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**5 ESSEX
CHAMBERS**

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

The Legal 500

An overview



Who we are

“5 Essex Chambers’ 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, inquests, investigations, 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 2024 Legal 500 Awards, Chambers won the Public Services and Charities set of the year and was nominated for Public Law 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:

- *XGY v Chief Constable of Sussex Police & Crown Prosecution Service* (CA) (scope of advocate immunity)
- *Carter v Chief Constable of Essex Police* [2025] EWCA Civ 367 (custody officer’s powers to remove detainee clothing)
- *Ali v Secretary of State for Justice* [2024] EWHC 2829 (KB) (human rights obligations to allow prayer in prisons)
- *R (Duke of Sussex) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2025] EWCA Civ 548 (removal of publicly funded security protection)
- *R (W80) v Independent Office for Police Conduct* [2023] UKSC 24 (test in misconduct proceedings for use of force by police)
- *R (Maguire) v Senior Coroner for Blackpool* [2023] UKSC 20 (Article 2 and DOLS)
- *R (Metropolitan Police) v Crown Court at Kingston-upon-Thames* [2023] EWHC 1938 (Admin) (closed material procedures in firearms appeals)
- *R (YZ) v Chief Constable South Wales* [2022] EWCA Civ 683 (police retention of personal data about acquittals)
- *R (Bridges) v Chief Constable of South Wales Police* [2020] EWCA Civ 1058 (Admin) (police use of live automatic facial recognition software)
- The Post Office Inquiry
- The Southport Inquiry
- The Covid-19 Inquiry
- The Thirlwall Inquiry (Lucy Letby)
- 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 Grindr Killer Inquests
- The London Bridge, Westminster, Streatham and Fishmonger’s Hall Inquests

Chambers comprises 56 members, including 7 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” The 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 typically offer up to two twelve-month pupillages each year.

We are proud of our history of retaining pupils. In the last 10 years, 14 out of 16 tenancy applications by 12-month pupils were successful.

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 Instagram and LinkedIn.

 @5essexchambers_pupillages

 5-essex-chambers

You can also read our report on the 2023-2024 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