



**CHAMBER
OF ADVOCATES**
MALTA

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COUNCIL REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

July 2023 – July 2026

Introduction

The Council of the Chamber of Advocates is pleased to present this report outlining the principal initiatives, achievements, and challenges encountered during the past three years.

Throughout this period, the Chamber has remained committed to safeguarding the interests of the legal profession, promoting the highest standards of ethics and professional conduct, supporting legal education and continuing professional development, and strengthening the services offered to its members.

The Council is pleased to note that membership of the Chamber has continued to grow steadily during the period under review, reflecting the confidence which members continue to place in the organisation and its work. Attendance at conferences, seminars, and educational events organised by the Chamber and the Malta Law Academy has remained consistently strong, demonstrating the profession's continued commitment to professional development and engagement with the Chamber's initiatives.

The Chamber has also experienced an increase in its annual income, attributable to sustained membership growth, successful educational activities, and increased sponsorship support. This positive financial performance has enabled the Chamber to continue investing in its services, infrastructure, and initiatives for the benefit of its members.

1. Professional Regulation and the Lawyers' Act

The enactment of comprehensive legislation regulating the legal profession has remained one of the Chamber's principal priorities. Over the past three years, the Chamber has continued to advocate consistently and vigorously for the introduction of the Lawyers' Act and the wider reform of the regulatory framework governing legal practice in Malta.

Despite the clear and pressing need for such legislation, the necessary reforms have yet to materialise. The absence of an effective regulatory framework continues to create significant challenges, including difficulties in addressing professional misconduct and maintaining public confidence in the profession.

The Chamber remains firmly of the view that the legal profession requires a modern regulatory structure equipped with the necessary powers and resources to ensure accountability, uphold professional standards, and provide effective disciplinary mechanisms.

Particular concern arises from the current situation affecting the Committee for Advocates. Following amendments introduced to the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in 2021, the



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responsibilities of the Committee increased substantially without a corresponding increase in resources. As a result, in October 2025, the members of the Committee suspended their operations pending the allocation of adequate resources necessary for the effective discharge of their functions.

Whilst efforts continue to be made to address these concerns, the Committee has not yet resumed normal operations, resulting in a significant backlog of pending complaints. The Chamber continues to engage with the relevant authorities in an effort to secure a sustainable solution to this situation.

2. Ethics and Professional Conduct

In furtherance of its commitment to maintaining high ethical standards within the profession, the Chamber appointed a part-time Ethics Officer tasked with receiving, reviewing, and investigating complaints submitted to the Chamber.

Where the Ethics Officer determines that sufficient grounds exist, the complaint is referred to the Committee for Advocates, and the Ethics Officer assists in the presentation of the case before the Committee.

This system has significantly improved the initial handling and assessment of complaints, ensuring that matters are processed efficiently and consistently. Unfortunately, the inability of the Committee for Advocates to operate fully has limited the effectiveness of the subsequent stages of the disciplinary process.

3. Working Groups and Policy Development

During the period under review, the Chamber continued to strengthen its network of specialist working groups. These groups have enabled members of the profession to contribute their expertise in various areas of law and policy, thereby enriching the Chamber's work and strengthening its ability to respond to emerging legal and professional issues.

The working groups have contributed to numerous position papers, consultations, and policy initiatives. Their work has assisted the Chamber in formulating responses to proposed legislation and, in several instances, proactively proposing reforms. One notable example was the preparation of proposals relating to the reform of the judicial sale by auction system.

The Council expresses its gratitude to all members who have generously contributed their time and expertise through these working groups.



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4. Family Law Reform

The Chamber actively participated in the public discussion surrounding the Government's recently proposed reforms to family law.

The Chamber's Family Law Working Group conducted a detailed review of the proposed amendments and prepared comprehensive submissions setting out the Chamber's position.

Whilst supporting a number of the proposed reforms, the Chamber also raised concerns regarding specific aspects of the proposals and suggested alternative approaches where appropriate.

At the time of writing, the proposed reforms have not yet been enacted.

5. Reform of Legal Education

The Chamber has long advocated for a comprehensive review and modernisation of legal education in Malta.

During the period under review, the Chamber prepared and submitted a detailed proposal concerning the structure and content of the law course offered by the University of Malta. The objective of these proposals was to ensure that future graduates are better equipped to meet the practical and professional demands of legal practice.

The Chamber is pleased to note that its proposals were positively received by the University's Senate, which has taken steps towards their implementation. The Chamber will continue to collaborate with the University and other stakeholders to support the successful implementation of these reforms.

6. Malta Law Academy

The Chamber remains firmly committed to the principle of lifelong learning and continuing professional development.

Through the Malta Law Academy, the Chamber has organised numerous educational events, seminars, lectures, and conferences covering a wide range of legal topics and developments.

The annual Company Law Conference continues to establish itself as a flagship event within the legal calendar. In addition, December 2025 saw the successful organisation of a highly attended conference examining the impact of Artificial Intelligence on the legal profession, reflecting the Chamber's commitment to addressing emerging developments affecting legal practice.

The Chamber will continue to expand the educational opportunities available through the Malta Law Academy and promote a culture of continuous professional development within the profession.



7. Well-being Initiatives and Collaboration with the Richmond Foundation

Recognising the increasing importance of mental health and well-being within the legal profession, the Chamber entered into a collaboration agreement with the Richmond Foundation.

This initiative provides members with access to professional support services where required. In addition, joint training sessions were organised to assist lawyers in recognising signs of mental health difficulties and directing individuals towards appropriate support services.

The Chamber considers the well-being of legal professionals to be an important priority and intends to continue developing initiatives in this area.

8. Strengthening the Chamber's Operations

The Chamber has continued to invest in its operational capacity and human resources.

During the past year, the Chamber increased its complement of staff, which now consists of an administrator, a secretary, and a dedicated employee responsible for matters relating to the Malta Law Academy. Further recruitment initiatives are being considered, including the possible engagement of personnel with a legal background to support the Chamber's growing activities.

9. Chamber Premises and Infrastructure

The Chamber has continued to invest in the improvement of its premises with the objective of providing enhanced facilities for members.

Works undertaken during the reporting period included the creation of a new boardroom and substantial refurbishment of the Chamber's conference facilities. These improvements have enhanced both the functionality of the premises and the quality of services available to members and stakeholders.

10. Members' Facilities

In response to continued demand from members, the Chamber undertook a further expansion of locker facilities available for the storage of court robes.

The installation of additional lockers has successfully addressed previous waiting lists, and all current requests have been accommodated.



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11. New Web-site

The Chamber has also successfully launched a new website aimed at enhancing accessibility, communication, and engagement with its members. The new platform provides a more modern and efficient interface through which members may access information, updates, and resources relevant to the profession. The Chamber remains committed to the continuous development of the website and is currently exploring the introduction of additional features and functionalities that will further improve the user experience and provide greater value to members in the months ahead.

12. Sponsorships and Financial Sustainability

The Chamber has continued its efforts to diversify its sources of income and strengthen its financial sustainability.

During the period under review, a number of sponsorship agreements were secured, contributing positively towards the Chamber's activities and operations. Whilst these efforts have yielded encouraging results, the Chamber recognises that further opportunities exist to expand its sponsorship programme and develop additional strategic partnerships in the future.

Conclusion

The past three years have been characterised by significant activity across a broad range of areas affecting the legal profession. Whilst important progress has been achieved in several respects, substantial challenges remain, particularly in relation to the regulation of the profession and the effective functioning of disciplinary structures.

The Chamber remains committed to advocating for the interests of the profession, promoting the highest standards of ethics and competence, supporting legal education and professional development, and enhancing the services offered to its members.

The Council thanks all members, working group participants, employees, sponsors, and stakeholders whose support and contribution have assisted the Chamber in carrying out its work during the period under review and looks forward to continuing this work in the years ahead.



Dr Stefan Camilleri
General Secretary