable way, which is reflective and mindful of the experiences of others.

### ***What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?***

My journey into the profession, and maintaining my role in it, has been coloured by professional challenges and triumphs. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community it has also been punctuated with prejudice. Experiencing prejudice, as an LGBTQ+ individual, is a complex and deeply personal journey. It is not always overt; it can take the form of microaggressions – subtle, everyday behaviours or comments that belittle or invalidate an individuals' identity, self-esteem, and sense of worth. These experiences are not unique, but they may resonate with the experiences of others; they inspire me to strive for an equal and diverse Bar.

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**Darren Snow**

***Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?***

Called in 2000, from Essex, state school educated and the first in my family to get a degree, no family legal background save for a dad in the police. Practised at Charter Chambers up to its closure and since 2020 I am at Libertas Chambers. I am also a member of Clerksroom. I am predominantly a criminal, regulatory and disciplinary defence lawyer. Much of my work is legal aid. I have been a pupil supervisor managing third six pupils, an advocacy trainer and taught advocacy to students on the BPTC. I have always been into pro bono work; I was a nominee at the 2018 pro bono awards and continue to do work with Advocate and Sports Resolutions. I balance practice with work as an LQC chairing police tribunals and chairing safeguarding panels for England Boxing, the F.A and UK Athletics. I have just completed two terms sitting with TBTAS. I am a member of the CBA's social mobility committee and have spoken at Urban Lawyers events, various careers events and mentored schools in the national mock trial competition – reaching the national finals two years in a row! I joined Middle Temple's Hall Committee in 2023.

***What can you offer the Bar Council?***

If I am honest, for too long I have taken the view the Bar Council is not speaking for me, feeling like many of my friends and colleagues at the Bar, a bit of an outsider/imposter. If I do not put myself forward, how can I expect others to do it. I think I offer a fair and honest voice for the Legal Aid Bar, especially criminal practitioners. Coming to the Bar a little later in life, as a career changer and from working-class roots, I want to really push the E&D and social mobility agenda but more importantly I want to ensure practitioners like me and the brilliant people I work alongside everyday have a voice - hopefully so we can really influence the future direction of this profession for the better.

***What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?***

I think I have confidence to speak up, challenge and influence. This is a wonderful job. I work with a lot of great people. In criminal defence it can be incredibly stressful, emotionally draining as well as joyous – often a roller coaster ride day after day. It is time I stood up to be counted, rather than expect others to do it. My hope is the Council represents all barristers, understands them, supports them and is ready to go into battle when needed. That's what I will ensure happens to the best of my ability if elected.

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## **David Merrigan**

### ***Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?***

I came to the Bar from a background in philosophy and (art) history, before giving up the former for a more practical and professional kind of argument. I have kept up with the latter by helping run an online picture gallery in some of my spare time. The rest of my spare time is spent trying to renovate a very small house dating from 1595, which is both a delight and a very big headache.

I was called to the Bar in 2004, and have specialised in family law ever since, having authored several published articles (mostly on financial remedy matters) since 2007.

In 2011 I became an accredited mediator in civil disputes.

During the first lockdown I started to work with the BSB in helping with marking and question-setting for their professional ethics examinations for new pupils; and am now a team leader in marking and moderating.

### ***What can you offer the Bar Council?***

As a physically disabled barrister, I am able to give the Bar Council a first-hand account as to how courts deal with accessibility issues on a day-to-day basis. I believe this is a process of recognising and building on the considerable progress already made, identifying remaining or new issues, and finding pragmatic solutions to those issues. Keeping the Bar aware of access issues will make individual barristers more confident in dealing with those issues when they have disabled clients, who will in turn feel that they have received a better and fairer service. Raising standards is something we all aim for: increased awareness will only rise the standards of the Bar still higher.

### ***What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?***

I want to be an active part of an organisation that will listen to its members. I hope that I now have the experience to be able to assist younger barristers; and the ability to listen when members of the Bar make observations, criticisms and suggestions.

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## **Elaine Banton**

### ***Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?***

I am an employment, equalities and discrimination practitioner focussing in complex, protracted litigation, based in London and appearing in employment tribunals around the country. I am Co-Chair of the Bar Council's EDSM committee and a member of ELBA, ELA, IBA and the DLA. I am engaged in equality, diversity and social mobility issues across the Bar as whole and take a keen interest in well-being issues. A strong bar is one reflective of the talent in the society that we serve, as such, retention and

progression issues remain key areas of challenge to create a truly representative Bar. It is vitally important to continue to do all that we can to maintain and improve diversity and social mobility at the Bar, including publicly funded areas and barristers 7 years and under. I am fully committed to all of these issues and if elected will continue working to ensure strong representation for all.

***What can you offer the Bar Council?***

As an experienced employment, equality and discrimination practitioner I offer my time, expertise and enthusiasm in these key areas both directly and how they intersect in various ways, affecting Barristers in practice across the Bar.

***What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?***

I am fully committed to improving and strengthening the Bar in general and in key areas of equality, diversity social mobility and inclusion. If elected I will continue this vital work.

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**John-Paul Swoboda**

***Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?***

I was called to the bar in 2006. During my first few years in practice I was part of a common law set undertaking civil, criminal and family work. My practice is now exclusively in personal injury, clinical negligence, industrial disease and personal injury claims with an international element.

I have been an elected member of the Bar Council from 2016 to 2019 and 2020 to 2023. During that time, I have served on the Legal Services Committee and latterly on the Law Reform Committee.

***What can you offer the Bar Council?***

If elected, I will ensure the PI bar's voice is heard as I have endeavoured to do since 2016.

***What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?***

I am standing as a PIBA-supported candidate in order to support and promote the profession and in particular the PI bar. I am committed to improving diversity and equality in the profession and to ensuring proper remuneration at all levels.

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## **Lady Gifty Tetteh**

### ***Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?***

I am a self-employed barrister and have been in private practises for over 20 years from Chambers of GD Tetteh. My ancestry is in Ghana in West Africa. In November 2000, I was called to the Bar of England and Wales, and in October 2003, I was admitted to the Ghana Bar. I possess the right of audience in both jurisdictions. My primary practice areas include general common law, commercial/corporate law, immigration law, and human rights law. I have completed the Litigation training course as well as the direct access training and I am a registered Direct Access Barrister.

I am a Hall Committee member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple as well as a member of the Middle Temple's Mentoring Committee. In addition to other professional associations and memberships, I am a listed Counsel of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and a member of the International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA) where I hold the position of the chair of the ICCBA membership committee, have held this for two consecutive years.

### ***What can you offer the Bar Council?***

I have been in private practise for over 20 years and have worked with a variety of clients involved in several areas of practise. I have also trained pupils and am familiar with some of the challenges pupils face. I will be able to contribute my experiences gained from the various roles I have held in my practise to the work being done. Throughout my career as a barrister, pupil supervisor, and direct access barrister, I have benefited from the many guidance updates, trainings, and networking events hosted by the Bar Councils. It is therefore time for me to contribute my experiences and insights to the Bar Council to enrich its work.

### ***What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?***

When I consider the work being done by the Bar Council and the experiences I have gained over the years, I am motivated to get involved and contribute back to the bar in general by participating in the Bar council's decision-making and implementation processes.

The Bar's representation of the profession outside of our territory and the recommendations made on our behalf are what motivate me to participate and have my voice/opinions and those of many other barristers like myself heard.

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## **Philip Stott**

*Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?*

I came to the Bar from a state school with no legal background. I was lucky enough to be taken on by one of the leading sets specialising in crime, fraud and professional regulation. I have over the years developed a successful practice prosecuting and defending in privately and publicly funded cases across a wide range of criminal offences including rape, homicide, terrorism, fraud and firearms. Having previously acted as the Treasurer and the Equality and Diversity Officer of my set, I have now been a member of the Bar Council for the last three years. I am currently co-Chair of the Bar Council's Legal Services Committee, which exists to improve the way in which we as barristers provide our services to the public by responding to consultations and seeking to inform better policy from government, regulators and the Bar. It does this in conjunction with panels specialising alternative dispute resolution, information technology and direct access.

*What can you offer the Bar Council?*

I have a particular interest in maintaining and expanding equality of opportunity, both in terms of recruitment *to* the Bar, and retention of those *at* the Bar. As a result of my tenure on the LSC, I have come to experience first-hand how necessary it is to liaise effectively with government in order to obtain improvements in the way we work and represent our clients. This includes the ability to lead our responses to the constant stream of consultations, developments and new proposals in a way which has impact and can actually bring about real change for the better.

*What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?*

I want to continue my work on vital matters such as pressuring the government to improve dramatically the digital systems we are all expected to use, to put much-needed investment into the court estate, and to reform the burdensome regulatory demands on barristers. Having seen the work the Bar Council do, I believe that it provides the best way for members of the Bar to fight for (i) upholding and improving standards in our justice system (ii) respect for the rule of law in this country and around the world and, fundamentally, (iii) our own continued survival as an independent profession of high-quality advocates.

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## **Satvinder S. Juss**

*Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?*

I have a public law and human rights practice, with an emphasis on immigration, discrimination, and religious rights work. I have been on the Panel 'A' of Advocates

for the Welsh Government and Panel 'A' of Advocates for the Equality & Human Rights Commission, and I have appeared in the High Court, Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. I sit as a part-time judge of the Upper Tribunal (UTIA). I am also teach Human Rights Law and International Refugee Law at King's College London. I am the author of a number of books and have written extensively in journals ranging from the Modern Law Review to the Cambridge Law Journal and the Oxford Journal of Legal Studies on a range of legal topics. I am a Bencher of the Gray's Inn where I am a member of the Equality & Diversity Committee. I am also a member of the Bar Council's Education & Training Committee. I have taught advocacy classes in the past and am keen to do so again in the future.

***What can you offer the Bar Council?***

These are trying and testing times, especially for the young Bar. We must prioritise Well Being and Support for our members, especially when the Bar itself is under so much pressure. In an uncertain world the interests of the junior Bar must not be overlooked, if they are to become the senior practitioners of the future providing service to the community, which the Bar has always been known for. That means supporting continuing education, co-operation, and skill-sharing. We can, and must remain strong. And, we must help with diversity and social mobility. Elect me. I will support these objectives.

***What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?***

Last year I was invited to join the Education & Training Committee of the Bar. elected to the Gray's Inn Barrister's Committee ('GIBC'). I have enjoyed immensely the work we have done, from the Pupillage Gateway to the proposed 'legal apprenticeship' involving 'Learn as you Earn' that has been proposed by the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives ('CILEX'), which we have vigorously opposed, as diluting the essential standards of a professional Bar. It is work I would hope to continue because the English Bar remains widely respected across the Commonwealth and the interests of barristers in all aspects should be protected. The Bar needs to remain strong. That is my motivation.

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**Shobana Iyer**

***Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?***

I have a broad commercial and corporate practice frequently involving cross-border issues in corporate, intellectual property (IP), technology and data protection laws. I have experience in a wide variety of industry sectors including renewable energy, financial, retail, international trade, healthcare, sports, creative, technology, media and telecommunications (TMT) sectors. I am presently the co-vicechair of the Legal Services Committee of the Bar Council of England and Wales having been appointed

in January 2021, following my work on the IT Panel from 2016 and Chair of the Remote Hearing Working Group (Civil) in 2020 set-up during the Covid 19 Pandemic to deal with the challenges to transitioning in-person hearings to remote and hybrid hearings. I also practice as an arbitrator and played a prominent part in resurrecting the Bar Council's Service Appointment Scheme from drafting the new rules and procedure to enable members to be appointed by the Chair of the Bar Council as arbitrators, mediators or experts when requested by parties. More information can be obtained from my LinkedIn Profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/shobanaiyerbarrister/>

***What can you offer the Bar Council?***

I hope to continue to contribute to our profession in: (i) Leading the way in assisting the Bar Council to be ahead (both domestically and international) in both LawTech and TechLaw so that the profession as a whole, is kept in sync with the use of emerging technologies (artificial intelligence, blockchain and quantum computing) by society, as well as the legal sector. (ii) Assist in collaborations with other professional institutions and networks for responsible climate action. (iii) Strengthening international relations in the dispute resolution community and dealing with inclusivity and diversity

***What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?***

I am proud to be a practising barrister of England and Wales. Our commitment to integrity, excellence and justice is well respected globally, due to our ethical standards, and codes of conduct as well as our dedication to the rule of law. Since my successful election in 2016 I have actively contributed to the Bar Council, serving as various Committees and Panels, contributing to guidance and training, making meaningful contributions for our profession. I enjoy collaborating with fellow members who share a genuine passion for our work and willing to take on the challenges to support our profession and society, as well as trying to steer policy holders, and regulators in the correct direction.

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## Employed KCs or Juniors OVER seven years in practice

**Adam Richardson**

*Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?*

I was called to the Bar in 2011. I am a passionate advocate with a mixed common law practice based at 1 Essex Court. I frequently write articles for LexisNexis, give lectures and seminars and have contributed to the book *CyberCrime: Law and Practice*, now in its second edition. I am also a keen supporter of Neurodiversity in Law and recently applied to join their executive board. I hold a dual practicing certificate and have worked independently as well as in-house during my time in practice so have a rare perspective on the unique challenges facing both sides of practice. I am an active member of Gray's Inn and try to give back to the profession wherever and whenever I am able.

*What can you offer the Bar Council?*

I was previously elected to local government (as an independent) to represent the Temple and have always had the Bar's interests at heart. In addition, I have a record of representing those interests and where necessary speaking truth to power. I have insights from both the employed and self-employed Bar and if elected will bring my diverse knowledge and experience to the benefit of all barristers, not just a select few. I have experience in working collaboratively to accomplish difficult outcomes amongst competing interests and a strong grounding in technology and law to assist the Bar Council in keeping up with changes in the profession.

*What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?*

I believe the pandemic brought to the forefront of our attention the cracks that have been forming in the profession for the last decade. The backlog in the civil bar is growing unmanageable and the criminal bar has had to strike. With the advent of AI within practice, now more than ever, the Bar needs unity and solidarity. I am no longer comfortable to sit back and expect that someone else will fix the problems facing the Bar and I wish to work collaboratively in finding solutions that benefit all.

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**Lucinda Orr**

*Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?*

I am a Partner at the disputes specialist firm, Enyo Law LLP, based in London. I specialise in high value international commercial disputes, with a heavy side order of fraud. I also sit as an Examiner of the High Court, pursuant to CPR 34.15.

I have previously served as Chair of the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry (2012-5); Chair of the Employed Barristers' Committee (2017 & 2019); Chair of the Annual Bar Conference (2018); and Co-Chair of the Bar Representation Committee (2020-2023). I have also just finished Co-Chairing the Working Group on the future of the Bar Conference.

I chaired the Gray's Inn Barristers' Committee (2020), and now as a Bencher, I am the Master of Events, as well as sitting on Gray's Scholarship Interview panels. I am also the Scholarship Officer for the International Bar Association.

In all these roles, I have always strived to improve the lives of barristers and those hoping to enter this fantastic profession. From lobbying to remove restrictions on employed barristers sitting as part-time Judges, to Court ID cards - I passionately believe in the One Bar ethos - and that fierce independent legal analysis and advice, unites us all.

***What can you offer the Bar Council?***

I can offer the Bar Council enthusiasm, dedication and institutional memory.

It is a privilege to have previously been elected to the Bar Council. I have been honoured to serve to date, but there is always more to do, and I do feel I still have much more to offer!

I would relish the opportunity to continue to push for changes that reflect the times. For example, deferral of Call to post Pupillage now needs to be given really careful consideration, as does the huge expense and regulatory burden of unregistered barristers, which falls on the practising Bar.

***What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?***

As the retiring Co-Chair of the Bar Representation Committee ("BRC"), my committee is responsible for the revenue raising areas of the Bar Council.

In due course, I would like to stand as the Treasurer of the Bar Council, when the current Treasurer is set to have to constitutionally retire next year. I believe I am very well placed for this role, having spent 4 years as the Co-Chair of the BRC, I know well the finances and revenue streams of the Bar Council. As ever, my aim will be to extract maximum benefit for us all!

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**Peter Grieves-Smith**

***Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?***

I was called to the Bar in 1989, self-employed at 6KBW College Hill until 2007 and thereafter in the CPS.

I prosecute murder and complex drugs trials – usually as leader but sometimes as junior – in Courts in the Midlands.

Many of the murder cases have been high profile and been front page news on national newspapers. My appellate work has included the CCRC appeals of Kenneth Noye, Sally Challen and Andrew Malkinson.

I am on the Equality Diversity and Social Mobility Committee and Legal Services Committee of the Bar Council.

I mentor students via Bridging the Bar and Social Mobility Foundation.

***What can you offer the Bar Council?***

Experience, commitment, enthusiasm and a desire to represent the Employed Bar in an effective and persuasive way.

I have significant experience of how the Bar Council works.

I have served on many Bar Council committees since 2009 [EDSM, Legal Services, Law Reform and Employed Barristers] and been involved in many aspects of their work including contributing to many consultation papers.

I was on the Bar Council from 2009-2015 and was a Chair of the Employed Barristers Committee

***What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?***

Fabulous work has been done in recent years to enhance the reputation of the Employed Bar but there is much more to be done. We continue to be viewed as being the poor relation by far too many and this affects career progression and judicial and KC appointments. Having been self-employed for 17 years at 6KBW College Hill and then employed for 17 years I understand the issues that arise in most areas of law and practice and with my professional and Bar Council experience I believe I can contribute a great deal. I will represent all Employed Barristers forcefully but effectively.

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**Rebecca Dix**

***Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?***

Contributing to the development of the Bar is something that I am passionate about as I enjoy being part of the creation of fresh ideas and to promote and support initiatives (both new and old). Given my experience at both the self-employed bar for 10 years (2 Bedford Row) and employed (8 years, split between defence practice, government (SFO) and now back to private practice) I consider myself a good addition to the team to provide the insight of someone who has experienced a broad practice and is a true believer, in 'one Bar'. Some highlights include,

- Vice-Chair Bar Association Commerce Finance and Industry (2018-present)
- Elected 2023 Bar Council member (April – December 2023- casual vacancy)

- Governing Barrister Benchers at the Hon. Society of the Inner Temple (2021)
- Pegasus and Scholarship Committee for the Inner Temple (2021- present)
- Chair for the Well-being at the Bar Committee in 2022 (Action plan 2022; design of new promotional video; supporting the delivery of new certificates for chambers commitment to wellness)
- GIR 100 recognised as a leading investigations lawyer (2021)
- Bar Liaison Committee (2017-2021)
- Awarded Legal team of the Year – Employed Bar (2020)
- Inner Temple and Middle Temple new practitioner trainer and mentor

***What can you offer the Bar Council?***

After leaving self-employed practice I have carved out time to make sure that I continue to contribute to the development of “One Bar”. Having been on both sides (both equally enjoyable) when I moved to employed practice, I made a commitment to understand the pressures and responsibilities that both the self-employed and employed Bar have to meet both in the courtroom and out (wellbeing). I keep connected to current issues by volunteering on working groups, committees, training and education for students, new practitioners and with the judiciary and having worked for Government for almost 20 years. My hope is that I can impart some relevance and knowledge to the Bar Council from my journey so far and support the Chair and team to deliver its objectives over the next 3 years.

***What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?***

In April, I was elected to the Bar Council, as an employed Bar member, it has been a great opportunity and privilege to understand on the ground what it means to be part of the Bar Council.

Making a difference in the way we work is important to me and I want to see the Bar continue to thrive to be the best it can be, and being a member of the Bar Council together with advocates and staff members who are best in class I believe we can continue to improve and protect the Bar to remain a wonderful career path for current and future generations.

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**Stuart Alford KC**

***Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?***

I have worked as a barrister in most ways that are possible:

- self-employed in chambers for 15 years;
- internationally, including for the United Nations, for 5 years;
- government-employed at the Serious Fraud Office for 4 years; and,
- private practice-employed in a US law firm for 7 years.



I took silk 9 years ago while I was employed at the Serious Fraud Office.

I am currently Chair of the Employed Barrister's Committee, having been Vice-Chair last year.

I have been an elected member of the Bar Council for the past 3 years, and during the past year was also a member of the General Management Committee.

I am a member of Middle Temple's Employed Barrister Society, having helped get that organisation recognised by the Middle Temple constitution last year.

I regularly attend Bar meetings and events, believing that, as a representative of the employed bar, it helps strengthen and embed the 'One Bar' ethos.

I have been involved with the International Bar Association for many years and was for 5 years the Founder and Chair of the War Crimes Committee.

***What can you offer the Bar Council?***

It has been a huge privilege for me to represent the employed bar during the past three years and I have learnt a great deal about the issues facing employed barristers.

I have established strong relationships and credibility with our self-employed colleagues, which I believe will help ensure that the voice of the employed bar is not forgotten or 'drowned-out'.

I have seen how great our profession can be and how wide its influence and opportunities can extend. I want to see all parts of the Bar promoted and celebrated in the UK and overseas.

***What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?***

I am a state-educated, first-generation graduate, with no family or other connections to the law.

I am strongly committed to a truly diverse Bar, and ensuring that the opportunity for admission and promotion is open to all.

It is essential that our profession is open to the brightest and the best, whatever their background or circumstances. It is equally important that we find ways to keep hold of that diverse profession throughout their careers; whether that be as self-employed or as employed barristers.

I am very keen to continue this work on the Bar Council for a further 3 years.

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**Tom Guest**

***Tell us something about you, your practice and other professional activities at the Bar with which you are involved?***

I was called to the Bar in 2007 and practice as an employed barrister.

As a Crown Prosecutor I have worked in different roles, specialising in prosecuting organised crime. For three years I was the Head of Criminal Casework at the Attorney General's Office.

In my current role I am responsible for a project to revise the CPS' prosecution guidance: more than 300 publications which set out the CPS' approach to decision-making over and above the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

I have worked in different roles with Whitehall and the criminal justice system colleagues intended to promote better law and practice. Most recently, on revisions to the protocol for the exchange of information and material between the criminal and family jurisdictions.

I am also co-chair of the Whitehall Prosecutors' Group, which brings together representatives of several agencies to discuss and liaise on topics of common interest.

***What can you offer the Bar Council?***

I have a clear focus on well-being, as a colleague and a manager, and I would look to bring that to both the Bar Council offer, and its decision-making. I am keen to listen to views and to represent them effectively, to identify challenges but also propose solutions.

I also have experience of working in committees and organisations to make proposals for reform and improvement. I can bring my experience of doing so to contribute to the work of the Bar Council in influencing, championing our professional expertise and insight. I can offer a collegiate and constructive approach to the Bar Council's committees and/or working groups, and will put myself forward wherever I can usefully contribute.

***What is your motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections?***

I am keen to represent, faithfully and diligently, the views and interests of employed barristers effectively within the Bar Council. I intend to focus on practical and tangible ways to improve our professional and working life.

In addition, I hope to contribute to the wider work of the Bar Council including on consultations and Parliamentary briefings. This will come at a time where it is going to be particularly important that the Bar is heard within a political and policy-making context.