

Institute of Legal Executives

Join ILEX Council: Help shape our future



About ILEX

The Institute of Legal Executives (ILEX) is the professional and leadership body representing Legal Executive lawyers and has a membership of 24,000 students and practitioners.

Alongside Barristers and Solicitors, Legal Executive lawyers are recognised under the Legal Services Act 2007 as qualified lawyers. Recent developments also mean that Legal Executive lawyers are eligible for prescribed judicial appointments, including eligibility as first-tier judges of tribunals.

Moreover, Government legislation has recognised Legal Executive lawyers' significance in the legal system and has granted them the right to run businesses, whether in partnership with other lawyers or with commercial legal services providers.



These are exciting times, not only for ILEX members but for the wider professional services market.

Help shape our future by pursuing a role on the ILEX Council.

ILEX Council

ILEX Council is like the Board of Directors of a private company. The Articles of Association regulate the powers and obligations of the Council. There are four key aspects to the role of being a Council Member:

1. Ownership of the strategic overview and direction of ILEX.
2. Monitoring the delivery of the Strategy through the ILEX Business Plan, budgets and reports before Council.
3. Representing the views of the wider membership.
4. Playing a key ambassadorial role, raising the profile of ILEX to the wider community.

There is an opportunity for Council Members to participate in various specialist areas, through Working Parties and Committees.

Strategy and policy decisions are implemented at an operational level by the Chief Executive of ILEX, its management team and staff.

Positions on Council

Currently ILEX Council Members either represent one of our constituency areas in England and Wales, or are appointed as Co-opted Members to represent a particular area of law or specialism. ILEX Council currently allows for up to 19 Constituency Members, and four Co-opted Members. If there are no constituency vacancies available in a prospective applicant's area, applicants are encouraged to consider applying for a Co-opted Member role instead.

"Does it just mean loads of extra work, then? No, not really. Much of the groundwork is done by ILEX staff and as Council our role is to decide overall policy and oversee its implementation. Inevitably meetings and background reading is an extra chore but it seems to me to be a small price to pay for the privilege of being able to be part of the team which is working not just to see ILEX into the future but actually to determine what that future should be."

Nick Hanning, F.Inst.L.Ex.



Benefits of being an ILEX Council Member

The benefits highlighted below have been provided by current and previous ILEX Council Members, to give a true and reflective picture of life on ILEX Council:

- Development and enhancement of leadership skills
- Opportunity to make a difference in the legal sector
- Sharing and broadening of business insight and skills
- Participation in specialist Working Parties and Committees
- Expansion of business contacts and network
- Growth of specialist knowledge
- Strengthening of strategic knowledge
- Being able to give something back – a sense of accomplishment
- Influencing decision-making and policy
- Team working towards a common set of goals and ambitions
- Gaining new and extending existing transferable skills
- Setting and raising standards for ILEX
- Bringing a fresh pair of eyes and a new perspective
- Expenses will be provided to your employer to cover your attendance.



“There is no blueprint for the ideal person. Every single Council member is different. You should enjoy debate and be committed. So what is in it for you? The opportunity to meet people and go places you would be unlikely to in everyday walks of life, make new friends and become involved in formulating policy and progressing ILEX through the myriad of changes that await us in the near future.”

Lesley Graham, F.Inst.L.Ex.

Duties as Directors

The role of ILEX Council Member brings with it a specific purpose and responsibility. ILEX is a company limited by guarantee, and through exercising control over the company, and setting its strategic direction, Council Members as directors are accountable to the membership, by acting on their behalf.

As a director, there are a range of personal duties which you must adhere to, such as fiduciary duties which require you to act in good faith for the benefit of the company.

As a member of Council, directors have a responsibility to ensure that the affairs of the company are conducted diligently, legally and honestly. You must also ensure that the assets of the company are safeguarded.

A comprehensive list of duties will be made available to you, should you decide to apply for a Council position.

Balancing your career whilst being a Council Member

ILEX Council meets six times per year at our Head Office in Kempston, and annually for a Strategy Weekend, at which Council Members are expected to attend. You will also be asked to attend the President's Lunch, the Annual General Meeting and the Graduation Ceremony. All dates are notified well in advance to assist Council Members with their forward planning.

There are of course many other prestigious events across the UK which Council is invited to, by ILEX and other high profile organisations. Subject to your interest and availability, you may attend as many or as few as you are able.

"I initially joined the Council to give something back to ILEX. However my levels of knowledge have been raised and the training I've received has been excellent. My Council role certainly provides my business with strengths."

Susan Silver, F.Inst.L.Ex.

Gaining your employer's support

Joining ILEX Council is a decision for both you and your employer. We have already highlighted the benefits and opportunities to you as a potential Council Member, but there are also benefits to your employer, who should support your proposed application.

Naturally, there is the time commitment to consider; on average we anticipate a Council Member will commit a minimum of 11 days per year to their role. The key employer benefits are shown below:

- New and advanced skills in leadership, management, strategy and decision-making which are directly transferable back into your business
- Personal and technical development through appropriate training provided through ILEX
- Extension of specialist skill and knowledge, through participation in ILEX activities, relating to practice areas within your business
- Profile raising and PR opportunities through association with ILEX, your company and your colleagues
- Potential for new business relationships through exposure to other organisations
- Employers are reimbursed for your attendance at Council meetings.

ILEX hopes that employers will support their colleagues in applying for a position on ILEX Council. The opportunities are immense and the role rewarding.

Interested?

ILEX welcomes applications from all sections of the community. If you feel you can contribute as an ILEX Council Member, and are interested in finding out more, please contact Debbie Harris at ILEX Head Office, on: 01234 844360, or email: daharris@ilex.org.uk



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