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**Issued 29 July 2011**

## **PRACTICE DIRECTION NO.2 of 2011**

### **Pupillage of Advocates**

The Court has reviewed the present arrangements for admission of Advocates and has decided that this Practice Direction shall replace Practice Direction No. 6 of 1988.

#### **1. Pupillage**

Every pupil must be accredited to a Pupil Master who is an Advocate of at least 5 years standing. The Pupil Master will generally be responsible for seeing that the pupil applies himself or herself diligently during the pre-examination pupillage period, so that the pupil is properly prepared to sit the Guernsey Bar Examinations.

It is especially important that the pupil achieves a reasonable level of competence to enable him to conduct his or her practice generally and ethically and in particular matters before the Courts.

When a pupillage is commenced the Pupil Master must forthwith formally notify the Secretary to the Bailiff (with a copy to Her Majesty's Procureur) of the intended commencement date of pupillage and confirming that he or she is taking on the pupil concerned. Thereby it will be clear to the Court that the pupillage is about to commence and to whom the pupil is responsible. It will also be clear that the Pupil Master has taken on the responsibility inherent in a pupillage relationship.

Persons will not be permitted to sit the Guernsey Bar Examinations until they have spent at least six months in pupillage in an Advocate's Chambers.

#### **2. The Guernsey Bar Examinations**

Unless otherwise advised in writing, Pupil Masters should proceed on the basis that the Guernsey Bar Examinations will be held annually during the first two weeks of May.

The Pupil Master will be expected to report in writing to the Bailiff (as Chairman of the Board of Examiners for the Guernsey Bar Examinations) that the pupil has discharged himself or herself with due diligence during the pre-examination period. The Pupil Master must state that he or she is satisfied that the pupil has achieved a standard which will enable the pupil to sit all his or her papers with a reasonable expectation of passing them.

The Bailiff will expect to receive the Pupil Master's report between three and six weeks before the scheduled date for the Bar Examinations.

### 3. Syllabus

The Guernsey Bar Examinations syllabus will be reviewed annually and will be available to candidates in October/November each year for the following year. Candidates must ensure that they work from an up-to-date syllabus.

### 4. Post Admission Pupillage

Once called to the Bar, a candidate is required to undergo a further three months' pupillage. During this period the newly-called Advocate will continue to be responsible to his or her Pupil Master.

### 5. Newly-called Advocates who practise in the Courts

The Pupil Master must ensure in particular that if the newly-called Advocate practises in Court he or she conducts himself or herself competently in Court.

The newly-called Advocate will be able to appear in the Magistrate's Court by himself or herself and do all the work that an Advocate does.

If the newly-called Advocate appears before any division of the Royal Court during the three months following call to the Guernsey Bar he or she must be accompanied by his or her Pupil Master, or another Advocate of at least one year's standing, who will be there to give any necessary guidance in the case that he or she is conducting therein.

A Pupil Master will be expected to ensure that a newly qualified Advocate under his or her pupillage who appears in Court proceedings gets as much experience of work in the Royal Court as well as the Magistrate's Court during his or her period of post-admission pupillage as is reasonably achievable.

Although it is accepted that pupillage officially ends after three months, the Court commends the practice of senior Advocates continuing to take in newly qualified Advocates as their junior in Royal Court cases and Chambers applications after the period has expired.



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