



## Baroness Ruth Deech

We are busy gearing up for our Board meeting on 28 April where we will need to decide whether or not the Bar Standards Board should begin to regulate business entities and permit barristers to conduct litigation. This is a crucial decision that will not be taken lightly. I wish to thank all of you who responded to the consultation, we have amalgamated your responses and analysed them thoroughly.

I am sure that our discussion will focus on what you have said in response to our original proposals. If you want to remind yourself of the consultation, you can still [view it on our website](#). However, the chance to comment has now passed. Once the decision has been made, either way, we will ensure that you are informed. If you can't wait until the next newsletter check [our website](#) regularly and [follow us on Twitter](#).

## Clementi Debate

**26 May, 17.30 - Centre Point Tower, London**

In anticipation of our consultation on Continuing Professional Development and the joint review of legal education, our Clementi Debate asks 'Does CPD make better barristers?' Come along and tell us! This year's debate will be chaired by Professor Dawn Oliver, Treasurer of Middle Temple. Panellists will include Derek Wood QC, Chair of the CPD Review Working Group, Niall Dickson, Chief Executive of the General Medical Council, Nichola Higgins, Chairman of the Young Bar Association and Mathew Nicklin, practising barrister in media and defamation law. So whether you think CPD should be strengthened or scrapped, we'd like to hear your views. [Find out more and register to attend](#)

## Latest information on the Quality Assurance Scheme for Advocates

In 2010, we, along with ILEX Professional Standards and the Solicitors Regulation Authority, established the Joint Advocacy Group (JAG) to take forward the development of a quality assurance scheme for criminal advocates. JAG has now released an updated timetable for its work going forward and anticipates the introduction of the scheme in early 2012. [Read the latest update.](#)

## Baroness Deech podcast

Our Chair, Baroness Ruth Deech, was recently interviewed by blogger Charon QC. They discussed legal education, regulation and social mobility. [Visit our site and listen to the podcast.](#)

## Bar Barometer Report

We, in conjunction with the Bar Council, have issued the first [Bar Barometer publication](#), an annual report on statistical trends within the Bar. The Bar Barometer focuses on figures relating to the profile of the profession and those in the training stages over the past five years. Bar Barometer is also intended to be a resource that supports policy formulation, the conduct of equality impact assessments and the development of evidence-based equality objectives.

## We welcome report on vulnerable witness handling

We have welcomed the Advocacy Training Council's comprehensive report on the handling of vulnerable witnesses in our court system and commend the substantial amount of work that has gone into it. We agree that barristers must be well equipped to deal with all witnesses, victims and defendants and are thankful for the opportunity to look at the treatment of vulnerable witnesses in particular. We will be studying the report's recommendations in detail and look forward to working with the Advocacy Training Council and others to respond to its findings. [Read our press statement and the report.](#)

We value your feedback and would like to hear your opinions. If you have thoughts on what we have covered, or would like further information, please [contact us](#).