

Jonathan Foy

Employed King's Counsel or junior over 7 years in practice

About Me, My Practice and Professional Activities

I am an employed barrister at the Crown Prosecution Service. Called in 2000, I spent the first six years of my career at the self employed Bar in London, undertaking a mixed civil and criminal practice.

In 2006, I joined the CPS, prosecuting serious and complex jury trials, both as sole advocate and as led junior.

From 2010, I undertook a hybrid role as CPS Liaison Advocate at Snaresbrook Crown Court, combining day-to-day advocacy with operational management and responsibility for the CPS team at court. When issues arose, I was the point of contact between the Bar, the CPS and the Judiciary and worked across all parties to ensure cases could progress and advocates were supported.

Between 2020 and 2025, I was CPS Director of Pupil Training, with lead responsibility for the national CPS pupillage programme. The CPS offers the largest pupillage programme of any organisation, with over 65 pupils in the forthcoming intake. My role involved oversight of programme delivery, legal training and pastoral support for all pupils across England and Wales. I was responsible for navigating and liaising with the BSB and Bar Council where required and was responsible for ensuring regulatory compliance in the delivery of pupillage.

My current work includes delivering advocacy, legal and procedural training to our qualified lawyers as well as to pupils and trainee solicitors. At the same time I continue to maintain an active Crown Court practice.

What I Can Offer the Bar Council

I am a current Bar Council member in the employed barrister over 7 years call category.

Having practised at both the self employed and employed Bar, I bring a broad perspective on the profession and an understanding of the differing opportunities and challenges faced by barristers in different practice settings. My experience encompasses large-scale pupillage and qualified lawyer recruitment programmes, the design and delivery of legal education and training, and the pastoral and wellbeing issues that arise from supporting those entering and developing within the profession.

I sit on the Employed Barristers' Committee, the Education and Training Committee and am a member of the Barrister Apprenticeship working group.

I was runner-up for the Bar Council's Employed Barrister of the Year Award in 2024.

In my Bar Council role, I have undertaken social mobility outreach to law students and contribute to events to raise awareness of the employed Bar as a career path.

I deal with individual queries and requests for advice from pupils who have approached the Bar Council in relation to wellbeing and/or career progression matters.

In addition to my Bar Council work, I also volunteer with Middle Temple to provide pupillage application and interview advice and feedback.

Motivation for Standing

My motivation for standing is my experience and background in pupillage, training and wellbeing. As the CPS Director of Pupillage I focused on bringing new entrants into the profession as employed barristers and ensuring they were trained to the highest standards. I was always conscious that my wider responsibility was to train pupils to become barristers in the fullest sense, rather than simply prosecutors who met an organisational workforce need. I regard that distinction as fundamental.

I am keen to continue to play a part in widening access to the profession to support advocacy training and career development so that the employed Bar is seen as a high-quality and fully integrated part of the profession where talent is nurtured and recognised. In turn this will better enable employed barristers to progress to judicial appointment, silk and other positions of leadership as well as enriching the entire profession and allowing movement between the different parts of it. This will better support retention of barristers who wish to remain at the Bar but seek an alternative, but nonetheless rewarding, means of practice.