

## GUIDE TO MINI-PUPILLAGES & MARSHALLING

### WHAT

- A mini-pupillage is a short period of shadowing a barrister, hosted by a set of Chambers.
- Marshalling is a short period of shadowing a judge, hosted by a Court centre.
- Typically, they last up to a week and are for those aged 18 and over. Often, chambers require applicants to be reading Law, or to have started their GDL (conversion course for those who have not read Law at Undergraduate stage).
- Most mini-pupillages are unassessed; some are assessed, particularly if it's clear that the candidate wishes to pursue a pupillage at that set of Chambers.
- Most mini-pupillages and marshalling weeks are accessed via a formal application process, and the dates are then arranged for a mutually convenient period of time; timings vary.
- Expect to provide a CV and a covering letter; some schemes also require a short piece of academic work or other written material for assessment; you may also be required to attend an interview.
- Typically, the content of the time spent depends on who the mini-pupil or marshal is assigned to, rather than following a formal programme.
- Many schemes provide some element of financial assistance for travel and / or subsistence.

### WHY

- They allow aspiring barristers to explore different areas of the Law, and learn more about the day-to-day life of barristers and judges.
- They are an opportunity to talk to a number of legal professionals, ask questions and talk through the skills and attributes needed to be a success at the Bar and on the Bench.
- They demonstrate commitment to your chosen career, and give material which can be referenced when you are applying for pupillages.
- Pupillage applications are strengthened by evidence of mini-pupillages and marshalling.

### LINKS TO SCHEMES

Note that this is not a comprehensive list and inclusion on this list does not indicate an assessment of their quality.

- 5 Paper Buildings  
<https://www.5pb.co.uk/pupillage/mini-pupillage/>
- 2 Hare Court  
<https://www.2harecourt.com/careers/mini-pupillage/>
- 2 Dr Johnson's Buildings  
<http://www.2drj.com/mini-pupillage>
- QEB Hollis Whiteman  
<https://www.qebholliswhiteman.co.uk/site/recruitment/mini-pupillage/>

- 23 Essex Street  
<https://www.23es.com/join-us/mini-pupillages/>
- St Phillips  
<https://st-philips.com/join-us/mini-pupillage/>
- St Johns Buildings  
<https://stjohnsbldings.com/join-us/pupillage>
- No 5 Chambers  
<https://www.no5.com/recruitment/mini-pupillage/>
- Judicial Work Shadowing Scheme  
<https://www.judiciary.uk/about-the-judiciary/judges-career-paths/information-about-shadowing-a-judge/how-to-apply/>
- Marshalling & Mentoring, Lincoln's Inn  
<https://www.lincolnsinn.org.uk/student-members/marshalling-and-mentoring/>
- Marshalling, Middle Temple  
<https://www.middletemple.org.uk/members/student-information-and-services/marshalling>
- Marshalling, Gray's Inn  
<https://www.graysinn.org.uk/education/students/career-services/court-pupillages-marshalling>
- Marshalling, Inner Temple  
<https://www.innertemple.org.uk/education/bar-course-bptc-students/student-schemes/>

## TOP TIPS & USEFUL LINKS

Chambers Student has a useful guide to mini-pupillages

<https://www.chambersstudent.co.uk/the-bar/mini-pupillages>

The Student Lawyer has a useful guide to marshalling

<https://thestudentlawyer.com/2016/11/23/marshalling-crucial-experience-for-the-aspiring-barrister/>

Do...

- Read the timings and application eligibility criteria carefully;
- Plan ahead – do not leave applications to the last minute – they benefit from time and advice;
- Seek constructive advice on your application materials early and incorporate it
- Think like a lawyer: clear points, concise arguments are core to their profession and this is the standard to aim for in your application materials;
- Turn up on time; dress is usually smart (dark suits, shined and comfortable shoes, ties for men);
- Listen. This is an opportunity to observe and absorb, so listen and watch what is happening around you, and pick your moment to ask questions and talk through what you've experienced;
- Relax. You have gained this opportunity thanks to a high-quality application and perhaps interview. Those you are shadowing want to help you have the best possible experience;

- **Respect confidentiality.** You are part of a professional situation where potentially vulnerable people are experiencing the legal system. What you see and hear may well be confidential; those going through the legal system may be under significant stress;
- **Remember it.** Take notes; follow up with further reading on cases or issues which have particularly interested you. Ask whether your supervisor would be prepared to stay in touch.