

INFORMATION FOR MINI-PUPILS

INTRODUCTION

These notes are intended for your guidance and to try to ensure that your mini-pupillage at QEB is as interesting and fruitful as possible. As you are a guest in Chambers, a warm welcome will be extended to you. Please remember, however, that you will be spending your time with working barristers and you will be expected to demonstrate the same degree of professionalism and discretion we expect of our full-time pupils.

OUR HISTORY

Our history goes back to the end of the nineteenth century when Chambers was situated in Fountain Court. We moved to Queen Elizabeth Building in 1957 following its construction on the site of the old Middle Temple Library which had been destroyed in the Blitz.

Many distinguished advocates have been members of Chambers. In recent years these have included Lord Pearce (a Law Lord), Sir Harry Philimore (one of the prosecuting counsel at the Nuremberg war trials, who later became a Lord Justice of Appeal) and Sir Roger Ormrod (who was for many years a leading figure in the Court of Appeal). These were followed by Sir Robin Dunn, who became a Lord Justice of Appeal, and Sir James Comyn, regarded by many as the most outstanding advocate of his generation, who later became a High Court judge.

There are currently six High Court Judges and one Lord Justice of Appeal who are former members of Chambers.

OUR WORK

There are currently 32 members of Chambers, six of whom are Queen's Counsel. We are known for our work at the Family Bar, especially in high-profile ancillary relief. We also cover a range of common law work.

THE CLERKS

The Clerks run the administration of Chambers. They are: Ivor Treherne (Senior Clerk), Stephen Morley (Deputy Senior Clerk), Elizabeth Nuttall, Jon Bartlett and Daniel Edwards. Please let the Clerks know when you arrive at Chambers in the morning. If you need to contact the Clerks, the telephone number is 020 7797 7837.

MINI-PUPILS

Mini-pupils generally spend one week in Chambers. Our policy is that on arrival in Chambers on the first day of your mini-pupillage you will be assigned to one member of Chambers who will be your contact for the week. The aim is for you to experience a range of the work covered by Chambers, and your contact will try to ensure that you spend time with various members of Chambers. You will accompany barristers to court, sit in on their cases and conferences, as well as being invited to read through briefs and sets of instructions. Whilst our mini-pupillages are not formally assessed we will keep a record of your time in chambers, and invite those you spend time with to indicate whether they feel you should, should you apply, be invited to attend an interview for pupillage. It is not necessary for you to undertake a mini-pupillage for you to be considered for interview.

DRESS

It is very important that you wear formal dress: i.e. a dark grey, navy or black suit with a white shirt or blouse. Unfortunately, there have been rare occasions when we have been unable to permit a mini-pupil to attend court due to an unkempt or unsuitable appearance. Chambers takes the dress and general appearance of its members seriously as it reflects on our professionalism: this includes mini-pupils.

LUNCH

You will probably have to make your own arrangements for lunch, which is generally taken between 1pm and 2pm. There are many sandwich shops in the area.

TEA

It is traditional in Chambers to have tea every day at 4 pm. Try to ensure that you come to tea at least once during your mini-pupillage, as it is a good opportunity to meet other members of Chambers.

ETIQUETTE

You will be encouraged to discuss all aspects of life and work at the Bar. Please feel free to ask the barrister you are with any questions you have and do comment on the cases you see. However, **when you are in the company of solicitors or lay clients, please do not speak or ask questions unless you are specifically invited to.** You must also fill in the confidentiality undertaking which accompanies these notes and send it back as soon as possible.

CONFIRMATION

Please telephone Chambers on the Friday before you are due to commence your mini-pupillage to confirm that you will be coming. Should you wish to cancel or re-arrange your mini-pupillage, please telephone Chambers as soon as possible to let us know.

LOCATION

We are located just inside the Temple, off Temple place. We are on the second floor. Please arrive in chambers by 9.15am on the first day of your mini-pupillage and let the Clerks know you have arrived. Unfortunately Chambers will not be able to assist with any travelling expenses you may incur, for example on trips to court.

If you would like to visit our website, the address is www.qeb.co.uk. If you need any further assistance, please feel free to contact Marina Faggionato, the Mini-Pupillage Secretary.

Chambers operates an equal opportunities policy.