

Simon Haywood

Year of Call: 2024

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Overview

Simon Haywood is a pupil barrister, focusing on civil litigation including commercial and property disputes and costs. Simon also has a keen interest in media law, given his previous career history and time spent assisting Warby LJ. He started his twelve-month pupillage with 3PB in April 2025 and is based from 3PB's Birmingham office.

Simon was awarded the full complement of scholarships from Gray's Inn, including one of four of the Inn's most prestigious senior scholarships for excellence in advocacy. Simon is also a Prince of Wales, Michael Mustill & Tatjana Finkelstein scholar of the Inn, and previously won a full scholarship for his postgraduate research on the Asia Pacific region.

He joins having just completed six months as a judicial assistant to Warby LJ in the Court of Appeal during which time he worked on a number of high profile appeals.

Simon has a very diverse work experience internationally, notably in China and the UK. A former journalist and lecturer, Simon has excellent communication skills and is used to working with people from all backgrounds, making him a very engaging and capable advocate.

Simon plans to develop his international commercial law practice, bringing his fluency in Mandarin Chinese and expertise on the Asia Pacific region to bear on his future practice.

He has a good understanding of arbitration, having completed Gray's Inn CI Arb accredited course, and representing the Inn at the the 2023 Wilhelm C. Vis moot. Simon's submissions at the White & Case pre-moot in Paris were scored highly and the team received an honourable mention for their respondent memorandum at the finals in Vienna.

Simon spent over five years as a journalist in China; working freelance with Xinhua News, China's leading national media, interviewing local government officials, business owners and citizens in Mandarin Chinese and then as editor of Guangdong (GD) Today, responsible for all English language journalism published by South China's largest news organisation. Alongside this Simon spent many years in education, working as a full-time lecturer at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, teaching journalism.

Outside of work, Simon's core passions are travel, photography and languages. Simon has exhibited his photography on a number of occasions, and had the rare opportunity to attend Kim Hyong Jik University in Pyongyang, North Korea as an exchange student studying Korean.

Simon is also a keen runner, having previously been an Army Reservist with the 4th Yorkshire Regiment, and an avid football fan.

Academic qualifications

- PGDip Bar Practice, Inns of Court College of Advocacy, Merit
- Post-graduate Diploma in Law (PgDL), University of Law, Distinction
- MA North Korean Studies, University of Central Lancashire, Distinction
- BA English Language and Literature, Open University, First Class Honours
- BA English and German Literature, University of Sheffield, Credit Transfer

Scholarships

- Mould Scholarship, Gray's Inn (2024)
- Prince of Wales Major Bar Course Scholarship, Gray's Inn (2023)
- Residential Scholarship, Gray's Inn (2023)
- Michael Mustill Internship Scholarship, Gray's Inn/IDRC (2023)
- Tatjana Finkelstein GDL Scholarship, Gray's Inn (2022)
- Law First Scholarship, The University of Law (2022)
- Postgraduate Research Scholarship, International Institute of Korean Studies (2020)

Professional bodies

- Honourable Society of Gray's Inn