

Financial Solutions

Facilitating the financial relationship between
lawyers and their clients



For more information, contact us on:

T: +44 (0) 20 7611 4680

E: contact.us@barco.org.uk

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How does BARCO work? 4



Guidance for Lawyers 5



Guidance for Clients 7



Guidance for International Clients 9



FAQs 11



BARCO

Owned and operated by the Bar Council, BARCO is a unique solution providing escrow services which facilitate the financial relationship between lawyers and their clients. BARCO is a modern vehicle for managing the payment of fees, litigation costs and disbursements.

LAWYER

As a lawyer, when you are using BARCO you **ensure that your fees will be paid**. The client pays the agreed money into a BARCO account, so you no longer risk spending time and effort chasing up fees. BARCO also provides a Prove ID service, helping you to comply with anti-money laundering regulations.

CLIENT

As a client, your best interests are at the heart of BARCO financial services. All funds received by BARCO from clients remain in pooled segregated accounts for the term of the legal services. The funds are released from the BARCO account only when the lawyer has completed the legal work for you.



WHAT IS AN ESCROW ACCOUNT?

An escrow account refers to money held by a third-party, in this case BARCO, on behalf of transacting parties. BARCO receives and disburses money according to the conditions agreed by the client and the lawyer in their contract.

HOW DOES BARCO WORK?

After the lawyer and the client reach a financial agreement, the client transfers the money into a BARCO account, with the funds only being disbursed in accordance with the initial agreement. BARCO is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), under the Payment Service Regulations 2009 (PSRs).

INTERNATIONAL CLIENTS

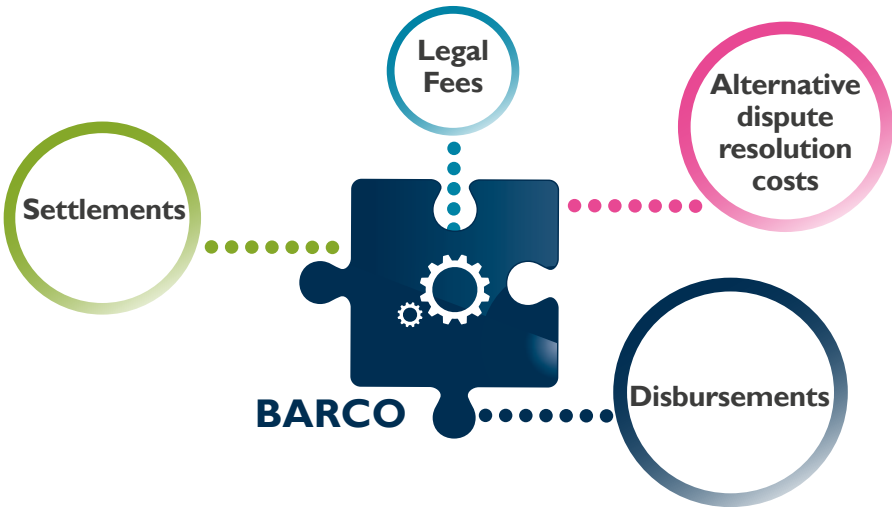
BARCO is also used by international clients who have chosen English and Welsh law to resolve their disputes. BARCO works with Currencies Direct to enable international clients to pay into their BARCO account in their own currency.

How does BARCO work?



BARCO operates an escrow service to receive funds from clients, which are required in relation to legal fees, alternative dispute resolution costs, disbursements and settlements.

All funds received by BARCO remain in a pooled segregated BARCO Client Monies Account for the term of the legal services. This segregated account is maintained separately from all other bank accounts of BARCO and is fully insured. Barclays Bank plc has been engaged by BARCO to provide a safe, segregated account. BARCO prefers electronic payments but will accept cheques in exceptional circumstances.



“*Barrister-Direct Limited and their clients have been using the services of BARCO for 12 months on multiple cases. We find the service easy to use, accessible, adaptable and the service is friendly and helpful. I would recommend their services.*

Andrew Mckie, Barrister, Barrister-Direct Ltd



What does BARCO mean for the lawyer?



BARCO is a unique solution that makes it easier than ever before to work with the legal profession while maintaining the profession's high quality and cost effective services. It provides UK and international clients with a trustworthy and transparent vehicle to manage their legal costs; providing increased flexibility and adaptability for the lawyer.

BARCO enables the profession to accept instructions that it may otherwise be unable to accept but for BARCO's involvement. BARCO already assists with:

- Class actions
- Disbursements and/or settlements required in Public Access cases, and
- Funds required in arbitration and mediation proceedings.

BARCO works with the legal professionals and their clients to reduce credit risk and improve flexibility whilst remaining fully compliant with the practising rules.

“We are one of the “new law” firms, looking for different solutions for our clients. We also look for innovative ways of supplying our services, and an outsourced client account is an excellent way of holding client monies. The solution offered by BARCO is 100% secure, there are no regulatory or accounting constraints and it is relatively inexpensive. BARCO have been and continue to be a pleasure to deal with.”
James Mallender, The Legal Director

Provides peace of mind and security

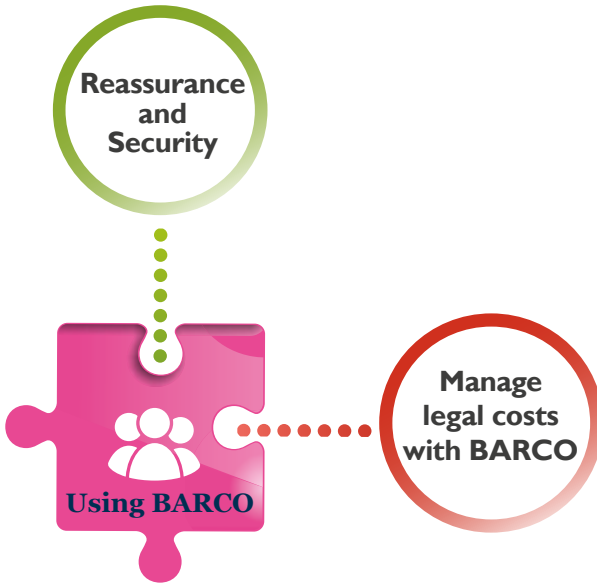


Money laundering

BARCO has procedures and controls in place which are designed to forestall and prevent money laundering. BARCO will ask you to identify yourself and/or your entity along with your client(s) before opening an account.

If BARCO suspects that any party is committing a money laundering offence as defined by the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and Money Laundering Regulations 2007, BARCO will in accordance with its legal responsibilities disclose any such suspicion to the National Crime Agency (NCA).

BARCO is registered with HM Revenue and Customs under the Money Laundering Regulations (MLR), MLR Registration Number: 12697968.



Delivers a simple and secure system



What does BARCO mean to the client?



BARCO facilitates the financial relationship between lawyers and their clients. This means that clients can access the full range of the profession's high quality and cost-effective services supported by a secure and modern vehicle for managing the payment of fees, litigation costs and disbursements.

BARCO provides the client with **reassurance** and **security**. Reassurance that no funds can be drawn from the escrow account unless the client has given prior permission; and security that the funds will always be held by a regulated and trusted third party, not a party who has a direct personal interest in the funds.

By using BARCO, the client is able to pay a fixed sum upfront or regular instalments to fund the provision of legal services enabling them to access the full range of the profession's outstanding high quality advocacy and advisory services.

“Public Access work is an open door for the Bar generally and has been very successful for Chambers. The BARCO Escrow account has always been an essential part of our service, seamlessly dovetailing with our own administrative structure. The security it offers clients is a major selling point for Chambers. If you are not benefiting from it already, you really should be!

Michael Ryan, Practice Manager, New Walk Chambers, Leicester

All areas of Law



How does BARCO work for the client?

The client agrees the terms of the provision of legal services with their lawyer and then both parties sign up to the BARCO agreement. Funds are transferred directly into the BARCO account by the client upon strict terms for their release in accordance with what has been agreed. The client can top up the account as and when necessary.

Once the provision of legal services has come to an end, any residual funds not spent are returned to the client with any applicable interest, as detailed under the terms of the agreement.

“I enquired a few weeks ago regarding BARCO service before we had engaged our Counsel. We had never used BARCO before or engaged services of a direct access barrister, so I wanted more information at that time. Now, after using this service, as a member of the public I have to admit that using the BARCO service has been confidence inspiring and a pleasure overall.

Naveed Rehman, Direct Access Client

Legal Services that BARCO supports

Litigation

Litigation is adversarial in nature. Parties must present their evidence and arguments well ahead of the trial which enables each side to expose the other's weaknesses. As a result, a commercially sensible compromise of the dispute is often achieved.

Arbitration

England and Wales offer experienced specialist arbitrators from a variety of disciplines. The courts support arbitration by ordering the preservation of documents and compelling witnesses to give evidence, as well as by granting injunctions to assist in the enforcement of future or existing awards.

Mediation

Mediation offers an efficient, flexible and economical means of dispute resolution. England and Wales are now host to hundreds of mediators who are experienced in all types of domestic and international disputes.

BARCO enables the client to pay for these services through a transparent and easy service, bringing the specialist services of the profession closer to those who need them.

Supporting lawyers working with international clients



English and Welsh law provides an independent, first-class legal system which international businesses, commercial parties and states will often choose to resolve their disputes.

Parties frequently choose English and Welsh law and turn to the world-class advocacy skills of English and Welsh barristers even though the subject matter and the parties may have no other connection with the jurisdiction.

How does it work for international payments?

BARCO works with Currencies Direct to enable international clients to pay into BARCO in their own currency. Once the client has completed the necessary forms and provided their identification documents, Currencies Direct converts the client's local currency into GBP at prevailing exchange rates and uses this payment directly to fund the specified BARCO account.

BARCO
currently works with
different clients

from **17**
countries



Why use England and Wales?

England and Wales is already a leading jurisdiction of choice for unlocking commercial disputes. It provides a major concentration of specialist services from lawyers, arbitrators, experts and other support services, all with international links. For many years it has enjoyed a reputation as a highly sophisticated centre for dispute resolution using litigation, arbitration and mediation.

London's new purpose-built business court, the Rolls Building, houses the greatest concentration of judicial expertise anywhere in the world. Located between legal London and the City's financial district, the Rolls Building hosts 31 courtrooms and 55 conference rooms.

It is home to all three historic jurisdictions:

Chancery Division - a modern business, property and financial court, specialising in intellectual and other property-related disputes, banking and company work

Commercial and Admiralty Courts - specialist courts dealing with a wide variety of high-value commercial cases including disputes arising from international trade energy, world financial or commodity markets, shipping and specialised marine disputes, and

Technology and Construction Court - specialising in technology and construction disputes and all types of engineering and infrastructure projects.

*“ I have found that the BARCO facility has altered the manner in which I can offer services to a public access client. Rather than having to agree a fixed fee in advance, which may be unfair on the client or counsel, a sum can be placed in escrow which covers an agreed ceiling of work, with the facility for unused funds to be returned to the client. The service is fast and efficient but remains personal and easy to use. **Rhys Taylor, Barrister, 30 Park Place, Cardiff** ”*

Fast and efficient service



FAQs



What happens to the interest earned on BARCO?

All interest earned while the funds are in the BARCO account, following the day after receipt, is passed on to the client. This is often at a higher rate than can be earned on an instant access bank account.* BARCO may amend the interest rate immediately and without notice. If it does, it will notify the client within five business days of any such amendment.

Any interest owing shall be calculated at the interest rate from the following business day after receipt. Payment of interest is subject to the funds being in excess of £250 and held over a period of two or more business days. Any interest will be paid to the client when the escrow account closes upon termination of the legal services.

* Individuals should use all due diligence when comparing interest rates. BARCO expressly refuses to guarantee any rate of interest.

What if something goes wrong?

BARCO strives to offer an excellent service and welcomes the opportunity to address any concerns and improve its service for the future.

If BARCO users wish to make a complaint, they can contact the Escrow Account Manager on +44 (0) 20 7611 4680 or contact.us@barco.org.uk. BARCO's full complaints procedure can be found on the Bar Council website at www.barcouncil.org.uk. As BARCO is subject to the regulation of the FCA, any complaint from a client or lawyer (but not entity) that BARCO was unable to resolve amicably would be subject to the jurisdiction of the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS).

You are entitled to compensation for any unauthorised payments in the event that BARCO transfers funds after receiving notification from you in accordance with the agreement that you are withdrawing consent for the payment, or if the payment is not authorised in the manner prescribed in the agreement.

BARCO maintains adequate insurance in the event that losses are suffered as a result of fraudulent activity or incompetent actions.

Bar Services Company Limited, trading as BARCO, is registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in the United Kingdom (Firm Reference Number [FRN]: 589580) to carry on payment services activities under the Payment Services Regulations 2009 (PSRs).



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