


If you want a career demanding intellectual firepower, communication skills and the ability to offer practical solutions to legal problems, your destination could be the Chancery Bar.

A photograph of three women in legal robes walking through a grand, arched hallway. The woman on the left is smiling and looking down at a book. The woman in the middle is looking forward and holding a folder. The woman on the right is looking forward. The image is overlaid with a blue gradient and a geometric pattern in the top right corner.

Chancery Bar CAREERS



CHANCERY BAR ASSOCIATION



Welcome to the Chancery Bar

Do you enjoy unravelling the knottiest of legal problems?

Would you relish appearing in court to develop cutting-edge areas of law?

Does advising major commercial organisations about putting together a complex transaction appeal?

Would you like to help support and guide individuals at times of great stress?

If your answer to any of these questions is “Yes”, then a career at the Chancery Bar may be for you.



Chancery barristers specialise in business, financial and property law, collectively known as the Chancery Bar, and practice primarily in the Chancery Division. Our history goes back hundreds of years and, since 2017, the Chancery Division has been part of the Business and Property Courts within the High Court.

About 1,300 of the 16,435 barristers practising in England and Wales specialise in Chancery work. Most are based in London but Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle are important regional centres.

The Chancery Bar is a meritocracy where members are measured by performance.

That performance does not depend on intellect alone. In the modern commercial environment, finding and communicating practical real-world solutions to legal issues is critical. Only by recruiting the best regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability or social background will we maintain and enhance the reputation of the Chancery Bar.

If this sounds good, read on.



The work of the Chancery Bar

Ask 10 members of the Chancery Bar what kind of law they practise, and you will get 10 different answers.

Whatever the answer, all will have their roots in the body of legal principles known as “Equity”, which have developed over time to promote equitable dealing in good conscience. These principles continue to influence our work today and Parliament has put many on a statutory basis.

Historically, Chancery cases concerned property, partnership, patents, companies, insolvency, trusts, settlements and wills. While these areas remain important much of today’s work arises in a commercial context and often with an international dimension.

Chancery Bar work includes:

Banking | Charities | Civil Fraud | Company | Consumer
Credit | Corporate Insolvency | Court of Protection | Financial
Services and Regulation | Intellectual Property | Land & Real
Property | Landlord and Tenant | Media and Entertainment
| Partnership | Pensions | Personal Insolvency | Professional
Negligence | Revenue and Tax | Trusts and Settlements |
Wills, Probate and Administration of Estates



What it means to be a **Chancery barrister**

While the vast majority of barristers at the Chancery Bar are still self-employed this is changing. In future, there may be more opportunities to practise in new business structures or as employed barristers.

Chancery barristers

**Appear in courts,
tribunals or
arbitrations**

**Advise clients
and
Negotiate
settlement**

**Draft documents
for court**

**Draft documents
that give effect
to corporate
or other
transactions**



Preparation is everything and can be time consuming. A week-long trial may take many more days to prepare for; even a short meeting may require hours of research. This demands self-motivation and independent hard work as well as teamwork. Chancery barristers collaborate with each other, solicitors, expert witnesses and others to provide a comprehensive service for clients. Preparation and research is often shared.

For those with the right skills and qualifications, the Chancery Bar is an attractive career. Job satisfaction is high thanks to the intellectual challenge of solving complex legal problems, the high degree of independence comparatively early, and the pleasure of finding the right solution for a client.

Am I suited to the chancery bar?

When recruiting pupils Chancery chambers look for:

- intellectual ability
- the capacity for presenting clear and accurate written work
- the ability to explain complex problems simply to non-specialists
- an aptitude for oral advocacy
- the ability to assimilate and analyse information
- skill in legal analysis
- commercial practicality and an ability to understand clients' needs
- maturity and confidence
- the ability to engage appropriately with clients and solicitors
- an interest in the work of the chambers.

The Life of a *Chancery* pupil

Pupillage awards tend to be significantly higher at Chancery chambers. For the 2019-2020 pupillage year, for example, the majority of awards were more than £55,000, with several as high as £65,000. A growing number of chambers permit a proportion of this to be drawn down during training and there is often other financial assistance. [For more information see the pupillage/recruitment sections of Chambers' websites.](#)

If this sounds interesting, consider applying for work experience during your undergraduate law degree or your CPE/GDL course. Some chambers stipulate an "assessed" mini-pupillage but individual websites will set out specific requirements.



Meet the
Chancery barristers

[Click here to meet some Chancery barristers](#)

Useful links

Chancery Bar Association www.chba.org.uk

Bar Council www.barcouncil.org.uk

The Bar Standards Board's guidance to becoming a barrister:

<https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/training-qualification/becoming-a-barrister.html>

The four Inns of Court

Gray's Inn: www.graysinn.info

Inner Temple: www.innertemple.org.uk

Lincoln's Inn: www.lincolnsinn.org.uk

Middle Temple: www.middletemple.org.uk

Lincoln's Inn have produced a helpful guide to the route to the Bar, joining an Inn, careers events and funding:

<https://www.lincolnsinn.org.uk/becoming-a-barrister/>

Central Applications Board

(for applications for CPE/GDL courses) www.lawcabs.ac.uk

Pupillage Gateway: www.pupillagegateway.com

Chambers Student: www.chambersstudent.co.uk/the-bar

