

Garden Court North Chambers Client information leaflet

Introduction

This information leaflet has been written to give general advice to lay clients about instructing barristers who are members of Garden Court North Chambers (GCN), 3rd Floor, Blackfriars House, Parsonage, Manchester, M3 2JA. This leaflet applies where a GCN barrister is instructed by a solicitor or other lawyer on behalf of a client.

All the barristers at GCN are self-employed and work under clear professional rules as set by the Bar Standards Board. They are members of GCN in order to share the expenses of practice and to maintain the highest professional standards.

About your GCN barrister

Barristers are specialist legal advisers and court room advocates. They are independent, objective and trained to advise clients on the strengths and weaknesses of their case. They have specialist knowledge and experience in and out of court, which can make a substantial difference to the outcome of a case.

Barristers at GCN specialise in criminal defence, housing, immigration and nationality, employment and discrimination law, individual rights and civil litigation (including Judicial Review), claims against the police and public authorities, inquests, prisoners rights, community care, mental health and education law. Members have experience in human rights law and are happy to advise on such matters and undertake human rights challenges wherever relevant.

"This Manchester-based set is highly regarded in the North for its long-standing commitment to civil liberties work..."

Chambers UK A Client's Guide to the UK Legal Profession 2012

Your barrister may give advice, write legal documents, or represent you in a court, tribunal or meeting. Your barrister will work closely with your solicitor, but their primary duty is to you. Your GCN barrister will do whatever he or she may legally do to protect and advance your interests. He or she will keep what you tell them confidential if that is what you want, however he or she cannot tell a court (or anyone else) anything that they know to be not true.

"Garden Court North is an impressive set that houses barristers who are 'prompt, [and] approachable'."
Chambers UK A Client's Guide to the UK Legal Profession 2011

Your barrister will do whatever he or she can to help you through the legal process. So please tell your barrister or your solicitor about any concerns you have and do ask all the questions you want to ask.

GCN barristers clerks

GCN clerks are the first point of contact for solicitors wishing to instruct a GCN barrister and can provide information about barristers' availability, relevant experience along with handling enquiries and paperwork relating to ongoing cases.

Meeting your GCN barrister

In many cases, barristers are able to give advice on a case by simply looking at the papers and then providing a written advice. In more complex matters and in cases going to court, clients will often have a 'conference' or consultation with the barrister.

At court or in the tribunal

Going to a hearing at court or in a tribunal can be stressful. Your barrister will do everything he or she can to explain the process to you and to put you at ease. If you have any questions, please just ask.

Please don't be surprised if the barrister appears to be civil to the other side's lawyers and witnesses. Civility is normally the best tactic.

Feedback and Complaints

All the barristers at GCN value feedback. Please do let them or the GCN clerks know, at any time, what you think. If anything is wrong, and you wish to raise a complaint either formally or informally you have a right to do so directly to chambers. We have a complaints procedure which is available on our website or upon request by contacting chambers. If you are dissatisfied with GCN's decision on your complaint alternative complaints bodies (such as Small Claims Mediation www.small-claims-mediation.co.uk/) exist which are competent to deal with complaints about legal services, should both parties agree to use such a scheme. You also have a right to complain to the Legal Ombudsman. You have six months from the date of our final letter in which to do so. The contact details for the Legal Ombudsman are Tel: 0300 555 0333 enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk.