



# *Wilberforce* CHAMBERS

“First port of call for chancery  
and commercial barristers”

THE LEGAL 500

PUPILLAGE AND TENANCY

2024-2025

## CONTENTS

- 03 / Welcome to Wilberforce Chambers
- 06 / Areas of expertise
- 08 / General information about pupillage
- 09 / Mini-Pupillages
- 10 / Applications
- 11 / Tenancy
- 12 / What our junior tenants have to say
- 15 / Contact details
- 16 / List of members



# Welcome to Wilberforce Chambers

Wilberforce Chambers is a set of 84 barristers, including 37 KCs, based in Lincoln's Inn. We are well established as one of the pre-eminent Chancery Commercial sets, with a leading reputation in each area of Chambers' work.

Our members are involved in some of the most intellectually challenging and legally significant matters undertaken at the Bar today and are known for bringing a commercial approach to legal problems. Chambers, and its members, frequently receive awards for their work. We pride ourselves in providing a first class and comprehensive service to our clients in litigation and advisory work across the broad spectrum of cases within the Chancery Commercial field.

Members of Chambers regularly appear in the full spectrum of domestic courts, from the Supreme Court down to the Business and Property Courts in the High Court, the Administrative Court, the First-tier and Upper Tribunals, various Pensions Tribunals, and the County Courts, as well as in domestic and international arbitrations.

Winner of  
'Chancery Set of  
the Year' at The  
Legal 500 2022  
Awards

–  
Winner of  
'Chambers of the  
Year' at the Legal  
Cheek 2022  
Awards

–  
Winner of  
'Clerking/Practice  
Management  
Team of the Year'  
at The Legal 500  
2020 Awards

–  
Top Ranked  
Chambers Global,  
2022 Leading Set

–  
Top Ranked  
Chambers UK Bar,  
2022 Leading Set

–  
Top Ranked  
Chambers High  
Net Worth,  
2022 Leading Set

–  
Top Tier Set  
The Legal 500 UK  
2022



*“Wilberforce barristers remain at the top of their game”*

Chambers and Partners



# Areas of Expertise

The following are examples of the type of work undertaken by members of Chambers.  
Please consult our website for further information on our practice areas.

Chambers' work embraces **seven 'core' areas**, with members providing specialist legal advice and advocacy domestically, in offshore jurisdictions and internationally:

## Arbitration & Alternative Dispute Resolution

Members provide advice and representation in both domestic and international arbitrations in various forums. Several members are accredited mediators, and are able to act as arbitrators and experts in mediations, expert determinations, and early neutral evaluations.

## Commercial

This practice area includes:

- Contractual disputes, such as misrepresentation, agency, civil/commercial fraud, confidentiality, construction, warranties, energy, and joint venture and partnership disputes;
- Banking and financial services, such as disputes concerning loans and securities, consumer credit, syndicated lending, asset / project finance, asset tracing, preservation and recovery, and professional negligence claims against those advising lenders;
- Company law matters, including shareholder disputes, section 994 petitions, share and business sale agreements, breach of warranty disputes, financial assistance, directors' duties and their disqualification, conduct of meetings, restoration of companies to the register, accounting / auditing negligence.

## Insolvency

Members cover all aspects of corporate and personal insolvency litigation and advice in the UK and offshore, including administration, bankruptcy, cross-border insolvency, CVAs and IVAs, liquidation, misfeasance, preferences and other antecedent transactions, property and trusts-related insolvency, receiverships, restructuring, transactions defrauding creditors, wrongful and fraudulent trading.

## Pensions

Chambers unrivalled expertise in this field covers trusts matters in the pensions context, regulatory and tax issues arising in connection with occupational pension schemes and other employment related trusts, Pensions Ombudsman complaints and appeals, and Pensions Regulator issues.

## Property

Chambers advises about all aspects of land law and acts in all types of property litigation. The six core 'themes' to the work are: commercial landlord and tenant; development disputes; title (such as land registration, easements and profits, restrictive covenants, boundaries); mortgages, charges and security; residential landlord and tenant; rural economy.

## Professional Liability

Of accountants, actuaries, auditors, company directors, construction professionals, financial advisors, insurance brokers, investment managers, IT consultants, barristers, solicitors, surveyors and trustees and others.

## Trusts, Tax, Probate & Estates

Contentious and non-contentious work involving both private trusts and trusts in the wider commercial context, both in the UK and worldwide; trusts issues in matrimonial cases; drafting and advice on administration of trusts and estates and on construction of trusts and wills; taxation of trusts; personal tax and estate planning (including offshore tax planning); tax litigation; charities; probate and family provision; and art and cultural property.

# General Information About Pupillage

Wilberforce Chambers looks to offer up to four 12-month pupillages each year, with substantial funding. Chambers has an excellent retention record. It is unusual for pupils not to be recruited as tenants at the end of their 12-month pupillage.

We are looking for pupils with high intellectual ability, good communication skills and an interest in Chancery Commercial work, who are mature and confident, have the ability to work with others and who can analyse legal problems well, demonstrating good practical and commercial sense. We have a minimum requirement of a 2:1 degree in law or another subject.

There is no limit to the number of tenancies we offer at the end of the pupillage process. **Chambers offers pupillage with a view to taking on all pupils as tenant at the end of their time with us**, so we take great care in our selection process to identify candidates who have real potential to join Chambers at the end of their pupillage. Importantly, **our pupils are not in competition with one another for a tenancy**, but are assessed solely on their own abilities and performance. We assess pupils for their suitability as tenants throughout their time in Chambers by means of a process of continual assessment, rather than by a separate, formal assessment procedure at the end of pupillage. We frequently offer tenancy to all pupils in a given year.

We are committed to promoting and achieving equality and diversity in Chambers, so we want to receive applications from anyone who has the qualities and skills we are looking for, no matter what university they have attended, no matter what age, race, gender or sexual orientation. It is with that commitment in mind that we joined the Pupillage Gateway a few years ago, as we consider the process to be beneficial to pupillage candidates.

We pay for our pupils to attend the compulsory courses which they are required by the Bar Council to undertake. **We offer a generous pupillage award.** This is reviewed annually and is intended to be in line with the highest awards available.

The award for a 12-month pupillage commencing in October 2024 will be £75,000 and will be paid monthly. A proportion of the pupillage award (currently up to £30,000) can be drawn down during the BPTC year.

## Pupils can expect

- a well-structured pupillage
- to sit with at least five different pupil supervisors during their 12 months with us
- to share the daily professional life of their pupil supervisor
- to see a spread of chambers' work
- to produce pleadings and opinions in their pupil supervisor's cases
- to attend conferences with their pupil supervisor, the solicitor and the lay client
- to attend Court with their pupil supervisor and other members of Chambers
- to receive regular feedback on their work from their pupil supervisor
- to have their work-load monitored by their pupil supervisor
- to have an opportunity to work with a variety of junior tenants and silks
- to get to know our clerks and begin to learn what skills and approaches will assist in building a successful practice
- to have an opportunity to contribute to life in Chambers

# Mini-Pupillages

Wilberforce Chambers is committed to giving those interested in the Bar an idea of how Chambers operate, and what life as a practising chancery barrister might be like. We run a series of mini-pupillages each year in four 'sessions'.

Our current intention is to hold mini-pupillages in person as we believe that provides a richer experience. We are, however, keeping this under review (in view of the pandemic) and will update the website if any sessions are to be held remotely rather than in person. We were an early adopter of remote mini-pupillages and so are confident mini-pupils will gain insight into the Bar and Chambers, even if sessions are not held in person.

A mini-pupil visits Chambers and spends three days participating in various talks and discussions with members of Chambers and staff, and visiting Court or otherwise shadowing members of Chambers as they go about their work. The talks include sessions with the Head of Pupillage, our current pupils and other juniors, as well as members of Chambers who work in a range of Chambers' practice areas.

Should a session be held remotely, a mini-pupil can expect the same talks and discussions with members of Chambers and staff, and to shadow members of Chambers, across two days.

## How to apply

Please visit our website ([wilberforce.co.uk/join/mini-pupillage](http://wilberforce.co.uk/join/mini-pupillage)) for a link to the application form.

If you need further assistance, please email us at [pupillage@wilberforce.co.uk](mailto:pupillage@wilberforce.co.uk)

## Who will I get to 'meet'?

Each mini-pupil will be assigned to a member of Chambers who will act as mini-pupil supervisor. There will be opportunities to discuss with that person, and with other members of Chambers, practice at the Bar generally and in Chambers in particular. A mini-pupil can expect to meet Head of Pupillage (or another member of the pupillage committee), members of the clerking team, our current pupils and junior tenants, as well as other more senior members of Chambers.

## What will I see and do?

The content of each mini-pupillage will vary depending on the work being undertaken in Chambers at the time, but the programme will include reading and discussing paperwork and participating in various talks and discussions with members of Chambers and staff. Where possible, mini-pupils will attend conferences with clients and hearings with members of Chambers.

Our mini-pupillages are not usually assessed, and this programme is no different, but you may be asked to consider a problem question or some papers with a mini-pupil supervisor.

## Equality and diversity

We are committed to the promotion of equality and diversity across all aspects of our practice. Please visit our website ([wilberforce.co.uk/join/mini-pupillage](http://wilberforce.co.uk/join/mini-pupillage)) for full details on our diversity policy and procedures.

	Session 01	Session 02
<b>Maximum number of places</b>	7	7
<b>Applications by</b>	1 November 2022	1 November 2022
<b>Notification by</b>	10 November 2022	10 November 2022
<b>Dates</b>	22 - 24 November 2022	6 - 8 December 2022
	Session 03	Session 04
<b>Maximum number of places</b>	7	7
<b>Applications by</b>	6 March 2023	12 June 2023
<b>Notification by</b>	16 March 2023	22 June 2023
<b>Dates</b>	28 -30 March 2023	4 - 6 July 2023

# Applications



Applications for mini-pupillage are made using the application form which is available online. Please visit our website at [www.wilberforce.co.uk](http://www.wilberforce.co.uk) for further information.

Applicants for mini-pupillage are not required to attend an interview.

Applications for pupillage must be made through the Pupillage Gateway, the online pupillage application scheme, except where an applicant is exempt under the applicable rules. Visit [www.pupillagegateway.com](http://www.pupillagegateway.com) for full details of how the Gateway operates and to find our application form.

Following consideration of your pupillage application, Chambers may invite you to attend a long-list interview. This will be an interview with two members of Chambers

involving discussion of a problem question. You may then be asked back for a short-list interview which includes a more in-depth examination and analysis of a legal problem with up to four members of Chambers.

We have a strong record of recruiting non-law/GDL students – we take care to ensure that our interview process does not disadvantage those who have only recently commenced their legal studies.

Please consult the table below for timings regarding applications for pupillage commencing October 2024. Note that exact dates are to be confirmed.

All our interviews are carried out in person subject to exceptional circumstances.

Pupillage	October 2023
Number of places	Up to 4
Deadline for chambers to submit adverts for pupillage on the Gateway; applicants may log in to browse vacancies	November 2022
Gateway submissions window opens; applicants may start, edit and submit their applications	January 2023
Submissions window closes; no further applications or amendments to applications will be allowed	February 2023
Shortlisting and interview period	February – May 2023
Offers of pupillage made through the Gateway	May 2023

# Tenancy

## Tenancy Offers

We regard the recruitment of exceptional pupils and junior tenants as crucial to our continuing success: for every pupillage we offer, there is a tenancy available.

We aim to reach a decision about tenancy after approximately 9-10 months of pupillage. All pupils, whether or not they are offered a tenancy, are entitled to remain with us for the remainder of their pupillage on a full pupillage award. We make every effort to assist those who are not offered tenancy to find pupillage and eventually tenancy elsewhere. Any money earned by pupils during their second 6 months will be in addition to the pupillage award and expense-free.



## New Tenants

Members of Chambers share the expense of administering Chambers. Contributions are based in part upon the rent of the room occupied and in part upon income received. In the first year of practice, tenants are not required to pay room rent and only pay general expenses on income received over £75,000.

To assist with any financial constraints at the start of practice, junior tenants are able to draw funds in their first year against fee notes issued (up to a maximum amount of £15,000). They then have up to two years to repay this interest-free loan to Chambers.



## Equal Opportunities

We are committed to the promotion of equality and diversity across all aspects of our practice.

Equality of opportunity is essential for the maintenance of high standards and the provision of a quality service to clients. It also ensures a harmonious working environment for members of Chambers and staff.

In particular we adopt best practice equality and diversity procedures in our pupillage recruitment which involves the use of application forms, a two-tier interview process and the use of objective selection criteria in accordance with the recommendations of the Equality and Diversity Rules of the Code of Conduct.

Applicants with a disability are encouraged to contact the Secretary to the Pupillage Committee in confidence if there are any reasonable adjustments that may be made in relation to their applications

## Continuing Development

Wilberforce Chambers recognises that the need for training and support does not end with the acceptance of the offer of a tenancy and the beginning of practice. We pride ourselves on providing a supportive environment in which all barristers can thrive.

Those in their early years of practice can expect continued support through our 'Early Years Programme' and all junior tenants are encouraged to discuss their cases with other members of Chambers and appropriate members of staff where possible. All barristers, regardless of seniority, have regular meetings with their clerking team in order to monitor practice development and work-load.



## Francesca Mitchell, 2017

### Junior Barrister

'Pupillage at Wilberforce was an experience I genuinely enjoyed. Whilst the year was challenging and the learning curve steep, my overwhelming impression was that my supervisors (and chambers as a whole) were thoroughly invested in creating an environment in which pupils would excel.

I remember reading a testimonial that championed Wilberforce as home to some of the best and brightest at the bar, but added that Wilberforce barristers "wore it very lightly." It couldn't be more accurate. As a pupil I would read my supervisors' work or watch them in court and it would dawn on me that I really was learning from the very best. And yet these same people cared to help me progress, would never try to trip me up and would routinely insist that I go home at 6pm.

Wilberforce hosts a chambers lunch or drinks every week, so there was always something social going on and people to meet. Members of chambers made a real effort to meet the pupils, and it would amaze me how many barristers would insist that we knock on their doors if we ever had any questions or wanted to pick their brains about something.

The work that comes into chambers is just about as interesting, exciting, and occasionally bizarre as you could hope to set your eyes on. Not only are the cases engaging, but as a pupil you're immediately set to task on chunky and challenging work. Typically, that involved producing a first draft of a document that your supervisor would ultimately send to the client or to court, or putting together a note that would work its way into the submissions or cross examination that you'd subsequently watch your supervisor deliver.

All in all, I couldn't recommend Wilberforce highly enough.'

***'The work that comes into Chambers is just about as interesting, exciting, and occasionally bizarre as you could hope to set your eyes on.'***



## Ram Lakshman, 2020

### Junior Barrister

'Pupillage at Wilberforce has been an overwhelmingly positive experience. Although the learning curve is steep, and the work continuously challenging, I could not have asked for a more supportive and welcoming environment in which to develop the skills involved in being a barrister.

From the first day of pupillage, members of chambers went out of their way to make us feel welcome. I found that everyone who I came across was encouraging and friendly, regardless of seniority. Although the social life of chambers was somewhat affected by the pandemic, we thoroughly enjoyed being taken out for drinks, lunches and coffees when restrictions allowed.

We were told from the outset that pupils were not in competition with each other, and that we would both be taken on as tenants provided that we met the standard. This prevented any sense of competition between us and allowed us to rely on each other for reassurance and support.

Sitting with five different supervisors has enabled me to experience the immense breadth and quality of work in chambers. As a pupil, my tasks typically involved doing first drafts of opinions, pleadings, or skeleton arguments. On every piece of work, I would be given extremely detailed feedback as well as the opportunity to discuss points for improvement with my supervisor. This meant that my work improved at a very fast rate.

The highlight of my pupillage was definitely being involved in trials and preparation for trials. As a pupil, I prepared notes for cross-examination and closing submissions, as well as conducting legal research. It was incredibly rewarding to see the work I had done being used as part of submissions before the judge.'

***'I could not have asked for a more supportive and welcoming environment.'***



## Benjamin Slingo, 2020 Junior Barrister

'During pupillage at Wilberforce I was given every opportunity to flourish. My supervisors, and Chambers as a whole, did everything they could to build my confidence and foster my development. Pupillage is inevitably a testing experience, with a steep learning curve; but at Wilberforce the interest of the work and the rewards of mastering a set of skills far outweighed any stress.

That I was not in competition with my fellow pupil definitely helped, and so did the friendly, sociable atmosphere in Chambers. Many members of Chambers went out of their way to make me feel at home, and my supervisors were brilliant at helping me get to know everyone.

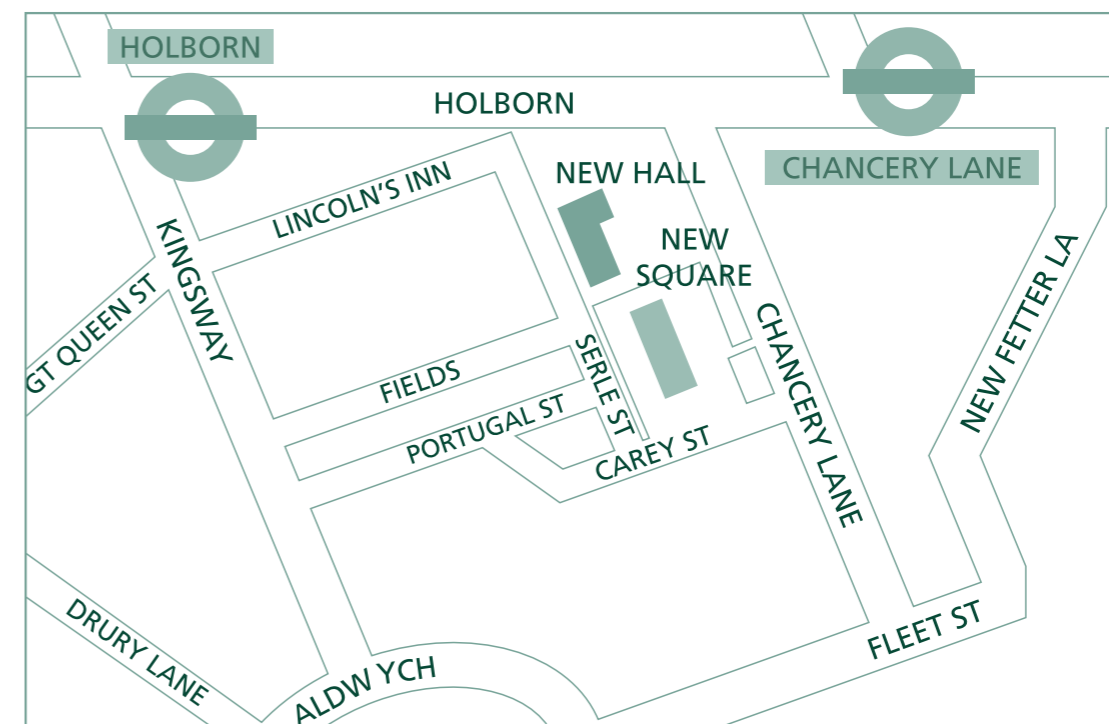
I sat with six different supervisors and saw an enjoyably wide spectrum of work. The cases I was involved in ranged from the interpretation of pension fund deeds and the administration of large trusts to rights to quarry rock in the remote countryside and the impact of coronavirus on commercial leases.

I was lucky enough to work on a three-week trial in the High Court, and the equally interesting process of preparing in the run-up; I also saw an appeal in the Court of Appeal. Outside court, I learnt to draft statements of cases in litigation that was underway, and to give written advice on the chances of success in prospective cases. All this involved delving into subtle questions of law, and combing through bundles of evidence. I was able to gain a sense of day-to-day work on a case: I saw my supervisors advising their clients and solicitors over the phone as the situation developed quickly, and strategising over what to put in a letter to the representatives of the other side.

After the tenancy decision, I had the opportunity to work on smaller cases of my own. This was hugely exciting, and it was a great help that my supervisor was always deft in pointing me in the right direction and calming the anxieties I felt as I acted for a client for the first time.'

*'My supervisors, and Chambers as a whole, did everything they could to build my confidence and foster my development.'*

## Contact Details



Nicholas Luckman (Practice Director) / Nancy Lee (Practice Assistant)

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 [@WilberforceCh](https://twitter.com/WilberforceCh)

 [www.linkedin.com/company/wilberforce-chambers](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wilberforce-chambers)

**Wilberforce Chambers**

8 New Square  
Lincoln's Inn  
London WC2A 3QP

## Members of Chambers

<b>Brian Green KC</b> Head of Chambers	KC 1997	Call 1980	<b>John Child</b>	Call 1966
<b>Jonathan Seitler KC</b> Deputy Head of Chambers	KC 2003	Call 1985	<b>Thomas Seymour</b>	Call 1975
<b>Michael Barnes KC</b>	KC 1981	Call 1965	<b>David Pollard</b>	Solicitor 1980 Call 2017
<b>John Martin KC</b>	KC 1991	Call 1972	<b>Gabriel Fadipe</b>	Call 1991
<b>Stuart Isaacs KC</b>	KC 1991	Call 1975	<b>Graeme Halkerston</b>	Call 1994
<b>Lawrence Cohen KC</b>	KC 1993	Call 1974	<b>Emily Campbell</b>	Call 1995
<b>Ian Croxford KC</b>	KC 1993	Call 1976	<b>Andrew Child</b>	Call 1997
<b>Robert Ham KC</b>	KC 1994	Call 1973	<b>Edward Sawyer</b>	Call 2001
<b>John Furber KC</b>	KC 1995	Call 1973	<b>Stephen Brown</b>	Solicitor 1991 Call 2013
<b>Terence Mowschenson KC</b>	KC 1995	Call 1977	<b>Thomas Robinson</b>	Call 2003
<b>David Phillips KC</b>	KC 1997	Call 1976	<b>Daniel Lewis</b>	Call 2003
<b>Michael Furness KC</b>	KC 2000	Call 1982	<b>Emily McKechnie</b>	Call 2005
<b>John Wardell KC</b>	KC 2002	Call 1979	<b>Sebastian Allen</b>	Call 2006
<b>Alan Gourgey KC</b>	KC 2003	Call 1984	<b>James Walmsley</b>	Call 2007
<b>John McGhee KC</b>	KC 2003	Call 1984	<b>Jennifer Seaman</b>	Call 2007
<b>Gilead Cooper KC</b>	KC 2006	Call 1983	<b>Benjamin Faulkner</b>	Call 2008
<b>Michael Tennet KC</b>	KC 2006	Call 1985	<b>Anna Littler</b>	Call 2008
<b>Thomas Lowe KC</b>	KC 2008	Call 1985	<b>James McCreath</b>	Call 2009
<b>James Ayliffe KC</b>	KC 2008	Call 1987	<b>Emer Murphy</b>	Call 2009
<b>Lexa Hilliard KC</b>	KC 2009	Call 1987	<b>Tom Roscoe</b>	Call 2010
<b>Paul Newman KC</b>	KC 2009	Call 1991	<b>Jonathan Chew</b>	Call 2010
<b>Joanne Wicks KC</b>	KC 2010	Call 1990	<b>Harriet Holmes</b>	Call 2011
<b>Martin Hutchings KC</b>	KC 2011	Call 1986	<b>Alice Hawker</b>	Call 2011
<b>Mark Wonnacott KC</b>	KC 2013	Call 1989	<b>Bobby Friedman</b>	Call 2011
<b>Fenner Moeran KC</b>	KC 2014	Call 1996	<b>Simon Atkinson</b>	Call 2011
<b>Marcia Shekerdemian KC</b>	KC 2015	Call 1987	<b>Sri Carmichael</b>	Call 2012
<b>Clare Stanley KC</b>	KC 2015	Call 1994	<b>Jack Watson</b>	Call 2012
<b>Tim Penny KC</b>	KC 2016	Call 1998	<b>Jessica Brooke</b>	Call 2012
<b>Jonathan Davey KC</b>	KC 2016	Call 2003	<b>Michael Ashdown</b>	Call 2013
<b>Jonathan Hilliard KC</b>	KC 2016	Call 2003	<b>James Goodwin</b>	Call 2013
<b>Max Mallin KC</b>	KC 2017	Call 1993	<b>Rachael Earle</b>	Call 2013
<b>Julian Greenhill KC</b>	KC 2018	Call 1997	<b>Elizabeth Houghton</b>	Call 2014
<b>Tiffany Scott KC</b>	KC 2018	Call 1998	<b>Tim Matthewson</b>	Call 2014
<b>Nikki Singla KC</b>	KC 2018	Call 2000	<b>Jamie Holmes</b>	Call 2014
<b>James Bailey KC</b>	KC 2019	Call 1999	<b>Joseph Steadman</b>	Call 2015
<b>Zoë Barton KC</b>	KC 2020	Call 2003	<b>Tara Taylor</b>	Call 2016
<b>Andrew Mold KC</b>	KC 2020	Call 2003	<b>Daniel Scott</b>	Call 2016
			<b>Cara Goldthorpe</b> (unregistered barrister)	Call 2017
			<b>Jia Wei Lee</b>	Call 2017
			<b>Francesca Mitchell</b>	Call 2017
			<b>Daniel Petrides</b>	Call 2018
			<b>Lemuel Lucan-Wilson</b>	Call 2018
			<b>Caspar Bartscherer</b>	Call 2019
			<b>Ram Lakshman</b>	Call 2020
			<b>Benjamin Slingo</b>	Call 2020
			<b>Samuel Cathro</b>	Call 2021
			<b>John Grocott-Barrett</b>	Call 2021
			<b>Caroline Furze</b> (unregistered barrister) Door Tenant	Call 1992
			<b>Nicholas Luckman</b> Practice Director	
Full-time arbitrators:				
<b>Jules Sher KC</b>	KC 1981	Call 1968		
<b>Sir Paul Morgan</b>	KC 1992	Call 1975		