



ST JOHN'S
BUILDINGS
BARRISTERS CHAMBERS

PUPILLAGE GUIDE 2017

236

BARRISTERS



71

SUPPORT
STAFF



10

QUEEN'S
COUNSEL



4

CITIES



1

ST JOHN'S
BUILDINGS



WELCOME TO ST JOHN'S BUILDINGS

We are one of the largest sets of barristers' Chambers in the UK, with 236 members and 71 support staff across four cities.

DELIVERING EXCELLENCE

We are committed to delivering excellence.

We have a proven reputation for quality advocacy and advisory services, supported by experienced and proactive clerking and administration teams. This is underpinned by our culture of attention to detail, commercial astuteness and excellent communication.

FORWARD-THINKING

We recently embarked on an ambitious three-year strategy focused on continued growth across all practice groups. To meet the demands of the changing legal market, we are committed to driving down costs, streamlining processes and adopting electronic document management. We are rapidly enhancing our reputation for consistent and cohesive delivery combined with first-rate legal expertise. We have a clear focus on business development and an ongoing investment in staff training.

OUR CLIENTS

Our clients are spread nationally and range from the full spectrum of legal firms, insurance firms, local authorities and high-net-worth individuals through to commercial enterprises and SMEs.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Members of Chambers accept instructions from members of the public under the direct access rules, and we are developing and marketing this area as a key new business stream.



Our Chambers offers a wide range of services and each barrister belongs to at least one of our practice groups.

One of our greatest strengths is that each individual barrister benefits from being part of a cohesive team within a large, multidisciplinary set of Chambers. This means that we can offer expertise and experience in a wide range of areas, with each area complementing and informing others. It also means that we are able to consider trainee applications in each of our specialist areas.

ACCIDENTS ABROAD	ADR AND MEDIATION	BANKING, FINANCE AND INSOLVENCY	CATASTROPHIC INJURY	CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE
COMPANY AND COMMERCIAL	COSTS	COURT OF PROTECTION	CRIME	DISEASE
EDUCATION	EMPLOYMENT	FAMILY - CHILDREN	FAMILY - FINANCE	FRAUD – CIVIL
FRAUD - CRIMINAL	INQUESTS	PERSONAL INJURY	PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE	PROPERTY AND PRIVATE CLIENT
PUBLIC ACCESS	PUBLIC / ADMINISTRATIVE	REGULATORY	SPORT, MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT LAW	TAX



Sally Harrison QC
Michael Redfern QC
David Berkley QC
Andrew O'Byrne QC
Frances Heaton QC
Karl Rowley QC
Jane Crowley QC
Frances Judd QC
Brendan Kelly QC
John Vater QC
Graeme Wood
John Hedgecoe
Stephen Bedford
Eric Shannon
Geoffrey Lowe
Philip Andrews
Antony Longworth
Philip Grundy
David Mercer
Andrew Long
David Bruce
Sonia Gal
Peter Harrison
Brian McKenna
Michael Slater
Keith Harrison
Julian Shaw
Michael Kennedy
Julian Lloyd
Diana Kloss MBE
Julian Taylor
Jonathan Dickinson
John Oates
Jane Walker
Jane Dagnall
Timothy Brennan
Nicholas Price
Bunty Batra
Charles Eastwood
Simon Crabtree
Damian Saunders
Paula Davitt
Anne Britcliffe
Paul O'Shea

Simon Holder
Clare Grundy
Lisa Partington
Joseph O'Brien
Michael Blakey
Raquel Simpson
David Watson
Jonathan Thompson
Richard Carter
Alastair Wright
Patricia Pratt
Matthew Mawdsley
Mark Roberts
Zia Chaudhry MBE
Jonathan Taylor
Alison Dorrell
Magdalen Case
Andrew Green
Timothy Ashmole
Fiona Walker
Richard Norton
Kevin McNerney
Ben Jones
David Flood
Leona Harrison
Caroline Ford
Rachael Banks
David Polglase
Joanna Rodikis
Guy Mathieson
Alex Kloss
Myles Wilson
Jason Searle
Richard Orme
Penelope Stanistreet
Ginnette Fitzharris
Dermot Hughes
Rachael Harrison
Helen Wrenn
Mark Connor
Daniel Frieze
Steven Wild
James Gatenby
Annette Gumbs

Nigel Booth
Justine Cole
Craig Lowe
Lisa Houghton
Sara Mann
Robert McGinty
John Chukwuemeka
Stephen Douglas
Megan Rhys
Paul Treble
Iain Simkin
Andrew Lawson
Pauline McHugh
Gordon Stables
Olivia Weir
Julian Hickey
Samantha Hillas
Pépin Aslett
Ian Goldsack
Ghazan Mahmood
Remy Zentar
Zillah Williams
Andrew Bailey
Douglas Denton
Simeon Evans
Simon Parry
Liam Murrin
Alexandra Simmonds
David Taylor
David James
Kate Burnell
Clare Thomas
Rachael Rowley-Fox
Abigail Bennett
Susan Edwards
Dafydd Roberts
Jacqueline Swain
Fayaz Hammond
Philip Byrne
Lara Holsgrove
Philip Astbury
Andrew Lord
Linda Sweeney
Sufiyan Rana



Jonathan Turner
Yasmin Kauser
Prudence Beever
Rhian Livesley
Lorraine Cavanagh
Audrey Van der Haer
Kathryn Hayes
Katy Appleton
Alison Whalley
Clare Porter-Phillips
Nicola Quinney
Sylvia Vir Singh
Oliver King
Laura Marshall
Andrew Bridgman
Andrew Wynne
Siraj Ahmed
David Pojur
Robert Cline
Neil Montaldo
Mark Senior
Louise McCloskey
Richard Thyne
Paul Smith
Christopher Moss
Jennifer Menzies
Cheryl Mottram
Rebecca Smith
Ben Lawrence
Kashif Ali
Gordon Semple
Abigail Hudson
Robert Akers
Clodagh Maguire
Simon Pallo
Timothy Connolly
Peta Harrison
Catherine Rimmer
William Poole
Philippa Waddell
Helen Wilson
Louise Stanbury
Rebecca Sutton
Jade Abraham
Abigail Hickenbottom

Neair Maqboul
Samantha Openshaw
Steven McGarry
Shaun Spencer
Frances De Navarro
Neil Christian
Lucy Marshall
Debra White
Gareth Thompson
Diarmuid Bunting
Christopher Pare
Jennifer Scully
Helen Davey
Kate Morley
Ben Kelly
Steven Flynn
Louise Rae
Andrew Haggis
Nicole Erlen
Hannah Wood
Neil Owen-Casey
Henry Vanderpump
Philip Clemo
Alice Dobbie
Peter Gilmour
Jane Wheatley
Matthew Carey
Daniel Metcalfe
Jonathan Bellamy
Simon Maddison
Elisabeth Cooper
Cerys Williams
Elis Gomer
Jamie Jenkins
James Cliff
Hannah Walker
Simon Murray
Laura Bains
Ashley Singh
Elliw Roberts
Kerry Holt
Lucinda France-Hayhurst
Laura Nash
David Baines
Ginny Whiteley

Jessica Southcote-Want
Zahra Baqri
Jessica Wilson-Theaker
Alice McDonald
Julian King
Charlotte Johnson
Gemma Maxwell
Hunter Gray
Robert Edwards
Eleanor Keehan
Charles Austin
Fatima Zafar



WHY CHOOSE SJB?

- We are a friendly, efficient set, based in four great northern cities
- We have a proven reputation for the quality of our advocacy
- We have an ambitious three-year strategy focused on continued growth across all practice groups
- We have a clear focus on business development
- We provide a supportive environment in which pupils can flourish and learn
- Our pupils are very sought after and very busy
- Our pupils are in court 95% of the available working days
- We offer a rich and diverse training package in a professional and friendly environment.

OUR CRITERIA

We are looking for commitment, passion, intelligence and drive. We expect candidates to have at least AAB at A-level (or equivalent) and a minimum 2:1 degree, although we will take into account exceptional circumstances. We also look for:

- Intellectual and analytical strength
- Communication skills
- A good response to pressure
- Strong work ethic
- Advocacy skills
- Sound personality and motivation.

WILL A MINI-PUPILLAGE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

We recommend that applicants for pupillage should try to complete a mini-pupillage in Chambers. Mini-pupillages are a great way for Chambers to get to know the applicants but also for the applicants to get to know Chambers. The fact that a mini-pupillage has not been completed will not be held against any applicant who is otherwise perfect for Chambers, but applicants who have not completed a mini-pupillage may be requested to undertake a mini-pupillage before a decision is made. If you are interested in a mini-pupillage please visit <http://stjohnsbldings.com/join-us/pupillage>



EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Chambers is strongly committed to equality of opportunity and will apply objective criteria in all shortlisting and selection processes. We aim to ensure there is no discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marital status, disability, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, class or age in recruitment and working life at Chambers. We are prepared to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate candidates with a disability.

WHAT DO WE OFFER?

During the first six months of pupillage a grant of £10,000 is made to all pupils and during the second six months there is an earning guarantee of £20,000.

Most importantly for any applicant with real aspirations, we offer pupillage with a view to tenancy. That gives you the opportunity to be part of one of the biggest and most diverse sets of Chambers in the country.

STRUCTURE OF PUPILLAGE

The one-year training period is split into two halves. The first six months give you a chance to learn about the Bar and life in Chambers as well as your specialist chosen area of law, under close supervision from a pupil supervisor, who is a specialist in that field. This will include working on cases with your supervisor and learning from them. The second six-month period will see you owning and carrying out advocacy on cases and representing clients, with close supervision from your pupil master.

Your progress will be monitored on a continuing basis through the whole of the pupillage by your pupil supervisor.

We offer monthly review meetings with the Chief Executive, to ensure that you feel that you are getting the most out of your pupillage.

Formal monitoring will take place every three months, so that you and your pupil supervisor can assess your progress by reference to a pupillage checklist so as to:-

- (i) Identify which areas of work have been covered;
- (ii) Identify which areas of work remain to be covered and discuss how this will be achieved;
- (iii) Give you and your supervisor an opportunity to comment in writing generally on all or any matter relating to the conduct of pupillage.

This way we can ensure that you get the best training possible.



Towards the end of the second six months of the pupillage period the Pupillage Committee will meet with the pupil supervisor and the Head of Chambers to review your progress.

YOUR PUPIL SUPERVISOR

We are deliberately flexible as to who is the best pupil supervisor for any particular intake. The Management Committee decides the number and practice areas of pupillages to be offered for the coming year and invites suitable members of Chambers to be pupil supervisor. The members are selected on the basis of the quality of their practice, their ability to provide guidance and support and their ability to relate to others. Only the highest quality practitioners are selected for this role.

Our pupil supervisors will be familiar with and act in accordance with [The Bar Council's Pupillage Handbook \(July 2016\)](#). He/she will ensure to the best of his/her ability that any pupil receives experience, instruction and advice in accordance with the appropriate pupillage checklist and they will use their best endeavours to introduce pupils to colleagues and professional clients.

WHAT DO THE GUIDES SAY ABOUT PUPILLAGE AT SJB?

"One of the country's leading Chambers, St John's Buildings is divided into six principal practice groups (crime and regulatory; personal injury and clinical negligence; family; public and administrative; employment and commercial) with other developing specialisations such as Court of Protection, regulatory and travel law.

Operating from four sites across the North of England and based across two Circuits (Northern and North Eastern), each group has dedicated clerking and practice development support.

The set views Pupillage as the prime way of developing high calibre tenants who will ensure the continued success of the chambers into the future. Chambers makes a considerable investment in its pupils and most pupils become tenants."

The Bar Council Pupillage Handbook



JESSICA WILSON-THEAKER

PUPIL 2014

I was delighted to be offered a specialist Personal Injury and Employment Law pupillage at Chambers in August 2014.

FIRST SIX

I commenced first six in December 2014 at the Manchester set. In the first few weeks, the staff, clerks and Members of Chambers were extremely welcoming. St John's Buildings is a large set but it is very easy to get to know other Members of Chambers, particularly by working in communal workspaces such as the library. There are frequent social and networking events in Chambers and it is easy to settle in.

The supervision of pupils in Chambers is very proactive and provides a fantastic grounding for second six. I had two excellent supervisors for my chosen areas of practice. My supervisors sought my opinion on the issues arising in their cases and I received comprehensive feedback on my written work.

First six pupils are encouraged to shadow junior Members of Chambers on a regular basis from around the fourth month of their first six. It is helpful to see the work that you will be undertaking in second six well in advance so that any queries can be addressed.

SECOND SIX

I felt well prepared for second six and I had a full diary from my first day on my feet. The clerks manage a new second six pupil's diary so that they are busy and in court every day. Second six pupils give advisory and drafting work from the outset. The level of work is carefully considered, you progress onto more difficult work over time and it feels very much like a natural progression. Successes are celebrated and any problems are addressed. Time is set aside in your diary to attend monthly meetings with your senior clerk; they are an invaluable opportunity to touch base with the clerks and address any issues. In addition to the clerking support, other Members of Chambers offer constant support. My supervisors are in always contactable and willing to provide advice and guidance. I never felt reluctant to ask for advice from anyone in Chambers.

The overall impression I have of pupillage in Chambers is that it is designed to support and encourage pupils to develop and realise their potential in practise. It has been a challenging but very enjoyable year.



DANIEL METCALFE

PUPIL 2010, TENANT 2010

I joined St John's Buildings Chambers in 2010 as a commercial and chancery pupil to Pépin Aslett. During the course of my first six I regularly attended court with my pupil master and assisted with research and preparation. I also gained experience in drafting and advice writing. I appeared in court most days during my second six and developed a strong paper practice, with support from my pupil master throughout. In particular, my pupil master was available to review and discuss items of paperwork and, for more complex hearings, he would consider and assist with my intended approach to cross examination and submissions. My first instruction was as junior counsel on a six-day trial at the Royal Courts of Justice and I was also instructed as junior counsel to my pupil master on a sizeable trusts dispute during my second six.

Since finishing pupillage I have developed a good commercial and chancery practice in both the County Court and the High Court. I usually attend court three to four days each week for case management conferences, application hearings and trials. I am regularly instructed to represent clients at mediations and I also have a busy paper practice. My instructions cover a diverse range of commercial and chancery disputes, including contract and tort litigation, consumer law, construction, insurance, insolvency, bankruptcy, professional negligence, property and land disputes, landlord and tenant disputes, and procedural and jurisdictional issues. Also, unusually outside of London, I have been able to develop an intellectual property practice, which I find extremely interesting.

Throughout my pupillage and practice I have found Chambers to be a very friendly working environment and I have been greatly advantaged by its focus towards specialisation at an early stage. There are barristers with a wide range of expertise, upon whom I have been able call for assistance when necessary, and who call upon me for the same from time to time. Further, Chambers has an extremely good record of recruiting tenants from its pupils, which relieves some of the inevitable pressure of being a pupil. I would strongly advise an application for a commercial and chancery pupillage at St Johns Buildings Chambers.



Date	Step	Did you know?
NOVEMBER 2016	Pupillages are advertised	Chambers is a member of the Bar Council's Pupillage Gateway scheme and our vacancies will be advertised there. Applicants will have access to an online practice application form to help you prepare
JANUARY 2017	Application system opens	Chambers will not have access to applications yet
7 FEBRUARY 2017	Closing date for applications	
FEBRUARY 2017	The applicants are sifted for the first time	Our pupillage committee is responsible for the sift. It is made up of at least three of our leading barristers as well as the CEO
MARCH 2017	Second sift	Following this, the committee meets to discuss the outcome and agree candidates
LATE MARCH 2017	First Interview	The first interview is a short and snappy interview, undertaken by members of the pupillage committee. Each interview lasts 15 minutes at the most, with a series of set questions to be answered by each candidate. We ask for references for everyone who is invited for interview. However, references will only be considered after the first interview has taken place and a preliminary view has been reached
APRIL 2017	Second interviews	Our second interview is designed to test your developing skills as a barrister and includes a role play element with a legal problem, which will be provided half an hour before the interview. The problem is designed to test your analytical and communication skills and not your legal knowledge of the subject matter. Second interviews are conducted by the pupillage committee plus at least two additional members of Chambers, including at least one Silk
2 MAY 2017	Offer letters sent from this date	Applicants have 14 days to accept any offers made to them
AUTUMN 2017	Pupillages Commence!	

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