

Date	10 February 2025
Item	08.00
Title	Annual Education Report
Author	Mark Wood, Head of Education
Purpose	This paper provides an update on the work undertaken in the education area in 2025
Recommendation	To NOTE the update
Timing	N/A
Impact assessment	
Impact on Regulatory Objectives	<p>The assurance provided by this report has a positive impact on the following regulatory objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public interest • Consumer interest • Independent, strong, diverse profession
Implications for resources	No additional resource implications.
Impact on consumer empowerment	N/A
Impact on ongoing competence	The Head of Education oversees and manages all matters relating to on-going professional competence.
Publication status	For Publication - redacted
Appendices	08.01 CILEX Awarding Body Report NOT FOR PUBLICATION 08.02 QA Requirements NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Summary

1. This paper provides details of the work undertaken by the Head of Education in 2025 and work priorities for 2026.
2. It also includes a summary of the findings of the CILEX 2025 Awarding Body Report which the Board is asked to note.

Stand-alone Litigation Practice Rights

3. As detailed in the Head of Education's 2024 Annual Report, work on developing a proposal to seek LSB authorisation for stand-alone litigation practice rights began in March 2025 with the 1st consultation with members to gauge the level of interest in the proposal.
4. Of the 138 responses to the 1st consultation, 97.83% were in favour of the proposal and development of the 6 new handbooks, application forms, applicant guidance, assessment recording documentation and amendments to rules commenced.
5. This was followed by a 2nd consultation in July 2025. The 2nd consultation sought members views on proposed amendments to the 3 sets of rules governing authorisation of practice rights namely:
 - Rights to conduct litigation and rights of audience certificate rules – Legacy portfolio route;
 - Practice rights certificate for chartered legal executive rules – Legacy ULaw route;
 - Practitioner Authorisation Rules – New education standards.
6. From the responses received, no major issues were raised and the LSB application preparation was started.
7. Whilst we were preparing the application, the Mazur Judgment was published. The LSB application was submitted earlier than planned due to Mazur on 6 October 2026. Only 1 small amendment was requested by the LSB prior to authorisation of the application on 31 October 2025.
8. Following authorisation, an Assessor recruitment exercise began from staff employed within CRL training providers/partners which led to the contracting of 24 occupationally competent and qualified Assessors. In addition, a Training Video was prepared to provide guidance and support on how to successfully assess stand-alone litigation applications.
9. Detailed guidance for applicants was also prepared and published on the CRL website.
10. In addition, ULaw agreed to increase assessment only training windows for Civil and Family practice from 2 per year to monthly for the first 6 months of 2026 and also introduce Criminal practice training courses for the first time.

11. Development of additional guidance for Assessors and candidates continues. An update based on Assessor feedback was produced and issued on Friday, 16 January 2026 which has led to a significant increase in the number of applications graded as 'Pass' on first assessment.
12. Team's meetings were held with representatives from large legal employers to provide guidance on completion of portfolio-based applications. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
13. The introduction of stand-alone litigation practice rights has also had a positive impact on the Chartered Legal Executive Level 6 Apprenticeships – see Apprenticeship section below.

Apprenticeships

External Quality Assurance

14. During 2025, in CRL's role as External Quality Assurer (EQA) for the Chartered Legal Executive Apprenticeship Standards, appointed by Skills England, [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Impact of Stand-alone Litigation Practice Rights

15. On 27 May 2025, the Government announced that funding for Level 7 Apprenticeship Standards would only be available for apprentices under the age of 21 at the commencement of their programme of study from 1 January 2026.
16. This impacted the Chartered Legal Executive Litigator and Advocate Level 7 Apprenticeship Standard and the Solicitor Level 7 Apprenticeship Standard.
17. However, when the LSB approved our application to offer stand-alone litigation practice rights which are at Level 6, the 3 additional pathways for litigation were automatically added to the Chartered Legal Executive Level 6 Apprenticeship Standard.
18. Therefore, the only funded route to gain any of the practice rights is through our Level 6 Apprenticeship Standard. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

19.

[REDACTED]

Training Providers

20. We have now officially recognised qualifications developed by Datalaw and The Law Centre as meeting the knowledge requirements of our New education standards. These qualifications are in direct competition with the CILEX Professional Qualification (CPQ) but provide additional choice within the market and should lead to increases in CILEX membership and therefore, PCF.

21.

[REDACTED]

22.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CRL Approved Advocacy Skills Courses

23. During 2025, we approved University of West London (UWL) and CILEX Law School to deliver CILEX Advocacy Skills Courses in competition with our existing provider, Barbri Altior.

24. UWL are approved for all 3 practice areas and CILEX Law School are approved to deliver Civil Advocacy Skills Courses.

25.

[REDACTED]

CPD Sampling

26. Due to impact of Mazur Judgement, the CRL Board agreed to delay the CPD Sampling Exercise until Spring 2026. The proposed start date is now Monday, 23 March 2026.

27. [REDACTED]

Associate Prosecutors

28. [REDACTED]

29. [REDACTED]

30. [REDACTED]

Court of Protection

31. In addition to the CILEX Support Group on LinkedIn, a CILEX Court of Protection Support Group was also established.
32. Working in partnership with the self-appointed Head of the LinkedIn Group, we established 2 routes to authorisation available to CILEX members working in the Court of Protection to enable them to seek authorisation for litigation practice rights.
33. Now working on establishing routes to authorisation for CILEX members working in the Court of Protection to enable them to gain rights of audience.

Priorities for 2026

34. In addition to the ongoing work identified above, the Head of Education's work priorities for 2026 include:
 - Update remaining Legacy Standards, i.e. Probate, Conveyancing and Immigration;
 - Development and implementation of a QA Strategy;
 - Review of Advocacy Skills Courses.

Update to Remaining Legacy Standards

35. Though the Mazur Judgement only impacted CILEX Fellows working in litigation, it has also led to an increase in interest in seeking independent practice rights from Fellows working in Probate, Conveyancing and Immigration.

¹ Associate prosecutor – 11, CILEX Fellow – 344, Advanced Paralegal – 235, Paralegal – 456, unidentified membership grade - 44

36. I proposed to update the handbooks, guidance, routes to authorisation for remaining Legacy standards to bring them in line with the style and format developed for stand-alone litigation practice rights.

37. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Development and Implementation of QA Strategy

38. This work was delayed in 2025 due to impact of Mazur Judgement but is essential to ensure ongoing quality assurance of provision at the growing number of training providers/universities/organisations working directly with CRL.

39. Please see attached PowerPoint slides to gain insight into QA requirements for the diverse types of partner organisations.

Review of Advocacy Skills Courses

40. Again, this work was delayed due to impact of Mazur Judgement. However, the entry and renewal criteria for the Advocacy Skills Courses has not been reviewed since implementation in 2014.

41. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

n.

[REDACTED]

42. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

43. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

44. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

45. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

The figure consists of 15 individual bar charts, each containing two horizontal bars: a black bar on the left and a grey bar on the right. The length of each bar represents a different data value for a specific category. The bars are arranged vertically, and the length of the bars varies significantly across the different categories, with some being very long and others very short.

