

Anne Crossfield

Self-employed junior over 7 years in practice

About Me, My Practice and Professional Activities

I am a Barrister with a current practice over the last four years spanning mainly Civil Litigation encompassing Family Law, some Contract, Commercial, Employment, Personal Injury and also some Private Prosecution work, as well as general Prosecution and Defence work. Prior to that my practice was more directed towards Criminal Prosecution and Defence work, and general civil litigation over the years.

I have also chaired a Charity voluntarily in 2014/5 namely, "Women of Africa", founded by the late Alice Ukoko and I worked to combat Ebola with Alice through diplomatic channels whilst doing so, working together with African and Western Governments. We advocated a health and military alliance to combat Ebola, which was successful.

I am also a Fulbright Scholar, and I chaired the British Fulbright Scholars Alumni Association for 2 years on a voluntary basis from 2006/7, and thus have an active interest in diplomacy and international affairs. I am currently a Member of Chatham House and have also been a Member of a leading French Think Tank over the past five years, where I have attended and do attend Events, both on and off the record, discussing the international Rule of Law and global diplomatic developments.

I have formerly worked as the President of the Banking and Finance Commission of the International Association of Young Lawyers, (AIJA)) earlier in my legal career.

What I Can Offer the Bar Council

1. I can offer the Bar Council 30 plus years of practical experience as an Advocate in England and Wales in both the criminal and civil jurisdictions.

2. I can offer the Bar Council extensive experience from the international networking part of my career, which has allowed me to network extensively in particular with other lawyers when in AIJA, and with some of the USA London-based Embassy representatives, via the Fulbright Scheme, and latterly at Chatham House and at Think Tank/diplomatic Events in Paris.

Motivation for Standing

I have worked very hard during the whole of my career and thus I am aware of the specific challenges with which Barristers are faced. The issue of cash-flow and fees is always a challenge for self-employed Barristers, and the work is singularly demanding because at the end of the day an individual is a profit centre. I would like to have more direct input to the Bar where rogue events such as the 2025 Legal Aid Agency hacking are now a new challenge, to safeguard the Bar as much as possible from such events in a more unpredictable World than the one in which I started practice.

In the COVID years there were specific challenges, with a gap in work, and also the reduction in physical Courthouse numbers means today that more travel is often required than hitherto, as there are less Court centres available. Also, the advent of more technology and remote working has changed how we work, and it is useful to have been through the experience of conducting advocacy both before and after these changes.