

PARKLANE PLOWDEN CHAMBERS

2028 Pupillage Guide

WELCOME

This guide is to provide you, our future applicant, with an insight into what a pupillage is, what you can expect during the application process and from your time as a pupil with PLP.

We offer specialist pupillages based within either our Civil & Employment teams, our Family Team or our Business and Property and Wills, Trusts and Probate teams. We also have pupillages based in Leeds or Newcastle, with the opportunity to spend time in each of our bases.

We believe that specialising within pupillage allows pupils to quickly develop the necessary skills to immediately start practice within one of our highly rated, expert teams and forge strong relationships with solicitors from the outset.

We are committed to equal opportunities for all no matter their background.

We consistently promote and aim to improve diversity at the Bar and within PLP itself.

We particularly encourage applications from those in underrepresented groups and those with disabilities.



ABOUT PARKLANE PLOWDEN

Parklane Plowden Chambers (PLP) is a vibrant and progressive chambers which is alive to the needs of both clients and colleagues. We have specialist teams in a number of different practice areas, all of whom have a reputation for excellence.

Our ethos is to make a positive difference in all that we do through expert advice and advocacy, excellent client care and by being the place where talented people want to be.

Formed in 2007 following the merger of Park Lane Chambers in Leeds and Plowden Chambers in Newcastle, PLP is currently home to over 100 barristers; many of whom are recognised and ranked within Chambers and Partners and Legal 500.

Our specialist teams are consistently ranked in Band 1 and are supported by a stellar cast of experienced, specialist and highly regarded clerks. In recent years, numerous members have been appointed to judicial positions and appeared in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal.

We are a forward thinking set, and have a unique structure that embraces modern business practices. Unlike other chambers, PLP has an Executive Committee, which is responsible for driving growth, and a Service Company which is responsible for internal operations. This innovative approach to the structure of chambers enables us to adapt to the changing legal landscape and ensure our long-term growth.

In 2021, our premises in Leeds city centre underwent a seven-figure refurbishment and now includes a barristers' lounge and study to support agile working, dedicated case rooms and phone booths for remote conferences and hearings and a communal roof top terrace.

In 2023, in Newcastle, we moved out of our Lombard House premises into Portland House, a newly refurbished Grade A office on the first floor of the Grade-II listed building on New Bridge Street.

As a client-led business, we are continuously growing and investing in the future. Every year we look for talented and motivated individuals to join us as pupils.

We firmly believe that by recruiting high quality pupils and providing high quality pupillages, and excellent support for junior tenants, PLP will continue to thrive.

AWARDS RECOGNITION

Parklane Plowden continues to be recognized by industry commentators through awards:

Chambers UK Bar Awards 2026
Regional Set of the Year: **Winner**

Yorkshire Legal Awards 2026
Chambers of the Year: **Finalist**

Personal Injury Awards 2025
Best ESG Campaign: **Winner**

Personal Injury Awards 2024
Barristers' Chambers of the Year: **Winner**

Yorkshire Legal Awards 2023
Barristers' Chambers of the Year: **Winner**

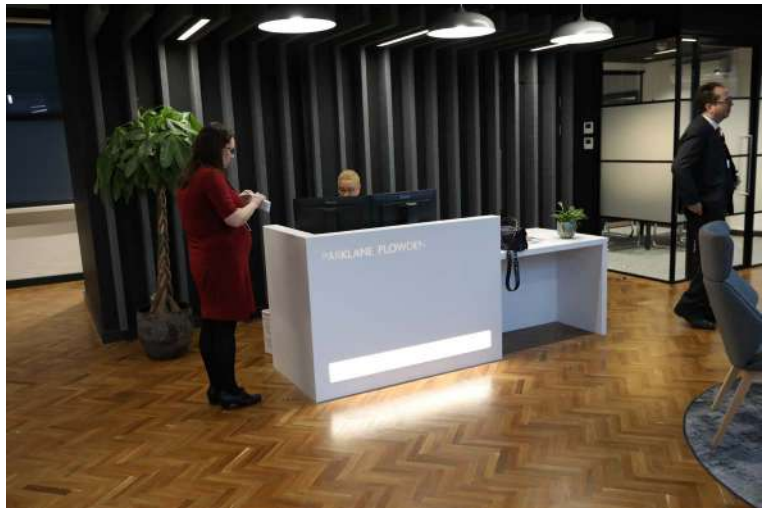


OUR CORE TEAMS

Within PLP we have the following core teams:

Civil, Employment, Business and Property, Wills, Trusts and Probate, and Family.

Many of our members also sit in the above practice areas as part-time judges.







CIVIL

Our large number of civil barristers are highly acclaimed in the fields of clinical negligence, personal injury, credit hire, civil fraud and inquests.

PLP is the only chambers ranked in the highest tiers for Clinical Negligence and Personal Injury in both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500 in the North East.

Several of our members are also recognised as leading juniors in inquest work and costs.

Our barristers are continually commended as approachable, forward thinking and leaders in their field of expertise. We have the largest group of specialist personal injury and clinical negligence barristers of any chambers on the North Eastern Circuit and one of the largest in the country.

Members routinely appear in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court on a broad range of injury law cases ranging the most complex, high-value cases involving life-changing injuries to routine fast-track cases.

Members of PLP have been involved in leading cases, such as **Barton -v- Wright Hassall LLP [2018] UKSC 12 and Edwards (on behalf of the estate of the Late Thomas Arthur Watkins) -v- Hugh James Ford Simey Solicitors [2019] UKSC 54.**

We act on behalf of claimants, defendants, insurers and in large scale group litigation.

"The expertise they have in the area of clinical negligence is fantastic and I always feel confident in the advice they give me."
Chambers & Partners 2026



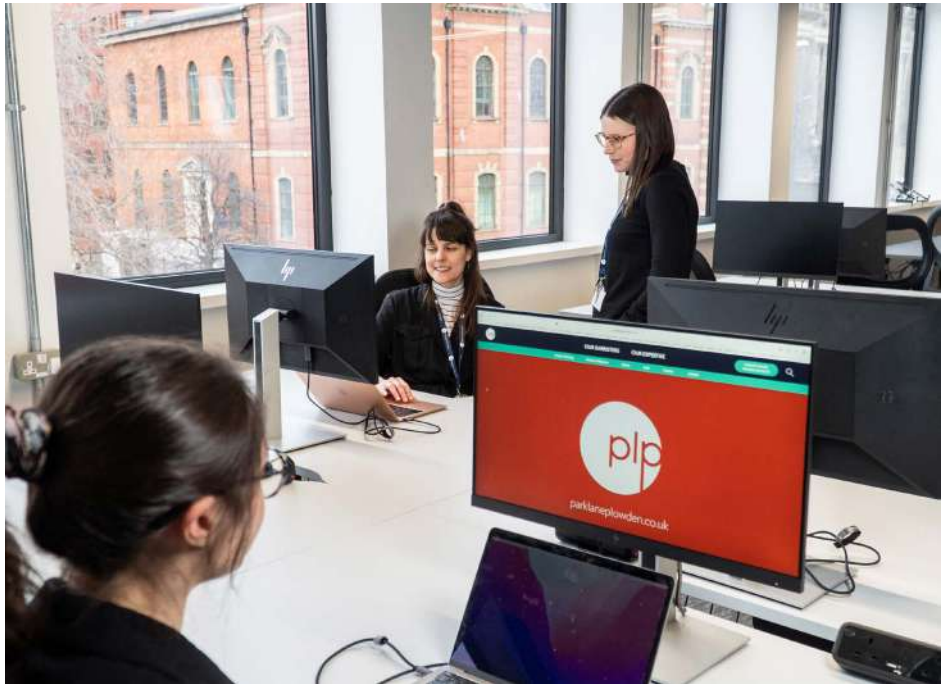
EMPLOYMENT

From KC to pupil, our team of specialist barristers is the largest outside London and handles all levels and areas of employment work.

Our barristers are routinely involved in complex and high-profile litigation appearing in leading cases in areas such as whistleblowing, discrimination and equal pay. We are instructed by a wide range of clients including large and small private sector organisations, NHS Trusts, Local Authorities, Trade Unions and individual employees.

"Parklane Plowden is widely known as 'an excellent set of chambers for employment law barristers', with 'strength and depth at all levels' of seniority.
Legal 500 2026

"Parklane Plowden is my go-to set for employment law."
Chambers & Partners 2026



BUSINESS AND PROPERTY

As well as providing litigation services, members of our commercial team deal with noncontentious commercial and intellectual property work including advisory work and the drafting of complex bespoke documentation.

Our team has particular expertise in contractual, company, partnership, banking, sale of goods, insolvency, intellectual property and technological disputes and commercial property disputes as well as related professional negligence claims.

Members of PLP have also gone on to judicial appointments including a previous member who was recently appointed as the Specialist Civil Judge in the Property and Business Court in Newcastle.



WILLS, TRUSTS AND PROBATE

PLP has one of the largest specialist probate, inheritance and trusts teams outside of London.

Our wills, trusts and probate team is consistently ranked in Band 1 *(Chambers and Partners 2025)* and in Tier 1 *(Legal 500 2025)*, and is held in high regard as a set with "many excellent advocates who will often go above and beyond to assist both the instructing solicitor and the client" *(Chambers and Partners 2025)*.

Many of our barristers are also individually recognised by the legal directories.

Members deal with both contentious and non-contentious work at all levels of seniority and complexity. This includes probate claims, inheritance issues, trusts, property, tax matters and Court of Protection applications.



FAMILY

Members of our family team deal with both public and private family matters. PLP has more than 40 specialist family law practitioners, including five much sought after KCs. Members appear at every level of the family courts, including regular appearances in the High Court and Court of Appeal.

Many of our members are currently involved in highly complex and lengthy cases.

"The family team boasts a strong family team at all levels."
Legal 500 2026

"The set possesses impressive strength in financial remedy cases, and the barristers are equipped to handle cohabitation disputes and cases involving complex assets. Market commentators note that Parklane Plowden houses "a great range of advocates with the ability to handle the most complex of matters."
Chambers & Partners 2026



THE APPLICATION

Applications are made through Chambers' Application Forms which will be available on our website prior to the applications window opening and can be found here:

www.parklaneplowden.co.uk/pupillages/

Depending on which pupillage you are applying for, the Application Form and Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form should be sent as a separate attachment to:

pupillagecivil@parklaneplowden.co.uk

With "Civil Pupillage Application" in the subject line.

pupillagefamily@parklaneplowden.co.uk

With "Family Pupillage Application" in the subject line.

pupillagecommercial@parklaneplowden.co.uk

With "Commercial/Chancery Pupillage Application" in the subject line.

It is mandatory for all Chambers to comply with the Pupillage Gateway timetable.

The closing date for applications to PLP will therefore be the last day permitted under the Gateway Timetable each year.

Each application form is anonymised before it is reviewed by at least two members of Chambers.

We are looking to recruit exceptional candidates and consider each application based upon the following criteria:

- Oral Advocacy/Communication Skills;
- Written Communication Skills;
- Interpersonal skills;
- Analytical Thinking;
- Drive and Determination;
- Sound Judgment;
- Resilience and the ability to work under pressure;
- Dedication to our core practice areas and commitment to being based on the North East.
- Academic Background (we generally expect candidates to have, or be predicted to have a 2:1 university degree. However we will consider all applications on their merits, particularly if there are exceptional circumstances).

Further details of our selection criteria, and how we asses them, can be found on our website. There is no bar to applicants who have applied previously.

THE INTERVIEWS

First round interviews will be shorter than second round interviews and do not usually last more than 30 minutes. At the first interview you will meet between 3-6 members of chambers. You may be given a legal problem question to consider in advance of the interview or on the day of interview. The aim during the first interview is to find out about you as a candidate and assess the extent to which you meet our selection criteria.

Only a limited number of candidates will be interviewed at longer second round interviews. The second round interview usually involves an advocacy exercise and/or a legal problem question.

We know that some candidates are often at different stages of their careers. Some are still at university and have no real experience of our practice areas. Others have had experience of working as an advocate in the relevant area. Allowance is made for this. We aim to assess potential. Our problem questions are designed to be solved by analytical skills and intuition rather than pre-existing knowledge.

We are generally unable to give feedback to candidates who are not offered an interview but do give feedback to candidates unsuccessful at interview. We are very conscious of the levels of preparation and effort that go into attending pupillage interviews.

TENANCY DECISION

Before the end of the 12-month pupillage, our Pupillage Committee liaises with each pupil supervisor and undertakes a review of all feedback and makes a recommendation to the Head of Chambers. The Head of Chambers then seeks the views of members in accordance with our Constitution.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING PUPILLAGE

Full details of our Pupillage Programme can be found on our website and in our Pupillage Training Programme.

In the first six months, pupils will have an opportunity to undertake work in their specific practice area.

Pupils will predominantly spend time with their pupil supervisors but will also shadow different members of the team during cases which may be particularly interesting and or useful for the pupil to see. We believe that this allows the pupil to see a variety of work and working styles.

By the end of the 'first-six', each pupil will have been assessed against the standards set out in the Professional Statement such that they can pass into their 'second-six' and begin undertaking their own cases.

However, pupils are not then on their own. We ensure support continues throughout second six via the pupil supervisor, a junior tenant mentor, a group of very supportive juniors all available to help at a moment's notice via the junior's Whatsapp group and, of course, members of the Pupillage Committee.

We offer a friendly, progressive and 'open door' working environment. Pupils will frequently encounter members of all levels of seniority and from all teams within PLP.

All of our pupillages, commencing October 2028, are funded by an overall package worth at least £47,500 over the 12 months made up as follows:

- **An award of £20,000 for the first six months to be paid pro rata at the end of each month;**
- **Guaranteed earnings of at least £27,500 for the second six months.**

In fact, we expect our pupils to generate income significantly in excess of the guaranteed receipts in their second six. Based on past experience, we anticipate billing in the first year of practice to exceed £100,000.

Chambers will pay for each pupil's reasonable travel and accommodation expenses incurred during the course of pupillage when accompanying members of Chambers, the cost of all compulsory training courses and travel expenses to attend such courses and the costs of attending Mess on Circuit.

At the start of the first six months, Chambers will provide each pupil with an advance to cover anticipated expenses in the month ahead.

HELP, SUPPORT AND MENTORING

We offer help, support and advice at all levels in PLP.

Not only is there an 'open-door' policy for all but we have a formal mentoring scheme throughout all practice areas and levels of seniority in chambers. This ensures that help and support does not cease once pupillage does.

We appreciate that life as a barrister (and working within Chambers) can be challenging at times. We therefore try and ensure that PLP is as collegiate and supportive as possible. This includes fellow tenants at all levels, chambers directors, clerks and staff.

PUPIL SUPERVISORS

Pupil Supervisors are picked by the Pupillage Committee once successful candidates have accepted their offer of pupillage at PLP.

This enables us to match candidates with suitable members of Chambers in practice areas in which candidates have a particular interest.

Our pupil supervisors will provide each pupil with a training programme which will ensure they meet the competencies in the Professional Statement.

Pupil supervisors provide informal, ongoing feedback throughout pupillage. Pupils will also have regular contact with the Head of Pupillage within each team. This ensures that the pupil has another familiar point of contact within Chambers and means that in the unlikely event of a problem arising, this can be addressed as swiftly as possible.

Periodic formal appraisal meetings with the pupils are undertaken with a member of the Pupillage Committee to ensure that every pupil is on track to meet the standard required for a Provisional Practicing Certificate at the end of first-six, and to complete pupillage.

PUPIL INSIGHT #1

Former Civil and Employment pupil Arya Vindlacheruvu gives her take on pupillage at PLP.

During my pupillage, I benefited from having three supervisors for employment, personal injury and clinical negligence.

The first three months of my pupillage were focused on employment, then personal injury and clinical negligence for the next three months. I enjoyed shadowing my supervisors and discussing their cases and tactics with them. I felt like I was able to cultivate my own style of advocacy from observing them in court and in conferences. I really appreciated the focus on my paperwork in first six. This was supplemented by the invaluable feedback from my supervisors. In the final month of first six, there was a concerted effort to ensure I was shadowing the juniors. This was very helpful as it gave me a taste of what my practice would look like in second six.

During second six, I had a busy practice. I was in court often and I was mostly instructed in road traffic accidents, credit hire, MOJ Stage 3 hearings and civil applications. Even as a pupil, I was afforded exciting opportunities including; multi-day employment final hearings, personal injury fast tracks and inquests. I had a steady papers practice advising on liability and quantum in personal injury matters.

Chambers prioritises pupillage being a learning experience. Pupils spend no more than four days in court during second six, which leaves protected time to work through the Pupillage Checklist or shadow other barristers. In addition, Chambers offers its pupils helpful learning opportunities. For example, I was fortunate enough to attend the AVMA clinical negligence conference and the ELA TUPE course.

The best part of Parklane Plowden is the people. From an early stage, I felt like I could ask any of the barristers questions. Chambers has an incredibly friendly and supportive atmosphere which makes pupillage all the more enjoyable.



PUPIL INSIGHT #2

Former Family pupil Theo Corbett gives his take on pupillage at PLP.

A specialist family pupillage at Parklane Plowden involves exposure to all areas of children work, both public and private, alongside financial remedies work.

During first six, you will typically be in court 4-5 days a week with your supervisor or other members of Chambers. Chambers also encourages you to develop your written advocacy skills whilst observing members. You will be given opportunities to review papers and draft documents such as skeleton arguments, orders, position statements and attendance notes which you can then discuss and review with your supervisor. You will also be encouraged to conduct your own research and draft articles for Chambers' website to analyse and build upon the areas you find particularly interesting.

Second six begins with you attending court for typically 3 days a week, having the remaining days to prepare for your upcoming hearings whilst also being able to attend and observe other hearings with members of Chambers.

Your workload will gradually increase as you become more comfortable and confident with your own cases including attending 4-5 day trials.

Throughout your second six, your supervisors take on an overseeing role, being available for discussions and advice. This ensures that you always have a key point of contact throughout should you have any queries and will enable you to explore with them any ideas you have about upcoming cases.

One of the key strengths of Parklane Plowden is the incredibly supportive and collegiate culture. Not only will your supervisor be there to support you, but you will also be able to draw on other members from across Chambers should you ever need to just have a chat or run an issue by someone. At no stage throughout my pupillage did I ever feel as though there wasn't a strong support network around me that I could draw upon. This is something which has continued into tenancy.

Pupillage at Parklane Plowden is an extremely rewarding and enjoyable experience. It is undoubtedly demanding, and there will be periods of long working days or weeks depending on your supervisor's workload and, during second six, the demands of your own diary. It requires commitment and resilience, but you will complete a specialist pupillage in a highly regarded set, surrounded by brilliant people who want to see you succeed whilst building the skills and knowledge to put you in the best position possible when starting your life at the Bar.



PUPIL INSIGHT #3

Former Business & Property and Wills, Trusts & Probate pupil Maryam Naaz gives her take on pupillage at PLP

My Business & Property and Wills, Trusts & Probate pupillage at Parklane Plowden gave me exposure to a broad and varied range of work from the outset. Over the course of the year, I worked on cases involving contentious probate and Inheritance Act claims, trusts, TOLATA and proprietary estoppel, contractual and insolvency disputes, professional negligence and landlord and tenant matters. The variety was one of the things I enjoyed most. No two weeks were the same.

During my first six, I was encouraged to approach cases as though they were my own. I would analyse the papers, identify the issues and prepare my own work before discussing the case with my supervisor. This meant I was not simply observing how someone else practised but learning to exercise my own judgment with the benefit of regular and constructive feedback.

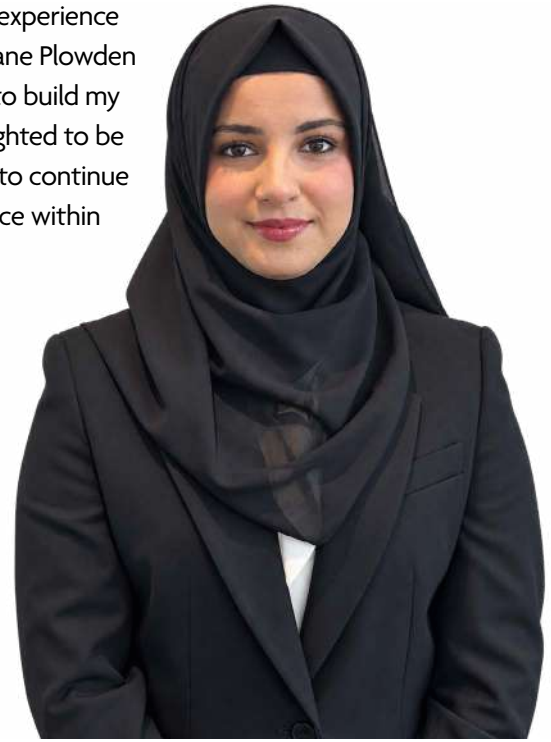
I had four supervisors over the course of pupillage, which exposed me to different areas of Business & Property and Wills, Trusts & Probate work and different approaches to practice. Learning from different styles of analysis, drafting and advocacy helped me develop my own approach and was one of the real strengths of my pupillage.

The move into second six was exciting and inevitably a steep learning curve. I began managing my own cases and appearing in court while continuing with advisory and drafting work.
My court practice ranged from possession proceedings and interim applications to case-management hearings and fast-track and multi-track trials. I also continued to gain experience of conferences, mediation and other forms of dispute resolution.

Importantly, gaining independence did not mean losing the support I had during first six. Whether a hearing took an unexpected turn or I wanted to discuss a difficult legal or tactical issue, my supervisors and other members of the team were always willing to make time to help. The clerking and administrative teams were equally supportive throughout the year.

Pupillage also taught me that developing as a barrister involves much more than advocacy and drafting. I learned to manage my own cases, communicate effectively with solicitors and clients, make practical decisions and give clear advice focused on achieving the best outcome for the client.

By the end of pupillage, I had developed a strong foundation for a varied Business & Property and Wills, Trusts & Probate practice while retaining the breadth of work that attracted me to the area in the first place. My experience confirmed that Parklane Plowden was where I wanted to build my career, and I was delighted to be offered tenancy and to continue developing my practice within the team.



PARKLANE PLOWDEN: MAKING A

POSITIVE DIFFERENCE

IN EVERYTHING WE DO

Our shared vision is to **'Make a positive difference'** in all we do through expert advice and advocacy, excellent client care and by being the place where talented people want to work.

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE

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