

New Barristers Committee



From left to right: James Mack, Duncan McCombe (Chairman UK Bar Council Young Barristers' Committee), Rachel McMillan (Chair Northern Ireland Young Bar), Sonia Stewart (Bar Association New Barristers' Committee), Hugh Kam (Hong Kong Bar Association, Chairman of Standing Committee on Young Barristers).

The focus of the New Barristers' Committee this year is twofold.

First, to foster a greater sense of collegiality amongst new barristers. Second, to promote the economic interest of new barristers by raising their collective profile. To this end, the NBC is planning a series of joint-CPD and networking events, to be attended by new barristers, solicitors and in-house counsel, to be held at locations away from the Common Room. These events will be an opportunity for new barristers to engage with an increasingly dynamic legal profession.

The members' Common Room will still hold a place in the heart of the NBC. The NBC is planning to utilise the space for a "long lunch", for new barristers. Attendance by senior members of the bar or the judiciary

will be by invitation only. It is hoped that the long lunch will provide an opportunity for new barristers to catch up with colleagues from their respective Bar Practice Courses.

The NBC has also commenced a dialogue with its equivalent bodies in Hong Kong, the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. Representatives of the NBC met with "Young Barrister" representatives from these bars during the recent International Bar Association (Sydney) Conference to share common and differing experiences. The NBC is also engaged in discussions with the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to trial a pro-bono assistance scheme in the AAT.

The NBC is keen to ensure that the interests of new barristers from chambers outside of Sydney CBD are represented. To this end,

the NBC recently held a breakfast in Paramatta and intends to hold further events in areas outside the Sydney CBD.

New barristers with any concerns or ideas are invited to contact the chair of the NBC, James Mack (Level 22 Chambers).

A 'new barrister' is a barrister of under six year's call.

James Mack