



Shannon Morrison
Trainee Solicitor
Housing Management
& Property Litigation

Seats Completed:
Housing Management
& Property Litigation &
Construction Litigation

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

Hi, my name is Shannon. First of all, anyone who knows me will tell you that I love to talk and it can sometimes be difficult to shut me up. I am originally from Scotland but moved to England when I was younger which has resulted in a slightly confusing accent (some people have mistaken it for South African or Australian for some reason). I started my LLB in English and Scots Law at the University of Strathclyde in 2015 and graduated in 2019. After that, I worked as a Paralegal for a year before starting my LPC in 2020. I then moved to Leeds in 2021 to join Devonshires. The rest is history!

What made you apply for a Training Contract at Devonshires?

I really wanted to do my Training Contract and start my legal career at a firm where the culture was right for me. From my research of Devonshires, I thought it would be a good fit. I was also keen to do litigious work (I still am) and I found that Devonshires ranked highly for this type of work. I also wanted to move away from home but also remain in the North and so I applied to work in the Leeds office.

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

My favourite seat has been Housing Management and Property Litigation (HMPL). I enjoyed it so much I came back for a second time to do a double seat! The team is extremely welcoming and supportive. HMPL is one of Devonshires largest departments so their work is incredibly varied which means that every day can be different from the last and you are given plenty of opportunities to learn about different areas of law. During my time in the department, I've had the opportunity to be involved with tribunal hearings, meet clients and attend virtual court hearings. HMPL was my first seat and I have returned for my third seat. The team in Leeds has really grown since I first joined which is nice!

What's the social life like at Devonshires?

The Leeds office is really great as it is open plan. This allows you to socialise with people from different departments and also gives you the opportunity to hear about the work that the different departments do. Every few months, the Leeds office has a social and it is always really nice to see everyone outside of a work setting. These socials have ranged from meals to darts to karaoke so it can be quite varied! We are also invited to the social events in London which gives you a good opportunity to see the London office as well as to speak to people that you have worked with virtually in person.

The Trainees hold a couple of socials every year which allows you to catch up with the other Trainees as we all work in different departments.

People in the Leeds office also sometimes go for lunch and for after-work drinks so it really can be as social as you want it to be!

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

From day one of my Training Contract, I was able to hit the ground running and to really get my teeth into the cases I would be working on. This has involved speaking with clients, attending meetings and drafting documents. I have enjoyed preparing advice notes for clients as it gives you the opportunity to research an area of law as well as to think of a solution and I have found this a really great way to learn.

Q&A with Shannon Morrison



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

As cliché as it may sound, my favourite thing about working at Devonshires would be the people and its culture. I have felt very supported from day one and feel that my confidence has really grown since I started. As a Trainee, we work closely with Partners and Solicitors who are always extremely knowledgeable, and I have found it helpful to see how different people may approach an issue. The Leeds office is a very close-knit team and I have found it a really great environment to work in.

Besides the legal work, what other activities, projects and/or events have you been involved in? In October, we held the annual Leeds Conference at the Tetley in Leeds. A few of the Trainees helped out. It was a good networking opportunity and the sessions held throughout the day were extremely interesting. A few people in the Leeds office are also keen to start a running club so hopefully we can get that set up once the nice weather returns (fingers crossed).

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

In case you didn't know, Devonshires main client base are registered providers of social housing which makes Devonshires really niche in that the majority of the departments really feed into and compliment that. There is a lot of overlap between the departments and they regularly work jointly on matters. This allows you to work with people that you wouldn't necessarily work with on a day-to-day basis and it also gives you a taste of the work carried out in other departments.