

COMBAR Professional Education Programme 2020-2021

The highlight of our programme this year was the Annual Lecture delivered by Lord Hamblen JSC on 13 October 2021 on "The Commercial Court – past, present and future". This event, described by Mrs Justice Cockerill as one of the highlights of the Commercial Court 125 anniversary celebrations, took place in front of a small audience in Gray's Inn Hall and was viewed by very many more members online.

Sadly, that was the only live event we could hold. We did however hold many other events via Zoom. The facility to record events means that we have a large and growing library of events members can view on our website. When we return to live events on a regular basis we will continue to broadcast them on Zoom as some members tell us they find it convenient to be able to attend remotely.

Shortly before the end of the transition period, in December 2020, we held an important event on changes in law and procedure brought about by Brexit called "Brexit Emergency Pack – What You Need to Know About Life After 1 January 2021." David Joseph QC, Sara Masters QC and Professor Trevor Hartley addressed some of the important issues, and members had the benefit of extremely useful handouts produced by Freddie Popplewell, Josh Folkard, Kristina Lukacova and Neil Dowers, which have since been updated.

On 23 March 2021 Lady Justice Carr, Mrs Justice Cockerill, Simon Salzedo QC and Jenny Balance gave a seminar for those interested in judicial careers. We also held an event jointly with other SBAs giving tips for applications for silk.

The best attended event of the year, with about 350 viewers, was organised by Junior COMBAR and featured Mr Justice Foxton, Sara Tolaney QC and Conall Patton QC giving "Top Advocacy Tips for Commercial Juniors".

We had three seminars which discussed recent Supreme Court judgments, including George Bompas QC and Professor Andrew Tettenborn on *Sevilleja v Marex Financial Ltd*; Nicholas Vineall QC, Hilary Heilbron QC, Christopher Style QC and Clare Ambrose on *Halliburton Company v Chubb Bermuda Insurance Ltd* and Simon Salzedo QC, Adam Kramer QC and Professor Jane Stapleton on the FCA business interruption test case.

Finally, we also had two well attended events giving updates on areas of law: Steven Gee QC on Commercial Injunctions and Thomas Raphael QC on "Anti Suit Injunctions: the Restraint of Comity".

We are most grateful to all those who have spoken and worked on events this year, which we know are greatly appreciated by the membership.

Finally, as always we are grateful to Veronica Kendall and Alison Tighe for their hard work. We should however pay particular tribute to Veronica, who has been the lynchpin of these events for so many years. We wish her the very best for a long and happy retirement.

James Leabeater QC

Michael Ryan

23 July 2021