

MINI-PUPILLAGES & MARSHALLING



WHAT ARE THEY?

- 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 studying Law, or to have started their GDL.
- 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 ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

- 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://stjohnsbuildings.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 and 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, polished 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; and
- Remember it. Take notes and 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.