

Benjamin Thiele-Long

Self-employed junior over 7 years in practice

About Me, My Practice and Professional Activities

Called in 2006 I have a mixed criminal and regulatory proactive, with a significant focus on RASSO work, as well as criminal cases involving MHA considerations and disposals.

I'm a lifelong 'circuitteer' - first on the Western Circuit and now South Eastern, but practicing mainly in East Anglia and Essex. I also spent time at the CPS and grew up as the son of two prison governors. The justice system has been part of my DNA since before I can remember, and as such I bring a full 'nose to tail' perspective of the criminal justice system, and how the Bar and the Bench combine forces in the courtroom to make sense of the changes and turmoil around us.

I'm a Middle Temple advocacy trainer and regularly lead QS training sessions for students and new practitioners at the Inn. I also write regularly on advocacy, public speaking, and presentation skills based on a love of advocacy at the Bar, and the belief in a continued collegiate and supportive way of working between Bar, Bench, and the public bodies we interact with.

What I Can Offer the Bar Council

In addition to a decade at the bar, I've spent a decade as a senior communications and DE&I advisor to businesses and charities in the UK, Europe, and America.

I'd bring experience on how to increase our voice in the media on important issues affecting the bar and legal system, and outside perspectives on continued improvement of our DE&I work and programs.

I also believe passionately in supporting the young bar, playing an active role in education and training with my Inn. I'd expand that to mentor and motivate new entrants to the bar as a member of the Council.

Motivation for Standing

It would be an honour to join the Council, and I believe my experience both at and outside the bar can provide practical thinking and action to support the Bar's future.

It's a profession I believe in strongly – having been a 'boomerang barrister' and returned to practice – and if I can contribute in any way to securing the profession's longevity then I'll consider it worthwhile work.

I promise to give my time, effort and commitment to ensuring fair, open and constructive dialogue between Council members and the other organisations we work with.

I also want to bring perspectives from those practicing outside London to inform the Council's wider work, while in turn spending time with colleagues from civil practice about how we can learn from and support each other at the Civil and Criminal bar.