

After a short period in industry, Chris Armstrong was appointed as a trainee court clerk at Nottingham (County) under Arthur Cust in December 1971. Admitted as a solicitor in 1975, he rose to become Deputy Clerk to the Justices at Shire Hall, Nottingham, before becoming Clerk to the Justices to a group of benches in West Cumbria at the beginning of 1978. In 1998, upon an internal reorganisation, Chris became Justices' Clerk for all six benches in Cumbria. In 2000 he joined the Council of the Justices' Clerks' Society, becoming the Chairman of its Sentencing Committee. While serving on Council, Chris was involved in production of the current version of sentencing guidelines for Magistrates' Courts and is part of the group assisting the Sentencing Advisory Panel's review of the guidelines. He has served on the Sentencing Policy and Practice Committee of the Magistrates' Association and serves on the National Sentencer / NOMS Consultation Group. He has also taken part in a review of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act and represented the Society in numerous working parties involved with sentencing issues. He was elected a Vice Chairman of the Society in May 2006.