

“Bristol is a vibrant city with a strong **legal market**. It's a really great place to live and work.”



Brittany Pearce
Barrister & Head of Pupillage

As a set, we're relentlessly striving for excellence in the legal services we provide, as part of our three-pillar commitment to being **inclusive, commercial and excellent.**

As the last of the six founding members of St John's Chambers, Christopher Sharp KC retires after more than 50 years at the Bar, we take some time to reflect upon some of our recent successes. **47 years** on, the business is one of the leading sets in the South West and recognised as top tier in all **major areas of law**. We act for regional and national law firms, local authorities, insurance companies, prominent businesses, private individuals and public sector organisations.

We provide clients with expertise and specialist representation in complex **multidisciplinary cases**. We focus on growing and promoting our legal expertise and specialisms, so that we mirror our clients' need for specialist skills and offer leading experts rather than generalists.

We continue to attract and develop the **top barristers** in the South West, and to train our members and staff, as this is crucial to maintaining our competitive edge and assuring longevity in the legal market. In the last 12-months we have taken on **7 new tenants**.



“We have great strength in depth and we've added a strong cohort of juniors over the past five years.” Matthew White, Head of Chambers

We're committed to continually understanding and meeting our clients' evolving needs. We are constantly engaging with them, and adapting to changes in legal services while remaining at the forefront of **legal advocacy**. We aspire to become **leaders** in all our practice areas by offering outstanding legal representation and unique guidance. Our barristers and clerks are consistently recognised in leading legal directories for their efficiency and dedication, often described as “always very efficient and go over and above to help.”





We strive to ensure that Bristol continues to be recognised nationally as the major legal hub for the South West through the winning of high-level complex instructions we receive and nominations for national awards.

Our barristers have been involved in a number of **landmark decisions** in the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. Matthew White furthered his reputation as the national leading specialist in cases involving the encroachment of Japanese Knotweed. His success in the Supreme Court in the case of **Davies v Bridgend County Borough Council** [2025] AC 434 has had a hugely significant impact on the viability of encroachment claims going forwards. Zoe Saunders was involved in the high-profile ToLATA case of **Hudson v Hathway** [2022] EWCA Civ 1648. Andrew McLaughlin is retained by a number of sub-postmasters in claims against the Royal Mail seeking damages via the Historical Shortfall Compensation Scheme for loss suffered as a part of the **Horizon scandal**. Andrew has so far recovered in the region of £600,000 for his clients.

Alex Troup KC and John Dickinson have been identified by Chambers UK for the fourth year running as **leading professional advisers** to the Private Wealth market (outside London), featuring in the High Net Worth Guide 2024.


Our stand-out legal expertise is also evidenced by the number of our barristers who go on to distinguished service in the **judiciary**. Within the team are five Recorders, one fee-paid Judge of the First-tier Tribunal, two Deputy District Judges, an Assistant Deputy Coroner and three members on the Attorney General's list.

In the last 12-months we have been nominated for 8 national awards:

- 'Regional Set of the Year' by Chambers UK Bar
- 'Set of the Year (Outside London)' by The Legal 500
- 'Personal Injury Set of the Year' by The Legal 500
- 'Personal Injury Junior of the Year' for Andrew McLaughlin by The Legal 500
- 'Court of Protection Set of the Year' by The Legal 500
- 'Regional Family Law Chambers of the Year' by Family Law Awards
- 'Family Law Clerking Team of the Year' by Family Law Awards
- 'Family Law Young Barrister of the Year' for Vivien Croly by Family Law Awards



In 2022 we were awarded the prestigious Legal 500's 'Set outside London of the Year'. We were shortlisted for this award again in 2023 and 2024. We have also been shortlisted for the 'Regional Set of the Year' by Chambers UK Guide to the Bar in 2024. In 2023, we were awarded the 'Regional Family Law Set of the Year' by the national Family Law Awards. We were nominated for this award again in 2024.




We continue to foster a supportive and inclusive work environment, and our Barristers and clerks are forward thinking and proactive in promoting diversity and mental wellbeing across the Bar.

We're proud to have supported **Bridging the Bar (BTB)** in hosting 9 candidates from the BTB Academy as part of their Interview Advocacy Training Programme. We are also part of the Bar's inaugural programme with **10,000 Black Interns** which started in Summer 2022 and we have currently offered pupillage to one of the interns and they will be starting October 2025.

Our barristers are not only praised for their legal expertise but also for their **thought leadership** in which they offer market leading analysis and assessment through regular podcasts, seminars, webinars, articles and books.



“They are a very slick outfit in terms of their marketing, training, and thought leadership.” THE LEGAL 500



Our three podcast channels (Chancery & Commercial, Personal Injury & Clinical Negligence and Family & Divorce) have reached over **15,000 downloads**. We continuously host a full range of **CPD accredited seminars** across the South West and Wales on a variety of topics for solicitors. We also provide speakers and programmes for Law Societies. Several members are asked to speak at national events including STEP, ACTAPS and Resolution.

We aim to make a positive impact on the legal profession and the communities we serve through access to justice, community engagement and pro bono activities. Our barristers have been recognised for their dedication in providing pro bono services in the second edition of **The Pro Bono Recognition List**. Rachel Segal represented the family (pro bono) in the Inquest touching upon the death of baby Eddie Cornish, and Oliver Wooding acted pro-bono on behalf of the three year old daughter and her guardian to obtain the right for her to organise her Mother's funeral, following her murder at the Notting Hill Carnival.

We enjoy giving back and hosting a range of events to help raise money, these include:

- £3,195 was raised from our various conferences and events for The Child Brain Injury Trust, The Great Western Air Ambulance and Headway Bristol.
- Raised £1,120 for Bristol Mind from Summer Olympics challenge.
- Raised £250 for Comic Relief.
- Raised over £2,200 for The Children's Society from one of our staff members running The London Marathon

The wellbeing of our people is vital to our success. We aim to support everyone's happiness and wellbeing here.