CALL TO THE BAR OF SOLICITORS

17. (1) Subject to this rule, rule 18 and rule 19, a person who has been in practice as a solicitor in Northern Ireland for a period of not less than three years may be called to the Bar of Northern Ireland upon lodging with the Under Treasurer:-

(i) a certificate of the Law Society of Northern Ireland ("the Society") certifying that before admission as a solicitor he/she had pursued a course of study provided or approved by the Society and passed the requisite examination or a certificate that he/she had pursued an approved course of study at the Institute of Professional Legal Studies;

(ii) proof that he/she has pursued such additional course of study, if any, and passed such examinations, if any as may be prescribed either generally or in his/her particular case by the Education Committee; and

(iii) in lieu of the certificates required by rule 2 of these rules, a certificate signed by two members of the Council of the Society that he/she is a fit and proper person to be called to the Bar of Northern Ireland and a certificate signed by the Secretary of the Society that he/she has not been found guilty of a breach of any of the Regulations of the Society and is not currently being investigated on suspicion of having committed any such breach.

(2) A person who proposes to seek Call to the Bar of Northern Ireland under this rule:-

(a) must apply to the Under Treasurer for a determination either of the additional course of study and the examinations referred to in paragraph 1(ii) of this rule which he/she will be required to pursue or pass before being called to the Bar, or, as the case may be, that he/she will not be required to pursue any such course or pass any such examination before such Call; and

(b) shall give not less than six weeks notice to the Society of his/her intention to seek call to the Bar under this rule.

(3) Unless the Benchers otherwise direct in any particular case, the period of practice as a solicitor relied upon by a person who seeks Call to the Bar under this rule must not have ended earlier than six months before the date upon which he/she applies under this rule to be called to the Bar.

18. Every person seeking to be called to the Bar under rule 17 shall present a Memorial in the form set out in the Fifth Schedule at the Under Treasurer’s Office and shall pay the prescribed fees; and, save as hereinbefore provided, he/she shall comply with all the provisions of these rules, excepts rules 2 and 5, with regard to Call to the Bar.

19. Unless the Inn otherwise directs in a particular case, a person shall not be called to the Bar of Northern Ireland under rule 17 until he/she (a) has entirely
ceased to act or practise as a solicitor and if on the rolls of any Court or on a register of solicitors has had his/her name removed from such rolls or register, (b) has ceased to be financially interested in any business or practise of a solicitor and made a declaration to that effect and (c) has produced such evidence of the matters referred to at (a) and (b) as the Inn may require.