

Pupillage



**5 ESSEX
CHAMBERS**

“A fabulous set you’ll find in nearly every groundbreaking case, inquest or inquiry”

Legal 500

An overview



Who we are

“5 Essex Chambers’s barristers are at the cutting edge of everything” Chambers UK

5 Essex Chambers is a specialist civil chambers with expertise in human rights, public law, public inquiries and inquests, information law and employment law. We are also one of the leading sets in the fields of police law, counter-terrorism and national security. In the 2023 Legal 500 Awards, Chambers was nominated as Public Law Set of the Year and Public Services Set of the Year, while in the 2023 Chambers UK Bar Awards, Chambers was nominated as Inquests & Inquiries Set of the Year and Professional Discipline Set of the Year.

Members of chambers – from pupils up to silks – regularly appear in the most significant and high-profile cases, inquests and inquiries including:

- R (W80) v Independent Office for Police Conduct [2023] UKSC 24 (test in misconduct proceedings for use of force by police)
- R (Bridges) v Chief Constable of South Wales Police [2020] EWCA Civ 1058 (Admin) (police use of live automatic facial recognition software)
- Maguire v Senior Coroner for Blackpool [2023] UKSC 20 (Article 2 and DOLS)
- R (YZ) v Chief Const South Wales [2022] EWCA Civ 683 (police retention of personal data about acquittals)
- R (Metropolitan Police) v Crown Court at Kingston-upon Thames [2023] EWHC 1938 (Admin) (Div Ct case on closed material procedures in firearms appeals)
- BES Companies v Cheshire West & Chester Council [2022] EWHC 2162 (QB) (civil trial for misfeasance in public office)
- The Post Office Inquiry
- The Covid-19 Inquiry
- The Dawn Sturgess Inquiry into her death by novichok poisoning
- The Haddon-Cave Inquiry into alleged murders by Special Forces in Afghanistan
- Reading Terror Attack Inquests
- The Plymouth Shootings Inquests
- The Gaia Pope Inquest
- The inquests re the victims of Stephen Port
- The London Bridge, Westminster, Streatham and Fishmonger’s Hall Inquests

Chambers comprises 52 members, including 5 silks. A high proportion of members of chambers are on the Attorney General’s Panels of Counsel across all three panels.

We look to recruit high calibre pupils who will enhance our expertise.

“An excellent set with a stellar reputation” Legal 500

Who we look for

Our pupils are selected from a broad range of backgrounds and experience, whether recent university graduates or those seeking a second career as a barrister.

We look for bright, articulate, highly motivated, ambitious applicants with a genuine interest in our core areas of practice and who are committed to a successful career at the Bar.

What we offer

We offer up to two twelve-month pupillages each year. We are proud of our history of retaining pupils and offer pupillage only to those whom we consider have the potential to become tenants. In the last fifteen years, of our 26 twelve-month pupils, 22 have become tenants.

The interviews are a two-step process. We invite approximately thirty applicants for a first round interview and draw-up a short list of ten applicants for a second round interview. Details of the selection criteria, interview procedure and our annual Selection Process Report are all on our website: 5essexcourt.co.uk/join-us/pupillage.

We operate an equal opportunities selection policy for pupils and tenants. We treat all applicants fairly, irrespective of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability and age. We encourage and welcome applications from women, people of minority ethnic origin and people with disabilities, as well as candidates from other groups which are under-represented at the Bar.

5 Essex Chambers has a high proportion of female silks and female members of chambers. In 2022, we received a commendation for Equality and Diversity at the Chambers UK Bar Awards.

Funding

In addition to offering a competitive annual award of £65,000 (comprising a grant and guaranteed second-six earnings), we fund any compulsory courses and travel with a supervisor outside London, as well as providing time to study for the mandatory Ethics exam.

Our pupillage programme

5 Essex Chambers is committed to training and supporting pupils to enable them to excel at the Bar.

During pupillage you will have three pupil supervisors and exposure to all of our core areas of practice. As your practice builds, you can expect to be in court on a regular basis as well as developing a paperwork practice. In their second six, our pupils are in court 3-5 times a week, often appearing in civil applications in the Crown Court and the Magistrates' Court, which helps develop advocacy skills to a very high level.

We value pro-bono work and will give you time and support to take on Free Representation Unit or similar cases if you would like to do so.


In addition, chambers has developed an in-house advocacy training programme designed to complement the training provided by your Inn and a Talks Programme provided by members of chambers which introduces particular areas of chambers' practice and provides more general guidance for a successful life at the Bar.

JOIN US

Apply through the Pupillage Gateway!

For more advice and tips on getting pupillage follow us on X/Twitter and Instagram:

 @pupillages

 @5essexchambers_pupillages

You can also read our report on the 2022-2023 Pupillage Gateway round.

For even more tips and advice, tune in to the Middle Temple Pupillage Podcast hosted by two of our members: Beatrice Collier & Georgina Wolfe.

“I have been incredibly impressed with the 5 Essex Chambers pupillage recruitment process. It has been by far the best that I have gone through in terms of transparency, quick response and the degree of effort given to providing candidates with feedback. If only the rest of the Bar were to follow your example!”

Previous applicant