

When I was asked to write a piece from the perspective of a junior tenant at KBW Chambers to mark its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary I of course felt honoured, but at the same time a little daunted at the prospect of trying to sum up what the set means to me in just a few words.

Before I started my pupillage with KBW in 2017, a nervous 23 year old straight out of Bar School, I had no idea what to expect from my time , and, like many others in my position, I just wanted to get through my first few weeks without making a fool of myself!

Spending time shadowing my fantastic supervisors and the other tenants I was instantly struck by the quality of their advocacy and their obvious aptitude for the job, as well as the integrity and fairness which was tangible in everything that they did.

From the very beginning, I could not have been made to feel more welcome by everybody in Chambers, in particular those at the junior end. There would be many Friday nights in the Cross Keys pub, where I would sit and listen in awe to the tales from that week in court, the lessons and laughs helping to solidify the firm friendships I still cherish today.

By the time I started on my feet I already felt confident that for any single question or concern that I had, there would be a multitude of tenants, of all levels, who would be willing and ready to help in whatever way they could. This supportive and nurturing environment has endured ever since and has enabled me to explore a number of different practice areas and establish the varied practice that I have today.

One of the best things about KBW is the exceptional women that make up an ever-increasing proportion of its tenants. I have always been inspired by their talent, tenacity and perhaps most remarkably their passion for building each other up and celebrating their achievements. Because of them, I have the confidence to strive for the things I want both professionally, and beyond.

By 2020 my personal life had led me to live two hours away from Chambers. Many people in my life couldn't understand why despite there being many fantastic sets far closer to where I now live, the last thing on my mind was leaving KBW. This, I think, is a testament to how special the set is. I am under no illusion that the only reason that I have been able to stay a part of Chambers is because of the brilliant clerking team who have gone above and beyond to make it work, for which I could not be more grateful.

When speaking with other counsel and solicitors in court about Chambers they universally have positive things to say about its membership. Someone recently described KBW as “a really decent bunch who play with a straight bat” and I am not sure that I could put it better myself!

Having now been at KBW for 7 years, I still feel extremely lucky to call the other hugely talented barristers in Chambers my colleagues, but I feel even luckier to call so many of them my very closest friends. KBW is so much greater than the sum of its parts. It is a family which I could not feel more privileged to be a part of.