

# XXIV OLD BUILDINGS

PUPILLAGE AND TENANCY 2011-2012

**XXIV**

BARRISTERS' CHAMBERS

## WHO WE ARE

XXIV Old Buildings is widely recognised as one of the leading sets of chambers. Our 38 barristers (including 8 QCs) specialise in commercial and chancery work and offer their “excellent... expertise” in undertaking the widest range of contentious, advisory and transactional work in these areas. XXIV Old Buildings has been described as “perfectly placed to rocket up the chambers hierarchy. Its trajectory so far has been nothing short of stunning” by *The Lawyer* and branded “outstanding” by *The Legal 500*.

We pride ourselves on being recognised for the “extremely high quality” of our barristers “from the top down” as well as a particular reputation for our breadth of expertise: by way of example, Alan Steinfeld QC, one of our joint heads of chambers, is the only barrister to be ranked in 11 practice areas in *Chambers & Partners* and last year won the “Chancery Silk of the Year” award.

The international dimension of much of our work is a further major distinction between us and other chambers. As well as appearing in courts and tribunals at every level in England and Wales, members of chambers frequently appear as advocates, offer advice, act as arbitrators and work alongside other lawyers in jurisdictions around the world, including the US, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, the Bahamas, Malaysia, Gibraltar, China (including Hong Kong), Singapore, Dubai and Samoa. We are unique in having offices in Geneva in addition to our main London chambers in leafy Lincoln’s Inn.

## WHAT WE DO

Our barristers' areas of specialism include:

- Business disputes/general commercial litigation
- Offshore structures and international law (including the conflict of laws)
- Trusts, estates and contentious probate
- Civil fraud and asset tracing
- Company law and partnership law
- Insolvency/restructuring
- Financial services
- Spread-betting and capital markets
- Arbitration (as both counsel and arbitrators)
- Professional negligence
- Charities
- Property (including landlord and tenant)

XXIV Old Buildings also has niche groups specialising in aviation and travel law, construction law, sports law (we appeared in last year's arbitration to resolve the dispute between Formula 1 teams about the use of so-called 'double diffusers' and the recent dispute about Nick Heidfeld being dropped by Lotus Renault) and art law.

Members lecture widely and regularly contribute to journals and key practitioners' texts in our core areas of practice (such as International Trust Laws, Palmer's Company Law Manual and Tolley's Company and Insolvency Law).

Please do browse the detailed profiles of individual members on our website ([www.xxiv.co.uk](http://www.xxiv.co.uk)) for a full picture of the quality and breadth of work which our members undertake.

## PUPILLAGE AT XXIV OLD BUILDINGS

We aim to recruit the best applicants and to invest heavily in our pupils' time with us in order to build on our ongoing success. We recognise that today's pupils are tomorrow's tenants and the future of chambers. We therefore seek to offer one of the most enjoyable, well-structured and generously funded pupillages at the Bar.

We offer 12-month pupillages each year with an annual award of £50,000 (subject to annual review). Up to £13,000 of the award may (upon application) be drawn down during the BVC in cases of hardship. Since we place great emphasis during pupillage on training and preparing our pupils for successful practice at the Bar, the opportunity for pupils to do their own work during their second six is limited, in common with most other commercial and chancery sets.

Our pupils can expect to spend 3 months with 4 different pupil supervisors, experiencing work across the full breadth of our expertise. Pupils work in their supervisor's room and have the opportunity to observe the whole of their practice, including attending court and conferences, drafting pleadings, skeleton arguments, opinions and other documents, and accompanying them to conferences with clients.

The emphasis in the first 3 months of pupillage is on introducing you to practice at the Bar in general and chambers in particular. We do not generally subject our pupils to formal written or advocacy assessments, preferring instead to assess their work and performance over time. As well as continuous feedback, pupil supervisors provide formal feedback at the end of each three months when pupils will also have a review with our Pupillage Co-ordinator.

Pupils are encouraged to work with other members of chambers, especially when members are involved in a particularly interesting matter. This gives our pupils the opportunity to witness the leading cases of the day, such as *Foskett v McKeown*, *Schmidt v Rosewood Trust*, *RBS v Etridge*, *Criterion Properties v Stratford* and *President of the State of Equatorial Guinea v Logo Ltd*.

We usually take tenancy decisions in late June/early July each year and aim to recruit from among our own pupils. We particularly pride ourselves on helping to find alternative opportunities, either at the Bar or elsewhere, for those pupils to whom we do not offer tenancy. We have however, offered tenancy to 7 of our 9 pupils in the last 5 years.

Further information including our detailed Pupillage and Recruitment Policy is available on our website at [www.xxiv.co.uk](http://www.xxiv.co.uk)

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications for pupillage commencing in October 2013 should be made by **9am on 1 February 2012** .

Application is by covering letter and CV addressed to the 'Pupillage Coordinator'. They should be submitted either by post or by email to [pupillage@xxiv.co.uk](mailto:pupillage@xxiv.co.uk). We are not a member of OLPAS.

There are three stages to our consideration of applications.

- (i) Every application is first assessed on paper against our pupillage selection criteria in order to draw up a long-list.
- (ii) Applicants who are long-listed are invited for a first interview involving discussion of a problem (deliberately designed to require no specific legal knowledge).
- (iii) A short-list of applicants is then selected for a second interview for which a short advocacy exercise is set (again designed to require no specific legal knowledge).

## WHAT WE LOOK FOR

We only select pupils who have the potential to become junior tenants in chambers and excel in practice. Successful candidates will have strong academic qualifications (a first or 2:1 degree, though not necessarily in law), intellectual ability, sound common sense and judgment, enthusiasm for the type of work in which we specialise and the potential to become excellent advocates.

XXIV Old Buildings is committed to applying the Equality Code for the Bar in all aspects of its recruitment process. Chambers strives to offer equality of opportunity regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, religion or belief.

## MINI PUPILLAGE

The purpose of mini-pupillage at XXIV Old Buildings is to help potential pupils see what life is like as a junior tenant and to offer a broader insight into chambers and the commercial chancery Bar.

We offer mini-pupillages throughout the year. Each lasts on average three days. Since mini-pupillage at XXIV Old Buildings is in particularly high demand, and in order to ensure that mini-pupils gain as much as possible from their experience, we prefer applications from those who have commenced their legal studies (that is law undergraduates, graduates and those who have commenced or completed the PgDL).

Our experience is that prospective pupils are more likely to wish to become pupils at XXIV Old Buildings if they have previously done mini-pupillage with us. Accordingly – although we neither require applicants for pupillage to have undertaken a mini-pupillage with us nor assess them – we do encourage potential applicants to consider applying.

Applicants for mini-pupillage must submit an application comprising a covering letter and CV in accordance with the timetable set out below. Applications must be submitted by email to [minipupillage@xxiv.co.uk](mailto:minipupillage@xxiv.co.uk)

An applicant wishing to undertake mini-pupillage **between January and April** should apply by 15 October of the preceding year. Each applicant will be notified of the outcome of their application by 31 October.

An applicant wishing to undertake mini-pupillage **between May and September** should apply by 15 February. Each applicant will be notified of the outcome of their application by 28 February.

An applicant wishing to undertake mini-pupillage **between October and December** should apply by 15 June. Each applicant will be notified of the outcome of their application by 30 June.

Further information is available on our website at [www.xxiv.co.uk](http://www.xxiv.co.uk)

In order to attract the best candidates regardless of background we now offer up to £100 to those selected for mini-pupillage. This is to cover the cost of travel from outside London and/or, if necessary, accommodation in London (to be paid against suitable receipts).

## WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT US

XXIV Old Buildings is widely recognised within the profession as a top commercial chancery set. Here are just some of the things the main legal directories say about us...

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"Strong from the top down, it is 'pretty much homogenous in terms of quality' and offers expertise across a broad range of chancery disciplines"

"Excellent, commercial advice" supported by an "efficient, friendly and flexible clerking system"

XXIV Old Buildings is "increasingly recognised for its batch of 'extremely high-quality individuals', this set is 'almost always on people's shortlists"

"XXIV Old Buildings was one of the first sets to identify and exploit offshore work. A set with 'excellent trusts expertise', it has experience in a number of offshore jurisdictions and offers silks and juniors whose passports have been stamped more than most"

"Sources are so impressed with the level of service offered by XXIV Old Buildings that they describe the group as that rare thing, "a truly 21st-century traditional chancery practice"

**Chambers and Partners**

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"Outstanding"

"XXIV Old Buildings is a first choice for major offshore trusts disputes"

"XXIV Old Buildings maintains an emphasis on international work. It also has excellent onshore Chancery Division and Commercial Court expertise"

"Business matters are at the heart of the set's offering to clients... The set has considerable expertise in dealing with trusts and offshore structures, working in the closely associated fields of breach of fiduciary duty and asset recovery"

**Legal 500**

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XXIV Old Buildings is "very successful" with "huge scope for genuinely interesting cases"

"...with a Geneva annexe and an enviable caseload it epitomises the modern Bar."

**Chambers and Partners'  
Student Guide**

## MEMBERS

Full details and CVs of each member can be found on our website: [www.xxiv.co.uk](http://www.xxiv.co.uk)

Martin Mann QC	Alexander Pelling
Alan Steinfeld QC	Bajul Shah
Michael Black QC	Steven Thompson
Stephen Moverley Smith QC	Jessica Hughes
Philip Shepherd QC	Nicole Langlois
Francis Tregear QC	Lyndsey de Mestre
David Brownbill QC	Edward Knight
Elsbeth Talbot Rice QC	David Herbert
Michael King	Tom Montagu Smith
John Stephens	Sarah Bayliss
Richard Ritchie	Neil McLarnon
Michael Gadd	Adam Cloherty
Elizabeth Weaver	Edward Cumming
Helen Galley	Erin Hitchens
Amanda Harington	Andrew Holden
Ian Meakin	Daniel Warents
Arshad Ghaffar	Owen Curry
Marcus Staff	Heather Murphy
Stuart Adair	Harry Sharpe
	Prof Graham Virgo (door tenant)
	Dr Matthew Conaglen (door tenant)

### LONDON

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### GENEVA

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