

Mini-Pupillage Guide

Date: March 2011

1. We regard mini-pupillages as part of the process for application for pupillage¹. The purposes of mini-pupillage at 8 New Square are:
 - (a) To give the mini-pupil an opportunity to meet members of Chambers, experience working in Chambers and (hopefully) be encouraged to apply to Chambers for pupillage.
 - (b) To allow Chambers to meet the mini-pupil and assess them as a potential candidate for pupillage.
2. We have a standard structure for those two days; but the work of Chambers and of individual members is very varied, and it is an important part of mini-pupillage that the mini-pupil sees what it is really like to work in Chambers. So sometimes it is necessary to alter the structure to accommodate the mini-pupil supervisor's professional engagements.
3. Subject to that, mini-pupillages at 8 New Square last for 2 days. Mini-pupils are assigned to a single supervisor for those 2 days.
4. On arriving in Chambers, the mini-pupil meets with the senior clerk. A lot of our work involves highly confidential matter and so all mini-pupils sign a confidentiality agreement at the start of their first day in Chambers. They will also be asked to inform their supervisor if they are familiar with the parties or subject matter of any case that they are shown, to avoid embarrassment.
5. The first day, and the second morning is spent shadowing the supervisor. Depending on what work the supervisor has that day, this may involve reading papers, discussing the case with other barristers with whom the supervisor is

¹ Although it is not necessary to have undertaken a mini-pupillage at 8 New Square in order to apply for pupillage; and the pupillage application process is designed not to prejudice candidates who have not.

working (such as a QC) attending conference(s) with clients, attending court with the supervisor, and discussing the supervisor's case(s). At some point, the supervisor and the mini pupil will take time to discuss the principal case worked on during the day. This is an opportunity for the mini-pupil to see their supervisor's perspective on the case, and for the mini-pupil to demonstrate their understanding of and insight into the issues raised by the case.

6. After lunch on the second day, the mini-pupil attends an interview with a panel consisting of a number of members of Chambers (including the supervisor).
7. Members of Chambers often have lunch together in Hall in Lincoln's Inn. Usually the supervisor takes the mini-pupil to lunch (hopefully on both days), where the mini-pupil can meet other members of Chambers in an informal setting.
8. During the course of the two days, the mini-pupil can see what it is like to be a barrister at 8 New Square, and are encouraged to ask any questions they may have about practice in Chambers and at the Intellectual Property Bar.
9. At the end of the second day, the mini-pupil has a final wrap-up meeting with the senior clerk to discuss issues arising out of the mini-pupillage and the future pupillage application procedure.
10. Chambers keeps a record of the mini-pupillage and this will inform the pupillage committee when the time comes for the mini-pupil to apply for pupillage.