

Feedback

We welcome feedback on our services, so that we know what we are doing right and what needs to be improved. Feedback can be sent via our website at: www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/contactus/contactusform



REGULATING BARRISTERS

Who we are and what we do

Contacting us

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About the Bar Standards Board

We regulate barristers called to the Bar in England and Wales in the public interest. A barrister is someone who is trained as a specialist in advocacy and advisory work.

We are responsible for:

- setting the education and training requirements for becoming a barrister;
- setting continuing training requirements to ensure that barristers' skills are maintained throughout their careers;
- setting standards of conduct for barristers;
- monitoring the service provided by barristers to assure quality;
- handling complaints against barristers and taking disciplinary or other action where appropriate.

Our Board

Our Board is made up of 15 people, a combination of lay people and barristers. The Board's work is overseen by several Committees. We have opportunities for both lay people and barristers to contribute to our work through our Board and Committees. Details of our Board and Committee structures can be found on our website at:

www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/about

Education and training

We oversee the Academic, Vocational and Pupillage stages of training that must be completed in order to qualify as a barrister. We are responsible for monitoring and accrediting barristers' Continued Professional Development (CPD), which ensures that barristers maintain high standards throughout their careers.

We also look at individual applications from people wishing to qualify and/or to practise as barristers but who may be exempted from some or all of the normal training requirements.

Further information about training to be a barrister can be found on our website at: www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/Educationandtraining

Complaints

We investigate complaints and take action against barristers who have breached our Code of Conduct.

If you have a complaint about the service your barrister has provided, you should first raise your concerns with the chambers where the barrister works. If you are unable to resolve your complaint with the barrister's chambers, you can contact the Legal Ombudsman: www.legalombudsman.org.uk

More information about the complaints that we deal with and our processes can be found on the BSB website: www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/complaintsandhearings

Standards

We set standards for barristers and provide a Code of Conduct that sets the rules for practice at the Bar. The Code is supported by detailed guidance addressing particular aspects of professional standards.

We also develop policy on professional conduct in areas such as chambers' complaints handling and direct public access to barristers.

Quality assurance

Our aim is to assure, maintain and enhance standards across the profession through the development of measures for assessing the quality of both individual barristers and the chambers in which they practice. This includes a scheme to monitor chambers' administration and working practices and a barristers' register, which can be accessed on our website: www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/qualityassurance/onlineregister

Equality and diversity

We believe the Bar should reflect the diversity of our society both in its composition and in the way it promotes equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination. Under the Code of Conduct barristers must not discriminate against another person on specified personal grounds. In addition to this requirement we also provide an Equality and Diversity Code for the Bar which sets out good equal opportunities practice in developing and running Chambers.

Further information about our work on equality and diversity is available on our website at: www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/about/equalityanddiversity