

THE ASSOCIATION OF
WOMEN BARRISTERS

President: The Hon. Mrs. Justice Cox DBE

Spring 2010

News

New Appointments

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER, FURTHER HIGH COURT AND SILK APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED.

The AWB is delighted to congratulate Mrs Justice Davis on her appointment in January 2010 to the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court Bench. Formerly a QC with a medical law practice at 3 Serjeant's Inn in London, further details about Mrs Justice Davis' background and legal career can be found here: www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/897.htm

Congratulations also to our Equality Correspondent, Karon Monaghan QC, who will now be sitting as a Deputy High Court Judge, see her article on page 4.

In addition, in March 2010, 20 women were appointed to the rank of Queen's Counsel, a success rate of 43% among the 46 women who applied in the 2009-10 competition. 275 male and female candidates applied overall in this competition, with women making up 17% of applicants. The number of women appointed this year is an increase of four on the numbers appointed in the 2008-09 competition, and the AWB is delighted to also congratulate the following on their appointments:

Jane Bewsey	Zia Bhaloo	Claire Blanchard	Veronique Buehrlen
Michelle Colborne	Jane Cross	Louise D'Arcy	Anuja Dhir
Naomi Ellenbogen	Susan Evans	Isabella Forshall	Sally Harrison
Sioban Healy	Katharine Holland	Judith Khan	Helen Mountfield
Jemima Stratford	Philippa Whipple	Anne Whyte	Joanne Wick

Workshops

The AWB will be running workshops later in the year to encourage women in particular to pursue applications for judicial appointment and silk. Further details will be circulated in due course – if you would like to be kept informed about these and other events, please ensure we have your up-to-date contact details.

Free Pupillage Advice Clinic

In order to assist our most junior members before the deadline for submitting OLPAS and many non-OLPAS pupillage applications, the AWB is holding a free practical Pupillage Advice Clinic giving tips on making applications for pupillage at the self-employed and employed Bar on Wednesday 14th April 2010 from 5.30-7.30pm at 25 Bedford Row, London.

Open to all student and pre-pupillage AWB members and at no extra cost, the Clinic will give insights into the practicalities of the pupillage process and making your application stand out, and a significant part of the Clinic will provide an opportunity (if you wish) to receive individual advice on your draft application documents.

We have contacted electronically all student members for whom we have email addresses, as well as advertising at the Inns and BVC courses. If you would like to attend, please email Fiona Jackson at fj@33claw.com by 13th April 2010 to register.

Counsel Magazine

Kim Hollis QC has an article in the April edition of *Counsel* magazine, "Separation Anxiety" pp 28-30, on women serving prison sentences and the Corston Report, following her recent visit to Styal Prison in Cheshire. This follows up the theme of the AWB workshop at last November's Bar Conference and assessing the impact on family life.

THIS IS AN AMENDED EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2010.

Editor's message

Our Easter edition of the Newsletter includes news of new appointments – our Congratulations to all those women newly appointed Silk, as well as to Mrs Justice Davis on her appointment to the High Court.

We start a series of articles examining the experience of women entering the profession. Beginning with a current pupil's experiences in 2009-2010, we will hear in the next few editions what it was like to be a pupil in past decades - the 1970s pupils in particular are promising me some very funny reminiscences.

Naturally, we want to hear from our members, so please let me know if you'd like to contribute to this series (credited or anonymously, as you like).

I am also, as ever, keen to hear from any members wanting to contribute articles on any subject that affects your professional lives, or who have pieces of news or photos to send in – please don't hesitate to email me, all comments and suggestions are very welcome.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of the AWB newsletter.

Janey Burton
Editor, Newsletter
AWBEditor@googlemail.com

Membership of the AWB

In response to feedback, we have designed a new, simpler membership form, and this is available on the AWB website www.womenbarristers.co.uk

Save the date

On 18th May 2010, the AWB will hold its Summer Drinks party. The President, The Hon. Mrs Justice Cox, will attend.

Forthcoming Conferences Spring-Summer 2010

CONFERENCES WHICH MAY INTEREST THE AWB MEMBERSHIP THIS SUMMER INCLUDE

- The 4th International Bar Association World Woman Lawyer Conference in London, 15-16 April 2010
- FLBA Annual Cumberland Lodge Weekend, 7-9 May 2010
- The 4th Civil Mediation Council Conference in London, 11 May 2010
- The 3rd European Conference on Mediation at Bourg la Reine, Paris, 27-28 May 2010
- The Inaugural Conference of the Centre for Family Law and Practice, London, Metropolitan University, 30 July 2010

The IBA WWLC 15-16 April 2010, Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street

The AWB is a sponsoring organisation of this conference and a new member of the Committee, Roshnee Mansingh, is speaking in the Rainmaking session on the first day. The AWB has a stand in the exhibition and the Association's Chairwoman, Kim Hollis QC, will be attending the conference Dinner at the Law Society. Full details, including a booking form, are on the AWB website. This is primarily an international networking opportunity as the conference is run by the Women's Interest Group and the European Group of the IBA and will have many international participants as well as (mostly solicitor) local practitioners. As it is held in the Connaught Rooms, a few minutes' walking distance from the Inns and the legal village, it may be a good opportunity to sample the IBA's approach to international conferencing without travelling a long distance to its annual conferences – this year's is in Vancouver, Canada, in October. To book, see our website, www.womenbarristers.co.uk

FLBA Annual Cumberland Lodge Weekend 7-9 May 2010

For the large section of the AWB membership practising at the Family Bar, this annual FLBA weekend in Windsor Great Park is also a useful networking session, combining as it does contributions from the Bar, the Judiciary and specialist academics, as well as perspectives from Resolution, the Solicitors' Family Law Association, whose current Chairman usually attends. The informal atmosphere is particularly

conducive to sharing information on, and experiences of, topical issues in Family Law over a longer period than the annual one day conference allows, as the weekend runs from Friday night until after Sunday lunchtime. The background of the Great Park and the grounds of the former home of Queen Victoria's youngest daughter combine to provide an ideal setting for a relaxing weekend, which also provides specialist CPD!

The Saturday night dinner and after-dinner entertainment is not, however, conducive to driving home but daytime only attendance is also possible. Booking needs to be prompt though, as places for the weekend fill up quickly. For bookings contact CarolH@BarCouncil.org.uk

The 4th Civil Mediation Conference in London, 11 May 2010

This is an annual conference which provides a useful update on topical issues in mediation, which is, since the recent Jackson Report, an even more important alternative skill in the barrister's portfolio of professional services. The conference is also another excellent networking event as besides many solicitors who are actively in favour of mediation, as opposed to litigation, it attracts mediators from outside the legal profession. Some of the best mediators are women and at an economically straitened time when building and keeping a practice is more difficult than usual the development of a mediation group is becoming attractive to many sets of Chambers. The CMC, chaired by the former Court of Appeal Judge, Sir Henry Brooke, has set itself the task of increasing the use of mediation annually so this could be the time to find out whether entering the steadily expanding field of mediators would benefit our members' practices. For bookings contact the CMC Registrar, Tracey Stewart, tastewart450@hotmail.com

The 3rd European Conference on Mediation at Bourg la Reine, Paris, 27-28 May 2010

This is a conference organised by EMNI (the European Mediation Network Initiative) and the English CMC is represented at it: two CMC officers (Hon. Secretary, Jonathan Dingle and Judith Kelbie) who regularly attend these events are also speaking. The conference takes place near Orly Airport, in the south of the Greater Paris region. The organisers say that delegates from 20 countries are expected and it will probably attract mostly French, German and other

European mediators who also attend the conferences of GEMME, the Judicial Mediation organisation based in Paris, which has a UK arm. More details (in English) and registration forms can be obtained from Mr Justice Singer at the RCJ. petersinger@dsl.pipex.com or from Frances Burton, frb@frburton.com

The Inaugural Conference of the Centre for Family Law and Practice, London Metropolitan University, 30 June-2 July 2010.

This is a specialist Child Law conference on the three linked topics of International Child Abduction, Forced Marriage and Relocation, which has attracted a very distinguished international group of speakers from around the

world who are presenting cutting edge research and practical insights into these 3 currently concerning issues in Family Law. It will be very useful to Family practitioners who want to be up to speed in these fast moving fields. Lord Justice Thorpe is amongst the speakers and in his paper will be reviewing the vexed problems of Relocation which have attracted academic and practitioner comment since the decision in *Payne v Payne* did not take the opportunity to review the authorities. Full details and a booking form are on the AWB website: see www.womenbarristers.co.uk

Frances Burton

Frances Burton, Vice President, International Affairs

Finding My Feet: 2009/10 pupil reflects on her first six months

Arriving at Croydon County Court on a rainy Monday last October, I wondered what to do with the spare hour I'd allowed myself to get there. Two teas and a Danish pastry from the station later found me hovering outside the District Judges' waiting room, about to start my first day of pupillage. There were – still are – many such moments, feeling lost and unsure and unsuccessfully trying to keep out of everyone's way. Fortunately, everyone at Three Dr Johnson's Buildings has tolerated my mistakes with patience, watching me send my first fax four times (I couldn't work out which way to put the paper in), up-end the entire contents of a room to find a collar I was already wearing, and master the mechanics of the loose-leaf book, to mention only a few.

I am an 'only' pupil in a small set specialising in Family and Civil work. The experience seems to be very different from that of my peers in larger sets, particularly in the sense that everyone takes a personal interest in my development and people pop in to ask how things are going on a daily basis. It seems too that the old 'pupils should be seen and not heard' rule has been shelved here - in private, I'm encouraged to express opinions on any cases I see to a degree which might well be frowned upon in more hierarchical sets.

Pupillage itself splits into three periods of four months – one in Family Law, which I have recently completed, the next in Civil, then back to Family. My first four months in Family Law ended on a high note, with a final hearing in the High Court dealing with issues of Residence, Contact and Parental Responsibility between two homosexual couples. As the case unfolded two key themes emerged: what it means to be a parent, and who is and is not part of a child's 'nuclear family'. It was fascinating to be working on such complex issues, and not at all what I'd imagined I'd be doing in my first few months. However, it was also a cautionary lesson on how quickly even the

most involved of cases comes to an end, and then it's time to move on to a new set of instructions.

My current seat is in Housing Law, which has involved more work within Chambers and less observation in court. As well as a new area of law, I'm in a new room, as I've shifted my ever-growing pile of notebooks upstairs. Fortunately, apart from having to climb the extra set of stairs, I've settled in well to my new home, thanks to a warm welcome – and lots of chocolate - from my new room-mates.

Pupils are often told they're facing a year-long interview, but in my experience that is misleading. It very quickly becomes clear that the first and most important test isn't tenancy but the first day on your feet – looming for me in a few weeks' time. The Inns organise a compulsory course of advocacy training to help pupils with this, and we're also given training in practice management and basic accounting. However, no amount of training can entirely take away the sleepless nights, and it would be silly to pretend I'm not apprehensive about the coming months. Fortunately my experience of pupillage so far has been overwhelmingly positive and I look forward to my next visit to Croydon County Court – if nothing else I'll know where to buy a decent Danish pastry.

Briony Palmer

Pupil

Three Dr Johnson's Buildings

Was your year of pupillage as enjoyable? If you'd like to share your own experiences, please let me know – Ed.

The AWB Committee

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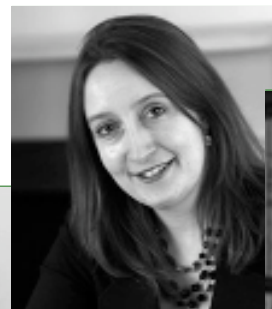
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Janey Burton



Rebecca Lee



Pamela Oon

THE ASSOCIATION OF
WOMEN BARRISTERS

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name:		
Date of birth:	Mobile:	Landline:
E-mail address:		
Current home address:		
City:	County:	Post Code:

(PLEASE COMPLETE THE RELEVANT SECTION BELOW)

PRACTITIONER APPLICANT DETAILS

Chambers Address:	
Year of Call:	
Area/s of Practice:	
Inn Membership:	
Are you interested in becoming a mentor for a new practitioner or law student? Yes / No	

STUDENT APPLICANT DETAILS

University/College:		
Area/s of interest:		
Final year student:	CPE/GDL law student:	BVC/BPTC student:
Pupillage obtained: Yes/No	Inn Membership:	Year of Call (if applicable):
Would you like to be appointed a mentor? Yes / No		

PLEASE CAN ALL APPLICANTS COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTION

Preferred method of contact: E-mail / Home address / Chambers address / telephone / no preference
How did you hear about the AWB?
Pupillage fair / Personal recommendation / Website / Bar Council / Inns of Court / Other
If other please specify:

SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS

Category (please delete as appropriate): QC and/or 15 years + call - £50 pa / 5 to 15 years call - £35 pa / under 5 years call - £20 / Student or pupil - £10 pa
Method of payment (please delete as appropriate): Cheque enclosed (payable to the Association of Women Barristers) / Standing Order (completed Form of Authority provided)

SIGNATURE

Signature of applicant:	Date:
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Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive information from other organisations approved by the A.W.B

Please send completed forms to Fiona Jackson, AWB Membership Secretary, Chambers of Andrew Mitchell QC, 33 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1EN. DX33 Chancery Lane.