

Stephen Hawes

Call: 2025



Stephen Hawes joined XXIV in October 2026, following his successful completion of pupillage. During pupillage, he was supervised by Max Archer, James Bradford, Benjamin Waistell, and Ryan Hocking. He gained experience of a broad range of Chambers' practice areas, with a particular emphasis on commercial litigation, trusts, probates and estates, and aviation and travel matters.

Before coming to the bar, Stephen taught on University College London's undergraduate equity and trusts module. He also completed a PhD, which focussed on the application of trustee-duties to occupational pension schemes. Prior to this, Stephen studied for an LLM covering topics which included international and commercial trusts, commercial remedies, and insolvency. He completed the GDL at City University, and a BA in History at the University of Oxford.

Expertise

Aviation & Travel

As a pupil, Stephen gained experience in a variety of aviation and travel matters, including:

- Drafting a response to a request for arbitration and skeleton argument in a dispute concerning the lease of an aircraft.
- Advising on quantum for a dispute concerning damage to an aircraft engine during maintenance work and drafting a defence.
- Drafting particulars of claim in a dispute between the owner of an aircraft engine damaged in transit and an insurer, as well as an applying for permission to serve out of the jurisdiction.
- Drafting a mediation position paper concerning the lease of an aircraft.
- Assisting with research into the application of the Montreal Convention to a codeshare agreement.

Commercial Litigation

Stephen assisted with a significant amount of commercial litigation during pupillage, including obtaining experience in the following:

- Assisting in the resistance to an application for an interim injunction.
- Drafting advice letters before action, requests for further information, particulars of claim, defences, interim applications and skeleton arguments related to various contractual disputes.
- Assisting with research on various topics, including covenants not to sue, contractual interpretation, agency and jurisdictional issues.

Company & Partnership Law

During pupillage, Stephen gained experience in drafting a defence to an application for rectification of a company register under section 125 of the Companies Act 2006 as part of a dispute as to the ownership of a family business.

Group Litigation

Stephen gained experience of group litigation in a product liability context during pupillage, including in relation to applications to serve out of the jurisdiction, group litigation orders and observing complex conferences with experts.

Insolvency

During pupillage, Stephen gained insolvency experience including:

- Advising on the merits of an application under s 212 Insolvency Act 1986 against the former director of an insolvent company
- Advising on the validity of an appointment of a liquidator to a company registered in the Cayman Islands.

Offshore Litigation

Stephen's experience during pupillage included offshore work concerning the law of the Bahamas, the BVI, the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey and Jersey.

Pensions

Stephen has a particular interest in pensions litigation. His PhD thesis ("Control of Trustee Decision-Making in Pension Trusts") was obtained at University College London. His research included a range of topics, such as the application of trust law rules to occupational pension schemes; the *Imperial* duty owed by scheme employers; and issues related to ESG investing in the pensions context. A book based on his research is expected to be published in 2027.

Trusts, Probate & Estates

Before coming to the bar, Stephen taught on University College London's undergraduate equity and trusts module. As a pupil, Stephen gained experience in a number of matters relating to trusts, probate and estates, including:

- Assisting in a dispute concerning the validity of a will, which raised issues related to the Non-Contentious Probate Rules, limited grants of probate, and want of knowledge and approval.
- Observing arbitral proceedings concerning a high-value family trust, and contentious probate proceedings.
- Researching into matters related to an application to replace a trustee.

Academic History

PhD (thesis title: "Control of Trustee Decision-Making in Pension Trusts") – University College London

Bar Vocational Studies (LLM) – City, University of London (Distinction)

LLM – University College London (Distinction)

GDL – City, University of London (Distinction)

BA in History – Balliol College, Oxford

Scholarships and Prizes/ Awards

Evan Ashfield Memorial Prize (City, University of London)

Kennedy Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn)

Peter Birks Scholarship (University College London)

Lord Bowen Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn)

Fletcher Scholarship (Balliol College, Oxford)

Before coming to the bar, Stephen taught on University College London's undergraduate equity and trusts module.

Professional history

Before coming to the bar, Stephen taught on University College London's undergraduate equity and trusts module.

Business Details

VAT number: 529 0729 76

Registered name: Stephen Hawes



LONDON

XXIV Old Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn,
London WC2A 3UP

DX LDE 307
T +44 (0)20 7691 2424

GENEVA

XXIV Old Buildings,
Rue Saint-Léger 2,
1205 Geneva,
Switzerland