



# The Oriel Lawyer

September 2013



## Key Dates for your diary:

*Please see below the dates for some of the society's up-coming events for you to diarise, we look forward to seeing you there...!*

Annual General Meeting: 2nd November 2013

Annual Society Dinner: 2nd November 2013—

Make sure you RSVP by 21st October 2013!

## Other Upcoming Activities— Dates to be Confirmed

Annual Lecture in College: TBC

Non-Lawyers Day at Oriel: TBC

London Legal Day: TBC

London Summer Drinks Party: TBC

## Annual Law Dinner 2013

The 2013 Annual Black Tie Dinner will be held in Oriel College on Saturday 2nd November 2013.

7.15PM Drinks

7.30PM Annual General Meeting

7.45PM Dinner

Lord Falconer will be speaking.

No tickets will be issued.

Partners are welcome



Full Price: £65 single, £120 double ticket.

Subsidised Prices: £25 for undergraduate students, postgraduates students of the College (guests £50).

Please RSVP using the invitation included at the end of this newsletter by 21st October 2013!! Payment can be made by way of cheque or by bank transfer to the account details set out on the invitation.

## Law for Non Lawyers Evening By Matthew Bool

On 30 April, the Oriel Law Society held an Open Evening in College for non-Law Oriel students (undergraduates and graduates), considering Law as a possible career. The evening was organised by Clive Newton and Jessica Hunter and attended by Matthew Bool (partner at Ashurst LLP). Thank you for your continued support for this event.

The Open Evening allowed a number of non-Law Oriel students to "drop-in" and discuss in an informal way the various options available for non-law students interested in becoming a barrister or solicitor. The evening had a good turn-out and the overall response from those who attended was that this was a successful way of passing on useful tips and advice from former members of College now in practice.

The Oriel Law Society will look to repeat this again during the next academic year and if you would like to participate or assist in the Open Day in 2014 please contact us (see details at the end of this Newsletter).

# A day in the life of...

## A Pupil

The standard day in the life of a pupil barrister depends on the nature of the chambers where you are doing pupillage and even then will often be heavily influenced by the practice of your supervisor. Whilst those in criminal sets spend almost all their time going to court with their supervisors, those of us who undertake pupillage in commercial sets have an altogether more contemplative existence.

My standard day involves several hours of research, usually on a completely new area of law. In fact, often you feel lucky to have even heard of it before. Fountain chambers specialises in banking and finance work and so there are various financial instruments and jargon to try and get your head round. This means stints in the library with the research then feeding in to the production of written work for a member of chambers, whether that be a research note, a draft pleading or an Opinion. Sometimes there is a book which answers the question that you are researching head on; in some cases it seems like you are the first person ever to try and answer the question. On one occasion this led to a day with very old, and quite grubby, copies of Hansard from 1827 trying to establish the legislative history of a little cited piece of legislation.

The first 3 months of my pupillage was spent assisting my supervisor on matters involving general commercial litigation, including preparation for an application for a freezing injunction and an application to commit someone for contempt of court, both of which were quite exciting.

After the first 3 months, almost everything I did was for members of chambers other than my supervisor, so that the maximum number of people could assess my work. This adds a sense of increased pressure to everything that you do; no matter how nice the person you are working for might be, going to talk about your work with members always adds to the pressure.

The downside to pupillage is the general sense of the Sword of Damocles hanging above you. However, the upside is that you get to deal with the most interesting bits of the law. I've had 3 different pupil supervisors, each incredibly supportive and have exposed me to a wide range of work and totally different approaches to running a self employed practice at the Bar. Although I have not been to court every week, I have seen 2 full commercial court trials and been on a (very exotic) trip to the Isle of Man. Now that the year is coming to an end, it seems like the whole thing has gone incredibly quickly but I certainly feel more equipped for practice than I did when I arrived in chambers in October.

**By Samuel Ritchie (who has just successfully completed his pupillage), Fountain Court Chambers.**

## A Trainee Solicitor

It is fair to say that as a trainee, no two days are the same, which is what makes this career interesting. The specific tasks that you will be asked to carry out will vary depending upon the department you are in or the deal that you are working on. Nonetheless, as a trainee there are various tasks which are perfectly suited to our level of experience and will help to develop our legal skills.

In a law firm, each matter will have a "deal team" and the key to making progress is communication. Therefore, every day you will be talking to your supervisor and senior members of the team or indeed, attending meetings or participating in conference calls. Never be afraid to pick up the telephone or arrange to speak to anyone working on the deal or even the client, if you are requested to - remember we are all working towards the same goal and you can sometimes elicit more information by a telephone call than by a string of emails.

Research is a very valuable skill that trainees are adept at carrying out. Fresh from the LPC, we know how to use the resources available in the most efficient and effective way. You will be asked to draft notes of the research and these are useful on two grounds. First, they are immediately used by the team to answer the question at hand and therefore, determine the manner in which a deal is taken forward. Secondly, they can be submitted to the 'Know-How' system which means that the firm has the benefit of your efforts. The deals that we work on are usually very complex and therefore will require numerous documents and agreements. Trainees will often be asked to help to draft some of these documents, which is great experience. With the number of documents, trainees are also best placed to consider how they should be organised. So be it preparing them for execution, creating bibles (records of all executed documents) or distributing them to the various parties - the role a trainee plays is crucial for the firm to run effectively and provide the best service to the clients, our internal records must be as accurate as possible. This is a role that the trainee can excel at.

A trainee is a valued member of every team and our work really helps to keep deals moving. As I stated, there is no typical day. For example, in my third week at Clifford Chance, on the Tuesday I was in the office, amending board minutes and helping to draft various agreements and on the Wednesday, I was in Luxembourg with the client arranging for the documents to be executed.

If you are considering becoming a solicitor and are prepared to work hard, a rewarding career awaits.

**By Sarah Bool, Trainee Solicitor, Clifford Chance Oriel, 2006-2009**

# The Oriel Lawyer

## Annual Lecture in College

Our speaker for the Annual Lecture at Oriel has yet to be confirmed. This event is likely to be in February but further details will be issued nearer the time.

## London Summer Drinks 2014

We will be arranging a drinks reception next summer.

The date and venue details will be circulated in the New Year.



## Annual General Meeting 2013

The Society's Annual General Meeting will take place immediately before the Annual Dinner at 7.30pm, 2nd November 2013.

## Oriel Law Society Membership

Please get in contact with Clare Parry (see contact details below) to become a member of the Oriel Law Society. Membership costs £20 a year, to be paid by standing order.

Although it is a relatively small sum to most practicing lawyers the membership fees are very important for the Society's finances. They allow us to be able to pay expenses in relation to the Legal London Day for undergraduates, the Careers Day in college, and the talk held in College each year. They also help us to keep the costs of the annual dinner affordable for undergraduates. Many of you will have benefitted from attending those events when you were undergraduates and no doubt that was because of the subscriptions paid by the then members of the Society.

## Mailing List

If by any chance you were forwarded this newsletter, you may not be on our mailing list.

If you would like to be sent this annual newsletter, along with other notifications about upcoming events, please contact us.

## Contact Details

### For General Enquiries about The Oriel Law Society:

Graham Chapman  
4 New Square  
Lincoln's Inn  
London WC2A 3RJ  
020 7822 2000  
[gchapman@4newsquare.com](mailto:gchapman@4newsquare.com)

### For Enquiries about The Oriel Lawyer:

Rhian Williams  
Dragon LNG  
Main Road  
Waterston, Milford Haven  
01646 691730  
[rhian.williams@dragonlng.com](mailto:rhian.williams@dragonlng.com)

### For Enquiries about Membership:

Clare Parry  
2-3 Gray's Inn Square  
London  
WC1R 5JH  
[cparry@2-3gis.co.uk](mailto:cparry@2-3gis.co.uk)

Please contact any of the above with queries about how to become more involved in the Society and its work or to contribute to the newsletter.



# ANNUAL BLACK TIE DINNER 2013

## INVITATION



at Oriel College, Oxford  
on Saturday 2nd November 2013

7.15pm Drinks  
7.30pm Annual General Meeting  
7.45pm Dinner

Please complete the form below and re-  
turn by 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012 to

Graham Chapman, 4 New Square, Lincoln's  
Inn, London WC2A 3RJ

or scan and send via e-mail to

[g.chapman@4newsquare.com](mailto:g.chapman@4newsquare.com)

### Price

Full Price: £65 single, £120 double ticket.

Subsidised Prices: £25 for current Oriel  
Students (guests £50).

No tickets will be issued.

Partners welcome

## ORIEL LAW SOCIETY ANNUAL BLACK TIE DINNER 2013

### RSVP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I/We wish to attend the Annual Dinner of the Oriel Law Society on 2nd November  
2013.

I/We have the following dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_ (which includes a donation of £\_\_\_\_ towards subsidis-  
ing the cost for students). Alternatively, I confirm that I have paid an amount of  
£\_\_\_\_ by direct bank transfer to Account Number 04452984 Sort Code 18-00-02.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_