

**Election of Committee Members 2025**

**BALLOT PAPER**

There are six vacancies for elected Committee Members of TECBAR, three of which are for members under 7 years call at the date of their election. All are for a term of two years commencing July 2025.

12 TECBAR members were nominated for election, 11 of whom intend to contest the election: of those, 4 are members under 7 years call and therefore standing for the 3 ‘under 7 years call’ vacancies. The remaining 7 candidates are contesting the 3 ordinary vacancies.

TECBAR members must include their name and chambers (below) and may vote for up to 6 candidates overall (3 votes for members under 7 years call and 3 votes for ordinary members).

The candidates’ personal statements are set out overleaf.

This election is called pursuant to Rule 14 of TECBAR’s Rules (published at [www.tecbar.org](http://www.tecbar.org)).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: |  |
| Chambers/Organisation: |  |

*(Your vote will remain confidential)*

Please return your ballot paper **by 5pm on Friday, 18 July 2025** to the Secretary (on behalf of the Returning Officer), Jessica Stephens KC **by** **post** to 4 Pump Court, Temple, London EC4Y 7AN in an envelope marked “TECBAR Election”; **or** **by** **email** to [jstephens@4pumpcourt.com](mailto:jstephens@4pumpcourt.com) stating “TECBAR election” as the Subject.

Any ballots received after this time and date or sent to any other email address will be disregarded. The results of the Election will be announced at TECBAR’s AGM at 5.30 pm on Thursday, 24h July 2018 at Apothecaries’ Hall.

All TECBAR Members are welcome to attend the AGM. The AGM will be followed by the Garden Party, tickets for which are now available (see TECBAR website)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**You may vote for up to SIX candidates in TOTAL (up to THREE for ordinary committee members and up to THREE for committee members under 7 years call). Please indicate your vote(s) by marking X in the first column of the table below.**

**ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Vote (X)** | **Candidate** | **Proposer** | **Seconder** |
|  | **NEIL HEXT KC (1995)**  4 New Square | Sian Mirchandani KC | Amanda Savage KC |
|  | **JAMES DAVISON (1996)**  3 Paper Buildings | Calum Lamont KC | Hugh Saunders |
|  | **ALEXANDRA BODNAR (2004)**  Keating Chambers | Fionnuala McCredie KC | Jennie Wild |
|  | **HELENA WHITE (2007)**  Gatehouse Chambers | David Pliener KC | Michael Levenstein |
|  | **BRENNA CONROY (2010)**  Keating Chambers | Simon Hargreaves KC | David Thomas KC |
|  | **HELEN DENNIS (2013)**  4 Pump Court | Robert Stokell | Jessica Stephens KC |
|  | **MICHAEL LEVENSTEIN (2015)**  Gatehouse Chambers | David Pliener KC | Andrew Kearney |
|  | **REBECCA KEATING (2017)**  4 Pump Court | Jessica Stephens KC | Helen Dennis |
| **COMMITTEE MEMBERS UNDER SEVEN YEARS CALL** | | | |
| **Vote (X)** | **Candidate** | **Proposer** | **Seconder** |
|  | **NICHOLAS HIGGS (2018)**  39 Essex Chambers | Ruth Keating | Adam Robb KC |
|  | **MERCY MILGO (2019)**  Keating Chambers | Krista Lee KC | Simon Hargreaves KC |
|  | **CAROLINE ZIEBART (2022)**  4 Pump Court | Helen Dennis | Rebecca Keating |
|  | **SHERIAR KHAN (2022)**  Atkin Chambers | Max Twivy | Ella Rutter |

**CANDIDATES’ PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

**ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

***NEIL HEXT KC***

My practice is in construction, insurance and professional indemnity. Much of my work is in the TCC or in arbitration, whether that be in relation to construction disputes, insurance issues that arise from such disputes, or in relation to construction professionals such as engineers and architects.

The role of TECBAR is an important one focusing on education for members, guidance for those who aspire to practise in the TCC, as well as providing an environment for members to meet in a social context. I am committed to furthering all of those aims. But it is particularly important to support and promote opportunities for more junior members to participate in advocacy in the context of a field of work where disputes are complex, the sums at stake are large and instruction of silks is very common. Creating such opportunities is now the expectation in the courts. Putting it into practice is another matter. I think that TECBAR can help and, if elected, I would make this a priority.

***JAMES DAVISON***

I am a specialist construction barrister called in 1996 and practicing from 3 Paper Buildings since 2010. I seek re-election the TECBAR the Committee having served for 3 years as an elected member, preceded by several years as a coopted member. I offer three good reasons for your vote:

1. **Demonstrated Contributions to TECBAR Projects:** I have a record for useful, practical contributions to TECBAR’s projects. For example, I was able to bring contributions to the TCC150 Project including by sourcing the Architect, Co-ordinating exhibits and even taking a hands-on role in physically putting up the display structure and hanging the storyboards and exhibits for the TCC Archive which was installed over the weekend at the Rolls Building.
2. **Broadening the Representation on the Committee:** As the Deputy Head of 3PB’s TCC Group I have been on the chambers management committee for more than a decade which gives me insight into nationwide legal practice and life beyond the specialist sets. This experience means I can represent the interests of specialist practitioners at non-specialist or common law sets and sets beyond London. I’m also well connected to the RICS, King’s College.
3. **Industry and Client Side Perspective:** My experience in the renewable energy sector and with construction consultancies like Arup and Cyril Sweett (now Currie and Brown) means I have an understanding of law as it is applied in practice to procurement, live projects and adjudication matters. This “Ex In-House” view of life adds a useful “client side” perspective for the TECBAR committee.

Thank you for considering my statement… I would be grateful for your vote.

***ALEXANDRA BODNAR***

I was called in 2004 and practise at Keating Chambers. I was named Construction Junior of the Year at the 2024 Chambers UK Bar awards, and am highly ranked in the directories for my construction, TCC professional negligence and insurance work. My practice is predominantly in construction and engineering, with a significant part dedicated to insurance law, bonds and guarantees.

I am applying to serve as an ordinary committee member on the TECBAR committee for the following reasons:

1. I would like to ‘give back’ to TECBAR.
2. I feel strongly that under-represented groups need support in (a) joining and (b) succeeding at the construction bar. One aspect of this which is important to me is promoting the construction bar to young people in regional and remote geographical areas.
3. I believe I can provide a meaningful contribution to TECBAR and its activities.

I consider it important to play a part in assisting TECBAR with its role supporting and promoting the construction and engineering bar. Over the years, I have attended TECBAR events, organised by others, and I would like to have chance to ‘give back’ by providing my time and input.

I would like to have a role in shaping TECBAR’s future as a specialist body supporting under-represented groups. I am particularly interested in helping to expand TECBAR’s influence by promoting the construction bar (and the bar generally) to students in regional and geographically remote areas across the UK. Asking some of these students to travel to London is unrealistic, so visiting/speaking in educational establishments in remote areas and holding careers/information events in regional cities are possible options to promote engagement. I would be happy to lead and/or participate in this.

I have three young children and have taken three periods of time out of practice in recent years. My children are now of an age where I am able to dedicate time to the TECBAR committee. I enjoy working with others. I like to think that balancing home life with practice has equipped me with robust organisational skills, which will be useful when dealing with committee business.

**HELENA WHITE**

Helena is a construction and insurance practitioner at Gatehouse Chambers, who has over a decade of experience of working in the TCC. She is recommended across various practice areas in Chambers and Partners, Chambers Global, the Legal 500 and the Lexology Index (formerly Who’s Who Legal), and is instructed by a range of clients to act in litigation, arbitration, adjudication and mediation, both in the domestic market and internationally. With that experience behind her, she is an ideal candidate to join the TECBAR Committee, understanding that it is as a place for people from different Chambers to get together, share experiences and support each other, as well as to discuss how to best shape the profession.

***BRENNA CONROY***

I am a member of Keating Chambers and specialise in construction, professional negligence and energy work. I am a contributing editor of the Construction Law Reports, and a contributor to Keating on Construction Contracts, Keating on NEC and Keating on Offshore Construction and Marine Engineering Contracts.

Over the past 7 years, my contribution to the Bar has been through a variety of outreach programmes, including participating in the Lincoln’s Inn Mentoring Scheme, the LSE Bar & Chambers Mentoring Scheme and the Keating/Lamb Building Outreach Summer School. I also chair the GDL and Bar Course Scholarship Interview panels for Lincoln’s Inn each year and have been an active member of the pupillage committee since joining Keating Chambers in 2016.

I am now keen to focus my energy on contributing to TECBAR because of the important role it plays in helping members of the Construction Bar, both in terms of improving knowledge and education, but also in providing a support network for members through social events. I like to think that having spent years promoting the Bar in general, it will be even more rewarding to represent a specialist Bar association which has benefited me in my career. I would be grateful for your vote.

***HELEN DENNIS***

I am a member of 4 Pump Court and my practice is largely construction law based. I have been a member of TECBAR since becoming a tenant and a committee member since 2017. I am keen to continue my work with the committee for a further term.

I was previously a member of the Junior TECBAR sub-committee, sat as the TECBAR representative on the Bar Council Legal Outreach Practice Group and was responsible for arranging TECBAR attendance at pupillage fairs as well as for organising the redesign of the TECBAR logo.

I currently sit on the CPD sub-committee. I was instrumental in the organisation of a variety of CPD events last year, including the Building Safety Act Panel event and the Annual Conference. I am currently responsible for the organisation of the upcoming URS v BDW lecture and the 2025 Annual Conference, scheduled for November. I consider it important that TECBAR continue to offer a good selection of CPD events for all of its members and, if re-elected, will work to ensure that this remains the case.

In addition to the above I act as the 4 Pump Court TECBAR Chambers Rep and sit on the TCC Users Committee, as well as participating in the broader work of the TECBAR committee. If re-elected, I will continue to act as a channel of communication between chambers and TECBAR as well as representing our members on the TCC Users Committee. I am keen to continue assisting with the work of TECBAR in the coming years.

***MICHAEL LEVENSTEIN***

TECBAR is at the heart of what we do as construction and technology barristers. This not only includes hosting seminars and events for members, but also maintaining a visible presence to the wider public as a pre-eminent body for specialist advice and advocacy.

During my time on TECBAR so far, I have made good on promises to host seminars aimed at addressing common issues faced by junior construction practitioners, including advocacy workshops, expert witness handling, pub quizzes, networking events with TECSA and student outreach at pupillage fairs. More recently, I have served on its TCC Users,

Consultations and CPD subcommittees, contributed to the TECBAR Review and sit as a TECBAR-accredited adjudicator.

Moving forward, I am keen to become more involved as a liaison between members and the TCC in developing procedural guidance on topical issues, including claims under the BSA 2022, Procurement Act 2023, group litigation and the use of AI in case management.

Likewise, to serve as a representative of the Construction Bar’s needs through my role as a member on the SCL Council.

It has been a true privilege to serve on Committee and I am grateful to fellow members should they give me the opportunity to continue helping to serve the best interests of our profession.

***REBECCA KEATING***

I am keen to assist the TECBAR committee in advancing its core objectives: to foster the development of knowledge and skills among its members and to strengthen TECBAR's standing as an important collective voice at the Bar.

Whilst part of my practice focusses on construction disputes, I specialise in technology disputes. I am committed to developing that knowledge area for our members, both in terms of members’ casework but also the integration of technology into our own practices. I would like to help with that ongoing effort.

Having served on the TECBAR committee for two years, I have actively participated in both the Junior TECBAR committee and the technology sub-committee. My experience includes organising useful practical skills sessions for junior members (focussed on those under ten years call), including on expert evidence and international arbitration. I also co-organised the popular Junior TECBAR/TeSCA pub quiz.

I would be delighted to continue my work on the TECBAR committee if re-elected and to actively contribute to the committee.

**UNDER 7 YEARS’ CALL:**

***NICHOLAS HIGGS***

I am a construction barrister of under 7 years’ call at 39 Essex Chambers, with a practice spanning domestic litigation, adjudication, and international arbitration—particularly in the Middle East. Before coming to the Bar, I worked as a chartered civil engineer with Ove Arup & Partners, specialising in bridge design in the UK and overseas. I also served as secretary to Arup’s Group Management Board, gaining valuable insight into the leadership and operation of a multi-billion pound engineering consultancy. Given my technical background, I have a particular focus on complex engineering and infrastructure disputes, both as sole counsel and led by leading counsel from my own and other construction sets.

I am standing for election to the TECBAR Executive Committee because I want to contribute to the continued strength and development of our specialist bar and to represent the interests of junior members. I have found TECBAR’s training and support—particularly the annual conference and the adjudication training and accreditation scheme—to be hugely beneficial in my own practice. I would welcome the opportunity to help build on this work, ensuring junior practitioners continue to benefit from high-quality resources, training, and opportunities to engage with the wider construction law community.

***MERCY MILGO***

I am a junior construction barrister at Keating Chambers. Since joining TECBAR in April 2024, I have attended various TECBAR events and have also contributed to the TECBAR Review. I am now keen to join the TECBAR committee in order to take a more active role in promoting the involvement of more junior members, i.e., those under 7 years call, in TEBCAR related activities including its excellent TCC marshalling scheme.

***CAROLINE ZIEBART***

I am a junior barrister practicing at 4 Pump Court, called in 2022. I am seeking election to the TECBAR committee to contribute a junior perspective and support its work in training and professional development.

My practice is developing a predominantly technology and construction focus, and I have been involved in various international arbitrations, domestic TCC litigations, and adjudications involving construction, energy and IT disputes. Prior to coming to the Bar, I worked at the Law Commission, contributing to its report on Digital Assets, which has given me an enduring interest in the legal treatment of emerging technologies.

I have benefited directly from TECBAR’s events and resources, particularly the Junior TECBAR lunchtime sessions and the Annual Conference, and I am keen to support and expand those initiatives. I would aim to contribute actively to the organisation and delivery of training events, with a focus on practical guidance for junior practitioners.

If elected, I would aim to develop and enhance the excellent support for junior tenants through targeted events, as well as contribute a junior viewpoint to the wider work of the TECBAR Committee. I would bring a clear focus on ensuring the association remains inclusive, outward-facing, and relevant to the next generation of practitioners.

Thank you for considering my application.

***SHERIAR KHAN***

I am passionate about TECBAR and over the past two years, I have enjoyed contributing through outreach talks to aspiring pupils and being on the cricket team. I am now keen to deepen my involvement by joining the Committee and helping to organise events that provide value, community and career development for TECBAR’s members.

If elected, my priorities will be:

1. **Reinvigorating Junior TECBAR**– hosting regular Lunchtime Lectures, together with social events and networking opportunities for junior members across different Chambers with the TECSA 10s and the SCL (events such as a Quiz Night).
2. **Launching an annual ‘Meet the TCC Judges’ Event**– allowing informal opportunities for members, and especially junior members, to speak to and get to know the TCC judges.

1. **Supporting junior members to qualify as Adjudicators**– encouraging junior members to qualify as adjudicators on the TECBAR adjudication panel.

I would be delighted to bring commitment, energy and ideas to the Committee and would appreciate your support.