



Guidance for Candidates

The purpose of this guide is to enable members to better understand the criteria which will be applied and the process which will be followed by the Advisory (Bencher) Committee and by Council.

Applications

[Submitting a Bench Register form online](#) plays a key part in the selection process and forms should be kept up to date. Members are strongly encouraged to create a Formsite account so that forms can be accessed after submission.

Candidates' suitability to become a Bencher will be assessed on the evidence provided on the form so all required sections should be completed, ensuring the information provided is clear and accurate.

Any information which is submitted for purposes of monitoring data (page 2 of the Bench Register form) will not be provided to the Advisory (Bencher) Committee and will only be used for statistical purposes in evaluating the process as a whole.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for election as a Bencher, individuals must have been a member of Lincoln's Inn for at least five years and have been Called to the Bar.

Timetable

There are two elections held each year. Vacancies are declared in January for the May election and July for the November election. The A(B)C agrees a list of candidates for election, selecting twice the number of candidates as there are vacancies available. This list is also reviewed by Council before voting takes place.

Successful candidates will be notified after May or November Council.

Criteria

The selection criteria below enable the A(B)C to apply an auditable marking process when reviewing submitted forms.

Standing in legal profession or another walk of life

The committee will consider evidence such as:

- KC or judicial / other sitting experience
- Significant/ leading cases
- Leadership activity in employed setting, on circuits, SBAs or Bar Council
- Leadership role in Chambers' administration and management
- Membership of AG panel or similar
- Publications or other evidence of profile / specialist expertise (not legal directories)

Experience demonstrating suitability to be a Bencher

The committee will consider evidence such as:

- Effective leadership or governance role at the Inn or elsewhere
- Experience of activities directly relevant to the work of the Inn and its committees
- Ability to work collaboratively and pragmatically with peers and others
- Ability to discharge leadership/managerial role in a constructive and non-confrontational manner
- Where views differ, the ability to listen, take account of other perspectives and be part of reaching a shared solution
- Conduct aligned to the Inn's expectations of Benchers and other members

Past contribution to the Inn/ legal profession



The committee will consider evidence such as:

- Active contribution to Inn Committee or educational work, including sponsoring or mentoring students
- Active contribution to the development of the profession through SBA/ circuits/ Bar Council or in employed setting
- Promoting the rule of law and independence of the judiciary

Ability and willingness to serve the Inn

Consider evidence of:

- Evidence of previous voluntary activity in the Inn or elsewhere, including wider society

Promotion of Diversity

Consider evidence of:

- Commitment and activity to promote diversity in profession through organisational or personal initiatives

Feedback

The A(B)C monitor and review their processes annually.

We welcome feedback from candidates on the application process. Any suggestions should be sent to the [Committee Officers](#).