Trainer Biographies



Her Excellency Judge Joanna Korner CMG KC

Joanna Korner was Called to the Bar in 1974, took silk in 1993 and was appointed a Circuit Judge in 2012.

Prior to her judicial role, she prosecuted and defended complex criminal cases. She was also a senior prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and was the lead prosecutor in several high-profile cases. In 2020, she was elected to serve as a Judge of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, for the term 2021-2030, and was officially sworn in in March of 2021.

Joanna is a leading advocacy trainer. She has organized and taught on numerous advocacy training courses in the UK and internationally, acted as the Head of International Faculty of Advocacy Training Council (now ICCA), and serving as the International Course Director of the Judicial College of England & Wales. She is a member of Inner Temple. Joanna is also the legal mind behind the National Advocacy Training Program (NATP): October 2024 will be her 10th iteration as lead faculty!

Michelle Heeley KC, Leader of the Midland Circuit



Michelle has been a barrister since 2001. She has always specialized in criminal law, both prosecuting and defending. She was appointed as a part time judge in 2012 at the age of 34, and in 2017 she was appointed Queen's Counsel. Her practice deals with the most serious rapes and murders, including the prosecution of the UK's youngest ever knife murderers.

She has been an Advocacy Trainer for over 15 years and is the National Lead Trainer for Vulnerable Witness Advocacy Training. She has taught both in the UK and abroad, including training prosecutors at The Hague.

Outside of work, Michelle is a mother to two young boys, enjoys drumming, writing and attending football matches. Michelle has a special affinity with the US, having spent her summers during university teaching circus skills at a performing arts camp in upstate New York (the Catskills).