

January
2024

Pupillage season is upon us. At Quest most of our County Court Advocate team have ambitions of obtaining pupillage and becoming practicing barristers. Happily, many are successful, and Quest are delighted to be a platform to build confidence and provide experience to maximise chances of obtaining interview and equipping individuals with key skills they will utilise in their first six of pupillage and beyond.

Below we hear from Imogen Nichol, previously a County Court Advocate at Quest Legal Advocates. Imogen began with Quest in 2019, later becoming a senior County Court Advocate and prior to her departure became employed as our RTA Advocacy Standards Manager

Imogen Nichol

Pupil Barrister
Exchange Chambers



Applying for pupillage is no easy feat, however as Quest advocates, you will have an abundance of practical experience to help make your applications stand out from the crowd.

I secured pupillage at Exchange Chambers in 2021 and have compiled some tips to help with getting your applications through that first round interview door.

The common question we all see is: 'Why do you want to be a barrister?' As Quest advocates, you will have a practical sense of what the job entails, and you (hopefully) enjoy it. Being able to give a positive account of your court experience will show the panel that you'll be good on your feet when it's time for second six.

Trying to assimilate a lot of information in a short time period is part and parcel of being a barrister. I'm sure many of you will have times when you received papers late from the solicitors and had to work through a lot of information to assure you were prepared for court in the morning. That's a great example of working under pressure and shows the panel that you're willing to put the work in to ensure your case is presented in the best way it can be.

If you plan on joining the self-employed Bar, then Quest has already provided you with day-to-day experience of what life is like. Being your own business is something that comes with a lot of benefits, but also many challenges. You are able to show Chambers that you have real life experience of this and that your desire to join the Bar is unwavering.

As advocates, you will have represented people from all walks of life. As we know, anyone can find themselves needing a barrister, and you will likely have assisted people who were incredibly nervous. You will be able to put in your application that you have used your communication skills to both comfort and represent the vast sea of people that find themselves going through the justice system.

We wish all our advocates luck with pending applications!