

3 HARE COURT

Nicholas Leah's Pupillage insight

Pupillage at 3 Hare Court is a hugely varied and interesting experience. You can expect to sample several areas of law, to assist every KC in Chambers at some point and to start building your own practice – all in the space of 12 months.

It came as no surprise to me that I would be busy during pupillage, but I could never have imagined I would garner the number of experiences that I did, from being instructed as a junior in a High Court misfeasance case to twice sitting on the front row before Supreme Court Justices during appeals to the Privy Council from Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia.

The two key features that set pupillage aside at 3 Hare Court are: **the sheer breadth of practice areas available on the one hand, and the opportunity to start practising in those areas, after only 6 months, on the other.** By the end of pupillage, you will have drafted dozens of pleadings and opinions, attended a wide variety of hearings, and conducted fast-track trials at far-flung courts up and down the land (I have even been as far away as Truro).

Although these experiences might sound daunting at first, that no two days look the same here is what makes the job of a pupil – and a barrister more generally – so exciting. Rest assured; **support is in place to help you accommodate the variety and pace of work**, particularly from your supervisors and the junior tenants who have been there themselves only a few years ago. Taking pupillage step by step is key, and the adage of don't run before you can walk is fitting. Fortunately, the structure of the pupillage year allows for personal growth and development before you are let loose on the County Court circuit.

You will be supervised by six experienced practitioners during the pupillage year, all of which represent different areas of Chambers' specialisms, from personal injury/travel and aviation to commercial/insolvency, property, and public law. The breadth of practice area exposure is unique and should not be taken for granted. Even if you come into pupillage with pre-conceived ideas about what work you enjoy, put those to one side and open your mind to different possibilities. **I have a better idea of the sort of practice I want to develop now, but only through broad exposure was that possible.** When I initially wrote my pupillage applications and spoke about my interests, it was like selecting a meal based on an image on the menu rather than having any knowledge of what the meal really tastes like.

The first six is a great opportunity to observe the work of your supervisors and carry out research for other members, including often investigating knotty legal questions for KCs. You will find that the first three months of pupillage pass quickly; however, there is plenty of time for learning and reflection. As such, you are not expected to start producing tenant-worthy drafts and opinions right from the outset. **Treat the early months as an opportunity to learn and do not shy away from making** Chambers who

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are always on hand to help. I was part of multiple WhatsApp groups with juniors who encouraged me to send up a flare if ever I needed support.

In general, there is a deep culture of collegiality in Chambers which runs from the clerks and staff to the junior members and the KCs. We are a small and friendly set, and everyone will want you to see you succeed. What runs in tandem with that collegiate culture is a culture of open feedback. Every member of Chambers that you do work for, not just your supervisors, will give you feedback. **Working for different members is not an attempt to trip people up, but an opportunity to impress and aid your training.**

Pupillage is an experience like no other. It is fast paced, varied, and intense. At 3 Hare Court you will receive excellent training and be more than ready to commence practice when the time comes. **If you want to develop a broad practice with a distinctly international flavour and real advocacy at the heart of it, then you should apply to us!**



Nicholas Leah joined 3 Hare Court as a tenant in October 2023 following the successful completion of his pupillage. He is developing a broad commercial and civil practice, encompassing commercial litigation, international arbitration, banking and financial services, civil fraud, insolvency, property, aviation, travel and personal injury, sports and public law.

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