



## CPD REQUIREMENTS FOR LAWYERS

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## Background

The term Lawyer is a generic one used to describe anyone who is a Licensed Legal Practitioner qualified to give legal advice in one or more areas of law. Put simply, Solicitors and Barristers are both types of Lawyer.

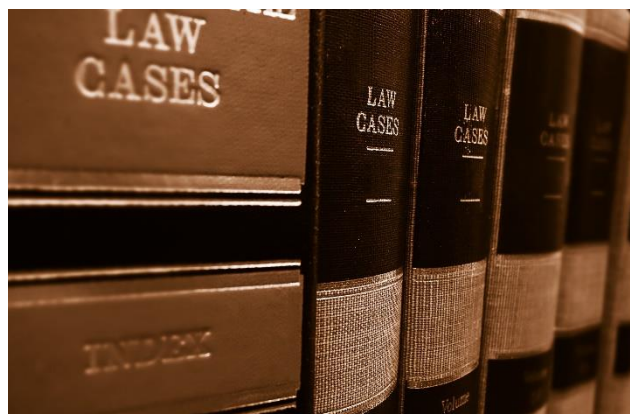
Professional Development is an essential part of every Lawyer's career. It helps to keep up-to-date with the latest legislative developments, allows Lawyers to expand their skills, improve their capabilities and build a successful and satisfying career.

On 1 November 2016, continuing competence replaced continuing professional development (CPD). Continuing competence is an outputs-based system and reflects on the quality of a practice and identifying any learning and development needs therein. These needs can then be focused on to ensure that both skills and knowledge are relevant and provides assurance of the competence to practice.

## CPD requirements for Solicitors

The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) does not require a specified number of hours of CPD to be undertaken each year. Instead, Solicitors must take steps to ensure their on-going competence. This will require undertaking regular learning and development, but also incorporates understanding regulatory obligations, identifying and reflecting on development needs as well as recording and evaluating any activity undertaken.

The SRA does not specify how to achieve this but does require that a record of steps that have been taken to ensure ongoing competence is recorded. The SRA may ask for these records if they have cause to engage



about a regulatory matter or where they have evidence of a competence risk. It is good practice to keep these records for six years.

Here is a link to the SRA Continuing Competence Toolkit which provides more details of the requirements - <http://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/cpd/tool-kit/continuing-competence-toolkit.page>

The SRA has set out in their guidance the process they expect Solicitors to undertake. Solicitors will need to:

Reflect on their practice to identify any learning needs

Plan how to address their learning needs, identifying suitable learning activities and how to carry them out.

Complete the learning activities

Evaluate how the learning activity has met the learning needs and identified how they can incorporate the new knowledge and skills into their practice.

Record how the process has been carried out. This record demonstrates that they have taken steps to ensure their ongoing competence.

Make an annual declaration to confirm that they have completed the process outlined above.

## Events for Lawyers

There are a variety of events for Lawyers that are happening up and down the country all year round, Below is a list of just a few to visit:

The Lawyer Awards - <https://www.thelawyerawards.com/>

The Business Leadership Summit - <http://conferences.thelawyer.com/business-leadership/home>

The London Law Expo - <https://londonlawexpo.com/>

Legalex - <http://www.legalex.co.uk/>

## Magazines for Lawyers

Reading through magazines and online journals can give a wealth of information on new advances, up to date news and CPD courses and events. Below is a selection of magazines for Lawyers to read.

The Law Society Gazette - <https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/>

The Lawyer - <https://www.thelawyer.com/>

Lawyer Monthly - <https://www.lawyer-monthly.com/>

New Law Journal - <https://www.newlawjournal.co.uk/>

## Marketing for Lawyers

There are various ways that training providers can market to Lawyers, below is a list of ideas on what CPDSO recommend doing:

- Publishing articles and adverts in various magazines and online platforms can help to bring interest to your CPD accredited activities.
- Expand your online footprint beyond your website with video marketing, social media, and local SEO.
- Attend relevant events and make use of networking opportunities
- Get listed in legal directories

## Training Providers and Lawyers

- A selection of some of our training providers operating in the legal sector can be found at - [https://www.cpdstandards.com/?sfid=694&\\_sft\\_category=legal-provider](https://www.cpdstandards.com/?sfid=694&_sft_category=legal-provider)
- The Law Society are part of our Independent Expert Advisory Board - <https://www.cpdstandards.com/about-us/our-expert-advisory-board/>

## Job titles within the legal sector include -

- **Paralegal** - may be aligned to the Institute of Paralegals or National Association of Licensed Paralegals
- **Lawyer** - may be aligned to The Law Society or Solicitors Regulation Authority
- **Litigation Executive** - Someone on their way to becoming a Chartered Legal Executive or qualified Solicitor and could join any number of professional bodies
- **Counsel** - a general term used to describe a barrister or other legal adviser conducting a case
- **Solicitor** - They are governed by a professional body, in England and Wales this is the Law Society of England and Wales and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority
- **Barrister**
- **Judge**
- **Chartered Legal Executive** - Commonly aligned to the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx)

## Did you know...

- English law is the most popular choice of law in the world for commercial contracts and it governs about 40% of all global corporate arbitrations.
- English is the language of international business and English law has been used to support business and financial transactions the world over because it is widely recognised, clear and flexible.
- Evolved from the oldest common law system in the world, the principles of 'freedom of contract' allow parties to agree the terms and conditions which will govern their contract, without government restrictions.