

# A Day in the life of...

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## MY ALARM GOES OFF...

My week can be hectic depending on whether I am working in the office in Manchester, travelling to see clients at their offices across the UK, or possibly attending court or conferences. If I am travelling for work, I have to be up from 5.30am. But my normal Manchester office day kicks off at around 7.45am if I'm feeling lazy! I know it's a good lie in, but that's because I'm lucky enough to live in the city centre. The best four-minute walk to work ever. I always have my cup of tea first thing and then I wear one of my suits with co-ordinated shirt, tie, and pocket square. I know it's a lot of effort but dressing well is a form of good manners I like to think!

## I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR...

My own cases, which vary. They are largely Defendant commercial insurance instructions and I work for around five large clients across their spectrum of work types. I have a dedicated paralegal who works with me on my cases and I rely on them a lot to assist me, which is great for

balancing my work commitments. I attend various meetings on key accounts, strategies and initiatives across the firm and assist with development in training and recruitment when required. I also partake in business development and client engagement and entertainment, which is good fun too.

## I GOT MY JOB...

In 2008 I joined Clyde and Co. Previous to this, I studied a degree in Law in Manchester which prepared me for embarking on my training contract. I did work experience at various law firms and attended law clinics to better understand and build on my legal experience. I decided to enter the law profession when I spoke to my careers advisor when I was 15 years old. He told me it would take eight years of hard work to become a solicitor, and that was really the start of my journey. I came from a working class Pakistani family so being the first child to enter further education and secure a role as a solicitor was important for me.

## AT SCHOOL I STUDIED...

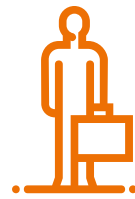
I took a really broad range of GCSE's and A levels - history, business studies, art and psychology. History and art were my favourite by far. I selected the topics due to sheer interest and motivation. I loved classical history and renaissance art – so both went hand in hand for me.

## MY TYPICAL DAY...

Again, this depends on whether I am seeing clients, travelling to attend court or working in the Manchester office. I can be at my desk anytime from 8 - 9am. I will attend various meetings for work, as I sit on several initiatives at the office. I will also work over the court diary and deadlines



Law



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regarding the progression and tactical decision making of my cases and reporting. My lunches are varied – from a simple salad and sandwich to a very calorific pasta or pizza if I can get the time to treat myself with colleagues!

## THE KEY SKILLS I USE IN MY JOB...

I would say having a keen eye for detail and being analytical is the most important skill for me. Much of the work you do depends on being able to spot the smallest of issues or being aware of how each action has a knock on affect to another activity. This also applies to spelling, grammar, arithmetic, and preparing documents and presentations in a speedy manner. I think being extra careful was something I had from an early age, and I have always had a keen eye.

## THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

I have been qualified as a solicitor for over 12 years now and the best part of my job - and the most rewarding - is when you make a positive impact on someone or something. This can either be helping someone develop and

become a better lawyer, assisting initiatives for recruitment at work or charity, giving back to the community and networking with organisations, business development across the wider business aims, or getting positive feedback from a client. It's the feeling of giving back that drives me and fuels my enjoyment for the job.

## THE WORST PART OF MY JOB IS...

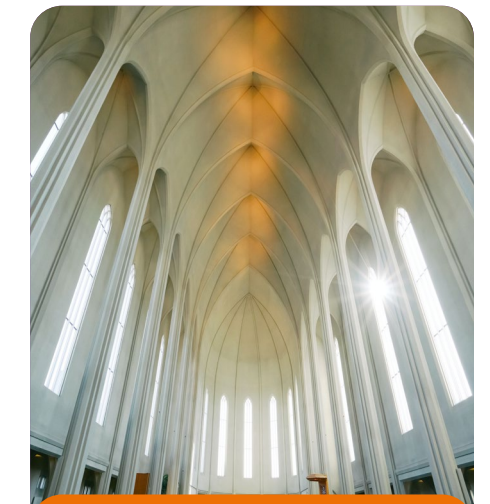
Any form of disappointment or a tough decision can be disheartening. If a poor result or outcome has occurred on a case or business initiative, that can sometimes get me down. These can be tough parts of the job. The best way for me to handle this is to remind myself that something positive always comes out from the negative. You may not see it at first, but in time, there is always a lesson to be learnt. This helps overcome those tough times and gets you back on track stronger than you were last time!

## MY ROLE MODEL GROWING UP WAS...

Actually my head teacher. He helped me understand the level of opportunities that were out there for me and that despite my background / race, there was no reason why I couldn't go to a good university and be a solicitor in a reputable law firm. He was probably my mentor and helped me a lot with my confidence and development during my teens. He pushed me to take A-levels and this was the reason I ended up getting into law and starting my law degree. It feels odd to think that some of the big decisions I have made in my life started from when I was in high school.

## AFTER WORK...

Thankfully I have a short commute walk home, and I can usually either fit in a session at the gym or sometimes I like to play squash with my work colleagues. Me and my wife will either cook dinner and watch Netflix or pop out for food in the local restaurants if we are feeling lazy. If I get time, I do like to indulge in my guilty pleasure... my PS4! But keep that quiet please!



## MY PLAN B...

I would have loved to have gone into some form of international design. I think my love of art did bring out the creativity in me and my love for travel is fuelled by the designs and structures of places that I visit on holiday. I do love going on holidays so anything with a travel element to it would have suited me. I have been lucky enough to travel in my current role, and this is something that has always stuck with me.

