



YOUNG BARRISTERS' COMMITTEE

Professional Primer Series No. 1:

“Entrepreneurs build Businesses, Barristers help Protect Them”

Introductory Remarks, 8 February 2018¹

Richard Hoyle, Chair of the Young Bar

Good Evening Everyone,

My name is Richard Hoyle, and I am the Chair of the Young Bar for 2018, representing barristers in their first seven years of practice, along with the other members of the Young Barristers' Committee of the Bar Council of England & Wales.

I'm delighted to be able to welcome you to our event this evening 'Entrepreneurs build Businesses, Barristers help Protect Them'.

This is the first in a set of three events which aims to help bring Young Barristers into contact with people in a variety of different industries, and to try to demystify the Bar and challenge misconceptions that people may have about it along the way.

¹ With the usual caveat that there were minor differences in the delivered version.

I should point out that this idea, which is an excellent one, was conceived by my predecessor as Chair, Duncan McCombe. To be fair I would still be saying it was his idea if only one person had turned up... Fortunately, that hasn't happened, and it is only right to thank him. My only regret is that he did not get to deliver these events during his own year in the hot seat.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our partners for this event, the British Association of Women Entrepreneurs, in a week which marks the centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918 and the conferral of the right to vote upon women for the first time, albeit that it was not immediately universal.

It was, however, a very substantial achievement, and it was brought about by the efforts of a large number of determined and forward thinking women (and a few men as well).

Tonight, however, we are in the company of some of the forward thinking women and men of the present time.

For the barristers amongst you, this is a chance to hear about areas of law that might be unfamiliar to you, and provides the opportunity for you to meet people who are driving change through their businesses, and who may be potential clients.

For the entrepreneurs and businesspeople, you have the chance to meet barristers who are not content to let old ways of working tie their hands. You will learn that these people are not like Rumpole of the Bailey. They are subject matter experts. They are value for money (and the younger they are, the better value they are!). They are flexible, and they are independent.

You can now go straight to many barristers for legal advice without going to a solicitor first – it's called Direct Access, and there is some information about that

at the back. Even for those barristers who aren't signed up for that, there is the possibility to go straight to a barrister who will be able to recommend a solicitor to help – a reverse instruction. You can talk to us about those things afterwards.

Now though, allow me to introduce our fantastic moderator, Penny Haslam. She is a former presenter of BBC business news, who now works as an inspirational keynote speaker and professional event moderator and panel chair. She is currently writing a how-to guide called 'Make Yourself A Little Bit Famous - On Panels'.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Penny Haslam.