

Leader	Junior / Recorder <sup>1</sup>	Chambers		Treasurer (/Ass. Treas.)	Deputy Leader
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**Midland Circuit**

Graham Swanwick QC	1961-65	Roy McAulay	London	1965/66		
Bernard Caulfield QC	1965-68	Bruce Laughland	London	1966/68		
Michael Davies QC	1968-72	Colin Colston	London	1968/70	Julian Jeffs (1969)	
		Stephen Coward	London	1970/72	Julian Jeffs	

**Oxford Circuit**

Eric Sachs QC	1953-54					
George Baker QC	1954-61	Christopher Oddie	London	1960		
Edward Ryder-Richardson (d. 1961)	1961	John Murchie	London	1961		
Alan King-Hamilton QC	1961-64	John Griffiths	London	1962		
		Richard Hartley	London	1963		
		John Baker	London	1964		
Ralph V Cusack QC	1964-66	Harold Wilson	London	1965		
		Michael Rush	London	1966		
Brian Gibbens QC	1966-72	Scott Baker	London	1967		
		Desmond Perrett	London	1968		
		David Harter	London	1969		
		Desmond Keane	London	1970		
		Christopher Compston	London	1971	Frank White (appointed July 1971)	

**Midland & Oxford Circuit (from 1 January 1972)**

Michael Davies QC & Brian Gibbens QC	1972-73	Stephen Coward Paul Clark	London	1972	Julian Jeffs	
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<sup>1</sup> The role of the Recorder on the Midland Circuit was undertaken by the Junior on the Oxford Circuit

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## Circuit Leaders & other Officers (1953 – 2024)

Brian Gibbens QC	1973	Paul Clark	London	1972/73	Julian Jeffs	
Harry Skinner QC	1973-75	Peter Andrews	Birmingham	1973/74		
		Conrad Seagroatt	London	1974/75		
<b>Leader</b>		<b>Junior</b>	<b>Chambers</b>		<b>Treasurer (/Ass. Treas.)</b>	<b>Deputy Leader</b>
Philip Cox QC 3 Fountain Court	1975-79	Derek Stanley	Birmingham	1975/76	Julian Jeffs	Maurice Drake 1975-78
		James Hunt	London	1976/77	Julian Jeffs	
		Lis Fisher	Birmingham	1977/78	Julian Jeffs	
		Nigel Baker	London	1978/79	Julian Jeffs	
Douglas Draycott QC No.5 Fountain Court	1979-83	John Price	Birmingham	1979/80		
		Joan Butler	London	1980/81		
		Gareth Evans	Birmingham	1981/82		
		Charles Wide	London	1982/83		
Desmond Fennell QC 2 Crown Office Row	1983-87	Richard Inglis	Nottingham	1983/84	Bruce Laughland / Richard Jenkins	Richard Tucker QC
		Paul Reid	London	1984/85	Bruce Laughland / Richard Jenkins	
		Murray Creed	Birmingham	1985/86	Bruce Laughland / Richard Jenkins	Peter Weitzman QC
		Anna Guggenheim	London	1986/87	Bruce Laughland / Richard Jenkins	
Igor Judge QC 2 Crown Office Row	1988	Alison Hampton	Leicester	1987/88	Bruce Laughland / Richard Jenkins	
Peter Weitzman QC Devereux Chambers	1988-92	Simon Readhead	London	1988/89	Brian Escott-Cox / Sybil Thomas	Richard Wakerley QC
		Julia Macur	Birmingham	1989/90	Brian Escott-Cox / Sybil Thomas	
		Richard Wilson	London	1990/91	Brian Escott-Cox / Sybil Thomas	
		Rosalind Coe	Nottingham	1991/92	Brian Escott-Cox / Sybil Thomas	
Richard Wakerley QC 4 Fountain Court	1992-96	John Price	London	1992/93	Richard Latham / Bill Davis	James Hunt QC
		John Edwards	Birmingham	1993/94	Richard Latham / Bill Davis	
		Ben Gumpert	London	1994/95	Richard Latham / Bill Davis	
		Jane Morris	Nottingham	1995/96	Richard Latham / Bill Davis	
James Hunt QC 1 Kings Bench Walk	1996-99	Neil Moore	London	1996/97	Richard Latham / Bill Davis	James Hunt abolished this post and appointed Deputies for different areas of expertise (Crim / Fam)
		Mark Wall	Birmingham	1997/98	Richard Latham / Bill Davis	
		Rosa Dean	London	1998/99	Richard Latham / Bill Davis	
		Andrew Easteal	Nottingham	1999/00	Richard Latham / Paul Mann	

Rex Tedd QC 5 Fountain Court	1999- 2001					
		Vanessa Marshall	London	2000/01	Frances Oldham / Paul Mann	
<b>Leader</b>		<b>Junior</b>	<b>Chambers</b>		<b>Treasurer (/Ass. Treas.)</b>	<b>Deputy Leader</b>

**Midland Circuit (from 2001)<sup>2</sup>**

Rex Tedd QC	2001-02	Vanessa Meachin	Birmingham	2001/02	Paul Mann	
Frances Oldham QC 36 Bedford Row	2002-05	Rohan Auld	London	2002/03	Paul Mann / J Gosling	
		Harinder Kaur	Leicester	2003/04	Paul Mann / J Gosling	
		Tim Green	London	2004/05	Paul Mann / J Gosling	
Peter Joyce QC 1 High Pavement	2005-08	Catarina Sjolín	London	2005/06	Paul Mann / J Gosling	
		Adam Western	Birmingham	2006/07	Paul Mann / J Gosling	
		Laura Pitman	Nottingham	2007/08	Paul Mann / J Gosling	
Gareth Evans QC No.5 Fountain Court	2008-11	Nina Bache	Birmingham	2008/09	J Gosling	Paul Mann QC
		Matthew Brunning	Birmingham	2009/10	J Gosling	Paul Mann QC
		Fayyaz Afzal	Leicester	2010/11	Peter Cooke	Paul Mann QC
Mark Wall QC Citadel Chambers	2011-14	Ashraf Khan	Birmingham	2011/12	Peter Cooke	
		Rebecca Wade	Northants	2012/13	Andrew Evans	
		Tom Schofield	Birmingham	2013/14	Andrew Evans	
Richard Atkins QC St Philips Chambers	2014-17	Amanda Bewley	Nottingham	2014/15	Andrew Evans	
		Harpreet Sandhu	Birmingham	2015/16	Andrew Evans	
		Hannah Whelan	London	2016/17	Andrew Evans / Marcus Harry	
Michael Duck QC No.5 Fountain Court	2017-21	Jodie Kembery	Birmingham	2017/18	Andrew Evans / Marcus Harry	
		Samuel Coe	London	2018/19	Andrew Evans / Jodie Kembery	
		Ben Williams	Birmingham	2019/20	Andrew Evans / Jodie Kembery	
		Lucinda Wilmott-Lascelles	Birmingham	2020/21	Andrew Evans / Jodie Kembery	

<sup>2</sup> Oxford and the County of Oxfordshire was moved to the South-Eastern Circuit in March 2001. The Midland & Oxford Circuit changed its name to the Midland Circuit shortly afterwards in April 2001.

**Updated to 18 August 2024**

**Circuit Leaders & other Officers (1953 – 2024)**

Michelle Heeley KC No.5 Fountain Court	2021-24	Jamal Jeffers	Nottingham	2021/22	Andrew Evans / Jodie Kembery	
		William Douglas-Jones	Birmingham	2022/23	Andrew Evans / Jodie Kembery	
		Lucky Thandi	Nottingham	2023/24	Andrew Evans / Jodie Kembery	
<b>Leader</b>		<b>Junior</b>	<b>Chambers</b>		<b>Treasurer (/Ass. Treas.)</b>	<b>Deputy Leader</b>
Harpreet Sandhu No.5 Fountain Court	2024	Phil Vollans	Birmingham	2024/25		

**Leader's Secretaries**

Nora Fogden (Deceased)	1983 – 1999
Shirley Titmarsh	1999 – 2002
Sue Mann	2002 – 2020
Michelle Francis (née Rhodes)	2020 -

**Note from 2022 (updated July 2024)**

**Tenure of Circuit office holders of the Midland & Oxford Circuit and the Midland Circuit (2001)**

Each **Leader** of the Midland & Oxford Circuit, and now the Midland Circuit, is elected to office by the members of the Circuit. The Leader of the Midland & Oxford Circuit's term of office used to be 4 years but it was reduced to 3 years by the 1997 the Circuit Rules. The Leader has never been eligible for re-election. The Leader usually serves that term. Igor Judge KC (as he then was) served less than a year as he was elevated to the High Court Bench within months of becoming Circuit Leader in 1988. The Circuit Rules have always provided for an extension of the term of office in exceptional circumstances.

The **Deputy Leader** of the Midland & Oxford Circuit was similarly elected to office by the Circuit membership; the term of office being for 4 years. The Deputy Leader was not eligible for re-election. The post was abolished by the 1997 Circuit Rules.

However, after the creation of the Midland Circuit in 2001 the Circuit Rules were again revised to permit the Leader to appoint up to 3 Deputy Leaders. The term of office for each deputy is for the duration of the Leader's tenure and they can each be re-appointed.

The **Treasurer** of the Midland and Oxford Circuit was appointed by the Circuit Committee. The Treasurer's term of duty was, and remains, for 3 years. The tenure often coincided or overlapped with the Leader. The Circuit Rules have always provided for an extension of the term of office in exceptional circumstances. The Treasurer has always been eligible for re-election. The Treasurer of the Midland Circuit is now appointed by the Circuit Leader.

There has usually been an **Assistant Treasurer** too, as provided for by the Circuit Rules. During the lifetime of the Midland & Oxford Circuit the postholder was appointed by the Circuit Committee. After the Midland Circuit was created in 2001, the Rules provided that the Assistant Treasurer was appointed by the Circuit Leader. The Assistant Treasurer is not ordinarily of not less than 10 years' call.

The term of office of the Oxford Circuit **Junior** was by calendar year; the Midland Circuit Junior (known as the Recorder) was appointed yearly. The term of duty of the Midland & Oxford Circuit Junior used to be for a year from "the first day of the Michaelmas term each year ending on the day next before first day of the next Michaelmas Term". However, for practical purposes the year usually ran from one Grand Night to the next Grand Night (i.e., July – July). Over the years it defaulted back to October – September. The sequence of appointment used to be Birmingham or Nottingham or Leicester > London > Birmingham or Nottingham or Leicester > London up until 1992. But the sequencing changed particularly after the creation of the Midland Circuit in 2001.

In June 2020 when the Circuit Rules were again revised, and it was determined that the Junior's year commenced on 1 October each year and ending on 30 September of the following year. The Circuit Rules have always provided for an extension of the term of office in exceptional circumstances.

The term of office of the **Assistant Junior** was, and remains, for a period of one year. The post coincides with the current Junior. The Assistant Junior ordinarily succeeds to the post of Junior in the subsequent year. During the lifetime of the Midland & Oxford Circuit, the Circuit Committee appointed the Assistant Junior. The Circuit Leader now appoints the Assistant Junior. The Assistant Junior is normally under 10 years' call when appointed.

The term of office of the **Circuit Secretary** was, and remains, for a period of 3 years. The appointment was made by the Circuit Committee of the Midland & Oxford Circuit and is now made by the Circuit Leader. The Circuit Secretary should not be less than 7 years' call. The Circuit Secretary has always been eligible for re-election.

In addition, traditionally, the Leader of the Midland & Oxford Circuit had his own Personal Secretary. Over time this role has become that of the Circuit Administrator. The appointment has not been "time limited" at any point.

The Midland and Oxford **Remembrancer** used to be appointed by the Circuit Committee during the lifetime of the Midland & Oxford Circuit for a period of 3 years. The appointment is now made by the Circuit Leader for the same term. The Remembrancer has always been eligible for re-election. The officer holder's knowledge of the Circuit is potentially of enormous help in tracking Circuit material.

During the time of the Midland & Oxford Circuit **Local Bar Representatives** were appointed for 4 areas (London, Birmingham, Leicester, Nottingham) of the Circuit to hold office for 2 years. Representatives were eligible for re-appointment 4 years after termination of the previous term of service. These rules continue. However, since the creation of the Midland Circuit the revised Rules provide for a further representative for Circuit members with principal Chambers in Northampton and where there are more than 50 members of the Circuit who are not in independent practice they are also entitled to a representative on the Circuit Committee.

The Circuit Rules of the Midland Circuit, as revised in 2020, provide for other officers: -

- **Information Technology Secretary**
- **Chair of the Midland Circuit Women's Forum**
- **Circuit Young Bar Representative.**

**Murray Creed**  
**August 2024**