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<http://www.25bedfordrow.com/abimbola-johnson/practice-overview.asp>

I was called to the Bar in 2011 and since then have practised exclusively in criminal law. I specialise in defence and the majority of my practice is legally aided. Clearly these are difficult times for us and committee members need to be reliable and consistent. I appreciate that in particular we need committee members that are willing and able to spend time working to improve our vocation's image, specifically to rectify the negative stereotypes that the public have of us that make us so vulnerable to legal aid cuts based on false impressions of the work we do and our levels of pay. We also need to have members that have good relationships with a variety of solicitors so that we can continue to work together to achieve those aims.

I am at a stage at which I will be able to commit myself properly to the responsibilities of being a member of the executive and I will do my best to liaise with junior members across chambers in order to represent our interests on the committee, particularly as a lot of the decisions that will be made over the next three years will impact us the hardest.

In terms of the Association's day to day work, I am a proactive member of the CBA. I first joined in September 2011 and was lucky enough to receive the Bursary Award last year. As a pupil, I have previously assisted with a CBA consultation on the fraud sentencing guidelines and assisted with CBA lectures. Furthermore, like many other junior members, I participated in the no returns policy, the days of action, signed petitions and encouraged/"lobbied" my journalist friends to run stories about legal aid. As such I have some awareness of the amount and variety of work being on the committee will involve. As a member of chambers, I am part of our "Crime Action Group" which is effectively a crime group committee. Amongst other things, we organise lectures and events in chambers which involves liaising with others in the criminal justice system and we stay abreast of topical issues or issues within chambers to ensure that any concerns are properly raised before the management committee.

Due to the nature of my practice and my level of call, I have a vested personal interest in ensuring we have a dedicated executive and would not therefore

put myself forward if I weren't sure I could be properly a accountable and committed member of the team.