

# Pupillage

The first six months of our pupillage were in-person and non-practising. Our supervisors trained us in drafting, including pleadings, advices, skeletons, and schedules, and honed our research skills. On all our work, the supervisors provided detailed, constructive feedback, ensuring our continual development. Quarterly appraisals and a halfway interview with the head of pupillage also ensured we were progressing and helped to identify areas for improvement before we moved



on to new supervisors.

We had many opportunities to shadow members of Chambers – whether in court, conferences, or mediations. Early on, we shadowed a week-long clinical negligence trial regarding a hypoxic brain injury caused during the delivery of a baby. In public law, we saw evidence given in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse and the judicial review of *Bell v Tavistock* [2020] EWHC 3274 on puberty blockers. We were also introduced to



inquests, such as one touching the death of a lipoedema patient following a niche form of liposuction surgery.

However, just before the practising stage of our pupillage started, Covid-19 struck. Suddenly we were working from home and could not see our supervisors in person. This meant developing new ways of establishing successful working relationships, including through daily calls from our supervisors about work, wellbeing, and more. A weekly Chambers tea was also set up to provide important “face time” with members of all seniorities.

Despite in-person court work largely pausing, our training continued. We were encouraged to work for other members, including on complex legal issues for silks, and we undertook a mock advocacy exercise to develop our oral advocacy.

Meanwhile, along with everyone else in Chambers, we learned new technology and adjusted to paperless working.

Fortunately, we received offers of tenancy. Although still unable to celebrate with friends and colleagues in person, we were warmly greeted with a virtual party and have been on our feet as tenants since September 2020. We look forward to meeting the next pupils.

*Get to know more about life at 1COR, what we offer and meet our barristers at the annual Bar Council Pupillage Fair.*



**Alice Kuzmenko**



**Henry Tufnell**