



DEANS COURT CHAMBERS

FAMILY PUPILLAGE 2022

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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 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 and Safety/Regulatory 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 (former Presiding Judge of the Northern Circuit), Mr Justice Turner (current Presiding Judge of the Northern Circuit) and His Honour Judge Stockdale QC, (current 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 2014.

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2.Pupillage application process

For pupillage applications commencing 2022 we are not using the Pupillage Gateway system. The application form will be made available online at the Deans Court Chambers website (www.deans-court.co.uk) from Monday 4 January 2021 and the deadline for applications is 11am on Monday 8 February 2021. Please submit completed applications by email to jandrews@deanscourt.co.uk or post to Jade Andrews, Deans Court Chambers, 24 St John Street, Man-

chester, M3 4DF. We will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate special requirements. A CV/covering letter will not suffice as application.

All applications will be considered initially by the Pupillage Secretary who will compile anonymised lists for circulation to practice groups. All applications will then be considered by reference to standardised criteria. Typically, we invite 12 – 15 candidates to a first interview.

Each first interview will include standard 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 will be held in February or March 2021.

Where candidates of sufficient quality have been seen on the first interview, second interviews will be held, likely in March or April 2021.

Unsuccessful candidates will be sent a letter informing them of this decision. The successful candidates will be sent an offer letter.

As a general rule, due to the levels of demand, we do not interview candidates with less than an upper second class degree, unless exceptional circumstances are present.

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.Family Overview

Deans Court has established an exceptional team of leading and junior counsel undertaking challenging and complex family work. Our quality and experience means we are regarded as one of the leading sets outside London in this area.

In the field of child protection, our Barristers are involved in the most serious child care cases involving the death of, or grave injury to, children.

We frequently deal with cases involving complex medical issues including cases of serious head injury caused to babies and fabricated or induced illnesses in children, and are experienced in cases of serious sexual abuse and extreme chronic neglect.

We regularly act on behalf of parents, local authorities and for children in care proceedings in the High Court and County Court.

A number of Counsel have experience in judicial review and regulatory work within the area of looked-after children and care standards.

In the field of financial remedies on divorce and civil partnership dissolution we have a number of highly experienced practitioners who deal with disputes arising from relationship breakdown with substantial assets, family businesses, pensions, share options, corporate and other trust structures of both a domestic and international nature. Our members are regularly instructed in cases involving parties of high net worth.

We regularly appear in financial disputes between cohabitees, principally in relation to the ownership of the family home under the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 ('ToLATA') but also issues arising from joint ownership of other assets. We bring the practical sensitive problem solving approach of specialist family counsel to the application of difficult principles of constructive and resulting trusts, proprietary estoppel, and equitable accounting.

We advise on and drafting pre-nuptial and cohabitation agreements, as well as post-nuptial agreements and deeds of separation. We offer a private FDR service.

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.

o 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.

o 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.

5. Application Form

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