

CPS/Bar Advocacy Liaison Group: Framework of Principles for Prosecution Advocates in the Crown Court

The Advocacy Liaison Group

The CPS/Bar Advocacy Liaison Group (the ALG) was established in March 2006 following agreement between the DPP and Stephen Hockman QC, Chairman of the Bar Council.

Purpose

Its purpose is to facilitate communication between the CPS and the self-employed Bar, providing a forum within which the CPS and the Bar can raise advocacy and service-delivery issues relating to the deployment and performance of HCAs and self-employed counsel. These issues may arise at a national or local level (where those local issues have national implications). Where possible and appropriate, the group also provides an opportunity for the agreement of mutual good practice.

Membership

The group currently meets on a monthly basis (although this will reduce to quarterly meetings in due course). Peter Lewis, Director of HQ Business Development Directorate leads the CPS side that includes Steve Przybylski, Angela Deal and Keith Milburn. The Bar's contingent is led by Tim Dutton QC, Leader of the SE Circuit, and includes Simon Bourne-Arton QC, Leader of the NE Circuit, Peter Joyce QC, Leader of the Midland Circuit, Philip Mott QC, Leader of the Western Circuit, Greg Dickinson QC, Nick Hilliard, Fiona Jackson, and Tom Little, Chair of the YBC.

The CPS/Bar Framework of Principles for Prosecution Advocates

In order to provide clarity and promote consistency in the relationship between the CPS and the self-employed Bar on Crown Court advocacy issues, the ALG has now produced a Framework of Principles for Prosecution Advocates (the Framework), which is attached to this minute.

Contents

This Framework document sets out a high level view of; how the CPS and the Bar acknowledge their respective objectives in relation to Crown Court advocacy; the inter-reliance of the respective organisations; the need to communicate regularly and share information to ensure a constructive and effective relationship; and the high standards of service that each expects of the other. The latter are summarised in 11 key principles.

Those key principles represent existing best practice for both parties and are wholly consistent with the Farquharson Guidelines. All advocates practising in the Crown Court, as well as those who manage them, should be familiar with these key principles and should put them into practice.

Distribution

The Framework document is being provided to all CCPs and Circuit Leaders, for further distribution as appropriate. It is suggested that on an Area or Circuit basis, those to whom this

document is further circulated should include all Trial Unit Heads and HCAs within the CPS, as well as Heads of Chambers and members of the self-employed Bar.

To assist the process of ensuring familiarity with the contents of the Framework it is suggested that those CCPs who are JASC chairs use their next scheduled JASC meetings to discuss the Framework document with Circuit Leaders, other CCPs within their respective circuits and representatives of their local Bars. This would provide an opportunity to identify any actions required locally in order to further the Framework's objectives in their Areas. At the request of the JASC chairs, members of the ALG would be happy to attend those meetings to join in with these discussions and answer any questions, should this be considered helpful.

Implementation

This Framework of Principles has been agreed by the Director of Public Prosecutions and endorsed by the Attorney General and the Bar Council. Its overarching objectives and key principles should be recognised with immediate effect.

Enquiries relating to the contents of this minute or the Framework document should be addressed to Angela Deal, Head of the CPS Advocacy Strategy Programme (email angela.deal@cps.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 0207 796 8578) or to Tim Dutton QC (email tdutton@fountaincourt.co.uk or telephone 0207 583 3335).