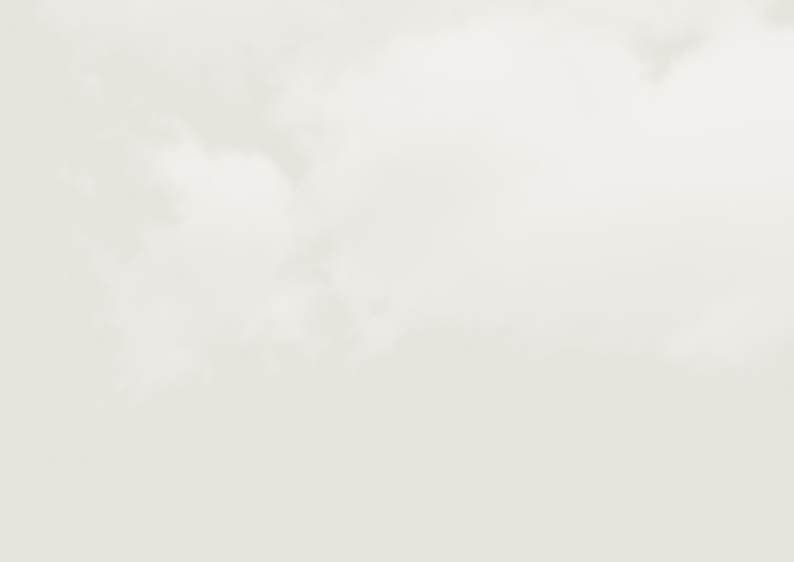


PUPILLAGE

PROSPECTUS 2026 / 2027





“

St Ives are excellent, with fantastic depth. Their training is excellent, and those who they take on as pupils are diligent, approachable, and keen to learn. Their senior counsel are exceptional.

LEGAL 500

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PUPILLAGE

Pupillage is the final stage of a barrister's training following completion of the Bar Practice Course. It comprises work-based learning which is typically split into two periods of six months.

In the first six months, pupils do not practise but shadow an experienced barrister as well as undertaking monthly advocacy exercises and training sessions.

In the practising period of pupillage, the 'second six', pupils can expect to be on their feet as instructed advocates in court. Throughout this time, pupils at St Ives have comprehensive advice and support from members of Chambers and their nominated pupil supervisor.

At the conclusion of their pupillage, pupils apply for a tenancy in Chambers. A vote is then held on any application prior to a tenancy as a self-employed barrister being offered to successful candidates. Chambers prides itself on its established history of pupils being well trained, and well retained, as valued members.



NON-PUPILLAGE RECRUITMENT

Probationary Tenancy

Newly qualified barristers may apply to St Ives for tenancy when nearing the end of their pupillage at another set, or when they have recently been signed off for the satisfactory completion of pupillage.

Established Practitioners

Chambers invites applications from outstanding barristers at all levels of seniority, across our areas of practice, to join a successful and welcoming set. Chambers is continuing to grow and attracts high calibre work, both locally and nationally.

In certain circumstances, established practitioners of greater than 7 years' experience in practice may be offered tenancy without the need for an interview.

Chambers is acutely alive to particular issues of commercial sensitivity or expediency. Where appropriate, the application process for highly experienced candidates will be tailored to fit the applicant's circumstances. Open dialogue—on a strictly confidential basis—is encouraged.



FOREWORD

ELIZABETH ISAACS KC, HEAD OF CHAMBERS

St Ives Chambers was established in 1965.

It has since developed an outstanding national presence as a modern, approachable, and efficient multi-disciplinary set with a reputation for excellence in advocacy at all levels of call.

Chambers and its members are frequently celebrated in the Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners directories across the entire range of common law practice areas.

Members of varying levels of seniority are regularly instructed in high-profile cases, nationally and locally, and pride themselves on attention to detail and approachability and the highest levels of client service.



St Ives benefits from a professional, friendly, and collaborative practice management (clerking) service which aims to ensure an open chain of communication between a practice manager and a barrister from the earliest days in practice.

Chambers has a fully operational Equality and Diversity Policy and is committed to the implementation and promotion of equality and diversity principles, inclusivity and equal opportunities.

We recognise the importance of the Bar being seen to be fair and non-discriminatory and to be open to all, regardless of social, economic, or educational background or circumstances.

Underlying this policy is our intention that every individual should be afforded equal and fair opportunity and respect and be judged on merit and ability alone, free from judgements or treatment based on prejudice, unconscious bias, or assumptions of collective characteristics.

Chambers operates a formal Fair Allocation of Work policy to monitor and review the allocation of work at all levels of practice and to address the possibility of unconscious bias.

Chambers is committed to taking action towards improving race equality in the profession and in 2022 signed off on an Action Plan in relation to the recommendations of the recent Bar Council report – Race at the Bar: A Snapshot Report.

We are proud to be an LGBT+ inclusive organisation and in 2021 we became one of the first sets in the country to sign up to the new FreeBar Charter, which aims to guide us in implementing best practice with regard to LGBT+ inclusion.



“

St Ives Chambers is an intellectually challenging, but ultimately highly rewarding, place to undertake pupillage.

”

FreeBar is a network for everyone at the Bar who believes in equality for LGBT+ individuals. We have an internal chambers LGBT+ Network, in which members, staff and pupils may identify as LGBT+ or as a straight ally in furtherance of our commitment to visibility and inclusion.

We are committed to Well-being at the Bar, which applies to all members, staff, and pupils at St Ives. Chambers has recently completed a significant refurbishment project to our premises on Whittall Street which has involved modernisation and increased flexibility across all areas. These changes ensure that we are at the forefront of developments regarding hybrid working patterns, and that we continue to offer the highest quality of service to our clients, through the creation of a modern working environment.

St Ives Chambers is an intellectually challenging, but ultimately highly-rewarding, place to undertake pupillage. We expect a lot from our pupils and offer support to them throughout their pupillage year. Pupil supervisors are drawn from multiple practice areas which enables pupils to gain an invaluable and diverse range of experience in a twelve-month period.

This includes experiencing Chambers' members' differing styles and approaches to cases, often in serious and complex matters. Chambers is proud of its high retention rates and pupils are able to use their experience during pupillage as a springboard for success at the Bar as a tenant in Chambers.

This prospectus is designed to help those applying for pupillage gain a clearer view of the breadth and depth of work Chambers undertakes, the selection criteria applied during the pupillage application process, and what pupils at St Ives can expect during their first-six, second-six as well as the early years of tenancy.

If you have the ability, enthusiasm, and motivation to continue Chambers' success, then we invite you to apply.



ST IVES IN SUMMARY

St Ives Chambers is a boutique and modern set, and the first set to offer a comprehensive common law service across the West and East Midlands.

St Ives operates from a newly refurbished premises in the heart of Birmingham, close to the legal hub of the city, and from a carefully selected central Nottingham location which offers the perfect mix of accessibility and opportunity for Chambers' members.

Unlike its other major competitors, St Ives' size permits both strength in depth of advocacy but also a collegiate atmosphere where members are known to one another regardless of practice area.

Chambers frequently arranges social events open to all members and staff to support its sense of cohesion and community. It is a set with a soul.

The cosmopolitan and modern city life of Birmingham and Nottingham offer even more appealing opportunities for living and working in, or near, the centre.

Cultural and sporting possibilities abound, all without the downsides of living in a capital city such as high rental and property prices.



“

A heavyweight set with a deservedly fine reputation.

LEGAL 500

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Chambers' West Midlands location, equidistant from Birmingham New Street Station and the new HS2 Curzon Street Station, as well as being in close proximity to Birmingham Snow Hill and Birmingham Moor Street, makes it ideally placed for its barristers who receive instructions in cases up and down the country.

“

A well-respected set which is equipped to handle a range of complex property disputes. Tenants of the set are adept at acting in matters including trespass cases, possession and forfeiture disputes and boundary disputes. The set frequently acts for commercial landlords and tenants, private individuals and local authorities.

LEGAL 500

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Practice Areas

Chambers has particular specialism across our core practice areas of:

Family (Public Children, Family Finance, Private Children)

Dispute Resolution

Civil

Housing

Business and Property

Crime

Regulatory

FAMILY

“

St Ives Chambers is undoubtedly the leading set of chambers in the Midlands in this field, with amazing strength-in-depth.

LEGAL 500

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Public Law Children

Consistently ranked as one of the region's and country's leading specialist sets, our public law team houses some of the most respected silks and juniors in the field.

Members of this team regularly appear in the highest-profile cases of significant legal and factual complexity. The professional directories rank a substantial proportion of the team as leaders in their practice area.

Members have a depth of experience representing local authorities, parents, children, family members, and interveners, as well as foster carers, adopters, third-party agencies, and governmental bodies.



“

St Ives Chambers has real quality at every level of the team.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

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We have extensive experience in dealing with the full spectrum of public law applications, ranging from the more simple to those involving allegations of the utmost severity, including:

- Death
- Serious physical injury
- Allegations of physical, emotional and sexual harm
- Poisoning
- Fabricated or Induced Illness and Perplexing Presentations
- International placement of children
- Deprivations of Liberty
- Media and issues of privacy within family proceedings
- Human Rights issues
- Judicial review
- LGBTQ and Modern Family parenting issues

Our specialist family law silks, Elizabeth Isaacs KC and Timothy Bowe KC have a wealth of experience in all aspects of complex public law proceedings relating to children.

They both have a reputation for excellence in oral and written advocacy. They are highly regarded for their compassionate and approachable style when working with vulnerable parties and witnesses, including children. They both prioritise a collaborative approach with solicitors and juniors and provide clear leadership within the team to deliver the best client outcomes

Several members of the team also sit as Deputy High Court Judges, Recorders and Deputy District Judges.





“

Elizabeth Isaacs KC is exceptionally well-placed to handle both complex private and public law proceedings, and she is ‘restless in her pursuit of justice’. Timothy Bowe KC is ‘extremely intelligent and has an excellent knowledge of the law’, and he has appeared before the High Court and Court of Appeal on behalf of local authorities, parents, and children in cases surrounding allegations of sexual abuse, fabricated and induced illness, and fatal injuries.

LEGAL 500

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“

The Clerks are personable and it feels like they care. They can make recommendations based on the nature of the case which is invaluable. Sarah Robinson, Nick Burdon and Asma Akhtar run matters like a well-oiled machine!

LEGAL 500

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“

A fantastic set of highly skilled and approachable barristers.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

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Family Finance

Members of the Family Finance group deal primarily with applications for financial remedies on divorce or the dissolution of civil partnerships, but are also regularly instructed to draft pre-and post-nuptial agreements and to deal with proceedings in respect of the divorce / dissolution process, applications for financial provision for children under Schedule 1 to the Children Act 1989, disputes in respect of the property rights of separating cohabitees, typically under the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996, and claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Dependents) Act 1975.

Members of the Family Finance team frequently undertake work involving 'alternative' or non-court dispute resolution, including mediation, early neutral evaluation, typically at private financial dispute resolution appointments, and arbitration.

“

The clerks are really helpful and will do their very best to accommodate your request and choice of counsel, often going above and beyond. David Walters gets to know who you like to instruct in particular form their set which demonstrates his commitment to solicitor relationships.

LEGAL 500

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We have a wealth of experience in dealing with complex multi-million pound disputes, involving partnerships, companies, farms, offshore trusts and the alleged dissipation or concealment of valuable assets, but also handle cases involving more modest resources, which can sometimes present the greatest challenge.

“

At the 'superb' St Ives Chambers, the divorce and financial remedy group is regularly instructed in high-net-worth cases concerning pensions, offshore assets, trusts and farms, to name a few areas. Nicholas Starks leads the family finance team, and has an excellent track record in advising on financial provision matters brought under TOLATA, Schedule 1 claims, and civil partnership proceedings.

LEGAL 500

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Private Law Children

St Ives Chambers has always been at the forefront of the development of private family law in the Midlands and is proud of its reputation as “the Midlands’ leading family law set” (Legal 500) and our growing reputation as “a nationally recognised family chambers” (Chambers & Partners).

Our specialist Private Law Children Team is formed of practitioners with a wide range of expertise and experience at all levels. The strength of the group lies in its depth and the good professional relationships between team members and their clerks. The range of work undertaken, and the experience of members means that clients benefit from the experience of the individual barrister and from the collective knowledge and experience of the group which includes Senior Counsel, Deputy High Court Judges, Recorders, and Deputy District Judges.

The work undertaken by the team includes child arrangements, contact and residence disputes, prohibited steps and specific issue orders, international and national relocation, child abduction, surrogacy, same-sex parenting issues and adoption. Several members of our Private Law Team have appeared in the Court of Appeal in high profile and reported cases.





“

David and Scott are the best family
clerks that I have come across in
Birmingham

LEGAL 500 CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

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An excellent team of
family counsel.

LEGAL 500

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Family Dispute Resolution

Members of the Family Dispute Resolution team are regularly instructed to facilitate non-court dispute resolution, in a variety of forms, including early neutral evaluation, by way of private financial dispute resolution appointments or otherwise, and of arbitration, on paper, in Chambers' dedicated dispute resolution suite and at other venues nationwide, to assist our clients in resolving disputes between them as swiftly, amicably and inexpensively as possible.

Early neutral evaluation involves a member of the team reading and/or hearing submissions from both parties before expressing a view as to the likely outcome or range of possible outcomes in a given case, with a view to assisting them in negotiating an agreed outcome which properly reflects the merits of the case and insofar as it may be required, is likely to meet with the court's ultimate approval.

Arbitration involves a suitably qualified member of the team reading and/or hearing evidence and submissions from both parties before delivering a final, binding determination or Award.

The team currently offers both early neutral evaluation and arbitration for financial matters and private law child arrangements cases, and aims to expand its non-court dispute resolution offering to include mediation, for example, in the reasonably foreseeable future. Its members have the benefit of considerable experience in their fields, as advocates and, in many cases, as fee paid judicial office holders.

“

Andrew Day has notable experience of handling cases involving onshore and offshore trust assets.

LEGAL 500

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In recent years Jayne Mullen has established a reputation as a 'brilliant private FDR judge'.

LEGAL 500

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HOUSING

The Housing Group has a well-deserved national reputation; members have extensive experience dealing with a wide range of issues such as anti-social behaviour, disrepair, unlawful eviction, human rights and Equality Act claims both in the social and private rented sector.

“

The set remains pre-eminent in this market, and its barristers act in complex possession proceedings and antisocial behaviour injunctions, in addition to other related matters.

LEGAL 500

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No other chambers in the Midlands can match the breadth of the team and broad range of expertise St Ives offers.

LEGAL 500

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Members are regularly instructed on multi-day trials and appeals. Clients are located throughout England and Wales and include local authorities, private registered providers, private landlords and tenants.

The Group holds a popular annual housing conference which attracts delegates from all over the country. As well as providing training on current topics this provides a welcome networking opportunity. Delegates always provide excellent feedback about the conference and return year after year.

“

The housing barristers at St Ives are go-to experts for advice and advocacy. They are a well-rounded group of professionals that provide comprehensive advice.

LEGAL 500

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DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Chambers is pleased to offer a range of services in relation to methods of Dispute Resolution including Mediation, Arbitration, Without Prejudice Meetings, Adjudications and Opinions.

Methods of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) are increasingly being explored to avoid the escalating cost, additional stress and often delay involved in Court proceedings. These enable the parties, together with their representatives, to engage in meaningful discussion to negotiate a fair settlement.

Unlike Court proceedings this is a private and confidential process.

St Ives Chambers has newly refurbished facilities available to host all parties for Mediations and Arbitrations as well as remote connection capability.

“

There is a great emphasis on ADR with very highly skilled practitioners.

LEGAL 500

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BUSINESS & PROPERTY

The Business and Property team offers a comprehensive range of expertise and enjoys an ever prosperous reputation both locally and nationally. The quality and breadth of the team itself is particularly impressive, with both junior and senior barristers adept at handling smaller advisory matters right through to multifaceted, high value litigation.

Examples of experience within the group include chancery (all levels of business challenges including partnership, shareholder and director disputes), boundary disputes, adverse possession, nuisance, restrictive covenants, trusts/TOLATA claims, easements, landlord and tenant disputes, breach of covenant claims, business tenancies, commercial, personal and corporate insolvency, commercial property disputes, banking and finance, professional negligence, and probate including Inheritance Act claims (see our website for the complete list).

“

A well-respected set which is equipped to handle a range of complex property disputes. Tenants of the set are adept at acting in matters including trespass cases, possession and forfeiture disputes and boundary disputes. The set frequently acts for commercial landlords and tenants, private individuals and local authorities.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

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CRIME

The St Ives Chambers' Criminal group members have a reputation for excellence, and are regarded for their down to earth, no-nonsense approach to criminal cases. We value fearless and determined advocacy, as do our clients.

The group undertakes defence and prosecution work in equal measure. Individual members within the Group have developed particular specialisms and have a wealth of experience in both prosecuting and defending high profile cases, many of which are regularly featured on national broadcast media. The group is particularly well known for its RASSO work across the Midlands Circuit.

St Ives Chambers maintains a steadfast commitment to the junior Bar. The Criminal Group is now enjoying the dividends of that commitment and has developed a reputation for nurturing the rising stars of the junior Bar. Junior members are regularly instructed in work well beyond their year of call and can draw upon established support networks within the wider team.

Pupils can expect to be instructed in Crown Court trials as advocates within their own right during their second-six.

“

St Ives Chambers is an impressive set, noted for its expert handling of cases arising from the full range of criminal offences. Members are well versed in complex and serious crimes such as murders, sexual offences and human trafficking, and are regularly instructed in multi-handed cases. Matters involving drug importation and high-value frauds are also key areas of strength for the team.

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

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ST IVES IN SUMMARY



REGULATORY

The group has a long-established history of working with local authorities and, when acting for those and other public bodies, our members are sensitive to their particular requirements including public accountability, transparency, cost-effectiveness, and the need to ensure any enforcement action is in accordance with policies.

Several of our barristers have acted for and against public bodies in the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), Magistrates' and Crown Court; in addition to the higher courts through Judicial Review and Appeal proceedings.



“

At St Ives Chambers, expertise spans consumer protection, health and safety, animal health, and trading standards matters.

LEGAL 500

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ESSENTIALS

St Ives will be offering up to three fully funded, 12-month pupillages commencing October 2026.

Funding

Pupils will receive a grant of £23,504 in their non-practising period of pupillage, followed by guaranteed minimum earnings of £2,500 per month in their practising period of pupillage.

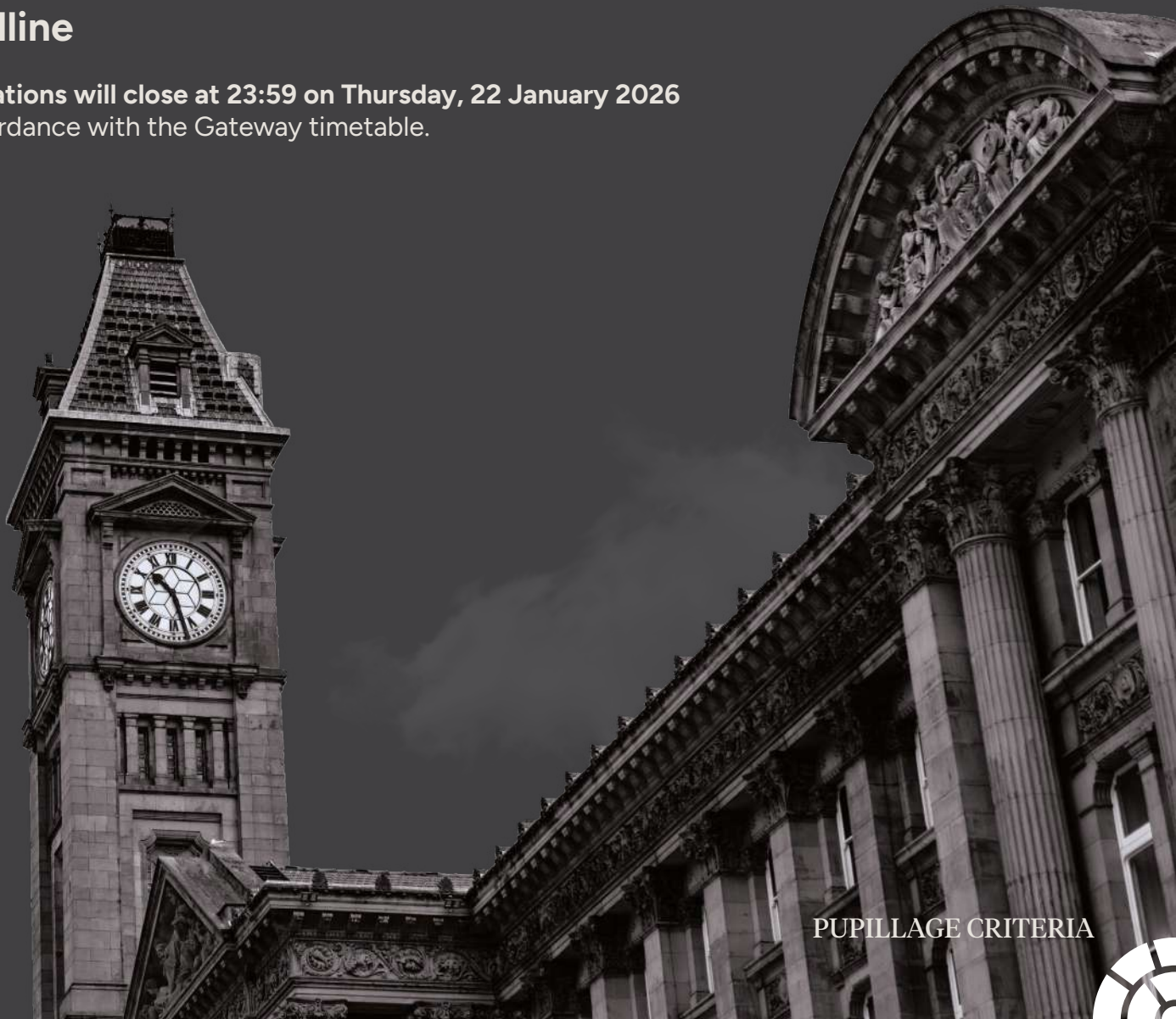
Applications

Applicants should apply by completing the application form which is available on the website. Applications open at 11:00 on Monday, 5 January 2026.

Application forms must be sent to pupillage@stiveschambers.co.uk and may only be submitted once. They cannot be resubmitted. If a form is withdrawn, no further applications can be submitted during that year of pupillage. Applicants who are successful at the paper stage will be invited to a short first-round interview.

Deadline

Applications will close at 23:59 on Thursday, 22 January 2026
in accordance with the Gateway timetable.



INTERVIEWS

First Round

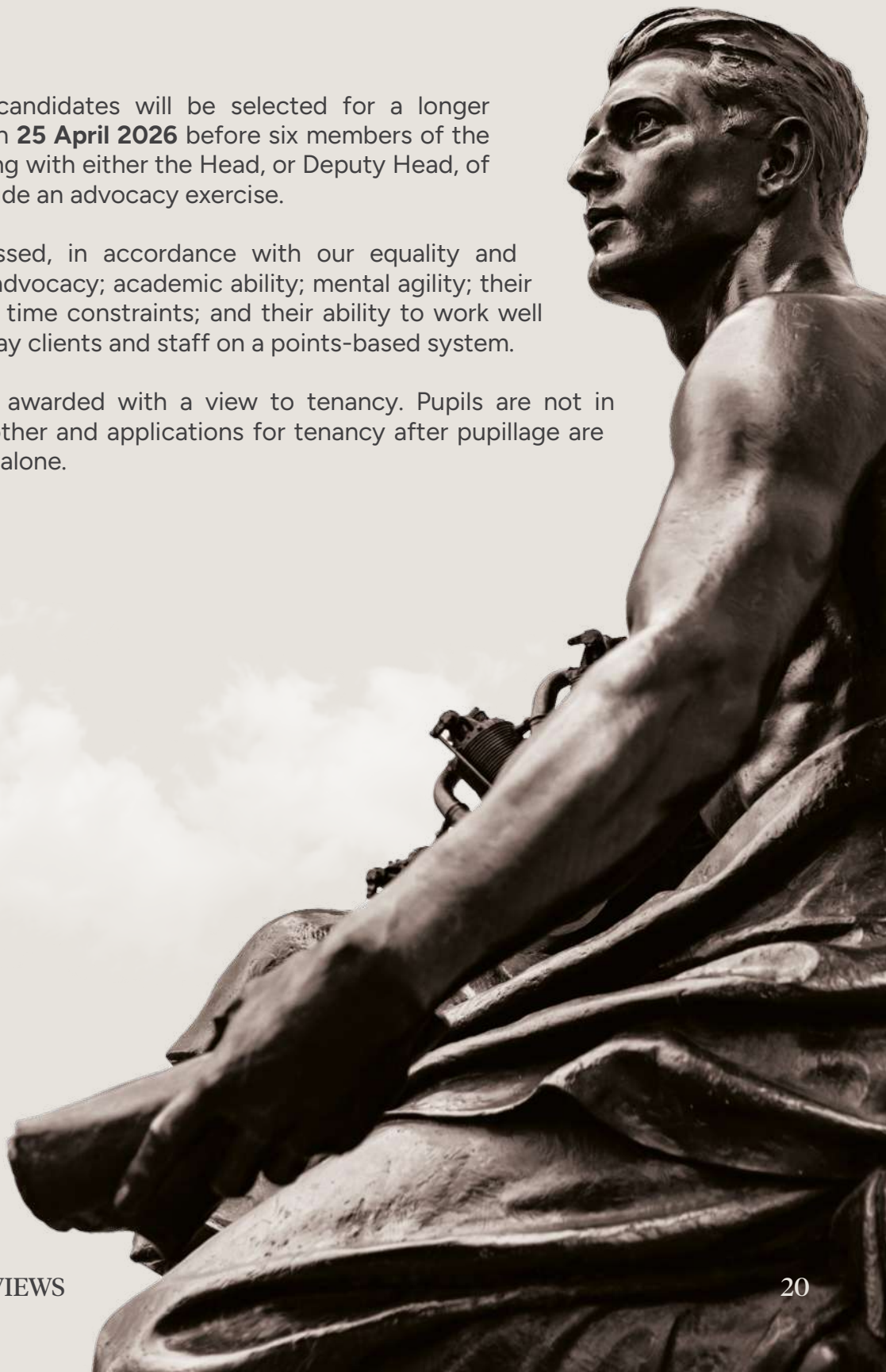
First round interviews will take place in Chambers on **28 March 2026** before a panel of three members of Chambers' Pupillage Committee.

Second Round

Approximately fourteen candidates will be selected for a longer second round interview on **25 April 2026** before six members of the Pupillage Committee sitting with either the Head, or Deputy Head, of Chambers, which will include an advocacy exercise.

Candidates will be assessed, in accordance with our equality and diversity policy, on: their advocacy; academic ability; mental agility; their ability to work well under time constraints; and their ability to work well with professional clients, lay clients and staff on a points-based system.

Pupillages at St Ives are awarded with a view to tenancy. Pupils are not in competition with one another and applications for tenancy after pupillage are assessed upon their merit alone.



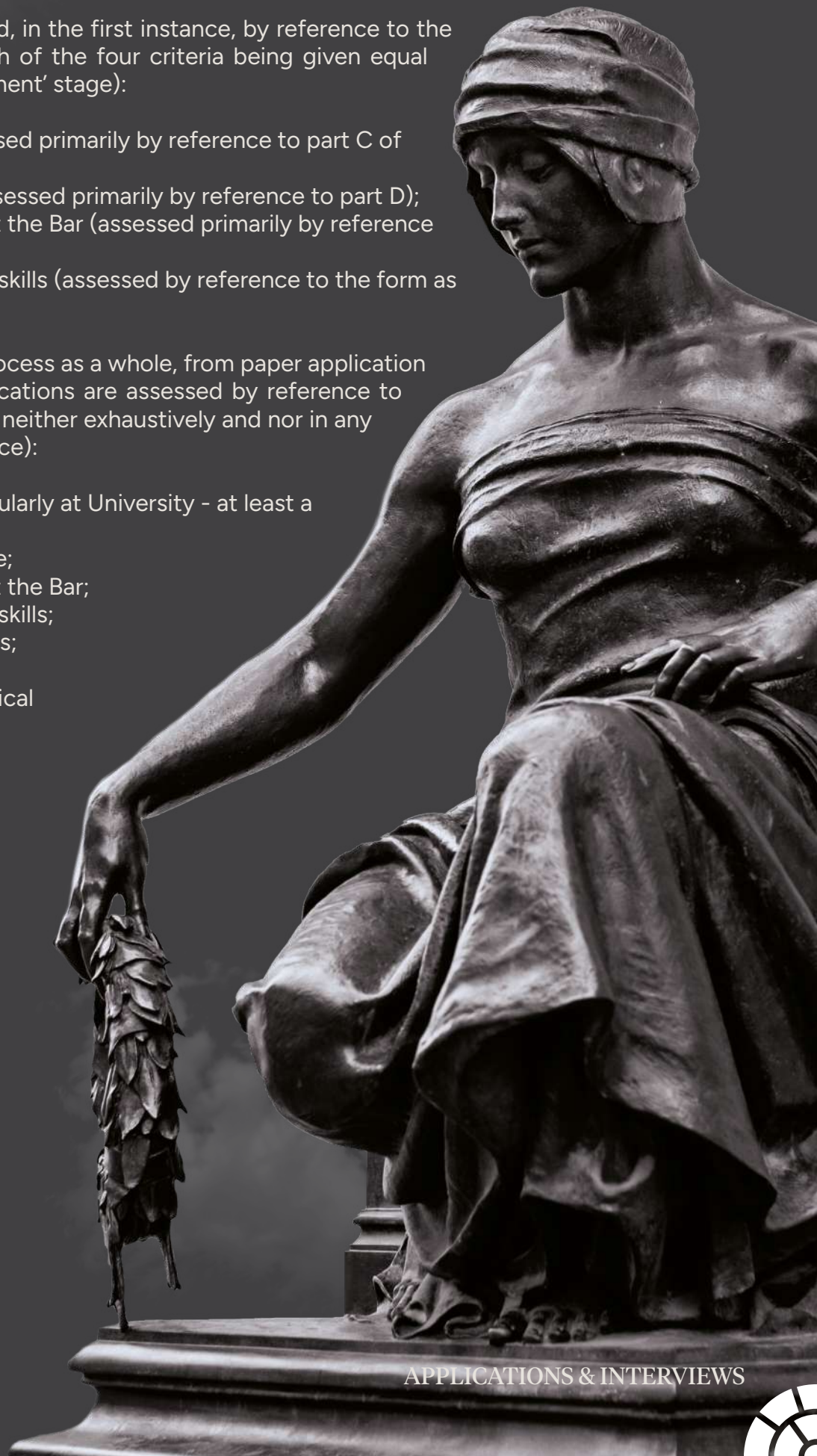
KEY CRITERIA

All applications are assessed, in the first instance, by reference to the following criteria (with each of the four criteria being given equal weight at the 'initial assessment' stage):

- A. Academic record (assessed primarily by reference to part C of the form);
- B. Relevant experience (assessed primarily by reference to part D);
- C. Motivation to practise at the Bar (assessed primarily by reference to Part E); and
- D. Written communication skills (assessed by reference to the form as a whole).

Through the recruitment process as a whole, from paper application to final interview, the applications are assessed by reference to the following criteria (listed neither exhaustively and nor in any particular order of importance):

- E. Academic record (particularly at University - at least a '2.1' degree is preferred);
- F. Relevant past experience;
- G. Motivation to practise at the Bar;
- H. Written communication skills;
- I. Oral communication skills;
- J. Interpersonal skills;
- K. Mental agility and analytical thinking; and
- L. Resilience, drive and determination.



FIRST ROUND

Following the paper sift, approximately 30-35 successful candidates are invited to first round interview. The interviews will take place in Chambers, in-person, though alternative arrangements may be possible by special request.

The interview panel at first round comprises three members of the Pupillage Committee, each with varying specialties in practice and level of call. The panellists will have read your application form in advance of interview.

Interviews will last no more than 15 minutes and may be shorter.

You will be introduced, briefly, to each member of the panel. The interview will begin with a 'free hit' question. You are not assessed on your response to this question but rather it is designed to help you relax into the interview, for you to build rapport with the panel, and so that you are eased in to interview so that you have the best opportunity to display your abilities in your answers to the assessed questions which follow.

All members of the Pupillage Committee undertake Equality & Diversity and Fair Recruitment Training via the Bar Council. The interviews, and questions asked, are directly informed by that training.

There are three standardised questions at first round. Your responses to those questions are marked according to Chambers' point-based system on an individual marksheet where the marking criteria are the same for each candidate.

You will be assessed on your responses to those questions in addition to your oral communication skills, your interpersonal skills, your mental agility and analytical thinking, and your resilience, drive and determination. Each standardised question will address at least one of these criteria.

Following completion of first round interviews, the interviewing panel will moderate their scores and arrive at a panel score. Your score will then be ranked alongside those of the other candidates on grounds of merit alone.

SECOND ROUND

The highest scoring candidates from first round will be offered a second round interview. Each interviewee at final round is considered seriously as a candidate for pupillage.

Second round takes place in Chambers before a panel of 7. The panel typically comprises six members of the Pupillage Committee sitting with either the Head, or Deputy Head, of Chambers.

Arrival & Preparation

On arrival in Chambers, you will be provided with a copy of the advocacy exercise. It is written each year specifically for the second round interviews. Subject to any reasonable adjustments or requirements for additional time (dealt with on an individual, case-by-case basis) you can expect to receive 20 minutes to prepare your submissions before the interview begins.

You may prepare as you wish: digitally, or on paper, and will have the use of a private room to do so.

Any notes made will be collected from you at the end of your interview, or you will be required to delete them from your device at the end. This ensures fairness to all candidates and integrity in our interview process.

Basis of the Problem

The advocacy exercise itself is typically based on a fictitious scenario. It is designed to test your advocacy ability and preparatory skills in a pressured environment. We may include topical issues within the scenario, such as things recently in the broadcast media or high profile law reports, in order to bring the exercise to life.



No specialist knowledge of any area of law is required. Often our exercise features an invented new piece of legislation with its own statutory test which you must apply when advancing the instructions contained within your brief for the exercise.

There is not necessarily a right or wrong answer to the advocacy problem. The exercise is designed to get you talking and provides you with an opportunity to advance a cogent and considered line of argument in favour of your case as well as to show your analytical abilities in identifying and neutralising the arguments which may be made against your position.

Ethics

In addition to topical issues, there is highly likely to be an ethical issue with which interviewees must grapple.

We are mindful, following the reforms to Bar training, that the assessment of professional ethics is taught only to foundation level as part of the Bar Training Course and not examined until after pupillage begins. For this reason, the ethical issues (if any) will not be advanced but be easily recognisable by candidates who have completed foundation level learning in ethics.



The Interview Proper

At the start time of your interview, you will be shown into the interview room, as if entering court. The panel will identify to you which member is the 'Judge', the appropriate judicial title having been spelled out in your instructions, after which you should immediately begin your submissions. Judicial intervention will be made in response to your submissions. At the conclusion of the advocacy exercise, you will be told that the exercise has finished. The interview will then proceed with three set questions, one of which will concern the advocacy exercise.

Following the completion of all second round interviews, the panellists moderate their scores and a panel score is assigned to each candidate.

Pupillages are offered, on merit, to the best candidates at second round. Offers are made strictly in line with the Gateway timetable (see overleaf).

TIMETABLE

Monday, 5 January 2026, 11:00

Applications open

Pupillage application forms are available to download from Chambers' website. Applicants can start, prepare, and submit their applications to St Ives via pupillage@stiveschambers.co.uk.

The application form may only be uploaded once and cannot be resubmitted. If a form is withdrawn, no further applications can be submitted during that year of pupillage.

Thursday, 26 February 2026

Invitations to First Round Interview

Successful candidates at the paper sift will be invited to first round interview on Saturday, 28 March 2026. Successful candidates at first round interview will be invited to a second round interview on Saturday, 25 April 2026.

Monday, 22 January 2026, 23:59

Applications close

The submissions window for applications closes and no further applications are allowed. Any application received after 23:59 will not be considered





Friday, 15 May 2026, 09:30

Deadline for accepting initial offers

All applicants have a 7-day deadline to communicate acceptance of an offer (if any). Applicants will be able to accept an offer anytime up to the deadline.

If the 7-day deadline passes without the applicant accepting the offer, Chambers will be entitled to send out reserve offers within a reasonable time period.

Chambers will make offers to reserve candidates at the earliest reasonable opportunity following the expiry of the acceptance deadline for initial offers.

Those candidates who merit pupillage, and receive a reserve offer, will be contacted regularly in relation to their position.

Friday, 8 May 2026, 09:30

Initial offers of pupillage made

Chambers will make offers of pupillage by telephone or by email. Reserve candidates will be informed that they are on a reserve list pending acceptances of all initial offers.

FEEDBACK

Chambers regrets that it cannot offer feedback to all unsuccessful candidates. However, Chambers does provide written feedback to candidates who are unsuccessful at first and second round interview.

The date by which feedback requests must be made to Chambers via the pupillage@stiveschambers.co.uk email address is **16:00 on Friday, 15 May 2026.**

Any feedback requests made after this time will not be considered.



TOP TIPS

1. Reflect on your application

Write your application early and then put it aside for a little while. When you go back to it read, reflect on it and edit it aggressively when you feel less attached to what you have written. Give yourself time to think and work on it. It gives you more time for researching, reviewing and improving. You will also spot errors you did not initially.

3. Maximise mocks

Mock interviews are essential. Obtain as many as possible. The constructive criticism they provide you is invaluable. It's much better to make your mistakes before you get into the interview room. Take advantage of the Inns of Court mock interview and mentor schemes. LinkedIn is also a great forum to reach out for help with mock interviews.

5. Mini-pupillages

When writing about mini-pupillages in your applications, try and show what you have learnt and the insight you received into the role of a barrister during your time rather than just describing what you watched.

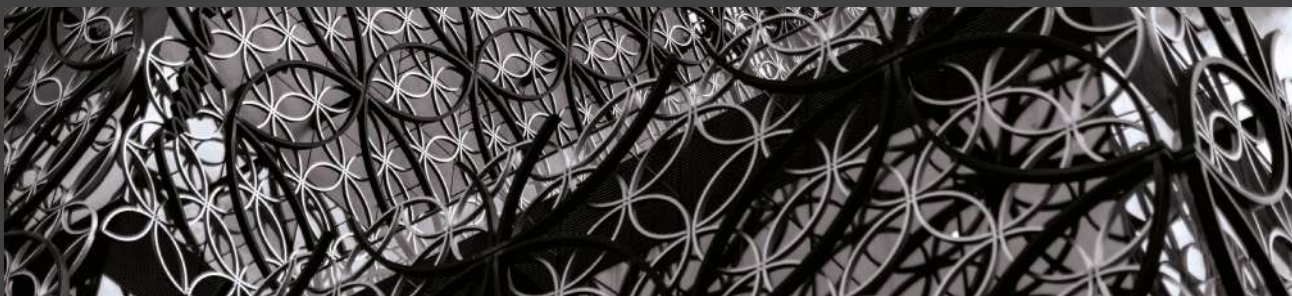
2. Practise public speaking

Practise speaking out loud. Ask friends or family members to give you short topics/questions to discuss. Talk to yourself in the mirror if you have to. But give yourself time to practise speaking confidently about topical issues and thinking on your feet.

4. Use formatting to your advantage

Don't be afraid to use bullet points when setting out your work history/ experience for concision and structure. If your application is not via Gateway don't be afraid to put things in bold/underline them in order to highlight matters you want the marker to focus on. This is to be used sparingly but can be very effective.





6. Be concise

The word limit is not a target. Try to keep your written application and interview answers succinct. The ability to express yourself clearly and concisely is an important skill for barristers. Structuring your answers will help you do this.

8. Highlight transferable skills

Not every answer about previous experience has to be law related. Spend some time considering all your experiences (professional and personal) and how they have shaped your decision to join the Bar. In your applications and interviews, showcase transferable skills from your non-law-related experience and use them to establish why you are a stronger candidate.

10. Be yourself

Don't try to 'sound like a barrister'. It is tempting to give the answers you think the panel want to hear but the pupillage process is about getting to know you as a person. In practice, you will use your own style and voice so make sure to use it in your applications and your interviews. Draw on your own insights and unique experiences and most importantly authentic to yourself.

7. Plan your journey

Be early. Have a contingency for if your original travel plan doesn't work out. Also, make sure you have a contact number for Chambers in case of any unavoidable delays.

9. Prep and plan competency answers

Think about the most common skills barristers require that you will need to demonstrate in both applications and interviews. Then create a spider diagram of examples of when you have demonstrated that skill. That way, you can see all of your examples in one place, and it will help you to pick the strongest ones to put forward.



FIRST SIX

Non-Practising Period

Pupils will be placed with an experienced pupil supervisor in one of Chambers' core common law areas of crime, family or civil.

Successful applicants are encouraged to express an interest in any area for which they have a preference and all effort will be made to ensure that pupils are placed with a first-six supervisor in their preferred area.

Where possible, incoming pupils are invited to attend Chambers' Summer Party as a way to meet members of Chambers, staff, and instructing solicitors prior to commencing in October.

A St Ives pupil's first-six months will be spent shadowing their supervisor at court and working on their supervisor's cases.

Pupils will also be asked to complete written work for other members and to assist with events, seminars and articles. In recent years, for example, our pupils have been asked to speak at the annual Social Housing Conference.

All work for other members will be approved by the pupil's supervisor before it is set to ensure that an undue burden is not placed upon them.

Pupils are expected to work from 09:00 (excluding travel time) until 18:30 Monday to Friday, unless other arrangements have been made with their supervisor.

SECOND SIX

Practising Period

From the first day of their second-six, St Ives pupils will be in court daily dealing with cases in the whole gamut of Chambers' practice areas.

St Ives prides itself on the development of its pupils, which can be no better demonstrated by the fact that pupils in recent years have conducted jury trials early in their second-six. Second-six pupils will be placed with a second supervisor in a different practice area from their first supervisor.

Pupils will be expected to work on their supervisors' cases during their second-six in addition to their own work.

Pupils satisfactorily completing pupillage will be signed off against the Bar Standards Board completion of practising pupillage criteria by their pupil supervisors.

Pupils will then be able to apply for a full Practising Certificate.

Chambers is proud of its long history of retaining pupils into tenancy.

Our junior tenants, who have completed pupillage in Chambers, have gone on to build successful and established practices locally and nationally.

This translates into financial success. Recent first year tenants at St Ives Chambers have recorded average incomes of £107,000 (individual earnings are subject to practice area and number of days worked).

DIARY OVERVIEW

October to December

All pupils placed in specialist area with pupil supervisor

Monthly advocacy training sessions begin in November

January

Pupils are rotated to new specialist area and introduced to pupil supervisor for second six

February

Pupils are rotated to final specialist area

March

Pupils closely shadow juniors to experience the work they will undertake from April

April & Onwards

Pupils start on their feet, accepting instructions in all of Chambers' practice areas with the help and support of their second six pupil supervisor

End of September

Pupils may apply for tenancy in Chambers and a meeting is held to consider any applications

October

Successful pupils join Chambers as full tenants. New pupils for the following year are welcomed into Chambers

ADVOCACY TRAINING

1. Established Programme

- Chambers' in-house advocacy training programme has been established for a decade
- Written, updated and delivered to pupils on a bespoke basis
- Uses a modified HAMPEL method informed by training from the Inns of Court College of Advocacy, and unique to St Ives Chambers

2. Expert Trainers

- Each exercise is written and delivered by specialist advocates
- Involvement from part time members of the judiciary
- Silk and senior junior trainers
- Witnesses played by members of Chambers
- Additional training input from juniors and committee members
- Constructive feedback aimed at continuing improvement

3. Real Cases

- Each exercise uses real world cases with real issues
- Learn how to navigate complex bundles, produce an effective case theory, structure devastating cross-examinations and deliver persuasive closing speeches
- Build your confidence on your feet prior to second six

SUPPORT & GUIDANCE

1. Dedicated Mentors

- Individually assigned dedicated mentor
- Reliable support and assistance from experienced members
- Pastoral and professional mentoring
- Ease the transition from bar student to long-term, self-employed barrister

2. Wide Support Networks

- Open-door policy for support throughout Chambers
- Collegiate working environment
- Dedicated WhatsApp groups for each area of practice
- Availability of support and answers to questions at any time of the day
- Ethos of supporting pupils and members of Chambers to succeed

3. Dependable Administrative Support

- Dedicated fees and support teams
- Assistance with transition to self-employment
- Instruction and guidance on setting up and running a successful business





MEET OUR PUPILS

ANDREW EVE



Route to the Bar

Following maths and science A-levels, I studied chemistry at university. I then joined the graduate programme of an investment management firm in London.

I enjoyed this work but started to feel it lacked day-to-day impact. I had long dreamed of becoming a barrister. With time to reflect during the pandemic, I decided to go for it.

I took a law conversion course part-time, entered mooting competitions and undertook mini-pupillages. I loved it. I handed in my notice and took the Bar course full-time.

Thoughts for career changers

The value of diversity

There is no one path to the Bar. A background in study and work other than law brings a different perspective. Make a list of the key skills a barrister needs; then, think of when you have demonstrated those skills. Highlight these examples in applications.

Trust your (informed) instincts

After spending many years on one path, change is daunting. Find ways to reach an informed decision. For example, mooting made me confident that I would enjoy oral advocacy, legal research and drafting. Mini-pupillages illuminated both the rewards and challenges of life at the Bar.



Why St Ives?

Common law pupillage

St Ives is one of the few Chambers still to offer a mixed common law pupillage. I think this is an amazing opportunity.

Firstly, I hope that experiencing crime, family and civil practice in real life will help me reach an informed decision in developing my practice. I started my previous career on a graduate scheme and spent time in several different teams; those positions I most (and least) enjoyed differed from my early expectations.

Secondly, a mixed pupillage helps build a range of skills. Crime requires thinking on one's feet; family practice involves difficult interpersonal situations; civil work develops effective drafting.

Practice outside London

I had lived in London for eight years and wanted a change. Following mini-pupillages and marshalling, I liked the collegiate culture on Circuit. In Chambers, I have found everyone friendly, welcoming and generous in offering help.

Work aside, the greater affordability of residential property is a significant benefit compared with London. Additionally, I think it is easier here to live in a rural area and commute to work. So far I am very happy with my decision to relocate to the Midlands.

Advice for applications

Preparation

- Start early. Ask for advice from careers advisors and barristers: what is missing from your application? If you start early, you will have time to remedy this.

Written applications

- Keep it simple and well-structured. Use short sentences.
- Demonstrate skills with examples. Use the STAR method (concisely, and focussing on the action you took). Use different examples for each skill if you can; it is more interesting and shows well-roundedness.
- Return to your writing after a few days to read (and improve) it with a fresh mind.

Interview preparation

- Keep abreast of current legal and political affairs. I liked listening to podcasts (consider 'Double Jeopardy' and 'A Lawyer Talks').
- Practise debating these topics: give yourself a few minutes to prepare, and a few minutes to speak. I did this with friends.
- Think of the skills a barrister needs. Make a list of stories in which you demonstrate these skills. Practise answering questions ("tell me about a time you...") about each of these.
- Review the BSB Handbook and the 'Common Dilemmas' material on the BSB Ethics website.

Interviews

- Take time to reflect before answering. Do not be afraid of silence.
- Think of your answers as submissions in court. Give them structure, clarity and confidence.
- Give yourself time to relax around interviews, and try to enjoy them.

CHARLIE DENNEY



Education & Background

I studied music as a classical trombonist at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire where I obtained a First. I then studied the GDL and Bar Course at City St George's, University of London obtaining Distinctions in both.

Route to the Bar

I went to university solely intending to pursue a career in music. However, towards the end of my penultimate year I realised a such a career was not best for me. It was only by accident I came across a book on law at a library. From research, speaking to solicitors and barristers; and work experience I decided a legal career was for me.

After the GDL, I could not afford to study the Bar Course having been unsuccessful for an Inns scholarship so I started work as a prison law paralegal and some more mini-pupillages to bolster my CV. I reapplied and obtained a Lord Denning Scholarship from Lincoln's Inn which allowed me to study the Bar Course full-time. From there, I worked in housing and financial crime, both as a paralegal.



Why St Ives?

I was told by a member of St Ives to apply as they had expertise in my interests: housing and crime. A further reason I applied was the offering of a common law pupillage which allowed me to try several areas out. Having started pupillage doing family law, I am so glad I chose it. If I had done a specialist pupillage, I would not have as many opportunities to try out areas. Finally, everyone is truly friendly. From interviews to starting pupillage, everyone has been supportive. This extends to the Midland Circuit where there is a veritable sense of camaraderie. If you want broad exposure to many areas of law at a warm set, look no further than St Ives.

What were interviews like?

One of my first thoughts after leaving my first round was just how nice everyone was. I forgot my answer midway but the panel put me back on track and laughed it off with me. They were genuinely trying to get the best out of you. The second round was naturally more intense with an unseen advocacy exercise with fictional law followed by topical questions. Whilst both were understandably nerve wracking, they were lovely throughout.

Top Tips to get Pupillage

1. You are interviewing them as much as they are interviewing you. Do not be disheartened if you feel like you did not click. It is important you feel like you could fit as you are. Be yourself; anything else will probably come across as artificial.
2. Get a support network of proofreaders and mock interviewers. Use your Inn, university, and groups such as Young Legal Aid Lawyers to help polish your applications and interviews. Practice makes perfect.
3. Recognise that hard work is necessary but not sufficient. Unfortunately, there are more applicants than places. If you are unsuccessful (as I was for four years previously), try not to be harsh on yourself. You may well have been good enough but for reasons out of your control, the panel chose someone else. Seek feedback and, if you truly want this career, keep going.

MILLIE JEAVONS



Education & Background

I studied law at the University of Warwick and secured a first-class degree.

I completed the bar course at the University of Law Birmingham, funded by an Inner Temple scholarship. Alongside this, I also completed a pro bono master's degree, with the main focus on supporting victims of domestic abuse.

Route to the Bar

Throughout university I volunteered with local advice charities and law centres. As someone who is the first in their family to attend university with no connections to the legal world, I found these organisations to be invaluable in securing legal experience and 'getting my foot in the door'. After around a year volunteering I was offered a paid role within an immigration team, and I worked part-time alongside my final year of university and whilst studying for the bar.



Why St Ives?

Whilst meeting with members at university events and open evenings I was consistently encouraged and supported. There was a wide range of diversity at chambers and a clear collegiate atmosphere. Members also engaged in judging for competitions, taking time out of their busy schedule which I found to be important as it was clear that St Ives was keen to promote an inclusive profession.

The pupillage prospectus made it clear that St Ives was serious about recruiting the best candidates and that they prioritised accessibility. The fact that each stage of the process was explained in detail de-mystified the concept of applying for pupillage, particularly as a candidate coming from a working-class background.

I also applied the year previously and was given very detailed and carefully thought-out feedback, unlike any other set. This felt above and beyond and was very helpful in re-defining my application/interview techniques.

What were interviews like?

The interviews felt less daunting as you were told exactly what to expect. I found that this allowed me to perform to my best ability as I was not anxious about what I was walking into.

Within the first round, I was asked a question that would not be marked at the start. I was then able to relax into the interview and answer the scoring questions with a clear mind. Once again demonstrating that the interview process is not set up to 'trick' or 'ambush' you but to get a proper sense of your ability to advocate.

The second-round interview centred around a fictitious application on a topical issue. The law and legal test were also fictitious, creating the same starting position for all candidates. Everyone had the same 20 minutes, the same facts and the same base knowledge of the law. After the advocacy exercise I was then asked a number of debate style questions, that were challenging but thought-provoking.

Top Tips to get Pupillage

1. Treat the application like an assignment and the interview like an exam. Draft your applications several times to improve quality and ask for mentors/friends/family to read them over. I spent a lot of time 'revising' for the interviews. This included formulating arguments for 'hot topic' debates, working through various STAR style questions and really sharpening my answers to motivational questions.
2. Lean into your personality in interviews. I found I performed much better in interviews where I was authentically myself. Ultimately, those interviewing you are trying to get an understanding of a potential future colleague.

THOMAS HOGKISS



Route to the Bar

My route to the Bar was traditional in one sense — I completed my LLB Undergraduate Degree and then went straight to the Bar Course. However, not coming from a 'legal background' meant learning what our legal system was and how it operated, which was completely new to me!

Over time, I came to appreciate both the academic and procedural side to law, and I was particularly fascinated by the idea of being an 'advocate' and what that meant. Whether it was drafting orders to serve to the judge moments before a hearing, or standing up in court representing the best interests of your clients, I was hooked on what it meant to be a barrister.

And after spending 3 years away from the Midlands, returning to Birmingham made me realise just how much there is to offer — from high-quality legal work to (arguably) the friendliest circuit around!

Experience highlights

Over the years between my undergraduate degree and before pupillage, I tried to obtain as much experience in as many areas of law as possible. This meant I was able to undertake criminal mini-pupillages and get a grasp of the trial process in various Crown Courts, shadow Solicitors and Solicitor Advocates in the Magistrates courts for a range of different hearings, and even commit to family law Pro Bono with my university to help research into Fabricated or Induced Illness claims.



Another experience I found incredibly useful is drawing back on my experience with Leeds City Council, where I was helping review potential s.11 LTA 1985 housing issues and determining whether there were any repairing obligations.

I truly believe that all these experiences have been invaluable, especially when starting a common law pupillage!

Why St Ives?

What I found with the interviews was that though St Ives' questions were often challenging, their process was by far the friendliest. From the moment I walked in, I felt welcome — you could tell there was a genuine interest and engagement, and that it was not just another 'box-ticking' exercise. As cliché as it may sound, the panel really does want to see you do well! They are not there to catch you out, but instead to hear what you have to say, and how you have built up the experience and confidence to be ready for pupillage in less than a year's time.

What were interviews like?

The interviews felt less daunting as you were told exactly what to expect. I found that this allowed me to perform to my best ability as I was not anxious about what I was walking into.

Within the first round, I was asked a question that would not be marked at the start. I was then able to relax into the interview and answer the scoring questions with a clear mind. Once again demonstrating that the interview process is not set up to 'trick' or 'ambush' you but to get a proper sense of your ability to advocate.

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Top Tips to get Pupillage

1. Make a log of questions and answers that panels typically ask (e.g. why do you want to be a barrister, etc), and just get used to answering them like they are second nature.
2. Keep up to date with current legal affairs. When I heard about a new legal topic that I knew I should get to grips with more, my go-to source was the 'Double-Jeopardy' Podcast – it was a great way to absorb information whenever you have a spare moment, such as being on the train on your way to seminars/work.
3. Try to think about how you can stand out, and consider what qualities the set you are applying to might value. I found it helpful to ask myself how I wanted to be perceived in both my applications and interviews. This requires some reflection — it can also help to ask friends or family what they see as your main strengths. I decided to present myself as personable and outgoing, but others might prefer to emphasise being polite and professional, or calm and analytical. Ultimately, once you have decided how you want to come across, you should also have a clearer idea of what your preferred Chambers are particularly looking for in a candidate.

ANJOLA ALABI

Completed Pupillage October 2025

My pupillage at St Ives was comprehensive, exciting and rigorous.

My first six supervisor was excellent in giving me tasks that stretched me but also reassuring me that I was not expected to know it all from day one. I also shadowed numerous members of Chambers in a variety of areas, Courts and tribunals including the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

We were given monthly advocacy exercises from month two to six, where members of Chambers gave up their time to train us in all of Chambers' practice areas. These were invaluable opportunities to make mistakes in a supportive environment and hone my skills in preparation for second six.

We were also given talks on finance at the Bar, service standards, given the opportunity to write articles for Chambers' website, and speak at Chambers' conferences.

Second six was a whirlwind. Thankfully, I felt supported by Chambers throughout.

My second six supervisor was excellent in assisting me with diary management, and brainstorming sessions where I learnt about litigation strategy through the practical lens of my own cases. My diary management and wellbeing were further supervised with regular check ins from the Head of Pupillage. The Clerks in Chambers were incredibly supportive on this front.

I was briefed daily on matters in all of Chambers' practice areas, including defending and prosecuting in a range of criminal cases from violent disorder to proceeds of crime, representing parties in a range of family proceedings, and acting in various civil and commercial disputes such as insurance, credit hire, and possession claims.

Chambers is incredibly social and friendly. Working as a barrister is sometimes seen as solitary, but this is certainly not the case at St Ives. From the helpful WhatsApp groups, to the informal after Court drinks, I know Chambers to be a warm and welcoming environment.

I can only strongly recommend undertaking Pupillage at St Ives Chambers.

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My first six supervisor was excellent in giving me tasks that stretched me but also reassuring me that I was not expected to know it all from day one.

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GEORGE FATTAL

Completed Pupillage October 2025

Before starting pupillage, I heard and read a lot about the challenges and the demanding nature of pupillage. To some extent, there is certainly a degree of truth in this, particularly in circumstances of an underfunded legal system, issues with payments from the legal aid agency payments system and increasing court wait times.

However, what few people told me about before pupillage was how intellectually stimulating and enjoyable the year would be. The opportunity to have a common law pupillage has certainly benefited my practice. I was able to learn from highly experienced members of Chambers across different practice areas. My experience has been that there are synergies between the different areas. Having had the opportunity to build a broad foundation has allowed me to approach my practice in a holistic way. For example, my experience in crime has helped me in both my family and housing practices.

During the pupillage year, advocacy training is rigorous but not intimidating. There was a sense that the primary purpose of the advocacy exercises were to help us grow rather than just test us. The same applied to written work. Particularly when I was shadowing seniors in Chambers, I was given an opportunity to engage with the law, which allowed me to foster a passion for my practice. My experience has been that clients, both lay and professional, appreciate this and find it reassuring,

Above all, my favourite part of Chambers is the collegiate and friendly atmosphere. Each group has a WhatsApp group and I continue to feel very well supported. Being able to talk through a challenge or test an idea is an invaluable resource and it is one that I greatly benefit from.

Another massive benefit of a career at St Ives is our supportive clerking team. There is a clear sense that they are dedicated to support you to develop the practice that you want. My cohort of pupillage was diverse; each of us were at different stages of life. The autonomy and support provided as tenants has allowed each of us to build practices that work for us and ensures that we continue to have enjoyable and rewarding practices as we develop.

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What few people told me about before pupillage was how intellectually stimulating and enjoyable the year would be.

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PIERRE DE GARIS

Completed Pupillage October 2025

My time at chambers, from my first day as a pupil to today as a freshly minted tenant, has been all I could have asked for and more.

I recall my first day fondly, not quite knowing what to truly expect. However, I soon realised that my feelings of apprehension and nervousness, while entirely understandable, were unnecessary. The welcoming and supportive environment fostered throughout chambers shone through immediately.

Being a common law pupil, throughout my first six I was fortunate to shadow members at all levels of call in all areas of practice. This provided me with the valuable opportunity to learn from experienced counsel, often themselves engaged in complex matters, and gain a better understanding of the different aspects of each practice area and in turn how to be a better advocate.

I was also routinely provided the opportunity to learn through practical tasks. I was asked, from almost the first day of pupillage, to try my hand at the same work as those I was shadowing, such as opening and closing speeches, written opinions or cross examinations as a few examples. All of this was supplemented with monthly advocacy exercises, delivered by other members of chambers, focusing on fictitious cases of the kind I could expect to undertake in my own right in second six. This comprehensive approach to training ensured that I commenced second six as well prepared as I could have been.

While undoubtedly representing a steep learning curve, the support given by chambers throughout the transition from first to second six was exceptional and made it as seamless as it could have been. At no point did I feel unable to ask a question when I felt I needed advice or guidance.

With the support of the fantastic clerking teams in each practice area, my practice has been able quickly to develop with access to high quality work allowing me to lay a solid foundation to my practice. A particular highlight being undertaking my first Crown Court trial.

I cannot recommend St Ives Chambers more highly.

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KATHERINE HANNIGAN

Completed Pupillage October 2025

Pupillage at St Ives was for me, a quiet transformation. I began the year shadowing both of my supervisors in complex hearings. From the evening before advocates' meetings and morning coffee shop visits, to meeting clients, discussing issues with other advocates, appearing before the judge, and holding post-hearing conferences, I was present for every step. My supervisors reviewed my preparation work, taught me how to draft attendance notes, and encouraged me to prepare orders myself as part of my preparation. Feedback (which I kept carefully noted in a diary) was a constant and invaluable part of the process, becoming the foundation I would later rely on once I was on my feet.

The monthly advocacy sessions were another highlight and what makes pupillage at Chambers special. We were given a space to practise, test ideas, and receive feedback that was both practical and kind. It was never about spotting bruises on the fruit, but about tending the tree. The feedback is given with care, focused on shaping you rather than striking, but most importantly aimed at helping you grow into your own authentic style. Members of Chambers give their time generously, and that sense of support and investment can be felt in every conversation.

By the fifth month, I began shadowing the types of hearings I would later do myself. This month quietly built my confidence. I realised that the hours of observation, reading and discussion had prepared me more than I knew. When my second six began, I was technically alone, but I never felt isolated. There is a genuine spirit of community at St Ives, and someone is always willing to answer, to explain, or simply to reassure you that you are doing great!

Once on your feet, you begin to notice growth in smaller moments. You find it in the way you structure a submission, manage a client's nerves, or recover after a difficult hearing. Chambers is full of people who will help you back to your feet each time you try, stumble and try again, and by the end of the year you are not the same advocate who first walked through the back door.

Be prepared to work hard, to be in court every day (almost), to learn constantly, and to grow in ways you may not expect. I could not recommend my pupillage experience enough, and I am grateful to everyone at Chambers.

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We were given a space to practise, test ideas, and receive feedback that was both practical and kind. It was never about spotting bruises on the fruit, but about tending the tree. The feedback is given with care, focused on shaping you rather than striking, but most importantly aimed at helping you grow into your own authentic style.

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LEONI WAGHORN

Completed Pupillage October 2025

Whilst it is undeniable that pupillage is a demanding and intense period, it is also true that it is transformative. Pupillage at St Ives has been more than academic. The supportive nature of all within St Ives has made pupillage an experience I have developed from but also enjoyed. All at Chambers go above and beyond with encouragement across all practice areas. The expertise and help at hand is exceptional. There was never a moment during pupillage where I felt alone in my concerns, lost without advice or a friendly colleague on the other end of the phone.

Quality advocacy training, shadowing opportunities and learning from those with extensive knowledge are all essential for any advocate starting their journey at the bar. St Ives provides all of those in abundance alongside a nurturing and caring environment. Feedback during advocacy training is detailed, focused and provides the foundation for second six practice. First six offered the chance to explore all the practice areas within a common law pupillage, showcasing members day to day practices and offering invaluable insight.

The transition from first six to second six is smooth as the preparation in first six is meaningful, relevant and provides the necessary skills to tackle second six with confidence and enthusiasm.

Second six is a steep learning curve, but St Ives offers pupils the opportunity to thrive with instructions on high quality cases alongside support and guidance throughout. Pupillage is hard work, but St Ives makes it an enjoyable and rewarding experience. St Ives prides itself on being a set with a soul and I can say that all members truly embody this. I am now privileged to be a tenant at such a distinguished set of chambers.

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Second six is a steep learning curve, but St Ives offers pupils the opportunity to thrive with instructions on high quality cases alongside support and guidance throughout. Pupillage is hard work, but St Ives makes it an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

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QUEENIE DJAN



TRANSFERRING TO TENANCY

After my tenancy decision, I was as equally excited as I was anxious.

However, one thing I was sure of was that I'd be supported throughout in the transition. Pupillage at St Ives was the steepest but most brilliant learning curve I've ever experienced. I had the opportunity of spending twelve months learning from exceptional advocates, gaining incredible experience, and undertaking quality work once 'on my feet'. My first and second-six equipped me with all the tools to make sure I was ready to take full advantage of the opportunities that would come my way in tenancy.

From the first day, everyone in Chambers inclusive of the staff, clerks, and members, rally around you to make sure you feel supported. As a pupil, there is a real sense of investment into your career progression which continued into tenancy. St Ives spent a lot of time helping me understand at that early stage how to build and maintain a successful practice.

I had encouraging supervisors in all three areas of Crime, Civil and Family that I still rely on all the time for support as a now tenant.

My supervisors actively involved me in the cases I shadowed them on, encouraged me to ask questions, and always took the time to discuss the cases I was observing. The monthly in-house advocacy exercises proved invaluable. Every month we had case bundles to prepare as our own and members of Chambers gave up their time to provide us with useful feedback and constructive criticism. Each exercise made me feel more ready to get on my feet.

After first-six flew by, second-six began. I was in court every day which may seem intense at first glance; however, I was able to build up my confidence and start progressing to complex cases quickly. During this period, I built a good relationship with the solicitors that Chambers had introduced me to and completed several Crown Court jury and housing trials. I found that my common-law pupillage provided me with a range of skills, as each area developed different abilities. I benefited from regular meetings with the clerks to discuss my practice to ensure I was getting a wide range of experience. I was also glad to be part of a chambers which operates an open-door policy between all members, which meant I constantly had the advice and guidance from both the junior and senior end. The major benefit of my common-law pupillage was I had an informed idea of where I wanted my practice to go as a tenant through my first-hand experience of all areas.

It's a big responsibility when you become a tenant, and your practice becomes your own to manage. You want to make sure you are making the right decisions. However, just like in pupillage, there was always someone on the end of the phone who would be happy to act as a sounding board.

There was no question too silly or no time of day (or night) where I didn't have someone to turn to for support. This support extended to the clerks who helped me to push my career forward and made sure I was progressing by virtue of the work I was doing.

The environment of St Ives Chambers not only prepared me for the challenges of the Bar, but also fostered the development I needed to succeed.

WHY JOIN US?



Holly Sims

Joined from the CPS in 2022

I knew several St Ives members from the robing room and law school. Everyone was super friendly and collegiate. I wanted to be in a set where I could expand my practice from just crime and feel supported doing the same. St Ives having a big junior end was also something that I liked. Chambers is the perfect balance of friendly and professional for me.

Mark Cooper-Hall

Joined from a Birmingham set in 2014

I often found myself against people from St Ives and I was impressed by their vast knowledge of family law. It helped that I had many friends at St Ives, so it felt like a natural place for me to build my practice. St Ives has lived up to and exceeded my expectations. The clerks are superb and the support from other members of the team is invaluable. I am regularly instructed in lengthy and complex matters. I have numerous opportunities to be led by most of the family silks who are members of chambers or door tenants. Being part of a large and successful team means that instructing solicitors can be confident that Chambers has strength and depth at all levels of seniority, which makes Chambers a first port of call for many cases.



WHY JOIN US?



Jane Talbot

Joined in 2016 having been head of housing at a national law firm

I was initially nervous about being self-employed and whether I would have sufficient instructions to build a business. However, I was provided with excellent support from other barristers and the clerks and my workload quickly increased and I found myself doing the advocacy that I have always enjoyed so much as a full time career. It was undoubtedly daunting at first but I have never regretted my decision. Having a young family at the Bar comes with some challenges but also a much greater degree of flexibility. The barristers and staff at St Ives Chambers made me feel immediately welcome and the housing team has a great rapport. I really feel I have found where I want to be

Adam Carrolan

Completed an abridged pupillage in 2024 having previously been a solicitor

I knew first hand that St Ives is an outstanding family set with a reputation to match with the perfect blend of professionalism and friendliness.

My experience since joining chambers has been everything I had hoped it would be. I have had the benefit of an experienced and highly skilled pupil supervisor who has provided unwavering support and encouragement. The ethos within chambers is impressive as it strikes a perfect balance between striving for excellence and a supportive approach. There is always someone on hand to discuss a legal or tactical issue with, should the need arise. Everyone I have encountered has made me feel welcomed in chambers which I have valued a great deal.





Tom Duggan

Mini-Pupillage Coordinator



MINI PUPILLAGE

The best way to get to know any chambers is by spending time inside the building and by speaking with its members. At St Ives, all prospective pupillage applicants are encouraged to apply for a mini pupillage in order to get to know us better.

Our Mini Pupillage Scheme offers an insight into life at St Ives and the areas of law that Chambers specialises in. St Ives offers three-day mini pupillages in Birmingham. Successful applicants will spend time both in Chambers, and attending court with members across all areas of practice.

Within the last 10 years, more than half of all successful pupillage candidates spent time in Chambers as part of our Mini Pupillage Scheme.

Applications are considered on a rolling basis and are welcomed at any time throughout the year.

Applicants should submit a CV and a covering letter explaining why they are applying for a mini pupillage at St Ives Chambers.

Written applications will be assessed in accordance with the following criteria:

- Academic record and intellectual ability;
- Resilience, commitment, and motivation to practise at the Bar;
- Reasons for applying to St Ives Chambers;
- Public speaking experience (e.g. debating, mooting, etc.); and
- Written communication skills and presentation of application.

For more details please see our website.

DIVERSITY & WELL-BEING

St Ives Chambers is committed to the implementation and promotion of equality and diversity principles and equal opportunities.

Diversity Data

We recognise the importance of the Bar being seen to be fair and non-discriminatory and to be open to all, regardless of social, economic or educational background or circumstances.

Every individual should be accorded equal and fair opportunity and respect and be judged on merit and ability alone, free from judgments or treatment based on prejudice or assumptions of collective characteristics.

Please see our website for details on the diversity data for our previous year's pupillage competition.

Chambers is committed to equality monitoring, and to reviewing its internal policies and their implementation to ensure that our recruitment and selection processes use objective and fair criteria.

Chambers recruits pupils exclusively on merit, whilst recognising that increasing opportunity and improving access to candidates from the broadest possible range of backgrounds is an essential part of creating a sustainable bar which more accurately represents society.

Well-being

We are also committed to Well-being at the Bar, which applies to all members, staff and pupils at St Ives.

In addition to providing a range of events during the annual 'Well-being Week' in May, we provide other well-being resources throughout the year including:

- Free access to various services provided by 'Health Assured';
- A mentoring scheme for all members, staff and pupils;
- Chair yoga and chair massages, provided by qualified specialists; mindfulness awareness; and much more.





BLACK HISTORY

Black History Month

Chambers is passionately committed to maintaining its ongoing contribution to ensuring the legal profession is truly reflective of the public it represents. The richness and value of a diverse and inclusive legal profession is clear from the significant contribution made by female, LGBTQ+, black, and Asian barristers, solicitors and members of the judiciary.

Black History Month presents a unique and important opportunity for Chambers to engage with students from black ethnic backgrounds.

This year, Chambers once again opened its doors to students with the aim of providing practical and useful tips and guidance to help them on the road to a successful legal career. Our CV workshops and 1-2-1 discussions with barristers gave students a unique insight into some of the challenges they will face in pursuit of the legal careers and, crucially, how those challenges can be overcome in order to achieve their career ambitions and leave a lasting legacy.

The event was a resounding success. The feedback received from those who attended genuinely touched those members who had contributed to making the event so beneficial.

“

I had the opportunity to participate in a 1-2-1 CV Workshop and Careers event organised by St Ives Chambers in Birmingham as part of their Black History Month events [...] There were lots of decent Afro-Caribbean meals to go around too. Many thanks to Tom Lawal who I'm told spearheaded this event. Massive thanks to Rebecca Cross who I had the opportunity for a one-on-one on my CV and Katie Goodman, Queenie Djan and Hasnat Bashir who gave me some valuable advice during the network session.

LINKEDIN TESTIMONIAL

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I am personally delighted to have witnessed the contribution Chambers has made to diversity and inclusion at the Bar, since I joined in 2008. Chambers has given me and other members a platform to engage passionately with students from ethnic backgrounds in a way that has led to local and national recognition for Chambers and, importantly, made a real difference in the lives of so many. Chambers remains dedicated to doing its part to address the systemic problems highlighted in the Race at the Bar Report. There is clearly so much more to do but St Ives is definitely leading the way in the Midlands and beyond!

TOM LAWAL

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SOCIAL LIFE

Social Committee & Events

The social committee organises major Chambers parties in addition to other social events during the course of the year with a view to encouraging members and staff to get together, let down their hair, and enjoy some time off from work. There are a range of events catering for all members, including dry events where alcohol is not served. Pupils are encouraged to join Circuit and other social events which help build important connections to colleagues, and friends, as well as to relax in a more informal environment.

Photos courtesy of the WMFLBA and Midland Circuit.









COOPER LOHMUS

The Cooper Lohmus Prize is dedicated to two cherished former members of Chambers, Peter Cooper and Michael Lohmus. Both Peter and Michael were champions of those starting out at the very junior end of the profession and committed to helping young advocates grow in confidence and ability. To honour their memory, Chambers is proud to run its annual advocacy competition in their name.

There are two rounds to the competition. Round one takes place remotely with competitors taking part in a 10-minute plea in mitigation judged by a member of Chambers. The highest scoring individuals will proceed to round two. Round two is an in-person plea in mitigation judged by our Head of Chambers, Elizabeth Isaacs KC, and a panel of sitting Circuit Judges.





The 2024-2025 competition saw 56 competitors take part in a criminal plea in mitigation for the Defence. The final round was held at Birmingham Crown Court and was judged by two sitting Circuit Judges.

Each finalist receives a mini pupillage with Chambers. The winner of the competition receives an individual trophy. There is a Cooper Lohmus Prize shield kept in Chambers which is engraved with the names of the winners. This year, the final will take place on 29 January 2026.

From the last competition, four of the five finalists obtained a pupillage. In 2 of the last 3 years, a finalist has gone on to be offered pupillage by Chambers.

For more information, please see Chambers' website.

LINKS & SOCIALS



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PUPILLAGE

PROSPECTUS 2026 / 2027



Contact Us

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