



# Pupillage @

## Henderson Chambers

**Henderson Chambers** is a leading civil common law/commercial set with 40 members.

Our main focus is on civil and commercial actions in contract and tort, and on employment, public and regulatory law.

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Charles Gibson QC

### Head of Chambers

Nothing is more important to me than recruitment of pupils and junior practitioners. I personally oversee the Pupillage process and chair the final interviews every year. I am committed to our pupils having the very best training and preparation for a successful career at the Bar.

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Henderson Chambers is located in the heart of the Temple overlooking the Inner Temple Garden. We pride ourselves on our friendly atmosphere and recognise that pupils and junior barristers have much to learn from more senior members and each other.

Chambers has an established pedigree, with numerous leading cases to our name such as *Murphy -v- Brentwood District Council*, *Cambridge Water Co -v- Eastern Counties Leather Plc* and *Royal Bank of Scotland -v- Etridge*.

We have particular expertise in complex multi-party actions both in this jurisdiction and internationally; recent examples include the Seroxat, Sabril and Fetal Anti-Convulsant pharmaceutical group actions in the UK, and group actions from the Ivory Coast (the largest in legal history involving 30,000 claimants), Colombia and Peru, arising from the Buncefield explosion and the Atomic Veterans Litigation, in which Charles Gibson QC led a team of Counsel defending the MoD in claims concerning atomic testing in the South Pacific. We have also acted in major inquiries and inquests, such as the Shipman Inquiry and the Potters Bar Inquest. We regularly act in international arbitrations concerning commercial and insurance disputes.

We usually offer up to two funded pupillages a year, with minimum remuneration of £50,000.

**We are recognised in both the Legal 500 and in Chambers UK as having expertise in all of the main areas in which we practice. Members at all levels and pupils are regularly involved in high profile commercial and common law litigation.**

Chambers is recognised as being the leading set for product liability law. This broad area of practice includes a wide range of commercial work including tortious and contractual claims in relation to many industry sectors, sale of goods and insurance disputes, multi-party pharmaceutical and medical device claims, and regulatory and enforcement proceedings.

The Legal 500 says that *“Henderson Chambers provides an ‘excellent service, with huge strength in depth in the product liability field’”*, whilst Chambers UK states that Chambers is *“considered the pre-eminent set in the area”*.

Health and safety and environmental law are other Chambers’ strengths. Members are frequently instructed in criminal prosecutions and civil actions arising out of accidents. Henderson Chambers was voted Health and Safety Set of the Year by Chambers and Partners in 2010.

*“Henderson Chambers provides an ‘excellent service, with huge strength in depth in the product liability field’”*

The Legal 500

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Junior practice at Henderson Chambers is varied and exciting. In the first two years since joining I have both been led in a number of complex commercial actions and developed my own common law practice in areas such as finance and consumer credit, professional negligence, employment and property law. Clerks and senior practitioners are uniformly committed to ensuring that junior members experience the widest possible range of work.

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Chambers has an established history of acting for and advising rail companies, including Network Rail, and members have been involved in the litigation, inquests and public inquiries arising out of the most serious rail accidents, including Potters Bar, Hatfield and Ladbroke Grove. Chambers UK recognises that *“Henderson Chambers fields ‘a cadre of silks and juniors few chambers can match’”*.

Members of Chambers are frequently involved in high-profile public law and human rights challenges, as well as other cases in which such issues are engaged. We act for and against central and local government, regulatory and public bodies, and in matters involving both domestic and EU law.

In addition to these key areas, Chambers is also recognised for its work in the following:

- Property law, in which we are recognised as a leading set
- Employment law, in which members have appeared in many high-profile cases
- Personal injury and clinical negligence, naturally complementing our product liability and health and safety practices
- Professional negligence, from first instance through all the appellate courts
- Professional discipline, both as legal assessors for professional bodies and in leading cases

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Nicole Robertson (2007)

I came to Chambers as a third-six pupil having spent 12 months at a specialist set. My initial trepidation at embarking on a new period of assessment, and of trying to impress a new group of barristers, was soon laid to rest as by the very friendly welcome I received. My new pupil master showed me around Chambers on my first day and made an effort to introduce me to as many members and staff as possible; and the junior members of Chambers were quick to make me feel as though I belonged.

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Applicants for pupillage at Henderson Chambers need to show that they have what it takes to succeed at the Bar. Excellent academic credentials are expected, but we are also looking for evidence that you have other interests and experience beyond the academic and legal.

Candidates will be expected to show that they have made a clear and informed choice to come to the Bar and are alive to the challenges that lie ahead. We look for candidates who are aware of the areas in which Chambers specialises and who have an interest in at least one of them.

Both the barristers and the clerks in Chambers are fully committed to upholding the principle of equal opportunity regardless of race, ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, religion or political persuasion. It is in accordance with this principle that we assess and select candidates for pupillage and thereafter for tenancy. Offers are made on the basis of merit. We observe the Bar Standards Board's Equality and Diversity Code. A request for reasonable adjustments will be considered.

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### Member of the Recruitment Committee

Our aim is to make our interview process as testing as possible in the short time available – we want to get a sense of who our candidates are and how well they think on their feet. We also hope that an interview at Henderson Chambers will provide applicants with a chance to get to know us a bit better.

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Applications for pupillage should be made at [www.pupillages.com](http://www.pupillages.com). The closing date for applications for pupillages starting in September is usually April in the preceding year.

Applications received by the close of OLPAS will be considered by at least two members of Chambers. If you are OLPAS exempt then please send a covering letter and CV to Chambers (marked Pupillage Application) by the OLPAS closing date. A shortlist of candidates for interview will then be drawn up (from all OLPAS and non-OLPAS applicants) and those selected for interview will be notified as soon as possible.

We operate a two-stage interview process, with the first interviews taking place in June. The first interview will be general, although it will involve discussion of a legal topic, of which you will be notified in advance. The second interview will be conducted by the whole Recruitment Committee, and will require candidates to address a legal question which is also provided in advance.

We usually offer up to two funded Pupillages a year. We may offer an unfunded Pupillage to any candidate exempt from the funding requirements.

*Applicants for pupillage at Henderson Chambers need to show that they have what it takes to succeed at the Bar.*

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Abigail Cohen (2005)

Since becoming a tenant at Henderson Chambers in 2007 I have been lucky enough to be instructed as a junior in two extremely interesting cases. Firstly, I was led by Charles Gibson Q.C. and Geraint Webb in a Commercial Court claim for £50 million arising out of an explosion at a power station in South Africa. I have also acted as a junior to Roger Henderson Q.C. and Prashant Popat Q.C. in the criminal prosecution arising out of the explosion at the Buncefield oil depot, which culminated in a two month jury trial in the Crown Court.

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**Pupils at Henderson Chambers spend three months with four different pupillage supervisors. During the course of your pupillage you will accompany members of Chambers to court and will undertake work for them and for your pupillage supervisor.**

We operate a feedback system whereby each completed piece of work is assessed by the recipient, who completes a form. The form goes before the Recruitment Committee during the course of the tenancy decision.

In your second six, you will be expected to undertake court work in your own name, and we encourage pupils to take cases for the Free Representation Unit (FRU). Pupils are typically instructed in possession actions and in small claims. Assessed advocacy training is provided in Chambers.

Pupils also have the opportunity to spend up to four weeks in Brussels in the offices of McDermott Will and Emery, an American law firm with whom two of our members are associated. Accommodation is provided.

### **About money**

Funded pupils receive £50,000, of which £42,500 is an award. The remaining £7,500 comprises guaranteed earnings for the second six months. Some of the Pupillage award may be drawn down during the BTPC year, subject to terms being agreed.

Mini-pupillage at Henderson Chambers is not a pre-requisite for obtaining an interview for pupillage. We do, however, encourage applications from those wishing to apply to Henderson Chambers for pupillage. Places are restricted to those who are serious candidates for Pupillage in the next recruitment year.

Mini-pupils usually spend between three and five days in Chambers attached to one junior barrister. They will accompany that barrister to court, but will also have the opportunity to see the work of other barristers. Mini-pupils will also be offered the chance to tackle a set of papers, although there is no formal assessment procedure.

Applications for mini-pupillage should be made online at [www.hendersonchambers.co.uk](http://www.hendersonchambers.co.uk). We regret that we are unable to offer work experience to anyone not yet at university.

*“the feedback system at Henderson is one of the most impressive we’ve come across on our chambers visits.”*

Chambers Student Guide

If you have any further queries about pupillage please contact Hannah Wilson on 020 7583 9020 or [hwilson@hendersonchambers.co.uk](mailto:hwilson@hendersonchambers.co.uk).

Alternatively, please keep an eye out for Henderson Chambers at the National Pupillage Fair and at other law fairs across the country.

*“Henderson offers a commercially minded common law Pupillage that presses the fast forward button on court experience and turns out down-to-earth advocates with broad experience. Highly recommended”*

Chambers Student Guide





**Henderson Chambers**  
2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple  
London EC4Y 9DB

**T** 020 7583 9020 **F** 020 7583 2686  
**E** [clerks@hendersonchambers.co.uk](mailto:clerks@hendersonchambers.co.uk)  
**DX** 1039 Chancery Lane

[www.hendersonchambers.co.uk](http://www.hendersonchambers.co.uk)