



LEADING SCL ACCREDITED IT LAWYER

Introduction

A lawyer accredited by SCL as a Leading IT Lawyer is a current SCL member who is a leading practitioner or academic in the field of IT Law, demonstrated by training, and relevant practical experience, academic work, publication of articles and/or a contribution to conferences, lectures, presentations, roundtables or similar industry in-house equivalents. The individual is capable of undertaking work at the highest level in the information technology law ("IT law") field, and consistently does so.

An SCL Leading IT Lawyer is a highly competent and experienced IT lawyer. This is defined as *"a practitioner or academic who demonstrates the highest levels of knowledge in the field of IT law and related issues, a commitment to continuous learning, improvement and excellence, a commitment to educating the next generation of IT lawyers, a commitment to raising the profile of and solving IT law issues, and a reputation as a leading IT lawyer"*.

No special privileges are attached to being an SCL Leading IT Lawyer other than the right to use the title to demonstrate that the individual (and not the organisation of which they are a part) is the accredited member. SCL does not guarantee or undertake to verify the quality of any work undertaken by the accredited member.

Accreditation lasts until the next renewal date of the individual's membership of SCL and thereafter on a year by year basis provided that:

- The member pays the requisite fee as decided by SCL from time to time;
- The member remains on the roll of practicing solicitors or barristers (if applicable);
- The member maintains and is able to demonstrate satisfactory continuing professional education in the field of IT law over the prior year.

An SCL Leading IT Lawyer has the individual right to use the title "SCL Leading IT Lawyer " and to display the "SCL Leading 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 Leading IT Lawyer ("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 (www.scl.org).

2. Eligibility

A member of SCL can apply or be invited by SCL to be an SCL Leading IT Lawyer if they can demonstrate the requirements 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 twelve years and has held a practicing certificate throughout that period or has worked as an academic in the IT law sphere for a cumulative period of at least twelve years.
 - Any member who has not held a practicing certificate at any point can apply for an

exemption from SCL for this requirement if the applicant can demonstrate that they have been acting as a practicing lawyer, at all times when a practicing certificate has not been held.

- Any member who feels they meet the overall definition of a Leading IT Lawyer but does not meet the requirement of having practiced for a minimum of 12 years as a solicitor or barrister may still apply, but may be asked for further information to demonstrate that they have achieved the required standard for accreditation at this level
- The applicant's CV must demonstrate that the majority of their legal practice time is spent practicing IT Law within an established IT law practice or academic institution and that they have contributed significantly to the practice and development of IT law including by leading a team of IT lawyers, training junior lawyers in the field of IT law, contributing articles to specialist publications, speaking at conferences, lectures, presentations, roundtables or similar industry in-house equivalents and/or contributing to research and public sector consultations in the IT law field.;¹
- The applicant must be able to demonstrate completion of sufficient continuing professional education in the field of IT law over the prior 3 years²
- The applicant must have been a member of SCL for a minimum period of two years and hold a current membership of SCL.

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

3. Applications

Application for Accreditation should be made by CV accompanied by the relevant form which is available on the SCL website.

The required experience, and compliance with the requirements set out in this document should be set out on the CV and accompanying form and self-certified. In the event that the individual is invited by SCL to become an SCL Leading IT Lawyer, the individual shall not be obliged to provide a CV or complete the form, but shall provide to SCL any information that SCL requests to demonstrate and document the member's achievement of the standing of SCL Leading IT Lawyer.

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 provides additional evidence and/or that the applicant provides a suitable additional reference.

All information submitted as a part of an application will be treated in 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. The Trustees will

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.

review the refusal and in the event that the review results in a further refusal, the applicant's fee will be refunded. The applicant may, if the Trustees deem it appropriate, offer the applicant the title of SCL Senior IT Law Accredited member in the alternate.

The decision of the SCL Trustees shall be final.

6. Re-accredited status

Accreditation lasts until the renewal date of the member's membership with SCL. Provided the member pays the requisite fee and has completed a minimum of 16 continuing professional education hours in the field of IT Law over the prior year, their Accreditation shall be renewed for a further 12 months to run concurrently with their SCL membership.

7. Suspension

The SCL Trustees may suspend the accreditation of any individual if circumstances come to the attention of the Trustees which would make this course of action appropriate. The SCL Trustee's decision in this regard shall be final.

An SCL Leading IT Lawyer will cease to be an SCL Leading IT Lawyer if they cease to be a member of SCL for any reason. Reapplication for Accreditation is required on rejoining SCL.

July 2025



APPLICATION FOR SCL IT LAW ACCREDITATION

Please read the accompanying rules before completion. If you have any queries please email the SCL team at hello@scl.org Please type or print when completing the application form.

*Please delete as appropriate

PERSONAL DETAILS			
First name:		Surname:	
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*	
Practicing Certificate no:		Date of admission:	
DECLARATION BY CANDIDATE			
<p>I wish to apply to become a Leading SCL accredited IT Lawyer</p> <p>I am not currently, nor have I ever been, subject to a complaint or disciplinary action by my professional body.</p> <p>I hereby declare that the information contained within this form and on the accompanying CV are correct to the best of my knowledge.</p> <p>Please send me an invoice for £250 + VAT to cover the cost of my application</p>			
Signed:		Date:	
<p>Please return this completed form to: hello@scl.org</p>			