



PUPILLAGE

“

A first-class set

(Chambers UK) ”



About us

Farrar's Building is a leading set of Chambers with a long-established reputation for offering specialist advocacy and advice in a range of core areas including personal injury, clinical and professional negligence, insurance and commercial litigation, employment, inquests, public inquiries, and disciplinary tribunals. Further information about all our practice areas can be found on our website: www.farrarsbuilding.co.uk.

We are recognised as a leading set in both major directory publications, Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, where we are described as a '*first class set*' with a clerking and administrative team that is '*absolutely superb*'. In 2022, Chambers were shortlisted for Personal Injury Set of the Year at the Legal 500 Bar Awards. One of our junior members has also been shortlisted for Personal Injury Junior of the Year at the Chambers UK Bar awards, and another of our juniors has been recognised for their pro bono work, receiving a shortlisted for Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year at the Bar Pro Bono Awards. In 2021, we were shortlisted for Barrister's Chambers of the Year and Marketing Campaign of the Year at the Personal Injury Awards.

Chambers has an established reputation for excellence, with members acting for a variety of corporate bodies, insurance companies, governmental departments, sporting bodies and players, disciplinary, regulatory, and professional bodies, as well as individuals. Farrar's Building prides itself on being an approachable and dedicated set of chambers, which is professionally clerked and administered by an experienced team.

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*Consistently high-quality
practitioners*”

(Legal 500)

Members

We currently have fifty five tenants, comprising five King's Counsel and fifty junior counsel. Members of Chambers practice predominately in London and the South-East, but appear in Courts and Tribunals in all parts of the UK. Our Members retain strong personal and professional links with Wales.

Pupillage at Farrar's Building

Farrar's Building is embarking on an exciting period of growth and transition; recruiting outstanding individuals through our pupillage process is an integral part of that journey. We are looking for candidates who demonstrate not only the dedication and commitment to have a successful career at Farrar's Building, but who also demonstrate the qualities to become the next generation of leaders at our set. Our pupils will be provided with the foundations to have distinguished careers with Farrar's Building; such foundations which have provided many previous tenants opportunities to take silk, or opportunities to take judicial appointments on Circuit, or in the High Court or appellate courts.

Structure

Farrar's Building provides excellent opportunities for pupils to obtain a broad range of experience during their training. Two twelve-month pupillages are usually offered, commencing in October each year. Pupillage is organised in three four-month periods. The second four months is focussed on assisting pupils make the transition from the initial non-practising training and mentoring phases of their career, onto managing their own practice from their second six. During this period pupils will be in court with junior members of Chambers on a regular basis, experiencing the type of work they will be expected to undertake as soon as they are 'on their feet'. Pupils are also provided opportunities to immerse themselves in high value and high-profile cases shadowing our senior juniors and KCs in conferences, settlement meetings and trials.

Award

The pupillage award is currently £55,000, which consists of a £27,500 award and a further £27,500 in guaranteed earnings. This award is currently being reviewed and is likely to be increased for the next pupillage round.

A Year in the Life of our Pupils

Sorcha Dervin

Sorcha undertook her pupillage at Farrar's Building between October 2020 and September 2021. Here she offers an insight into her life as a pupil.



Pupillage at Farrar's Building is divided into three, four-month rotations. The first six months of pupillage are non-practising. During my first six I shadowed my supervisors in court (both in person and remotely), at conferences with witnesses and experts, and during joint settlement meetings. On occasion I was also instructed to attend court on a 'noting brief', often where the circumstances of a civil claim were such to warrant criminal prosecution. For example, I took a note for my insurer client during a Health and Safety Executive prosecution in the Crown Court, which involved a catastrophic accident at work resulting in an amputation.

With my supervisors I experienced a range of cases, with a focus on chambers' core practice area of personal injury. I observed joint settlement meetings in six and seven figure claims involving serious, life-limiting injuries. On a week-by-week basis, I completed written work for my supervisor, usually in preparation for an upcoming trial or conference. For example, I regularly prepared skeleton arguments and cross-examination plans which, amongst other things, allowed me to practise legal research and developing a case theory. After any given trial, I would have the opportunity to compare my skeleton argument with my supervisor's, which improved my written style considerably. It was invaluable learning to see implemented in court some of the preparation and research I had undertaken.

As I approached the practising period of my pupillage, I was given the opportunity to shadow junior members of chambers in court, to gain experience of the types of hearings I would be undertaking in my own right. These included liability disputed trials mostly involving road traffic accidents, and liability admitted personal injury disposal hearings ('Stage 3 hearings'). It also allowed me to speak with my peers and ask questions about what to expect once on my feet. Chambers ensured that I remained with the same supervisor during the weeks of transition from first to second six, which helped in ensuring the process was as smooth as possible.

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During my second six I was in court four to five times a week, which improved my advocacy skills significantly. Days when I was not in court gave me the opportunity to touch base with my supervisor and become involved with research tasks and pieces of work for other members where time permitted. Being on my feet at first was naturally nerve-wracking but I was well prepared for the experience and well supported throughout. During second six I was also encouraged to explore practice areas I was particularly interested in, such as employment law; I had the benefit of conducting a seven-day disability discrimination Tribunal hearing at this early stage in my career.

I found the assessment process to be very transparent. For each supervisor I completed a written assessment, spread out evenly over an eight-month period. These varied from a written advice on liability in a malfunctioning firework case to a large-loss counter schedule in a Fatal Accidents Act claim. Each supervisor gave me a dedicated period of time in which to complete the work and I received detailed, written feedback on each occasion.

The atmosphere in chambers is genuinely friendly and supportive. During pupillage I felt everyone in chambers wanted me to do well. This was illustrated by the willingness of members to answer my questions and discuss work with me. Having completed my pupillage at Farrar's Building, I am confident that I have been given an excellent foundation upon which to build my career at the Bar.

How to Apply

Farrar's Building is a member of Pupillage Gateway and applications are to be made through:

www.pupillagegateway.com

There is a minimum qualification requirement of a 2.1 degree. If any further information is required please email us at pupillage@farrarsbuilding.co.uk



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