



CUTTING THROUGH

Your QM Bar Society Newsletter



Welcome to the third edition of Cutting Through for the year 2021-22! We hope that you have had an amazing reading week. We have some exciting upcoming events and competitions that we cannot wait to see you at!

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Law News and Mini-pupillages

What is happening with law firms in London?

What happened in COP26?

Do you want to write for the newsletter?

Send an email to:

info@queenmarybarsociety.org

Upcoming Events!

- Judge Rea: Fitness to Practice in Regulatory Law
- Family Law Panel
- Networking Inclusion Event
- Mooting opportunities





Upcoming Bar Society Events

This event is being hosted by the Bar Society's Patron Judge Rea! Come listen in on her talk about regulatory law in the UK

17 November

JUDGE REA: FITNESS TO PRACTICE IN REGULATORY LAW

Held on zoom

The Family Law Panel aims to give an introduction to the field for those who are already doing the module or perhaps are keen in exploring their options for the next year.

24 November

FAMILY LAW PANEL

Held on zoom



Upcoming Bar Society Events

01 February

INCLUSION NETWORKING EVENT

Octagon Building on Campus

This is the Bar Society's largest event of the year. Held at the Octagon in the middle of Campus. The event welcomes way over 150 barristers, solicitors and students, giving you an opportunity to network with prestigious professionals.

Which moots does QM do?

Queen Mary holds and participates in several moots: The George Hinde, run by the mooting society, it is the biggest internal moot;

Intervarsity moots, usually run by the mooting society or the bar society these moots allow you to go up against other universities; If you want to see when these will be held against York and King's, go and check on queenmarybarsociety.org;

The annual Judicial Review Moot competition, held by Landmark Chambers is one of the biggest moots, focusing on environmental law and public law;

The Jessup, the largest moot in the world, hosting over 500 international law schools and over 700 teams, centred around public international law



A Brief on Mooting

What is mooting?

Moot court is a simulated court where you act as appellants and respondents and argue your grounds on a researched simulated case. Most often there will be a lead and a junior on each side. The case will always be one that is on appeal. You are not expected to argue the facts of the case, instead they must argue purely on points of law. However, the students are mostly judged on their persuasiveness and advocacy skills.

Why do people moot?

It is one of the best ways for you to engage about topical legal issues, and improve skills such as advocacy, legal research and writing. Since mooting always involves being in a team there can always be a lot to learn from other students. As well as learning from the judge's feedback. One of the most common reasons that you should moot is because it demonstrates a high interest in advocacy. Winning shows a high degree of skill to prospective employers, however just participating in some moots can be important enough to put on a CV.

Some basic tips

Engaging with the judge is one of the most important elements of mooting. I have often heard it be described as more of a conversation with the judge rather than it being a presentation. This can include keeping eye contact with the judge, never interrupting the judge whilst they are speaking and keeping their interest.

One of the most important elements of mooting is responding to what is known as judicial interventions. This is where the judge asks questions throughout to test their knowledge of the surrounding law or if there is a flaw in their argument. The response that you give to the judge is essential in how the judge will favour you. However, if you do not know the answer it is always best to simply tell them so. The judge will always be able to tell when you are just waffling in hope that you accept the answer.

Even if the moot is focused on an area of law that you aren't familiar with you have to know the principles each case stands for. Not only that but you have to be careful as to which cases are binding upon the court as a Court of Appeal case won't have much leeway in the Supreme Court.

Finally, time management is an invaluable aspect of mooting. Based on how much your judge intervenes, you may need to expand or restrict the submissions that you prepared.



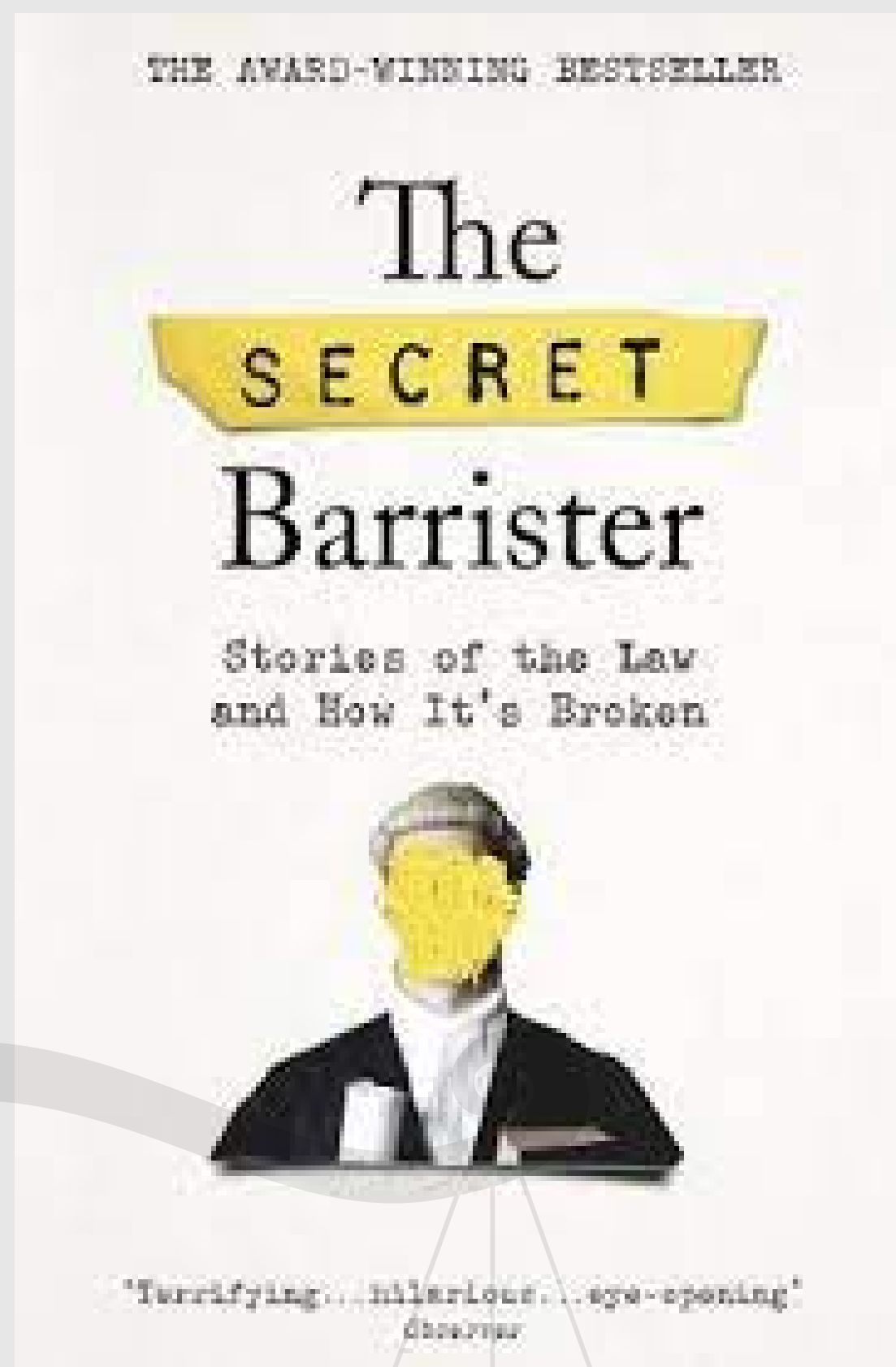
Book and Film Recommendations

The Secret Barrister, 2018

The Secret Barrister is a book by an anonymous author who criticises the state of the criminal justice system in England and Wales. The book is loosely structured and follows a criminal case from the magistrates' court to sentence and then appeal. There is a mix of first-hand accounts of the author who is the advocate, acting for prosecution and defence. This is superimposed with a discussion on how the justice system fails to deliver justice properly to those who experience it daily.

The author addresses several issues of the system, namely the staffing, the resources and their policies. They argue that the public should be outraged at the constant underfunding of the system. The constant backlog of cases that every judge complains about, the evidence lost, court deadlines being missed are all signs that the system is failing.

On the day of the book's publication, it was commended in the House of Commons by shadow Leader of the House, Valerie Vaz, who recommended that every member of government read it. Remaining in the Sunday Times Top 10 Bestsellers for twenty-four weeks and has been critically acclaimed by almost all news outlets. This book is a must read for any person looking to work within not only the justice system but the UK's legal system.



Terms and Conditions may apply, 2013

This is a documentary that addresses how corporations and the government utilise the information that users provide when agreeing to use a website. The film criticizes companies such as Facebook, Google and LinkedIn for having misleading terms of service. The film as a whole aims to warn people about the risks of clicking "I Agree".



Book and Film Recommendations

In Black and White: A young Barrister's Story of Race and Class in a Broken Justice System, 2020

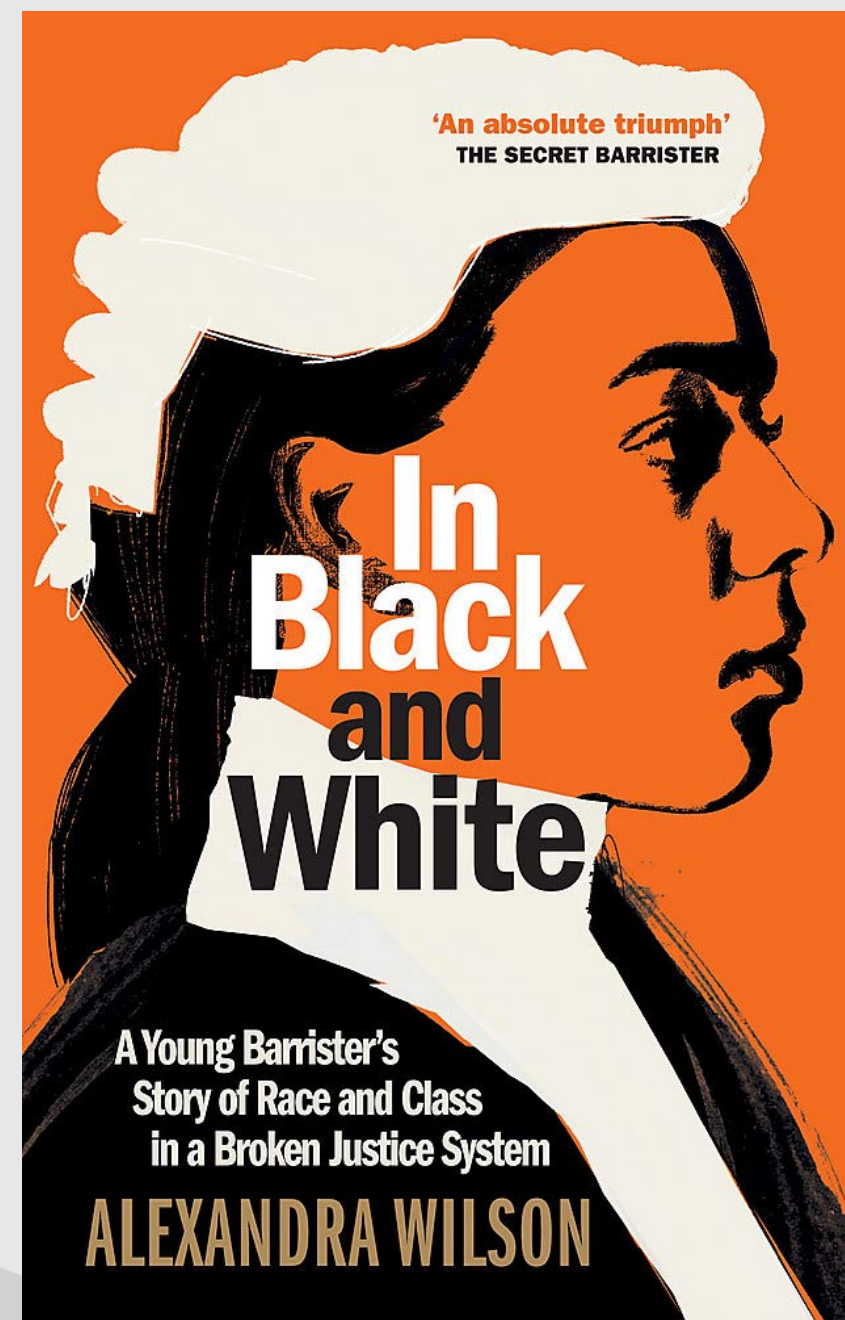
When looking for this book online, one of the very first things that come up is a quote from the **Secret Barrister**: “An absolute triumph; a compelling and courageous memoir forcing the legal profession to confront uncomfortable truths about race and class. Alexandra Wilson is a bold and vital voice. This is a book that urgently needs to be read by everyone inside, and outside, the justice system.”

The prejudices that Alexandra suffers are all described in her carefully crafted book. The fact that a young black suited woman was assumed to be the defendant to a charged offence in 2020 just because of the colour of her skin, shows how much progress needs to be made.

There is a certain perception of what a barrister or a judge should look like. Alexandra provides one such example, describing the time she spent straightening her naturally curly hair.

Fortunately, she quickly embraced her natural appearance. However, the impact was still made, she felt as if she had to adjust her presentation just to fit in.

Alexandra also goes on to describe details of her cases and describes the clients she has been instructed to defend. Many of her clients describe to her how they never feel a rapport with their previous barrister who do not share the same background as Alexandra. This book is an absolute must read for those who want to improve their understanding of the bar that we have in the UK today.



The Staircase, 2004

A French television miniseries documenting the trial of Michael Peterson, convicted of murdering his wife, Kathleen Peterson.



News

COP26 is the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference held at the SEC Centre in Glasgow. Delayed a year due to COVID this has been a huge conference with goals being set by several countries. You can catch up on everything that has happened on the COP26 website. [Click here to read it.](#)

Barrister of the week: The Brick Court QC challenging Brazil's juice behemoth: [Click here to read it.](#)

Read about why TLT LLP are The Lawyer's firm of the year. [Click here to read it.](#)

Read an article on assisted dying that describes the legal journey it has made in recent years becoming more and more widespread for those that need it. [Click here to read it.](#)

Read about The Lawyer Awards for the Festival of Talent. It celebrates the work shortlisted in the transactional categories and spotlights the contribution of senior associates and new partners to those teams. [Click here to read it.](#)

A list of upcoming mini pupillage deadlines can be found here: [Chambersstudent](#)

