

## **PUPILLAGE AT THE SPECIALIST BAR**

**Lincoln's Inn, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

*Through this event, we hope to explain why the specialist bar suits a wide range of people, providing intellectual challenge and the opportunity to reach the highest courts.*

*We are delighted to be hosting this event at the Ashworth Centre, named after one of the first women to be called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1923.*

*If you have any questions following on from this event, please email: [RevenueBarEvents@gmail.com](mailto:RevenueBarEvents@gmail.com).*

### **CHAIR**

**Mrs Justice Bacon**

**Chancery Division**

Mrs Justice Bacon was born in Mumbai and moved to England as a child where she attended state schools in Somerset, before studying Law with Law Studies in Europe at the University of Oxford. Her undergraduate degree included a year studying at the University of Konstanz in Germany. After completing her degree, she returned to Europe once again, to study at the European University Institute in Florence where she obtained an LLM (Masters in Law) in European Law.



Mrs Justice Bacon was called to the Bar in 1998, and became a pupil and then tenant at Brick Court Chambers. She became a Deputy High Court Judge in 2017. She was appointed as a High Court Judge in the Chancery Division in October 2020. She is the youngest woman ever to be appointed as a full time High Court Judge, and she is also the first woman in the 100-year history of her chambers to be assigned to the bench as a full-time judge. In February 2022, she was appointed as the President of the Upper Tribunal (Tax and Chancery Chamber). She also hears cases in the Patents Court.

## **PANEL**

### **MEDIA: 5RB**

#### **Aidan Eardley KC**

##### **5RB Barristers**

Aidan is Equality and Diversity Officer at 5RB. He converted to law after having first worked as a musician and he has specialised in media and communications law ever since he was called in 2002. He acts for claimants and defendants and his clients have included national newspapers and broadcasters, celebrities, trade unions, government departments, public authorities, social media operators, regulators and large and small companies.



Before taking silk in 2022, Aidan was on the Attorney General's 'A' Panel where his work included contempt of court and judicial reviews. He sits as a criminal Recorder and a Deputy High Court Judge.

#### **Samuel Rowe**

##### **5RB Barristers**

Sam joined 5RB in 2023, having previously worked for several years in policy, focussing on tech and digital regulation. He acts for claimants and defendants, although more frequently the latter. Sam has recently been involved in matters concerning the inventor and billionaire Sir James Dyson, the financier Lex Greensill, and James McMurdock MP. He has also recently appeared in the Court of Appeal, acting on behalf of several media organisations in a matter relating to the question of judges' anonymity, which arose out of the death of Sara Sharif.



Sam particularly enjoys cases relating to reporting restrictions, which has allowed him to interlope in the criminal and family courts, as well as the employment tribunal.

## **TAX: REVENUE BAR ASSOCIATION**

### **Laura Poots**

#### **Pump Court Tax Chambers**

Laura has been a member of Pump Court Tax Chambers since 2008. She acts for both taxpayers and HMRC (currently as a member of the Attorney General's A penal) in all areas of tax. Her taxpayer clients ranging from large multinational companies to individuals. She appears regularly in the Tax Tribunals and Court of Appeal.



Laura is the Diversity Officer for the Revenue Bar Association, as well as the Chair of PCTC's Equality & Diversity Committee. She is also a pupil supervisor, and regularly participates in the pupillage interview process. Laura will be appointed King's Counsel in March 2025, the third female member of PCTC to take silk since 2021.

## **COMPANY: ERSKINE CHAMBERS**

### **Olivia Tolson**

#### **Erskine Chambers**

Olivia became a tenant at Erskine Chambers in October 2024. During pupillage, Olivia gained experience of Chambers' key areas of work and is now building a practice in those areas, namely: company law and corporate advisory work; restructuring and insolvency; corporate and commercial litigation; and offshore work.



Olivia undertook a 3-month secondment to Slaughter and May's corporate/M&A department immediately after joining Chambers. She was involved in advising on a range of corporate matters and also gained transactional experience.

Prior to pupillage, Olivia studied BA Law at the University of Cambridge and completed an LLM, with a specialism in Corporate and Commercial Law, at the LSE. Then, after completing the Bar Course, she worked as a Judicial Assistant to Mr Justice Calver in the Commercial Court and to Mr Justice Fancourt in the Chancery Division.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: HOGARTH CHAMBERS

### **Jonathan Moss**

#### **Hogarth Chambers**

Jonathan became a tenant at Hogarth Chambers in 2011 after completing pupillage, having previously worked as a New York attorney at the law firm Mayer Brown prior to coming to the Bar. Jonathan's practice encompasses all areas of IP and he is regularly involved in larger Commercial cases with an IP or technical angle to them. Recently, Jonathan worked on the large fraud case involving Dr Craig Wright's claims to be Satoshi Nakamoto – the pseudonymous creator of Bitcoin.



Jonathan has acted for clients ranging from large pharma and tech companies such as Pfizer and Microsoft, through to smaller companies, such as the company that makes and sells the Trunki children's suitcase. Jonathan also acts for individual clients, having acted for individuals such as JK Rowling as well as numerous individuals in the phone hacking litigation.

Jonathan is Head of Recruitment at Hogarth and oversees both pupillage committee and lateral recruitment committee. Jonathan was appointed to the Treasury A Panel in 2021 and has appeared in the CJEU on behalf of the UK government in a number of IP cases.

Prior to pupillage, Jonathan studied Law and Chemistry at the University of Bristol and completed an LLM, with a specialism in IP and Private International Law, at Georgetown University.

## PUPILLAGE AND MINI-PUPILLAGE INFORMATION

### MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS LAW



5RB is the leading set of chambers specialising in media and communications law. Our 37 full-time members (15 of them women) act for both claimants and defendants and provide advice and representation to the press, television, radio, book and online publishers, as well as to individuals including celebrities and other high-profile people, businesses and not-for-profit organisations. We act in the most challenging and high-profile cases in our field.

***Pupillage:*** we are seeking to recruit up to two pupils to start in October 2026, each with a view to tenancy. We look for applicants with an aptitude for and an interest in our specialist areas, however prior knowledge of the law in these areas is not a requirement.

The pupillages will carry an award of £50,000 and a new tenant can expect their first year earnings to significantly exceed this level. Application is via the Pupillage Gateway. We expect to recruit on a similar basis in future years.

***Mini-pupillage and other work experience:*** we usually run three mini-pupillage programmes each year in June, October and December. Applications are via a form on our website and the closing date for our June 2025 programme is 30 April 2025. Our mini-pupillages last 2 days and are a structured programme aimed at familiarising participants with our work. They consist of court visits, group exercises and discussions with members of chambers and clerks. Mini-pupillages are not assessed. Chambers will make a contribution to reasonable accommodation and travel expenses if needed. 5RB is committed to widening the pool of applicants for pupillage. To that end, we partner with Bringing(Dis)Ability to the Bar (BDABar), and welcome up to additional 2 mini-pupils each year who have applied through BDABar's own scheme. We also offer work experience through our partnership with the social mobility charity BVL, the Inner Temple PASS Scheme, Middle Temple Access to the Bar Scheme.

Further details about pupillage and mini-pupillage at 5RB can be found at [Recruitment | 5RB Barristers | Media and Communications Law Experts](#).

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW



Hogarth Chambers is a specialist Intellectual Property law set. The work undertaken by members of Chambers covers all areas of Intellectual Property and related work ranging from patents, trade marks and copyright, through to breach of confidence and privacy.

**Pupillage:** <https://www.hogarthchambers.com/pupillage/>

Hogarth offers one pupillage per year, though does not necessarily recruit in every pupillage cycle (typically 3 out of 4 years). The pupillage award is £75,000 for 12 months, with the ability to draw down up to £25,000 prior to pupillage commencing. There is no expectation of having previously studied Intellectual Property law, nor is there a requirement for a candidate to have a scientific background. Candidates will usually have a first-class degree or similar, as well as having demonstrated an interest in the specialist work Chambers undertakes.

**Mini Pupillage:** <https://www.hogarthchambers.com/mini-pupillage/>

Mini-pupillages are not formally assessed but the majority of candidates invited for pupillage interviews will have done a mini-pupillage with us. If you are interested in doing pupillage at Hogarth, we recommend that you apply for a mini-pupillage. We do not offer remote mini-pupillages as everything is held in person, with the intention of exposing the mini-pupil to a wide range of the work undertaken by Hogarth.

We offer mini-pupillages to those candidates who appear to have realistic prospects of being called to interview for pupillage in due course and therefore require prospective mini-pupils to have commenced or completed the GDL or to have entered the final year of a law degree.

Applications should be sent to the Chambers Director at Hogarth Chambers by way of email ([admin@hogarthchambers.com](mailto:admin@hogarthchambers.com)) and should be in the form of a CV with a covering letter giving reasons for wanting to undertake mini-pupillage at Hogarth. Applications are made in two windows, but are accepted out of this window if there are special circumstances. The next deadline is 21 March 2025 for minis in the window April to July 2025.



## COMPANY LAW



Erskine Chambers is recognised as being the pre-eminent barristers' chambers for company law and a leading set in associated fields including insolvency and restructuring, corporate and commercial litigation, financial services and international/offshore work. Chambers' size (29 barristers, including 11 KCs) allows it to maintain expertise in its core practice areas while fielding effective teams in Commercial Court and Chancery Division litigation. More information can be found on Chambers' website: [www.erskinechambers.com](http://www.erskinechambers.com).

**Pupillage:** Erskine Chambers offers up to two pupillages each year, each with an award of £80,000 split into a scholarship of £45,000 for the first six months of pupillage and £35,000 for the second six months of pupillage. Up to £20,000 of the award for the first six months may be drawn down prior to commencing pupillage. Chambers will also cover the cost of any compulsory courses undertaken during pupillage and offers a generous rent and expense-free period to support junior tenants as they start in practice.

Chambers is a member of the Pupillage Gateway. Applications for pupillage commencing in September/October 2026 can be made until Thursday 6 February 2025. It is not necessary to have undertaken a mini-pupillage in Chambers.

Our application process consists of two interviews, each of which involves the discussion of a case or a hypothetical legal problem. More information can be found on our website: [www.erskinechambers.com/pupillage/](http://www.erskinechambers.com/pupillage/)

**Mini-pupillage:** Chambers offers mini-pupillages to applicants who we consider would be realistic candidates for pupillage in the future. Mini-pupillages are for one or two days and do not involve a formal assessment. As with pupillage, we accept applications from candidates who have not yet studied company law, including those studying on the law conversion course. For a mini-pupillage between May 2025 and July 2025, the deadline for applications is 31 March 2025. More information can be found on our website: [www.erskinechambers.com/pupillage/](http://www.erskinechambers.com/pupillage/)

## TAX

# PUMP COURT TAX CHAMBERS

Pump Court Tax Chambers is the largest set of chambers specialising in revenue law, encompassing a huge range of advice and litigation – both domestic and international.

***Pupillage:*** <https://www.pumptax.com/pupillage/>

We normally offer two pupillages every year. We do not expect our pupillage applicants to have any previous experience of tax law. Our pupils are not in competition and each will be offered tenancy if they meet the required standard.

We will accept applications for pupillage commencing October 2026 in line with the Pupillage Gateway timetable. The pupillage award is up to £75,000 for 12 months, and up to £30,000 of the pupillage award can be drawn down prior to the commencement of pupillage.

***Mini Pupillage:*** <https://www.pumptax.com/pupillage/mini-pupillage/>

We offer applicants the opportunity either to attend Chambers for a two-day mini-pupillage or to attend a one-day virtual mini-pupillage. All mini-pupils will receive an allowance of £50 a day, and a further needs-based allowance is available. Mini-pupillages are not assessed and are not a pre-requisite for a pupillage application, but offer potential applicants a chance to experience our work and life in Chambers.

Applications for mini-pupillages are considered four times a year, with the next deadline being 18 April 2025 (for mini-pupillages between 5 May and 14 July 2025). Applications should be made to the Mini-Pupillage Secretary by email to [pupils@pumptax.com](mailto:pupils@pumptax.com), with a CV and covering letter. Please see the link above for the details to be included in your application.



# Gray's Inn Tax Chambers

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L O N D O N

Gray's Inn Tax Chambers are a specialist revenue law set. Our work covers all areas of United Kingdom taxation and we also practise in the European and international tax law fields.

***Pupillage:*** <https://taxbar.com/pupillage/>

We offer between one and three twelve-month pupillages each year. The pupillage award is £100,000 for 12 months, with the ability to draw down up to £25,000 one year prior to pupillage. There is no expectation of having previously studied tax law. Candidates will usually be required to have a first-class degree and will have done a mini-pupillage (see below). We want the best and brightest regardless of background.

Applications for pupillage commencing 1 October 2026 should be made in line with the pupillage gateway deadline. Applications are in the form of a CV with a covering letter.

***Mini Pupillage:*** <https://taxbar.com/pupillage/> (bottom of page)

We offer a number of funded and unfunded mini-pupillages throughout the year. The funding for funded mini-pupillages is £600 per week. Prior knowledge of tax law (or, indeed, any law) is not necessary, and we encourage applications from those who have no previous knowledge but would like some experience of the kind of work we do at the Tax Bar. Students towards the end of non-law undergraduate degrees are welcome.

Applications should be sent at any time to the Pupillage Committee at Gray's Inn Tax Chambers ([minipupillage@taxbar.com](mailto:minipupillage@taxbar.com)) and should be in the form of a CV with a covering letter giving reasons for wanting to undertake mini-pupillage in these Chambers and available dates.



Devereux Chambers is a leading tax set, recognised as such in the legal directories. Practice areas span the full spectrum of revenue law (direct and indirect taxes). Members of chambers are involved in most of the significant tax cases that are litigated, and in advising a range of different clients (including HNWI, governments, Fortune 500 companies, public bodies) on matters involving interesting and complex questions of tax law. Devereux is committed to excellence in advocacy: exposure to different practice areas offers pupils early opportunities to hone their advocacy skills.

**Pupillage:** <https://www.devereuxchambers.co.uk/join-us/pupillage>

Devereux offers two pupillages every year through the Pupillage Gateway. The pupillage award is £75,000, of which £20,000 is available during the BPTC year, paid in two instalments. The remainder of the award is paid in monthly instalments during the pupillage year.

Devereux is well-known for high quality structured pupillage training. In their 3-month tax seat, pupils at Devereux undertake specialist tax training with leading practitioners. As well as a tax seat, pupils complete 3-month seats in two other practice areas. Those wishing to specialise in tax return to tax in their fourth seat.

Pupils can generally expect to be taken on as tenants. The pupillage year is designed to bring out the best in pupils, in a nurturing rather than competitive environment.

**Mini Pupillage:** <https://www.devereuxchambers.co.uk/join-us/pupillage>

Devereux has around 15 mini-pupillage places available each year during both mini-pupillage windows in July and December. The July window is principally for those at an earlier stage of their journey to the Bar. Mini pupils attend chambers for 1 day. The December window is for those who are in a position to apply for pupillage and are invited into chambers for 2 days, to gain as much insight as they can into chambers life.

Further information on how to apply can be found on the mini-pupillage website link above.



11 New Square is a leading set of barristers' chambers specialising exclusively in tax law. We aim to provide consistently first-rate services to all clients, including advice on some of the highest-value and most complex transactions and representation in some of the leading tax appeals.

***Pupillage:*** <https://www.11newsquare.com/pupilage/>

We advertise for a new pupil every two to three years offering one 12-month pupillage with applications made using the Pupillage Gateway. The pupillage award is £75,000, of which £25,000 can be provided prior to the commencement of pupillage.

***Mini-Pupillage:*** <https://www.11newsquare.com/pupilage/>

Mini-pupillages generally last for two to three days. Applications for mini-pupillage should be made by letter, with a curriculum vitae, at least six months before the desired date of commencement of the mini-pupillage. Applications can be sent to [tom.rook@11newsquare.com](mailto:tom.rook@11newsquare.com), or sent via post as set out in the link above.

## OLD SQUARE TAX CHAMBERS

Old Square Tax Chambers specialises in all aspects of tax law, and conducts a wide range of litigation and advice, with particular strength in representing and advising taxpayers, and with a strong international practice.

***Probationary tenancy:*** <https://www.taxchambers.com/join/pupilage/>

We normally offer one probationary tenancy (formerly third six pupillage) every one to two years. We do not expect probationary tenants to have any previous experience of tax law and offer financial support in the early years of practice to take the Chartered Institute of Taxation exams to help develop the requisite knowledge of tax law. We keep under review our policy on offering pupillage and mini pupillage, though do not currently do so.

Probationary tenancy is non-practising but is funded, currently at £37,500 (for the six months' of its duration). In order to support tenants who are taken on we also guarantee earnings to £75,000 in the first year of practice.

At Temple Tax we have recognised specialists in every area of tax and VAT for both advisory work and litigation. From corporate to private client, and cross-border work to ground-breaking tax litigation, we can provide specialist help with advice and litigation.

Members appear in court at levels from County Courts through to the Supreme Court and usually act for the taxpayer, although we have members who also represent the Government.

### ***Pupillage:*** Pupillage and Tenancy - Temple Tax Chambers

We are not advertising for a pupil this coming year and therefore not accepting applications at this time. Any further updates will be posted on the website and the Pupillage Gateway.

Applicants do not have to have any previous experience of tax law. We expect good legal knowledge, ability to interpret statutory provisions, creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

It is our aim that pupillage will be a year of learning in which you will thrive and we make our final tenancy decision based on the strengths of each individual pupil.

Pupils shadow their supervisors in Court, in conferences and in Chambers. They get the chance to prepare written submissions, pleadings, advices and other paperwork in the cases in which their pupillage supervisors are involved.

We are committed to equality of opportunity for all pupillage applicants and candidates for tenancy. We are actively improving diversity in Chambers and encourage applications from under-represented groups at the Bar including women and ethnic minority backgrounds.

### ***Mini-pupillage***

We do not offer formal mini-pupilages at this time but members do encourage students to shadow them in Court. Students are to contact [clerks@templetax.com](mailto:clerks@templetax.com) and our Chambers Administrator will provide a list of hearings to choose from.