



**Arjen Xani**  
**Trainee Solicitor**  
Construction,  
Engineering and  
Procurement

**Seats Completed:**  
Housing Management  
& Property Litigation,  
Real Estate &  
Projects, Construction

Arjen, thank you very much for agreeing to tell us about your experience working at Devonshires. Please tell us a little bit about yourself.

I see myself as a regular person who supports the greatest team The Arsenal and enjoys coaching football on the weekends. I also like travelling and moving my hips down at the local salsa bar lol. I'm a person who loves to get involved in activities whether those are organised by Devonshires or by my friends. I enjoy meeting new people from a range of backgrounds and cultures, which is why I feel I have managed to fit in so well at Devonshires.

What made you apply for a Training Contract at Devonshires?

I started at Devonshires as a Paralegal before I applied for the Training Contract, so I knew a lot about the firm and its culture. Devonshires, from my experience, is a place where you instantly feel welcomed - everyone is approachable and friendly, and I mean everyone!

As a Trainee, I always want to get stuck into any seat and not just do admin tasks. Devonshires provides Trainees with real legal exposure in the seats they are undertaking. It has given me a balance of independence and support which is very beneficial to my own development and I'm sure to all my cohort's development as well.

The Training Contract is structured into 4 six-month seats. Which seat has been your favourite so far and why?

Haha, this is difficult to answer but I have really enjoyed all my seats (Housing Management & Property Litigation (HMPL), Real Estate & Projects (REP) and Construction, Engineering and Procurement (CEP). Unfortunately, I will be a fence sitter and say I enjoyed each one equally because I learnt so much from each one of them and each seat has given me a different experience. I'm also excited for my last seat. Let's get back to this question in October 2023!

Personally, experiencing non-contentious and contentious seats is a great way to understand what type of law you would like to do in the future, and at Devonshires the great thing is there are so many departments to choose from.

What's the social life like at Devonshires?

The social life is great here. As Trainees, we organise some unofficial drinks or dinners after work to catch up on how we are all doing, and the good thing is that both the 1st years and 2nd year Trainees all go out together. We have a Social Secretary to organise events and we usually incorporate doing activities into our socials. For example, we have arranged shuffle boarding, Ping Pong, flight club and we will be doing interactive clay target shooting in a few weeks.

Aside from Trainee socials, all departments have their own socials so you get to mingle and go out with everyone from your department and by the end of your Training Contract you know so many different people from different departments. The positive effect of this is that by the time you qualify you have created great relationships, and this will help you if you ever need to contact someone from another department to pick their brain.

Tell us about how much responsibility you have as a Trainee.

At Devonshires, you are given supervised responsibility which means you actually get involved in the work. By way of an example, if you have a seat in HMPL, you get involved in cases at the County Court or at the First-tier Tribunal. If you sit in REP, you get involved in transfers and site acquisitions, and in CEP you will get involved in drafting, adjudications and assisting with contract amendments.

The great thing about supervised responsibility is that you have independence to fully immerse yourself into the seat, but you will always have the support from your Supervising Partner and other Solicitors/Legal Executives. Additionally, there are many talented Paralegals who will also help.



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I would like to know what your favourite thing about working at Devonshires is.

I think I have probably already said this, but I am going to repeat it because it's true! My favourite thing is the people, everyone is approachable and friendly – they all make time for you. As Devonshires holds a lot of social activities and fitness clubs, you are able to spend time with not just the people in the department that you work in but across the firm and different offices.

One of the great things is that if you want to know more about a department, it is very easy to send an email to a Partner or Solicitor and ask to go for a coffee and not only do you get a great insight into the department but also get a free coffee (or tea for the tea lovers)!

Besides the legal work, what other activities, projects and/or events have you been involved in? We run a football league for all staff and I am Captain of Devonshires FC at present. We are also starting up a netball team so if you prefer shooting the ball with your hands, there is also a space for you. We are the current Tag Rugby champions, and we are looking to enrol in the competition again this year so we are happy to welcome new members!

We do a lot of work for charities and many colleagues have run marathons, slept inside stadiums and donated gifts to charities. I have also participated in charity runs organised by Devonshires and by our clients. They have also been a great form of networking.

Tell me something interesting about working at Devonshires that you think someone else might not already know.

Something many people won't know is how seriously Devonshires takes wellness, and the number of activities that are provided. Devonshires provides a lot of support in relation to personal wellbeing, physical wellbeing, and financial wellbeing. Further, if you have any issues or concerns there will always be someone to support you and help you which I think is super important. I feel it is one of the most important things people may not be aware of!