

SRA Amendments to Regulatory Arrangements (Higher Rights of Audience Regulations) Rules 2014

Rules dated 14 February 2014 made by the Solicitors Regulation Authority Board.

Made under Part I, Part II, sections 79 and 80 of, and paragraph 6B of Schedule 1 to, the Solicitors Act 1974 and sections 9 and 9A of, and paragraphs 14A, 14B and 32 to 34 of Schedule 2 to, the Administration of Justice Act 1985, paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 14 to the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 and section 83 of, and Schedule 11 to, the Legal Services Act 2007, with the approval of the Legal Services Board under paragraph 19 of Schedule 4 to the Legal Services Act 2007.

Rule 1

The SRA Higher Rights of Audience Regulations 2011 shall be amended as follows:

- (a) after regulation 2.1, insert a new regulation 2.2:

“Solicitors and RELs appearing in the Intellectual Property Enterprise Court (IPEC) do not need to hold a Higher Courts (Civil Advocacy) Qualification under these regulations.”

- (c) in guidance note (i) under regulation 2, insert a new guidance note (ii):

“The IPEC, a specialist court within the Chancery Division of the High Court, replaced the Patents County Court (PCC) in October 2013. Prior to this, solicitors and RELs appearing did not need a higher rights qualification to appear in the PCC. As the cases, rules and procedures are not materially different, and the costs and damages limits are the same, we do not require solicitors and RELs to possess the civil qualification in order to exercise their rights of audience in the IPEC.”

Rule 2

These amendment rules shall come into force on 1 April 2014.