

Lieutenant Commander Ben Lay (RN) called to the Bar at Inner Temple

14 October 2021



Chambers warmly congratulates Lieutenant Commander Ben Lay (RN) on the occasion of his call to the Bar at Inner Temple on Thursday 14th October 2021.

Ben joined chambers in July as a sponsored pupil for 12 months, after which he will return to service as a Navy lawyer. Ben is pictured below at the Navy's Annual Legal Dinner held at HMNB Nelson on Friday 8th October, where he was awarded the Stephen Taylor Memorial Award, presented by the Royal Navy for academic and advocacy excellence. The silver salver that represents the award was originally presented to HMS Warwick, a destroyer that saw service in both the First and Second World Wars. Lieutenant Commander Lay was awarded the prize in recognition of his performance during the academic and vocational stages of his training as a Naval barrister. In particular his performance on the Bar Vocational Skills course saw him placed 5th out of 333 candidates and awarded the Everard

Ver Heyden Foundation Prize in recognition of this. Lt Cdr Lay averaged over 86% across all knowledge, written, and advocacy skills papers, including a mark of 96% for his opinion writing module. He will now undertake a full 12 month pupillage in chambers, including full participation in chambers seminar course and advocacy exercises. Ben is already making useful contributions to various of chambers practice areas, recently assisting his current pupil supervisor in the cross examination of a prosecution expert witness about trade routes of class A drugs from source to street, something he has practical experience of disrupting during a previous posting! Ben will be available to accept instructions from the 17th January 2022.