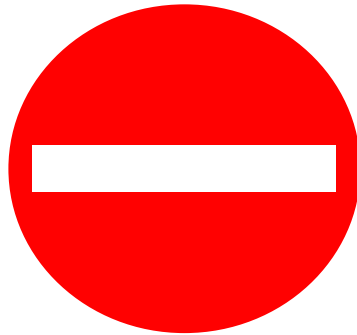


The Legal Profession: Is Access Denied?



Results from an online survey
conducted by the Bar Access Group

3 May 2005

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Preliminary note

All the figures in this report are based on the Bar Access Group online survey. This was not a representative sample, and most of the findings have not been subjected to any statistical analysis. Rather than saying 'according to the survey respondents' at the start of each sentence, the reader is invited to bear in mind that the information provided cannot be extended beyond the bounds of the survey.

Acknowledgements

The Bar Access Group is grateful to BPP Law School for funding the cost of hosting the online survey. Thanks are also due to the following organisations and individuals who assisted with publicising the survey: Charles Taylor, General Council of the Bar; Christa Richmond and Peter Blair; The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple; The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple; Sarah Moxon, GTI Specialist Publishers; Frances Gibb, The Times.

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A. Summary of findings

Training to enter the legal profession, whether as a barrister or solicitor, is very expensive. Half of those surveyed were reliant on some level of income from their family. While substantial funding from other sources is available to those training as solicitors, those who opt for the Bar have fewer options for financial support.

It appears from this survey that funding from within both professions is still subject to the bias traditionally associated with the law in favour of individuals educated at private schools and at Oxbridge. It may be that inequalities that already exist in the UK education system are made worse by the funding decisions made by the legal profession.

A considerable proportion of respondents who had decided to train as solicitors said that the scarcity of pupillages had influenced their decision. The cost of training was also cited, and a number of respondents had been influenced by both factors.

The survey shows that the majority of those who do decide to study the Bar Vocational Course are faced with a considerable financial burden, and many report associated problems of stress and reduced quality of life.

1. Debt

Both trainee barristers and solicitors incur substantial amounts of debt from their undergraduate degrees and their professional qualifications (the BVC and LPC respectively).

- Average debt for a solicitor = £11,000 - £20,000
- Average debt for a barrister = £15,000 - £25,000

The BVC generated more individuals with substantial levels of debt.

- 12% of people who had taken the BVC accrued over £20,000 of debt from the one year course, compared to 2% of people who had taken the LPC.

2. Sources of funding

Funding from a student's family remains a very important source of income.

- Almost 50% of all students obtain some financial support from their family.
- At each stage (CPE, LPC and BVC), around 25% of respondents listed their family as their main source of income.

It is more common for BVC students than LPC students to take out bank loans to support themselves while studying.

- 55% of BVC students have had to take out a loan for the course, compared to 42% of LPC students.

Fewer BVC students than LPC students had received funding from within the profession. (The funding that is available from the Inns of Court is less likely to cover a student's costs than that available through a training contract.)

- 36% of BVC students have a scholarship from one of the Inns of Court.
- 7% of BVC students have a drawdown from the Chambers at which they have secured pupillage
- 47% of LPC students have some funding from a solicitors' firm.

- 30% of LPC students give their firm as their main source of income.
- 13% of BVC students say that their Inns of Court Scholarship is their main source of income.
- 2% of BVC students say that a drawdown from Chambers is their main source of income

3. Effect of social background

The survey suggests that inequality in access to the legal profession is linked to prior inequalities in access to education. The legal profession may be aggravating an existing problem.

- People who have been to private schools rather than state schools are more likely to:
 - train as barristers than solicitors
 - receive scholarships from the Inns of Court
 - receive training contracts
 - cite their family as their main source of income
 - 57% of people listing 'family' as their main source of income also went to a private school. The equivalent figure for those who went to a state school was 43%.
 - 66% of respondents whose main source of income was a bank loan went to state schools. The equivalent figure for private schools was 34%.
- People who have been to Oxbridge rather than other universities are more likely to:
 - have lower debts
 - Of those who took the BVC, only 27% of Oxbridge respondents had debts from the BVC of £10,000 or more, compared to 51% of non-Oxbridge respondents.
 - receive Inns of Court scholarships
 - receive training contracts

4. Effect of cost and competition on decisions about entering the legal profession

The cost of training and the scarcity of pupillages were important factors influencing respondents who had not yet started professional training.

- 23% listed scarcity of pupillages as a factor in their decision to train as a solicitor
- 18% listed the cost of the BVC as a factor in their decision to train as a solicitor
(these two figures include 12% of respondents who selected both cost and scarcity as factors)
- 10% had decided not to become either solicitors or barristers because of the cost of training

Respondents who had already started training as solicitors were most likely to give the scarcity of pupillages as an important factor in their decision.

- Of respondents who had considered becoming a barrister, 46% cited scarcity of pupillage and tenancy as an important factor
- 27% cited the cost of training

The great majority of respondents who were training to become barristers, or were already barristers, chose to work in their selected area of law because of their interest in it.

However, 28% of respondents were influenced by the availability of pupillages in that area of law and 27% were influenced by the size of future fees in that area of law.

5. Views of respondents

There were a number of common areas of concern among respondents to the survey who had decided to train as barristers:

- Significant stress levels and a corresponding impact on mental health due to the expense, competition and uncertainty of the process
- Detrimental impact on other areas of life such as buying a house or starting a family

- Being forced to delay training in order to save for future courses, or pay off debts that had already accumulated
- BVC seen as poor value for money. (None of the respondents who had taken the LPC course questioned its quality).
- Those who work during the course are disadvantaged because they have less time to study, undertake pro bono work, carry out mini-pupillages and other CV-enhancing activities such as marshalling.

B. Background to the survey

The Bar Access Group is a group of students concerned about the cost of training to enter the legal profession. In 2004/5, the cost of the Bar Vocational Course at a London provider was over £11,000. This compares to a cost of £6,720 at the same provider in 1997/8 – an increase of over 60% in seven years. The Legal Practice Course was approximately £2,000 less expensive in 2004/5. (See Annex 3 for full details of the changes in fees).

In recent years, the number of pupillages offered has decreased dramatically as a result of the requirement that pupils be paid. Thus, training to be a barrister today is, more than ever, an expensive gamble.

These trends need to be set against a context of slow improvement in social mobility. A recent report found that inequality of access to higher education widened in the 1990s: 'the expansion of higher education since the late 1980s has so far disproportionately benefited those from more affluent families.'¹

It might seem obvious that the effect of these trends is to prevent those who are less well-off from entering the profession. But it is often said that people who are determined to become barristers will take the necessary risks and incur the inevitable debt because of their ambition and commitment, and because of the potential for earning significant sums.

Comments such as these are often put forward as though based on evidence, rather than personal experience and anecdotes. In fact, there is very little evidence regarding the factors that influence the decision to train as a barrister, particularly from those who have not yet embarked on the BVC.

This survey was created to obtain evidence that could be used to inform the ongoing debate about reform. The hypothesis of the Bar Access Group was that there are substantial inequalities in access to the legal profession, and that severe barriers to access exist at many stages in the training process.

The aim of this report is to set out the data that was obtained from the 2,300 respondents to the survey, not to use that data to support any particular policy. We leave that step to those tasked with achieving reform.

¹ Blanden J, Gregg P, Machin S. (2005). *Intergenerational Mobility in Europe and North America*. <http://www.suttontrust.com/reports/IntergenerationalMobility.pdf>

C. Results

1. Respondents to the survey

The survey was created by members of the Bar Access Group and hosted on the website www.freeonlinesurveys.com between 14 February and 30 April 2005.

A copy of the survey questions is Annex 1 of this report. A note on the methods used to attract respondents is at Annex 2.

There were 2,300 respondents to the survey, of whom:

- 1,007 were currently law undergraduates
- 276 were currently Common Professional Exam students
- 448 were currently Legal Practice Course students
- 297 were currently Bar Vocational Course students

Other respondents included:

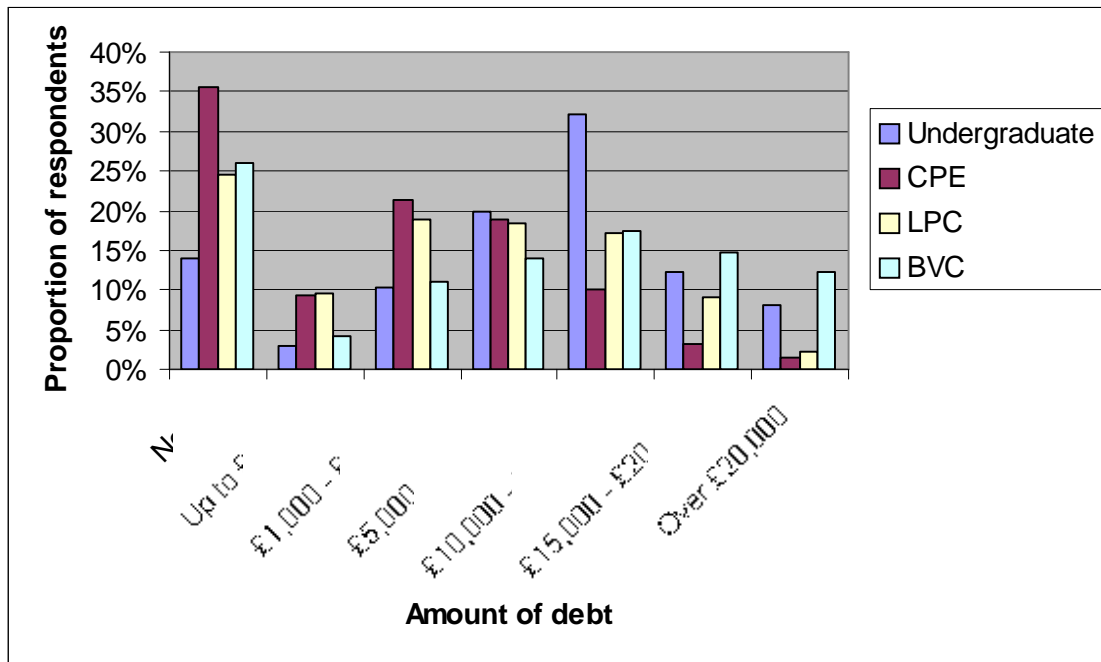
- postgraduate students
- barristers
- solicitors
- pupil barristers
- trainee solicitors
- members of the Institute of Legal Executives
- people who had completed the BVC but not obtained pupillage

The total number of respondents who had completed the BVC or were currently taking the course was 399.

The total number of respondents who had completed the LPC or were currently taking the course was 468.

2. The cost of training

The following chart shows the level of debt accrued by respondents at each stage of their training, whether to become a barrister or a solicitor.



It is evident from these data that not all students incur debt – 14% of undergraduates, 36% of CPE students, 25% of LPC students, and 26% of BVC students stated that they had no debt.

The total costs

The average (median) total debt for most students is significant:

Route	Average total debt
Law degree + LPC	£11,000 - £20,000
Degree + CPE + LPC	£12,000 - £25,000
Law degree + BVC	£15,000 - £25,000
Degree + CPE + BVC	£16,000 - £30,000

Some students accrue debts of over £20,000 from one stage. This is particularly true of BVC students. 12% of respondents who had completed or were taking the BVC had accrued over £20,000 of debt, compared to only 2% of LPC students.

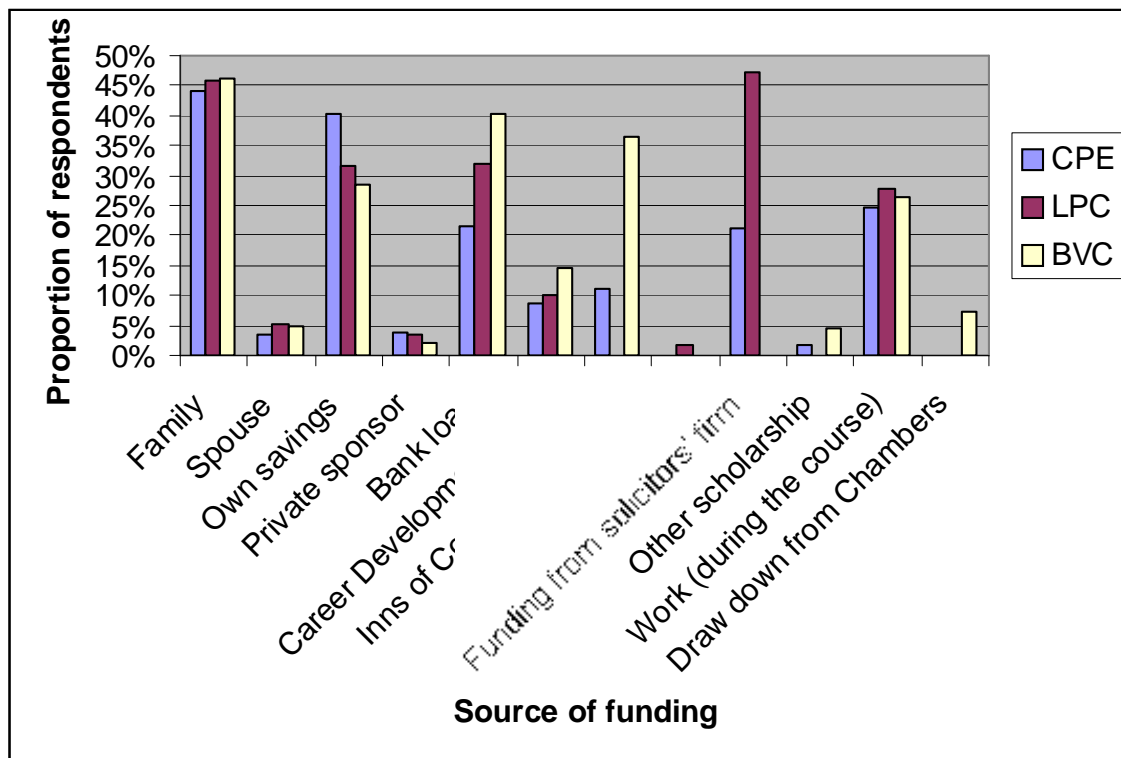
The link between debt and undergraduate university

The data from respondents who had taken the BVC showed that those who had been to Oxbridge were much less likely to have significant levels of debt. 27% of Oxbridge-educated respondents had debts from the BVC of £10,000 or more, compared to 51% of non-Oxbridge respondents.

3. How training is funded

Sources of funding

Respondents who had completed, or were taking the CPE, LPC or BVC were asked how they had funded their training. The following chart shows the responses.



It can be seen from these data that:

- Almost 50% of all students obtain some financial support from their family
- 55% of BVC students have a loan which attracts interest, compared to 42% of LPC students
- 36% of BVC students have a scholarship from one of the Inns of Court. 7% of BVC students have a drawdown from the Chambers at which they have secured pupillage
47% of LPC students have some funding from a solicitors' firm.

Main source of funding

Respondents were asked, of the sources of funding listed, which provided their main income.

At each stage (CPE, LPC and BVC), around 25% of respondents listed their family as their main source of income.

30% of LPC students give their firm as their main source of income. In contrast, only 13% of BVC students say that their Inns of Court Scholarship is their main source of income, and only 2% cite their drawdown from Chambers.

It is clear from the respondents to this survey that students training for the Bar cannot rely on the Inns of Court or their future employers for financial support. It is not therefore surprising that 36% of respondents on the BVC listed a loan as their main source of income, compared to 23% of LPC students.

Links between main source of income and social background for BVC students

Further analysis of the main source of income of respondents who completed the BVC reveals links with the respondent's background.

- 57% of people listing 'family' as their main source of income also went to a private school. The equivalent figure for those who went to a state school was 43%.
- 66% of respondents whose main source of income was a bank loan went to state schools. The equivalent figure for private schools was 34%.

4. Factors influencing the decision to enter the legal profession

Before training starts

The 1,311 respondents who had not yet started the LPC or BVC were asked whether any of the following statements applied to them:

- a) I intend to train as a solicitor because I want to be solicitor rather than a barrister
- b) I intend to train as a barrister because I want to be a barrister rather than a solicitor
- c) I am going to train as a solicitor because training as a barrister is too expensive
- d) I am going to train as a solicitor because the chance of getting pupillage is too small
- e) I am not going to train as either a solicitor or a barrister because they are both too expensive

23% of the respondents who were not intending to train as a barrister selected answer (d) – the scarcity of pupillages.

18% selected answer (c) – the cost of training.
(These figures include the 12% of respondents who selected both answers).

10% of respondents selected answer (e).

Having decided to train as a solicitor

Respondents who had already started training to become a solicitor, or who had completed the LPC course in the past, were asked whether any of the following statements applied to them:

- a) I did not want to train as a barrister
- b) I chose to be a solicitor because I could not afford to train as a barrister
- c) I chose to be a solicitor because the chance of getting pupillage/tenancy as a barrister was too small
- d) I initially trained as a barrister but became a solicitor because I didn't get pupillage/tenancy

42% of these respondents said they did not want to be a barrister.

Of the other 58%, 27% gave the cost of training as a reason, and 46% selected the difficulty in obtaining pupillage or tenancy. (These figures include respondents who selected both).

Having decided to train as a barrister

Respondents who had already started on the path to becoming a barrister were asked whether any of the following factors had influenced the area of law they were pursuing:

- a) Interest in that area of law
- b) Size of future fees available
- c) Availability of pupillages
- d) Availability of pupillages with a draw down during the BVC
- e) Size of potential draw down of pupillage award during BVC

84% of respondents selected (a).

However, many respondents also selected other factors. 28% listed availability of pupillages as a factor and 27% listed the size of future fees. (These figures include respondents who selected both).

Very few respondents listed (d) or (e) as a factor that influenced their decision.

5. The effect of social background

We have already noted that social background has an effect on the sources of funding open to an individual.

Private vs state schooling

Respondents were asked whether they had attended a private school or a state school.

- Of those respondents who had decided to train as a barrister, 44% had been privately educated and 56% had been state educated.

- Of those respondents who had decided to train as a solicitor, 38% had been privately educated and 62% had been state educated.

This was statistically significant²: the slant in favour of privately educated people deciding to train as barristers rather than solicitors was more than would be expected by chance.

The link between a private education and receipt of an Inns of Court scholarship was also statistically significant. However, a full analysis of the awards made by the Inns of Court would require a separate study, looking at all the applications received and the awards made.

The relationship between a private education and receipt of a training contract was also statistically significant.

Oxbridge vs other universities

Respondents were asked whether they had been to Oxbridge or another UK university for their first degree.

- Of those respondents who had decided to train as a barrister, 27% had been to Oxbridge and 69% had not.
- Of those respondents who had decided to train as a solicitor, 19% had been to Oxbridge and 76% had not.

Once again, this was a statistically significant finding: more Oxbridge students opt to be barristers than would be expected by chance.

Of respondents who took the CPE law conversion course, 32% had been to Oxbridge, and 68% had not.

An analysis of the link between attending Oxbridge and receiving an Inns of Court scholarship also revealed that Oxbridge students were significantly more likely to have a scholarship. Again it must be emphasised that this was not a full study of all the scholarships awarded.

The link between Oxbridge and receipt of a training contract for LPC students was also highly significant.

² Using the chi-square test, at a significance level of 0.05.

It could be argued that a bias in favour of Oxbridge graduates is not surprising, since one of the criteria used in awarding a scholarship or a training contract is academic excellence. However, it is well documented that privately educated students are over-represented at Oxbridge.

Having a family member who is a lawyer

There was no link between having a family member who is a lawyer and the decision to train for the bar or as a solicitor.

There was also no link between having a family member who is a lawyer and receipt of an Inns of Court scholarship.

6. The long term financial effect

Respondents were asked how long it would take them to repay the debts they had incurred through training to enter the legal profession, and how soon those debts would become due.

43% of BVC students said it would take 6 or more years to repay their debts, compared to 54% of LPC students, despite BVC students on average having higher debts.

68% of BVC students said their debts would become repayable within the first year after completing the course, compared to 85% of LPC students.

7. General comments and views of respondents

Respondents were invited to share their views on whether the cost of training, whether to be a barrister or solicitor, had affected them in any way.

More barristers than solicitors opted to answer this question. Only a minority of respondents in each group said that cost had had no effect on them.

Comments from those who had chosen to become barristers raised a number of common themes which are summarised below. Representative quotes from respondents are also included.

Mental health

- Many respondents mentioned stress and the negative impact on mental health caused by going through such an expensive and competitive process

"It has been a constant source of stress, it is a very big gamble that may not pay off"

Substantial levels of debt

- Many respondents were worried by the substantial amount of debt they had incurred to study the BVC

"It was very difficult for me to borrow the amount of money I needed for the BVC from the bank. My mother had to act as guarantor, had she not been able to do this I would not have been able to afford the fees. I took the maximum amount that the bank would allow and this would not have covered rent so I have had to live at home and commute to London every day. The huge, disproportionate cost of obtaining the BVC has caused a lot of stress and worry, especially as I have not yet secured a pupillage."

"I could not afford to pay for the course because I have children to support and an enormous mortgage. I have therefore had to take out a loan which will take up to 10 years to repay."

Impact on other areas of life

- Many respondents expressed concern about their ability to move forward with other aspects of life, such as buying a home and having a family

"The cost of the course wiped out 4 years of savings my husband and I had put together to buy our own house."

"It is frightening how much debt is involved. It wasn't so much when I was a student, but now when I think about getting a mortgage or moving forward with my life I'm overburdened with this huge debt. I practise in criminal law and it's really tough."

Delaying training

- Many respondents said that they had delayed training to enter the legal profession in order to save money to fund themselves

"The cost meant that I had to delay starting for the BVC for three years. During that time I worked in order to save enough to be able to fund myself (in addition to bank loans) through the BVC. I work part time during term time and full time during holidays and I know that this affects my studies. I have had to borrow money from my family, which I never wanted to have to do at this stage. I can honestly say that the cost of training very nearly put me off a career at the Bar altogether."

"I did not start BVC straight after law degree as could not afford to. Have been working in legal profession for seven years before proceeding (even though it was what I wanted to do when studying law degree)."

BVC poor value for money

- Many respondents said that the BVC course was of low quality and not worth the fees charged, particularly since students took the course without knowing whether they would secure a pupillage

"The cost of the Bar course is disgraceful. The course is all but a complete and utter waste of time and should be done away with immediately. The BVC is an appalling racket run for the benefit of a handful of businessmen who own the law schools and the lazy sinecurists who staff it. This grossly unfair and unnecessary state of affairs should be stopped as soon as possible."

Uncertainty of pupillage

- Many respondents said that they would not have started the BVC course had they not already secured a pupillage. Many LPC students also said that they would not have started the LPC unless they had secured a training contract.

"I would not have commenced the BVC if I had not obtained pupillage, as I would not have been able to obtain payment. I only applied to sets that offered a drawdown on pupillage awards."

"I decided to become a solicitor because I was offered a very good training contract. I couldn't have turned that down to fund myself through the BVC and pupillage and take the risk of not getting a pupillage."

Difficulty in working and studying

- Some respondents said that additional problems face those who work and study simultaneously, such as having less time for pro bono work or CV-enhancing unpaid activities, and having less opportunity to excel at the course.

"[The cost] prevented me from doing many other things as all money has had to go towards the cost of training. In particular I could not afford to do pro bono work."

Pupillage awards too low

- Some respondents said it was possible that even having been offered pupillage, they would have to turn it down because the funding levels are too low to enable debts to be repaid.

"I have pupillage at the criminal bar but am no longer certain I will take it due to cash constraints"

Bias in the system

- A few respondents perceived a bias in favour of Oxbridge graduates.

"I wanted to be a barrister but could not as I have no income and could only expect a small contribution from my parents. I find that the risks involved for an international student, who is from an ethnic background, female and who did not study at Oxford/Cambridge for her undergraduate too high to risk. These risks are not just financial but also pertain to work permits and the chances of getting a pupillage and then a tenancy. And this is from a student who not only got a first class degree from LSE but was first in the whole class of that year, and went on to do a BCL at Oxford. If such a student is daunted by the barriers to qualify as a barrister, there is certainly something wrong with the system."

Annex 1: Survey questionnaire

THE LEGAL PROFESSION: IS ACCESS DENIED?

The cost of legal training has risen steeply in recent years. The BVC fees for barristers are now over £11,000 and the LPC fees for solicitors are now over £9,000.

We are a group of students concerned about the rising costs of training and the potential barrier created for the less well-off. We feel that too little is known about the effect of these costs on new solicitors, barristers, and those considering law as a profession. We have prepared a short survey to inform the current debate about this issue. It is being circulated to undergraduates, BVC and LPC students, pupil barristers, tenants, and solicitors. We will give the results to the Bar Council, the Law Society, and other interested parties, including the media.

We would be very grateful if you could spare 10 minutes to complete the survey and submit your answers to us anonymously.

If you would like to be kept informed of the results of the survey you can opt to give us your email address. This will be stored separately from your answers to the survey, and we will not divulge it to anyone else.

1) Please tick the option that best describes you.

- Undergraduate (law)
- Undergraduate (other subject)
- CPE/GDL student
- LPC student
- BVC student
- Pupil barrister
- Tenant (up to 1 year's call)
- Tenant (1-5 years' call)
- Tenant (over 5 years' call)
- Trainee solicitor (at firm which provides funding for GDL/LPC students)
- Trainee solicitor (other firm)
- Solicitor (at firm which provides funding for GDL/LPC students)
- Solicitor (other firm)
- Other (Please Specify):

2) How old are you?

18-22

23-25

26-30

30-35

36+

3) What is your nationality?

British

Other EU

Commonwealth country

Other nationality

4) Is anyone else in your family a lawyer? (Please take family to include parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and first cousins).

Yes/No

5) What kind of school did you go to?

Public (fee-paying)

Private (fee-paying)

State grammar/selective school

State comprehensive school

6) If you went to a public or private school, did you have a scholarship, bursary or assisted place?

Yes/No

7) Where did you/do you go to university?

Oxford or Cambridge

Other UK university

Other non-UK university

8) What class of degree did you get/do you expect to get?

First

2.1

2.2

Third

Other (Please Specify):

9) Where do you live?

With your parents/family

In a rented property

In a property you own

10) How much debt did you have/do you expect to have at the end of your undergraduate course?

None

Up to £1,000

£1,000 - £4,999

£5,000 - £9,999

£10,000 - £14,999

£15,000 - £19,999

£20,000+

11) Did you have to pay undergraduate University tuition fees?

Yes/No

12) If you have not yet started the BVC or the LPC course, do any of the following statements apply to you? (Please select all that apply)

- a) I intend to train as a solicitor because I want to be solicitor rather than a barrister
- b) I intend to train as a barrister because I want to be a barrister rather than a solicitor
- c) I am going to train as a solicitor because training as a barrister is too expensive
- d) I am going to train as a solicitor because the chance of getting pupillage is too small

- e) I am not going to train as either a solicitor or a barrister because they are both too expensive

13) Please only answer the questions on this page if you are on the CPE/GDL course, OR have completed the GDL/CPE course in the past.

How did you pay for the CPE/GDL law conversion course, including fees and living expenses? (Select all that apply)

Family
Spouse
Own savings
Private sponsor
Bank loan
Career Development Loan
Inns of Court scholarship
Funding from solicitors' firm
Other scholarship
Work (during the course)

14) Which of these sources provided the greatest proportion of your income during the CPE/GDL?

Family
Spouse
Own savings
Private sponsor
Bank loan
Career Development Loan
Inns of Court scholarship
Funding from solicitors' firm
Other scholarship
Work (during the course)

15) How much debt did you have/do you expect to have as a result of taking the CPE/GDL course? (Please calculate this SEPARATELY from any existing debts from undergraduate courses)

None
Up to £1,000
£1,000 - £4,999

£5,000 - £9,999
£10,000 - £14,999
£15,000 - £20,000
Over £20,000

16) Please only answer the questions on this page if you are on the BVC or have completed the BVC in the past.

How did you pay for the BVC, including fees and living expenses? (Select all that apply)

Family
Spouse
Own savings
Private sponsor
Bank loan
Career Development Loan
Inns of Court scholarship
Other scholarship
Draw down from Chambers at which you have secured pupillage
Work (during the course)

17) Which of these sources formed the greatest proportion of your income during the course?

Family
Spouse
Own savings
Private sponsor
Bank loan
Career Development Loan
Inns of Court scholarship
Other scholarship
Draw down from Chambers at which you have secured pupillage
Work (during the course)

18) How much debt did you have/do you expect to have as a resulting of studying for the BVC? (Please calculate this SEPARATELY from any existing debts from undergraduate courses or the law conversion course)

None

Up to £1,000
£1,000 - £4,999
£5,000 - £9,999
£10,000 - £14,999
£15,000 - £20,000
Over £20,000

19) The questions on this page are for BARRISTERS/TRAINEE BARRISTERS/BVC students only.

How long will it take you to pay off your education debts?

Not applicable – no debt
Up to 1 year
1-5 years
6-10 years
More than 10 years

20) When do you/did you have to start repaying your debts?

While studying
Immediately on completion of studies
Within 1 year of completing studies
From 1-3 years of completing studies
After 3 years of completing studies

21) Has the cost of obtaining the necessary qualifications to become a barrister affected you in any way? Please give details.

22) Did any of the following factors influence your choice of which area of law to practise in? (Select all that apply)

Interest in that area of law
Size of future fees available
Availability of pupillages
Availability of pupillages with a draw down during the BVC
Size of potential draw down of pupillage award during BVC

23) Which general area of law do you practise in/hope to practise in?

Criminal
Civil
Mixed civil and crime
Commercial
Family

24) The questions on this page are for SOLICITORS/TRAINEE SOLICITORS/LPC students only.

How did you pay for the LPC, including fees and living expenses? (Select all that apply)

Family
Spouse
Own savings
Private sponsor
Bank loan
Career Development Loan
Scholarship
Funding from solicitors' firm
Work (during the course)

25) Which of these sources formed the greatest proportion of your income during the course?

Family
Spouse
Own savings
Private sponsor
Bank loan
Career Development Loan
Scholarship
Funding from solicitors' firm
Work (during the course)

26) How much debt did you have/do you expect to have as a result of studying the LPC? (Please calculate this SEPARATELY from any existing debts from undergraduate courses or the law conversion course)

None

Up to £1,000

£1,000 - £4,999

£5,000 - £9,999

£10,000 - £14,999

£15,000 - £20,000

Over £20,000

27) How long will it take you to pay off your education debts?

Not applicable – no debt

Up to 1 year

1-5 years

6-10 years

More than 10 years

28) When do you/did you have to start repaying your debts?

While studying

Immediately on completion of studies

Within 1 year of completing studies

From 1-3 years of completing studies

After 3 years of completing studies

29) Did the cost of training affect you in any way? Please give details:

30) Do any of the following statements apply to you? (Select all that apply)

a) I did not want to train as a barrister

b) I chose to be a solicitor because I could not afford to train as a barrister

c) I chose to be a solicitor because the chance of getting pupillage/tenancy as a barrister was too small

d) I initially trained as a barrister but became a solicitor because I didn't get pupillage/tenancy

31) These final questions are for everyone!

Do you give the creators of this survey permission to use your responses anonymously in future publications?

Yes/No

32)

If you would like to receive details of the results of this survey and updates, please enter your email address.

Annex 2: Methods and statistical analysis

The survey was created by members of the Bar Access Group and hosted on the website www.freeonlinesurveys.com between 14 February and 30 April 2005.

The survey was publicised using the following methods:

- Link on www.legaleducation.org.uk
- Link on www.middletemple.org.uk
- Posters at the 2005 National Pupillage Fair
- Emails to the law departments of 73 UK universities
- Emails to BVC providers
- Emails to University Careers Services
- Emails to contacts in law firms and barristers' Chambers
- Mention of the survey in The Times law section

The respondents were therefore a self-selected sample of people who had already started their legal training, or were intending to start in the near future.

The results of the survey have not, in the main, been subjected to any statistical analysis. Therefore, unless otherwise stated, the figures quoted cannot be used outside the context of the survey.

However, some of the responses to particular issues have been subjected to a chi-squared analysis to determine their significance. This is indicated in the text of the report as appropriate.

Annex 3: BVC fees

This table shows the cost of the BVC since 1997/8.

Provider	Approx student nos. 2004/5	2005/2006 £	2004/2005 ¹ £	2003/2004 ² £	2002/2003 ² £	2001/2002 ³ £	2000/2001 ³ £	1999/2000 ³ £	1998/1999 ⁴ £	1997/1998 ⁴ £
Inns of Court School of Law	525	Not known	11360	10650	9250	8750	7750	7200	6850	6520
BPP Law School	215	11, 495 + 295 BC fee	11185	10750	9750	9000	8200	7320	6970	6720
The College of Law	180		10485	9785	9050	8550	7850	7420	7170	6720
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	80	Not known	7715	7500/8250	7170	7000	6750	6140	5970	5750
Cardiff Law School	66		7785	7435/8685	7000/8350	6650/8000	6190/7310	6120/7320	5550/8280	5520/8500
University of West of England at Bristol	120 places		8085	7510/8525	7150/8000	6650/8000	6190/7310	6120/7320	5720	5520/6570
Manchester Metropolitan University	c.100		7750	7435/8420	7165/8180	6695/7880	6750	6500/7430	6300	
Nottingham Law School	94		8735	8470	8185	7750	6800	6450	6300	6070

*Where two figures are shown, the first is for home students, the second is for overseas students

¹ Includes Bar Council fee of £285

² Not known whether includes Bar Council fee

³ Includes Bar Council fee of £250

⁴ Includes Bar Council fee of £220

The only figures before 1997 are from the Inns of Court School of Law, which was the only BVC provider:

1996/1997 £	1995/1996 £	1994/1995 £	1993/1994 £	1992/1993 £	1991/1992 £	1990/1991 £
5720	5200	3980	3750	3600	3400	2875

