

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APIL ACCREDITED SENIOR FELLOW STATUS

Profile

This level of membership is open only to those who have achieved fellowship or specialist counsel status and can demonstrate outstanding contributions and accomplishments in personal injury law and practice in the UK.

Experience and expertise

There are four criteria, two relating to personal injury law and practice, and two relating to the promotion of understanding of personal injury law litigation, through education and support of organisations.

Candidates must meet at least one criterion in each group. The statements of evidence that may demonstrate that a criterion has been met are illustrative, rather than exhaustive.

All applications are considered by a panel, in relation to the criteria set out below. Applications are considered solely on their merits, regardless of race, sex, marital status, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, age, disability or sexual orientation of the applicant.

Applications

Applicants should submit their applications in writing, addressing each criterion that is appropriate. There is no specific form for this purpose and the onus is on the applicant to ensure that there is sufficient evidence for the panel to come to a decision. Applicants may anonymise their submission if they wish.

Referees – evidence of personal skills and attributes

Applicants are asked to provide the names of four referees who have knowledge of their professional work. At least two referees should be persons who do not work in the same organisation as the applicant.

Referees are asked for views on:

- The extent to which the applicant matches the profile of a senior fellow set out in the following criteria
- Each referee should comment upon the applicant's skills in negotiation, representation and leadership, paying particular attention to their outstanding contribution and accomplishments in PI law and practice generally and outside of the organisation.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to name referees who, between them, are able to comment authoritatively on all of these matters. Referees might be:

- A lawyer within the same organisation as the applicant, who has personal experience of the applicant's work
- In the case of a solicitor applicant, a judge to whom the applicant is well-known
- In the case of a counsel applicant, a judge before whom the applicant has appeared
- A medical or legal specialist with whom the applicant has worked
- A personal representing client interests, such as trade union or insurer, who is able to comment on the applicant's relationships with clients
- An experienced APIL member who is able to comment on the applicant's outstanding contribution to PI practice in the UK

Evaluation

Applications will be assessed by the independent Senior Fellow Assessment Panel, using guidelines specified by APIL's Executive Committee.

CRITERIA – GROUP A

Criterion 1

The applicant has made an original and significant personal contribution to the development of personal injury litigation practice.

Evidence might include:

- Examples of a new and original approach to litigation
- Incremental development, over time, of a changed approach to litigation
- Innovative use of alternative methods of resolving disputes
- Innovated approached to the management of litigation.

Criterion 2

The applicant has made a significant personal contribution to the development of personal injury case law.

Evidence might include:

- Preparation and/or presentation of cases which have resulted in the establishment of precedents related to matters of interpretation, procedure or quantum
- Pursuit of issues, raised by cases, in a manner that contributed significantly to legislative change enacted by Parliament, review of the law by the Law Commission, or major review by a government department or government appointed committee.

CRITERIA – GROUP B

Criterion 3

The applicant has made a major personal contribution to an organisation, such as APIL, devoted to the advancement of personal injury law as a legal specialism, or to representing the interests of personal injury litigants.

Evidence might include:

- A major, personal contribution to the foundation, management, or governance of such an organisation
- A major, personal contribution to the development of such an organisation, for example through authorship of policy papers or submissions to government.

Criterion 4

The applicant is a reflective practitioner who shares experience and expertise, and who has made a major personal contribution to advancing the frontiers of understanding of the conceptual foundations of personal injury law and practice in the UK, and/or disseminating advanced knowledge and understanding of personal injury law and practice.

Evidence might include:

- Contribution to practice literature through the publication of books and articles
- Contribution to academic learning through teaching (including at Masters level) and publication of books and articles in refereed journals and conference proceedings
- Original, published contributions to analysis of case law
- Significant and original contributions to training events, to include events outside the applicant's firm.