



PUPILLAGE PROSPECTUS



2024 / 2025



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St Ives Barristers Ltd t/a St Ives Chambers

Chambers is an Authorised Education and Training Organisation (AETO).

This prospectus is for promotional and informational purposes only.

REVISION:

The pupillage award figure has been updated since going to print and is therefore out-of-date in the hard copy version of the prospectus.

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FOREWORD



**HEAD OF CHAMBERS
ELIZABETH ISAACS KC**

**‘ST IVES CHAMBERS IS A CHALLENGING,
BUT ULTIMATELY HIGHLY-REWARDING,
PLACE TO UNDERTAKE PUPILLAGE.’**

St Ives Chambers was established in 1965. It has since developed an outstanding 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 frequently celebrated in the Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners directories across the entire range of common law practice areas.

Members of varying levels of seniority are regularly instructed in high-profile cases, nationally and locally, and pride themselves on attention to detail and approachability and the highest levels of client service.

St Ives benefits from a professional, friendly, and collaborative practice manager (clerking) service which aims to ensure an open chain of communication between a practice manager and a barrister from the earliest days in practice.

Chambers has a fully operational Equality and Diversity Policy and is committed to the implementation and promotion of equality and diversity principles, inclusivity and equal opportunities.

We recognise the importance of the Bar being seen to be fair and non-discriminatory and to be open to all, regardless of social, economic, or educational background or circumstances.

Underlying this policy is our intention that every individual should be afforded equal and fair opportunity and respect and be judged on merit and ability alone, free from judgements or treatment based on prejudice, unconscious bias, or assumptions of collective characteristics.

Chambers operates a formal Fair Allocation of Work policy to monitor and review the allocation of work at all levels of practice and to address the possibility of unconscious bias.

Chambers is committed to taking action towards improving race equality in the profession and in 2022 signed off on an Action Plan in relation to the recommendations of the recent Bar Council report – *Race at the Bar: A Snapshot Report*.

We are proud to be an LGBT+ inclusive organisation and in 2021 we became one of the first sets in the country to sign up to the new FreeBar Charter, which aims to guide us in implementing best practice with regard to LGBT+ inclusion.

FreeBar is a network for everyone at the Bar who believes in equality for LGBT+ individuals. We have an internal chambers LGBT+ Network, in which members, staff and pupils may identify as LGBT+ or as a straight ally in furtherance of our commitment to visibility and inclusion.

We are committed to Wellbeing at the Bar, which applies to all members, staff, and pupils at St Ives.

Chambers has recently completed a significant refurbishment project to our premises on Whittall Street which has involved modernisation and increased flexibility across all areas. These changes ensure that we are at the forefront of developments regarding hybrid working patterns, and that we continue to offer the highest quality of service to our clients, through the creation of a modern working environment.

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 which 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.

ST IVES IN SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

St Ives Chambers is a boutique and modern set situated in the heart of Birmingham close to the legal hub of the city.

Unlike its other major competitors, its size permits both strength in depth of advocacy but also a collegiate atmosphere where members are known to one another regardless of practice area. Chambers frequently arranges social events open to all members and staff to support its sense of cohesion and community. It is a set with a soul.

Birmingham's cosmopolitan and modern city life offers even more appealing opportunities for living and working in, or near, the centre. Cultural and sporting possibilities abound, all without the downsides of living in a capital city such as high rental and property prices.

Chambers' location, equidistant from Birmingham New Street Station and the new HS2 Curzon Street Station, as well as being in close proximity to Birmingham Snow Hill and Birmingham Moor Street, makes it ideally placed for its barristers who receive instructions in cases up and down the country.



'ST IVES CHAMBERS IS A SUPERB GROWING SET POPULATED BY IMMENSELY TALENTED ADVOCATES.' [LEGAL 500 2023](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

St Ives' members undertake work in 9 practice areas:

- Public Law Children
- Private Law Children
- Criminal
- Housing
- Business and Property
- Family Finance
- Personal Injury
- Regulatory
- Arbitration

ST IVES IN SUMMARY

PUBLIC LAW 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, domestic and international adoption, wardship, special guardianship, child abduction, international and national relocation, surrogacy and same-sex parenting issues including where they intersect with cases in the private family law jurisdiction.

**'AN EXCELLENT TEAM OF
FAMILY COUNSEL'**

LEGAL 500 2023

**'A WELL-ESTABLISHED
AND HIGHLY REGARDED
FAMILY SET'**

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2023

PRIVATE LAW CHILDREN

St Ives Chambers has always been at the forefront of the development of private family law in the Midlands and is proud of its reputation as **"the Midlands' leading family law set"** (Legal 500) and our growing reputation as **"a nationally recognised family chambers"** (Chambers & Partners).

Our specialist Private Law Children Team is formed of practitioners with a wide range of expertise and experience at all levels. The strength of the group lies in its depth and the good professional relationships between team members and their clerks. The range of work undertaken, and the experience of members means that clients benefit from the experience of the individual barrister and from the collective knowledge and experience of the group which includes Senior Counsel, Deputy High Court Judges, Recorders, and Deputy District Judges.

The work undertaken by the team includes child arrangements, contact and residence disputes, prohibited steps and specific issue orders, international and national relocation, child abduction, surrogacy, same-sex parenting issues and adoption. Several members of our Private Law Team have appeared in the Court of Appeal in high profile and reported cases.

ST IVES IN SUMMARY

CRIMINAL

**'A POOL OF HIGHLY
TALENTED CRIMINAL
PRACTITIONERS'**

LEGAL 500 2023

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 with two members of Chambers appearing in the leading authority of *R v Luckhurst* [2022] UKSC 23 in the Supreme Court.

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.

FAMILY FINANCE

We have a wealth of experience in dealing with high net worth cases 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. 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, and TOLATA matters. Members of the family finance team are regularly instructed to undertake private FDRs.

**'ST IVES CHAMBERS IS A
WELL-ESTABLISHED AND
HIGHLY REGARDED FAMILY
SET. ITS EXPANSIVE TEAM
OFFERS EXPERTISE ACROSS
THE FULL RANGE OF
MATRIMONIAL FINANCE AND
CHILDREN CASES'**

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2023

ST IVES IN SUMMARY

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.

The Group holds a popular annual housing conference which attracts delegates from all over the country. As well as providing training on current topics this provides a welcome networking opportunity.

Delegates always provide excellent feedback about the conference and return year after year.



'ST IVES CHAMBERS REPRESENTS A WIDE RANGE OF HOUSING CLIENTS IN THE FULL SPECTRUM OF DIFFERENT HOUSING ISSUES IN THE MIDLANDS. THE SET REMAINS PRE-EMINENT IN THIS MARKET, AND ITS BARRISTERS ACT IN COMPLEX POSSESSION PROCEEDINGS AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INJUNCTIONS, IN ADDITION TO OTHER RELATED MATTERS.'

'ST IVES IS AN EXCELLENT CHAMBERS WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE, FRIENDLY AND APPROACHABLE BARRISTERS WHO ARE ALWAYS READY TO ASSIST.'

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2023

ST IVES IN SUMMARY

BUSINESS & PROPERTY

The Business and Property 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 (all levels of business challenges including partnership, shareholder and director disputes), Boundary disputes, Adverse Possession, Nuisance, Restrictive covenants, Trusts/TOLATA claims, Easements, Landlord and Tenant disputes, Breach of covenant claims, Business Tenancies, Commercial, Personal and corporate insolvency, Commercial property disputes, Banking and finance, Professional negligence, and Probate including Inheritance Act claims (see our website for the complete list).

'ST IVES CHAMBERS IS A WELL-RESPECTED SET WHICH IS EQUIPPED TO HANDLE A RANGE OF COMPLEX PROPERTY DISPUTES.'

CHAMBERS AND PARTNERS 2023

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.

'THE BUSINESS AND PROPERTY GROUP OF ST IVES CHAMBERS IS A 'GREAT TEAM THAT OFFERS DIVERSITY AND STRENGTH' AND APPEAR AT 'ALL LEVELS OF COURT FROM THE COUNTY COURT AND FIRST-TIER TRIBUNAL TO THE SUPREME COURT.'

LEGAL 500 2023



ST IVES IN SUMMARY

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.

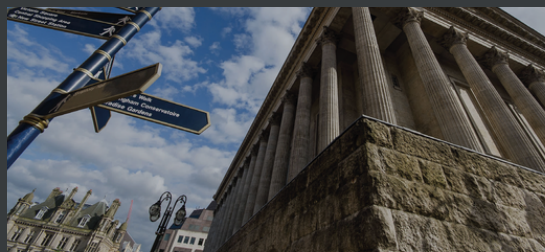
Several of our barristers have acted for and against public bodies in the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), Magistrates and Crown Court; in addition to the higher courts through Judicial Review and Appeal proceedings.

**ST IVES CHAMBERS HAS A
'STRONG REGIONAL
REPUTATION FOR ITS LOCAL
AUTHORITY PROSECUTION
AND PRIVATE DEFENCE
WORK IN MATTERS OF
REGULATORY
ENFORCEMENT'**

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 CRITERIA



St Ives will be offering up to four fully funded, 12-month pupillages commencing in **October 2024**,

FUNDING

Pupils will receive a grant of **£21,060** in their non-practising period of pupillage, followed by guaranteed earnings of **£2,500** per month in their practising period of pupillage

APPLICATIONS

Applicants should apply by completing the **application form** which is **available on the website**. Applications open at **00:01** on **3 January 2024**.

Applicants who are successful at the paper stage will face a short first-round interview.

DEADLINE

Applications will close at **23:59** on **7 February 2024** in accordance with the Gateway timetable.

INTERVIEWS

First Round Interviews will take place on **16 March 2024**, before a panel of three members of Chambers' Pupillage Committee.

Approximately twelve candidates will be selected for a longer **Second Round Interview** on **13 April 2024** before the full Committee chaired by the Head of Pupillage which 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.

PUPILLAGE CRITERIA



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.

CRITERIA FOR PUPILLAGE APPLICATIONS

All applications are assessed, in the first instance, by reference to the following criteria (with each of the four criteria being given equal weight at the 'initial assessment' stage):

- A.** Academic record (assessed primarily by reference to part C of the form);
- B.** Relevant experience (assessed primarily by reference to part E);
- C.** Motivation to practise at the Bar (assessed primarily by reference to Part F);
- D.** Written communication skills (assessed by reference to the Form as a whole).

Through the recruitment process as a whole, from paper application to final interview, the applications are assessed by reference to the following criteria (listed neither exhaustively and nor in any particular order of importance):

- A.** Academic record (particularly at University – at least a '2.1' degree is preferred);
- B.** Relevant past experience;
- C.** Motivation to practise at the Bar;
- D.** Written communication skills;
- E.** Oral communication skills;
- F.** Interpersonal skills;
- G.** Mental agility and analytical thinking;
- H.** Resilience, drive and determination.

FEEDBACK

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

PUPILLAGE TIMETABLE



Wednesday, 3 January 2024 (00:01)

Applications open

Pupillage application forms are available to download from Chambers' website.

Applicants can start, prepare, and submit their applications to St Ives.

The application form may only be submitted **once** and **cannot be edited once uploaded**. If the application is withdrawn, no further application may be made in this round of pupillage.

Wednesday, 7 February 2024 (23:59)

Applications close

The submissions window for applications closes and no further applications are allowed. Any application **received** after 23:59 will not be considered.

Friday, 1 March 2024 (onwards)

Invitations to First Round Interview

Successful candidates at the paper sift will be invited to **first round interview on a Saturday to be fixed in March 2024**. Successful candidates at first round interview will be notified of the **Saturday in April 2024** when **second round Interviews** will be held.

Friday, 10 May 2024 (09:30 and onward)

Initial Offers of Pupillage Made

Chambers will make offers of pupillage by telephone or by email. Reserve candidates will be informed that they are on a reserve list pending acceptances of all initial offers

Friday, 17 May 2024 (09:30 and onward)

Deadline for Accepting Initial Offers

All applicants have a 7-day deadline to communicate acceptance of an offer (if any). Applicants will be able to accept an offer anytime up to the deadline.

If the 7-day deadline passes without the applicant accepting the offer, Chambers will be entitled to send out reserve offers within a reasonable time period.

TOP TIPS 10

APPLICATIONS & INTERVIEWS

1 REFLECT ON YOUR APPLICATION

Write your application early and then put it aside for a little while. When you go back to it read, reflect on it and edit it aggressively when you feel less attached to what you have written. Give yourself time to think and work on it. It gives you more time for researching, reviewing and improving. You will also spot errors you did not initially.

2 PRACTISE YOUR PUBLIC SPEAKING

Practise speaking out loud. Ask friends or family members to give you short topics/questions to discuss. Talk to yourself in the mirror if you have to. But give yourself time to practice speaking confidently about topical issues and thinking on your feet.

3 MAXIMISE MOCK INTERVIEWS

Doing mock interviews are essential. Obtain as many as possible. The constructive criticism they provide you is invaluable. It's much better to make your mistakes before you get into the interview room. Take advantage of the Inns of Court mock interview and mentor schemes. X (or Twitter) is also a great forum to reach out for help with mock interviews.

4 USE FORMATTING TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

Don't be afraid to use bullet points when setting out your work history/ experience for conciseness and structure. If your application is not via gateway don't be afraid to put things in bold/underline them in order to highlight matters, you want the marker to focus on. This is to be used sparingly but can be very effective.

5 **MINI PUPILLAGE**

When writing about mini-pupillages in your applications, try and show what you have learnt and the insight you received into the role of a barrister during your time rather than just describing what you watched.

6 **BE CONCISE**

The word limit is not a target. Try to keep your written application and interview answers succinct. The ability to express yourself clearly and concisely is an important skill for barristers. Structuring your answers will help you do this.

7 **PLAN YOUR JOURNEY**

If you are attending an in-person interview, plan ahead. Be early and have a contingency travel plan for if your original doesn't work out. Also, make sure you have a contact number for chambers in case of any unavoidable delays.

8 **HIGHLIGHT TRANSFERRABLE SKILLS**

Not every answer about previous experience has to be law-related. Spend some time considering all your experiences (professional and personal) and how they have shaped your decision to join the bar. In your applications and interviews, showcase transferable skills from your non-law-related experience and use them to establish why you are a stronger candidate.

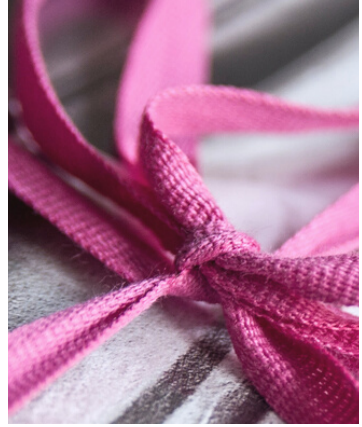
9 **PREPARE AND PLAN YOUR COMPETENCY ANSWERS**

Think about the most common skills barristers require that you will need to demonstrate in both applications and interviews. Then create a spider diagram of examples of when you have demonstrated that skill. That way, you can see all of your examples in one place, and it will help you to pick the strongest ones to put forward.

10 **BE YOURSELF**

Don't try to 'sound like a barrister'. It is tempting to give the answers you think the panel want to hear but the pupillage process is about getting to know you as a person. In practice, you will use your own style and voice so make sure to use it in your applications and your interviews. Draw on your own insights and unique experiences and most importantly authentic to yourself.

PUPILLAGE STRUCTURE / FIRST SIX



1 **NON-PRACTISING PERIOD** *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.

Where possible, incoming pupils are invited to attend Chambers' Summer Party as a way to meet members of Chambers, staff, and instructing solicitors prior to commencing in October.

A St Ives pupil's 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, seminars and articles. 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.

PUPILLAGE STRUCTURE / SECOND SIX



2 PRACTISING PERIOD 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.

BEYOND PUPILLAGE INTO TENANCY

Pupils satisfactorily completing pupillage will be signed off against the Bar Standards Board completion of practising pupillage criteria by their pupil supervisors.

Pupils will then be able to apply for a full Practising Certificate.

Chambers is proud of its long history of retaining pupils into tenancy.

Our junior tenants who have completed pupillage in Chambers have gone on to build successful and established practices locally and nationally.

This translates into financial success. Recent first year tenants at St Ives Chambers have recorded average incomes of **£107,000** (subject to practice area and number of days worked).

PUPILLAGE STRUCTURE / OVERVIEW



DIARY YEAR TO VIEW

FIRST SIX

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

All pupils placed in specialist area with pupil supervisor

Monthly **advocacy training sessions** begin in November.

JANUARY

Pupils are rotated to new specialist area and introduced to pupil supervisor for second six

FEBRUARY

Pupils are rotated to final specialist area

MARCH

Pupils closely shadow juniors to experience the work they will undertake from April

SECOND SIX

APRIL & ONWARDS

Pupils start on their feet, accepting instructions in all of Chambers' practice areas with the help and support of their second six pupil supervisor

END OF SEPTEMBER

Pupils may apply for tenancy in Chambers and a meeting is held to consider any applications

OCTOBER

Successful pupils join Chambers as full tenants. New pupils for the following year are welcomed into Chambers

BESPOKE ADVOCACY TRAINING



1

ESTABLISHED PROGRAMME

- Chambers' in-house advocacy training programme has been established for over 7 years
- Written, updated and delivered to pupils on a bespoke basis
- Uses a modified HAMPEL method informed by training from the The Inns of Court College of Advocacy, and unique to St Ives Chambers

2

EXPERT TRAINERS

- Each exercise is written and delivered by specialist advocates
- Involvement from part time members of the judiciary
- Silk and senior junior trainers
- Witnesses played by members of Chambers
- Additional training input from juniors and committee members
- Constructive feedback aimed at continuing improvement

3

REAL CASES

- Each exercise uses real world cases with real issues
- Learn how to navigate complex bundles, produce an effective case theory, structure devastating cross-examinations and deliver persuasive closing speeches
- Build your confidence on your feet prior to second six

SUPPORT & GUIDANCE



1

DEDICATED MENTORS

- Individually assigned dedicated mentor
- Reliable support and assistance from experienced members
- Pastoral and professional mentoring
- Ease the transition from bar student to long-term, self-employed barrister

2

WIDE SUPPORT NETWORKS

- Open-door policy for support throughout Chambers
- Collegiate working environment
- Dedicated WhatsApp groups for each area of practice
- Availability of support and answers to questions at any time of the day
- Ethos of supporting pupils and members of Chambers to succeed

3

DEPENDABLE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

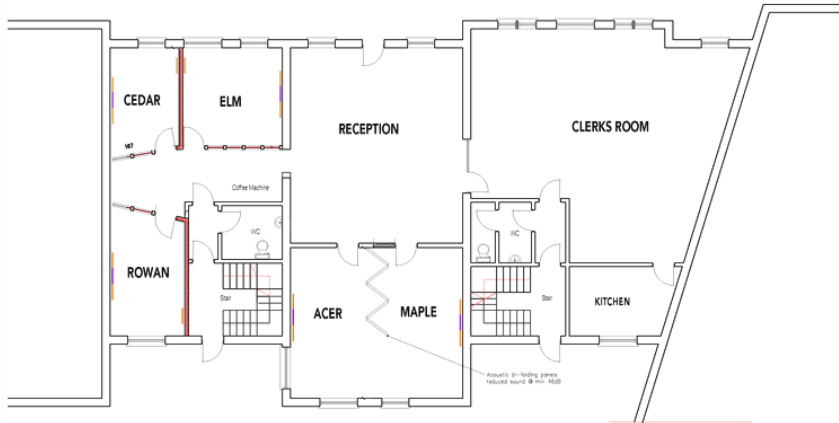
- Dedicated fees and support teams
- Assistance with transition to self-employment
- Instruction and guidance on setting up and running a successful business

A LOOK INSIDE CHAMBERS



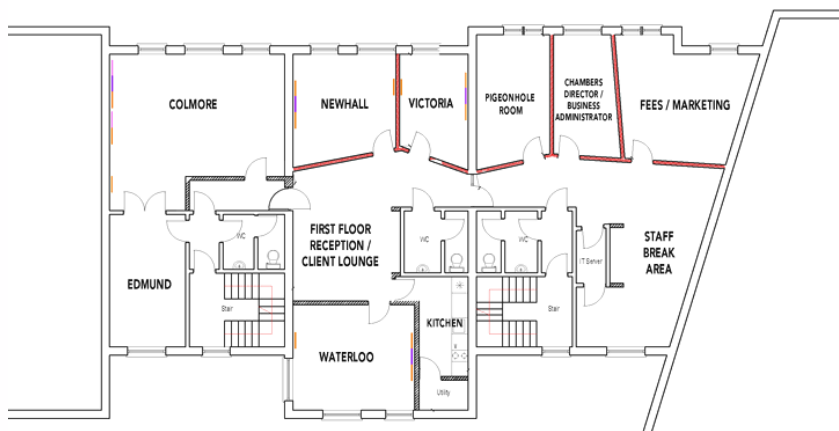
Newly-refurbished premises with all the facilities to meet the working needs of the modern Bar. Somewhere you could call home.

GROUND FLOOR



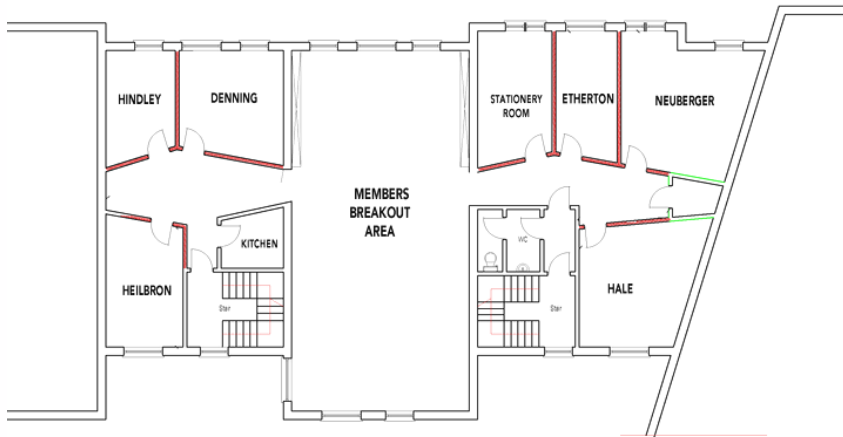
Large, welcoming client reception area and accessible, flexible conferencing and mediation suites with dedicated clerking areas.

FIRST FLOOR



Interlinking seminar and conference spaces, equipped with digital technology for remote hearings, meetings and private NCDR.

SECOND FLOOR



Inclusive breakout spaces for members with maintained library resource spaces in and amongst further IT equipped conferencing rooms and restauration facilities.

PUPILLAGE / INSIGHT

HERE'S WHAT OUR RECENT PUPILS
HAVE TO SAY ABOUT US

ALYSSA CALLAWAY

Completed pupillage in 2023

My pupillage at St Ives Chambers was an exciting and challenging time and involved me learning from experienced barristers whilst getting the support I needed to develop my practice at the Bar.



During my first six of pupillage, I spent time shadowing barristers in family, civil and crime undertaking a range of different cases, from complex fact-finding hearings to attending the Supreme Court. Every barrister I shadowed took time to explain the case to me and why they asked a certain question in cross-examination or made a particular submission. This experience was invaluable in helping me acquire knowledge in many areas.

I also undertook monthly advocacy exercises which are set up to help prepare pupils taking on their own cases. Junior and senior members of Chambers take the time to prepare the advocacy exercises based on real life cases to help develop your advocacy skills in a supportive environment. The type of advocacy exercises I undertook ranged from a small claims trial to a criminal trial. The feedback I received was so helpful and useful in preparing me for going on my feet.

The transition to second six was an exciting, yet daunting, experience. However, members of Chambers were always available to give me the support I needed and answer any questions that I had. Chambers genuinely want you to do well and will go out of their way to offer you the support that you need. This, I believe, gave me the reassurance to take on any case that I was instructed on.

I would therefore recommend a pupillage at St Ives Chambers to anyone who is wanting to pursue a career at the Bar at a supportive and experienced set.

PUPILLAGE / INSIGHT

HERE'S WHAT OUR RECENT PUPILS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT US

ADAM CLAY-CROOME

Completed pupillage in 2023

I found when applying for pupillage, St Ives Chambers offers something quite rare in the pupillage market: a genuinely multidisciplinary pupillage.

As a career-changer coming to the Bar, one of the most important things I was looking for was a Chambers that would not pigeonhole me too early in my new career. I applied for a mixed common law pupillage, and pupillage at St Ives truly surpassed my expectations.

During my first six, I was able to learn about different areas of law under a team of excellent pupil supervisors and under the tutelage of extremely talented junior tenants. Pupillage was well structured, and I spent time with different supervisors in each of the core practice areas Chambers offers. Junior Month, at the end of first six, provided a fantastic opportunity to see those fairly junior tenants, with a few years' experience, doing exactly the sort of work I would soon be doing during second six. In addition, Chambers hosted monthly advocacy exercises for pupils, which helped me to hit the ground running when the time came for real-life advocacy. Seeing and doing so much during first six gave me an excellent grounding for my second six.

The support from barristers within Chambers stepped up even more between first and second six and was nothing short of exceptional – there is always someone on the end of the phone, email or message who is more than able and willing to help.

Every day during second six brought new challenges and experiences. Mastering the law and the facts in advance of such different hearings each day is extremely fulfilling.



PUPILLAGE / INSIGHT

HERE'S WHAT OUR RECENT PUPILS
HAVE TO SAY ABOUT US

ADAM CLAY-CROOME (CONTD.)

I have undertaken my own cases in all areas ranging from:

- road traffic accidents, to traveller campsite possessions (Civil);
- child contact arrangements for parents living at either end of the country, to quite complex divorce settlements involving family businesses and all kinds of marital assets (Family); and
- from prosecuting trading standards offences, to successfully defending clients in jury trials (Crime).

No two days have been the same: the work is always diverse and engaging.

My first few months on my feet gave me a great opportunity to travel the country too, visiting court centres from London to Newcastle, always carefully managed by an excellent team of clerks.

Second six was the most fulfilling six months of my professional life so far.



PUPILLAGE / INSIGHT

HERE'S WHAT OUR RECENT PUPILS
HAVE TO SAY ABOUT US

MILLY WEBB

Completed pupillage in 2023

Pupillage is, without doubt, one of the hardest challenges I have had to face. Having said that, I could not imagine doing it in a more supportive and encouraging set of chambers.

From the minute I started at St Ives I was made to feel fully involved. Everyone went out of their way to make me feel welcome and to offer out their assistance whenever I had any queries or issues.

The junior presence at St Ives is something that makes chambers really special. Not only are they willing to provide help and reassurance, they provide a social atmosphere which makes me actively look forward to spending time in chambers.

With the new renovation now completed, Chambers is a fantastic space to work in, host events, and conduct training in. The addition of a pool table has also been a bonus.

The development and growth I have seen in myself since starting in October 2022 is a result of Chambers' dedication to training pupils and helping us to reach our full potential.

The quality of work we get the opportunity to take on in second six is testament to St Ives faith in its pupils and determination to help us build strong practices from the outset.



TRANSFERRING TO TENANCY

'The environment of St Ives Chambers not only prepared me for the challenges of the Bar, but also fostered the development I needed to succeed'

After my tenancy decision, I was as equally excited as I was anxious.

However, one thing I was sure of was that I'd be supported throughout in the transition. Pupillage at St Ives was the steepest but most brilliant learning curve I've ever experienced.

I had the opportunity of spending twelve months learning from exceptional advocates, gaining incredible experience, and undertaking quality work once 'on my feet'. My first and second-six equipped me with all the tools to make sure I was ready to take full advantage of the opportunities that would come my way in tenancy.

From the first day, everyone in Chambers inclusive of the staff, clerks, and members, rally around you to make sure you feel supported. As a pupil, there is a real sense of investment into your career progression which continued into tenancy.



QUEENIE DJAN
SPECIALIST CRIMINAL PRACTITIONER

St Ives spent a lot of time helping me understand at that early stage how to build and maintain a successful practice.

I had encouraging supervisors in all three areas of Crime, Civil and Family that I still rely on all the time for support as a now tenant. My supervisors actively involved me in the cases I shadowed them on, encouraged me to ask questions, and always took the time to discuss the cases I was observing.

The monthly in-house advocacy exercises proved invaluable. Every month we had case bundles to prepare as our own and members of Chambers gave up their time to provide us with useful feedback and constructive criticism. Each exercise made me feel more ready to get on my feet.

After first-six flew by, second-six began. I was in court every day which may seem intense at first glance;

TRANSFERRING TO TENANCY

however, I was able to build up my confidence and start progressing to complex cases quickly.

During this period, I built a good relationship with the solicitors that Chambers had introduced me to and completed several Crown Court jury and housing trials.

I found that my common-law pupillage provided me with a range of skills, as each area developed different abilities. I benefited from regular meetings with the clerks to discuss my practice to ensure I was getting a wide range of experience.

I was also glad to be part of a chambers which operates an open-door policy between all members, which meant I constantly had the advice and guidance from both the junior and senior end.

The major benefit of my common-law pupillage was I had an informed idea of where I wanted my practice to go as a tenant through my first-hand experience of all areas.

It's a big responsibility when you become a tenant, and your practice becomes your own to manage.

You want to make sure you are making the right decisions. However, just like in pupillage, there was always someone on the end of the phone who would be happy to act as a sounding board.

There was no question too silly or no time of day (or night) where I didn't have someone to turn to for support.

This support extended to the clerks who helped me to push my career forward and made sure I was progressing by virtue of the work I was doing.

The environment of St Ives Chambers not only prepared me for the challenges of the Bar, but also fostered the development I needed to succeed.



WHY JOIN US AT ST IVES?



HOLLY SIMS

Joined Chambers from the CPS in 2022

I knew several St Ives members from the robing room and law school. Everyone was super friendly and collegiate. I wanted to be in a set where I could expand my practice from just crime and feel supported doing the same. St Ives having a big junior end was also something that I liked. Chambers is the perfect balance of friendly and professional for me.



MARK COOPER

Joined Chambers in 2014 from another Birmingham set

I often found myself against people from St Ives and I was impressed by their vast knowledge of family law. It helped that I had many friends at St Ives, so it felt like a natural place for me to build my practice.

St Ives has lived up to and exceeded my expectations. The clerks are superb and the support from other members of the team is invaluable. I am regularly instructed in lengthy and complex matters. I have numerous opportunities to be led by most of the family silks who are members of chambers or door tenants. Being part of a large and successful team means that instructing solicitors can be confident that Chambers has strength and depth at all levels of seniority, which makes Chambers a first port of call for many cases.

WHY JOIN US

AT ST IVES?



REBECCA CROSS

Transferred to Chambers from another set in 2018

I love the excellent infrastructure at St Ives, Birmingham being the second city, and access to the highest quality of work, particularly in the family law sphere where I wanted to specialise. I now have excellent practice managers, and fees clerks, who always listen and help me to progress my career in the way that I want.



JANE TALBOT

Joined in 2016 having been the Head of the Housing Department at a National law firm

I was initially nervous about being self employed and whether I would have sufficient instructions to build a business. However, I was provided with excellent support from other barristers and the clerks and my workload quickly increased and I found myself doing the advocacy that I have always enjoyed so much as a full time career. It was undoubtedly daunting at first but I have never regretted my decision. Having a young family at the Bar comes with some challenges but also a much greater degree of flexibility. The barristers and staff at St Ives Chambers made me feel immediately welcome and the housing team has a great rapport. I really feel I have found where I want to be.

MINI PUPILLAGE

The best way to get to know any chambers is by spending time inside the building and by speaking with its members. At St Ives, all prospective pupillage applicants are encouraged to apply for a mini pupillage in order to get to know us better.

Our Mini Pupillage Scheme offers an insight into life at St Ives and the areas of law that Chambers specialises in. St Ives offers three-day mini pupillages in Birmingham. Successful applicants will spend time both in Chambers, and attending court with members across all areas of practice.

Within the last 10 years, more than half of all successful pupillage candidates spent time in Chambers as part of our Mini Pupillage Scheme.

Applications are considered on a rolling basis and are welcomed at any time throughout the year. Applicants should submit a CV and a covering letter explaining why they are applying for a mini pupillage at St Ives Chambers.

For more details please see our website.



**MINI PUPILLAGE CO-ORDINATOR
TOM LAWAL**

Written applications will be assessed in accordance with the following criteria:

- **Academic record and intellectual ability;**
- **Resilience, commitment, and motivation to practice at the Bar;**
- **Reasons for applying to St Ives Chambers;**
- **Public speaking experience (e.g. debating, mooting, etc.); and**
- **Written communication skills and presentation of application.**

WELLBEING



St Ives Chambers is committed to the implementation and promotion of equality and diversity principles and equal opportunities.

DIVERSITY DATA

We recognise the importance of the Bar being seen to be fair and non-discriminatory and to be open to all, regardless of social, economic or educational background or circumstances.

Every individual should be accorded equal and fair opportunity and respect and be judged on merit and ability alone, free from judgments or treatment based on prejudice or assumptions of collective characteristics

WELLBEING

We are also committed to Wellbeing at the Bar, which applies to all members, staff and pupils at St Ives.

In addition to providing a range of events during the annual '*Wellbeing Week*' in May, we provide other wellbeing resources throughout the year including:

- free access to various services provided by 'Health Assured';
- a mentoring scheme for all members, staff and pupils;
- chair yoga and chair massages, provided by qualified specialists;
- mindfulness awareness; and
- much more.



Wellbeing
at the Bar

DIVERSITY



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Chambers is passionately committed to maintaining its ongoing contribution to ensuring the legal profession is truly reflective of the public it represents. The richness and value of a diverse and inclusive legal profession is clear from the significant contribution made by female, LGBTQ+, black, and Asian barristers, solicitors and members of the judiciary.

Black History Month presents a unique and important opportunity for Chambers to engage with students from black ethnic backgrounds.

This year, Chambers opened its doors to students with the aim of providing practical and useful tips and guidance to help them on the road to a successful legal career. Our CV workshops and 1-2-1 discussions with barristers gave students a unique insight into some of the challenges they will face in pursuit of the legal careers and, crucially, how those challenges can be overcome in order to achieve their career ambitions and leave a lasting legacy.

The event was a resounding success. The feedback received from those who attended genuinely touched those members who had contributed to making the event so beneficial.



“

I am personally delighted to have witnessed the contribution Chambers has made to diversity and inclusion at the Bar, since I joined in 2008. Chambers has given me and other members a platform to engage passionately with students from ethnic backgrounds in a way that has led to local and national recognition for Chambers and, importantly, made a real difference in the lives of so many.

Chambers remains dedicated to doing its part to address the systemic problems highlighted in the Race at the Bar Report. There is clearly so much more to do but St Ives is definitely leading the way in the Midlands and beyond!

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TOM LAWal

I had the opportunity to participate in a 1-2-1 CV Workshop and Careers event organised by St Ives Chambers in Birmingham as part of their Black History Month events [...] There were lots of decent Afro-carribean meals to go around too. Many thanks to Tom Lawal who I'm told spearheaded this event. Massive thanks to Rebecca Cross who I had the opportunity for a one-on-one on my CV and Katie Goodman, Queenie Djan and Hasnat Bashir who gave me some valuable advice during the network session.

**RECENT
STUDENT
TESTIMONIAL
VIA LINKEDIN**

SOCIAL / LIFE



SOCIAL COMMITTEE & EVENTS

The social committee organises major Chambers parties in addition to other social events during the course of the year with a view to encouraging members and staff to get together, let down their hair and enjoy some time off from work.

Pupils are encouraged to join Circuit and other social events which help build important connections to colleagues, and friends, as well as to relax in a more informal environment.



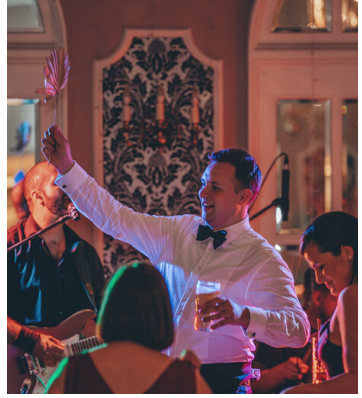
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MIDLAND CIRCUIT

SOCIAL / LIFE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WEST MIDLANDS
FAMILY LAW BAR ASSOCIATION

SOCIAL / LIFE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MIDLAND CIRCUIT

SOCIAL / LIFE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MIDLAND CIRCUIT & THE WEST MIDLANDS FAMILY LAW BAR ASSOCIATION

COOPER LOHMUS PRIZE



“

*I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED TAKING PART IN THE
COMPETITION. IT BOOSTED MY DRIVE TO OBTAIN
PUPILLAGE AND PRACTISE AT THE BAR*

-- PARTICIPANT IN THE 2023 COMPETITION

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The Cooper Lohmus Prize is dedicated to two cherished former members of Chambers, Peter Cooper and Michael Lohmus.

Peter and Michael were champions of those starting out at the very junior end of the profession, and were committed to helping young advocates grow in confidence and ability. To honour their memory, St Ives Chambers is proud to run its annual advocacy competition in their name.

The inaugural completion saw 55 competitors take part in a criminal plea in mitigation for the Defence. The final round was held at Birmingham Crown Court and was judged by our Head of Chambers, and Deputy High Court Judge, Elizabeth Isaacs KC, and two sitting Crown Court Judges, HH Judge Carr and HH Judge Cole.

This year's competition will also be a short criminal plea in mitigation. The final will be held on **25 January 2024** from **18:15** at **The Crown Court at Birmingham**. Spectators are welcome to come and watch. All finalists will be offered a mini-pupillage with Chambers. The winner of the competition will receive an individual trophy. Chambers also keeps a trophy engraved with the names of all winners.

For more information, please visit Chambers' website.

LINKS & SOCIALS



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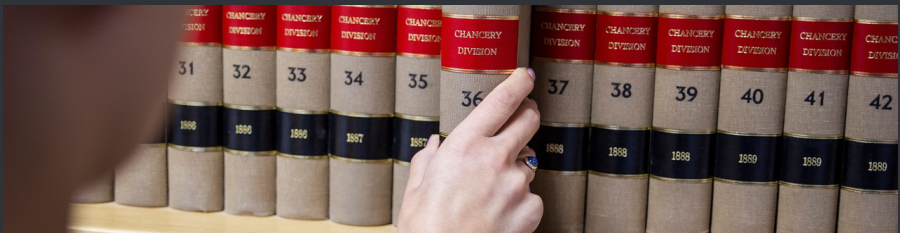
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www.stiveschambers.co.uk



ST IVES CHAMBERS

PUPILLAGE PROSPECTUS

2024 / 2025



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