



Charlotte Greatorex
Solicitor
**Housing Management
& Property Litigation**

Seats Completed:
**Housing Management
& Property Litigation,
Employment, Real Estate
& Projects and Clinical
Negligence**

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

I studied history at the University of Exeter and then stayed in Exeter to do the Graduate Diploma in Law (conversion course) at the University of Law. I went on to do my LPC LLM in Professional Legal Practice at the University of Law in Bristol and after that I began my Training Contract at Devonshires. I work in the London office and also live in London and I enjoy seeing and experiencing all the things London has to offer. In my spare time, I enjoy getting out in the fresh air, walking, visiting new places and spending time with family and friends. One of my favourite places to visit when I am not in London is Devon and I go at least once a year to spend time on the beach no matter the weather!

Looking back, what made you apply for a Training Contract at Devonshires?

I liked the fact that Devonshires has a variety of seat options which meant I would be able to get a good range of experience as part of my training. I ended up doing a variety of contentious and non-contentious work including Housing Management, Real Estate and Projects, Employment and Clinical Negligence. I had heard that at Devonshires, you get a good mixture of responsibility and support during your Training Contract and that was something I felt was important. I also liked that the firm took its role in corporate social responsibility seriously and took part in charity events to raise money for their chosen charities. I am also passionate about sustainability and Devonshires is recognised for their environmental sustainability schemes.

Following the completion of your Training Contract, why did you choose to qualify into the Housing Management and Property Litigation department?

I chose to qualify into HMPL because I find the work really interesting and varied. I like that I wake up and I am not entirely sure what my day at work is going to bring and no working day is the same. I currently do a mix of work including advice work, possession claims, disrepair claims and anti-social behaviour injunctions. This area of law is always changing and there are a lot of regulatory aspects and altering law to keep up to date with, so you are always learning new things. I feel like the work I do is really making a difference to people's lives. I also really like the team as they are friendly and always there to help if you need it.

What's the social life like at Devonshires?

I did my Training Contract in lockdown and the teams I was in at the time made a big effort to socialise remotely via team quizzes, catch up meetings, and online socials. I even did a cheese and wine tasting social over Zoom! The firm also arranged Christmas events virtually so that everyone could get in the Christmas spirit.

Since then, I have been enjoying the socials that have been put on, including afternoon tea at the beach, bingo, mini golf and drinks. The Christmas parties at Devonshires are also a good opportunity to meet other people in the firm that you wouldn't normally meet. I am in the book club too and it is a really nice social break to catch up.

Tell us your most memorable moment of your Training Contract.

My most memorable moment was going to Court with Counsel (during my Training Contract, this did not happen very often due to lockdown) on behalf of one of the teams in HMPL. At this particular hearing, the case was about anti-social behaviour. I was able to interact with Counsel, the client and the tenant being impacted by racial harassment. In the hearing, I was able to witness the evidence being reviewed by the Judge and cross examination of the witnesses. It was a memorable moment for me because it made me realise that this was what I wanted to do and I felt passionate about the work that we were doing. It turned out to be a landmark case!

Q&A with Charlotte Greatorex



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

My favourite thing about working at Devonshires is that I have a supportive work environment where I feel I can ask questions and learn a lot from others. At the same time, I have been given a lot of responsibility and my own case list which provides me with great experience in a variety of situations. This was the case during my Training Contract too which I really appreciated as I know that sometimes Trainees are not given their own case lists at other firms. The combination of responsibility and a supportive work environment meant that I was able to get the most out of my Training Contract and I am now more prepared and confident as a Solicitor.

Besides the legal work, what other activities, projects and/or events have you been involved in? I have taken part in the firm's wellness projects including yoga and meditation classes. I also won bingo one year at Christmas and earned a luxury hamper! Devonshires also organises for me to attend conferences held in Chambers, such as Social Housing Law Association (SHLA) where I learn a lot and meet a wide range of people who work in Social Housing. I have been involved in webinars that provide insights into legal updates and the current position for clients and legal professionals. I find them really useful even if it is just to refresh my memory on a certain legal point or procedure.

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

Devonshires has an open-door policy. The partners at the firm are really approachable and always make time for you if you need them. I find I am able to talk to everyone in the firm which I think is a really good thing because it makes you feel included and valued as an employee.