

ASSOCIATION OF PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS

Standard of competence for Fellows

GUIDANCE FOR REFEREES

Candidates for APIL Fellow status must submit a reference from a person who is able to confirm that the candidate is recognised by his or her peers as being in a position of professional and intellectual leadership in the field of personal injury law.

The person providing the reference should be from outside the firm from which the candidate comes, and should be a Fellow of at least five years' standing or a Senior Fellow. Alternatively, a person accepted by APIL as being of comparable standing and experience in personal injury law may be used as a referee. However, if it is proposed that a member of counsel should be a referee, such counsel should not be a member of chambers instructed regularly by the candidate.

Professional and intellectual leadership may be demonstrated through the sharing of expertise and leadership of more complex and difficult cases.

The Standard is as follows:

i) Sharing expertise

To meet the Standard you must demonstrate a practical commitment to sharing knowledge, know-how and expertise, within your firm and in the profession more widely, so as to help build the overall competence and professionalism of the practice of personal injury law.

Evidence is likely to come from:

- *Lecturing, conducting seminars or webinars, and other direct teaching;*
- *Publication of articles in legal journals, in general publications explaining aspects of PI law to a lay audience, in text books or other learning materials, of submissions to commissions or other public bodies on PI law;*
- *Development of the precedent systems of a firm.*

ii) Leading litigation

To meet the Standard you must demonstrate that you function as a leader in the field of personal injury law. You should be able to show that:

- *you deal personally with the more difficult cases which present new or unusual problems;*
- *you are consulted for your depth of specialist expertise by legal practitioners who are themselves of established standing in the field;*
- *you undertake work on referral from other firms or less experienced colleagues;*
- *you undertake risk analysis and risk management in relation to complex cases, which may include multi-party cases.*

A reference should show how the candidate meets the expectations of the Standard. A reference is not a box ticking exercise, but an evaluation of the candidate's professional contribution to personal injury law. As such, examples of achievement which go beyond or offer an alternative to the letter of the Standard are welcome.

References, in letter form, should be sent to:

Membership and accreditation services
Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)
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