



The Inns of  
Court College  
of Advocacy



# Annual Review

2021—2022

# About

The Inns of Court College of Advocacy (ICCA) is the education and training division of The Council of the Inns of Court. The ICCA works with the profession to provide education, leadership, guidance, and coordination in relation to the pursuit of academic and professional excellence for the Bar.

## Areas of focus

- The highest standards of advocacy and professional ethics.
- High-quality educational materials for Bar students, pupils, barristers at all levels of seniority and sometimes for other legal professionals, nationally, pan-profession and on an international scale.
- Authorised Bar Course training provider

## We work with

Barristers, staff, the Judiciary and others drawn from the Inns, the Circuits, the Bar Council of England and Wales, Specialist Bar Associations, and other representative organisations.

### COVER

*ICCA alumni receiving their PGDip in Bar Practice from King's College London.*



*Jenn Lawrence – ICCA Alumni & tenant at Monckton Chambers*



# Chair of Governors

Paul Stanley KC

*Paul Stanley KC at the ICCA Summer Party 2022*

The Inns of Court have been responsible for training barristers at every stage of their careers for hundreds of years. As with other institutions of learning, there have been times when the river has slowed to a trickle. But since the 1990s there has been a resurgence of work within the Inns: the development of serious and effective advocacy training, the foundation of the Advocacy Training Council to coordinate thinking and work about it, ground-breaking work on vulnerable witnesses, the establishment of the College under the inspirational leadership of Derek Wood CBE KC, and the creation of a newly-structured Bar Course.

The past year has shown the wisdom of that brave decision — by the wonderful results that students have achieved in the BSB assessments, practical assessments, and in obtaining pupillage. That success owes most to the quality of the College’s staff, and to the quality of the students, selected using a system which has also proved its worth in delivering a student body that is remarkably diverse. This has not been easy, in a competitive marketplace, and under all the pressure and dislocation of the last few years.

One task for the College is now to consolidate and build that course. But we have not forgotten that our aim is more than merely to provide excellent training for those entering the Bar. We also train internationally, helping to maintain the close connections between the Inns in London and the common law world, and the central place of effective and fearless advocacy in maintaining the need to help established barristers maintain and develop their skills, for example through creating materials for Youth Advocacy training. And we need to engage with advocacy training rule of law.

And all this at a time of stretched budgets and financial pressure. So there is no doubt that there are challenges ahead as we try to broaden and deepen the relevance of what we offer for the profession as a whole, to build on the skills that we have developed in the practice of advocacy training, and to help place the Inns of Court at the centre of the skills-training that is essential to make the profession as effective in the twenty-first century as it was when the Inns first started their work in the fifteenth century.

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*We have not forgotten that our aim is more than merely to provide excellent training for those entering the Bar.*



Paul Stanley KC **Chair of ICCA Governors**

# Dean's Report



Lynda Gibbs KC (Hon)



*As we leave behind the restrictions of Covid and finally settle into our new home at 33 Chancery Lane, we look forward to continuing to strive for excellence across all that we do. We have ambitious plans for Bar students, pupils and practitioners.*

This year, we welcomed Paul Stanley KC as our new Chair. We said goodbye to founding Governors, Will Waldron KC and Alistair MacDonald KC and welcomed Richard Wright KC (Vice-Chair Circuits) and Christopher Melton KC (Chair of International). Paul and our Governors will steer us through the early years of consolidating the Bar Course as a leading light in Bar training and map out how we can support the practising Bar in their post qualification training as well as how we will support pupils with their regulatory responsibilities.

Our Bar Course continues to put graduating students at the top of the class with results in the BSB assessments that out-perform all other Bar training providers by quite some margin. We recently celebrated with our alumni at our Summer Party.

Our students, over four separate sittings of the new Bar knowledge exams, have achieved an average pass rate of 94% which is 39% higher than any other Provider and significantly better than the national average of 48.06%.

More of our first graduating cohort from 2021 secured pupillage this year, taking the tally to 80%. We welcome 138 new students in September and our fourth cohort of Part Two students who will enjoy the wonderful new teaching facilities at Inner Temple.

Our new pupillage Professional Ethics materials saw 112 pupils registering to prepare for their new regulatory assessment, the first of which was in April 2022.

We are anticipating further reforms to advocacy and negotiation skills for pupils.

Our post qualification work has seen advances in the quality of e-learning materials that we have created. We piloted a new course, 'Advocacy for Children in Conflict with the Law', in February and will rollout pupil training later this year. We are continuing to work with the BSB to enable advocates to evidence the undertaking of relevant and bespoke training via an 'Assuring Competence Programme which is being developed by the regulator.

The reach and quality of our 'Advocacy and the Vulnerable' course expanded with a revision of the 20 Principles of Questioning; a masterclass delivered to the Young Commonwealth Lawyers Association and a keynote speech at the Bermuda Judiciary and Magistracy Matrimonial, Child & Family Law and Practice Seminar. The FLBA's A&V course, led by Lorraine Cavanagh KC, is making great progress.

94%

AVERAGE PASS RATE

80%

FIRST COHORT IN PUPILLAGE

138

NEW STUDENTS IN 2022

112

PUPIL REGISTRATIONS  
FOR ETHICS



# Bar Course update

Jane Hutton, Patrick Ryan (Joint Directors of Online Learning)  
& Barnaby Pinfield (Bar Course Leader)

## Part One – Online

Part One of the Bar Course has continued to thrive in its second year. So far, 150 have taken their BSB exams. This year, we are due to welcome our fifth cohort of students which will be our largest group so far.

Feedback on the course has been very positive, with students particularly appreciating the flexibility it allows. The live action films, recorded at Blackfriars Crown Court and the Rolls Building, are consistently mentioned by students as one of the parts of the course they find most enjoyable and useful. They are of fundamental importance as they help to put the abstract rules and procedures into context, which is essential given there is no face-to-face teaching during Part One.

The large bank of formative assessment questions is also mentioned as being one of the most helpful parts of the course, and we are happy to say that our results have continued to surpass our expectations.

## Part Two – Face-to-face

In September 2021, we welcomed our third cohort of students undertaking Part Two of the Bar Course. We were able to deliver the majority of their teaching in-person using the exceptional educational spaces in Gray's Inn. The Omicron variant of the pandemic meant that we were unable to deliver the whole course in-person but our previous experience of delivering the course meant we were able to support students through a blend of in-person and online support.

This year, students have been taught entirely in-person in the teaching rooms at the Lincoln's Inn Ashworth Centre. Students have been given the opportunity to extend their learning through a series of 10 extracurricular events, providing valuable insights into many aspects of life at the Bar and on the Bench. These include: A Conversation with the Master of the Rolls; Why we needed a Supreme Court, and have all the hopes been realised with The Rt Hon the Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury; on International Women's Day: Celebrating Women Leading the Bar, with the 4 female Leaders of Circuit - Michelle Heeley KC, Lisa Roberts KC, Kate Brunner KC, Christine Agnew KC; and An Unconventional Route to the High Court with Lady Rose of Colmworth.



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**To date, all students  
have passed Part Two  
of the ICCA Bar Course,  
with more than 80%  
achieving either a  
Distinction or a Merit.**



# Student Admissions

Chris Kessling, Vice-Dean of the ICCA and Head of Recruitment & Admissions

In accordance with its Fair Admissions Policy, the ICCA seeks to attract students who are motivated, bright, dedicated and diligent with a realistic chance of attaining the standard required for an award of pupillage, irrespective of their social, cultural and economic backgrounds. We therefore continue to be encouraged by the breadth and diversity of students who accepted offers to study on the ICCA Bar Course, both from September 2022 and January 2023.

Of these, when compared against the statistics gathered in the BSB Diversity at the Bar Report 2021, 21% were Asian/Asian British (as against 8.6% pupils and 7.1% at the Bar overall); 4% were Black/Black British (compared

with 2.9% of pupils and 3% at the Bar overall); 9% were of Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups (compared with 7.2% of pupils and 3.3% at the Bar); 2% were of Other ethnic background (as compared with 1% of pupils and 1.1% at the Bar) and 62% were white (as compared with 75.5% of pupils and 78.3% of the Bar overall). 2% of respondents preferred not to reveal their ethnicity.

Of students who accepted an offer and were willing to answer diversity monitoring questions, we had a 62% female/37% male ratio; 68% were aged under 25 and 31% were aged 25 or over; 18% had a disability (including specific learning difficulties); 56% had attended a UK state school and 24% attended a UK independent school.



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*I got the call and I received the place. It was an incredible moment for me because I really wanted to get on the course.*

Ufnaan Shahjahan - ICCA Part Two student



# International Projects

Chris Melton KC – Chair of International Committee



Chris Melton KC

International training is at the heart of the ICCA's work. The ICCA has a core of excellent training materials and can call on the Inns and Circuits to supplement its own hard core of experienced international trainers.

Since our last review, the international programme continued, focussing on remote learning with training being provided to advocates in Malaysia, South Africa and Nigerian Kaduna State. The consensus is that face to face training is the gold standard and in September 2022 plans are afoot for training in Krakow, Poland and in the USA.

HHJ Stephen Murch stood down as International Chair in the Spring of 2022; the ICCA Board is very grateful to him for his hard work, especially given the challenges resulting from the pandemic.

A new committee is now in place with Chris Melton KC as Chair. Chris and the Committee intend to expand and diversify the cohort of trainers available for international work, bringing together the resources of the Circuits and the Inns. The intention is to work with trainers and training organisations across and beyond the common law world so as to ensure continuing high quality training. The rule of law requires advocates of the highest quality.



# Board of Governors

## Chair

**Paul Stanley KC**

## Vice Chair for SBAs

**Darryl Allen KC**

## Vice Chair for Circuits

**Richard Wright KC**

## International Governor

**Christopher Melton KC**

## Judicial Governor

**The Rt. Hon. Lady Justice Andrews DBE**

*(Mrs Justice Maura McGowan takes up this post on 1 January 2023)*

## Academic Governor

**Dr. Catherine MacKenzie**

## Lincoln's Inn Governor

**Dominic Nolan KC**

## Inner Temple Governor

**Adam Constable KC**

## Middle Temple Governor

**Kama Melly KC**

## Gray's Inn Governor

**Philip Marshall KC**

## Professional Education & Training Governor

**Professor Shelley Heard**

## Lay Governor

**Sam Karuhanga**

## Find out more

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The Inns Of Court College Of Advocacy



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