



A Day in the Life of a Trainee Commercial Litigation

08:30am Post. Straight to the kitchen for a tea and then onto post duty. Trainees at the firm band together daily to open the firm's mail, which is a good chance to catch up on each other's work and general chit chat.

09:15am Court Bundles. Next, I settle down at my desk to check on any urgent matters. I've had a request to produce a bundle for a court hearing later today – sometimes work in the department is unforeseen and time-pressured, but this makes for an interesting day.

10:45am Drafting a letter before claim. You get plenty of drafting experience in this seat. Today I am writing to a corporate debtor to pursue repayment of a debt in excess of £1M on behalf of our client.

11:45am Taking evidence from a client. I phone the contracts manager of a large client to gather some information I need in order to draft their Particulars of Claim. I have a lot of direct contact with clients and this is a great chance to gain more interviewing experience.

12:15pm Research Task. I am asked to research whether documents obtained by the CPS in criminal proceedings can be used as evidence in a subsequent civil claim. I do a research task at least three times a week, which is an excellent way of building up legal knowledge and honing my investigative abilities!

13:00pm Lunch. I forego the gym today and have lunch with a few trainees in Finsbury Circus, a small park opposite the office. Today's main topic is everyone's weekend antics.

14:00pm Service of Documents. Not all solicitors accept service of documents by email, so I am asked to personally serve an affidavit on a firm in East London. Luckily their offices are a 25-minute walk away, so I go on foot and hand the document to a solicitor at the front desk. Tasks like this do bring to mind US legal dramas like Suits, which I love!

15:30pm Team meeting. A number of fee earners, including me, are working on a large litigation matter involving multiple parties in various European countries. We have a catch up on recent developments and agree next steps. I leave the meeting with some new – and very interesting – tasks to complete. Litigation is frequently a team effort and sharing information with colleagues is critical.

17:30pm Drinks at Bierschenke. Some of the team are going to an Oktoberfest event at a Bavarian beer hall, a short walk from our building. There are plenty of social activities at Devonshires, including a five-a-side football tournament with clients, firm-wide quizzes and a 'Devonshires Bake Off' to raise money for some of the firm's charity partners.