

## **New Planning and Public Law Mentoring Scheme for Underrepresented Groups at the Bar**

**A partnership with the Planning and Environmental Bar Association (PEBA), Cornerstone Barristers, Field Court, Francis Taylor Building, Kings Chambers and Landmark Chambers.**

The scheme is intended to encourage undergraduates and postgraduates from groups that are not well represented at the Bar to consider becoming barristers. It will run from October 2021 to June 2022 and aims to provide advice and guidance to suitable candidates on the process of becoming a barrister specialising in planning, property and public law.

PEBA and each of the partner Chambers recognise the importance of driving equality and diversity in the Bar and hope this Mentoring Scheme can lay the foundations to creating a profession that is representative of all and for all by introducing those from a non-traditional background into the profession. It is inspired by a similar scheme launched by a collection of commercial sets.

Robin Green of Cornerstone Barristers says, “The Bar should be open to all who have the requisite ability. This belief pushed the group to create a programme that will not only drive equality, but also support those wishing to further a career at the Bar.”

“We hope that the mentoring scheme will help talented individuals who might not think the Bar is for them to understand what the Bar has to offer and how to become a barrister, whilst assisting in the application process.”

Melissa Murphy of Francis Taylor Building says, “The Bar does not properly reflect the society in which we operate. Practical steps need to be taken in order to widen access, to address that issue. This mentoring scheme for under-represented groups at the Bar is one such practical step. The application process will open shortly and we all look forward to establishing new mentor/mentee relationships and, in turn, to widening access to the Bar.”

Andrew Byass of Landmark Chambers says, “We firmly believe that widening access to the Bar can only serve to drive excellence. This is one of many steps that we are taking which we

hope will encourage anyone with the requisite ability, no matter their background, to consider a career at the Bar, and which will in turn provide practical support and assistance.”

Jared Norman of Field Court Chambers says, “We’re delighted to be part of this initiative. It’s important we encourage more students from under-represented groups to consider careers as barristers so the Bar better reflects the diversity of society as a whole”.

Sam Karim QC of Kings Chambers says, “This is a hugely exciting initiative. The Bar should represent the community it serves, and therefore it is vital that we at least attempt to remove some of the potential barriers students from under-represented groups may face.”

Successful applicants will be offered one-to-one meetings with a mentor, a workshop on applications for pupillage and (subject to COVID-19 restrictions) one or more social events with mentors and other mentees.

**-ENDS-**

#### **Notes to editor**

For those that wish to apply, they can download the application form from the webpage [here](#), along with the guidelines for applicants are [here](#).

Applications should be made to [mentoring@cornerstonebarristers.com](mailto:mentoring@cornerstonebarristers.com) by midday on 8 October 2021. Successful applicants will be notified by e-mail by 29 October 2021.

#### **Media contacts:**

##### **Cornerstone Barristers**

Devon Older: [evoke@cornerstonebarristers.com](mailto:evoke@cornerstonebarristers.com) / 0754 555 5731

##### **Francis Taylor Building**

Deirdre Mahon: [deirdre.mahon@ftbchambers.co.uk](mailto:deirdre.mahon@ftbchambers.co.uk) / 020 7427 1841

##### **Field Court Chambers**

Caroline Paul: [caroline.paul@fieldcourt.co.uk](mailto:caroline.paul@fieldcourt.co.uk) / 020 8078 0034

##### **Kings Chambers**

Katie Tiltman: [marketing@kingschambers.com](mailto:marketing@kingschambers.com) / 0345 034 3444

##### **Landmark Chambers**

Josh Kitchen: [jkitchen@landmarkchambers.co.uk](mailto:jkitchen@landmarkchambers.co.uk) / 020 7421 1310