

## **Types of lawyer**

The term “lawyer” is a bit flexible. Normally it covers barristers and solicitors, but it can be said to include judges (all of whom had to qualify as lawyers) and legal executives. The training for solicitors and barristers is different but of roughly equivalent standard. In this and other respects the branches of the profession have increasingly converged in recent years.

### ***Barristers***

Famed for wearing antiquated wigs, barristers deal with most high level advocacy, plus a great deal of work in the lower courts as well. This is by no means all that they do. Barristers routinely give advice on legal problems and often specialise in one area of the law in order to do so. In addition to their highly visible court appearances, they often do a great deal of preparation work before a case gets to court, in addition to the work done by solicitors.

Some barristers rarely if ever appear in court. A number are employed as in house legal advisers by companies. A few work, as employees, in firms of solicitors. Most barristers however are “at the Bar” (in other words, practising in the courts). They belong to one of the four Inns of Court, which are ancient institutions noted for fostering close fellowship within the profession. Barristers working in this way are required to be sole traders. However they routinely share offices with other barristers, which for reasons of tradition are called “chambers”. ***Continued...***