



## Advocacy Section Engagement Programme 2016 – 2017



## *Our vision*

**To bring all solicitor advocates together to share best practice and address current issues and challenges in a supportive environment.**

**The Advocacy Section helps you stay one step ahead.**

The Advocacy Section delivers a programme of targeted support and practical guidance designed for you by Law Society experts and dedicated solicitor advocates specialising in criminal, civil and family advocacy.

Membership will assist you to achieve excellence in advocacy skills, develop your services to meet evolving client needs and compete effectively against other advocates.

### **The programme will:**

- help you learn what is happening in your market and understand what to do about it
- support, promote and represent solicitor advocates by providing opportunities to share and develop best practice, to exchange ideas and experiences, to learn from peers, and by providing research information
- provide opportunities for solicitor advocates to influence the overall direction of the legal sector
- provide support equivalent to that delivered by Inns of Court, creating a community of peers and judges. We will help you to compete successfully with other professional advocates and meet the challenges of daily practice.



## Events

Over the next year the Law Society will host a range of events on issues that matter to solicitor advocates. Events will be held across England and Wales. Events include the following listed below.

For more information on these events, keep an eye on our [events page](#).

### The Advocacy Section and the Solicitor Judges Division Michaelmas drinks evening

**When:** Thursday 17 November 2016, 17:30 – 19:30

**Venues:** The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1PL

**Cost:** Free

To acknowledge the opening of the 2016 legal year, the Law Society's Advocacy Section and the Solicitor Judges Division are hosting a Michaelmas drinks evening for judges and solicitor advocates to network with their peers.

Aimed directly at solicitors working within the judiciary, this is an opportunity to share best practices, challenges and experiences while gaining unique insights from persons normally sitting or standing opposite you in court.

#### Why attend?

This will be an unique opportunity to:

- network informally with fellows and contact building for career and personal development

#### Who should attend?

- Solicitor judges and solicitors working in an advocacy capacity

For more information on how to book your place, visit the Advocacy Section [events page](#).

### Keeping the court on your side

**When:** April 2017, 17:00 – 19:30

**Venues:** Leeds (TBC)

**Cost:** Free for section members  
£35 + VAT for non-members

Are you a solicitor advocate who wants to know how to keep the court on your side and have an opportunity to ask your local judges questions?

Come and join your local judge and expert practitioners and hear from them on what they are really looking for in court. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and share your experiences with your peers.

#### Why attend?

This will be an unique opportunity to:

- Have the opportunity to ask your questions
- Develop your skills in representing your clients
- Network with our expert speakers and delegates, and share your experiences

For more information on how to book your place, visit the Advocacy Section [events page](#).

## The Advocacy Section and the Solicitor Judges Division toast the legal term Hilary

**When:** Thursday, 6 April 2017, 17:45 – 20:00  
**Venue:** Hyatt Regency Hotel, 2 Bridge Street, Birmingham, B1 2JZ  
**Cost:** Free for Section and Division members

As district judges across England and Wales pursue their minimum of 215 judicial sitting days a year, the Law Society's Solicitor Judges Division and Advocacy Section are toasting the ending of the second legal term Hilary. Aimed at solicitors working within the judiciary, this is an opportunity to share the experiences, challenges, and best practice tips while gaining unique insights from those who normally sit or stand opposite you in court.

### Why attend?

This will be an unique opportunity to:

- network informally with fellows and contact building for career and personal development
- hear from District Judge Anthony Rich TD

### Who should attend?

- Solicitor judges and solicitors working in an advocacy capacity

Keep an eye on the Advocacy Section [events page](#) for more information soon.

## Mastering the art of family advocacy

**When:** May 2017, 17:30 – 20:00  
**Venue:** The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1PL  
**Cost:** Free for section members  
£35 + VAT for non-members

In light of recent criticism of advocacy standards from the family bar, the Advocacy Section has joined up with the Family Section to bring you a seminar focused on providing practical tips on how to master the art of family advocacy and learn how best to put advocacy skills into practice.

This session will also focus on the skills you need develop your confidence as a family advocate.

The seminar will be followed by a Q&A and networking session.

Keep an eye on the Advocacy Section [events page](#) for more information soon.



## The Advocacy Section and the Solicitor Judges Division Trinity Celebrations networking drinks

**When:** Wednesday, 28 June 2017, 17:00 – 20:00  
**Venue:** The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1PL  
**Cost:** Free for Section and Division members

The Advocacy Section and Solicitor Judges Division will be hosting a networking drinks evening on 28 June to toast the legal term of Trinity. Aimed at solicitors working within the judiciary, this is an opportunity to share the experiences, challenges, and best practice tips while gaining unique insights from those who normally sit or stand opposite you in court.

### Why attend?

This will be an unique opportunity to:

- network informally with fellows and contact building for career and personal development
- hear from Judge Heather Boucher

### Who should attend?

- Solicitor judges and solicitors working in an advocacy capacity

Keep an eye on the Advocacy Section [events page](#) for more information soon.

## Advocacy Section autumn regional seminars

**When:** October 2017, 17:30 – 20:00  
**Venue:** TBC  
**Cost:** Free for section members  
£35 + VAT for non-members

The Advocacy Section will host a series of regional seminars in autumn 2017, focusing on topical developments.

Keep an eye on the Advocacy Section [events page](#) for more information soon.

## *Webinars and Practical Training Videos*

Over the next year the Law Society will host a range of webinars and practical training videos on issues that matter to solicitor advocates.

Details of these webinars will be available on our [Advocacy Section website](#):

### **Conducting care proceedings**

**When:** Available as a recording  
**Cost:** Free for section members  
£45 for non-members

This webinar, inclusive in Family Section membership for 2016, provides a practical overview and advocacy tips, including on threshold, evidence, fact-finding and expert witnesses.

Listen to Joy Merriam, McCormacks Law Ltd and June Venters QC, Venters Solicitors, as they provide a practical overview of and advocacy tips for conducting care proceedings in the Family Court.

To listen back to this webinar [click here](#).

### **Advocacy before a court martial: a practical guide**

**When:** Available as a recording  
**Cost:** Free for section members  
£45 for non-members

This webinar is ideal for those advocates undertaking court martial work for the first time.

This one-hour webinar delivers practical guidance on rank structures and conventions, how to prepare for the hearing, what to expect of the SPA (Service Prosecuting Authority), AFCLAA (Armed Forces Legal Aid Authority) and DAO (Defendant's Assisting Officer), and the differences between MC/CC (magistrates court/crown court) hearings and court martial hearings.

**Speaker:** Julian Young, solicitor advocate, Tuckers Solicitors

Julian has extensive experience in criminal cases at all levels in private practice and as a full-time prosecutor for the Post Office (1981-87). In addition to this, he was also a part-time lecturer to Metropolitan Police at Hendon and he organises and participates in mock trials in central London.

Julian currently specialises in preparing, advising on, and appearing as an advocate in court martial cases involving personnel of all three armed services and in complex criminal cases. He also works as an advocate in connection with appeals against both conviction and sentence.

To listen back to this webinar, [click here](#).



## Vulnerable witness training: An introduction

**When:** Thursday, 16 March 2017  
**Cost:** Free for section members  
£45 for non-members

The Advocacy and the Vulnerable Training was developed in conjunction with the Bar to help solicitor advocates and barristers strike the balance between advancing their client's case effectively in court whilst ensuring vulnerable witnesses are not subjected to undue stress.

Listen to Advocacy Section advisory group members Ian Kelcey, and Joy Merriam, McCormacks Law Ltd take you through all you need to know about the upcoming vulnerable witness training.

For more information on how to book on to this webinar, [click here](#).

## Case stated appeals

**When:** Tuesday, 28 March 2017  
**Cost:** Free for section members  
£45 for non-members

This webinar will provide an overview of dealing with case stated appeals.

**Speaker:** Andrew Morris, Advocacy Section advisory group member.

Keep an eye on the [Advocacy Section webinar page](#) for more details soon.

## Judges Direction

**When:** TBC  
**Cost:** Free for section members  
£45 for non-members

This webinar will guide you through judges directions.

Keep an eye on the [Advocacy Section webinar page](#) for more details soon.

## *Member Offer*

### **E-newsletter**

The Advocacy Section has a dedicated e-newsletter for solicitor advocates. Our e-newsletter includes updates on our Advocacy Section advisory group, news, features, events and activities relevant to our members. Issues will be emailed directly to members and available on the Advocacy Section [website](#).

### **Spotlights, Features and News**

Visit our website for best practice and guidance written by experts in their field. You will receive spotlight features direct to your inbox on new developments and issues.

### **LinkedIn**

The [Advocacy Section LinkedIn](#) group is a forum for members to share news, features, events and other relevant activities. We encourage you to increase your legal network and join the group.

### **Website**

The [Advocacy Section website](#) is a one-stop portal of information for solicitor advocates who specialise in criminal, civil and family advocacy. The website provides practical guidance, news and updates, details of upcoming events and webinars and more.

We want it to remain relevant and useful so if there is something missing or if you have any feedback, get in touch at [advocacysection@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:advocacysection@lawsociety.org.uk)



## *Advisory group*

### **Thank you to our advisory group members**

This programme of engagement was created in close consultation with the Advocacy Section advisory group to ensure it is relevant and timely.

The Advocacy Section advisory group meets up to four times a year to discuss the key issues facing solicitor advocates. The advisory group advises how the Law Society can best support its members who work as criminal, civil and family advocates.

The Law Society thanks all of the members on the group for their time, commitment and contribution.

<b>Advisory group Members</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role</b>
Ian Kelcey	Kelcey and Hall, Solicitors and Advocates	Senior Partner, solicitor and higher courts advocate
Stephen Mason	Travlaw LLP	Senior Partner
Joy Merriam	McCormacks Law Ltd	Solicitor Advocate
Andrew Morris	Public Defence Service	Senior Advocate
Soraya Pascoe	Grays Inn Square	Senior Advocate
Gary Akinclose	The Associate Law Firm Ltd	Consultant Solicitor
Ravi Dogra	Consultant, Saunders Solicitors Ltd	Solicitor Advocate

## *Representation and policy*

The Law Society works closely with policy committees to develop, inform and influence policy, legal reform and legislation in England and Wales and, where relevant, Europe. Through this we aim to protect and promote access to justice, the rule of law and to create a favourable environment for our members. Regulation, administration of justice and ensuring fair competition within the legal environment are key areas of focus.

Relevant committees for solicitor advocates include:

- Access to Justice Committee
- Criminal Law Committee
- Family Law Committee
- Civil Litigation Committee

If you are interested in getting involved, contact us at [governanceteam@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:governanceteam@lawsociety.org.uk)

You can find out more information at [www.lawsociety.org.uk/governance](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/governance)



## *About the Law Society*

The Law Society exists to represent, promote and support all solicitors, so they in turn can help their clients.

We also work to ensure that no-one is above the law and to protect everyone's right to have access to justice. We promote England and Wales as the jurisdiction of choice and the vital role legal services play in our economy. We work internationally to open up markets to our members and to defend human rights while supporting our members with opportunities in the domestic market.

### **The Law Society helps members by:**

- representing solicitors by speaking out for justice and on legal issues
- promoting solicitors through publicising the value of using a solicitor at home and abroad
- supporting solicitors by helping them develop their expertise and their business, respective of whether they work for themselves, in-house or for a law firm

### **The Law Society represents the profession by:**



- campaigning on the rule of law, human rights, access to justice and regulation. This includes lobbying in Brussels, Westminster and Cardiff and in the media.
- working with international legal bodies to position the Law Society as a thought-leader on global issues
- intervening in cases where solicitors and the law are under threat in the UK and abroad
- helping our members to represent key issues impacting the profession to their MP, AM or MEP
- using the law to challenge changes which will impact negatively on the profession and society
- championing and facilitating pro bono work

### **The Law Society promotes the profession by:**



- internationally working to open and grow markets for English and Welsh law such as inward visits of foreign lawyers and trade missions
- providing and increasing awareness of Find a Solicitor – our website enabling consumers and businesses to find a solicitor who can meet their needs
- hosting our annual Excellence Awards which highlight and celebrate outstanding contributions across the profession
- recognising the contribution solicitors make to civil society and communities
- publicising the value of legal services to the UK economy

### **The Law Society supports the profession by:**



- identifying issues and market trends affecting solicitors to help them prepare for the future
- developing a comprehensive and cohesive education and training offer
- providing practice notes and guidance on issues important to members
- giving advice through our library and helplines
- running accreditation schemes to support and demonstrate effective practice
- creating communities of members based on who you are and what you do
- supporting those who find it difficult to enter the profession through our Diversity Access Scheme
- offering consultancy services for members who want more detailed help
- assisting members who wish to practice abroad



The Law Society

## How the Law Society works

Solicitors pay their annual practising certificate fee to the Solicitors Regulation Authority. The Law Society receives around 30 per cent of this fee to support, represent and promote the profession. Other funding comes from commercial activities.

The Law Society Council governs the Law Society's work. Council members are elected to represent members from England and Wales, different demographic groups and parts of the profession. The Law Society harness the knowledge of the Council members and around 300 volunteers to deliver the advice, support and service members want. The Council has 100 seats, 61 for geographical constituencies and 39 for special interest groups and areas of practice.

For more information please visit [www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk)

 **AdvocacySection**

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