



2024 Elections for the Bar Representation Committee of Lincoln's Inn

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

Matthew Abraham



Year of Call

2012

Practice

Self-employed barrister at South Square specialising in insolvency and restructuring, banking and commercial disputes based in London

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

Since being called to the Inn, I've assisted the Inn with student education/mentoring. Whilst I enjoy working with students at the Inn, and intend to continue doing so, I would now like to be more involved with its internal workings to help it advance with junior members in mind. For me the Bar Representation Committee is the best way to do this as it ensures that the Inn's Bench Committees have the viewpoint of Hall members in mind when making decisions regarding the governance of the Inn.

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

In addition to assisting students at the Inn, I am also a member of my Chambers' Executive Committee, Pupillage Committee and Wellbeing Committee. My experience gained from those roles has made me acutely aware of the Inn's importance in assisting junior members in a way that individual chambers are unable to, e.g in areas such as wellbeing and social mobility, as they are focused on specific issues facing their chambers rather than more general issues facing junior members of the Bar. Finally, given one of my core specialisms is insolvency and restructuring, I consider I am well positioned to assist on financial issues facing the Inn in the current economic climate.

Committee Status

Seeking Election for the first time.

Cleon Catsambis



Year of Call

2011

Practice

Self-employed commercial barrister at 3 Verulam Buildings

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

I have a deep, personal connection to Lincoln's Inn: my journey to the Bar was only possible because of the Inn's generous scholarship scheme and I was married in the Inn's historic chapel. Born abroad and without any legal connections, the Inn welcomed me and truly became my professional home.

I am excited to contribute to the continued success of this special community and to promote the interests of the Inn's diverse membership. If elected, I would strive to ensure that the Inn understands, in practical terms, how the current financial, political and technological challenges are affecting its members, so that appropriate policies can be formulated.

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

- Commitment to access to the Bar: I am a pupil supervisor, a member of 3VB's Pupillage Committee, a mentor under various schemes and a volunteer advocacy tutor at the Inn.
- Successful experience of working in committees: I have experience of multiple committees (Pupillage, BD, practice areas) and adopt a pragmatic, collaborative approach.
- Financial literacy: due to the nature of my practice.
- International perspective: Having lived in 5 countries and speaking several languages, I embrace the Inn's global reach and I am passionate about ensuring that the Bar is an inclusive, welcoming and meritocratic profession.

Committee Status

Seeking Election for the first time.

Ben Hamer



Year of Call

2017

Practice

Self-employed barrister at 5RB, the media and information set, in London

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

I have benefitted immensely from being a member of Lincoln's Inn, and want to ensure that all of our members feel that the Inn is a supportive and convivial environment for them too. As a long-standing member of the Bar Representation Committee, I would like to continue the work of the Committee in enhancing member engagement across all levels of Call, Circuits, and countries of practice. We have had success in promoting greater interaction with those in the first seven years of practice and I would particularly seek to retain such engagement into later years, as well as providing further opportunities for participation outside of London.

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

I have served on the Bar Representation Committee since 2018. Having built good relationships with members at all levels, I feel well-placed to represent Hall effectively. I have been an active member of two of the BRC's sub-committees: the Social and Wellbeing Group since 2017; and as co-chair of the Junior Members' Committee since 2018. In these roles, I have helped to develop numerous events and initiatives – from career and professional development workshops to social events. My participation on four Bench Committees has also provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the Inn's operations.

Committee Status

Seeking Re-election.

Michael Levenstein



Year of Call

2015

Practice

Self-employed construction and commercial barrister at Gatehouse Chambers

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

Serving on the Bar Representation Committee is one important way in which I hope to continue giving back to the Inn. By having the opportunity to more closely engage with our members, I will be a vocal supporter of their needs and concerns and work hard to maintain all those initiatives they find helpful and to bring reform to those we can improve.

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

It is a privilege to have long been involved in the life of our Inn. Previously, I have served as a committee member of LIRA, the Inn's residents' association, the Students' Activities Executive Committee and participated in debate coaching and moot judging. I volunteer as a mentor on the Pupillage Foundation Scheme and advocacy tutor for new practitioners and pupils on our residential weekend courses. I am a Visiting Lecturer and LLM Supervisor at City Law School, and lecture at the Bartlett School of Sustainable Construction, University College London.

I have substantial experience serving in leadership roles on the executive committees of other large professional organisations, including the Society of Construction Law and TECBAR.

If elected, I very much hope to be able to harness this experience for the benefit of the Inn and all its members.

Committee Status

Seeking Election for the first time.

Dr Tariq Mahmood



Year of Call

2002

Practice

Sole Practitioner - Areas of Practice: Commercial litigation/arbitration/mediation (London)

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

It is an absolute honour and privilege to stand in the Bar Representation Committee elections.

- I am a barrister, arbitrator and mediator with multi-jurisdictional experience, specialising in international commercial dispute resolution (litigation, arbitration and mediation). I am a Visiting Professor at the University of Durham and an Honorary Senior Lecturer in ADR at the University of Keele. I have been appointed to over 25 arbitration panels. I speak and publish regularly on topics relating to international arbitration, mediation and issues of diversity in the legal profession.
- I have experience at the self-employed bar and have worked offshore in Bermuda which has allowed me to work with a diverse team of people with different ethnicity, religious and jurisdictional backgrounds. I am passionate about diversity and have ran numerous projects within schools, colleges and universities to introduce students to careers in ADR. I have ran several workshops nationally and internationally.

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

- I have substantial experience sitting on various committee's nationally and internationally which include:
- Elected to the 'Bar Representation Committee' – Lincolns Inn
- Elected to the 'Bar Council- Bar Representation Committee' – England & Wales
- Appointed to Stoke-on-Trent College – Corporation Board

- Pakistan Bar Council – ADR Committee
- Board Member – MICA -Pakistan

Committee Status

Seeking Re-election.

Mark Watson



Year of Call

2011

Practice

Self-employed criminal and regulatory barrister, practising on the South East Circuit from Mountford Chambers.

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

As a member of the Inn, I have always been impressed with how the Inn and the Committee listens to all of its members, and changes and evolves to reflect and represent those views.

I hope to have helped the Inn in some small way by becoming an advocacy trainer, teaching ethics and case analysis, and as a mentor on the Pupillage Foundation Scheme, however I want to do more to help an institution that has helped and supported me through my academic and professional life.

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

I was the assistant secretary and secretary of the Criminal Bar Association from 2022 to 2024, through one of the most difficult periods that the Criminal Bar faced.

Whilst supporting the other officers in making decisions about next steps in any action taken, I never forgot that it was the interests of the members of the CBA at the centre of any decision taken.

I always spoke to criminal barristers across the country, and across the spectrum of opinions, ignoring my own views, to ensure that the interests of the members were being represented properly. I hope that I will be able to use this approach representing Hall as a member of the Committee.

Committee Status

Seeking Election for the first time.