



MINI-PUPILS: A GUIDE TO
YOUR TIME WITH US

Welcome to 42 Bedford Row.

We hope you will find the time you spend with us to be valuable and that it will give you a useful insight into the work, and working life, of a barrister. If you have an idea of the type of work that you wish to shadow, please let us know in advance. We always try to arrange your time in Chambers so that you can attend interesting cases or conferences, but due to the unpredictability of court timetabling (cases can be moved, adjourned or settled at the last minute) we cannot always guarantee that you will see a particular type of work. However, if you express a preference, we will do our best to let you see that type of work if we can.

At the start of your time with us, the layout of Chambers should be explained to you. This will include the location of the toilets and tea/coffee making facilities so that you can make yourself a drink. You are not expected to make tea and coffee for members of chambers.

If the fire alarm is sounded during your time in Chambers, you should immediately make your way out of the building onto Bedford Row where the meeting point is the corner of Bedford Row and Brownlow Street.

During your time in Chambers, you may be observing both court work and conferences (meetings) with clients. When in court and conference, please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off at all times. Please do not look at your phone during a conference or court hearing – indeed it is best to put it away out of sight. Please do not talk or interrupt during a conference with lay clients unless invited to comment by the barrister that you are with. In court, your barrister will show you where to sit. You should not speak at all during the court hearing. You may take notes, if you wish, of matters that you wish to discuss with the barrister after the hearing. You cannot take any drinks or food into court.

Confidentiality

Please be aware that during your mini pupillage, you may become aware of confidential or private information about the client(s) or the barrister(s) you are shadowing. At the start of your mini pupillage you will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement to show that you understand that you must not divulge confidential or private information to anyone else. This includes your family members, fellow students, friends and college tutors. You are of course able to speak to others about your experience as a mini pupil in general terms, but you must not pass on confidential information. This is extremely important and you must comply with this legal requirement. If you are in any doubt as to what you can discuss, and with whom, you must ask the barrister you are shadowing immediately.

You must not post any details about the mini pupillage (even the fact that you are doing one) on social media.

Also, you must not take any take any documents or copies of documents concerning a case you are following outside of 42 Bedford Row.

If you are shadowing a barrister and their client, you may find yourself having a general conversation with the client during breaks or whilst waiting for a case to begin. Whilst an exchange of pleasantries is something we would encourage, please do not enter into a discussion of any aspect of the case with the client. Likewise, whilst there is nothing to stop you having a general conversation with a client about the course you are studying or your hopes for a future career, do not pass on personal details about yourself (or about the barrister you are shadowing) to the client or to

anyone else you may meet during your mini pupillage. If in doubt, say nothing, and check with your barrister.

Please also be aware that on rare occasions, a client will not feel comfortable discussing their case in front of a mini pupil. If this happens, it is of course nothing personal – the client is entitled to speak to their barrister in private. The barrister you are shadowing will do their best to find an alternative activity for you if this situation arises.

Practicalities

Barristers try not to draw attention to their appearance, so please dress in sober fashion – a black, grey or dark blue business suit is ideal, but if you do not have one, dark coloured clothes are best. Men should wear a shirt and tie. You may need to walk some distance, so comfortable shoes are vital.

We will try to ensure that you visit courts or tribunals in London, and so it is very helpful if you can have with you a travelcard to enable you to travel to or from court with your barrister on public transport. However, it is very important to us that mini pupils are not put off doing a mini pupillage because of these costs and so if you have any concerns about the cost of travel, please speak to either one of our clerks or the barrister you are shadowing, in confidence.

Likewise, the barrister you are shadowing will probably buy you a sandwich lunch but there may be occasions when you will need to provide your own lunch. Again, if this causes any financial difficulties, please let us know.

If you have any further questions about your time as a mini-pupil (and questions are encouraged!), then speak to either the barrister you are accompanying, or contact barrister Sharan Bhachu who oversees the mini pupillage programme (Sharan.Bhachu@42br.com), or speak to any of the clerks in the clerks' room on the ground floor.

Lastly, please enjoy your time in Chambers! We hope you find it interesting, challenging, and that your time with us provides a useful insight into life at the bar, to help you to decide whether you want to pursue a career at the bar yourself.

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