Citation for His Honour Judge Brian Barker CBE QC

Chairman of Council, it is my privilege to present to you His Honour Judge Brian Barker CBE QC.

The reasons for this honour are the huge contributions that Brian has made (and continues to make) in the administration of justice, which have led to his being recognised as one of the leading figures in our legal system today. He has also been very supportive in the creation of the new School of Law here at Royal Holloway.

Brian is a ‘local boy’ and was educated at Strode’s School, Egham. After an LLB in Law from the University of Birmingham and an MA in Political Science from the University of Kansas, he was called to the Bar by Gray’s Inn in 1969 and had a criminal practice in what became Hollis Whiteman Chambers, both prosecuting and defending. Appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1990, his many notable cases include the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. He also served as Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association of England and Wales from 1998 to 2000.

Following his appointment as a Senior Circuit Judge and Permanent Judge at the Central Criminal Court in 2000, Judge Barker left the Bar. In 2004 he was appointed to sit as an additional judge in the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal and a year later he was appointed Deputy Senior Judge at the Central Criminal Court and the Common Serjeant of London. He has presided over numerous criminal trials and in 2013 was appointed the Recorder of London (an office dating back to 1298).
In January 2015 Brian retired as Senior Judge at the Old Bailey and in the New Year’s Honours that same year he was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to the administration of justice and to charity. He has also been awarded an Honorary Doctorate LLD from City University, London. He is currently an Assistant Surveillance Commissioner and the nominated Coroner in the second Cheryl James (Deepcut) Inquest which is due to conclude this year. He has just been appointed to a part-time post as the Independent Reviewer of National Security Arrangements in Northern Ireland.

Over the past three decades, Brian has been interested in legal education and standards, having served as practitioner-lecturer in legal ethics on the Council of Legal Education; as a Visiting Lecturer on the English Legal System and the Royal College of Defence Studies; and the director of the Criminal Continuation Course at the Judicial Studies Board. He also sits on the Board of the Sir John Cass Foundation, having been its Treasurer (Chairman).

Brian Barker is clearly an immensely busy man, with many talents and responsibilities, but he has also found the time to discuss the development of our new School of Law with me and he tells me he is pleased to see that we are developing our own distinctive style and quality and have got into our stride so quickly. I am grateful to Brian for his support during this period of rapid growth.

In recognition therefore of his outstanding contribution to our legal system, and for his ongoing support to this College, may I invite you, Chairman of Council, to induct as an Honorary Fellow of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, His Honour Brian Barker CBE QC.

Professor Rosie Meek
Head of the School of Law
19 May 2016