D E A N S C O U R T C H A M B E R S

CRIME PUPILLAGE 2019

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1. Deans Court Chambers

Founded in Mosley Street, Manchester, more than 100 years ago, Deans Court Chambers meld tradition and quality with a modern, innovative and forward-thinking approach to providing specialist advocacy, advisory and drafting expertise across a wide spectrum of practice areas at every level of seniority.

With more than 80 barristers, including 12 Queen’s Counsel, and premises at 24 St. John Street, Manchester, and 101 Walker Street, Preston, Deans Court Chambers stand out as one of the leading barristers' chambers in the country and are regularly ranked by all major Legal Directories as one of the top sets on the Northern Circuit.

Voted ‘Regional Set of the Year’ at the Chambers Bar Awards in 2013 and 'Barristers Chambers of the Year’ at both the 2013 & 2014 Manchester Legal Awards, our reputation for professionalism and approachability is underpinned throughout by a rigorous quality policy. Undertaking work in the majority of practice areas including Crime, Family, Personal Injury, Health and Safety/Regulatory work, we aim to provide the highest standards of service and to anticipate and respond to our clients’ needs. We consistently maintain a reputation for the highest standards of service throughout the North West and nationally.

Individual members regularly appear in the Legal Directories and recent years have seen several appointments to the ranks of Queen’s Counsel, the Circuit Bench and beyond. Former members of Chambers include Lord Justice Ryder (former Presiding Judge of the Northern Circuit), Mr Justice Turner (current Presiding Judge of the Northern Circuit) and His Honour Judge Stockdale QC, (current Recorder of Manchester).

Deans Court Chambers operates an Equality and Diversity Policy and is committed to fair recruitment based on merit.

“‘One of the best' sets on the Northern Circuit, rated for its ‘strength in depth'” – Legal 500 2014.

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1. Pupillage application process

For pupillage applications commencing 2019 we are not using the Pupillage Gateway system. The application form is available online and the deadline for applications is Thursday 21st December 2017. Please submit by email to jandrews@deanscourt.co.uk or post to Jade Andrews, Deans Court Chambers, 24 St John Street, Manchester, M3 4DF. We will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate special requirements. A CV/covering letter will not suffice as application.

All applications will be considered initially by the Pupillage Secretary who will compile lists for circulation to practice groups. All applicants will be compared to set criteria below and those most fitting to the criteria will be invited to first interview.

Each first interview will include standard questions, drawn up in advance of the interviews and put to all candidates, and the same scoring method will be used for all. These first interviews will be held in January 2017.

Where candidates of sufficient quality have been seen on the first interview, second interviews will be held.

Unsuccessful candidates will be sent a letter informing them of this decision. Successful candidates will be sent an offer letter and an invitation to a pre-orientation day.

As a general rule, due to the levels of demand, we do not interview candidates with less than an upper second class degree, unless exceptional circumstances are present.

If you would like to discuss any reasonable adjustments to the recruitment process please contact Jade Andrews at 0161 214 6022. This information will not be used in the selection process.

1. Crime Overview

DeansCourt Chambers has a vibrant criminal team including 2 Queen’s Counsel, with some members basing themselves in our Preston annexe. Members have appeared in some of the leading cases over the years including the Shipman and Bulger trials and the Morecambe Bay Cockling Disaster. Former members of the team have succeeded in their judicial ambitions with two going to the High Court Bench and a number of others becoming Circuit Judges. Chambers covers a wide range of work across circuit, both prosecuting and defending. There is also considerable overlap between the Criminal team and the Regulatory and Professional Discipline teams thereby providing a unique opportunity on circuit to exploit non publicly funded income streams.

1. Our Pupillages

The aim of Deans Court Chambers is to recruit excellent candidates with the capacity to succeed in any area of practice. Candidates will be recruited and appointed fairly, regardless of race, sex, pregnancy and maternity, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, disability (subject to the physical requirements of practice and any reasonable adjustments that can be made), age, religion or belief and in accordance with the Equality and Diversity Code of the Bar.

* Structure

Pupillages offered are for a full twelve months. A pupil will have and be supervised by a formally-designated and approved pupil supervisor. We will ensure the pupil spends time with experienced practitioners from different disciplines, including civil, crime and family. Pupils are also allocated a mentor on commencement of their pupillage. The mentor is a Member of Chambers who was not involved in the selection and interview process. We encourage pupils to attend all relevant training and lectures to further their knowledge. During the second six of the pupillage, the pupil should expect to undertake paperwork and court work independently.

* Funding

Deans Court Chambers provide a financial package of £40,000 for 12 month pupils, comprising a grant of £15,000 for the first six and an earnings guarantee of £25,000 for the second six. In addition, reasonable travel expenses are paid during the first six and compulsory training costs are met by Chambers.

1. Application Form

Please find attached to the website a copy of the application form. Preferably the form will be typed on and emailed for submission; however we do accept hand written applications and postal entries.