1. Deans Court Chambers

Founded in Mosley Street, Manchester, more than 100 years ago, Deans Court Chambers meld tradition and quality with a modern, innovative and forward-thinking approach to providing specialist advocacy, advisory and drafting expertise across a wide spectrum of practice areas at every level of seniority.

With 101 barristers, including 10 Queen’s Counsel, and premises at 24 St. John Street, Manchester, and 101 Walker Street, Preston, Deans Court Chambers stand out as one of the leading barristers'
chambers in the country and are regularly ranked by all major Legal Directories as one of the top sets on the Northern Circuit.

Voted ‘Regional Set of the Year’ at the Chambers Bar Awards in 2013 and 2020, and 'Barristers Chambers of the Year’ at the 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018 and 2021 Manchester Legal Awards, our reputation for professionalism and approachability is underpinned throughout by a rigorous quality policy. Undertaking work in the majority of practice areas including Crime, Family, Personal Injury, Health & Safety/Regulatory, Court of Protection, and Business & Commercial work, we aim to provide the highest standards of service and to anticipate and respond to our clients’ needs. We consistently maintain a reputation for the highest standards of service throughout the North West and nationally.

Individual members regularly appear in the Legal Directories and recent years have seen several appointments to the ranks of Queen’s Counsel, the Circuit Bench and beyond. Former members of Chambers include Lord Justice Ryder (Senior President of Tribunals and Presiding Judge of the Northern Circuit), Mr Justice Turner and His Honour Judge Stockdale QC, (Honorary Recorder of Manchester).

Deans Court Chambers operates an Equality and Diversity Policy and is committed to fair recruitment based on merit.

“‘One of the best' sets on the Northern Circuit, rated for its ‘strength in depth’” – Legal 500.

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2. Pupillage application process

For pupillage applications commencing 2023 we are not using the Pupillage Gateway system. The application form will be made available online at the Deans Court Chambers website (www.deanscourt.co.uk) from Monday 5 January 2022 and the deadline for applications is close of business on Friday 9 February 2022. Please submit completed applications by email to jandrews@deanscourt.co.uk or post to Jade Andrews, Deans Court Chambers, 24 St John Street, Manchester, M3 4DF. We will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate special requirements. A CV/covering letter will not suffice as an application. Applications must be send in Word format in order to be anonymized.

All applicants are expected to possess excellent intellectual qualities. As a general rule, we expect a minimum of ‘AAB’ grades at A level and a 2:1 degree classification or better. However, contextual information and exceptional circumstances are always taken into account.

All applications are initially considered by the Pupillage Committee who compile anonymized lists for circulation to practice groups. The applications are then considered for shortlisting, by reference to standardized criteria. Typically, we invite 12 – 15 candidates to a first interview.

Each first interview will include questions, drawn up in advance of the interviews and put to all candidates, and the same scoring method will be used for all. These first interviews are likely to be held in March 2022.

Where candidates of sufficient quality have been seen on the first interview, second interviews will be held, likely in late March or April 2022.
Unsuccessful candidates will be sent a letter informing them of this decision. The successful candidates will be sent an offer letter. If you would like to discuss any reasonable adjustments to the recruitment process please contact Jade Andrews at 0161 214 6022. This information will not be used in the selection process.

3. Business & Property Group Overview

The growing Business and Property Group within Deans Court Chambers includes both leading and junior counsel who undertaking an extensive range of business and property work within both the High Court and County Court, and before specialist tribunals.

Members’ company and commercial work will typically extend to contractual disputes, commercial fraud claims, company disputes and insolvency work. The group’s property and construction work often involves both commercial and domestic landlord and tenant work, including dilapidation and disrepair claims, as well as disputes relating to the execution of construction work, together with real property disputes, including boundary disputes. A number of members carry out extensive professional negligence work, often involving claims against solicitors, and traditional chancery work, including trusts, wills and probate work.

Business and Property members have been involved in notable cases in recent years, including appeals to the Court of Appeal on cases involving issues relating to duties of care owed in flooding cases, insolvency and claims in equity to rescind judgments on grounds of fraud.

Members of the group will often draw on experience from handling other work within Chambers’ core specialties, with a number of members of the group undertaking work across different areas.
4. Our Pupillages

The aim of Deans Court Chambers is to recruit excellent candidates with the capacity to succeed in any area of practice. Candidates will be recruited and appointed fairly, regardless of race, sex, pregnancy and maternity, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, disability (subject to the physical requirements of practice and any reasonable adjustments that can be made), age, religion or belief and in accordance with the Equality and Diversity Code of the Bar.

5. Structure

Pupillages offered are for a full twelve months. A pupil will have and be supervised by a formally designated and approved pupil supervisor. We will ensure the pupil spends time with experienced practitioners from different disciplines, including civil, crime and family. Pupils are also allocated a mentor on commencement of their pupillage. The mentor is a Member of Chambers who was not involved in the selection and interview process. We encourage pupils to attend all relevant training and lectures to further their knowledge. During the second six of the pupillage, the pupil should expect to undertake paperwork and court work independently.

6. Funding

Deans Court Chambers provide a financial package of £40,000 for 12-month pupils, comprising a grant of £15,000 for the first six and an earnings guarantee of £25,000 for the second six. In addition, reasonable travel expenses are paid during the first six and compulsory training costs are met by Chambers.

7. Application Form

Please find attached to the website a copy of the application form. Preferably the form will be type completed and emailed for submission; however, we do accept hand written applications and postal entries.