

**Manifesto**  
**CBA Executive Election**

Life as a criminal barrister is unique. It is in my view, a wonderful profession, a noble vocation, and one through which I have met some superb colleagues and made close friends. If I am asked by any young aspiring barrister whether it is still worth joining the criminal bar I unhesitatingly say yes. I am fed up with the negativity. It is tiresome and unhelpful. That should not however be misjudged on my part for being unrealistic. I am only too mindful of the many difficulties faced by the profession; indeed I was repeatedly told about the very same challenges 20 years ago when I embarked on the profession myself. However, like many others I am still here, still passionate, still enthusiastic and refuse to be deterred. It is through that prism of attitude therefore, that I seek your vote.

In terms of my background, I am a defence practitioner and member of 25BR, a chambers that has always had an extremely close relationship with the CBA and the running of it. I have been a member of the CBA throughout my career and believe I can add to the oft undervalued role it performs in representing our interests and progressing our careers. I am presently a member of the recently re-formed 'CBA Law Reform Working Group', a think tank responsible for responding to government consultations. Furthermore, I have demonstrable knowledge and experience of assisting with the running of a large organisation, having been a member of my chambers' management committee for the last six years, where I play a significant role. I am also a governor at my children's school.

I recognise that presently the two primary concerns of our profession are fees and well-being, which in many ways are inextricably linked. I have an in-depth understanding of the AGFS structure and have been involved in drafting 25 Bedford Row's last two responses to the AGFS consultations. I am buoyed by the fact some progress has been made with fees in the most recent iteration of the AGFS and take this to mean the treasury is willing to listen. That being said if the results of the inexplicably overdue CLAR are not published soon, with evidence of clear results, I will be pushing the CBA's leadership as hard as I can not to just send out weekly messages but to take the appropriate action until we achieve our demands.

On a personal level, those who know me will I hope attest that I am personable, approachable and committed. If appointed to the Executive Committee, I undertake to ensure that the interests of our great profession are promoted, protected and represented by me to the very best of my ability.

**Matthew Radstone**  
**25 Bedford Row**