



## In conversation....

With Anna Gatrell and Tabitha Hutchison



[Anna Gatrell](#) and [Tabitha Hutchison](#) are our current 2023 pupils. Having gone through rigorous interviews they secured a place for pupillage in October 2023. Six months on, they are commencing their 'second six' where they start to build their own practice and client base as they receive their own instructions and attend court on their own. We hear from them both on what their first six months of pupillage has been like at 3 Hare Court.

**3** Hare Court pupillage ensures pupils are fully prepared for life as a barrister. We are committed to providing high quality training and support.

Week one for Anna began with aviation law specialist [Chris Loxton](#):

I was straight to work reading up on the Montreal Convention. That gave me some background for the first hearing we had the following day, where the Defendant (who Chris was representing) was applying to set aside an Order for pre-action disclosure. Funnily enough, the Montreal Convention also marked the first case of my second-six, which was a trial involving questions of baggage delay and statutory assignment.

Week one for Tabitha began with personal injury law specialist [Katherine Deal KC](#):

I hit the ground running with the papers for a case management conference my supervisor was attending the following day. It was a high-value claim for catastrophic injury suffered abroad, which I have been able to follow throughout my first six, including attending hearings once I had moved on to my next supervisor.

***"It was an exciting start to pupillage, though I soon realised that I could expect similar nature and pace of work throughout my first six and beyond."***

## Exposure to work

We take pupillage very seriously and want our pupils to experience a broad range of work across all our main areas of practice. Pupils are placed with leading silks and juniors in 8-week seats.

Anna: I am always learning something new. I have had four supervisors thus far, each with different practices, which has allowed me an introduction to many different areas of law.

Tabitha: My work so far has been incredibly varied, across practice areas and different categories of work. I have been asked to draft pleadings, advices and skeleton arguments, often on live matters, as well as attending hearings and conferences.

***"To my mind, one of the best things about 3 Hare Court is the variety of work on offer."***

Anna: I have had quite a bit of exposure to the Montreal and Athens Conventions and to private international law in general. The issues at play in such cases can be complex but are always interesting.

### Personal Injury

Anna: Chambers is known for its specialism in personal injury travel law. I have observed trials relating to sickness and accidents and worked on a case regarding clinical negligence abroad. More general personal injury work

has involved research and conferences on catastrophic injury cases.

### Privy Council

Tabitha: Exposure to cases in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is one of the most exciting aspects of pupillage at 3 Hare Court. I have worked on cases covering everything from malicious prosecution to contractual disputes.

### Commercial

Anna: I have worked on two unfair prejudice petitions, one of which was heard at a week-long trial in the High Court. Another highlight was attending a recent application in the ongoing *Bourlakova v Bourlakov* litigation.

### Aviation

Tabitha: I was fortunate enough to assist on a jurisdiction hearing in the Russian Operator Policy Claims, which raised a very interesting and relevant question: could there be a fair hearing in Russia of a high-value insurance dispute over hundreds of foreign aircraft? ([2024] EWHC 734 (Comm))

### Overall

Anna: Overall, the first six at 3 Hare Court is full of learning opportunities. Everything I have seen has been engaging and made for a great first six experience.

Tabitha: Alongside tasks for my supervisors, I have had the opportunity to co-author articles with other members of Chambers, assist silks with written work and research, and shadow juniors in court in anticipation of my second six.

*“It has a been a whirlwind, but a very enjoyable one, which has left me fully equipped to get ‘on my feet’.”*

## Support & feedback

Anna: I have had very supportive supervisors who have shown a genuine interest in the development of my legal skills and practice. At 3 Hare Court, once each pupillage 'seat' is completed, supervisors provide pupils with a report. This outlines the work completed and is intended both to provide pupils with an

indication as to how they are doing, and to provide formal feedback on the pieces of work done during the seat. I have also received informal feedback and advice from each supervisor on pieces of work as they are completed.

Tabitha: Throughout pupillage, we receive advocacy training in the form of several very realistic 'hearings', mostly unassessed, and with highly detailed feedback from a silk. More generally, the supportive atmosphere has been tangible since day one. There is an outlet for any question or concern, whether a WhatsApp message to the junior juniors, a trip to the clerks' room, or just a conversation with your neighbour at the Thursday Lunch Club. These more informal interactions have really helped with the somewhat daunting transition from first to second six.

## Tackling tasks & networking

Anna: Tackling tasks and managing workload is primarily a skill developed throughout second six and during the early years of practice when there really will be competing demands on time. During first six I was fortunate in that my supervisors would give flexible deadlines in the event of competing tasks.

*“I would say it is always worth asking when a task is due and then prioritising based on that.”*

Tabitha: We have been invited to many internal and external events throughout our first six. Our Director of Marketing & BD, [Lisa Happé](#), regularly finds or creates opportunities for networking, and we have been encouraged by members, clerks and staff to get involved. Anna and I have both found it worthwhile to take up as many opportunities as we can, particularly as they are often free for pupils. I feel fortunate to be supported from such an early stage in building my professional network.

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