

KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOLICITORS, BARRISTERS AND LEGAL EXECUTIVES

	Solicitors	Barristers	Legal Executive
Status:	Employee	Self-employed	Employee
Pay:	Fixed salary each month, irrespective of amount of work (salary increases with experience)	Depends on amount of work (any money earned belongs to Barrister). Fees go up with experience and reputation	Fixed salary each month, irrespective of amount of work (salary increases with experience)
Outgoings:	Tax deducted by employer. Insurance and any other costs paid by employer	Receives fees directly from solicitors, has to pay tax at end of year to Inland Revenue. Has to pay contribution towards running of chamber, insurance etc.	Tax deducted by employer
Instructions:	From client	From solicitor	From client
Client Relationship:	Large amount of contact	Very little contact	Large amount of contact
Skills and typical work:	Wide variety of skills including: drafting, negotiating, advising, representing, conducting litigation. Usually specialises on 1 or 2 areas of law often involving complex issues.	Predominantly advocacy, some advice and negotiating	Similar to solicitors - often less complex transactions/matters.
Career Path	Solicitors can become a partner who, together with the other partners, owns the law firm. Partners are self employed (like barristers). They share the profits of the business after all costs have been paid.	Barristers can take silk (become a senior barrister called Queen's Counsel) and progress to become a judge.	Legal Executives become Fellows and also can qualify as solicitors.