

MIDDLE TEMPLE

Treasurer

Role Description

The following paragraphs describe the role of Treasurer of the Inn and the criteria for appointment.

1. The Role

The Treasurer is the senior officer of the Inn in his or her year of office.

2. Term of Office

Elected from the pool of eligible Ordinary Benchers by the Inn's Parliament, the Treasurer holds this office for one year, following on from a 24-month preparatory period (comprising one year as Deputy Treasurer Elect and one year immediately preceding his or her Treasurer's year as Deputy Treasurer).

3. Range of responsibilities

The Treasurer plays a leading role in many aspects of the life of the Inn in his or her year of office, from its governance, strategic planning and decision-making; to its political and professional relationships external to the Inn (e.g. with the Council of the Inns of Court, the Bar Council, the Bar Standards Board and other external bodies); to the hosting of events and ceremonial occasions. The Inn's Statutes and By-Laws provide the Treasurer with extensive authority to deal with all administrative and executive matters relating to the Inn, consulting Parliament and the Executive Committee as appropriate. In the 21st century Inn, the role of Treasurer might be likened in many respects to that of a Non-executive Chairman, but he or she has a range of responsibilities which go beyond chairing the main decision-making committees and ensuring compliance with the principles of good governance.

(a) Governance

As far as the Inn's corporate decision-making processes are concerned, the Treasurer acts as non-executive Chairman of the Executive Committee and presides over meetings of Parliament. He or she also attends meetings of the four other Standing Committees (Education & Training, Membership, Estates and Finance & Resources) on an *ex officio* basis.

(b) External representation

The Treasurer represents the Inn at the highest level in its relationships with the other Inns of Court and with the Chairmen of professional bodies with which the Inn has significant dealings (e.g. the Bar Council and the Bar Standards Board). He or she is one of the Inn's representatives on the Inns Strategic Advisory Group of the Council of the Inns of Court, and as such is given authority by the Inn to bind it in relation to decisions taken by COIC on behalf of the Inns.

(c) Events and Ceremonies

The Treasurer has a leading role to play in the Inn's professional, social and educational events and ceremonies by acting as the Inn's representative at formal dinners and receptions, training weekends, Church services, special initiatives and major visits. He or she presides over Call ceremonies and formally admits students to the Degree of the Utter Bar when they are Called, and presides at dinners in Hall.

4. Reporting Lines

The Treasurer is accountable to Parliament. The senior executive of the Inn who is charged with the overall management of the Inn (the Under Treasurer) reports to and is accountable to the Treasurer, acting on behalf of Parliament.

5. Criteria for appointment

The Treasurer must be an Ordinary Benchers of the Inn. As its senior official, the Treasurer must have reached a position of professional distinction and, as the By-Laws state, possess the personal qualities and experience required for the office. Ideally, he or she will have shown leadership ability through successfully having held a senior position, or will be able to demonstrate, by use of specific examples, experience of those skills.

Seniority within the Bench is only one of the factors that may be relevant. The Treasurer will be expected to have the characteristics associated with high office, including the presence to carry weight and influence with a wide range of people in the legal world and beyond; to preside in Hall; and to chair high-level meetings. Amongst other things, he or she should ideally be:

- Outward looking and visionary, with an ability to think strategically about his or her year, about the future of the Inn and its place in the legal profession, and to lead it forward.
- Resilient, energetic, effective at time-management and able to juggle a multitude of different activities and engagements over a sustained period.

- Tactful and diplomatic, with the tolerance, patience, listening and influencing skills to draw consensus from a range of different views.
- A good communicator, with well-developed skills in handling relationships at all levels of seniority externally and internally (e.g. with Middle Temple staff, students, members and Benchers).
- Able to work collaboratively within the Inn(s), the profession and with many varied external organisations.
- Keenly interested in and understanding of the demands of and issues facing the profession.

Very importantly, the Treasurer should be able to command the respect of his or her peers, both within the Inn and outside it.

Individuals elected as Treasurer (and Deputy Treasurer/ Deputy Treasurer Elect beforehand) must not be under any professional or other obligation which might put them in a position of conflict of interest with regard to any of those roles or any matter associated with the governance of the Inn.

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