



SCL IT LAW ACCREDITATION/RE-ACCREDITATION

Introduction

A lawyer accredited by SCL is a current SCL member who has the training and relevant practical experience to undertake work at a high level in the information technology law (“IT law”) field. Accreditation by SCL requires evidence of both training and experience.

An SCL IT Law Accredited member is a competent and experienced IT lawyer. This is defined as follows:

a practitioner who can competently identify and advise on IT law and related issues based on his or her current knowledge, skills and expertise and who has a commitment to continuous learning, improvement and excellence.

No special privileges are attached to being an SCL IT Law Accredited member other than the right to use the title to demonstrate that the individual (and not the organisation of which he or she is a part) is the accredited member.

Accreditation lasts for five years. After five years an SCL IT Law accredited member must apply for re-accreditation.

An SCL IT Law Accredited member has the individual right to use the title "SCL Accredited IT Lawyer" and to display the "SCL Accredited IT Lawyer" logo issued by SCL with his or her professional profile while the accreditation is current.

RULES

1. General

These are the rules for applying to become an SCL IT Law Accredited Member (“Accredited” and “Re-accredited”). They have been approved by the SCL Trustees. SCL reserves the right to amend and supplement these rules from time to time. Any such amendment or supplementation will be available on the SCL web site.

2. Eligibility

A solicitor or a barrister who is a member of SCL can apply if he or she can demonstrate that he or she is a competent and experienced IT lawyer as set out above. In general, this will mean that the applicant at least meets the following requirements:

- The applicant has practised as a solicitor or barrister for a cumulative period of at least five years and has held a practising certificate throughout that period. Any member who has not held a practising certificate at any point can apply for an exemption from SCL for this requirement if the applicant can demonstrate that he or she has been acting as a practising lawyer at all times when a practising certificate has not been held.
- During the last three years:

- The applicant must be able to demonstrate that he or she has spent at least 1,000 hours in aggregate practising IT Law within an established IT law practice;¹
 - The applicant must have spent at least 30 hours from IT Law courses.²
 - The applicant has had at least one article on IT Law published in an SCL approved journal, website or had equivalent in-house guidance published.
 - The applicant has contributed to the knowledge of IT Law through active participation in conferences, lectures, presentations, roundtables or similar industry in-house equivalent.
- The applicant has been a member of SCL for a minimum continuous period of two years and holds a current membership of SCL.

SCL retains the discretion to decide on accredited IT lawyer status in all circumstances.

3. Applications

Application for Accreditation or Re-accreditation should be made on the relevant form available on the SCL website.

The required total experience, and compliance with the minimum experience and competence requirements, should be set out on the form and self-certified. A suitable referee must always be provided.

The form should be accompanied by appropriate and reasonable evidence.

An applicant should advise SCL of the details of any complaint which has been made against him or her or his or her firm as a result of his or her actions in the course of the last five years as required on the application form. SCL may delay making a decision on the application until any such complaint or claim has been decided or resolved.

4. Assessment

Applications will be assessed by the SCL Trustees and such assessment will normally be completed within 28 days of receipt by SCL of an application.

SCL reserves the right to request that an applicant attend an interview and/or that the applicant provides a suitable additional reference.

All information submitted as a part of an application will be treated in the strictest of confidence by SCL.

5. Review and Right of Appeal

In the event of SCL refusing an application, the applicant may ask SCL to reconsider its decision within 28 days of intimation of that refusal and may submit additional material in support of that request. In the event that the review results in a further refusal, the applicant can appeal that decision in writing to the SCL Trustees within 28 days of intimation of that further refusal and SCL will make all information relating to the decision available to the SCL Trustees for that purpose.

The decision of the SCL Trustees will be final.

6. Re-accredited status

Accreditation lasts for five years.

¹ This would normally be a law firm or barristers' chambers or in-house legal department which SCL might approve. For further guidance contact SCL.

² The courses should evidence a clear focus on IT Law and a record of the courses will need to be submitted. If non-SCL courses are submitted, detailed agendas and evidence of materials must be provided.

The onus is on the member to apply for re-accreditation prior to the expiry date of his or her accreditation status.

7. Suspension

Applicants should be aware that the SCL Trustees may suspend the accreditation of any individual lawyer if circumstances come to the attention of the Trustees which would make this course of action appropriate.

An SCL IT Law Accredited member will cease to be an SCL IT Law Accredited member if he or she ceases to be a member of SCL for any reason. Reapplication for accreditation is required on re-joining SCL.

Recommended Practice

In order to facilitate applications SCL recommends that members create a file to keep notes of interesting authorship/presentations as well as keeping a note of training to assist with the application.

SCL recommends that members put a reminder in their diary a minimum of 3 months before expiry of their accreditation to remind them to re-apply in good time.

Application cost:

The cost of application to become an SCL IT Law Accredited member is **£50 + VAT**. An invoice will be issued on receipt of application.

September 2019



APPLICATION FOR SCL IT LAW ACCREDITATION

Please read the accompanying rules before completion. If you have any queries please contact SCL at hello@scl.org Tel: 0117 904 1242 Please type or print when completing the application form.

*Please delete as appropriate

PERSONAL DETAILS			
First name:		Surname:	
SCL Membership no:		Date of joining SCL:	
Name of firm/chambers/organisation:			
Present position:			
Address:			
City:		Postcode:	
Telephone no:	Mobile no:		Email address:
Qualified solicitor: Yes/No*		Qualified barrister: Yes/No*	
Practising Certificate no:		Date of admission:	
IT LAW EXPERIENCE			
1. Please provide a brief cv and attach it to this application form.			
2. How many hours of IT Law work, and what type of IT Law work have you carried out in each of the last three complete calendar years?			
Year	Nos of hours	Type of IT Law	
If this is an estimate, how have you calculated the estimate?			
Please attach a brief description of the type of work (do not mention names of clients or any other confidential details) e.g. outsourcing contracts for government agencies.			

		Total	

YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO IT LAW

Please provide details of articles by you (use a continuation sheet if necessary):

**Please provide link to article or copy of article

1. Title of article**:

Date of publication:

Name of publication/website:

Length of article:

2. Title of article**:

Date of publication:

Name of publication/website:

Length of article:

FITNESS

Are you currently or have you ever been the subject of:

a. Any complaint to your professional body within the last 5 years?	Yes/No*
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b. Disciplinary action by your professional body?	Yes/No*
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c. Have you been the subject of a prosecution before your professional body's disciplinary Tribunal?	Yes/No*
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d. Are you currently or have you ever been the subject of disciplinary action by any other professional body of which you are a member?	Yes/No*	
e. Any claim under your Professional Indemnity Insurance?	Yes/No*	
If "Yes" please give details:		
DECLARATION BY CANDIDATE		
I wish to apply to become an SCL Accredited IT Lawyer		
I hereby declare that the information contained within this form and on the accompanying sheets are correct to the best of my knowledge.		
Signed:	Date:	
REFERENCE		
Please ask your department head/head of chambers/manager to complete this section.		
Name:	Surname:	
Position:	Number of years you have known the applicant:	
Name of firm/chambers/organisation:		
Address:		
City:	Postcode:	
Tel:	Mobile:	Email:
DECLARATION BY REFEREE		
I hereby declare that the information contained within this form and on the accompanying sheet(s) are correct to the best of my knowledge. Please send me an invoice for £50 + VAT to cover the cost of my application.		
Signed:		Date:

Please return this completed form to:
SCL, Unit 4.5, Paintworks, Arnos Vale Bristol, BS4 3EH or by email to hello@scl.org