
Letters to the Editor



Cuts threat to pool of talent at the Bar

Sir, You report ("The judiciary is failing to attract young lawyers of real talent, says Lord Judge", Law, Feb 3) that the Lord Chief Justice is worried that cuts in criminal and family legal aid will damage the supply of talented lawyers to the Bench.

We share that concern. Of course, it is not only the future quality of the Bench which is in jeopardy. The Criminal Bar is already facing cuts on the defence side of 13.5 per cent even before its share of a further proposed 23 per cent cut in legal aid is factored in. It is hard to think that the inevitable departure of talented advocates from publicly funded work will not have a more immediate effect upon the quality of justice delivered in the criminal courts.

The Crown Prosecution Service is required to find savings of 25 per cent over the next three years. No doubt the Government can at least comfort itself with the thought that any exodus of talent will be well-balanced.

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