FOR LAW FIRMS

Before a CILEX lawyer starts on contentious files

From our article: **What the Mazur ruling means for firms hiring CILEX lawyers**

Read it in full, with the sources for every figure: https://www.wilsonmannion.co.uk/insights/what-the-mazur-ruling-means-for-firms-hiring-cilex-lawyers

Checked 22 October 2026. General information, not legal advice.

IN SHORT

The September 2025 High Court ruling in Mazur was reversed by the Court of Appeal on 31 March 2026. Staff who are not authorised, such as CILEX Fellows without litigation practice rights, can do litigation tasks if an authorised person stays responsible and properly supervises. The sources we read to 22 October 2026 report no further appeal.

Key takeaways

- The Court of Appeal reversed the High Court on 31 March 2026. Unauthorised staff can carry out litigation tasks for an authorised person who keeps responsibility.
- We found no report of a further appeal. We could not check the Supreme Court's own list.
- Supervision must be real, written down and in proportion. The regulators decide the detail, and their guidance is still being refined.
- When you hire a CILEX lawyer, ask which rights they hold, who supervised them and how it was recorded.

Before a CILEX lawyer starts on contentious files

- [ ] Every contentious file has a named authorised person who keeps responsibility.
- [ ] Delegation is written down, as named tasks or a documented scheme.
- [ ] Each supervisor knows when and how they will check the work.
- [ ] Supervisors have time. Their own caseload and the number they supervise have been looked at.
- [ ] File notes, emails or time records show that supervision happens.
- [ ] The tasks in the role match the rights the person holds.
- [ ] Rights of audience are checked separately from litigation rights.
- [ ] You have told your insurer or broker how you supervise, and asked whether they want anything more.
- [ ] You have read the current SRA and CILEx Regulation guidance, and set a date to read it again.

Questions for a CILEX candidate

QUESTION	IF YES	IF NO
Which litigation practice rights do you hold?	Ask which rights, when they were awarded and by whom. Confirm with CILEx Regulation.	Ask whether they have applied and when they expect a decision. Until then, supervise them as you would any unauthorised person.
Who supervised your litigation work, and how was it recorded?	A named authorised person, and file notes or emails that show it.	"Informally" is not an answer. Ask what was written down. The SRA expects supervision to be evidenced.

QUESTION	IF YES	IF NO
What did you do alone, and what did you refer up?	A clear line, with examples of decisions that went to the supervisor.	If the line is vague, ask who decided to issue proceedings.
Do you use the title CILEX Lawyer?	CILEX lists criteria, such as holding litigation rights or declaring you will obtain them by the end of 2026. Ask which applies.	Ask which rights they do hold. The title is not the same as the authorisation.