

COMBAR AGM 2021

Report from the Chair

Introduction

1. I am delighted to deliver this report at the AGM.
2. 2020-2021 has been another busy year for COMBAR and I owe a great deal of thanks to my superb 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. COMBAR's work and activities are set out in this Report, to which many members have contributed. I wanted to highlight a few aspects:
 - 3.1. **Mentoring Schemes**. I am truly delighted that COMBAR has launched its first mentoring scheme for commercial practitioners to seek advice and guidance outside of the existing relationships of leader-junior, supervisor-pupil, or between fellow members of chambers. My thanks indeed to David Mumford QC and his excellent committee for the immense amount of hard work undertaken to create and launch this valuable initiative to support the development and wellbeing of those in practice at the Commercial Bar. I am very grateful to David and his committee for agreeing to stay on next year to oversee the first full year of the scheme to ensure its success.
 - 3.2. **Education programme**. COMBAR has continued its education programme of talks and seminars. Highlights included, amongst many others, COMBAR's Annual Lecture on "the Commercial Court – past, present and future" given by Lord Hamblen of Kersey on 13 October 2021. This was a particularly memorable and interesting lecture – which was hosted from Gray's Inn hall in hybrid format. A sign of the times! COMBAR has continued to host a number of well-attended online talks and seminars. A full list of seminars hosted is set out in the attached education programme report. 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. Many thanks to James Leabeater QC and Michael Ryan for organising such a fantastic programme.

- 3.3. **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), Niamh Cleary 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. A full report is attached.
- 3.4. **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.
- 3.5. 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. Ruth's term as Chair of the E & D Committee has come to an end, which is a huge loss to COMBAR. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her invaluable contribution for over 13 years on the E&D Committee.
- 3.6. 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, COMBAR established a Race and Ethnicity sub-committee to support and enhance inclusion, participation and progression at the commercial bar amongst under-represented groups, and promote those aims. As set out below, important work is already underway. I am grateful to Anne Jeavons and Charlotte Tan and their sub-committee for establishing and developing these initiatives.

- 3.7. Equally important is COMBAR's commitment to social mobility - and again a number of initiatives are underway.
- 3.8. **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 scheme has now been extended to the Commercial Court and a large number of barristers have signed up to assist with cases. Thank you to David Mumford QC, Adam Kramer QC and Niamh Cleary for assisting with this excellent project.
- 3.9. **Covid-19.** COMBAR has continued to work with the Commercial Court in relation to 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.
- 3.10. **International work and events.** The work of COMBAR's busy international committee has continued. This has included, amongst other things, engagement with the Bar Council and the Ministry of Justice in connection with post-Brexit trade policy and judicial co-operation, in particular in relation to priority-setting for areas of focus in international trade agreements. 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 Béar QC (Joint Chairs of the India sub-committee), and their sub-committees, for all their work in this regard.
- 3.11. COMBAR's much-anticipated and already postponed North American meeting, originally due to be held in Florence in May 2020, was sadly postponed again due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but COMBAR has again succeeded in rolling over all group and individual bookings without any cost to COMBAR or to individuals who have booked. This re-rescheduled North America meeting will now be held in Florence between Wednesday, 1 June to Friday, 3 June 2022. My thanks to Fionn Pilbrow QC and Emily Wood for all the work they have done in re-organising the venues and so successfully and efficiently re-arranging the meeting for next year.
- 3.12. **Communications / Information.** COMBAR has entirely re-designed its website to make it more accessible and hopefully of greater assistance in attracting talent

and supporting its members and established a long overdue social media presence (my thanks to James MacDonald and his sub-committee for all of their hard work).

4. Over my term as Chair, I have been 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 was also determined to ensure that the Executive and the various sub-committees were drawn widely from the membership, so as to be truly representative of the Commercial Bar and its array of talents. My hope is that COMBAR and the Commercial Bar will continue to demonstrate that working towards a fair, diverse and representative Bar not only attracts and retains the very best people, but guarantees the best standards of representation for the Commercial Bar's clients across the globe.
5. I have also been conscious that the careers of junior members must be developed and promoted for the Commercial Bar to thrive going forward. With that purpose in mind, I was delighted to launch a number of sub-committees, chaired by juniors, over the last year. One of these sub-committees, the Junior Advocacy sub-committee chaired by Rupert Allen and Nehali Shah, focuses on advocacy and the challenges facing the junior bar. This has been very successful. Amongst other things, meetings have been held with Cockerill J and Foxton J which have resulted in suggested additions to the Commercial Court Guide aimed at increasing opportunities for junior advocacy.
6. It has been a genuine privilege to serve as Chair of COMBAR, following in the footsteps of many eminent practitioners and now Judges. COMBAR is a modern and dynamic organisation which continues to demonstrate its value and relevance through its wide range of initiatives and activities described above. It is testament to the hard work of all those involved that it has achieved so much in the last two years, despite the enormous disruption to business and personal life caused by events of the last 18 months. I wish COMBAR's membership all the best going forward. COMBAR remains available to support all of its members and I have no doubt it will continue to go from strength to strength under its new Chair.
7. It would not be right to conclude this report without remembering the life of Edmund King QC, who combined erudition and brilliance in his advocacy with an irrepressible sense of fun. He will be much missed by all of us at the Commercial Bar and our thoughts are with his family and friends. COMBAR will be holding a special lecture in the

Michaelmas term this year in remembrance, which Foxton J (Edmund's former Head of Chambers) has kindly agreed to deliver. The date will be announced in due course; please do look out for this.

8. Further details of COMBAR's activities are set out below and in the attached reports.

REPORTS

Mentoring schemes

9. COMBAR launched a mentoring scheme open to all of its members during the course of this year. Mentoring is considered by the Committee to be a valuable way for members to benefit from the experience, advice and support of other members outside the existing relationships of leader-junior, supervisor-pupil, or between fellow members of chambers / employees. Indeed, its advantage is precisely that it enables members to seek advice and support on a confidential basis from other more experienced members of the association outside the constraints of those relationships. The Committee hopes that this will foster greater links within the association between different chambers and employers, and help ensure that members feel more supported in tackling challenges such as applications for silk or judicial appointment, coping with stress and re-establishing practice after a period of leave.
10. The scheme received an enthusiastic take-up from members, both those applying to act as mentors and those looking to be mentored. A matching committee comprising David Mumford QC (chair), Sa'ad Hossain QC, Charlotte Tan, Hannah Glover, James MacDonald and Ruth Hosking, chaired by David Mumford QC, matched applicant mentors and mentees; and all mentees have now been paired with a mentor, such that the scheme is well and truly underway. Thanks go to those just mentioned for their help in getting the scheme up and running, and to Veronica and Alison for their support in administering it, without which the scheme would not be possible.
11. I encourage all COMBAR members to consider the mentoring scheme, whether as an individual seeking advice or as someone willing to volunteer as a mentor. Further details can be found on the COMBAR website at <https://www.combar.com/mentoring/>.

Education Programme

12. Full details of this year's successful education programme can be found in the attached report.
13. All talks this year have been broadcast online with great success. Whilst we hope to return to in person talks in the near future, COMBAR will continue to broadcast talks online to widen access and participation amongst COMBAR the membership.

Consultations

14. COMBAR continued its important work in consulting its members on various matters affecting commercial practice and responding to various requests for comments from decision makers. COMBAR also liaises with other Specialist Bar Associations where appropriate in order to provide co-ordinated responses to matters affected a range of practice areas within the commercial sphere.
15. Most significantly for the practice of members, COMBAR took the lead on the analysis and feedback relating to the two major reforms of commercial litigation, namely the Disclosure Pilot and the new system relating to factual witness statements. Full details are set out in the attached report from the Consultations Committee.
16. The other key consultations in which COMBAR has participated this year include:
 - 16.1. The Law Commission's consultation on legal issues relating to "smart contracts".
 - 16.2. HM Treasury's consultation on "safe harbours" in the context of the proposed wind-down of LIBOR.
 - 16.3. The Bar Council's response to the review of the Human Rights Act 1998.
 - 16.4. The Law Commission's request for identification of potential areas of legal controversy or uncertainty which it might investigate.
 - 16.5. The Legal Service Board's consultation on quality indicators.
 - 16.6. The Ministry of Justice's consultation on the continuing use of EU law in UK Courts.

16.7. The QC Appointment's team's proposals for changes to the appointment system.

Equality and Diversity

17. 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.
18. 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.
19. In summary, the E&D subcommittee has focused on pursuing projects in three areas, (i) those aimed at particular protected characteristics; (ii) those aimed at access to the profession (mainly targeted at university students); and (iii) those aimed at progression once in the profession.
20. COMBAR is taking part in the Black Inclusion Group ("BIG"), a cross-SBA working group established to enhance outreach to and recruitment of ethnic minority barristers with a focus on Black (African and African Caribbean and mixed Heritage) barristers. BIG will be reporting on its work in the Spring. I am grateful to all in COMBAR who are assisting this important project.
21. COMBAR continues to take part in the Law Fairs programme targeting locations and universities where students are from low participating neighbourhoods. This programme was originally established by COMBAR and is now administered in conjunction with the Bar Council.
22. In addition, the work of the E&D committee has covered support for scholarships schemes and mock interviews and CV workshops for commercial pupillage applicants which I hope will widen the pool of applicants to the commercial bar.
23. As regards progression within the profession, a very successful seminar on silk applications and life as a junior silk was held, with excellent attendance from members and wide participation from the Commercial bar and judiciary. Important work on female retention and career progression continues.
24. In the future, work is planned on further work with under-represented groups.

Race and Ethnicity

25. The Race & Ethnicity Sub-Committee has had an active year. Different members have been taking forward a number of initiatives, working across the Commercial Bar, with other sectors of the Bar, and beyond, to improve access, experience and retention of under-represented groups.
26. COMBAR has worked closely with a consortium of six commercial sets, who have set up and completed the pilot year of a mentoring programme aimed at supporting and encouraging individuals from under-represented groups to pursue careers as barristers. COMBAR's role during the pilot year was as supporter and observer of the scheme, with Alex Wright taking a 'watching brief' position on the committee on behalf of COMBAR. The pilot has been extremely successful, and was over-subscribed with applications from a range of extremely impressive candidates. Going forward, the scheme is being expanded to at least a further five commercial sets of Chambers, meaning that for its second year, significantly more places will be offered. For the third and subsequent years, there is the possibility that COMBAR takes over administration of the scheme with the result that it will open to all COMBAR member sets. This will be kept under review in light of the logistical and administrative support required to run the scheme. Thanks to Adam Kramer QC who acts as COMBAR liaison on this scheme.
27. The Race & Ethnicity Sub-Committee has also overseen COMBAR's sponsorship of and involvement with Bridging the Bar (BtB), a charity founded in 2020, which works in collaboration with Chambers, the Judiciary, the Inns of Court and other trusts and organisations to deliver a varied programme including bespoke mini-pupillages, workshops and judicial internships for those from under-represented backgrounds. COMBAR is a Founding Sponsorship Partner, and Alex Wright and Teniola Onabanjo have taken the lead on liaising with BtB on behalf of COMBAR. Alex and Teniola are currently in discussions with BtB over a possible three-year collaboration with BtB working on a proposal that can be presented to ExCo. If that longer term collaboration proceeds, the intention will be for it to be launched at a joint event later this year.
28. The Sub-Committee has also been participating in the Bar Council Race Working Group, a committee set up by the Bar Council to explore the issues faced by under-represented groups, in particular black barristers, during the applications process, pupillage and

through to tenancy and beyond. The Working Group is made up of representatives across all the different specialist areas of the Bar, the Circuits, as well as other network groups within the Bar. The RWG has met monthly, and has been working on recommendations and guidelines for Chambers, including as to Race Awareness Training and Positive Action initiatives, and a number of guidance documents have already been published as a result of the RWG's work. Together with David Joseph QC, David Grant and Anne Jeavons have represented COMBAR at the meetings, with David Grant also sitting on the Data Sub-Working Group and Charlotte Tan sitting on the Positive Action Initiatives Sub-Working Group.

29. Alongside COMBAR's work participating in the Bar Council's Race Working Group, the Sub-Committee has also liaised closely with Ruth Hosking, COMBAR's E&D Committee chair, in respect of the establishment and ongoing work of the cross-SBA Black Inclusion Group, and we look forward to their report.
30. In addition, COMBAR has been pleased to support the Black Talent Charter, an initiative aimed at supporting the recruitment and progression of Black Talent in the financial and professional services sectors.
31. Further, members of the Sub-Committee (Emma Jones and David Grant) have also been liaising with the Inns of Court as to how COMBAR can work with the Inns to increase diversity, whilst George Spalton QC has been researching and investigating other opportunities across the legal sector for COMBAR to engage with. Following a call for assistance, COMBAR now has a list of volunteers willing and ready to be called upon to represent the Commercial Bar at outreach, recruitment and educational events, and our thanks is extended to the many members who responded to that call. Other initiatives in train include a planned portrait exhibition celebrating diversity at the Bar, which is hoped to be achieved in the coming academic year.
32. All in all there are a lot of ongoing projects, much momentum and enthusiasm in the wider market to address the issues and broaden access and diversity at the Bar (including the Commercial Bar), and, therefore, much cause to be optimistic and excited about the future.

Covid-19 and remote hearings

33. From the start of the pandemic, COMBAR was heavily involved in providing guidance to members on the changes to practice brought about by Covid-19. Guidance was issued in May 2020 and updated at the end of June 2020. Whilst in-person trials remain the gold standard, the conduct of remote hearings has been successful with the Commercial Court's business continuing to run throughout the pandemic without significant delays or backlogs accruing.
34. Alex Gunning QC has organised a group which will meet in the near future to consider the aspects of remote hearings which might usefully be retained in post-pandemic practice.

International

35. The International work of COMBAR (overseen by Henry King QC, COMBAR's International Chair) has included virtual meetings with other Specialist Bar Associations and the Bar Council in particular over how future trade agreements can deliver for the legal sector. The Bar Council has been considering, with funding from the Ministry of Justice, which jurisdictions are most promising for widening access to overseas legal markets; along with the other SBAs, COMBAR has been assisting in prioritising these.
36. As reported last year, COMBAR's Roundtable Conference in India (organised by the India Committee chaired by Charles Béar QC and David Joseph QC), has since being held in 2017, 2018 and 2019 quickly become a part of the annual fixture list among many of the most prominent and influential Indian practitioners. Very regrettably, it soon became apparent in the course of this year that given the ongoing pandemic it would not be feasible to hold the postponed 4th Roundtable meeting in Mumbai in September 2021 and it has been necessary to postpone it again, it is hoped to 2022. Although vaccination in the developing world and the progress of new variants mean that it is difficult to predict with even a mild degree of confidence that the meeting will be feasible for 2022, there is significant interest and goodwill and anyone interested in speaking is encouraged to get in touch with either David or Charles. Junior members are also reminded that International Legal and Professional Development Grants are available.

37. 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 1 June and Friday 3 June 2022. More details can be found in the report from the North America subcommittee which is attached.
38. Provided travel is safe again, the four Temple Bar Scholars appointed for 2020 and the four Temple Bar Scholars appointed for 2021, will be hosted by COMBAR sets in October 2021. We look forward to welcoming them and the Honorable Kent A. Jordan, the President of the American Inns of Court. The long-lasting contacts formed on these placements are greatly valued by both the former Temple Bar Scholars and the barristers with whom they have sat, and it is a particular pleasure that after postponement of last year's programme, it looks likely that this will resume this autumn.

Junior COMBAR

39. Unfortunately, Junior COMBAR's activities have been severely curtailed this year because of the combination of zoom fatigue and the continuation of lockdown restrictions which have made in person events impossible.
40. However, the Junior COMBAR committee has three planned events for later this year. A joint panel event with the Black Solicitors' Network and two events with the Junior London Solicitors' Litigation Association ("JLSLA"): a lecture on the new witness statement practice direction and how it has been operating in practice and later a joint social event. Junior COMBAR has continued to strengthen its relationship with the JLSLA.

Junior Advocacy

41. The COMBAR Advocacy Sub-Committee was formed this year, with Nehali Shah and Rupert Allen as co-chairs, to consider issues relating to advocacy skills development for junior practitioners, particularly in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
42. In November 2020, the COMBAR Advocacy Sub-Committee carried out a survey of junior commercial barristers addressing the following:

- (1) Whether the move to remote hearings has had any significant impact on the amount of advocacy work junior barristers are undertaking.
 - (2) Junior commercial barristers' experience of remote advocacy and the ways in which remote hearings are affecting their skills and practice development.
 - (3) The ways in which their experience of advocacy has changed (if at all) in recent years, and how it might be improved.
43. The responses to this survey were summarised and the summary provided to, and discussed with, Cockerill J and Foxton J on 18 February 2021. At the meeting, potential ways to increase advocacy opportunities for junior commercial barristers were discussed with Cockerill J and Foxton J.
 44. Following that meeting, the COMBAR Advocacy Sub-Committee prepared some suggested additions to the Commercial Court Guide to address the issue of junior advocacy. These were discussed with the COMBAR Executive and sent to the Commercial Court Guide drafting team to be considered for inclusion in the next version of the Guide.
 45. Discussions have also taken place recently with the Inns of Court College of Advocacy about the possibility of COMBAR working together with ICCA to deliver advocacy and ethics training for junior COMBAR members. These discussions are still at an exploratory stage, but it is hoped that they will result in the establishment of a training programme that gives junior practitioners the opportunity to improve their oral advocacy skills.
 46. The Sub-Committee also arranged a talk on 29 March 2021 on 'Top Advocacy Tips for Commercial Juniors' by Foxton J, Sonia Tolaney QC and Conall Patton QC. The talk provided invaluable advice and was very well-attended.

Communications

47. Following the replacement of COMBAR's old website in 2019-2020 with a completely new look-version with substantially new or updated content, the focus of COMBAR's communications sub-committee in 2020-2021 has been on two matters. First, developing the website further. For example, this year the sub-committee has added entirely new text

and material relating to COMBAR's new mentoring scheme and has also added valuable information to the website touching on areas such as the work of COMBAR's race and ethnicity sub-group, information (principally for foreign clients) about instructing barristers and the question of conflicts arising within chambers, and updated the "Meet our members" page, which is designed to showcase diversity within COMBAR's membership to students and prospective barristers. Day to day administration of the website, for example uploading news and events items, is now being managed by Veronica and Alison with their customary efficiency.

48. Secondly, COMBAR has now established a social media presence with a twitter feed and a LinkedIn account. In order to facilitate the management of a social media feed, we have built a direct feed so that as soon as news or events items are uploaded onto the website, they are automatically tweeted out/posted on LinkedIn. This provides a reasonable level of activity on social media whilst remaining administratively manageable.
49. I would like to thank the sub-committee members, James MacDonald, Fred Hobson, Patricia Burns and Anthony Pavlovich for their invaluable work over the last two years in getting the website up and running, and preparing much of the content for it.

SONIA TOLANEY QC

CHAIR, COMBAR

29 July 2021

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

Executive Committee

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)

Kira King (XXIV Old Buildings, represents Junior COMBAR)

Committee members

Niamh Cleary (Fountain Court)
Josephine Davies (Twenty Essex)
Anne Jeavons (3VB)
Emma Jones (One Essex Court)
Adam Kramer QC (3VB)
James Leabeater QC (4 Pump Court)
David Mumford QC (Maitland Chambers)
Fionn Pilbrow QC (Brick Court Chambers)
Michael Ryan (7 KBW)
George Spalton QC (4 New Square)
Charlotte Tan (Brick Court Chambers)
Emily Wood (Essex Court Chambers)
Alex Wright (4 Pump Court)

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)
Peter Dodge (Radcliffe Chambers)
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)
Chiraq 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)
Richard Samuel (3 Hare Court)
Daniel Shapiro QC (Crown Office Chambers)
Justina Stewart (Outer Temple Chambers)
Daniel Stilitz QC (11 KBW)
Ben Symons (The 36 Group)
Sarah Walker (Selborne Chambers)
John Wardell QC (Wilberforce Chambers)
Henry Warwick QC (Henderson Chambers)
Victoria Windle (Blackstone Chambers)
Hermione Williams (New Square Chambers)

Individual Members' Representatives

Kabir Bhalla (King & Spalding)
Emilie Gonin (Doughty Street Chambers)

Sub-committees

Communications

James Macdonald (One Essex Court), Chair of Communications
Fred Hobson (Brick Court)
Patricia Burns (One Essex Court)
Anthony Pavlovich (3VB)

E & D Committee

Ruth Hosking (Quadrant Chambers)
Josephine Davies (Twenty Essex)
Siddharth Dhar (Essex Court Chambers) [Vice Chair]
Richard Fisher QC (South Square)
Amanda Hadkiss –
Kira King (XXIV Old Buildings)

Conall Patton QC (One Essex Court)
Georgina Peters (South Square)
James MacDonald (One Essex Court)
Charlotte Pope-Williams (Pinsent Masons LLP)
Victoria Windle (Blackstone Chambers)

Junior COMBAR

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

Race and Ethnicity Committee

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

Remote Hearings Committee

Alex Gunning QC (One Essex Court)

International Sub-Committees

Africa Committee

Glen Davis QC – Chair (South Square)
Philip Alier (Tanfield Chambers)
Toby Brown (South Square)
Roderick Cordara QC (Essex Court Chambers)
Graham Cunningham (Hardwicke)
Monica Feria-Tinta (20 Essex Street)
Emilie Gonin (Doughty Street Chambers)
Paul Key QC (Essex Court Chambers)
Richard Millett QC (Essex Court Chambers)

Fidelis Oditah QC (South Square)
Andrew Onslow QC (3 Verulam Buildings)
David Simpson (3 Verulam Buildings)
Michael Sullivan QC (One Essex Court)

India and Asia Committee

Charles Béar QC – Joint Chair (Fountain Court Chambers)
David Joseph QC – Joint Chair (Essex Court Chambers)
Ravi Aswani (The 36 Group)
Jasbir Dhillon QC (Brick Court Chambers)
Josh Folkard (4 New Square)
Andrew Pullen (Andrew Pullen)
Vasanti Selvaratnam QC (The 36 Group)
Sudhanshu Swaroop QC (Twenty Essex)
Niranjan Venkatesan (One Essex Court)
Karishma Vora (39 Essex Chambers)
James Howells QC (Atkin Chambers)
Sanjay Patel (4 Pump Court)

North American Committee

Fionn Pilbrow QC (Brick Court Chambers) assisted by
Emily Wood (Essex Court Chambers)

Offshore Committee

Nikki Singla QC (Wilberforce Chambers)