

CASE STUDIES

Rebecca Titus-Cobb Pupil 2017, Tenant 2018



I joined Chambers in 2017 having been offered a civil pupillage under the supervision of Fayaz Hammond (now District Judge Hammond) and Alistair Wright. I undertook a specialist personal injury and clinical negligence pupillage, however, I was also able to gain experience of other areas of law including immigration, inquests, regulatory and public law. I was based in Manchester but was able to travel to all sites and undertake work across the circuits which Chambers operates in.

FIRST SIX

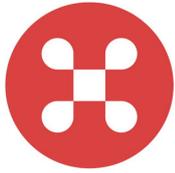
My pupillage began with the opportunity to shadow my supervisors and others in and out of court. I would usually be in court around 4-5 days a week and would work from Chambers around court hearings. I was able to see a variety of work and gain an insight into different practice areas. For me, this included observing matters such as: conferences with clients, solicitors and experts; settlement meetings; fast track and multi-track trials; inquests; case management hearings; medical practitioners tribunal hearings and judicial review hearings in the High Court. I was also given advisory and drafting work to complete. Some of the tasks I undertook in first six included drafting advices on liability in clinical negligence cases, preparing skeleton arguments for judicial review hearings and drafting pleadings in multi-track personal injury cases.

I received comprehensive feedback on my written work and my supervisors sought my opinion and input on cases.

By the end of first six, I was expected to prepare for my supervisors' cases as if they were my own. This was challenging but ensured I was able to make the transition from first six into second six more comfortably and better prepared. I had the opportunity to shadow junior members so that I was able to see the type of work which I would be undertaking when on my feet.

SECOND SIX

During second six, I was in court most days, primarily for relatively short hearings such as small claims track hearings, assessment of damages hearings and application hearings. The value and importance of this work at such an early stage of your career cannot be underestimated and is vital to developing your advocacy skills. I also had the opportunity to undertake more varied and complex work including trials in personal injury cases, criminal injuries compensation cases and appeals in the County Court. I was also instructed to attend Crown Court trials and inquests for noting briefs. Your clerks will ensure that you are kept busy and are in court most days, however, the workload gradually increases so it does not feel overwhelming and builds at a natural pace.



You are well supported in Chambers during second six and there is a genuine attempt to enable you to succeed. Regular meetings are held with your senior clerk to touch base, provide feedback from solicitors and deal with any issues. I also met regularly with my supervisors to discuss progress and they were always available to offer advice and guidance. Junior members of Chambers are also on hand to answer any questions or just to debrief after a stressful day in court.

Throughout pupillage, I was encouraged to attend social and networking events which gave me an opportunity to get to know other members of Chambers and introduce myself to solicitors. I was one of seven pupils in my cohort, though we were based across the four sites of Chambers, we developed close friendships and it was good to have collegiate support during pupillage. Though Chambers is a large set, it is easy to get to know other members. Whether it be the at the regular book club, during weekly quizzes or just a chat in the library, there is a friendly and welcoming atmosphere in Chambers.

TENANCY

Since becoming a member of Chambers, I have been able to develop my practice in the direction which I was keen to pursue and I have been helped and supported to specialise in the areas of law which are of interest to me. I am increasingly instructed in work of higher complexity and value. My instructions include personal injury and clinical negligence cases, inquests, civil actions against public authorities including the police and immigration law. I am also starting to develop a Court of Protection practice, which has been encouraged and supported by Chambers. In light of the scope of Chambers' specialities, there are opportunities to diversify and pupillage provides an excellent opportunity to develop a thriving and successful practice.