

## Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar

### Access to the legal profession, and reforming legal education and training - challenges ahead for ensuring a diverse and effective profession

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012

Venue: Central London

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Lord Hastings**, Global Head of Citizenship and Diversity, KPMG
- 9.05 - 9.35 **The Legal Education and Training Review (LETR) - findings so far and challenges ahead**  
**Professor Julian Webb**, Research Lead, Legal Education and Training Review  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.20 **Education and Training - access, competitiveness and skills**  
*What are the prominent challenges facing the UK's current legal education and training framework, and what areas of reform should be prioritised by the LETR? Is the UK framework competitive in an international context, and what can be learnt from the ways in which other countries such as the US train their profession? What can be done to tackle the disparity between the numbers of those passing the Legal Practice Course and the availability of training contracts? How does the system compare for those seeking pupillages after passing the Bar Professional Training Course? What impact will proposals in the Higher Education White Paper have on the prospects for access and diversity within legal education? In what ways might the legal education and training framework need to respond to the Legal Services Act, and what skills are legal employers and consumers likely to value in five years' time?*  
**Alex Aldridge**, Legal Affairs Journalist  
**Scott Slorach**, Board Member, Innovation, Design and Production, College of Law  
**Leonora Onaran**, Lecturer and Admissions Tutor, Southampton Law School, University of Southampton  
**Mark Pentecost**, Student Representative, Junior Lawyers Division, Law Society  
Senior representative, employer  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 - 11.00 **Priorities from the core regulators**  
**Dr Valerie Shrimplin**, Head of Education Standards, Bar Standards Board  
**Samantha Barrass**, Executive Director of Supervision, Risk and Standards, Solicitors Regulation Authority  
**Ian Watson**, Chief Executive, ILEX Professional Standards (IPS)  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chairman's closing remarks**  
**Lord Hastings**, Global Head of Citizenship and Diversity, KPMG
- 11.05 - 11.30 Coffee
- 11.30 - 11.35 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Deech**, Chair, Bar Standards Board
- 11.35 - 12.30 **Social mobility and diversity in the legal workplace**  
*To what extent has diversity and inclusivity in the legal workplace improved in recent years, and in what sectors of the profession do the most significant problems persist? In what ways might the Legal Services Act further open up the legal services market to a wider pool of talent? Will the Legal Services Board's statutory guidance requiring regulators, law firms and chambers to measure levels of diversity and social mobility help promote transparency in this area? Can transparency provide a commercial as well as ethical incentive for firms and chambers to be more proactive in this area?*  
**Laura King**, Global People Partner, Clifford Chance  
**Fiona Jackson**, Vice-President, Association of Women Barristers and Barrister, Chambers of Andrew Mitchell QC  
**James O'Connell**, Chief Executive, Institute of Paralegals  
**Charles Welsh**, Key Account Manager, Skills for Justice  
**Michael Webster**, Editor, Black Solicitors Network Diversity League Table and Partner, Webster and Dixon  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Judicial diversity**  
**Rt Hon the Lord McNally**, Minister of State, Ministry of Justice and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**  
**Baroness Deech**, Chair, Bar Standards Board  
**Sean Cudmore**, Senior Producer, Westminster Legal Policy Forum