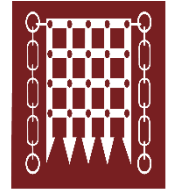


**Westminster Legal Policy Forum conference:
Next steps for legal education and training in England and Wales**
Timing: Morning, Thursday, 10th September 2026
Taking Place Online



**WESTMINSTER
LEGAL POLICY
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **The future of legal education and training - priorities for professional competence, skills and workforce development**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Practical considerations for legal training and qualification routes going forward - assessment, apprenticeships, supervision and barriers to entry**
implications of ongoing SQE evaluation and competence review for training providers and employers | professional judgement, preparedness for practice, skills assessment and consistency of assessment outcomes | approaches to work experience, supervision, mentoring and early-career development | potential impact of the High Court ruling on conduct of litigation by non-solicitors for training models, delegation and supervision structures | establishing End Point Assessment arrangements approved by the BSB and delivery of barrister apprenticeships | adapting training and development models to evolving workforce and client expectations | operational pressures for firms and chambers | tackling barriers to entry, including accessibility, affordability and diversity
Dr Victoria Roper, Associate Professor, Northumbria University; and Member, Education and Training Committee, The Law Society
Senior representative, barristers
Senior representative, funding
Senior representative, apprenticeships
Senior representative, advocacy
- 10.00 **Alternative routes into the legal profession - expanding access, flexibility and opportunity**
Senior representative, professional body
- 10.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **AI, digital skills and professional judgement in the legal workforce - opportunities, risks and sector preparedness**
Senior commentator, legal technology
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **Next steps for professional development and training in the legal sector - accessibility, competence and progression**
workforce pressures, recruitment trends and evolving entry pathways across the legal sector | implications of qualification reform and apprenticeship funding changes for workforce development, recruitment and career progression | accessibility and affordability challenges in routes into the profession | implications of the LSB's Encouraging a Diverse Legal Profession consultation | balancing professional competence, employability and workforce needs | continuing professional development, lifelong learning and employer expectations for skills among new entrants | AI in recruitment, training and legal practice, considering fairness, accessibility, bias, verification skills and responsible use | addressing regional workforce disparities and capacity challenges across legal services
Senior representative, recruitment
Senior representative, employer
Senior representative, regions
Senior representative, workforce
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.15 **Priorities for oversight and regulation of legal education and training in England and Wales**
Beth Black, Director, Education and Training, Solicitors Regulation Authority
Ewen Macleod, Director, Strategy and Policy, Bar Standards Board
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Business Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Thomas Howard, Westminster Legal Policy Forum