A Day in the Life of a Trainee
Clinical Negligence

8.30am Post duty
Every other week, I sit down with a few other trainees and open the firm's post. Opening the post is a rite of passage at Devonshires; it is a great way to learn names and catch up with the other trainees.

9.15am To-Do list
After grabbing my coffee and reading through the emails which have come through overnight, I work through my to-do list which I made for myself the day before. I prioritise the smaller tasks first; chasing medical records or diarising court directions before getting on to the bigger tasks of the day.

10.30am Witness Statement
We have to exchange Witness Statements next week on one of the matters I've been working on. After reading through the Particulars of Claim and familiarising myself with the matter, I call one of the client's nominated witnesses, interview them and draft their Statement. After receiving my supervisor's comments and amendments, I send the Statement with a cover letter to the client and diarise a reminder to chase them in a few days' time.

1pm Lunch
I grab my lunch and join one of the trainees on a rooftop garden near the Gherkin; one of the perks of working in the City.

2pm Part 36 offer
My supervisor has asked me to draft a Part 36 offer to settle the client's claim. I review the CPR and draft the N244A application form.

3pm Enquiry call
In the Clinical Negligence department, I assist in taking enquiry calls from the general public. These calls are a great opportunity to gain client contact experience. I am told in advance that the call relates to potential negligence by NHS staff during the delivery of a baby. After doing some quick research I take the call, asking pertinent questions about the practice of the staff during the birth. I draft an attendance note and pass it on to a fee earner in the team for analysis. I should find out later today whether the team will take on this claim.

4pm Schedule of Loss
We received payslips belonging to one of the clients in today's post. I review the payslips and record the client's yearly earnings. I calculate the difference between what the client earnt and what they should have earnt had they not suffered their injury. I draft an attendance note and update their Schedule of Loss.

5.30pm Enquiry call
I am told the client from earlier may have a claim in clinical negligence and I'm asked to run through the Conditional Fee Agreement 'CFA' with them. I make the call and explain the Agreement and next steps.

6pm To-Do list and trainee social
I update my to-do list for tomorrow and clock off to enjoy a drink at a local pub.