



NEW SOUTH WALES  
BAR ASSOCIATION

## ELECTION OF BAR COUNCIL FOR 2025 – HOW TO VOTE

### Election of Bar Council for the year 2025 pursuant to the Constitution of the New South Wales Bar Association

The ballot for the 2025 Bar Council opens at 9.00am on Monday, 28 October 2024 and closes at 1.00pm on Thursday, 14 November 2024.

You may vote by either:

- completing and returning a hardcopy ballot paper; OR
- casting your vote electronically via the Association's online election platform.

**You may only vote once. If you return a paper ballot and submit a vote online, only one vote will be counted and the Returning Officer will determine which vote will be counted.**

#### Entitlement to vote

The following financial members of the Association are entitled to vote in the election:

- Local Practising Barristers<sup>1</sup>.
- Members who were Ordinary Members – Class A immediately prior to the adoption of the present Constitution on 1 January 2000 and who are not Local Practising Barristers.
- Life Members.

Members whose membership fee or any other amount payable to the Bar Association (including the Barristers' Benevolent Fund) is more than two months in arrears are not entitled to vote in the election of Members of the Bar Council.

If you are uncertain about your entitlement to vote, please contact the Association by emailing [elections@nswbar.asn.au](mailto:elections@nswbar.asn.au).

#### Composition of the Bar Council

Rule 10.2.1 of the Constitution provides:

‘The Bar Council shall consist of 21 Ordinary Members – Class A who are elected pursuant to this Constitution:

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<sup>1</sup> Local Practising Barrister means practising barrister whose sole or principal place of legal practice is in the State of New South Wales and who holds a current practising certificate as a barrister issued by the New South Wales Bar Association.

- (a) five of whom shall be Senior Counsel;
- (b) three of whom shall be Members of the Outer Bar who have been practising as Local Practising Barristers for less than five years; and
- (c) 13 of whom shall be either Senior Counsel or members of the Outer Bar but of whom not more than four shall be Senior Counsel,

at the date prescribed under this Constitution for receipt by the Returning Officer of nominations for election of the Bar Council.’

Rule 4.5.2 of the Constitution provides:

‘Life Members have the rights of an Ordinary Member – Class A.’

### How to vote

You may vote using the paper-based Election Ballot paper (**enclosed**) or the Association’s online voting platform. You must select ONE of the following voting methods.

**If you return a paper ballot and submit a vote online, only one vote will be counted and the Returning Officer will determine which vote will be counted.**

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### OPTION 1: ELECTRONIC VOTING

If you are eligible to vote, you will receive an email to your nominated email address with a link to the Association’s online election platform.

#### Online voting instructions

1. Click on the link in the email to access the Association’s online election platform.
2. Log in to the online election platform using your member ID and password (this is the same login used to access your Member Dashboard).

*If you have forgotten your member ID or password, please contact the Association by emailing [elections@nswbar.asn.au](mailto:elections@nswbar.asn.au).*

3. Fill out the online ballot paper by checking the boxes for a maximum of 21 candidates.
4. Click “Submit”.
5. You will receive an email confirming that your vote has been received.

#### POLL DEADLINE – ELECTRONIC VOTING

Your vote must be **submitted** by 1.00pm on Thursday, 14 November 2024. The online election platform will close automatically at that time.

OR

## OPTION 2: PAPER-BASED VOTING

If you wish to vote using a paper-based Election Ballot Paper, please complete and return the **enclosed** ballot paper in accordance with the following instructions.

### Completing the ballot paper

1. Using a **blue or black ballpoint pen** or a **2B pencil**, shade in the oval to the **LEFT** of the names of the candidates for whom you wish to vote. Your voting intention must be clear.



Do not use red or felt tip pens.

If you make a mistake or have changed your mind, and have not used pencil (which can be erased) you may obtain a replacement ballot paper by contacting the Association.

2. You may vote for a maximum of 21 candidates.

**Please check you have voted for no more than a total of 21 candidates and that your voting intention is clear.**

### Returning the ballot paper

**Either**

6. Place the Election Ballot Paper in the pre-addressed envelope supplied with the ballot paper.
7. SIGN the reverse of the supplied envelope and add your FULL NAME (LEGIBLY PRINTED) underneath.
8. Return the pre-addressed envelope to the Returning Officer at the address indicated on the envelope. The supplied envelope should contain your vote.

**or**

1. Place the Election Ballot Paper into your own unmarked envelope and seal it (this envelope is not provided – you must provide it).
2. Place the plain sealed envelope INTO THE PRE-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE SUPPLIED WITH THE BALLOT PAPER.
3. SIGN the reverse of this supplied envelope and add your FULL NAME (LEGIBLY PRINTED) underneath.
4. Return the pre-addressed envelope to the Returning Officer at the address indicated on the envelope. The supplied envelope should now contain an unmarked sealed envelope (supplied by you) with your vote inside.

Please note that a failure to return your vote in an envelope on which your name is legibly printed will invalidate your vote, for lack of voter identification.

#### POLL DEADLINE – PAPER-BASED VOTING

The envelope containing your completed ballot paper must be delivered to the Returning Officer no later than 1.00pm on Thursday, 14 November 2024.

Ballot papers received after 1.00pm on Thursday, 14 November 2024 will not be counted.

Please ensure that you post your ballot paper with sufficient time for it to be delivered to the Association by the close of poll. If in doubt, you may *instead* cast a vote using the Association's online election platform.

#### Replacement or non-receipt of ballot papers

Any member who loses or spoils his or her hardcopy ballot paper may obtain and complete a replacement ballot paper before the close of poll. You will need to immediately contact the Association by emailing [elections@nswbar.asn.au](mailto:elections@nswbar.asn.au) and attaching a Statutory Declaration as to why a replacement ballot paper is required.

If you wish to vote electronically and have not received an acknowledgement email from the Association, please immediately contact the Association by emailing [elections@nswbar.asn.au](mailto:elections@nswbar.asn.au).



Andreas Heger  
Executive Director & Returning Officer  
14 October 2024