

MONCKTON CHAMBERS  
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## PUPILLAGE AT MONCKTON CHAMBERS

MONCKTON CHAMBERS SPECIALISES IN PUBLIC,  
COMPETITION, COMMERCIAL AND EUROPEAN, LAW.

We are specialists in public and commercial law. Practice areas include all forms of competition law, consumer / business regulation, education law, employment law, environmental law, EU law, financial services, human rights, information law, international arbitration, procurement, public & administrative law, sports law, tax, telecommunications, utilities regulation and WTO / investment treaties.

Much of our work involves examining the relationship between companies and individuals on the one hand, and the State, on the other. Across a number of different areas of law, the same kind of essential questions frequently arise: has the State exceeded its powers; have companies exceeded their commercial freedoms; and how should those harmed by such breaches be compensated?

Within those common bonds, members of Chambers (currently 15 QCs and 47 juniors) pursue a range of highly varied specialist practices. Our work takes us to a wide variety of tribunals, and embraces everything from a heavy commercial trial or a judicial review in the High Court to an appeal in the Supreme Court on a point of constitutional law. Members of Chambers also regularly appear before the European Court of Human Rights, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Court of Appeal, the Competition Appeal Tribunal, and a host of other specialist tribunals and domestic and international fora.

Whilst much of Chambers' work is for private, commercial clients, we also regularly appear for the Crown, as well as charities, non-Governmental organisations, campaigning groups and private individuals, including acting pro bono. 21 junior members of Chambers have appointments to the Attorney General's Panel of counsel used by central Government for its civil litigation, and 2 members hold appointments as standing counsel to the regulatory bodies.

There is scope within Monckton Chambers for individual members to develop the kind of practice they wish, whether focusing on the rights of individuals, large corporations, or the Government. Often, these interests are combined.

What marks out a career at Monckton Chambers is the unusual variety of cases on offer.

Our work is carried out in areas of the law that are rapidly evolving and fast moving. In consequence, we have been one of the fastest growing sets at the bar in recent years. The work is exceptionally demanding, but also highly rewarding.

We are looking for candidates of the highest intellectual calibre. Successful candidates typically have a First Class Honours degree or post-graduate degree, whether in law or in another subject. We do not, however, expect candidates to have any experience or expertise in our specialised areas of law: merely an enthusiasm to practice them. We welcome applications from candidates who have degrees in subjects other than law and are taking (or have taken) the GDL.

It is not only intellectual skills that we are interested in: we are seeking candidates with the personal skills to win the trust of clients and judges alike. Monckton Chambers is a dynamic place to work. Members actively engage in speaking at conferences and seminars, in London and internationally, and in contributing to a variety of publications, ranging from our own marketing materials, to specialist journals and practitioner texts. We are looking for junior tenants who will bring energy and commitment to Chambers.





## OUR PRACTICE AREAS

Members practise in a wide range of areas, and full details can be found on our website. The focus is very much upon litigation, but members also frequently conduct advisory work. The following areas account for most of the volume of Chambers' work:

### **Administrative and public law:**

Monckton Chambers has a strong reputation for its traditional focus in public law on EU, commercial, competition and regulatory matters, particularly in terms of utilities regulation. In addition to these specialist areas, its members have in recent years demonstrated additional prowess in handling matters in the areas of human rights, freedom of information and immigration. They are experts in acting in judicial reviews for government, commercial entities and pressure groups.

- CHAMBERS UK

Monckton Chambers' members practise across a remarkably wide spectrum of public law cases, representing clients ranging from individuals and businesses to government departments, charities and NGOs. While much of Chambers' public law work has a commercial focus, our members also regularly act for vulnerable individuals in receipt of legal aid in cases that raise points of substantial public importance.

Members of Chambers frequently act in judicial review challenges (on both the claimant and the defendant side) to the decisions of Ministers, local authorities and regulatory bodies. EU law and/or the European Convention on Human Rights are often involved.

### **Communications and media:**

Monckton Chambers has 'great strength in depth' and members frequently act in the leading telecoms regulatory cases for mobile and fixed-line telecoms companies, broadcasters, content providers and Ofcom.

- LEGAL 500

We have a particularly strong reputation in the regulation of telecoms, internet services, digital and broadcast media – commercial activities frequently conducted on a cross-border basis and characterised by rapid growth, business innovation and technological change.

### **Competition:**

Monckton Chambers "has a fantastic reputation and the barristers are commercial, pragmatic and knowledgeable".

- CHAMBERS UK

Monckton Chambers is one of the leading competition law sets at the English Bar. Its work encompasses both appeals against and judicial review challenges to decisions of the Competition and Markets Authority and other "sectoral" competition regulators such as Ofcom, as well as private competition law damages actions, including class actions under the new "collective proceedings" regime, where (for example) victims of cartels seek compensation for their losses. Competition disputes often involve complex commercial trials, private international law and sustained cross-examination of witnesses, expert and otherwise. Chambers is right at the cutting edge of developments in competition law, and its members are involved in almost every major competition law case in the English courts.

### **Environmental law:**

Barristers at Monckton act for a wide variety of clients, from NGOs to government departments and private clients. The set marries its environmental practice to a strong EU law offering, as illustrated by its involvement in *Clientearth v Secretary of State for EFRA*, a Supreme Court challenge to a failure to comply with EU pollution limits. Monckton's barristers regularly act in the domestic and European courts.

- CHAMBERS UK

Members typically focus on the public law aspects of environmental law, almost all of which stems from European law. We act in judicial review challenges relating to the decisions of regulators such as the Environment Agency, as well to wider Government policies, and we regularly advise charities, NGOs and campaign groups on matters including complaints to the European Commission. Members of Chambers also have substantial expertise in the EU law regime governing access to environmental information.

### **EU law:**

A strong group of practitioners offering assistance in all areas of EU law. Members have deep experience of EU law and procedure due to their consistently high level of activity in this area. They receive strong praise from a long list of impressive clients.

- CHAMBERS UK

Monckton Chambers' expertise in EU law is unrivalled. Members act before almost every court or tribunal in litigating EU law issues: whether the European Courts or even a Magistrates Court. Their knowledge of Brexit-related issues is also unsurpassed, and members of Chambers represented the successful parties in the Miller

litigation concerning Article 50 of the TFEU, which went all the way to the Supreme Court.

#### Information law and data protection:

A particularly strong set when it comes to...EU information laws [with] an invaluable level of familiarity with the DPA, the FOIA and the EIR.

- CHAMBERS UK

We are one of the leading sets in cases involving freedom of information and data protection issues, in which context Members draw on their substantial expertise in EU law. Members of Chambers regularly act in appeals under the Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Information Regulations, and also provide advice and representation on data protection issues, including damages claims. They have an unparalleled knowledge of the provisions of the new General Data Protection Regulation which came into force in May 2018.

#### International human rights:

"I have always found the chambers to be very open and efficient in how they operate. There is also a willingness to appreciate the needs and difficulties of smaller businesses and find acceptable fee arrangements."

- CHAMBERS UK

Monckton Chambers is a leader in the field of international human rights law. Members act in cases involving, or advise on human rights issues arising in jurisdictions across Europe and around the world, commonly assisting with litigation before foreign courts before pursuing applications further to the European Court of Human Rights or the UN Human Rights Committee if necessary. Recent cases have arisen out of litigation in France, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, the Bahamas and Australia as well, of course, as the UK. The variety is extraordinary, from international oil companies to individual detainees, UN sanctions to INTERPOL red notices and includes individual and corporate applicant work, drafting the first Inter State application in twenty years and representing Respondent Governments in the firing line.

#### Public procurement law:

Monckton Chambers devotes more than 20 barristers to this area and has been at the forefront of the sector from its inception. Its strong team of silks and juniors has the pedigree and skill to tackle the larger matters of the day...

- CHAMBERS UK

Public procurement law imposes a range of

obligations upon public bodies and utilities. The law has grown out of principles of EU law which are concerned to prevent discrimination on nationality grounds but now extends to consideration of the fairness of these procedures and the efficiency of their outcomes. Monckton Chambers is the market leader in developing this fast developing and often highly litigious field. Those engaged in this practice are often involved in a range of high value disputes covering diverse subject matters such as high speed trains, defence equipment, clinical products and services, national public building programmes, or even new Parliament buildings.

#### Sports:

Monckton Chambers enjoys 'great strength in depth'. Members cover the full range of sports disputes and appear in all the associated tribunals, including FA arbitrations and disciplinary hearings, the Court of Arbitration for Sport and the FIA International Court of Appeal.

- LEGAL 500

Sports law encompasses a wide range of legal disciplines from contract law to EU competition and free movement law. Chambers' work is often very high profile, working for national sports governing bodies, individual players (from footballers to female boxers), teams and clubs, and broadcasters, and involves litigation before specialist sports courts and tribunals, such as the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, as well as before the High Court, the European Court of Justice, the General Court, the European Commission and the Competition Appeal Tribunal. A number of Members of Chambers also act as arbitrators in sports disputes.

#### Tax:

The leading European chambers covering VAT and other European issues," Monckton has a strong group of silks and juniors regularly engaged in notable cases, acting for both taxpayers and HMRC. The members' significant expertise in EU matters means that they act for clients at European level, as well as in the UK before Tax Tribunals, the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

- CHAMBERS UK

Much of the law of indirect taxes such as VAT comes from the EU. Other taxes are also increasingly affected by EU law. The tax work undertaken in Monckton Chambers typically involves disputes either as to the interpretation of EU law, or as to its proper implementation in domestic law. Huge sums of money may turn upon the interpretation of a few words of an EU directive.





### Tim Ward QC

I joined Monckton Chambers in 1999 when I was five years call. At that time, I had no expertise at all in EU law. I was lucky enough to learn on the job through working with some outstanding silks. I've since acted in more than 50 cases before the Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

A large part of my practice is commercial public law. That typically involves challenges to regulators: whether broadcasting, energy or competition regulators. The cases are complex and demanding: they usually have an EU and/or an ECHR dimension. I frequently lead teams of juniors. The subject matter is wide ranging and international. In the last year I've worked on cases concerning Russian sanctions, Icelandic banking, an Italian merger, internet commerce, and outside of public law, many international cartels.

### Alan Bates

Being part of a set of chambers which does lots of high quality, intellectually demanding work has been a huge help to me in building my practice from my first day as a tenant onwards. I enjoy the challenge of getting to grips with big cases involving complex interrelated legal, technical and economic issues. For example, I was recently involved in a case in which internet service providers were challenging new legislation that could be used to require them to take action to stop illegal file-sharing. The applicants raised multiple arguments based on EU and human rights law, claiming that the measures were disproportionate, should have been notified in advance to the European Commission, and violated data privacy rights.

Other recent cases have included: the airport operator BAA's challenge to the Competition Commission decision requiring it to sell Stansted airport; a judicial review of the Home Office's refusal to release information about what action it has taken in response to misconduct by animal research scientists which had been exposed as a result of an animal rights group's undercover investigation; and the finding of a post 2012 tenant for the Olympic Stadium. In addition, I am currently advising a coalition of environmental groups preparing a challenge under EU law to arrangements regarding the 'feed-in tariff' scheme for promoting renewable energy. It's exciting to work on cases that are making the news; and it's a privilege to be trusted to give advice that will have major impacts on big companies, government policy or millions of people.

My indirect tax practice has given me the chance, right from my earliest years of practice, to argue cases on my own that have turned on difficult points of EU law, and sometimes to obtain references to the European Court of Justice. No other area of law gives you that sort of early exposure to EU law litigation.

### Fiona Banks

I joined Monckton Chambers having completed a training contract at a City law firm and I now do a lot of sports law work, together with work in the commercial regulatory field. Whether as a junior on larger cases or in my own right, I immediately found I had a high level of responsibility in cases of real significance. For example, I worked on the intervention by the Football Association, and other football, rugby and golf bodies in the appeals brought by Sky and the Premier League against Ofcom's decision to compel Sky to sell its sports channels to other TV platforms. All of the sports bodies that I represented intervened on the basis that they considered that the regulation imposed by Ofcom would negatively impact on the value of their audio-visual rights in the future, with far-reaching consequences for each of their sports.

One of the things I have really appreciated as a junior tenant at Monckton Chambers is the friendly and collegiate working environment. Members are always willing to discuss and share experiences which is particularly welcome when starting out at the Bar. That supportive environment extends beyond work, as I recently appreciated when I took maternity leave. The clerks were very understanding of my situation and I felt under no pressure to return until I was ready. They have also been entirely accommodating of my desire to work flexible hours, where possible.

### Rob Williams

One of my central areas of practice is public procurement. It involves a unique mixture of European law, public law and contract law. The stakes are often high - bidders are trying to win multi-million pound public contracts. Major national projects are often involved - for example, my biggest case in the last year has related to the supply of air traffic control at Gatwick Airport - and it is always fascinating to find out how parts of the country's key infrastructure really work. A key issue in the case is whether Gatwick's now privately owned business is subject to state control, so that it is subject to European procurement rules.

I often have to attend court at a few days (or hours) notice to argue complex and novel legal issues, and cases often turn on points which have never been fully argued before. There is a real opportunity to influence the way the law is developing. For someone who was not sure whether to pursue a career in public or commercial law, it has turned out to contain an ideal blend of both...



### Laura Elizabeth John

I joined Monckton as a pupil seven years ago after a spell as a civil servant in Defra. A significant proportion of my practice is now competition law. I had no background in competition law before I came to Monckton, but I have been able to learn it from colleagues who are patient and supportive as well as being the best in the field.

The cases are usually large, complex, and high value. My work has ranged from a Supreme Court appeal on whether a limitation period complies with the EU principle of effectiveness, to working with expert economists on preparing their reports on how losses should be calculated and with clients on preparing their factual evidence. I also do a lot of information law work, and regularly act for the Information Commissioner. These cases are an excellent opportunity for junior tenants to gain advocacy experience, and cover a fascinating range of topics - I have argued cases about the Omagh bombing, air pollution in London, medical records of the deceased, local authority development plans, and legal advice on stolen money being channeled into funding political parties.

Chambers and the clerks have been very supportive of my developing a practice in several diverse areas, and my experience is that Monckton is a place where you can make the job your own. If you have focus and energy, Monckton will help you get where you want to be.



### Tarlochan Lall

I joined Monckton Chambers from a city law firm, where I had been a partner for some years. I was required to complete a short pupillage in order to “convert” to the Bar. It was fascinating: I had the opportunity to work on a series of leading cases. It was hugely valuable experience of both litigation and advocacy.

My practice at Monckton Chambers is tax based, covering both direct and indirect taxes. Close statutory interpretation and command of other areas of law, including public law and EU law are critical to my work. One of the key differences between my work as a solicitor and my practice at the Bar, is the strong sense of personal responsibility and the corresponding satisfaction that it brings.



### Daisy Mackersie

I am so pleased to have done my pupillage at Monckton. Monckton is involved in consistently high quality work in intellectually engaging areas of the law, usually involving the relationship between the state and individuals or companies. But just as important, I received fantastic support and coaching from each of my three pupil supervisors and the quality of my work improved significantly due to their help over the year. Pupillage gave me the confidence and skills to start building my own practice, and the supportive environment has continued now that I am junior.

Although I have some of my own instructions, as a “baby junior” I work principally on big cases with one or two barristers above me. It is a great way to be involved in significant work very early in my career and to continue to learn from colleagues. Since starting at Monckton, I have been involved in interesting and demanding cases across Monckton’s areas of practice, including a claim by a group of public authorities for damages as a result of a price-fixing cartel and a challenge about the procurement of air traffic control services at Gatwick Airport. I have helped to advise a range of central Government departments, including on cases before the Court of Justice in Luxembourg, as well as commercial clients and non-Governmental organisations seeking review of Government decisions. I have also had the chance to get involved in telecoms regulation working for BT, and sports law, for example advising the Rugby Football Union.



### Azeem Suterwalla

I joined Monckton Chambers in 2014 when I was 9 years call. My practice is primarily claimant judicial review, across a range of areas including children related, education, community care and mental health, data and information, immigration and asylum and social housing. Many of my cases involve the application of fundamental human rights and are heard in the High Court. I have been fortunate to develop a practice which has also taken me to the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court on several occasions. A number of my cases are politically sensitive, including most recently the High Court’s consideration of the lawfulness of the mass retention of communications data by the government.

Since I have joined Chambers my practice has broadened. I have been brought in as a junior to advise a major pharmaceuticals company with respect to a potential judicial review claim against central government. I am being led in a commercial case involving a dispute about the applicability of the EU Commercial Agents Directive and I have begun undertaking procurement litigation.

Chambers is a “broad church”, which I really like. Whilst my work and that of a number of other members is primarily claimant based, several barristers in Chambers undertake work for the government. I have found this to be healthy mix, especially after coming from a chambers which only undertook claimant work. Monckton is a very friendly place to be and people want to try to help you get ahead. It is also a modern, forward-looking and unstuffy environment and I believe is an excellent place where you can develop a successful practice.



## PUPILLAGE AT MONCKTON

PUPILLAGE AT MONCKTON CHAMBERS IS FOR TWELVE MONTHS AND IS FULL TIME.

Chambers is committed to recruiting and nurturing talented barristers. Accordingly, it recruits small numbers of extremely high calibre pupils in the expectation of being able to offer each of them tenancy. Between 2013 and 2018, thirteen pupils were recruited through the Pupillage Gateway. Ten of these Pupils met the required standard and were offered tenancy. This ratio compares very favourably with other leading sets.

- We generally aim to recruit two pupils each year through the Pupillage Gateway.
- We offer pupillage awards of £65,000.

Successful candidates typically have a First Class Honours degree or a post-graduate degree, whether in law or another subject, although we will also consider other achievements which demonstrate academic excellence. A large number of members of Chambers have come to us via a "non-standard" route - for example having previously worked at NGOs, as solicitors, academics or civil servants. We welcome such applications.

Pupillage at Monckton is structured as four seats, each lasting three months, with a view to exposing pupils to the full range of Chambers' specialist practice areas. As well as working closely with their supervisors, pupils also work for other members of Chambers to ensure that they experience the full breadth of Chambers' work.

Performance during pupillage is assessed by reference to the pupil's ability to deliver first class performance consistently, on a daily basis under everyday pressures. Each piece of work the pupil undertakes, whether for their supervisor or for another member of Chambers, is assessed. The assessment is documented, and that documentation forms the basis for the overall assessment that Chambers make at the end of pupillage in deciding whether to offer a tenancy. Pupils are not therefore asked to carry out formal assessment exercises during the course of their pupillage, or to compete against one another for tenancies.

Pupils are offered advocacy training within Chambers, through a number of advocacy exercises over the course of the year. They involve the preparation of a short skeleton argument and oral submissions. Pupils are provided with feedback on both. These exercises are non-competitive, and are intended to help pupils develop their advocacy skills in a relatively relaxed and non-formal environment.



## HOW TO APPLY FOR PUPILLAGE

MONCKTON CHAMBERS IS A MEMBER OF THE BAR COUNCIL PUPILLAGE GATEWAY AND ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT SCHEME.

Pupillage Gateway operates over one season which starts in January each year. We invite applications from pupils in the year preceding the October in which pupillage is due to start. We are, however, in exceptional circumstances willing to consider applications for an earlier commencement or deferral of pupillage.

Our interview process is in two stages. The first interview is relatively informal: we try to find out as much as we can about the candidate, with a view to identifying skills, achievements and experiences that may suggest that he or she would make a good barrister in a set of Chambers such as ours. The questions we ask at this stage typically focus on the candidate's Pupillage Gateway application form although we will also test candidates' reasoning skills, for instance by reference to a topic of general interest.

We then offer a second interview to a shortlist of candidates. The second interview is based on a legal problem with which candidates are provided a short time before their interview commences. The problem is intended to test the candidate's critical reasoning skills, rather than his or her knowledge of any particular area of law. It is designed to provide us with a fair and objective way of selecting the best candidates from the small group of exceptionally able people who have made it through to the second round stage.

Candidates invited for a second interview who have not previously completed a mini-pupillage are then usually offered the opportunity of spending a few days with us to learn more about what we do and to experience the atmosphere in Chambers.

### MINI-PUPILLAGE

Monckton Chambers has a limited number of mini pupillage places, and competition is fierce. We strongly encourage applications from those who are interested in a pupillage at Monckton Chambers and are close to the year of application for pupillage itself.

Mini-pupillages usually last for three days. For the duration of your mini-pupillage you will be

assigned to one of Monckton's barristers, from our newest tenants to our QCs, and see others advise clients in conferences and fight cases in court.

If you would like to undertake a mini-pupillage with us, please send a copy of your CV, together with a covering letter setting out the dates when you would be available, to Wendy Holmes at [pupillage@monckton.com](mailto:pupillage@monckton.com). Please note that we do not offer work experience placements other than that which is organised by the Bar Council through the Bar Placement Scheme.

### EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

We are fully committed to equality of opportunity and to eliminating unlawful discrimination. We perceive diversity as a component of excellence, and women, minorities and members of other under-represented groups are encouraged to apply. It is Chambers' policy to treat everyone equally and without discrimination on grounds of race, colour, ethnic or national origin, nationality, citizenship, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age, religion, belief or political persuasion, or any other irrelevant basis. We are committed to providing a work environment in which individuals from a wide range of backgrounds can fulfil their potential. Offers of pupillage, tenancy and employment are made solely on the basis of merit.

