

CHANCERY BAR ASSOCIATION
2013 ELECTION STATEMENTS

(1) CANDIDATES FOR THE TWO SILK PLACES

John MACHELL QC

I was called in 1993 and have practised from Serle Court (previously known as Thirteen Old Square) since 1994. I took silk in 2012. I have a broad Chancery practice, with a particular focus on disputes involving partnerships and LLPs. I have been involved in many aspects of the management of Chambers, including stints as pupillage committee secretary and currently as chair of our marketing committee. I have been a member of the Chancery Bar Association Equality and Diversity Subcommittee for the last few years. As well as bringing further E&D experience to the main committee, as a committee member I would hope to encourage the steps that have already been taken to promote the Chancery Bar.

Rebecca STUBBS QC

I was called in 1994 and took silk in 2012. I have served on the Equality and Diversity Committee for almost 2 years and am the Chancery Bar Association representative on the Rolls Building Users' Committee. I have a particular interest in equality and diversity issues and recently organised a number of seminars to assist barristers complying with the ever increasing regulatory load in this area. I feel strongly about ensuring that the Bar is open at entry level on merit to all (irrespective of educational or social background) and that we should take steps to encourage and support able practitioners to remain in the profession. I have personal experience of the challenges facing those returning to work after a period of parental leave.

In the future, I intend to be an advocate for the practitioners at the Chancery Bar in addressing the forthcoming Briggs report and its recommendations.

Andrew TWIGGER QC

The Chancery Bar is not immune from the many challenges facing the profession at the moment. A significant number of these stem from the harsh economic climate in which clients are, understandably, reluctant to engage in expensive litigation and it is increasingly hard for those with modest means to obtain funding. CFAs and DBAs bring their own difficulties, not least the potential conflict of interests involved in such arrangements. The Jackson reforms seem to involve predicting what will happen before the case has really begun. The advent of contractual terms has resulted in its

own problems, particularly as solicitors with significant bargaining power are reluctant to sign up to any liability for fees.

The Chancery Bar Association cannot be expected to solve all these problems, but it can assist its members to cope with them in a positive, practical and business-like manner and, if elected, I hope to be able to help achieve that. And, of course, anything else I am asked to do.

(2) CANDIDATES FOR THE THREE PLACES FOR JUNIORS OF OVER SEVEN YEARS' CALL

Julia BEER

I have served on the ChBA committee for the past three years. In that time I have sat on the international subcommittee and assisted with the hugely successful trips to Cayman and to Singapore. I am also an elected member of Bar Council and have represented the ChBA on the General Management Committee of the Bar Council and the International Committee. Over the next 12 months two important issues in which the ChBA needs to be strongly represented at Bar Council are in the changes which will be made to the charging of Practising Certificate Fees and the shape of any future Quality Assurance Scheme. Both will directly affect ChBA members. I believe that it is important to have a strong link between the ChBA committee and the Bar Council and I am keen to continue to fulfil that for a further term.

Ian CLARKE

I was called in 1990 and am a member of Selborne Chambers. I have already served one term on the Committee and have assisted in a variety of roles from organising the reception to mark the opening of the Rolls Building, responding to consultation papers and co-ordinating the ChBA's speakers at this year's Bar Conference. I would hope to be able to continue to support the ChBA's activities as a committee member for a further term.

Simon HATTAN

I have a general commercial chancery practice, with an emphasis on civil fraud, banking litigation and financial services regulatory work, and have practiced for the past 12 years at Serle Court. During that time much has changed at the Bar, but one thing that has remained constant is the willingness of members to give their time to ensure that those coming behind them are able to benefit from the same opportunities that they had themselves. The Chancery Bar Association is one of many vehicles for them to do so. I believe I have something to contribute to that. At a time when competition for the best graduates is fierce and the pressures of junior practice great, it is vital that the Association continues to promote the values and benefits of the Bar in general, and chancery work in particular, to those considering making it their career. It is just as important that we continue to support those who have chosen to do so in their professional development. Equally, we should not forget that in other areas of work the Bar is under severe pressure and, where appropriate, the Chancery Bar should make its voice heard on those issues. I would like the opportunity to be part of the Association's work in these areas and am standing for election for that reason.

Alexander LEARMONTH

I am predominantly a traditional chancery practitioner, and have been an active member of the ChBA and its committee for a number of years. I am currently acting as the ChBA's representative on the Bar Council, with whose workings I am familiar, having been an elected member for 3 years and chaired the Young Barristers' Committee in 2009, and I would like to be able to continue that work into the next year. Particular issues raised at the Bar Council concerning the members of the chancery bar at present include the review of Practising Certificate Fees, the Briggs Review of the Chancery Division, Standard Contractual Terms and alternatives to CFAs, and it is important that the ChBA's view of those is heard amid the noise of legal aid reform.