Dear All,

I was delighted to see the announcement that Nicholas Clarke KC has been appointed a Circuit Judge to sit at Bolton as of Monday 23rd January. It is an announcement that is tinged with some sadness as I have been in chambers with Nick throughout my entire career, a career which he has had no little influence on. Nick's career at the Bar has been one to which many of us will aspire. I have no doubt that I will have many opportunities to toast his success over the coming weeks and months.

Whilst on the subject of "well done", I also take this opportunity to congratulate Helen Mulholland, Mary Ruck, Iain Simkin, Owen Edwards, Michael Jones, Shaun Spencer, Anna Morris and Jonathan Easton who all have a significant degree of their practice in the NorthWest and will be appointed Kings Counsel in March. Some of you may recall Iris Ferber who began her career her and also takes Silk this time round. Congratulations to you all. Those of you on that list who are not currently members of Circuit, I hope you take the opportunity to join.

Once again the Bar in this region is proving to be a source of considerable talent. I very much hope that this continues to be the case and I want the Circuit to support and encourage the ambitions of all who ply their trade in the Courts of the Northern Circuit

Regards

Jaime Leader of the Northern Circuit