

Duncan Lomax relates his experience as a Barlow Robbins LLP trainee

After graduating from the University of Hull with a degree in History and Politics, I completed my GDL and LPC at the University of Law in Guildford. Before I was offered my training contract, I worked in a number of legal roles in the local area, including two years advising on commercial contracts at a large engineering firm. I was fortunate enough to meet a few individuals from Barlow Robbins over the years following completion of my LPC and it was their clear enthusiasm for the firm that encouraged me to apply. Barlow Robbins has a reputation through their involvement with the University of Law as a firm who provide excellent training and see the value in providing trainees with the opportunity to learn and develop in a number of different disciplines.

I undertook my first seat in the residential property team in Woking, who were wonderful in ensuring I was given a proper grounding in the firm and that I felt welcome from the outset. The work itself involved regular client contact and required managing workloads within a very deadline focussed environment. Starting in the residential property team was a blessing, as it is a perfect environment to develop many of the key organisational and practical skills that become invaluable to all trainees throughout their training contract. My second seat was with the corporate and commercial team, where I was fortunate to be involved in a variety of corporate transactional work, including undertaking buyer due diligence and drafting asset purchase agreements. I was regularly involved in client meetings and was often provided with the opportunity to represent the firm at valuable networking events.

I am currently working in the Guildford office as part of the family team. I work with all members of the team on both children and financial matters, and each area provides access to interesting and complicated matters. I have been afforded plenty of responsibility, often needing to attend hearings with clients and conduct analysis of financial disclosure when necessary.

The family team, as with my previous teams, have always been friendly and supportive, with no query being too minor for anyone. Equally, each of my supervising partners have always had time to sit down and discuss how best to approach tasks, address any concerns, provide feedback and generally ensure that I am getting everything I need out of my training. This approach is true throughout the firm and you are constantly left with the feeling that everyone you come into contact with during your training is determined to help you succeed and will help you out wherever possible.

The firm also enthusiastically encourages development outside of the office by participating in various pro bono initiatives, charitable causes and social events. There are a number of events over the course of the year that provide excellent networking opportunities and the firm actively supports trainees attending and acting as ambassadors.

I am excited to see where the remainder of my training contract will take me as I begin to consider which route I will take for qualification. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time training with the firm so far and I look forward to whatever comes next.

