

Providing effective feedback to barristers in the Criminal Justice System.

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BAR
STANDARDS
BOARD

REGULATING BARRISTERS

The Bar Standards Board

- Regulates barristers in England and Wales in the public interest
- Regulatory Assurance Department oversees standards across the lifecycle of a barrister
- Risk and evidence based
- Feedback is crucial

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The Inns of
Court College
of Advocacy

The Council of the Inns of Court

Barristers

Lynda Gibbs

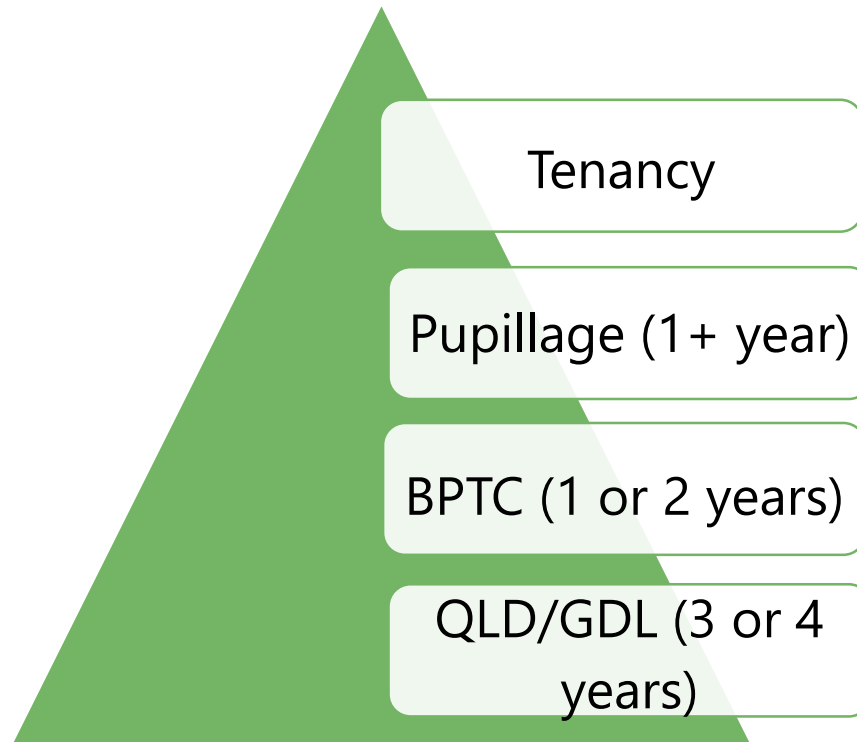
ICCA Programme Director

What is a barrister?



A self-employed
(mostly) specialist
advocate practising
in a particular area
of law such as crime
or family

How long does it take to become a barrister?



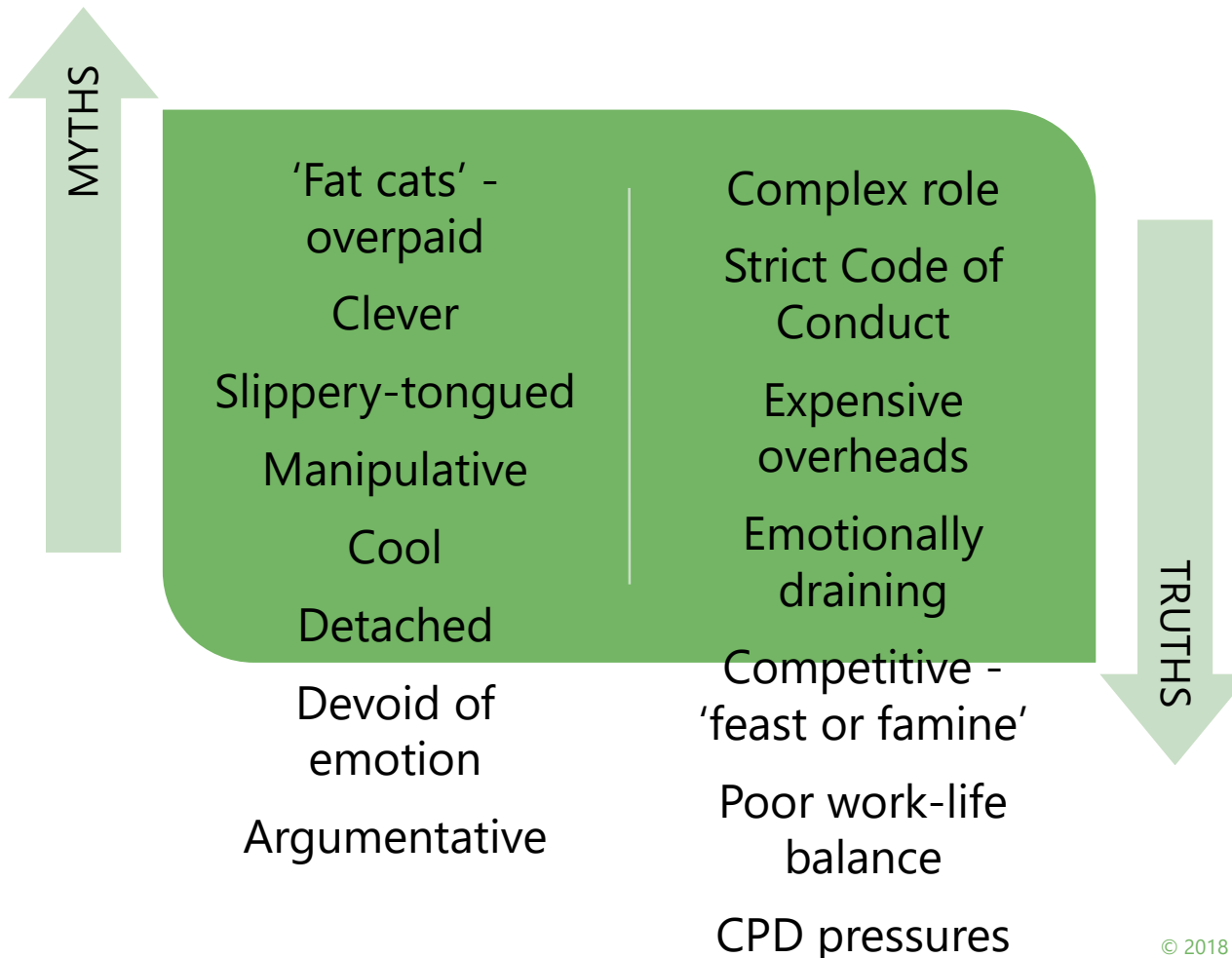
Cost and opportunity

£137,000

1500 -1700 BPTC students

400 pupillages

Unpicking the myths



What is the current landscape?

FBT

Role of Inns

Lack of diversity &
failure to retain
women at the Bar

Falling
pupillages

New reflective
CPD regime

Too many
publicly funded
Bar

A & V for the Criminal
Bar

A & V Family
Bar

Youth Justice
competencies

incomplete digital transition, more LIP's, slower completion of cases,
poor listing protocols

Direct action by the Criminal Bar vs. AGFS

What can the Bar do to help itself?



Wellness for Law

<https://www.wellbeingatthebar.org.uk/>

- 2 in 3 barristers think that showing signs of stress equals weakness
- 1 in 3 barristers find it difficult to control or to stop worrying
- 1 in 6 barristers feels in low spirits most of the time
- Lack of financial certainty
- Vicarious trauma
- Long commutes
- Loneliness
- No time to socialise or engage with family
- Perceived need to appear to be coping
- Insomnia
- Physical ailments
- Depression
- Alcohol & drug abuse

ICCA initiatives

- We promote excellence in advocacy and professional ethics
- We provide guidance on specialist areas of practice
- We encourage life-long learning
- We highlight vicarious trauma on A&V pages
- We encourage advocates to take responsibility for professional development
- Well-being will be an integral part of any student learning we develop

Using Feedback

- Currently, two routes for reporting information to the BSB- complaints to Professional Conduct department or reports to supervision department.
- Range of regulatory responses dependent on feedback
- Challenges

Barristers

- Reality of work at the Bar
- Wellbeing at the Bar
- Professional Statement and Threshold Competences

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Discussion

- **What are the barriers to providing feedback about barristers within the criminal justice system?**
- Do you know who/ what/ when/ how?
- Are external pressures of CJ system a factor?

Discussion

- **How do we overcome these barriers?**
- What can the BSB do?
- What can intermediaries do?
- Should anyone else be involved?

Any questions?

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