



ST JOHN'S  
BUILDINGS  
BARRISTERS CHAMBERS

# PUPILLAGE GUIDE 2019

# 245

BARRISTERS



# 85

SUPPORT  
STAFF



# 12

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 245 members and 85 support staff across four cities.

## DELIVERING EXCELLENCE

St John's Buildings has a proven reputation for providing expert barristers and delivering a complete legal solution. We build long-term partnerships with clients by providing exceptional counsel backed by professional, reliable and consistently high quality standards of service.

## FORWARD-THINKING

Chambers is an early and enthusiastic adopter of new technology and AI to facilitate better and more cost effective service delivery. Innovations include, electronic booking, cloud storage, online diaries, remote access and automated billing. We invest heavily in our IT infrastructure and surrounding technologies.

Two years ago, Chambers developed unique electronic case collaboration software, in partnership with Advanced Legal. This innovation continues to receive national media attention for enabling the dramatic reduction of both our costs and our environmental footprint.

Already one of the largest Chambers in the country, St John's Buildings is following a strategy for growth to enhance the ability to service clients' needs by providing advocacy and advisory services nationally. This strategy is underpinned and enabled by our values of Service Excellence, Approachability, Community and Agility. The values define how we behave collectively and individually, to clients and to colleagues.

## 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 pupillage 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	COURTS MARTIAL AND SERVICE LAW	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  
Jamie Hill QC  
Michelle Colborne QC  
Graeme Wood  
John Hedgecoe  
Stephen Bedford  
Eric Shannon  
Geoffrey Lowe  
Antony Longworth  
Philip Grundy  
Andrew Long  
David Bruce  
Sonia Gal  
Peter Harrison  
Brian McKenna  
Keith Harrison  
Julian Shaw  
Julian Lloyd  
Diana Kloss MBE  
Julian Taylor  
Jonathan Dickinson  
John Oates  
Jane Walker  
Jane Dagnall  
Timothy Brennand  
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  
Raquel Simpson  
David Watson  
Jonathan Thompson  
Richard Carter  
Simon Reeve  
Alastair Wright  
Patricia Pratt  
Matthew Mawdsley  
Mark Roberts  
Jonathan Taylor  
Tim Savage  
Alison Dorrell  
Andrew Green  
Timothy Ashmole  
Fiona Walker  
Richard Norton  
Kevin McNerney  
Ben Jones  
David Flood  
Leona Harrison  
Caroline Ford  
Rachael Banks  
David Polglase  
Joanna Rodikis  
Alex Kloss  
Myles Wilson  
Jason Searle  
Richard Orme  
Penelope Stanistreet  
Ginnette Fitzharris  
Dermot Hughes  
Helen Wrenn  
Mark Connor  
Daniel Frieze  
Steven Wild  
James Gatenby  
Annette Gumbs  
Nigel Booth  
Justine Cole  
Craig Lowe  
Lisa Houghton  
Sara Mann

John Chukwuemeka  
Stephen Douglas  
Megan Rhys  
Paul Treble  
Andrew Lawson  
Pauline McHugh  
Gordon Stables  
Olivia Weir  
Julian Hickey  
Samantha Hillas  
Pépin Aslett  
Ian Goldsack  
Ghazan Mahmood  
Zillah Williams  
Andrew Bailey  
Douglas Denton  
Simeon Evans  
Simon Parry  
Liam Murdin  
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  
Yasmin Kauser  
Prudence Beever  
Rhian Livesley  
Lorraine Cavanagh  
Audrey Van der Haer  
Kathryn Hayes  
Alison Whalley  
Clare Porter-Phillips



Nicola Quinney  
Sylvia Vir Singh  
Louise Reeve  
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  
Cheryl Mottram  
Rebecca Smith  
Ben Lawrence  
Kashif Ali  
Gordon Semple  
Abigail Hudson  
Robert Akers  
Stephen Brown  
Clodagh Maguire  
Simon Pallo  
Timothy Connolly  
Peta Harrison  
Catherine Rimmer  
William Poole  
Philippa Waddell  
Helen Wilson  
Louise Stanbury  
Rebecca Sutton  
Jade Abraham  
Abigail Hickinbottom  
Neair Maqboul  
Simon Charles  
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  
Hannah Wood  
Neil Owen-Casey  
Henry Vanderpump  
Philip Clemo  
Alice Dobbie  
Peter Gilmour  
Jane Wheatley  
Matthew Carey  
Douglas Lloyd  
Daniel Metcalfe  
Jonathan Bellamy  
Simon Maddison  
Elisabeth Cooper  
Cerys Williams  
Elis Gomer  
Jamie Jenkins  
Hannah Walker  
Simon Murray  
Ashley Singh  
Eliw Roberts  
Kerry Holt  
Lucinda France-Hayhurst  
Laura Nash  
David Baines  
Ginny Whiteley  
Natalie Ashkar  
Jessica Southcote-Want  
Zahra Baqri  
Jessica Wilson-Theaker  
Charlotte Johnson  
Tarlun Ahari  
Gemma Maxwell  
Hunter Gray  
Robert Edwards  
Eleanor Keehan

Charles Austin  
Fatima Zafar  
Thomas Sherrington  
Kevin Jones  
Matthew Burdon  
Tom Hughes  
Martyn Walsh  
Simon Heaney  
Richard Davies  
Maria Brannan  
Julie Richardson  
Kate Spence  
Jemma Gordon  
Niamh Ross  
Natalie Powell  
Thomas Wood  
Sean Batterton – Pupil  
Michelle Burley – Pupil  
Navpreeth Gihair – Pupil  
Kelly Hutchinson – Pupil  
William Paris – Pupil  
Kate Riekstina – Pupil  
Rebecca Titus-Cobb -  
Pupil



## 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 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://stjohnsbuidings.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 supervisor.

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](#) (August 2017). 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, TENANT 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 supervisor 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 supervisor throughout. In particular, my supervisor 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 supervisor 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 John's Buildings Chambers.



2018/19 timetable

Date	Step	Did you know?
NOVEMBER 2018	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
7 JANUARY 2019	Application system opens	Chambers will not have access to applications yet
<b>7 FEBRUARY 2019</b>	<b>Closing date for applications</b>	
FEBRUARY 2019	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
FEBRUARY - MARCH 2019	Second sift	Following this, the committee meets to discuss the outcome and agree candidates
APRIL 2019	First Interviews	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
MAY 2019	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.
7 MAY 2019	Offer letters sent from this date	Applicants have 14 days to accept any offers made to them
<b>AUTUMN 2019</b>	<b>Pupillages Commence!</b>	

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