

The Honourable Society of **Lincoln's Inn**

2022 Elections for the Bar Representation Committee of Lincoln's Inn

Members of over 7 years call with a current practicing certificate in England and Wales at the self-employed bar

Umar Ali



Year Of Call

2015

Practice

Self-employed criminal barrister at Holborn Chambers, London.

A)Why do you want to be a member of the Bar Representation Committee?

I am applying for election to the Bar Representation Committee in order to give back to the Inn which has consistently supported me throughout my legal career. As someone from a non-traditional background in law, I am passionate about ensuring opportunities for barristers from underrepresented groups to apply for and maintain successful careers at the Bar.

Lincoln's Inn supported me extensively during Bar School and pupillage. I wish to ensure that as many members as possible can utilise the Inn's invaluable support in the challenge of building up a successful practice as a barrister.

B)What skills and experience, acquired within the Inn or externally, do you feel you would bring to the role?

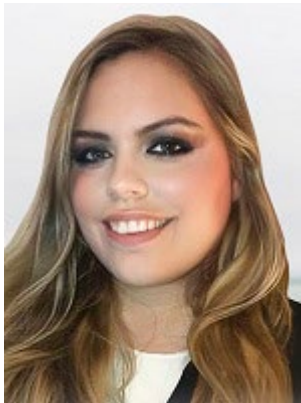
I have previous experience in holding public office and being elected as a local

government councillor in London. During this time, I have chaired a number of important committees ranging from Health, Children & Families and Audit & Governance Committee. I have also been a school governor and sat on various outside bodies. I have successfully campaigned on several initiatives and have experience of advocating and representing constituents. I wish to draw on my experience and give back to the Inn by contributing to the management of the inn, shaping its policies and ensure the interests and concerns of all members are being heard and represented.

Committee Status

Seeking Election for the first time

Georgina Blower



Year Of Call

2009

Practice

Self-employed barrister at The 36 Group in London, specialising in criminal justice and high-profile public inquiries.

A) Why do you want to be a member of the Bar Representation Committee?

Having enjoyed the benefits of the Inn as a student member and now as a practitioner, I am keen to contribute to its continued success. I previously served as Mooting Secretary and sat on the Students' Activities Executive Committee during the BVC and represented the Inn nationally and internationally at various mooting competitions. During my six years on the BRC, I have sat on and contributed to the Scholarships, Library, Chattels, Gardens, Chapel and Social Mobility committees, and I hope to continue to represent the interests of the criminal and publicly funded Bar, where the current pressures are particularly intense, and those in the early stages of their careers. I intend to further contribute to the Inn's work surrounding education and promoting access to the profession, particularly for those from non-traditional backgrounds.

B) What skills and experience, acquired within the Inn or externally, do you feel you would bring to the role?

I have a long track record of supporting the Bar and significant experience acting on high-level committees. I am a member of the Policy and Editorial Board of Counsel

Magazine and Secretary to the Pupillage Committee in my chambers. Through Lincoln's Inn, I have interviewed candidates for scholarships and am an advocacy trainer. I have also volunteered for the charity Big Voice London, promoting social mobility and diversity.

Committee Status

Seeking re-Election.

Kevin Leigh



Year Of Call

1986

Practice

Self-employed civil practitioner

Real property, town planning and licensing

33 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH

A)Why do you want to be a member of the Bar Representation Committee?

I want to give back to the Inn and help members. Having been awarded several scholarships by the Inn while still at university I have enjoyed an association with the Inn for almost 40 years. It relies on members being involved and if given the opportunity I would relish the chance to continue the Inn's work. As a busy specialist practitioner and having been involved previously with the Bar Council and other professional associations, I have acquired experience that might assist those helping the Inn continue its important role. I am grateful to everyone has given and continues to give their time to the Inn but would welcome being allowed to do so myself.

B)What skills and experience, acquired within the Inn or externally, do you feel you would bring to the role

As a senior practitioner I have leadership experience and the usual attributes acquired and honed from practice. I have experience outside the Bar as a trustee off several charities and running a property development business. I can work with others, bringing the maturity that life provides as you age. Life's journey is different

for everyone. While the Inn acts collectively on behalf of members, it is important to recognise and ensure that everyone individually is fulfilled by what the Inn does and can do for them.

Committee Status

Seeking Election for the first time

James Manning



Year Of Call

2008

Practice

I am a self-employed barrister based in London. My practice is predominantly publicly funded criminal defence.

A)Why do you want to be a member of the Bar Representation Committee?

Having served on the BRC for six years (co-opted in 2016 then elected in 2018), I have sat on various Bench committees: Library, Estates, Gardens, and Chattels.

Knowing the pressures of criminal defence work, I understand the important role the Inn plays, particularly in fostering collegiality when chambers life has become increasingly distant. I am committed to the Inn remaining a thriving and inclusive institution of value to members.

I am seeking re-election so that the views of practitioners, particularly those at the self-employed Bar, are heard.

B)What skills and experience, acquired within the Inn or externally, do you feel you would bring to the role?

Unusually, I spent seven years as a professional and residential tenant in Lincoln's Inn. I served as secretary to LIRA (the Inn's Residents' Association) until 2021. Consequently, I have come to know the day-to-day life of the Inn very well, giving me significant applicable knowledge, skills, and experience. I am conscious of the competing pressures that arise in a complex institution such as Lincoln's Inn.

I am a regular contributor to the Inn's educational activities: advocacy tutoring, mentoring, and attending students' weekends. Through this I have gained an insight into the Inn's vital educational functions.

These various roles have given me the skills and experiences which are invaluable in performing my BRC role.

Committee Status

Seeking re-Election.