

Pupillage



Falcon Chambers

Falcon Chambers is in a class of its own, head and shoulders above the competition, the go-to chambers for real estate and property litigation of all kinds.

We advise on challenging, often abstruse points of law, and appear in courts and tribunals at all levels, representing clients ranging from impecunious individuals to Government departments and the largest companies, and pretty much everything in between, in any dispute involving property. Our work takes us beyond straight property law into tort, contract, trusts, human rights and the statutory/regulatory arena. We are focussed, friendly, down to earth, hard working, and very successful.

The principal reason we retain our pre-eminence year after year is the quality of our members, which is why we devote so much effort and resource to choosing and then training our pupils. We were the first set of chambers to offer funded pupilages, and we maintain an abiding commitment to encouraging and nurturing those with high potential, regardless of background or means.

We are a true meritocracy, and we know our continuing success depends on attracting the future stars of the Bar: which is where you come in.

Falcon Chambers Pupillage 2019

We offer a competitive and comprehensive funding package:

- A pupillage award of up to £60,000.
- The option to drawdown up to £20,000 during the BPTC year.
- In their second six months, pupils can expect to earn additional income from their own work.
- All of the compulsory advocacy, practitioner and forensic accounting programmes are paid for by Chambers.
- If a pupil is required to travel for their Supervisor's work outside of the M25, travel expenses are reimbursed.

How to apply

Falcon Chambers does not receive applications through the Pupillage Gateway.

Chambers is offering up to two 12 month pupillages commencing in October 2019.

Applications for pupillage should be made using our own application form, available on our website. Once downloaded please complete and return by email to pupillage@falcon-chambers.com or by post, addressed to 'the Secretary to the Recruitment Committee', by **no later than 3 January 2018**.

Key Dates

Closing date for application forms: 3 January 2018

First round interviews: week commencing 22 January 2018

Second round interviews: week commencing 5 February 2018

The successful candidates are usually notified within a week of the final round interviews.

Mr Derek Wood CBE QC
Mr Jonathan Gaunt QC
Mr Kirk Reynolds QC
Mr Guy Fetherstonhaugh QC
Mr Timothy Fancourt QC
Mr Jonathan Karas QC
Mr Jonathan Small QC
Mr Stephen Jourdan QC
Miss Janet Bignell QC
Ms Caroline Shea QC
Ms Joanne R. Moss
Mr Anthony Radevsky
Mr Wayne Clark
Mr Barry Denyer-Green
Mr Paul Letman
Mr Gary Cowen
Mr Martin Dray
Mr Anthony Tanney
Ms Catherine Taskis
Miss Emily Windsor
Mr Mark Sefton

Miss Stephanie Tozer
Mr Edward Peters
Mr Adam Rosenthal
Dr Charles Harpum
Miss Elizabeth Fitzgerald
Mr Greville Healey
Mr Nathaniel Duckworth
Mr Oliver Radley-Gardner
Miss Tamsin Cox
Mr Philip Sissons
Mr Joseph Ollech
Miss Cecily Crampin
Mr Jamie Sutherland
Mr Kester Lees
Miss Ciara Fairley
Mr Toby Boncey
Ms Tricia Hemans
Ms Julia Petrenko
Mr James Tipler
Mr Mark Galtrey
Mr Gavin Bennison

Falcon Chambers, Falcon Court, London EC4Y 1AA
T: 020 7353 2484 F: 020 7353 1261

www.falcon-chambers.com

**For further information please do not hesitate to
contact the Secretary to the Recruitment Committee
at pupillage@falcon-chambers.com**



Falcon Chambers

Pupillage in practice

We offer up to two 12-month pupillages each year. Each pupil will be allocated to a different Pupil Supervisor every three months, in order to ensure that they are seen by as many members as possible. Each pupil will have their own desk in their Pupil Supervisor's room.

Prior to commencing your pupillage, you will be invited to attend an intensive course in landlord and tenant law in Chambers, delivered by Prof. Martin Dixon of Queens' College, Cambridge, a leader in the field.

As a pupil, you will be expected to read papers before conferences and briefs before court, to write opinions and draft statements of case as if they were your own, and to attend court with members of chambers. Your Pupil Supervisor will provide detailed feedback on each piece of work to help and encourage you to improve and to prepare for your own practice.

We do not subscribe to the long hours culture prevalent in many sets. Generally we expect pupils to arrive in chambers by 9am and to leave at about 6pm. However we do ask for flexibility and, when circumstances dictate, for pupils to be prepared to work outside these core hours.

During pupillage we provide structured advocacy training sessions, in addition to those provided by the Inns.

In your second six months, once we are satisfied that you are sufficiently experienced, our clerks will allocate work to you. There is usually a reasonable amount of work available for pupils including possession and interim hearings at court and paperwork in the form of opinions or pleadings. Nonetheless you will continue to undertake work for your Pupil Supervisor and receive training and feedback for the entirety of your pupillage.

We place a lot of importance on being a friendly, closely integrated group of colleagues, and meet for afternoon tea, and on Fridays for lunch in our library. As a pupil in chambers, you will be welcomed to these gatherings.



Tricia Hemans

“The pupillage process is a difficult and challenging one wherever you do it. At Falcon Chambers however, pupils benefit from a friendly and supportive atmosphere. Pupillage at Falcon Chambers is not approached merely as an assessment of a candidate’s suitability for tenancy, it is also viewed as an opportunity to train pupils for life at the Bar. The philosophy of Chambers is such that even if a pupil is not taken on as a tenant, at the end of the process they will be fully equipped to practice as a barrister elsewhere.

At Falcon Chambers, pupils are expected to work hard. The work is interesting and extremely diverse. As a pupil I was involved in all aspects of my Supervisors’ work and saw how property law is often interlinked with other areas of law such as negligence, human rights, trusts and insolvency. It was a steep learning curve but I was encouraged by all my Supervisors who invested a great deal of time in me. One even arranged a mock conference in which she played the role of my instructing solicitor and allowed me to advise her after reviewing the papers. I also benefited from the in-house advocacy training exercises.

My second six was both an exciting and challenging time as I was given a lot of my own work. I was instructed to write opinions and to appear in court regularly. I acted in numerous possession hearings, charging order disputes and even a county court appeal. That experience proved very useful in smoothing the transition from pupil to fully fledged barrister during my first year of tenancy.”

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Falcon Chambers

Tenancy

Chambers aims to recruit regularly in order to maintain a structure which provides our clients with a choice of counsel of different experience and which advances the careers of individual barristers.

On average we aim to recruit one new member every year from our two pupils. In some years, we may recruit more than one candidate; in others, we may decide not to recruit.

We are looking for people who can demonstrate a high standard in each of the following areas:

- thinking fast and clearly, absorbing complex information rapidly, and identifying essential points and possible solutions in a practical and pragmatic manner;
- communicating clearly, concisely and persuasively, both orally and in writing;
- getting on well and, where appropriate, working effectively with, people from different backgrounds, including solicitors, clients, judges, our staff, fellow members of Chambers, and other barristers;
- being assertive when necessary, and being able to remain calm, objective and confident while working with complex material and against deadlines;
- commitment and enthusiasm;
- honesty and reliability.

We usually decide in July each year whether we wish to recruit at the end of the pupillage year. If we do decide to recruit, then generally any pupil who has demonstrated that they are clearly of a sufficiently high standard in each of the above areas will be offered a tenancy. If we decide that we have a need to recruit, but do not have a pupil who is clearly of a sufficiently high standard, then we will advertise the tenancy, and appraise our existing pupils against external candidates. The decision will normally be made and communicated by the end of July. Sometimes, however, we postpone the decision until the following autumn in order to see more of our internal candidates before offering a seat.

If you are taken on, our experience for many years has been that new recruits are fully employed doing their own work (as opposed to devilling) from shortly after the time they become full members of chambers.

On the other hand if you are not to be taken on, we will let you know as soon as that is clear. We have a good record of placing ex-pupils, many of whom are now successful practitioners in other chambers.



Joseph Ollech

“Life as a junior barrister at Falcon Chambers is rewarding and enjoyable. The quality and breadth of work which Chambers attracts reflects its status as the premier set in all matters relating to property litigation.

My practice is a blend of advocacy at all levels of the court system on the one hand, and advisory and written work on the other. There is also a real mix of my own caseload and cases where I act as a junior working with a QC.

The range of my clientele is very diverse, which is refreshing. There are private homeowners at one end of the spectrum, and blue chip investment companies at the other. Charities, public authorities, developers, schools, farmers, petrol station operators, neighbours, trespassers, houseboat owners – everyone lives or works somewhere on, over or under land. This diversity is reflected in the breadth of law it engages. Land law and relevant statutes provide a prism through which much of my specialist practice is necessarily filtered, but it is only a prism. The law of contract and tort, equity and trusts, professional negligence, company and insolvency, human rights – all these and more are necessarily part and parcel of the range of my practice.”

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Falcon Chambers

Mini-pupillage

There is no requirement that you come to Chambers for a mini-pupillage before you apply for a pupillage. We do, however, encourage interested students to visit us for a few days to experience life at Falcon Chambers. We find that those who do so invariably apply to us for pupillage.

The Programme

The aim of our mini-pupillage programme is to enable you to learn as much as possible about both Falcon Chambers and life at the Bar generally. In our experience, mini-pupils find it more congenial to attend Chambers in small groups with a focused programme, and we therefore arrange a number of sessions each year for 4 or 5 candidates at a time.

The programme consists of:

- An introductory talk.
- An individually assigned mini-pupil supervisor.
- A variety of work, including attending court, conferences and working through typical paperwork.
- Afternoon talks by members of Chambers and clerks on life at the Bar and in Chambers, the relationship between barristers and their clerks and the pupillage application process.
- A lunch at Inner Temple giving an opportunity to meet other members of Chambers.
- An informal drinks gathering with barristers and clerks on the last day.
- Expenses in the sum of £250 if you are based out of London and £50 if you are based in London.

Applicants

We give preference to candidates who have completed their first year of university. We invite applications from both law and non-law students, although non-law students may find that they get more out of the mini-pupillage scheme after they have begun the GDL course.

When

We hold 3 or 4 mini-pupillage programmes each year. Full details and the current dates are available on our website www.falcon-chambers.co.uk.

How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for a mini-pupillage in Falcon Chambers, download the application form from our website and either print the form out and send it to us by post, or email it to mini-pupillage@falcon-chambers.com.



Ciara Fairley

“The Bar is a second career for me. I started off life as an academic, working as a research fellow in Cambridge following the completion of my PhD. I wasn’t a legal academic either. I was an academic philosopher. So the decision to come to the Bar, and practise as a barrister, was a big one. But it is one that I am very glad I made.

Although I started practice somewhat later than others, the route which I took to becoming a barrister is a pretty familiar one - doing a one year law conversion at City University followed by the BPTC. I was lucky enough to be offered pupillage at Falcon Chambers while I was still doing the law conversion, which certainly made the exams a bit less stressful!

After pupillage I was offered a tenancy and am now one of several members of Chambers who have previously had different careers. I am very pleased with the decision to switch careers and, in particular, the decision I made to join Falcon Chambers. Life at the Bar can be pretty hectic and it is great to have somewhere as friendly and supportive as Chambers to come home to at the end of a hard day in court.”

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Falcon Chambers



Guy Fetherstonhaugh QC

Joint Head of Falcon Chambers

Like all other leading sets of chambers, we offer great breadth and depth of expertise and experience. Like most other sets, we are forward-thinking, flexible and responsive. Like few other sets, we are friendly, and a fun place to spend your working life. And like no other set, we specialise in property law.

And what is great – really great – about property law is that it combines the best elements of contractual analysis (brilliant for the wordsmith in you); lots of litigation (we are advocates, after all); and research into rights that in some cases go back hundreds of years (gratifying for the historians amongst you).

Because no other set at the Bar only does property work, we are privileged to be the natural choice to advise and represent all and sundry: farmers, sovereign wealth funds, dispossessed tenants, port authorities, great landed estate owners – and smallholders. The work is rich and varied, and it is real: you can usually see its subject matter, whether that be an office block in the City of London, a windfarm, a canal towpath, a mansion in Belgravia, or a miner's cottage in the Rhondda.

I cannot conceive of having a better job than being a barrister; and I cannot imagine being happier or more fulfilled in another set of Chambers. Much of that is down to the care that we have taken in the past in our selection of bright, enthusiastic students who will be likely to join in and contribute to the very special mix that we have in Falcon Chambers.

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