



Thank you for your interest in the Attorney General's London Panels of Junior Counsel to the Crown.

General Background

The Attorney General maintains (by means of an open advertisement and application process) a number of panels of junior Counsel to undertake civil and EU work for all Government departments. He has London Panels, Regional Panels, and Public International Law (PIL) Panels, each set up as follows:

- A Panel – this is for senior juniors with usually at least 10 years post pupillage advocacy experience at the point of appointment
- B Panel – this is for middle juniors who have usually at least 5 years post-pupillage advocacy experience
- C Panel – this is for juniors who have at least 2 years post-pupillage advocacy experience.

Note the years of experience are a minimum and many of those on the panel have considerably more experience than the minimum.

Members of the A Panel deal with the most complex Government cases in all kinds of courts and tribunals including the Supreme Court. They will often appear against QC's.

Members of the B panel deal with substantial cases but not in general as complex as those handled by the A panel. They will generally be instructed where knowledge and experience of a particular field is required.

Members of the C panel are likely to be instructed as sole advocates in County Court or Tribunal cases. They may be instructed as a junior to more senior Counsel.

The three London Panels also cover work in the south-east of England. Applicants will be expected to have a substantial professional connection with London or the south east or both e.g. be a member of the relevant circuit or have a principal practice address within the area. Successful applicants will be expected to travel within the Region.

The size of each panel is determined by need. Although appointment to any panel cannot be a guarantee that work will be available, we intend that each advocate appointed should be given at least a minimum amount of work, and monitor both the volume of work Panel members receive and the quality of that work, as judged by instructing solicitors.

In choosing which of the panels to apply to, candidates will want to make a careful decision based on which best suits their level of expertise and experience.

As is the case every year, the Attorney General is looking for applicants with experience in **general public and administrative law; employment; or personal injury**. For the 2018 London C Panel exercise, the Attorney is also looking to deepen the capacity of the panels by appointing specialists in the following areas:

- Admiralty
- Competition and State Aid
- Construction
- Contract / Commercial
- Corporate
- Costs
- Directors' Disqualification
- Education, including teacher regulation proceedings
- Energy/Utilities
- EU Law
- General Tax Work – Direct and Indirect, Personal and Business
- Human Rights
- Industrial Relations
- Information Law and Data Protection
- Inquests
- Insolvency
- Intellectual Property
- International Trade
- Land and Planning/Environmental
- Mental Health/Mental Health Capacity Act 2005
- Occupational Pensions
- Planning
- Procurement
- Rating and Valuation
- Social Security, including free movement, social justice and statutory payments
- VAT & Duties

The Attorney General is also looking to appoint applicants capable of advising departments on the interface of public and commercial law issues, and also where criminal or regulatory issues arise in public law cases.

Eligibility

Applicants must have:

1. At least two years advocacy experience in actual practice **by 31 October 2018** (starting from end of 2nd six months' pupillage for barristers, end of training contract for solicitors).
2. A substantial professional connection with London or the south east of England or both.
3. Experience of both advocacy and advisory work in one or more of the areas of work covered by the panel. In fact the panel covers the wide range of public and private law in which central government is involved. It does not deal with criminal prosecutions and involvement in litigation involving pure private client work is limited.

4. An appreciation of the special demands of government litigation.
5. Advocacy experience and ability demonstrated by a number of appearances in courts and tribunals.
6. Academic strength (2:1 or above) or compensating strength on other factors included in the application.
7. Written/drafting ability to be evidenced by recent specimens of work (an opinion and a skeleton argument (or nearest equivalent)).
8. A willingness to work as part of a team with professionals from other disciplines without compromising professional independence.

Application

All applicants are required to complete an application obtained via the Ministry of Justice Sourcing Portal.

To obtain an application, please email panelcounsel@governmentlegal.gov.uk asking to be registered to apply for the London C Panel. You will then be registered and sent a username and password to access the Ministry of Justice Sourcing portal.

You can then complete the form in your own time, providing answers to questions set and providing evidence of your capability.

Once the form has been completed, you must upload it back on to the Ministry of Justice portal – in Word format - no later than **midday on Wednesday 31 October 2018**.

Applications submitted other than via the Ministry of Justice portal will not be accepted.

If you have difficulty in typing please contact the Panel Counsel Secretariat in the Government Legal Department, on 020 7210 1506 or 3440.

Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form

The Attorney General panels of junior Counsel arrangements follow the fundamental principles of the Equality Act 2010. Accordingly, all applicants to join the Panel Counsel are asked to complete an Equality Monitoring Questionnaire. Although it is not compulsory, we would be very grateful if you could **complete the form** and then upload it back on to portal (this can be in either Word or pdf format).

The Attorney General will appoint the advocates who appear to him to be best qualified regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marital and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion & belief, sex or sexual orientation. Women, members of ethnic minorities and those with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply.

Completing the form is voluntary, but obtaining this information will help us in our work to make the range of applications to the Panel truly reflective of all those who might be eligible to apply.

The information you provide will be treated in total confidence. The monitoring form will be kept separate from your application form and will not be seen by the sift panel. It will be used to compile anonymous statistics during the recruitment exercise, and retained only if you are appointed, again for statistical purposes regarding the composition of the Panels.

Selection

The Selection Boards are chaired by a senior lawyer at the Government Legal Department and consist of lawyers from various Government Departments and a nominee representing the Bar Council. In addition, the First Treasury Counsel or another senior advocate with experience of government litigation often sits on the A panel Selection Board. A member of a higher Panel often sits on the B Panel and C Panel Selection Boards.

Following consideration of all the applications, the Selection Boards will present their recommendations to the Law Officers. Appointments will be made by the Attorney General.

Mentoring

We wish to encourage applications from as wide a range as possible of those eligible to apply. We will therefore endeavour to put lawyers, who are considering applying for the Panels for the first time and who want to discuss the application process, in touch with an established Panel member.

The mentor will discuss either by telephone or in a meeting the application process, the eligibility criteria and the presentation of relevant information on the application form.

If you are considering applying for one of the panels and want a mentor please contact the Panel Counsel Secretariat on 020 7210 1506 or 3440 email: panelcounsel@governmentlegal.gov.uk on or before **Friday 12 October 2018**.

You may want to start to pull your application together before you speak to your mentor.

Information Security

Those Government Departments that make use of the Panels take information security very seriously. Successful applicants will be expected to safeguard government information in their possession, to adhere to government information security requirements and to complete various questionnaires regarding compliance with those requirements during their membership of the panels.

Further Information

We have produced a Frequently Asked Questions sheet which is available as a separate part of the application pack. If you cannot find the answer to your question on the FAQ sheet, please feel free to contact the Panel Counsel Secretariat in the Government Legal Department, on 020 7210 1506 or 3440, or via email: panelcounsel@governmentlegal.gov.uk