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Issue 53

I am proud to announce that Ashley Murray Limited trading as Ashley Murray Chambers has now been approved by the Bar Standard Board and the Bar Indemnity Fund to provide family finance advocacy, litigation, and expert legal advice services as an *entity*.

An Entity is a company or partnership that provides advocacy, litigation, and expert legal advice services.

The Bar Standard Board ('BSB') after rigorously examining the structure, administration and risk governance of the legal practice I set up as Ashley Murray Chambers in April 2014 have given their approval to regulating the practice as an independent entity.

This approval is historically the first to be given to a family barrister's practice in England and Wales.

Whilst this will not alter in any way the services provided presently by myself to my solicitors or the current level of professional insurance cover under which my work is provided, it recognises the revolutionary changes in legal service provision by barristers and is another innovative step taken by the Bar Standard's Board to move the Bar on from its traditional image and structure in an increasingly fast moving and demanding legal services environment.

I also believe it is a recognition by the BSB of the quality of services I set out to provide last year as Ashley Murray Chambers and of the hugely innovative step taken of putting *my live diary* on the website www.ashleymurraychambers.co.uk so that any solicitor can first check if I am available for any date and there and then on the web book my services and receive an automated confirmation in immediate return of the booking taken followed up thereafter by a live contact by Chambers to make any other arrangements required.

This facility, which I acquired from the US, has been tremendously popular with many solicitors as being both entirely transparent and time efficient.

In addition, in the process, the BSB expressed appreciation for the presentation of the Ashley Murray Chambers website itself, its clear layout and detailed information and the fact that I had provided full details of the range of fees charged for the legal services provided.

As the readers of these Flyers will already know, I hold some fairly strident views of where the Bar should be heading and how no barrister can take it for granted that his or her expertise will be required by solicitors or their clients in the future without being able to demonstrate that they have something to '*value add*' to the litigation process.



Cost efficiency and accessibility to solicitors are just as important as advisory and case presentation skills. The barrister is a part of the 'legal team' and not aloof from it. My decision to set up my own Chambers specialising in family financial law work on divorce etc was intended to show that a different and more modern bespoke arrangement structured around the needs of solicitors and their clients with web accessibility was the way ahead for the Bar if it intended to remain independent.

Ashley Murray Chambers will, unless a conference in Chambers is required by the solicitor, always arrange the conference to take place at the solicitor offices to meet the client, wherever and whenever, rather than the other way around.

My practice as Ashley Murray Limited trading as Ashley Murray Chambers is now fully regulated as an entity by the BSB and will be subject to scrutiny as a continual process to ensure I am providing the highest quality service. I look forward to doing so.

Ashley Murray Chambers

Horton House, Liverpool.

28th April 2015.