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# Bar Council China Training Scheme 25th Anniversary



The Bar Council  
*Integrity. Excellence. Justice.*

## Message from the Chairman of the Bar Council



The Bar Council of England and Wales is proud to have been involved in organising and running the different versions of this training scheme over the past 25 years. This training initiative has helped over 300 young Chinese lawyers gain a practical insight and understanding of the English legal system, whilst at the same time enhancing the legal skill and knowledge required for their international practice in particular. Many of the participants of this scheme have gone on to achieve impressive career goals and are today managing partners of international law firms, or general counsel of large corporates, or high-ranking government lawyers.

With the Bar playing an increasingly visible role in an international market place, it is vital that we share our knowledge and ideas with other jurisdictions, whether via exchange programmes, business delegations, or training schemes.

Programmes like the Bar Council's Training Scheme help facilitate the exchange of legal knowledge and skills, and enable valuable links with other jurisdictions to be established and strengthened. We hope that the experience and knowledge obtained and shared by participating lawyers encourages others to take part in the scheme.

It is a great pleasure to welcome many previous participants of the scheme back to London to celebrate this special occasion. We hope you enjoy the festivities over the next two days and begin the process of developing new professional and personal friendships as well as catching up with old ones.

### About the Bar Council of England and Wales

The Bar Council represents over 15,500 barristers in England and Wales. It promotes the Bar's high quality specialist advocacy and advisory services; fair access to justice for all; the highest standards of ethics, equality and diversity across the profession; and the development of business opportunities for barristers at home and abroad.

The Bar Council is the governing body and the Approved Regulator for the Bar of England and Wales. It discharges its regulatory functions through the independent Bar Standards Board.

For further information, please visit our website at [www.barcouncil.org.uk](http://www.barcouncil.org.uk)

If you have queries related to the Bar Council China Training Scheme, please contact a member of the International Team on +44 (0) 207 611 1307 or on [IntlEvents@BarCouncil.org.uk](mailto:IntlEvents@BarCouncil.org.uk)



## The Training Schemes for Chinese Lawyers and the Bar's relationship with the Chinese legal profession

*Adrian Hughes QC, Chairman of the China Interest, International Committee of the Bar Council*



Change in China has been rapid and extraordinary since the commencement of the first training initiatives between the UK legal profession and the Chinese legal profession in 1989. The legal profession in China has grown in number from under 40,000 in 1989 to over 230,000 today. Over the last 25 years the training schemes which are being celebrated today have provided unique professional and personal opportunities for both the young Chinese lawyer participants and their UK hosts. The design of this training has evolved over this period to meet the changing experience, interests and professional requirements of the visiting lawyers, whilst retaining the emphasis on vocational skills and ensuring opportunities for participants to make lasting friendships with their UK counterparts and to explore the country and enjoy themselves whilst over here.

From 1989 to 2011 relations between the legal profession in the UK and the profession in China were managed by a joint working party of the Bar and Law Society which eventually became known as the China Law Council. Through this cooperation, the Bar and Law Society, in partnership with SOAS (University of London) and the British Council, established the Young Lawyers Training Scheme (YCLTS) to develop closer professional, cultural and social ties between lawyers in the two countries at a time when young lawyers in China were eager for the chance to experience international legal practice and to travel abroad. The YCLTS involved the young Chinese lawyers spending a year in England on a vocational training programme which included academic tuition at SOAS, placements with law firms and placements in barristers' chambers followed by a visit to the EU institutions, with the last part involving experience of life and practice in Hong Kong. The scheme was then re-launched in a similar format by the Lord Chancellor's department, as the Lord Chancellor's Training Scheme, for a further 10 years through to 2011.

When the Lord Chancellor's Training Scheme ended, the Bar Council was determined to ensure the continuation of a training scheme available to young Chinese lawyers who wished to come to England so that lawyers from both countries could learn from each other about their respective legal systems and forms of practice. This led to the updated and more focused Bar Council Training Scheme (BCTS) in partnership with BPP University who provide an academic programme for one week before a further week of legal visits and a period of five weeks in chambers. The BCTS is now in its fourth year.

In total, 329 young Chinese lawyers have trained in the UK through the different versions of the training schemes since 1989. These initiatives have been highly valued by the Ministry of Justice in China and the All China Lawyers Association (ACLA). Graduates have returned to China to develop leading legal practices or careers in government or industry whilst retaining their loyalty and close links to this country and forming a strong alumni network. The lasting personal and professional experiences of some of the alumni who have been able to return to the UK to mark this celebration are included in this brochure.

The Bar Council has also been involved throughout this period with numerous broader legal initiatives with China. These have included hosting judicial and other delegations from China when they visit the UK. Over a number of years, delegations from the Legislative Affairs Committee sought assistance with the research and drafting process for important legislation in areas such as professional regulation, criminal law and procedure, arbitration law and contract law. In conjunction with ACLA and the thriving city bar associations, regular visits have been made by delegations, often organised jointly by the Bar Council and Law Society, to meet our counterparts in the Chinese profession, to discuss issues of mutual interest and importance and to create friendships. Cities visited have included Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Hangzhou, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chongqing, Guilin and Kunming.

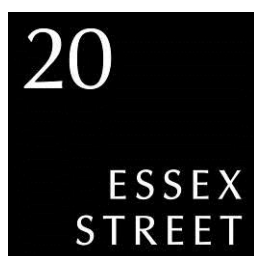
We thank our partners in these training initiatives over this fascinating 25 year period, including the All China Lawyers Association and the Ministry of Justice in China and the Law Society, SOAS, the British Council and currently BPP University in the UK. We are grateful for the support that has been given over this period by the UK Government in funding the schemes for many years and by FCO, UK Trade & Investment, the China British Business Council and the Great Britain China Centre which has itself run so many valuable training initiatives.

We would also like to thank our gold sponsors: 39 Essex Chambers, XXIV Old Buildings, Erskine Chambers, Stone Chambers, 20 Essex Street as well as our silver sponsors: 4 Pump Court, 7KBW and Quadrant Chambers for their generous support for this event.

Finally, we thank all the barrister and solicitor mentors and hosting chambers and law firms who have been the mainstay for these initiatives over the years by providing invaluable training and such a warm welcome for the Chinese lawyers.

We now look forward to continuing our relationship with the Chinese legal profession for another 25 years. In particular, we look forward to the exciting prospect of working with the China International Economic Trade Arbitration Centre (CIETAC) as our new partner in China.

*This event is proudly supported by*



# Programme

**9 July 2015**

Venue: The Honourable Society of Middle Temple Hall

18:00 – 20:00	<p><b>Opening Reception</b></p> <p><b>Chantal-Aimee Doerries QC</b>, Vice-Chair of the Bar Council of England and Wales</p> <p><b>Adrian Hughes QC</b>, Chairman of the China Interest Group, International Committee of the Bar Council of England and Wales</p> <p><b>Sir Martin Davidson</b>, Chairman of the Great Britain China Centre and former Chief Executive of the British Council</p> <p><b>Kong Wei</b>, Partner, Zhong Lun Law Firm</p>
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**10 July 2015**

Venue: Parliament Chamber, The Honourable Society of Inner Temple

**International Disputes: how things have changed in England and China in the last 25 years**

09:00 – 09:15	<b>Registration opens</b>
09:15 – 09:30	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Amanda Pinto QC</b>, Chairman of the International Committee of Bar Council of England and Wales</p> <p><b>Adrian Hughes QC</b>, Chairman of the China Interest Group, International Committee of the Bar Council of England and Wales</p> <p><b>Mr Leng Haidong</b>, Deputy-Secretary General, China International Economic Trade Arbitration Commission</p>
09:30 – 10:15	<p><b>Economic and Legal Developments in China – <i>setting the scene</i></b></p> <p><b>Lise Bertelsen</b>, China-Britain Business Council</p> <p><b>Neil Sampson</b>, Partner at Rosenblatt Law Firm</p>
10:15 – 10:45	<b>Tea and Coffee</b>
10:45 – 12:00	<p><b>Developments in China-related International Arbitrations</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Adrian Hughes QC</b></p> <p><b>Ms Lufei</b>, Deputy Director, Commission Affairs Division, China International Economic Trade Arbitration Commission</p> <p><b>Armstrong Chen</b>, Partner at King &amp; Wood Mallesons</p> <p><b>Zhibin Lin</b>, Wang Jing &amp; Co.</p>

	<b>Christopher Moger QC</b> , Barrister at 4 Pump Court <b>James Turner QC</b> , Barrister at Quadrant Chambers <b>Karen Maxwell</b> , Barrister at Stone Chambers
<b>12:00 – 13:00</b>	<p><b>Updates on latest developments in key areas of Chinese Law</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Steven Thompson QC</b>, Vice-Chair of the International Committee</p> <p><b>Jiali Yuan</b>, Dacheng Law Offices on Environment Law,  <b>Susan Huang</b>, Finance and Commerce Law Firm of China, on Maritime Law  <b>Xuan Kou</b>, Shu Jin Law Firm, on the Listing Law  <b>Fang Zhao</b>, Hui Zhong Law Firm, on Civil Procedure Law  <b>Wenwei Jin</b>, Jinmao P.R.C. Lawyers, on Internet Finance  <b>Ran Li</b>, Tian Yuan Law Firm, on Construction Law and Regulation</p>
<b>13:00 – 15:00</b>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p> <p><i>To be served in the Luncheon room</i></p>

**China 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference 2015 had been accredited with 3 CPD hours by the Bar Standards Board**





## Stories from some of the young Chinese lawyers who have attended the Training Schemes



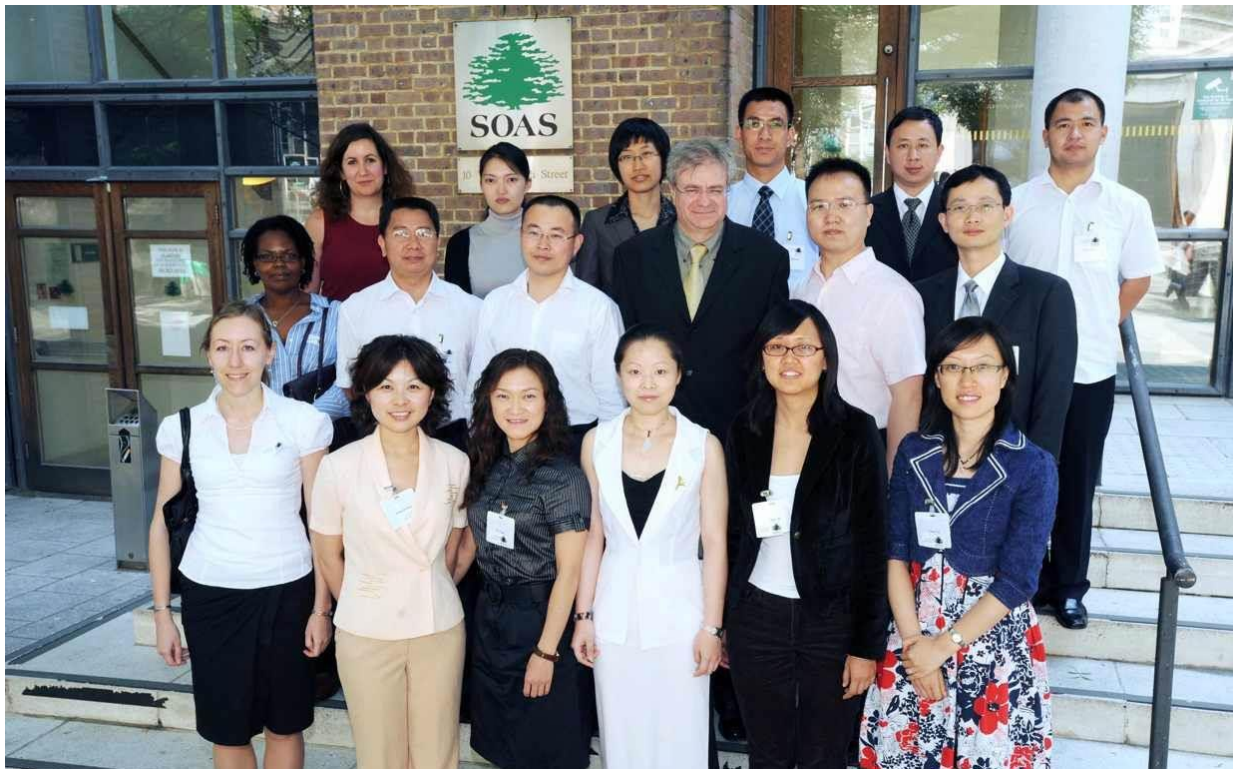
### Xie Rong – Young Chinese Lawyers Training Scheme 1992-1993

I came from Lanzhou in North West China and was one of twelve Chinese lawyers on the fourth year of the Young Chinese Lawyers Training Scheme (YLTS) in 1992-1993. I had a great time in England. Looking back, this scheme offered me the best opportunity in my life, not just enhancing my professional career but opening new horizons that have changed my personal life. It has been more than twenty years since I attended this scheme but I still remember vividly my time at SOAS, my placements with my barristers' chambers and with a solicitors' firm, the visit to the European Community and the final stage in Hong Kong. The people I met, the events I attended, the places I visited, and the friends and families with whom I stayed all remain as some of my best memories.

Although the three month periods with barrister and solicitor mentors were short, I learnt far more than I expected. I observed the method of approaching clients, looking after their interests, handling legal matters, however big or small, in a professional way, the preparation of a case by doing deep research, presenting arguments in court. All of this was done with a

serious, professional attitude which helped me to successfully develop my career and build my own professional reputation. The benefit that I gained from the scheme influenced young lawyers in my firm, two of whom subsequently attended the scheme and are now both extremely successful in Beijing and Shanghai.

The most valuable benefit of this scheme for me was to establish life-long friendships with all my mentors and their families. These friendships, kindness, care, and generosity strongly influenced me. My life was changed completely. I live in England now. My son successfully trained at university here and he works in China but keeps close friends in England. One thing will remain unchanged and that is how grateful I am to the people who have helped to push and work so hard to create and grow the scheme so that it became one of China's leading international training schemes for the legal profession.



### **He Xiaoli - Young Chinese Lawyers Training Scheme 1995-1996**

On a bright sunny day 20 years ago, I came to London with my new friends for the Young Lawyers Training Scheme. There were 15 lawyers participating in the programme from nine different cities in China. It was our first visit to Britain for all of us and we were curious and excited.

The year that followed was extremely memorable. We studied at SOAS and we were placed in law firms and barristers' chambers to get an idea of how they operated. We were treated very well and thanks to this wonderful training programme, most of us have now become successful lawyers. We have our WeChat group, where we often chat and share photos. The valuable memory of when we participated in the same scheme binds us together.

Taking part in this scheme improved my life in so many ways. The experience I gained on the scheme helped me to set up my own firm shortly after I came back China and enabled me to



subsequently join a leading UK firm with a branch office in Beijing. Although I later stopped practising law to look after my family, my close connection with my UK friends continues. In fact, I brought my husband into this group, and he has benefited indirectly from the scheme and has professional relationships with UK lawyers.

When I returned from this training programme, I recommended the scheme to several classmates. All of them benefited from the scheme and are thriving in their professional lives now. I have been proud to be part of this great scheme and always be.

### **Kong Wei - Young Chinese Lawyers Training Scheme 1997-1998**

I participated in this training scheme between 1997 and 1998 and the experience I gained during this period has had a lasting influence on my life. I still remember noticing the differences between law firms and barristers' chambers in the UK and the law firm from which I had come from in the north-west part of China. I was impressed with the organisation, the type of work, the court hearings, the frequent workshops and seminars, the methods of communication, even the cocktails before the Christmas!

I was impressed with the knowledge management of the law firms, the documentation, practice notes, precedents, case analyses and procedural updates. It became a goal for me to establish a similar system in our firm first although at first this was not an easy task. The hearings in the Court of Appeal were particularly memorable. The procedure was organised so efficiently, the judges were so knowledgeable and made a quick and clear cut decision so that a difficult problem suddenly became clear in their hands.

I was fortunate to attend the training scheme at a very important time during which it opened my eyes and mind. Over the past 15 years, we have experienced a very rapid development in the area of legal practice as well as a rapid growth in the Chinese economy, particularly after joining World Trade Organisation. When I look back, the value of the scheme has been much greater than I could have imagined. I would be more than happy to recommend young lawyers to take this training scheme. The scheme will help both sides more than they imagine.





## **Wan Yingjun – Lord Chancellors Training Scheme 2000-2001**

I was selected as one of lucky participants of the Lord Chancellor's Training Scheme (LCTS) in 2000 and I still treasure the amazing memories from my placements in solicitors' firms and barristers' chambers. My placements gave me an understanding of how barristers work with solicitors as well as how they interact with judges at court. It was a really unique experience.

Although the training scheme was relatively short, participating in the programme had a significant impact on my professional career. Prior to participating in the scheme, I mainly dealt with litigation and domestic cases. Now most of my clients are foreign companies and my practice extends to foreign investment, M&A, and litigation and arbitration on behalf of foreign clients. I have been able to successfully draft agreements for transactions between Chinese companies employing English contractual methods. I have also been recommended as a PRC legal expert to give my opinion in both UK and US courts.

I do not think that my career would have been as successful had I not participated in this programme. The scheme also had an impact on my personal life. I now know many solicitors, barristers and professors, some of whom have become my close friends, and we still share thoughts, ideas and experiences.

The Bar Council has now organised a seven-week Training Scheme for Chinese lawyers, which I have recommended to other Chinese lawyers and will continue to do so. I am sure participating Chinese lawyers will gain practical benefit from this scheme just as I did.

## **Zhu Yongrui (Raymond) - Lord Chancellors Training Scheme 2001-2002**

I participated in the LCTS between 2001 and 2002. It was the first time I travelled abroad and had imagined London through the eyes of Charles Dickens as “Fog up the river ...fog down the river...Fog on the Essex marshes, fog on the Kentish heights”. By dusk we arrived in London from Heathrow Airport. Although the sun had retired from the sky, from the green plants and the clean air, I could tell that London was bright.

The first three months at SOAS gave a mixture of new ideas, jet lag and raindrops on the window. Common law principles overcame language barriers making their way into my brain, as the professor effusively talked about Trusts, among other things, as the greatest contribution England ever made to law.

I was a regular at the Royal Courts of Justice during my law firm and chambers placements. As time went by, I appreciated the fascination of the adversarial system. England seems to be a fertile breeding ground for lawyers, where the first generation of Chinese lawyers obtained their law degrees and qualified in the late 19th century. Their images frequently appeared in front of me as I walked in Lincoln’s Inn fields, in the Courts, or along the river.

Thanks to my LCTS experience, I managed to expand my practice to international areas and have since represented many Chinese and foreign clients in cross border transactions as well as in court and arbitration proceedings in Beijing. In 2012, my efforts were rewarded with the ‘Beijing Top Ten Lawyers Award’.

It has been one and a half decades since my LCTS, but my memory of London never fades, especially those people from the Bar Council and the Law Society who made great efforts for us during that year and afterwards. The LCTS has made a great contribution to the internationalisation of the Chinese legal profession. I would definitely recommend the current seven-week Bar Council Training Scheme to my colleagues and I have already done so.

## **Li Zhong (Frank) - Lord Chancellors Training Scheme 2001-2002**

When I arrived in July 2001 for the LCTS it was the first time I had been abroad for professional training. Many things were new to me. I remember that I was surprised that the courts and parliament were open to the general public; this was not the case at home at that time. Cases involved so much evidence that the clerks had to use a trolley to take the boxes to court.

When I first arrived at my law firm, I was presented with a box containing the firm’s welcome letter, introduction, history, manual, directory, and to my surprise a recorder. I was very impressed. I enjoyed the atmosphere in chambers, particularly at the afternoon tea break, where colleagues gathered at the chamber’s library discussing legal issues and chatting about the daily news like a family. Now at the Beijing office of my law firm, we have a lunch seminar every Friday for partners and associates with other offices attending via video.

The experience has impacted my personal and professional life. I often consider things from a broader perspective which I can attribute to London having been so international and having broadened my mind. The professional training helped me to learn to pay attention to detail





and be thorough and accurate. I have also learnt the importance of being kind to new comers and to help strangers with directions after we were helped so many times by English people when we seemed to be lost. I believe that I and my classmates from the LCTS have an English mark in our blood (though you may not find it by a blood test, it's there!).

### **Liu Jie (Julia) - Lord Chancellors Training Scheme 2002 -2003**

Participating in the LCTS was the most wonderful time in my life. It was full of excitement, challenges, happiness and a strong sense of achievement. Participating in LCTS increased my knowledge of English Law, broadened my view of the world and enabled me to work in an international law firm and international company. We were especially grateful for the consideration of the Law Society and Bar Council during the period of SARS in making special arrangements for our health. I could not forget Alba Meo of the Law Society who was so nice to us.

Li Zhong (Frank) and I are married and we now have a six year old son – Li Yunfeng (Baby Tiger) – who will be hoping to attend the 2035 training scheme. As his mother and father were both graduates of the LCTS, it is also in his blood and he hopes that you will keep the training scheme open until he can grow up and qualify so that he can take part and also enjoy life in London.

### **Xu Ling - Lord Chancellors Training Scheme 2004-2005**

Taking part in the LCTS between 2004 and 2005 was the best memory of my life. During my time on the programme I came to love London, although this celebration is first time I have been able to come back to London since completing the LCTS 10 years ago. The experience had a very positive impact on my professional life and career. I was promoted to be partner one

year after I re-joined my firm in China in 2005. I have been representing my firm in meetings and working with different foreign law firms all over the world. I have met people and made a lot of friends through the scheme and remain in active contact with them. I would certainly recommend the current Bar Council seven-week Training Scheme to other Chinese lawyers.

### **Ran Yanfei (Tina) - Lord Chancellors Training Scheme 2004-2005**

My 12-month-training in the LCTS program in London and Hong Kong from 2004 to 2005 was the best experience of my life. It has had a huge impact both on my professional and personal life.

I have extremely good memories of my time on the programme. I studied but did not have to take tests under great pressure, worked but did not need to finish tasks on a tight schedule, and lived with my fellow students like family members but with freedom. Everything was easy and carefree; I still remember humorous class discussions about the law of equity and the differences between British and American vernacular, such as the “tube” in the UK and “subway” in the USA. Visits to interesting places in London and in Europe stick in my mind like it was yesterday. The image of Queen’s Counsel flying around the Temple and courts in their beautiful robes and wigs is forever imprinted in my memory. My placements in firms and chambers allowed me to obtain a deep understanding of how and why law firms and chambers work well.

Participating in lectures on human rights issues and visiting human rights organisations during the programme completely changed my view on human rights and why Western countries pay attention to human rights situations around the world.

From my professional point of view, the programme not only broadened my horizons, but also increased my social and legal knowledge. I learned how a small firm could become a giant ship with good management, initiative, and motivation systems. I subsequently pursued a law degree in the US, specialising in intellectual property and technology law, continuing to practise trademark law and expanding my experience with franchise law. The experience I gained from the LCTS aided me in managing the law firm I helped found. Above all, I learned that a good lawyer should not only earn money, but also bear social responsibility and take on as much as pro bono work as possible to serve society. From my personal point of view, visiting my mentors’ homes and observing how family members behaved impressed me deeply.

### **Zeng Zanxin (Richard) - Lord Chancellors Training Scheme 2005-2006**

I still recall that the first day I arrived in London; it was so clear and sunny, contrary to what we had heard about the dreaded British weather. I stayed in Russell Square, which was surrounded by green trees and beautiful gardens. The one-year study and practical training programme brought me many happy moments and set the stage for my career.

The time I spent at SOAS improved my standard of English and introduced me to the British legal structure. My placements with solicitors and barristers allowed me to appreciate the culture and style of British lawyers. It gave me a better appreciation of the British court system

and it set the foundation for expanding my career in handling foreign-related business and increased my confidence in dealing with British and American counterparts.

Following the LCTS programme, I joined an international firm and worked at their Hong Kong office. Subsequently, I returned to Beijing where I became the partner in a well-known Chinese law firm. I became a specialist in foreign investment to China, cross-border transaction and outbound investment – something that would not have been possible without the foundation and knowledge provided by LCTS.

In the years after, I continued to develop what I had learnt during the LCTS. I have travelled to Europe and America to gain cultural, historical and business understanding – all this for the purpose of widening my horizon and gaining valuable perspectives on European and American businesses. Participating in the LCTS was one of the most memorable moments in my life.

I would not hesitate to recommend the current Bar Council China seven-week training scheme to any aspiring Chinese legal professionals. I am sure it will be a rewarding experience.



### **Miao Jianwen (James) - Lord Chancellors Training Scheme 2007-2008**

I participated in the LCTS for 2007-2008 and it is now one of the most cherished experiences and memories of my life. I think the LCTS program was like a carefully prepared set menu consisting of delicious and healthy dishes. I enjoyed the language training and English law courses, which gave me a basic understanding of the UK's culture and social conditions as well as an understanding of the common law system. My solicitor's placement enabled me to have first-hand experience of how solicitors in a top international law firm were trained and



organised to provide legal services for commercial transactions. I was also deeply impressed by the different work style of barristers during my placement. Overall, I was deeply impressed by the professional and hardworking lawyers in the UK.

From participating in the scheme, I realised that there remained a huge gap between China and the UK in terms of the legal profession. As a partner in a local Chinese law firm, I continue to learn from UK lawyers and law firms on how to provide legal services in a more professional way and how to manage a law firm in a more efficient and decent way.

After taking part in the LCTS program and coming back to China, I not only became more confident in dealing with foreign-related legal work, I also had a better understanding of the world and I am more open-minded about both Chinese and western culture and values.

I am sorry that the one year LCTS program ended in 2011, but very glad that the Bar Council is still running a 7 week training scheme offering a unique opportunity to Chinese lawyers to experience practice at the English Bar. On my recommendation, one colleague of mine has already participated in the new scheme, and undoubtedly he also found it a very fruitful and helpful experience. Finally, I sincerely thank all the people who have selflessly helped us during our stay in the UK.



### **Wang Ruihua (Ray) - Lord Chancellors Training Scheme 2008-2009**

I was a participant of the LCTS between 2008 and 2009. I had graduated from Fudan University in Shanghai and practised as a Chinese lawyer for 5 years before coming to the UK.

The LCTS introduced me to English law. I learned about the English legal system from the well-designed legal course. More importantly, I obtained hands-on legal experience during my two three-month placements respectively with a solicitors' firm and a barristers' chambers. I

quickly came to appreciate how widely used English law was in international commerce and dispute resolution and that English lawyers are well respected outside the UK.

The LCTS was a turning point in my legal career. It inspired me to re-qualify as an English lawyer. I believe that being both Chinese and English-qualified will allow me to bridge the business sectors and legal professions of both China and the UK. Following two years' further legal study in England, I qualified both as a barrister and as a solicitor of England and Wales. I am currently living in London and practising derivatives law in a UK global law firm.

I highly recommend the Bar Council China seven-week Training Scheme. The fact that the new scheme is running and being assisted by the same group of people from the Bar Council who ran the LCTS gives it continuity and quality assurance. The more condensed content provides participants with a focused insight into the English legal system as well as ample networking opportunities to meet English legal professionals who are interested in China-related matters. Furthermore, the seven-week duration has worked well for those Chinese lawyers who prefer not to take a whole year away from their busy practices in China.



### **Jing Yuan (Jane) - Lord Chancellors Training Scheme 2009-2010**

As an attendee of the LCTS between 2009-2010, I experienced, benefited and enjoyed the scheme so much. This included but was not limited to gaining a basic knowledge of the legal systems of UK, understanding the everyday work of the solicitors and barristers, as well as making lifelong friends through this scheme.

My main work is now construction and foreign-related trade, investment, and dispute resolution. This scheme has helped me gain the confidence to be a truly international lawyer with a global perspective. When I have a foreign related case, I know with which solicitors or barristers I can cooperate, which is important for the effective protection of the worldwide interest of the clients. This scheme has created a genuine bridge connecting the legal professions of UK and China. I have frequently and efficiently cooperated on many issues and cases with UK colleagues with very good results.



Therefore, I would highly recommend the current Bar Council China seven-week Training Scheme to young Chinese lawyers. You will learn and enjoy a lot from the scheme. Trust me; it will benefit you not only temporarily but throughout your life!

After coming back, many of our alumni still meet often and we have become good friends. I keep in close touch with my LCTS mentors, both in our professional and personal lives. My thanks to them are beyond words. This one year training scheme has also allowed me to taste the beautiful scenery, poetry, culture, drama, films, food and everything about the UK. Now I am honoured to be deemed by my family and friends to be an ambassador of UK culture. What a pleasure!



## Bar Council China Training Scheme 2015

*"When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford."* so said Samuel Johnson, the great 18<sup>th</sup> century English writer and poet.

For us, it is truth, indeed.

To a lawyer, London itself is the soul of the legal system of its own country. Bearing in heart the dream and worship of it, we, the 25<sup>th</sup> generation of the humble Chinese students, headed for this great city in the summer of 2015, wishing to get closer to the legal culture of the very advanced society. And fortunately, so far so good.



With great thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Bar Council and the chambers involved, we have been receiving a so-called “F4 Level” course of learning all time along. That is something *Friendly*, with *Flexibility*, *Fascinating* and *Fast-tracking*.

#### *Friendly*

Besides the very meaningful learning and eye-opening activities on a daily basis, above all, we are making friends, through a variety of activities such as seminars and visits and with the warm-hearted people all around us from different groups in the legal society. We were both deeply impressed by the professionalism of the people in this legal industry and attracted by the mutual appreciation and trust people granted each other. These all afforded us a precious opportunity not only to learn the knowledge in need but also narrow the gap between the two different cultures and very importantly, diminish possible misunderstandings between each other.

#### *Flexibility*

On one hand, the training scheme provided to us is formed with a view of uniformity which enables all the participants to have similar experiences in the scheme. While on the other, it is bespoke, in order to match, to the maximum extent, the real interests and needs of a specific attendee. We are offered all the time different options to see things and participate in legal activities which we are truly excited about. Beyond that, it doesn't mean that the organiser does not care about our personal feelings and life in leisure time. Quite a few gorgeous recommendations about how to enjoy the life in London and the areas around are made to us from time to time so that we can make ourselves at home.

#### *Fascinating*

The Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court. Nothing compares to the experience and feelings of attending the court hearings held in these places before the esteemed Lords with the presentations by charming barristers or even Queen's Counsels. Even as quiet audiences, we were well-prepared with the help of our mentors and clerks to ensure we could get the most out of these hearings. Brief introductions had been given as background information. We are given access to the skeleton arguments and other necessary documents which can help us to frame the stories and ideas about these cases. These all enable us to understand more about the collisions between the inquisitorial style and adversary fashion in hearing cases.

#### *Fast-tracking*

The value of the scheme really cannot be assessed by the length of time though it is only a seven-week journey. But to us, this is the best scheme we have ever seen and experienced. In only seven weeks, we have not only been afforded the opportunity to have glimpses of the essence of the legal regime of the UK, but also granted an entrance to a new world which we can further explore ourselves with the long-lasting friendship and support made available by the people here.

This all thanks to the scheme itself and the barristers as well as staff who elaborately designed and devastatingly contributed to the programme. We are so lucky to have attended it and one can just rest assured that we will do our best to make it more renowned in China for the future newcomers.

# *Integrity.*

# *Excellence.*

# *Justice.*

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- The Bar's high quality specialist advocacy and advisory services
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