



Pupillage Prospectus

A guide to recruitment at St Ives Chambers
2018/2019

Contents

Foreword by Jeremy Weston QC	Page 1
Summary of St Ives Chambers	Page 2
Pupillage at St Ives Chambers	Page 7
Pupillage Structure	Page 8
Life in Pupillage: Aadhithya Anbahan	Page 9
Life in Pupillage: Lucinda Wilmott-Lascelles	Page 10
Transferring to Tenancy: William Douglas-Jones	Page 11



Foreword



“St Ives Chambers is a challenging, but ultimately highly-rewarding, place to undertake pupillage. We expect a lot from our pupils and offer support to them throughout their pupillage year.”

St Ives Chambers was established in 1965. It has since developed a national presence as a modern, approachable and efficient multi-disciplinary set with a reputation for excellence in advocacy at all levels of call.

Chambers and its members are celebrated in the Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners directories across the range of common law practice areas. Members of varying levels of seniority are regularly instructed in high-profile cases and pride themselves on attention to detail and approachability. St Ives benefits from a professional and friendly clerking service which ensures Chambers meets its commitment to the highest levels of client service.

St Ives Chambers is a challenging, but ultimately highly-rewarding, place to undertake pupillage. We expect a lot from our pupils and offer support to them throughout their pupillage year. Pupil supervisors are drawn from multiple practice areas and enables pupils to gain an invaluable and diverse range of experience in a twelve-month period. This includes experiencing Chambers’ members’ differing styles and approaches to cases, often in serious and complex matters. Chambers is proud of its high retention rates and pupils are able to use their experience during pupillage as a springboard for success at the Bar as a tenant in Chambers.

This prospectus is designed to help those applying for pupillage gain a clearer view of the breadth and depth of work Chambers undertakes, the selection criteria applied during the pupillage application process, and what pupils at St Ives can expect during their first-six, second-six as well as the early years of tenancy. If you have the ability, enthusiasm and motivation to continue Chambers’ success, then we invite you to apply.

Jeremy Weston QC
Head of Chambers

Summary of St Ives Chambers

If you are considering applying for pupillage, you may have consulted the legal directories (Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners) to get a better idea of the range of work members of St Ives Chambers undertake.

Overview

'St Ives Chambers is particularly well known for its family law expertise, which spans family finance, children and care matters, with surrogacy cases providing a flow of instructions for a number of practitioners. Other key areas include crime and regulatory, commercial, chancery and banking matters. Chambers director Jackie Maskew leads the administrative arm of chambers, which is "efficient and offers a good standard of service".'

Legal 500

Practice areas

St Ives' members undertake work in nine practice areas :

Family Children
Criminal
Housing
Family Finance
Chancery and Commercial
Personal Injury
Court of Protection
Regulatory
Arbitration

Family Children

The Family Law Child Care Group has an unrivalled reputation for excellence at all levels - regionally and nationally - and for providing high quality representation, advocacy and advice in all aspects of child law. Many members of the Child Care Group are listed as Leading Juniors in the Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 directories, and several members also sit as Deputy High Court Judges, Recorders and Deputy District Judges.

We offer a wide range of expertise and experience of all areas of public and private law relating to children, including care proceedings, adoption, wardship, child arrangements and contact disputes, child abduction, international and national relocation, surrogacy and same-sex parenting issues.

'The St Ives Chambers family group is 'one of the best in the region', with 'high-calibre advocates' handling family finance and children law. Members have experience in difficult cases of abuse, serious injuries, child death and fabricated/induced illnesses, while fertility law is a growing area of practice...'

Legal 500

Criminal

St Ives Chambers' Criminal Team values fearless and determined advocacy; its members are regarded for their down to earth, no-nonsense approach to criminal cases. St Ives Chambers' Criminal Group undertakes defence and prosecution work in equal measure. Individual members within the Group have particular specialisms and a wealth of experience in either prosecuting or defending high profile cases.

St Ives Chambers has maintained a steadfast commitment to the junior Bar, even through politically turbulent times. The Criminal Group is now enjoying the dividends of that commitment and has developed a reputation for accommodating the rising stars of the junior Bar.

Housing

The Housing Group has a well-deserved national reputation; members have extensive experience dealing with a wide range of issues arising in both a social housing context and a private residential context. Clients are located throughout England and Wales and include local authorities, private registered providers, private landlords and tenants.

*“Very good on the crime front”, St Ives Chambers’ practice is evenly split between defence and prosecution....the set is particularly well known for historical sexual abuse trials and child murders....Fraud and drugs conspiracy disputes are another area of expertise’ . **Legal 500***

*‘A set with a growing reputation in the area of criminal law, that fields a strong contingent of highly capable junior barristers. Members of St Ives Chambers can claim a worthy caseload of criminal work that includes serious organised crime, sexual offences and gangland violence, acting for both the prosecution and defence. The set is praised in the market for its “excellent range” and described as an “incredibly professional outfit” . **Chambers and Partners***

*‘St Ives Chambers is “arguably the best set for social housing in the Midlands”. The group acts for both landlords and tenants in possession claims and injunctions, nuisance cases, and increasingly on anti-social behaviour cases...’ **Legal 500***

*‘St Ives Chambers is committed to providing top-tier advice to diverse clientele. It is routinely called upon by landlords, local authorities and housing associations, and frequently accepts publicly funded work on behalf of tenants. Its highly experienced barristers offer broad expertise across the full range of social housing matters, and regularly handle anything from cases arising from antisocial behaviour legislation to possession and disrepair claims. “The entire team is fantastic; they all go out of their way to accommodate our needs,” interviewees enthuse.’ **Chambers and Partners***

Family Finance

We have a wealth of experience in dealing with high net worth cases, those involving multi-million pound pensions, partnerships, companies, farms, offshore assets and trusts. We also recognise that cases involving modest resources can often present the greatest challenge and to that end we remain committed to ensuring appropriate representation is provided to those with more limited budgets.

The following areas of work are undertaken by members of the Family Finance group: financial provision on divorce or dissolution of civil partnerships, pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements, financial provision for children or cohabitants, divorce and inheritance claims.

Chancery and Commercial

The Chancery and Commercial team offers a comprehensive range of expertise and enjoys an ever-prosperous reputation both locally and nationally. The quality and breadth of the team itself is particularly impressive, with both junior and senior barristers adept at handling smaller advisory matters right through to multifaceted, high value litigation.

Examples of experience within the group include Chancery, Boundary disputes, Adverse Possession Nuisance, Restrictive covenants, Trusts/TOLATA claims, Easements, Landlord and Tenant disputes, Breach of covenant claims, Business Tenancies, Probate, Commercial, Personal and corporate insolvency, Commercial property disputes, Banking and finance, Professional negligence, Intellectual property and others (see our website for the complete list).

‘St Ives Chambers continues to excel in all aspects of family law, with its barristers leading the way in children matters and family finance cases. Whilst the team remains particularly noteworthy for the breadth of its public and private children work, it does regularly take on high-value matrimonial finance cases, many of which have specialist elements to them such as international assets or off-shore trusts. Market commentators praise the clerking as efficient, approachable and organised.’
Chambers and Partners

‘St Ives Chambers has a strong Chancery focus. Members also represent companies in damages claims, partnership disputes and breaches of contract cases. Fraud is another key area for the set.’
Legal 500

Personal Injury

St Ives Chambers has substantial experience of Personal Injury matters and related litigation. Members pride themselves on providing a high-quality service and are keen to assist clients as early as possible to ensure the litigation process is managed effectively. Maintaining this philosophy has helped the Personal Injury Group to develop rapidly and is the reason they are instructed by Claimants and Defendants in courts nationwide.

Regulatory

The group has a long-established history of working with local authorities and when acting for those and other public bodies our members are sensitive to their particular requirements including public accountability, transparency, cost-effectiveness, and the need to ensure any enforcement action is in accordance with policies.

Education Law: Several of our barristers have experience in the field of Education law. They act for and against public bodies in the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), Magistrates and Crown Court; in addition to the higher courts through Judicial Review and Appeal proceedings.

Court of Protection

St Ives Chambers' Court of Protection Group is a specialist team of barristers dealing with all areas of mental capacity law and practice in this dynamic and developing area of law. The Group has a range of expertise at all levels of experience and is able to offer advice, guidance and representation at all stages of proceedings.

The Court of Protection often overlaps with other areas of law, from mental health and community care law, to housing and family proceedings. The breadth of experience within the group and throughout Chambers ensures that the team is able to provide a comprehensive service for clients, regardless of the issue.

'Members of St Ives Chambers prosecute in health and safety proceedings and trade regulatory matters. However, both Tony Watkin and Kevin Saunders have seen an increase in defence instructions; Watkins recently acted for a company and director against allegations of circumventing export control regulations in order to export nuclear weapons to Turkey and Iran. Other areas of expertise include health and safety in care homes and regulatory work in the food sector.'

Legal 500

Arbitration

St Ives Chambers were the first set of chambers in Birmingham and the West Midlands to offer this innovative service, through Andrew Day MCI Arb and Matthew Maynard MCI Arb, the region's first specialist family law barristers to qualify under the scheme.

Arbitration is a form of private dispute resolution in which the parties to a dispute agree to obtain a final, binding determination from a jointly appointed, family law specialist. In an age of austerity, when litigating through traditional routes is increasingly expensive, uncertain and, of course, beset with delay, arbitration offers an affordable and reliable alternative to ensure that disputes are resolved quickly, fairly and at proportionate cost.



Pupillage at St Ives Chambers

St Ives Chambers will be offering up to three fully funded 12-month pupillages commencing in October 2018. Pupils will receive a grant of £10,000 in their first-six months, followed by guaranteed earnings of £15,000 during their second-six.

Pupillages at St Ives are awarded with a view to tenancy. Pupils are not in competition with one another and applications for tenancy after pupillage are assessed upon their merit alone.

Applications will close on Friday 23rd February with interviews in March 2018. Applicants should apply by completing the application form which is available on the website. Applicants who are successful at the paper stage will face a short first-round interview before a panel of three members of the Chambers Pupillage Committee. From those candidates, approximately eight candidates will be selected for a longer second-round interview before the full Committee chaired by the Head of Pupillage. The second-round interview will include an advocacy exercise.

Candidates will be assessed, in accordance with our equality and diversity policy, on: their advocacy; academic ability; mental agility; their ability to work well under time constraints; and their ability to work well with professional clients, lay clients and staff on a points based system.

Chambers regrets that it is unable to provide feedback to all unsuccessful candidates. However, Chambers will provide brief feedback on request to those who are unsuccessful at the final interview stage.

The 2018 process will benefit from a newly constituted Pupillage Committee which is comprised of a selection of Chambers' members with a marked shift towards the junior practitioners. As a result, candidates will be interviewed by more of those who have themselves been through the process most recently.

Criteria for Applicants

Applicants for pupillage will not normally be considered with less than an Upper Second-Class degree, or equivalent, and a Very Competent on the Bar Professional Training Course. Though the Pupillage Committee will consider applicants with lower qualifications with sufficiently extenuating circumstances.

Pupillage Structure

The First-Six

In their first-six, pupils will be placed with an experienced pupil supervisor in one of Chambers' core common law areas of crime, family or civil. Successful applicants are encouraged to express an interest in any area for which they have a preference and all effort will be made to ensure that pupils are placed with a first-six supervisor in their preferred area.

A St Ives pupils' first-six months will be spent shadowing their supervisor at court and working on their supervisor's cases. Pupils will also be asked to complete written work for other members and to assist with events and seminars. In recent years, for example, our pupils have been asked to speak at the annual Social Housing Conference. All work for other members will be approved by the pupil's supervisor before it is set to ensure that an undue burden is not placed upon them. Pupils are expected to work from 09:00 until 18:30 Monday to Friday, unless other arrangements have been made with their supervisor.

Pupils will spend the first 4-months with their supervisor, before spending their fifth month with a member of Chambers in a different area of law. Finally, the last month of the first-six will be spent shadowing more junior members of Chambers in order to give pupils vital experience of the cases and hearings they are likely to be instructed in once on their feet.

In addition to their work on genuine cases, pupils will undergo monthly advocacy exercises. Each will take the form of a mock trial or a discreet piece of advocacy before a range of Chambers' members from the spectrum of Chambers' areas of law. The exercises are not assessed formally, but instead are a vital part of the development of pupils and their preparation for their own cases in their second-six.

The Second-Six

From the first day of their second-six, St Ives pupils will be in court daily dealing with cases in the whole gamut of Chambers' practice areas. St Ives prides itself on the development of its pupils, which can be no better demonstrated by the fact that pupils in recent years have conducted jury trials early in their second-six.

Second-six pupils will be placed with a second supervisor in a different practice area from their first supervisor. Pupils will be expected to work on their supervisors' cases during their second-six in addition to their own work.

Life in Pupillage

Aadhithya Anbahan

Tenant (Pupil 2015-2016)



I count myself incredibly fortunate that pupillage at St Ives offered me the chance to experience all the wonderful traditions of the Bar alongside a group of barristers who were strongly invested in my own development and training. The collegiate atmosphere within Chambers ensures that by the end of your first day, let alone your first week, you will feel part of the team. Everyone from the Clerks to the Head of Chambers takes an active interest in you as a pupil barrister and as a person.

Many horror stories emerge of Chambers who operate by taking on numerous pupils and “competing” them against one another. That is simply not the case at St Ives where your co-pupils will likely be your closest friends and allies. There is a strong camaraderie amongst the junior tenants, which not only ensures that you always have a friendly voice to call when sheer panic sets in (which inevitably will 4 out of 5 days a week) but also a regular roster of people to invite you out for drinks, food and a general catch-up in the communal break-out areas. Whilst a number of sets propose open door policies, in all the time I’ve been at St Ives I have only seen room doors closed when telephone calls are being made to solicitors or private meetings taking place. This is a Chambers that prides itself on being modern, accessible and friendly, and that resonates throughout both the Barristers’ areas and the Clerks’ room.

Pupillage at St Ives, as with any reputable set, is certainly not an easy ride. You will have a varied common law practice and will have to familiarise yourself quickly and effectively with huge tracts of legal argument and knowledge, that stretches from adoption and care into drugs conspiracy and

fraud, with a side portion of landlord and tenant work thrown in. Not only will you find yourself in the Magistrates’, Youth, County, Family and Crown Courts, but you will experience tribunal work, parole board hearings and clerking for education panels. The work is fast-paced and exciting and when you’re surrounded by the excellence and calibre of the senior practitioners you’ll constantly be on your toes. However, the challenges and opportunities at St Ives are very much the reason that this, to me, was the perfect set at which to complete pupillage.

Despite being a mixed common law pupil, I had the good fortune of defending in three Crown Court trials during my time in pupillage. That was not an opportunity shared by many of my peers across the Bar. Whilst it was equally terrifying and exhilarating at the time, being trusted with such matters by my supervisors, clerks and solicitors has served greatly to better me as an advocate.

St Ives is a Chambers that prides itself on being at the centre of the Midland Circuit and very much involved with local solicitors and other Chambers. During your pupillage you will attend numerous events: balls, quiz nights, horse-racing and clay pigeon shooting to name but a few. We pride ourselves on a bespoke service and our pupils are very much a part of that as soon as they walk through the door. St Ives is a set where every member knows one another and there is real affection and respect at Chambers events. If you are a team player, you are friendly, have a passion for advocacy and strive for excellence, then I would very much urge you to apply for pupillage at St Ives. Trust me when I say you will not regret it!

Life in Pupillage

Lucinda Wilmott-Lascelles

Tenant (Pupil 2016-2017)



I was shocked, thrilled and terrified when I was awarded pupillage at St Ives Chambers. The Chambers and its members have a formidable reputation as accomplished barristers in every area of law and are known for being personable, courteous and respected by their fellow professionals both locally and nationally.

To achieve pupillage is a great achievement, if you are anything like me, the euphoria lasts momentarily before the fear sets in. What if I don't know the answers? Am I supposed to speak and offer my opinion or should I stay silent until spoken to? My first day on the way to Chambers I was panicking about whether my black suit was the correct shade of black and whether I could remember everything I was taught at Bar school.

As a pupil at St Ives Chambers I soon learnt I had nothing to worry about. This is a set full of remarkable barristers who despite being incredibly busy are always prepared to answer your questions and point you in the right direction. Whether it be the Head of Chambers or a member of the clerking team each and every person is interested in helping you to achieve your best and fulfil your potential. I cannot emphasise enough the sense of camaraderie that exists within Chambers.

The nature of pupillage is such that you are analysed and assessed. During this year your fellow pupils will become your best friends. Unlike other Chambers you do not have to compete with each other, pupillages are awarded with a view to tenancy.

Alongside the hard work you will be invited to functions, balls, networking events and much needed drinks after work at the end of the day.

St Ives Chambers offers Common Law pupillages which are intense and difficult. You will be challenged every day, you will realise that what you thought you knew is not nearly enough. You will be expected to learn the law and procedure in an array of different areas including Crime, Civil, Family and Housing, often at short notice. If that sounds daunting, think twice about undertaking pupillage. If that sounds exciting, pupillage at St Ives Chambers is an exceptional rewarding experience which provides you with the foundation and exposure from which to launch your career.

Transferring to Tenancy

William Douglas-Jones

Tenant (Pupil 2013-2014)

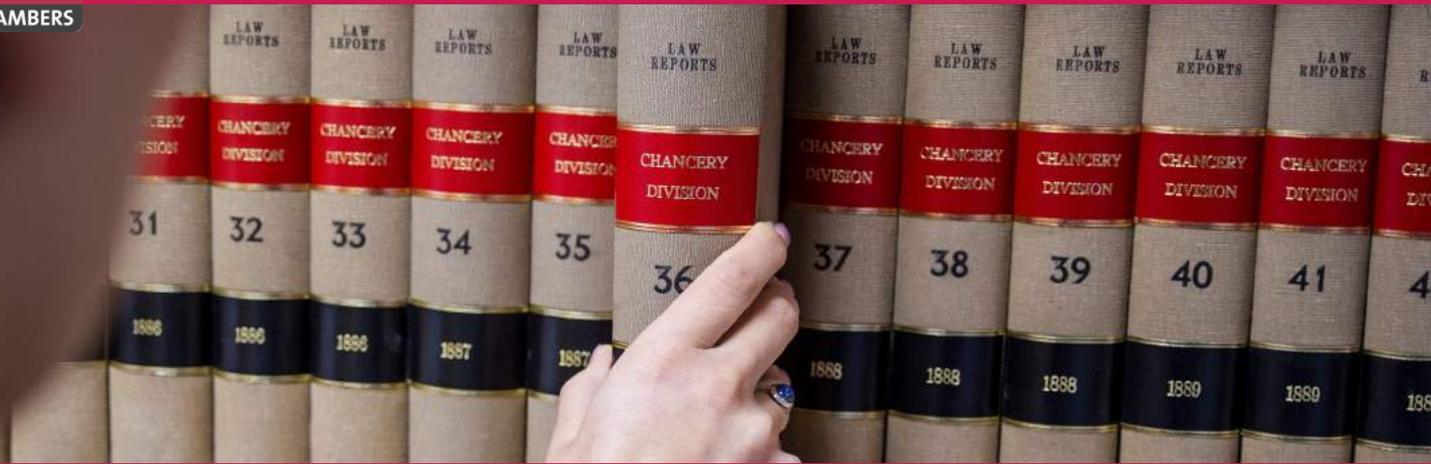


In a nutshell, my pupillage at St Ives was everything I had hoped it would be. Chambers was precisely the opposite of the intimidating environment of the pupillage myths. It may sound cliché, but the atmosphere in Chambers is welcoming, collegiate and positive. There is an exceptionally inclusive junior end and all members are approachable and willing to help.

The work is varied and of significant quality. It wasn't easy by any stretch of the imagination. I was made to work hard during my first-six, but never simply for the sake of putting the pupil to work. I learned a great deal about how to approach a case, how to prepare it and how to perform well in court; but also about how to conduct myself as a barrister. I found the monthly advocacy exercises to be particularly beneficial as Chambers ensured they were in areas that I would soon encounter in my second-six.

My second-six was a baptism of fire. I was instructed in my own right in jury trials from an early stage, while also dealing with a vast range of hearings from an infant approval to a family fact-find. While St Ives encourages pupils to practise in all of Chambers' areas into the first years of tenancy, the clerks are alive to personal preferences and aptitudes from an early stage. I soon found that my diary moved organically towards crime, regulatory and housing, in line with my preferences, despite the fact that Chambers has such a wealth of family work. Chambers helped at all stages to aid the development of my desired practice.

The transition to tenancy is seamless. You don't find yourself dropped and left to your own devices in any way. I was supported both by members who were always available for guidance, and by the clerks who employed active practice management from the outset. I have been guided towards a constantly improving practice from the first day of my tenancy to the point that I never feel like my practice is standing still.



Should you have any further questions regarding the application process then please consult our website (www.stiveschambers.co.uk) or contact Timothy Bowe at timothy.bowe@stiveschambers.co.uk. If he is unable to help then a member of the Pupillage Committee will reply via email.

St Ives Chambers

1-3 Whittall Street, Birmingham, B4 6DH

Tel: 0121 236 0863 | web: www.stiveschambers.co.uk | Twitter: @StIvesChambers
pupillage@stiveschambers.co.uk