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CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE BAR OF NORTHERN IRELAND

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Bar of Northern Ireland grew out of the Irish Bar as it existed before the 1st October 1921 when the relevant provisions of the Government of Ireland Act 1920 establishing a separate Supreme Court of Judicature of Northern Ireland and giving recognition to the creation of a separate Bar of Northern Ireland came into force. That Act preserved the right of all then existing members of the Irish Bar to practise at and be members of the Bar of both Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland. It was as a sequel to a meeting of twenty-two of these members held on the 26th October 1921 that the first General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland was elected.
- 1.2 The original Bar of Northern Ireland consisted of a mixture, in territory as well as personnel, of the North East and North West Circuits of the former Irish Bar. Belfast (for County Antrim), Downpatrick and Armagh, which became three of the towns of the Circuit of Northern Ireland, were former North East Circuit towns and Enniskillen, Omagh and Londonderry, which became three other towns of the Circuit of Northern Ireland, were former North West Circuit towns.
- 1.3 The Inn of Court of Northern Ireland was established at a meeting of the Bench and Bar held on the 11th January 1926. Prior to that date and following the coming into force of the Government of Ireland Act 1920, the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland had, under appropriate warrants, called members of the Bar to the Inner Bar in Northern Ireland as King's Counsel.
- 1.4 Accordingly, subsequent to the 11th January 1926 there were both:
 - a) the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland governed by the Benchers of the Inn (a body consisting of all the judges of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General and at least nine practising members of the Bar of Northern Ireland) and
 - b) the General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland (the "Bar Council").

- 1.5 At a General Meeting of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland on the 5th October 1983 it was resolved that the present Constitution be adopted as the Constitution of the Honorable Society of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland with effect from the 14th November 1983 the Bar of Northern Ireland at a General Meeting on the 22nd June 1983 having resolved that with effect from the same date the Bar of Northern Ireland and the General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland should be governed by the Regulations of the same Constitution.
- 1.6 Under the present Constitution most of the powers formerly exercised by the Benchers are now effectively exercised by the Executive Council of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland. Practising barristers comprise the majority of the members of the Executive Council.
- 1.7 The Executive Council deals with the admission of students, education of students, liaison with corresponding bodies in other countries, fees on admission as a student, called to the Bar, administration of the Bar Library, the fixing of annual subscriptions to the Bar Library and all other matters of finance including income and expenditure.
- 1.8 The Bar Council deals with the maintenance of the standards, honour and independence of the Bar and, through its Professional Conduct Committee, receives and investigates complaints against members of the Bar in their professional capacity and also investigates and deals with matters arising from their behaviour and conduct generally.
- 1.9 Every barrister in independent practice shall be a member of the Bar Library.
- 1.10 The Bar Council may, in its discretion, grant an exemption from the requirement that a barrister shall be a member of the Bar Library.
- 1.11 Any barrister who applies for such an exemption must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Bar Council, that he:
- i. has the necessary experience to practise outside the Bar Library;

- ii. has access to adequate library facilities, which are defined as facilities commensurate with those available to members of the Bar Library;
- iii. has the ability to manage his practice efficiently;
- iv. is in good standing with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs;
- v. either holds a valid and subsisting practising certificate for the Bar of Northern Ireland or has simultaneously applied and paid for a Practising Certificate for the Bar Northern Ireland to cover the period 01 January To 31 December of any given year

1.12 If the Bar Council grants such exemption, it may, in its discretion, impose such restrictions on the barrister's practice as it sees fit and it shall be a condition of the grant of such exemption that the barrister undertakes to abide by such restrictions as are imposed.

1.13 Membership of the Bar Library is classified into various categories as defined and approved by the Bar Council. There are currently three categories of Bar Library membership – Full Bar Library membership, Employed Bar Library membership and Non-Practising membership. These categories will determine the facilities and services that the barrister is entitled to use. Full Bar Library membership subscriptions are graduated and reflect standing and date of call.

2. COMMENCEMENT AND AMENDMENT OF CODE OF CONDUCT

2.1 This Code of Conduct, which applies to all barristers whenever called to the Bar and whether or not they are practising, was adopted by the Bar in General Meeting on 8th November 1990 and replaces the Handbook issued by the Bar Council in December 1979. A revised Code of Conduct came into operation on 6th March 2003. This Code of Conduct also applies to those registering under Article 3 of the Lawyers' Establishment Directive 98/5/EC in the same way as it applies to practising barristers notwithstanding that such persons are not called to the Bar.

2.2 Amendments and additions to the Code may be made from time to time by the Bar Council or by the Bar in General Meeting.

- 2.3 The Bar Council shall be under an obligation to review this Code at least once every five years.
- 2.4 This revised Code of Conduct came into force on the 1st October 2020.

3. DEFINITIONS

CATEGORIES OF BARRISTER

A. Practising Barrister Status

- 3.1.1 A practising barrister is a barrister who possesses the degree of barrister at law and who has been called to the Bar and who is supplying legal services and holds a valid practising certificate.
- 3.1.2 An employed barrister is a practising barrister who has received approval from the Chief Executive in accordance with the requirements of section 28 of the Code who in return for the payment of a salary the barrister is employed wholly or primarily for the purpose of providing permitted legal services to an approved employer under a contract of employment or by virtue of an office under the Crown.
- 3.1.3 A practising barrister is at all times subject to the provisions of the Code of Conduct for the Bar of NI (“the Code”).

B. Former Barrister Status

- 3.2. A barrister who has indicated in writing to the Chief Executive of their intention to cease practice or who (except in the case of a temporary cessation of practice for example due to sickness, maternity, interim suspension, time-bound disciplinary sanction or approved leave of absence) does not hold a current and valid Practising Certificate, will be assigned the status of “Former Barrister” and will

thus be advised in writing that as a Former Barrister they:

- 3.2.1 Remain members of the profession and are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. A Former Barrister is subject to the Code at all times and is required to be open and co-operative with the Bar Council and its regulatory bodies.
- 3.2.2 Must not provide legal services as defined in the Code of Conduct including as highlighted at section 3.6 below and must not be an employee, partner, director , advisor, affiliate, agent or consultant to any entity that is involved in whole or in part in the provision of such legal services to, or operating from, this jurisdiction.
- 3.2.3 Have a continuing responsibility not to mislead anyone about their status and will therefore not hold themselves out as a barrister. When referring to their professional status they must always make clear that their status is confined only to that of “Former Barrister” and they are expressly prohibited at all times from describing their professional status in any other manner either in person or across any media platform.
- 3.3 The only means by which a barrister may cease practice and be assigned a status other than Former Barrister is if the barrister either:
 - 3.3.2 Assumes a judicial position in this or any other jurisdiction at which point they would be subject to the professional standards and restrictions associated with that judicial office;
 - 3.3.3 Applies to be disbarred from the profession.

C. Application to Be Disbarred

- 3.4 A barrister who chooses to apply to be disbarred from the profession may do so by providing a written request to that effect to the Chief Executive so that he might bring this to the attention of the Benchers of the Inn of Court.

- 3.5 A barrister who applies to be disbarred from the profession must not provide legal services as defined in the Code of Conduct including as highlighted at paragraph 3.6 below to, or from this jurisdiction. Should such legal services be performed, the barrister in question, will be deemed to have remained a barrister in substance and will be held to be in breach of the Code. Legal services which fall outside of the scope as defined in the Code of Conduct are however permitted to be performed. This rule is not applicable to barristers who apply to be disbarred in order to practice as a solicitor, on the condition that they have their name placed on the Roll of Solicitors, held by the Law Society, and possess the necessary professional indemnity insurance.
- 3.6 “Legal services” include the provision of oral or written legal advice, the drafting of legal documents, the representation of clients in any contentious or non-contentious matters in any court, tribunal, inquiry or hearing but does not include:
- (a) sitting as a judge or arbitrator or acting as a mediator;
 - (b) lecturing in or teaching law or writing or editing law books articles or reports;
 - (c) giving advice on legal matters free to a friend or relative;
 - (d) any other matters as defined elsewhere within the Code of Conduct.
- 3.7 A barrister who applies to be disbarred from the profession must not hold themselves out as a barrister. In a curriculum vitae, they can state that they hold the degree of barrister at law and that they qualified as a barrister. They are however prevented from using the title ‘barrister’ or otherwise conveying the impression that they are practising as a barrister. Holding out includes;
- (a) Describing oneself as a barrister, including as a retired or former barrister, in any printed material used in connection with the provision of legal services, in particular, in advertising or publicity, on a card or letterhead, on a website, on any social media platform, or on premises.
 - (b) Describing oneself as a barrister to clients or prospective clients.

- (c) Describing oneself to clients or prospective clients as a non-practising barrister or barrister-at-law.
- (d) Indicating to opposing parties or their representatives, orally, or in correspondence, that one is a barrister.
- (e) Describing oneself as a barrister, or, when supplying services to the public, as "counsel", wearing robes, or sitting in a place reserved for counsel, in court.
- (f) Using other descriptions in connection with supplying, or offering to supply, legal services which imply that the individual is a barrister

3.8 On applying to be disbarred the barrister shall complete and sign the declaration in Appendix 15 acknowledging that they understand and will comply with the provisions of Sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7 above.

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

3.9 Any reference hereafter to the word "barrister" shall mean a practising barrister save as otherwise expressly stated or required by context (or as appropriate).

3.10 A "barrister in independent practice" is a barrister who represents to the public generally that he is willing in return for the payment of fees to render legal services to a client provided that:

- a) a barrister who is a Law Officer of the Crown shall be deemed to be a barrister in independent practice although he does not represent to the public generally that he is willing to render legal services to clients;
- b) a barrister who is a Member of Parliament or a Member of the European Parliament (or any assembly/forum) or a lecturer/teacher of law at an institution of higher or further education or an author of legal text books or articles may be a barrister in independent practice notwithstanding that his practice may not be

his primary occupation.

- 3.11 An “employed barrister” is a barrister who in return for the payment of a salary is employed wholly or primarily for the purpose of providing legal services to an employer either under a contract of employment or by virtue of an office under the Crown or in the Institutions of the European Communities and who has complied with the requirements of section 28.1 of the Code.
- 3.12 The “Bar Council” is the General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland.
- 3.13 The “Inn” is the body originally constituted by a special meeting of the Bench and Bar of Northern Ireland on the 11th January 1926 and subsequently designated “the Honorable Society of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland”.
- 3.14 The “Chairman” is the chairman for the time being of the Bar Council.
- 3.15 “Client” includes both professional and lay clients.
- 3.16 “Court” includes any court or tribunal or other person or body before whom a barrister may appear.
- 3.17 The “Executive Council” is the Executive Council of the Inn.
- 3.18 “Foreign Lawyer” is a person who is a “lawyer” as defined in the Directive on the Provision of Services by Lawyers (77/249/EEC) other than a barrister or advocate of the United Kingdom.
- 3.19 “Government Legal Service” means those barristers, advocates and solicitors qualified in any part of the United Kingdom who are employed or hold office as lawyers in any Government Department or in the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland or the Serious Fraud Office.
- 3.20 “Lay client” is the person or organization on whose behalf a barrister in independent practice is instructed.
- 3.21 “Legal services” include the provision of legal advice, the drafting of documents, representing clients in any contentious and non-contentious matters in any court, tribunal, inquiry or hearing.

- 3.22 “Professional client” is the solicitor or member of a recognized professional body by whom a barrister in independent practice is retained or instructed.
- 3.23 “Public authority” is an authority which has public or statutory duties to perform and which performs the same for the benefit of the public and not for private profit.
- 3.24 A “recognized professional body” is a professional body approved as such by the Bar Council in accordance with the provisions of section 28 of this Code.
- 3.25 With regard to the construction of this Code:
- a) singular and plural: every word importing the singular shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as if it also imported the plural and every word importing the plural shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as if it also imported the singular;
 - b) masculine and feminine: every word importing the masculine gender shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as if it also imported the feminine gender, and every word importing the feminine gender shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as if it also imported the masculine gender;
 - c) a person: the word “person” shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as importing a body corporate (whether a corporation aggregate or a corporation sole) and an un-incorporated body of persons as well as an individual.

4. PRIMARY DUTIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL BARRISTER

- 4.1 A barrister has an over-riding duty to the court to ensure the proper administration of justice.
- 4.2 It is a fundamental obligation of a barrister to ensure that every aspect of the lay client’s interests is properly represented and protected without fear or favour.
- 4.3 A barrister must ensure that the privacy and dignity of the lay client are maintained at all times.

- 4.4 A barrister should envisage what the litigation experience is like for the lay client and assist the client by:
- a. explaining carefully the procedures and issues in the case in language that the client can understand including how the client should conduct themselves as a witness but avoiding any attempt to coach him;
 - b. ascertaining and addressing anxieties about the litigation;
 - c. inviting questions about the litigation and providing answers, where possible;
 - d. explaining the strength and weaknesses in the client's case;
 - e. advising the client as to the advantages and disadvantages of negotiations and settlement and the availability of alternative dispute resolution;
 - f. ensuring that the client is never mislead or bullied in order to obtain authority to settle its case;
 - g. ensuring the waiting periods are explained;
 - h. where a case is lost, explaining to the client what happened and advising as to an appeal.
- 4.5 In all his work in court for the professional or lay client and in all his dealings with the public the barrister must conduct himself with honour and integrity as befits the high standing of his profession.
- 4.6 A barrister in independent practice shall remain independent of all intrinsic pressures and personal interests.
- 4.7 A barrister must exercise his own professional judgment as to how to conduct a case. He must not accept directions from anyone but should be in a position to explain the approach he has taken.
- 4.8 A barrister in independent practice is under a duty to accept a brief to appear in any court in which that barrister holds out for practice (having regard to experience and seniority) and to mark a proper and reasonable professional fee having regard to the length and difficulty of the case.
- 4.9 A barrister should refuse to accept a brief where special circumstances such as a

conflict of interest or the possession of relevant and confidential information exists.

- 4.10 Where a barrister has accepted a brief, he must not return it to the professional client or transfer it to another barrister simply because he has received a more lucrative assignment.
- 4.11 A barrister should decline to act in any case which is beyond his competence and he must so inform his professional client forthwith.
- 4.12 Where a barrister accepts a brief, he is obliged to attend the trial or hearing.
- 4.13 Except as is provided for in section 18.05 where more than one barrister is briefed in a civil or criminal trial or hearing each must attend the trial or hearing in its entirety. It is the duty of each barrister to conduct his practice in such a way as to avoid a foreseeable clash of commitments.

5. GENERAL DUTIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL BARRISTER

- 5.1 A barrister in independent practice must ensure that his primary occupation is that of practise as a barrister and must not engage in any other occupation which is inconsistent with his practise at the Bar. In particular, he should not engage in any other employment without first obtaining a consent in writing from the Bar Council, or its nominated committee fact that such consent has been obtained. Any application to undertake work outside the Bar should be made in accordance with the Guidance set out at Appendix 14 of the Code.
- 5.2 A barrister is not obliged to accept or retain any brief or to advise, act or appear in any case if the barrister reasonably forms a view that fair remuneration will not be paid within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the case.
- 5.3 A barrister must at all times ensure that his practice is efficiently and properly administered and take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure that his professional engagements are properly fulfilled, and that adequate notice is given if they cannot be fulfilled. Proper administration includes an obligation to keep and

maintain proper accounts and to register for VAT on reaching the appropriate income level.

- 5.4 A barrister must not treat any person (including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, a lay client, professional client, pupil or fellow barrister) less favourably on the grounds of race, ethnic or national origin, sex, family status, sexual orientation, disability, age, religious belief or political opinion than he would treat any other person in circumstances which are the same or not materially different. In determining whether a barrister has been in breach of this duty regard shall be had to the Equality Code for the Bar reproduced in Appendix 1.
- 5.5 If, subsequent to accepting a brief, a barrister finds that it is not possible to attend the trial or hearing, the brief should be returned promptly to the professional client.
- 5.6 A barrister must not give advice, draft pleadings or accept instructions or a brief in any case where he has previously advised or acted for another client in connection with the same matter. When a barrister becomes aware that he is in breach of this requirement, he should return the papers forthwith.
- 5.7 A barrister must not appear:
- a. in any matter in which he is or may foreseeably become a party or acquire a pecuniary interest;
 - b. either for or against any local authority, firm or organization of which he is a member or has directly or indirectly a significant pecuniary interest;
 - c. in any matter in which there is reason to believe he may be a witness.
- 5.8 If it becomes apparent to the barrister that he is likely to be a witness on a material question of fact, he should cease to act providing his withdrawal from the case can be achieved without prejudice to the lay client's interests.
- 5.9 A barrister must not accept instructions or a brief in any matter in which he has been previously involved in the course of another profession or occupation whether as a partner, director or employee.
- 5.10 A barrister must inform the professional client immediately if there is an appreciable

risk of him being unable to undertake the case in which a brief has been accepted and, in any event, the brief should be returned in sufficient time to allow another barrister to be instructed and to prepare the case. If another barrister accepts the brief, he is deemed to have satisfied himself that he has sufficient time to properly prepare the case.

- 5.11 Save in exceptional circumstances, if it is necessary for a barrister to return a brief because of conflicting commitments, the last brief accepted should be returned unless the professional client in the first case in which the barrister was retained consents to his doing otherwise.
- 5.12 A barrister who is instructed to appear for a person charged with a serious criminal offence (which will include all indictable offences which are tried on indictment or summarily) must give priority to this case and must not allow any other commitment to interfere with the conduct of the defence or undertake any commitment which conflicts with his duty to represent this person.
- 5.13 A barrister must ensure that all verbal, documentary and e-mail communications with their professional and lay clients are kept strictly confidential and that any such material is not heard or read by any unauthorized person.
- 5.14 A barrister must comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland and the bye-laws made thereunder.
- 5.15 A barrister must become acquainted with this Code of Conduct and the many traditions, practices and customs of the profession otherwise known as the etiquette of the Bar.

6. PRACTISING CERTIFICATES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE BAR LIBRARY

A. Requirements of a practising certificate

- 6.1 A practising certificate shall only be issued when the barrister signs a declaration confirming that he or she has:

- i. obtained professional indemnity insurance cover at the appropriate level;
- ii. achieved the requisite number of Continuing Professional Development points as specified by the CPD Committee;
- iii. properly registered as a Data Controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 2018;
- iv. not been suspended from practice;
- v. not been found unfit to practise in accordance with the Fitness to Practise Rules as set out in Regulation 13A of The Honourable Society of The Inn of Court of Northern Ireland Constitution and bye-laws;
- vi. clearly chosen the appropriate category of Bar Library membership that is associated with their practice (accepting personal responsibility to inform the Bar Library throughout the Practising Certificate year of any matter that would require a change to be made to his or her entitlement to that category of membership of the Bar Library);
- vii. paid all subscriptions and fines;
- viii. satisfied any other regulatory requirements within the Code of Conduct or as may be laid down by the Bar Council from time to time; and
- ix. in the event of the barrister being made bankrupt or entering into an individual voluntary arrangement with creditors, satisfied requirements of the Professional Conduct Committee as to the suitability of the barrister to practise.

B. Application for a practising certificate

- 6.2 A practising certificate is obtained by applying to the office of the Chief Executive of the Bar of NI (“the Chief Executive”) by means of the relevant online application form.
- 6.3 The Chief Executive shall assess the declarations made by the barrister and determine whether to grant a practising certificate.

- 6.4 If the Chief Executive determines that the declarations are in order and the barrister has satisfied any other requirements laid down by the Chief Executive a practising certificate shall be granted.
- 6.5 If the Chief Executive determines that the declarations are not in order or that other requirements have not been satisfied, a practising certificate will not be granted, and the barrister shall not be entitled to practice.

C. Renewal

- 6.6 In order to maintain a period of continuous practice, a barrister is required to complete the *Annual Practising Certificate Application Form* including a signed declaration confirming that he or she continues to meet all of the requirements listed in section 6.1 above.

D. Resumption of practice

- 6.7 A barrister seeking to resume practice after a period of more than 12 months without having held a Practising Certificate must complete the *Resuming Practice Application, Declaration and Undertaking* in the form set out at Appendix 16 , which includes a signed declaration that he or she has met all of the requirements listed in section 6.1 above with any additional conditions that may arise..

E. Appeals

- 6.8 If a practising certificate is not granted (whether on an initial application, application for renewal or application to resume practice), the barrister may appeal that decision. An appeal should be made by lodging with the Chief Executive the written reasons why a practising certificate should be granted. The Appeal will be considered by the

Vice Chairman of the Bar Council together with two other barristers. who shall determine the appeal on the papers, or in exceptional circumstances, after having heard the barrister.

6.9 The appeal shall be lodged with the Vice Chairman within 7 days of the decision of the Chief Executive.

6.10 The barrister may not practice pending the outcome of the appeal.

F. Subscriptions

6.11 The following shall apply as regards the payment of subscriptions:

- a) A barrister must pay the appropriate subscription currently payable to the Bar Library within 30 days of the subscription falling due.
- b) The Chief Executive, acting on behalf of the Executive Council, may on the grounds of hardship or for some other reason as may seem fit postpone the payment of the whole or any part of the subscription payable by a barrister.
- c) If a barrister fails to pay the subscription, or any part thereof, by the due date, the Chief Executive, acting on behalf of the Bar Council, may suspend the barrister from the Library, postpone the granting of a practising certificate or cancel an existing practising certificate.
- d) Without prejudice to paragraph 6.11 c) above, a barrister who, without good cause, fails to pay the subscription or any part thereof by the due date, is guilty of professional misconduct.

G. Disciplinary offence

6.12 It shall constitute professional misconduct for a barrister practising in Northern Ireland in independent practice to provide legal services without a current practising

certificate.

- 6.13 In an application for a practising certificate, or in the case of a barrister applying to resume practice, in the Application, Declaration and Undertaking, if any part is found to be false in any material respect, or if there is a breach of the Declaration and Undertaking, such falsification or breach shall itself constitute professional misconduct.

H. Bankruptcy/ IVA: notification requirement

- 6.14 Where a barrister has been made bankrupt or has entered into an individual voluntary arrangement with creditors, the Bar Council may, after having received advice from the Professional Conduct Committee as to the barrister's suitability to practise, impose restrictions on the barrister's practice.

In the exercise of its functions under this rule, the Bar Council may, on foot of advice from the Professional Conduct Committee or otherwise, impose a requirement upon a barrister to notify any instructing solicitor who has or is proposing to engage the barrister of the bankruptcy or the individual voluntary arrangement so that the solicitor can make an informed decision as to whether to instruct the barrister or, as appropriate, to continue to instruct the barrister.

7. INSURANCE

- 7.1 Every barrister in independent practice shall take out and maintain insurance in respect of all claims arising out of alleged negligence in respect of the provision of legal services as a barrister.

This provision also applies to persons called to the Bar of Northern Ireland in

accordance with 26a of the Rules of the Honourable Society of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland, persons registering under Article 3 of the Lawyers' Establishment Directive 98/5/EC and to barristers normally based in another jurisdiction when permitted to practise in Northern Ireland. Alternatively, such persons must satisfy the Bar Council that they are adequately covered by professional indemnity insurance.

- 7.2 Such insurance must be taken out with an insurer approved by the Bar Council for that person and on foot of a policy approved by the Bar Council. If a barrister in independent practice wishes to be insured other than in accordance with the foregoing, the Bar Council shall accept a certificate from his insurance brokers for the time being that the insurance so offered is at least equivalent to that approved by the Bar Council.
- 7.3 While the minimum level of cover to be provided by such insurance shall from time to time be fixed by the Bar Council, the barrister is obliged to maintain an adequate level of cover having regard to the nature of the work undertaken and the potential liability arising in the event of negligence.
- 7.4 A barrister must immediately inform the Bar Council if he has been refused insurance cover or such cover has been withdrawn.
- 7.5 The payment of the insurance premium may not be postponed, either in whole or in part, beyond the due date for payment thereof.
- 7.6 It shall constitute professional misconduct by a barrister engaged in independent practice to represent to the public generally as being willing to render legal services without insurance.

8. DISCIPLINE

- 8.1 If a barrister fails to comply with any of the duties and standards of his profession he may be charged with:
- i. professional misconduct.
 - ii. breach of professional etiquette.
 - iii. providing an inadequate professional service.
 - iv. incompetence.
 - v. conduct unbecoming a barrister.
 - vi. bringing the profession of barrister into disrepute.
 - vii. library offences involving dishonesty and not involving dishonesty.
 - viii. breach of the Bar Library Circulation Rules or the House Rules of the Old Bar Library and New Bar Library.
- 8.2 If on Call to the Bar a barrister is found to have made a false declaration in any material respect or, prior to Call, to have engaged in conduct which is dishonest or otherwise discreditable and which was not, prior to Call, fairly disclosed in writing to the Benchers of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland or any undertaking given by him on Call to the Bar is breached in any material respect, this shall constitute professional misconduct.
- 8.3 It shall constitute professional misconduct for a person registered under Article 3 of the Lawyers' Establishment Directive to practise without displaying the name of the professional body of which they are a member at home on a name plaque or headed notepaper.
- 8.4 It shall constitute professional misconduct for a person registered under Article 3 of the Lawyers' Establishment Directive to present a case in court in the absence of a practising barrister who is instructed on behalf of the same client.
- 8.5 Where a complaint alleging a breach of one or more of the duties or standards referred to in this Code of Conduct is made or any matter touching professional

misconduct, the provision of professional service or behaviour comes to the attention of the Professional Conduct Committee, the said complaint/matter shall be investigated and dealt with by the Professional Conduct Committee.

- 8.6 A barrister must promptly respond to any requirement from the Professional Conduct Committee for comment or information on a complaint or when the Committee is investigating any matter which comes to its attention and, when required to do so, attend before the Committee, Summary Panel, Disciplinary Committee or Disciplinary Appeals Committee in answer to any charge made against him or as a witness.
- 8.7 A barrister must comply promptly with any direction of the Professional Conduct Committee, Summary Panel, Disciplinary Committee or Disciplinary Appeals Committee.
- 8.8 Where a barrister has pleaded guilty to or has been convicted of a criminal offence for which he was liable to be sentenced to a term of imprisonment or which might otherwise bring the profession into disrepute or where there has been a finding against him in his professional conduct, competence or reputation in any civil proceedings, or where he has been adjudicated bankrupt or has entered into an Individual Voluntary Arrangement, he must report these details promptly to the Professional Conduct Committee. Having reported the fact of bankruptcy or entering into an individual voluntary arrangement with creditors, a barrister must comply with requirements from the Professional Conduct Committee to provide documents or information concerning the conduct which led to the bankruptcy, or entering into an individual voluntary arrangements with creditors, and the barrister is under an ongoing duty to report in any relevant change of circumstances, and comply with any further requirements from the Professional Conduct Committee during the period of the bankruptcy or individual voluntary arrangement.
- 8.9 It is professional misconduct for any barrister to fail to comply with any direction

made by the Professional Conduct Committee, Summary Panel, Disciplinary Committee or Disciplinary Appeals Committee by way of penalty imposed on him for any disciplinary offence of which he is found guilty or to fail to comply with an order made for the payment by him of the costs of or incidental to any proceedings before the Professional Conduct Committee, Summary Panel, Disciplinary Committee or Disciplinary Appeals Committee.

- 8.10 A barrister shall report evidence of misconduct by another barrister to the Professional Conduct Committee. Failure to do so will be deemed to be professional misconduct on the part of the barrister in default.

9. CONDUCT IN COURT

- 9.1 A barrister must not misstate the law knowingly nor conceal from the court any authority known or believed to be relevant.
- 9.2 A barrister must not misstate any fact or state as a fact any matter which there are no reasonable grounds for believing can be proved nor should he cross-examine any witness upon a basis which he does not reasonably believe to be true.
- 9.3 In an ex-parte matter a barrister must exercise the utmost good faith and must not withhold from the court any matter of fact or law which may be relevant to the issues.
- 9.4 A barrister must in all appearances before a court act with due courtesy.
- 9.5 A barrister must in every case endeavour to avoid unnecessary expense, should keep costs to a minimum and reduce, where possible, the time taken to hear a case.
- 9.6 A barrister must not state his personal opinion of the facts or law.
- 9.7 A barrister must exercise personal judgment as to the substance and purpose of questions asked and statements made. A barrister is personally responsible for the conduct and presentation of a case in court and must guard against being made the channel for questions or statements made by him which are only intended to insult or annoy either the witness or some other person or which bear no relevance

to the issues in the case.

- 9.8 In all cases a barrister must ensure that the court is informed of all relevant decisions and legislative provisions of which the barrister is aware whether the effect thereof is favourable or unfavourable towards the contention for which the barrister argues.
- 9.9 Prior to judge's summing-up both the prosecution and the defence barristers at the invitation of the judge must bring to the attention of the judge all authorities which are relevant to the legal issues which are likely to arise in the summing-up.
- 9.10 After the judge's summing-up a defence barrister must inform the judge of all issues of fact or law which the barrister considers to have been misstated and which impinge on the lay client's right to a fair trial.
- 9.11 A barrister must bring any procedural irregularity to the attention of the court during the trial and must not intentionally reserve any such matters to be raised on appeal.
- 9.12 A barrister may only suggest that a witness is guilty of fraud, misconduct or a crime if any such allegation goes to a matter in issue which is material to his client's case. Where the only issue is the credibility of the witness, the barrister must be satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the allegation.
- 9.13 If, at any time before judgment is delivered in a case, a barrister is informed by a lay client that that client has committed perjury or has otherwise been guilty of fraud upon the court, a barrister must not so inform the court without that client's consent. If the client refuses to give consent, the barrister must withdraw from the case.
- 9.14 In civil cases where it become necessary or appropriate for a barrister to seek to discuss a case or any aspect thereof with the trial judge in private or is invited by the trial judge to take part in such discussion, this discussion shall only take place in the presence of the opposing barrister or his instructing solicitor or the personal litigant. In criminal cases the barrister may only discuss a case or any aspect of it with the trial judge in private in the circumstances and subject to the conditions set out in the judgment of the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal in Attorney General's

Reference (Number 1 of 2005) in R –v- Rooney and others (2005) NICA 44.

- 9.15 In any civil case where a barrister has had private discussions with the judge in relation to any aspect of the case the general principle set out in section 9.14 applies although the judge may be more ready than in any criminal case to permit disclosure of the discussion to the lay client where, for example, the judge has suggested that the case is one in which the possibility of settlement might usefully be investigated.
- 9.16 A barrister must not impugn a witness in his address to the jury or in any closing submissions to the trial judge unless the witness has been given an opportunity to answer the allegations in cross-examination.
- 9.17 A barrister must not himself obtain or seek to obtain a document or knowledge of the contents of a document belonging to another party otherwise than by means of the normal and proper channels for obtaining such documents or such knowledge.
- 9.18 If a barrister comes into possession of a document belonging to another party by some means other than the normal and proper channels (e.g. in consequence of a mistake or inadvertence by another person), the document must be returned at once unread to the person entitled to possession of it.
- 9.19 If, having come into possession of a document or a copy of such document, as referred to in 9.18, the barrister reads it before realising the nature of the document, and if he is professionally embarrassed by having such knowledge, then, provided there is no prejudice to the lay client the barrister must return the papers to the professional client and explain why this step has been taken.
- 9.20 Where before or during a trial a barrister for one party receives, as part of or in the course of instructions, a document which appears to be a document belonging to another party or to be a copy of a document so belonging and to be privileged from discovery or otherwise to be one which ought not to be in the possession of the professional or lay client then before the barrister makes any use of such document;
- i. The barrister must make appropriate enquiries of the professional client in

order to ascertain the circumstances in which the document was obtained by the professional or lay client as the case may be and

- ii. Unless satisfied that the document has been properly obtained the barrister must inform his opponent of the intention to use the document and the circumstances (as far as known) in which the document has been obtained. In the event of objection to the use of such a document it is for the court to determine what use, if any, may be made thereof.

9.21 If, during the course of a case, a barrister becomes aware of the existence of a document which ought to have been referred to in a list of documents, the barrister must advise the professional client to amend the list to refer to this document. If the professional client refuses to make the said amendment, the barrister must withdraw from the case and, should this arise during the conduct of a trial, the court should be informed of the reason giving rise to the withdrawal.

9.22 A barrister must not confer with a witness called by that barrister while such witness is under examination or cross-examination without the prior leave of the other parties and the court.

9.23 In a case in which more than one barrister is engaged it is for Senior Counsel or, where appropriate, the leading Junior Counsel to decide which of the barristers will make the closing address but Senior Counsel or the leading Junior Counsel must ensure that the barrister making the closing address has been present during a substantial part of the case and has heard the submissions which require a reply.

9.24 If a member of the Bar of England and Wales or the Faculty of Advocates who is a Queen's Counsel or of the Bar of the Republic of Ireland who is a Senior Counsel appears under the provision of the EEC Directive the following rules shall apply:

- i. if the Queen's Counsel or the Senior Counsel appears with a Junior of the Northern Ireland Bar, precedence shall be agreed between them and in default of agreement the Queen's Counsel or the Senior Counsel shall be the leader if he has been called to the Bar before the Junior.

- ii. if a Queen's Counsel of the Northern Ireland Bar is also briefed with a Senior Counsel or Queen's Counsel not of the Northern Ireland Bar, the former shall be the leader regardless of precedence in call.
- iii. where a barrister is instructed to appear as a local lawyer with an EEC lawyer other than a member of the Bar of England and Wales or of the Faculty of Advocates or of the Bar of the Republic of Ireland, the local barrister shall be deemed to be the leader.

9.25 A barrister who is instructed to draw a pleading or other court documents is under a responsibility to the court as well as to the lay client and, accordingly, must not:

- i. make any allegation unsupported by the client.
- ii. make any allegation unsupported by instructions.
- iii. make any allegation of fraud unless expressly instructed to plead fraud and there exists material which establishes a prima facie case of fraud.

9.26 When mentioning settlements and making applications in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court barristers should have regard to the document entitled Etiquette in the Queen's Bench Division issued by the chairman of the Professional Conduct Committee on the 15th December 2004 and which is contained in Appendix 2.

10. RELATIONS BETWEEN BARRISTERS

- 10.1 A barrister must at all times act with due courtesy to colleagues and other persons.
- 10.2 It is the duty of barristers to maintain good relations with each other in order that the interests of their clients may be best advanced and, subject to that, that the interests of their profession may be observed. Personal relationships must in no circumstances interfere either with the interests of their clients or the profession.
- 10.3 Matters of dispute between barristers should not be made public. If a barrister has a complaint against a colleague, it should first be made to that colleague. If no adequate explanation or satisfaction is forthcoming and the complainant wishes that formal procedures be instituted, the complaint should be referred, in the

prescribed form, without delay to the Professional Conduct Committee. The foregoing shall not restrict a complainant from seeking informal guidance from the Committee.

- 10.4 A barrister may not take over a case from another barrister (the original barrister) unless –
- a) there are reasonable grounds for the professional client discharging the original barrister and
 - b) he has personally notified the original barrister (unless there is no reasonable opportunity to do so) that he has been instructed in place of him and thereby gives the original barrister an opportunity to take appropriate steps to recover outstanding fees properly marked.
- 10.5 A barrister should not without the consent of the lay client hand over papers to another barrister for drafting or research unless such other barrister is also instructed in the case or is the barrister's pupil.
- 10.6 A barrister must not enter into a partnership with another barrister, professional client or any other entity or individual and must not provide legal services within Northern Ireland in any capacity or as part of any entity or arrangement other than in his or her capacity as a member of the Bar of Northern Ireland.
- 10.7 A barrister must not enter into a fee sharing arrangement with another barrister, professional client or any other entity or individual.
- 10.8 In contentious matters a barrister may not conduct negotiations with any person other than a barrister save where a solicitor alone has been appointed to represent the opposing party or as set out in Section 10.09. In this connection, attention is also drawn to section 12.05 of this Code.
- 10.9 A barrister may conduct negotiations with an insurance company's representative in circumstances where the insurance company has not retained any legal representation for the purpose of those negotiations. If his client is present, a barrister may only conduct such negotiations if attended by his instructing solicitor

or a member of his instructing solicitor's staff. In conducting such negotiations attention is drawn to section 32.09 and to the "Guidelines for Negotiations with Insurance Company Representatives" contained in Appendix 3.

11. PERSONS FROM WHOM INSTRUCTIONS MAY BE ACCEPTED

11.1 A barrister in independent practice, whether or not acting for a fee, may only act in a professional capacity upon instructions from:

- a) Any lawyer, whether or not from Northern Ireland, who is currently registered with the appropriate governing body in his host state and is not subject to any regulatory restriction in terms of his practice. The lawyer in question should be required to provide evidence that he satisfies these criteria. In receiving such instructions a barrister must still observe Rule 12.06 and also Appendix 4 of the Code of Conduct.
- b) any government legal service or a member of the staff of a government legal service.
- c) a member of a recognised professional body as provided by section 29 of this Code.
- d) an employed barrister including a barrister employed in a Law Centre or Citizens' Advice Bureau.
- e) a person who has been appointed as an Ombudsman and whose office as Ombudsman has been recognised by the Bar Council for the purpose of advising on any point of law, practice or procedure arising in the course of the performance of his duties.

12. RELATIONS BETWEEN BARRISTERS AND PROFESSIONAL CLIENTS

12.1 A barrister must not permit a professional client to limit the barrister's discretion as to how the best interests of the client can be served.

12.2 A barrister must avoid compromising his professional relationship with the professional client by over-familiarity.

- 12.3 A barrister may attend at the office of a professional client in order to consult with witnesses, peruse documents or inspect equipment relevant to the case. When attending at the office the barrister must ensure that his independence is not compromised and must not take instructions or record witness statements.
- 12.4 A barrister may attend at the premises of the lay client providing:
- a) it is necessary to inspect property or equipment for the purpose of giving advice or presenting a case in court;
 - b) it is necessary for the purpose of taking evidence on commission;
 - c) the lay client is severely incapacitated.
- 12.5 It is a serious breach of professional etiquette for a barrister to hold any communication either with a solicitor or the lay client on the opposite side with a view to negotiating a settlement or otherwise except in the following circumstances:
- a) a barrister may hold discussions with the opposing solicitor if the prior consent of the opposing barrister has been given or no barrister has been instructed by the opposing solicitor;
 - b) a barrister may hold discussions with the opposing party if prior consent has been given by the barrister or, where none has been instructed, by the solicitor for the opposing party or by an opposing party who is a litigant acting in person.
- However, it should only be in exceptional circumstances that a barrister should seek the permission of the opposing barrister or solicitor to hold discussions directly with his client and a barrister should be very careful when holding any discussions directly with an opposing party.
- 12.6 Apart from work in the Magistrate's Courts and work in other courts which only involves dealing with uncontentious matters, a barrister should not consult with a lay client or any witness or represent that client in court in the absence of the professional client or a member of the professional client's staff. If the professional client or a member of staff is absent, the barrister should decline to

represent the lay client and the absence of the professional client or the member of staff should be brought to the attention of the court. Where, in exceptional circumstances, in the absence of the professional client or a member of staff the barrister consults with the lay client or represents the lay client in court, the barrister shall forthwith furnish a written memorandum of instruction received during the consultation or the outcome of the hearing to the professional client. Attention is drawn to the “Guidance on Attendance by Solicitors on Counsel” contained in Appendix 4.

13. ACCEPTANCE OF INSTRUCTIONS

- 13.1 Unless in an emergency or exceptional circumstance exist a barrister should refuse to accept instructions which are not comprehensive or properly presented. The barrister should draw the inadequacy of the instructions to the attention of the professional client.
- 13.2 A barrister does not accept instructions merely because they have been delivered with or without a fee. Upon receipt of instructions from a professional client the barrister should promptly inform this client whether he accepts these instructions or declines them. If the barrister accepts the instructions, he should give an estimate of the period of time required in which to do the work and if it becomes apparent that the work cannot be done within the period estimated, he must inform the professional client forthwith.
- 13.3 A barrister is not under an obligation to accept instructions or a brief merely on the ground that he has previously advised or drafted pleadings for another person or appeared on behalf of another person in connection with the same cause or matter.
- 13.4 A barrister must not accept instructions or a brief or a request from or on behalf of a client which seek to limit the ordinary authority or discretion of a barrister in the conduct of court proceedings or which impose an obligation to act in a manner

inconsistent with the provisions of this Code.

- 13.5 Where a barrister has advised or acted for a client in relation to any proceedings he must, before accepting a brief in any other proceedings arising out of the same transaction or circumstances, ensure that there is no actual or apparent conflict of interest.
- 13.6 A barrister holding the position of a Government Minister, Parliamentary Secretary or equivalent may not accept instructions on behalf of or a brief for a client in any case in which any Ministry, Government Department or equivalent or any service administered under the same may be concerned.
- 13.7 If, after a barrister has accepted instructions or a brief on behalf of more than one lay client, there appears to be a conflict of interest, he should not continue to act for any of them.
- 13.8 Even if there is no conflict of interest, a barrister who has accepted instructions or held a brief for a lay client in any proceedings should not appear on an appeal or further stage of the proceedings for another lay client in the same case without obtaining the prior consent of the original lay client.

14. WITHDRAWAL FROM A CASE AND RETURN OF BRIEF OR INSTRUCTIONS

- 14.1 If a barrister is instructed in a civil case which clashes with instructions which have been previously accepted to defend a person charged with a serious criminal offence (which will include all indictable offences whether tried on indictment or summarily), the barrister should normally return the brief in the civil case.
- 14.2 A barrister may withdraw from a case if he is satisfied that:
- a) his instructions have been withdrawn or
 - b) his professional conduct is being impugned and provided that such withdrawal can be achieved without prejudicing the lay client's interests or
 - c) he has been instructed and required to act otherwise than in conformity with the provisions of this Code.
- 14.3 A barrister shall not hand over a brief to another barrister unless the professional

client consents. In these circumstances the other barrister should be given the opportunity to look through the brief and to determine whether there is sufficient time to familiarise himself with the case and to present it properly in court. Should the other barrister decide that there is insufficient time to enable him to prepare the case adequately, he should return the brief to the original barrister.

- 14.4 If a barrister has retained papers for an undue length of time and is required by a professional client to return them, whether or not the work has been done, he must return them forthwith.

15. TOUTING/SOLICITING FOR WORK

- 15.1 A barrister must not solicit work or advertise himself in any way save as is provided for in section 30 of the Code.
- 15.2 A barrister must not entertain professional or lay clients, whether on a regular or occasional basis, so as to solicit or maintain their business.
- 15.3 A barrister shall not give a commission or a present to any person who introduces or provides professional work or accept a present of such value or in such circumstances as may lead to a reasonable inference that his independence may be compromised.
- 15.4 A barrister must not lend money to a professional client for the purpose of financing that client's practice or for any other professional purpose and should not accept money by way of a loan or otherwise from a professional client save as a fee in accordance with the provisions of this Code.
- 15.5 A barrister must not attempt to persuade a lay client to engage a particular professional client for the purpose of obtaining that lay client's work or any other work.
- 15.6 A barrister must not attempt to persuade a lay client to transfer his instructions to another professional client with the intention of representing this lay client.

16. RELATIONS BETWEEN BARRISTER AND LAY CLIENT

- 16.1 If a barrister believes that evidence exists that the professional client has failed to perform his professional duties properly, he should inform the lay client accordingly.
- 16.2 A barrister must avoid compromising his professional relationship with the lay client by over-familiarity or by direct communication with that lay client outside a consultation.
- 16.3 The papers in any brief or instructions delivered to a barrister are the property of the lay client.
- 16.4 A barrister must not, without the consent of the lay client, reveal the contents of a brief or instructions to any person with the exception of his pupil beyond what is necessary for the proper discharge of his duties.
- 16.5 At the conclusion of the case a barrister shall return the papers to the professional client unless that client agrees to their disposal as confidential waste. Negligent loss of papers by a barrister will be deemed to be professional misconduct.
- 16.6 A barrister must not communicate information furnished by or on behalf of the lay client to a third party and must not use such information to the lay client's detriment or to the barrister's own or another client's advantage. This requirement continues even after the relationship between the barrister and the lay client has ceased and after the death of the lay client.
- 16.7 A barrister must not divulge, without the consent of the lay client, confidential information entrusted to him unless:
- a) he is compelled to divulge the same by an Order of the Court or
 - b) the circumstances give rise to a public or statutory duty of disclosure or
 - c) the protection of the barrister's professional interests requires it or
 - d) it is necessary when answering accusations made against the barrister by the lay client.
- 16.8 If a lay client asks a barrister to act on his behalf, the barrister should advise the

lay client to instruct a solicitor. If it is an urgent matter, the barrister may contact the solicitor that the lay client proposes to instruct.

- 16.9 A barrister whose lay client behaves in an offensive manner to him should nevertheless, where time does not allow for the obtaining of alternative representation, continue to act unless the conduct of the lay client to him is of such a nature that the barrister cannot reasonably be expected to do so.
- 16.10 A barrister must not take a formal or signed statement from a prospective witness in any proceedings or be present when such a statement is taken whether or not he is briefed in these proceedings.
- 16.11 A barrister must not discuss a case with any member of a jury panel.

17. LEGAL AID

- 17.1 Where a barrister provides an opinion for submission to the Legal Services Commission it must comprise a full and accurate assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the lay client's case.
- 17.02
- a. A barrister must not in any circumstances be a party to an abuse of the provision of legal aid.
 - b. Where a barrister who represents a plaintiff or defendant concludes that the lay client's claim has no reasonable prospect of success he must inform the Legal Services Commission as soon as possible.
 - c. Where a barrister who represents a plaintiff or defendant decides that his lay client requires his case to be conducted or continued unreasonably the barrister must inform the Legal Services Commission as soon as possible.
- 17.3 If a barrister in any case in which the lay client is legally-aided believes that legal aid has been granted on the basis of false or inaccurate information, he must advise both the professional client and the lay client accordingly and, if no action is taken to remedy the situation, must withdraw from the case.

- 17.4 A barrister must not demand, request or receive a fee from or on behalf of a person who has been granted civil/criminal legal aid.
- 17.5 1. Without prejudice to the provisions of section 20.11 , in any criminal case in which a Certificate for Two Counsel has been granted but the advocates instructed by the lay client's solicitor on foot of that certificate to represent him/her do not in fact consist of both Queen's Counsel and Junior Counsel, any counsel who is instructed has a duty to personally ensure and satisfy himself, before commencing to act upon his instructions, that the lay client has been given clear and unequivocal advice that he is entitled to be represented by both Queen's Counsel and Junior Counsel and has thereupon made an informed decision not to be so represented. If not so satisfied Counsel so instructed must decline to act. A representation to the Counsel by any other person other than the lay client himself that the lay client has been so advised and has made such a decision shall not be deemed to be sufficient proof of that matter for the purposes of this Rule.
2. Counsel so instructed has the further duty of ensuring both upon receipt of his instructions and thereafter on a continuing basis while his instructions continue that any other legal professional who is instructed to appear with him is competent to satisfy and does in fact satisfy and continues to satisfy the requirements for which the Certificate for Two Counsel has been granted.
3. Before commencing to act upon his instructions, Counsel so instructed shall complete a written Certificate (in the form set out at appendix 12 to the Code) that he has been satisfied of the matters at 1 and 2 and copies thereof shall forthwith be provided to the lay client, the instructing solicitor, the other instructed legal professional and a copy lodged with the Court and the Bar Council office for the purposes of auditing compliance with this rule. If at any time after commencing to act and during the continuance of his instructions Counsel so instructed considers that he is no longer satisfied of any of the above

matters it shall be his duty to immediately and in writing so inform the lay client, the instructing solicitor, the other instructed legal professional and the Court.

4. Failure by Counsel so instructed to take all reasonable steps to satisfy and continue to satisfy himself as to each of the matters specified above and to forthwith give any requisite written certificate or notice shall constitute a breach of this Code.

18. DUTIES OF BARRISTERS INSTRUCTED FOR THE DEFENCE IN CRIMINAL CASES

- 18.1 A barrister who is instructed to represent an accused person is and remains under a duty to do so irrespective of any belief or opinion formed as to the guilt or innocence of that person.
- 18.2 A barrister who is instructed to represent an accused person must ensure that his right to a fair trial is protected.
- 18.3 A barrister must not attend an identification parade.
- 18.4 Barristers who are instructed to represent an accused person must be present throughout the trial unless they have the express consent of the professional client and of the accused person.
- 18.5 If, at the conclusion of the opening speech by the prosecuting barrister, the barrister who represents an accused person believes that there is no serious possibility that any of the evidence to be adduced will have any relevance to the charge which has to be met may, with the consent of the professional client and the accused person and having informed the trial judge, absent himself from the trial.
- 18.6 If a barrister is representing more than one accused person and there is a lack of unanimity among them, he should be alert to the possible need for separate representation and should try to hold a separate consultation with each accused person so that each person can be seen to have his undivided attention. This

does not mean that a joint consultation with all the accused persons can not be held. In many cases such a consultation may be desirable.

18.7 In any case where a barrister provides written advice to an accused person he should ensure that the accused person has sufficient opportunity to consider it.

18.8 If at the time of the trial there is a major difference of opinion between a barrister and his professional client as to the conduct of the defence, the barrister should ask the professional client personally to be present immediately before the trial and during the trial until such time as the difference is no longer material.

18.9 A barrister may appear for more than one accused person in a criminal trial providing he is satisfied that there is no conflict of interest.

18.10 If during the course of a trial or prior to sentence being passed the accused person voluntarily absconds and his solicitor withdraws from the case, the barrister must also withdraw. If, for any reason, the solicitor does not withdraw, the barrister retains an absolute discretion as to whether to continue to act having regard to the accused person's right to a fair trial.

If the barrister continues to act, the case should be conducted as if the accused person was still present in court but had decided not to give evidence. In such circumstances, the barrister is free to use any material contained in the brief and may cross-examine witnesses called for the prosecution or call witnesses for the defence.

18.11 Every accused person has the right to decide whether to give evidence in defence of the charge. A barrister must properly and adequately advise him but it is the accused person who must make the decision.

18.12 A barrister who is instructed to represent an accused person is not under a duty to correct any misstatement of fact made by the prosecution. If a court has been informed by the prosecution that the accused person has no previous convictions, the barrister is not under a duty to disclose facts to the contrary which are known

to him or correct any information given by the prosecution if such disclosure or correction would be to the accused person's detriment. The barrister should ensure that he does not lend himself to any assertion that the accused person has no convictions or no more than a limited number of convictions or ask a prosecution witness whether the accused person has any previous convictions in the hope that a negative answer will be given.

- 18.13 If a barrister has been instructed that the accused person is not guilty of the offence charged but has decided not to give evidence, the barrister should present his defence as instructed and, if so instructed, make positive suggestions to witnesses.
- 18.14 Where an accused person confesses to his barrister that he committed the offence with which he is charged, the barrister should have regard to the guidance as set out in Appendix 5 of this Code.
- 18.15 A barrister should advise an accused person about the strengths and weaknesses of the prosecution case. This may include advising an accused person to plead guilty.
- 18.16 Where a barrister advises an accused person to plead guilty he must also explain that such advice should only be accepted where the accused person agrees that the prosecution case is true or substantially true and that such agreement is implied in the plea of guilty. The barrister must ensure that any such plea is entered voluntarily by the accused person.
- 18.17 A barrister who is instructed to represent an accused person must not in a plea of mitigation make any allegation which is merely scandalous or calculated to vilify or insult any person. He should, if possible, avoid the naming in open court of third parties whose character would thereby be impugned and where necessary, names, addresses or other such details should be written down and handed into court.

- 18.18 A barrister who is instructed to represent an accused person who has pleaded guilty is not entitled in mitigation of sentence to allege that any other named person was involved with the accused in the transaction or events out of which the charge arises unless it appears in the trial papers or is otherwise established in evidence before the court.
- 18.19 A barrister who is instructed to represent an accused person should after conviction and/or sentence meet that person and advise, if necessary in writing, whether there are grounds for an appeal. This advice should be given in the presence of the professional client or his representative.
- 18.20 A barrister who is instructed on behalf of the accused person who has been convicted and sentenced must appear for that person in any appeal against conviction or sentence if instructed to do so unless he has advised the accused person that there is no prospect of success on appeal and has advised against the appeal. If the accused person appeals despite the advice given by the barrister, the barrister may withdraw from the case.
- 18.21 A barrister should not withdraw from a criminal case and leave the accused person unrepresented because of the conduct of or anything said by the trial judge unless the accused person has expressly instructed the barrister to withdraw or unless the barrister considers that withdrawal is in the best interests of the accused person.
- 18.22 Where an accused person who is charged with a criminal offence denies committing the offence but, nevertheless, insists on pleading guilty, his barrister should continue to represent him but only after the barrister has advised as to the consequences and that any submission in mitigation will be on the basis that the accused person is guilty.

- 18.23 No discussion between a barrister and the trial judge should take place unless the opposing barrister is present or that barrister has expressly declined an invitation to attend and is willing to allow the discussion to take place in his absence.
- 18.24 The barrister who is instructed on behalf of the accused person and the prosecuting barrister should have regard to the guidance contained in the decision of the Court of Appeal in Attorney General's reference (Number 1 of 2005) in R–v- Rooney and others (2005) NICA 44 when seeking an indication of sentence from the trial judge.
- 18.25 A barrister must not in any part of a trial attribute to another person the crime with which the accused person is charged unless there are facts or circumstances which reasonably suggest the possibility that the crime may have been committed by that person.

19. DUTIES OF THE PROSECUTING BARRISTER IN CRIMINAL CASES

- 19.1 The prosecuting barrister should not seek to achieve a conviction by all means but rather should present the facts to the court fairly and impartially and assist the court on all relevant matters of law.
- 19.2 If the prosecuting barrister becomes aware of information which he believes may assist in the defence of the persons charged, he should ensure that it is disclosed to the defending barrister.
- 19.3 Where the prosecuting barrister has in his possession a statement from a prosecution witness which differs materially from his evidence in court or from any other statement, he should ensure that the said statement is disclosed to the defending barrister.
- 19.4 Where the prosecuting barrister has in his possession relevant statements from persons who he does not intend to call as witnesses, he should decide whether, in accordance with law and practice, these statements should be disclosed to the defence.

- 19.5 Upon receipt of instructions the prosecuting barrister should read them and give appropriate directions expeditiously.
- 19.6 The prosecuting barrister shall only inform the victim of a crime or his family about significant changes in the prosecution case (including acceptance by the prosecution of a plea of guilty to a lesser charge) upon receipt of instructions from the appropriate prosecution service.
- 19.7 If there is only one prosecuting barrister, he should be present throughout the trial unless he has obtained the leave of the trial judge. If two barristers appear for the prosecution, both should be present for all or substantially all of the case.
- 19.8 At the conclusion of the trial judge's summing-up, the prosecuting barrister shall draw the judge's attention to matters of law or fact which the barrister considers ought to be corrected.
- 19.9 In relation to sentencing the prosecuting barrister:
- a) should not attempt by advocacy to influence the trial judge. If, however, a defendant is unrepresented, the prosecuting barrister shall inform the trial judge about any matter which the barrister considers is relevant to mitigation.
 - b) should assist or correct the trial judge in relation to all statutory provisions and authorities which are relevant to the convictions and any guidelines laid down by the Court of Appeal.
 - c) should inform the trial judge about all relevant compensation, forfeiture and restitution matters which arise on foot of the conviction.
 - d) should inform the defendant's barrister about assertions of material facts made on mitigation and which he believes are untrue. If the defendant's barrister persists with any such assertions, the prosecuting barrister should invite the trial judge to resolve the issue and, where appropriate, call evidence.
- 19.10 The prosecuting barrister should read and follow the current Code for Prosecutors issued by the Public Prosecution Service.

20. SENIOR COUNSEL

- 20.1 Queen's Counsel is otherwise known as Senior Counsel.
- 20.2 Senior Counsel may accept instructions to appear in a case without a Junior.
- 20.3 Senior Counsel should decline to appear in a case without a Junior if he believes he would be unable to conduct it properly or the interests of the lay client require that a Junior should also be instructed.
- 20.4 Senior Counsel who has been invited to accept instructions without a Junior in any case in which a Junior has already been instructed should normally consult that Junior before deciding whether to accept the invitation. If Senior Counsel decides to accept the invitation, he should, in any event, notify the Junior of his decision.
- 20.5 In any contentious proceedings or matters Senior Counsel should not settle or draft such documents as are normally settled or drafted by a Junior unless no Junior has been instructed.
- 20.6 In non-contentious proceedings or matters Senior Counsel may settle or draft documents without a Junior but may decline to do so if he believes that the interests of the lay client would be best served by having a Junior carry out this work.
- 20.7 If any question arises under sections 20.03, 20.05 or 20.06 as to whether or not Senior Counsel may decline instructions unless a Junior is also instructed, the question should be referred for determination by the Professional Conduct Committee whose determination shall be binding upon the barrister or barristers concerned.
- 20.8 Junior Counsel should decide, having regard to the amount of money involved and/or the complexity of the case, whether it is in the best interests of the lay client that Senior Counsel should be instructed and at what stage he should be instructed and should inform his professional client accordingly.

- 20.9 In the application of this Code of Conduct to proceedings before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council “Junior” includes any person who is not a Senior Counsel and has a right of audience in the case in question before the Judicial Committee.
- 20.10 Senior Counsel may accept instructions to appear without a Junior at the taking of evidence abroad.
- 20.11 In criminal cases in which a legal aid certificate for 2 Counsel has been granted, 1 of the 2 advocates in the case should be a Senior Counsel. Except as provided for in Rule 17.5, the second advocate should be a Junior Counsel. Where, exceptionally, a Senior Counsel is unavailable, it is permissible for a Junior to lead. This Junior should be experienced and be of not less than 15 years standing. Before commencing to act upon his instructions as the lead Counsel in such a case, Junior Counsel so instructed shall satisfy himself that all reasonable steps have been taken to instruct Senior Counsel and that Senior Counsel is not available to deal with the case and that the lay client has been informed of all relevant matters and is agreeable to experienced Junior Counsel acting as lead Counsel in the case, and if so satisfied, Junior Counsel shall complete a written Certificate to this effect (in the form set out at Appendix 12 to the Code) and copies of the Certificate shall be provided to the lay client, the instructing solicitor, the other instructed legal professional advocate instructed in the case and a copy lodged with the Court. Failure by Junior Counsel so instructed to take all reasonable steps to satisfy himself as to each of the matters specified above and to forthwith give any requisite written certificate or notice shall constitute a breach of this code. Counsel so instructed shall lodge a copy of completed Certificates with the Court and the Bar Council Office for the purposes of auditing compliance with this rule. A Junior who is called within the Bar during the hearing of any civil proceedings should continue to act at the original fee appropriate for a Junior.

20.12 A Junior who is called within the Bar during the hearing of any criminal proceedings should continue in the case, including any subsequent appeal, at the original fee for a Junior.

20.13 Senior Counsel may appear in court outside the United Kingdom with or without a Junior.

21. RETAINERS

21.1 Where a barrister is instructed to draft a writ or defence or other documents initiating or responding to the proceedings or any pleading or affidavit or to provide advice or to appear in any interlocutory application, he shall be retained to represent that lay client throughout the proceedings and in any negotiations unless the barrister has been given express notice to the contrary by the professional client whereupon he is not precluded from representing any other party in the proceedings unless a conflict of interest arises.

For the purposes of this section of the Code “proceedings” includes any action, suit or appeal in any court or tribunal but an appeal to another court or tribunal or any bankruptcy matters or criminal case which arises from the proceedings shall be deemed to be separate proceedings.

21.2 A retainer is the retainer of the lay client. A retainer can only be delivered by a professional client.

21.3 A barrister must not have a retainer to do or enter into any agreement to do all the work, whether advisory or contentious, emanating from a professional client’s office but may have a retainer to do all the work of lay clients in which case the barrister must, however, require payment of a separate fee for each piece of work done.

21.4 Unless reasonable grounds exist for withdrawing a retainer another barrister shall not accept instructions in respect of the same work.

- 21.5 A barrister who is so retained is entitled to a brief on any occasion on which a barrister is usually briefed in such proceedings except that a Senior Counsel shall not be entitled to a brief on any occasion on which it usual to instruct a Junior only.
- 21.6 A special retainer should not be given or accepted until after the commencement of the proceedings to which it relates.
- 21.7 A barrister who has accepted a special retainer is entitled to a brief in any case in which a barrister is briefed in proceedings to which a special retainer applies save that a special retainer does not entitle Senior Counsel to a brief on any occasion on which it is usual to instruct a Junior only.
- 21.8 When a barrister has held a brief for a lay client in any proceedings he shall not accept a special retainer or a brief upon an appeal from any decision in such proceedings for another lay client without giving the original lay client the opportunity of retaining him.

22. ORDER 25

- 22.1 A barrister should not draft any document comprising medical evidence within the meaning of Order 25 of the Rules of the Court of Judicature of Northern Ireland 1980.
- 22.2 A barrister may, however, direct the alteration of the contents of a medical report or statement of evidence within the following guidelines:
- a) a barrister should not advise in relation to the contents of the medical report or a Statement of Evidence so as to lead to the alteration of the meaning or effect of the stated medical opinion as to the findings on examination or diagnosis, prognosis or conclusion of the medical report.
 - b) a barrister should not direct the re-drafting of the medical report. If a medical report is considered unsuitable for disclosure in its existing form and requires alterations, those alterations should be directed to be contained in a Statement of Evidence.

- c) subject to (a) and (b) above a barrister should not direct alterations in a medical report to be contained in a Statement of Evidence or alteration in a Statement of Evidence except to direct:
- (i) the deletion of matters relating to incidents other than the subject matter of the action or the history of the subject incident or unnecessary comments or opinions upon non-medical matters or general comments which are not essential to the expression of medical opinion.
 - (ii) the addition, to be contained in a Statement of Evidence, of such matters as incorporate the expression of medical opinion contained in the medical report or any supplementary report of the medical report.
- d) a barrister may direct disclosure to be made by way of a Statement of Evidence even if it is not intended to make any alteration to the contents of the medical report.

23. SENIORITY

- 23.1 Save in the case of the Attorney General and the Solicitor General, who take precedence over all other members of the Bar in the Court of Judicature of Northern Ireland, Senior Counsel seniority is determined by the date of call within the Bar. When two or more Senior Counsel are called within the Bar on the same occasion, seniority is determined by the date of their call to the Bar.
- 23.2 The order of precedence for Junior Counsel takes account not only of the date of call to the Bar but also the order of call and any subsequent prolonged periods of absence from practice in Northern Ireland.
- 23.3 Seniority at the Bar has no relevance to the order in which cases are either heard or listed for hearing in the courts, but Senior Counsel have a right of pre-audience in the Motion Court or where several matters are listed in the Chancery Court.

24. DRESS OF BARRISTERS

- 24.1 Robes must be worn by barrister in independent practice in the High Court and in the Court of Appeal at all times other than during the long vacation when robes are

not worn except:

- a) in criminal trials and matters.
- b) on the trial of an action including a contested matrimonial cause.
- c) on a bail motion.

24.2 Robes must be worn at all times by barristers in independent practice in the Supreme Court, the Crown Court, the County Court, the Masters' Court and at a Court Martial but robes are not worn in most tribunals including the Lands Tribunal or in the Magistrates' Courts.

24.3 If in doubt as to the correct dress, a member should consult the Clerk of the Court or Tribunal or the Chairman or a member of the Professional Conduct Committee.

24.4 In addition to a wig and gown a barrister in independent practice attending a court at which robing is obligatory should wear, in the case of a male Junior Counsel, a dark suit, white shirt, collar, neck band and black shoes and, in the case of a female Junior Counsel, a dark suit or similar apparel, white blouse, collar, neck band and black shoes. The wig should be straight and not worn at an angle.

24.5 A barrister has a discretion as to the type of clothing worn outside the courtroom save that the profession expects that while acting as a barrister or in the precincts of the Royal Courts of Justice and in the Old Bar Library, New Bar Library and the Inn of Court during working hours he will dress in a dignified manner.

24.6 Attention is drawn to Practice Direction (4 of 2006) dated 11th May 2006 and the Memorandum 11th December 2006 on Wigs & Gowns issued on behalf of the Bar Council in Appendix 6.

25. PUPILLAGE

25.1 Save where the Benchers otherwise expressly provide every person intending to practise at the Bar must enter into pupillage with a barrister in independent practice of not less than seven years' standing for a period of twelve months.

25.2 A person who has entered into pupillage should not accept instructions as a barrister or conduct any case until a period of six months' pupillage has been

completed to the satisfaction of the Education Committee save that a pupil who has completed to the satisfaction of the Education Committee not less than three months' pupillage may conduct on behalf of or at the request of his Master a case or part of a case before a Master of the Court of Judicature of Northern Ireland.

25.3 During pupillage and at all times thereafter the pupil must preserve the confidentiality of the affairs of all clients. Attention is drawn to sections 16.04, 16.06, 16.07 and rule 14 of the Honourable Society of the Inn of Court.

25.4 The general obligations and functions of a pupil Master are as follows:

- a) to ensure that the pupil is well grounded in the rules of conduct and etiquette of the Bar.
- b) to require the pupil to read papers and draft pleadings and other documents, including preparing opinions and require the pupil to accompany the pupil Master to court on sufficient occasions so that the pupil has the opportunity to do all such work and gain all such experience as is appropriate for a person commencing practice in all types of work done by the pupil Master.
- c) to require the pupil to attend sufficient consultations to enable the pupil to gain experience on how to conduct a consultation.
- d) in the second six months of the pupillage to take direct interest in the work the pupil does alone and, in particular, in relation to court appearances by the pupil and to give assistance before the pupil goes into court and to give the opportunity for discussion afterwards.
- e) in the second six months of the pupillage to take reasonable steps to ensure that the pupil does not carry out extensive extraneous work to the detriment of his pupillage.
- f) if it is proper to do so and at the proper time, to provide the certificate of satisfactory completion of the pupillage.

25.5 Attention is drawn to the Bar of Northern Ireland Pupillage Guidelines June 2002 in Appendix 7.

26. LIBRARY FACILITIES

- 26.1 The Circulation Rules as agreed by and revised from time to time by the Library Committee govern the loan periods, issue and return, reservation and fine procedures relating to hard copy library materials. See Appendix 8.
- 26.2 Access details to online information that is provided as a benefit of membership of the Bar Library must be retained securely and must not be disclosed or caused or permitted to be disclosed to any other person or organisation.
- 26.3 The House Rules as agreed by and revised from time to time by the Library Committee govern general conduct within the new Bar Library and the old Bar Library. See Appendix 9.
- 26.4 Save as provided for in House Rules all modern forms of office technology may be used in all working rooms of the Libraries provided that the use of the same does not cause significant annoyance and nuisance.
- 26.5 A barrister should not give a gratuity to any member of the library staff except through the funds of the Inn.
- 26.6 Smoking is prohibited in all areas of the Libraries.
- 26.7 Possession or the use of illegal drugs/substances in any part of the libraries will constitute professional misconduct.

27. COURT AND COURT ETIQUETTE

- 27.1 There is no objection to a member of the Bar of England and Wales or the Faculty of Advocates of Scotland appearing either in an arbitration or in a Court Martial held in Northern Ireland or to members of the Northern Ireland Bar appearing in such proceedings.
- 27.2 Whilst not prohibited, it is undesirable that a barrister should appear for or before a near relative in any case tried without a jury where there is only one judge and there is no appeal on a question of fact from the decision.
- 27.3 Junior Counsel when appearing in court should, where possible, sit in the seats assigned to them but should, wherever seated, stand at the Bar to address the

court.

- 27.4 It is regarded as good professional practice for all barristers appearing in all courts to ensure that before the case in which they are to appear is called the Registrar or Clerk is aware of their names and also of the party or parties they represent.

28. EMPLOYED BARRISTERS

- 28.1 A barrister may supply legal services as an employed barrister provided that:
- a) the barrister is qualified to practise and
 - b) the barrister has notified the Bar Council of the name, address, telephone number and the nature of the business of the employer and of any change in the same and
 - c) the barrister has, unless exempted by the Executive Council, paid to the Executive Council at such time or times as it shall have become due the subscription currently payable by an employed barrister of the barrister's seniority as prescribed from time to time by the Executive Council and
 - d) the barrister does not supply legal services to the public or a section of the public and
 - e) the firm or company which employs the barrister is not wholly or in part a device whereby the barrister, with or without others, is intending directly or indirectly to supply legal services to the public or a section of the public.
 - f) the barrister has current certification.
- 28.2 Subject to section 28.03 and 28.04 an employed barrister may appear on behalf of the barrister's employer in any court in circumstances where barristers in independent practice do not have an exclusive right of audience in such court and shall not be required by any rule of professional conduct or etiquette to be instructed by a solicitor.
- 28.3 An employed barrister may only act in pursuance of section 28.02 if that barrister:
- a) has completed a period of first six months' pupillage and is serving the remainder of his pupillage or

- b) has completed twelve months' pupillage or
- c) became an employed barrister before the 1st January 1991 and has been an employed barrister for a period or periods amounting to not less than five years or
- d) has obtained the consent of the Bar Council.

28.4 An employed barrister may not supply legal services of any kind to a person including a fellow employee other than that barrister's employer except as follows:

- a) a barrister in the government legal service may act on behalf of those Ministers or Officers of the Crown or organizations or public officers or servants for whom the government legal service customarily acts.
- b) a barrister employed by a trade association may give advice of a general nature to individual members of the association and may act for the association in matters affecting the members of the association as a whole or a class of those members but may not act on the instructions of any one or more members of the association as distinct from the instructions of the association itself.
- c) a barrister employed in a Law Centre or in a Citizens' Advice Bureau.
- d) a barrister giving advice on legal matters free to a friend or relative or on a charitable basis.

References to the supply of legal services do not include lecturing, teaching or the writing of legal textbooks or of legal articles in newspapers or journals.

29. DIRECT PROFESSIONAL ACCESS RULES

29.1 Subject to these rules a barrister in independent practice may accept instructions from a member of a "recognised professional body" without the intervention of a solicitor in any matter of a kind which falls generally within the professional expertise of the members of the recognised professional body.

29.2 A professional body shall only be recognised for the purposes of these rules when

it has been approved as a “recognised professional body” by the Bar Council.

29.3 In deciding whether to grant such recognition the Bar Council must have regard to whether the body satisfies each of the following criteria:

- a) its members provide skilled and specialist services.
- b) its affairs and the conduct of its members are regulated by a written constitution which among other matters:
 - i. provides for admission to membership of persons who have satisfied, by examination, specified high standards of general and professional education and
 - ii. make unethical or dishonourable conduct by a member a disciplinary offence and has an effective enforcement procedure for breach of its disciplinary rules.
- c) its members are likely to have a significant requirement to retain the service of a barrister for the benefit of their clients or employers.
- d) those of its members intending to instruct a barrister directly under these rules will be subject to a mandatory obligation to have adequate professional negligence indemnity insurance.

29.4 A barrister under these rules shall be entitled to accept direct instructions only from a member of a “recognised professional body” which must be identified at the time of giving instruction. Such a member may be a director, partner, member or employee of a company, firm or other body giving instructions in that capacity.

29.5 A barrister is not under an obligation to accept instructions direct from a member of a recognised professional body.

29.6 A barrister shall not accept any instructions under these rules unless the Bar Council and its Professional Negligence Indemnity Insurer has been informed that the barrister intends to accept “direct professional access” instructions and has satisfied the Bar Council that there has been compliance with the relevant professional indemnity insurance obligations and the appropriate insurance

premium has been paid.

29.7 A barrister may not accept instructions under these rules:

- a) to receive or handle clients' money.
- b) to do substantial administrative work not normally performed by a barrister in independent practice in Northern Ireland.
- c) to do inter-partes work (e.g. the conduct of correspondence with an opposing party) of a kind not normally performed by a barrister in independent practice in Northern Ireland.
- d) to appear in the Judicial Committee of the House of Lords, the Privy Council, the Supreme Court, the Crown Court or a County Court.
- e) in a case in which at any stage the barrister considers it to be in the interests of the lay client that a solicitor should be instructed.

29.8 In this section the word "instructions" shall include "a brief".

29.9 Save as in these rules otherwise provided, the other provisions of this Code of Conduct shall apply to instructions received and accepted under these rules.

29.10 In these rules a Council or other body established by Act of Parliament and required by that Act to maintain a register of persons entitled to practise as members of the profession to which the Act relates shall be deemed to be a recognised professional body and any person so registered shall be deemed to be a member of that recognised professional body.

30. ADVERTISING

30.1 There shall be established an Advertising Standards Committee of the Bar Council nominated for that purpose in order to regulate advertising under this section and consider complaints received from any individual or body relating to the content of any advertising or promotional material published or distributed by a barrister in independent practice in Northern Ireland or a registered European lawyer registered by the Executive Council or a qualified European lawyer temporarily registered with the Executive Council.

30.2 Subject to section 30.03, a barrister in independent practice or a registered European lawyer registered by the Executive Council or a qualified European lawyer temporarily registered with the Executive Council may engage in any form of advertising or promotion in connection with that barrister's or registered lawyer's practice which conforms to the British Code of Advertising Practice (and, in the case of extra-jurisdictional work, conforms to any further requirements binding on that barrister under the rules of any national or local Bar). Such advertising or promotion may include:

- a) photographs or other illustrations of the barrister or registered lawyer;
- b) statements about the nature and extent of the barrister's or registered lawyer's services;
- c) with that client's express written consent, the name of any professional or lay client.

30.3 Advertising or promotion must not:

- a) be inaccurate or likely to mislead;
- b) be likely to diminish public confidence in the legal profession or the administration of justice or otherwise bring the legal profession into disrepute;
- c) make comparisons with or criticisms of any other barrister(s) or member of any other profession;
- d) include statements about the quality of the barrister's or registered lawyer's work, the size or success of his practice or his success rate;
- e) indicate or imply any willingness to accept a brief or instructions or any intention to restrict the persons from whom a brief or instructions may be accepted otherwise than in accordance with this Code;
- f) be so frequent or obtrusive as to cause annoyance to those to whom it is directed.

30.4 For the avoidance of doubt, a barrister or registered lawyer shall be allowed to publish or distribute any advertising or promotional material without the prior approval of the Advertising Standards Committee. However, the barrister or registered lawyer, prior to publication or distribution, may furnish any advertising or promotional material to the Advertising Committee for an opinion on whether the advertising or promotional material is compliant with the Advertising Code. Any such opinion expressed by the Advertising

Committee shall not be binding upon the barrister or registered lawyer who may publish or distribute the advertising or promotional material regardless of the opinion expressed by the Committee but the publication or distribution of the advertising or promotional material without regard for the opinion expressed by the Committee shall be a matter which can be taken into account in any disciplinary proceedings subsequently commenced against the barrister or registered lawyer arising out of a breach of the Code.

30.5 Following the publication or distribution of any new or materially altered advertising or promotional material, the barrister or registered lawyer may notify the Advertising Committee of the publication or distribution and may provide Committee with copy of same or a link to same if the same consists of online advertising or promotion. Such notification is not mandatory but is encouraged in order to demonstrate a willingness to promote the maintenance of high standards in the legal profession and to ensure the maintenance of public confidence in the legal profession.

30.6 Upon receipt of any such notification and material from a barrister or registered lawyer, the Advertising Committee will be entitled to scrutinise the advertising or promotional material in order to ascertain whether it complies with the Code and shall do so if the Committee receives any complaint about advertising or promotional material, irrespective of whether or not voluntary post publication notification has occurred.

30.7 If, having scrutinised the advertising or promotional material provided and/or having considered any complaint made in respect of any advertising or promotional material published or distributed by a barrister or registered lawyer, the Advertising Committee is of the opinion that a breach of Code has occurred, it shall forthwith notify the barrister or registered lawyer in writing to this effect and shall set out the reasons for its opinion.

30.8 Following the receipt of any such opinion, the barrister or registered lawyer shall have to the right to make written and/or oral representations to the Committee.

30.9 If, following consideration of the representations of the barrister or registered lawyer in question, the Committee is satisfied that there has been a breach of the Code, the Committee shall notify the barrister or registered lawyer in writing to this effect and shall set

out the reasons for its decision. Copies of the said notification shall also be provided to the Bar Council and to any person or body who made a complaint to the Committee about the said advertising or promotional material. The Committee will have the power to require the barrister or registered lawyer to withdraw entirely and/or amend the advertising or promotional material that is found to be in breach of the Code. The Committee may also refer the matter to the Professional Conduct Committee so that the manner may be investigated by means of a disciplinary investigation.

30.10 If the barrister or registered lawyer in question is dissatisfied with the decision of the Advertising Committee, he has a right to appeal to the Bar Council who shall consider the matter afresh including any additional written and/or oral submissions the barrister or registered lawyer wishes to make and shall come to a determination on whether a breach of the Code has occurred.

30.11 Notice of Appeal must be lodged with the Bar Council within 7 days of the barrister or registered lawyer receiving the determination of the Advertising Committee. The lodging of a Notice of Appeal shall have the effect of placing in abeyance any referral of the matter by the Advertising Committee to the Professional Conduct Committee until the outcome of the appeal is determined.

30.12 If, on appeal, the Bar Council is satisfied that a breach of the Code has occurred, it will have the power to require the barrister or registered lawyer to withdraw and/or amend the advertising or promotional material in any material respect. The Bar Council may also refer the matter to the Professional Conduct Committee so that the manner may be investigated by means of a disciplinary Investigation. If the Bar Council, on appeal, does not consider that there has been a breach of the Advertising Code, or that even though there has been a breach of the Code, the breach is not such as to warrant a referral to the Professional Conduct Committee, it shall make this determination and any earlier decision of the Advertising Committee to refer the matter to the Professional Conduct Committee shall no longer have any effect.

30.13 Unless a Notice of Appeal is lodged within the stipulated time limit, failure to comply

with any direction of the Advertising Committee in relation to the withdrawal and/or amendment of any advertising or promotional material will constitute a disciplinary offence.

30.14 Failure to comply with any direction given the Bar Council on appeal in relation to the withdrawal and/or amendment of any advertising or promotional material will constitute a disciplinary offence.

30.15 For the avoidance of doubt the powers of the Professional Conduct Committee upon a referral from the Advertising Committee or the Bar Council under this section shall include the power

(a) to require the Barrister found to be in breach of the Code to publish at his own expense a retraction or correction of similar prominence and frequency to the original offending advertising or promotional material; and

(b) to impose a financial penalty as deemed appropriate by the Professional Conduct Committee.

30.16 In the event that any liability to any third party is incurred by the Bar Council arising out of any advertising or promotional material published by a barrister in independent practice in Northern Ireland or a registered European lawyer registered by the Executive Council or a qualified European lawyer temporarily registered with the Executive Council, the Bar Council shall be entitled to be indemnified by the barrister or registered lawyer to the full extent of that liability.

31. PUBLISHING AND BROADCASTING

31.1 Subject to section 16 a barrister may not write for publication, broadcast by radio or television, publish in a book or film, or otherwise cause or permit to be published any particulars of any case or matter on which that barrister is currently engaged whilst that case or matter is ongoing.

31.2 Only the Chairman of the Bar Council or a person authorised by the Chairman may write or speak on behalf of the Bar.

32. FEES AND REMUNERATION

32.1 A barrister is entitled to take into account, when marking or nominating any fee, all features of the instructions which bear upon the commitment which is thereby undertaken including:

- a) the complexity of the issues or subject matter;
- b) the length and venue of any trial or hearing;
- c) the amount or value of any claim or subject matter in issue;
- d) the time within which the work is required to be undertaken and
- e) any other special feature of the case.

It is improper for a barrister to mark an excessive fee. A substantial reduction on taxation of the fee marked may be deemed to be prima facie evidence of professional misconduct.

No provision of this code or any previous code would prevent a barrister from charging a fee for any work undertaken by him on any basis or by any method he considers appropriate or from competing with other barristers in respect of the level of fee provided that such basis or method:-

- (a) is permitted by law; and
- (b) does not involve the payment of a wage or salary; and
- (c) does not compromise his independence.

32.2 It is improper for a barrister to charge a brief fee in respect of a proceeding if the barrister has not been present for any substantial part of the hearing unless notice has been given to the professional client not later than the day before the hearing that the barrister would or might not be able to be present for any substantial part of the hearing and notwithstanding such notification the professional client expressly agrees to the barrister retaining the brief.

32.3 Refreshers are essentially fees for work done in court and it is improper for a

barrister to mark a refresher fee unless present in court for a substantial part of the hearing on the relevant day.

- 32.4 Where a barrister has been paid fees in advance and has died before the work for which payment has been made is completed the Bar Council will arrange for another barrister to complete the work without further fee instead of any part of the said fee being refunded.
- 32.5 It is improper for a barrister to accept any fee less than that marked on the brief and a barrister who is a Member of Parliament or a member of a Local Authority may not do professional work for a constituent without charging a proper fee.
- 32.6 It is improper for a barrister to accept a fee directly from a lay client.
- 32.7 On a Civil Bill brief any fee for the barrister in excess of the relevant scale fee must be arranged in advance and agreed by the lay client.
- 32.8 If a brief, not being one where the barrister's fee is fixed by Rules of Court, is not marked with a fee when delivered to the barrister, it is left to the discretion of the barrister to mark the appropriate fee.
- 32.9 It is a proper and established practice for a barrister to charge a suitable negotiation fee for negotiations conducted and resulting in a settlement of the case at a time when trial briefs have not been delivered.
- 32.10 A barrister whose request to a solicitor for payment of outstanding fees has not been met should refer the matter to the secretary of the Bar Council. The secretary will then:
- a) Encourage the barrister, if they have not already done so, to engage the Fees Collection Service available within the Bar Library to write to the solicitor giving the name of the barrister who has sought payment and to ask for payment or a comment in relation to the outstanding amount.
 - b) The Fees Collection Service will, through the actions above, try and ascertain the cause of non-payment. If the cause is related to a dispute over the sum being billed then a suggestion can be made to have the level of fees referred to the Bar

Council's Fees Complaints Committee with the parties being bound to accept their determination.

c) If no reply is received, or the amount remains outstanding after the efforts of the Fees Collection Service the secretary will send a copy of all correspondence associated with the barrister's written request for payment to the Professional Conduct section of the Law Society of Northern Ireland and make the following points on behalf of the Bar Council :

- That the Bar Council understand that solicitors are personally liable as a matter of professional conduct for the payment of Counsels' proper fees. (If the matter is legally aided, then Counsel will initially seek verification from the LSA as to the status of any payment before commencing action).
- That the above rule applies whether or not the solicitors have been placed in funds by their client unless there has been some alternative agreement between the solicitor and Counsel as to the manner in which Counsel's fees will be paid.
- That the solicitor (or the client) has the right to challenge the amount of Counsel's fees but any challenge must be made promptly.
- That the Bar Council intend to advise the barrister that the non-payment of Counsel's fees is a matter which should be referred to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal as a complaint of 'professional misconduct or of other conduct tending to bring the solicitors' profession into disrepute' (art. 44(1)(e)(1) of the Solicitors (NI) Order 1976 (as amended)).
- That the Bar Council is aware that one of the powers of the Tribunal is to order 'such restitution or satisfaction to any aggrieved party as [it] thinks fit' art.51 (1) (of the 1976 Order)
- That the Bar Council would like to avoid a reference to the Tribunal if at all possible and would like the Law Society to advise by reply if there are alternative options to resolve the matter. If however no such resolution is possible then the barrister will be advised that the matter can be referred in one of two ways - namely

a complaint to the Law Society's Professional Conduct Committee or a direct complaint by Counsel the Tribunal.

e) The Bar Council will be appraised of the situation and consideration will be given to any further action that might be pursued in relation to either the individual solicitor or the Law Society. Such action may include providing a warning or instruction to fellow barristers regarding the receipt of any instructions from this solicitor and steps that should be taken to reduce the risk of non-payment from them.

33. OVERSEAS PRACTICE RULES

33.1 A barrister may act on the instructions of a lawyer as defined in paragraph 11.01(a). For the avoidance of doubt this will allow the barrister to act on instructions from a lawyer from outside of Northern Ireland without the intervention of a Northern Irish solicitor. Instructions from a lawyer outside of Northern Ireland shall be defined as “foreign work”. A barrister is permitted to refuse to accept instructions for “foreign work” for any reason but once having accepted instructions should comply fully with Rule 13.

33.2 The barrister should ensure that in the case of foreign work the lawyer has made adequate arrangements for the discharge of such administrative and other functions as are normally discharged in relation to such work by a solicitor and, if necessary, the barrister shall ensure that the lawyer shall procure the services of a Northern Irish solicitor to act as agent in relation to the proceedings

33.3 A barrister may accept instructions directly from a lay client;

a) for professional work relating to matters essentially arising, taking place or contemplated outside the United Kingdom and which is to be substantially performed outside the United Kingdom or

b) for professional work:

- i. whether or not to be performed in the United Kingdom, for the purpose of or in connection with litigation or arbitration or other proceedings outside the United Kingdom which does not involve the performance in Northern Ireland of excepted work as defined in the section 33.05 hereof or
- ii. which consists of giving advice incidental and subsidiary to work falling within section 33.03 hereof.

33.4 Nothing in these rules shall enable a barrister in independent practice to:

- i. receive or handle lay clients' money or
- ii. accept the status of an employee or of a commercial agent or of a business agent.

33.5 "Excepted Work" means:

- a) substantial administrative work not normally performed by a barrister in independent practice in Northern Ireland.
- b) inter-partes work (e.g. the conduct of correspondence with an opposite party) of a kind not normally performed by a barrister in independent practice in Northern Ireland.

33.6 A member of the Bar of Northern Ireland appearing in court as a barrister outside the jurisdiction of the courts of the United Kingdom shall observe the Rules of Professional Conduct of the host Bar without prejudice to the barrister's obligations as a member of the Bar of Northern Ireland. When appearing in a foreign court the barrister shall wear such professional dress as would be worn in a court of equivalent jurisdiction in Northern Ireland.

33.7 A member of the Bar of Northern Ireland providing legal services as a barrister outside Northern Ireland shall remain subject to this Code of Conduct save as is provided in section 33.08 and shall also observe, so far as is appropriate, the Code of Conduct of the place where the legal services are being provided whether the barrister is practising there as an established lawyer or is providing occasional

services.

33.8 Any failure to comply with the rules of the host Bar, whether or not such rules are applicable to the conduct of a member of the Bar pursuant to section 33.08 or 33.09 hereof may constitute a breach of this Code of Conduct.

33.9 Nothing in these rules shall permit a barrister to undertake work outside Northern Ireland which, if performed inside Northern Ireland, would involve an infringement of any other provision of this Code of Conduct.

34. APPLICATION OF THIS CODE TO EMPLOYED BARRISTERS, FORMER BARRISTERS , AND THOSE PREVIOUSLY REFERRED TO AS NON-PRACTISING BARRISTERS

34.1 In its application to employed barristers this Code shall apply mutatis mutandis as it applies to barristers in independent practice but with the substitution:

- a) of references to the relevant employer for references to the professional client or the lay client;
- b) of references to the directions received in whatever form from the relevant employer for references to a brief or instructions.

34.2 The provisions of the Constitution and Bye-laws of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland relating to Disciplinary and Professional Conduct Committees apply to all barristers including employed , Former barristers or non-practising barristers.

34.3 With effect from the commencement date of this Code of Conduct anyone previously referred to as non-practising barrister is now to be automatically re-categorised as a Former Barrister and is subject to the requirements placed upon this category of barrister as outlined in 3.2 and 3.3. Any such barrister may not, without the permission of the Bar Council, act in any capacity whereby directly or indirectly legal services are supplied to the public or to a section of the public save insofar as is permitted by the rules in force in the country where being resident the barrister so acts.

34.4 Lecturing, teaching and the writing or editing of legal textbooks and of articles in

legal journals shall not, for the purposes of this section, be considered the supply of legal services to the public.

- 34.5 Any question as to the applicability of this Code of Conduct to employed, former or non- practising barristers should be referred, in the first instance, to the Professional Conduct Committee of the Bar Council.

35. EUROPEAN LAWYERS

- 35.1 A Code of Conduct for European Lawyers was originally adopted at the The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) plenary session held on the 28th October 1988, and subsequently amended during the CCBE plenary sessions on 28th November 1998, 6th December 2002 and 19th May 2006. The Code includes an Explanatory Memorandum which was up-dated during the CCBE plenary session on 19th May 2006. This Code of Conduct is referred to in Appendix 10.
- 35.2 The CCBE also adopted the Charter of Core Principles of the European Legal Profession at the plenary session in Brussels on 24th November 2006. The Charter is not conceived as a Code of Conduct. The Charter contains a list of ten core principles common to the national and international rules regulating the legal profession. The Charter is referred to in Appendix 11.

EQUALITY CODE FOR THE BAR

1. BAR COUNCIL EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY STATEMENT

The Bar Council will promote equality of opportunity in supporting members of the Bar and those seeking pupillage. The aim is to create an environment in which people treat each other with mutual respect, irrespective of age, disability, marital or civil partnership status, political opinion, race, religious belief (to include similar philosophical belief), sex, pregnancy and maternity, gender reassignment or sexual orientation. The Bar Council will monitor the effectiveness of its policy and the achievement of its objectives.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT

2.1 Paragraph 5.4 of the Code of Conduct of the Bar of Northern Ireland states that:

A barrister must not unlawfully discriminate against any person nor treat any person, (including a lay client, professional client, pupil, those seeking pupillage or a fellow barrister) less favourably on the grounds of age, disability, marital or civil partnership status, political opinion, race, religious belief (to include similar philosophical belief), sex, pregnancy and maternity, gender reassignment or sexual orientation than he or she would treat any other person in circumstances which are the same or not materially different.

2.2 In determining whether a barrister has been in breach of the duty specified in (2.1) above regard shall be had to the Equality Code for the Bar reproduced in Appendix 1 of the Code of Conduct.

2.3 Failure to comply with Para 5.4 above may render the barrister liable to being charged with breach of professional etiquette or professional misconduct which may be referred for investigation by the Professional Conduct Committee (Paras 8.1 & 8.5). In addition to internal disciplinary sanctions, a barrister who unlawfully discriminates against any person may face proceedings as a respondent in a Tribunal claim or a defendant in a county court claim.

2.4 This rule affects all those with whom barristers come into contact in the course of their work, including the staff of the Bar Library.

3. STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

3.1 SEX

Article 30(1) of the Sex Discrimination (NI) Order 1976 prohibits

discrimination and harassment on grounds of sex in the provision of goods, facilities or services which are available to the public or a section of the public – this includes refusal of a service or the provision of a lower standard of service;

3.2 30 (1) It is unlawful for any person concerned with the provision (for payment or not) of goods, facilities or services to the public or a section of the public to discriminate against a woman who seeks to obtain or use those goods, facilities or services—

(a) by refusing or deliberately omitting to provide her with any of them, or

(b) by refusing or deliberately omitting to provide her with goods, facilities or services of the like quality, in the like manner and on the like terms as are normal in his case in relation to male members of the public or (where she belongs to a section of the public) to male

members of that section.

(2) The following are examples of the facilities and services mentioned in paragraph (1)—

.....

(g) the services of any profession or trade, or any local or other public authority.

(2A) It is unlawful in connection with the provision of goods, facilities or services to the public or a section of the public (except in so far as they relate to an excluded matter) for any person to subject to harassment—

(a) A woman who seeks to obtain or use those goods, facilities or services, or

(b) A woman to whom he provides those goods, facilities or services.]

3.3 Art 4 -The provisions of Parts III and IV relating to sex discrimination against women, are to be read as applying equally to the treatment of men,

3.4 Article 40 of the Sex Discrimination (N.I.) Order 1976 provides that:

“It is unlawful for a person -

(a) Who has authority over another person, or

(b) In accordance with those wishes that other person is accustomed to act.

To instruct him to do any which is unlawful by virtue of part III or IV, or procure or attempt to procure the doing by him of any such act.

4. RACE

4.1 Similar provisions operate in relation to racial discrimination under the Race Relations (N.I.) Order 1997 which prohibits discrimination on racial grounds (colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origins) including membership of the Irish Travelling Community.

4.2 In addition Article 26 of the 1997 Order provides:-

26.—(1) It is unlawful for a barrister, in relation to taking any person as his

pupil, to discriminate against a person—

(a) In the arrangements which he makes for the purpose of determining whom he will take as his pupil;

(b) In respect of any terms on which he offers to take any person as his pupil;
or

(c) By refusing, or deliberately omitting, to take a person as his pupil.

(2) It is unlawful for a barrister, in relation to a person who is a pupil, to discriminate against him—

(a) In respect of any terms applicable to him as a pupil;

(b) In the opportunities for training, or gaining experience, which are afforded or denied to him;

(c) In the benefits, facilities or services which are afforded or denied to him;
or

(d) By terminating the relationship or by subjecting him to any pressure to terminate the relationship or other detriment.

(3) It is unlawful for any person, in relation to the giving, withholding or acceptance of instructions to a barrister, to discriminate against any person [F1 or to subject any person to harassment].

(3A) it is unlawful for a barrister to subject to harassment a person who is, or has applied to be, his pupil.]

(4) In this Article “pupil” has the meaning commonly associated with its use in the context of a person training as a barrister.

5. RELIGIOUS BELIEF/ POLITICAL OPINION

5.1An equivalent statutory provision exists in Art 28 of the Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998 which relates to the provision of Goods, Facilities and Services. Art 32 relates to the prohibition of discriminatory

conduct by barristers in the treatment of pupils and of those seeking pupillage.

6. DISABILITY

6.1 The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 also makes it unlawful for barristers to discriminate against pupils or those seeking pupillage who are disabled. A specific duty to make “reasonable adjustments” is set out in Section 7B.

6.2 Section 7B Barristers: duty to make adjustments

(1)Where –

(A) A provision, criterion or practice applied by or on behalf of a barrister, or

(b) Any physical feature of premises occupied by, and under the control of, a barrister, places the disabled person concerned at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with persons who are not disabled, it is the duty of the barrister to take such steps as it is reasonable, in all the circumstances of the case, for him to have to take in order to prevent the provision, criterion or practice, or feature, having that effect.

(2)In this section, “the disabled person concerned” means –

(a)in the case of a provision, criterion or practice for determining whom he will take as his pupil, any disabled person who has applied, or has notified the barrister that he may apply, to be taken as a pupil;

(b) In any other case, a disabled person who is –

(i) an applicant to be taken as the barrister’s pupil, or

(ii) a pupil.

(3)Nothing in this section imposes any duty on a barrister in relation to a disabled person if he does not know, and could not reasonably be expected to know –

(a)in the case of an applicant or potential applicant, that the disabled person

concerned is, or may be, applying to be taken as his pupil; or

(b) in any case, that that person has a disability and is likely to be affected in the way mentioned in subsection (1).

7. AGE

7.1 Regulation 17 of The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations (NI) 2006

prohibits discrimination on grounds of age by barristers in respect of pupils or those seeking pupillage in similar terms to the foregoing.

7.2 There is no similar prohibition on the provision of goods, facilities and services on grounds of age*

*Amending legislation is expected to provide this protection.

8. SEXUAL ORIENTATION

8.1 Sexual orientation discrimination is discrimination against people because they either have, or are perceived to have, a particular sexual orientation. It is unlawful to discriminate against people because they are homosexual (gay, lesbian), bisexual or heterosexual (straight). The law also covers individuals who are treated less favourably than others based on incorrect assumptions about their sexual orientation and individuals who are treated less favourably because they are associated with people of a particular sexual orientation

8.2 The Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (NI) 2003 Reg 15 prohibits discrimination by barristers in respect of pupils or those seeking pupillage in similar terms to the foregoing.

8.3 The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (NI) 2006 outlaw discrimination and harassment on grounds of sexual orientation in the provision of goods, facilities or services which are available to the public or a section of the public – this includes refusal of a service or the provision of a lower standard of service.

9. DEFINITIONS

Discriminatory treatment within the Code of Conduct may be direct or indirect and includes harassment, victimisation, and failure to make reasonable adjustments for disabled persons..

9.1 Direct discrimination occurs where one person is treated less favourably than another was or would be treated in the same or similar circumstances because of a particular characteristic identified in the anti-discrimination legislation. The treatment may be intentional, unconscious, unintended or deliberate but may nevertheless be unlawful if it results in detrimental treatment. Some examples of situations in which it may arise include;

- Stereotyping where assumptions are made about different groups of barristers based on stereo types about their capabilities, characteristics, personalities and motivation rather than on the individual performance of the barrister.
- Allocation of work - where the distribution of work is influenced by assumptions about the type of work that should be undertaken by a particular group there is likely to be discrimination. Barristers should seek to ensure that in so far as they have the right to distribute work, or influence its distribution, they do so without reference to such assumptions.
- “Over Protection” - where there is an attempt to protect groups from certain areas of work perceived to be unsuitable or potentially unpleasant there is likely to be discrimination even if no harm is intended because the effect is to reduce the range of opportunities available to those groups.
- Discrimination on grounds of family status - where assumptions are made that because a person, almost always a woman, is married or has children she is somehow less able to cope with the demands of work. In particular

discrimination on the grounds of pregnancy/maternity has been identified as one of the most common problems facing women.

- Acceptance of Pupils - Barristers who are approached to accept pupils should consider the request without reference to or consideration of the age, race, ethnic or national origin, sex, family status, sexual orientation, disability, religious belief or political opinion of the person seeking pupillage.

9.2 Indirect discrimination occurs where an apparently neutral provision, criterion or practice

- a) disadvantages a particular group and
- b) disadvantages the complainant and
- c) where the provision, criterion or practice is not a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

An example of a potentially indirectly discriminatory practice could be holding compulsory advocacy training sessions at times which a particular group of members may find it difficult to attend when the sessions could be held at another time which would not make it difficult for any group to attend.

10. Harassment and Victimisation.

Discriminatory acts also include harassment and victimisation.

10.1 Harassment

This is unwelcome behaviour which may reasonably be considered to have the effect on the complainant of violating the complainant's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive working environment. It is a form of direct discrimination on any of the protected characteristics, of age, disability, marital or civil partnership status, political opinion, race, religious belief, sex (including gender reassignment) or sexual

orientation. A person may be harassed because of their association with a person with a protected characteristic. The fact that one person may be able to ignore or deal comfortably with a certain action does not mean that this same behaviour may not be unacceptable harassment if directed at another.

10.2 Examples of harassment include:

- Physical conduct ranging from touching to serious assault
- Verbal and written harassment through jokes, racist, sexist or sectarian remarks, homophobic comments, comments about a person's disability, offensive language, gossip and slander, sectarian songs, mobile telephone ring tones, threats, letters, emails
- Visual displays of posters, computer screen savers, downloaded images, graffiti, obscene gestures, flags, bunting or emblems, or any other offensive material
- Isolation or non-co-operation at work, exclusion from social activities
- Coercion, including pressure for sexual favours, pressure to participate in political or religious groups
- Pestering, spying, following or other intrusive behaviour.

11. Victimisation occurs where a person is treated less favourably because he or she has brought proceedings under the anti-discrimination legislation, given evidence or information relating to proceedings or has alleged that unlawful discrimination has occurred (or is suspected of intending to do any of the above). This protection extends not just to any person who raises such an issue but also to any person who gives information or otherwise does anything in relation to the issue which is raised.

12. Duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled persons.

Discrimination occurs under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 when a

barrister fails to comply with a duty imposed on him/ her to make 'reasonable adjustments' in relation to a disabled person who is a pupil or seeking pupillage . The duty to make reasonable adjustments arises where a provision, criterion or practice applied by or on behalf of the barrister, or any physical feature of premises under the control of the barrister places a disabled person at a substantial disadvantage compared with people who are not disabled. A barrister has to take such steps as it is reasonable for him /her to have to take in all the circumstances to prevent that disadvantage - in other words the barrister has to make a “reasonable adjustment”. Failure to make a reasonable adjustment cannot be justified, the barrister only has a duty to make an adjustment if he/she knows, or could reasonably be expected to know, that pupil/ applicant for pupillage has a disability and is likely to be placed at a substantial disadvantage. The barrister must, however, do all he/she can reasonably be expected to do to find out whether this is the case.

13. COMPLAINTS

13.1 There are formal procedures for handling complaints of discrimination, harassment and victimisation which are in breach of the Equality Code.

13.2 Under the Code of Conduct of the Bar discrimination may render a barrister liable to being charged with breach of professional etiquette or professional misconduct and render a barrister liable to disciplinary proceedings. The Professional Conduct Committee of the Bar investigates all cases arising from complaints of professional misconduct, the provision of professional service or behaviour. (The Professional Conduct Committee is established as a committee of the Bar Council by Regulation 27 of the Constitution and its proceedings are governed by the Bar Council Byelaws on Proceedings of the Professional Conduct Committee).

13.3 An investigation by the Professional Conduct Committee, which is chaired by

the Vice Chairman of the Bar Council in private, may result in:

- a) A determination that a prima facie case exists and professional misconduct has been proved and that the offender be admonished. The Committee will consider whether the complaint shall be dealt with by the Committee, referred to a Summary Panel or a Disciplinary Panel.
- b) A determination that the complaint requires informal treatment and the offender be given appropriate advice
- c) A determination that the possibility of conciliation is explored.
- d) A determination that no action be taken.

13.4 Where the Committee or the Summary Panel determine that a disciplinary offence has been proved it may exercise one of the following powers;

- a) Order an apology
- b) Impose a fine of up to £1,000
- c) Admonishment, reprimand, censure
- d) Advise the barrister as to his/ her conduct, service or behaviour
- e) Order payment of costs of the investigation and any disciplinary proceedings.

13.5 A Disciplinary Committee is nominated by the Executive Council of the Inn of Court and it also sits in private and is usually chaired by a High Court Judge.

(Disciplinary Committees are established by Regulation 13 of the Constitution and the procedures are governed by Byelaw 22 of the Byelaws of the Executive Council).

13.6 A Disciplinary Committee which finds a barrister guilty of an offence has the powers specified in Byelaw 22 (k) which include the power to impose a fine or suspension or expulsion from membership of the Bar Library and may recommend to the Benchers that the barrister be disbarred or suspended from practice.

Etiquette in the Queen's Bench Division

Mentioning settlements and making applications

The appropriate procedure

1. The initial cover in the Queen's Bench Division almost invariably takes place at 10.15 a.m. but any junior counsel who is involved in a case must ensure that he/she ascertains the time from the daily list.
2. At this callover, and at any further callover (see below) it is essential that each party to the proceedings is represented by counsel. The court will not accept any settlement unless each party is represented in court at the announcement of the settlement.
3. Prior to the Judge coming into court an appearance form should have been properly completed by Junior counsel – with the name of the case and the names of all counsel – and handed to the Registrar. This is particularly important if the Judge does not know counsel by name. The proper completion of this form is the responsibility of counsel for the plaintiff.
4. When the Judge comes into court all counsel should stand. When the Judge bows junior counsel should not bow in response.
5. At the first callover the case is called as “Going on”, “Settled” or “Application” – normally by the plaintiff's counsel. No terms of settlement are to be mentioned at this stage, nor appearances given, unless the Judge specifically requests it.
6. Normally the Registrar will then call out in turn the title of the settled cases followed by the title of those in which it has been indicated that there is to be an

application.

7. Settlements should be announced and applications made from the bar of the court. It is wrong to try to mention a settlement from the second row behind the bar. If there are no seats in the front row behind the bar (i.e. junior counsels' seats) counsel should move to the gap between the seats and go forward to the bar (where there is a swing door) before announcing his/her appearance.
8. At the second callover a settled action is announced as follows:
 - a. The plaintiff's counsel stands up and announces his/her appearance in the following terms: "*May it please your lordship, my lord, I appear for the plaintiff with my learned friend Mr/Ms Jones*". He/she then sits down.
 - b. The defendant's counsel then stands up and announces his/her appearance "*May it please your lordship, my lord, I appear for the plaintiff with my learned friend Mr/Ms Jones*". He/she then sits down.
 - c. If there are several defendants in the action, counsel for each defendant (e.g. 'first-named defendant' or 'second-named defendant') he/she appears, until the appearances in respect of all defendants have been announced.
 - d. Each counsel should ensure that the Judge has had time to write down the previous counsel's appearances before he/she starts to speak.
 - e. If there is only one defendant, the plaintiff's counsel then stands again and says "*My lord the action is settled for £20,000 damages and costs to be taxed in default of agreement. There are no complications and a 3 week stay is agreeable*". (A 3 week stay means that the defendant has 3 weeks in which to pay the plaintiff's damages. It is normal stay in High Court. Complications, dealt

with below, arise in cases where the plaintiff is legally aided, where there is a lodgement, fatal cases and cases where there are minors or other persons in respect of whom any settlement requires the approval of the court).

- f. If there are several defendants it is for the plaintiff's counsel to be in possession of the information as to which defendant/s is/are paying the plaintiff's damages and which, if any, are to have judgement against the plaintiff. Where there are several defendants of whom one or more is not contributing to the settlement each non-contributing defendant normally (although the circumstances of each case are different) takes judgement against the plaintiff, *with no order as to costs*. This means that the non-contributing defendant is paying its own costs of the action; the plaintiff is not paying its costs. An example in a case where there are three defendants is as follows – with the plaintiff's counsel speaking –

“My Lord, the action is settled. The plaintiff is to have judgement against the first and second named defendants for £20,000 damages and costs to be taxed in default of agreement. The third-named defendant is to have judgement against the plaintiff with no order as to costs. There are no complications and a 3 week stay is agreeable”.

- g. In an example such as in (f) above, it is for counsel who appears for the relevant paying defendants to know whether it is necessary to ask the Judge to make an order as between the paying defendants, and sometimes the Judge will ask whether he is to make any such order. In example above it may be that the first-named defendant is paying 25% of the plaintiff's damages and costs. Usually, the defendants do not require the

Judge to make any order, but if one is required, counsel for one of those defendants should ask the Judge to make an order reflecting the appointment.

- h. There are occasions when there are third parties in the action. The plaintiff normally has no knowledge of what arrangement has been arrived at between a defendant and the third party which that defendant has joined into the action. In such circumstances, it is for counsel appearing for the relevant defendant to explain the position to the Judge. This is done after the plaintiff's counsel has announced the terms of the settlement as between the plaintiff and the defendant/s. The relevant defendant's counsel will announce to the court something along the following lines (assuming, for these examples, that he/she appears for the second-named defendant) –

“My lord the second-named defendant is to have judgement against the Third Party for £x and its costs of the third party proceedings” or “My Lord the second-named defendant is to have judgement against the Third Party for 50% of the plaintiff's damages and 50% of the plaintiff's costs and its costs of the third party proceedings” or “My Lord no order is required in the third party proceedings”

- i. There are occasions when, as a result of the arrangements between a defendant and a third party, both indicate to the plaintiff's counsel that the third party is to be joined as a further defendant in the action. In such circumstances, after the appearances for all the parties have been announced, counsel for the plaintiff (prior to telling the Judge the

settlement terms) should say “*My Lord would your lordship by consent make an order adding the third party to the action as the second-named defendant*” and then proceed to give the agreed terms of settlement.

- j. If for some reason it is not possible to give all the terms of the settlement to the court or if the parties prefer not to announce the terms of the settlement in open court, the case will normally be “stayed on terms endorsed”. If an action is stayed on terms endorsed it should be announced as follows:

“My Lord, the action has been settled on terms endorsed on counsels’ briefs. Would your Lordship, by consent, stay the action upon those terms and give the parties liberty to apply? Would your Lordship also make an order for taxation of the plaintiff’s costs in default of agreement (and/or in a legally aided case) order taxation of the plaintiff’s costs under the second schedule”.

In cases which are stayed on terms endorsed, it is important for the plaintiff’s counsel to ensure that he/she asks for an order that the plaintiff’s costs be taxed in default of agreement. This is because the Taxing Master requires a court order before he will entertain an application to tax the plaintiff’s costs. Failure to ask for such an order will cause considerable delay in the taxation process, as the plaintiff’s solicitor will have the case listed again for the court to make the order for taxation.

- k. Where an action is settled on terms endorsed on counsel’s brief the terms should be drawn up and signed before the settlement is announced. The Judge is not entitled to see the terms. The relief sought is that the action

be stayed.

The complications

9. If a solicitor for any defendant has made a lodgement in the case, the solicitor on both sides should be in possession of a copy of the lodgement docket, the document on which the lodgement is recorded. It will not be in the Judge's papers. When settlement in such a case is announced, the lodgement docket is handed up by the plaintiff's Solicitors to the Registrar and the plaintiff's counsel says:

“My Lord there is a lodgement of £5000. Would your Lordship order that the lodgement be paid out to the plaintiff's solicitors and allow a 3 week stay on the balance? Would your Lordship order the interest to be paid out to the defendant's solicitors?”

10. If the plaintiff has Legal Aid for the proceedings, legal aid taxation is required. The plaintiff's counsel will say:

“My Lord the plaintiff is an assisted person. Would your Lordship order taxation of the plaintiff's costs under the second schedule?”

[The second schedule is a reference to the schedule in the Legal Aid, Advice and Assistance (Northern Ireland) 1981 Order, pursuant to which costs are taxed by the Taxing Master]

11. Fatal cases require to have the damages apportioned between the Fatal Accidents (N.I) Order 1977 (the dependants) and the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (N.I) 1937 (the estate). If there are minor dependant children the settlement requires Court approval.
12. Any proposed settlement in a case in which the plaintiff is a minor requires the approval of the Judge in those circumstances at the callover when the case is first called counsel for the plaintiff should say “*My Lord that case is settled subject to the court’s approval*”. That case will then be assigned to a Judge at the end of the callover.
13. The same procedure applies where the plaintiff is, for whatever reason, a person under a disability.
14. Following the approval by the court of any settlement (which is done by the plaintiff’s counsel while the court is sitting “in chambers” – i.e. in the absence of members of the public and of the opposing counsel) the case will be called again at the next callover. Counsel for the defendant and any other party must attend at that callover to give his/her appearance.

Common Errors

15. Attempting to announce the whole settlement at the first callover or giving your opponent’s appearance.
16. It is unacceptable for counsel to tell the Judge that he/she is mentioning the settlement on behalf of another counsel, as an explanation or excuse for being unable to deal with a query raised by the Judge. If counsel is unable to answer the Judge’s query, counsel should ask the Judge for the appropriate time to permit him/her to ascertain the information. It may be true that counsel is mentioning the case for a colleague but the counsel who mentions the case must

assume responsibility for the settlement – the Judge is not interested in the fact that another counsel is actually instructed for the party in the case.

17. Telling the court that you are instructed by Smith and Jones Solicitors. While this is then normal way of announcing an appearance in a criminal case, it is not appropriate in the High Court. In a civil action the court has the appearance of the solicitor on a document in the court papers.
18. Telling the court that you are appearing with Mr/Mrs Smith Q.C. Your appearance should be “*with my learned friend Mr/Mrs Smith*”. It is not correct to add “QC” or “Senior counsel” or the like.
19. Telling the court the first name of senior counsel, unless there are two or more members of the senior bar with the same surname. In the same vein if counsel is referring to any other counsel by name, the first name of that counsel should never be given, unless there are two or more counsel at the Bar with the same surname.
20. Telling the court that a case is settled for “£20,000 *plus the CRU*”. The Court is no interested in the CRU as a concept. You should know what the CRY figure is and if a case is settled for say £20,000 plus CRU of £501.99 and costs the settlement is announced as settled “*for £20,501.99 damages and costs*”. If the CRU figure is not known at the time that the settlement is announced it may be appropriate to have the case stayed on terms endorsed on counsels’ briefs. If there is a CRU repayment but no special damage in the case it is acceptable to tell the court that the action is settled for £20,000 general damages. The general damages are “ring-fenced” and it follows that the defendant will still have to pay the CRU.

21. Failing to mention the costs. In the County Court they do not require to be mentioned because they follow as a matter of course but in the High Court the Judge's order will mention them.
22. In cases where the damages are £15,000 or less the court requires to know the level at which costs are agreed to be paid. This will usually be "*High Court costs*" or "*County Court costs with High Court outlay, to include 2 counsels*".
23. Where an application is made to take out an action not in the day's list a different form is required to be completed, normally by the counsel moving the application. In this form appearances are given and the grounds of the application are required to be set out. The form is handed to the Registrar before the Judge comes into court. These applications are heard at the end of the settlements and after the Judge has heard any applications to take cases out of the day's list. It is acceptable to give your opponent's appearance after your own and it is appropriate to indicate whether the application is opposed or by consent. The Judge's name is written on the form as "Smith J" or, if a Lord Justice is taking the callover as "Brown LJ".
24. The correct response to the Judge's ruling on any matter is "*As your Lordship pleases*", whether you like the ruling or not.
25. It is not acceptable to refer to a solicitor (who may be appearing against counsel in an application) as "*My friend*" or "*My learned friend*". Only counsel are referred to in such a way. The solicitor should be referred to by counsel as "Mr Smith" or "Ms Jones" etc.
26. Junior counsel should address the Judge from the bar court and not from anywhere other than that. The first two rows of seating behind the bar of the court are the reserved benches for junior counsel (solicitors should not sit there). It is acceptable to address the court from the first of these rows, but not from the

second row. If counsel is sitting in the second row and is required to address the judge, he/she should move from the second row to the bar of the court in the centre between the rows. Further, it is unacceptable for junior counsel, in the addressing the court, to move beyond the bar into the area in front of the bar which is for senior counsel and solicitors only.

Further callovers

27. During the course of the day, any action not settled will be reviewed by the Judge periodically at further callovers. These may be every half hour or so. It is the duty of junior counsel to be aware of the times of each of these callovers and to attend each.
28. At each of these callovers counsel should be aware of the state of the readiness of the case in which he/she is involved and should be prepared if asked, to advise the Judge (who is trying to obtain relevant information so that he can allocate cases to other judges) as to whether the case is ready to start, if not, when it will be ready to start: the reason why it is not ready to start, and whether there are any meaningful negotiations which might lead to settlement.
29. It is unacceptable for counsel not to be in attendance at these further callovers.

County Court Appeals and Appeals from a Master

30. Counsel in these appeals should announce his/her appearance as being *“for the Plaintiff/ Appellant”* or *“for the Defendant/ Appellant”* or *“for the Plaintiff/ Respondent”* or *“for the Defendant/ Respondent”*, whichever is appropriate.

31. The announcement of a settlement in a County Court appeal is different from the announcement of a settlement of a High Court action because there is in existence a County Court decree. The result of the negotiations on the appeal must either be that the order of the County Court is affirmed or varied.
32. For example, if at the County Court the Plaintiff's Civil Bill was dismissed but, on the Plaintiff's appeal, the Plaintiff is to receive damages for £3,500, the appropriate way of announcing this is to say:

“Would your lordship by consent allow the appeal and vary the Order of the County Court by entering a decree for the Plaintiff for £3,500.”

If at the County Court the Plaintiff was awarded £10,000 but on the Defendant's appeal the Plaintiff is to receive £7,500 counsel should say:

“Would your lordship by consent allow the appeal and vary the Order of the County Court by entering a decree for the sum of £7,500.”

If, at the County Court the Plaintiff received £10,000 and, on the Defendant's appeal, the Plaintiff is still to receive £10,000 counsel should say:

“Would your lordship by consent dismiss the appeal and affirm the Order of the County Court”.

33. Whatever be the result of the appeal, the issue of costs will have to be explained to the Judge. For example, a successful party may be getting the costs of the County Court hearing and of the appeal (*“costs above and below”*); or may be getting

only the costs of the appeal (*"costs of the appeal only"*). There are several possibilities and counsel announcing the appeal know what order is being sought following the settlement of the appeal.

34. The settlement of any appeal from a Master as from the County Court, means that an existing order has either to be varied or affirmed. Similarly, the Judge will expect to be told what order is required in relation to costs both before the Master and in High Court.

Court dress

35. All counsel are reminded of paragraph 22.04 of the Code of Conduct for the Bar of Northern Ireland which is in the following terms –

“In addition to wig and gown, it is mandatory for a barrister in independent practice attending a Court at which robing is obligatory to wear, in the case of a male junior counsel a dark suit, waistcoat, white shirt, collar, neckband and black shoes and in the case of a female junior counsel a dark suit or similar apparel, white blouse, collar, neckband and black shoes.

The wig should be straight and not worn at an angle”.

36. It is not acceptable for male counsel to appear without a waistcoat unless the jacket is double breasted. If a single breasted jacket is worn, counsel should wear a waistcoat.

37. Far less is it acceptable to leave a jacket unbuttoned when counsel is not wearing a waistcoat.

Generally

38. The purpose of announcing a settlement in the Queen's Bench Division is to ensure that a court order can be drawn up. It is therefore imperative that each callover is attended by at least one counsel for each party and that the correct information is provided to the Judge when the settlement is announced so that the actual terms of settlement of the case reflecting what has been agreed between counsel, are properly recorded. This information includes whether or not the Plaintiff is legally aided and, therefore, whether the necessary order for taxation is required.
39. It is the duty of counsel involved in the case to ensure that this is done. This means not only the counsel who actually appears for the party in the case, but also any counsel who is asked by him/her to announce the settlement.
40. Accordingly, the original counsel has a duty to ensure that if he/she asks a colleague to mention a settlement, that other counsel is provided with all the necessary information. Likewise, the counsel who is asked to mention the settlement must ensure that he/she is provided with the necessary information. If counsel asked to mention a settlement by a colleague is not satisfied that he/she had been given all the necessary information, he/she should decline to mention the settlement for the colleague.
41. Unless senior counsel specifically indicates that he/she intends to be present to announce a settlement or that he/she intends to be present at any callover, it is the duty of junior counsel to attend to this Junior counsel must always assume

that they will be required to do so and should ensure that they are in possession of the relevant information.

Noelle McGreenera QC,

Chairperson of the Professional Conduct Committee.

15th December 2004.

GUIDELINES FOR NEGOTIATION WITH INSURANCE COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES

- (1) It is still to be regarded as the preferable practice in negotiations that such negotiations be carried out with a legal representative retained on behalf of the Defendant.
 - (2) If Counsel has been retained on behalf of the Defendant then Counsel for the Plaintiff should carry out negotiations with that Counsel unless Counsel confirms he has not been retained for the purposes of those negotiations.
 - (3) It is not appropriate for Counsel on behalf of the Plaintiff to negotiate directly with an insurance company's representative where there have been previous negotiations either with Counsel or solicitor representing the Defendant and those negotiations have been unsuccessful.
 - (4) It is not appropriate to negotiate directly with an insurance company's representative where a solicitor has been engaged on behalf of the Defendant unless it has been clearly confirmed that the solicitor has a limited engagement. Counsel negotiating with an insurance company's representative in those circumstances has an obligation to ensure through his own instructing solicitor that the solicitor, who has been retained by the insurance company, has confirmed that he/she has only a limited retainer which does not include authority to enter into negotiations.
 - (5) Negotiations should be carried out preferably on a face-to-face basis, not through correspondence, emails or by telephone communication directly with insurance representatives.
 - (6) Face to face negotiations with an insurance company's representative should take
- F:\2015 Code of Conduct\Appendix 3 Guidelines for negot with insur companies.doc

place within the precincts of a Court or the Bar Library. It is not appropriate to have such negotiations in a solicitor's office except where there are compelling or special reasons such as disability which make it difficult for the client to attend at Court or the Bar Library. Negotiations should never take place in an insurance company's premises.

- (7) A memo should be kept of all discussions or communications with an insurance representative and should be provided to his or her instructing solicitor as soon as reasonably practicable.

10.5 A barrister should not without the consent of the lay client hand over papers to another barrister for drafting or research unless such other barrister is also instructed in the case or is the barrister's pupil.

10.6 A barrister must not enter into a partnership with another barrister.

10.7 A barrister must not enter into a fee-sharing arrangement with another barrister or with a professional client.

10.8 In contentious matters a barrister may not conduct negotiations with any person other than barrister save where a solicitor alone has been appointed to represent the opposing party or as set out in Section 10.09. In this connection, attention is also drawn to Section 12.05 of this Code.

10.9 A barrister may conduct negotiations with an insurance company's representative in circumstances where the insurance company has not retained any legal representation for the purpose of those negotiations. If his client is present, a barrister may only conduct such negotiations if attended by his instructing solicitor or a member of his instructing solicitor's staff. In conducting such negotiations attention is drawn to Section 32.09 and to the "*Guidelines for Negotiations with Insurance Company Representatives*" contained in Appendix 3.



UPDATED GUIDANCE ON ATTENDANCE BY SOLICITORS ON COUNSEL

1. The Professional Conduct Committee of the Bar continues to have concerns about solicitors not attending counsel. The following advice is issued for the guidance of all members.
2. The starting point is Rule 12.06 of the Code of Conduct which states:

Apart from work in the Magistrate's Courts and work in other courts which only involves dealing with uncontentious matters, a barrister should not consult with a lay client or any witness or represent that client in court in the absence of the professional client or a member of the professional client's staff. If the professional client or a member of staff is absent, the barrister should decline to represent the lay client and the absence of the professional client or the member of staff should be brought to the attention of the court. Where, in exceptional circumstances, in the absence of the professional client or a member of staff the barrister consults with the lay client or represents the lay client in court, the barrister shall forthwith furnish a written memorandum of instruction received during the consultation or the outcome of the hearing to the professional client. Attention is drawn to the "Guidance on Attendance by Solicitors on Counsel" contained in Appendix 4.

3. As Members can see from the wording of this rule it is only in exceptional circumstances that a Barrister should consult with a lay client or represent the lay client in Court when not attended by a Solicitor or a member of the Solicitor's staff. It is the view of the Professional Conduct Committee that a Barrister should never undertake a substantive hearing without being so attended.

4. Normally a barrister should not consult with a client, or represent a client in court, unless the instructing person or member of that person's staff is present. This is standard practice in other than the magistrates' courts, and a barrister should have no compunction in so advising a solicitor who ignores the practice.

5. The presence of the solicitor ensures that there is less room for dispute about what has actually happened during a consultation or in court. A significant part of the work of the Professional Conduct Committee continues to be taken up with investigating allegations made against barristers by clients when solicitors have not been present. The absence of the solicitor leaves barristers more vulnerable to allegations about their attitude, lack of preparation, poor presentation of the case etc.

6. It had been previously indicated by a Judge that he would not insist on a solicitor attending providing that counsel is attended by someone from the solicitor's firm. That is in accordance with the Rule which refers to the staff of the solicitor. However, even in that situation, a barrister should have no reservation in advising the solicitor that the person attending him/her should have some knowledge of the case so that the attendance of the person concerned is meaningful.

04/06/2015

GUIDANCE APPLICABLE WHEN A CLIENT CONFESSES

1. Where a person charged with a criminal offence confesses to the defence barrister the following points should be borne in mind:
 - a) That every punishable crime is a breach of common or statute law committed by a person of sound mind and understanding;
 - b) That the issue in a criminal trial is always whether the accused is guilty of the offence charged and not whether he is innocent;
 - c) That the burden of proof rests on the prosecution.
2. The mere fact that a person who is charged with a criminal offence has confessed to the barrister is not itself a bar to that barrister appearing or continuing to appear in his defence nor does such a confession release the barrister from his duty to represent the accused to the fullest possible extent.
3. A confession by an accused person to the barrister limits that barrister's presentation of the defence. He should not assert that which he knows to be a lie. He must not connive at or substantiate a fraud.
4. While it would be proper to raise objections and concerns as to the competency of the court, due process, Human Rights issues, the form of the indictment, the admissibility of any evidence or the evidence admitted, it would be improper in such circumstances to suggest that some other person had committed the offence or to call evidence which the barrister knows to be false having regard to the confession, e.g., evidence in support of an alibi, which is intended to show that the accused could not have committed the act with which he is charged. The barrister must not (whether by calling the accused as a witness or otherwise) set up an affirmation case inconsistent with the confession made to him.
5. With regard to challenging the evidence presented by the prosecution either by cross-examination or in his speech to the court, the barrister is entitled to test the

evidence given by each individual witness and to argue that the evidence taken as a whole is insufficient to amount to proof that the accused person is guilty of the offence but he must not go any further than this.

6. This guidance is based on the assumption that the accused has made a clear confession that he did commit the offence with which he is charged and does not profess to deal with the very difficult questions which may arise when a series of inconsistent statements are made to the barrister by the accused before or during the proceedings. Nor does it deal with the questions which may arise where statements are made by the accused which point almost irresistibly to the conclusion that the accused is guilty but does not amount to a clear confession. Statements of this kind hamper the defence but questions arising on them are not dealt with here. They can only be answered after careful consideration of the actual circumstances of the particular case.

PRACTICE DIRECTION

4 of 2006

**WEARING OF WIGS AND GOWNS IN THE FAMILY DIVISION AND
FAMILY CARE CENTRES**

As from 5 September 2006 barristers appearing in proceedings in the Family Division and family care centres under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction will not be required to wear wigs or gowns unless, by reason of the exceptional nature of the case, the judge in charge of the proceedings otherwise directs. In view of the nature of these proceedings, members of the Bar are encouraged not to wear wigs and gowns. Judges will not robe unless, exceptionally, the nature of the proceedings requires them to do so.

Dated this 11th day of May 2006

Brian Kerr

Lord Chief Justice



MEMORANDUM

TO All Members of the Bar

FROM Ms Noelle McGreenera QC – Chairperson

DATE 11 December 2006

1. Members will be aware that Practice Direction 4/2006 issued by the Lord Chief Justice on 11th May 2006 became effective from 5th September 2006. The Practice Direction makes clear that the judiciary in proceedings in the Family Division and Family Care Centres under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction will no longer robe save in exceptional circumstances.
2. The Practice Direction provides that barristers will not be required to wear wigs or gowns unless, by reason of the exceptional nature of the case, the judge in charge of the proceedings otherwise directs. It encourages members of the Bar not to wear wigs and gowns in view of the nature of these proceedings.
3. When children are giving evidence, physically present in court, or participating in the hearing by way of video-link in proceedings in the Family Division and the Family Care Centre it will not be appropriate for members to wear wigs

and gowns.

4. The Bar Council also endorses the agreed convention in respect of court dress for directions hearings or reviews in proceedings in the Family Division and Family Care Centres under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and commends to members that robes should not be worn on such occasions.
5. Barristers have a responsibility, when dealing with any vulnerable witness, to ensure that those facing unfamiliar court procedures are put as much at ease as possible. For the avoidance of doubt the removal of wigs and gowns in the context of this guidance note will not be regarded by the Bar Council as inconsistent with the provisions of Rule 22 of the Code of Conduct.
6. The Bar Council remains committed to the wearing of a barrister's robes as a significant and tangible symbol of the unique role of the barrister in court proceedings and will support the wearing of wigs and gowns by members. It is the view of the Council that the fact that a Judge is not robed does not make it inappropriate for a barrister to robe.

Noelle McGreener QC

Chairperson

BAR OF NORTHERN IRELAND

PUPILLAGE GUIDELINES

**The Education Committee
of
The Inn of Court of
Northern Ireland**

June 2015

PUPILLAGE GUIDELINES

The aim of these guidelines is to provide pupils with information as to what they should expect to gain from pupillage, to enhance their confidence in coping with the first stage of their professional lives, to help improve standards and to achieve greater consistency between the experience of one pupil and another whilst interfering as little as possible with what must vary for each individual. The aim is further to put pupillage on a less ad hoc basis without being overly prescriptive, as the nature of the practices of Pupil Masters will vary widely.

Rule 25 of the Code of Conduct for the Bar of Northern Ireland provides as follows:-

“ 25 Pupillage

- 25.1 Save where the Benchers otherwise expressly provide, every person intending to practise at the Bar must enter into pupillage with a barrister in independent practice of not less than seven years' standing for a period of 12 months.
- 25.2 A person who has entered into pupillage should not accept instructions as a barrister or conduct any case until a period of 6 months pupillage has been completed, to the satisfaction of the Education Committee save that a pupil who has completed to the satisfaction of the Education Committee not less than 3 months pupillage may conduct on behalf of or at the request of his Master a case or part of a case before a Master of the Court of Judicature of Northern Ireland.
- 25.3 During pupillage and at all times thereafter the pupil must preserve the confidentiality of the affairs of all clients. Attention is drawn to Section 16.04, 16.06, 16.07 and Rule 14 of the Honourable Society of the Inn of Court.

25.4 The general obligations and functions of a Pupil Master are as follows:-

- (a) He should ensure that the pupil is well grounded in the rules of conduct and etiquette of the Bar;
- (b) to require the pupil to read papers and draft pleadings and other documents, including preparing opinion and require the pupil to accompany the pupil Master to Court on sufficient occasions so that the pupil has the opportunity to do all such work and gain all such experience as is appropriate for a person commencing practice in all types of work done by the pupil Master.
- (c) to require the pupil to attend sufficient consultations to enable the pupil to gain experience on how to conduct a consultation.
- (d) in the second six months of the pupillage he should take a direct interest in the work the pupil does alone and in particular, in relation to Court appearances by his pupil, to give assistance before he goes into Court and to give the opportunity for discussion afterwards.
- (e) in the second 6 months of the pupillage to take reasonable steps to ensure that the pupil does not carry out extensive extraneous work to the detriment of his pupillage.
- (f) if it is proper to do so and at the proper time, to provide the Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of the Pupillage.

25.5 Attention is drawn to the Bar of Northern Ireland Pupillage Guidelines June 2015

Appendix 7"

PUPILS

Pupils should bear in mind the following matters:-

1. Pupil's duties - a pupil should be conscientious in receiving instruction from a Pupil Master and should be in a position to apply his/her full time efforts thereto (but see 5 below in relation to part-time employment or other work). This will normally involve being available every working day during term time at the direction of the Pupil Master. Every pupil should ensure that he is provided with, and retains, a copy of the Pupillage Checklist, familiarise himself/herself with contents and use it during Pupillage
2. Primary Duties of the individual barrister – Rule 4 of the Code of Conduct sets out the primary duties of an individual barrister. These are core principles. Compliance with the same is central to maintaining the highest standards at the Bar.
3. Relationship with Pupil Master - It is important that if at all possible the pupil meets the Pupil Master prior to the commencement of the pupillage. The pupil should expect the Pupil Master to clarify what is expected by the Pupil Master on a day to day basis. It is important that the pupil is open with the Pupil Master and that at the appropriate time the pupil raises all and any questions that occur to him/her no matter how trivial they may seem. The pupil may at all times rely upon the Pupil Master to take the lead.
4. Content of Work - The pupil should expect to receive a good grounding in the procedural and tactical aspects of practice at the Bar. Pupils should make particular reference to the "Pupillage Checklists". The pupil should expect to be allowed to read the Pupil Master's opinions and draft pleadings and to have the

opportunity of discussing them with him. Practice in drafting pleadings and writing opinions are important parts of pupillage and pupils should expect the Pupil Master to discuss their drafts with them and make suggestions for improvement. The pupil should expect to attend consultations with his/her Pupil Master and should ascertain from the Pupil Master before attending any consultation what exactly is expected from him/her before or during it. Pupils should expect to read the instructions and all other papers in relation to a consultation in advance.

The pupil should expect to see as much as possible of the Pupil Master's work both in and out of Court and should also expect and be prepared to attend and observe cases in Courts where the Pupil Master does not regularly practise. When attending Court with their Pupil Master pupils should normally expect to travel with the Pupil Master but this will sometimes depend on individual circumstances.

5. Part time employment or other work – Pupils are reminded of Rule 5.01 of the Code of Conduct and Appendix 14. Rule 5.01 states:-

“a barrister in independent practice must ensure that his primary occupation is that of practice as a barrister and must not engage in any other occupation which is inconsistent with his practice at the Bar. In particular, he should not engage in any other employment without first obtaining a consent in writing of the Benchers of the Inn and informing the Bar Council in writing of the fact that such consent has been obtained. Any application to undertake work outside the Bar should be made in accordance with the Guidance set out in Appendix 14 of the Code..”

6. Advice and assistance – Members of the Bar Council and the Professional Conduct Committee of the Bar are prepared and willing to give advice and assistance on any matter in relation to pupillage in the strictest confidence and, in particular, where a

pupil has a problem which for any reason he/she feels unable to raise with his/her Pupil Master. Names of members of the Bar Council and Professional Conduct Committee can be obtained from the Chief Executive's Office.

7. Continuing education – Various lectures and courses are organised in the Bar Library throughout the year. These provide an excellent opportunity to learn and ask questions. Pupils are encouraged to make a particular point of attending such events.

PUPIL MASTERS

Pupil Masters will be aware of the provisions of Rule 25 set out above and in addition should bear the following in mind:-

1. The Pupil Master should encourage a relationship between himself and his pupil whereby the pupil is encouraged to discuss problems and receive information on all matters relating to practice and etiquette. It is for the Pupil Master to take the lead in the relationship and direct the pupillage.

It is for the Pupil Master to ascertain the nature and extent of the knowledge and experience of the pupil and shape the pupillage accordingly.
2. The Pupil Master will be aware that the pupil will learn much by the experience of watching the Pupil Master running his practice and will conduct himself accordingly.
3. The Pupil Master should arrange for his pupil to spend time with a colleague or colleagues who practise in any areas which do not form part of the Pupil Master's own practice. In this regard the Pupil Master will be guided by the Pupillage Checklists.
4. Pupil Masters are encouraged to take an ongoing interest in the practice of their pupil after the completion of Pupillage. It is often during the first few years of actual practice that advice and assistance are most needed. Pupil Masters should encourage their former pupils to advise and assist the current pupils both before

and after completion of Pupillage.

5. Pupillage checklists are guidelines for areas of work to be covered during pupillage. The checklist is not exhaustive. It is expected that Pupil Masters will ensure that pupils have a working knowledge of the practice and procedures in most if not all of these areas.
6. Members of the Bar Council and the Professional Conduct Committee are available to Pupil Masters should confidential advice or guidance be felt necessary. The names of members can be obtained from the Chief Executive's Office.

PUPILLAGE

CHECKLISTS

High Court - Civil

Paperwork

- (a) Basic principles of High Court pleading in common law claims [personal injury, contract] to include drafting of:-
 - (i) Endorsement for Writ of Summons including service outside jurisdiction;
 - (ii) Statement of claim;
 - (iii) Defence;
 - (iv) Reply to Defence;
 - (v) Counterclaim;
 - (vi) Third Party Notice and Third Party Statement of Claim;
 - (vii) Notice for Particulars and Replies thereto;
 - (viii) Notice to Admit Facts and Interrogatories;
 - (ix) Notice of Appeal to Court of Appeal
- (b) Practice and Procedure in Motion Court, familiarity with typical Orders sought including Applications in relation to Summary Judgment and Setting Aside, Remittal, Removal, Particulars, Specific Discovery, Inspection facilities, Interrogatories and Leave to Amend. Drafting of:
 - (i) Summons, and
 - (ii) grounding Affidavits;
 - (iii) Replying Affidavits;

- (iv) Notice of Appeal from decision of Master to High Court Judge
- (c) Opinions on Liability and Quantum.
- (d) Direction of Proofs.

Attendance at Court

- (a) Conduct and presentation of High Court Action and Civil Bill Appeal to include opening, examination in chief, cross examination and re-examination of witnesses of fact and opinion, closing of case, legal submissions, basic advocacy and rules of procedure;
- (b) Conduct of Interlocutory Applications before the Master;
- (c) Conduct of Assessment of Damages hearings;
- (d) Pre-trial consultations.

The pupil should get to know the time limits prescribed by the Rules of Supreme Court, the Limitation [NI] Order 1989 and be familiar with the Guidelines for the Assessment of General Damages.

County Court and District Judge's Court - Civil

Paperwork

- [a] Basic principles of County Court pleading in common law claims [personal injury, trespass to the person and contract] to include drafting of:-
 - (i) Civil Bill endorsement of claim;
 - (ii) Counterclaim;
 - (iii) Third Party Notice;
 - (iv) Notice for Particulars and Replies thereto;
 - (v) Notice to Admit Facts and Interrogatories,
 - (vi) Interlocutory Notices and grounding Affidavits;

- (vii) Notice of Appeal.
- [b] Opinions on Liability and Quantum;
- [c] Direction of Proofs.

Attendance at Court

- [a] Conduct and presentation of Civil Bill hearing to include opening, examination in chief, cross examination and re-examination of witnesses of fact and opinion, closing of case, legal submissions, basic advocacy, rules of procedure;
- [b] Interlocutory Applications. Familiarity with typical Orders sought including Applications in relation to amendment, joinder of additional parties, discovery by parties and non-parties, specific discovery, inspection facilities, interrogatories and leave to issue Third Party Proceedings;
- [c] Assessment of Damages;
- [d] Small Claims Arbitration;
- [e] Applications in respect of listing and adjournments.

Additional: Pupils are to familiarise themselves with:-

- [a] County Court Rules generally with particular attention to procedural time limits;
- [b] The Limitation (Northern Ireland) Order 1989;
- [c] Damages – Guidelines for the Assessment of General Damages

Judicial Review

Paperwork

- [a] Pleadings including:-
 - (i) Order 53 Statement;
 - (ii) Grounding Affidavits;
 - (iii) Notice of Motion;

- (iv) Replying Affidavits;
- (v) Rejoinder Affidavits;
- (vi) Notice of Appeal.

[b] Opinions on Merits.

[c] Skeleton

Arguments

Attendance at Court

[a] Application for Leave;

[b] Mentions/Directions/Interlocutory

Applications/Amendment;

[c] Substantive hearing.

Additional

Pupils should have a working knowledge of basic practice and procedures and of:-

[a] Order 53 of the Rules of the Supreme Court;

[b] Grounds for Review

[c] Relief – certiorari, mandamus, prohibition and declaration;

[d] Human Rights Act 1998;

[e] Principles underlying discretion exercised by

Court; [f] Time limits;

[g] Orders for Costs;

[h] Right of Appeal/Renewal of Application

Costs and Fees

- [a] The pupil should have a good knowledge of typical cost orders in general common law practice and be otherwise familiar with:
- [i] High Court/Motion Court [Order 62 Rules of Supreme Court] and County Court/District Judge's Court [Order 55 of County Court Rules] - costs in cause, costs of application, Plaintiff's/Defendants costs in cause, costs above and below, costs thrown away, costs of day, half costs/reduced costs penalty orders.
 - [ii] Bullock and Sanderson Orders
 - [iii] Appeal costs.
 - [iv] Costs in event of payment in or lodgment, offers of payment, Calderbank letters.
 - [v] Legal Aid taxation and costs orders.
- [b] Role and jurisdiction of Taxing Master. Applications for taxation.
- [c] Statutory scales for County Court proceedings. Certification by Judge in Equity suits. Taxation by County Court/District Judge.
- [d] Criminal Legal Aid. Certification for Counsel at Crown Court and Petty Sessions, time-limit requirements, taxation.
- [e] Counsel's fees, familiarity with scales [statutory and recommended], Supreme Court Taxing Office Practice Directions in respect of Counsel's fees for Pleadings and Interlocutory Matters, County Court Practice Directions, Criminal Legal Aid "rates", preparation and submission of Report of Case to Legal Aid Department, practices of marking fees, the "brief fee", refreshers, expenses and allowances.
- [f] Adherence to requirements of Section 32 of Code of Conduct [Fees and Remuneration].

- [g] Defaulting fee payment recovery procedures.

Attendances at Court

Hearings before Taxing Master: Taxation by County Court/District Judge.

Chancery Division

PAPERWORK

1. Bankruptcy Master e.g. bankruptcy application, application to set aside statutory demand.
2. County Court: see Arts.12, 14-17 Of County Courts (NI) Order 1980: eg..Equity Civil Bill; Ejectment Civil Bill; Title Jurisdiction Civil Bill; Equity Civil Bill for Partition; Construction Civil Bill, Civil Bill for arrears of rent; Married Women's Property Act summons and affidavit; Third Party Notice; Counterclaim.
3. Chancery Court/Chancery Master
 - [a] Pleadings:
 - (i) Writ of Summons, Statement of Claim, Defence, Counterclaim, Reply, Third party proceedings and contribution notice, Notice for Particulars, Replies to Particulars, Interrogatories.
 - (ii) Originating Summons/Organizing Notice of Motion and affidavits.
 - (iii) Construction Summons.
 - (iv) Summons for judgment under O14 or O86 RSC.
 - (v) Draft Orders.
 - (vi) Company petitions e.g. winding up petition; Art. 452 Companies (NI) Order 1986 petition.
 - (vii) Mortgagee summons, case law and practice directions.
 - (viii) Injunction – interlocutory and full, ex parte and inter partes: Notice of Motion, Affidavit and Draft Order.

- [b] Practice Directions.
- [c] Opinions on Merits and Quantum
- [d] Direction of proofs.
- [e] Notice and grounds of appeal to Court of Appeal.
- [f] Interlocutory applications e.g. discovery, particulars.

ATTENDANCE AT COURT:

- [a] Chancery Court & Master;
- [b] Bankruptcy Master
- [c] County Court.

Criminal Law

PAPERWORK

1. Indictment
2. Notice and Grounds of Appeal – From Magistrates' Court
From Crown Court
3. Advice on plea, evidence and disclosure.
4. Direction of proofs.
5. Defence Statement for Magistrates' Court and for Crown Court.
6. Third Party disclosure application.
7. Skeleton Argument e.g. abuse of process/ human rights issues.
8. Be familiar with bail application form in High Court prepared by solicitor.

ATTENDANCE AT COURT

- [1] Crown Court/High Court/Court of Appeal
 - [a] Arraignment.
 - [b] Bail application.
 - [c] Plea.
 - [d] Voir Dire.
 - [e] Trial : Jury and non-Jury.
 - [f] Appeal against sentence or conviction.
 - [g] Miscellaneous Applications e.g. disclosure, abuse of process.
 - [h] Video link proceedings.
- [2] Magistrates' Court
 - [a] Remand and application for bail.
 - [b] PE and PI.
 - [c] Plea.
 - [d] Trial.
 - [e] County Court appeal against conviction or sentence.
 - [f] Miscellaneous Applications e.g. disclosure, abuse of process.
 - [g] Video link proceedings.

Commercial Court

PAPERWORK

1. Pleadings: Writ of Summons, Statement of Claim, Defence, Counterclaim, Reply, Third party proceedings and contribution notice, Notice for Particulars, Replies to Particulars, Interrogatories.
2. Opinions on Merits and Quantum.

3. Direction of proofs.
4. Minutes of meeting of experts and/or joint consultation as directed by Commercial Judge.
5. Scott schedules.
6. Skeleton arguments.
7. Notice and grounds of appeal to Court of Appeal.
8. Interlocutory applications e.g. discovery, particulars, Khanna summons.
9. Practice Directions, in particular new direction in relation to Expert Reports.

ATTENDANCE AT COURT

1. Commercial Action
2. Commercial Review and interlocutory applications.
3. Joint Consultation with/without experts present.

Matrimonial

Paperwork

1. Divorce (Judicial Separation & Nullity)
 - [a] grounds
 - [b] draft petition
 - [c] answer
 - [d] cross – petition
 - [e] reply
2. Ancillary relief
 - [a] Application and Summons
 - [b] Advice on proofs
 - [c] Requests for further information and documents and answers
 - [d] Affidavits in support of application and answer

[e] Calderbank letter

3. Injunctions

[a] Mareva

[b] Anton Pillar

4. Financial provision

[a] agreement

[b] child support

[c] maintenance

[d] Mesher orders

5. Practice directions

Attendance at Court - County Court, High Court , Master

1. Presentation of petition

2. Ancillary relief hearing

3. Review before hearing (Master)

4. Interlocutory applications

5. Injunction applications

[a] non – molestation , ouster

[b] Mareva

[c] Anton Pillar

Family

Paperwork

Children (NI) Order 1995

1. Jurisdiction and transfer of proceedings
2. Statement of evidence
 - [a] substance of oral evidence
 - [b] copy documents
 - [c] copy expert's reports
3. Financial provision
 - [a] child support
 - [b] lump sums
 - [c] periodical payments
4. Interim/full care and supervision orders
5. Adoption
6. Role of Guardian ad litem
7. Wardship – originating summons
8. Appeals

Attendance at Court - High Court, County Court, Family Care Centre, Family Proceedings

Court

1. Children (NI) Order 1995 – Article 8 orders
 - [a] residence
 - [b] contact
 - [c] prohibited steps
 - [d] specific issue
2. Application for directions
3. Financial provision – application in above mentioned matters

4. Application for adoption
 - [a] order freeing for adoption
 - [b] grounds for dispensing with parental consent
5. Wardship application
6. Appeals

Tribunals/Employment

Paperwork

1. Application (IT1)
2. Time limits
3. Notice of appearance
4. Notice of Hearing
5. Direction of Proofs
6. Interlocutories
 - [a] notice for particulars and replies
 - [b] statutory questionnaire and answer
 - [c] answers to questions
 - [d] witness statements
 - [e] discovery
7. Settlement
 - [a] conciliation arrangement (under Labour Relations Agency)
 - [b] compromise agreement
8. Challenging a decision
 - [a] review – grounds
 - [b] appeal to Northern Ireland Court of Appeal – on point of law
 - [c] judicial review to High Court

Attendance at Hearing

1. Industrial Tribunal – contract of employment e.g. unfair dismissal, discrimination on grounds of sex , disability, race, Trade Union membership etc

2. Fair Employment Tribunal – discrimination in

[a] politics

[b] religion

3. Preliminary hearing

4. Directions hearing

5. Interlocutory applications e.g. discovery

6. Contested hearing

NB. Please be aware that many other Tribunals exist in specialised areas that are too numerous to list here.

Conduct and Etiquette

Code of Conduct

Modes of address

Conduct in and out of Court

Counsel's duty to lay client

Counsel's duty to Legal Aid Department

Acceptance of Instructions

Duty to return Brief if unable to continue to accept instructions

Relations between Counsel and Solicitor

Relations between Counsel and Counsel

Counsel's duty to Court, conduct at and in Court

These Rules are made by the Member Services Committee under the Regulations of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland and may be revised from time to time

(Last revised and agreed by the Member Services Committee January 2018)

GENERAL

1. Each item required must be issued properly and the loan recorded, even if only required for use in the Bar Library. This is necessary for the accurate tracing of items.

The Member must provide his/her Library number to the member of Library Staff to enable the loan to be recorded on the circulation system.

2. Members are responsible for each item they borrow, for ensuring that it is properly discharged from their loan record, and for any fines or charges accruing against their name. For this reason, the “passing on” of books between members is discouraged, as the originating borrower will remain responsible.
3. Members are prohibited from “passing on” books to non-members of the Bar Library.

LOAN CATEGORIES

4. There are three categories of loan in the Bar Library:-
 - (a) overnight loan: due back before 5pm the next working day (eg Issue Desk stock, Halsbury etc, noted “OVERNIGHT LOAN” on the spine)
 - (b) three day loan: due back before 5pm on the day as per table below:-

Day borrowed	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Day due back	Thursday	Friday	Monday next week	Monday next week	Monday next week

(c) restricted loan: at an hourly rate. If no other copy of the book is available, the reference or key copy may be borrowed for use within the RCJ only. It may not be removed from the building and must be returned before 5pm the same working day. Members borrowing a restricted copy must agree with staff at the time of borrowing how many hours they may keep it.

Restricted copies may not be retained overnight.

NB Overnight and three day loan periods are affected by statutory or public holidays when the Library is closed, in which case the loan periods will be extended to include closed days. The rules outlined above are not affected by general recess periods when the Library continues to operate as normal.

RENEWALS

(a) Items may be renewed unless they have been requested by another member, or they have reached their maximum renewal limit (which varies upon the type of material and the demands upon it), or their return has been requested by Library staff to ensure free circulation of stock. Fines will accrue in the way described below (para 5) on items which have not been renewed or if a renewal was refused, once they fall overdue.

Items may be renewed in person or by leaving a message on 9056 2472 or by email on enquiries@barlibrary.com.

LEVYING OF FINES AND MISSING ITEMS

- (a) Fines will be charged on all overdue items, and are levied as soon as an item becomes overdue. The fine rate depends upon the loan period:-
- overnight loan - £1.00 per day, chargeable from the first day overdue
- (b) three day loan - £1.00 on the first day overdue, and a further £1.00 on every third day the library is open thereafter
- (c) reference - £1.00 per hour or part hour after the designated time of return
- Fines are not charged over weekends or periods when the Library is closed.
5. An overdue notice will be produced and emailed the first day an item falls overdue. Members should return or renew the item in question immediately. Failure to comply will result in a final notice on the second day. If the item in question is still not returned by the close of business on the second day

overdue, the member will be deemed to be in default. Further borrowing rights and all other core Library services, i.e. Enquiry, BLAG and Current Awareness Services will be withdrawn from the third day overdue until all overdue items are returned to the Library. Renewing books on loan to a defaulting borrower will not be allowed; they must be returned.

6. Any member who assists a defaulting member whose own borrowing rights have been suspended (see Rule 6 above), by borrowing books on behalf of the defaulter, will be deemed an accessory and be liable for disciplinary action. Both will be referred to the Member Services Committee which will decide the course of action to be followed.
7. If an item is lost, this must be notified to the Librarian at once so that appropriate steps may be taken. Opportunity will be afforded to locate missing items, but lost items remain the responsibility of the borrower, and they must be properly renewed throughout this period. Loan terms and overdue procedures (as in paras 4 - 6 above) continue to apply.

If after a period of 28 days from notification the lost item has not been returned or the matter has not been otherwise resolved, the Librarian will seek replacement of the lost item. Fines will cease to accrue after the 28th day overdue. If the item is still available, an invoice will be raised for the full cost of replacement, including any fines or charges incurred. The Librarian may decide, if a future edition is pending, to delay purchase until the updated text is available. The borrower will be notified of this. Once the invoice has been raised, the loan transaction will be terminated and the item marked as "lost and paid for" in the Library catalogue.

If the item is out of print or not easily replaced (eg one volume or part of a set of reports not sold as single volumes) the Librarian will inform the borrower. In these circumstances it is imperative that every effort is made to locate lost items. If the item cannot be found, the Librarian will discuss reparation with the borrower. There may be no other option but to purchase a full set of volumes. If necessary, the matter will be referred to the Member Services Committee.

8. An item that has been overdue for a period of 28 days will be deemed to be "lost" and the replacement provisions described above will apply in these circumstances.

A refund of the replacement cost paid, less a £5 administrative charge, may be granted at the discretion of the Member Services Committee on any lost book for which a replacement cost has

been paid if subsequently found and returned in good condition.

COLLECTION OF FINES

9. Fines must be paid when requested by a member of Library Staff.

A general sweep up of fines will take place during the last week of every term when all fine records will be discharged from OLIB and the debt transferred to the Finance Office to invoice through Bar Library Accounts. All Members will be notified that this exercise has taken place and advised to check their invoices on receipt. A copy of the discharged fine record will be made available to Finance Staff should any queries arise.

The Finance Office will manage debts owed in line with the terms of the current Debtors' Policy.

MISCELLANEOUS

10. Members must return any item of Library stock when requested to do so by Library staff whether to meet the needs of other members or to ensure availability and free circulation of materials.

Renewing such items will not be allowed.

11. Any queries or problems arising out of the application of the Circulation Rules shall be dealt with in the first instance by the Librarian (or, in her absence, the Assistant Librarian). Matters may be referred to the Member Services Committee for adjudication or interpretation.

12. Persistent abuse of the Library or failure to abide by these Rules will result in the matter being brought to the Member Services Committee for possible referral to the Professional Conduct Committee.

APPENDIX 9

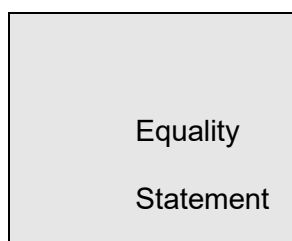
House Rules



The Code of Conduct allows the Library Committee [Member Services Committee] to agree and revise, from time to time, the House Rules which will govern general conduct within the New and Old Bar Libraries. [See section 26.3]

Any complaint raised in relation to the House Rules or alleged derogation or non-compliance of the House Rules will be referred to the Member Services Committee. The Member Services Committee will be responsible for progressing the issues raised which may include referral to the Professional Conduct Committee should the circumstances merit.

The House Rules in their entirety apply to all Full Members of the Bar Library. The rules also apply to Employed and Non-Practising Members in so far as the rules relate to their particular use of the Bar Library buildings.



The Bar Council is committed to promoting principles equality and dignity to all of the users of the Bar Library including members, staff, contractors and visitors. The aim is to create an environment in which people treat each other with mutual respect, regardless of age, disability, family responsibility, marital status, race, colour, ethnicity, nationality, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation and other relevant criteria.



House Rules

The rules are divided into the following sections:

1. No Smoking/Vaping
2. Emergency Evacuation
3. Reasonable Use of Space
4. Leaving the Library
5. Car Parking
6. Access Control
7. Data Protection
8. IT Rules
9. Bar Library Membership and Regulatory Communications
10. Visitors



1. NO SMOKING/VAPING

In compliance with the Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, smoking is prohibited throughout both Bar Library buildings with no exceptions. Smoking is also prohibited in the precincts of the RCJ.

Electronic cigarettes or “vaping” is prohibited in both Bar Library buildings, with no exceptions, in the same manner as applies to tobacco-based products and in line with British Medical Association recommendations. This is in order to protect all Library users from being exposed to e-cigarette vapours and nicotine and also to ensure that the existing policy to provide smoke-free premises is not undermined.

2. EMERGENCY EVACUATION

Personal Emergency Evacuation programmes [PEEPS]:

Members with conditions that may hinder fast and efficient exit from the building in the event of an emergency MUST contact the Head Evacuation Warden in order to agree a PEEP.

It is the responsibility of the member to make this information known and to update it as circumstances change. Details of the current Evacuation Warden can be obtained by contacting Reception@barlibrary.com.

Evacuation Procedures:

In the event of an emergency, all Library users are obliged to comply with the emergency evacuation procedures as follows:

New Bar Library:

On sounding of the alarm (high pitched single tone siren), all members must immediately exit the building via the nearest safe exit. Route maps are posted on each floor and members should familiarise themselves with the exits. In the event of an emergency, Evacuation Wardens will provide instructions to building users on how to exit the building as safely as possible. Instructions from Evacuation Wardens must be followed immediately. Delay will put the lives of others at risk. During the evacuation process and for the duration of the evacuation, Members will not be permitted to return to desks, offices or any other areas to

pick up professional or personal belongings until the areas have been declared safe.

Old Bar Library:

On sounding of the alarm in the RCJ (high pitched single tone siren), all members must immediately exit the building using the nearest safe exit. Route maps are provided here. In the event of an emergency, Evacuation Wardens will provide instructions to building users on how to exit the building as safely as possible. Instructions from Evacuation Wardens must be followed immediately. Delay will put the lives of others at risk. During the evacuation, Members will not be permitted to return to the Bar Library to pick up professional or personal belongings until the areas have been declared safe.

3. REASONABLE USE OF SPACE

Members have an obligation to all other building users; colleagues, staff, visitors and external contractors, to maintain a safe and hazard free environment. Members are therefore required to comply with the following advice:

Open Desk Areas including Hot Desk Areas:

- Maintain working areas within the open desk space within common-sense boundaries of reasonable use of space. Whilst there is currently no “clear desk” policy in operation the contents of a member’s desk should be kept under constant review and in no circumstances should be allowed to encroach upon another’s space.
- No boxes/materials/files/suitcases or other physical impediment should be stored in the passageways and thoroughfares in either the open desk areas or communal spaces.
- Using tops of lockers for storage is prohibited as such practice represents a potentially serious hazard to other users of the building.

- Personal items such as clothes, shoes, towels etc. should be stored out of sight either in drawers or lockers.
- Consideration of colleagues' use of space must be respected at all times with, for example, noise levels kept to a minimum, ring tones kept on silent or as low as possible on both mobile and desk phones, food and drink consumption kept to a minimum.
- All "hot desks" are non-proprietary. No materials or personal belongings should be left on, under or in the vicinity (including the chairs) of these desks overnight.
- Any member without an allocated desk who wishes to use an allocated desk at which to work must seek the express permission of the desk owner before doing so.

Offices:

- Maintain working areas within office space within common-sense boundaries of reasonable use of space. Whilst there is currently no "clear desk" policy in operation the contents of
- one member's desk, cupboards and shelving areas should be kept under constant review and in no circumstances should be allowed to encroach upon another's space.
- No boxes/materials/files/suitcases or other physical impediment should be stored in the passageways and thoroughfares within offices.
- Members renting space in an office with unlet space must not encroach onto the available desk, cupboards, shelving and floor space.
- Members renting space in an office with unlet space must do nothing to hinder the opportunity for the Council to let the available space.
- Consideration of colleagues' use of space must be respected at all times with noise levels kept to a minimum, ring tones kept on silent or as low as possible on both mobile and desk phones and food and drink consumption kept to a minimum.
- Members are permitted to have wall hangings in their offices provided they are mounted from

the picture rails provided. Wall hangings must be appropriate and not cause embarrassment or offence to others.

The obligations above in respect of use of office space are supplemental to terms contained in the Office Licence which office tenants are expected to be familiar.

Members who find themselves with inadequate storage space should make enquiries with the Post Room team which will provide advice on possible storage solutions. The Post Room team can also provide practical assistance with desk space and office clear out. Please contact postroom@barlibrary.com for more information.

Old Bar Library:

Main Library

- The Main Library is reserved for members undertaking quiet research. It must not be used for consultations, negotiations or dictation.
- Mobile phones must be switched to silent mode. Members wishing to take or make telephone calls should do so in an area other than the Main Library.
- Bags and trolleys must not be placed on top of desks.
- There is no allocated seating in the Main Library. Members are prohibited from leaving any papers, materials or any other belongings beyond the close of business other than in their allocated lockers.

Members' Room

- There is no allocated seating in the Members' Room which is often used for functions. Members are prohibited from leaving any papers, materials or any other belongings beyond the

close of business other than in their allocated lockers.

- Members must discard all cups and food debris in the bins provided.

Inn of Court

- Members are prohibited from accessing the Inn of Court area unless they are attending a function or need to consult the books shelved in this area. Members are asked to check the books out through the Issue Desk and use them in another area of the Library.
- Members are prohibited from using the Inn of Court area for work.

Robing Rooms

- Members may only store material in their allocated lockers.
- Members are asked not to leave personal clothing in the Robing Rooms for extended periods of time. Cloakrooms are cleared periodically and unclaimed items will be disposed of.

4. LEAVING THE LIBRARY

- When a member leaves the Bar Library, s/he must return all Bar Library keys in his/her possession to the Post Room and Maintenance Supervisor. This will include desk, drawer, locker and office keys. Members who fail to do so will be charged £10 for the replacement of each key. Charges will be itemised in the closing statement.
- Car parking stickers must be returned to the Post Room and Maintenance Supervisor.
- Bar of NI SmartCards must be returned to the IT Department. Any balance remaining in the member's e-Wallet will be credited to his/her Bar Library account and itemised in closing statement.
- Members leaving the Library must remove all belongings, personal and business, from their desk, lockers and offices. Any items left behind one working week after leaving the Library will be shredded or in the case of clothing, disposed of.

5. CAR PARKING

Car Parking is a benefit only available to those members that rent a space for an annual fee.

The following rules in respect of car park use apply:

- The Bar Library surface and basement car parks are strictly for use by Members that have purchased a space in same.
- Members that have purchased a space in the basement car park may park either above or below ground but are encouraged to use the basement unless all basement spaces are occupied.
- Members who purchase a car park space will be issued annually with a sticker which must be displayed on their vehicle to gain access. Members who have the use of more than one car may have additional stickers issued, however, they must only ever have one car in the car park at any given time.
- Members may not purchase a car park space to share even if the same vehicle is used between them. The total number of spaces available to rent has been calculated using a formula based on the assumption that not all lessees will be in Belfast on the same day. i.e. the Council rents more spaces than are physically available.
- Any member attempting to use the car park without the necessary authorisation will be declined access.
- By prior arrangement only, which can be arranged via the Post Room team, occasional access may be granted to Members needing to pick up or drop off heavy and bulky materials. Members may on those occasions park up at the Post Room window to pick up and drop off materials there. They may not take a parking space.
- No member shall park any vehicle in any area other than in designated parking spaces.

- Members may only access Bar Library designated parking spaces and the occasional use provision by prior arrangement as defined above, via the Bar Library May Street entrance.
- Abuse of the Car Parking rules by lessees and others will be referred to the Member Services Committee.

6. ACCESS CONTROL

Access control is a fundamental part of the Bar Council's safety and data protection strategies and the following rules apply:

- Sharing and transferring Bar of NI Smart Cards is strictly prohibited to ensure the safety and security of all Members, Staff and Contractors within the Bar Library.
- Your Smart Card is issued to you for your sole use only. Smart Cards are programmed with specific access rights, eg Female or Male Robing Rooms, Car Park, etc.
- Smart Cards should not be shared with other users of the Bar Library, i.e. other Members, Staff or Onsite Contractors.
- Smart Cards must not be shared with any third parties such as Solicitors, Expert Witnesses, Clients, etc as this will provide them with access to controlled areas of the Library
- Members are asked to be vigilant when using their SmartCards to gain access at controlled points within the Library and not to allow anyone, whether they are known to them or not, to "tail gate" their own entry.

7. DATA PROTECTION

It is a requirement that all barristers in independent practice are registered data controllers

and with that obligation comes various statutory and best practice responsibilities. Members are asked to heed the following advice to maximise security of the data for which they are responsible.

- Members should at all times be aware of their responsibilities as registered data controllers. Therefore, Members are advised to store securely in their lockers all hard copy sensitive personal data that they keep in the Library. Whilst the Library maintains an access control system these systems are not fail safe and there is always a risk that data may be compromised by the unauthorised access by other building users.
- Members are also asked to be aware that they do not retain sensitive personal data beyond the time that is necessary for the purposes members hold it for processing.

Detailed advice can be obtained from the Senior Manager: IT at ITManager@barlibrary.com

8. ICT RULES

Acceptable Use: The Bar Library defines Acceptable Use as the use of Bar Library IT and Communications equipment, networks, systems and services in support of the Library Member's Practice.

Unacceptable Use:

1. Under no circumstances is any user authorised to engage in any activity that is illegal using Bar Library ICT resources.
2. Misuse of the Wired, Wireless and Internet Bandwidth. The Bar Library reserve the right to monitor and audit network traffic and bandwidth usage on a periodic basis to ensure acceptable levels of service are available to all members.

3. Any activity that infringes or misappropriates the intellectual property rights of others.
4. Using the Bar Library network to advertise, transmit, store, post, display, or otherwise make available pornography or obscene speech or material.
5. Using the Bar Library network as a means to transmit or post defamatory, harassing, abusive or threatening language.
6. Illegal or unauthorised access to other computers and networks.
7. Introduction or distribution of Internet viruses or other destructive activities.
8. Making fraudulent offers of services, products or items from any Bar Library account.
9. Effecting security breaches or disruptions of network communication. Security breaches include accessing data of which the member is not an intended recipient or logging into a server or account that the member is not expressly authorised to access.
10. Circumventing user authentication or security of any host, network or account.
11. Interfering with or denying ICT services to any other Library member.
12. Engaging in other activities that the Bar Council deems to be harmful to its subscribers, operations, reputations or customer relations.

<p>9. BAR LIBRARY AND REGULATORY COMMUNICATIONS</p>

All official communications to full members of the Bar Library relating to Bar Library membership and Bar of Northern Ireland regulatory matters will be made using the barlibrary.com email accounts. Therefore, members must, at the very least, monitor their barlibrary.com email accounts to ensure they do not miss important communications.

It is the responsibility of the employed member to provide the Bar Council administration with an email address to which official communications relating to membership and regulatory matters may be sent. It is also the responsibility of the employed member to inform Bar Council administration of any change to the contact email address.

It is the responsibility of the non-practising member to provide the Bar Council administration with an email address to which official communications relating to membership may be sent. It is also the responsibility of the non-practising member to inform Bar Council administration of any change to the contact email address.

10. VISITORS

Members must not bring anyone onto the either Bar Library premises without first having that person register and sign in with Reception Staff in the new Bar Library and Library staff at the Issue Desk in the Old Bar Library. The visitor will be issued with a “Visitor” badge which must be worn at all times for the duration of their visit.

Members are asked to ensure that any visitor they invite to the Bar Library premises who has a condition that may hinder fast and efficient access in the event of an emergency to inform Reception staff on check-in.

V1: 09 March 2017

V1.01 03 May 2018

V1.02 01 August 2019



Représentant les avocats d'Europe

Representing Europe's lawyers

CODE OF CONDUCT

FOR EUROPEAN LAWYERS

Conseil des barreaux européens - Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe

association internationale sans but lucratif

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This Code of Conduct for European Lawyers was originally adopted
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November 1998,
6 December 2002 and 19 May 2006. The Code includes an Explanatory
Memorandum which was updated during the CCBE Plenary Session on
19 May 2006.

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1. PREAMBLE

1.1. The Function of the Lawyer in Society

In a society founded on respect for the rule of law the lawyer fulfils a special role. The lawyer's duties do not begin and end with the faithful performance of what he or she is instructed to do so far as the law permits. A lawyer must serve the interests of justice as well as those whose rights and liberties he or she is trusted to assert and defend and it is the lawyer's duty not only to plead the client's cause but to be the client's adviser. Respect for the lawyer's professional function is an essential condition for the rule of law and democracy in society.

A lawyer's function therefore lays on him or her a variety of legal and moral obligations (sometimes appearing to be in conflict with each other) towards:

- the client;
- the courts and other authorities before whom the lawyer pleads the client's cause or acts on the client's behalf;
- the legal profession in general and each fellow member of it in particular;
- the public for whom the existence of a free and independent profession, bound together by respect for rules made by the profession itself, is an essential means of safeguarding human rights in face of the power of the state and other interests in

society.

1.2. The Nature of Rules of Professional Conduct

- 1.2.1. Rules of professional conduct are designed through their willing acceptance by those to whom they apply to ensure the proper performance by the lawyer of a function which is recognised as essential in all civilised societies. The failure of the lawyer to observe these rules may result in disciplinary

sanctions.

- 1.2.2. The particular rules of each Bar or Law Society arise from its own traditions. They are adapted to the organisation and sphere of activity of the profession in the Member State concerned and to its judicial and administrative procedures and to its national legislation. It is neither possible nor desirable that they should be taken out of their context nor that an attempt should be made to give general application to rules which are inherently incapable of such application.

The particular rules of each Bar and Law Society nevertheless are based on the same values and in most cases demonstrate a common foundation.

1.3. The Purpose of the Code

1.3.1. The continued integration of the European Union and European Economic Area and the increasing frequency of the cross-border activities of lawyers within the European Economic Area have made necessary in the public interest the statement of common rules which apply to all lawyers from the European Economic Area whatever Bar or Law Society they belong to in relation to their cross-border practice. A particular purpose of the statement of those rules is to mitigate the difficulties which result from the application of "double deontology", notably as set out in Articles 4 and 7.2 of Directive 77/249/EEC and Articles 6 and 7 of Directive 98/5/EC.

1.3.2. The organisations representing the legal profession through the CCBE propose that the rules codified in the following articles:

- be recognised at the present time as the expression of a consensus of all the Bars and Law Societies of the European Union and European Economic Area;
- be adopted as enforceable rules as soon as possible in accor-

dance with national or EEA procedures in relation to the cross-border activities of the lawyer in the European Union and European Economic Area;

- be taken into account in all revisions of national rules of deontology or professional practice with a view to their progressive harmonisation.

They further express the wish that the national rules of deontology or professional practice be interpreted and applied whenever possible in a way consistent with the rules in this Code.

After the rules in this Code have been adopted as enforceable rules in relation to a lawyer's cross-border activities the lawyer will remain bound to observe the rules of the Bar or Law Society to which he or she belongs to the extent that they are consistent with the rules in this Code.

1.4. Field of Application *Ratione Personae*

This Code shall apply to lawyers as they are defined by Directive 77/249/EEC and by Directive 98/5/EC and to lawyers of the Observer Members of the CCBE.

1.5. Field of Application *Ratione Materiae*

Without prejudice to the pursuit of a progressive harmonisation of rules of deontology or professional practice which apply only internally within a Member State, the following rules shall apply to the cross-border activities of the lawyer within the European Union and the European Economic Area. Cross-border activities shall mean:

- (a) all professional contacts with lawyers of Member States other than the lawyer's own;
- (b) the professional activities of the lawyer in a Member State other than his or her own, whether or not the lawyer is physically present in that Member State.

1.6. Definitions

In this Code:

“Member State” means a member state of the European Union or any other state whose legal profession is included in Article 1.4.

“Home Member State” means the Member State where the lawyer acquired the right to bear his or her professional title.

“Host Member State” means any other Member State where the lawyer carries on cross-border activities.

“Competent Authority” means the professional organisation(s) or authority(ies) of the Member State concerned responsible for the laying down of rules of professional conduct and the administration of discipline of lawyers.

“Directive 77/249/EEC” means Council Directive 77/249/EEC of 22 March 1977 to facilitate the effective exercise by lawyers of freedom to provide services.

“Directive 98/5/EC” means Directive 98/5/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 to facilitate practice of the profession of lawyer on a permanent basis in a Member State other than that in which the qualification was obtained.

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

2.1. Independence

2.1.1. The many duties to which a lawyer is subject require the lawyer's absolute independence, free from all other influence, especially such as may arise from his or her personal interests or external pressure. Such independence is as necessary to trust in the process of justice as the impartiality of the judge. A lawyer must therefore avoid any impairment of his or her independence and be careful not to compromise his or her professional standards in order to please the client, the court or third parties.

2.1.2. This independence is necessary in non-contentious matters as well as in litigation. Advice given by a lawyer to the client has no value if the lawyer gives it only to ingratiate him- or herself, to serve his or her personal interests or in response to outside pressure.

2.2. Trust and Personal Integrity

Relationships of trust can only exist if a lawyer's personal honour, honesty and integrity are beyond doubt. For the lawyer these traditional virtues are professional obligations.

2.3. Confidentiality

2.3.1. It is of the essence of a lawyer's function that the lawyer should be told by his or her client things which the client would not tell to others, and that the lawyer should be the recipient of other information on a basis of confidence. Without the certainty of confidentiality there cannot be trust. Confidentiality is therefore a primary and fundamental right and duty of the lawyer.

The lawyer's obligation of confidentiality serves the interest of the administration of justice as well as the interest of the client. It is therefore entitled to special protection by the State.

2.3.2. A lawyer shall respect the confidentiality of all information that becomes known to the lawyer in the course of his or her professional activity.

2.3.3. The obligation of confidentiality is not limited in time.

2.3.4. A lawyer shall require his or her associates and staff and anyone engaged by him or her in the course of providing professional services to observe the same obligation of confidentiality.

2.4. Respect for the Rules of Other Bars and Law Societies

When practising cross-border, a lawyer from another Member State may be bound to comply with the professional rules of the Host Member State. Lawyers have a duty to inform themselves as to the rules which will affect them in the performance of any particular activity.

Member organisations of the CCBE are obliged to deposit their codes of conduct at the Secretariat of the CCBE so that any lawyer can get hold of the copy of the current code from the Secretariat.

2.5. Incompatible Occupations

2.5.1. In order to perform his or her functions with due independence and in a manner which is consistent with his or her duty to participate in the administration of justice a lawyer may be prohibited from undertaking certain occupations.

2.5.2. A lawyer who acts in the representation or the defence of a client in legal proceedings or before any public authorities in a Host Member State shall there observe the rules regarding incompatible occupations as they are applied to lawyers of the Host Member State.

2.5.3. A lawyer established in a Host Member State in which he or she

wishes to participate directly in commercial or other activities not connected with the practice of the law shall respect the rules regarding forbidden or incompatible occupations as they are applied to lawyers of that Member State.

2.6. Personal Publicity

2.6.1. A lawyer is entitled to inform the public about his or her services provided that the information is accurate and not misleading, and respectful of the obligation of confidentiality and other core values of the profession.

2.6.2. Personal publicity by a lawyer in any form of media such as by press, radio, television, by electronic commercial communications or otherwise is permitted to the extent it complies with the requirements of 2.6.1.

2.7. The Client's Interest

Subject to due observance of all rules of law and professional conduct, a lawyer must always act in the best interests of the client and must put those interests before the lawyer's own interests or those of fellow members of the legal profession.

2.8. Limitation of Lawyer's Liability towards the Client

To the extent permitted by the law of the Home Member State and the Host Member State, the lawyer may limit his or her liabilities towards the client in accordance with the professional rules to which the lawyer is subject.

3. RELATIONS WITH CLIENTS

3.1. Acceptance and Termination of Instructions

- 3.1.1. A lawyer shall not handle a case for a party except on that party's instructions. The lawyer may, however, act in a case in which he or she has been instructed by another lawyer acting for the party or where the case has been assigned to him or her by a competent body.

The lawyer should make reasonable efforts to ascertain the identity, competence and authority of the person or body who instructs him or her when the specific circumstances show that the identity, competence and authority are uncertain.

- 3.1.2. A lawyer shall advise and represent the client promptly, conscientiously and diligently. The lawyer shall undertake personal responsibility for the discharge of the client's instructions and shall keep the client informed as to the progress of the matter with which the lawyer has been entrusted.

- 3.1.3. A lawyer shall not handle a matter which the lawyer knows or ought to know he or she is not competent to handle, without cooperating with a lawyer who is competent to handle it.

A lawyer shall not accept instructions unless he or she can discharge those instructions promptly having regard to the pressure of other work.

- 3.1.4. A lawyer shall not be entitled to exercise his or her right to withdraw from a case in such a way or in such circumstances that the client may be unable to find other legal assistance in time to prevent prejudice being suffered by the client.

3.2. Conflict of Interest

- 3.2.1. A lawyer may not advise, represent or act on behalf of two or more clients in the same matter if there is a conflict, or a significant risk of a conflict, between the interests of those clients.
- 3.2.2. A lawyer must cease to act for both or all of the clients concerned when a conflict of interests arises between those clients and also whenever there is a risk of a breach of confidence or where the lawyer's independence may be impaired.
- 3.2.3. A lawyer must also refrain from acting for a new client if there is a risk of breach of a confidence entrusted to the lawyer by a former client or if the knowledge which the lawyer possesses of the affairs of the former client would give an undue advantage to the new client.
- 3.2.4. Where lawyers are practising in association, paragraphs 3.2.1 to 3.2.3 above shall apply to the association and all its members.

3.3. Pactum de Quota Litis

- 3.3.1. A lawyer shall not be entitled to make a *pactum de quota litis*.
- 3.3.2. By "*pactum de quota litis*" is meant an agreement between a lawyer and the client entered into prior to final conclusion of a matter to which the client is a party, by virtue of which the client undertakes to pay the lawyer a share of the result

regardless of whether this is represented by a sum of money or by any other benefit achieved by the client upon the conclusion of the matter.

- 3.3.3. "*Pactum de quota litis*" does not include an agreement that fees be charged in proportion to the value of a matter handled by the lawyer if this is in accordance with an officially approved fee scale or under the control of the Competent Authority having jurisdiction over the lawyer.

3.4. Regulation of Fees

A fee charged by a lawyer shall be fully disclosed to the client, shall be fair and reasonable, and shall comply with the law and professional rules to which the lawyer is subject.

3.5. Payment on Account

If a lawyer requires a payment on account of his or her fees and/or disbursements such payment should not exceed a reasonable estimate of the fees and probable disbursements involved.

Failing such payment, a lawyer may withdraw from the case or refuse to handle it, but subject always to paragraph 3.1.4 above.

3.6. Fee Sharing with Non-Lawyers

- 3.6.1. A lawyer may not share his or her fees with a person who is not a lawyer except where an association between the lawyer and the other person is permitted by the laws and the professional rules to which the lawyer is subject.
- 3.6.2. The provisions of 3.6.1 above shall not preclude a lawyer from paying a fee, commission or other compensation to a deceased lawyer's heirs or to a retired lawyer in respect of taking over the deceased or retired lawyer's practice.

3.7. Cost of Litigation and Availability of Legal Aid

- 3.7.1. The lawyer should at all times strive to achieve the most cost effective resolution of the client's dispute and should advise the client at appropriate stages as to the desirability of attempting a settlement and/or a reference to alternative dispute resolution.
- 3.7.2. A lawyer shall inform the client of the availability of legal aid where applicable.

3.8. Client Funds

- 3.8.1. Lawyers who come into possession of funds on behalf of their clients or third parties (hereinafter called "client funds") have to deposit such money into an account of a bank or similar institution subject to supervision by a public authority (hereinafter called a "client account"). A client account shall be separate from any other account of the lawyer. All client funds received by a lawyer should be deposited into such an account unless the owner of such funds agrees that the funds should be dealt with otherwise.
- 3.8.2. The lawyer shall maintain full and accurate records showing all the lawyer's dealings with client funds and distinguishing client funds from other funds held by the lawyer. Records may have to be kept for a certain period of time according to national rules.
- 3.8.3. A client account cannot be in debit except in exceptional circumstances as expressly permitted in national rules or due to bank charges, which cannot be influenced by the lawyer. Such an account cannot be given as a guarantee or be used as a security for any reason. There shall not be any set-off or merger between a client account and any other bank account, nor shall

the client funds in a client account be available to defray money owed by the lawyer to the bank.

- 3.8.4. Client funds shall be transferred to the owners of such funds in the shortest period of time or under such conditions as are authorised by them.
- 3.8.5. The lawyer cannot transfer funds from a client account into the lawyer's own account for payment of fees without informing the client in writing.
- 3.8.6. The Competent Authorities in Member States shall have the power to verify and examine any document regarding client funds, whilst respecting the confidentiality or legal professional privilege to which it may be subject.

3.9. Professional Indemnity Insurance

- 3.9.1. Lawyers shall be insured against civil legal liability arising out of their legal practice to an extent which is reasonable having regard to the nature and extent of the risks incurred by their professional activities.
- 3.9.2. Should this prove impossible, the lawyer must inform the client of this situation and its consequences.

4. RELATIONS WITH THE COURTS

4.1. Rules of Conduct in Court

A lawyer who appears, or takes part in a case, before a court or tribunal must comply with the rules of conduct applied before that court or tribunal.

4.2. Fair Conduct of Proceedings

A lawyer must always have due regard for the fair conduct of proceedings.

4.3. Demeanour in Court

A lawyer shall while maintaining due respect and courtesy towards the court defend the interests of the client honourably and fearlessly without regard to the lawyer's own interests or to any consequences to him- or herself or to any other person.

4.4. False or Misleading Information

A lawyer shall never knowingly give false or misleading information to the court.

4.5. Extension to Arbitrators etc.

The rules governing a lawyer's relations with the courts apply also to the lawyer's relations with arbitrators and any other persons exercising judicial or quasi-judicial functions, even on an occasional basis.

5. RELATIONS BETWEEN LAWYERS

5.1. Corporate Spirit of the Profession

5.1.1. The corporate spirit of the profession requires a relationship of trust and co-operation between lawyers for the benefit of their clients and in order to avoid unnecessary litigation and other behaviour harmful to the reputation of the profession. It can, however, never justify setting the interests of the profession against those of the client.

5.1.2. A lawyer should recognise all other lawyers of Member States as

professional colleagues and act fairly and courteously towards them.

5.2. Co-operation among Lawyers of Different Member States

5.2.1. It is the duty of a lawyer who is approached by a colleague from another Member State not to accept instructions in a matter which the lawyer is not competent to undertake. The lawyer should in such case be prepared to help that colleague to obtain the information necessary to enable him or her to instruct a lawyer who is capable of providing the service asked for.

5.2.2. Where a lawyer of a Member State co-operates with a lawyer from another Member State, both have a general duty to take into account the differences which may exist between their respective legal systems and the professional organisations, competences and obligations of lawyers in the Member States concerned.

5.3. Correspondence between Lawyers

- 5.3.1. If a lawyer intends to send communications to a lawyer in another Member State, which the sender wishes to remain confidential or without prejudice he or she should clearly express this intention prior to communicating the documents.
- 5.3.2. If the prospective recipient of the communications is unable to ensure their status as confidential or without prejudice he or she should inform the sender accordingly without delay.

5.4. Referral Fees

- 5.4.1. A lawyer may not demand or accept from another lawyer or any other person a fee, commission or any other compensation for referring or recommending the lawyer to a client.
- 5.4.2. A lawyer may not pay anyone a fee, commission or any other compensation as a consideration for referring a client to him- or herself.

5.5. Communication with Opposing Parties

A lawyer shall not communicate about a particular case or matter directly with any person whom he or she knows to be represented or advised in the case or matter by another lawyer, with-

out the consent of that other lawyer (and shall keep the other lawyer informed of any such communications).

5.6. (Deleted by decision of the Plenary Session in Dublin on 6 December 2002)

5.7. Responsibility for Fees

In professional relations between members of Bars of different Member States, where a lawyer does not confine him- or herself to recommending another lawyer or introducing that other lawyer to the client but instead him- or herself entrusts a correspondent with a particular matter or seeks the correspondent's advice, the instructing lawyer is personally bound, even if the client is insolvent, to pay the fees, costs and outlays which are due to the foreign correspondent. The lawyers concerned may, however, at the outset of the relationship between them make special arrangements on this matter. Further, the instructing lawyer may at any time limit his or her personal responsibility to the amount of

the fees, costs and outlays incurred before intimation to the foreign lawyer of the instructing lawyer's disclaimer of responsibility for the future.

settlement.

5.8. Continuing Professional Development

Lawyers should maintain and develop their professional knowledge and skills taking proper account of the European dimension of their profession.

5.9. Disputes amongst Lawyers in Different Member States

- 5.9.1. If a lawyer considers that a colleague in another Member State has acted in breach of a rule of professional conduct the lawyer shall draw the matter to the attention of that colleague.
- 5.9.2. If any personal dispute of a professional nature arises amongst lawyers in different Member States they should if possible first try to settle it in a friendly way.
- 5.9.3. A lawyer shall not commence any form of proceedings against a colleague in another Member State on matters referred to in 5.9.1 or 5.9.2 above without first informing the Bars or Law Societies to which they both belong for the purpose of allowing both Bars or Law Societies concerned an opportunity to assist in reaching a

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Explanatory Memorandum was prepared at the request of the CCBE Standing Committee by the CCBE's deontology working party, who were responsible for drafting the first version of the Code of Conduct itself. It seeks to explain the origin of the provisions of the Code, to illustrate the problems which they are designed to resolve, particularly in relation to cross-border activities, and to provide assistance to the Competent Authorities in the Member States in the application of the Code. It is not intended to have any binding force in the interpretation of the Code. The Explanatory Memorandum was updated on the occasion of the CCBE Plenary Session on 19 May 2006.

The original versions of the Code are in the French and English languages. Translations into other Community languages are prepared under the authority of the national delegations.

Commentary on Article 1.1 – The Function of the Lawyer in Society

The Declaration of Perugia, adopted by the CCBE in 1977, laid down the fundamental principles of professional conduct applicable to lawyers throughout the EC. The provisions of Article 1.1 reaffirm the statement in

the Declaration of Perugia of the function of the lawyer in society which forms the basis for the rules governing the performance of that function.

Commentary on Article 1.2 – The Nature of Rules of Professional Conduct

These provisions substantially restate the explanation in the Declaration of Perugia of the nature of rules of professional conduct and how particular rules depend on particular local circumstances but are nevertheless based on common values.

Commentary on Article 1.3 – The Purpose of the Code

These provisions introduce the development of the principles in the Declaration of Perugia into a specific Code of Conduct for lawyers throughout the EU and the EEA, and lawyers of the Observer Members of the CCBE, with particular reference to their cross-border activities (defined in Article 1.5). The provisions of Article 1.3.2 lay down the specific intentions of the CCBE with regard to the substantive provisions in the Code.

Commentary on Article 1.4 – Field of Application Ratione Personae

The rules are stated to apply to all lawyers as defined in the Lawyers Services Directive of 1977 and the Lawyers Establishment Directive of 1998, and lawyers of the Observer Members of the CCBE. This includes lawyers of the states which subsequently acceded to the Directives, whose names have been added by amendment to the Directives. The Code accordingly applies to all the lawyers represented on the CCBE, whether as full Members or as Observer Members, namely:

Austria	Rechtsanwalt;
Belgium	avocat / advocaat / Rechtsanwalt;
Bulgaria	advokat;
Croatia	odvjetnik;
Cyprus	dikegóros;
Czech Republic	advokát;
Denmark	advokat;
Estonia	vandeadvokaat;
Finland	asianajaja / advokat;
FYROMacedonia	advokat;
France	avocat;
Germany	Rechtsanwalt;
Greece	dikegóros;
Hungary	ügyvéd;
Iceland	lögmaður;
Ireland	barrister, solicitor;

Italy	avvocato;
Latvia	zvērīnāts advokāts;
Liechtenstein	Rechtsanwalt; Lithuania advokatas; Luxembourg avocat / Rechtsanwalt;
Malta	avukat, prokuratur legali;
Netherlands	advocaat;
Norway	advokat;
Poland	adwokat, radca prawny;
Portugal	advogado;
Romania	avocat;
Slovakia	advokát / advokátka;
Slovenia	odvetnik / odvetnica;
Spain	abogado / advocat / abokatu / abogado;
Sweden	advokat;
Switzerland	Rechtsanwalt / Anwalt / Fürsprech / Fürsprecher / avocat / avvocato /advokat;
Turkey	avukat;
Ukraine	advocate;
United Kingdom	advocate, barrister, solicitor.

It is also hoped that the Code will be acceptable to the legal professions of other non-member states in Europe and elsewhere so that it could also be applied by appropriate conventions between them and the Member States.

Commentary on Article 1.5 – Field of Application Ratione Materiae

The rules are here given direct application only to “cross-border activities”, as defined, of lawyers within the EU and the EEA and lawyers of the Observer Members of the CCBE - see above on Article 1.4, and the definition of “Member State” in Article 1.6. (See also above as to possible extensions in the future to lawyers of other states.) The definition of cross-border activities would, for example, include contacts in state A even on a matter of law internal to state A between a lawyer of state A and a lawyer of state B; it would exclude contacts between lawyers of state A in state A of a matter arising in state B, provided that none of their professional activities takes place in state B; it would include any activities of lawyers of state A in state B, even if only in the form of communications sent from state A to state B.

Commentary on Article 1.6 – Definitions

This provision defines a number of terms used in the Code, “Member State”, “Home Member State”, “Host Member State”, “Competent Authority”, “Directive 77/249/EEC” and “Directive 98/5/EC”.

The reference to “where the lawyer carries on cross-border activities” should be interpreted in the light of the definition of “cross-border activities” in Article 1.5.

Commentary on Article 2.1 – Independence

This provision substantially reaffirms the general statement of principle in the Declaration of Perugia.

Commentary on Article 2.2 – Trust and Personal Integrity

This provision also restates a general principle contained in the Declaration of Perugia.

Commentary on Article 2.3 – Confidentiality

This provision first restates, in Article 2.3.1, general principles laid down in the Declaration of Perugia and recognised by the ECJ in the AM&S case (157/79). It then, in Articles 2.3.2 to 4, develops them into a specific rule relating to the protection of confidentiality. Article 2.3.2 contains the basic rule requiring respect for confidentiality. Article 2.3.3 confirms that the obligation remains binding on the lawyer even if he or she ceases to act for the client in question. Article 2.3.4 confirms that the lawyer must not only respect the obligation of confidentiality himself or herself but must require all members and employees of his or her firm to do likewise.

Commentary on Article 2.4 – Respect for the Rules of Other Bars and Law Societies

Article 4 of the Lawyers Services Directive contains the provisions with regard to the rules to be observed by a lawyer from one Member State providing services on an occasional or temporary basis in another Member State by virtue of Article 49 of the consolidated EC treaty, as follows:

- (a) activities relating to the representation of a client in legal proceedings or before public authorities shall be pursued in each Host Member State under the conditions laid down for lawyers

established in that state, with the exception of any conditions requiring residence, or registration with a professional organisation, in that state;

- (b) a lawyer pursuing these activities shall observe the rules of professional conduct of the Host Member State, without prejudice to the lawyer's obligations in the Member State from which he or she comes;
- (c) when these activities are pursued in the UK, "rules of professional conduct of the Host Member State" means the rules of professional conduct applicable to solicitors, where such activities are not reserved for barristers and advocates. Otherwise the rules of professional conduct applicable to the latter shall apply. However, barristers from Ireland shall always be subject to the rules of professional conduct applicable in the UK to barristers and advocates. When these activities are pursued in Ireland "rules of professional conduct of the Host Member State" means, in so far as they govern the oral presentation of a case in court, the rules of professional conduct applicable to barristers. In all other cases the rules of professional conduct applicable to solicitors shall apply. However, barristers and advocates from the UK shall

always be subject to the rules of professional conduct applicable in Ireland to barristers; and

- (d) a lawyer pursuing activities other than those referred to in (a) above shall remain subject to the conditions and rules of professional conduct of the Member State from which he or she comes without prejudice to respect for the rules, whatever their source, which govern the profession in the Host Member State, especially those concerning the incompatibility of the exercise of the activities of a lawyer with the exercise of other activities in that state, professional secrecy, relations with other lawyers, the prohibition on the same lawyer acting for parties with mutually conflicting interests, and publicity. The latter rules are applicable only if they are capable of being observed by a lawyer who is not established in the Host Member State and to the extent to which their observance is objectively justified to ensure, in that state, the proper exercise of a lawyer's activities, the standing of the profession and respect for the rules concerning incompatibility.

The Lawyers Establishment Directive contains the provisions with regard to the rules to be observed by a lawyer from one Member State practising on a permanent basis in another Member State by virtue of Article 43 of the consolidated EC treaty, as follows:

- (a) irrespective of the rules of professional conduct to which he or she is subject in his or her Home Member State, a lawyer practising

under his home-country professional title shall be subject to the same rules of professional conduct as lawyers practising under the relevant professional title of the Host Member State in respect of all the activities the lawyer pursues in its territory (Article 6.1);

- (b) the Host Member State may require a lawyer practising under his or her home-country professional title either to take out professional indemnity insurance or to become a member of a professional guarantee fund in accordance with the rules which that state lays down for professional activities pursued in its territory. Nevertheless, a lawyer practising under his or her home-country professional title shall be exempted from that requirement if the lawyer can prove that he or she is covered by insurance taken out or a guarantee provided in accordance with the rules of the Home Member State, insofar as such insurance or guarantee is equivalent in terms of the conditions and extent of cover. Where the equivalence is only partial, the Competent Authority in the Host Member State may require that additional insurance or an additional guarantee be contracted to cover the elements which are not already covered by the insurance or guarantee contracted in accordance with the rules of the Home Member State (Article 6.3); and

- (c) a lawyer registered in a Host Member State under his or her home-country professional title may practise as a salaried lawyer in the employ of another lawyer, an association or firm of lawyers, or a public or private enterprise to the extent that the Host Member State so permits for lawyers registered under the professional title used in that state (Article 8).

In cases not covered by either of these Directives, or over and above the requirements of these Directives, the obligations of a lawyer under Community law to observe the rules of other Bars and Law Societies are a matter of interpretation of any relevant provision, such as the Directive on Electronic Commerce (2000/31/EC). A major purpose of the Code is to minimise, and if possible eliminate altogether, the problems which may arise from “double deontology”, that is the application of more than one set of potentially conflicting national rules to a particular situation (see Article 1.3.1).

Commentary on Article 2.5 – Incompatible Occupations

There are differences both between and within Member States on the extent to which lawyers are permitted to engage in other occupations, for example in commercial activities. The general purpose of rules excluding a lawyer from other occupations is to protect the lawyer from influences

which might impair the lawyer's independence or his or her role in the administration of justice. The variations in these rules reflect different local conditions, different perceptions of the proper function of lawyers and different techniques of rule-making. For instance in some cases there is a complete prohibition of engagement in certain named occupations, whereas in other cases engagement in other occupations is generally permitted, subject to observance of specific safeguards for the lawyer's independence.

Articles 2.5.2 and 3 make provision for different circumstances in which a lawyer of one Member State is engaging in cross-border activities (as defined in Article 1.5) in a Host Member State when he or she is not a member of the Host State legal profession.

Article 2.5.2 imposes full observation of Host State rules regarding incompatible occupations on the lawyer acting in national legal proceedings or before national public authorities in the Host State. This applies whether the lawyer is established in the Host State or not.

Article 2.5.3, on the other hand, imposes “respect” for the rules of the Host State regarding forbidden or incompatible occupations in other cases, but only where the lawyer who is established in the Host Member State wishes to participate directly in commercial or other activities not connected with the practice of the law.

Commentary on Article 2.6 – Personal Publicity

The term “personal publicity” covers publicity by firms of lawyers, as well as individual lawyers, as opposed to corporate publicity organised by Bars and Law Societies for their members as a whole. The rules governing personal publicity by lawyers vary considerably in the Member States. Article 2.6 makes it clear that there is no overriding objection to personal publicity in cross-border practice. However, lawyers are nevertheless subject to prohibitions or restrictions laid down by their home professional rules, and a lawyer will still be subject to prohibitions or restrictions laid down by Host State rules when these are binding on the lawyer by virtue of the Lawyers Services Directive or the Lawyers Establishment Directive.

Commentary on Article 2.7 – The Client's Interest

This provision emphasises the general principle that the lawyer must always place the client's interests before the lawyer's own interests or those of fellow members of the legal profession.

Commentary on Article 2.8 – Limitation of Lawyer's Liability towards the Client

This provision makes clear that there is no overriding objection to limiting a lawyer's liability towards his or her client in cross-border practice, whether by contract or by use of a limited company, limited partnership or limited liability partnership. However it points out that this can only be contemplated where the relevant law and the relevant rules of conduct permit - and in a number of jurisdictions the law or the professional rules prohibit or restrict such limitation of liability.

Commentary on Article 3.1 – Acceptance and Termination of Instructions

The provisions of Article 3.1.1 are designed to ensure that a relationship is maintained between lawyer and client and that the lawyer in fact receives instructions from the client, even though these may be transmitted through a duly authorised intermediary. It is the responsibility of the lawyer to satisfy him- or herself as to the authority of the intermediary and the wishes of the client.

Article 3.1.2 deals with the manner in which the lawyer should carry out his or her duties. The provision that the lawyer shall undertake personal responsibility for the discharge of the instructions given to him or her

means that the lawyer cannot avoid responsibility by delegation to others. It does not prevent the lawyer from seeking to limit his or her legal liability to the extent that this is permitted by the relevant law or professional rules - see Article 2.8.

Article 3.1.3 states a principle which is of particular relevance in cross-border activities, for example when a lawyer is asked to handle a matter on behalf of a lawyer or client from another state who may be unfamiliar with the relevant law and practice, or when a lawyer is asked to handle a matter relating to the law of another state with which he or she is unfamiliar.

A lawyer generally has the right to refuse to accept instructions in the first place, but Article 3.1.4 states that, having once accepted them, the lawyer has an obligation not to withdraw without ensuring that the client's interests are safeguarded.

Commentary on Article 3.2 – Conflict of Interest

The provisions of Article 3.2.1 do not prevent a lawyer acting for two or more clients in the same matter provided that their interests are not in fact in conflict and that there is no significant risk of such a conflict arising. Where a lawyer is already acting for two or more clients in this way and subsequently there arises a conflict of interests between those clients or a risk of a breach of confidence or other circumstances where the lawyer's

independence may be impaired, then the lawyer must cease to act for both or all of them.

There may, however, be circumstances in which differences arise between two or more clients for whom the same lawyer is acting where it may be appropriate for the lawyer to attempt to act as a mediator. It is for the lawyer in such cases to use his or her own judgement on whether or not there is such a conflict of interest between them as to require the lawyer to cease to act. If not, the lawyer may consider whether it would be appropriate to explain the position to the clients, obtain their agreement and attempt to act as mediator to resolve the difference between them, and only if this attempt to mediate should fail, to cease to act for them.

Article 3.2.4 applies the foregoing provisions of Article 3 to lawyers practising in association. For example a firm of lawyers should cease to act when there is a conflict of interest between two clients of the firm, even if different lawyers in the firm are acting for each client. On the other hand, exceptionally, in the "chambers" form of association used by English barristers, where each lawyer acts for clients individually, it is possible for different lawyers in the association to act for clients with opposing interests.

Commentary on Article 3.3 – Pactum de Quota Litis

These provisions reflect the common position in all Member States that an unregulated agreement for contingency fees (*pactum de quota litis*) is contrary to the proper administration of justice because it encourages speculative litigation and is liable to be abused. The provisions are not, however, intended to prevent the maintenance or introduction of arrangements under which lawyers are paid according to results or only if the action or matter is successful, provided that these arrangements are under sufficient regulation and control for the protection of the client and the proper administration of justice.

Commentary on Article 3.4 – Regulation of Fees

Article 3.4 lays down three requirements: a general standard of disclosure of a lawyer's fees to the client, a requirement that they should be fair and reasonable in amount, and a requirement to comply with the applicable law and professional rules.

In many Member States machinery exists for regulating lawyers' fees under national law or rules of conduct, whether by reference to a power of adjudication by the Bar authorities or otherwise. In situations governed by the Lawyers Establishment Directive, where the lawyer is subject to Host State rules as well as the rules of the Home State, the basis of charging

may have to comply with both sets of rules.

Commentary on Article 3.5 – Payment on Account

Article 3.5 assumes that a lawyer may require a payment on account of the lawyer's fees and/or disbursements, but sets a limit by reference to a reasonable estimate of them. See also on Article 3.1.4 regarding the right to withdraw.

Commentary on Article 3.6 – Fee Sharing with Non-Lawyers

In some Member States lawyers are permitted to practise in association with members of certain other approved professions, whether legal professions or not. The provisions of Article 3.6.1 are not designed to prevent fee sharing within such an approved form of association. Nor are the provisions designed to prevent fee sharing by the lawyers to whom the Code applies (see on Article 1.4 above) with other "lawyers", for example

lawyers from non-Member States or members of other legal professions in the Member States such as notaries.

Commentary on Article 3.7 – Cost of Litigation and Availability of Legal Aid

Article 3.7.1 stresses the importance of attempting to resolve disputes in a way which is cost-effective for the client, including advising on whether to attempt to negotiate a settlement, and whether to propose referring the dispute to some form of alternative dispute resolution.

Article 3.7.2 requires a lawyer to inform the client of the availability of legal aid where applicable. There are widely differing provisions in the Member States on the availability of legal aid. In cross-border activities a lawyer should have in mind the possibility that the legal aid provisions of a national law with which the lawyer is unfamiliar may be applicable.

Commentary on Article 3.8 – Client Funds

The provisions of Article 3.8 reflect the recommendation adopted by the CCBE in Brussels in November 1985 on the need for minimum regulations to be made and enforced governing the proper control and disposal of

clients' funds held by lawyers within the Community. Article 3.8 lays down minimum standards to be observed, while not interfering with the details of national systems which provide fuller or more stringent protection for clients' funds.

The lawyer who holds clients' funds, even in the course of a cross-border activity, has to observe the rules of his or her home Bar. The lawyer needs to be aware of questions which arise where the rules of more than one Member State may be applicable, especially where the lawyer is established in a Host State under the Lawyers Establishment Directive.

Commentary on Article 3.9 – Professional Indemnity Insurance

Article 3.9.1 reflects a recommendation, also adopted by the CCBE in Brussels in November 1985, on the need for all lawyers in the Community to be insured against the risks arising from professional negligence claims against them.

Article 3.9.2 deals with the situation where insurance cannot be obtained on the basis set out in Article 3.9.1.

Commentary on Article 4.1 – Rules of Conduct in Court

This provision applies the principle that a lawyer is bound to comply with the rules of the court or tribunal before which the lawyer practises or appears.

Commentary on Article 4.2 – Fair Conduct of Proceedings

This provision applies the general principle that in adversarial proceedings a lawyer must not attempt to take unfair advantage of his or her opponent. The lawyer must not, for example, make contact with the judge without first informing the lawyer acting for the opposing party or submit exhibits, notes or documents to the judge without communicating them in good time to the lawyer on the other side unless such steps are permitted under the relevant rules of procedure. To the extent not prohibited bylaw a lawyer must not divulge or submit to the court any proposals for settlement of the case made by the other party or its lawyer without the express consent of the other party's lawyer. See also on Article 4.5 below.

Commentary on Article 4.3 – Demeanour in Court

This provision reflects the necessary balance between respect for the court and for the law on the one hand and the pursuit of the client's best interest on the other.

Commentary on Article 4.4 – False or Misleading Information

This provision applies the principle that the lawyer must never knowingly mislead the court. This is necessary if there is to be trust between the courts and the legal profession.

Commentary on Article 4.5 – Extension to Arbitrators etc.

This provision extends the preceding provisions relating to courts and other bodies exercising judicial or quasi-judicial functions.

Commentary on Article 5.1 – Corporate Spirit of the Profession

These provisions, which are based on statements in the Declaration of Perugia, emphasise that it is in the public interest for the legal profession to maintain a relationship of trust and cooperation between its members. However, this cannot be used to justify setting the interests of the profession against those of justice or of clients (see also on Article 2.7).

Commentary on Article 5.2 – Co-operation among Lawyers of Different Member States

This provision also develops a principle stated in the Declaration of Perugia with a view to avoiding misunderstandings in dealings between lawyers of different Member States.

Commentary on Article 5.3 – Correspondence between Lawyers

In certain Member States communications between lawyers (written or by word of mouth) are normally regarded as to be kept confidential as between the lawyers. This means that the content of these communications cannot be disclosed to others, cannot normally be passed to the

lawyers' clients, and at any event cannot be produced in court. In other Member States, such consequences will not follow unless the correspondence is marked as "confidential".

In yet other Member States, the lawyer has to keep the client fully informed of all relevant communications from a professional colleague acting for another party, and marking a letter as "confidential" only means that it is a legal matter intended for the recipient lawyer and his or her client, and not to be misused by third parties.

In some states, if a lawyer wishes to indicate that a letter is sent in an attempt to settle a dispute, and is not to be produced in a court, the lawyer should mark the letter as "without prejudice".

These important national differences give rise to many misunderstandings. That is why lawyers must be very careful in conducting cross-border correspondence.

Whenever a lawyer wants to send a letter to a professional colleague in another Member State on the basis that it is to be kept confidential as between the lawyers, or that it is "without prejudice", the lawyer should ask in advance whether the letter can be accepted on that basis. A lawyer wishing that a communication should be accepted on such a

basis must express that clearly at the head of the communication or in a covering letter.

A lawyer who is the intended recipient of such a communication, but who is not in a position to respect, or to ensure respect for, the basis on which it is to be sent, must inform the sender immediately so that the communication is not sent. If the communication has already been received, the recipient must return it to the sender without revealing its contents or referring to it in any way; if the recipient's national law or rules prevent the recipient from complying with this requirement, he or she must inform the sender immediately.

Commentary on Article 5.4 – Referral Fees

This provision reflects the principle that a lawyer should not pay or receive payment purely for the reference of a client, which would risk impairing the client's free choice of lawyer or the client's interest in being referred to the best available service. It does not prevent fee-sharing arrangements between lawyers on a proper basis (see also on Article 3.6 above).

In some Member States lawyers are permitted to accept and retain commissions in certain cases provided the client's best interests are served, there is full disclosure to the client and the client has consented to the retention of the commission. In such cases the retention of the commission

by the lawyer represents part of the lawyer's remuneration for the service provided to the client and is not within the scope of the prohibition on referral fees which is designed to prevent lawyers making a secret profit.

Commentary on Article 5.5 – Communication with Opposing Parties

This provision reflects a generally accepted principle, and is designed both to promote the smooth conduct of business between lawyers and to prevent any attempt to take advantage of the client of another lawyer.

Commentary on Article 5.6 – Change of Lawyer

Article 5.6 dealt with change of lawyer. It was deleted from the Code on 6 December 2002.

Commentary on Article 5.7 – Responsibility for Fees

These provisions substantially reaffirm provisions contained in the Declaration of Perugia. Since misunderstandings about responsibility for unpaid fees are a common cause of difference between lawyers of different Member States, it is important that a lawyer who wishes to exclude or limit his or her personal obligation to be responsible for the fees of a foreign colleague should reach a clear agreement on this at the outset of the transaction.

Commentary on Article 5.8 – Continuing Professional Development

Keeping abreast of developments in the law is a professional obligation. In particular it is essential that lawyers are aware of the growing impact of European law on their field of practice.

Commentary on Article 5.9 – Disputes amongst Lawyers in Different Member States

A lawyer has the right to pursue any legal or other remedy to which he or she is entitled against a colleague in another Member State. Nevertheless

it is desirable that, where a breach of a rule of professional conduct or a dispute of a professional nature is involved, the possibilities of friendly settlement should be exhausted, if necessary with the assistance of the Bars or Law Societies concerned, before such remedies are exercised.

- European lawyers

- pour le droit & la justice -



**CHARTER OF CORE PRINCIPLES
OF THE EUROPEAN LEGAL PROFESSION
AND
CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR EUROPEAN LAWYERS**

Conseil des barreaux européens - Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe

association internationale sans but lucratif

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The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) has as its principal object to represent its member bars and law societies, whether they are full members (i.e. those of the European Union, the European Economic Area and the Swiss Confederation), or associated or observer members, on all matters of mutual interest relating to the exercise of the profession of lawyer, the development of the law and practice pertaining to the rule of law and the administration of justice and substantive developments in the law itself, both at a European and international level (Article III 1.a. of the CCBE Statutes).

In this respect, it is the official representative of bars and law societies which between them comprise more than 700,000 European lawyers.

The CCBE has adopted two foundation texts, which are included in this brochure, that are both complementary and very different in nature.

The more recent one is the ***Charter of Core Principles of the European Legal Profession*** which was adopted at the plenary session in Brussels on 24 November 2006. The Charter is not conceived as a code of conduct. It is aimed at applying to all of Europe, reaching out beyond the member, associate and observer states of the CCBE. The Charter contains a list of ten core principles common to the national and international rules regulating the legal profession.

The Charter aims, inter alia, to help bar associations that are struggling to establish their independence; and to increase understanding among lawyers

of the importance of the lawyer's role in Society; it is aimed both at lawyers themselves and at decision makers and the public in general.

The **Code of Conduct for European Lawyers** dates back to 28 October 1988. It has been amended three times; the latest amendment took place at the plenary session in Oporto on 19 May 2006. It is a binding text on all member States: all lawyers who are members of the bars of these countries (whether their bars are full, associate or observer members of the CCBE) have to comply with the Code in their cross-border activities within the European Union, the European Economic Area and the Swiss Confederation as well as within associate and observer countries.

These two texts include a commentary for the first one, and an explanatory memorandum for the second one.

It is unnecessary to emphasise the importance of the set of norms set out in these two documents, which are the basis of the deontology of the European legal profession, and which contribute to shaping the European lawyer and the European bar.

31 January 2008

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CHARTER OF CORE PRINCIPLES OF THE EUROPEAN LEGAL PROFESSION¹

"In a society founded on respect for the rule of law the lawyer fulfils a special role. The lawyer's duties do not begin and end with the faithful performance of what he or she is instructed to do so far as the law permits. A lawyer must serve the interests of justice as well as those whose rights and liberties he or she is trusted to assert and defend and it is the lawyer's duty not only to plead the client's cause but to be the client's adviser. Respect for the lawyer's professional function is an essential condition for the rule of law and democracy in Society."

– the CCBE's Code of Conduct for European Lawyers, article 1.1

There are core principles which are common to the whole European legal profession, even though these principles are expressed in slightly different ways in different jurisdictions. The core principles underlie the various national and international codes which govern the conduct of lawyers. European lawyers are committed to these principles, which are essential for the proper administration of justice, access to justice and the right to a fair trial, as required under the European Convention of Human Rights. Bars and law societies, courts, legislators, governments and international organisations should seek to uphold and protect the core principles in the public interest.

The core principles are, in particular:

(a) the independence of the lawyer, and the freedom of the lawyer to

pursue the client's case;

- (b) the right and duty of the lawyer to keep clients' matters confidential and to respect professional secrecy;
- (c) avoidance of conflicts of interest, whether between different clients or between the client and the lawyer;
- (d) the dignity and honour of the legal profession, and the integrity and good repute of the individual lawyer;
- (e) loyalty to the client;
- (f) fair treatment of clients in relation to fees;
- (g) the lawyer's professional competence;
- (h) respect towards professional colleagues;
- (i) respect for the rule of law and the fair administration of justice; and
- (j) the self-regulation of the legal profession.

A COMMENTARY ON THE CHARTER OF CORE PRINCIPLES OF THE EUROPEAN LEGAL PROFESSION²

5

1. On 25 November 2006 the CCBE unanimously adopted a "Charter of core principles of the European legal profession". The Charter contains a list of ten principles common to the whole European legal profession. Respect for these principles is the basis of the right to a legal defence, which is the cornerstone of all other fundamental rights in a democracy.
2. The core principles express the common ground which underlies all the national and international rules which govern the conduct of European lawyers.
3. The Charter takes into account:
 - national professional rules from states throughout Europe, including rules from non-CCBE states, which also share these common principles of European legal practice³,
 - the CCBE's Code of Conduct for European Lawyers,
 - the Principles of General Application in the International Bar Association's International Code of Ethics⁴,
 - recommendation Rec (2000) 21 of 25 October 2000 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member states on the freedom of exercise of the profession of lawyer⁵,
 - the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, adopted by the Eighth

United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana (Cuba), 27 August to 7 September 1990⁶,

- the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice, and in particular the judgment of 19 February 2002 of the European Court of Justice in *Wouters v. Algemene Raad van de Nederlandse Orde van Advocaten* (C-309/99)⁷,
- the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁸, the European Convention on Human Rights⁹, and the European Union Charter of Funda-

² Adopted at the CCBE Plenary Session on 11.05.2007

³ The national codes of conduct can be found on CCBE web site: <http://www.ccbe.eu/index.php?id=107&L=0>

⁴ IBA, IBA GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE LEGAL PROFESSION, <http://www.ibanet.org/images/downloads/BIC/2006%20general%20principles%20for%20legal%20profession.pdf>

⁵ Council of Europe, Recommendation No R (2000) 21 of the Committee of Ministers, <https://wcd.coe.int/com.instranet.InstraServlet?Command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&DocId=370284&SecMode=1&Admin=0&Usage=4&IntranetImage=62250>

⁶ United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/h_comp44.htm

⁷ Eur-Lex, Official Journal of the European Communities, 4.5.2002, http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2002/c_109/c_10920020504en00040005.pdf

⁸ United Nations, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, <http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>

⁹ Council of Europe, Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, <http://www.echr.coe.int/NR/rdonlyres/D5CC24A7-DC13-4318-B457->

- the European Parliament resolution on the legal professions and the
- 4. The Charter is designed to serve as a pan-European document, reaching out beyond the member, associate and observer states of the CCBE. It is hoped that the Charter will be of help, for instance, to bar
- 5. It is hoped that the Charter will increase understanding among lawyers, decision makers and the public of the importance of the lawyer's role
- 6. The lawyer's role, whether retained by an individual, a corporation or the state, is as the client's trusted adviser and representative, as a professional respected by third parties, and as an indispensable participant in the fair administration of justice. By embodying all these elements, the lawyer, who faithfully serves his or her own client's interests and protects the client's rights, also fulfils the functions of the lawyer
- 7. The CCBE trusts that judges, legislators, governments and international organisations will strive, along with bar associations, to uphold the principles
- 8. The Charter is prefaced by an extract from the preamble to the Code of Conduct for European lawyers, including the assertion that: "Respect for the lawyer's professional function is an essential condition for
- 9. The Charter's introductory paragraph claims that the principles in the Charter are essential for the fair administration of justice, access to justice and the right to a fair trial, as required by the European Convention where such rights may be threatened.

europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf

- 11 European Parliament, Resolution on the legal professions and the general interest in the functioning of legal systems, 23 March 2006, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2006-0108+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

Principle (a) – the independence of the lawyer, and the freedom of the lawyer to pursue the client's case:

A lawyer needs to be free - politically, economically and intellectually - in pursuing his or her activities of advising and representing the client. This means that the lawyer must be independent of the state and other powerful interests, and must not allow his or her independence to be compromised by improper pressure from business associates. The lawyer must also remain independent of his or her own client if the lawyer is to enjoy the trust of third parties and the courts. Indeed without this independence from the client there can be no guarantee of the quality of the lawyer's work. The lawyer's membership of a liberal profession and the authority deriving from that membership helps to maintain independence, and bar associations must play an important role in helping to guarantee lawyers' independence. Self-regulation of the profession is seen as vital in buttressing the independence of the individual lawyer. It is notable that in unfree societies lawyers are prevented from pursuing their clients' cases, and may suffer imprisonment or death for attempting to do so.

Principle (b) – the right and duty of the lawyer to keep clients' matters confidential and to respect professional secrecy:

It is of the essence of a lawyer's function that the lawyer should be told by his or her client things which the client would not tell to others - the most intimate personal details or the most valuable commercial secrets - and that the

lawyer should be the recipient of other information on a basis of confidence. Without the certainty of confidentiality there can be no trust. The Charter stresses the dual nature of this principle - observing confidentiality is not only the lawyer's duty, - it is a fundamental human right of the client. The rules of "legal professional privilege" prohibit communications between lawyer and client from being used against the client. In some jurisdictions the right to confidentiality is seen as belonging to the client alone, whereas in other jurisdictions "professional secrecy" may also require that the lawyer keeps secret from his or her own client communications from the other party's lawyer imparted on the basis of confidence. Principle (b) encompasses all these related concepts - legal professional privilege, confidentiality and professional secrecy. The lawyer's duty to the client remains even after the lawyer has ceased to act.

Principle (c) – avoidance of conflicts of interest, whether between different clients or between the client and the lawyer:

For the proper exercise of his or her profession, the lawyer must avoid conflicts of interest. So a lawyer may not act for two clients in the same matter if there is a conflict, or a risk of conflict, between the interests of those clients. Equally a lawyer must refrain from acting for a new client if the lawyer is in possession of confidential information obtained from another current or former client. Nor must a lawyer take on a client if there is a conflict of interest between the client and the lawyer. If a conflict of interest arises in the course of acting

for a client, the lawyer must cease to act. It can be seen that this principle is closely linked to principles (b) (confidentiality), (a) (independence) and (e) (loyalty).

Principle (d) – the dignity and honour of the legal profession, and the integrity and good repute of the individual lawyer:

To be trusted by clients, third parties, the courts and the state, the lawyer must be shown to be worthy of that trust. That is achieved by membership of an honourable profession; the corollary is that the lawyer must do nothing to damage either his or her own reputation or the reputation of the profession as a whole and public confidence in the profession. This does not mean that the lawyer has to be a perfect individual, but it does mean that he or she must not engage in disgraceful conduct, whether in legal practice or in other business activities or even in private life, of a sort likely to dishonour the profession. Disgraceful conduct may lead to sanctions including, in the most serious cases, expulsion from the profession.

Principle (e) – loyalty to the client:

Loyalty to the client is of the essence of the lawyer's role. The client must be able to trust the lawyer as adviser and as representative. To be loyal to the client, the lawyer must be independent (see principle (a)), must avoid conflicts of interest (see principle (c)), and must keep the client's confidences (see principle (b)). Some of the most delicate problems of professional conduct

arise from the interaction between the principle of loyalty to the client and principles which set out the lawyer's wider duties – principle (d) (dignity and honour), principle (h) (respect towards professional colleagues) and in particular principle (i) (respect for the rule of law and the fair administration of justice). In dealing with such issues the lawyer must make it clear to the client that the lawyer cannot compromise his or her duties to the court and to the administration of justice in order to put forward a dishonest case on behalf of the client.

Principle (f) – fair treatment of clients in relation to fees:

A fee charged by a lawyer must be fully disclosed to the client, must be fair and reasonable, and must comply with the law and professional rules to which the lawyer is subject. Although professional codes (and principle (c) in this Charter) stress the importance of avoiding conflicts of interest between lawyer and client, the matter of the lawyer's fees seems to present an inherent danger of such a conflict. Accordingly, the principle dictates the necessity of professional regulation to see that the client is not overcharged.

Principle (g) – the lawyer's professional competence:

It is self-evident that the lawyer cannot effectively advise or represent the client unless the lawyer has the appropriate professional education and training. Recently, post-qualification training (continuing professional development) has gained increasing emphasis as a response to rapid rates of change

in law and practice and in the technological and economic environment. Professional rules often stress that a lawyer must not take on a case which he or she is not competent to deal with.

Principle (h) – respect towards professional colleagues:

This principle represents more than an assertion of the need for courtesy – although even that is important in the highly sensitive and highly contentious matters in which lawyers are frequently involved on behalf of their respective clients. The principle relates to the role of the lawyer as intermediary, who can be trusted to speak the truth, to comply with professional rules and to keep his or her promises. The proper administration of justice requires lawyers to behave with respect to each other so that contentious matters can be resolved in a civilised way. Similarly it must be in the public interest for lawyers to deal in good faith with each other and not to deceive. Mutual respect between professional colleagues facilitates the proper administration of justice, assists in the resolution of conflicts by agreement, and is in the client's interest.

Principle (i) – respect for the rule of law and the fair administration of justice:

We have characterised part of the role of the lawyer as acting as a participant in the fair administration of justice. The same idea is sometimes expressed by describing the lawyer as an “officer of the court” or as a “minister of justice”. A lawyer must never knowingly give false or misleading information to the court, nor should a lawyer ever lie to third parties in the course of his

or her professional activities. These prohibitions frequently run counter to the immediate interests of the lawyer's client, and the handling of this apparent conflict between the interests of the client and the interests of justice presents delicate problems that the lawyer is professionally trained to solve. The lawyer is entitled to look to his or her bar association for assistance with such problems. But in the last analysis the lawyer can only successfully represent his or her client if the lawyer can be relied on by the courts and by third parties as a trusted intermediary and as a participant in the fair administration of justice.

Principle (j) – the self-regulation of the legal profession:

It is one of the hallmarks of unfree societies that the state, either overtly or covertly, controls the legal profession and the activities of lawyers. Most European legal professions display a combination of state regulation and self-regulation. In many cases the state, recognising the importance of the core principles, uses legislation to buttress them – for instance by giving statutory support to confidentiality, or by giving bar associations statutory power to make professional rules. The CCBE is convinced that only a strong element of self-regulation can guarantee lawyers' professional independence vis-à-vis the state, and without a guarantee of independence it is impossible for lawyers to fulfil their professional and legal role.

This Code of Conduct for European Lawyers was originally adopted at the CCBE Plenary Session held on 28 October 1988, and subsequently amended during the CCBE Plenary Sessions on 28 November 1998, 6 December 2002 and 19 May 2006. The Code also takes into account amendments to the CCBE Statutes formally approved at an Extraordinary Plenary Session on 20 August 2007.

1. preamble

1.1. the function of the lawyer in society

In a society founded on respect for the rule of law the lawyer fulfils a special role. The lawyer's duties do not begin and end with the faithful performance of what he or she is instructed to do so far as the law permits. A lawyer must serve the interests of justice as well as those whose rights and liberties he or she is trusted to assert and defend and it is the lawyer's duty not only to plead the client's cause but to be the client's adviser. Respect for the lawyer's professional function is an essential condition for the rule of law and democracy in society.

A lawyer's function therefore lays on him or her a variety of legal and moral obligations (sometimes appearing to be in conflict with each

other) towards:

- the client;
- the courts and other authorities before whom the lawyer pleads the client's cause or acts on the client's behalf;
- the legal profession in general and each fellow member of it in particular;
- the public for whom the existence of a free and independent profession, bound together by respect for rules made by the profession itself, is an essential means of safeguarding human rights in face of the power of the state and other interests in society.

1.2. the nature of rules of professional Conduct

1.2.1. Rules of professional conduct are designed through their willing acceptance by those to whom they apply to ensure the proper performance by the lawyer of a function which is recognised as essential in all civilised societies. The failure of the lawyer to observe these rules may result in disciplinary sanctions.

1.2.2. The particular rules of each Bar or Law Society arise from its own traditions. They are adapted to the organisation and sphere of activity of the profession in the Member State concerned and to its judicial and administrative procedures and to its national legislation. It is neither

possible nor desirable that they should be taken out of their context nor that an attempt should be made to give general application to rules which are inherently incapable of such application.

The particular rules of each Bar and Law Society nevertheless are based on the same values and in most cases demonstrate a common foundation.

1.3. the purpose of the Code

1.3.1. The continued integration of the European Union and European Economic Area and the increasing frequency of the cross-border activities of lawyers within the European Economic Area have made necessary in the public interest the statement of common rules which apply to all lawyers from the European Economic Area whatever Bar or Law Society they belong to in relation to their cross-border practice. A particular purpose of the statement of those rules is to mitigate the difficulties which result from the application of "double deontology", notably as set out in Articles 4 and 7.2 of Directive 77/249/EEC and Articles 6 and 7 of Directive 98/5/EC.

1.3.2. The organisations representing the legal profession through the CCBE propose that the rules codified in the following articles:

- be recognised at the present time as the expression of a consensus of all the Bars and Law Societies of the European Union and Euro-

pean Economic Area;

- be adopted as enforceable rules as soon as possible in accordance with national or EEA procedures in relation to the cross-border activities of the lawyer in the European Union and European Economic Area;
- be taken into account in all revisions of national rules of deontology or professional practice with a view to their progressive harmonisation.

They further express the wish that the national rules of deontology or professional practice be interpreted and applied whenever possible in a way consistent with the rules in this Code.

After the rules in this Code have been adopted as enforceable rules in relation to a lawyer's cross-border activities the lawyer will remain bound to observe the rules of the Bar or Law Society to which he or she belongs to the extent that they are consistent with the rules in this Code.

1.4. field of application *Ratione Personae*

This Code shall apply to lawyers as they are defined by Directive 77/249/EEC and by Directive 98/5/EC and to lawyers of the Associate and Observer Members of the CCBE.

1.5. field of application *Ratione Materiae*

Without prejudice to the pursuit of a progressive harmonisation of rules of deontology or professional practice which apply only internally within a Member State, the following rules shall apply to the cross-border activities of the lawyer within the European Union and the European Economic Area. Cross-border activities shall mean:

- (a) all professional contacts with lawyers of Member States other than the lawyer's own;
- (b) the professional activities of the lawyer in a Member State other than his or her own, whether or not the lawyer is physically present in that Member State.

1.6. Definitions

In this Code:

“Member State” means a member state of the European Union or any other state whose legal profession is included in Article 1.4.

“Home Member State” means the Member State where the lawyer acquired the right to bear his or her professional title.

“Host Member State” means any other Member State where the lawyer carries on cross-border activities.

“Competent Authority” means the professional organisation(s) or

authority(ies) of the Member State concerned responsible for the laying down of rules of professional conduct and the administration of discipline of lawyers.

"Directive 77/249/EEC" means Council Directive 77/249/EEC of 22 March 1977 to facilitate the effective exercise by lawyers of freedom to provide services.

"Directive 98/5/EC" means Directive 98/5/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 to facilitate practice of the profession of lawyer on a permanent basis in a Member State other than that in which the qualification was obtained.

2. general prinCiples

2.1. independence

2.1.1. The many duties to which a lawyer is subject require the lawyer's absolute independence, free from all other influence, especially such as may arise from his or her personal interests or external pressure. Such independence is as necessary to trust in the process of justice as the impartiality of the judge. A lawyer must therefore avoid any impairment

of his or her independence and be careful not to compromise his or her professional standards in order to please the client, the court or third parties.

2.1.2. This independence is necessary in non-contentious matters as well as in litigation. Advice given by a lawyer to the client has no value if the lawyer gives it only to ingratiate him- or herself, to serve his or her personal interests or in response to outside pressure.

2.2. trust and personal integrity

Relationships of trust can only exist if a lawyer's personal honour, honesty and integrity are beyond doubt. For the lawyer these traditional virtues are professional obligations.

2.3. Confidentiality

2.3.1 It is of the essence of a lawyer's function that the lawyer should be told by his or her client things which the client would not tell to others, and that the lawyer should be the recipient of other information on a basis of confidence. Without the certainty of confidentiality there cannot be trust. Confidentiality is therefore a primary and fundamental right and duty of the lawyer.

The lawyer's obligation of confidentiality serves the interest of the administration of justice as well as the interest of the client. It is therefore entitled to special protection by the State.

2.3.2. A lawyer shall respect the confidentiality of all information that becomes known to the lawyer in the course of his or her professional activity.

2.3.3. The obligation of confidentiality is not limited in time.

2.3.4. A lawyer shall require his or her associates and staff and anyone engaged by him or her in the course of providing professional services to observe the same obligation of confidentiality.

2.4. respect for the rules of other Bars and law societies

When practising cross-border, a lawyer from another Member State may be bound to comply with the professional rules of the Host Member State. Lawyers have a duty to inform themselves as to the rules which will affect them in the performance of any particular activity.

Member organisations of the CCBE are obliged to deposit their codes of conduct at the Secretariat of the CCBE so that any lawyer can get hold of the copy of the current code from the Secretariat.

2.5. incompatible occupations

2.5.1. In order to perform his or her functions with due independence and in

a manner which is consistent with his or her duty to participate in the administration of justice a lawyer may be prohibited from undertaking certain occupations.

2.5.2. A lawyer who acts in the representation or the defence of a client in legal proceedings or before any public authorities in a Host Member State shall there observe the rules regarding incompatible occupations as they are applied to lawyers of the Host Member State.

2.5.3. A lawyer established in a Host Member State in which he or she wishes to participate directly in commercial or other activities not connected with the practice of the law shall respect the rules regarding forbidden or incompatible occupations as they are applied to lawyers of that Member State.

2.6. personal publicity

2.6.1. A lawyer is entitled to inform the public about his or her services provided that the information is accurate and not misleading, and respectful of the obligation of confidentiality and other core values of the profession.

2.6.2. Personal publicity by a lawyer in any form of media such as by press, radio, television, by electronic commercial communications or otherwise is permitted to the extent it complies with the requirements of 2.6.1.

2.7. the Client's interest

Subject to due observance of all rules of law and professional conduct, a lawyer must always act in the best interests of the client and must put those interests before the lawyer's own interests or those of fellow members of the legal profession.

2.8. limitation of lawyer's liability towards the Client

To the extent permitted by the law of the Home Member State and the Host Member State, the lawyer may limit his or her liabilities towards the client in accordance with the professional rules to which the lawyer is subject.

3. relations with Clients

3.1. acceptance and termination of instructions

3.1.1. A lawyer shall not handle a case for a party except on that party's instructions. The lawyer may, however, act in a case in which he or she has been instructed by another lawyer acting for the party or where the case has been assigned to him or her by a competent body.

The lawyer should make reasonable efforts to ascertain the identity,

competence and authority of the person or body who instructs him or her when the specific circumstances show that the identity, competence and authority are uncertain.

3.1.2. A lawyer shall advise and represent the client promptly, conscientiously and diligently. The lawyer shall undertake personal responsibility for the discharge of the client's instructions and shall keep the client informed as to the progress of the matter with which the lawyer has been entrusted.

3.1.3. A lawyer shall not handle a matter which the lawyer knows or ought to know he or she is not competent to handle, without cooperating with a lawyer who is competent to handle it.

A lawyer shall not accept instructions unless he or she can discharge those instructions promptly having regard to the pressure of other work.

3.1.4. A lawyer shall not be entitled to exercise his or her right to withdraw from a case in such a way or in such circumstances that the client may be unable to find other legal assistance in time to prevent prejudice being suffered by the client.

3.2. Conflict of Interest

3.2.1. A lawyer may not advise, represent or act on behalf of two or more clients in the same matter if there is a conflict, or a significant risk of a conflict, between the interests of those clients.

3.2.2. A lawyer must cease to act for both or all of the clients concerned when a conflict of interests arises between those clients and also whenever there is a risk of a breach of confidence or where the lawyer's independence may be impaired.

3.2.3. A lawyer must also refrain from acting for a new client if there is a risk of breach of a confidence entrusted to the lawyer by a former client or if the knowledge which the lawyer possesses of the affairs of the former client would give an undue advantage to the new client.

3.2.4. Where lawyers are practising in association, paragraphs 3.2.1 to 3.2.3 above shall apply to the association and all its members.

3.3. *Pactum de Quota Litis*

3.3.1. A lawyer shall not be entitled to make a pactum de quota litis.

3.3.2. By "pactum de quota litis" is meant an agreement between a lawyer and the client entered into prior to final conclusion of a matter to which the client is a party, by virtue of which the client undertakes to pay the lawyer a share of the result regardless of whether this is represented by a sum of money or by any other benefit achieved by the client upon the conclusion of the matter.

3.3.3. "Pactum de quota litis" does not include an agreement that fees be charged in proportion to the value of a matter handled by the lawyer if this is in accordance with an officially approved fee scale or under the control of the Competent Authority having jurisdiction over the lawyer.

3.4. regulation of fees

A fee charged by a lawyer shall be fully disclosed to the client, shall be fair and reasonable, and shall comply with the law and professional rules to which the lawyer is subject.

3.5. payment on account

If a lawyer requires a payment on account of his or her fees and/or disbursements such payment should not exceed a reasonable estimate of the fees and probable disbursements involved.

Failing such payment, a lawyer may withdraw from the case or refuse to handle it, but subject always to paragraph 3.1.4 above.

3.6. fee sharing with non-lawyers

3.6.1. A lawyer may not share his or her fees with a person who is not a lawyer except where an association between the lawyer and the other person is permitted by the laws and the professional rules to which the lawyer is subject.

3.6.2. The provisions of 3.6.1 above shall not preclude a lawyer from paying a

fee, commission or other compensation to a deceased lawyer's heirs or to a retired lawyer in respect of taking over the deceased or retired lawyer's practice.

3.7. Cost of litigation and availability of legal aid

3.7.1. The lawyer should at all times strive to achieve the most cost-effective resolution of the client's dispute and should advise the client at appropriate stages as to the desirability of attempting a settlement and/or a reference to alternative dispute resolution.

3.7.2. A lawyer shall inform the client of the availability of legal aid where applicable.

3.8. Client funds

3.8.1. Lawyers who come into possession of funds on behalf of their clients or third parties (hereinafter called "client funds") have to deposit such money into an account of a bank or similar institution subject to supervision by a public authority (hereinafter called a "client account"). A client account shall be separate from any other account of the lawyer. All client funds received by a lawyer should be deposited into such an account unless the owner of such funds agrees that the funds should be dealt with otherwise.

- 3.8.2. The lawyer shall maintain full and accurate records showing all the lawyer's dealings with client funds and distinguishing client funds from other funds held by the lawyer. Records may have to be kept for a certain period of time according to national rules.
- 3.8.3. A client account cannot be in debit except in exceptional circumstances as expressly permitted in national rules or due to bank charges, which cannot be influenced by the lawyer. Such an account cannot be given as a guarantee or be used as a security for any reason. There shall not be any set-off or merger between a client account and any other bank account, nor shall the client funds in a client account be available to defray money owed by the lawyer to the bank.
- 3.8.4. Client funds shall be transferred to the owners of such funds in the shortest period of time or under such conditions as are authorised by them.
- 3.8.5. The lawyer cannot transfer funds from a client account into the lawyer's own account for payment of fees without informing the client in writing.
- 3.8.6. The Competent Authorities in Member States shall have the power to verify and examine any document regarding client funds, whilst respecting the confidentiality or legal professional privilege to which it may be subject.

3.9. professional indemnity insurance

- 3.9.1. Lawyers shall be insured against civil legal liability arising out of their legal practice to an extent which is reasonable having regard to the nature and extent of the risks incurred by their professional activities.
- 3.9.2. Should this prove impossible, the lawyer must inform the client of this situation and its consequences.

4. relations with the Courts

4.1. rules of Conduct in Court

A lawyer who appears, or takes part in a case, before a court or tribunal must comply with the rules of conduct applied before that court or tribunal.

4.2. fair Conduct of proceedings

A lawyer must always have due regard for the fair conduct of proceedings.

4.3. demeanour in Court

A lawyer shall while maintaining due respect and courtesy towards the court defend the interests of the client honourably and fearlessly with-

out regard to the lawyer's own interests or to any consequences to him- or herself or to any other person.

4.4. false or misleading information

A lawyer shall never knowingly give false or misleading information to the court.

4.5. extension to arbitrators etc.

The rules governing a lawyer's relations with the courts apply also to the lawyer's relations with arbitrators and any other persons exercising judicial or quasi-judicial functions, even on an occasional basis.

5. relations Between lawyers

5.1. Corporate spirit of the profession

5.1.1. The corporate spirit of the profession requires a relationship of trust and co-operation between lawyers for the benefit of their clients and in order to avoid unnecessary litigation and other behaviour harmful to the reputation of the profession. It can, however, never justify setting the interests of the profession against those of the client.

5.1.2. A lawyer should recognise all other lawyers of Member States as professional colleagues and act fairly and courteously towards them.

5.2. Co-operation among lawyers of different member states

5.2.1. It is the duty of a lawyer who is approached by a colleague from another Member State not to accept instructions in a matter which the lawyer is not competent to undertake. The lawyer should in such case be prepared to help that colleague to obtain the information necessary to enable him or her to instruct a lawyer who is capable of providing the service asked for.

5.2.2. Where a lawyer of a Member State co-operates with a lawyer from another Member State, both have a general duty to take into account the differences which may exist between their respective legal systems and the professional organisations, competences and obligations of lawyers in the Member States concerned.

5.3. Correspondence between lawyers

5.3.1. If a lawyer intends to send communications to a lawyer in another Member State, which the sender wishes to remain confidential or without prejudice he or she should clearly express this intention prior to communicating the first of the documents.

5.3.2. If the prospective recipient of the communications is unable to ensure their status as confidential or without prejudice he or she should inform

the sender accordingly without delay.

5.4. referral fees

5.4.1. A lawyer may not demand or accept from another lawyer or any other person a fee, commission or any other compensation for referring or recommending the lawyer to a client.

5.4.2. A lawyer may not pay anyone a fee, commission or any other compensation as a consideration for referring a client to him- or herself.

5.5. Communication with opposing parties

A lawyer shall not communicate about a particular case or matter directly with any person whom he or she knows to be represented or advised in the case or matter by another lawyer, without the consent of that other lawyer (and shall keep the other lawyer informed of any such communications).

5.6. (deleted by decision of the plenary session in dublin on 6 december 2002)

5.7. responsibility for fees

In professional relations between members of Bars of different Member States, where a lawyer does not confine him- or herself to recommending another lawyer or introducing that other lawyer to the client but instead him- or herself entrusts a correspondent with a particular

matter or seeks the correspondent's advice, the instructing lawyer is personally bound, even if the client is insolvent, to pay the fees, costs and outlays which are due to the foreign correspondent. The lawyers concerned may, however, at the outset of the relationship between them make special arrangements on this matter. Further, the instructing lawyer may at any time limit his or her personal responsibility to the amount of the fees, costs and outlays incurred before intimation to the foreign lawyer of the instructing lawyer's disclaimer of responsibility for the future.

5.8. Continuing professional development

Lawyers should maintain and develop their professional knowledge and skills taking proper account of the European dimension of their profession.

5.9. disputes amongst lawyers in different member states

- 5.9.1. If a lawyer considers that a colleague in another Member State has acted in breach of a rule of professional conduct the lawyer shall draw the matter to the attention of that colleague.
- 5.9.2. If any personal dispute of a professional nature arises amongst lawyers in different Member States they should if possible first try to settle it in a

friendly way.

- 5.9.3. A lawyer shall not commence any form of proceedings against a colleague in another Member State on matters referred to in 5.9.1 or 5.9.2 above without first informing the Bars or Law Societies to which they both belong for the purpose of allowing both Bars or Law Societies concerned an opportunity to assist in reaching a settlement.

This Explanatory Memorandum was prepared at the request of the CCBE Standing Committee by the CCBE's deontology working party, who were responsible for drafting the first version of the Code of Conduct itself. It seeks to explain the origin of the provisions of the Code, to illustrate the problems which they are designed to resolve, particularly in relation to cross-border activities, and to provide assistance to the Competent Authorities in the Member States in the application of the Code. It is not intended to have any binding force in the interpretation of the Code. The Explanatory Memorandum was adopted on 28 October 1988 and updated on the occasion of the CCBE Plenary Session on 19 May 2006. The Explanatory Memorandum also takes into account amendments to the CCBE Statutes formally approved at an Extraordinary Plenary Session on 20 August 2007. The list of professions in the commentary on article 1.4 is subject to modification.

The original versions of the Code are in the French and English languages. Translations into other Community languages are prepared under the authority of the national delegations.

Commentary on Article 1.1 – The Function of the Lawyer in Society

The Declaration of Perugia, adopted by the CCBE in 1977, laid down the fundamental principles of professional conduct applicable to lawyers throughout the EC. The provisions of Article 1.1 reaffirm the statement in the Declara-

tion of Perugia of the function of the lawyer in society which forms the basis for the rules governing the performance of that function.

Commentary on Article 1.2 – The Nature of Rules of Professional Conduct

These provisions substantially restate the explanation in the Declaration of Perugia of the nature of rules of professional conduct and how particular rules depend on particular local circumstances but are nevertheless based on common values.

Commentary on Article 1.3 – The Purpose of the Code

These provisions introduce the development of the principles in the Declaration of Perugia into a specific Code of Conduct for lawyers throughout the EU the EEA and Swiss Confederation, and lawyers of the Associate and Observer Members of the CCBE, with particular reference to their cross-border activities (defined in Article 1.5). The provisions of Article 1.3.2 lay down the specific intentions of the CCBE with regard to the substantive provisions in the Code.

Commentary on Article 1.4 – Field of Application *ratione personae*

The rules are stated to apply to all lawyers as defined in the Lawyers Services Directive of 1977 and the Lawyers Establishment Directive of 1998, and lawyers of the Associate and Observer Members of the CCBE. This includes lawyers of the states which subsequently acceded to the Directives, whose names have been added by amendment to the Directives. The Code accordingly applies to all the lawyers represented on the CCBE, whether as full Members, Associ-

ate Members or Observer Members, namely:

Albania	Avokat
Armenia	Pastaban
Austria	Rechtsanwalt;
Belgium	avocat / advocaat / Rechtsanwalt;
Bulgaria	advokat;
Croatia	odvjetnik;
Cyprus	dikegóros;
Czech Republic	advokát;
Denmark	advokat;
Estonia	vandeadvokaat;
Finland	asianajaja / advokat;
FYROMacedonia	advokat;
France	avocat;
Georgia	Advokati / Advokatebi
Germany	Rechtsanwalt;
Greece	dikegóros;
Hungary	ügyvéd;
Iceland	lögmaður;
Ireland	barrister, solicitor;
Italy	avvocato;
Latvia	zvērināts advokāts;

Liechtenstein	Rechtsanwalt;
Lithuania	advokatas;
Luxembourg	avocat / Rechtsanwalt;
Malta	avukat, prokuratur legali;
Montenegro	advokat;
Moldova	Avocat
Netherlands	advocaat;
Norway	advokat;
Poland	adwokat, radca prawny;
Portugal	advogado;
Romania	avocat;
Serbia	advokat;
Slovakia	advokát / advokátka;
Slovenia	odvetnik / odvetnica;
Spain	abogado / advocat / abokatu / abogado;
Sweden	advokat;
Switzerland	Rechtsanwalt / Anwalt / Fürsprech / Fürsprecher / avocat / avvocato /advokat;
Turkey	avukat;
Ukraine	advokat;
United Kingdom	advocate, barrister, solicitor.

It is also hoped that the Code will be acceptable to the legal professions of other non-member states in Europe and elsewhere so that it could also be

applied by appropriate conventions between them and the Member States.

Commentary on Article 1.5 – Field of Application *ratione materiae*

The rules are here given direct application only to “cross-border activities”, as defined, of lawyers within the EU, the EEA and Swiss Confederation and lawyers of the Associate and Observer Members of the CCBE - see above on Article 1.4, and the definition of “Member State” in Article 1.6. (See also above as to possible extensions in the future to lawyers of other states.) The definition of cross-border activities would, for example, include contacts in state A even on a matter of law internal to state A between a lawyer of state A and a lawyer of state B; it would exclude contacts between lawyers of state A in state A of a matter arising in state B, provided that none of their professional activities takes place in state B; it would include any activities of lawyers of state A in state B, even if only in the form of communications sent from state A to state B.

Commentary on Article 1.6 – Definitions

This provision defines a number of terms used in the Code, “Member State”, “Home Member State”, “Host Member State”, “Competent Authority”, “Directive 77/249/EEC” and “Directive 98/5/EC”. The reference to “where the lawyer carries on cross-border activities” should be interpreted in light of the definition of “cross-border activities” in Article 1.5.

Commentary on Article 2.1 – Independence

This provision substantially reaffirms the general statement of principle in the

Declaration of Perugia.

Commentary on Article 2.2 – Trust and Personal Integrity

This provision also restates a general principle contained in the Declaration of Perugia.

Commentary on Article 2.3 – Confidentiality

This provision first restates, in Article 2.3.1, general principles laid down in the Declaration of Perugia and recognised by the ECJ in the AM&S case (157/79). It then, in Articles 2.3.2 to 4, develops them into a specific rule relating to the protection of confidentiality. Article 2.3.2 contains the basic rule requiring respect for confidentiality. Article 2.3.3 confirms that the obligation remains binding on the lawyer even if he or she ceases to act for the client in question. Article 2.3.4 confirms that the lawyer must not only respect the obligation of confidentiality him- or herself but must require all members and employees of his or her firm to do likewise.

Commentary on Article 2.4 – Respect for the Rules of Other Bars and Law Societies

Article 4 of the Lawyers Services Directive contains the provisions with regard to the rules to be observed by a lawyer from one Member State providing services on an occasional or temporary basis in another Member State by

virtue of Article 49 of the consolidated EC treaty, as follows:

- (a) activities relating to the representation of a client in legal proceedings or before public authorities shall be pursued in each Host Member State under the conditions laid down for lawyers established in that state, with the exception of any conditions requiring residence, or registration with a professional organisation, in that state;
- (b) a lawyer pursuing these activities shall observe the rules of professional conduct of the Host Member State, without prejudice to the lawyer's obligations in the Member State from which he or she comes;
- (c) when these activities are pursued in the UK, "rules of professional conduct of the Host Member State" means the rules of professional conduct applicable to solicitors, where such activities are not reserved for barristers and advocates. Otherwise the rules of professional conduct applicable to the latter shall apply. However, barristers from Ireland shall always be subject to the rules of professional conduct applicable in the UK to barristers and advocates. When these activities are pursued in Ireland "rules of professional conduct of the Host Member State" means, in so far as they govern the oral presentation of a case in court, the rules of professional conduct applicable to barristers. In all other cases the rules of professional conduct applicable to solicitors shall apply. However, barristers and advocates from the UK shall always

be subject to the rules of professional conduct applicable in Ireland to barristers; and

- (d) a lawyer pursuing activities other than those referred to in (a) above shall remain subject to the conditions and rules of professional conduct of the Member State from which he or she comes without prejudice to respect for the rules, whatever their source, which govern the profession in the Host Member State, especially those concerning the incompatibility of the exercise of the activities of a lawyer with the exercise of other activities in that state, professional secrecy, relations with other lawyers, the prohibition on the same lawyer acting for parties with mutually conflicting interests, and publicity. The latter rules are applicable only if they are capable of being observed by a lawyer who is not established in the Host Member State and to the extent to which their observance is objectively justified to ensure, in that state, the proper exercise of a lawyer's activities, the standing of the profession and respect for the rules concerning incompatibility.

The Lawyers Establishment Directive contains the provisions with regard to the rules to be observed by a lawyer from one Member State practising on a permanent basis in another Member State by virtue of Article 43 of the consolidated EC treaty, as follows:

- (a) irrespective of the rules of professional conduct to which he or she is subject in his or her Home Member State, a lawyer practising under

his home-country professional title shall be subject to the same rules of professional conduct as lawyers practising under the relevant professional title of the Host Member State in respect of all the activities the lawyer pursues in its territory (Article 6.1);

- (b) the Host Member State may require a lawyer practising under his or her home-country professional title either to take out professional indemnity insurance or to become a member of a professional guarantee fund in accordance with the rules which that state lays down for professional activities pursued in its territory.

Nevertheless, a lawyer practising under his or her home-country professional title shall be exempted from that requirement if the lawyer can prove that he or she is covered by insurance taken out or a guarantee provided in accordance with the rules of the Home Member State, insofar as such insurance or guarantee is equivalent in terms of the conditions and extent of cover. Where the equivalence is only partial, the Competent Authority in the Host Member State may require that additional insurance or an additional guarantee be contracted to cover the elements which are not already covered by the insurance or guarantee contracted in accordance with the rules of the Home Member State (Article 6.3); and

- (c) a lawyer registered in a Host Member State under his or her home-

country professional title may practise as a salaried lawyer in the employ of another lawyer, an association or firm of lawyers, or a public or private enterprise to the extent that the Host Member State so permits for lawyers registered under the professional title used in that state (Article 8).

In cases not covered by either of these Directives, or over and above the requirements of these Directives, the obligations of a lawyer under Community law to observe the rules of other Bars and Law Societies are a matter of interpretation of any relevant provision, such as the Directive on Electronic Commerce (2000/31/EC). A major purpose of the Code is to minimise, and if possible eliminate altogether, the problems which may arise from "double deontology", that is the application of more than one set of potentially conflicting national rules to a particular situation (see Article 1.3.1).

Commentary on Article 2.5 – Incompatible Occupations

There are differences both between and within Member States on the extent to which lawyers are permitted to engage in other occupations, for example in commercial activities. The general purpose of rules excluding a lawyer from other occupations is to protect the lawyer from influences which might impair the lawyer's independence or his or her role in the administration of justice. The variations in these rules reflect different local conditions, different perceptions of the proper function of lawyers and different techniques of rule-making. For instance in some cases there is a complete prohibition of engage-

ment in certain named occupations, whereas in other cases engagement in other occupations is generally permitted, subject to observance of specific safeguards for the lawyer's independence.

Articles 2.5.2 and 3 make provision for different circumstances in which a lawyer of one Member State is engaging in cross-border activities (as defined in Article 1.5) in a Host Member State when he or she is not a member of the Host State legal profession.

Article 2.5.2 imposes full observation of Host State rules regarding incompatible occupations on the lawyer acting in national legal proceedings or before national public authorities in the Host State. This applies whether the lawyer is established in the Host State or not.

Article 2.5.3, on the other hand, imposes "respect" for the rules of the Host State regarding forbidden or incompatible occupations in other cases, but only where the lawyer who is established in the Host Member State wishes to participate directly in commercial or other activities not connected with the practice of the law.

Commentary on Article 2.6 – Personal Publicity

The term "personal publicity" covers publicity by firms of lawyers, as well as individual lawyers, as opposed to corporate publicity organised by Bars and Law Societies for their members as a whole. The rules governing personal publicity by lawyers vary considerably in the Member States. Article 2.6 makes it

clear that there is no overriding objection to personal publicity in cross-border practice. However, lawyers are nevertheless subject to prohibitions or restrictions laid down by their home professional rules, and a lawyer will still be subject to prohibitions or restrictions laid down by Host State rules when these are binding on the lawyer by virtue of the Lawyers Services Directive or the Lawyers Establishment Directive.

Commentary on Article 2.7 – The Client's Interest

This provision emphasises the general principle that the lawyer must always place the client's interests before the lawyer's own interests or those of fellow members of the legal profession.

Commentary on Article 2.8 – Limitation of Lawyer's Liability towards the Client

This provision makes clear that there is no overriding objection to limiting a lawyer's liability towards his or her client in cross-border practice, whether by contract or by use of a limited company, limited partnership or limited liability partnership. However it points out that this can only be contemplated where the relevant law and the relevant rules of conduct permit - and in a number of jurisdictions the law or the professional rules prohibit or restrict such limitation of liability.

Commentary on Article 3.1 – Acceptance and Termination of Instructions

The provisions of Article 3.1.1 are designed to ensure that a relationship is maintained between lawyer and client and that the lawyer in fact receives instructions from the client, even though these may be transmitted through a duly authorised intermediary. It is the responsibility of the lawyer to satisfy him- or herself as to the authority of the intermediary and the wishes of the client.

Article 3.1.2 deals with the manner in which the lawyer should carry out his or her duties. The provision that the lawyer shall undertake personal responsibility for the discharge of the instructions given to him or her means that the lawyer cannot avoid responsibility by delegation to others. It does not prevent the lawyer from seeking to limit his or her legal liability to the extent that this is permitted by the relevant law or professional rules - see Article 2.8.

Article 3.1.3 states a principle which is of particular relevance in cross-border activities, for example when a lawyer is asked to handle a matter on behalf of a lawyer or client from another state who may be unfamiliar with the relevant law and practice, or when a lawyer is asked to handle a matter relating to the law of another state with which he or she is unfamiliar.

A lawyer generally has the right to refuse to accept instructions in the first place, but Article 3.1.4 states that, having once accepted them, the lawyer has an obligation not to withdraw without ensuring that the client's interests are safeguarded.

Commentary on Article 3.2 – Conflict of Interest

The provisions of Article 3.2.1 do not prevent a lawyer acting for two or more clients in the same matter provided that their interests are not in fact in conflict and that there is no significant risk of such a conflict arising. Where a lawyer is already acting for two or more clients in this way and subsequently there arises a conflict of interests between those clients or a risk of a breach of confidence or other circumstances where the lawyer's independence may be impaired, then the lawyer must cease to act for both or all of them.

There may, however, be circumstances in which differences arise between two or more clients for whom the same lawyer is acting where it may be appropriate for the lawyer to attempt to act as a mediator. It is for the lawyer in such cases to use his or her own judgement on whether or not there is such a conflict of interest between them as to require the lawyer to cease to act. If not, the lawyer may consider whether it would be appropriate to explain the position to the clients, obtain their agreement and attempt to act as mediator to resolve the difference between them, and only if this attempt to mediate should fail, to cease to act for them.

Article 3.2.4 applies the foregoing provisions of Article 3 to lawyers practising in association. For example a firm of lawyers should cease to act when there is a conflict of interest between two clients of the firm, even if different lawyers in the firm are acting for each client. On the other hand, exceptionally, in the

“chambers” form of association used by English barristers, where each lawyer acts for clients individually, it is possible for different lawyers in the association to act for clients with opposing interests.

Commentary on Article 3.3 – pactum de Quota litis

These provisions reflect the common position in all Member States that an unregulated agreement for contingency fees (*pactum de quota litis*) is contrary to the proper administration of justice because it encourages speculative litigation and is liable to be abused. The provisions are not, however, intended to prevent the maintenance or introduction of arrangements under which lawyers are paid according to results or only if the action or matter is successful, provided that these arrangements are under sufficient regulation and control for the protection of the client and the proper administration of justice.

Commentary on Article 3.4 – Regulation of Fees

Article 3.4 lays down three requirements: a general standard of disclosure of a lawyer’s fees to the client, a requirement that they should be fair and reasonable in amount, and a requirement to comply with the applicable law and professional rules.

In many Member States machinery exists for regulating lawyers’ fees under national law or rules of conduct, whether by reference to a power of adjudication by the Bar authorities or otherwise. In situations governed by the Law-

yers Establishment Directive, where the lawyer is subject to Host State rules as well as the rules of the Home State, the basis of charging may have to comply with both sets of rules.

Commentary on Article 3.5 – Payment on Account

Article 3.5 assumes that a lawyer may require a payment on account of the lawyer's fees and/or disbursements, but sets a limit by reference to a reasonable estimate of them. See also on Article 3.1.4 regarding the right to withdraw.

Commentary on Article 3.6 – Fee Sharing with Non-Lawyers

In some Member States lawyers are permitted to practise in association with members of certain other approved professions, whether legal professions or not. The provisions of Article 3.6.1 are not designed to prevent fee sharing within such an approved form of association. Nor are the provisions designed to prevent fee sharing by the lawyers to whom the Code applies (see on Article 1.4 above) with other "lawyers", for example lawyers from non-Member States or members of other legal professions in the Member States such as notaries.

Commentary on Article 3.7 – Cost of Litigation and Availability of Legal Aid

Article 3.7.1 stresses the importance of attempting to resolve disputes in a way which is cost-effective for the client, including advising on whether to attempt

to negotiate a settlement, and whether to propose referring the dispute to some form of alternative dispute resolution.

Article 3.7.2 requires a lawyer to inform the client of the availability of legal aid where applicable. There are widely differing provisions in the Member States on the availability of legal aid. In cross-border activities a lawyer should have in mind the possibility that the legal aid provisions of a national law with which the lawyer is unfamiliar may be applicable.

Commentary on Article 3.8 – Client Funds

The provisions of Article 3.8 reflect the recommendation adopted by the CCBE in Brussels in November 1985 on the need for minimum regulations to be made and enforced governing the proper control and disposal of clients' funds held by lawyers within the Community. Article 3.8 lays down minimum standards to be observed, while not interfering with the details of national systems which provide fuller or more stringent protection for clients' funds.

The lawyer who holds clients' funds, even in the course of a cross-border activity, has to observe the rules of his or her home Bar. The lawyer needs to be aware of questions which arise where the rules of more than one Member State may be applicable, especially where the lawyer is established in a Host State under the Lawyers Establishment Directive.

Commentary on Article 3.9 – Professional Indemnity Insurance

Article 3.9.1 reflects a recommendation, also adopted by the CCBE in Brussels

in November 1985, on the need for all lawyers in the Community to be insured against the risks arising from professional negligence claims against them. Article 3.9.2 deals with the situation where insurance cannot be obtained on the basis set out in Article 3.9.1.

Commentary on Article 4.1 – Rules of Conduct in Court

This provision applies the principle that a lawyer is bound to comply with the rules of the court or tribunal before which the lawyer practises or appears.

Commentary on Article 4.2 – Fair Conduct of Proceedings

This provision applies the general principle that in adversarial proceedings a lawyer must not attempt to take unfair advantage of his or her opponent. The lawyer must not, for example, make contact with the judge without first informing the lawyer acting for the opposing party or submit exhibits, notes or documents to the judge without communicating them in good time to the lawyer on the other side unless such steps are permitted under the relevant rules of procedure. To the extent not prohibited by law a lawyer must not divulge or submit to the court any proposals for settlement of the case made by the other party or its lawyer without the express consent of the other party's lawyer. See also on Article 4.5 below.

Commentary on Article 4.3 – Demeanour in Court

This provision reflects the necessary balance between respect for the court and for the law on the one hand and the pursuit of the client's best interest on the other.

Commentary on Article 4.4 – False or Misleading Information

This provision applies the principle that the lawyer must never knowingly mislead the court. This is necessary if there is to be trust between the courts and the legal profession.

Commentary on Article 4.5 – Extension to Arbitrators etc.

This provision extends the preceding provisions relating to courts to other bodies exercising judicial or quasi-judicial functions.

Commentary on Article 5.1 – Corporate Spirit of the Profession

These provisions, which are based on statements in the Declaration of Perugia, emphasise that it is in the public interest for the legal profession to maintain a relationship of trust and cooperation between its members. However, this cannot be used to justify setting the interests of the profession against those of justice or of clients (see also on Article 2.7).

Commentary on Article 5.2 – Co-operation among Lawyers of Different Member States

This provision also develops a principle stated in the Declaration of Perugia

with a view to avoiding misunderstandings in dealings between lawyers of different Member States.

Commentary on Article 5.3 – Correspondence between Lawyers

In certain Member States communications between lawyers (written or by word of mouth) are normally regarded as to be kept confidential as between the lawyers. This means that the content of these communications cannot be disclosed to others, cannot normally be passed to the lawyers' clients, and at any event cannot be produced in court. In other Member States, such consequences will not follow unless the correspondence is marked as "confidential".

In yet other Member States, the lawyer has to keep the client fully informed of all relevant communications from a professional colleague acting for another party, and marking a letter as "confidential" only means that it is a legal matter intended for the recipient lawyer and his or her client, and not to be misused by third parties.

In some states, if a lawyer wishes to indicate that a letter is sent in an attempt to settle a dispute, and is not to be produced in a court, the lawyer should mark the letter as "without prejudice".

These important national differences give rise to many misunderstandings.

That is why lawyers must be very careful in conducting cross-border correspondence.

Whenever a lawyer wants to send a letter to a professional colleague in another Member State on the basis that it is to be kept confidential as between the lawyers, or that it is “without prejudice”, the lawyer should ask in advance whether the letter can be accepted on that basis. A lawyer wishing that a communication should be accepted on such a basis must express that clearly in the communication or in a covering letter.

A lawyer who is the intended recipient of such a communication, but who is not in a position to respect, or to ensure respect for, the basis on which it is to be sent, must inform the sender immediately so that the communication is not sent. If the communication has already been received, the recipient must return it to the sender without revealing its contents or referring to it in any way; if the recipient's national law or rules prevent the recipient from complying with this requirement, he or she must inform the sender immediately.

Commentary on Article 5.4 – Referral Fees

This provision reflects the principle that a lawyer should not pay or receive payment purely for the reference of a client, which would risk impairing the client's free choice of lawyer or the client's interest in being referred to the best available service. It does not prevent fee-sharing arrangements be-

tween lawyers on a proper basis (see also on Article 3.6 above).

In some Member States lawyers are permitted to accept and retain commissions in certain cases provided: a) the client's best interests are served, b) there is full disclosure to the client and c) the client has consented to the retention of the commission. In such cases the retention of the commission by the lawyer represents part of the lawyer's remuneration for the service provided to the client and is not within the scope of the prohibition on referral fees which is designed to prevent lawyers making a secret profit.

Commentary on Article 5.5 – Communication with Opposing Parties

This provision reflects a generally accepted principle, and is designed both to promote the smooth conduct of business between lawyers and to prevent any attempt to take advantage of the client of another lawyer.

Commentary on Article 5.6 – Change of Lawyer

Article 5.6 dealt with change of lawyer. It was deleted from the Code on 6 December 2002.

Commentary on Article 5.7 – Responsibility for Fees

These provisions substantially reaffirm provisions contained in the Declaration of Perugia. Since misunderstandings about responsibility for unpaid fees are a common cause of difference between lawyers of different Member States,

it is important that a lawyer who wishes to exclude or limit his or her personal obligation to be responsible for the fees of a foreign colleague should reach a clear agreement on this at the outset of the transaction.

Commentary on Article 5.8 – Continuing Professional Development

Keeping abreast of developments in the law is a professional obligation. In particular it is essential that lawyers are aware of the growing impact of European law on their field of practice.

Commentary on Article 5.9 – Disputes amongst Lawyers in Different Member States

A lawyer has the right to pursue any legal or other remedy to which he or she is entitled against a colleague in another Member State. Nevertheless it is desirable that, where a breach of a rule of professional conduct or a dispute of a professional nature is involved, the possibilities of friendly settlement should be exhausted, if necessary with the assistance of the Bars or Law Societies concerned, before such remedies are exercised.

Appendix 12

IN THE CROWN COURT IN NORTHERN IRELAND
TWO COUNSEL COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE
IN THE MATTER OF RULE 17.05 and / or 20.11 OF THE BAR CODE OF
CONDUCT

To be completed in ALL cases where a 2 counsel certificate has issued

AND a Junior Counsel is leading

OR where one of the representatives is NOT Counsel.

CASE NAME R -v- _____

ICOS No. _____/_____

CROWN COURT AT _____

2 COUNSEL CERTIFICATE CC/_____

(Print name) hereby certify that-

1. I am satisfied through my own enquiries that the lay client has been given clear and unequivocal advice that he is entitled to representation by BOTH a Senior and Junior Counsel and that the lay client has made an **informed** decision not to be so represented.
2. I am satisfied that the other legal representative instructed to appear on behalf of the lay client is competent to satisfy the requirements and does satisfy the requirements for which the two counsel certificate was issued.

Appendix 12

3. (Where acting as a leading Junior) I am satisfied that proper efforts have been made to instruct a Senior Counsel and that no Senior Counsel is available to properly represent the lay client under the terms of this certificate. I further confirm that I am acting as a leading Junior in compliance with my obligations under the code of conduct of the Bar of Northern Ireland.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 20____

Signed _____

THIS FORM IS TO BE LODGED WITH:

1. Counsel's instructing solicitor.
2. The lay client.
3. The Court or the relevant Crown Court Judge prior to arraignment.
4. Any other advocate instructed in the case.
5. The Bar Council Office."

Any failure by Counsel **properly** to satisfy themselves as to the above matters or to correctly certify same will be considered a breach of the Code of Conduct.

APPENDIX 13

GUIDANCE ON BANKRUPTCY AND ENTERING INTO INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH CREDITORS.

- (a) At the earliest opportunity a barrister shall report the fact of bankruptcy or entering into an individual voluntary arrangement with creditors to the Secretary of the Professional Conduct Committee, pursuant to section 8.08 of the code.
- (b) A barrister shall submit to the Secretary of the PCC his or her Statement of Affairs on becoming bankrupt, in the first instance, to allow the PCC to examine the conduct leading to the bankruptcy.
- (c) The barrister is under an ongoing duty to report to the Secretary of the PCC any significant change in circumstances during the period of bankruptcy or the individual voluntary arrangement.
- (d) The barrister shall provide such further documents or information to the Secretary of the PCC as may be requested during the period of bankruptcy or the individual voluntary arrangement.
- (e) The Professional Conduct Committee shall assess the circumstances and conduct leading to the bankruptcy or the individual voluntary arrangement, on an individual basis, and shall determine whether the conduct and circumstances leading to the bankruptcy or the individual voluntary arrangement amount to professional misconduct, conduct unbecoming of a barrister or bring the profession into disrepute.
- (f) A barrister who is required by the Bar Council to notify all instructing Solicitors who are proposing to engage him or who have engaged him of the bankruptcy or the individual voluntary arrangement must keep a written record of all relevant notifications to solicitors.
- (g) The barrister is not required to notify all lay clients of the fact of bankruptcy or entering into an individual voluntary arrangement. However, the barrister shall exercise his discretion, in appropriate cases, whether to notify the lay client of such matters.
- (h) The barrister shall notify his professional indemnity insurers of the fact of bankruptcy or entering into an individual voluntary arrangement.

(i) Where the barrister has been made bankrupt or has entered into an individual voluntary arrangement such a barrister has additional obligations under Section 6.01 of the code, before obtaining a practising certificate, to satisfy the requirements of the Professional Conduct Committee as to his suitability to practice.

(j) There is no provision of the code of conduct to prevent barristers adjudicated bankrupt, or entering into an individual voluntary arrangement, from practising as a barrister. However, where the bankruptcy or the individual voluntary arrangement is not deemed to be incompatible with practice, members need to avoid any conflict of interest between the interests of the lay client and their own personal financial position, and ensure that every aspect of the lay client's interest is properly represented and protected without fear or favour in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

APPENDIX 14

GUIDELINES ON ENGAGING IN ANY OTHER OCCUPATION BY MEMBERS OF THE BAR AND STUDENTS OF THE INN

BACKGROUND

1. Historically, relatively few Barristers in independent practice ever sought to engage in any other occupation. However, in more recent times it has become apparent that some members of the Bar and Students of the Inn are facing significant financial pressures. These pressures are most acute at the very junior end of the Bar where many members carry the burden of considerable debt resulting from the imposition of university fees and the absence of student maintenance grants.
2. It is considered necessary and appropriate, in order to ensure that the Bar remains a profession that is accessible to persons from all social and economic backgrounds, for the Bar to assist in easing the financial pressures upon its younger members and students of the Inn by facilitating those who wish to engage in appropriate work outside their practice as a barrister or during their pupillage or when they are a student of the Inn.
3. Permission to engage in any other occupation while practising as a Barrister or during pupillage or while studying as a student of the Inn is primarily intended to assist and facilitate members of the Bar in their attempts to establish a viable practice at the Bar or to assist students to complete their studies in preparation for Call to the Bar. The primary purpose of the rule is not to enable members of the Bar to supplement their incomes by part-time work. The Bar is and should remain a full time profession for those established at the Bar.

4. For these reasons, it is anticipated that the bulk of applications for permission to engage in any other occupation will be made by students of the Inn, by pupil Barristers or by Barristers in the first few years after their call. As explained in paragraph 14 (b), such permission will, if granted, usually be for a fixed period of time and, although that period may be extended by application for renewal, it is unlikely that more than 3 such renewals will be granted.

THE CODE OF CONDUCT OF THE BAR OF NORTHERN IRELAND

5. The issue of work outside of one's practice as an independent barrister is addressed at Section 5.01 in the Code of Conduct. It provides as follows: -

5.01 A barrister in independent practice must ensure that his primary occupation is that of practice as a barrister and must not engage in any other occupation which is inconsistent with his practice at the Bar. In particular, he should not engage in any other profession or carry on or take part in any other trade or business without first obtaining a consent in writing of the Benchers of the Inn and informing the Bar Council in writing of the fact that such consent has been obtained.

As part of formulating these Guidelines it has been agreed that section 5.01 should now be changed to become:

5.01 A barrister in independent practice must ensure that his primary occupation is that of practice as a barrister and must not engage in any other occupation which is inconsistent with his practice at the Bar. In particular, he should not engage in any other employment without first obtaining a consent in writing from the Bar Council, or its nominated committee fact that such consent has been obtained. Any application to undertake work outside the Bar should be made in accordance with the Guidance set out at Appendix 14 of the Code.

6. Sections 3.10 and 3.11 of the Code of Conduct are also of relevance. They provide: -

3.10 A “barrister in independent practice” is a barrister who represents to the public generally that he is willing in return for the payment of fees to render legal services to a client provided that:

a) a barrister who is a Law Officer of the Crown shall be deemed to be a barrister in independent practice although he does not represent to the public generally that he is willing to render legal services to clients;

b) a barrister who is a Member of Parliament or a Member of the European Parliament (or any assembly/forum) or a lecturer/teacher of law at an institution of higher or further education or an author of legal text books or articles may be a barrister in independent practice notwithstanding that his practice may not be his primary occupation.

3.11 An “employed barrister” is a barrister who in return for the payment of a salary is employed wholly or primarily for the purpose of providing legal services to an employer either under a contract of employment or by virtue of an office under the Crown or in the Institutions of the European Communities and who has complied with the requirements of section 28.01 of the Code.

RULES OF ADMISSION OF THE INN OF COURT OF NORTHERN IRELAND

7. The issue of engaging in any occupation other than that of a student of the Inn is addressed at Paragraph 7 of the Rules of Admission. It provides as follows: -

7 If before Call to the Bar a student wishes to engage in any occupation other than that of a student of the Inn he shall apply to the Inn through the Under Treasurer for permission to do so.

PROCEDURE

8. Under Section 5.01 of the Code of Conduct any member of the Bar who wishes to engage in work outside of practice as an independent barrister must secure the prior written consent of the Bar Council or its nominated Committee. Applications made by Students of the Inn will be considered by the Benchers of the Inn of Court. For the avoidance of any doubt, neither Students of the Inn nor members of the Bar are required to secure such consent in respect of the occupations mentioned in Sections 3.10 (a) or (b) of the Code of Conduct.
9. No Barrister or Student of the Inn should engage in work outside of practice as an independent Barrister or during pupillage or while studying as a Student of the Inn, save for the occupations specified in Sections 3.10 (a) or (b) of the Code of Conduct, until the consent of the Bar Council or Benchers has been obtained.
10. Applications for consent must be submitted in the *pro forma* available through the Bar Council office.
11. Applications for consent shall be determined by a sub-committee of the Bar Council ['the sub-committee'] elected by all the Bar Council.
12. If the sub-committee decides to refuse consent, the applicant shall have a right of appeal [exercisable within 7 days of receipt of notification of refusal of consent] to a full meeting of the Bar Council.
13. Both the sub-committee and the Bar Council shall have the right, when considering any application or appeal, to request further details from the applicant and/or to interview the applicant.

14. Any consent granted shall be: -

- a. based upon the information provided in the applicant's application and any further information provided by him upon request and / or at interview;
- b. subject to whatever conditions the sub-committee and / or the Bar Council consider appropriate including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, a condition regarding the length of time for which the applicant will be permitted to engage in work outside of his practice as an independent barrister. In general, any permission granted in the case of a Student of the Inn shall only be valid during the period prior to Call to the Bar. Similarly, any permission granted to a pupil Barrister shall only be valid during the course of pupillage and any permission granted to a member of the Bar following the completion of pupillage shall usually remain valid for a period of no more than 12 months, subject to an application for renewal of the same. In respect of renewal applications, it is unlikely that more than 3 renewals will be granted to any applicant.

15. The applicant must inform the Bar Council if, at any time, there is any material change in circumstances such as to render the information provided in the application, upon request, or at interview, inaccurate or incomplete in some material respect.

16. The Bar Council reserve the right to amend these guidelines as and when they deem it necessary and appropriate to do so.

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

17. The purpose of these guidelines is to assist those Barristers who seek consent under Section 5.01 of the Code of Conduct or Students of the Inn who seek consent under Paragraph 7 of the Rules of Admission. They are intended as guidelines only, not as rigid rules, and it should be noted that the Bar Council at all times retain a discretion to exercise their judgment in any particular application as they see fit, in light of the particular facts of that application, the provisions of the Code of Conduct, the Rules of Admission and any other relevant

factors.

18. The occupation in which the Barrister or Student of the Inn intends to engage must not be inconsistent with practice at the Bar or with the status of a Student of the Inn. It must not, for example, take precedence over any aspect of work as a Barrister or any aspect of studies as a Student of the Inn. Practice at the Bar or studying as a Student of the Inn must at all times remain the applicant's primary occupation. Any outside occupation which interferes with a Barrister's ability generally to be available for work as a Barrister during business hours is unlikely to be considered consistent with practice at the Bar. Similarly, any outside occupation which interferes with a student's ability generally to engage fully in the studies leading up to Call to the Bar is unlikely to be considered to be consistent with the status of a Student of the Inn.

19. The other occupation must not be one which: -

- a. conflicts with the applicant's duties as a Barrister or the applicant's status as a Student of the Inn;
- b. confers upon the applicant any unfair advantage over the applicant's colleagues at the Bar;
- c. might, if pursued by the applicant, bring the profession of Barrister into disrepute; or
- d. might, if pursued by the applicant, because of the nature of the work engaged in and the location, context and conditions in which the work is performed, reasonably cause members of the public or members of the profession to perceive that the work was inconsistent with a Barrister's duty to display high standards of integrity and to independently and professionally advise and represent clients to a high standard and to the best of his or her ability.

20. Any Barrister seeking consent to pursue another occupation under Section 5.01 should be aware that the disciplinary portion of the Code of Conduct applies to conduct outside the applicant's practice as a barrister and that, accordingly, the applicant must not, whilst

pursuing any other permitted occupation, engage in activities which would render the applicant liable to disciplinary action under the Code of Conduct.

21. Without prejudice to the provisions of Paragraphs 18 and 19, there is no exhaustive list of other occupations in respect of which permission under Section 5.01 of the Code of Conduct or Paragraph 7 of the Rules of Admission will always be withheld. However, the following are examples of the classes of other occupations which are highly unlikely to be permitted in the case of Barristers: -

- a. working for, or providing services to, solicitors;
- b. working for, or providing services to, insurers, insurance agents, or brokers;
- c. working for, or providing services to, patent or trademark attorneys;
- d. working for, or providing services to, the Police or the Prison Service;
- e. working for, or providing services to, the Public Prosecution Service;
- f. working for, or providing services to, the Northern Ireland Court Service;
- g. working on an employed or self-employed basis at or about any court or tribunal building, the Bar Library, or the Law Society Building;
- h. working on an employed or self-employed basis in any capacity, which is likely to lead to the barrister being a witness in proceedings before any court or tribunal in Northern Ireland;
- i. working for an employers' or trade association or for a trade union.

APPENDIX 15

Declaration Following Agreement to Be Disbarred



For the attention of the Chief Executive of the Bar Council :

- I, _____,
- a. confirm that having made an application to be disbarred in accordance with Section 3.4 of the Code of Conduct
 - b. understand that I am required to continuously comply with the provisions of Sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7 of the Code
 - c. understand that my application to be disbarred will only be granted upon satisfactory completion of this undertaking
 - d. confirm that in making this declaration I have read and understood all other relevant matters contained within the Code of Conduct.

Signed : _____

BLOCK CAPITALS: _____

Date : _____

APPENDIX 16

Resuming Practice Application, Declaration and Undertaking Form Required To Be Submitted In Accordance with Section 6.7

RESUMING PRACTICE APPLICATION DECLARATION AND UNDERTAKING

To the Chief Executive of the General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland ("the Bar Council")

I, (full names¹) _____

of (home address) _____

Email _____

Tel: _____

Gender:² Male ☐ Female ☐

Date of birth³ _____

Present occupation _____

For the purpose of resuming practice at the Bar of Northern Ireland do hereby **apply, declare and undertake** as follows:

Practice history and application to resume practice

1. I was admitted as a student into the Honorable Society of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland in the _____ Term 19/20_____.
2. I was called to the Bar of Northern Ireland in the _____ Term 19/20
3. I was called to the Inner Bar (if applicable) _____ in _____ Term.

¹ Give your name as shown on your passport

² This information is collected for monitoring purposes only

³ This information is collected for monitoring purposes only

4. I have not practised since my Call to the Bar of Northern Ireland/since I ceased practice on the _____ day of _____ 20_____ and since then I have (insert below details as per footnote 4) ⁴

5. I wish to resume practice at the Bar of Northern Ireland on the _____ day of _____ 20_____ because (insert below details as per footnote 5) ⁵

6. I informed the Chief Executive of the Bar Council ("the Chief Executive") of my intention to resume practice at the Bar by way of letter dated ____ day of _____ 20____.

⁴ It is essential that you provide full and detailed answers here. Use a separate sheet if necessary. Inadequate detail may lead to a delay in assessing and determining your application if it is necessary to obtain relevant information from you, in order to do so or may lead to a refusal of your application. Your answers should include details of the following;

- (i) Precisely how long you were in practice for.
- (ii) The areas of practice that you engaged in prior to ceasing practice.
- (iii) The precise period of time during which you had not been in practice.
- (iv) The precise reasons for your absence from practice.

What you have been doing in the intervening period, including detail about what, if any, legal work you have been engaged in, providing a schedule of that work, if relevant.

⁵ It is essential that you provide full and detailed answers here. Use a separate sheet if necessary. Inadequate detail may lead to a delay in assessing and determining your application if it is necessary to obtain relevant information from you in order to do so, or may lead to a refusal of your application. Here you should make it clear precisely why you seek to resume practice, and you should include details as to whether you seek to resume practice for a specific case, or cases, or seek a full return to practice. If you seek to resume practice for a specific case or cases provide details of those, to include, where applicable, the precise or approximate dates for hearing. If you seek a full return to practice provide details of your proposed areas of practice.

Declaration

7. (a) I understand and appreciate that I owe a duty of candour when completing all sections of this application.
- (i) I confirm that the information provided in my First Schedule Memorial pursuant to Rule 1 of the Admission Rules⁶ for the purpose of my application to be admitted as a student of the Inn remains unchanged;
 - (ii) I have never been convicted of any criminal offence⁷;
 - (iii) There are no proceedings pending⁸ against me in the United Kingdom or elsewhere in respect of any criminal offence.
- (b) I have not:
- (i) received a caution or been bound over,
 - (ii) been the subject of a court injunction, or
 - (iii) been the subject of an injunction/order in relation to harassment or anti-social behaviour at any time either in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.
- (c) I am not currently aware of any circumstances which might lead to me being or becoming the subject of an investigation relating to a criminal charge either in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.
- (d) I have never been convicted of a disciplinary charge by an employer or by a professional or regulatory body nor are there any disciplinary proceedings pending against me in the United Kingdom or elsewhere in respect of any such charge. I have never been the subject of any disciplinary penalty including a reprimand, censure or warning, nor have I received any advice from a professional or regulatory body concerning any professional conduct, service or behaviour.
- (e) I have never been found guilty of an academic charge by a higher education institution⁹.

⁶ Rules of the Honorable Society of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland

⁷ For this purpose a "criminal offence" means any offence including an offence relating to the non-payment of tax or VAT, wherever and whenever committed, under the criminal law of any jurisdiction except (i) an offence for which liability is capable of being discharged by payment of a fixed penalty; and (ii) an offence which has as its main ingredient the unlawful parking of a vehicle. Any conviction which is spent is nevertheless required to be disclosed by virtue of the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Exceptions) Order (Northern Ireland) 1979. Details of a criminal conviction should specify the sentence given.

⁸ Proceedings are pending if (i) you are currently charged with, or (ii) you are on bail or in detention or custody (or have failed to surrender to custody) in connection with any criminal offence.

⁹ If you were found guilty, but subsequently successfully appealed against that finding, there is no need to declare it.

- (f) I have never had any bankruptcy order¹⁰, debt relief order¹¹, director's disqualification order¹², bankruptcy restrictions order¹³ or debt relief restrictions order made against me nor have I entered into any individual voluntary arrangement with creditors.
- (g) I have not previously been refused admission to or expelled from an Inn of Court in England and Wales, the Faculty of Advocates in Scotland or the King's Inns in the Ireland or from any other similar body in any country in the world.
- (h) I do not suffer from serious incapacity due to mental disorder (within the meaning of the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986), nor addiction to alcohol or drugs, nor from any other condition which might impair my fitness to become a practising barrister ¹⁴.

If any of the statements in paragraph 7(a)–(h) cannot truthfully be declared in full or in part please delete or amend the statements or relevant part of it as appropriate and provide an explanation for such deletion or amendment in the space below.

¹⁰ For this purpose a "bankruptcy order" includes a bankruptcy order made pursuant to the Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 and any such similar order made in any jurisdiction in the world.

¹¹ For this purpose, a "debt relief order" includes a debt relief order made pursuant to the Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 and any similar order made in any jurisdiction in the world.

¹² For this purpose, a "director's disqualification order" includes a disqualification order made by a court or disqualification undertaking accepted by the Secretary of State, pursuant to the Company Directors' Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 and any similar order or undertaking made or given in any jurisdiction in the world.

¹³ For this purpose, a "bankruptcy restrictions order" includes a bankruptcy restrictions order made by a court or a bankruptcy restrictions undertaking accepted pursuant to the Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 and any similar order or undertaking made or given in any jurisdiction in the world.

¹⁴ If you are a disabled person within the meaning of the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 or the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and are unable to make this declaration then, on application to the Inn, consideration will be given as to whether reasonable adjustments can be made.

8. Except as disclosed below, I am not aware of any other matter which might reasonably be thought to call into question my fitness to practise as a barrister¹⁵.

Undertaking

9. I accept that honesty and integrity are at the heart of a barrister's practice.
10. I understand that the Chief Executive of the Bar Council will assess the information in this Declaration and Undertaking before he/she determines whether to issue me with a practising certificate to resume practice.
11. I understand that the Chief Executive will make enquiries of the Professional Conduct Committee of the Bar Council in order to verify the declaration made by me in paragraph 7(g).
12. If requested by the Chief Executive, I will apply, or assist him/her in applying, to Access NI for disclosure about me.
13. I undertake that if there is any change to the matters declared and/or disclosed in response to sections 2 or 3 above between the date of signing and the issue of a practising certificate to me that I will promptly and completely inform the Chief Executive of the relevant information.

¹⁵ This includes any incident or behaviour which, if known to the Bar Council, might cause your application to be assessed and determined more carefully. If in doubt, disclose the incident/behaviour.

14. I will inform the Chief Executive of any change to my name, address, email or telephone contact details.

Signature

15. I have read and understood the terms of this Application, Declaration and Undertaking.

16. I understand that if this Application, Declaration or Undertaking is found to be false in any material respect or there is a breach of the Declaration or Undertaking, such falsification or breach shall itself constitute professional misconduct. ¹⁶

Dated _____ day of _____ 20____

Signature: _____

NAME: _____

(BLOCK CAPITALS)

DATA PROTECTION ACT 2018

The General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland takes your privacy seriously and will only use the Personal Data you provide in this form to process your application for a practising certificate.

Personal Data given on this form will only be processed by the Bar Council of Northern Ireland and Bar Library Services Limited.

Personal Data will be kept on file for while you are a Practising Barrister and a further defined period as dictated by organisational data retention policy.

¹⁶ The Chief Executive will assess and determine each application on its own merits. Each applicant owes a duty of candour when completing all sections of this application.