

**Westminster Legal Policy Forum Keynote Seminar:
Legal Education and Training Review - next steps for regulation, skills and competitiveness**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 8th October 2013

Venue: Johnnie Walker Room, The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR



**WESTMINSTER
LEGAL POLICY
FORUM**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Baroness Deech QC (Hon), Chair, Bar Standards Board
- 9.05 - 9.30 **The Legal Education and Training Review - key findings and proposals**
Key findings and aims arising from the Legal Education and Training Review's (LETR) final review.
Professor Julian Webb, Professor of Legal Education, Warwick School of Law, Warwick University and former Research Lead, Legal Education and Training Review
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.25 **Legal services education and training - graduate study, training contracts and apprenticeships**
What priorities lie ahead for the reform of legal services education and training (LSET) in England and Wales following the LETR's final report, and how might proposals impact on areas such as the quality, accessibility and flexibility of learning? In light of continuing demand for traineeships, should more restrictions be placed on the numbers of students admitted to undergraduate law courses, GDLs, LPCs or BPTCs? What examples are there of training routes that better integrate formal study with vocational placements, and in what ways might their use support the LETR's proposals to improve the commercial awareness of entry-level practitioners? To what extent would proposals for apprenticeship routes to qualification support diversity and competition between training pathways? How do stakeholders view the LETR's calls for reforming the skills and attributes developed via LSET - including a renewed focus on areas such as legal ethics, professionalism, management and communication skills - and to what extent has this addressed concerns from legal employers? What more can regulators do to promote the competitiveness of the current framework in an increasingly globalised market for legal education, and what can be learnt from LSET in other jurisdictions such as the US?
Andrew Chadwick, Deputy Dean and Chief Executive Officer, BPP Law School
Craig Robinson, Founder, Ultimate Law Guide
Leonora Onaran, Senior Lecturer and Undergraduate Admissions Tutor, Southampton Law School, University of Southampton
Sahar Hariri, Chair, UK Law Students' Association
Christina Blacklaws, Director of Policy, The Co-operative Legal Services
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 - 10.30 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Baroness Deech QC (Hon), Chair, Bar Standards Board
- 10.30 - 11.00 Coffee
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Jean-Yves Gilg, Editor, Solicitors Journal
- 11.05 - 12.00 **Challenges ahead for the profession - mobility, competence and continued professional development**
How might regulators take into account recent research into employment trends across the legal services sector when taking forward the LETR's recommendations - particularly in relation to gender balance, regional variations and growth forecasts across occupational classifications? How effectively has the LETR addressed concerns relating to the use of continuing professional development (CPD) schemes, and what are the challenges ahead for developing a more responsive framework? How warranted are claims that the profession relies too heavily on initial qualification as a foundation for continuing competence, and was the LETR right to stop short of proposing a system of periodic re-accreditation - particularly for high-risk areas of law? How should legal regulators respond to the continued expansion of paralegal roles, and how might the proposed single voluntary system of certification for paralegal staff support career progression and mobility? What further challenges might lie ahead for the sector in an era of alternative business structures and multi-disciplinary practices, particularly in relation to ensuring a diverse, inclusive and effective profession?
David Holland, Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Paralegals and Chairman, Instructus
Joy Van Cooten, Company Solicitor, VanCooten Trevors Group and former Chair, Association of Women Solicitors
Chris Rushworth, Legal Sector Adviser, Financial & Legal Skills Partnership
Allan Murray-Jones, Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom and Member, Training Committee, The City of London Law Society
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.55 **Responding to the LETR - next steps for regulatory reform**
Perspectives from legal regulators on the priorities ahead for reforming the legal education and training framework in England and Wales, and challenges ahead for realising the LETR's key recommendations.
Ian Watson, Chief Executive Officer, ILEX Professional Standards (IPS)
Simon Thornton-Wood, Head of Education & Training, Bar Standards Board
Antony Townsend, Chief Executive, Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
Jean-Yves Gilg, Editor, Solicitors Journal
Marc Gammon, Producer, Westminster Legal Policy Forum