



On 26th January 2021 MTYBA held a pupillage application panel event aimed at those applying to the Northern Circuit. A panel of 7 Northern Circuiters were on hand to answer some frequently asked questions and individual questions from the attendees about applications to circuit(s).

Held under the Chatham House Rule this event was a brilliant opportunity to hear anecdotes and candid discussion about the positives and negatives of a career on circuit and how to approach your applications.

The panel all had experience of their own Chambers' pupillage recruitment process and were able to give an insider's view on what some of the questions are really asking and what they're looking for on applications this year.

One highlight was hearing about what a pupillage in lockdown was like and how you might impress remotely – something which had been on attendees' minds as it looks like yet more interviews will take place online this year.

A key theme was that you don't need to pretend to be something that you're not. You need to be authentic and explain why the real you would be a good barrister at that Chambers.

You need to remember that Chambers aren't looking for the finished article either, you're applying for a further period of training.

We also heard about how to approach applications that are CV and Covering Letter. Without the standard application questions it can be difficult to know where to start. It's important to keep the letter and your CV concise – you shouldn't just attach your generic CV. You need to select the information specifically for that application – don't list every mini-pupillage you've ever done if only 3 are relevant. No matter what format the application is in make absolutely sure there are no spelling or grammar errors!

The panel also gave advice on dealing with rejection and staying motivated for future applications.

The feedback from this event was fantastic – the speakers were impressive and the event was very helpful for all who attended. Attendees spoke of a real contrast to panels from London sets – perhaps that's our Northern talent for a good chat exposed!

The committee would like to thank the panel again for their kind assistance with this event.