Testimonial by Melina Mukherjee

(Pupillage with KBG in 2025/26)

I am incredibly fortunate to have completed my criminal pupillage at KBG Chambers under the supervision of two exceptional advocates who invested significant time, care and expertise in my development. Whilst the quality of supervision has been invaluable, what has stood out most is the culture of support throughout Chambers. Whether seeking advice on a point of law, discussing an ethical issue or asking for last-minute guidance at court, members and clerks have always been willing to help. Relocating to the South West and adapting to the realities of practice after Bar school was a significant step and I am grateful to have done so in such a welcoming environment, surrounded by people who genuinely want you to succeed.

During my *1st Six* I had the opportunity to observe advocates at all levels of seniority across a wide range of hearings from trials to sentencing hearings and appeals, including the Court of Appeal. I was entrusted with drafting and preparing a variety of legal applications, sentencing notes and advocacy exercises, which provided an excellent foundation for *2nd Six* as an advocate. One particularly valuable lesson was learning that effective advocacy is not simply about identifying the strongest argument but more importantly, the way in which it is presented.

2nd Six allowed me to put those lessons into practice. Appearing regularly in both the Magistrates' and Crown Courts, across prosecution and defence work, developed my confidence as an advocate and taught me to assimilate information quickly, think on my feet and respond to the unexpected. Pupillage taught me resilience and adaptability, whilst also showing me that no day is mundane and that there is always something new to learn.

Beyond the work itself, I have really enjoyed getting to know everyone at Chambers. There is a good balance of social and networking opportunities, particularly with junior members of the Bar, which has helped me feel included in the wider professional community. As someone who has always wanted to practise criminal law and live by the sea, I am very lucky that I am now able to do both.

Being able to represent some of the most vulnerable members of our society and having a tangible impact on the lives of others is what drove me to pursue a career at the Criminal Bar. I have now experienced this first-hand during pupillage and in practice and I am very grateful to be able to continue doing so as a member of KBG Chambers.