




New Park Court

Pupillage



“New Park Court  
Chambers has  
a wide range of counsel  
from the top silks to  
eager juniors. They are  
all very capable.”

Chambers and Partners





## Introduction to New Park Court Chambers

Here at New Park Court Chambers, we do things a little differently. With over 70 barristers, including 14 King Counsel, our reach and influence stretches far beyond the bounds of our Circuit.

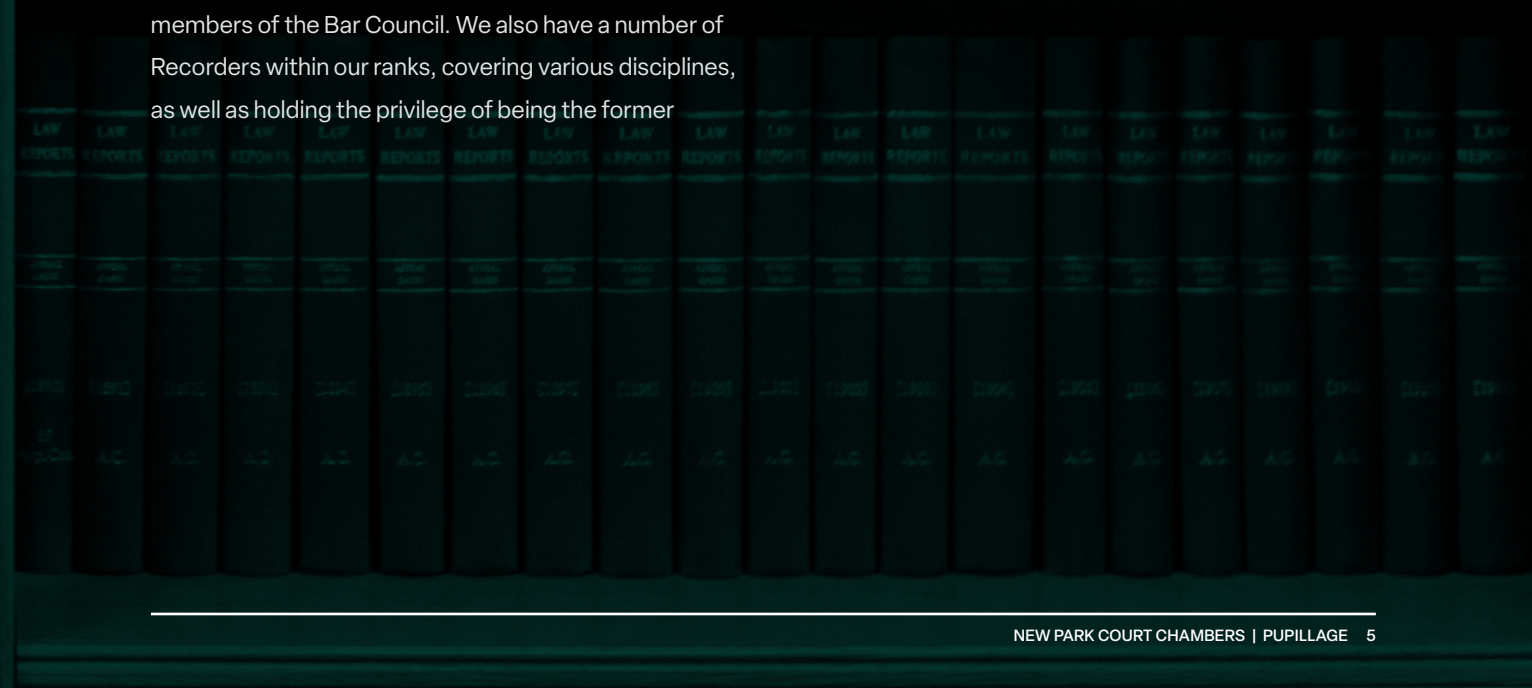
As a Tier 1 Set based in Leeds and Newcastle we are home to a number of high profile and nationally and internationally reputable Counsel, as well as the future of the Bar who are growing and developing their early career practice. Our wider team are also well known and well respected for delivering a stellar service across clerking and strategic business operations.

We have a reputation for shaping the world around us. We are home to the Circuit Leader of the North Eastern Circuit, a former Chair of the Bar and elected serving members of the Bar Council. We also have a number of Recorders within our ranks, covering various disciplines, as well as holding the privilege of being the former

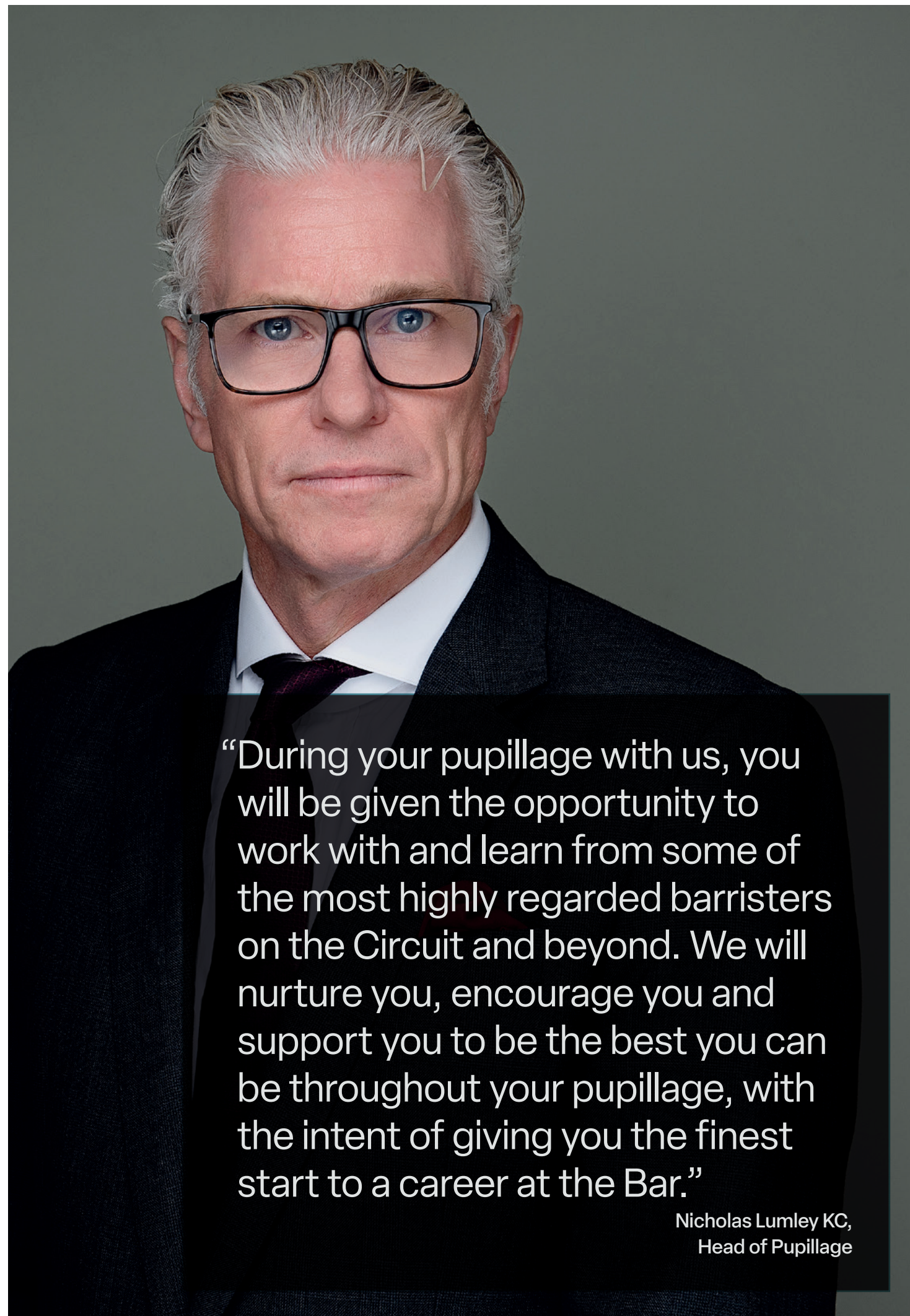
Chambers of a number of well-known Circuit Judges across England and Wales. You will also find us at the forefront of leading and driving learning, education, charity endeavours and wellbeing across our Circuit. This is in addition to the number of lecturing roles our people hold at Universities within the region as well as being volunteer mentors.

Our Clerking, Finance and Support team are regularly commended for the service they provide and their commitment; which is echoed across the entire Chambers family.

Importantly, we recognise and embrace our societal responsibility to be a force for good; in the community, across Circuit and at The Bar.







“During your pupillage with us, you will be given the opportunity to work with and learn from some of the most highly regarded barristers on the Circuit and beyond. We will nurture you, encourage you and support you to be the best you can be throughout your pupillage, with the intent of giving you the finest start to a career at the Bar.”

Nicholas Lumley KC,  
Head of Pupillage

## Our core values

New Park Court Chambers is wholly committed to making the world a better place.

We are well represented on our Circuit Diversity Committee and are leading our peers on a number of initiatives aimed at removing bias, unconscious or otherwise, from how the industry manages recruitment and the fair allocation of work. We are proud supporters and participants of 10,000 Black Interns, we have a committed core of LGBTQ+ Activists and Allies and are prominent in supporting, enabling and promoting those from the lower end of the socio-economic pyramid to reach their potential.

We are also proud of our culture and ethos of ensuring that we are a welcoming, collegiate and safe environment for all. Which is reinforced through our partnership with The Diversity Trust.

We take our Environmental, Societal and Governance (ESG) responsibilities incredibly seriously. We are delighted to be one of a small group of Chambers to be certified as a Carbon Negative organisation.

We also acknowledge that we have a role to play in exposing future potential barristers to the inner workings of a set of Chambers; which we do through our new University Outreach Programme as well as via our people who voluntarily lecture and mentor at Universities and beyond.

Closer to home, safeguarding, supporting and inspiring members of Chambers and staff to be the best that they can be is very important to all of us. From internal mentoring schemes to our Employee Assistance Programme (which provides 24 hour welfare support) as well as our regular social activities and a clear commitment to regular transparent communication to all, we want you to be your authentic self, aim high and flourish with us.



Areas of work

Pupils can be expected to be exposed to work across our five key areas: Crime, Regulatory, Inquests and Inquiries, Family and Civil. New Park Court Chambers has a nationwide presence across each of these areas, an achievement which is recognised in Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500 each year. New Park Court Chambers is consistently ranked as a Tier 1 and Band 1 set.

Regulatory

New Park Court Chambers has a long-standing history of receiving instructions in all aspects of regulatory law and is recognised for its expertise in this area.

Such work includes advising and representing a number of professions in relation to disciplinary proceedings, in particular, but not limited to, medical professionals, solicitors, teachers and police officers.

The experience of the regulatory team extends to environmental law and health and safety law, an area in which members receive instructions in a wide range of complicated cases, many involving fatal accidents in the workplace.

Inquests and Inquiries

New Park Court Chambers has a proven track record with Inquest and Inquiry matters, demonstrating a considerable depth and breadth of expertise available to our clients.

Major public inquiry casework has included the Manchester Arena Inquiry, The Grenfell Tower Inquiry, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and most recently, the COVID Inquiry.

Members of Chambers act in prominent Inquest matters, such as the Hillsborough Inquests, the Deepcut Inquest and an Inquest into a death on a ‘Smart’ Motorway. They also represent various medical and care organisations, corporations, governmental bodies and individual interested parties at Inquest hearings, some of which have involved deaths in custody and state detention, traffic accidents and corporate manslaughter.

Crime

New Park Court Chambers has one of the most established and widely experienced criminal teams on the North-Eastern Circuit and routinely receives instructions in major criminal casework across Circuit and nationally.

Our Crime Team comprises of highly skilled and experienced advocates who focus on complex casework within the entire spectrum of criminal proceedings and offer advice at the investigatory stage through to Crown Court or Appeal Court proceedings.

Whilst our King’s Counsel focus on complex murder, manslaughter and terrorism offences, our very able junior practitioners deal with cases of substance and cover all aspects of criminal law. Many both prosecute and defend and are appointed to government panel lists, such as the CPS and Attorney General’s lists. Some specialise in sexual offences, often dealing with vulnerable witnesses whilst others are instructed in criminal cases with a medical or regulatory bias.

“New Park Court Chambers has great strength in depth and offers counsel to handle cases of the most complex and sophisticated nature.”

Chambers and Partners



## Family

The Family Team at New Park Court Chambers represent parties in all aspects of Family Proceedings. This includes both private and public law work and financial remedy proceedings.

In Public Law matters, our members act for local authorities, parents and guardians. These cases often require an excellent understanding of medical evidence and detailed cross examination of multiple expert witnesses.

Our members have a broad experience of Private Law cases, including residence applications, contact applications, prohibited steps orders and issues of child abduction. Some cases involve applications to relocate internationally.

The team undertakes all types of Financial Remedy proceedings, from low value to high net worth cases, including cases with business assets, properties and pensions. The team advise in Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 proceedings and draft bespoke both pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements.

## Civil

New Park Court Chambers provides expert advice drafting and advocacy services for civil and commercial work.

Practitioners have extensive experience, both as an advocate and in an advisory capacity, of a wide variety of complex, serious and multidisciplinary commercial and civil claims. Members act on behalf of both Claimants and Defendants in a wide spectrum of claims, including a number of cases that have resulted in multi-million pound awards or settlements. In addition to litigious work, members of chambers undertake a substantial amount of advisory work and the drafting of commercial documents.

## About pupillage at New Park Court Chambers

The Pupillage Committee at New Park Court Chambers strives to provide first class training and a thorough grounding to equip the pupil for life at the Bar. We offer a 12 month pupillage and guarantee earnings throughout that period. We fund compulsory and non-compulsory courses and authorise travel expenses for those incurred outside of the Leeds or Newcastle area.

At the start of pupillage at New Park Court Chambers, the pupil will familiarise themselves with the practice of their pupil supervisor(s). The pupil is then encouraged to see and assist in work conducted by other practitioners at all levels including, those involved in “led” work and major litigation. The success of this has been in the fact that the majority of recent pupils and recent tenants have been instructed in many areas of work including major litigation and public inquiries.

It is our practice that the pupils are not left to work alone and they have access to interactions with other members of Chambers. In particular a collegiate working environment is encouraged.

New Park Court Chambers understands the financial pressure on those early years post pupillage and offers a reduced commission rate for tenants in their first three years of practice.





## Life as a pupil at New Park Court Chambers by Gabrielle Wilks

The 5<sup>th</sup> of May; the day all prospective barristers work towards with excitement and dread. The day which can hold highs for so many yet rejection for others. The 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 was the day I accepted pupillage at New Park Court Chambers, and I haven't looked back since.

So, what made me choose New Park Court Chambers you may ask? It's hard to pinpoint one specific reason, but I recall an immense sense of feeling instantly comfortable. Having gone through 3 rounds of pupillage applications and the many interviews that came with this, I was instantly put at ease from the moment I entered the door of New Park Court Chambers until the moment I left. The focus really is on you and what you can bring to an extremely diverse, experienced, and knowledgeable chambers.

As a Pupil I was lucky enough to be paired with two fantastic supervisors who specialised in a range of areas of law. This allowed me to experience many different types of hearings and a high calibre of cases, including a baby shaking murder in my very first week of my first six!

Once on my feet when I would tell my opponents what chambers I was undertaking pupillage at and who my supervisors were, I was always complimented on the

experience and professionalism of Chambers. This is something which has helped me build connections with solicitors' firms in itself. Additionally, the range of work I conducted in my second six was extremely varied. When I would speak to some of contemporaries and they would talk of having seven or more days of sessions in a row I would look at my diary with a sigh of relief, I had much more of a mix between prosecution and defence work and short hearings in the Crown Court.

Pupillage is hard; It's tiring, and it involves a lot of hard work, but the support offered at New Park Court Chambers makes things easier. Things become manageable and the process becomes enjoyable. Throughout my pupillage at New Park Court Chambers, I grew in confidence, independence and became more determined to challenge myself. I credit this growth to the support provided by Chambers at every level, from the clerksroom to those who may go on to become your colleagues. At many points of the pupillage process you can tend to feel like you don't know what you're doing but rest assured, there is always someone on the other end of the phone willing to answer your 6am or 11 pm phone call should you need it. This is an invaluable asset when you are 'learning on the job'.



A photograph of a modern office interior with large windows, desks, and people working. The office has a bright, airy feel with natural light coming through the windows. There are several desks with computers and people working. A woman is in the foreground on the left, and a man is on the right. A potted plant is in the center. The overall atmosphere is professional and collaborative.

“New Park Court  
Chambers garners praise  
as ‘a well-respected and  
dynamic chambers’

Legal 500

## Training

Pupils and pupil supervisors have regard to the competencies that must be achieved as set out in the Professional Statement for Barristers, incorporating the Threshold Standard and Competencies. The pupil supervisor ensures that the formal plan of work produced as required incorporates necessary observation and practical work.

In the first six months, the pupil is expected to read their supervisor’s papers and prepare cases for trial (in a basic sense), including drafting cases summaries, closing speeches and points for cross-examination of witnesses. The pupil is monitored by their supervisor closely during this period.

In the second six months, the pupil is given a mixture of common law work, but will be supervised with more difficult cases. Regular reviews are held between the pupil, their supervisor and a senior member of staff to ensure that the pupillage is progressing well and that the core competencies are being achieved.





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## A pupil supervisor's perspective by Tom Storey

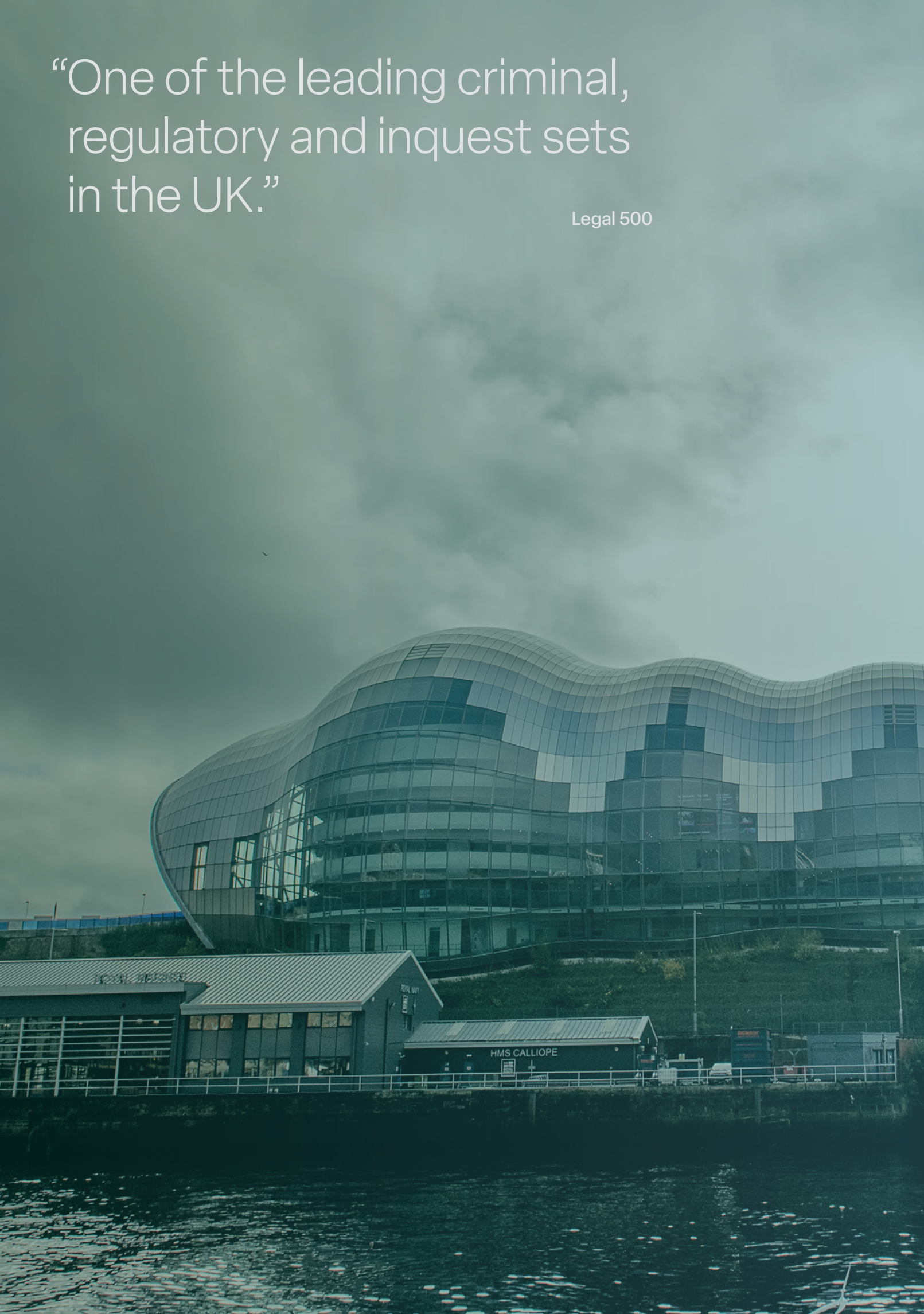
I joined New Park Court Chambers in March 2020, and in the relatively short time since then I have supervised the pupillage of Chambers' most recent tenant, Gabrielle Wilks. In my opinion, New Park Court Chambers offers pupils an unrivalled opportunity to learn and develop at the very start of their professional journey. All pupils are supervised by the same supervisor(s) throughout the whole of their pupillage; the continuity this provides enables a close working relationship to develop between a pupil and supervisor(s) over the course of a year. Where there are two pupil supervisors, pupils are encouraged – so far as is possible – to spend an equal amount of time with both supervisors during their first six months, which means that they get to see different styles of advocacy and to discuss issues arising from cases with two different members of chambers. Where supervisors are being led, pupils benefit from the opportunity to witness some of the very best advocates performing at the top of their game. Chambers also ensures that where other members of chambers are involved in a particularly interesting or unusual case, a pupil should have the chance to shadow those other members so as to benefit from the experience of participating in such a case. Equally, chambers appreciates the need for pupils to spend time in their first six months with those who have only recently become tenants, in order to experience the sort of work that they themselves will do when they are “on their feet” in their second six months of pupillage.

Throughout, pupil supervisors will make sure that a pupil's wellbeing is properly considered. Pupils will be encouraged to discuss the amount of work that they are expected or required to do and the extent to which they feel comfortable with such levels; this is particularly important in a pupil's second six months, when efforts will be made to ensure that a pupil does not become overwhelmed with the amount of work they have to do in preparation for their own court hearings. Pupils are also encouraged to discuss with their supervisors any issues of a personal or professional nature which might affect their ability properly to carry out the work expected of them as pupils, or which might affect their wellbeing more generally.

The relationship between a pupil and their supervisors is such that even after pupillage has ended (assuming a successful application for tenancy then follows), a pupil's supervisors will remain available as the first port of call in the event that questions arise or assistance is needed.

In order to succeed in pupillage at New Park Court Chambers, a pupil needs to be diligent and to develop the ability to think quickly for themselves; they need to soak up information about legal and procedural issues and to develop the skill of acquiring and retaining key details in a short period of time; they also need to be enquiring, asking questions of their supervisors whenever the need arises. Ultimately, pupillage at New Park Court Chambers should be a rewarding and enriching, but also greatly enjoyable, experience for both pupil and supervisor.





“One of the leading criminal,  
regulatory and inquest sets  
in the UK.”

Legal 500

## Application procedure

New Park Court Chambers advertises vacancies through the Pupillage Gateway and follows the Pupillage Gateway timetable, set each year. While a mini pupillage with New Park Court Chambers is not essential, it is of assistance to the Pupillage Committee when considering any application for pupillage.

New Park Court Chambers receives around 150 – 200 application forms each year from which we select up to 30 to attend a first round interview and around 10 to attend a second round interview. Depending on the business needs of Chambers, we offer at least one pupillage each year to be based in Leeds and one pupillage to be based in Newcastle.

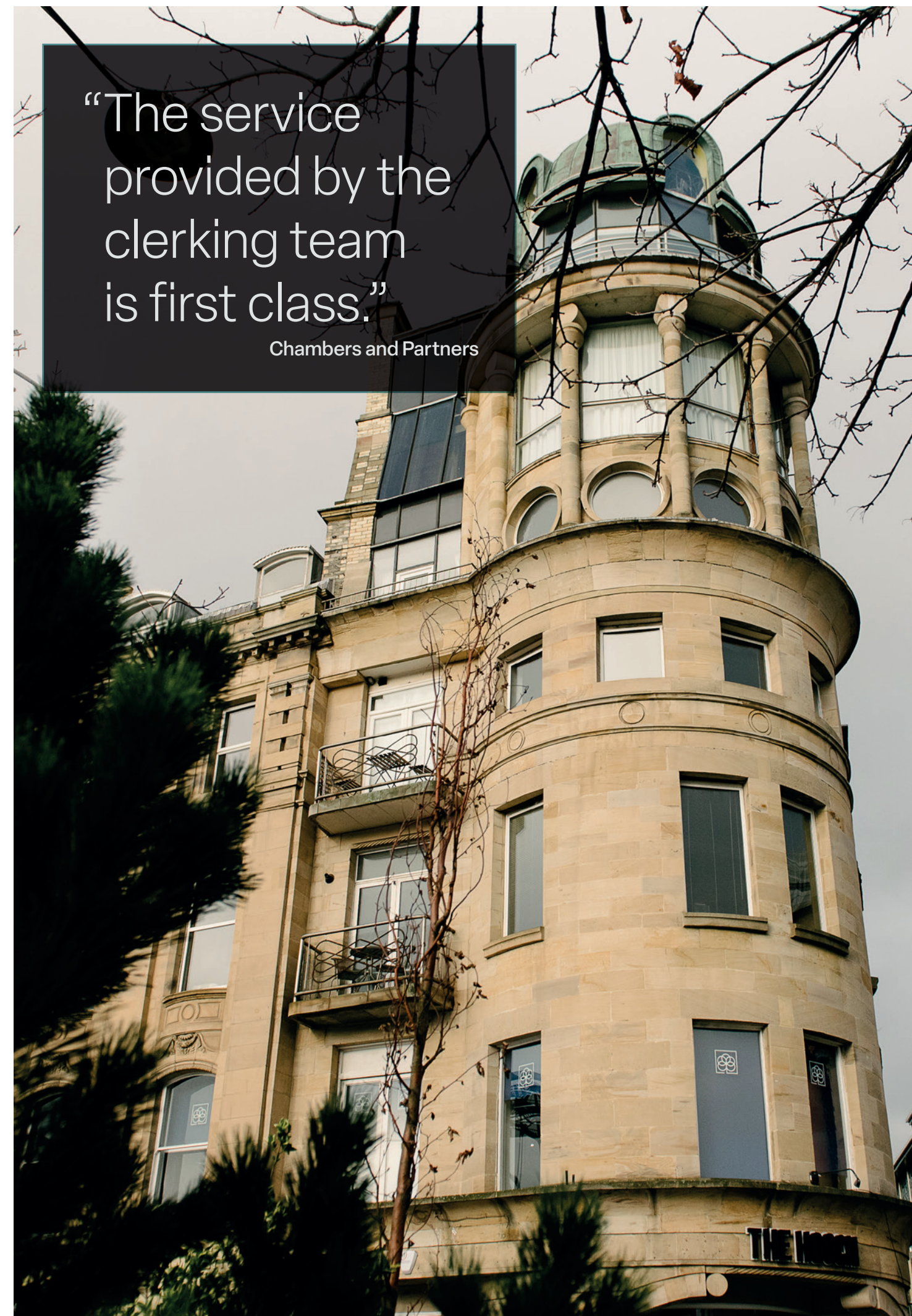
## Selection criteria/procedure

New Park Court Chambers awards pupillages to outstanding candidates who have a strong desire to succeed at the Bar. Successful candidates will have a proven academic record, attaining a minimum of a 2:1 or equivalent at degree level. Only in exceptional circumstances will we consider applicants who have not reached this level and appropriate evidence of such circumstances should be included with your application.

The Pupillage Committee bases its selection on the following criteria:

- 1. Intellectual/Academic Qualities:** the applicant will have a sound knowledge of the law and more importantly the intellectual ability to properly and effectively apply it.
- 2. Motivation:** the applicant has shown a dedication to pursuing a career at the Bar.
- 3. Aptitude:** the applicant has demonstrated the skills to succeed as a barrister (e.g. self-confidence, intelligence, judgment, advocacy, analytical ability).
- 4. Personal qualities/temperament**





“The service  
provided by the  
clerking team  
is first class.”

Chambers and Partners

## Tenancy decision

The decision on whether to offer tenancy is made by the Heads of Chambers, on advice from the Head of Pupillage who, in accordance with the Tenancy Selection Criteria, will have consulted with the committee, the pupil supervisor(s) and as many other members of Chambers as required. The Head of Pupillage may delegate the task of consulting with other members of Chambers, to a member of the committee (provided that member is not or has not been a supervisor to the relevant pupil). The Head of Pupillage will also refer to the objective assessments made at each of the pupil review meetings.

The basic requirement is for the pupil to have successfully completed the twelve months' pupillage and to have shown themselves to be an able, enthusiastic and suitable member of the team. It is intended that the review system used during pupillage will highlight any problems, which can be discussed with the pupil so that, with appropriate support, they can put things right. The last review will be four to six weeks before the end of pupillage and the Head of Pupillage will tell the pupil then what their recommendation to the Heads of Chambers will be.



## Life as a Junior Tenant – by Ryan Donoghue

I've been a tenant at New Park Court Chambers since 2018, having secured pupillage to commence in September 2017. I applied to New Park Court Chambers initially due to my previous experience gained at chambers while on a mini-pupillage. I found the mini to be great experience of life at the criminal Bar and was impressed by the welcoming nature of chambers and the way in which those I shadowed approached their cases.

When it came to the point of starting pupillage, I was incredibly nervous, particularly as I was stepping into a profession of which I had very little previous experience. However, I was quickly made to feel a real part of the chambers family and, looking back now, I feel like I was lucky enough to have a fantastic pupillage and one unlike very few others I have heard of, thanks in no small part to the kindness and commitment of my pupil supervisor.

When I initially joined chambers, my primary interest was in criminal law. However, soon after joining, I was given the opportunity, through chambers, to work with a national regulator, providing charging advice on potential criminal prosecutions. This work provided me with knowledge of regulatory prosecutions and formed the basis of what has become another of my key practice areas.

Since completing this work, I have been able to take on many regulatory cases, several of which involve fatalities and serious injuries – cases I never expected to be dealing with at such an early stage in my career at the Bar. Given chambers' strong presence in the field of professional discipline, I have also been able to take on an increasing amount of work in this area, which I find particularly engaging and it fits well alongside regulatory work. My practice now involves a mix of criminal work in the Crown Court, regulatory prosecutions and professional discipline. Chambers has a constant supply of great work in these areas and I really enjoy this variation, as it keeps every day interesting.

Taking on new practice areas does, however, present the challenge of unfamiliarity and uncertainty. I therefore found the support available from senior members of chambers to be invaluable. There is always somebody available to speak about any cases you are dealing with and to give you advice, or just that reassurance that you are doing the right thing.

I look back on securing pupillage at New Park Court Chambers as one of the most fortunate elements of my career so far and I could not have imagined that my career at the Bar would develop as quickly as it has, which is thanks to the support of other barristers and the staff team in chambers.







## New Park Court

### **Leeds**

16 Park Place, Leeds LS1 2SJ

DX: 26401

Leeds Park Square

T: +44 (0)113 243 3277

F: +44 (0)113 242 1285

E: [clerks@newparkcourt.co.uk](mailto:clerks@newparkcourt.co.uk)

### **Newcastle**

3 Broad Chare, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1

3DQ

T: +44 (0)191 232 1980

F: +44 (0)191 232 3730

E: [clerks@newparkcourt.co.uk](mailto:clerks@newparkcourt.co.uk)