

COMBAR AGM 2020

Report from the Chair

Introduction

1. I am delighted to deliver this report at the AGM, the first to be held by Zoom.
2. 2019-2020 has been a busy year for COMBAR and I owe a great deal of thanks to my superb Officers, Executive Committee, the various sub-committees and Junior COMBAR. Details of all those involved are set out in the Annex to this Report. COMBAR would not function, of course, without its wonderful administrators, Veronica Kendall and Alison Tighe. My thanks to each of them and to Nick Feeny, COMBAR's accountant.
3. In 2019 COMBAR celebrated its 30th Anniversary, marked with a wonderful dinner on 5 November 2019. The Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, Lord Burnett, kindly spoke at the event. The event was also attended by the Master of the Rolls, the President of the Queen's Bench Division, the Chancellor, the Judge in Charge of the Commercial Court, Lords Sumption, Hamblen and Leggatt, Lord Justice Flaux (the new supervising Lord Justice of the Commercial Court) as well as most of the Commercial Court judges, Financial List (ChD) Judges and a large number of Court of Appeal judges. COMBAR was also delighted to welcome former Chairs and Officers of COMBAR and many members, as well as Honorary Overseas Members.
4. As I said at that dinner, COMBAR's work over the last 30 years has been invaluable in representing and advocating for the commercial bar, opening up the commercial bar to individuals from all walks of life, developing its international connections and continuing to forge a strong and effective working relationship between the commercial bar and the judiciary. COMBAR has continued that work over this last year adapting, as it must, to the times.
5. COMBAR's work and activities are set out in this Report, to which many members of the Executive Committee have contributed. I wanted to highlight a few aspects:
 - 5.1. **Covid-19**. As members will be all too aware, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact on how court hearings have been conducted and, more generally, on members' practices. COMBAR has undertaken a significant amount of work for

its members on matters arising out of the pandemic, and in particular, has devoted considerable time to consulting, preparing and revising detailed guidance on remote hearings, as well as consulting more widely on the impact of the pandemic. Many thanks indeed to Alex Gunning QC and those assisting him for their hard work producing such excellent remote hearing guidance in a very short timeframe.

- 5.2. COMBAR is also conscious of the devastating effect of the pandemic on the criminal bar: we are all one bar and in support of our fellow barristers at the criminal bar, COMBAR (like the Chancery Bar Association) made a substantial donation to the Barristers' Benevolent Association Covid-19 appeal.
- 5.3. **Education programme.** COMBAR has continued its education programme of talks and seminars given by senior members of the judiciary and leading practitioners. Highlights included, amongst many others, COMBAR's Annual Lecture on 12 November 2019 given by Sir Geoffrey Vos C on *Future proofing for commercial lawyers in an unpredictable world*. Following the Covid-19 pandemic COMBAR has hosted a number of well-attended online talks and seminars. This included Professor Ewan McKendrick's online talk on Frustration and Force Majeure held on 12 May 2020, which was attended by 270 COMBAR members. A full list of seminars hosted is set out below. Many thanks to James Leabeater QC and Emma Jones for organising such a fantastic education programme.
- 5.4. **Consultations.** Over the last year COMBAR has carried out extensive consultation work and membership surveys, including in relation to the Disclosure Pilot and the Witness Statement Working Group. COMBAR has also responded to consultations in relation to many other matters. My thanks to Andrew George QC (Chair of Consultations) and all involved in contributing to these consultations, a process which involves a huge amount of work but which is so important to ensuring that the views of COMBAR's membership are communicated to the relevant decision makers.
- 5.5. **Equality and Diversity.** COMBAR remains committed to supporting all its members regardless of race, gender, religion, background or disability, as well as actively encouraging the recruitment of exceptional individuals from all walks of life to the profession and in particular from under-represented groups. To this end,

COMBAR has carried out a detailed and extensive programme of Equality and Diversity (“E&D”) activities, with the objective of supporting both existing practitioners and encouraging recruitment and access to the commercial bar.

- 5.6. Amongst many other initiatives, COMBAR continues to fund scholarship schemes supporting access to the commercial bar for individuals from under-represented backgrounds, as well as organising, attending and supporting many outreach initiatives. I am indebted to Ruth Hosking and her sub-committee for their commitment and hard work in this enormously important field.
- 5.7. Following the success of the E&D committee’s work, including in relation to the recruitment and support of talented women at the Commercial Bar, this year COMBAR has also established a BAME sub-committee to support and enhance BAME inclusion, participation and progression at the commercial bar, and promote those aims. As set out below, several excellent initiatives are already underway. I am grateful to Anne Jeavons and Charlotte Tan and their sub-committee for establishing and developing these initiatives.
- 5.8. Equally important is COMBAR’s commitment to social mobility - and again a number of initiatives are underway.
- 5.9. **Pro bono work.** Many of COMBAR’s members carry out extensive pro bono work. COMBAR actively supports this. On 13 January 2020, COMBAR and Advocate together launched a bespoke pro bono scheme to support litigants in person in the London Circuit Commercial Court. The initiative for the scheme came from Waksman J (when he was the Judge in Charge of the London Mercantile Court, the forerunner of the London Circuit Commercial Court) and it was implemented by his successor, HHJ Pelling QC. A vast number of COMBAR members have already volunteered to support this scheme, and I am delighted to announce that the scheme will soon be extended to the Commercial Court. Thank you to David Mumford QC, Adam Kramer and Niamh Cleary for assisting with this excellent new project.
- 5.10. **International work and events.** The work of COMBAR’s busy international committee has continued. This has included, amongst other things, meetings and engagement with the British government in connection with post-Brexit trade

policy and judicial co-operation (amongst other things, COMBAR was instrumental in making the case for the UK's post-Brexit accession to the Lugano Convention). COMBAR also organised a number of international events, including its third and very successful Roundtable event in India in September 2019. International work is a cornerstone of COMBAR's activities and I am very grateful to Henry King QC (International Chair), David Joseph QC and Charles Bear QC (Joint Chairs of the India sub-committee), and their sub-committees, for all their work in this regard.

5.11. COMBAR's much-anticipated North American meeting, due to be held in Florence in May 2020, was sadly postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but COMBAR has succeeded in rolling over all group and individual bookings without any cost to COMBAR or to individuals who have booked. This rescheduled North America meeting will now be held in Florence between Wednesday, 2 June to Friday, 4 June 2021. My thanks to Fionn Pilbrow QC and Emily Wood for all the work they have done organising the meeting and then so successfully and efficiently re-arranging it for next year.

5.12. **Junior COMBAR**. I am particularly delighted that Junior COMBAR has been relaunched with a new and considerably expanded committee. The new committee has been very active in organising and arranging an extensive number of events and seminars for its membership. Kira King and her excellent committee have done a fantastic job. I look forward to a series of interesting events over the coming year.

5.13. **The future**. I am committed to ensuring that the Commercial Bar continues both to attract and retain talent from all backgrounds and that COMBAR, with its impressive membership and vast resources, does everything it can to assist. I am also determined to ensure that the Executive and the various sub-committees are drawn widely from the membership, so as to be truly representative of the Commercial Bar and its array of talents. I am delighted to say that one can immediately see this is the case just from a quick glance at the Annex to this Report. If anyone else wishes to become involved please do not hesitate to contact me.

5.14. I also wanted to highlight three further initiatives. First, COMBAR is establishing a mentoring scheme for its members, which will be launched at the start of the Michaelmas term; second, COMBAR has entirely re-designed its website to make

it more accessible and hopefully of greater assistance in attracting talent and supporting its members (my thanks to James MacDonald and his sub-committee for all of their hard work); finally, and recognising that the future of COMBAR lies with the next generation, two new sub-committees, to be chaired by juniors, will be established. One of those sub-committees will focus on advocacy and the challenges facing the junior bar in particular, and will be chaired by Rupert Allen and Nehali Shah. The other sub-committee will focus on recruitment and pupillage issues (in liaison with the E & D committee) and will be chaired by Natasha Bennett and James Willan.

6. Further details of COMBAR's activities are set out below and in the attached reports.
7. I wish COMBAR's membership all the best for the forthcoming year, particularly in light of the difficult ongoing circumstances resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. COMBAR remains available to support all of its members and will continue its programme of work and activities throughout 2020 and 2021.

Reports

Education Programme

8. COMBAR's education programme has been busy and well attended. From the beginning of 2020, lectures moved to the new Ashworth Centre lecture hall at Lincoln's Inn, although more recently COVID-19 has necessitated online lectures via Zoom. Online lectures have proven very popular, particularly with those for whom family and other commitments make evening events in London difficult. COMBAR anticipates continuing to provide online access even when physical events become possible again.
9. The Annual Lecture was held on 12 November 2019. Sir Geoffrey Vos C addressed COMBAR on *Future proofing for commercial lawyers in an unpredictable world*. As always, this is a highlight of COMBAR's annual educational programme and we are very grateful to the Chancellor for a fascinating, engaging and hugely thought-provoking lecture which made clear both the challenges and opportunities for the legal profession created by the rapid developments in technology, AI, data and crypto-assets.

10. The 2020 Annual Lecture will be held on 13 October 2020, when Lord Hamblen will talk about the history and future of the Commercial Court, which celebrates its 125th anniversary this year.
11. Other COMBAR educational events in 2019-2020 year included:
 - 11.1. On 15 October 2019 Rosalind Phelps QC and Professor Paul Davies discussed the recent decision of the Court of Appeal in *FSHC Group Holdings v Glas Trust* [2019] EWCA Civ 1361 on rectification.
 - 11.2. On 10 December 2019 Colin Edelman QC and Jamie Carpenter addressed third party costs orders in the context of the Supreme Court decision in *Travelers Insurance Co v XYZ* [2019] UKSC 48.
 - 11.3. On 21 January 2020 Paul McGrath QC and Ruth den Besten spoke about Freezing Orders.
 - 11.4. The seminar arranged to discuss the Supreme Court's decision in *Halliburton v Chubb* has been adjourned, pending publication of the judgment.
 - 11.5. On 12 May 2020 the first online lecture was held: Professor Ewan McKendrick QC on Frustration and Force Majeure, attended by 270 COMBAR members.
 - 11.6. On 9 June 2020 a joint seminar was held with the Bar Council International Committee on online commercial hearings and trials, chaired by Marion Smith QC. The speakers were Mr Justice Teare, Mr Justice Waksman, Anneliese Day QC and Matthew Lavy. It was attended by 350 people from all around the world.
 - 11.7. On 21 July 2020, Thomas Raphael QC will give a lecture on recent developments in relation to anti-suit injunctions.
12. Finally, the new COMBAR website (see further below) makes it easy for members (and pupils) to view videos and written materials from our education programme.
13. I would like to extend my thanks to all of the speakers who have come to talk to COMBAR. The opportunity to hear from eminent members of the judiciary, leading academics and leading practitioners on key legal issues is a crucial feature of COMBAR's activities.

Consultations

14. COMBAR has consulted with its membership in relation to fundamental aspects of civil procedure – the Disclosure Pilot and the Witness Statement Working Group.
15. In relation to the first, COMBAR submitted detailed feedback about and organised seminars relating to the new disclosure proposals prior to their implementation. Once the Disclosure Pilot was up and running, COMBAR engaged with those primarily responsible for monitoring its progress and, following a judicial request, made a request for feedback to its entire membership, collating the responses in a widely circulated report that was published at the beginning of 2020. As the Disclosure Pilot continues to generate substantial concerns, and following further judicial requests, COMBAR conducted a further membership-wide survey and submitted the detailed reports and comments received, in anonymised form, to the relevant decision-makers.
16. The work of the Witness Statement Working Party is at an earlier stage, although a number of reforms, including a revised Statement of Truth, have already been generated by its work and implemented. COMBAR is well-represented on the working party, whose more detailed proposals are expected later this year, and was one of the many organisations which encouraged its membership to complete the on-line consultation questionnaire distributed across the legal profession in 2019.
17. Further, and inevitably in the current climate, COMBAR has been heavily focusing on the emergency changes required by the COVID-19 pandemic and has consulted and responded to various bodies on issues such as the practical and technical operation of remote hearings, advocacy and document preparation in remote hearings and recruitment and pupillage during the “lockdown” period.
18. COMBAR has also, throughout the year, considered and contributed comments or feedback based on input from its members on a number of other important consultations.
19. In July 2019, COMBAR responded to the Bar Standards Board’s proposals for amending the pupillage structure.
20. In July 2019 COMBAR met with the Bar Council to discuss a proposal by the Bar Council to run a scheme for the training of arbitrators that would compete with the Chartered Institute and generate revenue for the Bar Council. We explained that the Bar

Council should instead focus on ensuring the foreign lawyers were aware of the benefits of instructing the Bar in arbitrations – and suggested that the Bar Council should make a better effort to liaise with the SBAs in advance of announcing its programme of international activities. COMBAR subsequently provided feedback to the Bar Council on suggested overseas visits.

21. In January 2020 the Legal Services Board issued a call for evidence on “ongoing competence” which spans the entire legal services sector. The Legal Services Board seems to question whether something more than CPD requirements should be implemented and shows little understanding of the factors contributing to the continuing high quality of services at the commercial bar, or even of the particular factors affecting the Bar more generally. COMBAR has provided a detailed response to the call for evidence, stressing the absence of any need for further regulatory intervention.

Covid-19

22. Since March 2020, COMBAR has been heavily involved in providing guidance to COMBAR members affected by Covid-19.
23. In the absence of clear guidance from the Bar Council, COMBAR sought and obtained confirmation from the BSB that, where barristers were so affected by self-isolation or lockdown that it was impossible or impractical to fulfil their instructions, then those instructions might be returned. Guidance to this effect was published to COMBAR members on 19 March 2020, four days before the lockdown started.
24. At the end of March 2020, COMBAR made enquiries of member sets as to any issues arising in respect of remote hearings. As a result, at the beginning of April 2020, COMBAR liaised with the Commercial Court to bring to the Judges’ attention concerns that were being expressed about (a) the clarity of the guidance in the Protocol on Remote Hearings, (b) the effect of remote hearings on those required to self-isolate and/or with caring responsibilities and (c) issues arising with technology.
25. Shortly afterwards, COMBAR formed a working group on remote hearings that published a detailed guidance note for remote hearings on 12 May 2020, including a specimen PTR checklist in respect of trials that were proposed for remote hearing. That guidance note was revised and updated on 23 June 2020. COMBAR’s guidance note is available on its website, which has a page dedicated to Covid-19 matters.

26. On 27 April 2020, COMBAR donated £30,000 to the Barristers' Benevolent Association Covid-19 appeal.

Equality and Diversity

27. COMBAR remains committed to supporting all our members, particularly in these uncertain times, and to playing its part in ensuring equal opportunities for entry to and practice at the commercial bar.
28. A separate report from the E&D subcommittee is attached, which sets out in detail the very considerable amount of work done by COMBAR in this area.
29. At the end of 2019, a small group was formed to make proposals for closer student engagement by COMBAR. Detailed proposals were developed for an initial dinner with academics from a wide range of Universities across the country, comprising a mix of Russell Group and non-Russell Group universities and focussed on those with higher proportions of students from low participation neighbourhoods (based on HESA data). The purpose of the dinner is to sound out the participants as to how best to improve awareness of the commercial bar across a wider range of universities (including universities other than those with representatives at the dinner) and so to develop a more detailed programme for student engagement. This proposal is now being considered further by the equality and diversity subcommittee.
30. The BAME sub-committee was formed in June 2020, to build upon the work already being done by COMBAR's E&D committee in this area. Following the success of COMBAR's gender equality initiatives, the Executive Committee felt it appropriate to establish a targeted sub-committee focussing on BAME issues.
31. The committee will work alongside COMBAR's E&D committee, with the key objectives of supporting and enhancing BAME inclusion, participation and progression at the commercial bar, and promoting those aims with the judiciary and within the arbitration sphere.
32. The committee has already commenced a number of initiatives. The committee is discussing a mentoring scheme initiative with Brick Court, which would see students paired with established practitioners for a full academic year. The committee is exploring

whether it will be possible for the scheme to be piloted this year by a number of chambers, with a view to expanding it across COMBAR sets in the future. In addition, the committee is working in conjunction with other specialist bar associations on plans for an exhibition showcasing BAME talent at the bar, and will also work closely with a proposed cross-SBA ad-hoc committee being set up to report on the recruitment and retention of BAME practitioners, with a focus on Black (African and African Caribbean Heritage) barristers, at the commercial, chancery and technology and construction bars. The committee will also be involved in recruitment drives as well as exploring how COMBAR can assist and support relevant activities of sets of chambers and the Inns of Court.

33. COMBAR has allocated a generous budget to the new BAME sub-committee, and allocated the same amount for social mobility and other initiatives to be pursued simultaneously by the E&D committee.

Pro Bono

34. On 13 January 2020 COMBAR and Advocate together launched a bespoke pro bono scheme to support litigants in person in the London Circuit Commercial Court. This was the result of discussions with the former judge in charge of the LCCC, Waksman J and his successor, HHJ Pelling QC. Under the scheme, a panel of COMBAR volunteer barristers make themselves available to represent litigants in person in hearings before the LCCC of a day or less. COMBAR also helps Advocate administer the scheme, vetting applications for assistance and providing case summaries for the volunteers.
35. I am very pleased to say that a huge number of COMBAR members have offered to support the scheme: over 180 at last count (indeed, 97 people volunteered within the first 2 hours of the mailing list opening, in December 2019). The scheme complements that available in the Chancery Division (known as CLIPs), but differs not just in the Court it operates within, but also because the scheme can cover more substantial applications (anything up to a day's hearing) and papers are supplied to the volunteers in advance.
36. On the judicial side, this project has been very much steered by HHJ Pelling QC and COMBAR is hugely grateful for his enthusiasm, support and guidance in developing this

very successful project. Indeed, its success is evidenced by the fact the scheme is now to be extended to the Commercial Court from the start of term in October 2020.

Mentoring scheme

37. This year COMBAR has also taken steps to set up a mentoring scheme for its members. I hope that this will offer the opportunity for members to discuss issues with and gain insights from (as well as the support of) other members of the Bar who have had relevant experiences with the freedom to do so outside the confines of established relationships in chambers.
38. To that end, a mentoring committee has been established chaired by David Mumford QC, with Ruth Hosking and James MacDonald (with a pool of others to be called on as and when). They are currently working towards launching the scheme at the start of the Michaelmas term.

Junior COMBAR

39. I am particularly delighted that Junior COMBAR has re-launched with a larger committee, chaired by Kira King. The committee has done a great job in organising a number of successful events. A report from the junior COMBAR Chair is attached to this report.

International

40. The International work of COMBAR (overseen by Henry King QC, COMBAR's International Chair) has included meeting with the Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice Lucy Frazer QC MP (formerly of South Square) to discuss legal services trade policy and in particular how future trade agreements can deliver for the legal sector, liaising with the Bar Council over objectives and desiderata in trade talks with the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

41. In August 2019, COMBAR was invited by the Bar Council to liaise with the Bar Council of India regarding its attendance at the Opening of the Legal Year. COMBAR held a successful reception for senior leaders of the Bar Council of India in Middle Temple on 1 October 2019.
42. In September 2019, COMBAR held its third Roundtable Conference in India organised by the India Committee, chaired by Charles Bear QC and David Joseph QC. This event built on the notable success of the two prior roundtables held in India in 2017 and 2018. Due to the pandemic, the 4th Round Table Meeting in Mumbai has been postponed to September 2021.
43. This was COMBAR's first foreign venture outside of the annual North American Conference for some time and we are proud of our progress in this short time frame. It is now very much part of the annual fixture list amongst many of the most prominent and influential Indian practitioners.
44. We were exceptionally fortunate in 2019 to have as our two guest speakers Lord Hoffmann and Supreme Court Justice Nariman who were on particularly sparkling form. This, together with the hospitality from the British High Commission, went down very well with an A-list line-up of Indian litigation and disputes practitioners. Plans for the Fourth Roundtable in Mumbai for September 2020 have had to be postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19, but we would very much encourage anyone who is interested in attending or speaking at these events to get in touch with either David or Charles.
45. Throughout the year COMBAR has reviewed and responded to applications by junior members of COMBAR for International Legal and Professional Development Grants. The number of these applications remains surprisingly low.
46. As noted above, the North American meeting this year sadly had to be rescheduled in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and the rescheduled North America meeting will now be held in Florence between Wednesday 2 June to Friday 4 June 2021. More details can be found in the report from the North America subcommittee which is attached.
47. COMBAR's International Committee has also organised a number of other events including:

- 47.1. A reception hosted by the American Inns of court for the five American Temple Bar Scholars. Scholars came to London for a month spending time in COMBAR sets. Thanks to: Brick Court Chambers, Twenty Essex, OTC, Essex Court Chambers, Blackstone Chambers, Fountain Court Chambers, 4 Stone Chambers, 3VB, 7KBW, One Essex Court and the host barristers involved.
- 47.2. An evening drinks reception for the International Lawyers for Africa (ILFA) 2019 programme. This was hosted by Hardwicke and attended by 15 junior lawyers from across Africa, host law firms and host chambers. This was a chance to celebrate all the lawyers from Africa who were placed at various firms across London, expanding their network and developing their professional progress. The African lawyers spent a week at COMBAR chambers: One Essex Court, St Philips Stone (as it then was), Fountain Court, XXIV Old Buildings, Blackstone Chambers, Monckton, Devereux, Atkin, Brick Court, Quadrant, 4 New Square, 7KBW, 4 Stone Buildings, 3 VB and Hardwicke. ILFA's mission is to build legal excellence in Africa by providing access to advanced legal training, networking opportunities and education for African lawyers and senior professionals engaged in the negotiation of complex transactions in Africa.

Brexit/ Civil Judicial Co Operation and Life Post Transition

48. COMBAR has been active this year in making the case both to the UK Government and to the EU27 counterparts of the mutual benefit in retaining the core elements of the present system for recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters.
49. For the last four years, David Joseph QC has sat on the International Law Committee (previously the Brexit Law Committee) as the COMBAR representative. COMBAR persuaded the Government to apply to accede to the Lugano Convention. The application was made in April 2020 and we await the outcome. We have also been active in making the case of mutual benefit to our European counterparts.
50. COMBAR has also assisted the efforts of the Bar Council's Forward Relationship Working Group. That work has now turned its focus more towards seeking to obtain the best, most flexible and beneficial arrangements for barristers who, post-transition, will

be seeking to provide services into the EU27 or to attend hearings there. David Joseph QC gave evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on this issue, once more making the case for flexible and liberal arrangements.

Commercial Court 125th Anniversary

51. COMBAR has been closely involved in the arrangements to celebrate the Commercial Court's 125th anniversary. COMBAR was honoured to sponsor the lunchtime event held in the Rolls Building on 1 March 2020 to launch the impressive calendar of 125th anniversary events organised by Mrs Justice Cockerill.

New Website

52. COMBAR has launched a new website which, under the management of James MacDonald and his sub-committee, has been completely redesigned with entirely new content and functionality (www.combar.com). The new website is intended to be clear and easy to navigate and to be a useful resource for COMBAR's membership.
53. As well as containing details of important news and events, it contains extensive information about COMBAR's activities and developments relevant to its membership including, amongst other things, relevant information about remote hearings in the light of Covid-19, details of COMBAR's E&D initiatives, the activities of COMBAR's international committees, COMBAR consultation papers, videos and materials from COMBAR talks and seminars and extensive information for students.
54. A number of COMBAR members have kindly contributed content for the website and COMBAR is very grateful for their assistance.
55. COMBAR is always keen to include on its website important news, events and developments relevant to the commercial bar. Accordingly, if you have any information, news or forthcoming events you believe may be of interest to COMBAR's membership, or other feedback on COMBAR's website, please contact James at jmacdonald@oeclaw.co.uk.

New sub-committees

56. Going forward there will be a number of new sub-committees to focus on key issues, chaired by juniors in recognition of the fact that they are very much the future of COMBAR. These include the newly formed BAME Committee (see paragraphs 30-33 above – co-chaired by Anne Jeavons and Charlotte Tan), the Communications Committee (see paragraphs 52-55 above – chaired by James MacDonald), a Recruitment / Pupillage Committee (to be chaired by Natasha Bennett and James Willan) and an Advocacy Committee (to be chaired by Rupert Allan and Nehali Shah).

SONIA TOLANEY QC

CHAIR, COMBAR

30 June 2020

Annex: COMBAR's Officers, Executive Committee Members and Sub-Committee

Chairs and Members

Officers

Chair: Sonia Tolaney QC (One Essex Court)
Vice-Chair/Treasurer: David Joseph QC (Essex Court Chambers)
Secretary: Alex Gunning QC (One Essex Court)
Chair, International Committee: Henry King QC (Fountain Court Chambers)
Consultation Chair: Andrew George QC (Blackstone Chambers)

Executive Committee members

Natasha Bennett (Fountain Court Chambers)
David E. Grant (Outer Temple Chambers)
Anne Jeavons (3VB)
Emma Jones (One Essex Court)
Adam Kramer (3VB)
James Leabeater QC (4 Pump Court)
David Mumford QC (Maitland Chambers)
Fionn Pilbrow QC (Brick Court Chambers)
Michael Ryan (7 KBW)
George Spalton (4 New Square)
Charlotte Tan (Brick Court Chambers)
Emily Wood (Essex Court Chambers)
Kira King (XXIV Old Buildings, represents Junior Combar)
James MacDonald (One Essex Court, Communications Chair)

Sub-committees

Equality and Diversity Committee:

Chair: Ruth Hosking, Quadrant Chambers
Amanda Hadkiss, Maitland Chambers
Charlotte Pope-Williams, Pinsent Masons
Conall Patton QC, One Essex Court
Fionn Pilbrow QC, Brick Court
Georgina Peters, South Square
James MacDonald, One Essex Court
Josephine Davies, Twenty Essex
Kira King, XXIV Old Buildings
Lucy Colter, 4 New Square
Richard Fisher, South Square
Sid Dhar, Essex Court
Sonia Tolaney QC, One Essex Court
Victoria Windle, Blackstone Chambers

Junior Combar:

Chair: Kira King, XXIV Old Buildings
Alexander Kingston-Splatt, Five Paper
Alyssa Stansbury, One Essex Court
Andrew Mcleod, Maitland Chambers
Bibek Mukherjee, Essex Court
Emma Hynes, Hardwicke Chambers
Hannah Glover, 3 Verulam Buildings
Harry Adamson, Blackstone Chambers
Jessica Powers, New Square Chambers
Kyle Lawson, Brick Court Chambers
Owen Lloyd, Essex Court
Patricia Burns, One Essex Court
Philip Ahlquist, Fountain Court Chambers
Samuel Rabinowitz, Fountain Court Chambers
Zahler Bryan, Serle Court

Communications Committee:

James MacDonald, One Essex Court (Chair)
Fred Hobson, Brick Court Chambers
Patricia Burns, One Essex Court
Anthony Pavlovich, 3 Verulam Buildings

Offshore Committee: Nikki Singla QC, Wilberforce Chambers

BAME Committee:

Anne Jeavons, 3 Verulam Buildings, and Charlotte Tan, Brick Court Chambers, (Co-Chairs)
David Grant, Outer Temple Chambers
Emma Jones, One Essex Court
Teniola Onabanjo, 3 Verulam Buildings
George Spalton, 4 New Square
Alex Wright, 4 Pump Court

Bar Council and Recruitment committee (to be formed)

Natasha Bennett (Fountain Court) and James Willan (Essex Court Chambers) – Co-Chairs

Advocacy Committee (to be formed)

Rupert Allen (Fountain Court) and Nehali Shah (One Essex Court) – Co Chairs

Remote Hearings Committee

Alexander Gunning QC, One Essex Court (Chair)
David Quest QC, 3 Verulam Buildings
Shobana Iyer, Swan Chambers
David Grant, Outer Temple Chambers
Josephine Davies, Twenty Essex
Richard Eschwege, Brick Court Chambers
Quentin Tannock, 4 Pump Court
Samuel Rabinowitz, Fountain Court Chambers
Wei Jian Chan, Essex Court Chambers

International Sub-Committees

North America Committee: Chair: Fionn Pilbrow QC, Brick Court Chambers assisted by Emily Wood (Essex Court Chambers)

Africa Committee:

Chair: Glen Davis QC, South Square
Andrew Onslow QC, 3 Verulam Buildings
David Simpson, 3 Verulam Buildings
Emilie Gonin, Doughty Street
Fidelis Oditah QC, South Square
Graham Cunningham, Hardwicke Chambers
Michael Sullivan QC, One Essex Court
Monica Feria-Tinta, Twenty Essex
Paul Key QC, Essex Court Chambers
Phillip Alier, Tanfield Chambers
Richard Millett QC, Essex Court Chambers
Roderick Cordara QC, Essex Court Chambers
Toby Brown, South Square

India and Asia Committee:

Charles Béar QC, Fountain Court Chambers and David Joseph QC, Essex Court Chambers (Joint Chairs)

Andrew Pullen, Fountain Court Chambers
James Howells, Atkin Chambers
Jasbir Dhillon QC, Brick Court Chambers
Josh Folkard, 4 New Square
Karishma Vora, 4-5 Grey's Inn Square
Niranjan Venkatesan, One Essex Court
Ravi Aswani, 36 Group
Sanjay Patel, 4 Pump Court
Sudhanshu Swaroop QC, Twenty Essex
Vasanti Selvaratnam QC, 36 Group

Combar Chambers' Committee Representatives

Matthew Abraham (South Square)
Tom Bell (Hardwicke)
Clive Blackwood (Lamb Chambers)
Christopher Bond (3 VB)
Veronique Buehrlen QC (Keating Chambers)
Andrew Burns QC (Devereux Chambers)
Jess Connors (39 Essex Chambers)
Edward Cumming QC (XXIV Old Buildings)
Anton Dudnikov (Essex Court Chambers)
Andrew Feld (Twenty Essex)
Orlando Gledhill QC (One Essex Court)
Simon Hattan (Serle Court)
Richard Hill QC (4 Stone Buildings)
Michael Holmes (7 KBW)
William Hooper (Monckton Chambers)
Ben John (Maitland Chambers)
Jennifer Jones (Atkin Chambers)
Chirag Karia QC (Quadrant Chambers)
Timothy Killen (2 Temple Gardens)
David Lascelles (Littleton Chambers)
Kate Livesey (4 Pump Court)
David Lord QC (Three Stone)
Simon Mills (Five Paper)
Laura Newton (Brick Court Chambers)
Shail Patel (4 New Square)
Rosalind Phelps QC (Fountain Court Chambers)
James Potts QC (Erskine Chambers)
Saaman Pourghadiri (Outer Temple Chambers)
Sophia Rogers (Radcliffe Chambers)
Richard Samuel (3 Hare Court)
Daniel Shapiro QC (Crown Office Chambers)
Ben Symons (The 36 Group)
Daniel Stilitz QC (11 KBW)
Sarah Walker (Selborne Chambers)
John Wardell QC (Wilberforce Chambers)
Henry Warwick QC (Henderson Chambers)
Victoria Windle (Blackstone Chambers)
Hermione Williams (New Square Chambers)