

## March 2017

Welcome to the first Junior Lawyers National Committee update of 2017.

Last year, the JLD responded to multiple consultations that will have implications for our members, including the [SRA consultations on the SQE](#) and the [Competition and Markets Authority legal services study](#). We held two career development forums aimed at trainee and junior solicitors, and two forums for students seeking training positions. The annual conference was a huge success, with sessions on Brexit, working with vulnerable clients and developing an international career.

[The new JLD committee 2016-17](#) is made up of representatives from across England and Wales and is dedicated to representing the interests of our members.

The Committee's focus for this year includes:

- representing current and future junior lawyers in relation to the SRA proposal for a centralised assessment to qualify as a solicitor
- providing information on the increasing alternative routes to qualification
- supporting solicitors up to five years' PQE in their career and skills progression
- promoting mental health wellbeing and resilience in an increasingly stressful profession
- promoting diversity within the junior lawyers division.

We want to represent your views as our members throughout our term on the committee. Please contact the National Committee directly and [let us know your views and concerns](#) so we can speak out on your behalf. Alternatively, your National Representatives this year for the Bournemouth and District area are [Darren Francis](#) and [Maddie Lipinska](#). Feel free to contact them with any questions, issues or concerns you wish to raise and would like discussed at a National level or for more information or clarification on any of the proposals discussed.

## Updates

### JLD annual conference - 8 April, London

This event provides invaluable advice on taking control of your career and offers a mix of keynote speeches, practical breakout sessions and networking opportunities. [Find out more and book](#)

### Diversity Access Scheme

Funding, mentoring and work experience is available for students from non-traditional backgrounds seeking to start the LPC in the autumn. Applications for the DAS for the 2017/18 academic year opened on 6 February. [Read more about the scheme](#)

### Resilience and well-being - take our survey

The JLD is undertaking a survey to gather information on the resilience and wellbeing of junior lawyers. It should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. All responses are confidential.

[Take the survey](#)

### **Junior Lawyer news**

- [How to: change specialism](#)
- [Trainee solicitors underpaid and overworked, research finds](#)
- [Junior lawyers welcome proposed unpaid placement curbs](#)

### **JLD features**

- [Brexit backlash](#)
- [Become your firm's pro bono pioneer](#)
- [Young lawyers are far from cashing in on law's gravy train](#)

### **JLD consultation responses**

- [A new route to qualification - the Solicitors Qualifying Exam](#)