



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 work for all government departments; London Panels, Regional Panels, and Public International Law (PIL) Panels, each set up as follows:

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

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 Attorney General's London Panel undertakes civil work in the Southeast of England. Applicants will be expected to have a substantial professional connection with London or the Southeast 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.

Membership is open to both barristers and solicitors with the necessary qualifications. Please see further requirements/guidance in our FAQ document if you are applying as an employed barrister or as a solicitor with HRA. If you have a query about how these requirements may apply to you, please contact PanelCounsel@governmentlegal.gov.uk

The size of each panel is determined by need. We monitor the volume of work panel members receive although appointment to the panel cannot be a guarantee that work will be available.

As is the case **every year**, the Attorney General is looking for applicants with experience in **general public** and **administrative law, commercial, employment or personal injury**. For the **2025** exercise, the Attorney is also looking to deepen the capacity of the panels by appointing specialists in the following areas:

- Aviation, Maritime/Shipping, Highways
- Charity/Trusts
- Clinical negligence
- Construction
- Contracts, Partnerships and Commercial in general (including private international law aspects)
- Costs (including routine and/or mass group litigation experience)
- Court of Protection
- Customs control – customs duties and other customs matters
- Cyber, AI
- Data Protection and Freedom of Information
- Defamation
- Education, including Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Energy/Utilities and Infrastructure
- Environmental and Regulatory Law
- Equality and Discrimination
- Extradition
- Family and Public Children’s Law
- General Civil Damages
- General Tax Work – Direct and Indirect, Personal and Business
- Health and social care including medicines ethics and mental health
- Industrial Diseases
- Inquests and inquiries
- Insolvency
- Intellectual Property
- Land Law
- Maritime Law
- Pensions
- Planning (including Environmental Impact expertise) and Infrastructure
- Police misconduct
- Proceeds of Crime
- Procurement
- Professional Regulation
- Property (including Landlord and Tenant)
- Rating and Valuation
- Restitution
- Sanctions
- Social Security, including free movement, social justice and statutory payments
- Tax Work – Direct and Indirect, Personal and Business
- Trade including Competition, State Aid and subsidies, international arbitration and shipping
- Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) TUPE
- Unlawful Detention
- VAT and Duties including VAT fraud

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

Public International Law and Trade specialists are also eligible to apply for appointment to the Public International Law (PIL) panel, and there is no bar to being a member of both panels.

I am an existing panel member; do I have to reapply this year?

If your period of appointment ends in August 2025 then this is your last opportunity to apply before your current period of appointment ends. This will apply to the vast majority of those Panel members appointed in 2020.

Which of London A, B or C Panel to apply for?

Applicants who are not already panel members can apply for whichever of the panels A, B or C they consider most appropriate to their level of expertise and experience.

Please also be aware that if, for example, you apply to the B Panel and the selection board consider your application to be more appropriate for the C Panel they will not recommend you for appointment to the C Panel. It is therefore very important that you take your time and decide which panel is appropriate for you.

If you apply and are unsuccessful, this will **not** bring any current panel membership to a premature end. It will continue to the end of its term.

Eligibility

Applicants must have:

1. At least two years advocacy experience in actual practice by **Wednesday 5 March 2025** (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 Southeast 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. The areas are very extensive because the panel covers the wide range of public and private law in which central government is involved. It does not, however, deal with criminal prosecutions, and involvement in litigation involving pure private client work is limited. Applicants with experience in those areas will need to demonstrate the ability to work in other areas as well.
4. Advocacy experience and ability as demonstrated by appearances before courts and tribunals.
5. Written/drafting ability to be evidenced by a recent specimen of work (an opinion or skeleton (or nearest equivalent)).
6. 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 Panel Secretariat.

To obtain an application, please email PanelCounsel@governmentlegal.gov.uk and ask to be registered to apply for the London A, B or C Panel. You can only apply for one panel level. You will then be registered and sent a full application pack.

All completed forms must be emailed to PanelRecruitment@governmentlegal.gov.uk in **Word format**, no later than **midday** on **Wednesday 5 March 2025**.

Applications submitted other than via PanelRecruitment@governmentlegal.gov.uk will not be accepted.

Competitions are by invitation only. You must send an email to PanelCounsel@governmentlegal.gov.uk and ask to register for the appropriate panel level.

Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form

The Attorney General's Panels of junior Counsel arrangements follow the fundamental principles of the Equality Act 2010. Accordingly, all applicants applying to join the Panel Counsel must complete an Equality and Diversity Monitoring Questionnaire. Please **complete the form** and send it in together with your application form (in **Word format** please).

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

Completing the form 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 equality and diversity form will be kept separate from your application form and will not be seen by anyone involved in assessing your application or selecting the new panel members. The information 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.

For details of how we handle your data please see our privacy notice [Privacy Notice](#)

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, a 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 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, in touch with an established panel member for guidance.

The mentor will discuss 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 would like a mentor, please email: PanelCounsel@governmentlegal.gov.uk on or before **Friday 21 February 2025**.

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 (FAQ) 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, by email: PanelCounsel@governmentlegal.gov.uk

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