

# *'Becoming a Barrister' Talk*

## *Chris Greenwood.*

---

- A. Scholarship & BVC Applications
  - B. Pupillage Applications
  - C. What you need to be doing now
  - D. Calendar
  - E. More Info
-

## ***A. Scholarship & BVC Applications***

---

- Very similar as regards what they ask, so deal together
  - Why do you want to be a barrister and why would you be good at it
  - BVC – Choice of Inn
  - Scholarships – Means testing
-

# ***A.1. Choice of BVC Provider***

---

## *Use the Websites*

- Number of hours
  - Small groups
  - Emphasis on certain areas: advocacy, negotiation
  - Use of video technology for advocacy
  - Careers section
  - Library facilities
  - ICSL original provider and producer of manuals versus
  - Location: London for access to Inns etc, Provincial if you plan to practice regionally
  - Reputation for excellent teaching
  - Bar council accreditation
-

## ***A.2. Mini-pupillages, marshalling etc***

---

*What have you learned?*

- Politeness and deference to judge
  - Reacting to judge's views
  - Reacting to the other side's arguments
  - Preparation and knowledge of trial bundle
  - Witness handling
  - Keeping things simple
-

## ***A.3. Internships, Vac schemes, other employment etc***

---

- What have you learned?*
  - Teamwork
  - Communication skills
  - Importance of legal research
  - Importance of support staff
-

## ***A.4. Why do you want to be a barrister?***

---

*Two questions here. Why law and why the Bar?*

- Enjoy law, problem-solving etc
  - Regular new challenges, regular deadlines
  - Client-interaction
  - Relevance to society and topical nature
  - Developing skills
  - Advocacy
  - Competitive and challenging nature of the Bar
  - Independence
  - Creation of law
  - Working environment
-

## ***A.5. Evidence of intellectual ability***

---

- Grades
  - Mooting
  - Debating
  - Essay/Presentation Competitions
  - References
  - Achievements during vac schemes or MPs
  - Extra-curricular positions as evidence that your ability is recognised
-

# ***A.6. Inter-personal Skills***

---

## **□ Teamwork**

- Communicating ideas quickly
- Playing Devil's advocate... elicits better responses from team members
- Deference and respect

## **□ Communication**

- Using terms others can understand
  - Positives as well as negatives
  - Sympathy, passion etc where necessary
  - Tactfulness
-

## ***A.7. Advocacy and public speaking***

---

*Don't just show off, say what you've learned*

- Mooting
  - Debating
  - Public speaking
  - Presentation Competitions
  - Mock trials
  - Law in Practice
-

## ***A.8. Personal organisational skills***

---

- Planning, to-do lists, diaries
  - How do you moot? Bullet points, colours?
  - Use extra-curricular achievements and strong degree performance as evidence of ability to run your life
-

## ***B. Pupillage Applications***

---

*Second talk in January just after essays. Much of this is the same*

- Where you worked and what you learned
  - Why a barrister
  - Why your chosen areas of law
  - Additional info on academic and professional achievements
  - Additional info on extra-curricular activities
  - Individual Chambers
-

***C. What you need to be doing  
now***

---

***(Apart from listen to me)***

---

## ***C.1. Grades***

---

- Get a 1st or good 2-1 (67% or above) with 1sts in relevant modules and/or coursework or exams
-

## *C.2. Mini-pupillages*

---

- ❑ Need 3-4 good MPs at relevant sets and 2-3 at sets in different areas
  - ❑ Picking Sets
  - ❑ Use pupillages.com to pick your Chambers
  - ❑ Pick your top 20-25 Chambers and apply to them for MPs
  - ❑ And make a note of when their deadlines are... some December and January
  - ❑ Use Chambers.com and try for ranked sets
  - ❑ DO NOT apply to "Oxbridge sets"
-

## C.2. How to apply for mini-pupillages

---

- Website, look for "Recruitment" or "Join us" section
  - Pupillage administrator or mini-pupillage person
  
  - Say who you are and why you're writing
  - Say what dates you could do your M and your preferred fields
  - Give a range of dates
  - If applying for pupillage in Summer 2009, need MPs before April 30th 2009
  - Check that Chambers offers MPs during that time. This will be on the website
  -
-

## C.2. How to apply for mini-pupillages continued...

---

- Say why an interest in law and the Bar
  - Mention mooting and any good results
  - Why an interest in the subject
  - Mention results AND an aspect of the subject you like
  - Why an interest in Chambers
    - Work they do
    - Reputation they have
  - Attach your CV
  - Others have application forms... often better chance of success here!
  - Questions similar to those above
-

## ***C.3. Marshalling***

---

- What is it... like an MP with a judge
  - Pick a court, pick some judges
  - If you've done an MP with a Chambers, go to the website, look at profiles, see who's a recorder or district judge or circuit judge
-

## ***C.4. Debating***

---

- Warwick Debating Society. Get involved, debate for Warwick
  - Excellent for the CV
  - Very helpful for thinking on your feet
  - Great for interviews
-

## ***C.5. Mooting***

---

- Good practice for interviews
  - Essential for the CV
  - Demonstrates commitment to the Bar
  - Internal and external if you can
-

## ***C.6. Client Interviewing***

---

- Through Law in Practice
-

## ***C.7. Essay & Presentation Competitions***

---

- Can demonstrate interest in particular area of law
  - Evidence of academic ability
-

## ***C.8. Pro Bono work***

---

- Useful on the CV
  - First-hand experience
  - Golden for interviews
-

## ***C.9. Positions of Responsibility***

---

- Law Society
  - SSLC
  - University of Warwick Societies & Sports Clubs
-

## *C.10. Law in Practice*

---

- Helpful debates on ethics etc which do occur in interviews
-

## ***C.11. Join an Inn***

---

- Matter of personal choice
-

## *C.12. Extra-curricular*

---

- Sport
  - Arts
  - Travel
  - Anything not related to law
  - DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT – MAKE SURE YOU ARE REMEMBERED
-

## *E. More Info*

---

- General
  - <http://www.chambersstudent.co.uk/text2.cfm?id=43&display=0>
  - <http://www.thelawyer.com/l2b/useful-resources/barristers-timeline.pdf>
  - Calendar
  - <http://www.bvconline.co.uk/utilities/Timetable.asp?URL=/index.asp>
  - Joining an Inn
  - <http://www.thelawyer.com/cgi-bin/item.cgi?id=134743&d=477&h=479&f=478>
-