

The background of the entire page is a photograph of three people, two women and one man, standing outdoors in front of a modern building with large glass windows. They are all smiling and appear to be in a friendly conversation. The woman in the center has long dark hair and is wearing a dark blazer. The woman on the right has long brown hair tied back and is also wearing a dark blazer. The man on the left is seen from the side, wearing a dark suit.

MEMBERSHIP PROSPECTUS

CIVIL & FAMILY BARRISTERS

Canterbury, Brighton, Dartford, Kings Hill (Maidstone) & Tunbridge Wells



HIGH QUALITY WORK. GOOD QUALITY WORK-LIFE BALANCE.

Becket Chambers is the largest set of independent barristers chambers in Kent, and as we celebrate our 30-year anniversary in 2023, also the oldest. Our members benefit from our established reputation, experienced staff, and our facilities in Canterbury, Brighton, Dartford, Kings Hill (Maidstone) and Tunbridge Wells.

We are a vibrant, social set with excellent relationships with law firms throughout the region. Our barristers work across Kent, Sussex, London and the Southeast on high quality cases, and demand for our members expertise is strong. We are following a clear and defined strategy of growth and specialisation, which focuses on family and civil law. We also have members who undertake Direct Access work and are qualified mediators and arbitrators.

We know that our most important resource is our people, and we aim to support members to create a working lifestyle that suits them. Our clerks manage a quality caseload, enabling members to develop a practice that is as busy as they desire, and we offer guidance and mentoring to new members to help them feel supported.

At Becket Chambers, we have developed an egalitarian and collegiate environment, enabling barristers at all career stages to flourish. Because of the structure of Becket Chambers, members can work flexibly, and no minimum earning level is required.

We try to ensure that everyone at Becket Chambers has the opportunity to develop their full potential by providing an inclusive environment that encourages progression and achievement. Outside of work, we arrange social events so that members can get together, exchange ideas, strengthen friendships and offer mutual support.

We regularly conduct in-depth reviews of our Chambers, using independent professionals who can provide an experienced and unbiased view to analyse our structure, policies, management and business development to ensure that we are positioned correctly and adapt and evolve as required.

Becket Chambers has a lot to offer the right candidates, including consistent earnings, excellent career development and first-rate support.

Contact us today on strictly confidential terms to see what working at Becket Chambers can offer you. Please direct calls and emails to Paul Eaton, Senior Clerk peaton@becket-chambers.co.uk

“Brilliant set of chambers. All the barristers are well versed in their respective areas of expertise.”

OUR EXPERTISE

FAMILY LAW

Members of Becket Chambers are experienced in dealing with all aspects of family law, covering children (public and private), cohabitation disputes, divorce and matrimonial finance (financial remedy) and injunctions.

OUR EXPERTISE INCLUDES:

- Adoption
- Applications under the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996
- Care proceedings – representing Local Authorities, Guardians, parents and other family members
- Child Support Act 1991
- Contact disputes – child arrangements orders
- Divorce
- Financial provision for children
- Financial remedy
- Freezing Injunctions and urgent applications
- Inheritance Act claims
- Mental health issues
- Inherent Jurisdiction proceedings in relation to children (Wardship)
- International child abduction and applications for leave to remove from the jurisdiction
- Paternity disputes
- Protection from Harassment Act proceedings
- (Part IV) Family Law Act 1996 proceedings

CIVIL LAW

The Becket Chambers’ Civil Team regularly undertakes cases in all aspects of civil law, including fast-track and multi-track cases from pre-issue, throughout proceedings to judgment and subsequent enforcement. Becket Chambers’ broad civil law practice includes injunctions, claims for damages, contractual disputes and costs law.

OUR EXPERTISE INCLUDES:

- Cash and Condemnation
- Commercial
- Contract
- Employment law – including cases involving dismissal and/or involving discrimination on any grounds
- Local Government
- Mediation
- Personal injury
- Planning and rating
- Probate and inheritance (wills)
- Property – landlord and tenant – for all types of commercial and residential property
- Property and land law (including trusts, boundary disputes and easements)



Becket Chambers members’ are adept at advising across the full range of both private and public children law issues.



RECOMMENDED SET

2024



OUR MEMBER SERVICES

CLERKING - ADMINISTRATION

- Offering substantial knowledge across all of our key practice areas, our team of experienced clerks pride themselves on being approachable, friendly and as accommodating as possible.
- Client care is paramount, and the clerks are extremely conscientious and client-focused.
- Our clerks proactively seek and welcome feedback from their professional clients to monitor and strive to improve the service offered.
- Through regular practice meetings, the clerks ensure that members will be undertaking the work they are passionate about, which is remunerated appropriately, and within their desired locations.
- Regular communication with our solicitors and private clients ensures that diaries are kept up-to-date and that case papers are delivered quickly to allow for the necessary preparation.

“Becket clerks no different from London. Every bit as good.”

CLERKING – FEES

- We have dedicated fee clerks who use designed automated systems to ensure prompt payment of private paying fees, with all cases invoiced within 7 days of completion (unless agreed otherwise with the individual member of Chambers). Our highly experienced fees team and efficient credit control systems ensure prompt payment. We are currently operating at a 50-day billing-to-payment period.
- Efficient systems have been implemented to bill legal aid cases, and cases are billed within 48 hours of receiving the relevant documents, with payment within a further 14-21 days. Electronic working has enabled us to improve the efficiency of billing rapidly.
- High-cost cases are identified at an early stage and managed with solicitors and their costs draftsman to ensure cases are well-managed and the members are remunerated as promptly as possible.
- Staff are encouraged to attend relevant webinars the Legal Aid Agency provides to gain greater understanding and knowledge.

FACILITIES

- Becket Chambers has a main office in Canterbury that is supported by facilities in Brighton Dartford, Kings Hill (Maidstone) and Tunbridge Wells. We have reviewed our premises requirements and fully embraced changes to how we work to keep us flexible in how we deliver our services.
- We are not committed to any long leases. Our main office is located in a modern building which is part of the Kent University Canterbury campus. The site offers free parking and secure electronic entry.
- Multi-use meeting rooms provide optimal conditions for quiet solo working, traditional in-person meetings, or remote meetings and court appearances. They are also suitable for any ADR appointments.

TECHNOLOGY

- We offer a cloud-based hosting service that provides secure, data protection-compliant storage facilities.
- Becket Chambers uses LEX diary management software. This allows each member to have constant access to their diaries, billing and payment figures, and the ability to run individual reports when required.
- Chambers has eco targets and fully supports paperless working – all members are provided with an Office 365 licence to use on Chambers’ server.
- We use a local, outsourced IT support company who can assist with individual members’ personal equipment.
- All members and pupils have access to the entire online LexisNexis library and many hard-copy texts.
- As part of our commitment to cyber security, we are proud to be accredited with a Cyber Essentials Certificate of Assurance. This latest accreditation certifies that we have been assessed and comply with the requirements of the Cyber Essentials Scheme.



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BECKETCHAMBERS
BARRISTERS

**“Good service.
Really impressed
with the Clerks &
the barristers
I use.”**

**“All the barristers at Becket
are great, approachable, go
above and beyond, and will
help with cases that aren’t
even theirs.”**



DIVERSITY & EQUALITY

- Becket Chambers is committed to creating a diverse workspace. Everyone receives equal opportunities without regard to race, colour, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status.
- We have implemented a new action plan to promote and improve diversity and support members and staff.
- Chambers has long-standing links with the local universities. We arrange competitions and advocacy events for law students, as well as supporting the Employability Points Scheme, which rewards students for their active engagement with co-curricular activities, with experiences of work.
- Pupils and barristers at Becket Chambers are encouraged to use their legal skills to benefit those who would otherwise find it difficult to access the legal system. We have members who provide free legal advice by supporting our local Citizens Advice Service and the Kent Law Clinic. We also accept pro bono instructions from Advocate.
- Members and staff actively participate in local and national initiatives such as PRIDE, Women in Law Kent, Bridging the Bar and Legalnable.
- Routine top-up training is offered to members and staff concerning equality and diversity.

CHAMBERS MANAGEMENT

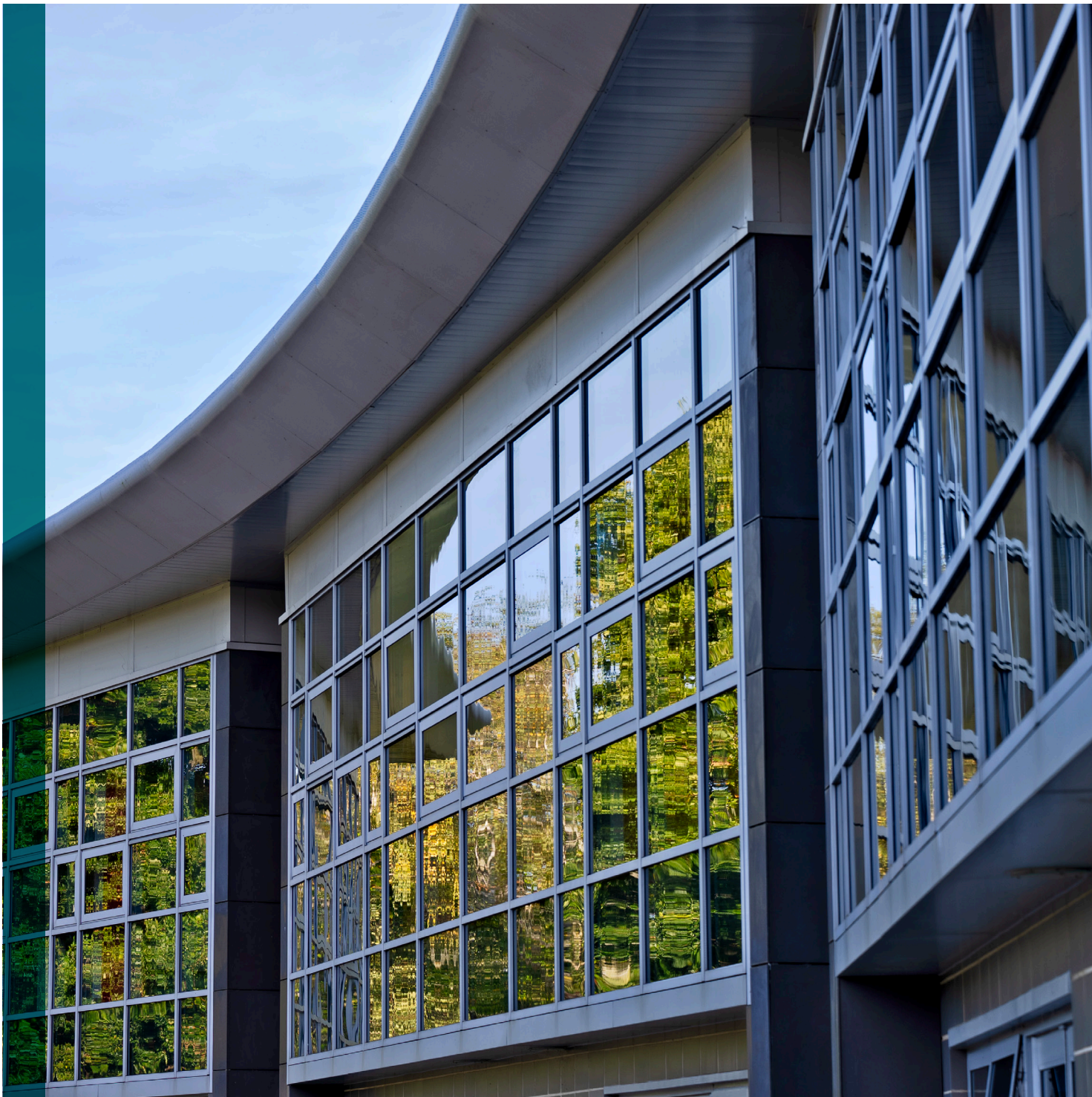
- We believe the most democratic and egalitarian way to run our Chambers is with an elected Management Committee. This committee meets quarterly (as a minimum) and consists of the Senior Clerk and three members of Chambers.
- There is an annual Chambers meeting which all members are required to attend. These meetings are held remotely, and there are no plans to return to in-person meetings.
- Members are encouraged to be involved in the various committees that are set up to assist the Management Committee.

FINANCES

- Members' contributions are calculated based on a fixed monthly rent element of £420 plus 13% of monthly receipts.
- New members have the option of joining on a percentage-only basis of 20% for up to 12 months. We have found that this option is particularly helpful to members when starting at a new Chambers and managing their existing financial obligations.
- There is no upfront joining cost, and Chambers premises are secured under a lease, so there are also no associated building costs.
- Fee scales are reviewed with individual members through regular practice meetings.
- Because of the structure of Becket Chambers, members can work flexibly, and no minimum earning level is required.
- We aim to support members to create a working lifestyle that suits them. Chambers has maternity and parental leave policies in place to ensure that members are supported when required.
- Chambers is able to consider hardship requests and offer reduced or zero contributions to help with unplanned financial pressures or family emergencies.

"Paul and Arron give very good service. They are back within the hour with the barrister I want/who is available. They know how to match my clients with their barristers."





JOIN US

Becket Chambers has a lot to offer the right candidates, including consistent earnings, excellent career development and first-rate support. We are looking for confident and ambitious people at all stages of their legal careers who embrace our collegiate culture of barristers, pupils, and staff working together where everyone is treated as an equal and with mutual respect.

Contact us today on strictly confidential terms to see what working at Becket Chambers can offer you.

APPLICATIONS

Applications from high-calibre barristers are always considered as Becket Chambers has an active expansion policy. We encourage and welcome applications from women, Black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals, neurodiverse and disabled people and those who are LGBT+, as well as candidates from other underrepresented groups.

TENANCY:

Tenants are supported in the development of their practices by a proactive clerking team, and each tenant has considerable ability to shape their own career. If you are interested in applying, please send applications to our Senior Clerk, Paul Eaton
e: peaton@becket-chambers.co.uk.

Any conversations or applications will be dealt with in strictest confidence.

Once you have submitted an application, this will be reviewed by our Management Committee, who will generally invite you to interview. They will decide whether to make a recommendation to Chambers, which will then be circulated to all members to make a decision democratically.

PUPILLAGE:

Pupils at Becket Chambers are given the opportunity to train in a number of practice areas to find out what they enjoy and excel in. Chambers usually offers up to two funded pupillages per year, and our policy is only to recruit those we consider to be potential future tenants. Becket Chambers recruits pupils via the Bar Council's online portal Pupillage Gateway, and each pupillage is funded in accordance with Bar Council funding requirements. Pupil earnings during the second six are likely to be in excess of £70k pa.

MINI PUPILLAGE:

Chambers offers a limited number of mini-pupillages a year, and applications should be made by sending a CV and cover letter to clerks@becket-chambers.co.uk

LIFE AT BECKET CHAMBERS

"Becket makes life at the Bar manageable and fulfilling. I feel lucky to work with incredibly supportive colleagues and a very switched-on clerking team who always aim to ensure that I have what I need to do my best.

The application process for pupillage was straightforward and without any hidden traps or pitfalls. I felt as though Chambers wanted me to succeed, and I am very pleased that I did. I do not think I could have found a welcoming or grounded environment anywhere else.

I heard many horror stories about pupillage when I was applying, and absolutely none of them happened to me. I was very well-supported in having the benefit of not only my pupillage supervisor but a mentor for each of my

practice groups, a buddy, and the very helpful guiding hand of the Head of Pupillage. The collegiate atmosphere at Becket is the strongest I have seen at the Bar and certainly makes me feel as though these are the people I want to build my future practice alongside.

Members are active in volunteering their time for student events and pro bono work, as well as committing to regular events in our social calendar. Seeing an appreciation for balance is refreshing, as life at the Bar can be intense.

Becket is living proof that barristers can be ordinary people just doing a job that is sometimes extraordinary."

Magdalena Cass, a Pupil then barrister at Becket Chambers

"I transferred to Becket Chambers from another local set. I was made to feel very welcome and comfortable when interviewed by the Management Committee, and the whole process was handled quickly and efficiently.

Having practised locally for many years, I already knew most - but not all - members of Chambers. On my first day, I received many emails from members, including those I didn't know, with generous welcome messages. The clerks made my transition to Becket Chambers seamless, including the transfer of my diary and other administrative issues.

The Management Committee were kind enough to agree to a transitional commission rate, while I was undertaking a combination of work booked by my previous Chambers and Becket Chambers.

In everything they have done for me since, they have impressed me as being hugely efficient and supportive."

Adrian Pidduck, an experienced barrister who transferred to Becket Chambers from another set



"I came to Becket Chambers as a pupil nearly 30 years ago and have stayed put! Practising as a barrister in Canterbury has allowed me to build a hugely rewarding career. I have enjoyed forming long-standing relationships with instructing solicitors and with members of Chambers as well as the local bar and judiciary.

It is a really pleasant environment to work in. Becket Chambers has always offered me support and encouraged me to pursue those aspects of legal practice that I found particularly rewarding. As a result, my career has included training to undertake various forms of mediation and also encompassed my volunteering on a research ethics committee, in addition to having a busy court diary and developing specialist practice areas.

My work-life balance is something that I value very highly and was (and remains) very important to me. Achieving a balance is not something that my peers always found easy in their chambers. I would not have continued to work had that meant that I could not fulfil my role as "Mum" in the way that I wanted to. Regular practice meetings and life coaching/goalsetting have helped me achieve this. Still, the main reason it has proved possible is because my clerks have always worked with me to ensure that both my career and personal goals have been prioritised and met."

Louisa Adamson, Barrister and Mediator at Becket Chambers



BECKETCHAMBERS
BARRISTERS



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