



Applications

St. Mary's Chambers is recognised as one of the leading specialist family law sets. Our barristers practice across the country, in the High Court and Court of Appeal. We invest a great deal in supporting our pupils through the training process and all pupillages are offered on the basis that a tenancy will be available if they are successfully completed.

Pupils are mentored throughout their time with us by three different supervisors, making sure they have access to a wide range of work and styles of advocacy. Supervisors also encourage their pupils to attend court and complete paperwork for other members of chambers. This ensures that future barristers fully immerse themselves in the St. Mary's culture and understand our approach to providing legal services and client care.

Thanks to our dedicated clerks and our reputation, there has been an explosion of work at St Mary's over the last 10 years. At the time of drafting we are a chambers of 38 family law specialists – more family law experts than most multi-practice sets. In the last three years we have offered five tenancies following pupillage. In the last two years we have recruited 6 pupils.

We are looking for two pupils for 2019 and, with capacity for another if there are enough outstanding candidates of exceptional quality.

We are committed to equal opportunities recruitment and promoting a diverse profession. In the very rare circumstances where two or more candidates are equally qualified we will break that tie using the provisions of Part 11 of the Equality Act 2010. We will never select a less qualified candidate for pupillage over a more qualified candidate.

Funding and Fees

We are committed to the Bar Council's minimum funding provisions across pupillage, although our experience is pupils earn significantly more than the minimum funding in their second six. We do not charge second six pupils any form of expenses on their own earnings.



Selection Procedure

All applications should be made using the Pupillage Gateway. All applications forms are assessed by three members of the Pupillage Committee in accordance with criteria set in advance of the opening of the Pupillage Gateway. We apply a rigorous coherence and moderation process. Borderline application forms are marked by the Head of Pupillage.

Applicants who have been successful at the paper application stage will be notified by email. We will also notify unsuccessful candidates by email. Unfortunately, due to the volume of applications we are unable to give feedback on application forms.

First round interviews will be conducted by panels of three members of the Pupillage Committee. Interviews will last for approximately 15 minutes and candidates will be asked around three questions. The panel will follow up on some of your answers.

Final round interviews will be conducted by three members of the Pupillage Committee. These interviews will last for approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour. The first part of the interview will consist of a prepared exercise, which will not require any advance knowledge of family law. The second part of the interview will consist of a discussion on various topics and may include a discussion of topics raised in the paper application.

All applicants will be notified through by e-mail of the outcome of the interview and unsuccessful applicants may request feedback about their interview by email from the Head of the Pupillage Committee.

Our timetable is as follows:

- 7th February – Applications received
- 20th February – Candidates invited to first interview and notified if unsuccessful
- 3rd March – First Interview
- 6th March – Candidates invited to second interview and notified if unsuccessful
- 14th April – Second Interview
- 3rd May – Pupillage offer(s) made and candidates notified if unsuccessful



Pupillage Application Form Marking Criteria

Academic Achievement (maximum 4 marks)

The minimum degree requirement is a 2.1.

2 marks to be awarded to applicants with a First Class degree in Law

1 mark to be awarded for a First Class degree in a non-Law academic subject

1 mark to be awarded for Distinction in any Masters

1 mark to be awarded for Distinction in the GDL.

1 mark to be awarded for a Doctorate

Communication & Reasoning (maximum 2 marks)

Up to 2 marks to be awarded where the communication is excellent, concise, with brevity that does not compromise the ideas communicated

Commitment to the Law & Bar (maximum 3 marks)

Up to 2 marks to be awarded for evidence of commitment to law and the Bar

1 mark to be awarded for candidates who achieve Outstanding on the BPTC

Commitment to the areas we Practice (maximum 2 marks)

Up to 2 marks to be awarded to applicants who evidence commitment to the areas we practice.

An application which addresses an area of law other than areas we practice alongside these chambers cannot be awarded 2 marks.



Ability to Self-Motivate / Work Ethic (maximum 5 marks)

Up to 2 marks to be awarded to applicants who evidence an exceptional ability to motivate whether in a single event or over a series of activities.

First Round Interview Competencies

Presentation
Communication Ability
Interpersonal Skills
Interest in Areas of Practice at St Mary's Chambers
Ability to Self-Motivate / Work Ethic