

Consultation Paper
Costs Lawyer Standards Board ("CLSB")

Subject matter: **Proposed revised Aims & Outcomes of the Costs Lawyer Qualification**

Date issued: **Tuesday 16 July 2013**

Consultation closing date: **Tuesday 1 October 2013 (midnight)**

CLSB has undertaken a complete review of the current Costs Lawyer qualification together with its aims and expected outcomes. The review identified areas where the qualification and expectations required revision. The proposal being consulted on addresses those issues and sets out clear aims & outcomes for the provider of the Costs Lawyer qualification and the Trainee Costs Lawyer ("Trainee").

On 25 June 2013 CLSB received the Legal Education & Training Review Report (LETR Report) commissioned by the SRA, BSB and C.ILEX. CLSB was pleased to note that it had already identified and had addressed/was addressing issues raised under that review.

CLSB and the LETR Report have identified:

1. The need for fair access to the legal professions with workplace learning. Fair access and workplace learning has always existed in the Costs Lawyer profession and the proposal does not seek to change this. The requirement remains for three years work based experience in costs law and practice.
2. Clear aims and outcomes are required. The proposal seeks to address this for both the course and supervised practice element of the Costs Lawyer qualification.
3. Legal education programmes need to address/address in greater detail the following, this have now been covered under the proposed revised curriculum:
 - Enhanced legal research skills
 - Analytical skills
 - Advocacy skills
 - Written communication skills
 - Oral communication skills
 - Client relationship skills
 - Commercial awareness
 - Management/practice management/financial skills
 - Professional ethics
 - Understanding the regulatory environment

4. Specialism. Under unit 3 (year 3) a choice element is being proposed to enable Trainees to study subjects applicable to the areas of work appropriate to their role.
5. The need for annual CPD audits, CLSB introduced these in 2012.
6. The need for education audits, CLSB introduced independent annual education audits in 2012.

Under the proposal CLSB also seeks to address the following:

- Professional development planning now appears in the curriculum under units 1 & 3.
- There will be end of unit (year) examinations, at present there is only one examination leading to qualification at the end of year 3.
- The pass mark has been set to allow for not just pass or fail, but pass with merit or with distinction.
- Each module has been allocated credits indicating depth of study.

CLSB seeks to achieve LSB sign off on the proposal by end of 2013 to enable implementation for the intake of new Trainees in 2014.

Questions for consideration under this consultation

1. Do you agree with the proposed aims & outcomes?
2. Do you agree with the proposed revised Costs Lawyer qualification as set out in the overview and three units?
3. Do you have any additional comments to make on the proposal?

How to respond to this consultation paper

Responses must be received by CLSB by close of business (midnight) on Tuesday 1 October 2013. Your responses should be submitted by email or post at the following addresses:

Email: ceo@clsb.info

Post: CLSB
Centurion House
129 Deansgate
Manchester
M3 3WR

In the event of any questions arising from this consultation paper and attached documents please contact Lynn Plumley at ceo@clsb.info or on 0161 214 7904.