

Hayley Robinson - newly qualified (NQ) at Barlow Robbins LLP

I entered the legal profession after a career in marketing. Having studied history at the University of Nottingham I was able to complete the GDL and went on to study for the LPC in Guildford and gained a distinction.

I commenced my training contract with Barlow Robbins in September 2017 and my seats comprised Dispute Resolution, Corporate and Commercial and Family which offered a varied, challenging and interesting two years. I was given a good level of responsibility from day one as a trainee and was regularly invited to attend client meetings. During my first seat in Dispute Resolution I was fortunate enough to attend a series of mediations, court hearings, conferences with counsel and even experienced a 3 day trial at the Supreme Court. The supervision I received throughout my training contract was excellent and the regular feedback enabled me to maximise what I learnt from each of my seats.

Having had such a positive experience during my training, I was certain I wanted to qualify into the Dispute Resolution team. My time in the Family department confirmed that I enjoyed working with private client individuals and families and on this basis I chose to specialise into our Contentious Trusts and Estates team within the Dispute Resolution department and qualified in June 2019.

I work closely with individuals and charities advising them in relation to disputes arising from estates and trusts. From claims arising under the Inheritance Act to probate and cohabitation disputes, the work is incredibly varied and often involves complex legal matters. No day is ever the same and each case brings new challenges. As the Contentious Trusts and Estates team has been ranked tier 1 by Legal 500, we are approached and instructed by clients both nationally and internationally who require advice in relation to multi-million pound estates.

The quality of work I receive as an NQ is excellent. In my first six months I was exposed to preparing for and attending: a mediation, several court hearings and a number of conferences with counsel. One of my favourite parts of my role is getting to understand the client, their position and what they are trying to achieve and working alongside them to get there either through negotiations in correspondence, ADR or litigation.

As an NQ in the team I receive excellent support and guidance from my colleagues who are always willing to offer their advice on how to achieve the client's objectives. At the same time, I am afforded a good level of responsibility as the direct point of contact for my clients and I am able to manage my own cases with supervision.

More generally Barlow Robbins is a friendly, welcoming and stimulating place to work. There are always social events to participate in and the working culture means that there is time for personal commitments outside of work.

The firm's commitment to training, encouraging and developing exceptional young lawyers makes Barlow Robbins an ideal place to commence a career in law.

