5RB

Media and communications law



# Pupillage Booklet
2027-2028

A guide to applying to and training at **5RB**

# PUPILLAGE 5RB

## Why 5RB?



Meet our Pupil 2025-2026:

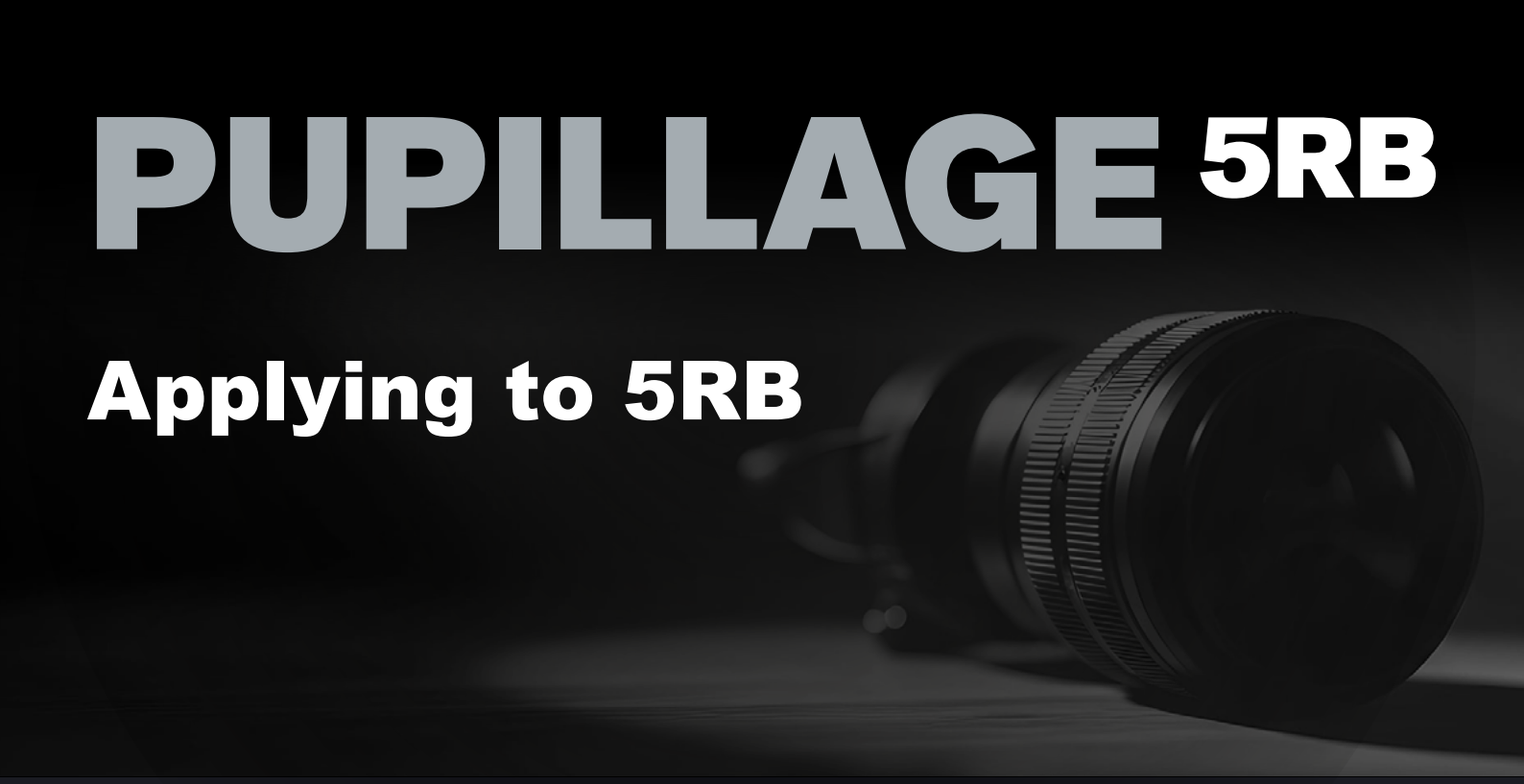
**Tiyash Banerjee**
**5RB**

**5RB** is the leading set specialising in all areas of media and communications law, including defamation, privacy, breach of confidence, data protection and information law, harassment, contempt of court and reporting restrictions.

We are the only chambers to specialise exclusively in this fascinating field. Our 36 full-time members act for both claimants and defendants and provide advice and representation to the press, television, radio, book and online publishers, as well as to individuals including celebrities and other high-profile people, businesses and not-for-profit organisations.

Our members are regularly instructed in the most prominent and groundbreaking cases, recent examples of which include Baroness Lawrence v Associated Newspapers, the privacy case relating to allegations of unlawful information gathering by the Daily Mail and Mail on Sunday, Bridgen v Hancock, the last word on the honest opinion defence in libel, Vince v Associated Newspapers, in which the Court of Appeal recognised for the first time a cause of action for unfair publishing, Blake v Fox, in which the Court of Appeal considered causation in the context of serious harm in defamation, and Noel Clarke v Guardian News & Media, the trial of the disgraced actor's libel claim concerning claims of sexual misconduct. In the last few years, members have represented parties on appeals to the Supreme Court relating to abuse of process in the context of libel (Mueen-Uddin v Secretary of State for the Home Dept), the correct interpretation of s.3 of the Defamation Act 1952 in malicious falsehood cases (George v Cannell), the privacy of residents of apartments in the vicinity of the Tate Modern art gallery (Fearn v Board of Trustees of the Tate Gallery), serious harm to reputation (Lachaux v Independent Print Ltd), the public interest defence in defamation (Serafin v Malkiewicz) and the reasonable expectation of privacy in information about criminal investigations (ZXC v Bloomberg LP), as well as in many cases in the Court of Appeal. Several former members of **5RB** have gone on to have successful judicial careers, including Warby LJ, the current President of the King's Bench Division, Nicklin J and Eardley J.

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## Applying to 5RB

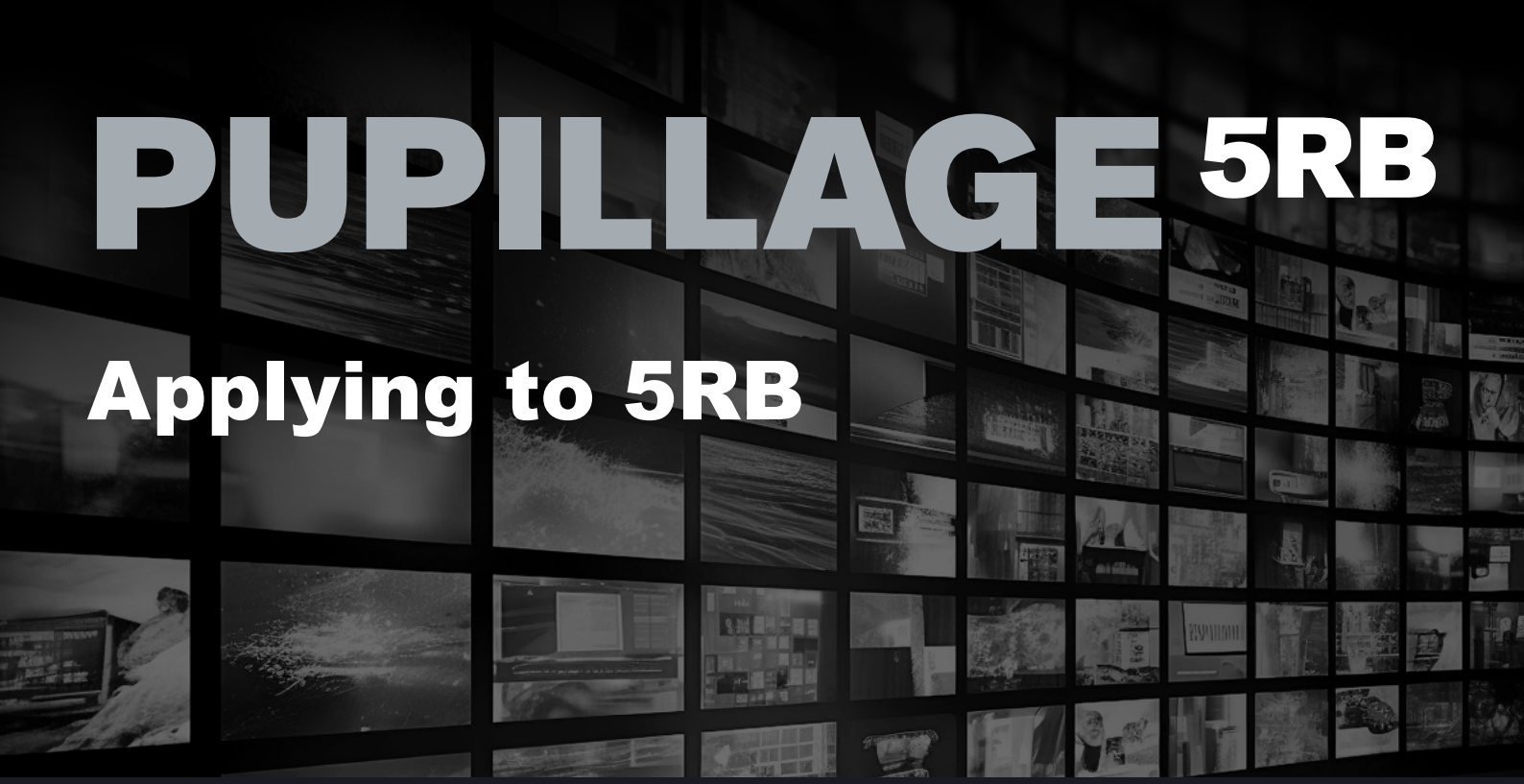
We are seeking to recruit up to two pupils to start in October 2028, each with a view to tenancy. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate very high intellectual ability, usually via academic achievement, and excellent interpersonal and advocacy skills (written and oral).

We look for applicants with an aptitude for, and an interest in, practice as a barrister in our specialist areas; however prior knowledge of the law in these areas is not a requirement.

## Pupillage Award

Pupils at **5RB** benefit from spending periods with four different pupil supervisors, seeing a variety of styles and perspectives and receiving expert tuition in practice in media and communications law, including advocacy. We are proud of maintaining a very friendly and collegiate atmosphere, and that extends to how we interact with our pupils: we see pupillage very much as a learning experience rather than a gruelling examination, although pupils will need to demonstrate the high level of skills and conduct necessary for a successful practice if they are to be taken on as a tenant. The vast majority of our pupils in the past decade have been recruited as tenants, and we very much hope and expect that this will continue.

The pupillages will carry an award of £55,000. A new tenant can expect their first year earnings to comfortably exceed this level.



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## Applying to 5RB

**5RB** is a modern and inclusive chambers, committed to promoting equality and diversity at the bar.

In particular we have a good gender balance at all levels of seniority and we subscribe to a number of schemes that are aimed at increasing access to the profession for candidates from under-privileged and under-represented backgrounds.

We will make reasonable adjustments to accommodate the needs of pupils with a disability. Anyone capplying for pupillage is welcome to contact our chambers administrator, Emma Billimore, in confidence, to discuss any issues they may have in accessing chambers.

Aspiring barristers are invited to apply to chambers between using the Pupillage Gateway application system to search for the relevant Pupillage Vacancy and selecting 'Apply for this pupillage'.

In addition to the standardised Bar Council questionnaire, candidates will be asked to respond to the following questions from Chambers:

1. Why do you believe you will make an excellent barrister? In your answer, please identify any relevant experiences and skills that you consider will help you in your career. (1,200 character limit).

2. Why do you want to join our chambers? In your answer, please explain why you are interested in our areas of practice. (1,200 character limit).

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## 5RB Cases

Recent case highlights include:

- Mueen-Uddin v Secretary of State for the Home Dept (SC)
- George v Cannell (SC)
- ZXC v Bloomberg LP (SC)
- Fearn v Board of Trustees of the Tate Gallery (SC)
- Serafin v Malkiewicz (SC)
- Lachaux v Independent Print Ltd (SC)
- Various Claimants v WM Morrison Supermarkets plc (SC)
- Bridgen v Hancock (CA)
- Vince v Associated Newspapers (CA)
- Currie v Soho Theatre Company Ltd (CA)
- Iqbal v Geo TV Ltd (CA)
- Banks v Cadwalladr (CA)
- Blake v Fox (CA & trial)
- Amersi v BBC
- Baroness Lawrence v Associated Newspapers Ltd
- Clarke v Guardian News & Media Ltd
- Dyson v MGN Ltd
- Harcombe v Associated Newspapers Ltd
- Duke of Sussex v MGN Ltd, News Group Newspapers Ltd & Associated Newspapers Ltd
- WFZ v BBC
- HM Attorney General for England & Wales v BBC
- Duchess of Sussex v Associated Newspapers Ltd

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*"**5RB** is a fantastic set with some of the finest legal minds. They are at the forefront of the industry and continue to impress across all areas."*

Legal 500

Scan for more info:

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