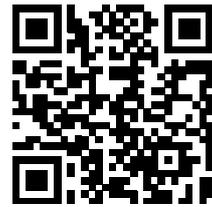


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# The Serjeants and English Law



The Serjeant-at-Law holds a unique \_\_\_\_\_ in the development of English law and government. This role, dating back to medieval England, was once the highest \_\_\_\_\_ a lawyer could achieve. The Serjeants were primarily responsible for serving as judges and legal advisors, playing a crucial part in the \_\_\_\_\_ system. Their expertise was so revered that, for centuries, all judges in the higher \_\_\_\_\_ were selected from their ranks. The training to become a Serjeant was rigorous, involving a period of \_\_\_\_\_ under a more experienced Serjeant, followed by a \_\_\_\_\_ that admitted them to the order. This ceremony was known for its pomp and tradition, reflecting the \_\_\_\_\_ in which the position was held.

The Serjeants-at-Law also had the exclusive right to practice in the Court of Common \_\_\_\_\_, a central court of law that dealt with civil disputes. This privilege underscored their significant \_\_\_\_\_ in shaping the English legal system. They were known for wearing a distinctive \_\_\_\_\_, a type of white cap, which symbolized their status. This tradition is remembered in the term \_\_\_\_\_, used to describe senior lawyers (Queen's Counsel) in England and Wales today, although the coif itself is no longer worn. Their \_\_\_\_\_ extended beyond the courtroom, contributing to the development of legal principles that underpin many aspects of modern \_\_\_\_\_. For instance, the Serjeants were instrumental in the evolution of common law, a system of law based on precedent and judicial \_\_\_\_\_ rather than statutes. However, the importance of the Serjeants-at-Law began to decline in the 19th century as reforms in the legal \_\_\_\_\_ allowed for a more direct path to becoming a judge, eventually leading to the abolition of the order in 1877. Despite their \_\_\_\_\_, the legacy of the Serjeants-at-Law endures, particularly in the ceremonial and hierarchical aspects of the English legal \_\_\_\_\_. They are remembered for their contribution to the establishment of a professional legal system and the rule of \_\_\_\_\_, principles that continue to influence English governance and law around the world.

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- apprenticeship
- influence
- decisions
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- English law
- role
- esteem
- ceremony
- court
- profession
- Pleas
- position
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- rank
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- system