



LAY MEMBER FOR THE QUEEN'S COUNSEL SELECTION PANEL

The Law Society and the Bar Council are seeking to recruit a lay member for the Selection Panel which recommends advocates for appointment as Queen's Counsel (QC). The QC rank identifies excellence in advocacy in the higher courts. It is the most significant award available to an advocate, whether solicitor or barrister.

The Selection Panel normally contains ten members—two senior barristers, two senior solicitors, a serving or retired senior judge, and five lay members. Legal and lay members play an equal part in all the work of the Panel, but the Chair is always drawn from amongst the lay members. It is essential that all the members should be of very high calibre: the Panel has significant responsibilities for making decisions with a real impact on the practice of law at the highest level.

Subject to the principle of appointment on merit, the professional bodies regard it as important that the composition of the Selection Panel should itself be diverse. At present, the Selection Panel consists of three women and seven men. Two of the ten members are from a minority ethnic background.

Panel members must be available for a minimum of 30 days a year, mostly between mid-June and late October. Appointments will initially be for a two-year period, which may be extended to a maximum of five years. Meetings will be held in London. Remuneration is at a daily rate to reflect the important and demanding nature of the work.

As a lay member you must be able to demonstrate an ability to sift through complex evidence from multiple sources in order to reach incisive judgements. To command public confidence and respect, you must display a proven commitment to equality of opportunity and diversity. You will have well-developed interviewing skills and have held a senior position of authority, and must not be a member of the legal profession. Lay magistrates are eligible to apply.

Applications from all sections of the community are welcomed.

Please go to www.qcappointments.org and follow the links to download fuller information, including how to make an application.

If you have an enquiry which is not covered by that information, or in the event of difficulties, please feel free to call the QCA Chief Executive, Russell Wallman, on 0207 831 0020.

The closing date for applications is **5pm, 29 September 2017**.