

Pupillage Guide
2024 - 25



Introduction from the Heads of Chambers

Welcome to Blackstone Chambers' Pupillage Guide for 2026 applicants.

Chambers enjoys an enviable reputation for its wide range of work covering commercial, public, human rights, employment, EU and public international law, as well as a number of specialist fields including financial services, competition, tax and sports law. Blackstone Chambers prides itself on the quality of its advocacy and the breadth of its expertise.

We are proud of Blackstone Chambers' reputation and we attract a wide range of clients from all walks of life. Blackstone Chambers is consistently ranked as the leading set of Chambers in The Lawyer magazine's Litigation Tracker. The tracker analyses judgments across all the main courts in England and Wales, with chambers measured by the number of reported cases, market share and case days. Its statistics show that over the past five years (June 2019 – July 2024), members of Blackstone Chambers were involved in the highest volume of decided cases.

We work hard to offer a friendly and open approach to client service. We are delighted to report the conclusion of major building works which have been running for several years. All members of Chambers, pupils and staff, are now reunited in the Blackstone House complex. Our new facilities include state of the art meeting and conference rooms, and improved accommodation for all. This has provided us with an enhanced and modern working environment to meet the needs of clients going forwards.

We enjoy our collegiate working environment. Members of Chambers work closely together, seeking regular advice from colleagues. We do not believe in rigid hierarchies, and our members participate fully in the life and work of Chambers. We are committed to the principle of equal opportunity and draw our recruits from many different backgrounds, academic and professional. Current data also shows that roughly one third of our junior tenants are women.

We invest very strongly in our pupillage programme, and we believe our pupils complete their year with extremely robust legal and practical skills.

We look forward to meeting you should you undertake a mini-pupillage with us.

Tom Weisselberg KC and Jane Mulcahy KC,
Heads of Chambers

"The best in the business - it is on another level."
Chambers and Partners, 2024



Our practice areas (and case examples)

Regarded as one of the 'magic circle' sets in London, Blackstone Chambers receives high rankings in the two principal legal directories, Chambers UK and Legal 500. Blackstone is currently listed under 20 practice areas in the Chambers UK Bar directory, and under 34 areas in Legal 500. The broad range of high-quality work which is undertaken here truly provides the scope for practitioners to exercise a myriad of legal skills in practice.

It is not possible to list all of our practice areas in great detail here, but the online CVs of our barristers (see www.blackstonechambers.com/barristers) will give an idea of the vast number of interesting and cutting-edge cases and areas of law in which barristers in these Chambers are instructed. To give a sense of the breadth of our work, we have provided the following outlines of each of our core practice areas.

Commercial

Commercial law involves representing clients in business and financial disputes and giving advice on related legal issues. The clients may be individuals, small businesses, large corporations or government and regulatory bodies. Members of Chambers regularly appear in commercial cases in the full range of courts (from multi-million pound cases in the Commercial Court to small business disputes in the County Court), tribunals (for example, in financial services regulation or tax fraud cases) and commercial arbitrations. Commercial disputes arise in a great variety of factual situations and may raise novel and complex points of law.

Specific areas involved include arbitration, banking and financial services, commercial judicial review (see public law and human rights below), contract disputes, company law, fraud, financial services, insolvency, insurance and reinsurance, media and entertainment, partnership, professional negligence and the sale and carriage of goods. Commercial cases also frequently have an international dimension: they often require consideration of issues of private international law (i.e. whether the English courts have jurisdiction over the case and which country's law is applicable), and opportunities arise for travelling and working abroad.

Examples of cases in this area include:

Commercial Bank of Dubai v Al Sari [2024] EWCA Civ 643

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal against an order committing two Emirati businessmen to prison for 24 months, for breach of their asset disclosure obligations under a worldwide freezing order.

IMG Data Limited v Perform Content Services Limited [2023] EWHC 3244 (Ch)

The High Court handed down an interesting judgment on the scope of the torts of inducing a breach of contract and unlawful means conspiracy. The judgment followed an application by Perform Content Services Limited – a sports betting company – for strike out and summary judgment of claims brought against it by IMG Data Limited.

The Duke of Sussex and Others v MGN limited [2023] EWHC 3217 (Ch)

On 15 December 2023 Mr Justice Fancourt handed down judgment in *The Duke of Sussex and Others v MGN limited* [2023] EWHC 3217 (Ch), following the trial of four test claims in the Mirror Newspapers Hacking Litigation.

Virgin Aviation Ltd v Alaska Airlines Inc. [2023] EWHC 322 (Comm)

A claim brought by Virgin Atlantic in a contractual dispute relating to the use of the Virgin name. Dispute is worth approximately US\$120 million.

Christie v Canaccord Genuity Limited [2022] EWHC 1130 (QB)

A claim brought forward by an investment banker against his former employer, Canaccord, alleging that he had been awarded unduly low discretionary bonuses and further that Canaccord had promised him a £1m retention award by way of an oral agreement.

Recovery Partners GP Ltd & anor. v Rukhadze & ors [2022] EWHC 690 (Comm)

An important judgment defining in a modern context the scope of the solicitor's equitable lien.

Ridley v Dubai Islamic Bank PJSC [2022] EWHC 1912 (Comm)

Mr Ridley sought an injunction requiring the Bank to take steps to procure his release from prison in Dubai. He is presently serving a sentence of 20 years, having already served a 10 year sentence in connection with a \$550 million fraud on the Bank. Mr Ridley's case was that his additional 20 year sentence came about as the result of an impermissible request by the Bank made pursuant to Dubai Law No.37 of 2009.

Deposit Guarantee Fund of Ukraine v Bank Frick & anor. [2022] EWHC 2221 (Ch)

A claim brought under s.423 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The claimant (a Ukrainian liquidator) sought to set aside tens of millions of pounds in payments allegedly made by fraudsters to the Defendant banks; and Luka's client succeeded in striking out these claims as a misuse of the s.423 procedure.

Michael O'Higgins FX Class Representative Ltd and Mr Phillip Evans v Barclays Bank PLC and others [2022] CAT 16

A case regarding an 'opt-out' collective proceedings order under section 47B of the Competition Act 1998 and giving guidance as to how it will determine 'carriage disputes' between two competing class representatives.

"Blackstone Chambers is an outstanding set of chambers with a deep pool of talent."
Legal 500, 2023



Our practice areas

Public Law and Human Rights

Public law and human rights cases are often at the cutting edge of legal developments in the UK and serve to help maintain the balance between the interests of the individual and the State. For many years, Blackstone Chambers has been the home of barristers dedicated to ensuring that the rights and interests not only of individuals but also of regulatory bodies and companies are recognised and protected. Our members act in human rights cases and judicial review both for and against public bodies. We are involved in areas including freedom of expression, immigration, education, planning, housing and local government.

Blackstone Chambers is particularly noted for its ability to provide commercial advice in a public law context. Because of our strength in commercial and public law, we are able to offer expertise in regulatory and other areas which cross both sectors.

Examples of cases in this area include:

Couso Permuy v Spain Application no. 2327/20, 25 July 2024

The Fifth Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights handed down a judgment on 25 July 2024 concerning the application of Article 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights.

R (K) v Secretary of State for the Home Department

The Upper Tribunal handed down an important judgment on the Secretary of State for the Home Department's approach to decision-making on applications for status under the EU Settlement Scheme ("EUSS").

R (Duff) v. SSJ [2024] EWHC 917 (Admin)

The Administrative Court (Mr Justice Kerr) handed down a judgment in a judicial review challenge to the Secretary of State for Justice's decision to terminate the Claimant's membership of the Parole Board upon the recommendation of a specially constituted panel. This is the first ever case in which the power to remove a Parole Board member has been exercised. The claim was dismissed.

R (on the application of AAA and ors) v The Secretary of State for the Home Department (UNHCR Intervening) [2023] UKSC 42

The Supreme Court handed down a judgment concerning the government's proposal to relocate asylum seekers to Rwanda.

Município de Mariana & Ors v BHP Group (UK) Limited & Anor [2023] EWHC 1134 (TCC)

The High Court handed down a judgment in this case, concerning the collapse of the Fundão dam in 2015, identifying the issues to be considered and the timetable to trial. The case is the largest opt-in group action to be brought before the English courts with in excess of 700,000 claimants.

R(Kanu) v SSFCDA [2023] EWHC 652 (Admin)

The High Court handed down judgment in an important case about the lawfulness of the Foreign Secretary's decision-making process when assessing how to assist a British citizen in detention overseas, applying the Court of Appeal's judgment in *R(Abbasi) v SSFCA* [2002] EWCA 1598.

InterDigital Technology Corp. and ors v Lenovo Group Limited and ors [2023] EWHC 539 (Pat)

A significant and substantial judgment, that examined and clarified the key principles applicable in global FRAND disputes as well as procedural issues which arise in such litigation.

Q & Tse Henry Edward v Commissioner of Registration [2023] HKCFA 4

The Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal handed down a judgment in a high-profile case concerning the policy of ID card identification for female to male transgender applicants.

The Manchester Ship Canal Company Ltd v United Utilities Water Ltd [2022] EWCA Civ 852

The Court of Appeal gave a judgement in a high profile case regarding potential avenues of redress in respect of the discharge of sewage into waterbodies.

Jennings v Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) [2022] EWHC 1619

In a high-profile judgment, the Family Court granted a declaration that it would be lawful for the Applicant, Mr Jennings, to use an embryo created using his sperm and the eggs of his late wife, in treatment with a surrogate, notwithstanding the absence of her written, signed consent to that effect.

Privacy International & Ors v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs & Ors [2021] EWCA Civ 330

A very high-profile case concerning the crimes committed in pursuit of intelligence. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of the claimants and ruled that the Security Service had the legal power to run undercover agents who participated in criminality in pursuit of intelligence.

SSHD v The Queen on the Application of BAA & Anor C2/2020/1474

The European Court of Human Rights granted interim measures preventing removal of an asylum seeker to Rwanda pending determination of judicial review of Rwanda removal policy here. Refugee pushback policy was withdrawn following legal challenge here.

Wong v Basfar [2020] UKEAT/0223/19

An appeal to the Supreme Court concerning the application of the commercial exception in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities in the context of modern slavery.

R (Elan Cane) v SoS Home Department [2020] EWCA Civ 363

A challenge brought by non-gendered campaigner Christie Elan-Cane, to the Government's policy of refusing to issue non gender-specific 'X' passports.

Shamima Begum v Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC) [2020] EWCA Civ 918

One of the most high-profile cases of the year. The case concerned the Secretary of State's decision to deprive Shamima Begum of her British citizenship.

R (Miller) v The Prime Minister and Cherry and ors v Advocate General for Scotland [2019] UKSC 41

The Supreme Court heard arguments in the legal challenge to the prime minister, Boris Johnson's decision to prorogue Parliament. The Court concluded that the Prime Minister's advice to Her Majesty was unlawful, void or of no effect and Gina Miller's appeal was allowed and the Advocate General's appeal in the case of Cherry is dismissed.

Employment

Members of Blackstone Chambers undertake a complete range of contentious employment work both for employers and employees. They advise on matters ranging from high value or complex High Court employment disputes, including restrictive covenants, injunctions, confidentiality, TUPE and gardening leave, to the entire gamut of issues in the employment tribunals, from unfair dismissal and equal pay to discrimination issues in all their forms. The expansion of anti-discrimination legislation and the application of the Equality Act 2010 provide an ever expanding range of issues on which advice and representation is sought by both employers and employees alike.

Examples of cases in this area include:

Steel v Spencer Road LLP [2023] EWHC 2492

An appeal against a refusal to set aside a statutory demand. The now leading case on whether the restraint of trade doctrine applies to bonus claw back provisions in employment contracts.

Benyatov v Credit Suisse (Securities) Europe Ltd [2023] EWCA Civ 140

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by a former banker who sought to recover over £66m loss of earnings from his employer following his conviction in Romania in connection with work he carried out relating to the privatisation of a state utility in that country: *Benyatov v Credit Suisse (Securities) Europe Ltd* [2023] EWCA Civ 140. This was one of The Lawyer's Top 20 cases for 2020.

Clifford v Millicom Services UK Limited and others [2023] EWCA Civ 50

An important case on the scope of Rule 50 of the ET Rules of Procedure and the Tribunal's power to order derogations from the principle of open justice.

Christie v Canaccord Genuity Limited [2022] EWHC 1130 (QB)

Mr Christie was an investment banker who brought a series of claims against his former employer, Canaccord, alleging that he had been awarded unduly low discretionary bonuses and further that Canaccord had promised him a £1m retention award by way of an oral agreement.

Asda Stores v Brierley [2021] UKSC 10; [2019] EWCA Civ 44

The Supreme Court dismissed Asda's appeal in equal pay proceedings brought by 35,000 Asda store workers seeking to compare their terms with those who work in Asda's distribution depots.

Uber BV and others v Aslam and others [2021] UKSC 5

Appeal by Uber concerning whether drivers who use the Uber app were "workers", and if so, how working time should be measured for the purposes of calculating entitlements under employment protection legislation.

"Blackstone has an excellent reputation for employment law."
Legal 500 Testimonials, 2022

Our practice areas

EU and Competition

Competition and European law expertise is a key practice area for Blackstone Chambers. The range of specialist knowledge to be found among the many barristers at Blackstone Chambers who practice in competition and EU law includes US antitrust, mergers, jurisdiction issues, free movement, the control of misleading advertising, judicial review and parallel importation. Expansion of work in this area has seen an increase in the number of cases working their way through the Competition Appeals Tribunal.

Members of Blackstone Chambers regularly act on behalf of UK and multinational corporations and for the UK Government, the governments of EU Member States and Candidate States, European Institutions, and a full range of regulators across a wide spectrum of industries, as well as for other public bodies. This has continued to be an important area of practice for Members of Chambers since the UK left the European Union.

Examples of cases in this area include:

Lenovo v Ericsson [2024] EWHC 1734 (Pat)

The Patents Court handed down a judgment granting Lenovo an expedited FRAND trial in April 2025 and dismissing Ericsson's contention that a "technical trial" (dealing with questions of validity and infringement of the Lenovo's patent) necessarily has to take place before a FRAND trial.

Julie Hunter v Amazon.com, Inc. and others [2024] CAT 8

The Competition Appeal Tribunal handed down judgment in its first determination of a carriage dispute between rival applications for opt-out collective proceedings orders as a preliminary issue prior to certification.

Aurora Cavallari & Ors v Mercedes-Benz Group AG & Ors [2024] EWHC 190 (KB)

Confidentiality Ring Orders ("CROs") are an increasingly prevalent feature of complex modern commercial litigation. The judgment of Cockerill J in the "Dieselgate" case of Cavallari (the Group Litigation Order involving claims against Mercedes Benz companies) is likely to be an important contribution to the proper use of CROs.

R (Radiocentre Ltd) v Ofcom and the BBC (as Interested Party) [2023] EWHC 1977 (Admin)

The administrative Court handed down judgment on a challenge to Ofcom's regulation of the launch of Radio 1 Dance (R1D), an online dance music offering from the BBC that was first made available in October 2020.

Umbrella Interchange Fee Proceedings [2023] CAT 49

The Competition Appeal Tribunal handed down a judgment that is particularly significant for its analysis of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (the "2018 Act") and the scope of retained EU law.

Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd and others v Visa Europe Services LLC and others; Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd and others v Mastercard Incorporated and others [2020] UKSC 24

A significant judgment in the Supreme Court in relation to combined cases brought by Sainsbury's and other retailers concerning the multilateral interchange fees charged by Visa and Mastercard.

Michael O'Higgins FX'Class Representative Ltd v Barclays Bank plc, Citibank N.A, JP Morgan Chase & Co & Ors [2020] CAT 9

Proposed collective proceedings before the Competition Appeal Tribunal arising out of European Commission decisions concerning conduct in FX markets. Highlighted as one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2020.



International Law

This is a highly specialised practice area and Blackstone Chambers is experienced in advising and representing governments, corporate bodies and individual litigants on international disputes, constitutional affairs and human rights issues before a range of international courts. Barristers have particular expertise in international boundary disputes, state and diplomatic immunity and international protection of human rights. They appear regularly before the International Court of Justice, international arbitration tribunals (for example ICSID, the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes) and before domestic courts in cases involving issues of public international law.

In addition to the litigation flowing from such disputes, members of Chambers are able to become involved in the development of law in other related ways.

Examples of cases in this area include:

Commissioner for the British Indian Ocean Territory v VT & Ors [2024] BIOT CA (Civ) 3

The British Indian Ocean Territory Court of Appeal handed down its decision concerning the limited bail granted to migrants on the island of Diego Garcia. The Court expressed concern about the welfare of all the migrants on the island, particularly the children.

Al-Hawsawi v. Lithuania (App. No. 6383/17)

A significant judgment was handed down by the European Court of Human Rights, concerning the rendition and conditions of detention in Lithuania of a so-called “High-Value Detainee” in Guantánamo Bay.

BAA v Commissioner of the British Indian Ocean Territory Administration (Paul Candler) [2023] EWHC 767

The High Court handed down a judgment in this case brought by five ethnic Tamil asylum seekers, seeking injunctive relief.

NSK v the United Kingdom (ECHR 197 (2022))

European Court of Human Rights granted interim measures preventing removal of asylum seeker to Rwanda pending determination of judicial review of Rwanda removal policy.

Inquiry on Protecting Children in Armed Conflict

The 5000-page report of the Legal Panel, of which Shaheed Fatima QC is the lead author, was published as a book, *Protecting Children in Armed Conflict* (2019, Hart/Bloomsbury Publishing). It reviews the position of children in armed conflict by reference to the six grave violations, as identified by the UN Security Council, and by reference to international humanitarian law, international criminal law and international human rights law.

Our practice areas

Sport

Blackstone Chambers has considerable experience across all areas of sports law including agency, broadcasting, contract, disciplinary, drugs, employment, image rights, regulation, sponsorship, state aid and ticketing. We have developed a leading reputation for sports law in part through our existing strengths in complementary fields of practice, notably: public law, EU and competition, commercial law, human rights and employment law. As a result, Blackstone Chambers attracts a range of clients, from major sports governing bodies to sporting individuals, teams, clubs, agents and broadcasters.

The range is huge, but example cases include:

UEFA v Morata and Rodri

On 7 August 2024, UEFA's Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Body imposed a 1-match ban on each of Álvaro Borja Morata, the Spanish national team captain, and Martín Rodrigo Hernández Cascante (or 'Rodri', as he is professionally known).

Everton FC v Premier League

An independent Disciplinary Commission of the Premier League issued its decision in a case brought by the Premier League against Everton for breach of the Premier League's Profitability and Sustainability Rules in financial year 2022/23. The Commission imposed an immediate deduction of 2 league points.

Leicester City Football Club v EFL Club Financial Reporting Unit Before the EFL Independent Club Financial Reporting Panel, January 2024

The EFL published the written reasons in an important case about the interpretation of parts of its Profit & Sustainability Rules. Leicester City Football Club successfully challenged the imposition of a 'Business Plan' on it on the basis the EFL Club Financial Reporting Unit was acting outside of its powers.

The FA v Mikel Arteta

A Regulatory Commission of The FA issued an important decision concerning the scope of managerial liability for misconduct under FA Rule E3 in dismissing a Misconduct Charge against Arsenal's manager, Mikel Arteta.

FA v Harry Toffolo FA Regulatory Commission, September 2023

A hearing before an FA Regulatory Commission involving charges for breaches of The FA Betting Rules.

Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket Report

Landmark report released by the ICEC, which was set up by the England and Wales Cricket Board to examine issues concerning inequality and discrimination in the sport.

Cardiff City FC v EFL

An independent Disciplinary Commission decision regarding Cardiff City FC's breach of the '30-day rule' after it paid an initial payment to Nantes FC for the transfer of Emiliano Sala late.

The FA v Ivan Toney (FA Regulatory Commission, May 2023)

A concerning the Premier League striker, Ivan Toney, before a Regulatory Commission of The FA considering charges of breaches of The FA Betting Rules.

FA v (1) MARCO DA SILVA (2) ALEKSANDAR MITROVIĆ (FA Appeal Board, 21 April 2023)

An appeal before an Appeal Board brought by The FA against the decision of a Regulatory Commission to impose an 2-match touchline suspension on Fulham's manager, Mr Silva, and an 8-match suspension on its player, Mr Mitrovic, following their red cards in Fulham's FA Cup Quarter Final match against Manchester United on 19 March 2023.

Golfers v PGA European Tour SR/165/2022

A decision issued by an Appeal Panel in relation to appeals brought by multiple Golfers against disciplinary sanctions imposed by the PGA European Tour.

ECB v Yorkshire County Cricket Club & Others

Following a four day hearing in early March, the Disciplinary Panel of the Cricket Discipline Commission of the English Cricket Board (ECB) published its decisions in six cases against former Yorkshire County Cricket Club cricketers.

FA v Imran Louza FA Appeal Board, 18 November 2022

An appeal brought by The FA against the decision of a Regulatory Commission that had dismissed a charge of breaching FA Rule E1.1 against the Watford and Morocco international midfielder, Imran Louza.

FA v Cristiano Ronaldo (FA Regulatory Commission, November 2022)

Nick De Marco KC (instructed by Karim Bouzidi of Clintons) acted for Cristiano Ronaldo before an FA Regulatory Commission in relation to a misconduct charge arising out of a match between Everton and Manchester United on 9 April 2022.

PGA European Tour golfers' suspensions stayed pending appeal SR/165/2022

In a decision of the Chair of an Appeal Panel appointed by Sport Resolutions, suspensions of the professional golfers Ian Poulter, Adrian Otaegui and Justin Harding from playing in the Scottish Open and two other DP World Tour co-sanctioned tournaments were lifted pending determination of the golfers' substantive appeals.

The Football Association Premier League Limited v PPLive Sports International Limited [2022] EWHC 38 (Comm)

The Premier League successfully obtained summary judgment for over \$212 million in its claim against PPLive, its former broadcasting partner for mainland China and Macau.

Fulham FC v Jones [2022] EWHC 1108 (QB)

Significant appeal concerning the circumstances in which the Court will find civil liability for a serious injury sustained in the course of a professional football match.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) v. Chijindu Ujah (CAS 2021/ADD/33)

The Anti-Doping Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) issued a decision on sanctioning the Team GB sprinter, Chijindu Ujah, for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Manchester City FC v Premier League [2021] EWCA Civ 1110

Unsuccessful challenge to the Premier League's dispute resolution system in the Commercial Court and Court of Appeal, and in the underlying arbitration.

British Gymnastics

High-profile case concerning gymnasts who claim to have suffered from abusive practices and culture within British Gymnastics.

Newcastle United v The Premier League

A very high-profile case concerning a Football Club's dispute concerning new ownership with the Premier League.

Media and Entertainment

Members of Chambers act for a wide range of film, theatre and record companies, book, music and newspaper publishers as well as numerous performers, directors and producers and have been involved in many of the major disputes in this field.

Examples of cases in this area include:

Moonbug Entertainment Ltd v (1) CCM Touring LLC; (2) S2BN Entertainment Corporation [2024] EWHC 793 (Comm)

Andrew Baker J handed down a judgment refusing an application to seek relief from sanctions and a retrospective extension of time to contest jurisdiction and/or an application for a stay, finding that the Claimant had properly brought the claim in England, that the Defendants had submitted to the jurisdiction at common law, and in any event, the Defendants should be refused relief from sanctions.

The Duke of Sussex and Others v MGN limited [2023] EWHC 3217 (Ch)

On 15 December 2023 Mr Justice Fancourt handed down judgment in *The Duke of Sussex and Others v MGN limited* [2023] EWHC 3217 (Ch), following the trial of four test claims in the Mirror Newspapers Hacking Litigation.

InterDigital Technology Corp. and ors v Lenovo Group Limited and ors [2023] EWHC 539 (Pat)

Mr Justice Mellor, in a significant and substantial judgment, examined and clarified the key principles applicable in global FRAND disputes as well as procedural issues which arise in such litigation.

Sheeran & Ors v Chokri & Ors [2022] EWHC 827 (Ch)

Acted for Ed Sheeran and others, the co-writers and publishers of the song "Shape of You" where the Claimants sought a declaration that they had not infringed any copyrights of the Defendants in writing and exploiting that song.

Kelly-Marie Smith v Kesi Dryden & Ors [2021] EWHC 2277 (IPEC)

The High Court handed down its decision in a copyright infringement dispute concerning the song 'Waiting All Night' by English drum and bass band, Rudimental. The Court rejected allegations that the song had been copied from an earlier work, dismissing the Claimant's claims in their entirety.

Duchess of Sussex v Associated Newspapers Limited [2021] EWHC 273 (Ch)

Acted for the Duchess of Sussex on her copyright claim in one of The Lawyer's Top 20 Cases of 2020. The Duchess' dispute with Associated Newspapers concerned their misuse of private information, following their publication of a letter written by her to her father. The Judge granted her application in its totality (save for one minor aspect of her copyright claim, which will be dealt with as part of a future assessment of the financial relief to which she is entitled).

Telecommunications

Blackstone Chambers has a significant telecommunications practice, building on its expertise in commercial, public law and regulatory matters. Members of Chambers advise and represent regulators, operators and consumers on issues including regulatory, public law and competition. Issues cover fixed line and mobile networks and services, as well as internet-related matters relevant to telecommunications, including by-pass, interconnection and VoIP issues. Other areas of advice include the construction of licences, arbitration clauses, and the effect of constitutional freedom of expression and property guarantees on exclusivity.

Examples of cases in this area include:

Alcatel Lucent SAS and ors v Amazon Digital UK Ltd and ors [2024] EWHC 1921 (Pat)

The High Court issued a judgment upholding the English courts' jurisdiction and ordering an expedited RAND trial in a significant dispute between Nokia and Amazon.

InterDigital Technology Corp. and ors v Lenovo Group Limited and ors [2023] EWHC 539 (Pat)

The High Court issued only the second-ever determination of a FRAND licence in the UK Courts, in a dispute between InterDigital and Lenovo concerning the former's global Standard Essential Patent ("SEP") portfolio. The decision is one of only a handful in the world to reach a final determination in a FRAND dispute and reinforces the world-leading role of the English courts in this field.

Unwire Planet & Conversant v Huawei & ZTE [2020] UKSC 37

Since 2014, members of Chambers have acted for parties in this high-profile matter concerning global telecommunications licensing. The Supreme Court's long-awaited judgment in the *Unwired Planet* and *Conversant* appeals upheld the decisions of the Court of Appeal and High Court in both sets of proceedings.

R (VIP Communications) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2019] EWHC 994 (Admin); [2020] EWCA Civ 1564

A judicial review challenge which successfully established that a direction by the Home Secretary to Ofcom, requiring it to refrain from liberalising the regulatory regime for GSM gateways on national security grounds, had been ultra vires and unlawful.

Vodafone & others v Ofcom [2020] EWCA Civ 183; [2019] EWHC 1234 (Comm)

The Court of Appeal dismissed Ofcom's appeal against a judgment of the High Court awarding over £218 million plus interest as restitution of unjust enrichment to four Mobile Network Operators ("MNOs").

Our practice areas

Banking and Financial Services

Blackstone members have broad experience in banking and financial services including an extensive regulatory practice acting both for and against a variety of financial and other regulatory authorities, corporations and individuals. Members have advised extensively in relation to the Financial Services and Markets Act, advising regulators, approved persons and others on aspects including authorisations, listing rules, market abuse, financial promotion, collective investment schemes, and disclosure.

Members of Chambers also undertake a range of asset finance and banking litigation cases. Other areas of practice include pensions review, cases of alleged insider trading, professional negligence, and the impact of the Human Rights Act upon enforcement procedures of self-regulatory organisations.

Examples of cases in this area include:

J.P. Morgan International Finance Ltd v Werealize.com Ltd [2024] EWHC 1437 (Comm)
The Commercial Court (Dame Clare Moulder DBE sitting as a High Court Judge) handed down judgment in relation to a shareholder dispute concerning the Greek fintech company, Viva Wallet Holdings Software Development SA ("Viva Wallet").

Banque Havilland SA and others v FCA
On 8 May 2024, Upper Tribunal Judge Herrington handed down a significant case management decision in the case of Banque Havilland SA and others v FCA, following a two-day case management hearing on 26 and 27 March 2024.

BlueCrest Capital Management v FCA Judgment of the Upper Tribunal (Tax and Chancery) [2023] UKUT 140
The Upper Tribunal (Judges Timothy Herrington and Rupert Jones) handed down a judgment dated 21 June 2023, addressing its jurisdiction to permit amendments to a Statement of Case, and the Financial Conduct Authority's power to impose a redress requirement on a single firm under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 ("FSMA").

The Law Debenture Trust Corporation plc v Ukraine [2023] UKSC 11
Ukraine succeeded in the Supreme Court in resisting Law Debenture (acting for Russia)'s appeal relating to its claim under \$3bn of Eurobonds. The Supreme Court unanimously held that the defence of duress on the basis of Russia's threats should proceed to trial.

FCA v Sir Christopher Gent Final Notice
One of the highest profile market abuse cases pursued by the FCA in recent years, in FCA proceedings concerning breach of the Market Abuse Regulation.

Mortgage Prisoners Litigation
A case relating to threatened litigation to be brought by tens of thousands of alleged "mortgage prisoners" who had entered into mortgages with Northern Rock plc and complain about the rates of interest they were charged following nationalisation. It will be the most significant financial services litigation brought since the last financial crisis, valued in billions.

Axa v Santander [2022] EWHC 1776 (Comm)

A Commercial Court claim for c £600m relating to the mis-selling of payment protection insurance.

Shop Direct v Official Receiver [2022] EWHC 1355

This decision has potential industry-wide implications in relation to the large number of Complaints which the OR has sought to make in respect of PPI policies held by persons later made bankrupt.

Pipia v BGEO Group Ltd [2020] EWHC 402 (Comm)

An application brought by Bank of Georgia Group PLC ('BGEO') for a declaration that, for the purposes of disclosure (under PD 51U), BGEO did not control documents held by two subsidiaries (both incorporated in Georgia), one in which it held a 100% direct shareholding and the other in which it held an indirect shareholding.

Russell Adams v Options SIPP UK LLP [2020] EWHC 1229 (Ch)

A landmark test case on the potential liability of an execution-only SIPP provider (D) to an investor (C) whose underlying investment in the SIPP sustained significant losses. The Court held that D was not liable for such losses.

Burford v London Stock Exchange [2020] EWHC 1183 (Comm)

LSE opposed a Norwich Pharmacal application brought by Burford arising out of an alleged short-selling attack on its shares in August 2019. This was a landmark decision in both the area of financial services regulation and the Norwich Pharmacal jurisdiction.

Tesco market abuse Final Notice

In a landmark approach to compensation, the FCA exercised for the first time its power under section 384 of FSMA to require a listed company to make restitution to affected investors for the market abuse, imposing by agreement a compensation scheme with an estimated value of some £85 million. In view of the simultaneous agreement of a Deferred Prosecution Agreement with the SFO involving a fine of £129 million, the FCA did not impose a penalty for market abuse.

In addition, some of our members have areas of expertise which fall outside our core areas. For instance, we also have strength in areas such as privacy, lotteries and gaming, and environmental law.



"...we're working with people at the cutting edge of practice so almost every case you're on feels important and influential."
Chambers Student Guide 2024

Pupillage at Blackstone Chambers

The work

We believe that pupils should be involved in every aspect of their pupil supervisor's work. This is very varied as can be seen from some of the examples set out in this brochure or in the News section of our website. We give our pupils a rounded overview of a barrister's role, and equip them for the legal and practical challenges they will face in practice.

As a pupil at Blackstone Chambers, you will have four supervisors through the year. Pupil supervisors are chosen to ensure that each pupil gets a solid grounding in the core areas of Chambers' work, which may include supervisors who specialise in commercial, employment, public law, competition law, financial regulation, or sports law.

Pupillage at Blackstone Chambers is very much a hands-on experience. From your first day with your supervisor, you will get stuck into whatever cases your supervisor is instructed on at that moment. The typical work involves creating first drafts of documents your pupil supervisor is working on. You will therefore develop a wide experience of drafting pleadings and other court documents, writing skeleton arguments and compiling written advices. You may also be asked to do a first draft of questions to be used in a cross examination, or to prepare opening or closing submissions.

You will also be involved in every step of the advisory and litigation process. Pupils attend conferences with clients, listen in on phone conversations where appropriate, and are encouraged to discuss the strategic, procedural and ethical elements of cases with their supervisors.

The emphasis which we place on the close working relationship between pupil and supervisor means that pupils do not do any additional work for other members of Chambers. You will be able to focus entirely on the cases which you are involved in on a day-to-day basis.

Because Blackstone pupils are exposed to such a wide range of legal areas, the whole year is non-practising, which means that pupils do not take on any of their own paid work during pupillage.

Pro bono work

A commitment to pro bono work is an important part of the culture at Blackstone Chambers. As evidence of that commitment, from September 2022 to August 2023, our barristers were involved in almost 100 separate pro bono cases. Many of these cases are high-profile, including acting for various claimants and Asylum Aid in the Rwanda Litigation, a challenge to the Secretary of State's policy of removing asylum seekers from this country to Rwanda and working on the Legal Task Force on Accountability for Crimes Committed in Ukraine, but many are not and are cases acting for individuals, in relation to employment, immigration and other issues.

Blackstone Chambers is a long-term supporter of Advocate and an inaugural platinum sponsor. Chambers is also a supporter of the Free Representation Unit or "FRU" since its inception. Members of Chambers sit on the case review panel for the Advocate and also take on individual case referrals to provide advice or representation.

We strongly encourage our pupils and junior barristers to take on pro bono cases through Advocate, FRU and other charities, and we will provide support and ensure that you have the time you need to dedicate to pro bono work.



Training

Pupillage is, first and foremost, about giving you the skills you need to be a barrister. We are proud of our reputation for providing a legal training which is second to none.

The first week of pupillage at Blackstone Chambers is an induction week. We have specifically designed the week to help pupils get the most out of pupillage: we introduce you to the members of Chambers, the staff, the resources available, and we explain many of the mechanics of work as a pupil and a barrister. We have found this week invaluable for settling pupils into their new role.

The core of your education at Blackstone Chambers is the interaction you will have with your pupil supervisor. We believe it is vital that pupils are with their supervisors at every step of the legal process, and not isolated from the real action.

Pupils are encouraged to discuss their work with supervisors. Pupil supervisors also strive to give constructive feedback on every piece of written work which their pupil produces; whilst we cannot promise that there is always time to meet this ambition, you will certainly receive ample detailed feedback and suggestions for improvement during your year.

We also build in a structured programme of feedback to give a more general picture of our pupils' progress. Before you leave one pupil supervisor for a new one, your old supervisor will complete a form commenting on your progress across a wide range of skill sets – from written work to interactions with clients – and suggesting areas for you to work on. You will be given a copy, and it will form the basis of a constructive discussion with you before you move on to your next supervisor.

Pupils also have the benefit of detailed feedback from other members of Chambers who set pieces of work to be completed by all the pupils. The first is a pure training exercise. Subsequent pieces are assessed. This programme provides a structured opportunity for pupils to receive intensive feedback from other members of Chambers. It also assists us in forming an objective view of pupils' progress. We take this role extremely seriously, and all markers spend time discussing the work with the pupils.

Last, but certainly not least, is the advocacy training which we provide. A team of our barristers, who are experienced advocates and trained advocacy trainers, provide a programme designed to equip pupils for the kinds of cases they are likely to face in the first years of practice. Covering witness handling and legal submissions, we build on what you learn at bar school and at your Inn. The advocacy sessions will be watched by the other pupils, an assigned witness, and two or three members of Chambers as trainers. In total, we provide seven advocacy sessions. The last four of them are assessed, meaning that your performance will be taken into account should you apply for tenancy in Chambers.

Applicants are sometimes surprised by the number of 'assessments' which our pupils do. But we have found them to be an invaluable way of giving structured feedback to pupils. It is also a way of making fair and objective comparisons. Remember that, wherever you do pupillage, you will be 'assessed' on a daily basis. We feel that the fact that we have formalised the process, and built in intensive feedback sessions, is a real benefit for our pupils and for Chambers. Pupils also tell us that their year is a far less stressful experience because they know that the assessment process is clear and fair.



The lifestyle

Blackstone Chambers is a friendly and inclusive environment, and as a pupil you will be integrated into Chambers' life. You will sit with your supervisor, not in an annexe away from the action, and you will be invited to Chambers' social events.

As you would expect, barristers at Blackstone Chambers work hard. On the other hand, we recognise that most people work best when they have a sensible work-life balance. We judge our pupils by the quality of their work, not the quantity. When we say we expect pupils to work Monday to Friday, from around 8.30/9.00 to 6.00/6.30, we mean it. Pupils in Chambers any later are often urged to go home. So, whilst there may be times when you choose to work longer hours, you will rarely be expected to do so.

Pupils are entitled to 30 days of holiday per year plus bank holidays, and we usually ask pupils to take 10 days in their first six, at Christmas and Easter, and 20 days in the summer of their second six.

In line with our policy of encouraging the best applicants from all backgrounds and walks of life, we are open to discussing any particular requirements you may have in terms of balancing work and other commitments. Please feel free to contact us for a confidential discussion.

The finances

We currently offer a pupillage award of £75,000 for pupillages commencing in 2026. Pupils may apply to draw down up to £22,500 during their BPC year. These figures are not affected if, like many of our pupils, you are successful in obtaining further financial assistance from your Inn. Our awards may be reviewed during the currency of the application process.

Pupillage at Blackstone Chambers

The Tenancy decision

At present, Blackstone Chambers' policy is one of gradual expansion. We do not operate a quota for tenancies. Chambers has space to expand and is looking to take on outstanding candidates. It is our general practice to recruit starter tenants only from our own pupils. We are optimistic about the future of Chambers and our ability to meet the challenges of a changing legal world. Over the past few years we have taken on new tenants each year, and we intend to do so for the foreseeable future.

The statistics speak for themselves: over the past 10 years we have taken on 34 tenants from our annual pupillage intake, accepting between 3 and 4 pupil tenants a year.

We normally take tenancy decisions in early July each year. We will tell you the date well in advance. The decision is taken by a vote of the whole of Chambers. The information on which members of Chambers base their decision is feedback from your pupil supervisors, your assessed work, and your performance in the advocacy training. At the meeting, all members of Chambers are given the opportunity of expressing their views on candidates. However, because of our policy of not allowing pupils to do work for other members of Chambers, there is no chance that any pupil will be unfairly advantaged simply because they happened to work on a particular case.

The alternatives

We invest a lot of time ensuring that our tenancy decisions are entirely fair, and that the process is as transparent as possible. However, pupils who do not stay on as tenants at Blackstone Chambers do have a wide range of options. The high quality of our training and of our pupils is known and respected across the profession. Furthermore, if you are not offered tenancy here, your pupil supervisors and others in Chambers will pull out all the stops to help you to find a place at another set of chambers which fits your interests. This usually means doing a third six months of pupillage there, although sometimes pupils go straight into tenancy elsewhere. In previous years, pupils who have not stayed on at Blackstone have gone on to successful practice in other top sets of chambers.

Life as a Tenant

Your professional life as a member of Blackstone Chambers will be an attractive one. You will work hard, but you will be your own boss. We enjoy our professional lives and work in a friendly atmosphere. We work as individuals although, of course, we have many common interests as members of the Chambers. You are responsible for your own work but you should feel free to consult with your colleagues and to draw on the collective expertise of Chambers. You should never be just one brick in a pyramid of delegated work.

As a junior tenant you can expect a broad mix of advisory and advocacy work. At the more junior end of Chambers there is County Court and employment tribunal work, and even very occasionally some Magistrates Court work. You will also find yourself involved in High Court litigation from an early stage in your career, in particular dealing with interlocutory applications. You will also be instructed as a Junior assisting a Silk in larger cases and in advisory work. We place a very heavy emphasis on giving our junior barristers a range of experience from covering their own smaller cases to assisting on large cases. You will certainly have a varied and stimulating life.

*“Barristers at Blackstone are formidable and ever-present figures
at the Bar.”*

Chambers Student Guide 2024

It is our experience that our junior tenants very soon begin to make a good living at the Bar. Of course, the earnings of individual barristers do vary. However, within a short time of commencing practice the earnings of junior tenants in these Chambers are certainly comparable to those of assistant solicitors of comparable length of experience. Over time, we are confident that your income will stand favourable comparison with that of any other professional person.

Chambers' expenses, including rent, are shared between members of Chambers in proportion to their receipts in the previous year. The Chambers' financial year commences at the beginning of April. Accordingly, and on the basis of a tenancy commencing in October, you will pay no Chambers expenses or service charge for your first six months in Chambers; in the following year, you will only pay a modest amount proportionate to your receipts in those first six months.

Members of Chambers are fully aware of the financial strains encountered by tenants establishing their careers at the Bar. In order to try to ameliorate any difficulties, Chambers offers new junior tenants an interest free loan of up to £30,000 at the beginning of their first practice year, repayable at the end of 15 months in practice.

And what do two of our junior tenants say...?



Femi Adekoya

I studied law at university unsure whether I wanted to become a barrister or a solicitor. After learning about the two professions, I decided that a life at the bar was one for me. Being a barrister is a very unique and special job. You are in control of your career. You are self-employed so your pay is proportional to your effort and dedication. A life at the bar involves the ideal combination of intellectual rigour and commercial practicality. Barristers both advise on how the law applies to their client's commercial context, and persuade judges to accept their arguments on untested propositions of law.

After completing my undergraduate degree in law at the University of Cambridge, I studied for a master's at the University of Pennsylvania. I also worked as a judicial assistant in the Court of Appeal and as a research assistant in one of the leading regulatory and environmental sets in London.

A pupil at Blackstone sits with four supervisors. Blackstone is unique for its variety of high-quality work, and the pupillage process reflects this. My supervisors' areas of expertise covered all of Blackstone's main areas of practice. After a seat with supervisor that specialises in employment law, when one has just about got to grips with the contours of that practice area, you will start your next seat and have to do the same with commercial law. Ultimately, the range of work you do throughout your pupillage makes the job more interesting and prepares you to be a better lawyer.

Across pupillage, you will assist your supervisor in drafting the key documents of a barrister's career, for example, opinions, pleadings and skeleton arguments. Your supervisors give you detailed feedback throughout the year so your aptitude for crafting these all-important documents increases markedly. The second six at Blackstone is non-practising, but Blackstone recognises the importance of oral advocacy. There are several advocacy sessions throughout pupillage in which you practice cross-examination and delivering submissions, and remain in awe of the advocacy trainers hoping that one day you can deliver submissions on the minutiae of contract law so effortlessly.

Pupillage is a daunting year. It is hard work, and it can feel like a year-long job interview. In many ways, pupillage is a great leveller, because despite the varied career paths which can lead one to the bar, no pupil is familiar with working as a barrister. The prize comes in the form of developing the skills needed for a successful career at the Bar. Additionally, and no less important, are the lifelong relationships you develop with your fellow pupils through your shared experiences.

Blackstone's culture has a material impact on the pupillage experience. Members of chambers are supportive and remarkably approachable; their doors are always open for a chat. Weekly teas and socials are an institution to which pupils are invited, so pupils are expected to be wholly part of making Blackstone the friendly and collegiate chambers it is.



Gayatri Sarathy

I joined Chambers as a tenant in September 2018. Before coming to the Bar, I studied law at the University of Oxford. I also worked as a research assistant in the public law team at the Law Commission and volunteered with an NGO.

For me, being a barrister offers a unique combination of engaging intellectually with complex legal issues and thinking practically about how they are resolved and presented before a court. There is rarely a dull moment and my days are full of variety: whether that is researching for an advice; advising clients in conference; drafting written submissions; or appearing in court. Being self-employed means that you are in control of when and how long you work.

Pupillage is very useful preparation for the beginning of your career at the Bar. Each pupil shadows the same four members of Chambers in different areas of practice, alongside written and advocacy assessments. During that time, you attend court with your pupil supervisor and draft notes on the law, pleadings and skeleton arguments. It is rigorous, but also incredibly fair. You are given regular feedback from pupil supervisors and advocacy trainers, who are two senior members of Chambers.

You are not required to work for any other members of Chambers. Whilst it is a year-long assessment, it is also invaluable training as a lawyer and an advocate.

Why Blackstone? First, as a junior tenant, there is a huge diversity of work on offer and you are encouraged to maintain a broad practice in your early years (though there is opportunity to specialise if you would like). That is important because there are areas of law you may enjoy academically and not in practice or vice versa, or areas of law that you may never have studied, like sports law. My first year has involved a real mix of commercial, employment and public law — both on my own and in teams with other members of Chambers. A particular highlight was being involved in the Privacy International case with Dinah Rose KC, Ben Jaffey KC, Sir Jeffrey Jowell KC and Tom Cleaver before the Supreme Court.

Beyond this, the environment in Chambers is supportive and collegiate. Every door is open to ask a question and there are weekly drinks which, in the summer months, are held on the roof terrace. It is a privilege to be part of Chambers and I would wholeheartedly encourage everyone to apply.



Applying for Pupillage

Pupillage standards

We are looking to recruit pupils of exceptionally high academic ability who can demonstrate an interest in and aptitude for a successful career at Blackstone Chambers. We place particular emphasis on a candidate's written and oral advocacy and communication skills, which we assess throughout the application procedure. It is by no means necessary for your first degree to be in law.

We use the Rare Contextual Recruitment System (CRS) when processing applications. The CRS uses national data to map the social, financial and educational background of candidates so as to ensure that all candidates of merit and potential are identified during recruitment processes and thus given the appropriate chance to flourish. All applicants for pupillage at Blackstone Chambers are given the opportunity to consent to their personal information being processed by the CRS and the result of such analysis being provided to the Pupillage Committee for consideration at the outset of the application process.

Pupillage applications

We have made some changes to our application procedure this year, following a review of our process.

All applications for pupillage are made through the Pupillage Gateway. We do not invite applications for mini-pupillage before the Pupillage Gateway opens for applications in January 2025 and closes in February 2025.

We encourage candidates to complete their applications early in the applications window and to provide contextual information through the CRS platform.

Additional competency-based questions on our Pupillage Gateway application form provide candidates with the opportunity to demonstrate their aptitude for a pupillage with us.

For more information about the Pupillage Gateway please refer to the Pupillage Gateway website www.pupillagegateway.com or contact the Bar Council via telephone 020 7242 0082, or visit their website: www.barcouncil.org.uk.

Selection process

Our selection criteria, and information about the way in which written applications are assessed throughout the process is available on our website.

Written pupillage applications received through the Gateway will be reviewed by one or more members of the Pupillage Committee after a thorough calibration process. Applications will be assessed for evidence of academic ability, analytical ability, communication and advocacy skills, motivation, resilience and determination, ability to work with others, and ability to work independently. Application forms are anonymised and we also use the Gateway's scheme for redacting information, including about personal details and academic institutions. Candidates will be rated, with the top 40-50 candidates being invited to attend an assessed mini-pupillage.

We welcome repeat applications. Please note that if you have applied for pupillage before, and done an assessed mini-pupillage as part of the application process, the Pupillage Committee will where relevant consider whether you have demonstrated that your application has improved since then when deciding whether to offer you an assessed mini-pupillage in this application round. We are only able to offer mini pupillages to candidates who apply for pupillage at Blackstone Chambers through the Pupillage Gateway.

We rely heavily on assessed mini-pupillages to provide Chambers with a deeper understanding of a candidate's abilities and aptitude for a career at Blackstone Chambers. Pupillage will only be offered to candidates who have completed an assessed mini-pupillage with us.

We do not offer mini pupillages to gain work experience at Blackstone Chambers, other than through the various Bar access schemes in which we participate. More information about the schemes can be found [here](#).

Mini-pupillage

As a mini pupil you will spend three days in Chambers, and will gain a useful insight into life at Blackstone Chambers. You will normally be with one or two members of Chambers, but may also have the opportunity of seeing the work of others. The object of a mini-pupillage is for you to get to know us and for us to get to know you while assessing your aptitude for a career in Blackstone Chambers. You will also be asked to undertake a set piece of work on one of your days in Chambers – this set work is common to all candidates in your applications year. Candidates' work will be anonymised and formally assessed by a small panel of barristers. Your supervisor will be asked to report back to the Pupillage Committee about your performance – please refer to the guidance notes for information about what we hope to see.

We offer financial assistance of up to £250 in respect of travel and/or out-of-pocket accommodation expenses incurred by candidates undertaking a mini pupillage with us. In exceptional circumstances additional funding may be available. Please contact our Pupillage Manager, Nicola Hall for information.

Pupillage Interviews and Offers

After all mini-pupillages have been completed the Pupillage Committee will select a small group of around 12 candidates to be invited to a final pupillage interview. Final interviews will take place in late April 2025.

We will offer pupillages to up to four candidates, and one reserve candidate, on 9 May 2025.

References, University Certificates and Transcripts

We will not take up references or require university certificates or transcripts until a candidate's application has progressed through to offer of an assessed mini pupillage. Although we will request reference and academic information at this time, references do not form part of the mini-pupillage assessment process. References will be looked at by the Pupillage Committee when considering offers of a final pupillage interview.

"Barristers at Blackstone are formidable and ever-present figures at the Bar."
Chambers Student Guide 2023

We will require at least two academic references and a copy of your university official documents sent direct to pupillage@blackstonechambers.com. We strongly advise that you have contacted your referees and your universities well in advance to ensure you have the documents available when needed. Any delay may prejudice the processing of your application.

Equal Opportunities

All barristers, clerks and staff are fully committed to diversity and inclusion within Blackstone Chambers and the Bar generally, and to equality of opportunity for all. It is Chambers' policy to treat everyone fairly and equally. Candidates for pupillage and tenancy are assessed, and offers of pupillage made, solely on merit.

We are taking proactive steps to review and continually improve all aspects of the administration and life in Chambers, and to ensure and improve equality of access to pupillage, training, practice development and employment opportunities within our organisation.

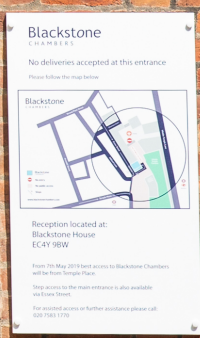
We always consider requests for reasonable adjustments to be made during the course of our applications process so as to remove or reduce disadvantages experienced by applicants with disabilities. Such adjustments might include (by way of non-exhaustive examples) the provision of information in alternative formats, easily accessible interview and mini-pupillage venues, or extra time to prepare for or undertake assessment.

A request for reasonable adjustments should be made in the first instance to the Pupillage Manager, Nicola Hall, and will be considered by the Pupillage Committee in conjunction with chambers' Equality and Diversity Officers as appropriate.



27

24



STONE TOWN AND PARTNERS AND G.F. LONG ARCHITECTS



Applications Timetable

The timetable is as follows (please refer to the website for further information):

- 02 January 2025 – Pupillage Gateway opens for applications.
- 05 February 2025 – Pupillage Gateway closes for applications.
- 03 March - 11 April 2025 – Mini-pupillages take place.
- 29 April - 01 May 2025 – Pupillage interviews at Blackstone Chambers.
- 09 May 2025 – Offers of pupillage for 2026 will be made.

Please note these dates are provisional and subject to the Pupillage Gateway calendar.

Members of Chambers

Heads of Chambers

Tom Weisselberg KC

Jane Mulcahy KC

Lord Burnett of Maldon
 Lord Woolf of Barnes
 Michael Beloff KC
 David Donaldson KC
 Robert Englehart KC
 David Hunt KC
 Barbara Dohmann KC
 Maurice Mendelson KC
 Lord Pannick KC
 Sir Jeffrey Jowell KC
 Stephen Nathan KC
 Lord Keen of Elie KC
 Charles Flint KC
 Michael Bloch KC
 Ian Mill KC
 Harish Salve KC
 Paul Goulding KC
 Monica Carss-Frisk KC
 Mark Shaw KC
 Robert Anderson KC
 Dinah Rose KC
 Timothy Otty KC
 Sir James Eadie KC
 Robert Howe KC
 Anthony Peto KC
 Adam Lewis KC
 Alan Maclean KC
 Andrew Green KC
 Javan Herberg KC
 Sam Grodzinski KC
 Andrew Hunter KC
 Thomas de la Mare KC
 Kieron Beal KC
 Kate Gallafent KC
 Andreas Gledhill KC
 Andrew George KC
 Adrian Briggs KC
 Gemma White KC
 Brian Kennelly KC
 Shaheed Fatima KC
 Ivan Hare KC
 Ben Jaffey KC
 Tom Croxford KC

Catherine Callaghan KC
 Nick De Marco KC
 Charlotte Kilroy KC
 Diya Sen Gupta KC
 Tom Hickman KC
 David Pievsky KC
 James Segan KC
 Catherine Donnelly SC
 Victoria Windle KC
 Robert Weekes KC
 Hanif Mussa KC
 Jessica Boyd KC
 Andrew Scott KC
 Adam Baradon KC
 Tom Richards KC
 Tristan Jones KC
 Craig Rajgopaul KC
 Joanna Pollard
 Jane Collier
 Emma Dixon
 Stephanie Palmer
 Leona Powell
 Mark Vinall
 Sarah Wilkinson
 Iain Steele
 Naina Patel
 Christopher McCrudden
 Simon Pritchard
 David Lowe
 Emily Neill
 Peter Head
 Paul Luckhurst
 Tom Cleaver
 Tom Mountford
 Tim Parker
 Shane Sibbel
 Fraser Campbell
 Ravi Mehta
 Daniel Burgess
 Jason Pobjoy
 Harry Adamson
 Kerenza Davis
 Tom Leary

Jana Sadler-Forster
 Luka Krsljanin
 Daniel Cashman
 Tom Coates
 Eesvan Krishnan
 Ajay Ratan
 Flora Robertson
 Celia Rooney
 George Molyneaux
 Navid Pourghazi
 Isabel Buchanan
 Andrew Trotter
 Hollie Higgins
 Dominic Howells
 Natasha Simonsen
 Gayatri Sarathy
 Tim Lau
 Rachel Jones
 Carmine Conte
 Warren Fitt
 Tom Lowenthal
 Will Bordell
 Barnaby Lowe
 Emmeline Plews
 Rayan Fakhoury
 Marlena Valles
 Sean Butler
 Zafar Ansari
 Femi Adekoya
 Ava Mayer
 Madelaine Clifford
 Antonia Eklund
 Aislinn Kelly-Lyth
 Rowan Stennett
 Rhys Jones
 Hugo Murphy
 Tom Watret
 Drishti Suri
 Grant Kynaston



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