



## Zara Yusuf (Pupil)

Call: 2024

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Zara joined Chambers in October 2024 and is a second six pupil barrister.

She has been supervised by Wendy Mathers, Chloe Shuffrey and Catherine Doran. Her current supervisor is Oliver Hilton.

Prior to commencing pupillage, Zara worked as a Private Client Tax Adviser at Ernst & Young (International Tax) and Blick Rothenberg. Her work covered all areas of the UK taxation of individuals, often with a cross-border aspect.

Zara then worked as a Statutory Instruments Paralegal at the Cabinet Office. She contributed to the drafting of secondary legislation across the Government Legal Department, including pensions and insolvency legislation.

Alongside the Bar Training Course, Zara worked as a Research Assistant, where she focused on company, partnership, and agency law for a book titled 'The Fundamentals of Business Law'. She also volunteered as a Co-Ordinator at Young Bar Mentoring and remains committed to improving access to the Bar in this role.

Zara received a first-class degree in Ancient History from Newcastle University, where she ranked first overall in the year and performed the best in the dissertation module, obtaining the Senior Johnson Prize and a Letter of Commendation respectively. Zara subsequently obtained a Distinction in the Graduate Diploma of Law from BPP University, having been awarded the Programme Ambassador Scholarship. She then achieved a Distinction in the Bar Training Course at City Law School, where she was given the Academic Excellence scholarship.

Zara was awarded the Exhibition scholarship, the Philip Teichman Award, and the Duke of Edinburgh Entrance Award from Inner Temple.

### PRIVATE CLIENT

Examples of private client work that Zara has experienced during pupillage include:

- Assisting Daniel Burton in a case involving an issue of pedigree, stemming from a kin enquiry.

### TRUSTS

During pupillage, Zara worked on a range of trust matters, including:

- Shadowing James Morgan KC, Josh Lewison, and Marcus Flavin in the Court of Appeal case of *FS Capital Limited & Ors v Alan Adams & Ors* [2025] EWCA Civ 53, which concerned the sale of assets from Jersey trusts to a private company. The question was whether this transaction constituted a breach of trust due to an improper purpose and could therefore be void (as opposed to voidable).
- Drafting a Tomlin order for Wendy Mathers to settle all claims between the parties in relation to their mother's estate.
- Drafting the defence and counterclaim and the reply to the request for further information for Wendy Mathers in a case involving the legal and beneficial ownership of a property.

## **PROPERTY**

Examples of property cases that Zara has worked on during pupillage include:

- Drafting an opinion, particulars of claim, and skeleton argument in a property matter involving the expiry of a headlease before shadowing Wendy Mathers at the hearing.
- Writing an advice note in a case concerning the forfeiture of a long-lease and shadowed Wendy Mathers at the hearing.
- Drafting a witness statement and claim form for Wendy Mathers in an application for an order for the sale of a property.

## **PENSIONS**

During pupillage, Zara shadowed and assisted Wendy Mathers in various pension matters, including by:

- Drafting an opinion in a Part 8 rectification claim to equalise the scheme benefits between men and women following an error introduced during a scheme amendment and replicated in subsequent scheme amendments.
- Assisting in a prospective part 8 claim to deal with the position of the pension scheme membership.
- Shadowing Wendy Mathers in the appeal hearing of *Phillips v National Grid Gas Plc* [2025] EWHC 693 (KB), where limitation and contractual and tortious duties of care were considered in the context of a pension scheme incapacity dispute.

Zara completed the Beginners Course on Pensions Law given by the Association for Pension Lawyers.

## **CHARITIES**

Examples of charity work that Zara has been exposed to during pupillage include:

- Assisting Wendy Mathers in three cases concerning the transfer of custodian trusteeships.

## **INJUNCTIONS**

- During pupillage, Zara shadowed Natalie Pratt in an injunction matter about resisting the completion of a property sale.

## **COMPANIES**

During pupillage, Zara gained experience of various company law matters, including by:

- Shadowing Andrew Brown at a hearing in a case involving a phoenix company and the re-use of a prohibited name.
- Shadowing Chloe Shuffrey in a directions hearing regarding access to documents, in advance of the consolidated proceedings relating to various payments and transactions.

- Drafting a skeleton argument to rectify the register of companies before shadowing Catherine Doran at the hearing.
- Assisting Adam Deacock in a hearing for an imaging order application and a further disclosure application.
- Assisting Chloe Shuffrey with her written submissions following a court hearing on the interpretation of a section of the Companies Act 1985.

## **COMMERCIAL**

During pupillage, Zara was exposed to various commercial law matters, including by:

- Shadowing Andrew Brown, led by Christopher Boardman KC, in the Court of Appeal hearing in *Lonham Group Limited v Scotbeef Limited & DS Storage Limited (in liquidation)* [2025] EWCA Civ 203, which concerned the construction of a contract of insurance and the potential application of the Insurance Act 2015 and its remedies for breaches of the duty of fair presentation. This is the first case concerning representations and warranties within the realm of the Insurance Act 2015 to have reached the Court of Appeal.
- Assisting James Fagan in a trial involving a range of contractual issues, including novation, extension of an agreement, repudiation, termination of the agreement, breaches, and set-off.
- Preparing a pre-action letter for Chloe Shuffrey in a contract dispute.
- Drafting a defence for Chloe Shuffrey in a case about an estate agent's breach of duty claim in relation to a sale of a property at an alleged undervalue.

## **RESTRUCTURING AND INSOLVENCY**

Examples of restructuring and insolvency cases that Zara has worked on during pupillage include:

- Assisting Adam Deacock in a trial about the admission and rejection of proofs of debt in the liquidation of a company.
- Drafting a particulars of claim for Chloe Shuffrey against directors of the company (in liquidation), comprising claims for debt, repayment of unlawful dividends, and relief for breach of director's duties.
- Shadowing Catherine Doran in a contested administration order hearing, where the dispute was about which administrators should be appointed.
- Assisting Chloe Shuffrey with an application for a final charging order on land.
- Shadowing Andrew Brown at a hearing in a case about an income payment order application.
- Drafting a skeleton argument for an application to extend administration before shadowing Catherine Doran at the hearing.
- Shadowing Chloe Shuffrey in a hearing for the administration of a company to be extended.
- Assisting in an income payments order application before shadowing Catherine Doran in the first hearing.
- Writing an opinion for Chloe Shuffrey regarding potential preference claims and associated breach of duty claims against the directors.
- Drafting an opinion for Catherine Doran on the question of whether or not a company could be considered dissolved.
- Shadowing Chloe Shuffrey in a hearing of an application to strike out the winding-up petition or to restrain its advertisement.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

- BTC – Distinction, City Law School (2023 –2024)
- GDL – Distinction, BPP University (2021 –2023)
- BA Ancient History – First-class (first overall), Newcastle University (2016 –2019)

## **SELECTED WORK HISTORY**

- Research Assistant – Newcastle University Law School (2023 – 2024)
- Statutory Instruments Paralegal – Cabinet Office, Government Legal Department (2022 – 2023)
- Private Client Tax Advisor – Blick Rothenberg (2020 – 2022)
- Private Client Tax Advisor (International) – Ernst & Young (2019 – 2020)

## **PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Academic Excellence Scholarship – City Law School (2023)
- Philip Teichman Award – Inner Temple (2023)
- Bar Course Exhibition Scholarship – Inner Temple (2023)
- Duke of Edinburgh Entrance Award – Inner Temple (2023)
- Full-fee Programme Ambassador GDL Scholarship – BPP University (2021)
- GDL Exhibition Scholarship – Inner Temple (2021)
- Senior Johnson Prize – Newcastle University (2019)
- Letter of Commendation – Newcastle University (2019)

## **POLICIES AND OTHER DETAILS**

- Read Zara's [Privacy Notice](#), [Data Protection Policy](#) and [Disposal Policy](#).