

XXIV OLD BUILDINGS



XXIV

BARRISTERS' CHAMBERS

APPLICATIONS IN 2018
FOR PUPILLAGE IN 2020

Who we are

This is our guide to applications in 2018 for pupillage at XXIV Old Buildings starting in October 2020. We hope you find this an interesting and helpful introduction to chambers, pupillage, and our application process. More details are available on our website: www.xxiv.co.uk

We are 46 barristers (including 14 QCs) whose rich and diverse practices are united by a specialisation in chancery and commercial work, and membership of a friendly and forward-thinking chambers supported by a dynamic practice management team.

XXIV Old Buildings is renowned for the breadth and depth of expertise of its members, whom Chambers & Partners recognise as having been "involved in some of the most significant commercial cases going through the chancery division in recent years." By way of example, in 2018 our head of chambers, Alan Steinfeld QC, was named "Insolvency Silk of the Year" and Elizabeth Weaver "Private Client: Trusts and Probate Junior of the Year" by Legal 500, with several other members of chambers receiving nominations. Our barristers are regularly instructed in cases that go from the courtroom to the textbook – from Choithram v Pagarani and Schmidt v Rosewood, to Rubin v Eurofinance and Wood v Capita.

We are distinguished by our unrivalled reputation for international and cross-border litigation, an area in which we are recognised as "pioneers in the field". As well as appearing in courts and tribunals at every level in England and Wales, members of chambers frequently appear as advocates, offer advice, act as arbitrators and work

alongside other lawyers in jurisdictions around the world, including the USA, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, the United Arab Emirates, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Mauritius, Malaysia, Gibraltar, China (including Hong Kong), Kazakhstan, Singapore, and Samoa. We are unique in having offices in Geneva in addition to our home in Lincoln's Inn.

Today's pupils are tomorrow's tenants and the future of chambers. We pride ourselves on our fair and rigorous application process. We aim to recruit the best applicants and we invest heavily in our pupils' time with us – and their training – to build on our ongoing success. We think that we can offer you one of the most enjoyable, well-structured and generously funded pupillages at the Bar – and we hope those of you successful in applying will agree.



Edward Cumming QC
Barrister and Pupillage Co-ordinator

"The quality of counsel at all levels is outstanding"
Legal 500

What we do

Every case is different and we think the attraction of our set is the broad variety of work our members do. One set of facts often raises issues that span many of the topics below:

- Trusts, estates and contentious probate matters
- Contract and general business disputes
- Company law and partnership law
- Insolvency and restructuring
- Banking and financial services disputes
- Overseas structures and jurisdiction disputes
- Civil fraud and asset tracing
- Arbitration
- Professional negligence
- Charity law

Many of our members have further specialisms in areas such as:

- Aviation and travel law
- Construction
- Insurance and reinsurance
- Art law
- Sports law

Members lecture widely and regularly contribute to journals and key practitioners' texts in our core areas of practice. XXIV Old Buildings is well-known for the quality of its conferences, in which members of all seniorities participate. Every year we meet colleagues in Geneva, the Caribbean and Dubai to discuss why the latest legal developments matter to our clients.

Please do browse the detailed profiles of individual members on our website (www.xxiv.co.uk) for a full picture of the quality and breadth of work which our members undertake.



Life at XXIV Old Buildings as a junior tenant

Alina Gerasimenko and Ben Waistell joined XXIV Old Buildings as new tenants in 2017

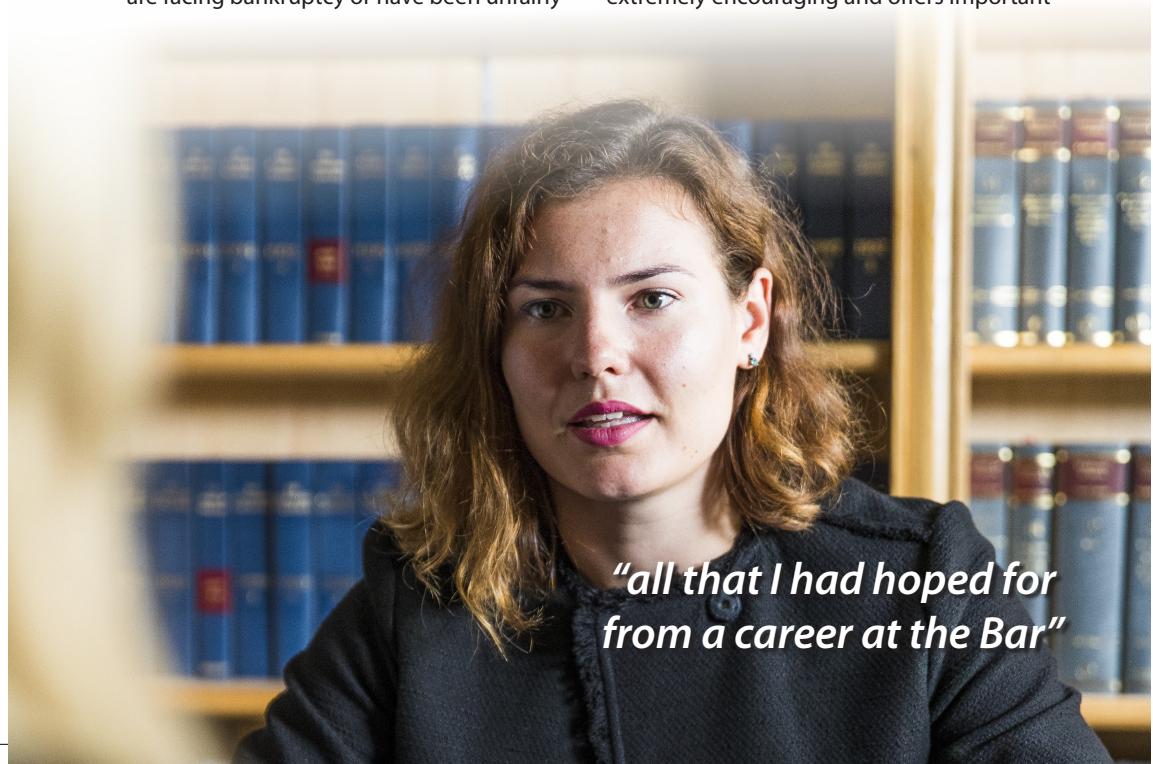
Our first year as tenants at XXIV Old Buildings has been varied, challenging and very exciting.

We've both been exposed to a broad range of work under the umbrella of "commercial chancery", from the more commercial - including banking claims; contractual disputes; multi-jurisdictional civil fraud claims; company and shareholders' disputes; through to the more "traditional" chancery disputes over trusts and probate.

The variety of work we get means we act for and advise a wide spectrum of clients, from public companies trying to protect their business interests to individuals who are facing bankruptcy or have been unfairly

cut out of their inheritance. Tackling diverse and difficult legal problems on an almost daily basis has offered the opportunity to learn by both deepening our understanding of interesting areas of law and developing practical solutions for our clients.

One of the best things about chambers is its open, relaxed atmosphere and the strong open door policy. So, although the learning curve of the first year of practice has been steep, we've benefited from the combined experience of both the juniors and the more senior members of chambers. Knowing that a steer in the right direction or simply a "sounding board" is never more than a couple of rooms or a phone call away is extremely encouraging and offers important



support in a profession where you are self-employed. More generally, the set is a friendly place and members will often go for lunch or to the pub together.

Alina: "I'm really enjoying building a varied practice and experiencing as many areas within the commercial chancery field as possible. Only a few months into practice I was led in the DIFC (Dubai International Financial Centre) Court in an application for an interim injunction. The case was the first of its kind, raising issues of piercing the corporate veil, and was an exciting introduction to a new jurisdiction! I've also appeared as sole counsel in a number of matters, including a couple of airline compensation cases which are a great way to get into court and try to convince an often-sceptical judge. Finally, because of the strength of chambers' reputation we have had a number of secondment opportunities available to us and I have, as a result, been involved in a large LIBOR case. So far, my practice has been stimulating and all that I had hoped for from a career at the Bar."

Ben: "The range and quality of work has been excellent. I have been fortunate to have had a good balance of exciting, heavyweight matters on which I have been led – including a two-week trial in the commercial court and the development of a civil fraud case from the ground up – and challenging opportunities to run cases and appear in the high court unled. I have recently been instructed on cases as diverse as an international sale of goods dispute, an unfair prejudice petition, a commercial arbitration, a civil fraud and asset-recovery matter, and a dispute concerning a vast offshore family trust. These matters have ranged across both litigation and arbitration and from the DIFC to Jersey to many a far-flung County Court. The wealth of talent above us in chambers supplies both a strong flow of challenging work and experts to bounce ideas off."



"The range and quality of work has been excellent"

Life at XXIV Old Buildings as a pupil

Pupillage is very different from any other stage of your legal training. Although university and the BPTC introduce you to the legal knowledge and basic skills necessary for practice at the bar, at the beginning of pupillage you find yourself at the bottom of a very steep learning curve. When I started, I was eager to be exposed to the fresh challenge of working on real cases, finally outside of the classroom, but at the same time struck by the vast amount I didn't know and hadn't yet done. Pupillage is a year of first times – be they encountering whole new areas of law, or developing new drafting and advocacy skills – and that's a simultaneously exciting and daunting prospect.

Pupillage at XXIV Old Buildings involves a daily exposure to the working life of your supervisor: you accompany them to court and to conferences, and discuss aspects of cases – both legal and strategic – as and when they arise. Most of my work throughout the year involved drafting pleadings, opinions, or skeleton arguments on cases that my supervisors were either currently working on or had recently finished. Supervisors are careful to balance the work that you're given in order to provide you with the time and freedom to hone your own written skills whilst also allowing you to experience the development of a dispute in real-time and contribute your own ideas and research into ongoing cases.

When I was deciding where to apply for pupillage, it was really important to me to be at a set where members enjoy pre-eminence in a genuinely broad range of work, involving a real mixture of legal problems and clients. My pupillage at XXIV Old Buildings captured that variety. One week I would be working on a case involving allegations of fraud by a multinational company; the next I might be preparing advice for a daughter unfairly cut out of her father's will. This breadth captures what for me is so attractive about a career

at the bar, combining a daily contact with complex legal issues with the requirement to provide practical help to clients with very different needs and motives.

It was also important for me that the chambers I would complete pupillage at should have a collegiate, friendly, and relaxed atmosphere. XXIV Old Buildings makes sure to include its pupils in the social life of chambers – be that going to lunch with different members of chambers, or attending marketing events, after work-drinks, and the chambers Christmas party. There's a real sense that everyone in chambers – barristers, clerks, and the administration team – wants you to feel welcome and achieve your best throughout the year.

Members recognise the inherent pressure of pupillage – and so chambers approaches the year so as to avoid adding unnecessary stress. There are no formal assessments – the emphasis is on gradual improvement rather than bursts of isolated testing – so, unlike friends at other chambers, I didn't have constantly looming ordeals punctuating my year. There are next to no late nights – I went home after 6.30pm only a handful of times – and evenings and weekends were largely work-free. Perhaps most importantly, there's no culture of pitting pupils against one another: you're kept doing separate work, focusing on your own improvement, which fosters a genuinely relaxed and close relationship between the pupils. All this contributes to an atmosphere in which it's clear that chambers' priority is your own individual development as a barrister.

Pupillage at XXIV Old Buildings offers a first-class introduction to a career at the bar; it's a year spent in the company of some of the best advocates in the country, developing your abilities in a supportive and rewarding environment. I am very glad that I applied!

*“...it's a year spent in
the company of some
of the best advocates
in the country”...*



*James Fennemore completed
his pupillage at XXIV Old
Buildings in October 2018*

Pupillage at XXIV Old Buildings

We take pupillage seriously, and we regard our pupillage selection process as one of chamber's greatest strengths. We want to ensure that every applicant and every pupil is given the best possible chance to demonstrate their abilities, whether at interview, on our unique final-round selection day, or during pupillage itself.

We offer up to three 12-month pupillages each year with an annual award of at least £65,000 (subject to annual review). Up to a quarter of the award may (upon application) be drawn down during the BPTC. Since we place great emphasis during pupillage on training and preparing our pupils for successful practice at the Bar, the opportunity for pupils to do their own work during their second six is limited, in common with most other commercial and chancery sets.

Typically, our pupils can expect to spend three months with four different pupil supervisors, experiencing work across the full breadth of our expertise. Pupils work in their supervisor's room and have the opportunity to observe the whole of their practice, including attending court and conferences, drafting pleadings, skeleton arguments, opinions and other documents, and accompanying them to conferences with clients.

The emphasis in the first three months of pupillage is on introducing you to practice at the Bar in general and chambers in particular. We do not generally subject our pupils to formal written or advocacy assessments, preferring instead to assess their work and performance over time. Pupil supervisors provide continuous feedback on individual pieces of work, and supervisors in conjunction with the Pupillage Co-ordinator meet with pupils regularly to review their progress and give them the support they need as they develop their skills.

Pupils are encouraged to work with other members of chambers, especially when

members are involved in a particularly interesting matter. This gives our pupils to witness the leading cases of the day in which our barristers are instructed.

We usually take tenancy decisions in late June/early July each year and aim to recruit from among our own pupils. We particularly pride ourselves on recruiting all pupils who meet the required standard and on helping to find alternative opportunities, either at the Bar or elsewhere, for those pupils to whom we do not offer tenancy.

Further information including our detailed Pupillage and Recruitment Policy is available on our website at www.xxiv.co.uk.

Keep up to date on our application timetable – and keep an eye on what members of chambers are up to – on Twitter @ XXIVPupillage.

What We Look For

We look for candidates with strong academic qualifications, intellectual ability, sound common sense and judgment, and enthusiasm for the type of work in which we specialise. We aim to identify potential to become great advocates and successful tenants in our Chambers.

We take particular pride in our transparent, fair, rigorous and friendly application process which we believe our applicants deserve and appreciate. After an online test and a first interview, we invite about a dozen applicants to a Selection Day comprising a range of exercises designed to identify the potential capacity of the applicants to excel as a self-employed barrister in our Chambers.

Our applicants are kept updated on the progress of their application once the process has started. We give and solicit feedback on the later stages of our recruitment process.

We operate an equal opportunities policy and recruit without regard to race, colour, ethnic

or national origin, nationality, citizenship, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy, disability, age, religion or belief.

How to Apply

Applications for pupillage commencing in October 2020 should be made by 9am on Monday 26 November 2018 using a short, simple online application form. The application form will be available on our website, together with full details of how we will progress applications, from early November 2018.

In summary the process is likely to comprise the following stages, in the course of November to December 2018:

- **Stage one:** Online test and application form sift
- **Stage two:** First round interviews (around 40 candidates)
- **Stage three:** Final selection day (12 candidates)

Please refer to our website and our Pupillage & Recruitment Policy (available on our website) for full details of the application process.

Mini pupillage

The purpose of mini-pupillage at XXIV Old Buildings is help potential pupils see what life is like as a junior tenant and to offer a broader insight into Chambers and the commercial chancery Bar.

We offer mini-pupillages throughout the year. Each lasts on average three days. Since mini-pupillage at XXIV Old Buildings is in particularly high demand, and in order to ensure that mini-pupils gain as much as possible from their experience, we prefer applications from those who have commenced their legal studies (that is law undergraduates, graduates and those who have commenced or completed the GDL) by the time they come to Chambers.

Our experience is that prospective pupils are more likely to wish to become pupils in Chambers if they have previously done mini-pupillage with us. Accordingly – although we neither require applicants for pupillage to have undertaken a mini-pupillage with us nor assess them – we do encourage potential applicants to consider applying.

Applicants for mini-pupillage must submit an application in accordance with Chambers' mini-pupillage application timetable by completing an online application form. A

link to the application form can be found on our website. Applicants will need to upload a covering letter and CV.

An applicant wishing to undertake mini-pupillage between January and April should apply between 1 and 15 October of the preceding year. Each applicant will be notified of the outcome of their application by 31 October.

An applicant wishing to undertake mini-pupillage between May and September should apply between 1 and 15 February. Each applicant will be notified of the outcome of their application by 28 February.

An applicant wishing to undertake mini-pupillage between October and December should apply between 1 and 15 June. Each applicant will be notified of the outcome of their application by 30 June.

In order to attract the best candidates regardless of background, we offer up to £150 to those selected for mini-pupillage to cover the cost of travel from outside London and/or, if necessary, accommodation in London (to be paid against suitable receipts).

Further information is available on our website at www.xxiv.co.uk/mini-pupillage.

What people say about us

Don't just take our word for it - XXIV Old Buildings is widely recognised within the profession as a top commercial chancery set. Here are just some of the things the main legal directories say about us...

"There's nothing old school about this commercial Chancery set's work – when it comes to offshore matters, it's top of the class"

"Instructions come from a colourful patchwork of law firms across the country and globe"

Chambers Student: True Picture

"First-class advocates who set the bar, and clients love working with them"

"One of the go-to sets in London"

"Top choice for Chancery and Offshore disputes"

"Will move heaven and earth for clients"

"An all-round very strong set"

Legal 500

"They are excellent at bridging the gap between traditional chancery and work which has big commercial issues."

"A seasoned player in complex, high-profile commercial disputes across the globe."

"A chancery set of great standing"

XXIV Old Buildings "has developed a strong reputation for being able to act in very complex traditional chancery disputes, with one solicitor reporting that 'all barristers at the set understand these difficult areas of law.'

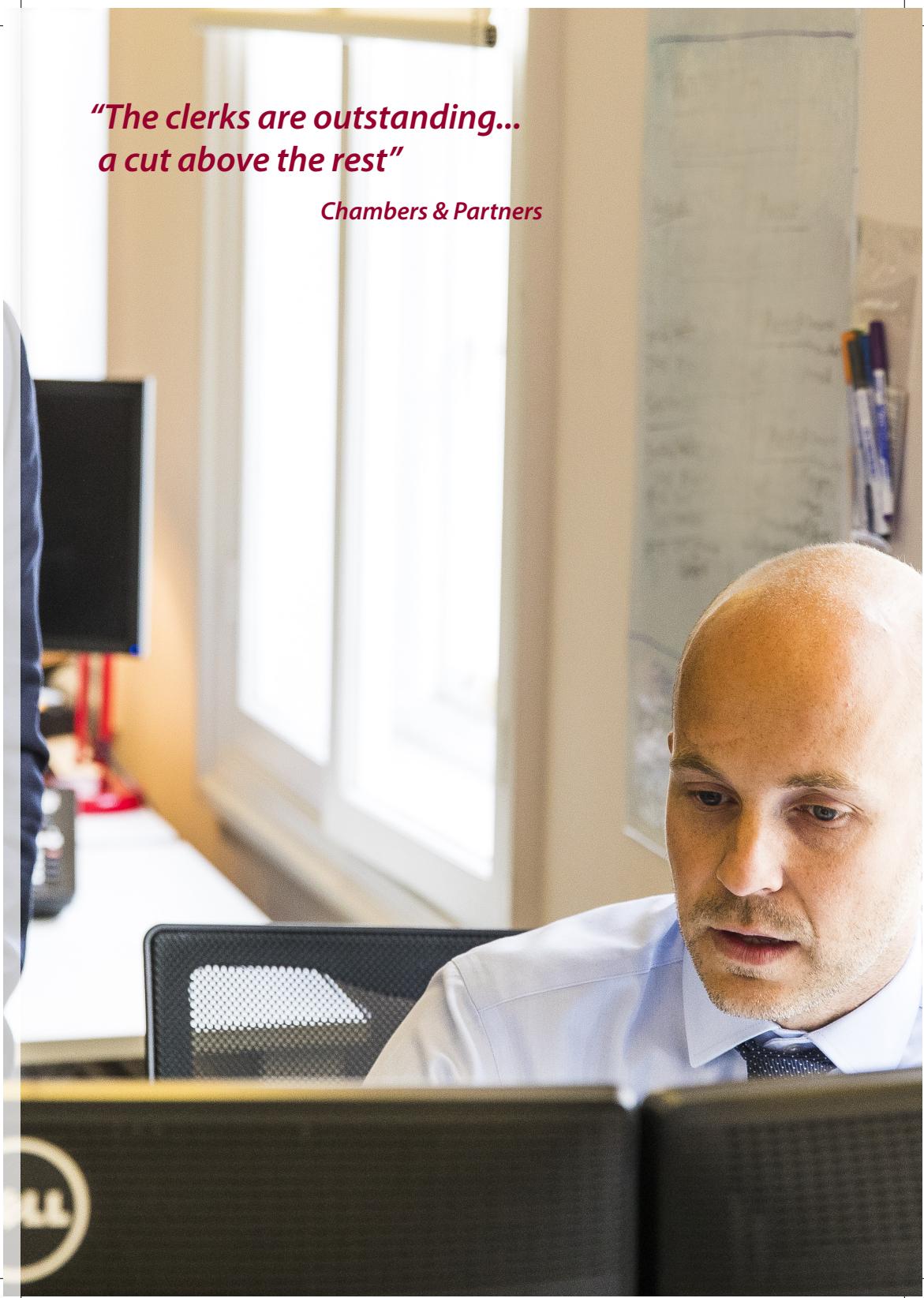
An "Esteemed chambers for aviation, replete with silks and juniors widely acclaimed for their strong industry expertise and advocacy skills."

"Barristers apply their 'wide knowledge and experience' to a broad range of cases"

Chambers and Partners

***"The clerks are outstanding...
a cut above the rest"***

Chambers & Partners





Members

Full details and CVs of each member can be found on our website: www.xxiv.co.uk

Alan Steinfeld QC	Stuart Adair
Martin Mann QC	Alexander Pelling
Michael Black QC	Bajul Shah
Stephen Moverley Smith QC	Jessica Hughes
Philip Shepherd QC	Nicole Langlois
Francis Tregear QC	Edward Knight
David Brownbill QC	Sarah Bayliss
Elspeth Talbot Rice QC	Oliver Assersohn
Robert Levy QC	Adam Cloherty
Stephen Cogley QC	Erin Hitchens
Steven Thompson QC	Andrew Holden
Tom Montagu-Smith QC	Owen Curry
Lyndsey de Mestre QC	Daniel Warents
Edward Cumming QC	Hugh Miall
Michael King	Heather Murphy
Richard Ritchie	Kira King
Michael Gadd	Matthew Watson
Elizabeth Weaver	Robert Avis
Helen Galley	Timothy Sherwin
Amanda Harington	Tom Stewart Coats
Ian Meakin	Alina Gerasimenko
Arshad Ghaffar	Ben Waistell
Marcus Staff	James Fennemore

Prof Matthew Conaglen
(*door tenant*)

Prof Graham Virgo QC (Hon)
(*door tenant*)

London

XXIV Old Buildings
Lincoln's Inn
London WC2A 3UP
Tel: +44 (0)20 7691 2424
Fax: +44 (0)870 460 2178
clerks@xxiv.co.uk

Geneva

XXIV Old Buildings
11, rue du Général-Dufour
CH - 1204 Geneva Switzerland
Tel: +41 (0)22 322 2500
Fax: +41 (0)22 322 2515
clerks@xxiv.co.uk