

Working party on the impact of Solicitors Regulation Authority decisions on black and minority ethnic solicitors

Terms of reference

13 March 2008

The role of the working party is to work with the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) to

- investigate reasons for the finding that black and minority ethnic (BME) solicitors are disproportionately represented in decisions made by the SRA,
- agree the scope, priorities and overall approach to be taken by the independent review,
- advise and support the reviewer throughout the review,
- consider the findings and recommendations in the reviewer's report,
- present an action plan to the SRA board for the implementation of the findings and recommendations.

Role of members

The role of each member is to

- represent their own stakeholder groups to ensure that their views are considered in the discussions of the working party and the work of the review,
- observe confidentiality,
- report back to their stakeholder groups, subject to the requirements of confidentiality.

For alternative formats, email info.services@sra.org.uk or telephone 0870 606 2555.

Chair – Anesta Weekes QC

The role of the chair is to

- chair all meetings of the working party,
- liaise with the independent reviewer on all aspects of his work,
- report back to the working party on progress,
- deal with publicity and communications in general between the working party, the SRA and the independent reviewer.

Working party members

The membership of the group will comprise one nominated representative from each of the key BME stakeholder groups. The SRA will be represented by two representatives, and will provide a group secretary who will work with the chair. Members of the working party will not take a direct part in the work of the review.

Ali Dizaei	President of the National Black Police Association
Sailesh Mehta	Chair, Society of Asian Lawyers
Nwabueze Nwokolo	Representing the Black Solicitors Network—Nwabueze is also the chair of the Law Society Equality and Diversity Committee.
Zarah Mirza / Mahmud al-Rashid	Association of Muslim Lawyers
Peter Herbert	Society of Black Lawyers
Penny Owston / Peter Williamson	SRA Board Representative
Antony Townsend / David Middleton	CEO / Director of Legal, SRA
Mehrunnisa Lalani	Group Secretary, Head of Policy (Inclusion), SRA
Tope Ojikutu / Remi Aiyela	British Nigeria Law Forum

Frequency of meetings

The working party will normally meet monthly throughout the independent reviewer's work. Additional meetings will be organised as and when necessary.