



The Bar Council

Candidate Statements for the Bar Council Elections 2023

The candidates who are standing in the election for the 2023 Bar Council have been announced. Four categories are going to ballot:

Self-employed Kings Counsel.....	2
Self-employed Junior Counsel over 7 years in practice.....	9
Self-employed Junior Counsel under 7 years in practice.....	27
Employed Junior Counsel or King’s Counsel over 7 years in practice (<i>Elected</i>)	33
Employed juniors under seven years in practice	36

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

Online voting will commence via MyBar on Wednesday 5 October 2022 and votes must be cast by 10am on Wednesday 19 October 2022.

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.

Self-employed Kings Counsel

Nicholas Bacon KC

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

About Me

Called to the Bar in 1993. Took Silk in 2010. Head of Chambers at 4 New Square. Father of two children (18 and 21). Favourite pastimes – yachting and skiing.

Practice

I am recognised as a leading silk by both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500 in my specialised field of funding litigation and costs. I am also recognised in Regulatory Field - this includes solicitors' /barrister regulatory and disciplinary work. Also practice professional negligence work with particular emphasis on solicitor and barrister's negligence.

Other Appointments

Authorised to sit as a DHCJ (s.9)

Recorder – Civil and Crime

Legal Panel Member of the Costs Lawyers Standard Board disciplinary panels

Bar Council

Member of the Bar Council – QC (is it was then) Elected Member.

Joint Chair of the Bar Council Remuneration Committee for 4 years.

Member of the Bar Council Remuneration Committee for over 10 years. Despite retiring from Chairing that Committee I continue to volunteer to sign in for meetings and contribute to the good work that Rem Com does.

Represented the Bar Council in the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court as intervener in significant cases shaping the work of barristers and remuneration.

Co-author of the Bar Handbook for over 5 years before the BSB took over as regulator and introduced its own Bar Handbook.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

Reasons for Applying

I am committed to ensuring that the Bar Council provides the Bar with the best opportunities for all, acts to maintain the high standard of excellence across the Bar and ensures the Bar's work is properly recognised by all quarters of government and the public at large.

I have built up a wealth of invaluable experience in representing the interest of the Bar through Bar Council and committee memberships.

In order to make change you have to be a part of the mechanism that creates the changes. That is the reason I am applying to continue the work I have been doing for the past decade.

I am confident that I can achieve the above objectives.

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

I have thoroughly enjoyed contributing to the work of the Bar Council and feel that I still have the capacity to do so with the energy and enthusiasm that led to me standing in the past. I have in the course of my time as Chair of Rem Com and a member of GMC secured improvements to the lives of barristers – a good example was the committee’s work at the outset of Covid and securing amendments to legal aid regulation to permit emergency funding to junior members of the Bar. Representing the Bar at significant junctures of costs reforms has been invaluable and rewarding. I plan to continue this good work, As Head of Chambers at 4 New Square I have plenty on my plate – but notwithstanding I am more than happy to continue to support and promote the invaluable work of Bar Council with my principal aim of representing the very best of the Bar to Government and society generally, and improve the working lives of barristers at all levels.

Malcolm Bishop KC

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

I am a generalist with an unusually widespread practice embracing commercial, criminal, family and public law work. This is what solicitors expected when I was a junior in Cardiff, and I have carried on doing all sorts of cases in Silk. I was a Welsh circuit representative on the Bar Council during the era of the ‘Green Papers’ and on FLBA committee for many years.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I am mightily fed-up by the way the Government is treating the publicly funded Bar. We need a more vigorous response with input from a professional negotiator such as an experienced Trade Union leader. The time for polite discussion is over. The government only respects strength.

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

After many years of grumbling from the side-lines, I feel impelled to act. I have fought the bar’s corner in correspondence in the Times and on Talk TV when interviewed by Rob Rinder. I would like to play my part in making our representative body an effective and respected vehicle of improving the lot of its members.

Steven Gee KC

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

My practice is in Commercial Litigation, International Arbitration and includes Fraud cases, and asset recovery. I write Gee on Commercial Injunctions now in 7th edition. I am a member of Combar and have given lectures for Combar, the Chancery Bar Association and to Court of Appeal and High Court judges on interim remedies. I sit part time and have criminal, family and civil tickets. I am also a member of the New York Bar and have appeared in various common law courts. I have helped for many years with Middle Temple Advocacy and recently I was part of the Bar Council and Cypriot Bar Common Law Conference in Cyprus in June 2022

What can you offer the Bar Council?

There needs to be strong representation in dealings with the MOJ for the criminal bar and all other sections of the Bar. Powerful submissions are required on court rules and the Bar's working arrangements. This includes facilitating remote hearings which could give barristers a much better life and improve access to justice. There needs to be a strong plan to reduce the increasing unnecessary costs and regulatory burdens imposed on the Bar, and to improve decision making on applications for silk and judicial appointments.

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

Nothing is permanent except change. I have given evidence in the Open Justice Inquiry to seek the right for applicants for PTA in the Court of Appeal to have an oral hearing. This would substantially increase appellate work for all parts of the civil bar and much improve access to and quality of justice for everyone. Abolition of the right in 2016 was done at short notice led by the MOJ, and against the strong objecting representations made by the General Council of the Bar. It has left us with a system where three quarters and more of the case load in the Court of Appeal has no oral hearing, no published arguments and no published judgments. The criminal bar is essential to the proper administration of justice. News channels throughout the world have covered the dispute. My motivation is to ensure that the MOJ, the judiciary and the Rules Committee in future listen to the voices of the Bar.

Stephen Kenny KC

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

I am a commercial practitioner (called 1987, silk 2006), with a broad practice, but specialising particularly in maritime and insurance matters. I am a member of COMBAR, BILA and of the Admiralty Bar Group.

I have been Chair of the Bar Council's Ethics Committee since 2021, a member of that Committee since 2011. Throughout that time I have personally advised many dozens of barristers who have approached the Ethical Inquiry Service, and I have contributed to, and now lead, the Bar Council's development of policy positions on ethical issues.

Before that (from 2004) I served on the Professional Conduct and Complaints Committee.

I have been a member of the Bar Council, and of its General Management Committee, since 2021.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I can offer the Bar Council what I have learned, through long experience, of the ethical and professional problems facing barristers.

I will bring a commercial practitioner's perspective, but I know from my work on the Ethics Committee that what we have in common as barristers – in particular the similar problems we face, whether we do criminal or family or civil work – is much more important than the differences between practice areas.

I have chaired my own Chambers' Pupillage Committee. In that role I tried, with some success, to address issues of inclusion and diversity. But I recognise that, as a profession, we still have a distance to go in that regard.

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

I wish to complete my term as Chair of the Ethics Committee. As a member of the General Management Committee, I have been closely involved in many of the issues confronting the leadership of the Bar, and wish to continue to be able to assist it.

I want to support the Criminal Bar in its campaign for fair remuneration. The Criminal Bar currently faces an existential threat, and all sectors of the Bar must recognise a collective interest in its survival and seek to dissuade the government from its present inflexible position.

I also have a particular concern about the high levels of debt that pupils routinely carry – the median range reported being £40,000 - £50,000. In turbulent economic times, to carry such a level of debt at the beginning of a career is likely to be oppressive and may become unsustainable, particularly for those starting out at the Criminal Bar. That burden must be reduced. It threatens the progress already made in improving the inclusivity of the profession.

Barbara Mills KC

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 1990 and took silk in 2020. I am a family law practitioner specialising in particularly difficult and complex children cases. My work broadly involves 2 types of high conflict cases: private law disputes featuring allegations of serious abuse and parental alienation and the international movement of children. I am a Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers.

I am the co-editor of the International Family Law Journal.

From January 2023, I will be the joint head of chambers at 4PB – one of the leading family law sets in England and Wales.

I have been a Recorder on the South Eastern Circuit for over 10 years. I am an arbitrator (children cases) and an accredited mediator trained to offer child inclusive mediation.

I am a member of the Bar Council's EDSM committee and the co-chair of the Bar Council's Race Working Group (RWG).

In 2021, I became a Governing Bencher (Inner Temple). I am a member of the Inn's EDSM and international committees.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

In June 2020, I was asked by the Bar Council to co-chair the RWG and identify specific issues to address. In November 2021, the RWG produced its first report which provides a snapshot of race at the Bar together with recommendations for stakeholders to implement to lead to effective change. I offer a proven track record of working collaboratively and hard, both with and leading a team, to deliver on specific and challenging tasks. My work with the RWG has been delivered in partnership with many including the Circuits, SBAs, Inns, Institute of Barristers' clerks and LPMA. I value working with colleagues across the profession and will continue to apply that same tenacity of purpose to all Bar Council business.

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

I want to raise the voice of the publicly funded Bar which continues to face serious challenges, including the Family Bar. There is now much more discussion about equality, diversity and inclusion across the profession but there is much work to do to improve access to opportunity at the Bar. I will continue to work with others to deliver tangible progress which will improve the current uneven playing field. Our profession provides a vital service. I would relish the opportunity to represent barristers at all levels of seniority and across the Circuits to the best of my ability.

Jo Sidhu KC

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

I was called in 1993 and took silk in 2012. I practise from 25 Bedford Row in London and No5 chambers in Birmingham. Although my main area of practice has been criminal law, I have also undertaken work in family and extradition cases.

I served as Vice Chair of the CBA from 2020-21 and then as Chair from 2021-22. In my capacity as CBA Chair, I also served on the Bar Council in 2021-22. Over that time, I have contributed extensively to the work of the Council and the GMC, particularly with respect to legal aid remuneration and supporting the recovery of the courts. My involvement has extended across various committees and groups set up, or attended by, Bar Council members: Remuneration, Criminal Justice Recovery, Crown Court Improvement Group, CPS, HMCTS, Court Safety, MoJ.

I have a longstanding commitment to improving diversity and inclusion at the Bar having previously served for 15 years on the EDSM, including as Vice Chair. I championed diversity as President of the Society of Asian Lawyers for 4 years and I continue that work with the EDI committee at Lincoln's Inn where I have been a Bencher since 2014. I believe strongly in enhancing access to the Bar for less advantaged applicants and I have actively mentored many such students. I am myself a product of a state comprehensive school system.

I am an avid supporter of advocacy training for the Bar having been a lead trainer in advocacy and ethics for my Inn for many years. I have also taught internationally with the ICCA.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

As CBA Chair, I engaged widely with the senior judiciary, the Ministry of Justice, HMCTS, Circuit Leaders, Inns representatives, elected members of the BC, leaders of the solicitors' profession, and the media. If elected, these experiences would assist me in making an effective contribution to the work of the Bar Council.

I would like to give particular focus to the Bar Council's work on diversity and remuneration where I have gained much expertise.

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

The publicly funded bar is facing enormous challenges. If the problem of low legal aid fees and falling real incomes is not addressed urgently, we will continue to see an exodus of barristers from legally aid work. This will result in a serious imbalance in the distribution

of independent barristers across practise areas. It will also undermine much of the progress we have made in increasing diversity and inclusion within our profession. As an elected member, I would use all my experience to advocate for the long-term sustainability of publicly funded work and develop mechanisms by which we can (at least) preserve the gains we have made in promoting diversity and inclusion.

Self-employed Junior Counsel over 7 years in practice

Ross Beaton

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

I've been a clinical negligence/personal injury practitioner for 8 years. I now practise at the independent Bar from 7BR in London. Before 7BR, I spent a year as an employed barrister with Government Legal and 3 years with Lamb Chambers, a London civil set.

Within my own Chambers I am part of our Wellbeing group which introduces initiatives to support and assist barristers in their professional lives. I'm also part of our ongoing work to implement recommendations from the Bar Council's 2022 Race at the Bar report.

Outside chambers, I have provided advocacy training, through Inner Temple and on the Isle of Man. I've been involved in mentoring, both formal and informal, since my early years at the Bar. I have a strong commitment to pro bono, having sat on Advocate's Young Bar group during the pandemic and then recently becoming a case reviewer. I've also been on the board of Brixton Advice Centre for 5 years.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

As part of a multi-disciplinary set, I am acutely aware of the challenges barristers and aspiring barristers face across different practice areas. Investment in the criminal justice system is a must. Supporting access to justice is a key plank of our system as a whole, including providing workable funding for civil and family.

Working with mentees and young people means that I am fully aware of the issues facing those who are new to our profession or trying to join it. If elected, I would contribute to the Bar Council's ongoing work to make our profession open and accessible to all.

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

Today's Bar faces a wide range of challenges, including chronic lack of state investment; retention and progression of under-represented groups; and how to grasp the opportunities presented by technological progress. Now that I have established my own practice, I want to work collaboratively with others within the Bar Council and to give something back to our profession as a whole. I would be particularly interested in work around Diversity and Wellbeing at the Bar.

Dr. Anton van Dellen

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

My practice encompasses defamation, public law and commercial litigation. I am currently Vice-Chair of the Legal Services Committee (LSC), having served under Samuel Townend KC and Caroline Goodwin KC.

I also sit as a Bar Council observer on the Civil Justice Committee (CJC), from which I feed back to the LSC developments in the CJC, including electronic working, compulsory ADR and vulnerable litigants.

My work on the LSC have included contributing the Bar Council's response opposing the government's intention to introduce fees for Immigration Tribunals. I have a long-standing interest in access to justice and the rule of law. My current work on the LSC is examining the role of non-judicial office holders exercising judicial functions.

I also sit on the Education and Training Committee and have an interest on reducing barriers for applicants applying for pupillage.

I sit on Inner Temple Executive, Finance, Investment and Bar Liaison Committees, serve as an advocacy trainer for Inner Temple, am a case reviewer for the Bar Pro Bono Unit (Advocate) and sit as an Assistant Coroner in West London.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I have experience sitting on the Legal Services and Education and Training Committees, as well as the Civil Justice Council (CJC). I also have experience in contributing to Bar Council responses to government consultations.

I can also offer another link to the Inns, given that I sit on several committees at Inner Temple.

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

My motivation is to hold the Bar Standards Board to account for the increase in the fees being charged to the profession which are reflected in our Practising Certificate Fee (PCF), the delays in investigating barristers accused of misconduct and the support offered to barristers who are accused of misconduct.

I also wish to continue the work which has been started in the LSC challenging the role of non-judicial office holders exercising judicial functions.

Catherine Grubb

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

I am a self-employed Public and Chancery practitioner based in Cardiff, with experience working sectors including immigration/asylum, local government, education, Equality & Human Rights, European law, personal injury, land, leases, wills and probate. I have recently spent a year in employed practice working for a public body and was elected last year as a bar council representative in my employed capacity. I continue to sit on the Education and Training Committee and Representation Committee of the Bar council.

In tandem to my practice, I also spent some years teaching on Cardiff University's LPC and BPTC courses as well the WRU pro Bono scheme mentoring law students. I have contributed to Butterworth's Personal Injury Law and am on the Lexis Nexis Panel of Experts for Wales whose remit is to produce content on Welsh law for Lexis Nexis PSL.

I am also a fee-paid first tier tribunal judge in HESC, fee paid employment judge, mum of 2 children under 6 and girl guide volunteer and trustee of Ty Hafan (a children's hospice based in Wales).

What can you offer the Bar Council?

Having worked in a variety of sectors, I have a good understanding of the demands and issues faced by practitioners, both employed and self-employed, which will help me effectively represent a wide cross-section of the bar.

Preparing papers for the executive team and board members in the civil service stands me in good stead to successfully advocate for members when producing responses on behalf of the Bar Council to public bodies.

My previous teaching experience could also help me make a useful input on matters of training and development.

I hope my existing experience on the bar council committees and on the board of Trustees at Ty Hafan have given me the skills to be an effective representative.

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

I want to be able to contribute towards ensuring that the bar remains an attractive profession for the country's best and brightest. Not just to enter, but to remain.

A diverse bar is a stronger bar and ensuring inclusivity in the profession has the potential to benefit everyone: whilst flexible court operating hours create specific problems for carers, maintaining current operating hours will benefit the well-being of many others. I want to work towards ensuring that working conditions and remuneration is fair, equitable, just and attractive.

Anthony Hand

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

I am an Anglo-Indian working class council house kid, who got a 2:2, who somehow turned out to be quite good at his job, and eventually became HoC

I was called to the Bar in July 1989, my pupillage was in Southampton – first six in a set now called 12CP, and my second six at College Chambers.

Well, 33 years later I'm still at College Chambers, where for my sins I am now Head of Chambers (it's a very successful and friendly family/ civil set with a little crime on the Western Circuit).

When I started out 30 years ago, I was a general common law practitioner, but now I am a solely Family Law barrister. In essence my work is heavy end child law across the Western Circuit.

My work as Head of Chambers at College Chambers has given me a greater insight into the day to day problems facing civil and family practitioners, and also to a lesser extent criminal barristers.

When I am not working my family, golden retriever and garden keep me busy.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I have an awful of experience. Being HoC has added to my knowledge and understanding.

For example, I can see first hand on a day to day basis how difficult it is at the bottom end. Student debts are huge, competition to get pupillage is immense, criminal earning are terrible in the first few years, and the stress of the job (civil, family or crime) is a very real problem.

I can offer the Bar Council my experience, my desire to work hard to ensure the Bar continues to thrive, and a real interest in the problems facing the Bar.

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

My motivation is to help the Bar to continue to succeed, grow and adapt.

The Bar is now facing real problems. The stresses facing the junior Bar are huge, Covid has taken its toll on the mid to upper end, and the Criminal Bar has been forced to take unprecedented action.

Equality (in all its forms) is a passion of mine. Equality issues are improving, but equality remains a work in progress.

Dealing with mental health issues facing the profession is a passion for me.

I want to part of forging our collective future moving forward.

Sara Ibrahim

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

I am a self-employed practitioner in the fields of employment, commercial and professional negligence law, with an international dimension, and a long track record of being involved in support of the wider Bar.

This includes:

Trainer for the Bar Council's Introduction to Race training course to promote race equality at the Bar.

Member of the Race Equality Task Force (BSB) since 2018 (I have written about the work of the Task Force in Counsel).

Member of Lincoln's Inn Bar Representation Committee including as co-chair of a sub-committee on Social Mobility for 4 years. Launched projects with IntoUniversity with Inn and Chambers to promote access to the Bar. Advocacy tutor for student members of the Inn and sat on Scholarship panels.

Pupil supervisor for 6 years providing insight into current training and pupillage arrangements at the Bar.

Beyond the Bar, six years' service as a school governor has given me outside experience of effective governance.

I am a member of LCLCBA, PNBA, ELBA and COMBAR.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I offer experience and commitment to the work of the Bar Council, including proven dedication to key areas for the Bar:

On Equality, Diversity and Inclusion as a Bar Council trainer as well as for my Inn and at Chambers level.

Commitment to training aspirant barristers and ensuring access to the Bar irrespective of means.

Experience outside the Bar in lobbying Government and Opposition on policy issues.

Understanding public relations, critical to upholding the Bar's reputation and standing in society.

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

A strong and independent Bar is vital for the future health of our justice system and the continuance of the Rule of Law. I want to help sustain it and maintain its reputation both nationally and internationally.

I want to use my skills and experience to help the Bar Council continue working towards:

A diverse and sustainable Bar that ensures talent is recognised at both the recruitment and retention stages.

Reversing the squeeze on funding and advocating for fit for purpose court infrastructure (including for remote hearings).

Ensuring the profession thrives across all areas of work.

Amanda John

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

I came to the Bar with previous experience of working in broadcast media (current affairs), government and politics. This background helps me to evaluate issues from different lenses as well as through the prism of being a barrister. My practice areas are immigration, crime and international crime and I am a tenant based in London. I am heavily involved in mentoring young people and mature entrants from different walks of life supporting them with their ambition to join the profession. The Bar can offer a great and exhilarating career. However, there can appear at times a reluctance or hesitation for positive change. The Bar can often feel as if it is an endurance test, both in qualifying and thereafter in practice. I have no desire to make the Bar an unrecognisable entity, not least as I do not think that is what is desired or needed, but I do consider that it is important that your voice can be heard. I am

committed to improving the profession to which we have dedicated ourselves and seeing real change; actions are louder than words.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I offer a refreshing outlook and approach in light of my varied background and entry to the Bar. I can offer a wider perspective and ensure that views of barristers are not ignored but listened to and acted upon, so that lessons are always learned to improve the experience of life at the Bar for all. I have witnessed too many of my colleagues suffer in silence. Personally I have benefitted from senior guidance and the support of the Bar Council. I offer my voice so that others could also benefit. I want to always listen and represent my colleagues so that the working lives for all improve. I offer both my commitment and enthusiasm for the profession, which is underpinned by integrity, honesty and transparency.

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

At the Bar conference last year I was listening to a high profile guest panellist supposedly telling me about 'my life at the Bar'. Ironically, I felt that they had missed the point. I stood up and politely said "that's not my experience". After detailing the reality of my experience many people came up to me to say that I was refreshing, relatable and that they agreed with me. It was commented that I should be part of the Bar Council and offer my voice. That experience gave me the motivation and incentive to apply. I wanted to be a voice and to use my experience and build upon the mentoring I already enjoy. I value the Bar Council greatly and all that it offers. I want to ensure that the Bar listens and evolves for its members. I want to ensure that this is a Bar for all, and that your endurance is not the measure of success. This is why I am here standing in these elections.

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 Privy Council work internationally and immigration, discrimination, and religious rights work, domestically. 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 (UTIAC) and am a Bencher at Gray's Inn. I also teach Human Rights Law and International Refugee Law at King's College London where I am a Professor of Law. 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 have served on the Gray's Inn Barrister's Committee and am on

the Bar Education & Training Committee. I have taught advocacy classes in the past and am keen to do so again in the future. This coming October I will give the Black History Month Lecture at Gray's Inn on 'How the Law Justified Slavery.'

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 the 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 elected to the Gray's Inn Barrister's Committee ('GIBC'). I have seen the focus on Junior Bar Events, the Mentoring Scheme, and Wellbeing. As GIBC member, I have sought to represent the interests of barrister members in all the aspects of my Inn's activities. I would now like to do the same for the Bar. The English Bar remains widely respected across the Commonwealth. Following Brexit, the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Trade are keen to ensure that our legal services are available across the world. The Bar must remain strong. That is my motivation.

Edite Ligere

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

I am an associate member at 1 Crown Office Row Chambers and an advisor at Galileo Global Advisers in New York, NY, U.S.A.

I am a mentor at Lincoln's Inn and participate in various international and domestic pro bono initiatives.

In the recent past, my professional activities relate to global financial regulation, including crypto assets, green finance, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

Having started my professional life and worked in Chambers for a number of years, I worked in a New York law firm as well as in-house at MetLife Inc., and American International Group Inc., both large international financial institutions. I believe that these

and other experiences have enabled me to offer the Bar Council a practical, international perspective on the present and future demands on our profession. This perspective is further informed and strengthened by my multi-lingual and multi-cultural background

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

If elected, I would relish the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Bar Council.

Anne Mary Lawrence

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

Coming from a working-class background, comprehensive school and Polytechnic educated, I started my career path as a Mathematician and then moved into education and taught and lectured in London and in Southern Africa for 13 years, before studying law in 2000. I was called to the bar in 2003 at Lincoln's Inn and following pupillage I practised in Administrative/Public Law from 2006 to 2015, as a tenant in Atlas Chambers and then in 4-5 Gray's Inn Square. My areas of specialism were Education and Community Care Law, Professional and Student disciplinary hearings and advising on the Safeguarding Regulatory framework. In the latter work I have been involved in a law reform project on mandatory reporting of sexual offences against children for those working in regulated activities.

I deregistered as a practising barrister in 2015 to follow a vocational call to ordained ministry in the Methodist Church and am currently serving in Islington & Camden. In 2022 I re-registered as a practising barrister, as a Sole Practitioner and have undertaken the Mediation Foundation Training Course and plan to use my skills and experience in my legal profession to enhance my work in ministry.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I bring a breadth of experience, a different perspective from the norm, and an informed understanding of the realities of life at the bar for under-represented and diverse groups. My work with those living on the margins of society, refugees and asylum seekers, the homeless, the sick, and those caught in the trap of poverty, make me informed and passionate about building a society that is inclusive, compassionate, just and fair. I understand something of the barriers people face every day in trying to access Justice, and I want to ensure the social, economic, cultural, religious, physical, gender and identity diversity of the population is reflected at the Bar, not just as a strapline but as a costly and radical reality in order to break down those barriers.

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

To be part of the change I seek, and that is to make access to Justice truly available to, for and by all. To see a more diverse Bar, that is reflective of the diversity of the population in

England & Wales. My experience at the bar in the early years was mixed; I was treated appallingly by some because of my working-class background; I stood alongside and advocated on behalf of colleagues who couldn't attend compulsory training courses for religious, parenting and financial reasons. And I saw some of the brightest and the best leave the Bar due to lack of support, financial hardship and levels of discrimination and harassment.

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 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.

James Paterson

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

I have been a member of Deans Court Chambers and the Northern Circuit since the completion of my pupillage nearly 11 years ago. My practice is in Civil and Insurance fraud but being a keen sportsman, I also act pro bono for athletes unable to afford representation by being a member of the Sports Resolution Panel. I am a former captain of the Northern Circuit Rugby team and make up for my lack of talent on the field by organising and enthusiastically participating in drinks and Mess afterwards. I am a member of the Pupillage & Mini-Pupillage Committee in Chambers with a keen interest in ensuring fair recruitment and access to the Bar through our work with the Social Mobility Foundation on a local level and Bridging the Bar on a national level. I also act as a mentor to students through the Durham University Bar Society Mentoring Scheme, my *alma mater*, which aims to promote access to the Bar for all.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I can offer my time, which I believe is the most important thing. I hope that the above precis of my life at the Bar demonstrates that I am organised, committed and do not do things by halves. I have recently completed the Bar Council's Fair Recruitment & Selection Training and together with the work I have done with the aforementioned organisations I am acutely aware that we require a modern and progressive Bar whilst keeping the traditions which make it so special and I hope to bring that to the position if appointed.

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

I have thoroughly enjoyed being a member of the Bar throughout my career. This profession comes with its challenges but the camaraderie I have experienced in Chambers, on Circuit and beyond is second to none. It sounds cliché to say I want to give something back for that, but I do. I am also very keen to ensure this profession is one available to all and that the interests of my Circuit are fully represented.

Michael James Polak

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

I practise in criminal law, international law, and human rights law. I have previously been President of the Middle Temple Young Barristers' Association and I am Chair of the Young Barristers' Committee of the Bar Council in 2022.

During my time as Chair of the Young Bar, I have been pleased to initiate a programme with the Kalisher Trust, Skills for Law, in which we have taken young people from academies, who might not usually consider a career in law, to a number of legal locations and have spoken to them about careers at the Bar. As part of this programme, the young people are also taking part in a practical advocacy exercise in which they will be arguing well-known cases in the Supreme Court.

I have also put into place the pilot for the Bar Council-Ukraine National Bar Association internship scheme in which young Ukrainian lawyers spend time at Chambers in our jurisdiction to learn about the law and procedure and to help on cases being prepared for trial. This scheme will not only help the participants whose careers have been interrupted by the Russian invasion but will also build important links between our Bar and the Ukrainian profession.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I have been a member of the Bar Council for a number of years and have been on the Young Barristers' Committee as an ordinary member, then as Vice-Chair, then in 2022 as Chair. During this time, I have put in place a number of initiatives aimed at increasing access to the Bar, increasing the Bar Council's international connections, and improving the Bar for younger members. If re-elected to the Bar Council I will continue with these initiatives and others to improve life at the Bar for our profession.

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

My motivation for standing for the Bar Council in these elections is to continue the initiatives I have started this year which are aimed at widening access to our wonderful profession, increasing the international visibility and networks of the Bar around the world, and improving life at the Bar for members of our profession. I promise to continue to work hard on these matters and anything else which arises which affects the wellbeing of the Bar.

Paul Powlesland

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

When I was born CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere were 348 parts per million. This year, the concentration rose to 421 PPM; the highest levels seen in 3 to 5 million years and far higher than any level previously experienced by human civilisation. The climate and ecological crises this simple fact gives rise to will be the single most important part of all our lives, whether we know it yet or not.

I spent my first eight years of the bar with a mixed civil/commercial practise. However, realising the enormity and severity of the climate and ecological crisis, a few years ago I began acting pro bono for climate and nature protection activists trying to stop the worst destruction. This led to co-founding Lawyers for Nature, which helps lawyers and law students to assist in protecting and restoring the natural world and campaigns for the Rights of Nature (i.e. that nature should have legal personhood and a voice within our legal system). I also began speaking out as a climate activist within the profession, founding Lawyers for Extinction Rebellion, whose protests helped to shift policy at the Law Society and helped lead to the founding of a climate change sub-committee at the Bar Council. I have more recently begun silent solo protests outside key institutions like my Inn of Court to bring the climate crisis to the attention of the Bar and judiciary.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I wish to stand on the single issue of raising the climate and ecological emergencies at the Bar Council and ensuring that our profession steps up to act in a way that is commensurate with the scale of the threat these crises pose. I propose to advocate genuine 'Justice for All', that must necessarily include climate justice, intergenerational justice and ecological justice (giving nature rights and a voice within our legal system).

I believe that at this time and late hour, the discussion must go beyond making our chambers and their buildings net zero. Instead, we must explore what we are doing as a profession to assist the wholesale societal transformation that scientists tell us is necessary to avoid civilisational collapse and the deaths of hundreds of millions of people around the globe. The time for this transformation is running out and the Bar must use its intelligence, influence and courage to assist with this great change.

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

I can offer my unwavering voice as an activist to persuade the Bar Council and the wider profession that proper action from the Bar on the climate and ecological crises is inevitable and we should therefore put ourselves on the right side of history in taking such action now.

I don't believe I have all the answers to the difficult questions; particularly balancing the need for access to justice with the need to stop advancing the interests of a fossil fuel industry committing the greatest crime in human history. However, I believe passionately in free speech and expression and therefore pledge to hold in-person debates and discussion in the best traditions of the bar to begin exploring these difficult questions and answering them together as a profession.

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 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.

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 is on strike. 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.

Natasha Shotunde

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

I am a barrister and Honorary Doctor of Laws, practising from Garden Court Chambers. My work encompasses family law, as well as high profile public inquiries and reviews. I have been an elected member of the Bar Council for the past three years, sitting on its Equality, Diversity and Social Mobility Committee and the Race Working Group. I also sit on the EDI Committee at the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn.

I am the Co-founder and Chair of the Black Barristers' Network (BBN), which aims to provide support and increase the visibility of Black Barristers, and work on community outreach. BBN runs mentoring schemes for junior Black Barristers, webinars and in-person social events, engages with primary schools to inspire pupils, and has collected data on the working lives of Black barristers. BBN won Best Network/Group at the Chambers Europe Awards 2021.

I received the Rising Star award at the UK Diversity Legal Awards 2021 and Highly Commended – Future Leader: Diversity and Inclusion at the Chambers UK Bar Awards 2020 in recognition of my work in promoting racial equality at the Bar. In July 2022, I was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Law from Anglia Ruskin University.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I have made significant contributions to the work of the Bar Council. I have spoken at several events, including Legal Services Board conferences, the Annual Bar and Young Bar Conference, Lincoln's Inn EDI Committee events on issues of race and gender. I facilitated workshops for the Race Summit. I scrutinise documents produced by the EDSM Committee and Race Working Group and make suggestions to the work that we do. One example includes my contributions to the Race Awareness Training, where I:

insisted that we use experts on anti-racism to scrutinise the training guide;

suggested that we recruit a panel of experienced trainers to deliver the training;

assisted in the panel recruitment; and

ensured that those experts were paid to provide their services, as those who provide such services are often people of colour who are expected to provide them for free when they should be properly remunerated for such important work.

If elected, I will continue to make significant contributions to the Bar Council.

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

The work of ensuring that the profession is fair, accessible to all and unbiased when it comes to progression is not done. I am extremely passionate about eradicating inequality and discrimination. I want to continue to work towards that goal. I have used my various platforms to highlight disparities, such as the exceptionally low number of Black female QCs (now KCs) at BBN's Silk event in October 2020 (something members of the Bar and the public were previously unaware about). I have also provided suggestions on how we can improve such disparities, such as suggesting that the Bar Council provide guidance to chambers on how to monitor work allocation by race (a guide for which has been prepared and published by the Bar Council). I want to continue to make contributions which change the profession for the better.

Anna Soubry

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 1995 having completed by Bar finals (I read law at Birmingham University and began my Bar finals over 40 years ago). I practised at the criminal bar in Nottingham for 16 years on the Midland circuit with a largely defence practise. I was elected as a Member of Parliament in 2010 serving as a Government minister in a number of departments finally attending Cabinet in 2015-2016. I lost my seat in 2019. I returned to my Nottingham chambers last year because I enjoy the work and the camaraderie of the bar. I am acutely aware of the crisis in the criminal justice system and the consequences for the bar. I am a staunch believer in an independent bar and have done what I can over the years to support and further the independent bar.

What can you offer the Bar Council

I offer my time (I returned to chambers on the basis I would 'help out' rather than develop a new practise), my experience and connections in Parliament and politics and my commitment to the work of the Bar Council and the independent Bar.

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

I want to give my time, experience and connections to the profession I am very proud to be a member of. The Bar was very good to me when I first practised in Nottingham. During my time as a Member of Parliament I wish I had done much more to defend and promote the independent Bar - especially criminal and family practitioners who rely on publicly funded work. I want to do what I can now to protect and enhance our profession.

David Christopher Taylor

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

I practice in the areas of personal injury and costs litigation. I have always practised from a general Common Law set on the Northern Circuit, where I have held the office of Junior of the Circuit and was intrinsic in the merger with St Johns Buildings. I understand the difficulties faced by both small and larger sets, having seen both first hand. I have served as an elected member of the Bar Council for 9 years and wish to continue to represent the interests of the Bar and in particular those on the Northern Circuit, especially at this time of great challenge to our profession.

I have sat on the Remuneration Committee for the same period and assist in our responses as a profession in all matters relating to Civil practice. I regularly attend consultation events hosted by the MOJ, Civil Justice Council and other organisations in order to assist in the Bar's response to proposed change and seek to influence the outcome. As we are presently involved in many consultations affecting the future of practice at the Bar, I would wish to continue to provide assistance and expertise, both to my committee and to the Bar as a whole.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

With the attack on fees and its impact, my membership of the Remuneration Committee and of my own Chambers' management committee, uniquely positions me to understand the needs of the Bar across all practice areas. I have always seen practice at the Bar not in practice areas, but as a whole, as without each discipline the service to the public could not be complete. I would wish to continue my work with the Remuneration Committee of the Bar Council in particular, working alongside other committee members to respond to consultations and assist in the shape of future practice, especially for those who seek a career at the Bar in the future.

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

I feel that now more than ever, at a time of great change, representation is imperative. I believe that I have contributed to the work of the Bar Council comprehensively over the last 9 years and have more to give. Practice at the Bar has changed and continues to evolve. I wish to continue to represent the interests of all Barristers as we move through difficult times, especially post pandemic, by ensuring their voices are heard as decisions are made.

Helen Tung

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 2009, and have been very fortunate to have an international commercial law practice at the early stage of my career. For a few years I was part of the International Committee of the Bar Council and had the opportunity to represent and/or partake as part of the Bar Council delegation speaking and representing the Bar in New York, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Poland and China. As an international practitioner and an active member of the Bar, I previously served on the British Korean Lawyers Association, British Japanese Lawyer's Society and Inter-Pacific Bar Association. Moreover, having taken part in the Korea- UK Lawyer's Exchange I had the opportunity to experience and represent the Bar in such a meaning endeavour. Over the last few years I have been in the UAE and am part of the DIFC Courts of the Future, practised as a law consultant, Part

II advocate DIFC and now ADGM and also assisted in the setup of the Space Courts of the DIFC.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

Having been part of the International Committee of the Bar Council, the Bar offers such valuable and meaning legal services to international clients that I think as an active member of the Bar practising in international commercial work, we can engage other further international clients and international legal bodies through regular sharing of knowledge, supporting fellow members of the Bar in their international practice through online and/or in person discussions and providing resources to promote the Bar.

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

Over the last few years in working in the Middle East I feel very supported by the Bar and can see how many fellow barristers are also trying to expand their international practice. As a community builder, I believe that the Bar is stronger in numbers and that there is plenty of good work that can be gained through the visibility and sharing of knowledge from the Bar. I would like to support my fellow colleagues in their journey towards and/or sustaining an international law practice. More importantly, it's also about upholding important values of Rule of Law and standards which I truly believe as a member of the Bar we are so fortunate to have.

Self-employed Junior Counsel under 7 years in practice

Sam Fowles

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

My practice focuses on public and constitutional law. Recent cases include *Miller/Cherry v Prime Minister*, *Hamilton v Post Office* (appeals flowing from the “Horizon Scandal”), and the inquiry into the policing of the Clapham Common vigil for Sarah Everard. I serve as counsel to the APPG on Democracy and the Constitution and am on faculty at St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford.

Since May 2021 I have been a member of the Bar Council working group on Human Rights, responding, on behalf of the Bar, to the Gross Review of the Human Rights Act and the government’s consultation. As counsel to the APPGDC, I briefed MPs on the “Bill of Rights Bill”.

In 2020 I founded the Institute for Constitutional and Democratic Research to create a platform for lawyers to interact with policymakers and legislators and to grapple with the big constitutional issues of the day. Our first report, “Money and Democracy: Three Steps to Reform Political Funding in the UK” was published in August.

My first book, “Overruled: Confronting our Vanishing Democracy in 8 Cases” explores the erosion of democratic norms in the UK and the role of barristers and the justice system in protecting key tenets of democracy.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

It has never been more important for the Bar to engage effectively with legislators and policymakers. Key issues of the day - around judicial review, human rights, and more – are central to the Bar. We, as barristers, have both expertise and perspective that can benefit society as a whole, and a legitimate interest in safeguarding our future as a profession.

I hope to offer the Bar Council my contacts and experience, from both my constitutional practice and parliamentary work and my previous career in public policy, to ensure the voice of the Bar is heard in the forthcoming constitutional debates.

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

I became a barrister because I believe we have a vital role to play in democratic society: Empowering individuals and groups by ensuring that their interests are effectively represented in court. I’m putting myself forward for this role primarily because I think that principle needs – and is worth – defending.

Moreover, coming to the Bar from a working class/state school background, I'm intensely conscious of the need to ensure that our profession continues the (ongoing) process of becoming more welcoming to those from so-called "non-traditional" backgrounds. I'd like to help ensure we continue to listen, learn, and take more effective action.

Anneka Jenns

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

I am predominantly a junior criminal practitioner. However, I have begun to diversify my practice, practising in immigration and the niche area of animal welfare law. I successfully completed my pupillage with the Crown Prosecution Service after which I left to join the independent Bar on the cusp of the CBA action. I am what is often referred to as a "non-traditional" candidate. The law is a second career for me after working in the art world as curator. As a firstgeneration immigrant, I had no networks or connections at the Bar and forged my own path into the profession. In 2016, in my late twenties, I began my journey to the Bar. Shortly after this, I was diagnosed both with Specific Learning Differences and Autism Spectrum Disorder. Nonetheless, despite my difficulties and an Art School education, I qualified as a barrister. I am a vocal advocate for mature candidates, diversity and disability at the Bar. I work with charities such as Neurodiversity in the Law and hope my visibility will assist in effecting positive change and representation at the Bar. I am also the co-author of a revision aid specifically written for students with learning differences.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

As a junior criminal barrister, I understand the financial and wellbeing concerns of our practice. I will be able to relay these to the committee and I hope to assist in shaping policies. Furthermore, I can offer the rare perspective into practicing both at the employed and self-employed Bar. Given my background and the changing face of the junior Bar, I believe I will understand the concerns of both "traditional" and "non-traditional" candidates joining the Bar. Although I am developing a busy practice, I am passionate about the issues affecting the junior Bar and I will therefore dedicate the requisite time to my role.

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

As a disabled woman of colour, I understand that diversity still requires better representation at the Bar. I am motivated to highlight our experiences, concerns and practice. I want to represent other juniors like myself, joining the profession from unconventional and disadvantaged backgrounds. I hope to shape policy and represent diversity in all its forms. Furthermore, the Criminal Bar has been going through turmoil for years. Juniors at the Criminal Bar are the most vulnerable to financial hardship and most likely to leave. Regardless of the current CBA action, Magistrates' Court fees and working

conditions still require addressing internally at the Bar and I aim to advance the concerns of my peers.

Shoshana Mitchell

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

I am a tenant at Normanton Chambers with a broad civil practice ranging from tortious claims to contractual matters and land disputes. The highlights of my practice thus far include clinical negligence claims relating to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (“PTSD”) within the military as well as sexual abuse litigation. Whilst based in London, I am used to travelling the depth and breadth of England and Wales.

Prior to joining the Bar, I taught A Level law at two sixth form colleges in Cambridge. Being a first-generation student, I am committed to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion within our profession. To that end, I regularly volunteer my time by mentoring aspiring barristers, speaking at university events, and assisting at qualifying sessions.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

In brief summary, I can offer:

Commitment

I am dedicated to ensuring the Bar is not only reflective of society, but also strives to represent the interests of *all* barristers.

Engagement

I will continue to engage and inspire those from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue a career at the Bar, whilst also ensuring that all forms of discrimination within our profession are properly addressed.

Honesty and Integrity

Having been a member of the Royal Air Force (Volunteer Reserves), honesty and integrity are at the heart of their ethos. To this day, I continue to uphold these core values in all that I do.

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

My primary motivation for standing in this election is to ensure that there is sufficient representation of Junior Juniors (barristers who have completed pupillage in the last four years) within the Bar Council. Having recently completed pupillage, I understand first-hand the challenges of entering our profession at such a unique and unprecedented time (post-Brexit and post-Pandemic). If elected, I would seek to ensure that *all* voices, but especially those at the very junior end, are heard.

In line with Normanton Chambers' core values of equality, excellence, and equity, I would seek to ensure that the Bar is reflective of modern society. The Bar should embrace all individuals regardless of gender, age, disability, race, and/or sexual orientation.

Finally, I would seek to support the Bar Council in trying to overcome the hurdles for those seeking to enter our profession as well as the barriers that persist for those in practice.

James Sharpe

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

Originally, I read history at university, which was followed by a master's degree in medieval history. I also worked for the NHS and then for a Member of Parliament. I was called to the Bar in 2014 at Gray's Inn, and I completed pupillage in 2016. I have been a tenant at 42 Bedford Row since then.

I have a broad mixed common law practice, which means I have experience of many different areas of law, but, that said, over the last couple of years, it has become more focused on all areas of family law. I practise all over the country, but mainly in London, Kent and Sussex.

I continue to remain active in my Inn, for example, by helping with events for new students, and by offering help and advice on pupillage applications and interviews. I also mentor in my chambers.

Otherwise, in my spare time, I enjoy reading history books, going on long walks in the countryside at weekends, and going to the theatre.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

Before coming to the Bar, I worked first in the NHS as an administrator, and then I worked for a Member of Parliament. I have been involved in several clubs and societies, both at university and afterwards, which has previously included becoming a trustee of a charity. In other words, I have a lot of experience, which includes organising events, fundraising, chairing committee meetings, working as part of a team, preparing reports, and many other things besides. I hope these skills and experiences will be valuable for the Bar Council.

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

As my practice has developed and now become more established, I am looking for new opportunities. On the one hand, I hope I have knowledge and skills which will be helpful to the Bar Council; and on the other hand, I hope the Bar Council will be able to provide me with new challenges.

It may be a trite thing to say (and I do not suggest that I am alone in this view), but I love what I do, and I care about the Bar. Standing for the Bar Council seems like a good thing to do in those circumstances.

Sean Summerfield

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

I am member of the Criminal Bar, and a large majority of my clients are legally aided. I came to the Bar later than most, having previously worked with the Foreign Office and in the European Parliament.

I am an active member of the Bar Council, and sit as a Member of the Young Barristers' Committee, working to represent the interests of barristers in their first 7 years of practice.

I am now seeking your vote in these Bar Council elections to play my part in improving the body that represents us all.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I am sure that every candidate standing wishes to represent the views of their peers, promote the best interests of the Bar, and champion the profession. Essential to meeting those aims is the ability of the Bar Council to successfully lobby the government and Whitehall on matters that matter to us all. As we have all seen, the future of the Criminal Bar may depend on it.

Having worked in government and across Whitehall, I hope to utilise my experience to ensure that the Bar Council is represented as effectively as it can be. I have seen first-hand the importance of clear policy development and working closely with government ministers to bring about change.

The Bar is a formidable force, and I want to play my part in ensuring that the Bar Council is equally so.

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

I have seen an exodus of talented juniors from diverse backgrounds, many whom struggled with wellbeing and work-life-balance in a profession they otherwise love, and I understand the difficulties facing young practitioners.

The profession has been consistently attacked by those who consider the Bar an expedient political football, which has impacted not just criminal practitioners, but those in civil, public law and wider afield.

For many, they are at a crossroads in their careers, and I want to play my part in ensuring that the those at the junior end have a voice, and to bring my experience to bear in strengthening the hand of the Bar Council in promoting our interests.

Emma Walker

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 2014 and undertook a tax pupillage at the Self-Employed Bar before moving to the Employed Bar allowing me to change my practice area. I stayed at the Employed Bar until January 2022 when I moved back to the Self-Employed Bar, where I continue to specialise in commercial litigation, employment and arbitration, with a focus upon cross-border disputes. I was an Employed Bar representative for under seven years in practice on the Bar Council from 2018-2021, was a member of Employed Barristers' Committee from 2018 to present (Vice-Chair 2020 and Chair 2021 of EBC) and Young Barristers' Committee from 2021 to present.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I have benefitted from experience over a number of years of both sitting on the Bar Council and as a member of a number of committees. My previous work in the Bar Council has resulted in changes to different elements of the working life of a young Barrister. I would hope that my experience of both the Employed and Self-Employed Bar would allow me to provide full representation to both those at the Self-Employed Bar and those moving to the Employed Bar and vice versa, in the future.

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

Having been a member of Bar Council for 3 years, until resigning as an Employed Bar representative, I enjoyed gaining a much greater understanding as to the workings of the Bar Council, and how representatives can truly contribute to the future of the Bar. Now, as a Self-Employed Barrister, I look forward to being able to provide a greater insight into *both* sides of the Bar as a young Barrister whilst having the benefit of a previous understanding to the workings of the Bar Council, to fully represent young Barristers at a time of real need.

Employed Junior Counsel or King's Counsel over 7 years in practice (Elected)

There were three full-term vacancies and three nominated candidates in this category. Therefore, the following candidates were duly elected.

Nick Cherryman

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, by Lincoln's Inn, in 1991, and practised at XXIV Old buildings from the end of my pupillage for 12 years, in the area of commercial chancery law. I then went to work for an international law firm, as an employed barrister. I have worked as such ever since, at different international law firms. My practice has for many years embraced complex commercial disputes, often involving litigation, arbitration, and investigations, invariably cross border. I continue to appear as an advocate.

The nature of my practice means I have been confronted with a variety of professional, practical, ethical and legal challenges, and have had the good fortune of working with clients and other professionals from multiple different countries, industries and legal systems.

As a partner for many years, I have been involved with the business end of the legal industry from the law firm standpoint.

I live in London. I am the father of three young boys. We are all avid Fulham FC supporters and can be found in the family seats at home games, homework permitting.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

My breadth of professional and legal business experience, both from my days when at the independent Bar, and then at law firms, I hope means that I have something to contribute. I am particularly aware of the client demands and pressures that busy employed barristers face, and the challenges young lawyers face in seeking to forge a successful career in an evolving post COVID legal market.

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

I have been a supporter of the Bar and the Bar Council's activities all my career, and a beneficiary of the good work undertaken by those involved with the Bar Council. I feel it is time that I put my hand up to offer to help.

Simon Regis

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

I have been at the public sector employed bar since 1998 undertaking various roles in a number of government departments and agencies in areas covering crime (confiscation), civil litigation (public and private law), public inquiry work and advisory work. I have also held non-legal positions (policy and project leadership) in the UK and overseas. Currently, I lead a team of lawyers at DCMS Legal Advisers, Government Legal Department (GLD) dealing with the portfolios of Civil Society, Culture and Sport. Within GLD, I am involved in both divisional and organisation initiatives on diversity and inclusion. Outside of GLD, I am co-Chair of the Race Working Group of the Bar Council working with colleagues from across the spectrum at the Bar on improving access, retention and progression for those from ethnic minority backgrounds. I am also member of the Inner Temple Bar Liaison Committee (sitting on two Inner Temple committees as a BLC representative)

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I will be able to bring an experienced public sector and employed bar perspective to work being undertaken by the Bar Council. In addition, I will be able to support the leadership of the Bar Council and contribute to its strategic aims and objectives drawing on my leadership journey and supplemented by my current co-chair position of the Race Working Group. I will also be able to draw on my experience and networks established through membership of the Inner Temple Bar Liaison Committee.

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

As the current co-chair of the Race Working Group, I have had the opportunity to attend both GMC and Bar Council meetings which have provided me with a greater insight into work of the Bar Council. This has been and continues to be rewarding and provides me with opportunities influence and shape the future of the Bar, as well as for personal growth and development

Heidi Stonecliffe KC

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

Called '96, QC 2020. Fourth person and first woman appointed QC from CPS. In house counsel since 2000 practicing as an advocate in large defence firms until transferring to the CPS in 2006. I prosecute complex, multi defendant trials, leading multi-disciplinary teams. Member of the Employed Bar Committee promoting the Employed Bar at pupillage fairs,

judicial appointment and QC appointment seminars. Bar Council Member since 2020. Bencher Inner Temple. I am an Inner Temple Scholarship Interviewer, Advocacy Trainer and Mentor. I regularly speak at CPS and Bar Council Events promoting the Employed Bar and the opportunities it offers. Shadow Board Chair to the CPS Board of Executives, providing critical insight into CPS policy from an employee perspective. Member of several CPS Task Forces looking at diversity and inclusion in the advocacy structure within the CPS and self-employed Bar as well as promoting progression and career development for employed barristers. I have been a featured speaker for the National Black Crown Prosecutors Association, the Middle Temple Young Bar Association and the Temple Women's Forum to promote social mobility and diversity and have lectured pupils and more experienced practitioners in Advocacy, Court Etiquette, Expert Witness Handling, Sensitive Disclosure and Telecom Evidence.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I have been a member of the Bar Council since 2020 and have enthusiastically promoted constructive relationships between the employed and self employed Bar. I have a long and proven track record actively encouraging and improving social mobility, equality and diversity at all levels of the profession, working with those from disadvantaged backgrounds to encourage them to consider a career at the Bar. As a Bencher I have promoted the interests of the Employed Bar within the Inns. I am used to leading large, diverse teams to productive conclusions whilst providing challenge where needed to ensure all perspectives are considered.

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

As a Member of Council since 2020, I wish to continue the progress I have made encouraging a "One Bar" agenda whilst ensuring those in Employed Practice have a proactive and powerful voice. I would like to continue setting a positive example of all that can be achieved by those at the Employed Bar and to demonstrate what the profession can offer those seeking an alternative route to practice. This is particularly important considering the changing nature of the profession and the challenges it poses to many who might otherwise be discouraged from a career at the Bar.

Employed juniors under seven years in practice

Sarah Gerrard

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

Me: I started practising in Albion Chambers with a common law practice. At the time, I was also in the Army Reserves and decided to join the Regular Army so I could combine my love of the law with my passion for the military. I also wanted to feel like I was contributing to a more impactful area of law. An additional advantage of moving to the employed Bar was that I gained the security and benefits of being employed.

My practice: My military posting changes every two years; the postings can include advisory law, operational law and prosecutions – I am currently posted to the Service Prosecuting Authority, so prosecute service personnel and civilians subject to service discipline in Courts Martial (essentially like being in the CPS but as part of the Armed Forces).

Professional activities: I am a mentor for students at Gray's Inn; I provide guidance on CVs, covering letters and applications for internships and pupillages. Whilst I am not involved in many activities at the Bar, I am keen to increase my participation at the Bar, hence this application.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I am an enthusiastic and motivated individual who has practised at both the self-employed and employed Bar, which gives me a broader understanding of both types of practice, as well as an insight into how to transfer between the two.

I am an officer in the British Army and have acted as the Army Legal Services' Recruitment and Training officer for the past two years. I therefore have excellent leadership and teamwork skills, as well as fresh ideas on improving diversity and inclusion, and ideas for future training opportunities, which I hope will assist the Bar Council in its work.

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

To give back something to a profession of which I am immensely proud to be a part. I want to enlighten junior barristers, in particular, to the vast array of career opportunities at the employed Bar and I want to assist in making that application journey as straightforward as possible.

Michael Harwood

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

I have been a practising lawyer at the Government Legal Department since 2017, working across a variety of departments and roles, most recently for a major public inquiry. I have been an elected member of Bar Council since 2020 and am the current Vice-Chair of the Young Barristers' Committee. In this role I have worked hard this year to support the Young Bar and the YBC Chair, in particular in supporting the junior criminal Bar during the ongoing action, strengthening ties with other Young Bar groups both in England and Wales and internationally, and launching new initiatives to benefit junior barristers develop their practices and skills. My work with Bar Council has also comprised involvement with the Climate Crisis Working Group, through which I have sought to bring ideas and initiatives which can empower the junior Bar to bring about changes which I know matter deeply to many of them.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

If re-elected to Bar Council I would take up the role of the Chair of the Young Barristers' Committee for 2023, and provide focussed and hard-working leadership to the Young Bar during a challenging and uncertain time for many. Stepping up from my role as Vice-Chair will also ensure sufficient continuity that I can hit the ground running and build on the projects and relationships cultivated in 2022. I am committed to being a voice for the whole Young Bar, but will also look to build a strong team around me on the YBC whose skills and experiences can be best deployed to the projects that suit them. I offer to undertake this role with the seriousness and dedication it requires, and represent the interests of the Young Bar to the senior profession fearlessly and professionally.

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

Principally I wish to continue the work put in place this year with the YBC, as its Chair in 2023. I want to build a strong and diversely representative committee that can respond quickly and decisively to the needs of the Young Bar, irrespective of seniority, practice or geography. As well as meeting the immediate-term needs of the Young Bar, such as continued engagement on retention and fees for legally -aided practitioners, I would aim to implement one or two longer-term initiatives to improve conditions and opportunities into the future, which I hope would include improving the profession's work on sustainability, which I consider important.

Timothy Manley

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

I am an employed barrister at the Government Legal Department. I have worked on a diverse range of advisory, litigation and commercial work for the FCDO, Department for Transport, Cabinet Office and Department for Health and Social Care. Prior to joining GLD I worked in private practice including as an employed advocate for a national law firm. Outside of my day job I volunteer on various projects developing and supporting junior lawyers and I mentor aspiring barristers from underrepresented backgrounds who want to make a career at either the employed or self-employed bar. I am currently an elected member of the Bar Council and member of the Employed Barrister and European Committees.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I am passionate about supporting and improving the position of all barristers whether employed or self-employed. I hope to be able to use my insight into central government to help advance the aims and interests of the Bar Council's members in particular for barristers under 7 years call.

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

As I only had a short term in the last elections I feel I have much more left to do. If elected this year my priorities will be:

1. Building links between the employed and self-employed bar in particular so employed barristers feel that the Bar Council (and indeed the wider profession) is for them. Despite concerted efforts to date, many barristers in the public sector have little insight into what the Bar Council is doing and only a tiny fraction pay the BRF.
2. Increasing the profile and reputation of the Bar Council, in particular among barristers in the Government Legal Profession, CPS and wider public sector by ensuring continued relevance to pupils and junior barristers.
3. Acting as a voice for the junior end of the profession to ensure issues impacting pupils and junior barristers are never overlooked.

Cait McDonagh

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

I completed pupillage with the Government Legal Department in 2018 and have held legal advisory positions with the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Work and Pensions. In September of this year I joined the Litigation group

at GLD. I am a member of the Administrative Law Bar Association and the Women Barristers' Association.

I joined the Bar Council for a term of one year in 2022 and I am standing for re-election to continue working to improve the opportunities for employed and young barristers.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

In my time on the Bar Council I have also been a member of the Young Barristers' Committee and have been fortunate to learn from other members and contribute to the brilliant work that the Committee does, such as taking action as a result of issues identified in the Life at the Young Bar report. I have particularly enjoyed volunteering for the Skills for Law and Success programme, a pilot scheme run in partnership with the Kalisher Trust. If re-elected I look forward to taking on more responsibility within the Committee to support the junior profession and inspire those seeking a career at the bar.

As an employed barrister I have an insight in to the fascinating and varied work on offer, both within the Government Legal Profession and more widely. I am a member of the GLP Bar Network and as an elected member of the Bar Council I am in a unique position to encourage collaboration between the employed bar and the wider profession, my aim is to build on this and explore new ways of fostering a closer relationship.

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

My experiences as the first generation in my family to attend university with no connections in the legal world has influenced my keen interest in attracting underrepresented groups to the bar. My role as a volunteer mentor for the GLD Diversity Scheme allows me to offer young people guidance and an insight into life as a barrister and at the employed bar. I hope to continue to contribute to the excellent work already underway at the Bar Council to encourage everyone with the desire to pursue a career in the law to do so.

Joshua Sanderson-Kirk

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

I am a Senior Crown Prosecutor in CPS Mersey-Cheshire. I am based in the Crown Court review unit there and have worked on a range of case as a reviewing lawyer. I undertook pupillage with the CPS qualifying in November 2021. During pupillage and before my move to a reviewing unit I was on my feet regularly in the Magistrates court prosecuting the full gamut of matters the Magistrates deal with. I developed a reputation for dealing with

complex cases involving youths or where mental health concerns were at play. I also undertook secondments to both government departments and to chambers, including a secondment to the Attorney General's Office where I was able to work on an unduly lenient sentence case which was referred to the Court of Appeal.

I am now on a development pathway for advocates and so am able to split my time between reviewing cases and undertaking advocacy in the Crown Court.

Outside of my professional life, I live in Manchester with my partner. I play rugby for Manchester Village Spartans RUFC where I also volunteer as the Vice-Chair. We have a focus on increasing diversity in rugby particularly for the LGBT+ community.

What can you offer the Bar Council?

I can offer the Bar Council my experience of moving into the employed bar from a different sector. I have previously worked in both the charity sector on hate crime projects and in the university sector. In higher education I led on projects to widen participation at university and particularly on legal professional training course such as the BVC and previous iterations. My experience gives me an insight I would relish sharing with the Bar Council. Beyond that I have experience of sitting on panels and boards at various levels, including a national panel for the regulator of Higher Education and the Shadow Board of the CPS.

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

I have a passion for increasing the diversity of the Bar and believe that there is more for us to do as a profession. The employed bar is well placed to support those from under-represented groups and so I believe a strong voice at the Bar Council for the employed bar is important. My motivation stems from that passion but also from my experience at the bar. I have thoroughly enjoyed my journey and want to be able to share that with others and to make their journey to the bar and experience of it as enjoyable as mine.
