



ELECTION STATEMENTS 2023

CANDIDATES FOR THE TWO VACANCIES FOR JUNIORS OVER 7 YEARS' CALL

Rory BROWN

I practice from 9 Stone Buildings where I undertook my pupillage in 2009.

The ChBA's promotion of the expertise of its membership internationally is of great interest to me. I was the longest serving member of the International Sub-Committee of the ChBA until volunteering to step down this year - to enable it to refresh itself - when that fact was brought to my attention. I am a member of the British Italian Lawyers Association and the British German Jurists Association and have spoken at various of the ChBA short- and long-haul conferences, which I attend whenever I am allowed.

I have I would hope a demonstrable and long-standing commitment to broadening access to justice: I have done an average of >25 hours of *pro bono* work in each of the last ten years, including three reported cases (respectively on restitution; the Gender Recognition Act; and fair hearings), and two inquests (one a judicial review in which it was my privilege to represent a mother in her successful claim to quash the Coroner's conclusion her daughter's death was drug-related (which it was not)).

I am keen on the maintenance of the standards of excellence which generally prevail at the Bar. I was a pupillage supervisor for seven years, and have been an active advocacy trainer for Inner Temple for five years and have this year been made a Lead Trainer. I am of course - as such - EDI trained.

During that time, I have also sat on Inner Temple's Scholarship Committees and co-hosted workshops and seminars on professional ethics and at the Inn's Discovery Days which are aimed at widening access to and broadening awareness of the Bar. I am particularly interested in ensuring the inclusivity of the modern Bar for all, regardless of background, rather than merely widening access to the profession.

The work of the Association has benefitted me in myriad ways and I value it highly as well as prizing my connections with the members and administrator with whom I have worked over the years. I offer my candidature in the hope that I can assist with the continuation of that work on the Committee.



Kavan GUNARATNA

The ChBA is a fantastic Association and I would be proud to be re-elected to its committee so that I may continue contributing to its work, as I have done over the years to date, in:

1. Keeping members abreast of the ever-changing legal developments which affect our practices. I would strive to keep our conferences and seminars first-rate, accessible, and relevant to members across the whole Chancery spectrum.
2. Keeping the ChBA collegiate and supportive, with a keen eye on members' well-being – especially in the post-pandemic world of increased working from home and conversely quieter corridors in many Chambers.
3. Ensuring that the ChBA attracts the best and brightest candidates to its ranks, regardless of background or personal and family situation – and that it retains them.

I am well placed to help the Association achieve those goals, having extensive experience from my previous years' service on the committee (working on seminars, members' events and outreach). More recently, I have, amongst other things: organised and chaired the ChBA Summer Conference; contributed to the running of several ChBA Winter Conferences; and spoken to students from under-represented backgrounds to encourage well-qualified candidates to apply to the ChBA. I was called in 2004 and practice from Enterprise Chambers in several fields of chancery and commercial work.

Sophia HURST

I am a junior commercial chancery barrister at Essex Court Chambers. I have served on the Main Committee for the past 3 years and am seeking re-election. During that time, I have participated enthusiastically in the work of the committee as well as attending ChBA conferences and events (at home and internationally) and volunteering for CLIPS.

I also sit on the ChBA Consultations sub-committee, in which role I have co-ordinated and chaired the joint ChBA and COMBAR Working Group on crypto and digital assets, and responded on behalf of the Association to law reform consultations such as the MOJ's proposals for a UK Bill of Rights, and the Civil Justice Council's consultation on costs.

I am proud of what the ChBA offers its junior members, and how the ChBA often leads the way on important issues, including the recent introduction of the ChBA-sponsored Social Mobility Bursaries. I would be delighted to continue to play a part in the committee's important work.



Faith JULIAN

I was called in 2013 and practise from 9 Stone Buildings, primarily in insolvency. I have been an elected member of the committee since 2020. I have been a member of the Equality & Diversity sub-committee for five years and have assisted in organising various events in that role – most recently the events on the gender pay gap, the menopause, and applications for silk. I have also been an active member of the Junior sub-committee since 2019, the Education & Training committee since 2021, and represented the Chancery Bar at the Bar Council for three years between 2020 and 2022.

I am standing for re-election because I very much enjoy contributing to the life of the Association. I have always found it to be an invaluable resource (not least because of the sense of community it fosters), consider it to be the best SBA, and would like to ensure that this continues well into the future.

Lara KUEHL

I practise from Selborne Chambers, where I started as a pupil in 2012. I was previously a solicitor at a US firm in London and I also worked for two years offshore in the Cayman Islands. I have a broad commercial-chancery practice with specialisms in property, company and commercial litigation and arbitration.

I am presently a member of the Junior Chancery Bar Committee (in which role I have helped organise JCB events) and the Publications & Website Sub-committee. I was thrilled to be one of the junior panel speakers at the recent ChBA conference in the BVI this year, discussing amendments to the BVI Business Companies Act.

I feel strongly about increasing access to justice and I have participated for a number of years in CLIPS (and I was one of the 12 initial recipients of the CLIPS Pro Bono Champion logo in 2021). I have been a reviewer for Advocate since 2019, assessing which cases should be put forward for pro bono assistance.

I have a particular interest in training and pupillage and am very involved with Lincoln's Inn education and the award of scholarships. I am a pupil supervisor in Chambers and I also act as a mentor through the ChBA scheme, the Lincoln's Inn scheme (for students) and Durham University's Law Society scheme.

I am also a member of the Bar Council's Overseas Territories Working Group, in which role I have contributed to a strategy paper on how to improve market access in the Overseas Territories.

I hope that the range of my experience will enable me to contribute to the excellent work of the Committee across a broad range of areas.



Philip SISSONS

I have been in practice at Falcon Chambers since 2005. My practice covers all areas of property law, with a particular interest in rights of light, development agreements and property cases with an insolvency angle. I am a contributing editor of the Woodfall Bulletin, the co-author of a book on service charges and I have written on property law issues for the Conveyancer and Property Lawyer, the Landlord and Tenant Review and the New Law Journal. I am a case reviewer for Advocate (formerly the Bar Pro Bono Unit) and I have acted as a supervisor for the Bar Placement Week Scheme (which aims to further diversity and social mobility at the bar) on several occasions.

I was co-opted onto the ChBA committee in 2022 and I am now standing for re-election as a committee member. In the past year I have acted as the committee's liaison with the Bar Council, attending meetings of the Bar Council committee and reporting back on matters of interest to the ChBA. I have also previously served on the committee of the Property Bar Association and, whilst doing so, attended the Bar Council's Wellbeing at the Bar Working Group. If elected I hope to contribute further to the work of the committee, offering the perspective of a specialist property law practitioner. In particular, I would aim to use my experience and subsequent interest in wellbeing issues to assist the work of the committee in this area.
