

Annex 3 Proposed guidance for solicitors practising criminal and civil advocacy

We will publish guidance to support solicitors practising in the magistrates, higher, coroners and youth courts as part of our programme of work to assure standards in these areas.

Purpose

The resources will support solicitors practising criminal and civil advocacy to help them meet their regulatory obligation of maintaining competence to carry out their role by keeping their professional knowledge and skills up to date. It will help them reflect on the quality of their work and address the learning and development needs they identified.

The resources will not be mandatory. They will be similar to our existing resources we have published for the youth court and SQE qualifying work experience. These were not considered regulatory arrangements.

What the guidance will cover

Our initial focus will be on providing practical resources to help solicitors build trust with Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic clients (BAME) and how to identify and engage with individuals who may be vulnerable or have learning difficulties.

Respondents to our consultation suggested we should focus resources on sentencing and dealing effectively with vulnerable clients in all courts.

We will also provide updated resources to support solicitors practising in the youth and coroners court to meet the standard we expect.

We will work with wider stakeholders, the public and the profession to identify further topics and to consider how we can best present our resources.

We will publish these resources in summer 2021.