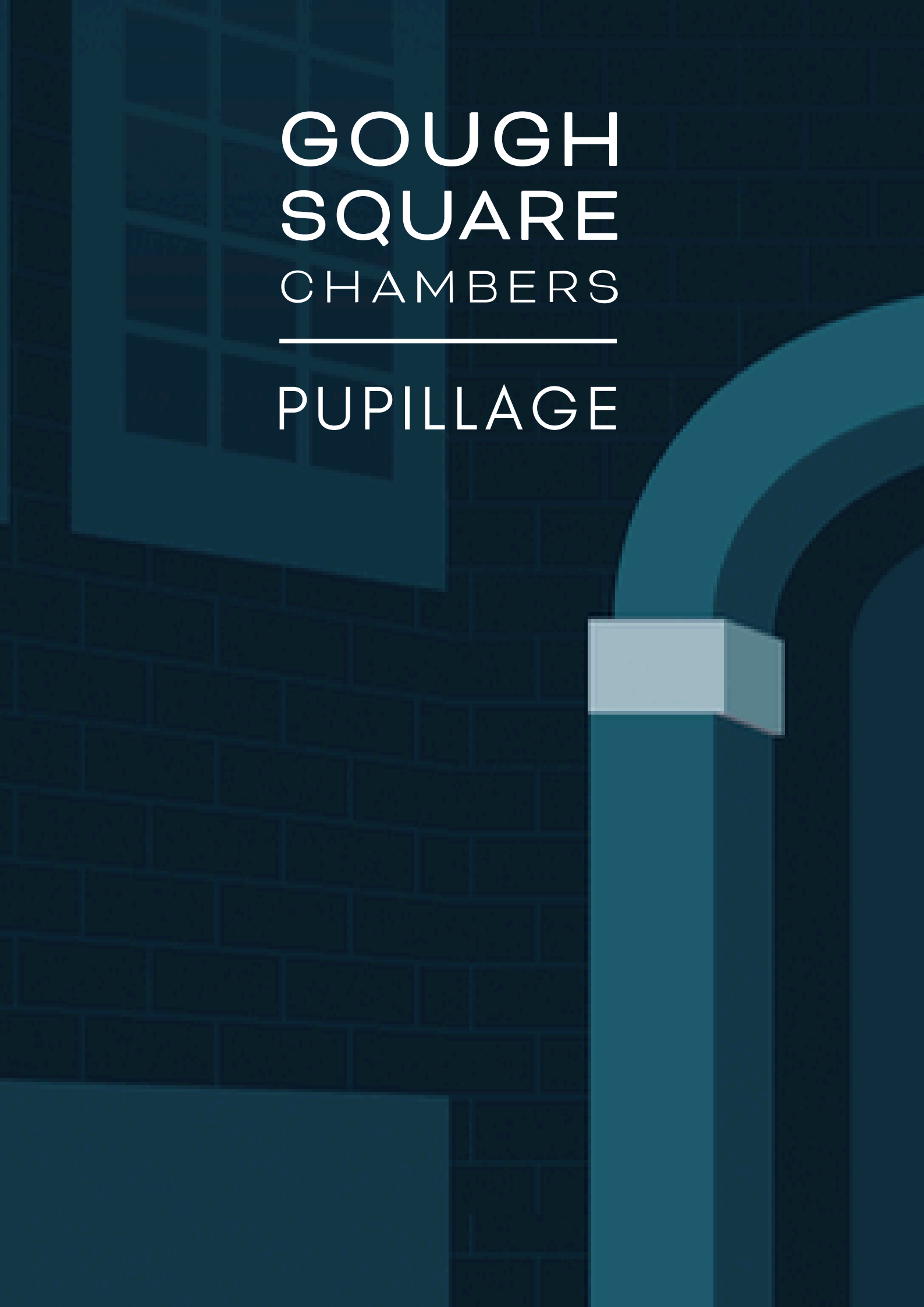




GOUGH
SQUARE
CHAMBERS

PUPILLAGE

Number one in
consumer law and
consumer finance for
over 30 years.

Chambers and Partners

8/7, GOUGH SQUARE

Introduction to Chambers

Overview	Page 3
Diversity and inclusion statement	Page 4
Our barristers	Page 5
About chambers	Page 6

Areas of Practice

Introduction	Page 7
Consumer credit law	Page 8
Financial services	Page 8
Consumer contracts	Page 8
Trading standards	Page 8

Recent Pupillage

Q&A with Jack Brady	Page 10-12
---------------------	------------

Opportunities

Development	Page 14
Quality of work	Page 14
Atmosphere	Page 14
Tenancy rates	Page 14

Structure of Pupillage

A year of pupillage	Page 15
Assessment	Page 15
Tenancy decision	Page 16
Finances	Page 16
What are we looking for	Page 16

Overview

What to expect:

- A relaxed and collegiate atmosphere.
- A 12 month plan tailored to your development.
- The opportunity to satisfactorily explore all of Chambers' practice areas and to start building a specialism.
- Expert support from up to three supervisors together with the opportunity to learn from junior members during your first six to prepare you for getting on your feet.
- Bimonthly progress reviews to ensure you are on track for second six and tenancy.
- Chambers' highly anticipated work and social events including Chambers' annual summer conference in Italy, large seminars, Christmas and summer parties, networking events, ski trips, and 10k/half marathons.
- The opportunity to get involved in Chambers' publications and begin building a name for yourself.

Why choose us:

- We will invest in you. We only have one pupil each year (so there is no internal competition), the award is £100,000 and we have one of the best tenancy rates around with more than 15 years of taking on every pupil.
- You will become a part of the leading chambers in consumer and regulatory law.
- You will have the opportunity to develop a specialist practice and become a recognised expert, even in your early years.

A photograph of a man and a woman in business attire engaged in a conversation. The man, on the right, is wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a red patterned tie. He is looking towards the woman. The woman, on the left, is seen from the back/side, wearing a dark blazer over a white shirt. Her hair is styled in a bun with a brown hair tie. They are in a room with large, multi-paned windows in the background, showing a view of brick buildings. A modern, metallic, dome-shaped pendant light hangs from the ceiling. A lamp with a beige shade is visible on the right. A semi-transparent teal box with white text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

Diversity & Inclusion Statement:
Gough Square Chambers operates an equality and diversity policy and abides by the Bar Standards Board's Equality and Diversity Code for the Bar.

Our Barristers

Head of Chambers Kevin De Haan KC	Call: 1976 Silk: 2000
Head of Chambers Jonathan Goulding	Call: 1984
David Travers KC	Call: 1981 Silk: 2010
Jonathan Kirk KC	Call: 1995 Silk: 2010
Fred Philpott	Call: 1974
Claire Andrews	Call: 1979
Jeremy Barnett	Call: 1980
Josephine Hayes	Call: 1980
Stephen Neville	Call: 1986
Julian Gun Cunninghame	Call: 1986
Bradley Say	Call: 1993
Ian Thomas	Call: 1993
Iain Macdonald	Call: 1996
Simon Popplewell	Call: 2000
Cameron Crowe	Call: 2002
Kate Urell	Call: 2002
Lee Reynolds	Call: 2002
Stuart Jessop	Call: 2002
Alison Lambert	Call: 2005
Richard Roberts	Call: 2006
James Ross	Call: 2006
Laura Phillips	Call: 2009
Lee Finch	Call: 2010
Daniel Brayley	Call: 2011
Michael Coley	Call: 2011
Alison Hollis	Call: 2012
Robin Kingham	Call: 2013
Sabrina Goodchild	Call: 2017
George Spence-Jones	Call: 2017
Ann-Marie O'Neil	Call: 2020
Jack Brady	Call: 2023
Pupil Harry Hatwell	
Door Tenant Sebastian Clegg	Call: 1994
Door Tenant Jonathan Spicer	Call: 1995
Door Tenant Alexander Greenwood	Call: 2002

About Chambers

6

Gough Square Chambers is a small specialist set practising from chambers at 6 - 7 Gough Square, a pretty cobbled square situated between Fleet Street and Fetter Lane. Chambers traces its history to a set founded at 2 Harcourt Buildings by Leonard Caplan QC shortly after the Second World War.

In 1986, a number of people from 2 Harcourt Buildings set up at 9 Devereux Court. Due to continuing expansion, Chambers quickly outgrew 9 Devereux Court and moved to Gough Square in 1993.

From an early stage, Chambers has had a particular speciality in consumer and trading law. This is a wide ranging field that covers most types of transactions between businesses and members of the public. However, there has always been a particular emphasis on consumer credit and retail banking.

Chambers has been at the vanguard of the development of this area of law for over 30 years, including in landmark cases such as *Royal Bank of Scotland v Etridge* (No. 2) [2001] UKHL 44 and *Beavis v ParkingEye* [2015] UKSC 67.

Despite its success, Chambers has remained a small and approachable set. We hope that you will find this brochure helpful in applying for pupillage.

We look forward to welcoming you to Gough Square Chambers.



Areas of Practice

Introduction

Chambers specialises in all aspects of consumer law. This is a diverse field that encompasses almost any interaction between retail businesses and the public. Whilst there are relatively few true consumer law specialists at the Bar, it is difficult to exaggerate the scope and day-to-day impact of consumer law on businesses and members of the public.

Chambers has long been considered the country's leading set in consumer law and is ranked as the sole top tier set for consumer law by both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500. As the Legal 500 2017 put it, 'Gough Square Chambers is, "without doubt, the leading set for consumer law matters" with "eminent KCs, heavy-hitting mid to senior juniors and some brilliant rising stars".

'Consumer law' is really a hybrid of many different substantive areas of law. Pupils in Chambers see the full spectrum of consumer law, from technical civil credit and banking cases on the one hand to criminal trading standards jury trials on the other. Once in tenancy, members have the option of focussing on their chosen areas – although many continue to do the full range of consumer law work.

In addition to consumer law, Chambers is ranked as a leading set in financial services and banking. Members of Chambers also practise in a number of fields related to consumer law, with individual members ranked as leading practitioners in travel, licensing, and product liability.

Members also practice in areas away from consumer law and are ranked in areas such as: Environment, health and safety, inquests and inquiries and local government.

A few short summaries of Chambers' main areas of practice are set out here. This list is by no means exhaustive and further details may be found on Chambers' website.



Consumer Credit

The consumer credit field covers most retail lending. Chambers usually acts for banks and lenders (such as Lloyds, HSBC, Bank of Scotland, RBS, Santander, American Express, and MBNA), although some members also act for borrowers. Members of Chambers are also instructed by regulatory and enforcement authorities.

Following the global credit 'crunch', there has been a great amount of litigation and Chambers has been instructed in some of the key consumer credit cases of the last decade. These include *Office of Fair Trading v Lloyds TSB* [2007] UKHL 48, *Carey v HSBC plc* [2009] EWHC 3417, *Harrison v Black Horse Ltd* [2011] EWCA Civ 1128, *JP Morgan v Northern Rock plc* [2014] EWHC 291, *Grace & George v Black Horse Ltd* [2014] EWCA Civ 1413, *Kerrigan v Elevate Credit International* [2020] EWHC 2169 (Comm), and *CFL Finance Limited v Gertner* [2021] EWCA Civ 228.

Financial Services

Beyond consumer credit, Chambers undertakes a variety of other financial services work. This often relates to compliance with the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and the regulation of firms by the Financial Conduct Authority. Notable cases in this area include *Hurstanger v Wilson* [2007] EWCA Civ 299, *Helden v Strathmore Ltd* [2011] EWCA Civ 542, *Conlon v Black Horse Ltd* [2013] EWCA Civ 1658, *Nationwide Debt Consultants Ltd v Financial Conduct Authority* [2017] UKUT 0142 TCC, *Fortwell Finance Limited v Halstead* [2018] EWCA Civ 676, *MFS Portfolio Ltd v Phelan* [2019] GCCR 17149, and *Jackson v Ayles* [2021] EWHC 995 (Ch).

Consumer Contracts

Members of Chambers regularly represent businesses in proceedings involving consumer contracts, including contracts for the sale and supply of goods and services. In the past, this often involved the application of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1974, the Sale of Goods Act 1979, and the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999. Although those statutes remain relevant, many of these cases are now governed instead by the Consumer Rights Act 2015.

In 2015, Jonathan Kirk KC and Thomas Samuels successfully persuaded the Supreme Court to fundamentally alter the doctrine of penalties at common law (*Beavis v ParkingEye Ltd* [2015] UKSC 67). Other notable cases include *Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills v PLT Anti-Marketing Ltd* [2015] EWCA Civ 76, *Purely Creative Ltd v Office of Fair Trading* (CJEU Case C-428/11), and *Kaye v Nu Skin UK Ltd* [2012] EWHC 958.

Trading Standards

Members of Chambers both prosecute (on behalf of enforcement authorities) and regularly defend major supermarkets and other nationwide retailers in the criminal courts for trading standards offences. These cases often involve unfair and aggressive commercial practices, food safety and hygiene, product safety, product labelling, counterfeiting and trademarks, or money laundering.

Notable cases: *DEFRA v ASDA Stores Ltd* [2003] UKHL 71, *Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd v HM Courts Service* [2006] EWHC 1749 (Admin), *R v Scottish & Southern Energy plc* [2012] EWCA Crim 539, *R v X Ltd* [2013] EWCA Crim 818, and *Torfaen CBC v Douglas Willis Ltd* [2013] UKSC 59.

“They are the leaders in relation to consumer finance.”

Legal 500

Recent Pupillage

Jack Brady | Call: 2023



My route to the Bar was fairly typical for someone who did not study law as an undergraduate: I studied Modern & Medieval Languages at university because that is the subject I enjoyed most at school. After graduating, I spent a year working and considering whether a career in law might be for me: I undertook some mini-pupillages, did a couple of debating competitions, and prepared my applications for the Graduate Diploma in Law, which is the conversion course that non-law graduates need to take.

I spent the next two years completing the Graduate Diploma in Law and Bar Vocational Studies courses, during which time I did lots more mini-pupillages across a range of practice areas, participated in the debating and mooting clubs at Lincoln's Inn, and competed in some international mooting competitions (III Milan Investment Arbitration Pre-Moot, VI Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot, VI Moscow Investment Arbitration Pre-Moot, Foreign Direct Investment Moot) with course mates from The City Law School and national Times 2TG Moot competition. I also volunteered at the Blackfriars Pro Bono Clinic, which gave me some great exposure to real-world legal problems.

I successfully applied for pupillage while completing the Bar Vocational Studies course. In my view, making a large number of applications was really important to that success as the competition is fierce. I was fortunate to be invited to plenty of interviews, so I spent a very busy couple of months preparing, interviewing, and completing various assessments. My very last interview was the final round at Gough Square and, it is safe to say that I was as pleased for the application season to be over as I was to later receive a pupillage offer from Chambers.

The pupillage experience

It was drawn to Gough Square Chambers for its quality of work in both civil and criminal jurisdictions and for its unstuffy, collegiate nature. I liked that I would be developing specialist knowledge early in my career while enjoying scope to explore the full breadth of regulatory law, and that I could decide after being in practice what the right balance of oral versus written advocacy was for me. I was attracted to the idea that a practising second-six would be a stepping stone between the non-practising period of my pupillage and tenancy, and, importantly, I felt I would fit in with Chambers' members.

Currently, Chambers recruits one pupil per year. I found this to be really helpful because I was not sharing opportunities to see some of the most interesting work in Chambers with a co-pupil and because I knew that, without competition from a co-pupil, my tenancy decision would be based solely on my own performance aptitude. I found there were plenty of opportunities to socialise with other pupils, so I did not feel as if I was missing out on the benefits of having a sociable and supportive co-pupil.

During the pupillage year, I had three different supervisors with practices that are quite different in some respects. That really helped me to see a variety of work and styles and to get a better sense of the type of work I might like to explore. I was also fortunate to complete pieces of research and drafting for, and spend time shadowing, other members of Chambers. In particular, I enjoyed attending two criminal prosecutions of large-scale fraud and money laundering offences where in each case a team of Chambers' members was instructed.

I had three formal written advocacy assessments, one with each supervisor, and a formal oral advocacy assessment shortly before starting my second-six. I found the feedback I received immensely helpful, particularly after my oral advocacy assessment, and confidence-building as I progressed towards getting on my feet for the first time. The work produced for my supervisors was considered informally, of course, and will have helped my supervisors build a picture to report back to other members.

In my second-six, I was very regularly in the County Court and occasionally in a Magistrates' Court, all under the helpful guidance of my supervisors and other members of Chambers. After two years of studying, gaining experience, and applying for pupillage, I very much enjoyed the feeling of finally

Interview continued...

Recent Pupillage

11

being in Court in my own right. At first, all of my work was checked by my then supervisor before it went off, for which I was grateful. The transition to being entirely self-dependent, aside from the regular question or quick chat, was gradual such that I felt confident with my work.

The transition from pupil to tenant

For me, the transition from pupil to tenant was fairly unremarkable in that I have felt the support of my pupil supervisors when needed just as much in tenancy as I did as a pupil. Equally, having undertaken a busy second-six that allowed me to be in Court at least three times a week, I was fairly comfortable with many of the cases I had as a new tenant and I had gained confidence in arguing those cases before a judge.

A practical but important benefit to practising in my second-six before tenancy was that I received payment for my second-six work in the first months of tenancy when I stopped receiving my pupillage award. That meant there wasn't a period of a few months at the start of my tenancy where I was waiting to be paid, which can sometimes happen if your first paid work is only done at the start of your tenancy.

What is your practice like now?

Fortunately, I have been very busy since joining as a tenant. I have regularly been in the County Court, Magistrates' Courts, and Crown Court, and I have been led on cases in the High Court, the Upper Tribunal, and the Supreme Court. While many of my cases have been consumer finance cases, which is one of Chambers' specialisms, I have also undertaken work that falls into the areas of commercial, public, regulatory, health and safety, and criminal law. I have enjoyed that variety and aim to maintain a diverse practice.

I am usually in Court two or three times per week, though I have a good amount of written work to do too. I work long hours, but I learn something from every case and my workload is certainly within my control and something that can be freely discussed with the clerks. It is easy to block time in my diary to catch-up on paperwork or take a break, so I have the tools to maintain the right balance.

I have a great mentor through the scheme run by

Lincoln's Inn, and I would really recommend a mentor to those starting out at the Bar. It has been useful to be able to ask questions about practice management, practice development, and marketing to a senior member of the Bar able to give the view of someone outside Chambers. That, in addition to the support I receive from those in Chambers, continues to be invaluable.

What is the culture of chambers?

Gough Square Chambers is a friendly set where you are supported by your colleagues and your clerks. In my view, the considerable merit in Chambers' being fairly small is that you know everyone and everyone knows you. This means you have a good sense of everyone's experience, which helps with knowing who to run an idea or question past, and more senior members of Chambers get to know you well and can more easily understand the type of junior work that would interest you.

Members of Chambers generally share rooms, though it is quite rare for more than two people to be in Chambers at the same time, and we all share Chambers' facilities, which include a printing room, conference room, books and journals, and two kitchens. To help things run smoothly, Chambers has various committees, two Heads of Chambers, a Chambers Administrator, Marketing Executive, and a very efficient clerking team led by our Senior Clerk.

Chambers has been a sociable environment since it was founded. It is not uncommon for members of Chambers to have lunch, coffee, or a post-work drink together, and Chambers holds an annual consumer law conference in Puglia, which also provides an opportunity to socialise between members of Chambers and clients. The summer party has also become quite the annual event, with this year's party held in the National Portrait Gallery. All of this creates a collegiate spirit that has helped me during my pupillage and first year of tenancy at Gough Square.

Top tips for those wanting to become a barrister/secure a pupillage at your chambers

I can't profess to have any unique advice or insight, but I really benefited from the following pointers others kindly shared with me when I was applying:

Interview continued...

1. If you decide that the Bar is for you, throw absolutely everything at it — you are unlikely to be successful if you don't completely commit to it by actively searching out opportunities to gain more experience and build your profile

2. Have an open mind when it comes to applying — it is tricky to get a full picture of what a particular set or practice area is like until you are there or practising in that field, so be slow to decide that a particular area of law is not for you.

3. Think about the type of barrister you would like to be — some barristers may be in Court every day while others may spend much more time on written work than they do in Court. It's important to have a sense of what might work for you and then explain to those interviewing you not just why you would like to be a barrister, but why you would like to be that type of barrister.

4. Don't underestimate yourself but be realistic too — when selecting the sets to apply to, try to think very dispassionately about whether your application is likely to be successful there. You can only make a limited number of sets, so use your applications, time, and energy wisely.

Don't just tell, explain with examples — it is much more helpful to those reviewing your pupillage applications and interviewing you for you to show them examples that substantiate your resilience, adaptability, analytical mind, advocacy skills etc. Saying you are or have those things is not enough.

5. Good things can take time — while you will likely be desperate to get an offer of pupillage and start your career at the Bar, it is uncommon to get an offer first time around. There will be many barristers who secured pupillage after a few years of applying, so be realistic but also don't be unreasonably deterred and use time between application rounds to keep building your CV.



“Undoubtedly the best set for consumer work.”

Legal 500



Development

Chambers is proud to be the leader in its chosen fields. This success is due in large measure to the quality of instruction and mentoring that its members receive during pupillage. This results in junior tenants who have real expertise in consumer and regulatory law from very early on. As Chambers & Partners 2015 noted, 'The number of bodies it can throw at the sector is unmatched by any other set, and its capabilities at the junior end are there for all to see. Solicitors view it as a top pick: "This chambers is at the very top of its game"'.

Quality of Work

As a pupil at Gough Square Chambers you will be exposed to a wide variety of high quality work. Pupils in Chambers are given a great deal of real responsibility and make substantive contributions to live cases from day one. The variety of civil, commercial, and regulatory criminal work presents a steep learning curve but also keeps the pupillage year exciting and engaging.

The variety of work provides a great grounding for practice in many different areas. However, should you choose to do so, you will be able to specialise further as a tenant once you know what you enjoy.

Atmosphere

By the standards of most sets of chambers, Gough Square is very informal and closely knit. Work conversations are just as likely to take place over a coffee or drinks as they are around a conference table. Members regularly socialise outside of work, both in the evenings and on trips further afield (e.g. Chambers' annual conference in Italy, regular ski trips, and 10k/half marathons).

Pupils are invited to all of Chambers' events as soon as they arrive, both organised (e.g. Chambers' annual summer cricket match, Christmas party, and fantasy football dinner) and impromptu (e.g. lunches out of Chambers). Working hours are 8:30AM to 6:00PM on weekdays and pupils are only occasionally permitted to work outside those times. In addition, since Chambers only takes one pupil at a time there's no chance that you will be pitted against someone else in a year-long competition for tenancy.

Tenancy Rates

Over the last 15 years, all of Chambers' pupils have stayed on as tenants. This is due to the care taken to select the right individuals from the start. Tenancy is never guaranteed, and pupils will have to demonstrate that they possess the skills required to succeed at the Bar in order to receive an offer, but a pupil at Gough Square is always viewed as a future tenant from his or her first day in Chambers.

Structure of Pupillage

A year of pupillage

Pupils in Chambers typically spend four months with three different supervisors. The first four months will be spent conducting legal research, observing courtroom advocacy, and learning the basics of life in practice from your supervisor. However, you won't be limited to working for your supervisor; rather, an effort will be made to ensure that you work on the most interesting and educational cases being handled in Chambers.

The second period of four months covers the transition from observation to practice and is spent with one supervisor. This timing allows you some time with your new supervisor before the inevitably daunting first appearance in court. In addition to the pupillage courses run by the Bar Council (paid for by Chambers), you'll also complete in-house advocacy training prior to starting your second six.

During the third period of four months, you'll start to adapt to life in practice and hopefully begin to see yourself as a future tenant in Chambers. You should expect to be in court on a regular basis in your own right. In addition, there are often opportunities to be led or to undertake devilling work – both of which will enable you to gain exposure to more complex cases.

Assessment

All work undertaken by a pupil is constructively appraised by his or her pupil supervisor. Every month, pupils are provided with an assessment of their work by their supervisor and formal reviews are held with Head of Pupillage every quarter. Dialogue during pupillage is important, and pupils are encouraged to ask questions and seek help if uncertain about any aspect of their work.

In addition to these regular assessments, two further formal assessments are conducted in the first six months. The advocacy assessment will most likely consist of a mock summary judgment application before a small panel consisting of no more than five members of Chambers. For the written assessment, the pupil will be expected to produce an opinion on a question of law relevant to Chambers' main areas of practice.

Tenancy decision

Every pupillage is offered with a view to tenancy. However, a final decision on whether to offer tenancy is taken by all members of Chambers. That decision is usually made in July of the pupillage year, but in any event Chambers will ensure that you are notified of the decision at least two months before the end of pupillage so that alternative arrangements can be made in the event of a negative decision.

Thankfully, however, this is not usually required as every pupil who has started in Chambers over the last 15 years has gone on to become a tenant.

Finances

The current pupillage award is £100,000. This is split between a £60,000 cash grant and £40,000 of guaranteed earnings. Pupils are also entitled to keep any earnings above the guaranteed amount subject to paying Chambers' rent and clerks fees.

In addition, Chambers pays for all travel costs incurred in connection with work outside London (other than work undertaken in your own name).

What are we looking for?

Chambers looks for six key traits in potential pupils, as set out in our recruitment criteria (available on Chambers' website):

1. **Intellectual ability** - including, but not limited to, academic achievement
2. **Advocacy skills** - the ability to express yourself both orally and in writing.
3. **Analytical Ability** - the ability to quickly assimilate and analyse information under pressure.
4. **Interpersonal skills and temperament** - including emotional intelligence and integrity
5. **Initiative** - evidence of motivation and determination, including your commitment to the Bar
6. **Interest in and suitability** - although prior experience of consumer law is not required, a genuine interest in the field is important

“Gough Square Chambers is the best set for consumer law. Every barrister is a genuine expert in the field.”

Legal 500

Contact us:

6-7 Gough Square, London, EC4A 3DE
T. 020 7353 0924 E. gsc@goughsq.co.uk

GOUGH
SQUARE
CHAMBERS

