

St.Mary's

# Pupillage Prospectus

[stmarysfamily.co.uk](http://stmarysfamily.co.uk)

# Foreword

Joshua Hazelwood  
Head of the Pupillage Committee



*“Having a successful pupillage programme is a key element to chambers success in recent years and has allowed us to significantly grow in numbers and attract the best talent. We are clear with our pupils that they are not in competition with one another and that the intention is that they will be offered tenancy if they successfully complete pupillage. This transparency remains an important issue to me as it allows pupils to get the most from their training without added pressure in an already difficult year.*

*As the head of the committee I have striven alongside the committee to have a group of supervisors in chambers that can offer the best possible training across all of our practice areas in a welcoming environment.”*

*"St. Mary's has an excellent reputation as one of the leading sets in the Midlands area when it comes to family law matters" - Legal 500 2025*

# Who we are

Established in 1999, we were the first dedicated family law Chambers outside of London. In the 35 + years since we have developed into a highly regarded set for all areas of family law with over 45 barristers now practicing from St. Mary's.

We are based in the Lace Market area of Nottingham in a modern, bright, purpose designed office space.

We have a collegiate approach to working which stretches across all tenants, pupils & staff with support networks in place to ensure everyone feels able to reach out for assistance when required. We have an Employee Assistance Programme in place which is accessible to everyone from their first day with us. We host regular social events across the year which contributes to further strengthening the cohesive environment we've fostered.

As well as our advocacy & advisory services, we put great importance in our commitment to ongoing professional development for our barristers and our professional clients and regularly produce articles and legal commentary, provide in house training sessions for our clients and local law societies and host annual conferences for each of our core practice areas (Financial Remedies, Private Law Children & Public Law Children).



# Who we are



## Integrity in everything



We always behave with honesty and respect towards our clients, fellow barristers, solicitors and each other.

## Commitment to quality



Everyone who comes into contact with us can be sure of work that is always of the highest standard.

## A culture of support



All our actions and conversations cultivate an environment that is supportive, understanding and respects confidentiality.

## Putting people first



We have a working culture that is flexible, diverse and caring, so that all our people can flourish, and every client knows that they are in good hands.



## Our work - Financial Remedies

Our Financial Remedies team, headed up by Charlie Fikry, has gone from strength to strength in recent years. Our growing reputation reflects our use of innovative practices, legal acumen, and dedication to serving our clients. Locally, we have been at the forefront in encouraging and enabling the use of ADR in Financial Remedies matters including Private FDR & Arbitration. A number of members of Chambers sit as private FDR evaluators.

We are instructed in a wide range of cases from the very complex with multiple assets to the seemingly more straight forward where there are relatively few assets. Our team of highly skilled experts who are well versed in dealing with cases involving trusts, inheritance, pensions, business, shares, overseas assets, injunctive relief and third-party claims. We are also renowned for our expertise in cases involving a farming element.

"They demonstrate expertise in matrimonial finance, including matters involving high-value and multi-jurisdictional assets such as trusts and businesses" - [Chambers and Partners guide to the UK Bar](#)



## Our work - Public Law Children

We have an outstanding reputation for our expertise and strength in public law proceedings, boasting a large number of highly regarded barristers who have established practices dealing with the most factually complex and serious public law cases. This includes cases involving serious non-accidental injury, child death, sexual abuse (including paedophile rings), drug and alcohol abuse, fabricated or induced illness, wardship and issues relating to mental capacity. We are consistently recognised by our clients and legal directories for the depth of talent we have in this area.

We offer a wealth of experience across the full range of public law cases, including s.31 care proceedings, adoption, special guardianship, wardship and applications under the inherent jurisdiction of the court.

We represent all parties within public law including parents, Guardians, relatives, local authorities, and the Official Solicitor.

“St. Mary's members are recognised for their skill across public and private children law matters, advising on areas such as sexual abuse and neglect, and offering particular experience in cases involving complex medical evidence.” - [Chambers and Partners guide to the UK Bar](#)



## Our work - Private Law Children

We have a wealth of expertise in private law children and related matters with a strong team of specialist barristers. We are regularly instructed in all aspects of these matters and are well-versed in complex, challenging and emotional cases.

Our experience in these areas extend to cases involving allegations of parental alienation, physical and emotional abuse, harassment, substance misuse, child neglect and cases with jurisdictional issues. We provide expert advice and representation in all applications in these areas including: Child Arrangements Orders, Wardship, Inherent jurisdiction, Private law adoptions, Parental Order proceedings, Declaration of parentage and Surrogacy.

We regularly represent parents, Guardians, relatives, local authorities and other interested parties within these proceedings.

"St Mary's is a 'specialist family set with good depth of counsel' that handles private child law matters for a diverse set of clients, including local authorities, parents, and guardians." - [Legal 500](#)



## Our work - Dispute Resolution

We have been at the forefront locally of developments in the use of ADR in Financial Remedies – regularly hosting private FDRs in Chambers and drawing upon the growing number of barristers and associate members who act as Private FDR evaluators and Arbitrators. We are in the process of developing a similar offering in Private Law Children work in the form of Early Neutral Evaluation

Our new offices were designed with dispute resolution as the focus, and we have created a calm and comfortable environment to aid amicable resolution of disputes.

We take pride in offering flexible solutions for our clients, and have regularly assisted with last minute court adjournments by setting up private FDRs at short notice, or offering the use of our office for round-table meetings to help cut delays and attempt to facilitate agreement.

"St Mary's Chambers has an excellent reputation as one of the leading sets in the Midlands area when it comes to family law matters', hosting a strong team of practitioners with broad combined expertise." - [Legal 500](#)



# Overview

We invest a great deal of time and effort seeking to develop the next generation of family lawyers.

We look for the very best candidates, especially those prepared to make a commitment to St Mary's and a career on the Midland Circuit.

Recruiting tenants who complete pupillage with us has been the way we have grown Chambers into the diverse, welcoming set which we are known as today.

Our pupils will have three different supervisors and will have the opportunity to experience all areas of work which Chambers is involved in.



# Selection process

We recruit our pupils through the Pupillage Gateway.

Our standard approach to processing pupillage applications is normally in three stages:

- Marking of anonymised application forms using a standardised marking scheme. The criteria for this year is currently being updated and will be made available to applicants.
- First round interviews are offered to those who make the cut off point from the first step. The first-round interview is usually 30-45 minutes in length and involves advocacy.
- Final round interviews are offered to those who progress from the first round. These are normally 45 minutes in length and involve advocacy.

Whilst we expect high standards throughout pupillage, all offers of pupillage are made with the intention that pupil will become a tenant on successfully completing pupillage.



## Training

Pupils are mentored throughout their time with us by three different supervisors, making sure they have access to a wide range of work and styles of advocacy. Supervisors also encourage their pupils to attend court and complete paperwork for other members of chambers. This ensures that future barristers fully immerse themselves in the St. Mary's culture and understand our approach to providing legal services and client care.

As well as the technical training we also offer our pupils support, encouragement and advice aimed at setting them up for a career at the self-employed Bar. This includes guidance on accounting, marketing, client care and other soft skills which are all important aspects of the role.

## Support

Alongside a pupil supervisor you will be allocated a more junior 'buddy' who will offer more informal support. This will be someone who has relatively recently completed pupillage at St. Mary's and will be able to provide useful guidance and support.

The clerking team will help you navigate your way through your early weeks in Chambers and will help to provide opportunities to shadow several different tenants. During your Second Six the clerks will find appropriate work for you to undertake as you start to build your own workload.

# Funding

Chambers guarantees income of £30,000 p.a. (£12,000 in the first six and £18,000 in the second). Pupils in their second six months generate income from their own work. In the last five years this has produced an average income in the second six months in excess of £25,000. Over the last five years our first-year tenants received an average income in excess of £90,000. Nil expenses are charged during pupillage, which means all receipts during the six months are the pupil's exclusively, and Chambers charges a highly competitive rate of expenses to all tenants upon completion of pupillage.

During your first six we will pay your reasonable return travel expenses from Chambers to court. During your second six we will not pay any travel expenses when you are undertaking your own paid work, we will however pay reasonable travel expenses when you are following your supervisor or other member of Chambers at court. We will pay for any compulsory training courses and any travel/accommodation costs associated with them.



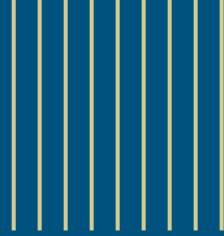
# Equality and Diversity

We recognise the further strides the Bar needs to take in becoming a more diverse profession.

Chambers takes its commitment to equality and diversity very seriously. Chambers operates an equal opportunities recruitment policy and encourages applications from candidates from all backgrounds regardless of age, gender, race, pregnancy, sexual orientation, marital status, religion or disability. We especially welcome applications from those presently under-represented within the profession and we apply an equal opportunities tie breaker under the Equality Act 2010 where two candidates of equal merit are scored equally. We never recruit less qualified candidates over more qualified candidates.



# Testimonials



Jaime Turner  
Completed pupillage in 2022-23



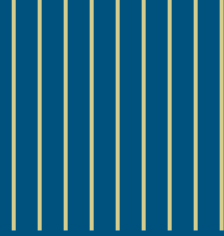
*"The process of obtaining pupillage is a daunting one. It is vital that you join a chambers that is the right one for you. St Mary's is incredibly supportive and the opportunity to work in an environment where I could develop and excel was what drew me there. Your supervisors and chambers want you to succeed and at St. Mary's every pupil is taken on with the view to tenancy. Not only is this an exceptionally fortunate position but it there is a sense of true investment in development of each pupil. It allows you to demonstrate how well you perform with support, opportunity and encouragement."*

*"Pupillage is all about learning, these are my top tips to help you navigate the exciting challenge of a pupillage at St. Mary's:*

- Refine your research skills, ask questions and make good notes: developing the skills to find answers accurately and efficiently is an invaluable skill that you will continue to hone throughout pupillage.*
- Prepare, prepare, prepare: there will be some long days, but it is essential that you prepare thoroughly for each case to get the most out of the experience.*
- Remember wellbeing: pupillage can be tiring and there will inevitably be some days where you work long hours. Take some time to yourself during the quieter periods or at weekends to help ensure that you don't burn out."*



# Testimonials



Eleanor Hull  
Currently completing her Pupillage

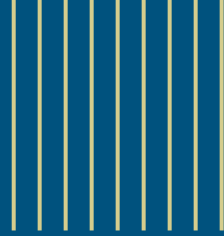


*"From the moment I interviewed at St. Mary's everyone was warm and encouraging. As I was offered pupillage prior to starting the bar course, I was offered opportunities to integrate into Chambers in the 18 months before beginning. This included being invited to Chambers conferences and networking events – ensuring that I felt welcomed before I even began pupillage.*

*During my first three weeks of pupillage, I had the opportunity to witness a breadth of family law matters and received regular feedback and mentorship. Every member of Chambers is supportive and genuinely wants to see you succeed. I look forward to completing my pupillage with St. Mary's and continuing to learn from experienced and knowledgeable practitioners."*



# Testimonials



Fleur Claoue de Gohr  
Currently completing her Pupillage



*"I've felt so welcomed by everyone in Chambers during my pupillage, no question feels silly, and everyone will make time to help you, it's that collegiate and supportive atmosphere of everyone in Chambers makes St Mary's an ideal environment for pupillage.*

*There's a real focus on pupils being given a wide and varied experience, and I feel like my pupillage has been personalised specifically for me based on my knowledge and experience. It's that tailored experience that really sets a pupillage at St Mary's apart from other sets and gives future pupils confidence that they are going to get the best training, from the best set, in what is a critical point in their career."*





# St.Mary's

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