

A Day in the life of...



Law



Associate

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MY ALARM GOES OFF...

At 8.00am. I've never been a morning person, so the relatively late start in law suits me nicely. Due to lawyers typically working later in the evenings, we do not have to be at our desks until 9.30am. Unless I'm busy or have a call, I will usually be at my desk between 9.30-10am. My office operates a "dress for your day policy" so there is a wide range of office attire. If I have a client meeting, I will wear a smart dress but if I don't (which is more days than not) I will wear jeans and a jumper as I find I work better when comfortable..

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR...

I'm a Corporate Lawyer, which means my clients are companies. Typical transactions include advising on the sale or purchase of a company, helping a company get financing in order to help it grow, and helping a company invest in other companies. I work mainly in the media sector, so the companies I assist are well known television broadcasters, content creators, music companies and technology companies.

I GOT MY JOB...

I studied Law at the University of Nottingham, though lots of my colleagues studied a wide variety of other subjects at University and came to law later, as you do not have to have a law degree to become a lawyer. In my second year I applied for vacation schemes at a number of London law firms (two or three week paid work experience programmes). The vacation schemes were a great way to have a look inside a law firm, experience the day to day and see what being a lawyer actually involves. At the end of the vacation scheme you can be interviewed for a training contract (the two year mandatory training with a law firm before you can be a qualified lawyer). At the end of the vacation scheme with Olswang LLP I was offered and accepted a training contract.

After I finished my degree and the legal practice course (the one additional year after University required to practice as a solicitor) I did my two-year training with Olswang and have been there ever since (although Olswang merged with two other law firms

so is now a much larger firm). I've been there for 6 years in total now - time flies!

AT SCHOOL I STUDIED...

I've always been a words person rather than numbers so my subjects were based around the humanities. At A level I studied, History, Philosophy and Ethics, Latin and Spanish.

You definitely do not need to study Latin to do Law (we just had a really fun teacher) and unsurprisingly it has been of little use since.....

MY TYPICAL DAY...

I generally arrive at my desk between 9.30-10am, coffee in hand. I then spend 15 minutes checking my emails and writing

a to-do list for the day. No day is exactly the same, but typically I will have a few calls in the diary, either with clients to get their instructions or with another law firm to negotiate documents. When not on calls, I will be drafting or reviewing documents (there is a lot of reading). Lunch is normally 12.30pm, when I'll sit with colleagues and have a chat for half an hour before getting back to it. Corporate law is very up and down in terms of hours, so one day I'll be out the door at 6pm and straight to the gym and another I'll be at my desk until quite late into the evening.

THE KEY SKILLS I USE IN MY JOB...

- **Analytical thinking:** I need an understanding of the bigger picture but the ability to focus in and unpick key detail.
- **Writing skills:** I need to write in a clear, accurate and concise manner. I've always had terrible spelling and grammar so I know I have to double check my work before it gets sent to a client.
- **Commercial awareness:** knowing all the laws isn't all that helpful if you can't apply it to your client's business. You

need to understand your clients sector, how they operate, what their concerns are and what impacts them. Keeping up to date on news and current affairs helps this and there are lots of resources available that can help explain the basics of business.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

- It's a stable occupation with a clear career path.
- It pays well.
- My firm has a policy where you can take up to a month off every year unpaid (on top of 30 days paid annual leave). This means I can go travelling for a month and have multiple other short holidays throughout the year.

THE WORST PART OF MY JOB IS...

The unpredictable hours. When work is quiet I always make the most of it by leaving on time and making plans in the evenings but when it's busy you'll get used to eating dinner Al Desko.

MY ROLE MODEL GROWING UP WAS...

My mum. She was self-employed and built her own business whilst caring for two children. She showed me you don't have to choose between a career and a family if you want both.

AFTER WORK...

When work is quiet, I'll try and leave the office and be in the gym for 7pm. As I won't be back until 8.30pm/9pm, dinner will be something quick like pasta or an omelette. I'll then watch an hour or two of television to help me wind down before heading to bed at 11ish.



MY PLAN B...

I didn't really have a Plan B. I wanted to be a stunt woman but was told you need to master more than a cartwheel to be successful in that industry, so it was off the cards pretty quickly!