

A Day in the life of...



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MY ALARM GOES OFF...

Around 7am. I'm not great at waking up early so sometimes I press the snooze button a few times! Depending on how motivated I feel, I either run to work or take the tube. The benefits of running are that I avoid the crowded tubes and combine my exercise and commute time.

Our offices are fitted out with showers, towels and hairdryers, so if I run I get ready when I arrive. I rarely wear a suit, but our office dress code is quite smart except for dress down Fridays. I get to my desk shortly before 9:30am and make my breakfast in the office kitchen to eat while catching up on that day's legal update emails.

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR...

Working with the Real Estate team on transactional matters such as the purchase or sale of properties, leases, licences and development agreements. Our team also acts for a number of banks who obtain charges over properties in return for granting loans. We generally deal with commercial properties which include offices, shops and industrial sites but occasionally work on high end residential proper-

ties too. I've worked on a few properties around London that I frequently pass and it's always exciting to see something that I was involved in.

I GOT MY JOB...

Through a bit of an unusual route! I studied an undergraduate degree in Law and undertook two vacation schemes at top city law firms. However, I didn't enjoy the vacation schemes and didn't feel ready to go straight into the profession. When I graduated, I decided to take a teaching qualification and taught A Level law. I enjoyed teaching as it was an active role where I got to interact with students and help them gain the same enthusiasm I had for the subject. But it wasn't the right fit for me long term - I wanted to do something more technical with a clear progression route. I undertook another vacation scheme at a less corporate focused firm and found it suited me much better. Everyone was really friendly, and I found the work much more interesting. I self-funded my way through the Legal Practice Course by teaching and working part-time until I secured a training contract. I wanted to be a litigator but realised I preferred the friendlier atmosphere of



transaction work. Although I never had a particular interest in Property law, I was placed in the Property team and found I enjoyed the work and the fast pace.

AT SCHOOL I STUDIED...

My A Level subjects were English Literature, History, Law and Maths. Law was useful as it gave me an idea of whether I would like to study it at University. History and English Literature helped me develop my analytical and essay writing skills. Maths is surprisingly a useful subject for Law. It helps you learn how to breakdown complex situations by applying established rules to find a solution to something that can at first seem overwhelming. I also did an AS Level in Fine Art which I saw as an opportunity to pursue a hobby. It made a nice break from the academic nature of my other subjects and presented a different type of challenge and skillset. I'm really glad I did this, and I have learnt it's important to keep up

hobbies that are unrelated to your daily work.

MY TYPICAL DAY...

I start work around 9:30am by going through emails I received overnight from international clients. I make a to-do list as I have several different on-going matters so have to prioritise what needs to be done. I spend most of the day reviewing draft leases, sale agreements or other contracts and inserting my amendments, or summarising the key points for a client. I also speak to clients and solicitors acting for the other side on the phone or via emails. Throughout the day I often pop to colleagues' offices to ask for their input or just for a break. I get on really well with my colleagues, so quick chats help break up the work and allow me to vent if I'm having a frustrating day.

I eat lunch with members of my team in the canteen, which has great views over the City. We discuss work but also chat about Netflix shows or weekend plans. I leave the office between 6-7pm as I often find I work better toward the end of the day.

THE KEY SKILLS I USE IN MY JOB...

Being able to manage your time and balance multiple deadlines is extremely important. I always

have several ongoing matters so need to be able to prioritise each task and make sure that deadlines are met on time, as many are vital.

Communication is also important as you need to identify what your client wants to achieve and identify the key issues in each transaction for them.

My role involves a great deal of reviewing documents, so it is also vital to be able to concentrate and have the discipline to just sit and get the work done, even if it's a bit of a tedious task!

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

I find my job intellectually challenging. In Property law it is important to consider the context of each issue, so if I can't visit the property I will look on Google Maps to get a better understanding of it visually. I once identified a serious issue this way, which could have caused problems for the client later if I hadn't spotted it. I am part of a collaborative team and enjoy working with clients and colleagues to discuss ideas. I spend time talking to solicitors on the other side (who are generally very friendly and willing to talk through options) to find a compromise that suits both sides. Sometimes I do have to be more forceful in securing my client's best interest, which can also be satisfying when I succeed in getting my point accepted.

THE WORST PART OF MY JOB IS...

Time recording. We have to account for all of our time each day for each matter which can be really tedious. It also means if you have a day with lots of interruptions and distractions it can seem as if you have not done much even though you feel like you have been at your desk for hours. We have timers that we

can click on each time we move to a new matter and eventually it becomes second nature, but it feels very strange at first..

MY ROLE MODEL GROWING UP WAS...

I loved studying the US Civil Rights movement in A Level History and was always inspired by the individuals who petitioned and protested to reform the laws. It's probably what encouraged me to study law (although working in Property law is a far cry from civil rights reform). It does feel good though to know that you have achieved an outcome for your client that is a victory for them, and I enjoy helping others to understand their rights.

AFTER WORK...

I get home between 7-8pm. The best part about working in the City is the proximity to theatres, restaurants and shops, so it's easy to head straight out to meet friends. I often have friends visiting from outside of London and it's fun to go exploring with them after work. Most often though I just want to head straight home and relax!



MY PLAN B...

Since buying my own flat, I have really enjoyed modernising it and furnishing it with second-hand furniture. I like to pretend I could have a second career in interior decorating!

