

Trends in the solicitors' profession

Annual statistical report 2006

Prepared by Bill Cole, Strategic Research Unit



The Law Society

Key statistics

Solicitors' profession as at 31 July 2006

| | |
|---|---------|
| Solicitors on the Roll | 131,347 |
| Solicitors with practising certificates (pcs) | 104,543 |
| Private practice firms | 8,926 |
| Women solicitors with pcs | 44,393 |
| Women partners | 5,727 |
| Solicitors from minority ethnic groups with pcs | 9,471 |
| Solicitors working in private practice | 80,575 |
| Solicitors employed outside private practice | 23,968 |
| New solicitors admitted to the Roll 2005-06 | 7,075 |
| Trainee solicitors commencing contracts 2005-06 | 5,751 |

Distribution of firms and solicitors 2005-06



| Partners | % of firms | % of solicitors |
|------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 46.3 | 8.2 |
| 2-4 | 40.7 | 22.8 |
| 5-10 | 8.9 | 15.6 |
| 11-25 | 2.8 | 14.4 |
| 26 or more | 1.3 | 39.0 |

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The Law Society

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Introduction

This is the twenty-third Annual Statistical Report of the Law Society. It contains the most recent statistics available on the solicitors' branch of the legal profession.

The Strategic Research unit

This report was produced by the Law Society's Strategic Research Unit. The Unit helps the Council of the Law Society to assess the changing nature of the profession, and to respond to those changes in an informed way. In doing so the unit designs, conducts and commissions research studies on a number of issues of relevance to the profession. It has published reports on the public perceptions of solicitors, the work and organisation of the solicitors' profession, entry to the profession, how solicitors manage their practices, research into legal markets, and comparisons with legal professions based in other jurisdictions. A list of publications linked to a summary or the full text version can be viewed at www.research.lawsociety.org.uk. Further information on the work of the unit can be obtained from members of the Strategic Research Unit.

Sources of data

The main source used for this report was:

- The Law Society's REGIS database, which is maintained by the Society at its offices in Redditch. This contains records of all solicitors at all stages in their career, from their initial enrolment as a student through to their admission to the Roll on qualification and thereafter.

The report also draws on the clearing house admission systems (UCAS) used by universities to provide information on applications and acceptances for law degrees in England and Wales; and data from the Higher Educational Statistical Agency for information on the number of law graduates and their achieved grades. Detailed references to all of the sources used are given throughout the report.

Summary

Key facts about the solicitors' profession

This report describes the size and composition of the solicitors' profession and describes trends in the entry of solicitors to the profession.

The size of the profession

- As at 31 July 2006, there were 131,347 solicitors on the Roll, an increase of 4.1% on the year before.
- At the same date, 104,543 solicitors (79.6% of those on the Roll) held practising certificates, an increase of 3.6% on the previous year.
- Since 1976, the total number of solicitors holding practising certificates has grown by 234.5% at an average annual rate of 4.1%.
- 80,575, or 77.1%, of solicitors holding practising certificates work in private practice; the remainder work mainly in commerce and industry and the public sector.
- Since 1996, the proportion of practising certificate holders not employed in private practice has increased from 18.2% to 22.9%.

A descriptive profile

- In 2005–06, solicitors drawn from minority ethnic groups accounted for 9.7% of solicitors on the Roll, 9.1% of solicitors with practising certificates, and 8.7% of solicitors in private practice.
- Women now account for 42.5% of solicitors with practising certificates. Whereas since 1996 the total number of solicitors holding practising certificates has grown by 53.7%, the number of women holding practising certificates more than doubled, having increased by 107.9%.
- 78.9% of men holding practising certificates work within private practice, compared to only 73.3% of women.
- Just over one-half, 52.7%, of current practising solicitors have been qualified for 10 years or less.
- In 2005–06 35.7% of private practitioners were listed as being either partners or sole practitioners compared to 39.8% the year before.
- Of those solicitors with 10–19 years' experience in private practice, 60.0% of men were partners or sole practitioners compared with only 40.3% of women.

- In 2006, the average age of a female solicitor in private practice was 36.7 years compared with 43.9 years for men. The average age of a sole practitioner was 51.1 years compared with 46.7 years for partners and 41.0 years for all solicitors in private practice.
- Just over one-third of practising certificate holders in 2006 (36.4%) were employed by organisations based in London. These organisations were responsible for the employment of over half (50.6%) of ethnic minority practising certificate holders.

Trends in organisations employing solicitors

- In 2006 there were 15,396 separate organisations employing solicitors of which 14,139 were based in England and Wales.
- In 2006, there were 8,926 solicitors' firms in England and Wales listed in the Society's database, a small decrease of 1.7% on 2005.
- The vast majority of law firms are relatively small with 87.0% of them having four or fewer partners.
- In 2006 42.4%, of private practice firms were located in London and the South East.
- Just over one-quarter of private practice firms, 27.4%, were recorded as being located in London in 2006. These firms employed approaching one-half (43.6%) of all private practitioners.
- In 2006, the 1.3% of firms with 26 or more partners employed well over one-third (39.0%) of all solicitors in private practice. Sole practices accounted for 46.3% of firms, and yet only employed 8.2% of all solicitors.
- On average, the very largest firms, with 81 or more partners, had 3.7 assistant/associate solicitors per partner compared with between 0.4 and 2.4 in the smaller and medium-sized firms.

Trends in post-graduate education

- In 2005 there were 21,373 applicants to study first degree courses in law in England and Wales, of whom 13,693 (64.1%) were accepted.
- Of the 12,084 graduates in the summer of 2005, over half (54.4%) achieved firsts or upper second classifications. More women graduated with firsts and upper seconds than men, 56.0% as opposed to 51.6%.
- In the past year 10,159 students enrolled with the Law Society of whom 63.0% were women and 24.7% were drawn from minority ethnic groups.

- In July 2006, 8,262 LPC students were eligible to sit the examination. This represented a decrease (4.5%) on the 8,649 who were eligible in 2005. Of those who actually sat the examination in 2006, 78.2% passed, a decrease on the 2005 pass rate of 86.5%.
- There were 8,343 full time and 2,498 part-time LPC places available in 2005–06. In 2006–07 there will be 10,325 full-time and 2,948 part-time places available.
- In the year to 31 July 2006 5,751 new trainee registrations were lodged with the Law Society, an increase of 0.3% on the year before.
- Of the new trainee registrations 61.8% were women and registrations from minority ethnic groups represented 17.5% of all registrations with known ethnicity.
- In the year to 31 July 2006, admissions to the Roll, *ie* newly qualified solicitors and transfers from other legal professions, were 7,075, a decrease of 3.8% on admissions in the year before.
- Of these new admissions 59.4% were women, and admissions from minority ethnic groups represented 18.9% of all admissions with known ethnicity.

Part I

Qualified solicitors

Chapters 1 and 2 of the report contain details of the numbers of solicitors on the Roll, and of those with practising certificates, analysed by gender, age, ethnicity, experience, employment sector and, where appropriate, position in private practice. Chapter 3 looks at the organisations that employ solicitors and chapter 4 examines the staffing of firms in private practice.

1. Solicitors on the Roll

- 1.1 Under the Solicitors Act 1974, the Law Society is required to maintain records of all qualified solicitors on the Roll. All practising solicitors are obliged to keep the Society informed of their whereabouts and any changes in the circumstances of their employment. The annual renewal of practising certificates produces up-to-date information about all practising solicitors. In addition, the Society now operates a scheme of annual enrolment for all solicitors on the Roll in order to be able to gain up-to-date information about those solicitors who do not hold practising certificates.
- 1.2 As at 31 July 2006, there were 131,347 solicitors on the Roll, an increase of 4.1% over the previous year. Of these, 74,098 (56.4%) were men and 57,249 (43.6%) were women. Last year 57.4% of solicitors on the Roll were men and 42.6% were women.
- 1.3 Table 1.3 shows that of those solicitors on the Roll at 31 July 2006, 104,543, or 79.6% of them, held a current practising certificate entitling them to act as a solicitor within the definition of the Solicitors Act 1974. The remaining 26,804 include solicitors working in jobs in which they are not required to hold a practising certificate, retired solicitors, and those no longer pursuing a career in the legal profession. Some of the employed solicitors without a practising certificate work in local government or commerce and industry and do not provide legal advice to those outside the organisation, or undertake litigation on behalf of their employer.

Table 1.3 Solicitors on the Roll with and without practising certificates by gender as at 31 July 2006

| | No. | % |
|--|---------|-------|
| With practising certificates | | |
| Male | 60,150 | 57.5 |
| Female | 44,393 | 42.5 |
| Sub-total | 104,543 | 100.0 |
| Without practising certificates | | |
| Male | 13,948 | 52.0 |
| Female | 12,856 | 48.0 |
| Sub-total | 26,804 | 100.0 |
| Total solicitors on the Roll | | |
| Male | 74,098 | 56.4 |
| Female | 57,249 | 43.6 |
| Total | 131,347 | 100.0 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

Ethnic groups

- 1.4 Minority ethnic group solicitors make up 9.7% of solicitors on the Roll, of whom around a quarter are resident abroad. In England and Wales the greatest concentration of minority ethnic group solicitors on the Roll is found in the Central and South Middlesex constituency, where over a quarter of solicitors are drawn from ethnic minorities.
- 1.5 Table 1.5 shows that 74.3% of the 12,750 minority ethnic group solicitors on the Roll hold practising certificates. This is a slight increase on last year but is still a noticeably lower participation rate than that for all solicitors where the rate was as we have seen 79.6%. Chinese solicitors, the majority of whom work overseas, have the lowest minority ethnic participation rate. Only just over one-third (34.6%) of ethnic Chinese solicitors on the Roll hold practising certificates.

Table 1.5 Minority ethnic group solicitors on the Roll and with practising certificates as at 31 July 2006

| Ethnic origin | Minority ethnic group solicitors | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|---|
| | 1 On the Roll | 2 With practising certificate | 3 Participation rate [2 as a % of 1] |
| African-Caribbean | 833 | 694 | 83.3 |
| Asian | 6,320 | 5,387 | 85.2 |
| Chinese | 2,564 | 886 | 34.6 |
| African | 1,102 | 943 | 85.6 |
| Other ethnic origin | 1,931 | 1,561 | 80.8 |
| All minority ethnic group solicitors | 12,750 | 9,471 | 74.3 |
| White European | 100,627 | 82,091 | 81.6 |
| Unknown | 17,970 | 12,981 | 72.2 |
| Total | 131,347 | 104,543 | 79.6 |
| Minority ethnic group solicitors as a % of all solicitors | 9.7 | 9.1 | |
| Minority ethnic group solicitors as % of solicitors with known ethnicity | 11.2 | 10.3 | |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

2. Practising certificate holders

2.1 In order to act as a solicitor, the Solicitors Act 1974 requires that the solicitor's name appears on the Roll and that a current practising certificate is held. Practising certificates are issued by the Law Society and are valid from 1 November to 31 October each year.

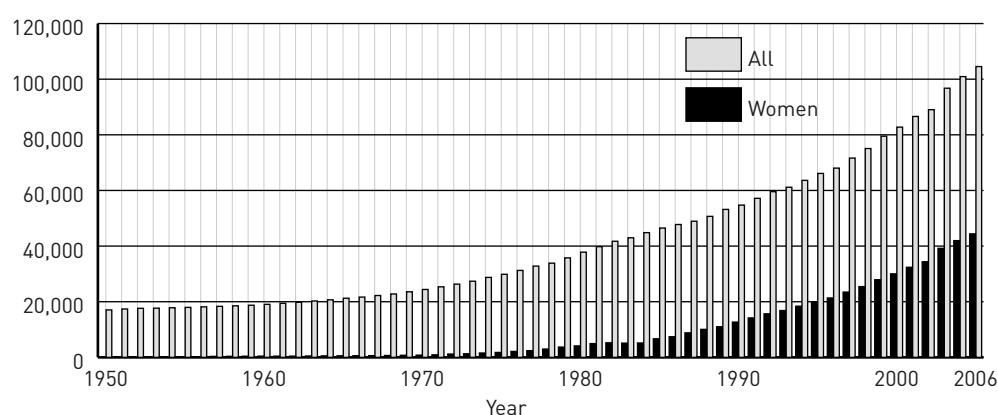
2.2 At 31 July 2006, there were 104,543 solicitors holding current practising certificates. This represents an increase of 3.6% on the number for the previous year. This growth rate is below the long run rate of growth, and this year is below the growth in the number of solicitors on the Roll partly as a reflection in the fall in the participation rate. The participation rate, which is the percentage of solicitors on the Roll holding practising certificates, decreased slightly from 78.0% to 77.5% for women solicitors, and also decreased slightly from 81.5% to 81.2% for male solicitors. Table 2.2 below shows how the total number of solicitors with practising certificates has grown over the past three decades, with the comparable figures for solicitors working within private practice. Since 1976, the total number of practising certificate holders has grown by 234.5% at an average annual rate of 4.1%. Comparable figures for those in private practice are a total growth over the period of 198.4% at an average rate of 3.7%. From table 2.2 it can be seen that the fastest growth in both practising certificate and private practitioner numbers over this period occurred between 1976 and 1986 (53.1% and 53.6% respectively). The high rate of practising certificate growth between 1996 and 2006 (53.7%) was not matched by a commensurate increase in private practitioners, but reflected large increases in the number of inhouse lawyers. Chart 1 shows the growth in the number of solicitors with practising certificates since 1950, and compares the growth rate for women holders with that of the profession as a whole.

Table 2.2 Solicitors holding practising certificates 1976 to 2006

| Year | Practising solicitors | % change | Solicitors in private practice | % change |
|------|-----------------------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1976 | 31,250 | | 27,002 | |
| 1986 | 47,830 | 53.1 | 41,483 | 53.6 |
| 1996 | 68,037 | 42.2 | 55,673 | 34.2 |
| 2006 | 104,543 | 53.7 | 80,575 | 44.7 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

Chart 1 Growth in the number of solicitors with practising certificates 1950–2006



Source: Law Society's REGIS database

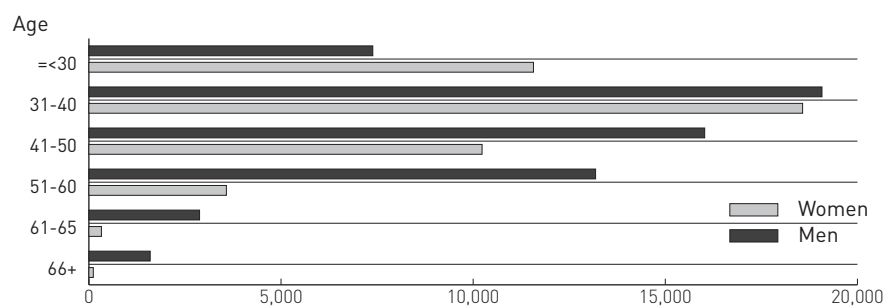
- 2.3 Since 1996, the total number of solicitors with practising certificates has grown by 53.7%; however, over this period the number of women solicitors with practising certificates has increased by 107.9% whilst the number of men increased by only 28.9%. The proportion of solicitors holding practising certificates who are women was 42.5% at 31 July 2006, compared with 31.4% in 1996. For the past ten years, women have accounted for over one-half of new entrants to the profession, so this proportion is set to increase at least for the foreseeable future.
- 2.4 Table 2.4 shows the age distribution of solicitors in five-year groups, and also participation rates by age. The comparison between the participation rates for men and women shows that participation rates are lower among female than male solicitors for all age groups apart from the small number in the group of the very youngest aged 25 and under.
- 2.5 Table 2.4 and Chart 2 also show that there are more female than male practising certificate holders aged 45 or less, but that the majority of those in the older age groups are men. Over one-half, 54.2%, of solicitors with a practising certificate are aged 40 or less. The average age of a female solicitor with a practising certificate is 37.4 years compared with 43.7 for men. The median values show that one-half of women solicitors with practising certificates are aged 35 or less, whilst one half of men with practising certificates are aged 42 or less.

Table 2.4 The age distribution of solicitors and participation rates as at 31 July 2006

| Age | Number of men with PCs | Part. rate [% on Roll holding PCs] | Number of women with PCs | Part. rate [% on Roll holding PCs] |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
| 25 and under | 373 | 94.4 | 787 | 96.6 |
| 26-30 | 6,957 | 93.7 | 10,749 | 91.1 |
| 31-35 | 9,354 | 87.8 | 10,204 | 81.9 |
| 36-40 | 9,573 | 86.1 | 8,316 | 73.6 |
| 41-45 | 8,221 | 84.8 | 5,990 | 70.5 |
| 46-50 | 7,678 | 84.7 | 4,213 | 71.7 |
| 51-55 | 7,109 | 82.8 | 2,447 | 68.5 |
| 56-60 | 5,974 | 78.3 | 1,121 | 63.0 |
| 61-65 | 2,857 | 68.4 | 325 | 53.5 |
| 66-70 | 917 | 48.0 | 64 | 37.6 |
| 71 and over | 665 | 24.1 | 51 | 30.7 |
| Unknown | 472 | 69.1 | 126 | 58.9 |
| All ages known | 59,678 | 81.3 | 44,267 | 77.6 |
| % ages known | 99.2 | | 99.7 | |
| Total | 60,150 | 81.2 | 44,393 | 77.5 |
| Average (Mean) age | 43.7 | | 37.4 | |
| Median age | 42 | | 35 | |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

Chart 2 The age of solicitors with practising certificates — 31 July 2006



Source: Law Society's REGIS database

2.6 Table 2.6 shows the numbers of solicitors holding practising certificates as at 31 July 2006, analysed by employment sector and the number of years they have been qualified as solicitors. Over one-third, 38.2%, of male solicitors with current practising certificates in private practice have been qualified for less than 10 years, and 61.5% have been qualified for less than 20 years. This compares with 88.3% of women solicitors in private practice who have been qualified for less than 20 years. A similar age distribution pattern to that found in private practice was found amongst women solicitors working in the employed and other sectors, for men though just under three quarters (70%) in this sector had been qualified for less than 20 years.

Table 2.6 Experience of solicitors with practising certificates, measured by number of years qualified, as at 31 July 2006

| Years since admission | All solicitors | | Men | | Women | |
|---|----------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Solicitors in private practice | | | | | | |
| 0-9 | 39,713 | 49.3 | 18,352 | 38.2 | 21,361 | 65.6 |
| 10-19 | 18,567 | 23.0 | 11,178 | 23.3 | 7,389 | 22.7 |
| 20-29 | 13,768 | 17.1 | 10,612 | 22.1 | 3,156 | 9.7 |
| 30-39 | 7,081 | 8.8 | 6,495 | 13.5 | 586 | 1.8 |
| 40-49 | 1,220 | 1.5 | 1,176 | 2.4 | 44 | 0.1 |
| 50 or more years | 226 | 0.3 | 211 | 0.4 | 15 | 0.0 |
| All years | 80,575 | 100.0 | 48,024 | 100.0 | 32,551 | 100.0 |
| Solicitors in employed and other sectors | | | | | | |
| 0-9 | 12,055 | 50.3 | 5,322 | 43.9 | 6,733 | 56.9 |
| 10-19 | 6,865 | 28.6 | 3,248 | 26.8 | 3,618 | 30.5 |
| 20-29 | 3,466 | 14.5 | 2,178 | 18.0 | 1,288 | 10.9 |
| 30-39 | 1,379 | 5.8 | 1,183 | 9.8 | 196 | 1.7 |
| 40-49 | 172 | 0.7 | 164 | 1.4 | 8 | 0.1 |
| 50 or more years | 31 | 0.1 | 31 | 0.3 | 0 | 0.0 |
| All years | 23,968 | 100.0 | 12,125 | 100.0 | 11,843 | 100.0 |

* less than 0.05%

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

2.7 Table 2.7 provides a detailed breakdown of the employment of solicitors with practising certificates. It shows that the overwhelming majority of solicitors with practising certificates work in private practice: 77.1% as at 31 July 2006. The second largest category of employment is commerce and industry, 8.2%, followed by local government, which employs 3.5% of practising certificate holders. (It should also be pointed out that the number of solicitors working in the employed sector is likely to be greater than these figures suggest. This is because many, as a consequence of their employed status, will not be required to hold a practising certificate.) A further 7.2% are not attached to any organisation: the majority of these are in the youngest age group which suggests that they are predominantly the most recently qualified. The table also shows that women account for a higher proportion of solicitors in the employed and other sectors than in private practice. In private practice 40.4% of solicitors are women, compared with 49.4% in these other sectors.

Table 2.7 Practising certificate holders by category of employment as at 31 July 2006

| Category of employment | All | % of PC holders | Men | Women | Women as % of total |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|--------|--------|---------------------------|
| Private practice | 80,575 | 77.1 | 48,024 | 32,551 | 40.4 |
| Commerce and industry | 8,611 | 8.2 | 4,714 | 3,897 | 45.3 |
| Accountancy practice | 92 | 0.1 | 42 | 50 | 54.3 |
| Nationalised industries | 59 | 0.1 | 16 | 43 | 72.9 |
| Trade Union | 52 | 0.0 | 24 | 28 | 53.8 |
| Government department | 185 | 0.2 | 115 | 70 | 37.8 |
| Local government | 3,709 | 3.5 | 1,494 | 2,215 | 59.7 |
| Court | 77 | 0.1 | 37 | 40 | 51.9 |
| Government funded services | 227 | 0.2 | 89 | 138 | 60.8 |
| Crown Prosecution Service | 2,266 | 2.2 | 1,015 | 1,251 | 55.2 |
| Advice service | 395 | 0.4 | 133 | 262 | 66.3 |
| Educational establishment | 199 | 0.2 | 62 | 137 | 68.8 |
| Health services | 55 | 0.1 | 16 | 39 | 70.9 |
| Others | 552 | 0.5 | 220 | 332 | 60.1 |
| Not attached to an organisation | 7,489 | 7.2 | 4,149 | 3,340 | 44.6 |
| All non-private practice | 23,968 | 22.9 | 12,126 | 11,842 | 49.4 |
| Total practising certificate holders | 104,543 | 100.0 | 60,150 | 44,393 | 42.5 |

* less than 0.05%

¹ All other categories, including practising certificate holders in the Armed Forces, churches and other religious bodies and institutes

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

- 2.8 Overall, 79.8% of male solicitors with practising certificates work in private practice compared to only 73.3% of their female counterparts. This is shown in Table 2.8, which also shows the growing importance of the employed sector mentioned earlier. In 2006, just over one-fifth (22.9%) of practising certificate holders worked in the employed sector, compared to 18.2% 10 years ago.

Table 2.8 Distribution of practising certificate holders by category of employment as at 31 July 2006 compared with 1996

| Category of employment | 1996 | Total % | 2006 | |
|------------------------|------------|------------|----------|------------|
| | Total % | | Men % | Women % |
| Private practice | 81.8 | 77.1 | 79.8 | 73.3 |
| Other PC holders | 18.2 | 22.9 | 20.2 | 26.7 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

Solicitors in private practice

- 2.9 For the 80,575 solicitors working in private practice, the Law Society records the position or status of the solicitor within the firm. Table 2.9 shows the status of those solicitors holding practising certificates and working in private practice as at 31 July 2006. It shows the number who are partners, sole practitioners, assistant solicitors, associates, consultants, and 'other private practice'. The category of 'other private practice' refers to solicitors with practising certificates, in private practice, but with positions in the firm other than those stated. For example, this category includes solicitors employed in training and managerial capacities. This year there has been a further decrease in both the proportion of male and female private practitioners who are partners. Table 2.9 shows that, within an overall total of 30.6%, 39.5% of men, compared with only 17.6% of women, were partners as at 31 July 2006.

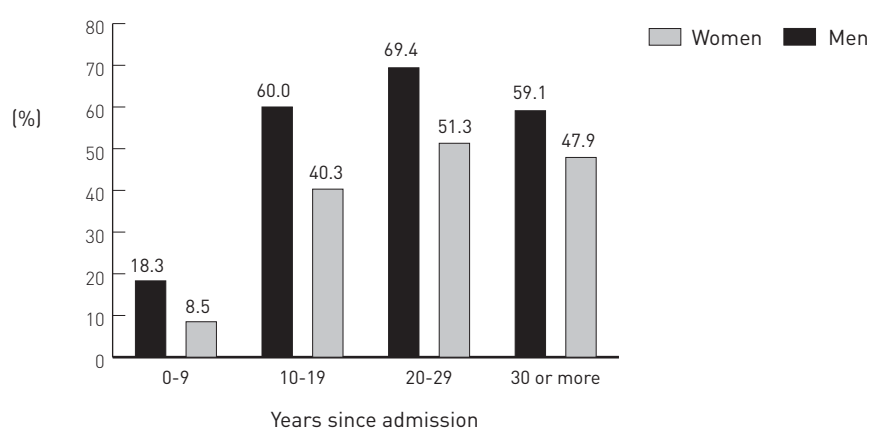
Table 2.9 Position of solicitors working in private practice and holding a practising certificate as at 31 July 2006

| Position in firm | Men | | Women | | Total | |
|------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Partners | 18,954 | 39.5 | 5,727 | 17.6 | 24,681 | 30.6 |
| Sole practitioners | 3,129 | 6.5 | 1,003 | 3.1 | 4,132 | 5.1 |
| Associate solicitors | 5,616 | 11.7 | 5,763 | 17.7 | 11,379 | 14.1 |
| Assistant solicitors | 11,435 | 23.8 | 16,802 | 51.6 | 28,237 | 35.0 |
| Consultant solicitors | 2,713 | 5.6 | 665 | 2.0 | 3,378 | 4.2 |
| Other private practice | 6,177 | 12.9 | 2,591 | 8.0 | 8,768 | 10.9 |
| All positions | 48,024 | 100.0 | 32,551 | 100.0 | 80,575 | 100.0 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

2.10 Chart 3 below is an examination of status analysed by experience (as measured by the number of full years since qualifying as a solicitor) for both men and women. Chart 3 shows that, even after equalising the levels of experience, higher proportions of men achieve partnership status than women. In all of the experience bands a lower proportion of women than men are partners or sole practitioners. Of solicitors in private practice with 10–19 years' experience, the band within which most partners and sole practitioners fall, 60.0% of men are partners or sole practitioners compared with only 40.3% of women.

Chart 3 Percentages of men and women in private practice who were either partners or sole practitioners as at 31 July 2006 by years since admission



Source: Law Society's REGIS database

2.11 In addition to gender differences it is also interesting to compare the age distribution of partners and sole practitioners with those for all solicitors in private practice. Table 2.11 shows that the average age of a sole practitioner is 51.1 years, compared with 46.7 for partners and 41.0 for all solicitors in private practice. Reflecting the recent growth in their admissions women solicitors, at all levels of private practice, are consistently younger on average than their male counterparts.

Table 2.11 The age distribution of sole practitioners and partners as at 31 July 2006

| Age | All in private practice | | | Partners | | | Sole practitioners | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|----------|-------|--------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total |
| Total | 48,024 | 32,551 | 80,575 | 18,954 | 5,727 | 24,681 | 3,129 | 1,003 | 4,132 |
| Average age | 43.9 | 36.7 | 41.0 | 47.7 | 43.1 | 46.7 | 52.3 | 47.3 | 51.1 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

Ethnic groups

2.12 Table 2.12 records the number of solicitors with practising certificates who are known to belong to a minority ethnic group. The provision of information on ethnicity is entirely optional, though at present it is known for 87.6% of practising certificate holders. Using this we estimate that solicitors from minority ethnic groups accounted for 9.1% of solicitors with practising certificates in 2006, an increase on the 8.7% recorded in 2005. Within this overall figure of 9.1% the proportion of women practising certificate holders from minority ethnic groups (11.9%) is notably higher than that for men (7.0%).

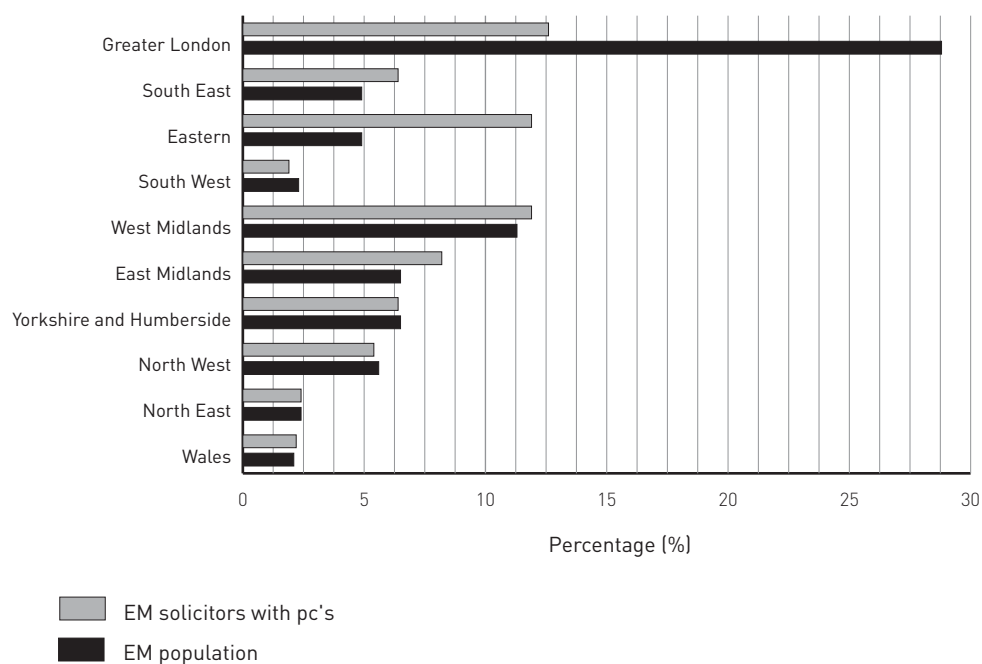
Table 2.12 Ethnic origin of practising certificate holders as at 31 July 2006

| Ethnic origin | Men | Women | Total | % |
|---|--------|--------|---------|-------|
| White European | 48,006 | 34,085 | 82,091 | 78.5 |
| African-Caribbean | 224 | 470 | 694 | 0.7 |
| Asian | 2,517 | 2,870 | 5,387 | 5.2 |
| Chinese | 336 | 550 | 886 | 0.8 |
| African | 409 | 534 | 943 | 0.9 |
| Other ethnic origin | 703 | 858 | 1,561 | 1.5 |
| All solicitors for whom ethnic origin is known | 52,195 | 39,367 | 91,562 | 87.6 |
| All practising certificate holders from minority ethnic groups known to the Law Society | 4,189 | 5,282 | 9,471 | |
| % of all solicitors PC's | 7.0 | 11.9 | 9.1 | |
| Unknown | 7,955 | 5,026 | 12,981 | 12.4 |
| All practising certificate holders | 60,150 | 44,393 | 104,543 | 100.0 |
| % of all solicitors with PC's for whom ethnic origin is known | 86.8 | 88.7 | 87.6 | |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

2.13 Chart 4 shows, for each Government Office Region (see Map 1, Appendix 1), minority ethnic group solicitors as a proportion of total solicitors with practising certificates, compared with the proportion of the total population who are drawn from minority ethnic groups.

Chart 4 Minority ethnic group solicitors as a proportion of total solicitors with practising certificates compared with people from ethnic minorities as a proportion of the total population, 2006



Law Society data source: REGIS database

Office for National Statistics: Table KS06. Ethnic group: Census 2001, Key Statistics for Local Authorities:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D6589.xls>

2.14 Table 2.14 shows the proportion of minority ethnic group solicitors with practising certificates in each Government Office Region and abroad. Greater London (12.6%), West Midlands (11.9%) and the Eastern region (11.9%) Government Office Regions have the highest proportion of minority ethnic solicitors, the majority of whom are Asian. Overall, 5.4% of solicitors from minority ethnic groups with practising certificates are resident abroad. It can also be seen from Table 2.14 that over a third of solicitors with practising certificates, 36.4%, are located in London, with this proportion rising to 50.6% for minority ethnic group solicitors.

Table 2.14 Proportion of minority ethnic group solicitors with practising certificates in standard regions and abroad as at 31 July 2006

| Region | Total no. of PC. holders | Ethnic Group (%) | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| | | Asian | African- Carib. | Chinese | African | Other minority ethnic group | Total minority ethnic groups | White Euro- pean | Unknown |
| City of London ¹ | 17,886 | 3.7 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 2.1 | 7.8 | 76.8 | 15.4 |
| Rest of Greater London | 20,121 | 9.0 | 1.6 | 1.1 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 16.9 | 67.5 | 15.7 |
| Greater London | 38,007 | 6.5 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.7 | 2.4 | 12.6 | 71.9 | 15.5 |
| South East | 11,300 | 3.8 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 6.4 | 83.4 | 10.2 |
| Eastern | 6,851 | 7.0 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 11.9 | 76.1 | 11.9 |
| South West | 5,450 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 1.9 | 89.3 | 8.8 |
| West Midlands | 7,404 | 9.5 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 11.9 | 79.4 | 8.7 |
| East Midlands | 4,292 | 6.4 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 8.2 | 83.0 | 8.8 |
| Yorkshire & Humberside | 6,881 | 4.8 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 6.4 | 86.0 | 7.6 |
| North West | 10,976 | 3.6 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 5.4 | 85.7 | 8.9 |
| North East | 2,842 | 1.8 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 2.4 | 89.1 | 8.5 |
| Wales | 3,442 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 2.2 | 88.6 | 9.3 |
| Outside of England and Wales | 4,326 | 2.9 | 0.1 | 6.4 | 0.2 | 2.1 | 11.8 | 59.5 | 28.7 |
| Unknown | 2,772 | 1.8 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 4.3 | 84.9 | 10.9 |
| Total | 104,543 | 5.2 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.5 | 9.1 | 78.5 | 12.4 |

¹ Solicitors have been allocated to one of the Government Office Regions on the basis of the local Law Society constituency in which they work. The boundaries match reasonably well but some degree of approximation is required.

* Less than 0.05%.

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

2.15 Table 2.15 analyses the position held by solicitors in private practice by their ethnicity. Table 2.15 shows that, whereas 31.8% of white Europeans in private practice are at partnership level, the corresponding proportion from minority ethnic groups is much lower at 21.5%. This partly reflects the fact that solicitors from the ethnic minorities have only recently been entering the profession in numbers. It is interesting to note though that 7.5% of solicitors from minority ethnic groups are sole practitioners, compared with only 4.9% for all white European solicitors in private practice.

Table 2.15 Status of private practice solicitors by ethnicity as at 31 July 2006

| Ethnic group | All in private practice | Percentage who were: | | | | | Total |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|----------|------------------------|-------|
| | | Partners | Sole practs. | Associates | Assists. | Other private practice | |
| African-Caribbean | 446 | 21.5 | 9.0 | 10.5 | 51.8 | 7.2 | 100.0 |
| Asian | 4,122 | 21.4 | 8.1 | 12.7 | 49.3 | 8.5 | 100.0 |
| Chinese | 614 | 18.1 | 3.9 | 23.9 | 45.4 | 8.6 | 100.0 |
| African | 649 | 28.7 | 9.9 | 10.2 | 44.7 | 6.6 | 100.0 |
| Other ethnic origin | 1,171 | 19.7 | 5.5 | 18.6 | 46.0 | 10.3 | 100.0 |
| All minority ethnic groups | 7,003 | 21.5 | 7.5 | 14.3 | 48.1 | 8.6 | 100.0 |
| White European | 64,453 | 31.8 | 4.9 | 13.8 | 33.7 | 15.9 | 100.0 |
| Unknown | 9,119 | 29.5 | 5.1 | 16.5 | 34.5 | 14.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 80,575 | 30.6 | 5.1 | 14.1 | 35.0 | 15.1 | 100.0 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

2.16 Finally, table 2.16 analyses the numbers of private practice practitioners by their ethnicity and size of firm in which they work. This table shows that nearly a half of minority ethnic group solicitors (48.1%) work in firms with 4 or fewer partners compared to only 28.8 of White Europeans.

Table 2.16 Distribution of pc holders in private practice by size of firm by ethnicity, as at the 31st July 2006

| | All in private practice | Sole pract. | 2-4 prttrs. | 5-10 prttrs | 11-25 prttrs | 26-80 prttrs | 81+ prttrs | All firms |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| African-Caribbean | 446 | 15.9 | 37.9 | 15.9 | 11.0 | 9.0 | 10.3 | 100.0 |
| Asian | 4,122 | 15.5 | 36.2 | 12.9 | 11.3 | 10.0 | 14.2 | 100.0 |
| Chinese | 614 | 8.0 | 18.9 | 8.8 | 16.4 | 16.7 | 31.2 | 100.0 |
| African | 649 | 17.5 | 49.9 | 7.5 | 5.5 | 8.1 | 11.4 | 100.0 |
| Other ethnic origin | 1,171 | 9.8 | 24.0 | 12.8 | 12.2 | 14.8 | 26.5 | 100.0 |
| All minority ethnic groups | 7,003 | 14.1 | 34.0 | 12.2 | 11.3 | 11.1 | 17.2 | 100.0 |
| White European | 64,453 | 7.5 | 21.3 | 16.4 | 14.6 | 17.7 | 22.4 | 100.0 |
| Unknown | 9,119 | 9.2 | 24.2 | 13.2 | 12.9 | 16.1 | 24.4 | 100.0 |
| Total | 80,575 | 8.3 | 22.8 | 15.7 | 14.1 | 17.0 | 22.2 | 100.0 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

3. Solicitors' offices and firms

3.1 Information on organisations employing solicitors, and especially on private practice solicitors firms, is now only available from the Law Society records held on its REGIS database. It should be noted that at present the REGIS system cannot differentiate between 'active' and 'inactive' private practice firms but nonetheless it does record the type of business conducted by all organisations in England and Wales that employ solicitors. The main categories of employment are shown in Table 3.1 together with the numbers of head offices and branch offices for each employer in England and Wales and in other jurisdictions.

Table 3.1 Organisations employing solicitors by type of business as at 31 July 2006

| Type of business | Head offices | | Branch offices | | Total offices | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| | England & Wales | Elsewhere | England & Wales | Elsewhere | England & Wales | Elsewhere |
| Private practice | | | | | | |
| Partnerships in England and Wales | 8,926 | 43 | 2,519 | 27 | 11,445 | 70 |
| Incorporated firms | 941 | 1 | 444 | 44 | 1,385 | 45 |
| Multi-national partnerships | 124 | 60 | 36 | 95 | 160 | 155 |
| Locum services | 190 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 190 | 0 |
| Foreign law practices | 3 | 607 | 8 | 119 | 11 | 726 |
| Other private practice | 6 | 25 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 29 |
| Commerce and industry | 2,855 | 476 | 284 | 57 | 3,139 | 533 |
| Government | | | | | | |
| Government Department | 48 | 8 | 22 | 8 | 70 | 16 |
| Local Government | 468 | 2 | 27 | 0 | 495 | 2 |
| Court | 72 | 1 | 96 | 0 | 168 | 1 |
| Government funded services | 50 | 6 | 47 | 2 | 97 | 8 |
| Crown Prosecution Services | 45 | 0 | 75 | 0 | 120 | 0 |
| Other | | | | | | |
| Advice service | 132 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 153 | 0 |
| Educational establishment | 106 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 113 | 8 |
| Other | 173 | 20 | 28 | 2 | 201 | 21 |
| Total | 14,139 | 1,257 | 3,617 | 358 | 17,756 | 1,615 |
| | | 15,396 | | | | 19,371 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

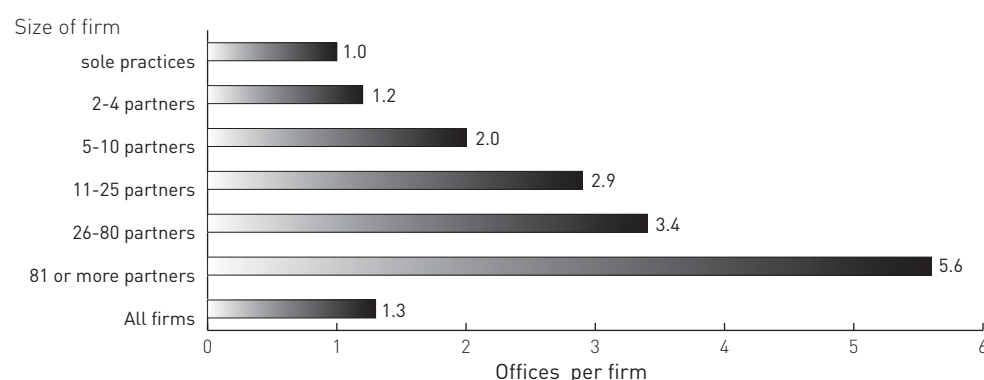
- 3.2 As can be seen from Table 3.1 as at 31 July 2006, there were 15,396 separate organisations employing solicitors, of which 14,193 were based in England and Wales and 1,257 elsewhere (ie Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, Eire and overseas countries). Each firm, company, local authority or other employer may be located in one or more offices. Allowing for this there were 19,371 separate places of work recorded for solicitors, of which 17,756 were in England and Wales and 1,615 elsewhere. It can also be seen from this table that in 2006 there were 8,926 private practice partnerships, located in 11,445 separate offices in England and Wales, registered with the Society. Over the past year the number of these private practice firms has fallen marginally by 1.7%, whilst the total number of offices has decreased by 2.6% though in part this reflects the impact of data cleansing exercises
- 3.3 The trend in the numbers of private practice firms and offices over the five years since 2001-02 is shown in table 3.3. This shows that over the period the number of firms has decreased by 3.3% and the number of offices has decreased by 10.8% (but see para 3.2 above). These figures are reflected in the observed 7.8% decrease in the ratio of offices to firms over the period.

Table 3.3 Trends in the number of private practice firms and offices over five years (2001-06)

| Year | Number of firms | Number of offices |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 2001-02 | 9231 | 12834 |
| 2002-03 | 9198 | 12708 |
| 2003-04 | 9211 | 12579 |
| 2004-05 | 9,081 | 11,746 |
| 2005-06 | 8,926 | 11,445 |

- 3.4 The numbers of offices occupied by different sizes of firms are shown in Chart 5. This shows that the average number of offices per firm in 2006 stayed at 1.3. As one would expect, the number of offices per firm increases with the size of firm: from 1.0 for sole practices through to 5.6 for the 81-or-more partner firms.

Chart 5 Number of offices by size of firm in 2006



3.5 Table 3.5 shows the geographical distribution of the population of England and Wales contrasted with that for private practice firms broken down into Government Office Regions. Just over one-quarter of solicitors' firms, 27.4%, were located in London in 2006 and over all 42.4% of firms are now based in the South East (including London). This value is distorted by the presence in London of a large number of firms serving predominantly commercial clients. Outside of the South East (including London) there is reasonable correspondence between the proportion of law firms and the population they serve, in the South East, Eastern, North West and Wales regions. The areas of greatest de-provision were the East Midlands, North East and Yorkshire and Humberside regions.

Table 3.5 Location (standard regions) of population and private practice firms in 2006

| Region | Total = | Population ¹ 52,994 million | Firms 8,926 |
|---------------------------------|---------|---|----------------|
| | | % | % |
| City of London | | * | 6.6 |
| Rest of London | | 14.0 | 20.8 |
| South East | | 15.3 | 15.1 |
| Eastern | | 10.4 | 10.6 |
| South West | | 9.5 | 7.1 |
| West Midlands | | 10.1 | 8.0 |
| East Midlands | | 8.1 | 4.8 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | | 9.5 | 6.8 |
| North West including Merseyside | | 12.9 | 11.9 |
| North East | | 4.8 | 3.2 |
| Wales | | 5.5 | 5.2 |
| Total | | 100.0 | 100.0 |

* Less than 0.05%

Sources: ¹ Estimated using Office for National Statistics mid-1999 data;

3.6 Table 3.6 analyses the number of private practice firms in 2006 by the Government Office Region in which the head office is located and the size of firm measured by the partner count. The first thing to notice from this table is that the vast majority of private practices are quite small. Taken overall over five-sixths (87.0%) of law practices in England and Wales have four partners or fewer. At the other end of the spectrum only 1.3% of all firms have 26 or more partners. The second point to note is the concentration of firms in London (see para 3.5). This concentration is particularly noticeable when we look at the disposition of the larger firms where it can be seen that of the 1116 firms with 26 or more partners 58.6% were located in the London region.

Table 3.6 Number of firms in 2006, analysed by size and regional location of head office

| Region | Number of firms | | | | | | All firms |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| | Sole Practitioner | 2-4 prttrs | 5-10 prttrs | 11-25 prttrs | 26-80 prttrs | 81+ prttrs | |
| City of London | 221 | 183 | 72 | 56 | 40 | 19 | 592 |
| Rest of Greater London | 971 | 767 | 85 | 20 | 8 | 1 | 1,852 |
| South East | 736 | 460 | 99 | 40 | 8 | 1 | 1,344 |
| Eastern | 444 | 400 | 70 | 30 | 3 | 0 | 946 |
| South West | 311 | 220 | 67 | 23 | 8 | 0 | 629 |
| West Midlands | 299 | 326 | 70 | 16 | 3 | 0 | 714 |
| East Midlands | 179 | 182 | 44 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 425 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 254 | 260 | 68 | 18 | 8 | 2 | 609 |
| North West (including Merseyside) | 418 | 480 | 130 | 27 | 8 | 1 | 1,064 |
| North East | 115 | 127 | 38 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 284 |
| Wales | 183 | 228 | 50 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 465 |
| Total | 4,132 | 3,633 | 793 | 252 | 91 | 25 | 8,926 |
| % | 46.3 | 40.7 | 8.9 | 2.8 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 100 |

Source: REGIS data

4. Staffing

4.1 This chapter relies entirely on data from the Society's REGIS system for private practice staffing information. The data held by the Society excludes information on non-admitted fee earners, as well as information on the number of administrative and support staff employed in private practice. (This is a serious deterioration in the quality of the data given that it was shown that in 2000 there were almost as many non-admitted fee earners as assistant solicitors in private practice, and slightly more administrative and support staff than fee earners). Table 4.1 breaks down the 80,575 solicitors at 31 July 2006 employed in private practice by their grade and the size of the firm in which they worked measured by the partner count. It shows that within an overall growth in numbers over the past year of 3.2%, the proportion of partners including sole practitioners has fallen again this year from 39.8% to 35.8%. The table also shows the high degree of solicitor concentration in the largest firms. Firms with 81 or more partners, around 0.3% of the total, employed 10.7% of principals and just over one-fifth (22.3%) of all solicitors. At the other end of the spectrum sole practices, 46.3% of firms, employed 14.3% of all principals and only 8.2% of all solicitors.

Table 4.1 Admitted staff in private practice firms in 2006 by size of firm

| | Sole practices | 2-4 ptnrs. | 5-10 ptnrs. | 11-25 ptnrs. | 26-80 ptnrs. | 81+ ptnrs. | All firms |
|------------------------|----------------|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Partners | 0 | 8,948 | 5,337 | 3,980 | 3,331 | 3,085 | 24,681 |
| Sole practitioners | 4,132 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,132 |
| Associate solicitors | 213 | 1,095 | 898 | 1,370 | 2,382 | 5,421 | 11,379 |
| Assistant solicitors | 1,560 | 5,774 | 4,837 | 4,455 | 5,497 | 6,114 | 28,237 |
| Consultants | 313 | 1,128 | 684 | 501 | 363 | 397 | 3,387 |
| Other private practice | 415 | 1,398 | 816 | 1,296 | 1,851 | 2,983 | 8,759 |
| All positions | 6,632 | 18,343 | 12,573 | 11,603 | 13,424 | 18,000 | 80,575 |

4.2 Staffing ratios for admitted staff within solicitors' firms are examined in Table 4.2. The ratios shown are the average numbers of associate, assistant, consultant and 'other' private practitioners per principal. These ratios have all increased this year, reflecting the relative fall of principals and particularly in the number of partners. There are a number of other features to this table. It shows, for example, that associate solicitors are most likely to be found in the larger firms with 11 or more partners, whilst the other private practice solicitors' who mainly perform specialist roles within firms are found predominantly in firms with 26 or more partners. In contrast to past years consultants who were found mainly in smaller firms are now spread throughout the size spectrum. In terms of the staffing ratios these show that the ratio of assistant/associate solicitors to principals increases from 0.4:1 in sole practices through to 3.7:1 in the 81 or more partner firms. In the intervening size bands the corresponding ratios are 0.8 assistants/associates per principal in 2-4 partner firms, 1.1 per principal in 5-10 partner firms, 1.5 per principal in 11-25 partner firms and 2.4 in 26-80 partner firms.

Table 4.2 Number of admitted staff per principal in private practice firms in 2006 by size of firm

| | Sole practices | 2-4 ptnrs. | 5-10 ptnrs. | 11-25 ptnrs. | 26-80 ptnrs. | 81+ ptnrs. | All firms |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| Principals | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 |
| Associates/principal | 0.0515 | 0.1224 | 0.1683 | 0.3442 | 0.7153 | 1.7572 | 0.3949 |
| Assistant/principal | 0.3774 | 0.6454 | 0.9063 | 1.1192 | 1.6504 | 1.9819 | 0.9800 |
| Consultants/principal | 0.0757 | 0.1261 | 0.1282 | 0.1260 | 0.1091 | 0.1288 | 0.1176 |
| Other private practice/principal | 0.1005 | 0.1563 | 0.1529 | 0.3255 | 0.5557 | 0.9669 | 0.3040 |
| All per principal | 1.6051 | 2.0500 | 2.3557 | 2.9149 | 4.0306 | 5.8349 | 2.7965 |

4.3 Table 4.3 provides a breakdown of the number of solicitors employed in private practice analysed by grade, and the Government Office Region (GOR) in which the firms' head office is located. This table shows that in 2006 43.6% of private practitioners were employed in firms located in London. Using the population data from Table 3.8 this can be recast as a ratio of one private practitioner in London per 212 head of population, compared to an average density in England and Wales of one practitioner per 658 head of population. Excluding the London GOR this figure increases to one practitioner per 1002 head of population. Overall, this density is lowest in the East Midlands GOR where there is one practitioner per 1,214 head of population.

Table 4.3 Admitted staff in private practice firms in 2006 by Government region

| | Partners | Sole Practitioner | Associate solicitors | Assist. solicitors | Consultants | Other pr. practice | All solicitors |
|----------------------|----------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Greater London | 8,533 | 1,190 | 7,415 | 12,040 | 1,364 | 4,562 | 35,103 |
| South East | 2,881 | 732 | 685 | 2,699 | 407 | 649 | 8,054 |
| Eastern | 2,112 | 446 | 288 | 2,021 | 220 | 378 | 5,466 |
| South West | 1,754 | 314 | 396 | 1,563 | 260 | 350 | 4,637 |
| West Midlands | 1,678 | 300 | 598 | 1,517 | 237 | 522 | 4,851 |
| East Midlands | 1,229 | 181 | 321 | 1,337 | 124 | 330 | 3,522 |
| Yorks and Humberside | 1,842 | 253 | 484 | 2,003 | 204 | 422 | 5,209 |
| North West | 2,889 | 417 | 744 | 3,519 | 341 | 1,022 | 8,932 |
| North East | 755 | 117 | 217 | 746 | 90 | 239 | 2,163 |
| Wales | 1,008 | 182 | 232 | 792 | 140 | 284 | 2,637 |
| All regions | 24,681 | 4,132 | 11,379 | 28,237 | 3,387 | 8,759 | 80,575 |

Part II

The recruitment and training of solicitors

This section of the report provides information on the recruitment and training of solicitors. Chapter 5 provides background information on the routes to admission. Chapter 6 presents statistics on the number of undergraduates and graduates in law from universities in England and Wales. Chapter 7 shows summary statistics related to enrolled students. Chapter 8 examines the numbers embarking on and passing the Legal Practice Course, before moving on to an examination of the personal characteristics and placement of trainees. Chapter 9 gives information on those admitted to the Roll in 2006–07.

5. Routes to admission to the Roll

5.1 There are seven routes to qualification as a solicitor:

- law graduate;
- non-law graduate;
- overseas lawyer (transfer);
- barrister (transfer);
- Scots/Northern Irish lawyers (transfer);
- Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives (FILEX);
- justices' clerk.

5.2 The most frequently used route to qualification as a solicitor is to take a first degree in law and then to spend a year taking the full-time Legal Practice Course (LPC), followed by a two-year traineeship. This route can be completed in six years. Non-law graduates have to undertake a one-year full-time conversion course, the Common Professional Exam (CPE), which is also the legal qualification needed by non-law graduates wishing to train for the Bar. They then proceed to qualification in the same way as a law graduate. This is the second most frequently used route. (Two-year part-time courses are also available for both the LPC and the CPE). Non-graduates enter the profession via transfer after first obtaining a qualification as a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives (FILEX) and passing the LPC. Members of the Justices' Clerks Association may also enter the profession after passing the LPC, and demonstrating that they have had at least five years' continuous service in the 10 years prior to their application for admission. Other routes involve transfer after qualifying as a barrister, or as a lawyer in another jurisdiction, and meeting the necessary transfer conditions.

6. Undergraduates and graduates in law

- 6.1 This chapter records the numbers of applicants, acceptances and graduations recorded for undergraduate law courses in England and Wales. The statistics for applicants and acceptances to universities have been supplied by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), and statistics on the number and achieved grade of law degree graduates have been supplied by the Higher Educational Statistical Agency (HESA).
- 6.2 Table 6.2 shows the number of applicants and acceptances for undergraduate places at university full-time law degree courses for the academic years 2004 and 2005. The figures relate to individuals: applicants are counted only once irrespective of the number of applications made on the UCAS application form. The table shows that a total of 21,373 people applied to study law at undergraduate level in 2005, which is a decrease of 2.2% on the total recorded last year. Within this total male applications fell faster than female applications, by 2.7% and 1.9% respectively. The total number of acceptances (an acceptance is defined as a formal acceptance of a university place offered through the UCAS scheme) made by universities increased slightly, by 1.4%, from 13,504 to 13,693. The pattern in acceptances was inconsistent with applications in that male acceptances increased more (up by 2.8%) while female acceptances rose less quickly (0.6%). Overall 64.1% of applicants were accepted.

Table 6.2 Home and overseas applicants and acceptances for university first degree law courses in England and Wales 2004 and 2005

| For entry in: | University applicants | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| | UK | | | Overseas | | | Total | | |
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| 2004 | 6,872 | 10,957 | 17,829 | 1,802 | 2,227 | 4,029 | 8,674 | 13,184 | 21,858 |
| 2005 | 6,646 | 10,546 | 17,192 | 1,794 | 2,387 | 4,181 | 8,440 | 12,933 | 21,373 |
| % change | -3.3 | -3.8 | -3.6 | -0.4 | 7.2 | 3.8 | -2.7 | -1.9 | -2.2 |

| For entry in: | University acceptances | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| | UK | | | Overseas | | | Total | | |
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| 2004 | 4,321 | 7,185 | 11,506 | 857 | 1,141 | 1,998 | 5,178 | 8,326 | 13,504 |
| 2005 | 4,432 | 7,122 | 11,554 | 889 | 1,250 | 2,139 | 5,321 | 8,372 | 13,693 |
| % change | 2.6 | -0.9 | 0.4 | 3.7 | 9.6 | 7.1 | 2.8 | 0.6 | 1.4 |

Source: UCAS

- 6.3 Table 6.3 shows the number of female and overseas students as a proportion of the total acceptances to university law degree courses. In 2005, 61.1% of acceptances were from women, marginally down from the 61.7% recorded in 2004. The proportion of overseas acceptances, 15.6%, was a slight increase on that recorded last year.

Table 6.3 Proportion of law students accepted in 2004 and 2005 who were female or from overseas

| Year | Female students | | Overseas students | |
|------|-----------------|------|-------------------|------|
| | No. | % | No. | % |
| 2004 | 8,326 | 61.7 | 1,998 | 14.8 |
| 2005 | 8,372 | 61.1 | 2,139 | 15.6 |

Source: UCAS

- 6.4 Table 6.4 shows the number of minority ethnic students (excluding overseas students) who gained places on law degree courses for the academic year 2005. In total, minority ethnic law students accounted for 32.4% of students starting a first degree law course in 2005. This represents an increase on 2004, when the comparable proportion was 29.0%. Within this total, female acceptances were more likely than males to be drawn from minority ethnic groups: 33.3% of acceptances as opposed to 31.0%.

Table 6.4 Minority ethnic students from the UK accepted to first degree law courses at universities and colleges in 2005

| Ethnic group | | Acceptances of students from UK | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|--------|
| | | Male | Female | Total |
| White | White British | 2,808 | 4,512 | 7,320 |
| Black | Black Caribbean | 54 | 183 | 237 |
| | Black African | 223 | 385 | 608 |
| | Black Other | 13 | 37 | 50 |
| Asian | Indian | 352 | 543 | 895 |
| | Pakistani | 334 | 445 | 779 |
| | Bangladeshi | 90 | 150 | 240 |
| | Chinese | 39 | 82 | 121 |
| | Other Asian | 91 | 130 | 221 |
| Mixed | White and Black Caribbean | 17 | 57 | 74 |
| | White and Black African | 14 | 32 | 46 |
| | White and Asian | 51 | 83 | 134 |
| | Other mixed | 39 | 91 | 130 |
| Other | Other | 58 | 150 | 208 |
| Unknown | Unknown | 249 | 232 | 481 |
| All minority ethnic acceptances | | 1,375 | 2,368 | 3,743 |
| All acceptances | | 4,432 | 7,112 | 11,544 |
| % from minority ethnic groups | | 31.0 | 33.3 | 32.4 |

Source: UCAS

6.5 Table 6.5 shows recent trends in the number of students graduating in law. It contrasts the number of graduates in 2005 with the position one and five years previously. The table shows that, in 2005, the total number of graduates was 12,084, an increase of 8.5% on the previous year. In the five years since 2000 the total number of graduates has increased by 29.6% from a base of 9,324. The table also shows that within this increased total the number of male law graduates has increased by 15.4% over the past 5 years, whereas the number of female law graduates has increased much faster, by 39.4%, over the same period.

Table 6.5 Number of students graduating in law from universities in England and Wales 2000, 2004 and 2005¹

| Year of graduation | University Graduates in Law | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Total |
| 2000 | 3,807 | 5,517 | 9,324 |
| 2004 | 4,097 | 7,042 | 11,139 |
| 2005 | 4,392 | 7,692 | 12,084 |
| % change 2005/2004 | 7.2 | 9.2 | 8.5 |
| % change 2005/2000 | 15.4 | 39.4 | 29.6 |

¹ Figures relate to single honours law degrees and do not include modular or joint honour degrees which may also allow graduates to proceed directly to study the Legal Practice Course (para. 7.6)

Sources of data: 1995 and onwards, Higher Educational Statistical Agency

6.6 The HESA statistics do not represent the total numbers of graduates with a qualifying law degree. These are degrees which have covered the General Council of the Bar and the Law Society's seven foundations of legal knowledge which form the academic stage of legal education, and which allow graduates to proceed directly to study the Legal Practice Course. Many institutions now offer modular or joint honours degrees that have a substantial element of law study: depending on the choice of subjects, such degrees may or may not lead to a qualifying degree. The Law Society's Legal Education Department believes it is possible that there are a further substantial number of law students (*ie* higher than 4000) with qualifying law degrees from joint honours or modular degrees graduate each year. However, a firm estimate of this figure cannot be made without collecting, on an individual and yearly basis, statistics from every institution offering such degrees.

6.7 Table 6.7 shows that, in 2005, of the 12,084 law graduates over half, 54.4%, achieved a first class or upper second class degree. This proportion represents a marginal decrease on the figure of 55.4% recorded for 2004. Overall, a higher proportion of women graduated with firsts or upper seconds than men: 56.0% and 51.6% of graduates respectively. There are no figures showing the classes of degree awarded to minority ethnic group law students.

Table 6.7 Class of degrees in law awarded in England and Wales in summer 2005

| Class of degree | All law graduates | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Men | | Women | | Total | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| First | 211 | 4.8 | 375 | 4.9 | 586 | 4.8 |
| Upper second | 2,056 | 46.8 | 3,933 | 51.1 | 5,989 | 49.6 |
| Lower second | 1,720 | 39.2 | 2,916 | 37.9 | 4,636 | 38.4 |
| Third/pass | 363 | 8.3 | 408 | 5.3 | 771 | 6.4 |
| Unclassified | 42 | 1.0 | 60 | 0.8 | 102 | 0.8 |
| Total | 4,392 | 100.0 | 7,692 | 100.0 | 12,084 | 100.0 |
| Total: first and upper second | 2,267 | | 4,308 | | 6,575 | |
| Percentage with first or upper second | | 51.6 | | 56.0 | | 54.4 |

Source: Higher Educational Statistical Agency

7. Student enrolments with the Law Society

- 7.1 All students who wish to embark on the Legal Practice Course (LPC), or enter into a training contract, must enrol with the Society as student members. The Society then maintains records of these students at each stage of their training. This includes performance on the LPC, the registration of traineeships, and the admission to the Roll of those who have successfully completed their training. Up until 1992, when an annual enrolment process was introduced, a certificate of enrolment was valid for five years. Annual enrolment allows better monitoring of students who maintain an interest in a career as a solicitor.
- 7.2 Primarily this monitoring consists of examining the proportions of women and minority ethnic group students showing an interest in becoming a solicitor. Information on the proportion of enrolled students who were female, or from a minority ethnic group, enables the Society to examine the scope for further recruitment to the profession of members of these groups. Neither the number of students enrolling with the Society each year, nor the total number enrolled, can be used to predict the numbers who will subsequently enter the profession. This is because no consistent relationship has ever been identified between enrolments and subsequent admissions.
- 7.3 Details on the ethnic origin of students, as well as other biographic data, are sought at the time of their enrolment. Students are not obliged to complete the question on their ethnicity, but historically a high proportion of students have been prepared to do so. In 2005-06 the ethnicity of 84.1% of students enrolling with the Society was recorded. This shows a marked deterioration of the data in that, in 2004-05, the ethnicity of 93.5% of student enrollments was recorded. Table 7.4 shows the fuller breakdown of enrolments this year by gender and ethnicity, whilst table 7.5 shows the comparative data for one and five years ago, that is for 2000-01 and 2004-05.
- 7.4 In the year up to 31 July 2006, 10,159 students enrolled with the Law Society, an increase of 5.1% on the previous year. Of these 6,404, or 63.0%, of the total were women. This represents a very slight decrease in the proportion of women students from that recorded in 2004-05 (63.5%) but it is slightly up on the proportion for 2000-01, when it was 64.5%. The proportion of women amongst minority ethnic students was, at 64.5%, slightly higher than the proportion found amongst all who had enrolled. African-Caribbeans were the ethnic grouping with the highest proportion of women students. For this group of enrolled students, 70.0% were women, a decrease on the proportion last year (74.4%).
- 7.5 Of those students enrolling with the Society last year, 2,511, or 24.7% of the total, were known to be drawn from minority ethnic groups. This relatively static value can be compared with the 21.2% from minority ethnic group students recorded in 2000-01, and the 25.2% recorded in 2004-05. When one compares 2005-06 with 2000-01, it can be seen that the majority of the increase in minority ethnic numbers is accounted for by increases in the number of Asian students (56.5%) and students of African ethnic origin (16.7%).

Table 7.4 The ethnic origin and gender of students enrolling with the Law Society in 2005–06

| Ethnic origin | Male | | Female | | Total |
|----------------------------|-------|------|--------|------|--------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. |
| African-Caribbean | 54 | 30.0 | 126 | 70.0 | 180 |
| Asian | 461 | 35.2 | 850 | 64.8 | 1,311 |
| Chinese | 73 | 32.7 | 150 | 67.3 | 223 |
| African | 163 | 41.1 | 234 | 58.9 | 397 |
| Other ethnic origin | 140 | 35.0 | 260 | 65.0 | 400 |
| All minority ethnic groups | 891 | 35.5 | 1,620 | 64.5 | 2,511 |
| White European | 2,229 | 36.9 | 3,805 | 63.1 | 6,034 |
| Unknown | 635 | 39.3 | 979 | 60.7 | 1,614 |
| Total | 3,755 | 37.0 | 6,404 | 63.0 | 10,159 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

Table 7.5 Trends in the ethnic origin of students enrolling with the Law Society

| | 2000–01 | | 2004–05 | | 2005–06 | |
|----------------------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Ethnic origin | | | | | | |
| African-Caribbean | 89 | 1.2 | 160 | 1.7 | 180 | 1.8 |
| Asian | 803 | 10.6 | 1,318 | 13.6 | 1,311 | 12.9 |
| Chinese | 141 | 1.9 | 219 | 2.3 | 223 | 2.2 |
| African | 247 | 3.3 | 388 | 4.0 | 397 | 3.9 |
| Other ethnic origin | 332 | 4.4 | 355 | 3.7 | 400 | 3.9 |
| All minority ethnic groups | 1,612 | 21.2 | 2,440 | 25.2 | 2,511 | 24.7 |
| White European | 5,602 | 73.8 | 6,598 | 68.3 | 6,034 | 59.4 |
| Unknown | 381 | 5.0 | 627 | 6.5 | 1,614 | 15.9 |
| Total | 7,595 | 100.0 | 9,665 | 100.0 | 10,159 | 100.0 |
| Gender | | | | | | |
| Male | 2,864 | 37.7 | 3,527 | 36.5 | 3,755 | 37.0 |
| Female | 4,731 | 62.3 | 6,138 | 63.5 | 6,404 | 63.0 |
| Total | 7,595 | 100.0 | 9,665 | 100.0 | 10,159 | 100.0 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

8. Post-graduate education and training

The Legal Practice Course

- 8.1 The LPC is the next stage towards qualification as a solicitor for graduates with a first degree in law, and for graduates in other disciplines who have completed the one-year full-time conversion course, the Common Professional Exam (CPE). It is also a pre-requisite for those individuals who transfer having been Legal Executives or Justices' Clerks.
- 8.2 In 2006, of the 8,262 students who enrolled on the LPC, 8,153, or 98.7%, sat the July examinations. This latter figure is the total number of enrolments less those who were deferred or absent from the examinations. Compared with 2005, total enrolments decreased by 4.5%; this decrease was not consistent with the number taking the examination, where numbers rose by 7.5%. Taken overall, the pass rate was 77.2%, an increase on the proportion who passed last year (75.8%). Of those actually taking the examination, the pass rate was 78.2%, which represents a decrease on the 2005 figure of 86.5%. Table 8.2 below shows the full set of results. Candidates who pass with distinction now account for just under one-third (31.8%) of total passes.

Table 8.2 Legal Practice Course results of summer examinations — July 2006

| Results | No. of students | 2006 % of those sitting exam | % of all students |
|---|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Diploma with distinction | 2,029 | 24.9 | 24.6 |
| Diploma with commendation | 2,700 | 33.1 | 32.7 |
| Diploma | 1,647 | 20.2 | 19.9 |
| Total passes | 6,376 | 78.2 | 77.2 |
| Referred | 607 | 7.4 | 7.3 |
| Resit | 1,060 | 13.0 | 12.8 |
| Failed | 110 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Total failed | 1,777 | 21.8 | 21.5 |
| Total sitting the examination | 8,153 | 100.0 | 98.7 |
| Deferred | 68 | | 0.8 |
| Absent | 41 | | 0.5 |
| Total not sitting the examination | 109 | | 1.3 |
| Total students enrolled on the LPC | 8,262 | | 100.0 |

Source: Law Society database

Table 8.3 Places on the Legal Practice Course for 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07

| College of Law/universities | Full-time | | | Part-time | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | '04–05 | '05–06 | '06–07 | '04–05 | '05–06 | '06–07 |
| Anglia Ruskin University | 70 | 70 | 70 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| BPP Law School, Holborn, Ldn. | 936 | 1,080 | 1,080 | 198 | 216 | 288 |
| BPP Law School, Waterloo, Ldn. | - | - | 252 | - | - | 54 |
| BPP Law School, Leeds | 180 | 360 | 360 | - | 72 | 72 |
| BPP Law School, Manchester | - | 180 | 360 | - | 72 | 108 |
| Bournemouth University | 96 | 96 | 96 | - | - | - |
| Cardiff Law School | 180 | 180 | 180 | - | - | - |
| The College of Law: | | | | | | |
| All branches | | | | | 1,000 * | 1,280 * |
| Bloomsbury (Store St.), Ldn. | 1,200 | 1,260 | 1,260 | 360 | 200 ** | 200 ** |
| Moorgate, Ldn. | - | - | 1,000 | - | - | - |
| Chester | 600 | 580 | 580 | 160 | * | * |
| Guildford | 720 | 700 | 700 | 280 | * | * |
| York | 504 | 484 | 484 | 160 | * | * |
| Birmingham | 528 | 528 | 528 | 160 | * | 40 ** |
| De Montfort University | 100 | 100 | 100 | 130 | 130 | 130 |
| Inns of Court School of Law | 176 | 176 | 176 | - | - | - |
| Leeds Metropolitan University | 105 | 105 | 105 | 45 | 45 | 45 |
| Liverpool John Moores University | 40 | 40 | 40 | 72 | 72 | 72 |
| London Metropolitan University | 110 | 110 | 110 | 54 | 54 | 54 |
| Manchester Metropolitan University | 168 | 168 | 168 | 48 | 48 | 48 |
| Nottingham Law School | 648 | 648 | 648 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Oxford Institute of Legal Practice | 353 | 353 | 353 | - | - | - |
| Staffordshire University | 125 | 125 | 125 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Swansea University | 70 | 100 | 100 | - | - | - |
| Thames Valley University | 50 | 50 | 50 | 32 | 32 | - |
| University of Central England | 120 | 120 | 120 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| University of Central Lancashire | 60 | 60 | 60 | 48 | 48 | 48 |
| University of Exeter | 120 | 120 | - | - | - | - |
| University of Glamorgan | 108 | 108 | 108 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| University of Hertfordshire | - | - | - | 64 | 64 | 64 |
| University of Huddersfield | 80 | 80 | 80 | 36 | 36 | 36 |
| Northumbria University | 160 | 160 | 160 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| University of Plymouth | - | - | 120 | - | - | - |
| University of Sheffield | 216 | 180 | 180 | - | - | - |
| University of Wales, Aberystwyth | - | - | 50 | - | - | - |
| University of the West of England | 342 | 342 | 342 | 58 | 58 | 58 |
| University of Westminster | 120 | 120 | 120 | 64 | 64 | 64 |
| University of Wolverhampton | 60 | 60 | 60 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Total | 8,345 | 8,843 | 10,325 | 2,256 | 2,498 | 2,948 |

Source: Law Society database

*Part-time block (day or weekend).

**Part-time evening.

8.3 Table 8.3 shows the number of places available at institutions which have been validated to run the LPC. The number of full-time places available in 2006–07 will be 10,325. This is an increase of 16.8% on the number of places that were available in the previous year.

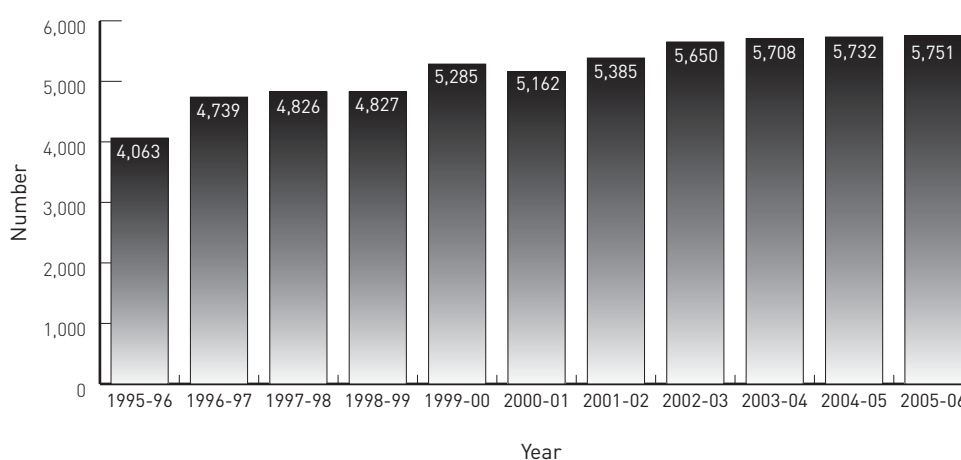
8.4 In addition, there will also be 2,948 places available on part-time LPC courses next year — an increase (18.0%) on the number of part-time places that were available in 2005–06.

Traineeships

8.5 In addition to obtaining pre-vocational qualifications, those embarking on a career as a solicitor who are not transferring in from another profession or jurisdiction also have to undergo a period of training, in most cases for two years, before gaining admission to the Roll. The trainee is assigned to a training establishment, and a training contract is drawn up. Forms covering the registration of trainees are lodged with the Law Society.

8.6 Chart 6 below shows the first year registrations of traineeships from 1995–96 to the present. In the year that ended 31 July 2006 there were 5,751 new traineeships registered with the Society. This represents a slight increase (0.3%) on the level recorded last year, when trainee registrations stood at 5,732. Trainee registrations are now running at the highest levels recorded to date having exceeded 5,000 per annum in each of the past 7 years.

Chart 6 Annual registration of trainees 1995–96 to 2005–06



Source: Law Society's REGIS database

8.7 Table 8.7 shows the data on the number of trainees registered in 1995–96, 2000–01 and 2005–06 with the total analysed by trainee gender. Overall, the number of traineeships has increased by just over two-fifths (41.5%) over the period since 1995–96; and by 11.4% over the period since 2000–01. Within this total 5 year growth, that for women trainees was 17.0%, in contrast to only 3.4% for male trainees. In fact, for each of the years since 1995–96

for which we have data, the majority of new trainee registrations have been female. In this latest year, 61.8% of trainees registered were women. This is a marginal increase on the proportion recorded last year.

Table 8.7 Number of traineeships registered in 1995–96, 2000–01 and 2005–06 analysed by gender of trainee

| Year | Male | | Female | | Total |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------|--------|------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. |
| 1995–96 | Gender not available | | | | 4,063 |
| 2000–01 | 2,126 | 41.2 | 3,036 | 58.8 | 5,162 |
| 2005–06 | 2,199 | 38.2 | 3,552 | 61.8 | 5,751 |
| % change 2005–06 over 2000–01 | | 3.4 | | 17.0 | 11.4 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

8.8 Nine years ago in 1997 we were able to examine, for the first time, the ethnic origin of new trainees. This year the ethnicity and gender of new trainees is shown in Table 8.8. The trainees' ethnic origin was validly recorded for 5,421 trainees, or 94.3% of the 5,751 new traineeships registered. This shows a slight improvement in the quality of this data from last year, when the ethnicity of 93.1% of new trainees was known. In 2005–06, minority ethnic trainees represented 17.5% of trainees of known ethnicity, a slight decrease on the value (18.4%) recorded last year. The ethnic grouping most highly represented was 'Asian', which accounted for 57.6% of minority ethnic trainees. Overall, the proportion of women was slightly higher amongst minority ethnic trainees than for the group of trainees as a whole. Whereas, as we have seen, 61.8% of trainees overall were women, this proportion rose to 64.7% amongst those from minority ethnic groups. The African-Caribbean group had the highest proportion of women trainees at 79.4%.

Table 8.8 Trainee registrations by ethnic origin and gender 2005–06

| Ethnic origin | Male | Female | Total | trainees with known ethnicity |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| | No. | No. | No. | % |
| African-Caribbean | 7 | 27 | 34 | 0.6 |
| Asian | 192 | 355 | 547 | 10.1 |
| Chinese | 32 | 55 | 87 | 1.6 |
| African | 44 | 62 | 106 | 2.0 |
| Other ethnic origin | 60 | 116 | 176 | 3.2 |
| Total known minority ethnic groups | 335 | 615 | 950 | 17.5 |
| Minority ethnic trainees as % of those with known ethnicity | 16.3 | 18.3 | 17.5 | |
| White European | 1,723 | 2,748 | 4,471 | 82.5 |

Contd.

Table 8.8 Continued:

| Ethnic origin | Male | Female | Total | trainees with known ethnicity |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| | No. | No. | No. | % |
| Total with known ethnicity | 2,058 | 3,363 | 5,421 | 100.0 |
| % of trainees with known ethnicity | 93.6 | 94.7 | 94.3 | |
| Trainees with unknown ethnicity | 141 | 189 | 330 | |
| % of trainees with unknown ethnicity | 6.4 | 5.3 | 5.7 | |
| All trainees | 2,199 | 3,552 | 5,751 | |
| All trainees % | 38.2 | 61.8 | 100.0 | |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

8.9 Table 8.9 shows the numbers of new male and female traineeships registered in each Government Office Region (modified to maintain the important division between the City and the Rest of London) in 2005–06. Of the 5,751 trainees registered, 1,585 (27.6%) were located in the City of London. A further 1,114, or 19.4%, were located in the rest of London. Taken overall, just under one-half (46.9%) of first-year trainees were located in London in 2005–06. This is a marginal increase on the 46.5% of London registrations recorded last year. Male trainees were significantly more likely than female trainees to be located in the City of London. Overall whilst just over one-half (50.8%) of male trainees were located in London, the corresponding proportion for female trainees was only 44.6%. The region with the highest proportion of female trainees was the South West with 73.3%, and the region with the lowest proportion was the City of London with 54.8%.

Table 8.9 Trainee placements in 2005–06 analysed by Government Office Region

| Region | Male | | | Female | | | Total | |
|--------------------------|-------|------|-------------|--------|------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| | No. | % | % by region | No. | % | % by region | Total | % by region |
| City of London | 716 | 45.2 | 32.6 | 868 | 54.8 | 24.5 | 1,585 | 27.6 |
| Rest of London | 401 | 36.0 | 18.2 | 713 | 64.0 | 20.1 | 1,114 | 19.4 |
| South East | 146 | 34.1 | 6.6 | 281 | 65.9 | 7.9 | 427 | 7.4 |
| Eastern | 129 | 35.9 | 5.9 | 230 | 64.1 | 6.5 | 360 | 6.3 |
| South West | 62 | 26.7 | 2.8 | 170 | 73.3 | 4.8 | 233 | 4.0 |
| West Midlands | 152 | 37.8 | 6.9 | 250 | 62.2 | 7.0 | 401 | 7.0 |
| East Midlands | 93 | 37.8 | 4.2 | 152 | 62.2 | 4.3 | 245 | 4.3 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 142 | 37.0 | 6.5 | 242 | 63.0 | 6.8 | 385 | 6.7 |
| North West | 246 | 36.6 | 11.2 | 427 | 63.4 | 12.0 | 673 | 11.7 |
| North East | 64 | 37.1 | 2.9 | 109 | 62.9 | 3.1 | 173 | 3.0 |
| Wales | 48 | 30.6 | 2.2 | 109 | 69.4 | 3.1 | 156 | 2.7 |
| Total | 2,199 | 38.2 | 100.0 | 3,552 | 61.8 | 100.0 | 5,751 | 100.0 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

8.10 In addition to looking at the regional distribution of traineeships, we are also able to look at the types of organisation in which these male and female trainees are placed. This data, which is shown in Table 8.10, shows overwhelmingly that trainees are placed in private practice firms. Of the traineeships registered this year, 5,480 (95.3%) were for placements in private practice firms. Male trainees were slightly more likely to be placed in private practice firms, and female trainees were marginally more likely to be placed in all other employment categories apart from 'Advice Service' and 'Crown Prosecution Service' where the proportion of male and female placements were about equal.

Table 8.10 Trainee placements in 2005–06 analysed by category of employment of training institution

| Category of employment | Male | | Female | | Total | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Private practice | 2,122 | 96.5 | 3,359 | 94.6 | 5,480 | 95.3 |
| Commerce and industry | 28 | 1.3 | 66 | 1.9 | 94 | 1.6 |
| Government department | 4 | 0.2 | 11 | 0.3 | 15 | 0.3 |
| Local Government | 22 | 1.0 | 57 | 1.6 | 78 | 1.4 |
| Court | 5 | 0.2 | 23 | 0.6 | 28 | 0.5 |
| Crown Prosecution Service | 4 | 0.2 | 6 | 0.2 | 10 | 0.2 |
| Advice service | 8 | 0.4 | 16 | 0.4 | 24 | 0.4 |
| Other | 7 | 0.3 | 15 | 0.4 | 22 | 0.4 |
| Total | 2,199 | 100.0 | 3,552 | 100.0 | 5,751 | 100.0 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

8.11 Given the importance of private practice firms in the training process, it is interesting to look at the characteristics of those firms which provide training placements. Of particular importance is the distribution of trainees by the size of firm in which they were placed. Data on the number of male and female trainees analysed by size of firm (measured by the total number of partners) is shown in Table 8.11. Of the 5,480 traineeships registered with private practice firms in 2005–06, just under one-third, 30.7%, were located in the small number of very large firms with 81 or more partners. At the other end of the spectrum only 5.2% of trainees were placed for training within sole practices. Male trainees were much more likely than female trainees to be placed in the larger firms and in particular in the very largest 81-or-more partner firms. The proportions in the very largest firms were 34.1% and 28.5% respectively. In contrast to this, female trainees were more likely than male trainees to be placed in the smaller and medium-sized firms with between two and 25 partners although some of the differences here were not substantial. In sole practices there was only a slight difference in the proportion of male and female trainees (5.0% and 5.3% respectively).

Table 8.11 Trainee placements in 2005–06 analysed by the size of private practice firm in which trainees were located

| Size of firm | Male | | Female | | Total | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Sole practice | 107 | 5.0 | 179 | 5.3 | 285 | 5.2 |
| 2-4 partner firms | 384 | 18.1 | 727 | 21.6 | 1,111 | 20.3 |
| 5-10 partner firms | 277 | 13.1 | 466 | 13.9 | 743 | 13.6 |
| 11-25 partner firms | 260 | 12.3 | 474 | 14.1 | 734 | 13.4 |
| 26-80 partner firms | 370 | 17.5 | 556 | 16.6 | 926 | 16.9 |
| 81 or more partner firms | 723 | 34.1 | 958 | 28.5 | 1,681 | 30.7 |
| Total | 2,122 | 100.0 | 3,359 | 100.0 | 5,480 | 100.0 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

8.12 Since August 1987, in an attempt to try to ensure that the solicitors' profession is open to all regardless of their background, the Council of the Law Society has recommended minimum starting salaries for trainee solicitors. The rates set by the Council are shown below in Table 8.12. In 1993, after considerable debate, the Council agreed to maintain the principle of minimum salaries. However, the salary rates were frozen at their 1992 levels, and the outer London rate was abolished. From then through to 1999, the recommended salary levels were frozen at their 1993 levels. In February 2000, the recommended minimum was raised to £13,600 in London and £12,000 elsewhere. (Another change made at that time was that now only on special application may firms offer training contracts at salaries below the Council minimum recommendation). Since August 2002 further revision has occurred annually, as shown in table 8.12, and, also, in August 2003 the 'Council recommended' salary level was introduced.

Table 8.12 Starting salaries for trainee solicitors

| Effective date | Central London ¹ | Outer London | Rest of England and Wales |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Council recommended minimum | | | |
| From 1/8/93* | £12,150 | £10,850 | £10,850 |
| From 1/8/2000 | £13,600 | £12,000 | £12,000 |
| From 1/8/2002 | £14,600 | £13,000 | £13,000 |
| From 1/8/2003 | £15,300 | £13,600 | £13,600 |
| From 1/8/2004 | £15,900 | £14,200 | £14,200 |
| From 1/8/2005 | £16,450 | £14,720 | £14,720 |
| From 1/8/2006 | £17,110 | £15,332 | £15,332 |
| Council recommended | | | |
| From 1/8/2003 | £16,200 | £14,450 | £14,450 |
| From 1/8/2004 | £16,680 | £14,870 | £14,870 |
| From 1/8/2005 | £17,050 | £15,180 | £15,180 |
| From 1/8/2006 | £17,527 | £15,605 | £15,605 |

* Outer London category abolished in 1993

¹ Central London is the City of London, Holborn and Westminster.

8.13 Analyses of trainees' actual starting salaries by gender and region are shown below in Table 8.13. This shows that, in 2005–06, average starting salaries were highest in Central London (the City, Holborn and Westminster) at £27,823, and lowest in Wales at £15,623. Taken over all trainees, the average starting salary was £20,925. This represents an increase of 0.6% on the average salary paid last year, which was £20,796. Within this total rise male trainee salaries decreased by 0.3% on average, whilst the increase for female trainees was small at 1.2%.

Table 8.13 Trainees' starting salaries by Government Office Region and gender

| Region | Male average (£) | Female average (£) | All trainees average (£) | % male average salary over female | Average salary as % of minimum |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Central London | 28,004 | 27,679 | 27,823 | 1.2 | 169 |
| Rest of Greater Ldn. | 21,048 | 20,395 | 20,626 | 3.2 | 140 |
| South East | 17,339 | 18,090 | 17,829 | -4.2 | 121 |
| Eastern | 16,295 | 16,455 | 16,396 | -1.0 | 111 |
| South West | 16,637 | 16,195 | 16,306 | 2.7 | 111 |
| West Midlands | 17,777 | 17,131 | 17,370 | 3.8 | 118 |
| East Midlands | 16,787 | 16,458 | 16,583 | 2.0 | 113 |
| Yorks and Humberside | 17,724 | 17,108 | 17,340 | 3.6 | 118 |
| North West | 17,347 | 16,749 | 16,969 | 3.6 | 115 |
| North East | 16,071 | 15,953 | 15,994 | 0.7 | 109 |
| Wales | 15,563 | 15,648 | 15,623 | -0.5 | 106 |
| All regions | 21,657 | 20,473 | 20,925 | 5.8 | n/a |

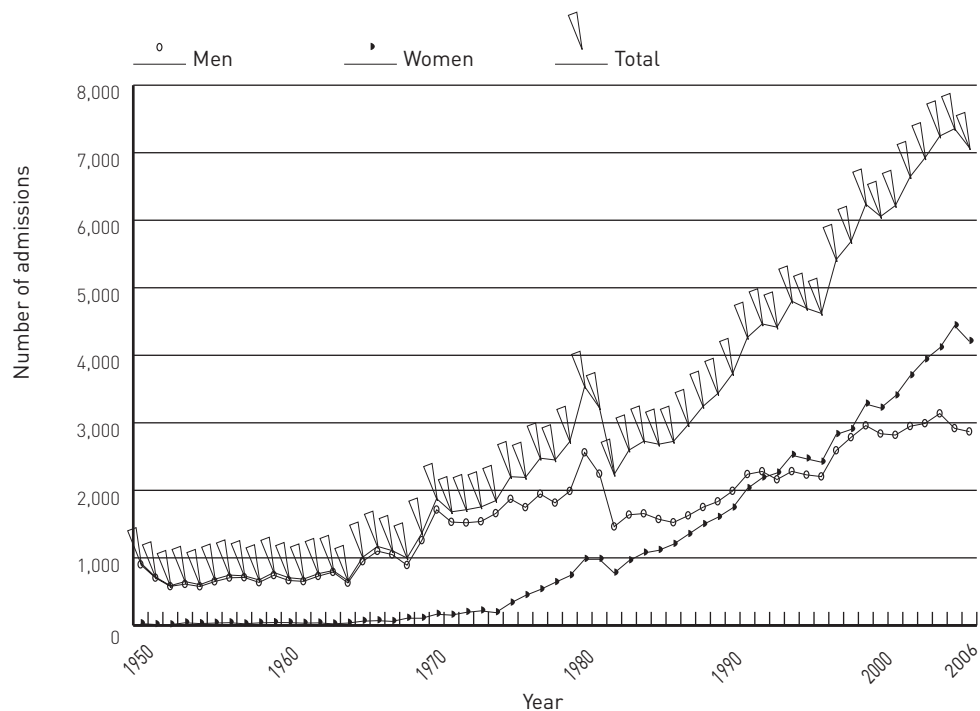
Source: Law Society's REGIS database

8.14 Table 8.13 also breaks the data down by trainee gender. On average, male trainees were offered starting salaries which were 5.8% above the average level for females, down from a 7.4% gender gap last year. The average salary levels for male and female trainees being £21,657 and £20,473 respectively. Although, on average, male trainees had much higher starting salaries than female trainees, in three of the regions, female trainee starting salaries were higher than that for males. Female trainee salaries were 4.2% higher than male trainee salaries in the South East; 1.0% higher in the Eastern region; and 0.5% higher in Wales.

9. Admission to the Roll

- 9.1 There are two distinct routes to admission to the Roll: a direct route, followed by completing the required educational and vocational training outlined in Chapter 5, and the transfer route, which includes transfers from other legal professions within England and Wales, such as barristers, legal executives and magistrates and justices' clerks, as well as lawyers who qualified in other jurisdictions. This latter group includes a number of Scottish and Northern Irish lawyers.
- 9.2 The total number of individuals admitted to the Roll in the year that ended 31 July 2006 was 7,075. This represents a decrease of 3.8% on the 7,356 individuals who were admitted in 2004–05. This is the first recorded fall in the number of admissions since 1999–2000. Chart 7 shows the growth in admissions of men and women separately for the period 1950 to 2006. Over this period, total annual admissions rose by 764.0% at an average annual increase of 3.7% per year. Over the same period, female admissions have grown at an average annual rate of 9.5%, which nearly equates to a doubling of the number of female admissions approximately every eight years. The average growth rate for male admissions, 2.1%, has been less than one-quarter that for women over the period.

Chart 7 Growth in solicitors' admissions to the Roll 1950–2006



Source: Law Society's REGIS database

9.3 Table 9.3 shows the trend over the past 10 years in the number of men and women admitted to the profession. Between 1996 and 2006, total admissions grew by 53.1% from a base of 4,620. Over this period, male admissions rose by 30.2%, whilst female admissions grew much more rapidly, by 74.0%. Women have accounted for the majority of new admissions in each year since 1995–96 and, in 2005–06, 59.4% of those admitted were female. This proportion, which is showing some increase over time, has fallen slightly from that recorded last year but still contrasts with the position 10 years ago when, in 1996, 52.3% of new entrants to the profession were women.

Table 9.3 Men and women admitted to the Roll 1995–96 to 2005–06

| | Men | | Women | | Total | Annual change |
|----------------------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|---------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 1995–96 | 2,203 | 47.7 | 2,417 | 52.3 | 4,620 | -1.6 |
| 1996–97 | 2,590 | 47.8 | 2,827 | 52.2 | 5,417 | 17.3 |
| 1997–98 | 2,784 | 49.0 | 2,901 | 51.0 | 5,685 | 4.9 |
| 1998–99 | 2,959 | 47.4 | 3,278 | 52.6 | 6,237 | 9.7 |
| 1999–2000 | 2,838 | 46.9 | 3,218 | 53.1 | 6,056 | -2.9 |
| 2000–01 | 2,819 | 45.3 | 3,399 | 54.7 | 6,218 | 2.7 |
| 2001–02 | 2,949 | 44.4 | 3,697 | 55.6 | 6,646 | 6.9 |
| 2002–03 | 2,991 | 43.2 | 3,933 | 56.8 | 6,924 | 4.2 |
| 2003–04 | 3,137 | 43.3 | 4,110 | 56.7 | 7,247 | 4.7 |
| 2004–05 | 2,918 | 39.7 | 4,438 | 60.3 | 7,356 | 1.5 |
| 2005–06 | 2,869 | 40.6 | 4,206 | 59.4 | 7,075 | -3.8 |
| % change | | | | | | |
| 2005–06 over 1995–96 | | 30.2 | | 74.0 | | 53.1 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

9.4 The age distribution of those admitted in 2005–06 is shown in Table 9.4. The table shows that female admissions are, on average, around one year younger than their male counterparts. This in part reflects their different paths to admission. Taken overall, the average age of those admitted was 29.5 years. The average age for males was as noted higher than that for females, the average ages being 30.2 and 29.0 years respectively. Just over one-half of new admissions were aged 27 years or less, and just over two-thirds were aged 29 or less.

Table 9.4 The age distribution of solicitors admitted to the Roll in 2005–06

| Age | Male | | Female | | All admissions. | | Cumulative |
|-------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-----------------|-------|------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | |
| 23 | 2 | 0.1 | 4 | 0.1 | 6 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| 24 | 32 | 1.1 | 78 | 1.9 | 110 | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| 25 | 330 | 11.5 | 637 | 15.1 | 967 | 13.7 | 15.3 |
| 26 | 486 | 16.9 | 851 | 20.2 | 1,337 | 18.9 | 34.2 |
| 27 | 454 | 15.8 | 718 | 17.1 | 1,172 | 16.6 | 50.8 |
| 28 | 326 | 11.4 | 460 | 10.9 | 786 | 11.1 | 61.9 |
| 29 | 181 | 6.3 | 318 | 7.6 | 499 | 7.1 | 68.9 |
| 30–34 | 543 | 18.9 | 649 | 15.4 | 1,192 | 16.8 | 85.8 |
| 35–39 | 248 | 8.6 | 254 | 6.0 | 502 | 7.1 | 92.9 |
| 40–44 | 136 | 4.7 | 131 | 3.1 | 267 | 3.8 | 96.7 |
| 45–49 | 70 | 2.4 | 76 | 1.8 | 146 | 2.1 | 98.7 |
| 50–54 | 29 | 1.0 | 20 | 0.5 | 49 | 0.7 | 99.4 |
| 55 and over | 25 | 0.9 | 9 | 0.2 | 34 | 0.5 | 99.9 |
| Total known | 2,862 | 99.8 | 4,205 | 100.0 | 7,067 | 99.9 | |
| Unknown | 7 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.0 | 8 | 0.1 | 100.0 |
| Grand total | 2,869 | 100.0 | 4,206 | 100.0 | 7,075 | 100.0 | |
| Average age | 30.2 | | 29.0 | | 29.5 | | |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

9.5 Table 9.5 shows the proportion of men and women who were admitted in the year 2005–06 by each of the different routes. For 9.8% of admissions these data were not recorded. Just under three-quarters of admissions, 70.0%, were through the direct qualification route and, of these, just over three-quarters (76.6%) were law graduates and the remainder were non-law graduates who had passed the CPE. Women were much more likely than men to qualify by this direct route, 73.5% of admissions as against 64.8%, and, within this total, were slightly more likely than men to have qualifying law degrees. In contrast, men were more likely than women to qualify via a transfer in; the relevant proportions here being 24.1% and 17.7% respectively. Men were more likely than women to have been barristers and were much more likely to be transferring in from another jurisdiction, 22.4% as opposed to 15.1%, but women were slightly more likely than men to have qualified initially as either a legal executive or as a magistrates' or justices' clerk, 2.6% as opposed to 1.7%.

Table 9.5 The routes to admission to the Roll in 2005–06

| Entry routes | Male | | Female | | All admissions | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|----------------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Direct entry: | | | | | | |
| Law degree | 1,391 | 48.5 | 2,400 | 57.1 | 3,791 | 53.6 |
| Non-law degree | 468 | 16.3 | 690 | 16.4 | 1,158 | 16.4 |
| Total direct entry | 1,859 | 64.8 | 3,090 | 73.5 | 4,949 | 70.0 |
| Entry by transfer: | | | | | | |
| Overseas lawyer | 538 | 18.8 | 537 | 12.8 | 1,075 | 15.2 |
| Barristers | 104 | 3.6 | 98 | 2.3 | 202 | 2.9 |
| FILEX | 45 | 1.6 | 99 | 2.4 | 144 | 2.0 |
| Justices clerks | 4 | 0.1 | 9 | 0.2 | 13 | 0.2 |
| Total transfers | 691 | 24.1 | 743 | 17.7 | 1,434 | 20.3 |
| Route unknown | 319 | 11.1 | 373 | 8.9 | 692 | 9.8 |
| All admissions | 2,869 | 100.0 | 4,206 | 100.0 | 7,075 | 100.0 |
| % | 40.6 | | 59.4 | | 100.0 | |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

9.6 Just under one-quarter of admissions (20.3%) in 2005–06 were, as we have seen, transfers in from other professions and jurisdictions. Table 9.6 analyses transfers in by whether they were from other professions within England or Wales, or from other jurisdictions, and shows the country of origin of those transferring from other jurisdictions. Of the 1,434 transfers, one-quarter, 25.0%, were from other professions based within England and Wales, most of whom were individuals who had previously qualified as either barristers or legal executives. The remaining 75.0% were transfers in from other jurisdictions. Most notable here were Australian and New Zealand lawyers, who alone accounted for well over one-quarter (29.0%) of all transfers in. In addition to these, transfers from the USA and Canada accounted for a further 8.4%, from Hong Kong 6.5%, other EU countries 5.0%, Singapore/Malaysia 4.6% and other parts of the UK a further 4.6% of all transfers.

Table 9.6 Analysis of transfers into the profession 2005–06

| | Male | | Female | | All transfers | |
|----------------------------------|------|-------|--------|-------|---------------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| From other professions | | | | | | |
| Legal executives | 45 | 6.5 | 99 | 13.3 | 144 | 10.0 |
| Barristers | 104 | 15.1 | 98 | 13.2 | 202 | 14.1 |
| Justices' clerks | 4 | 0.6 | 9 | 1.2 | 13 | 0.9 |
| Sub-total | 153 | 22.1 | 206 | 27.7 | 359 | 25.0 |
| From other jurisdictions | | | | | | |
| Hong Kong | 27 | 3.9 | 66 | 8.9 | 93 | 6.5 |
| Australia/ New Zealand | 207 | 30.0 | 209 | 28.1 | 416 | 29.0 |
| USA/ Canada | 62 | 9.0 | 58 | 7.8 | 120 | 8.4 |
| Scotland/ N.Ireland/ Isle of Man | 30 | 4.3 | 36 | 4.8 | 66 | 4.6 |
| Eire | 14 | 2.0 | 10 | 1.3 | 24 | 1.7 |
| Other EU countries | 29 | 4.2 | 43 | 5.8 | 72 | 5.0 |
| Non-EU European countries | 19 | 2.7 | 12 | 1.6 | 31 | 2.2 |
| Singapore/ Malaysia | 32 | 4.6 | 34 | 4.6 | 66 | 4.6 |
| India/ Pakistan/Sri Lanka | 69 | 10.0 | 36 | 4.8 | 105 | 7.3 |
| Nigeria | 42 | 6.1 | 25 | 3.4 | 67 | 4.7 |
| All other jurisdictions | 7 | 1.0 | 8 | 1.1 | 15 | 1.0 |
| Sub-total | 538 | 77.9 | 537 | 72.3 | 1,075 | 75.0 |
| Grand total | 691 | 100.0 | 743 | 100.0 | 1,434 | 100.0 |

Source: Law Society database

9.7 The main factor affecting age on admission is the route taken to qualification. Table 9.7 shows the average age on qualification for men and women for each of the separate routes. These reflect the average times taken to qualify by each route and show that the group with the lowest average age, 27.9 years, were direct entrants with qualifying law degrees. Those admitted by the CPE route were aged 30.5 years on average. Taken over all direct admissions, the average age recorded was 28.5 years. Those transferring in were, on average, around five years older than direct admissions, at 33.4 years. There was little difference between the average ages of men and women qualifying by the same route though men were generally slightly older in each category. However, male transfers in from the barristers' profession and other jurisdictions were older, by around 2.4 years, than their female counterparts.

Table 9.7 Average age on admission to the Roll by route to admission and gender 2005–06

| Entry routes | Male | | Female | | All admissions | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------------|--------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | No. | Average age | No. | Average age | No. | Average age |
| Direct entry | | | | | | |
| Law degree | 1,391 | 28.3 | 2,400 | 27.6 | 3,791 | 27.9 |
| Non-law degree | 468 | 30.7 | 690 | 30.3 | 1,158 | 30.5 |
| Total direct entry | 1,859 | 28.9 | 3,090 | 28.2 | 4,949 | 28.5 |
| Entry by transfer: | | | | | | |
| Overseas lawyer | 538 | 34.3 | 537 | 31.9 | 1,075 | 33.1 |
| Barristers | 104 | 33.6 | 98 | 31.2 | 202 | 32.5 |
| FILEX | 45 | 36.6 | 99 | 36.5 | 144 | 36.5 |
| Justices clerks | 4 | 36.5 | 9 | 36.6 | 13 | 36.5 |
| Total transfers | 691 | 34.4 | 743 | 32.5 | 1,434 | 33.4 |
| Route unknown | 319 | 29.0 | 373 | 28.4 | 692 | 28.7 |
| All admissions | 2,869 | 100.0 | 4,206 | 100.0 | 7,075 | 100.0 |
| % | 40.6 | 30.2 | 59.4 | 29.0 | 100.0 | 29.5 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

9.8 Table 9.8 shows the numbers and percentages qualifying via each route in 2005–06 contrasted with the position one year and five years ago. In order to make the comparison, the 9.8% of admissions for whom the route was unknown in 2005–06 have been allocated pro rata to the other known categories. The table shows that the proportion of direct admissions has decreased slightly from 78.8% of all admissions in 2000–01 to 77.5% in 2005–06. The proportion of non-law graduates has decreased over the period, moving from 21.0% in 2000–01 to 18.1% in 2005–06. The decrease in direct admission has been balanced by the increase in transfers in. These have increased slightly from 21.2% of all admissions five years ago to 22.5% now.

Table 9.8 Trends in the main routes to admission to the Roll 2000–01 to 2005–06

| Routes to admission | 2000–01 | 2004–05 | 2005–06 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Law degree | 3,599 | 4,262 | 4,202 |
| Non-law degree | 1,303 | 1,293 | 1,284 |
| Transfers | 1,317 | 1,801 | 1,589 |
| Total | 6,219 | 7,356 | 7,075 |
| Routes to admission | % | % | % |
| Law degree | 57.9 | 57.9 | 59.4 |
| Non-law degree | 21.0 | 17.6 | 18.1 |
| Transfers | 21.2 | 24.5 | 22.5 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

9.9 We are also able to examine trends in the number of admissions drawn from minority ethnic groups. Table 9.9 shows the comparison between 2000–01, 2004–05 and 2005–06. The table shows that, as a proportion of those admissions for whom the ethnicity was known, minority ethnic admissions represented 18.9% of the total in 2005–06 compared with 17.0% five years ago. The trend in the intervening years, since 2001, has been for this proportion to show consistent slight increases. Most of the observed increase in numbers has been fuelled by increases in Asian admissions, which have accounted for 55.0% of the increase in minority ethnic admissions over the past five years. Over the same period ‘Other’ admissions have accounted for a quarter of the increase (28.1%) and admissions from the African minority group accounted for a further fifth (18.2%). Chinese and African-Caribbean admissions have been static..

Table 9.9 Trends in admissions from minority ethnic groups to the Roll 2000–01, 2004–05 and 2005–06

| Ethnicity | 2000–01 | 2004–05 | 2005–06 | % change | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | | | 2006 over 2005 | 2006 over 2001 |
| African-Caribbean | 51 | 55 | 46 | -16.3 | -9.8 |
| Asian | 437 | 558 | 558 | 0.0 | 27.7 |
| Chinese | 105 | 71 | 108 | 52.2 | 2.9 |
| African | 85 | 119 | 125 | 5.1 | 47.1 |
| Other | 131 | 197 | 193 | -2.0 | 47.4 |
| Total from minority ethnic groups | 810 | 1,000 | 1030 | 3.0 | 27.2 |
| Number of admissions where ethnicity is known: | 4,753 | 5,569 | 5444 | -2.3 | 14.5 |
| Minority ethnic groups as a % of those with known ethnicity | 17.0 | 18.0 | 18.9 | 5.4 | 11.1 |
| Total admissions | 6,218 | 7,356 | 7075 | -3.8 | 13.8 |
| % of admissions with known ethnicity | 76.4 | 75.7 | 76.9 | 1.6 | 0.7 |
| Male admissions | 2,819 | 2,918 | 2,869 | -1.7 | 1.8 |
| Males as % of total | 45.3 | 39.7 | 40.6 | | |
| Female admissions | 3,399 | 4,438 | 4,206 | -5.2 | 23.7 |
| Females as % of total | 54.7 | 60.3 | 59.4 | | |
| Total admissions | 6,218 | 7,356 | 7,075 | -3.8 | 13.8 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

- 9.10 In 2005–06 there were 1,030 admissions from minority ethnic groups out of a total of 7,075. Comparable figures for last year were 1,000 admissions out of a total of 7,356. The increase in the representation of ethnic minorities over the past year is largely accounted for by the increase in the number of Chinese and African minority ethnic admissions. Respectively these rose by 52.2% to 108 and by 5.1% to 125. In contrast to this, African-Caribbean and 'Other' admissions fell by 16.3% and 2.0% respectively. Asian admissions remained static with the number of admissions this year exactly matching last years figure [558].
- 9.11 A fuller breakdown of admissions from minority ethnic groups in 2005–06 is shown in Table 9.11. This table analyses admissions by both gender and ethnicity and shows that last year 66.9% of those admitted from minority ethnic groups were female. This is a much higher value than that for admissions as a whole [59.4%]. Within minority ethnic groups, the proportion of female admissions was highest amongst the African-Caribbean group, 80.4%, and lowest amongst the Chinese minority ethnic group, 60.2%.

Table 9.11 Minority ethnic group admissions in 2005–06 by gender

| Ethnic group | Male | | Female | | Total |
|---|-------|------|--------|------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. |
| African-Caribbean | 9 | 19.6 | 37 | 80.4 | 46 |
| Asian | 186 | 33.3 | 372 | 66.7 | 558 |
| Chinese | 43 | 39.8 | 65 | 60.2 | 108 |
| African | 45 | 36.0 | 80 | 64.0 | 125 |
| Other | 58 | 30.1 | 135 | 69.9 | 193 |
| Total admissions from minority ethnic groups | 341 | 33.1 | 689 | 66.9 | 1030 |
| Number of admissions where ethnicity is known | 2,075 | 38.1 | 3,369 | 61.9 | 5444 |
| Minority ethnic groups as a % of those with known ethnicity | 16.4 | | 20.5 | | 18.9 |
| Number of admissions where ethnicity is unknown | 794 | 48.7 | 837 | 51.3 | 1631 |
| Total admissions | 2,869 | 40.6 | 4,206 | 59.4 | 7075 |
| % of admissions with known ethnicity | 72.3 | | 80.1 | | 76.9 |

Source: Law Society's REGIS database

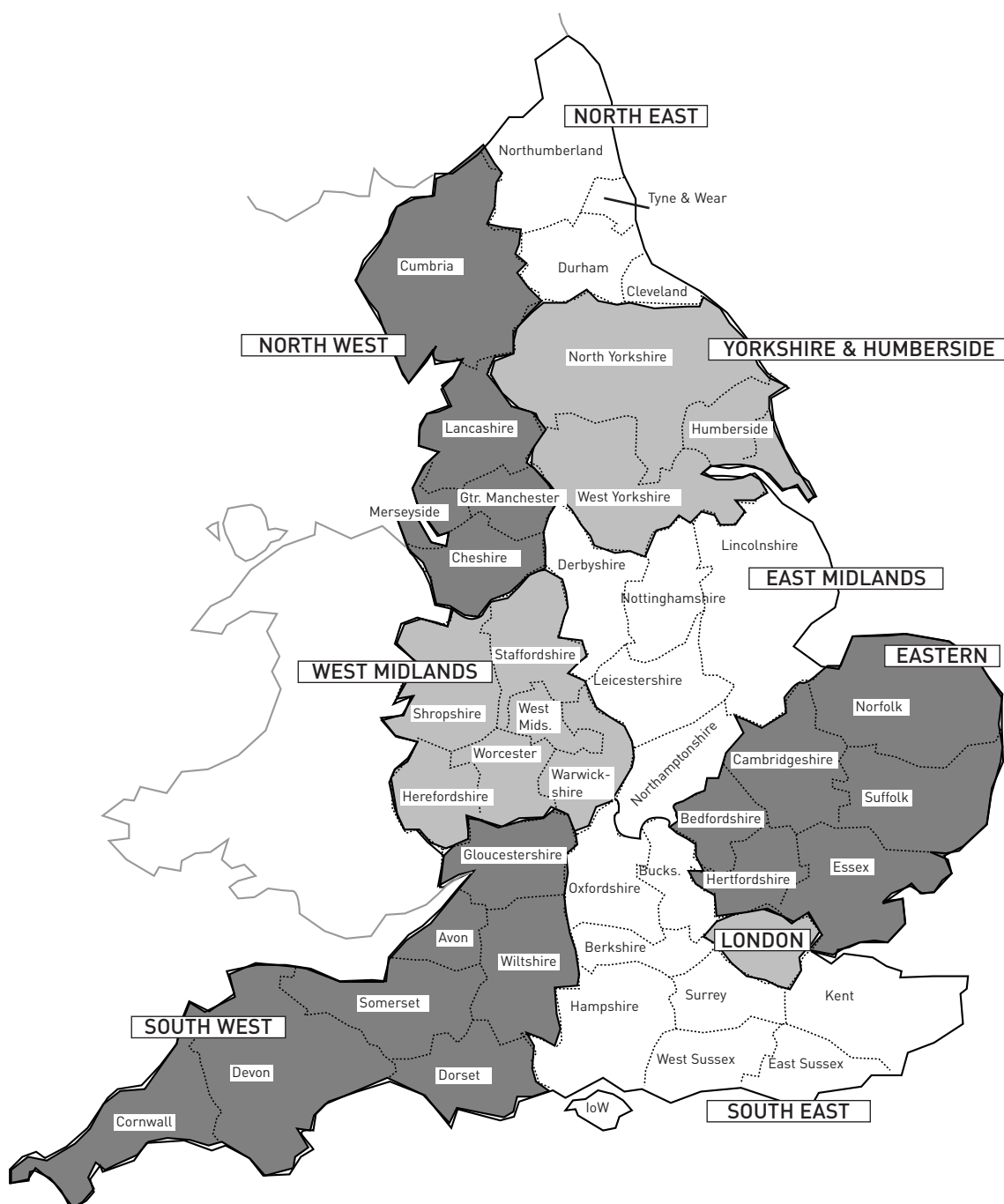
Appendices

Map of Government Office Regions

| Standard Statistical Region | County* | Government Office Region |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| North | Cleveland* Durham Northumberland Tyne and Wear | North East |
| | Cumbria | |
| North West | Cheshire Greater Manchester Lancashire Merseyside** | North West |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | Humberside* North Yorkshire South Yorkshire West Yorkshire | Yorkshire and the Humber |
| East Midlands | Derbyshire Leicestershire Lincolnshire Northamptonshire Nottinghamshire | East Midlands |
| West Midlands | Hereford and Worcester* Shropshire Staffordshire Warwickshire West Midlands | West Midlands |
| South West | Avon* Cornwall Devon Dorset Gloucestershire | South West |
| East Anglia | Cambridgeshire Norfolk Suffolk | East of England |
| South East | Bedfordshire Essex Hertfordshire | |
| | Greater London | London |
| | Berkshire* Buckinghamshire East Sussex Hampshire Isle of Wight* Kent Oxfordshire Surrey West Sussex | South East |

* Counties prior to local government reorganisation

** North West region includes Merseyside from 1 August 1998



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