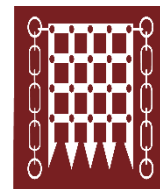


**Westminster Legal Policy Forum conference:
Next steps for legal education and training in England and Wales**

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**
Lord Brennan KC
- 9.05 **'The future of legal education and training: preparing the next generation of lawyers'**
Professor Thom Brooks, Chair, Law, Ethics and Government, Durham Law School, Durham University
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
Laurie-Anne Power, Barrister, 25 Bedford Row
Mellissa Akinya, Solicitor Advocate and Diversity Officer, Government Legal Department
Nawal Bin-Sheikh, Solicitor Apprentice, Simmons & Simmons
Tony Charles, Director, Education, Gray's Inn
- 10.00 **Alternative routes into the legal profession - expanding access, flexibility and opportunity**
Jennifer Coupland, CEO, CILEX
- 10.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Brennan KC
- 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**
Alexander Kardos-Nyheim, Co-Lead, Founder and CEO, Thomson Reuters Foundational ML Research
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
Cheryl Jones, Barrister, Education and Training Committee, Bar Council
Rebecca Schrod, Manager, Senior Early Careers Recruitment and Development, Reed Smith
Helen Bennett, Executive Director, Policy and Governance, Lawyers in Local Government
Senior representative, employer
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
Jonathan Levack, Director, Policy and Governance, CILEx Regulation
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Thomas Howard, Westminster Legal Policy Forum