

Press release archive for 2019

December

SRA decides no changes to law firm professional indemnity insurance, 19 December 2019

We have confirmed that, following consultation, we will not be making changes to the current rules requiring solicitors to have a minimum level of professional indemnity insurance (PII) cover.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/pii-and-compensation-fund-position/>] SQE knowledge assessment details published, 10 December 2019

We have published final detailed information about the legal knowledge that will be tested in the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE).

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/sqe1-assessment-specification/>]

November

Standards and Regulations is launched, 25 November 2019

Following four years of development, including four consultations and input from 35,000 people, our new rules, Standards and Regulations, come into effect today.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/standards-and-regulations-is-launched/>]

October

SRA review shows fifth of law firms fail on money laundering compliance, 29 October 2019

We will increase checks on law firms after we found that too many were not complying with anti-money laundering regulations, and warned of strong action against those who continue to fall short.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/aml-warning-notice-guidance/>] Recognising needs early is key for firms helping disabled consumers, 14 October 2019

New research published on World Mental Health Day reveals what solicitor firms could do to improve access to their services for people with mental or physical disabilities.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/reasonable-adjustments-research/>] Solicitors urged to respond to frozen asset list if needed, 07 October 2019

Solicitors have until Friday to check the latest HM Treasury Consolidated List of asset freeze targets to make sure they are not holding monies belonging to a client that is subject to financial sanctions.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/frozen-assets-2019/>]

September

Eight finalists awarded £50,000 each to narrow the legal gap with tech, 26 September 2019

Eight finalists have secured £50,000 each in funding to develop technological solutions to broaden access to legal services in England and Wales.



[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/narrow-legal-gap/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/narrow-legal-gap/) Standards and Regulations resources launched, 12 September 2019

A new 'one stop shop' webpage providing solicitors and law firms with easy access to resources designed to help prepare for the introduction of our new Standards and Regulation on 25 November, has been launched.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/standards-and-regulations-resources-launched/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/standards-and-regulations-resources-launched/) Legal Access Challenge prize fund doubles to support more innovations, 04 September 2019

The SRA and Nesta Challenges have confirmed that the Legal Access Challenge has attracted 117 high quality entries from entrepreneurs, legal professionals, technologists, law schools and charities.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/legal-access-challenge-prize-fund-doubles-to-support-more-innovations/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/legal-access-challenge-prize-fund-doubles-to-support-more-innovations/)

August

SRA seeks views on advocacy proposals, 21 August 2019

We have launched a consultation on proposals designed to make sure that high standards of advocacy are provided by solicitors.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/views-advocacy-proposals/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/views-advocacy-proposals/)

July

SQE1 pilot "successfully achieves its purpose", 31 July 2019

A pilot to test the first part of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination - known as SQE1 - has shown that it is on course to be a valid, rigorous assessment, while also highlighting the need for more work to see if a skills assessment is appropriate in the first stage of the exam.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/sqe-pilot-results/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/sqe-pilot-results/) Small businesses left to fight their own legal corner, 29 July 2019

Two-fifths of small and medium businesses in England and Wales believe that legal advice is reserved for big businesses or those that can afford it, according to a recent survey by Nesta Challenges to mark the launch of the Legal Access Challenge.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/small-firms-research-legal-access-challenge/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/small-firms-research-legal-access-challenge/) Report outlines SRA action taken to uphold standards, 25 July 2019

We have published a new report outlining the investigation, supervision and enforcement work we carry out.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/disciplinary-review-explains-outcomes/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/disciplinary-review-explains-outcomes/) Proposed fee levels to remain the same, 18 July 2019

Individual practising fee levels for 2019/20 should remain at the same level, our Board has decided.

[\[https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/fee-levels-2019-20/\]](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/fee-levels-2019-20/) Law firms improving customer service and complaints handling, 09 July 2019

Data released today suggests law firms are getting better at resolving complaints made to firms, while most clients say they are happy with the quality of service from firms.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/complaints-standards-of-service/>] Strong interest in Legal Access Challenge as collaboration group takes off, 08 July 2019

With just over one month to go to the application deadline on 11 August, the Legal Access Challenge has confirmed that it has already received more than 85 expressions of interests in applying for funding, including from entrepreneurs, legal professionals, technologists, law schools and charities.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/legal-access-challenge-interest/>] Solicitors adapt to professional development changes, 02 July 2019

The introduction of revised approach to maintaining and developing skills among solicitors has been well received by law firms.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/continuing-competence/>]

June

Checks reveal law firms need to do more to comply with transparency rules, 06 June 2019

A review of law firms has found that almost one-in-five have made no effort to comply with rules to help the public understand law firm's prices and services.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/transparency-checks-june-2019/>] Fall in Compensation Fund contributions, 05 June 2019

The Compensation Fund contributions we set for the next practising year are set to fall.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/comp-fund-2019/>]

May

Legal Access Challenge launched to encourage innovation , 30 May 2019

New research from Nesta Challenges reveals six in ten (58%) people in England and Wales think the legal system is not set up for ordinary people, with the vast majority wanting it to be easier for people to access legal support.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/legal-access-challenge-launch-may-2019/>] 2017/18 Annual Review, 23 May 2019

Published today, the SRA's Annual Review covers our structure, culture and funding, reports on our work over the 2017/18 practising year and outlines our aspirations for the year ahead.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/annual-review-2017-18/>] Review shows too many law firms falling short on anti-money laundering, 07 May 2019

A review has shown that a significant minority of law firms are not doing enough to prevent money laundering, with some falling seriously short.

[<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/news/press/2019-press-release-archive/aml-tcsp-review-2019/>]