

Richard Buston

Self-employed junior over 7 years in practice

About Me, My Practice and Professional Activities

I am a self-employed barrister with a broad civil practice, principally specialising in probate, property and business disputes. My work encompasses matters ranging from contentious probate and trusts disputes to property, insolvency and general commercial litigation. I undertake both advisory and advocacy work and have developed and managed my own practice, giving me a particularly strong understanding of the realities of practising independently at the modern Bar.

My professional background before and alongside practice has given me experience of the justice system from a number of different perspectives. Before coming to the Bar, I served for nine years as a police officer, ultimately reaching the rank of Inspector. I subsequently worked as a Senior Crown Prosecutor with the Crown Prosecution Service before returning to self-employed practice.

My career has therefore involved working within large public-sector organisations as well as developing an independent practice at the Bar. This has given me an appreciation of the different pressures affecting practitioners, clients and the wider justice system, as well as the importance of maintaining a strong, independent and accessible Bar.

I would bring to the Bar Council the perspective of an independent practitioner, together with experience drawn from across the wider justice system.

What I Can Offer the Bar Council

I can offer the Bar Council a practical and independent perspective, informed by experience not only as a self-employed barrister, but also as a former police officer and Senior Crown Prosecutor. I understand the pressures faced by practitioners who are building and running their own practices, particularly outside traditional chambers structures. I am willing to challenge established ways of doing things, while remaining constructive and focused on workable solutions. Above all, I would bring energy, resilience and a willingness to listen to other members of the profession and ensure that their concerns are properly represented.

Motivation for Standing

My motivation for standing is to contribute to the future of a profession which I greatly value, while ensuring that the Bar Council reflects the experiences of those practising in different ways across the Bar. In particular, I want to represent self-employed and independent practitioners who may not always feel that they have a strong voice within the profession's institutions. I also want to help ensure that the Bar remains accessible, adaptable and relevant, while protecting the independence and high professional standards that are fundamental to what we do.