

SPOTLIGHT ON: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

#ActionNotWords

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CRAIG CARR



For #BlackHistoryMonth2022, Christianah Babajide, Chambers Marketing Executive, speaks to Craig Carr, Barrister at 7BR, about his journey to the Bar.





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Q

What inspired you to become a barrister?



A

I started to think about a career in the law during secondary school, and before I properly understood the distinction between solicitors and barristers. When it came time to arranging the two-week work experience in year 10, I wasn't attracted to any of the available options. I contacted a local firm, Robert Lizar Solicitors (in Manchester), who agreed to offer me a placement. At the end of the two weeks, they offered me a job at their office for the following summer holiday. I ended up working at the firm over the course of five summer holidays – initially sorting post but I progressed over the years to working as an outdoor clerk. It was an incredible opportunity because I was able to see the work of an impressive, talented and dedicated team of lawyers, as well as the instructed barristers. Those experiences were an important part of my inspiration to work towards a career at the Bar.





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Q

What are some of the initiatives that 7BR does to improve diversity?



A

There are two things 7BR is currently doing:

The first, outreach, involves engaging and encouraging talented students from diverse backgrounds who might perceive the bar as not being a career for, or open to, them. Diversity at the Bar will not increase if talented people from diverse backgrounds do not pursue a career at the Bar.

The second involves considering academic and other achievements in a wider context when searching for the best applicants to avoid the talent pool being restricted to only those from the most elite schools. 7BR uses RARE for contextual recruitment to help identify applicants who have outperformed given their environment, enabling us to spot exceptional candidates from wider and diverse backgrounds who might otherwise be overlooked.