

4 STONE BUILDINGS

4 Stone Buildings

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INTRODUCTION

This leaflet is designed to give prospective pupils a brief description of the Chambers and of the type of work we do, together with some idea of what pupils may expect from us, and what we expect of them.

TYPE OF WORK UNDERTAKEN

4 Stone Buildings specialises in company law. However, few cases in practice lend themselves to rigid categorisation. What starts out as a company law problem can often raise issues of civil fraud, insolvency, insurance or banking law, or lead to claims for restitution, for breach of contract or retention of title. A flexible approach is always required, and we do not confine ourselves artificially to any one narrow area of the law. By concentrating on company law we have built up a common fund of learning, but our versatile approach enables us to deal with the wide variety of work which includes financial services and regulation, corporate insolvency and broader areas of commercial law.

Company Law

Company law is the back-bone of Chambers' work. This covers all aspects of company law from formation to dissolution, including mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, reductions and reorganisations of capital, Stock Exchange and other regulatory requirements, meetings, Directors duties, shareholder rights and all other areas in which issues of company law arise.

Financial services and regulation

Chambers also advise and conduct litigation in relation to a wide range of cases involving financial services. Members of Chambers are regularly instructed on behalf of the BERR and regulatory bodies as well as advising corporate and institutional clients and individuals.

Corporate insolvency

This covers all forms of insolvency proceedings and reconstructions. Members of Chambers act for both Directors of companies facing difficulties and for creditors in such situations. A number of members of chambers are recognised experts in reconstruction work. Members of Chambers also have extensive experience of directors' disqualification cases acting on a regular basis either for the BERR or directors.

Civil fraud and asset recovery

Chambers has developed a pre-eminent reputation in this area over a number of years, for liquidators, administrators, directors, creditors, bondholders, bond trustees and shareholders. These cases very often have an international dimension, with worldwide tracing claims and issues of cross-border insolvency.

Commercial litigation

Chambers have additional areas of expertise ranging from banking, oil and gas, insurance, commercial contracts and media law to broader Chancery work covering professional negligence, trusts and partnership.

Overseas connections

A substantial proportion of the work undertaken by Chambers is on behalf of overseas clients and members of Chambers have appeared in the Bahamas, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Hong Kong, Gibraltar, Malaysia, Singapore and Trinidad in recent years.

Chambers are members of the Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR), Chancery Bar Association and Insolvency Lawyers Association.

Cases involved in

Amongst the highly publicised cases Chambers have been instructed in recently are Lehmans, Electrim, Bank Charges, Northern Rock, Equitable Life, the Wimbledon Football Club litigation, *Three Rivers DC v Bank of England*, *Thomson v Christine Manson & Woods* (dispute over the authenticity of a pair of gilded urns) (Court of Appeal), *Kuwait Airways Corporation v Iraqi Airways*, various actions by *Lennox Lewis* against his former promoter (Queens Bench, Chancery and Court of Appeal), the *TXU* restructuring (Chancery Division) and a number of insurance business transfers.

Publications

Various members of Chambers have contributed to numerous publications in our specialist fields. These include contributing to Tolley's Company Law, Butterworth's Practical Insolvency, Butterworth's Encyclopaedia of Forms and Precedents (Companies Volume), Atkin Court Forms 2nd Ed, (volumes on Companies, Winding Up and Equitable Remedies), Halsbury's Laws of England 4th Ed issues on "Corporations" and "Money", Annotated Companies Acts (OUP, 2007). In addition, Malcolm Davis-White is the co author of Directors Disqualification: Law and Practice (Sweet & Maxwell 1999) and Rosalind Nicholson is the author of Table A Articles of Association (Sweet & Maxwell, 1997).

Members of chambers

At present there are 30 members of Chambers including 6 silks. 5 Junior Counsel are on Treasury Panels.

Accommodation

We are fortunate in occupying a comfortable set of rooms spread over three floors in an 18th century building overlooking the lawns of Lincoln's Inn.

Work and accommodation

There is both work and accommodation for new members, and our general policy is to recruit a new member of Chambers each year from our pupils. New members rapidly build up their own practice, with a mix between their own cases and advocacy experience and cases where they are juniors to the silks in Chambers.

Senior clerk

The senior clerk is a member of the Pupillage Committee and takes a keen interest in all pupils, offering help and advice generally, including guidance for applicants to whom we are unable to offer pupillage.

The structure of pupillage

We aim to give all pupils the knowledge, skills and practical experience they need for a successful career at the Bar. We believe that it is important for all pupils to see as much as possible of the different kinds of work in Chambers. This enables pupils to judge whether our work suits them, and enables different members of Chambers to assess the pupils. Each pupil therefore normally spends time with two or more pupil supervisors within any six month period. If other members of Chambers have particularly interesting cases in Court, pupils will be encouraged to work and attend Court with them.

All pupils work in their pupil supervisor's room, read their papers, attend their conferences, draft pleadings and documents, write draft Opinions and accompany their pupil masters to Court.

Pupils are treated as part of Chambers, and are fully involved in the activities of Chambers while they are with us.

Pupillage awards

Awards of £40,000.00 are available for each 12 month pupillage.

Mini-pupillages

We encourage potential candidates to spend a week or at least a few days in Chambers and we will be pleased to arrange mini-pupillages at any time.

The Pupil Supervisor's duties

It is obviously in everybody's interests that each pupil should receive the best possible training. Due regard is therefore given to the duties owed by pupil supervisors to their pupils as set out by the Bar Council in Annexe R to the Code of Conduct.

Qualifications

Candidates are expected to have first class, or good second class degrees. But mere intellectual ability is only part of it: a successful candidate must have the confidence and ambition to succeed, the common sense to recognise the practical advice a client really needs, and an ability to get on well with clients, Solicitors and other members of Chambers - and the clerks.

Applications for pupillage

A pupillage application form can be downloaded via Chambers' website or obtained by contacting Dawn Russell at d.russell@4stonebuildings.com. The closing date for applications for a 12 months' pupillage commencing in October 2011 is 30th April 2010. Completed application forms should be returned to Dawn Russell either via the email address above or to 4 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2A 3XT.

Applications for mini-pupillage

A mini-pupillage application form can be downloaded via Chambers' website or obtained by contacting Dawn Russell at d.russell@4stonebuildings.com. Completed forms should be sent with a covering letter stating the dates they are available to Dawn Russell either via the email address above or to 4 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2A 3XT.

Further information

Further information about Chambers can be viewed via our website www.4stonebuildings.com.

Policy Statement on Equality and Diversity

4 Stone Buildings is an equal opportunities employer. We believe that our success depends on sustaining a working environment that is free from discrimination, prejudice, harassment or victimization. It is our policy that no Member of Chambers, pupil or employee shall discriminate against anyone on the ground of race, colour, ethnic or national origin, nationality, citizenship, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, social or economic background, religion or political persuasion. We value the contribution that all of our Members, pupils, employees, clients and contacts make to the success of Chambers and we strive to ensure that it remains a working environment free from any form of discrimination. Our Equal Opportunities Officer monitors diversity and discrimination issues in Chambers particularly in relation to the recruitment of staff, pupils and tenants and the allocation of work to barristers.

MEMBERS OF CHAMBERS

George Bompas QC (1994) 1975
Robert Hildyard QC (1994) 1977
John Brisby QC (1996) 1978
Robert Miles QC (2002) 1987
Malcolm Davis-White QC (2003) 1984
Jonathan Crow QC (2006) 1981
Stephen Hunt 1968
Peter Griffiths 1977
Rosalind Nicholson 1987
Sarah Harman 1987
Christopher Harrison 1988
Jonathan Brettler 1988
Paul Greenwood 1991
Andrew Clutterbuck 1992
Nicholas Cox 1992
Richard Hill 1993
Orlando Fraser 1994
Charles Marquand 1987
Anna Markham 1996
Hermann Boeddinghaus 1996
Andrew de Mestre 1998
Gregory Denton-Cox 2000
Sharif Shivji 2001
Tiran Nersessian 2002
Alastair Tomson 2004
Adam Holliman 2005
Tom Gentleman 2005
Donald Lilly 2006
Alexander Cook 2008
Nicola Timmins 2008

Senior Clerk: David Goddard