

Dear Diary,

It is unbelievable that I have completed 4 weeks of pupillage already! Seriously, where has the time gone? Allow me to continue to take you along my amazing pupillage journey.

Week 3 began by attending a conference with Jodie Wildridge regarding a professional negligence matter. I was required to prepare an attendance note. Jodie and the instructing solicitor worked seamlessly to provide advice to the lay client. Clearly, it is helpful to converse with the instructing solicitor prior to the conference to discuss the issues and the strategy for the upcoming trial. While advising on alternatives to litigation, Jodie and the instructing solicitor carefully advised the lay client about the implications of the then impending Fixed Recoverable Costs regime for claims issued after 1st October 2023. This assisted the client in weighing alternatives to litigation while grasping the timeline for issuing the claim and possible cost consequences.

Tuesday and Wednesday morning were spent writing an advice on a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) case to submit to my pupil supervisor, Ashley Serr. This time was necessary to internalise and assess the evidence in order to form opinions based on the law.

On Wednesday afternoon I attended a conference with my pupil supervisor in which he was required to provide advice on terminating an employee's contract due to a dishonest claim. I prepared an attendance note. Ashley presented the client with options and the advantages and disadvantages of each. He discussed pragmatically the client's next steps and engaged in tactical discussions on the use of evidence while hypothesising about the potential claim. This was incredibly useful in equipping the client with knowledge about possible outcomes and their ramifications.

On Thursday, I began reading papers for Friday's DBS hearing. My supervisor also provided feedback on the advice that I submitted on Wednesday that week describing it as a "*as a very meritorious first attempt.*" That filled me with a sense of confidence and pride in my efforts. I took note of the areas that could be improved upon. I thought to myself "*Keep striving Nia! It seems you have the making of what it takes to do the job!*"

My day concluded with a trip to Liverpool to attend the 'Meet the Northern Circuit Drinks' held at Exchange Chambers in Liverpool. It was a delight to see Chambers' Recruitment and Pupillage Manager, Chantal Core again. She provided me with an insightful tour of Chambers. I enjoyed meeting the staff and the Chambers Director of the Liverpool branch, Neil Wright. I had a fantastic time chatting with the Chief Executive, Jonathan l'Anson, meeting my co-pupils, interacting with other pupils from the Northern Circuit as well as chatting with the Northern Circuit's administrator Claire Calder.

On Friday my supervisor and I attended a DBS permission hearing in Birmingham. I internalised how my supervisor was able to conduct effective advocacy while being kind and courteous to the litigant in person. We caught a busy train back to Leeds, engaged in fruitful discussion and did some work when we managed to find a seat. I prepared an attendance note and sent it to the instructing solicitors. Week 3 perfectly concluded by having drinks with clerks, barristers and one of my co-pupils in Chambers.

EXCHANGE

CHAMBERS

Week 4 began by reading a bundle with approximately 1,000 pages concerning an employment matter. I learnt that drafting a chronology and conducting case analysis is beneficial for future hearings as they would serve as a road map.

The rest of the week included reading and discussing a skeleton argument on costs (with William [Bill] Hanbury), attending a conference regarding a DBS matter, reading an employer and employee's settlement agreement, reading papers for a directions hearing, assisting with a bundle of authorities (with Alfred Weiss), and comparing my advice to my supervisor's advice.

Wednesday evening concluded with an energising and tiring workout (which embarrassingly put my gym exercises to shame!) and networking session with Leeds Junior Lawyers Division (JLD). It was exciting to converse with junior lawyers embarking on their legal careers over smoothies and protein shakes.

On Thursday I attended two conferences with my supervisor. The first was an employment matter concerning constructive unfair dismissal, failure to make reasonable adjustments and disability. Given that this was a matter in which there were long periods of absences due to sickness, my supervisor explained that an effective cross-examination will be one which deals with the Claimant's time in employment from start to finish. I understood that this enables the tribunal to comprehend the contextual background of the story and the basis of the claim.

The second conference involved my supervisor advising on a settlement agreement. My supervisor explained in simple language the effects of signing the settlement agreement. He explained to the client that it prevents him from bringing a future claim against the employer in a wide variety of instances except for personal injury claims that have not arisen as at the date of the agreement or any claims in relation to accrued pension entitlements. Ashley explained each clause in the agreement ensuring that the lay client understood the agreement prior to signing.

On Friday I attended the North Eastern Circuit's Pupils Practice Management Course in York. This course was incredibly invaluable as I learnt useful tips on income protection, pension planning, investments, and accounting. I also learnt about effective advocacy, cross-examination techniques, client care and conferencing, ethics and maintaining my well-being at the Bar. I enjoyed meeting and chatting with fellow pupils on the circuit. I am certain that those conversations represent the foundation of fruitful professional relationships and friendships.

Week 4 concluded by attending the Legal Cheek Virtual Pupillage Fair on Saturday along with my co-pupils. I thoroughly enjoyed providing advice to aspiring barristers on pupillage applications, applying for pupillage as an international applicant, the benefits of a common law pupillage, life as a pupil at Exchange Chambers and much more!

With one month behind me, I optimistically await the future. I am eager to face whatever lies ahead on the remainder of my pupillage journey knowing that I have the full support of my supervisor and Chambers.

Yours truly,
Nia Marshall