



CUTTING THROUGH

Your QM Bar Society Newsletter



Welcome to the second edition of Cutting Through for the year 2021-22! We hope that you have enjoyed your time so far with the Bar society and that you will enjoy all our future events and competitions!

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What are the Inns of Court?

Books, podcasts and films to get you started!

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- The Law School Toolbox Podcast

Law News and Mini-pupillages

What is happening with discrimination against women in the police force?
Are firms going to keep on adapting?

Do you want to write for the newsletter?

Send an email to:

info@queenmarybarsociety.org

Upcoming Events!

- CV and Cover Letter Workshop
- Mock Pupillage Interview Workshop
- Criminal Law Panel
- Family Law Panel





Upcoming Bar Society Events

This event aims to demonstrate what barristers are looking for in an application. It will feature a live demonstration to write both a CV and cover letter workshop.

27 October
**CV & COVER
LETTER
WORKSHOP**
Held on zoom

The Mock Pupillage workshop entails a demonstration of a pupillage interview. The interview is one of the most important steps of any application, allowing the interviewer to know and understand you as an individual.

03 November
**MOCK
PUPILLAGE
INTERVIEW
WORKSHOP**
Held on zoom



Upcoming Bar Society Events

10 November

CRIMINAL LAW PANEL

Held on zoom

This is your chance to hear from an experienced panel of criminal barristers. Arguably one of the most interesting areas of law, with dramatisation in books, films and shows. This is your chance to uncover what a day to day barrister life is truly like.

The Family Law Panel aims to give an introduction to the field for those who are already doing the module or perhaps are keen in exploring their options for the next year.

24 November

FAMILY LAW PANEL

Held on zoom



Steps to Reading any Case

Step 1: The Basics

Take note of all the basic case information: the parties, the court, the relevant issues, whether it is an appeal or first instance, the outcome and the dissenting judges

Step 2: The Facts

There will always be a main fact summary done by one of the judges. This will usually be in the beginning of a judgement, usually indicated by a judge's name written in bold. Finding this summary and creating your own version is essential

Step 3: The Judge's Decision

To find the decisions of the judge, the headnote will usually guide you to the right paragraph. Reading paragraphs that mention precedent cases may also aid in understanding how the judge came to their decision.

Step 4: The Further Research

It may be that you have been asked to extensively research the case. In which case, it might be worth seeing where the case has been mentioned to see the forms of application. Usually the database will have a section dedicated to this.



The Inns of Court

The Inns of Court play an incredibly important role in the training and development of barristers in the UK. The Inns are the only institutions in the UK with the power to call someone to the Bar, where a person becomes qualified to argue in court on behalf of a party. After joining an Inn, you must complete twelve qualifying sessions with the Inn before being able to be summoned. These qualifying sessions range from formal dinners or boat parties. After the BPTC, you then join the fierce competition to find pupillages.



One of the most important aspects of The Inns of Court are the scholarships that they offer. The BPTC can cost over £18,000 to complete and some of the top scholarships are named awards worth up to £15,000. Even if you find that your part-time job covers the tuition fees, every student should be considering an Inn of Court scholarship. They can be a deciding factor in pupillage decisions for chambers.

Since the membership is for life, your choice should always be as informed as possible. The best way for anyone to make a more informed decisions would simply be to go and visit the Inns in person. Or by talking to present barristers at any of our panels or inclusion networking event later this year!





Law News and Mini-pupillages

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Allen & Overy, Dentons and Reed Smith are spearheading the £305m Newcastle United deal to the Saudi Public Investment Fund. The original deal collapsed in July 2020 due to pressure coming from concerns over alleged broadcast piracy.

[You can read the full article here.](#)

Since Sarah Everard's murder, discrimination against women in the police force has been highlighted and investigated. Former firearms officer Rhona Malone went against Police Scotland, alleging sex discrimination and victimisation. Her claim for victimisation succeeded but the discrimination claim was denied. The evidence found was said to be contradictory and confusing, amid outrage from Malone's lawyer. Chief Constable Iain Livingstone has stated that an independent force would conduct a review into the judgement, stating that misogynistic attitudes and actions had no place in policing. [You can read the full article here.](#)

Tess Waddington questions in their article whether the adaptivity that law firms have demonstrated over the last 18 months will fade as the UK returns to normal. Confidence in the legal industry is significantly higher than it was in 2019, along with firms reporting revenue growth in the last year. However, the UK reportedly faces a period of high inflation which may work against the firms' efforts.

The factors that firms have been working towards are their remote and flexible working capacities along with their diversity and inclusion projects. Waddington also investigates how the pandemic has affected work/life balance, cultivating a firm culture, collaboration and more.

[You can read the full article here](#)

A list of upcoming mini pupillage deadlines can be found here:
[Chambersstudent](#)



Podcasts and Film Recommendations

Films

Kramer vs Kramer, 1979

A 1979 American comedy legal drama, based on Avery Corman's 1977 novel and directed by Robert Benton. The film stars familiar names: Dustin Hoffman, Meryl Streep, Jane Alexander and Justin Henry. Telling the story of a couple's divorce and the impact that it has on their family. The film explores emerging social issues: single parents, fathers' rights, women's rights and gender roles. Critically acclaimed, winning five Academy Awards, more than any other film that year, it is definitely worth a watch.

These recommendations are designed for those who want to both improve their understanding of the legal system and find ways of being a better all-round law student!

The Hearing

The Hearing is a legal podcast brought to you by Thomson Reuters. They take a broad approach to the podcast, going into every aspect of the industry, going from legal innovation to talking about leading cases.

Podcasts

The Law School Toolbox

A show made for law students, about law school. Hosted by Alison Monahan and Lee Burgess, they have tips and advice on academics. You can click right here to read more about it: [LawSchoolToolbox](#)

Trial, 1955

A 1955 American film, directed by Mark Robson and based upon a novel written by Don Mankiewicz. The story revolves around a Mexican boy accused of rape and murder. The film concentrates on the racism surrounding the teenager and how different parties wish to use his case for their own gains. Because of the period that the story takes place in, it is a battle to protect their defendant from a harsh death penalty.