

Bekki Pritchard - newly qualified (NQ) at Barlow Robbins LLP

Shortly after commencing the third seat of my Training Contract in the Commercial Property department, I was delighted to be offered a newly qualified position within the Commercial Property department, starting in June 2016.

I was slightly nervous about the transition from Trainee to NQ (particularly as I had been allowed to qualify 3 months early) and remember asking, *"What will it be like when I am a qualified solicitor?"* I can now confirm that the answer to that question here at Barlow Robbins is, *"It's exactly the same but completely different!"*

What I mean by this is that since qualifying I have been given the same high-level of work, continuous support and answers to my numerous questions in a bid to understand everything I can about Commercial Property but am now being trusted with more complex matters, am in charge of the day-to-day running of those matters and delegating tasks to more junior members of the team. Having worked at other law firms, I would say that this is one of Barlow Robbins' greatest assets – their ability to achieve the correct balance of independence and supervision which allows you to grow and find your own way as a solicitor but at the same time never feeling out of your depth and supported at every turn.

The size of the Commercial Property team at Barlow Robbins allows me to work closely with colleagues of a range of qualifications who supervise and guide me as I continue to build the skills required of a successful Commercial Property Solicitor. Since qualifying, I have had the opportunity to work on a broad range of property matters from Landlord and Tenant transactions to assisting on large corporate transactions and to also get involved in departmental events and decisions. I have found that the firm's openness to suggestions on how to improve systems or to take on and implement new initiatives has continued beyond my Training Contract.

I have continued to be offered training in my now chosen specialism and have been on a number of training courses and have also had the opportunity to attend a number of networking events. I look back now, nearly one year qualified, at how far I have come since being a Trainee, thankful that I had the opportunity to both train and qualify at Barlow Robbins and I'm excited to see what the future holds.

