



Welcome to the September Advocacy Section update

Reminder: the deadline for the **SRA's initial notification process for QASA** is tomorrow – **Friday 21 September**. The SRA requests that you notify them if you wish to continue to practise criminal advocacy in the Magistrates' or Crown Courts. The deadline for the **QASA consultation** is **Tuesday 9 October**.

In this update, Will Richmond-Coggan writes about in-house advocacy, Mark MacGregor discusses the new programme to reduce the use of paper in the criminal courts, Stuart Barlow considers how young lawyers might acquire advocacy skills, and Steven Durno provides an update on QASA.

Don't miss the invaluable training weekends taking place this autumn, and the regional Family Advocacy training during November. The first three Advocacy Section webinars are now available to view. We are also looking for Section members to volunteer to become mentors to provide advice and support to fellow solicitor advocates.

We want to make sure that the content of these updates gives you the information and the support you need, so please email us if you have any feedback or comments.

Training and events

Advocacy Intensive Training Weekends

In conjunction with the College of Law, the Law Society is holding a series of intensive advocacy training weekends, taking place across the country from September to December. The weekend will comprise a series of presentations and exercises, a dinner to which judges will be invited, advocacy role-playing, and feedback.
Find out more and book your place – September to December

Advocacy Section webinars – FREE

As part of your Section membership for 2012, you have access to four free one-hour long webinars. You can book your place to take part on the day, or view a recorded version after the webinar has taken place.

Understanding and Maximising Crown Court Advocacy Fees (available to view now)

Cross Examination and Re-Examination (available to view now)

Top 10 Tips for Mitigation (available to view now)

Case Construction – details to be announced

Having problems accessing the webinars? Download our guide to the CPD Centre.

Family Advocacy – early bird discount closes 11 October

This half-day course (3.5 CPD hours accredited) will include training on advocacy basics, an overview of the benefits of going in-house, and an opportunity for delegates to receive feedback on a short practical exercise. Judicial guest speakers, including District Judge Crichton at the London event, will present on the 'do's and don'ts' of family advocacy and answer questions from the floor.

Book your place – 12 / 14 / 16 November

This edition contains:

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**Support
that family
solicitors
can count
on**



Meet the Judges – FREE

Solicitor judges discuss their experiences of applying for and taking on a judicial post, followed by a drinks reception to mark the launch of the Solicitor Judge Division.
[Book your place](#) – October to November

Other relevant events:

- [Advocacy Section January 2012 London launch podcast](#) – FREE
- [Criminal Law Conference: Fighting for Justice podcast](#) – 20% discount
- [Judicial appointments - interview training and tips for solicitors](#)
- [Civil Justice Section Conference - Litigators: Survive & Thrive](#) – early bird discount closes 21 September

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Advocacy Section information

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Comment

In-house rules

Will Richmond-Coggan, SAHCA committee member and director at Pitmans LLP, explores the advantages of bringing advocacy in-house, and outlines some risks for firms to be aware of.

[Read Will's article](#)

A digital revolution?

Reducing the use of paper in the criminal courts will bring benefits, but also real technology challenges, explains Mark MacGregor. This article was first published in the August edition of *Managing for Success*, the magazine of the [Law Management Section](#).

[Read Mark's article](#)

QASA: keeping you updated

Steven Durno, Law Society policy officer, provides an update on the Quality Assurance Scheme for Advocates.

[Read Steven's article](#)

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Practice support

Young blood

Stuart Barlow, an associate at Nelsons Solicitors, considers how young lawyers might acquire advocacy skills in today's specialised world.

[Read Stuart's article](#)

FAQ

The Law Society's Practice Advice Service answers a frequently asked question on human trafficking.

[Read the FAQ](#)

Become a mentor

Have you considered becoming a mentor to provide advice and support to fellow solicitor advocates? We ask mentors to sign up to a minimum of 12 months, running from **October 2012 to September 2013**. All mentors must attend a free CPD-accredited half-day training session in order to be able to participate in the scheme. For further information, please [email the Section](#).

Free software for advocates

As of 1 October 2012, all Crown Court Advocates must make their advocate graduated fee [AF1] claims on a new form – version 9. Advocacy Section members can enjoy a free trial download of all criminal law advocacy billing software, including the new forms, from the [Bullseye website](#) on a link that will be available from 1 October. Watch this space!

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Updates

QASA: deadline tomorrow!

The SRA would like to remind all who wish to practise criminal advocacy, either in the Magistrates' or Crown Courts, to make an initial response by 21 September (tomorrow). [See the SRA's announcement](#)

- [LSC issues statement on QASA](#)
- [SRA calls for responses to fourth and final consultation on the scheme](#) (closing 9 October)
- [Guardian: Qasa: regulators should watch out for unqualified trial advocates](#)
- [Legal Futures: Michael Todd calls for last stand against QASA](#)
- [Law Society Gazette: Final consultation launched on advocacy accreditation](#)
- [Law Society Gazette: SRA urges advocates to register as deadline looms](#)

Other relevant news

- [MOJ issues announcement on Defendants Costs Orders in proceedings commenced on or after 1 October](#)
- [Stuart Miller writes about legal life in business advocacy](#)
- [Law Society examines responses to Criminal Litigation Scheme Reaccreditation consultation](#)
- [Law Society questions government's speedy justice proposals](#)
- [Legal Futures: BSB narrowly wins argument over case for entity regulation](#)
- [Law Society: Leading law firms pledge support for solicitor judge recruitment campaign](#)

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Discounts

[20% off membership of the Civil Justice Section](#)

Membership offers a comprehensive range of products and services, including regular e-newsletters, discounted entry to CPD-accredited events, and much more. Call 020 7316 5707 or [email](#) to apply.

[£29 off your first year's subscription to *Litigation Funding* magazine](#)

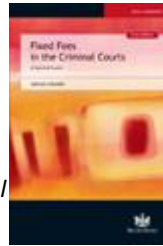
Published every two months by the Law Society, *Litigation Funding* magazine provides in-depth coverage and comment on the complex issues of financing litigation and costs. [Contact the Section](#) for more details.

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Books – get 20% off

Featured title: *Fixed Fees in the Criminal Courts*, 2nd edition

Fully revised and updated, the second edition of *Fixed Fees in the Criminal Courts* helps practitioners to ensure their fees are processed quickly and efficiently.



Other titles include:

- *Sentencing Handbook*, 2nd Edition
- *Criminal Defence*, 3rd Edition

Members get **20% off selected titles from Law Society Publishing** (quote code ADVCY online at the [Law Society Bookshop](#) or order by telephone on 0870 850 1422).

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Gazette jobs – featured job

Criminal Duty solicitors, Greater London and nationwide

Eximius Law, the leading legal specialist search and consultancy firm, is seeking Criminal Duty solicitors for January 2013. The roles are in private practice and consist of a variety of contract types.

[See the job details](#)



The newly re-launched [Gazette jobs board](#) includes hundreds of vacancies like the job above, readily searchable using a range of criteria. Looking to recruit? Call us on 020 7841 5453 or [email us](#).

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Membership benefits



Accident Line is the Law Society's referral and personal injury insurance service. [Find out more](#)



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